



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

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President's message

How amazing are birds? I recently read reports that scientists have discovered a rare form of matter in the eye of a chicken. The news report states "Never before seen in biology, a state of matter called "disordered hyperuniformity" has been discovered in the eye of a chicken.

This arrangement of particles appears disorganized over small distances but has a hidden order that allows material to behave like both a crystal and a liquid." As a former chemistry and biology teacher, I have to admit that I had never heard of "disordered hyperuniformity." I have heard of chickens. In fact, the feral Red Jungle Fowl were among the most interesting birds I saw in Hawaii.

All of this leads me to wonder, do Prairie Chickens also have "disordered hyperuniformity" in their eyes? It seems that quail, turkeys, and pheasants are also likely candidates to exhibit "disordered hyperuniformity." What about Cardinals, Bluebirds, and Grasshopper Sparrows? There are so many questions and so little time.

It is true that I often bird with the purpose of counting another bird on my life list, adding to my county lists, or just to see if I can identify a bird before Jon. But, at the root of my interest in birding is an insatiable curiosity about life. That is why Jennifer Raider is one of my favorite people to bird with. Not only is she an excellent birder, but I also have the opportunity to learn about the plants and invertebrates we encounter.

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President's message *(cont.)*

Scott Seltman is a walking encyclopedia and history lesson. Time spent with Scott allows me to become a better birder. It also offers the chance to learn the history of birds and birders in Kansas, across the nation, and even internationally (and to know that I will never come close to the skills of many Kansas birders). If time allows, he also can catch me up on Greek history, agricultural practices, or probably even disordered hyperuniformity.

I have mentioned but two of the many Kansas birders who always make my day brighter. Spending time with any of them offers a person the opportunity to learn about birds and birding – and the natural world around us. Come to spring KOS in Junction City and you will have the opportunity to see a beautiful part of Kansas, bird during the heart of spring migration, spend time with some interesting people who also happen to be great birders, and feed your curiosity.

From the Keyboard By the Editor

One of the most efficient ways to be happier is to bird with others. I've been slowly reading political scientist Robert Putnam's book "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community." His fundamental claim is that American's involvement in social activities, measured by participation in club meetings and events, volunteering, regular church attendance, and even newspaper readership has been decreasing since the 1960's and this has led to a decline of social capital across the United States. One key impact of this trend, he argues, is a decline in health and happiness. He presents a graph showing the tremendous impact of regular club attendance on an individual's happiness (accounting for other confounding factors such as income, education level, and race). The results of a monthly club meeting has the same impact on happiness as having a college degree or is the equivalent of a doubling in your income. To bird alone is good but to go a birding with a buddy once a month is better.



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KOS Spring Meeting in Junction City, Kansas

May 2 – 4, 2014

The 2014 KOS Spring meeting returns to the Flint Hills for some truly spectacular birding. Birding in multiple ecosystems awaits the birder in the northern Flint Hills. Milford Lake and the wetlands north of Wakefield hold the possibility of shorebirds and waterbirds and a great deal of accessible land in Geary, Dickinson and Clay counties awaits birders. To the south lies Council Grove Reservoir in Morris County. Field trips to Ft. Riley (photo ID required for admittance) can take you into some phenomenal old growth riparian deciduous timber. Additional birding locations include Geary State Fishing Lake, Herington Reservoirs and Walla Walla Road. Saturday night there will be an excursion to listen for nightjars and owls.

The Hampton Inn will be the headquarter hotel with a housing block guaranteed through April 15th at the rate of \$81 for a double (request KOS block). This includes hot and cold breakfast items and bagged to go options as well. Breakfast will be starting at 5:30 a.m. to make sure you are fueled up, caffeinated up and ready to go for a day's worth of birding! Field trips will depart from the parking lots at the Hampton Inn. There are numerous other housing options in the area – several are listed below. Camping information is available on request or at the CVB website listed below.

Saturday evening meal will be at Cox Brothers BBQ <http://www.coxbbq.com/>. Order off the menu (meal cost not included in your registration). Sunday's box lunch and compilation will be in the outlet area (Shelter #11, the only one in the outlet area) of Milford Lake. Jaye and Chuck Otte are your hosts for this year's spring meeting so feel free to contact them if you have any questions otte2@cox.net.

Agenda

- Friday: 7 – 10 pm Meet, greet and socialize in the meeting room at Hampton Inn, 1039 South Washington, Junction City, right off I-70 at Exit 296.
- Saturday: 6:30 am Field Trips depart from the parking lots at Hampton Inn.
Saturday noon: Lunch on your own
Saturday: 7:00 pm Meet at Cox Brothers BBQ for dinner, 812 East Chestnut, Junction City (nightjar and owling follow)
- Sunday: 6:30 am Field Trips depart from the parking lots at Hampton Inn.
Sunday noon: Box lunch and compilation at Milford Lake Outlet Area , Shelter #11 (only shelter in the outlet area!)

Housing:

- Hampton Inn 1039 South Washington, Junction City, 785-579-6950 (Exit 296)
- Holiday Inn Express 120 N East Street, Junction City, 785-762-4200 (Exit 298)
- Comfort Inn 221 East Ash Street, Junction City, 785-579-5787 (Exit 298)
- Candlewood Suites 100 S Hammons Drive, Junction City, 785-238-1454 (Exit 298)

Additional lodging listed at Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau website <http://www.junctioncity.org/>

Registration Form

KOS Spring Meeting

May 2 – 4, 2014 Junction City, Kansas

Registrations will be accepted through April 25th; however payment for Sunday box lunch **MUST** be received by April 21st to insure you have a box lunch.

I (we) plan to attend the 2014 KOS Spring meeting:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (cell preferred) _____ E-mail _____

Registration Fee $\$15.00 \times$ _____ = \$ _____
(Waived for students under 25)

Sunday box lunch $\$8.00 \times$ _____ = \$ _____
(Payment for lunch must be received by April 21)

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

Please mail completed registration form with payment to:
Max Thompson, 1729 E 11th Ave, Winfield, KS 67156

In submitting this registration I (we) understand that KOS is not responsible or liable for any accidents or injury that might be associated with the 2014 spring meeting.

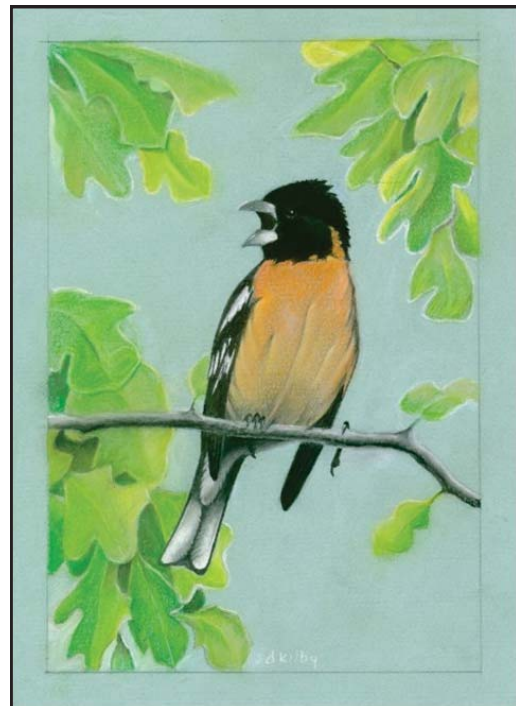
Signatures _____ Date _____

Gorgeous KOS shirts by local artists!

Two t-shirts are available this holiday season to delight your friends and family! The Virginia Rail by Bob Regier and the Black-headed Grosbeak by Dan Kilby. Virginia Rail shirts come in long and short sleeves, on a natural background. Black-headed Grosbeak shirts are short sleeves on a stone blue background. Both are \$12 each which includes standard mailing in the lower 48. Email Business Manager, Lisa Weeks at lisafweeks@gmail.com to check size availability and arrange for postal delivery or free pick-up in the Lawrence area.

Shop our KOS online store

Design your own KOS products with just a few clicks! Choose three KOS art designs and add them to a sweatshirt, insulated mug, cap, tote bag, mousepad or more. Make it your own by adding customized text or more graphics. Go to <http://www.zazzle.com/kosbirds/gifts> to get started now!



Kansas 2013 Fall season roundup

Jon King, compiler

The fall of 2013 was warm and dry, with drought severity increasing westward. Western Kansas received very limited coverage this fall as is typical, and the hummingbird and passerine migrations were poor there. In east and central Kansas rare loons, ducks, and gulls made a decent to good showing, while passerine migration was very poor. In contrast to last fall, irruptive species (i.e. Red-breasted Nuthatch, winter finches) were scarce. Notable rarities this season included White Ibis, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Phalarope, Little Gull, Gray Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Cave Swallow, and Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Snow Goose: Likely over-summering: 1 white phase at Kirwin NWR 8/7 (JVK) with injured wing, 1 blue phase at Deerfield sewage ponds (Kearney) 9/1 (JC, TE, KG).

Cackling Goose: Though common, this species distribution in Kansas is not well established. Peak counts were 15,000 at BSM 11/9 (JnL, JsL, BS) and in the east, 3,100 at Tuttle Creek Res. (Riley) 11/23 (TC, ER).

Tundra Swan: Seen at Quivira 11/12-29 with peak count of 10 on 11/23 (JVK). Elsewhere 1 ad. in w. Sedgwick 11/27 (JC).

Cinnamon Teal: Fall migration in Kansas is not well understood given the cryptic nature of fall plumages. Sightings: 2 reported in n Reno 8/3 (AM, BM), 1 at BSM 8/31 (AM, BM, MM).

Greater Scaup: Peak count: 40 at LaFarge sandpits 11/17 (PJ).

Lesser Scaup: Early or over-summering: 1 at the Cimarron sewage ponds (Gray) 8/9 (JC).

Surf Scoter: Four reports of 5 individuals: 2 at Keith Sebellius Res. 10/19 including an ad. male (JVK), 1 at Hillsdale L. 10/26 (NA, MG, ML), 1 at Shawnee Mission Park 10/31 (TS), and 1 ad. female at Perry L. 11/16 (SS).

White-winged Scoter: Two reports: 1 at Melvern L. 11/17 (JMa), 1 imm. at Wilson L. (Russell) 11/22 (MR).

Black Scoter: Six reports of 9 individuals: 1 at L. Afton 10/28 (KG), 3 at L. Shawnee 10/31 (JH), 1 at Perry L. 11/1 (GP), 1 at Clinton L. 11/10 (MA), 1 at Hillsdale L. (DC, JcT), and 2 at Wilson L. (Russell) 11/24 (JC, MR).

Long-tailed Duck: Five reports of 6 individuals: 1 at Hillsdale L. 11/7 (NV, GYe), 1 at BSM 11/10 (JsL, BS), 1 female at Kinsley sandpit (Kearney) 11/10 (JC), 1 at Webster Res. 11/24 (JVK), 1 imm. male and 1 imm. female at Cheney Res. (Reno) 11/24 (KG, PJ) with 1 remaining 12/1, and 1 at Kanopolis L. 11/26 (JcI).

Hooded Merganser: This species is rare but regular during summer in c Kansas. Sightings there included 1 at BSM 8/3 (JnL, JsL) and 1 at a playa in sw Ford 8/24 (JC, MU).

Scaled Quail: Infrequently reported in recent years. In w Morton, 20 were reported at a homestead 9/14 (TC, MR, MRc, DW).

Lesser Prairie-Chicken: Numerous sightings in Kiowa and Comanche due to ongoing research with a high count of 45 in Comanche 10/5 (JnL, JsL). Aside from research-related sightings in the Red Hills, birders did not report any of this species.

Red-throated Loon: 1 at Perry L. 11/2 (MMh, GP).

Pacific Loon: Four reports: 1 at Perry L. 11/3 (GP, MMh), 1 at Clinton L. 11/8-10 (GP), 1 at Hillsdale L. 11/8-9 (NV, mo), and 1 at Wilson L. (Russell) 11/15-27 (MR).

Common Loon: Several were over-summering at Milford L. (Geary) through early Aug with up to 3 on 8/7 (DM).

Horned Grebe: Early: 1 at L. Shawnee 9/22 (MG, mo) and 1 at the Sublette sewage ponds (Gray) 9/22 (JC, JVK, NV).

Red-necked Grebe: Two reports: 1 at L. Wabaunsee 10/19 (DL) and 1 at Wilson L. (Russell) 11/22-30 (MR).

Western Grebe: Unusually common e of the Flint Hills this fall. Sightings in far e KS: 2 at Clinton Lake 10/20-26 (mo), 1 at L. Fort Scott 10/31 (MG), 1 at Wyandotte County L. 11/1 (JB), 1 Shawnee SFL 11/9-11 (JMc, JP), 2 11/10 at Melvern L. (JMa), and 1-2 present 11/19-26 at Banner Creek L. (NV, GYe). At Hillsdale L. sightings were 10/25 – 11/9 a maximum of 3 seen 11/8 (NV, CY). Statewide peak count was 10 at Keith Sebellius Res. 10/19 (JVK).

Clark's Grebe: 1 at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 10/20 (MR).

Neotropic Cormorant: Singles at John Redmond Res. 8/3 (NA, CF, MG) and 11/30 (MG).

American Bittern: Late: 2 at BSM 11/12 (AM, BM, JM).

Great Egret: Late: 1 at Coleman Industrial Pond (*Sedgwick*) 11/9 (JN) and 1 injured bird at BSM last seen 11/23 (JVK).

Snowy Egret: Peak count of 700 at Cheyenne Bottoms WA 9/8 (JMa).

Tricolored Heron: One at Cheyenne Bottoms WA 8/17 (AL, BG, NH).

Green Heron: Late: 1 in c Reno 11/16 (JM).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Late: 1 imm. at Cheyenne Bottoms WA 11/25 (GC).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Late: 1 imm. at Slate Creek wetlands 10/12 (GY), 1 imm. at Cheyenne Bottoms WA 11/14 (MR).

White Ibis: 1 imm. at Slate Creek wetlands 9/7-14 (GY).

Glossy Ibis: 1 at Quivira 8/7 (DM).

White-faced Ibis: 400 at Cheyenne Bottoms WA 10/26 (DWI, JW) were unusually numerous at such a date and 1 *Plegadis* sp. was at the Baker Wetlands 11/23 (JK) was late.

Mississippi Kite: Multiple individuals present at Felker / Shunga / Warren NA in Topeka 8/12 – 9/12 with up to 8 reported 9/4 (JH). This species is currently rare in Shawnee county.

Northern Goshawk: Possible sighting 10/13 in s Hesston (*Harvey*) (EM), 1 well described immature at Konza Prairie provided excellent looks 11/20 (ER).

Broad-winged Hawk: Late: 1 imm. at Hillsdale L. 10/26 (NA, JG, MG).

Swainson's Hawk: Peak counts: 1,000 + congregating in disked wheat and recently harvested soybean fields in Saline (KF), 750+ in harvested soy fields s of Sylvan Grove (*Lincoln*) 10/4 (KBn, MR). Both of these include light and dark morphs. Elsewhere 180 in recently harvested soy fields in Ashland Bottoms (Riley) 10/10 (JR).

Red-tailed Hawk (Kriger's): 1 at Lyon SFL 11/29 (KL).

Golden Eagle: 1 imm. near Paola 10/25 (NA, JG, MG).

Yellow Rail: One in Wichita's "Big Ditch" 10/6 (PJ).

Whooping Crane: Away from Barton and Stafford, 11 (9 ad., 2 imm.) were seen at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 11/10 (MR).

American Golden-Plover: Late: 1 at BSM 11/14 (JD).

Snowy Plover: Away from Barton and Stafford, 2 were at Webster Res. 8/9-14 (JVK), and 1 visited a w Sedgwick playa 8/22-28 (KG). Late: 4 at BSM 10/26 (JW, DWI).

Semipalmated Plover: Late: 6 at BSM 10/25 (MR) with 1 remaining there 10/29 (BJ), 1 at Hillsdale L. 10/27 (NV).

Spotted Sandpiper: Late: 1 at Frazier Park (Ulysses) 10/25 (JC), 1 at Rocky Ford FA 11/8 (JsL, ER), 1 at the Wilson WTP (*Ellsworth*) 10/20 (MR).

Solitary Sandpiper: Late: 1 at L. Parsons 10/25 (AB).

Willet: Late: 1 at Quivira 10/26 (JCI).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Late: 2 at BSM 11/22 (JnL).

Hudsonian Godwit: 1 at BSM 8/3 (JnL, JsL).

Marbled Godwit: Rare in far e Kansas, especially in fall. Sightings there: 1 at Hillsdale L. 9/1 (MG, mo) and 1 at Clinton L. 9/20 (MG, JKi, ML). Late: 2 at BSM 10/26 (KG, mo).

Red Knot: 1 basic-plumaged individual at BSM 9/16 (GP).

Wilson's Snipe: Peak count: 75+ in 1 acre of cattail at Cheyenne Bottoms WA 9/16 (GP), with many more reported refuge-wide.

Red Phalarope: 1 at Hillsdale L. 8/31 – 9/1 (NV, CY, GYe).

Sabine's Gull: Historically Sabine's Gull sightings are concentrated in early fall, peaking in September. Most Kansas sightings have involved imm. birds. Interestingly, all sightings were in November this year and the majority of birds were adults. Sightings: 1 at Kirwin Res. 11/1-3 (JVK), 1 ad. at Clinton L. 11/8-10 (ML, TS), 2 ad. at Rocky Ford FA 11/6 (TC) with 3 ad. seen nearby at the KSU animal research facility on Purcell Rd. 11/9, and 1 imm. at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 11/10.

Little Gull: One imm. at Webster Res. 9/17 (JVK).

Laughing Gull: 1 imm. at Clinton L. 8/30 (JKi) with another imm. there 9/20 (MG, JKi, ML). 1 imm. at Perry L. 9/1 (JKi).

California Gull: 1 ad. 11/4 at Lovewell Res. (NAn).

Thayer's Gull: 1 1st cycle at Hillsdale L. 10/25-27 (JCt), 1 1st cycle at Clinton L. 11/30 (JKi).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 ad. at Perry L. 9/1 (JKi) and 10/21 (MMh), 1 1st cycle at Clark SFL 11/8 (NA, JC, MG), 1 1st cycle at Clinton L. 11/10 (JKi), and 1 3rd cycle there 11/30 (JKi).

Forster's Tern: Late: 3 at Clinton L. 10/26 (MA).

Franklin's Gull: Late: 3 at Nelson Isl. (Johnson) 11/24 (MA), 1 at Clinton L. 11/27 (JKi), and 1 at Hillsdale L. 11/29 (RR, NV).

Herring Gull: Early: 1 1st cycle at Clinton L. 8/30 – 9/1 (JKi).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Late: 1 at Rocky Ford FA 10/6 (ER, BS, FS).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1 female / imm. in Elkhart 9/14 (TC, MR, MRc).

Black-chinned Hummingbird: 1 ad. male 9/7 in Elkhart (GCa, JMa).

Rufous Hummingbird: 1 in *Johnson* 11/18 (KH) banded ~1 week prior.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: 1 ad. male in Hugoton 8/10 (MR).

Calliope Hummingbird: Ad. male and ad. female at Beaver Creek Ranch (*Rawlins*) 8/3 (AH), ad. male and imm. male in Elkhart 8/10 (MR), 1 ad. female in Larned 8/29 and another of unknown age and sex in Larned 9/4 (DKz).

Red-naped Sapsucker: One ad. male at CNG K27 picnic area 9/21 (JC, JVK, NV).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Late: 1 at Konza Prairie 9/30 (ER), 1 at Shawnee Mission Park 10/1 (ML).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Late: 1 at Shawnee Mission Park 10/9 (TS).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: West-most sightings were singles at Harvey County West Park 9/14 (AW) and a calling bird in c *Reno* 8/8 (JM).

Acadian Flycatcher: The species is rarely detected after the breeding season, though 1 was in the MDC area 9/13 (MMh).

Alder Flycatcher: Peak count: 9 vocal individuals at the Baker Wetlands 8/13 (MG, JKi, ML). The fall migration of this species in Kansas is poorly understood.

Willow Flycatcher: One calling at the KDWPT headquarters 9/17 (MR) may have been late.

Least Flycatcher: Late: 1 imm. in the MDC area 10/5 (MMh), 1 at Shawnee Mission Park 10/5 (ML).

Gray Flycatcher: 1 photographed at the CNG Turnerville Work Center 9/21 (JC, JVK, NV).

Cordilleran Flycatcher: 1 seen and heard in se *Scott* 9/6 (SS).

Eastern Phoebe: Late: 1 at Milford L. (*Geary*) 10/16 (CO, mo). 1 at Rock Ford FA 11/6 (TC).

Say's Phoebe: One at McPherson SFL 9/28 (KB, RR, NV) was slightly easterly, 1 at the dam of Melvern L. 9/22 (GF, PJ, ML) was quite easterly. Peak count of 30 along Cimarron R. in *Morton* 9/15 (DW).

Great Kiskadee: A Great Kiskadee at McPherson SFL 9/15 – 11/24 (BHo) is Kansas' second. This species is an increasingly frequent vagrant on the s Great Plains.

Eastern Kingbird: Late: 1 at McPherson SFL 10/4 (JnL, JsL).

Northern Shrike: Out-of-range: 1 at Shawnee SFL 11/23 (DB, JMa, CM), 1 at Lyon SFL 11/30 (MG).

Bell's Vireo: Latest sighting: 1 singing at Konza Prairie 9/22 (JsL).

Plumbeous Vireo: 1 in Elkhart 9/15 (TC, MR, MRe, DW).

Blue-headed Vireo: In w Kansas, six reports of six individuals: reports from *Hamilton, Morton, Rooks, and Seward*. No Cassin's Vireos were reported this fall. Late: 1 in *Shawnee* 11/7 (JH).

Western Scrub-Jay: Two in Garden City 10/13 (LL).

Fish Crow: The post-breeding and fall migratory movements of Fish Crow in Kansas are not well understood and are likely changing. There were five reports in September: 2 at Neosho SFL 9/20 with 1 there 9/27 (AB), 40 in *Cherokee* 9/21 (AM, BM, JM). In Arkansas City 3 were reported 9/24 and the species was still present 9/27 (GY).

Chihuahuan Raven: Two at CNG Point of Rocks 9/14 (GP) were the only reported.

Common Raven: The "reappearance" of Common Raven in extreme sw Kansas continues. Sightings: 2 at CNG Turnerville Work Center 9/14 (TC, MR, MRe, DW), 4 9/14 nw of Elkhart (TC, MR, MRe, DW).

Purple Martin: In Wichita, 12,000 were estimated at the Via Christi roost 8/2 (MW, RW). A lesser-known roost was reported in Dodge City with an estimated 1,100 8/4 (JC).

Cave Swallow: One photographed at the Liberal WTP 8/17 (JC).

Rock Wren: One in *Harvey* 10/28 (CS) was slightly easterly.

House Wren: Late: 1 in c *Reno* 10/26 (AM, BM).

Sedge Wren: West-most: 1 s of Cedar Cr. (*Russell*) 8/18 (MR).

Townsend's Solitaire: Easterly: 1 at Lyon SFL 11/30 (MG).

Swainson's Thrush: Difficult to find during fall migration in e Kansas. However, exactly 50 flight calls were heard moving overhead at Hillsdale L. ~30 min prior to sunrise 9/2 (JKi). Otherwise there were 6 sightings of 6 individuals in e Kansas from 9/2-21.

Gray Catbird: Late: 1 at McDonald's in Dodge City 10/25 (GB), 1 just s of Larned 10/31 (PJ, WAS).

Brown Thrasher: Late: 1 at Lovewell Res. 11/4 (NAN), 1 in c *Reno* 11/23 (AM, BM).

Sprague's Pipit: Late: 6 in se *Kiowa* 11/10 with an injured bird remaining and photographed 11/13 (JnL).

Smith's Longspur: Westerly: 1 flyover was reported in c *Reno* 11/25 (JM).

Snow Bunting: Two imm. reported: 1 in se *Kiowa* 11/12 (JnL) and 1 (possibly 3) at Cheyenne Bottoms NC property 11/25 (RP).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Seldom reported after the breeding season, although 1 was singing at Konza Prairie 8/23 (ER).

Orange-crowned Warbler: 32 in the MDC area 10/7 (MMh) was a good count for extreme e Kansas. Late: 1 at Cheney Res. (*Kingman*) 11/7 (TE).

Mourning Warbler: West-most: 1 banded at Hays 9/15 (GFa, BH), 1 in c *Reno* 9/17 (JM).

Common Yellowthroat: Late: 1 at Overland Park Arboretum 10/27 (BB), 1 at Neosho WA 11/1-9 (AB).

Northern Parula: West-most: 1 at Quivira 9/15 (BJ). Late: 1 imm. at Northeast Community Park (*Riley*) 11/14 (JsL, BS).

Magnolia Warbler: Westerly: 1 in Elkhart 9/15 (DW).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: West-most: 1 imm. at McPherson SFL 9/16 (TE).

Pine Warbler: Three reports: 1 in the MDC area 9/13 (MMh), 1 at Arvoina Cem. (*Osage*) 9/22-24 (GF, PJ, ML), 1 at Prairie Dog SP 10/11 (BJ).

Canada Warbler: Westerly: 1 banded in Hays 9/16 (GFa, BH), 1 in c *Reno* 9/16 (AM, BM).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Late: 1 in c *Reno* 10/1 (AM, BM).

Black-throated Gray Warbler: Photographed individual ~1 mi se of Derby (*Sedgwick*) 9/10 (MC).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow: 1 continues at Clark SFL 8/1 (JC).

Chipping Sparrow: Late: 1 in c *Reno* 11/15 (JM), another in c *Reno* 11/20 (AM, BM), 1 at Linear Trail (*Riley*) 11/25 (BS).

Brewer's Sparrow: Two reports; Singles in *Morton* 9/13 (TC, MR, MRe) and 9/22 (JC, JVK, NV).

Lark Sparrow: Late: 1 9/30 near Erie WTP (*Neosho*) (AB).

Summer Tanager: West-most: 1 sw of Lincoln (*Lincoln*) 9/28 (MG, KG).

Scarlet Tanager: Westerly: 1 at Arkalon Park 9/20 (JC, JVK, NV).

Western Tanager: Easterly: 1 banded in Hays 9/15 (GF, BH).

Painted Bunting: This species range continues expanding in Kansas. Extralimital sightings: 1 ad. male in c Jackson 8/5 (MH) was northerly, 1 singing male at Elkhart 8/10 (MR) continues where the species probably breeds now.

Dickcissel: Late: 1 in w Geary 10/19 (CO, mo), 1 flyover moving w in c Reno 10/22 (JM).

Orchard Oriole: Latest sighting: 5 at Arkalon Park 9/20 (JC, JVK, NV).

Baltimore Oriole: Late: 1 ad. male in Wabaunsee 10/21 (BMa).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Unusually frequent in ne Kansas this fall with 6 sightings of 12 individuals there.

Sightings: 1 at Sac & Fox Wetlands (Brown) 8/15 (DM), 6 at Atchison SFL 9/5 (DM), singles at Clinton L. 9/1 and 9/11 (MA, JCo), 2 at Hillsdale L, and 1 at Shawnee SFL 11/23 (CM, mo).

Brewer's Blackbird: Early: 1 female photographed in c Reno 9/29 (JM).

Purple Finch: Only 2 reports from eBird and KSBIRDS-L this season. Reports from Leavenworth and Riley with earliest sighting 11/24.

Red Crossbill: 1 heard in Elkhart 9/15 (MR), 1 type 2 flying over Fitch NHR (Douglas) 10/13 (MRo).

Pine Siskin: Scarce this season. Several Pine Siskin were sighted in Johnson during Jun and early Jul 2013 following an invasion winter. One visiting a w Johnson feeder 8/15+ (DBa) likely over-summered. Otherwise earliest arrivals were singles at Arkalon Park 10/12 (JC) and c Reno 10/21 (JM).

Abbreviations: adult (ad.), Big Salt Marsh (BSM), Cemetery (Cem.), Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Fishing Area (FA), Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), immature (imm.), lake (L.), Marais des Cygnes (MDC), Natural Area (NA), Natural History Reservation (NHR), National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Quivria National Wildlife Refuge (Quivira), river (R.), Recreation Area (RA), reservoir (Res.), State Fishing Lake (SFL), Wildlife Area (WA),

Observers: Andrew Burnett (AB), Allison Hill (AH), Anthony Luna (AL), Andrew Miller (AM), Art Weigand (AW), Brett Budach (BB), Brian Gaston (BG), Bobby Higbert (BH), Bob Hoopes (BHo), Barry Jones (BJ), Bryant Miller (BM), Brandon Magette (BMa), Brett Sandercock (BS), Chris Faygal (CF), Carol Morgan (CM), Chuck Otte (CO), Carolyn Schwab (CS), Craig Yerby (CY), Diana Busey (DB), Dawn Bayless (DBa), Devin Couture (DC), Don Kazamaier (DKz), Dan LaShelle (DL), Don Merz (DM), Dave Wiggins (DW), Dave Williams (DWI), Ethan Maynard (EM), Ed Raynor (ER), Frank Stetler (FS), Grant Beauprez (GB), Ginny Culver (GC), Glenn Caspers (GCa), Greg Farley (GF), Galen Pittman (GP), Gene Young (GY), Greyson Yerby (GYe), John Bollin (JB), Jeff Calhoun (JC), Judith Collins (JCI), Jacob Cooper (JCo), Justin Couture (JcT), John Drummond (JD), Jenny Gearheart (JG), Jeff Hansen (JH), Jeff Keating (JK), Jon King (JKi), Jonathan Lautenbach (JnL), Joseph Lautenbach (JsL), Joseph Miller (JM), Jim Malcom (JMa), John McConnell (JMc), John Northrup (JN), Joanne Parker (JP), John Row (JR), Jonathan Van de Kopple (JVK), Jim Walton (JW), Keith Brink (KB), Ken Brunson (KBn), Kat Farres (KF), Kevin Groeneweg (KG), Karen Holton (KH), Kevin Leonard (KL), Larry Langstaff (LL), Michael Andersen (MA), Mary Craig (MC), Matt Gearheart (MG), Mike Harding (MH), Mark Land (ML), Myron Miller (MM), Mick McHugh (MMh), multiple observers (mo), Mike Rader (MR), Mike Resch (MRe), Mark Robbins (MRo), Michael Woodruff (MW), Nic Allen (NA), Nancy Anderson (NAn), Nina Haro (NH), Nick Varvel (NV), Pete Janzen (PJ), Robert Penner (RP), Robert Reed (RR), Roger Woodruff (RW), Scott Seltman (SS), Ted Cable (TC), Tom Ewert (TE), Terry Swope, Wichita Audubon Society (WAS)

Haiku—by Al Schirmacher

Tufted Titmouse

Chickadee better
known, others flashier; song
still brings morning joy.

Phoebe

Rude, tipsy, lord of
the flies; nevertheless your
antics bring a smile

KOS Perspectives: The news in Fall, across five decades

1964

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Dingus are now in Florida for the winter. They have spent most of 1963 traveling with a house trailer from Texas to Arizona to California to Kansas and to Florida. As of December 18, 1963, they had a year list of 429 species!

The secretary has received a letter from Charles A. Ely asking that he be replaced on the KOS Board because he will be away from his teaching duties at Fort Hays Kansas State College until the fall of 1965. He writes "I have taken a two year leave of absence from my teaching duties to accept a temporary position with the Smithsonian Institution. I am field director of the Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program in the Central Pacific and am having a very exciting time. We are studying the various species both on their breeding islands and also at sea with emphasis on distribution and ecology. Needless to say we are finding volumes of new information in this little worked area. After studying prairie birds it seems rather strange to be handling boobies, tropicbirds, frigates, shearwaters, petrels and the like." Dr. Ely's family has joined him in Honolulu.
--Amelia Betts, Secretary--

We note sadly the death of Rachel Carson on April 14. Death always seems inappropriate, and it is especially so with Miss Carson, who had over the past several years assumed a real leadership of people interested in life and living. Her death is even more inopportune at present, for it seems that we are about to witness part of her work coming to fruition: persistent contamination of the Mississippi River basin is now so serious that legislation must be enacted to correct it. The profound ecologic imbalances in the Mississippi at present are a result of inordinately minute amounts of toxic chemicals in the water; that these compounds were even look for, much less found to be causally related to the incredible fish kills, is probably a direct result of the attention focussed on potential pesticide dangers by Miss Carson only two years ago.

We shall remember Miss Carson's abilities as artist and scientist, but we ought not forget her understanding of man's relationships—esthetic, moral, and humanitarian—toward the world in which he lives; it is this that gave her work its characteristic symmetry.--R.F.J.--

KOS Perspectives: The news in Fall, across five decades

1974

According to Max C. Thompson and Dr. Ely, they are making progress on their book, Birds of Kansas.

1984

AOU SLIDE PRESENTATION ON KANSAS

The local committee is planning a slide show entitled "The Birds and Habitats of Kansas" in which they will show birds typically found in the outstanding habitats of Kansas and adjacent states. If you have excellent bird slides which might be appropriate, we would like to hear about them for possible uses as part of our program. Please write to Pamela Rasmussen and describe the slides. If they are slides we need, we will let you know. Do not send slides until you hear from us.

Our priorities are first to obtain quality slides of birds in the selected Kansas habitats listed below, and second, to obtain superior slides showing birds in other Kansas habitats. Finally, habitat shots without birds will help us introduce the various physiographic regions of the state. The areas we especially wish to show are:

- Cheyenne Bottoms
- Marais des Cygnes NWR
- Konza Prairie
- Red Hills area around Medicine Lodge
- Cimarron National Grassland (Morton County)
- Salt Plains NWR (Oklahoma)
- Squaw Creek NWR (Missouri)
- Gove County
- Trego County
- Baldwin Wood and other eastern forests
- and Quivira NWR.

We plan to show a few of the characteristic birds of each locality, especially those that would interest people from other areas. Below is a list of bird species for which we are particularly interested in obtaining good slides.

1994

KOS YOUNG NATURALIST AWARDS

by Roy J. Beckemeyer

The following young people have all made significant contributions to the preservation of the environment of Kansas and to the welfare of the avian fauna of the state. They are the first recipients of the KOS Young Naturalist Award; we hope they are the first of many.

Amy Rintoul is an active participant in bird censusing studies. She has participated in Christmas bird counts and has helped with three Breeding Bird Atlas surveys. In addition to her contributions to the documentation of the statistics of the avian population of Kansas, Amy also helps others to appreciate the beauties of our natural world by providing sketches which appear regularly in the "Prairie Falcon," the newsletter of the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society. Amy is 11 years old, resides in Manhattan, and attends Marlett Elementary School. She is the first recipient of the KOS Young Naturalist Award.

Marie and Aaron Weigel have been working with the Prairie Raptor Project since they were toddlers. They participate in record-keeping, cage cleaning and repair, and medical treatment of injured birds--in other words, with the day-to-day operations of the project. (I'm sure they are now the envy of most KOS members, young and old!) But they also take part in the educational side of the project, including leading tours and telling the public about raptors and the part they play in the natural world. Marie is 15 and she attends Saline High School. Aaron is 12 and is a student at Brookville Grade School.

Jonathan Boyd has accomplished many significant improvements at the Baker University Wetlands. He played a key role in the installation of 850 feet of boardwalk and 24 wood duck and 10 Canada goose nesting structures. He planted native grass seed and 100 oak seedlings, and rip-rapped dikes and culverts. He was also involved in building a quarter-mile nature trail at Ivan Boyd Woods. He has assisted his father in conducting Least Tern research, and has helped with 4 KBBAT blocks. Jonathan is also an Eagle Scout who has earned most of the merit badges related to natural history and the environment. He is 16 and attends Baldwin High School.

Aliah Seay was a 12 year old 7th grader at Manhattan Middle School when she initiated a petition drive last year to halt drag boat races that might have endangered a heron rookery in River Pond. She took the petitions to the race's sponsors in Manhattan, and mailed copies to other race sponsors. Her fortitude and commitment to environmental activism is certainly a model for us all, young or old! It should be mentioned that Aliah's actions served as the inspiration for the initiation of the KOS Young Naturalist Award as a way to say thanks to young people who are working to preserve the environment.

Please join me in thanking and congratulating these young people for their important contributions to the betterment of Kansas ornithology.

(Editors Note - The KOS Young Naturalist Award is a new program that was discussed in the last issue of the Horned Lark. With the YNA we have an opportunity to recognize and encourage those youth who are making a positive environmental impact in the world around them. Refer to the December, 1993 issue of the Horned Lark for more information and an application form, or call Roy Beckemeyer at (316) 264-0049.)



Photo courtesy of Jim Koelliker, Dec 14, 2013 as a part of the Manhattan CBC. Trumpeter Swan.

KOS Perspectives: The news in Fall, across five decades *(cont.)*

Birding: A Reawakening *by Terry Mannell*

2004

The reasons for many of my life choices remain a mystery to me. This may be the case for many of us I presume. I guess, for the most, they seemed like good ideas at the time. Such was the case with our decision to become birders. I say ours because my wife, Sam, and I made the choice together. We had casually watched birds for many years, but never made the leap to trying to identify all of the little brown jobbers until May 5, 2003. No reason for that particular date either, I suppose, except that two, not before seen, LBJs showed up at the feeder.

I grew up in a family that hunted, fished, camped and spent most of our time in the outdoors. The outdoors was a large expanse of unknown with secrets waiting to be discovered by a Kansas boy. Summer found me, whenever I wasn't doing chores, at the creek close to our home. Occasionally my brother, Mark, and I fished; but, mostly we cooled off in the somewhat muddy water and searched for all things living including snakes, frogs, toads and other crawling things. I knew the names of the common birds such as cardinals, orioles, blue jays, thrashers and of course bobwhite quail. With so much to see and learn, I never got around to naming the little birds that usually were seen for only a fleeting moment.

My wife, on the other hand, grew up on a dairy farm. Farmers are surrounded by nature on a daily basis but it often goes unnoticed in the long days of just trying to make ends meet. So my wife, who had rarely traveled out of Kansas as a girl, was in for an eye opening experience when she married into a family of nature lovers. With the birth of our two sons her life quickly became centered around the outdoors. So following the traditions, I had learned from my grandpa and dad, we raised the boys to hunt, fish, camp and enjoy the outdoors. Family vacations were spent not at the Holiday Inn but, in a tent somewhere in the mountains of the west; one year South Dakota, another Wyoming and still another Montana.

However, children grow up and move away and the outdoors took a back seat to other activities we deemed more necessary. Sam and I still vacationed in the outdoors and I continued to fish, but without those questioning minds of our boys something seemed to be missing for me. Sam continued to look at nature with awe, but I had lost much of my enthusiasm. Maybe I just needed a new challenge.

So on May 5th I pulled out the "none to good bird book" we had and as a couple, Sam and I started studying those two new birds in the back yard. After many minutes of looking at the birds and referring to the book and, I might add, many times of changing our minds, we finally identified the birds as a Clay-colored and a White-crowned Sparrow. Of the one I am certain but, the Clay-colored still nags at me. I hope we get another chance for observation during migration this spring.

Identification gave way to keeping track of the birds we had seen and all of a sudden we have become listers in the vernacular of birders. So the last year has been one of reawakening. Sam and I try to go birding once a week if only to the stream that runs through town. We helped with two Christmas Bird Counts and spent 10 days birding in southern Texas. We no longer drive the highways or walk our dogs without looking for and trying to name the birds we see. Everywhere we go others are eager to help us, whether it is to take us birding or point us in the right direction. Thanks to birding we have fallen in love all over again with the outdoors and I again look at nature with the wonderment of that young boy in eastern Kansas.

Bird Records Committee

The Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) serves as a committee of the Kansas Ornithological Society with the expressed purpose of reviewing records of rare birds, maintaining those records and publishing an "official" list of the birds of Kansas. Periodically the KBRC updates the "Review List" or those birds that should be documented when they are seen in Kansas. The list is maintained on the Internet at:
<http://www.ksbirds.org/KBRC/kbrcrvulist.html>
If you do not have access to the Internet and would like a copy of the review list and rare bird report form please contact the KBRC secretary, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441 and he will provide you with printed copies of all this material.

Kansas Ornithological Society Balance Sheet

Max Thompson, Treasurer

INVESTMENT FUND	ASSETS
CHECKING	\$176,519.30
SUBTOTAL	\$9,104.44
DINGUS LAND	\$185,623.74
TOTAL	\$56,000.00
	\$243,629.74

GENERAL FUND	LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES
ENDOWMENTS	\$14,499.78
LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT	\$85,806.03
BOOK ROYALTY FUND	\$36,203.94
DINGUS NATURE AREA FUND	\$35,815.77
STUDENT RESEARCH FUND	\$9,532.04
DINGUS NATURE AREA LANDS	\$5,772.18
TOTAL	\$56,000.00
	\$243,629.74

The Dingus Nature Area is currently being carried on the books at the Linn County courthouse with a value of \$85,000.

There are no outstanding bills. The checking account does carry \$600 in life memberships which will be transferred to the investment fund. The Birds of Kansas royalty check should be arriving sometime this month. When it comes in, I will make the transfer to the investment company. The investment fund amount is the quarterly report ending December 31, 2013. I can assure the board this number is now lower with stock prices being what they are.

Max C. Thompson
Treasurer

Photo courtesy of Bob Mangile, Pittsburg, KS.



News from KOS members

We heard about Matt and Kevin's accomplishments last month and now it is official as their totals are all in. And now we have another who has reached being listable in all 105 Kansas counties. Jim Malcolm has now achieved this milestone with this month's listing. Congratulations Jim and to all of you. Here is to many more accomplishments in the future.

Mark Land—Overland Park, KS

KOS remembers long time member and Topeka area birder Joanne Brier who passed January 31, 2014. She was a member of the State Wildflower Board, the Topeka Audubon Society and KOS.



Picture courtesy of Dallas Hewett, Black Crowned Night Heron, Keeper of the Plains, March 7, 2014

It's time to renew your KOS membership!

New Member Renewal

Please clearly mark your choice of membership category below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Individual | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular 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



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

Summer, 2014

Vol. 41, No. 2

Hooded Oriole Photographed in Kansas



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www.BirdsInFocus.com

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From the Keyboard

By the Editor

Birding makes moments better, even grand moments.

In May, I had the opportunity to go to Stavanger, Norway (on the south-western coast it is that country's oil export hub) on a business trip. It was an exciting opportunity to bird. Many of the warblers and other migrants coming out of Central African rainforests breed on Scandinavia's high moors, feeding off the abundance of the tundra and northern forests; many waterfowl come north too.

It was a short trip and there was not a lot of time to bird between work but the sun didn't set till 10:30 so there was enough time in the evenings for short jaunts. A short walk away was a small lake with dozens of great-black-backed and lesser black-backed gulls. During one dinner along the pier that abutted the hotel, I watched a GBBG compete with pigeons for scraps of food. That same evening I spotted a grey heron on the roof above the café where I was having an over-priced beer.

On my last day in country, I hiked up to a well-known landmark, the Preikestolen. It's a promontory that looks out over the Lysefjord, one of Norway's most famous tourist sites. Along the way I heard a mys-

(Continued on page 20)

In memorium

By Chuck Otte

This message is directed at those folks who have been around KOS since the late 1960s and early 1970s. I learned this evening that Celia White Markum passed away early this morning in hospice in Harlingen Texas. Celia was 96. Celia was a KOS board member in the late 60s and early 70s serving as president of KOS in 1970-71. Celia was quite active until the past couple of years when age finally slowed her down. Celia spent much of her life in Junction City and I had the privilege to get to know her over the years and spend time birding with her. She was a class act and a grand lady. She will be missed by all who knew her.



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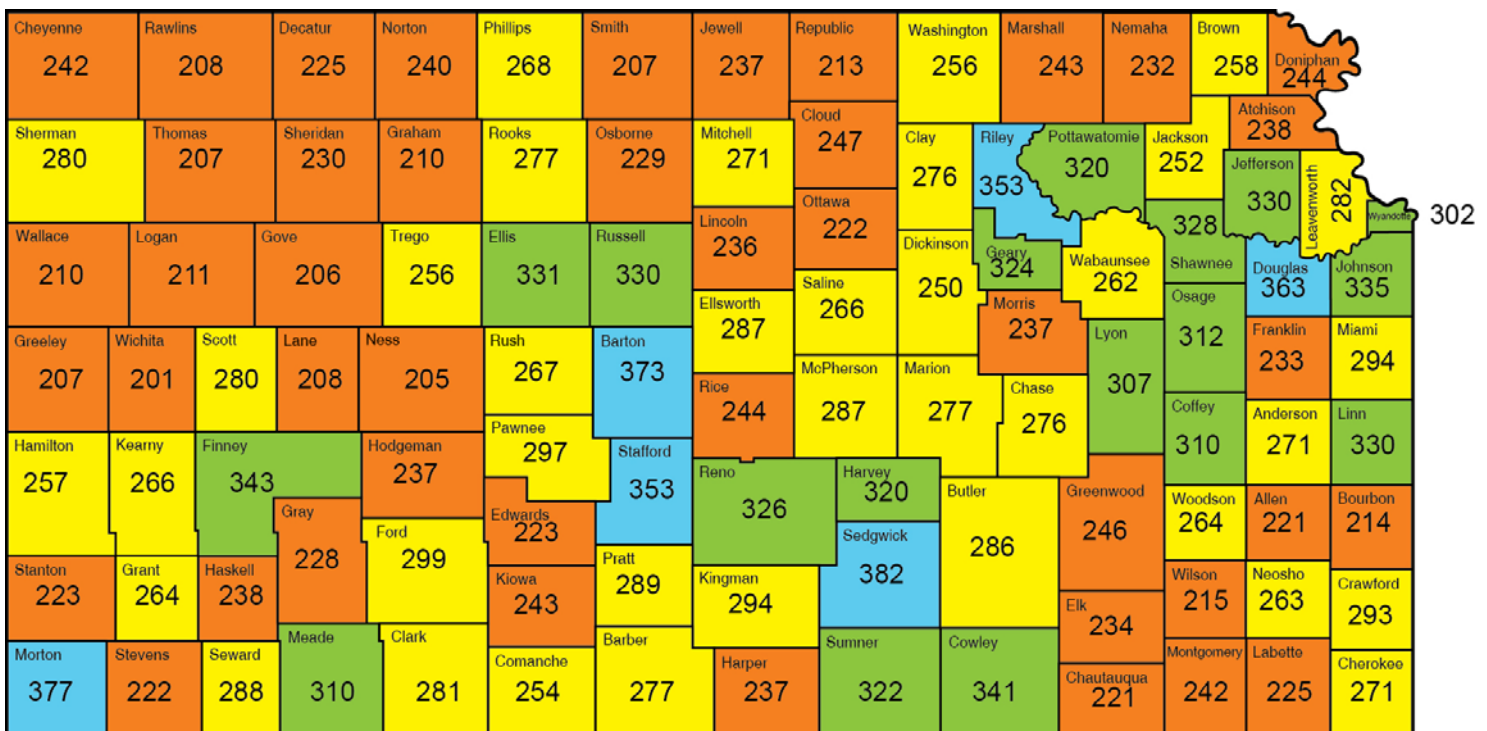
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No County below 200,

By Pete Janzen

On May 10, 2014, Jeff Calhoun and I decided to spend as much time as was required to get at least one new species of bird for Wichita County's all-time species list. This would remove the last of Kansas' 105 Counties from the Chuck Otte (under 200 species) "List of Shame" that had been generated some years ago. After mediocre stops in Marienthal and the Leoti lagoons, I followed a hunch and talked Jeff into temporarily ditching Leoti in favor of a pathetic stand of trees along White Woman Creek discovered by Kevin G. last year, euphemistically designated "Sherwood Forest". This turned out to be a lucky call. For the record, the bird that put the last county in Kansas over 200 species was a male Hooded Warbler calling from within a massive pile of dead tumbleweeds in a dessicated stream channel in the shadow of one of the larger cattle feedlots in NW KS. This was followed about 30 minutes later by an Indigo Bunting, #201 for Wichita County. I understand that later this summer, Chuck will be updating the maps to show all those counties that have less than 250 species. So it's just like my sales job....you achieve a seemingly amazing goal, so the sales manager sets the bar even higher for the next round! It's a testimonial to the dedication of the county listers in Kansas that we actually achieved 200 species in all 105 counties in Kansas. Some of them can be quite challenging indeed. There are certainly some where 250 seems to be utterly impossible to ever achieve even with decades of future effort but I think that this is an achievable number in at least half or two-thirds of them.



Kansas 2013-14 Winter season roundup

Jon King, compiler

The winter of 2013 - 2014 was cold and dry. After a mild fall, temperatures plunged rapidly in December. According to the *High Plains Climate Data Center*, December temperatures in the east were 2-6 °F below normal, but generally within 2 °F of normal in the west. By February, temperatures averaged 7.4 °F below normal statewide, and locally more than 10 °F below normal in the northeast. This was the states 13th coldest February in 120 years. Kansas' long-standing dry spell continued this winter. The east was abnormally dry (D0) while the west suffered from severe drought (D2) and locally extreme drought (D3) (*US Drought Monitor*).

Freeze-over at Kansas reservoirs was more extensive than usual with such cold conditions. Webster, Cheney, Wilson, and L. Afton were mostly, but not completely, frozen this winter (J. Van de Kopple, P. Janzen, M. Rader). Most northeast Kansas reservoirs were frozen at one point (M. Gearheart), while Melvern and Pomona were frozen most of the winter (J. Malcom). These conditions concentrated waterfowl on remaining open water areas. Wyandotte County L. was popular with Kansas City area birders for this reason, and at one point the lake was holding some 30,000 Canada Goose, 20,000 Mallard, and 75 Trumpeter Swans in Jan. However, Wilson L. once again produced the most "inland seabirds" this winter including all three scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Pacific Loon. Despite the deep-freeze, 32 species of waterfowl were recorded this season, or 33 if the Taiga Bean Goose reported at Wilson L. is accepted by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

Gulling in Kansas was generally good this winter. Earlier in the season gull numbers were excellent along the Kansas R. and L. Quivira, which is situated just south of the Kansas R., was quite popular with Kansas City area birders for this reason. The lake produced eight gull species total with seven species seen on 28 December. As harsher weather set in, gulls were especially concentrated in the south-central region at sites such as Cheney Res. and Winfield City L.. Elsewhere, this was the most productive winter for gulls at Melvern L. in a long time (J. Malcom). Notable species this winter included two Great Black-backed Gulls and an Iceland Gull. Unlike waterfowl and gulls, wintering shorebirds were generally scarce this year as could be expected. However, Kansas did have its first winter Solitary Sandpiper this year.

Fruit-eating passerines such as the American Robin and Cedar Waxwing were generally in short supply this year except in the Red Hills where these species and Mountain Bluebird were abundant. With all the robins, waxwings, and bluebirds in the Red Hills, Merlin and accipiter numbers were also above average. Wintering sparrow numbers were "low", "very low", "down", and "in the basement" across the state this season. Rare passerines of note this season included a Say's Phoebe in southeast Kansas, a winter Sprague's Pipit, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, and a Lesser Goldfinch in northeast Kansas.

This was not a year to see irruptive northern finches. Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin were all quite scarce with single reports of Common Redpoll and Evening Grosbeak. Although winter finches were lacking, other northern species such as Snowy Owl and Northern Shrike made a good showing. This was an invasion year for Snowy Owl, especially in the east United States. Kansas birders reported 14+ Snowy Owls this season. Extralimital reports of Northern Shrike have increased recently, and this was another good year for the species, especially in northeast Kansas.



Michael Harding, Marbled Godwits.

Thanks to all those observers who reported their sightings via eBird or KSBIRDS-L, and special thanks to H. Armknecht, A. Burnett, J. Calhoun, G. Friesen, M. Gearheart, P. Janzen, M. Land, J. Malcom, R. Penner, M. Rader, S. Seltman, and J. Van de Kopple for their insights regarding this winter season. For further information on the winter season, please see the forthcoming Kansas CBC summary published in the KOS Bulletin which was not consulting in making this report.

Bean Goose: Possible. A flyover was reported at Wilson L. (*Russell*) (MR,RP) on 1/25. Unfortunately the bird was not subsequently relocated. The observers noted a strange 3-note call, a plain belly, white “U” on tail, orange legs, and a dark bill with a yellow patch towards the middle/end and a dark tip. This would represent a first state record if accepted. This bird was reportedly of the “Taiga” species.

Trumpeter Swan: Increasingly common. Highest counts: 35 at Neosho WA 1/25 (AB) and 75 at WYCL 1/12 (MG,BAS). West-most reported were 2 at Webster Res. 12/13 – 1/4 (MZ,ZK) and 1 in *Barton* 1/16 (RP).

Tundra Swan: A good showing with an estimated 17 individuals reported at 6 locations excluding Quivira or CBWA. All sightings: 3 at BSM 12/2 (BJ), 3 (2 ad., 1 imm.) with photo at Neosho WA 12/7 with 2 remaining 1/25 (AB), 1 at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 12/10 (MR), 2 ad. in *Bourbon* 12/31 (MH,NV,RR), 1 ad. photographed at SMP 1/3 (DS,JG,MG), 3 ad. photographed at Olathe L. 1/3-4 (RW), and several birds at WYCL 12/28 – 2/7 (mo) with a maximum of 4 there 1/2 (DS).

Mute Swan: Free-flying individuals are appearing in fall and winter recently, as in Nebraska (*North American Birds Vol. 64 No. 1, Southern Great Plains*). Sightings: 2 on the Republican R. (*Gear*) 12/15 (JK), 2 at Milford L. (*Gear*) 1/18 (BG), and 1 ad. associating with Trumpeter Swans at Neosho WA 12/27 into Mar (AB).

American Black Duck: 1 at WYCL 1/4 - 2/2 (MA,PH), 1 photographed at JEC 1/24

Table 1. Winter Water-bird High Counts, Dec 2013 - Jan 2014				
Species	Count	Date	Location	Observer(s)
Greater White-fronted Goose	3,000	1/12	CBWA	BJ
Greater White-fronted Goose	2,200	2/21	CBWA	BJ
Snow Goose	171,000	2/17	CBWA	RP
Snow Goose	103,000	2/22	CBWA	RP
Ross's Goose	2,000	2/22	Cedar Bluff Res.	JVK
Ross's Goose	500	2/23	BSM	JnL
Ross's Goose	520	1/11	Coldwater L.	JnL,JsL
Cackling Goose	5,000	2/23	BSM	JnL,JsL
Canada Goose	26,000	1/4	Webster Res.	MR
Canada Goose	30,000	12/28	WYCL	MG
Wood Duck	43	1/11	Garden City	JC
Wood Duck	33	2/16	Wichita	BW
Gadwall	800	1/7	Johnson Co. WTP	JW
American Wigeon	400	2/23	<i>Ford</i>	JC
American Wigeon	200	12/10	Winfield City L.	MT
Mallard	25,000	12/10	Perry L.	MA
Mallard	35,000	1/26	Quivira	BJ
Mallard	20,000	1/26	WYCL	MG
Mallard	20,000	12/10	Winfield City L.	MT
Northern Shoveler	100	2/21	Johnson Co. WTP	MG
Northern Pintail	5,711	2/21	Quivira	BJ
Northern Pintail	8,500	2/23	<i>Ford</i>	JC
Green-winged Teal	1,157	2/21	BSM	BJ

Canvasback	110	3/25	L. Vaquero (<i>Shawnee</i>)	JH
Redhead	822	2/21	Quivira	BJ
Ring-necked Duck	284	1/1	Johnson Co. WTP	MG
Ring-necked Duck	284	1/1	Johnson Co. WTP	MG
Greater Scaup	25	12/1	Wilson WTP (<i>Ellsworth</i>)	MR
Lesser Scaup	415	12/14	<i>Sedgwick</i>	PJ
Bufflehead	115	1/5	Wilson L.	MR
Common Goldeneye	3,500	12/8	Kanopolis L.	MR
Common Goldeneye	6,500	1/5	Wilson L.	MR
Hooded Merganser	250	12/15	Clinton L.	JCo,MA
Hooded Merganser	159	1/26	Winfield City L.	MT
Common Merganser	5,000	12/23	Waconda L.	JVK
Common Merganser	5,000	1/3	Winfield City L.	MT
Red-breasted Merganser	25	12/29	Melvern L.	JM
Ruddy Duck	26	12/3	Melvern L.	MM
Pied-billed Grebe	15	12/14	<i>Sedgwick</i>	PJ
Common Loon	6	1/21	La Cygne L.	MM
American White Pelican	116	1/26	Cheney Res.	PJ,TE
Double-crested Cormorant	171	12/14	<i>Sedgwick</i>	PJ
Double-crested Cormorant	150	2/25	Wichita	EM
Great Blue Heron	50	12/9	L. Afton	PG
Great Blue Heron	55	12/29	Milford L. (<i>Geary</i>)	BS
Great Blue Heron	29	12/14	<i>Sedgwick</i>	PJ
American Coot	100	1/1	Wichita	JC,PJ,TE
American Coot	180	1/4	WYCL	JKi
Killdeer	14	2/26	<i>Reno</i>	AMi
Herring Gull	210	1/29	Cheney Res.	ER,JsL,KG
Herring Gull	265	12/19	Clinton L.	Jki
Ring-billed Gull	2,600	12/28	L. Quivira	MG,mo

(BMA).

American Black Duck x Mallard: 1 at WYCL 1/4 (MA,PH) with a possible hybrid reported there 1/12 (MG,BAS). This is a common hybrid in the east and observers should carefully scrutinize all KS Black Ducks.

Blue-winged Teal: Earliest and only: 1 in *Reno* 2/20 (CMi), 1 at CBWA 2/25 (CMi).

Surf Scoter: 1 imm. at Kanopolis L. (*Ellsworth*) 12/8 (MR), 1 at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 12/3-15 (DK).

White-winged Scoter: At Wilson L. (*Russell*) seen 11/22 - 12/15 (MR) with 1 ad. male, 1 ad. female, and 2 imm. there 12/15.

Black Scoter: 2 at L. Afton 11/28 – 12/3 (KG) with photos, at Wilson L. (*Russell*) seen 11/24 - 12/15 with 4 there 12/15 (MR).

Long-tailed Duck: 1 photographed at Cheney Res. (*Reno*) 12/1 (KG) continuing from 11/24, 1 photographed at Tuttle Creek Res. (*Riley*) 12/1-3 (ER), 2 at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 12/3 – 1/28 (DK) with a maximum of 2 12/15 (MR), and 1 at WYCL 12/26 (mo) with photos, the latter continuing into Apr.

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 ad. male at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 12/2-15 (MR), 1 imm. male at SMP 2/6 (ML), and 1 ad. male photographed in Wichita 1/1-9 (JC,PJ,TE) as is usual during the past decade. 1 reported at L. Afton 12/2 (LL).

Common Merganser: This species was present in elevated numbers at several south-central KS locations, likely due to cold conditions. Elevated numbers were noted on Wichita sandpits while numbers at Cheney Res. were normal (PJ). 700 at Quivira 2/21 (BJ) was the first time such numbers have been recorded here in years. (BJ). Numbers were similarly elevated at Winfield City L. (MT).

Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser: 1 male photographed at Hillsdale L. 1/20 (NV, RR).

American White Pelican: Highest count: 116 at Cheney Res. (*Kingman, Reno*) 1/26 (PJ,TE). These birds were not present earlier in winter and PJ suspects these originated from places south. However, they quickly disappeared with a subsequent cold snap. Recall that American White Pelicans began accumulating at Clinton L. during a mild Feb last winter, with up to 453 present by 2/23.

Common Loon: Rare by mid-winter. Sighted at La Cygne L. from 12/26 into Mar with a maximum of 6 there 1/21 (MM).

Pacific Loon: 1 at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 12/15 (MR) continuing from fall is becoming typical at this location.

Horned Grebe: Rare by mid-winter; 1 was at WYCL 1/11-26 (MS).

Eared Grebe: Rare by mid-winter. 1 was at Melvern L. 12/29 (JMa).

Neotropic Cormorant: 1 at John Redmond Res. 12/19 (JM).

Great Blue Heron: Highest counts: 50 at L. Afton 12/9 (PG), 55 at Milford L. (*Gearly*) 12/29 (BS) roosting, and 29 in *Sedgwick* 12/14 (PJ).

Black-crowned Night Heron: Late: 1 at LSM 12/16 (MR).

Plegadis sp.: Late: 1 at the Hildebrand sandpit (*Stafford*) 12/1 (AA). 8 in Reno 12/14 (MP).

Table 2. Snowy Owls in Kansas, Dec 2013 - Feb 2014

Qty	Date(s)	Location(s)	County(ies)	Observer	Comments
1	12/6	near Ogden	Riley	CO(rep.)	
1	12/7 - 12/9	Jct. K15 and K148, Linn Willow Creek Dairy	Washington	CO(rep.)	
1	12/10	Hwy 77, ~4 mi s of Geary SFL	Morris	JK(rep.)	
1	12/12 - 12/16	1st St. near Harvey/Butler line	Butler, Harvey	CS	HY female
1	12/13	~4 miles sw of Sabetha	Nemaha	GW	
1	12/15	Duvall Rd.	Russell	MR(rep.)	
3	12/28 - 2/22	Cheyenne Bottoms area	Barton	mo	max. of 3 1/27
1	1/1	2-3 mi s of Satanta		JCV	
1	1/9	s of Webster Res.	Rooks	MR(rep.)	
1	1/12	Jct. Armstrong & Lightville	Saline	SBr	
1	1/20	near Jct. Boyd Rd. and 54th Rd.	Shawnee	DH(rep.)	
1	1/31	~20 mi w of Verdigris R.		RK(rep.)	

Turkey Vulture: Two in *Franklin* 2/16 (SB), 1 at Delphos (*Ottawa*), 1 at Schermerhorn Park 2/22 (LH), and 1 in Topeka 2/26 (JBY,RB) were likely early migrants.

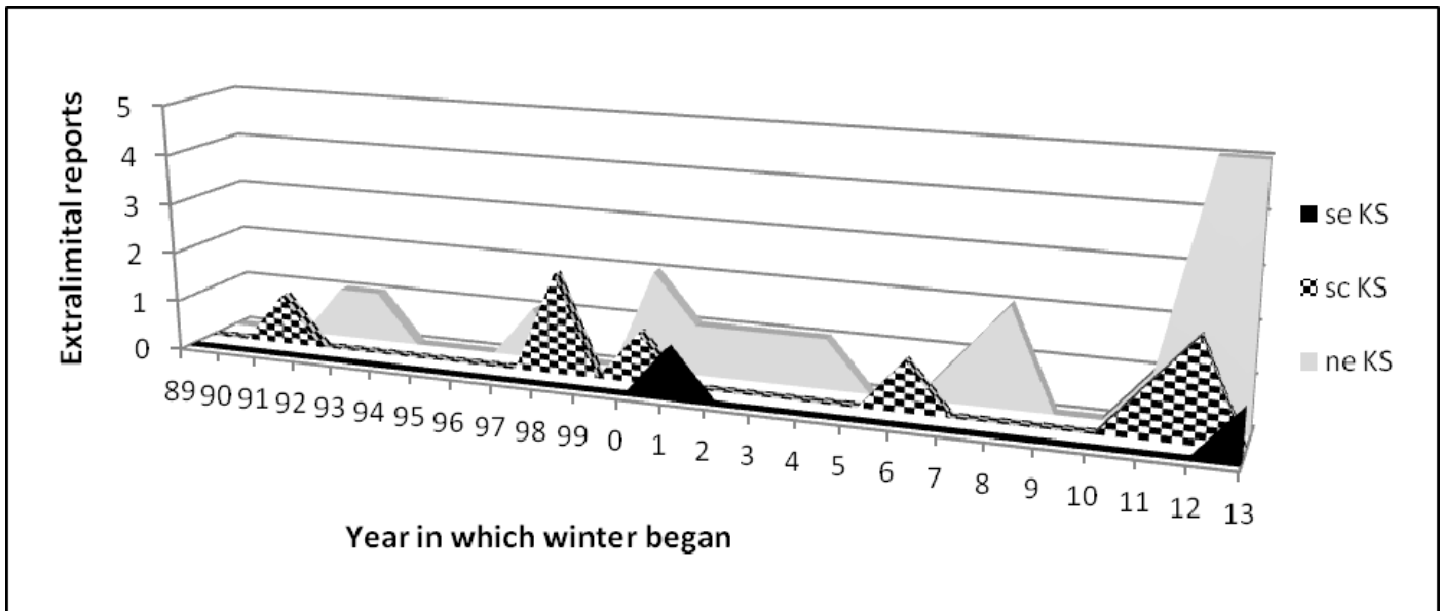
Bald Eagle: Largest concentrations were 115 at Waconda L. (HA,JVK), 115 at Webster Res. 2/22 (JVK), and 265+ at Cheney Res. (*Kingman, Reno*) 2/1 (PJ,WAS). Record high numbers were present at Cheney Res. this winter (PJ). Numbers were similarly elevated along the Kansas R. in *Johnson* and *Wyandotte* (ML).

Northern Goshawk: 1 sight record at Harvey County West Park 1/4 (GF).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Westerly for winter: 1 at Elm Mills (*Barber*) 1/7 (MR,mo), 1 at Barber SFL 1/11 (JnL,JsL), 1 ad. near Medora (*Reno*) 2/14 (EM). This species is increasing in south-central Kansas and can be seen in the Red Hills during winter now.

Red-tailed Hawk (Kridler's): 1 ad. photographed at Lyon SFL 11/29 – 12/18 (KLo).

Golden Eagle: Four easterly records from the Flint Hills: 1 in *Wabaunsee* 12/19 (JK), 1 1st yr in *Morris* 1/11 (JMa), 1 1st yr in *Riley* 2/3 (ABa), and 1 imm. at Tuttle Creek Res. (*Riley*) 2/26 (DB).



Sora: 1 at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 1/19 (MR).

Virginia Rail: 1 in *Comanche* 12/1 (JC), 1 at the Ulysses WTP 12/8 (JC), 2 at Quivira 12/16 (MR), 5 at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 1/19 (MR).

Sandhill Crane: Sandhill Cranes did not linger this winter, and they were not reported from the Red Hills where 1,000s are sometimes present. The only Jan *eBird* sightings were 20 at Quivira 1/12 (BJ), and 1 photographed at Woodston WA (*Rooks*) 1/11 (JVK).

Whooping Crane: Earliest and only: 2 at CBWA on 2/28 (MHa).

Greater Yellowlegs: 2 at BSM 12/19 (MR), 1 at the 71st St. Canoe Launch (*Sedgwick*) 1/14 (DE). Early migrants were 1 at Quivira 2/21 (BJ) with 3 at BSM 2/23 (JnL,JsL,SR), and 3 at CBWA 2/25 (ABa).

Solitary Sandpiper: 1 ad. photographed along the Arkansas R. near Derby 12/29-30 (JC). This is the first winter record.

Least Sandpiper: 4 at the Harper WTP (*Harper*) 12/1 (JC), 7 at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 12/3 (DK), 1 at Clinton L. 12/21 (JKi), 2 along the Arkansas R. near Derby 12/29 (JC), and 1 in Wichita 1/1 (CMi,JC,PJ,TE).

American Woodcock: Only sightings: 1 in Winfield 1/21 (JD), 1 "peenting" at Rocky Ford SFA (BS) despite a foot of snow, and 1 flushed at L. Fort Scott 12/15 (NV).

Franklin's Gull: 1 flyover at SMP 12/3 (ML), 2 basic plumage individuals at John Redmond Res. 12/7 (MG), and 1 alternate plumage individual at L. Quivira 12/28 – 1/4 (MC,MG).

California Gull: 1 ad. seen by many and photographed at L. Quivira 1/2-4 (GP), 5 at Winfield City L. 1/25 (MT), 1 1st cycle at CBWA 1/30 (MR), 1 ad. at Tunnel Mill Dam (Winfield) 2/2 (GY,MT), and 1 ad. at Melvern L. 2/23 (JMa).

Herring Gull: Significant concentrations were 265 (~250 ad., ~15 imm.) at Clinton L. 12/19 (JKi) and 210 at Cheney Res. 1/29 (ER,JsL,KG). Numbers were similarly elevated at Winfield City L. (MT).

Thayer's Gull: An estimated 13 individuals reported in *Coffey*, *Douglas*, *Ellsworth*, *Jefferson*, *Johnson*, and *Reno*. Highest Count: 4 (1 ad., 3 imm.) at L. Quivira 12/28 (MG,mo).

Iceland Gull (Kumlien's): 1 ad. photographed at Webster Res. 2/21 (JVK) is Kansas' west-most record. There are still fewer than 10 accepted records (*KBRC*) and this species has been reported in 2 of the past 10 winters (*The Horned Lark vol. 31 – 40*). However, this is the second consecutive winter in which the species was reported.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: An estimated 9 individuals reported in *Coffey, Douglas, Johnson, Kingman, Miami, Osage, Reno, and Rooks*.

Glaucous Gull: An estimated 13 individuals reported in *Coffey, Cowley, Douglas, Ellsworth, Jefferson, Johnson, Kingman, Miami, Reno, and Russell*. Highest Count: 4 (1 ad., 3 imm.) at L. Quivira 12/28 (JW).

Great Black-backed Gull: An increasingly likely vagrant, which has been reported in 4 of the past 10 winters (*The Horned Lark vol. 31 – 40*). However, this is the third consecutive winter the species has been reported. A 1st cycle was at L. Quivira 12/21 (MG,ML) and an ad. was at Cheney Res. (*Reno*) 1/26 (PJ,TE).

Burrowing Owl: 1 in a *Pawnee* road 12/22 (MHa,SH) after a snow storm.

Snowy Owl: This was a major invasion year for Snowy Owl, primarily in the e US. However, Kansas was not left out (Table 2).

Long-eared Owl: Reported at Lyon SFL as usual with maximum of 4 on 1/18 (TAS), and elsewhere only report was 4 at Webster Res. 1/26 (JVK).

White-winged Dove: Good counts were 18 in Elkhart 12/28 (JRa,MR) and 10 in Manhattan 12/16 – 2/15 (JR), but Garden City is still the White-winged Dove capitol of KS with 141 at the Shane residence 1/11 (SSh,TS).

Rufous Hummingbird: 1 ad. male at an Olathe feeder 12/6 (MG (rep.)), which was banded.

Peregrine Falcon: As usual, a Peregrine Falcon was in downtown Topeka with sightings 1/6 – 2/1 (JMa).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Westerly sightings for winter: 1 in *Harvey* 12/14 (EM), 4 in *Saline* (BG).

Pileated Woodpecker: Expanding westward along south-central KS drainages and 1 along the Chikaskia R. in *Harper* 12/1 (JC) was a good example.

Eastern Phoebe: Poor showing this winter. Only report was 1 at Buckner Valley Park (*Hodgeman*) 1/12 (Jeff Calhoun). Absent on the Red Hills CBC where now expected in winter.

Say's Phoebe: Increasingly reported as a vagrant during winter in the Midwest, likely due to dry conditions in the w US (*North American Birds Vol. 6 No. 2, The Changing Seasons*). Reported once in KS during the past 10 winters (*The Horned Lark Vol. 31 - 40*). This winter 1 was photographed at a recently manured garden in *Labette* 12/31 – 1/8 (AB, MH, NV, RR) with photos taken.

Northern Shrike: Extralimital reports are increasing in recent winters, especially in ne KS (figure 1). Extralimital sightings: 1 ad. at Shawnee SFL 12/13 – 2/1 (CM) with photo, 1 ad. at Neosho WA 12/31 - 1/18 (AB,MH,NV,RR) with photo, 1 just s of Lyon SFL 1/3 (JMa), 1 at Melvern L. 1/18 (JMa), 1 ad. at Hillsdale L. 1/21 (GYe) with photo, and 1 ad. in *Linn* 1/15 (MM).

Western Scrub-Jay: Sightings: 1 photographed at Finney Game Refuge 1/11 (JC), 2 at Cimarron NG (*Morton*) 1/24 (SS,TC), and 1 present for 3+ weeks in Johnson City during Feb (JC(rep.)).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Poor showing. Statewide reported on 0.35 % of checklists in Jan, while Jan average over past 12 years is 5.0 % (*eBird*).

House Wren: 1 photographed at Scott SP 12/1 (SSh) was late.

Sedge Wren: Early in winter it was easy to find at Quivira 12/1 (BJ), 2 were at Neosho WA 12/1 with 1 there on 12/15 (both AB), and 1 was at Quivira 12/16 (MR). Later, 1 was at Dyck Arboretum (*Harvey*) 1/11-15 (EM).

Marsh Wren: Highest Count: 6 at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 1/19 (MR).



Osprey eats fish, taken at Augusta City Lake April, 2014 by Mike Nolan.

Carolina Wren: 1 photographed at Scott SP 12/1 (SSh). Despite harsh conditions, Carolina Wren numbers seemed steady in south-central KS (MT,PJ).

Bewick's Wren: Rare in *Linn*, with 1 on 1/19 (MM) only a mile n of last winter's sighting there.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Numbers were above average in the Wichita area during Dec (JC).

Mountain Bluebird: Excellent showing in the Red Hills with new all-time high count of 2,018 on the Red Hills CBC 1/4 (PJ). 1,440 was the previous high-count. Notable single-party counts in *Barber* were 628 (JC) and 369 (ER,PJ) both on 1/4, and 250 in *Comanche* on 2/7 (JnL).

Townsend's Solitaire: A good season for Townsend's Solitaire in the Stockton, Wilson, and Dodge City general areas (JC,JVK,MR). Easterly sightings: present at Lyon SFL 11/30 – 2/16 (MG) with maximum of 2 there 12/15 – 1/15, 1 at Tuttle Creek Res. (*Pottawatomie*) 12/15 (BS), and 1 at Milford L. (*Gear*) 1/11 (LM).

American Robin: Numbers down in the Topeka, Wilson, and Stockton general areas (JMa,JVK,MR), while numbers in the Red Hills area were excellent (JC,PJ).

Gray Catbird: A good winter for this species in several Midwestern states (*eBird*). Sightings: 1 in *Barber* 1/9 (JnL,JsL), 1 at Leavenworth Landing Park 2/4-10 (MS). This species has been reported in 3 of the past 10 winters (*The Horned Lark vol. 31 - 40*).



Hooded Oriole, May 1, 2014, Douglas County
Photo by Dan Huffman

Brown Thrasher: 5 sightings: 1 in *Shawnee* 1/26 (GC,JMa), another in *Shawnee* 1/2-5 (GC), 1 in *Harvey* 2/8 (EM), 1 in *Chautauqua* 2/13 (RP), and 1 in *Pawnee* from early Dec to early Feb (SS).

American Pipit: 5 sightings: 1 in *Reno* 12/1 (KG), 1 in *Riley* 12/7 (BS,FS,JsL,SR), another in *Riley* 12/10 (ER), 1 in *Miami* 1/20 (MH,NV), and 3 at L. Parsons 2/23 (AB).

Sprague's Pipit: 1 flushed from a grassy two-track and called in *Comanche* 1/25 (JnL). There are few winter records of this species and Sprague's Pipit is not mentioned during winter in the past 10 years (*The Horned Lark vol. 31 - 40*).

Cedar Waxwing: Numbers were down in the Wilson and Stockton general areas, but good in Wichita (JC,JVK,MR) and excellent in

the Red Hills. The Red Hills CBC recorded 2,315 on 1/4, shattering the previous high count of 697 (PJ).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Rarely but regularly reported in south-central KS during winter. Sightings: 8+ in 13,000 Laplands in *Ford* 12/14 (Jeff Calhoun), 30 flushed from a *Reno* roadside 1/12 (PJ), 3 at CBWA 2/17 (RP) with Laplands, 1 *Comanche* 2/27 (JnL).

McCown's Longspur: 1 in *Pratt* 12/6 (JnL) with photo and another in *Pratt* 1/7 with Laplands (JnL).

Smith's Longspur: Westerly sightings: 1 in *Kiowa* 2/9 (JnL), 25 in *Comanche* 12/16 (JnL). Highest count was 50 1/25 near Udall (GY,MT) and the northern-most were near Lyon SFL with a maximum of 36 in that area on 12/18 (Cole Wolf, Matt Baumann).

Orange-crowned Warbler: 3 sightings: 1 in *Leavenworth* 12/3 (JB), 1 at Maple Grove Cem. 12/14 – 1/1 (KG), 1 in Manhattan 1/17 (BS).

Pine Warbler: 1 ad. male and 1 imm. male/ad. female photographed at Maple Grove Cem. 12/14(KG).

Eastern Towhee: Only reports: 2 males in *Rooks* 1/4 (MR), 1 in *Riley* present from mid Dec until at least 2/16 (TC), 1 male in *Linn* 1/25 (MM). This species is rare and regular in c KS during winter (SS).

Chipping Sparrow: 1 photographed amongst Tree Sparrows at Kaw Point Riverfront Park (*Johnson*) 2/16 (KL), 1 at a feeder in *Reno* 12/22-26 (JM). Reported in 6 of the past 10 winters (*The Horned Lark vol. 31 - 40*).

Vesper Sparrow: 1 visiting a feeder in *Reno* 12/26 (JM) with photos. Reported in 4 of the past 10 winters (*The Horned Lark vol. 31 – 40*).

Lark Bunting: Only reported was 1 s of *Nekoma (Rush)* 12/8 (DKz), although little data from sw KS were available this season.

Savannah Sparrow: Scarce in ne KS with and the only significant flocks noted were in se KS. For example, 11 in *Neosho* 1/5 (AB) or a group of 21 in *Cherokee* (MH,NV,RR).

Golden-crowned Sparrow: Adult amongst Tree and White-crowned Sparrows at Cimarron NG 1/24 (SS,TC). Although annual by the late 1980s (*Birds of Kansas*), it was reported in only 4 of the past 10 years (*The Horned Lark Vol. 31 – 40*).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 1 photographed in *Johnson* 1/25 (JW).

Rusty Blackbird: Highest count: 250 in *Butler* 1/5 (BB) with photos by BGr.

Great-tailed Grackle: Highest count reported was 5,000 near Mulvane Casino 12/8 (GY).

Purple Finch: Scarce. In *Douglas*, *Johnson*, and *Shawnee* reported on 0.22 % of checklists during Jan, while the Jan average over past the 10 years is 7.8 % across these counties (*eBird*).

Common Redpoll: 1 made a brief appearance at a *Johnson* feeder 12/29 (RA).

Pine Siskin: Scarce. Statewide reported on 0.23 % of checklists in Jan, while the 10 year Jan average is 7.2 % (*eBird*).

Lesser Goldfinch: Two reports from Garden City: 1 photographed on 1/18 (SSh), 1 black-backed ad. male at the Shane residence for several weeks in Feb (SSh). Elsewhere a male visited a feeder ~3 mi n of Baldwin 12/15-17 (BBu) – a first for the relatively well-birded *Douglas*. This species has been recorded in north-east Kansas during 2 of the past 10 years (*The Horned Lark vol. 31 – 40; eBird*).

Evening Grosbeak: 1 male seen sporadically throughout much of the period in North Newton (FB).

Observers: Andrew Burnett (AB), Aaron Balogh (ABa), Burrough's Audubon Society (BAS), Bob Broyles (BB), Bill Busby (BBu), Byron Grauerholz (BG), Bob Gress (BGr), Barry Jones (BJ), Brandon Magette (BMa), Brett Sandercock (BS), Carol Morgan (CM), Cheryl Miller (CMi), Carolyn Schwab (CS), Doris Burnett (DB), Doug English (DE), Dan Hoobler (DH), Dave Klema (DK), Don Kazamaier (DKz), David Seibel (DS), Ethan Maynard (EM), Ed Raynor (ER), Fred Bartel (FB), Frank Stetler (FS), Glenn Caspers (GC), Galen Pittman (GP), Ginger Winder (GW), Gene Young (GY), Greyson Yerby (GYe), Jon Boyd (JBy), Jeff Calhoun (JC), Jacob Cooper (JCo), Jack Conover (JCv), Jane Doris (JD), Jenny Gearheart (JG), Jeff Keating (JK), Jon King (JKi), Jonathan Lautenbach (JnL), Joseph Lautenbach (JsL), Joseph Miller (JM), Jim Malcom (JMa), John Row (JR), Jenn Rader (JRa), Jonathan Van de Kopple (JVK), Jeff Witters (JW), Kevin Groeneweg (KG), Kevin Leonard (KLo), Kyle Lindemer (KL), Lawrence Herbert (LH), Larry Londagin (LL), Lynette Muller (LM), Mike Andersen (MA),

(Continued on page 15)



Dave A. Rintoul, Tuttle Brown Pelican, April 22, 2014.

KOS Spring 2014 Field Trip Compiled Checklist

May 2 - 4, 2014

Species	Clay	Dickinson	Geary	Morris
Canada Goose	X	X	X	X
Wood Duck	X		X	X
Gadwall	X		X	
Mallard	X	X	X	
Blue-winged Teal	X	X	X	X
Northern Shoveler	X	X	X	X
Northern Pintail	X			
Green-winged Teal	X		X	
Redhead	X			
Ring-necked Duck			X	
Lesser Scaup				X
Bufflehead	X			
Hooded Merganser	X			
Common Merganser	X		X	
Ruddy Duck	X		X	
Northern Bobwhite	X	X	X	X
Ring-necked Pheasant	X	X	X	X
Greater Prairie-Chicken		X	X	X
Wild Turkey		X	X	X
Common Loon			X	
Pied-billed Grebe			X	
Horned Grebe	X		X	
Eared Grebe		X	X	
Double-crested Cormorant	X	X	X	X
American White Pelican	X	X	X	
American Bittern			X	
Great Blue Heron	X	X	X	X
Great Egret	X			
Snowy Egret		X	X	
Little Blue Heron				X - NEW
Green Heron	X			X
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron			X	
White-faced Ibis	X			
Turkey Vulture	X	X	X	X
Osprey	X		X	
Mississippi Kite			X	X
Bald Eagle	X	X	X	
Northern Harrier				X
Cooper's Hawk	X		X	
Red-shouldered Hawk			X	X
Broad-winged Hawk			X	
Swainson's Hawk	X	X		X
Red-tailed Hawk	X	X	X	X
American Coot	X	X	X	X
Black-necked Stilt	X			
American Avocet	X			

American Golden-Plover	X			X
Semipalmated Plover	X			
Killdeer	X	X	X	X
Spotted Sandpiper	X	X	X	X
Solitary Sandpiper	X		X	
Greater Yellowlegs	X			
Willet	X		X	
Lesser Yellowlegs	X		X	X
Upland Sandpiper	X	X	X	X
Hudsonian Godwit	X			
Marbled Godwit	X			
Stilt Sandpiper	X			
Baird's Sandpiper	X		X	
Least Sandpiper	X		X	
Pectoral Sandpiper	X		X	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	X		X	
Long-billed Dowitcher	X			
Wilson's Phalarope	X		X	X
Bonaparte's Gull	X			
Franklin's Gull	X	X	X	X
Ring-billed Gull	X			
Forster's Tern	X	X	X	
Rock Pigeon		X	X	X
Eurasian Collared-Dove	X	X	X	X
Mourning Dove	X	X	X	X
Great Horned Owl			X	
Barred Owl		X	X	X
Common Nighthawk			X	
Common Poorwill			X	
Chuck-will's-widow			X	
Eastern Whip-poor-will			X	
Chimney Swift		X	X	X
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			X	X
Belted Kingfisher				X
Red-headed Woodpecker	X		X	X
Red-bellied Woodpecker	X	X	X	X
Downy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X
Hairy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X
Northern Flicker	X	X	X	X
Pileated Woodpecker				X
American Kestrel			X	
Peregrine Falcon			X	
Eastern Wood-Pewee			X	
Willow Flycatcher			X	
Least Flycatcher	X	X	X	X
Eastern Phoebe	X	X	X	X
Great Crested Flycatcher	X	X	X	X
Western Kingbird	X	X	X	X
Eastern Kingbird	X	X	X	X
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	X	X	X	X

Loggerhead Shrike		X		X
White-eyed Vireo			X	
Bell's Vireo	X	X	X	X
Yellow-throated Vireo			X	X - NEW
Blue-headed Vireo			X	
Warbling Vireo	X	X	X	X
Red-eyed Vireo		X	X	X
Blue Jay	X	X	X	X
American Crow	X	X	X	X
Fish Crow				X
Horned Lark	X	X	X	X
Purple Martin		X	X	X
Tree Swallow	X	X	X	X
N. Rough-winged Swallow	X	X	X	X
Bank Swallow	X			
Cliff Swallow	X	X	X	X
Barn Swallow	X	X	X	X
Black-capped Chickadee	X	X	X	X
Tufted Titmouse	X	X	X	X
White-breasted Nuthatch	X	X	X	X
House Wren	X	X	X	X
Sedge Wren			X	X
Carolina Wren		X	X	X
Bewick's Wren				X
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	X	X	X	X
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	X			X
Eastern Bluebird	X	X	X	X
Swainson's Thrush			X	X
Wood Thrush			X	
American Robin	X	X	X	X
Gray Catbird	X		X	X
Brown Thrasher	X	X	X	X
Northern Mockingbird	X	X	X	X
European Starling	X	X	X	X
American Pipit	X			X
Cedar Waxwing		X	X	X
Louisiana Waterthrush		X	X	X
Black-and-white Warbler			X	X
Prothonotary Warbler			X	X
Tennessee Warbler			X	
Orange-crowned Warbler	X	X	X	X
Nashville Warbler			X	X
Kentucky Warbler			X	
Common Yellowthroat	X	X	X	X
Northern Parula	X	X	X	X
Yellow Warbler	X	X	X	X
Yellow-rumped Warbler	X	X	X	X
Spotted Towhee			X	X
Eastern Towhee		X		X
Chipping Sparrow	X	X	X	X

Clay-colored Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Field Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Vesper Sparrow	X			X
Lark Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Savannah Sparrow	X		X	X
Grasshopper Sparrow		X	X	X
Henslow's Sparrow				X
Le Conte's Sparrow				X - NEW
Song Sparrow	X			
Lincoln's Sparrow	X	X	X	X
White-throated Sparrow	X		X	X
Harris's Sparrow	X	X	X	X
White-crowned Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Summer Tanager	X	X	X	X
Scarlet Tanager			X	
Northern Cardinal	X	X	X	X
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				X
Black-headed Grosbeak			X	
Blue Grosbeak		X		
Indigo Bunting	X		X	X
Dickcissel	X	X	X	X
Bobolink				X
Red-winged Blackbird	X	X	X	X
Eastern Meadowlark	X	X	X	X
Western Meadowlark		X	X	X
Yellow-headed Blackbird	X	X	X	X
Common Grackle	X	X	X	X
Great-tailed Grackle			X	X
Brown-headed Cowbird	X	X	X	X
Orchard Oriole	X	X	X	X
Baltimore Oriole	X	X	X	X
House Finch			X	X
American Goldfinch	X	X	X	X
House Sparrow	X	X	X	X
180 species total	118	91	142	119
X = species seen in that county				
X - NEW = a new species to the county checklist				

(Continued from page 11)

Mike Cooper (MC), Matt Gearheart (MG), Mike Hudson (MH), Mike Harding (MHa), Mark Land (ML), Mick McHugh (MM), Michael Pearce (MP), Mike Rader (MR), Michael Steward (MS), Max Thompson (MT), Michael Zajic (MZ), Nick Varvel (NV), Pete Hosner (PH), Pete Janzen (PJ), Rita Alexander (RA), Roger Boyd (RB), Rob Penner (RP), Robert Reed (RR), Rodney Wright (RW), Sandra Beck (SB), Steve Burr (SBr), Shawn Harding (SH), Samantha Robinson (SR), Scott Seltman (SS), Sara Shane (SSh), Topeka Audubon Society (TAS), Ted Cable (TC), Tom Ewert (TE), Wichita Audubon Society (WAS), Zach Kesler (ZK)

Abbreviations: adult (ad.), Big Salt Marsh at Quivira NWR (BSM), central (c), Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA), cemetery (Cem.), east (e), immature (imm.), Jeffrey Energy Center (JEC), lake (L.), Little Salt Marsh at Quivira NWR (LSM), north (n), National Grassland (NG), reservoir (Res.), representative (rep.), river (R.), south (s), State Fishing Lake (SFL), Shawnee Mission Park (SMP), State Park (SP), west (w), Wildlife Area (WA), Wyandotte County Lake (WYCL)

KOS Perspectives: The news in Summer, across five decades

BEST BIRDS OF THE YEAR: FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1, 1963-APRIL 30, 1964, NOMINATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS: WHITE-WINGED JUNCO, WICHITA, CARL S. HOLMES; PINON JAY, LINN CO., FRANK WOOD (MRS. EUNICE DINGUS); YELLOW-THROATED (SYCAMORE) WARBLER, APR 15, BALDWIN, IVAN BOYD; DITTO, APR 28, JOHNSON CO., MARY L. MYERS; GOSHAWK, DEC, JAN, APR, JUNCTION CITY, JOCK LASHELLE; 9 RED CROSSBILLS, AUG 1, MANHATTAN, GENE LEWIS; PHILADELPHIA VIREO, MAY 2, LAWRENCE, R. M. MENGEL; DITTO, MAY 11, LINN CO., MRS. EUNICE DINGUS; PILEATED WOODPECKER, APR 28, JOHNSON CO., MARY L. MYERS; SAGE THRASHER, JUL 17, MORTON CO., D.A. EASTERLA; ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER, JUL 17, MORTON CO., R. BURKETT.

THE TABLE BELOW LISTS NINE CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF FIRST DATES RECORDED FOR THREE SPECIES AT CAMP TOWANYAN, JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS, BY MARY LOUISE AND JIM MYERS. THIS KIND OF INFORMATION IS EXTREMELY USEFUL.

1964

SPECIES	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
EASTERN PHOEBE	3/26	3/17	3/26	3/13	3/27	3/11	3/17	3/11	3/12
WHIP-POOR-WILL	4/6	4/21	4/19	4/22	4/12	4/20	4/20	4/15	4/21*
CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW AT LAKE QUIVIRA, APR 3.	5/4	4/24	4/24	4/29	4/28	4/24	4/24	4/25	4/21

MEMBERS OF KOS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED NESTING RECORDS TO THE KANSAS BREEDING BIRD SURVEY MAY BE INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT MUCH OF THOSE DATA HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO A REPORT ENTITLED THE BREEDING BIRDS OF KANSAS, WRITTEN BY YOUR EDITOR (UNIV. KANSAS PUBL. MUS. NAT. HIST., VOL. 12, NO. 14, PP. 575-655). SUCH MEMBERS (INDEED, ANYONE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED) CAN OBTAIN A COPY UPON PERSONAL OR WRITTEN REQUEST OF THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, LAWRENCE, KANSAS.

1974

President Thompson reported on the April 7, 1974, meeting of the Board at the Dingus Natural Area near Mound City, Kansas. 160 acres of mixed oak-hickory forest has been donated by Wilson and Eunice Dingus to the Nature Conservancy. KOS has the option of leasing or acquiring the land from Nature Conservancy. The Board recommends that the Society lease the area for a period of 5 years with Bob Weese and Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Concannon of Mound City to serve as a Management Committee. Orville Rice moved to empower the Board to work out a 5-year lease agreement. The motion was seconded and carried.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

With support from the Kansas Fish and Game Commission's non-game program funded by your chickadee check-off money, I will be beginning a study of the habitat requirements of the Henslow's Sparrow in Kansas. Part of this work involves determining the western limit of the species' range in the state. This line will occur somewhere in the following counties: Smith, Jewell, Republic, Osborne, Mitchell, Cloud, Russell, Lincoln, Ottawa, Barton, Ellsworth, Saline, Rice, McPherson, Stafford, Reno, Harvey, Pratt, Kingman, Sedgwick, Barber, Harper, Sumner. Generally I believe the limit will fall along the area of transition between the tallgrass and the mixed grass prairies. If you spend any time in these counties and know of pastures that have not been burned for at least two years (including the spring of the year you are there), could you see if any Henslow's Sparrows are there this season? Then tell me the location of the field (an "X" on a county map would be great) and whether there were any Henslow's Sparrows there. Not finding Henslow's Sparrows is just as important as finding Henslow's Sparrows. So please let me know where you did not find Henslow's Sparrows, as well as where you did find them. Send your reports to me, John L. Zimmerman, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

1984

PRELIMINARY ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Set aside the dates of September 29 and 30, 1984 on your calendar for the Annual Meeting to be held in Topeka. The meeting was originally scheduled for a week later in Kansas City, but the Regional Accubon meeting there prompted the change to Topeka. The date change was due in part to the Accubon conflict and to scheduling problems in Topeka. This will be the first meeting in Topeka in 16 years and the fourth since KOS was founded in Topeka April 1949. We intend to have a good meeting, and interesting field trips will be lined up for you. Please plan to attend!

Gene Lewis

AS of January 1984 the following people are listed as Charter Members of KOS.

- Amelia Betts, Baldwin City, KS
- Margaret Boyd, Baldwin City, KS
- Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Dingus, Lenexa, KS
- Henry S. Fitch, Lawrence, KS
- Mrs. W. H. Gier, Rogers, AR
- Dr. E. Raymond Hall, Lawrence, KS
- Mary F. Hall, Lawrence, KS
- Grace Hobson, Lawrence, KS
- Grace Holcombe, Topeka, KS
- Katherine B. Kelley, Baldwin City, KS
- Philip B. Menninger, Topeka, KS
- E. Maurice Nuss, Topeka, KS
- Olin S. Pettingill Jr., Wayne, ME
- Richard H. Schmidt, Newton, KS
- Theodore M. Sperry, Pittsburg, KS
- Bernice Tatum, Kansas City, KS

KOS Perspectives: The news in Summer, across five decades

1994

Is Your Landscape "For The Birds?"

Part II - Basics of Form and Shape

(This is the second of a four-part series)

by Chuck Otte

Landscaping is all too often thought of as something "too difficult for me to do, I mean with all those rules and everything. . . ." To which I reply, "Nonsense!" There are far fewer "rules" than anyone thinks, and the bottom line is that if you like it and it does what you want it to do, who cares if a few landscape architects are spinning in their graves!

There are a few basic things that you need to keep in mind though that might help you be happier with the end result 10 years from now. Let's start with 2 basic concepts, mass and void. Mass is trees, shrubs, gardens (flower, vegetable or both), decks, etc. Void is grass. A house with no trees or shrubs, only grass, is a house on a golf course. Now some people think that golf courses are great and that's what they want around their homes. Unfortunately, there aren't a lot of birds that are going to utilize a golf course fairway. On the other hand, a house built in the middle of timber with absolutely no turf area is all mass and no void. While this may be great for quite a few birds, most people need a little grass space or at least space around their home. When you merge mass and void you create areas around your home or "outdoor rooms."

Patterns or design or shape are controlled in the landscape by lines. Lines can be obvious lines like sidewalks or fences or they can become less obvious by carrying the lines from walks to fences or bed borders or hedges. Lines should be pleasing, natural flowing lines, large, sweeping, uninterrupted curves. If you look at nature you will find very few straight lines and right angles. Lines can also control movement, to help get "traffic from point A to point B." If you have nothing but grass in your front yard you might as well have a straight sidewalk going directly from the curb to the house to get people there as quickly as possible. Curves and line intersections create opportunities to stop at possible points of interest. Have a broad sweeping arc of a sidewalk with flower beds or shrub groupings along the way and you will slow down traffic and make them want to stop and enjoy the landscape.

Form takes line or shape and adds three dimensionality to it. The trunk, branches and leaves of a tree create the form of that tree. Generally we speak of upright or vertical form or, if it is low and spreading, of horizontal form. Within those groups, then, we can have some individual plants that are round, vase, weeping, pyramidal, columnar, oval and irregular. If you stop and think you can probably come up with plants that fit all of those categories. In the western 3/4 of Kansas the natural landscape tends to be dominated by horizontal forms due to the classic windswept conditions. As we

move into the eastern 1/4 of the state we start to forsake the Great Plains look for the Midwest or Eastern Deciduous forest look which tends to become much more vertical. Within your yard you can create a mix of both horizontal and vertical. I have one property line that has a wooden fence and layered plantings in front of it--a very horizontal look. On the south side of my house I have a much more vertical look, with larger trees providing shade and windbreak. As I work along my back property line the topography "climbs" up out of a low spot. I keep the low spot relatively low then take the height up as I go to the edge. This accentuates the low area and makes it look "deeper" than it really is.

We also use form to help blend the house into the landscape. Have you ever seen a house that just looked totally out of place? This is frequently the result of improper landscaping. Plants around the house should help balance and enframe the house and soften corners and edges. A corner is a very "harsh" view. There are very strong horizontal and vertical straight lines coming together. These can be softened with corner plantings of shrubs and small trees that hide or defuse the harsh straight lines. But make sure that the plants you ultimately choose will stay at or below the roof line or you will have made a bad problem worse. Make sure these corner plantings avoid plant forms that have straight lines, i.e. pyramidal (no Blue Spruce). Rounded forms are better. Plant larger shade trees around the sides and back of the house and to the sides of the front yard when possible. From the front view larger trees should frame the house, not cut it in two.

Grab a chair and walk around the house sitting down at numerous locations to look at your house and away from your house. Take a look and decide what you enjoy looking at and what you would just as soon not look at if you could help it. Then use form and shape to screen certain views or to call attention to certain other views. Create a layered look through the use of different textures, colors, slightly different heights or forms. Layering also tends to create more density which provides more cover and shelter for wildlife. Remember, in making this evaluation we aren't worried about which plant we are going to use yet. We just want to think what *form* or *shape* we want. And most importantly, start writing down what you want to add, remove or change. Remember that a landscape is not static, it is dynamic and ever changing which means that at certain times plants, even large trees, will need to be removed and replaced.

Next issue: *Selecting Plant Material and Finalizing the Plan*

On Being Listless

By Brian Barnette

Brian Barnette was a birding friend from Texas who enjoyed birding in Kansas. Brian died suddenly a few months ago. As a tribute to Brian I asked Chuck Otte if he would print the following essay written by Brian and previously published in Visions, a newsletter of the National Association for Interpretation (who have graciously allowed it to be reprinted). I had the fun of helping Brian add Thayer's Gull to his life list. But as Brian writes below, "*the real measure of life list was not in the length of list, but in the life it represented.*" -- Ted T. Cable, Manhattan, Kansas

2004

Back on August 27, in the wee hours of the morning, my car was stolen.

Now, if you've ever seen my vehicle, your first reaction might be quite similar to mine: "What kind of sick, demented person would steal something that looked like that?" My ten-year-old Suburban, with 200,000 miles under its belts, was not exactly a thing of beauty. Its finish was equal parts paint and rust, the windshield had more cracks than a plumbers' convention, and it hadn't been washed in years. But it was paid for, and it ran, and it was mine. *Was*. Now there was just a big empty space on the street in front of my house.

Having never dealt with this situation before, I immediately set about trying to do all the right things. I called the police ("Stolen car? Don't call us, we'll call you.") The insurance company ("Don't you remember? Our records show that you dropped that coverage.") The Museum ("I'm going to be a little late...") My brother and sister ("Hey, guess what happened...") I also began trying to compile a list of the vehicle's contents--the stuff that was stolen with it. Camping gear. Tools. My snake sticks. A box of field guides.

It was while I was talking to co-worker Barb Peterman, whom I had called to bum a ride into work, that it hit me. *My life list!* My life list was in the box of stolen field guides!

Ouch.

A "life list" is the record of all the birds one has seen and identified. To a birder, it's the equivalent of a big game hunter's trophy room-- all the species "bagged" over a lifetime of pursuit in the wild. It may represent hours, days, perhaps even years spent seeking a particular bird, as well as chance encounters and surprise sightings. For convenience, most birders use the checklists that are included in their field guides. Mine was in my well-worn copy of Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds of Texas.

My list comprised a modest 300 or so species, observed over a period of about 30 years. In many cases, there was a notation of the date and locality of my first sighting of the bird. Of all the items in the car, it was the most irreplaceable. I could buy another tent. I could make some more snake sticks. But my life list! How could I

ever remember all the details it encompassed?

As I set about trying to reconstruct the list, I began to realize its true significance. For instance, they say you never forget your first one (birds... we're talking birds). I remember clearly the first unfamiliar bird that I successfully observed and identified. I was eleven or twelve at the time, on a hunting trip with my Dad in central Texas. I was sitting on a board nailed in the fork of a cedar elm, waiting for a deer to appear, when a small bird lit in the tree below me. I had no binoculars, so I trained the 2x telescopic sight on my rifle on the little ball of feathers. (If you're not familiar with optics, a 2x 'scope gives you approximately the same effect as looking through the cardboard tube from a roll of toilet paper).

The bird, in a gesture of cooperation quite atypical for its kind, overlooked my lapse in firearms etiquette and hopped around for several minutes so that I could get a good look at it. It was tiny, with a small, thin beak. It was mostly olive green with white bars on its wings and white rings around its eyes. And it had a bright red spot on the top of its head.

Later, back home, I found a copy of the Golden Guide to the Birds of North America in the Sanger-Harris book department at Big Town Mall (this was a while back). Sure enough, there he was, in living color-- the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. I had my first bird. I was hooked.

Now I was faced with a blank list... no entries at all. As I read off the names of the birds, other memories came flooding back. There was the female Redstart that I saw on a float trip down the Buffalo River in Arkansas... the Eurasian Sparrows that surprised us at the conference in St. Louis... and the Red Crossbills in the ponderosa pines at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. I remembered the White-fronted (now White-tipped) Doves in the citrus groves down in Harlingen... the American Woodcock in the deep woods of the Big Thicket... and the Red-headed Woodpecker in my grandmother's East Dallas backyard. I saw again the bright orange bill of the Black Oystercatcher that we passed as we drove off the ferry in Vancouver... the

-- continued on page 10

-- On Being Listless, conclusion

yellow of the Goldfinch on the feeder outside Bruce Boardman's window in Stephenville... and the ridiculous red, blue, and green of a Painted Bunting on a Possum Kingdom morning. And there were the ones that were extra special because I saw them on our family's San Saba ranch: Pyrrhuloxia, Green Kingfisher, and Black-shouldered Kite.

Gradually, it began to sink in... the real measure of a life list was not in the length of the list, but in the life it represented. Sure, it's a thrill to add a new bird to your total, and there's always a little good-natured one-ups-manship in comparing lists with other birders to see whose is longer. But that's not what's important. What matters are the memories-- of field trips and campouts, of family and friends-- the experiences that are somehow symbolized by the birds seen along the way. And while it was certainly disappointing to "lose" some of the species I had "bagged," there will be other opportunities. In the meantime, I've still got my memories... my 'nocs... and a brand new bird list to fill in. Only this time, I'm going to try to keep in mind that old adage, "Don't put all your egg layers in one basket." Or is it, "A bird list in the hand is worth two in the car?"

Oh, by the way, my Suburban turned up last week--minus my stuff, the battery, and the radio--but otherwise intact and operable. It's gratifying to know that even car thieves have some standards.



Dave A. Rintoul, Tuttle Brown Pelican, April 22, 2014.

(Continued from page 2)

terious and oft repeated song that I was finally able to match to a Willow-Warbler that finally paused in a tree long enough for me to spot and identify it. Over that day trip, I added nine new birds to my European list, and seven lifers.

I found that the expectation of being in Norway and finding new birds I might not get to see anywhere else made being outside sweeter because I was alive to expectation and possibility.

Arthur Schopenhauer, in a brilliant series of essays *Studies in Pessimism*, made the point that any accomplishment once achieved doesn't make you happier because you are left wanting still another accomplishment and then another. It is the nature of human ambition to never be satisfied with what was just won or to be so consumed by the expectations of fulfillment that the moments of life are not valued.

I've found that birding lends itself to this. For every lifer you see, there is the problem of less and less to add to that life list. So you add new lists: ones for each day, then by county and state, counts for the year, other continents, etc...

In the end, Schopenhauer is right—you never can be satisfied. But, without this drive for something other, you'd be bored. He goes on to say that "the delight in which a man has in hoping for and looking forward to some special satisfaction is a part of the real pleasure attaching to it enjoyed in advance."

For one day, I was satisfied.

Salina, KS—2014 Fall Meeting

The 2014 Fall Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society will be held in Salina on October 3-5. It was 1995 when we were in Salina the last time, so it's well past time to visit this great community again. Plans are to have the Friday evening social at Lakewood Discovery Center, located at 250 Lakewood Drive. We will then meet at Fitzpatrick Auditorium on the campus of Kansas Wesleyan University for the paper session, silent auction and general meeting. The banquet will be held at the Salina Country Club, located on 2101 East Country Club Rd on Saturday evening.

Sunday morning field trips will depart from the parking lot of Lakewood Middle School, 1135 E Lakewood Circle, across the street to the west of the Discovery Center and Lakewood Park. Probable destinations for field trip include: Kanopolis Lake, Ottawa State Fishing Lake, McPherson State Fishing Lake & Maxwell Game Refuge, and various Salina & Abilene area hotspots. More details on the meeting, motel room block and other overnight accommodations information and the registration form will be available in the September issue of the Horned Lark and on the KOS web site.



TownMapsUSA.com



Salina Country Club

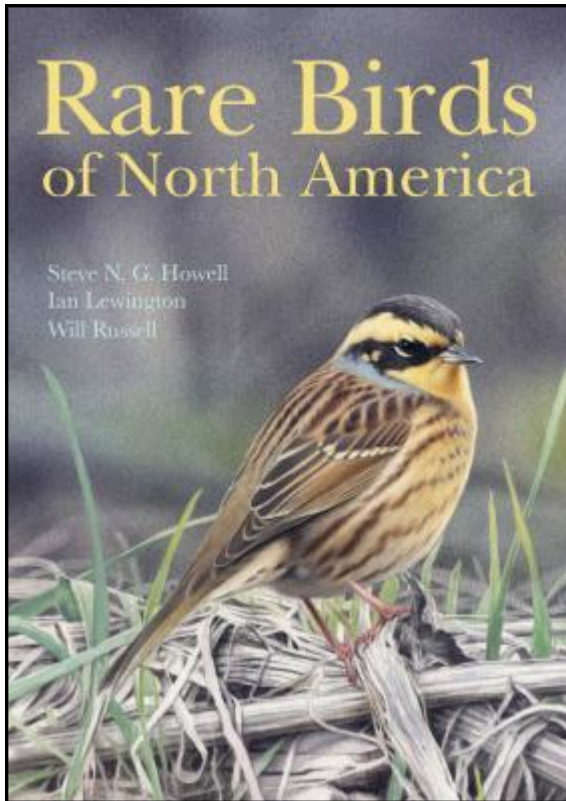


Lake Wood Discovery Center, Photos by Jim Mason from Natural Kansas.org



Book Review—*Rare Birds of North America*, by Edward J. Raynor

Book by, Steve N.G. Howell, Ian Lewington, and Will Russell



As an avid birder and vagrant predictor, I enjoyed reading Steve Howell and other's take on the rare and exotic birds sometimes or once found in the American Birding Association area (Alaska, Canada, and the lower 48 states). In particular, reading the full story about mega-rarities that I've observed in the northeastern region of this continent and Texas is probably the most entertaining aspect of this book. The authors provide theories of how birds arrived where they did, which is a routine yet often fruitless aspect of vagrant discussion by birders of all skill levels. Other than accurate dates of occurrence, excellent plates and plumage descriptions, and expected trajectories for future detection, the authors provide insight on different vagrancy patterns and migration scenarios rarely thought of in such detail as the authors provide. For example, as a relatively novice predictor of vagrant where and when scenarios I understand how austral migrants such as Fork-tailed Flycatchers are consistently detected on the Atlantic coast every year due to overshooting their southern hemisphere destinations and landing on peninsulas or islands in New England. However, what about the Asiatic vagrant that is routinely found on the Aleutians and/or coastal California islands? This book provides an understanding like no other of how these vagrants ended up there through terms new to my vocabulary such as a "drift overshoot" vagrant. This term means: a vagrant

that initially overshoots its destination but also drifts longitudinally due to a storm originating from the east or west. What about Texas or Arizona mega-rarities? Ever heard of altitudinal vagrants? Another important aspect of this book that rarely if ever occurs in other publications on birds of North America is that it informs the reader about what we need to know to help fill gaps in our understanding of where these vagrants come from. Age data or lack thereof on vagrants is one topic addressed for understanding Spotted Redshank vagrancy, for example. One fun and probably controversial part of the book is the authors' questioning of decisions made by records committees throughout the continent. If you are a somewhat obsessive birder into memorizing vagrant dates and ranges of overshoots and the National Geographic Complete Birds of North America (Alderfer, J. 2005. National Geographic Complete Birds of North America. 640pp.) is becoming obsolete I recommend purchasing this book.

Nominations for the 2014 Avian Conservationist of the Year

The Kansas Ornithological Society's is seeking nominations for the 2014 Avian Conservationist of the Year Award which 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 and/or education within the State of Kansas. Please consider nominating someone this year, we have a lot of great people doing some amazing things in the world of bird conservation. For a copy of the nomination form and a list of past winners visit. <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/AvianConservationist.html>

This award will be presented during the fall annual meeting.

Robert L. Penner II
Cheyenne Bottoms
& Avian Programs Manager
rpenner@tnc.org
(620) 786-4745

The Nature Conservancy
593 NE 130 Avenue
Ellinwood, KS 67526



Scissor tailed flycatcher and Prairie Chicken in a tree both taken Saline County, by Kat Farres.

News and thoughts from KOS members

I was doing a little house cleaning tonight (no one fall over please!) and came across a reprint copy of Peterson's 1st Edition (1934) Field Guide to the Birds that someone gave me as a present several years ago. I have no idea why it was out of the bookshelf, but I sat down and started leafing through the pages.

By today's standard, it is rough. Most of the plates are in black and white - I think there's a total of four color plates in the whole book. The 2nd edition of this book and Peterson's 1st edition of Western birds were what I grew up on and spent my early years (we're talking grade school and high school here!) studying. Every birder out there should go out and buy a copy of this reprint (if you can find it). Even in black and white, the plates are still usable today and in fact in some ways may be preferred over the slick color plates in today's field guides or apps.

This was cutting edge field guide in the 1930s. It was the first book really written for the field birder, not the shotgun ornithologist. The text is simple and clean. Very concise and precise descriptions. Sure, some species have been split and lumped and many species have been renamed (quick, what's the current name of Pigeon Hawk and Duck Hawk?) But it is still very usable.

We all too often do ourselves a big dis-service by only looking at the photos in our field guides. Have you ever really read the preface? Have you sat down and read through your field guide like it was a novel? The amount of information that's in the text of these guides would solve a lot of arguments and mis-identifications if we actually READ them! — **Chuck Otte**

It's time to renew your KOS membership!

New Member Renewal

Please clearly mark your choice of membership category below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Individual | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular 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



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

Fall, 2014

Vol. 41, No. 3



A Roseatte Spoonbill near Wichita and a Little Gull at Quivira were spotted and identified this August. Photos to the left copyright by Bob Gress, used with permission. (www.BirdsInFocus.com) The photo below from Bryant Miller.



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From the Keyboard

By the Editor

It's a beautiful time of year now, this approach to September and Fall migration. The weather is still hot but it won't be for long. The birding was good this summer with a Hooded Oriole, now a Little Gull and Roseate Spoonbill to add to State records and people's lists.

The annual Fall meeting of the KOS is this October. My first introduction to the KOS was the Fall meeting back in 2012. It was my first chance to meet and see the people who you get to know about on the listserv and I encourage anyone who can make it to go and support KOS and the students who will make their presentations this Fall.

Henry Armknecht sends these greetings:

"All KOS members and anyone interested in birds or birding are encouraged to come to the Fall KOS meetings in Salina. It is a great opportunity to meet new friends, spend time with some birding friends, learn more about the mission and work of the KOS, hear paper presentations, become more involved in KOS, and even do a little birding. Matt Gearhart has agreed to run for president. If he is elected he will do a great job. I wholeheartedly support his nomination.

Debby and I have recently moved to Hays. I am employed by the public schools and she is working at Dillon's. I am also returning to school at FHSU to work toward certification to teach Special Education. We will be quite busy, but I still hope to be able to get away for KOS functions, Christmas Counts, and even some casual birding from time to time."

This is the last round-up that Jon King is doing. It takes a tremendous amount of work and attention to detail to do that every three months. I think Jon does the bulk of the work on the HOLA really, because most of the pages are his work. From anyone who's been able to see their name on the list of observers, thanks for all you do Jon.



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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Celia Markum

July 9, 1917- April 8, 2014

Celia was born July 9, 1917, in Kansas City, Mo., and died on April 8, 2014, in Harlingen, Texas. Celia Ellen Miller was the adopted daughter of John Thomas Miller and Leona Frances Jordan Miller. She grew up in Junction City, graduated from Junction City High School in 1935, and lived there most of her life.

In the 1950s, she took leadership roles with the Girl Scouts and insisted that scouting be available to all girls in the community. She was a PTA president. She was a member of the Ladies Reading Club and a supporter of the Junction City Little Theater.

Celia enjoyed hunting, fishing, and traveling with her husband. Celia spent summers at Eagle Lake, Ontario and frequently wintered in Marathon, Fla. There were many RV trips with the Konza Campers. As well as two tours of Europe, a trip to Africa, and one to the South Pacific.

Celia loved seeing birds and photographing them. Celia joined KOS in 1955 and became a Life Member. She was an active board member and served as the society's second female president from 1970 to 1972. Celia helped start the Junction City Christmas Bird Count in 1958 and served as an early compiler and organizer of this count. In 2005 she was presented the Dr. Ivan L. Boyd award for life time contributions to KOS.

She also was a member of the Kansas Fish and Game Commission, during this time, the body charged with policy-making responsibility for the management of the state's parks and refuges. She took a strongly informed interest in re-establishing populations of deer and wild turkeys in the state.

Celia's personality was complex and variegated with a broad range of interests. Her skills were in so many areas. She loved books and reading. She did beautiful knitting and sewed hundreds of stuffed toys for church fundraisers. She loved good clothes and fine dining. Her photography was at a professional level, and she was sought as a presenter of informative programs for many local organizations. She was an expert shot with a rifle or shotgun. She understood boats and water, where to find fish; and what to do with them when they were caught. She learned to read marine charts, repaired outboard motors, and made the family feel safe in any kind of weather. Even in her later years she was still an active participant in the Junction City Christmas Bird Count especially enjoying the opportunity to bird with John Zimmerman!

She encouraged her daughters to become independent, educated, and active. She had high expectations and held to a "no-whining allowed" parenting philosophy. She never flinched from unpleasant tasks like cleaning fish and game, and taught others to do the same.

She was loved and respected by several generations of extended, family and a wide circle of friends. Nieces, nephews, grand and great-grandchildren appreciated her enthusiasm, her strength of character, her love of fun and parties and picnics.

She leaves two daughters, Francis Lee Brede and Mary Lynn White; four grandchildren, Emilie Howe Muramoto, Charles Howe, Katherine Trechter Alfaro, and Samuel Trechter; seven great -grandchildren, Penny Fredericks Bums, Monica Fredericks, Albert Howe, Philip Howe, Jordan Howe, Maria Alfaro, and Jeremy Alfaro; and two great-great-grandchildren, Dean and Tyler Burns. She was predeceased by three husbands, Leroy Markum; Ralph White, father of daughter, Mary, and Ralph Filby, father of daughter, Lee.

At Celia's request, memorial gifts may be made to the Kansas Ornithological Society, c/o Max Thompson, Treasurer, 1729 East 11th Avenue, Winfield, KS67156

Kansas Spring 2014 Summary

Jon King, compiler

Statewide, temperatures were 3.7°F below average in March, and in far eastern Kansas as much as 4-6°F below average. April and May temperatures however, were near normal across much of the state (*High Plains Regional Climate Data Center*). During March, the prolonged wintery weather resulted in several impressive waterfowl and gull concentrations, some carrying over from February, and others most likely resulting from impeded waterfowl migration. Such concentrations were noted at L. Parsons, Neosho WA, Marion Res., Quivira, Cheyenne Bottoms, Winfield City L., and perhaps others.

The long-standing drought continued throughout this spring. Drought severity ranged from abnormally dry (D1) in the northeast, to extreme drought (D3) in the western part of the state (*US Drought Monitor*). Marsh birds were accordingly scarce this spring, with species such as Virginia Rail, King Rail, and Least Bittern reported in below average numbers.

Shorebirding however, seemed about average this year with good habitat at Cheyenne Bottoms, Quivira, and several central Kansas reservoirs. Snowy Plovers once again took advantage of low water levels at central Kansas reservoirs and appeared outside of traditional *Barton* and *Stafford* locations, but not the extent seen in spring of 2013. Spring shorebirding in far eastern Kansas is generally less impressive than central Kansas and Neosho WA, which was drained for maintenance, was especially noteworthy. Several unusually high counts for eastern Kansas were recorded here, as was a Snowy Plover well east of traditional locations.

In recent years, Kansas birding has acquired an increasingly southern flavor as south-central and southeastern species appear farther north, farther west, or in greater numbers. This year the trend was exemplified by Neotropical Cormorant, Black Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Greater Roadrunner, Pileated Woodpecker, Fish Crow, Carolina Wren, and Painted Bunting to name a few. Other trends worth mentioning include ongoing expansion of Common Raven in southwest Kansas where formerly common Chihuahuan Ravens are declining, a good migration for both Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, and a poor spring for irruptives such as Red-breasted Nuthatch and winter finches. Also of interest, Rufous and other *Selasphorus* hummingbirds are becoming regular spring visitors in the southern Great Plains, exemplified this year by two Rufous Hummingbird reports and a possible Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

Every season, there are always a few cooperative birds, which are successfully chased by many birders. This spring, popular chases included a Brown Pelican in *Riley/Pottawatomie*, Surf Scoters in *Douglas* and *Jefferson*, Whooping Cranes in *Marion*, and a first state record Hooded Oriole in *Douglas*. Other highlights included second state records of Gray Vireo and Hepatic Tanager in *Morton*, both with physical evidence removing these two species from the hypothetical list pending KBRC acceptance. The most interesting birds of the season, to the author at least, were a Hermit x Townsend's Warbler from *Hamilton* and a probable Black-throated Green x Townsend's Warbler in *Johnson*. The former is possibly only the second record of that hybrid east of the Rocky Mountains. However, the event of the season was the 11th of May in *Morton*. In addition to the previously mentioned Hepatic Tanager, observers discovered 20 species of warbler, including over 100 MacGillivray's!

Greater White-fronted Goose: Leftovers in *Barton*, *Harvey*, *Neosho*, and *Russell* during May.

Snow Goose: Excellent numbers in northeast and north-central Kansas during early Mar: 750,000 at Lovewell Res. (HA), 1,000,000+ at Waconda L. ~3/8 according to KDWPT which sets a record for this location (HA). Leftovers in *Atchison*, *Barton*, *Brown*, *Ford*, *Neosho*, *Rooks*, and *Russell* during May.

Ross's Goose: Highest count: 5,000+ white geese at CBWA 3/12 (SS) were mostly Ross'. Two injured birds at Dodge City WTP 4/27 (JC) were late.

Tundra Swan: Reported 3/16-28 at Quivira with max. of 9 there 3/25 (BJ). Not reported elsewhere.

Trumpeter Swan: Late: 1 imm. in ne Reno 4/5 (AM,BM,ph.)

Mute Swan: One ad. continuing at Neosho WA 12/27 – 3/9 (AB-ph) was associating with Trumpeter Swans. Suspected “wild” birds are increasingly reported n MO, e NE, and even the CO Front Range in recent years (*North American Birds*, vol. 62-67).

American Black Duck: One at Yancy Rd. (*Linn*) 8 Mar (MG,NA) was the only reported.

Cinnamon Teal: Easterly: 1 m. at Neosho WA 11-12 Apr (AB-ph), 1 m. at Hillsdale L. 17 Apr (JW,MLo,NV-ph). Highest counts: 5 m. at CBWA 4/14 (SF), 5 (3 m., 2 f.) at Quivira 4/29 (ABo).

Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal: Single drakes at L. Wabaunsee 5 Apr (DLS-ph), CBWA 4/14 (SF-ph), Rocky Ford SFA 16 Apr (FS-ph).

Northern Pintail: Highest Count: 35,000 at Quivira 3/7 (BJ).

Green-winged Teal: Highest Count: 5,000 at MDCWA 3/8 (NA, MG).

Canvasback: A good count for ne KS, 100 were at L. Vaquero (*Shawnee*) 3/1 (JH).

Ring-necked Duck: Late: 2 (1 m., 1 f.) at Hain SFL (*Ford*) 5/24 (JC-ph), 2 m. at Quivira 5/25 (AM,BM,MM).

Lesser Scaup: Leftovers after 5/15 in *Barton, Hamilton, Hodgeman, Neosho, Riley, and Stafford*.

Surf Scoter: One f. at Lone Star L. (*Douglas*) 3/29 – 4/12 (GP,m.ob,ph.), 3 at Perry L. 4/16 with 4 (1 ad. m., 1 imm. m., 2 f.) there 4/17-19 (Sl, m.ob,ph.).

Black Scoter: Two f. at Quivira 3/27-28 (SS).

Long-tailed Duck: One at WYCL 12/26 – 4/11 was continuing from winter (last seen MG-ph).

Bufflehead: A f. or imm. at Quivira 5/17-18 (AM,BJ,BM) was late.

Barrow’s Goldeneye: One f. visited Winfield City L. 3/9 (MT), which was new for this location (MT).

Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser: One ad. m. at Lone Star L. (*Douglas*) 4/7 (NV-ph).

Hooded Merganser: Late for c KS: 2 at Hain SFL (*Ford*) 5/24 (JC-ph), 1 at Quivira 5/22-24 (MR), 1 at CBWA 5/25 (BG). Highest count: 310 at Neosho WA 3/5 (AB).

Common Merganser: Late: 1 at Geary SFL 5/3 (CM,DL), 3 (1 ad. m., 2 f.) at Rocky Ford SFA 5/13-23 (EW-ph), 2 (1 ad. m., 1 f.) at MDC 5/20 (MGo,NV). Highest count: 10,000+ at Winfield City L. 3/10 (MT).

Red-breasted Merganser: One at Syracuse Sand Dunes Park (*Hamilton*) 5/13 (TM) was unusual in the “wasteland” as Jeff Calhoun would say.

Scaled Quail: Three individuals in *Morton* 5/7-9 (DW,JMa,MR,TC) and 2 in *Hamilton* 5/17 (JC) were the only reported.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Highest counts: 40 near Beverly (*Lincoln*) 3/24 (TD), 29 in n *Butler* 3/6 (DH).

Lesser Prairie-Chicken: Highest counts: 35 in ne *Comanche* 3/4 (JnL), 26 in c *Clark* 4/12 (EWa), 25 in *Gray* 5/2 (SS).

Eared Grebe: Highest counts: 122 at CBWA 4/30 (RR,WE), 60 at Webster Res. 4/21 (JVK), 40 at the Liberal WTP 5/2 (JC,KG,RR,WE).

Neotropic Cormorant: Another good spring for this bird with minimum of 10 individuals reported. Reports at CBWA as usual 4/18 – 5/27 (m.ob) with maximum of 4 ad. there 4/30 (ABo-ph). Elsewhere: 1 fly-over at SCWA 3/21 (MT) was fairly early, 1 at Hillsdale L. 4/6 (NV), 1 imm. at JEC 5/8 (BMA-ph), 1 imm. in sw Reno 5/15 (AM,BM)-ph, 1 in *Linn* 5/24 (JRe), and 1 visited Neosho WA 5/25 (AB).

Double-crested Cormorant: Highest count: 3,000 – 4,000 at Waconda L. 3/17 (HA).

Brown Pelican: A well-chased, 1st spring imm. visited the Rocky Ford and Tuttle Creek area (*Pottawatomie and Riley*) 4/20 – 5/20 (BS-ph).

American Bittern: Lateish: 2 at L. Lenexa 5/26 (NA).

Least Bittern: Only report: 1 at CBWA 5/27-30 (NV).

Green Heron: Early: 1 at Neosho WA 4/6 (AB-ph).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 in c Wichita at the Arkansas R. 3/5 (DH-ph) is likely KS’s all-time earliest arrival. Normal dates of occurrence in Sedgwick are 4/4 – 10/12 (*Janzen 2007, The Birds of Sedgwick County and Cheney Reservoir*).

Glossy Ibis: One at CBWA 5/1 (ML) and 1 at Quivira 5/7 (MR) were expected. Elsewhere: 2 at SCWA 5/4 (MT) and 1 at Hain SFL (Ford) 5/23 (JC-ph).

Glossy x White-faced Ibis: 1 at CBWA 5/1 (ML). This hybrid is very likely underreported in KS.

White-faced Ibis: Peak count of 700 *Plegadis* at Quivira 5/11 with 650 of these identified as White-faced (JnL,JsL).

Black Vulture: Increasingly likely in se KS during spring. During the past decade expected only in *Cherokee*, so singles in *Chautauqua* near Peru and Hart's Mill 4/12 (KG-WAS) and 2 at Neosho WA 4/12 (AB-ph) were noteworthy. Even farther away, one near the Deffenbaugh Landfill 5/9 (MG) was *Johnson's* second (MT), following a 7 May 2006 sighting.

Osprey: Early: 1 near Caney R. (*Chautauqua*) 3/17 (JC,NV).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Range expanding to w along s-c KS drainages. Sporadic during recent years in *Pratt* (MR) with 1 at KDWPT 4/22 (MR) this year.

Broad-winged Hawk: Early: 1 in *Elk* 3/25 (RP). A minimum of 10 individuals passed through the w ½ of KS 4/25 – 5/24.

Red-tailed Hawk (Kriger's): A possible sighting in *Riley* 5/11 (BS). Insufficient looks to eliminate Red-tailed Hawk (Kriger's x Eastern).

Rough-legged Hawk: Latest: 1 in *Hodgeman* 4/15 (SS), 1 at Baker Wetlands 4/16 (DL,RB) missing 4-5 primaries.

Black Rail: unreported.

Yellow Rail: One flushed by tractor at Baker Wetlands 4/22 (RB).

King Rail: Only report: 1 at Quivira 5/5 (GC).

Common Gallinule: One at Hillsdale L. 5/11 (NV) was a *Miami* first, and the first sighting since 2012.

Sandhill Crane: Highest count: 40,000 at Quivira 3/12 (MR). Late: 1 in c *Reno* 5/14 (AM,BM,ph.) and 1 in sw *Reno* 5/5 (AM,BM,ph.) were "lesser" Sandhill Cranes. A group of 30 flying north near *Mayetta (Jackson)* 3/15 (MHa) was a good count so far east.

Whooping Crane: Highest count: 18 in *Stafford* 4/3 (SS). Sightings away from *Barton* and *Stafford* are rare, such as the 9 well-chased individuals in *Marion* 3/23-29 (JMs,m.ob,ph.), 7 near *Larned (Pawnee)* 4/3 (SS), 2 elsewhere in *Pawnee* and *Rush* 4/3-6 (SS (rep.)), and 2 at a *Kiowa* farm pond 4/12 (JC).

Black-necked Stilt: Slightly rare but increasingly regular spring visitor in e KS. Sightings there: 1 in *Linn* 4/18 (MMh), 1 at Neosho WA 5/9-10 (MS,m.ob-ph), 3 different *Riley* sightings 5/11-13 (m.ob-ph), and 1 in *Clay* 4/25 (m.ob).

Snowy Plover: Snowy Plovers appeared at several c KS localities away from traditional *Barton* and *Stafford* breeding areas, but not quite to the extent seen in 2013. Such sightings included 1 in *Sumner* 4/16 (DS), 2 in c *Reno* 4/10 – 5/10 (AM,BM,JM,MM)-ph, 1 at the *Elkhart WTP* 5/7 (GC,JMa), 2 at *Webster Res.* 5/25 (JVK), and sightings at *Wilson L. (Russell)* 4/6 – 5/18 with a maximum of 5 there 5/18 (MR). Another at Neosho WA 5/4-5 (AB-ph) was an excellent sighting east of the Flint Hills. For reference, there are only five records in Missouri away from the nw corner of the state (*showme-birds.com*, 16 Jul 2014).

Piping Plover: Away from *Barton* and *Stafford*, 4 sightings of 6 individuals 4/20 – 5/8 in *Douglas*, *Osage*, *Rooks*, and *Russell*.

Mountain Plover: Two sightings of 4 individuals in *Morton* 4/4 – 5/7 (m.ob).

Spotted Sandpiper: This season 31 visited the *Leoti WTP* 5/10 (JC,PJ) and 82 visited the *Elkhart WTP* 5/10 (TC et al.). The previous high count in *Morton* was 25 on 20 May 2002 (*Cable and Seltman*, 2011, *Birds of the Cimarron National Grassland*). Concentrations of this magnitude are probably more likely in w part of the state (JK,PJ).

Whimbrel: Reported 4/17 – 5/21 in *Barton*, *Lane*, *Miami*, *Neosho*, *Osage*, *Rooks*, *Sherman*, *Stafford*, and *Sumner*.

Long-billed Curlew: Slightly easterly: 1 in c Reno 3/31 (AM-ph), 6 in sw Reno 4/6 (JM). Highest counts s of the Arkansas R. as is usual: 43 in w Ford 4/5 (JC), 200 s of Cimarron in Gray 4/9 (SS). Data were not available from Garden City.

Hudsonian Godwit: The 230 at Neosho WA 5/5 (AB) was an excellent count e of the Flint Hills where spring high counts during the past 10 years are 18, 20, 23, and 26 (*eBird*; *The Horned Lark* vol. 31-40).

Marbled Godwit: Rare and regular e of Flint Hills. Sightings there: 1 at Melvern L. 5/4 (JMa), 4 at Hillsdale L. 5/10 (ML), and 3 at Neosho WA 5/10 (AB,DC,MG,NV).

Red Knot: Two at CBWA 5/15 (RP).

Ruddy Turnstone: Only reports in Barton and Stafford from 5/17-22. Highest count: 5 at Quivira 5/17 (AM, BJ, BM, Joseph Miller).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Highest count: 293 in Greenwood 5/7 (RP) including individual flocks of 55, 80, and 103.

Western Sandpiper: Rare but regular e of Flint Hills in spring migration with 1 at Melvern L. 5/5 (JMa). High count: 10 at CBWA 5/11 (JnL, JsL) among 850 Semipalmated Sandpipers.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Reported 4/25 – 5/24 from 11 counties. Three confirmed vocally at CBWA 4/25 and one confirmed vocally at Milford L. (Clay) 4/25 (MR) were the only Apr. sightings. West-most: 1 at Ford SFL 5/13 (JC). Highest count: 60 at CBWA 5/1 (ML) – some identified vocally, others visually.

Herring Gull: Late: 1 at Melvern L. 5/4 (JMa). Highest count: 579 at Winfield City L. 3/10 (MT) during the early Mar. cold snap.

Thayer's Gull: Only sighting: 1 ad. at SMP 3/4 (ML).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Four sightings of 5 individuals 3/1-17 (m.ob) from Barton, Cowley, Douglas, and Reno.

Glaucous Gull: Only sighting: 1 at L. Quivira (Johnson) 3/24-26 (RW).

Least Tern: Three reports away from traditional Barton and Stafford locations: 1 in Wichita 5/15 (TE), 2 at JEC 5/13 (BMa), 1 at Wilson L. (Lincoln) 5/21 (DK). There are hardly any nw KS records (*Birds of Kansas*, *eBird*).

Black Tern: Highest counts: 1,200 at CBWA 5/17 (MR), 517 at Tuttle Cr. Res. (Riley) 5/17 (ER,TC).

Common Tern: Early: 1 ad. at Wilson L. (Russell) 4/20 (MR), 2 (1 ad.) at Neosho WA 4/24 (AB-ph). Otherwise 6 reports of 8 individuals 5/2-22 from Atchison, Douglas, Osage, Pottawatomie, Riley.

Black-billed Cuckoo: A good showing with 8 reports of 8 individuals 5/7-27 from Douglas, Geary, Harvey, Leavenworth, Neosho, Russell, Shawnee, Woodson, and Wyandotte. During the second half of May, Black-billed Cuckoo frequency was 1.2, as opposed to 0.45, the 10-year average during the last week of May (*eBird*).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: A good showing this spring. During the second-half of May, the frequency of Yellow-billed Cuckoo was 24.1, compared to the 10-year average of 16.4 at that time (*eBird*).

Greater Roadrunner: Northernish sightings: 1 in c Reno 4/12-16 (AM,BM,JM)-ph, 1 in s Reno 4/21 (AM-ph), 2 in a cottonwood-lined canyon in s Stafford 5/10 (AA) with courtship noted, 1 in Edwards 4/4 (JC), 3 sightings of 4 individuals in Ford (JC), and 1 near Goddard (Sedgwick) 5/26 (AS), and 1 in se Rush 3/20 (SS). Roadrunners became low-density residents n to Rush in the past decade with nesting suspected there (SS).

Snowy Owl: Only sighting: 1 at CBWA to 3/21 (m.ob), likely continuing from winter.

Long-eared Owl: Only report: 1 in Pawnee 3/20 (SS).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: West-most sightings in Comanche, Ford, and Russell.

Black-chinned Hummingbird: In Elkhart, minimum of 2 present 5/3-11 (m.ob-ph) with m. and f. in courtship 5/11 (TC et al.-ph). This species has probably nested in Morton before (*Cable and Seltman 2011*, *Birds of the Cimarron National Grassland*).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: Possible: Norma Conover saw and heard a “whistling” and “trilling” hummingbird in Satanta (*Haskell*) 5/24 (MR (rep.)).

Rufous Hummingbird: One imm. f. 5/23-24 in c *Reno* (AM, BM)-ph, 1 ad. f. in Dodge City 5/7-8 (JC-ph). This species, and other *Selasphorus* are typically not expected during spring on the southern plains, but sightings are becoming more frequent there (*North American Birds*, vol. 67 no. 3).

Red-naped Sapsucker: One ad. f. at CNG Middle Spring 5/10-11 (TC et al.-ph).

Ladder-backed Woodpecker: Singles seen in *Morton*, as expected.

Pileated Woodpecker: Westward expansion continues with one at Clear Cr. (*Ellsworth*) 3/9 – 4/5 (DK-ph) and a pair nesting in a small cottonwood-lined canyon in s *Stafford* 5/10 (AA-ph). The latter would be KS’ west-most breeding record (*Thompson et al.*, 2011, *Birds of Kansas*).

Merlin: Late: One at Cross Timbers SP (*Woodson*) 5/10 (CMi).

Western Wood-Pewee: Three reports of 8+ singing individuals in *Morton* 5/10-17, where expected, with a high count of six in Elkhart 5/11 (JC,NS,MR). In contrast only one singing **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was reported in *Morton* this spring 5/29 (NV). A Western Wood-Pewee singing at Ford SFL 5/18 (JC) was the east-most.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Eight or more individuals reported in e KS 5/13-26 from *Cherokee*, *Douglas*, *Johnson*, *Leavenworth*, and *Shawnee*.

Willow Flycatcher: Earliest arrivals were singing birds in *Geary* 5/3 (MR) and *Johnson* 5/5 (MGo).

Alder Flycatcher: West-most: One at Ford SFL 5/24 (JC).

Gray Flycatcher: This spring, one visited the CNG Turnerville Work Center 5/10 (TC et al.-ph).

Ash-throated Flycatcher: Aside from expected *Morton* sightings, one showed up in s *Meade* 5/2 (KG,JC,RR,WE).

Cassin’s Kingbird: Three reports of four individuals in *Hamilton* and *Morton*, 5/4-10.

Northern Shrike: Late: One at Rocky Ford SFA 4/1 (BS,JnL,m.ob).

White-eyed Vireo: One at CNG Middle Spring 5/10 (MR).

Gray Vireo: One in Elkhart 5/10 (TC et al.-ph). Kansas’s second record.

Cassin’s Vireo: Reported in Elkhart on 5/3 (JC et al.-ph) and 5/11-12 (TC et al.-ph).

Plumbeous Vireo: Reported at in *Morton* from 5/4 – 17 with at least three individuals present (m.ob-ph).

Blue-headed Vireo: Westerly: One at CNG Middle Spring 5/7 (JMa) and another in Elkhart 5/11 (JC et al.).

Philadelphia Vireo: Highest count: Seven in the MDC area 5/13 (MMh). In western Kansas, minimum of seven individuals 5/11-27 in *Ford*, *Gove*, *Rooks*, *Morton*.

Western Scrub-Jay: One at Finney Game Refuge 4/15 (JC-ph).

Black-billed Magpie: East-most reports from *Rooks*, *Lincoln*, *Pawnee*, and *Kiowa*. Highest count: 6 near *Victoria* (*Ellis*) 3/9 (AL).

Fish Crow: As in 2013, Fish Crow moved into the Kansas R. drainage in record numbers. Sightings in Kansas R. counties fell between 3/26 – 5/25, with 6 reports in *Johnson*, 2 in *Wyandotte*, 2 in *Douglas*, 4 in *Riley*, and none from *Shawnee*. Earliest arrival: 1 in *Cherokee* 3/11 (JRa).

Common Raven: Nesting continues in *Morton* with 2 ad. and 2 imm. near the CNG Work Center 5/10 (TC et al.). Elsewhere: 1 heard at CNG Recreation Area 5/10 (JC, JVK, KG), 1 along the Arkansas R. in w *Hamilton* 5/17 (JC).

Chihuahuan Raven: One report from *Morton* was not substantiated.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Generally scarce, following a poor winter for the species.

Marsh Wren (Interior West): Two at Arkalon Park 4/5 (JC). There are few KS records, but this subspecies group is probably an uncommon migrant in w KS. See Colorado eBird for more information.

Carolina Wren: West-most: 3 along the Arkansas R. s of *Syracuse* (*Hamilton*) 5/17 (JC).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Early: One at Pomona L. 3/9 (DMc,RM).

Townsend’s Solitaire: Easterly: One in *Lenexa* 3/30 (JG,MG).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: West-most sightings were singles at Lemon Park (Pratt) 5/15 (MR) and Elkhart 5/11 (JC et al.).

Wood Thrush: One at Rooks SFL 5/28 (JVK).

Curve-billed Thrasher: The resident birds at the Hugoton Cem. continue (m.ob), and two at Finney Game Refuge 4/5 – 5/17 (JC-ph) are suspected of nesting.

Cedar Waxwing: Highest count: 802 in c *Douglas* 5/19 (JCo).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Easterly: Six at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve 4/6 (BB-ph).

Ovenbird: In w KS, 7 individuals reported 5/9-17 (m.ob).

Worm-eating Warbler: One at SMP 5/14 (MG,ML) was the only e KS sighting. Westerly: Three in Elkhart 5/11 (JC et al.).

Northern Waterthrush: Minimum of 11 individuals in west half of Kansas 5/7–17.

Blue-winged Warbler: Singles at Lone Star Rd. (*Wyandotte*) 5/4 (MMh), SMP 4/29 – 5/2 (ML), and Overland Park 5/16 (DCo).

Golden-winged Warbler: Westerly: One in Elkhart 5/11 (TC et al.).

Black-and-White Warbler: Minimum of three individuals in the western half of Kansas 4/17 – 5/11.

Tennessee Warbler: Highest count: 115 at WYCL 5/18 (ER,MG).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Highest count: 30 at Oak Park (*Wichita*) 4/26 (AW).

Virginia's Warbler: One in Elkhart 5/4 (JC,JVK,KG,ph.) with two there 5/11 (JC et al.).

MacGillivray's Warbler: An earth-shattering 100+ were detected in *Morton* 5/11 (WCT et al.), alongside 20 species of warbler. A minimum of 50 was reported in Elkhart alone that day (JC et al.).

Mourning Warbler: Westerly: One in Elkhart 5/11 (JC et al.).

American Redstart: Minimum of nine individuals in the western half of Kansas 5/7-17.

Cape May Warbler: One ad. m. at *Quivira* 5/17 (AM,BJ,BM,MM,ph.).

Cerulean Warbler: One in *Atchison* 5/14 (DM).

Northern Parula: A minimum of 10 individuals in the western half of the state, 4/27 - 5/21.

Magnolia Warbler: Highest count: 12 in the MDC area 5/13 (MMh). Westerly: Five individuals in the western half of KS, reported 5/10-28 from *Morton*, *Russell*, *Stafford*, and *Wichita*.

Yellow Warbler: Highest count: 60 in Elkhart 5/11 (JC et al.).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Nine or more individuals in the west half of KS 5/9-17.

Blackpoll Warbler: Highest count: 20 at Tunnel Mill Dam (*Winfield*) 5/15 (MT).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Westerly: One at CNG Middle Spring 5/13 (TM-ph).

Pine Warbler: One at SMP 5/14 (MG,ML).

Prairie Warbler: Westerly: One at CNG Recreation Area 5/10 (TC et al.).

Palm Warbler: Westerly: One in Elkhart 5/2 (JVK).

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's): Easterly: Two at Rocky Ford SFA 4/30 (BS) with one remaining 5/1 (EW).

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle x Audubon's): One at Clark SFL 5/1 (JC,KG,RR,WE).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Westerly: One at Rocky Ford SFA 4/18 (DR) and probably another in Manhattan 4/28-30 (JsL,m.ob-ph), 1 at Tunnel Mill Dam (*Winfield*) 5/15 (MT).

Black-throated Gray Warbler: One at CNG K27 picnic area 5/11 (TC et al.).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Westerly: One in Garden City 5/16 (SF) and another in Elkhart 5/4 (JC,JVK,KG).

Townsend's Warbler: Three or more individuals in *Morton* 5/3-11 (m.ob).

Townsend's x Hermit Warbler: One f. on Arkansas R. s of Syracuse in *Hamilton* 5/17 (JC-ph). There are fewer records of this hybrid east of the Rocky Mountains than Hermit Warbler, and the only other record I could find was an individual from Jones Beach, NY (*eBird.org*).

Townsend's x Black-throated Green Warbler: Probable m. at Shawnee Mission Park 4/30 (TS-ph), with photo evaluation by Kimball Garrett. Just last year, this species was photographed in *Baca*, Colorado.

Hooded Warbler: Singles at Pomona L. 5/4 (JMa), Heritage Park 5/14 (JWi), WYCL 5/18 (ER,MG,NV), and Lone Star Rd. (Wyandotte) 5/29 (MS).

Western Tanager: Five or more individuals in Morton 5/4-12 (m.ob) and one at Scott SP 5/8 (MHu,SSa).

Hepatic Tanager: One in Elkhart 5/11 (JC,WCT-ph) is Kansas' second record, and the first with physical evidence. In eastern Colorado spring birds are detected north and east of the breeding range once every two or three years, sometimes as far north as Lincoln, CO (*North American Birds*, vol. 67 no. 3; eBird.org).

Summer Tanager: Five or more individuals in the western half of Kansas, 4/21 – 5/17.

Scarlet Tanager: Westerly: Singles in Garden City 5/15 (SF) and Elkhart 5/2-4 (m.ob-ph).

Black-headed Grosbeak: Easterly: Singles at Oak Park (Wichita) 5/15-16 (CVB), Milford L. 5/3 (BMa,MR), and Manhattan 5/5-6 (LI,m.ob-ph).

Lazuli Bunting: An annual rarity in eastern KS, with sightings there from 5/3-26 in Butler, Douglas, Geary, Linn, Shawnee, and Riley.

Painted Bunting: Sightings slightly beyond the species established range this spring included two at Wilson L. (Russell) 5/20 (DK-ph), one in Ness 5/9 (PJ), one at Buckner Valley Park (Hodgeman) 5/17 (JC), two in Ford 5/14-18 (JC-ph). A territorial individual was in Elkhart 5/11 (m.ob) into Jun, where the species likely breeds now.

Eastern Towhee: West-most: 1 at Quivira 5/15-18 (NV).

Spotted x Eastern Towhee: 1 in c Reno 4/5 (AM-ph), 1 f. at Quivira 5/6 (JM).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow: Only report: 2 at CNG Point of Rocks 3/26 (AB) with 1 remaining 3/29 (JC).

Cassin's Sparrow: One at Quivira 5/21 (GP) may indicate an easterly push during the breeding season to come.

Brewer's Sparrow: 7 individuals in Morton 5/3-13 (m.ob) as usual, and 1 at Finney Game Refuge 5/15 (NV).

Lark Bunting: Slightly easterly: 3 sightings of 5 individuals in c Reno 5/13-24 (AM,BM,JM).

Baird's Sparrow: One singing at a prairie chicken lek in ne Comanche 4/26 (DLt,JnL).

Henslow's Sparrow: Highest count: 11 netted at Konza Prairie 5/14 (FS).

Nelson's Sparrow: Only report: 1 at Hillsdale L. 5/16 (NV-ph).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Late: 1 at Buckner Valley Park 5/23 (JC), 1 at Jetmore City L. 5/23 (JC).

White-crowned Sparrow (Dark-lored): Two in Goodland 5/11, 1 at Elkhart WTP 5/13 (both TM). Timing of dark-lored White-crowned Sparrow observations on the high plains suggests these are eastern *Z. l. leucophrys*, rather than mountain *Z. l. oriantha* (*North American Birds*, vol. 67 no. 1).

Dark-eyed Junco (White-winged): One at a c Reno feeder 3/13 (AM), likely continuing from winter.

Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed): 1 in n Pawnee and s Rush 4/15 (SF-ph). In Colorado, this subspecies is usually detected earlier fall and later in spring on the eastern plains than other subspecies (*North American Birds*, vol. 66 no. 1).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: One at Sac and Fox Wetlands (Brown) 3/12 was early for ne KS (DM). Highest count: 1,100 at CBWA 4/2 (GM).

Rusty Blackbird: At Buckner Valley Park, 47 there on 3/9 (JC) was a good count in w KS.

Brewer's Blackbird: Highest count: 4,000 on recently burnt pasture in c Reno 4/17 (JM). Latest sightings: 1 in c Reno 5/8 (AM-ph), 2 at Ashland Bottoms (Riley) 5/5 (JR) with 1 remaining there 5/8.

Hooded Oriole: First state record at a nw Douglas feeder 5/1-9 (KM). Recall that the first NE Hooded Oriole was seen just last year at a feeder in w NE.

Lesser Goldfinch: Singles in Morton at the CNG Recreation Area 5/10 (TC et al.) and Middle Spring 5/11 (JC). One at a se Russell feeder 5/12 (DK) was more surprising – there are few n-c KS reports.

Evening Grosbeak: 1 in Newton 3/4-30 (CS).

Table 1. Shorebird High Counts

Species	Count	Date	Location	Observer(s)
American Avocet	840	27-Apr	Quivira	DLt,JnL,JsL
American Golden-Plover	598	15-Apr	<i>Greenwood</i>	RP
Snowy Plover	158	27-Apr	Quivira	JnL
Semipalmated Plover	46	8-May	Neosho WA	AB
Piping Plover	12	12-Apr	Quivira	ABy,EW,EWa
Spotted Sandpiper	31	10-May	Leoti WTP	JC,PJ
Spotted Sandpiper	82	10-May	Elkhart WTP	TC et al.
Greater Yellowlegs	165	12-Apr	CBWA	RP
Willet	50	1-May	Quivira	ML
Upland Sandpiper	63	7-May	<i>Greenwood</i>	RP
Whimbrel	15	5-May	Quivira	MR
Hudsonian Godwit	250	1-May	Quivira	ML
Marbled Godwit	108	30-Apr	Quivira	Abo
Stilt Sandpiper	4,860	15-May	CBWA	RP
Sanderling	64	14-May	CB area	TM
Dunlin	30	16-18-May	Neosho WA	AB
Baird's Sandpiper	9,150	12-Apr	CBWA	RP
White-rumped Sandpiper	2,500	17-May	CBWA	MR
Dowitcher sp.	8,950	2-May	CBWA	RP
Wilson's Snipe	50	30-Mar	SCW	MT
Wilson's Phalarope	21,650	2-May	CBWA	RP
Wilson's Phalarope	2,774	4-May	SCW	MT
Wilson's Phalarope	8,850	18-May	Quivira	JnL,JsL

Some Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA), Cemetery (Cem.), Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Jeffrey Energy Center (JEC), Lake (L.), Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area (MDC), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (Quivira), photo (ph), River (R.), Reservoir (Res.), Slate Creek wetlands (SCW), State Fishing Area (SFA), State Fishing Lake (SFL), Shawnee Mission Park (SMP), State Park (SP), Wildlife Area (WA), water treatment ponds (WTP), Wyandotte County Lake (WYCL)

Observers: Aaron Austin (AA), Andrew Burnett (AB), Aaron Boone (ABo), Alice Boyle (ABy), Anthony Luna (AL), Andrew Miller (AM), Ashley Stillwell (AS), Art Weigand (AW), Brett Budach (BB), Byron Grauerholz (BG), Barry Jones (BJ), Bryant Miller (BM), Brandon Magette (BMa), Brett Sandercock (BS), Carol Morgan

(CM), Cheryl Miller (CMi), Carolyn Schwab (CS), Curt Van Boening (CVB), Dena Berquist (DBe), Devin Couture (DC), Dan Cowell (DCo), Dave Klema (DK), Dan Larson (DL), Dan LaShelle (DLS), David Lautenbach (DLt), Don Merz (DM), Debra McKee (DMc), Dave Rintoul (DR), David Seibel (DS), Emily Weiser (EW), Frank Stetler (FS), Glenn Caspers (GC), George Mayfield (GM), Galen Pittman (GP), Henry Armknecht (HA), Jeff Calhoun (JC), Jacob Cooper (JCo), Jenny Gearheart (JG), Jeff Hansen (JH), Jon King (JK), Jonathan Lautenbach (JnL), Joseph Lautenbach (JsL), Joseph Miller (JM), Jim Malcom (JMa), Jim Mason (JMs), John Row (JR), Jenn Rader (JRa), Janet Reynolds (JRe), Jim Walton (JW), Jeff Witters (JWi), Jon Van de Kopple (JVK), Kathy McDowell (KM), Liza Ira (LI), Matt Gearheart (MG), Malcom Gold (MGo), Mike Harding (MH), Mike Hudson (MHu), Mark Land (ML), Mick Louis (MLo), Myron Miller (MM), Mick McHugh (MMh), multiple observers (m.ob), Mike Rader (MR), Mike Stewart (MS), Max Thompson (MT), Nic Allen (NA), Nate Shipley (NS), Nick Varvel (NV), Pete Janzen (PJ), Roger Boyd (RB), Russell Mauzy (RM), Robert Penner (RP), Rodney Wright (RW), Sean Fitzgerald (SF), Susan Iverson (SI), Scott Seltman (SS), Shelly Sanders (SSa), Tom Ewert (TE), Travis Mahan (TM), Terry Swope (TS)

Nine e KS counties			Six e CO counties		
Species	Peak Freq.	To-tals	Species	Peak Freq.	To-tals
Yellow Warbler	49.795	4,085	Yellow Warbler	50.968	1
		12,92			523
Yellow-rumped Warbler	43.717	0	Yellow-rumped Warbler	44.516	1
Tennessee Warbler	39.652	3,846	Common Yellowthroat	31.29	974
					130
Northern Parula	34.221	3,827	Orange-crowned Warbler	28.387	0
Nashville Warbler	34.016	2,646	Yellow-breasted Chat	18.065	188
Orange-crowned Warbler	28.273	2,046	Wilson's Warbler	17.996	522
Common Yellowthroat	27.869	2,392	MacGillivray's Warbler	15.161	196
American Redstart	26.772	1,255	Northern Waterthrush	9.647	209
Black-and-White Warbler	20.708	1,005	American Redstart	8.065	150
Blackpoll Warbler	20.697	828	Blackpoll Warbler	7.05	125
Wilson's Warbler	19.57	597	Ovenbird	6.308	87
Kentucky Warbler	17.623	1,025	Northern Parula	4.824	68
Louisiana Waterthrush	16.701	1,245	Nashville Warbler	4.453	63
Chestnut-sided Warbler	12.91	408	Virginia's Warbler	4.267	66
Magnolia Warbler	10.451	260	Tennessee Warbler	4.194	64
Ovenbird	9.016	253	Black-and-White Warbler	3.656	77
Prothonotary Warbler	8.661	657	Worm-eating Warbler	3.525	41
Yellow-throated Warbler	8.382	605	Magnolia Warbler	3.226	33
Mourning Warbler	7.874	123	Hooded Warbler	2.783	44
Northern Waterthrush	7.345	215	Townsend's Warbler	2.366	23
Blackburnian Warbler	6.865	157	Chestnut-sided Warbler	2.226	27
Palm Warbler	6.549	189	Palm Warbler	1.505	18
Golden-winged Warbler	6.455	136	Black-throated Blue Warbler	1.299	19
Black-throated Green Warbler	4.918	148	Black-throated Green Warbler	1.113	10
Yellow-breasted Chat	4.068	134	Cerulean Warbler	1.113	14
Canada Warbler	2.887	58	Black-throated Gray Warbler	1.075	14

Table 2. Spring Warblers: East Kansas vs East Colorado

Nine e KS counties			Six e CO counties		
Species	Peak Freq.	Totals	Species	Peak Freq.	Totals
Bay-breasted Warbler	1.434	26	Bay-breasted Warbler	0.968	9
Blue-winged Warbler	1.062	29	Golden-winged Warbler	0.742	15
Cape May Warbler	0.615	12	Blue-winged Warbler	0.645	18
Pine Warbler	0.535	11	Yellow-throated Warbler	0.645	9
Worm-eating Warbler	0.531	11	Blackburnian Warbler	0.643	12
Hooded Warbler	0.525	10	Mourning Warbler	0.371	4
Cerulean Warbler	0.354	11	Prairie Warbler	0.322	8
Prairie Warbler	0.178	2	Prothonotary Warbler	0.322	6
Black-throated Blue Warbler	0.102	2	Pine Warbler	0.215	4
Virginia's Warbler	0	1	Swainson's Warbler	0.215	5
Connecticut Warbler	0	2	Kentucky Warbler	0.19	7
			Lucy's Warbler	0	1
			Louisiana Waterthrush	0	2
			Canada Warbler	0	1
			Connecticut Warbler	0	1

Data from *eBird.org*. Frequency is the number of checklists reporting a species (i.e. all checklists frequency of 100), and peak frequency refers to the maximum frequency attained. Totals refers to the sum of all individuals of a species on all checklists. Keep in mind that rare species are chased which alters frequency and totals. Data from *eBird.org*. Frequency is the number of checklists reporting a species (i.e. all checklists frequency of 100), and peak frequency refers to the maximum frequency attained. Totals refers to the sum of all individuals of a species on all checklists. Keep in mind that rare species are chased which alters frequency and totals.



Pictures courtesy of Lowell Johnson.



KOS Perspectives: The news in Summer, across five decades

1964

AFTER THE BIG FREEZE OF MARCH, 1960, CAROLINA WRENS PRACTICALLY DISAPEARED FROM THE KC AREA. THEY WERE NEARLY AS COMPLETELY DOWNED AS THEY WERE IN 1939. HOWEVER, REPORTS FROM DAWSON AT SWOPE PARK CAMP (KC, MO.) AND MYERS AT TOWANYAK (JOHNSON CO., KANSAS) INDICATE A COMEBACK IN 1964. ANOTHER CONSPICUOUS UPWARD POPULATION TREND IS THAT OF THE SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER. THE SCISSOR-TAIL FIRST APPEARED IN THE KC AREA ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO; WERNING SAW ONE IN EASTERN JACKSON CO., Mo., AT THAT TIME. THE FIRST NESTING RECORD WAS DEAN COLE'S FOR 95th AND RENNER IN NORTHEASTERN JOHNSON CO., KANSAS, IN 1954. ANOTHER NEST FOR 1954 WAS FOUND AT LEE SUMMIT, MO., AND TODAY SEVERAL ARE FOUND EACH YEAR IN BOTH KANSAS AND MISSOURI. [PAST PRESIDENT ELIZABETH COLE WANTS TO KEEP UP WITH THE TRENDS IN NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE SCISSOR-TAIL AROUND KANSAS CITY, SO ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SPECIES WILL BE USEFUL TO HER. HER ADDRESS IS 5535 RENNER ROAD, SHAWNEE, KANSAS.] TED ANDERSON SAW A BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER IN DONIPHAN CO. MAY 29, AS DID DEAN COLE FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 25 (NE JOHNSON CO., KANSAS) ANDERSON ALSO SAW A SINGING MALE OVENBIRD IN DONIPHAN CO. ON MAY 27. MYERS HAD A LEAST AND ACADIAN FLYCATCHER AND SWAINSON THRUSH UP TILL MAY 28, WHEN THEY ALSO SAW AN OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. LARGE FLOCKS OF GRACKLES CAME TO CAMP TOWANYAK MAY 24-28, SEEMINGLY TO WORK OVER LARGE NUMBERS OF 17 YEAR LOCUSTS THAT BEGAN TO HATCH OUT ON MAY 22. THEY ALSO RECORDED A WESTERN, KINGBIRD AT CAMP ON JUNE 27 AND A SCISSOR-TAIL ON JULY 19. MYRTLE WARBLERS SHOWED UP ON AUGUST 15, AND A CHESTNUT-SIDED WAS SEEN AUGUST 17. A BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER WAS SEEN ON SEPTEMBER 3, AT THE KU NATURAL HISTORY RESERVATION NEAR LAWRENCE.--ELIZABETH COLE

THE 82ND STATED MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION MET AT KU FROM AUGUST 30 TO SEPTEMBER 3. ABOUT 300 PERSONS REGISTERED FORMALLY; 52 PAPERS WERE READ AT SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS HELD AT THE KANSAS UNION MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY. THE BREWSTER MEDAL, DESIGNATING SUPERIOR WORK IN AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY, WAS AWARDED TO DR. HERBERT FRIEDMANN, DIRECTOR OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM, FOR HIS EXCELLENT, LONG-TERM STUDIES ON THE PARASITIC COWBIRDS. MANY MEMBERS OF KOS WERE IN ATTENDANCE AND MADE SOLID CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETING.

1974

Highest Counts 1973—Kansas was represented only three times in the "Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals" for the 1973 Christmas Bird Count as listed in the April 1974 issue of American Birds. Emporia had the most Tree Sparrows with 7324, Udall the most Harris' Sparrows with 1188, and Hays the most Lapland Longspurs with 6585. Last year Kansas registered highest on six species.

SHRIKE DISTRIBUTION CHRISTMAS 1973

Jean H. Schulenberg

The Northern Shrike has always been a likely candidate for the Kansas Christmas Bird Count. A few sharp-eyed people located one for the Topeka count last year, which represents one of four sighted on Christmas Bird Counts during the last 12 years in Kansas. One other bird was sighted at Wichita in 1971 and two were found in Morton County in 1963.

I proceeded to use the 1973 data in American Birds, Vol. 28, No. 2, to plot the distribution of both shrike species for Kansas and surrounding states. The numbers on the accompanying map represent the number of shrikes per 100 party hours for each count. The interesting point about the distribution of both species here is the fairly consistent 200 mile wide hiatus.

Only two counts in Kansas did not report shrikes in 1973, Goodland and Hays. Goodland, a new count, has no previous years for comparison. Hays seems to get a Loggerhead Shrike about half the time; 1973-0, 1972-1, 1971-1, 1970-1, 1969-2, 1968-0, 1967-0, 1966-0, 1964-0, 1962-1. The only other counts made in western Kansas the last 12 years all reported Loggerhead Shrikes; 1967 Cheyenne Co.-1, 1967 Wallace Co.-3, 1963 Morton Co.-4.

The interesting count as far as Kansas is concerned in 1973 is just over the state line at Bonny Reservoir, Colorado. Five Northern Shrikes were located in 55 party hours. This undoubtedly presents the western Kansas birders with a fairly good challenge of following all shrikes until a positive identification is made. Most Kansas counts are at least 300 miles from the normal winter range of the Northern Shrike. However, the people at Hays, Dodge City and Goodland (and we hope in the future to have counts at Scott City, Bucklin, Bloom, Weskan, Quinter, Hoxie, Colby and LaCrosse) have always got a fair chance of turning up a Northern Shrike.



KOS Perspectives: The news in Summer, across five decades

1984

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND "SAVING CHEYENNE BOTTOMS"

The Kansas Audubon Council and Kansas Wildlife Federation are sponsoring "SAVING CHEYENNE BOTTOMS", a one-day conference at Great Bend on Saturday, Sept. 22. Conference participants will learn about Colorado's impact on the Arkansas River, what water supplies exist above and below ground around Great Bend, what the state water plan will mean to wildlife and wildlife habitat in Kansas, and why Cheyenne Bottoms is so vital. Persons from Kansas Fish and Game will explain in detail the problems confronting the Bottoms, and propose some alternatives to improve the situation.

Highlighting the program is Lynn Greenwalt, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service until dismissed by James Watt; he'll talk about Cheyenne Bottoms from a national perspective. Legislators Ron Fox and Joe Norvel will give insights into how the legislature works, and how to be effective in working with the legislature.

Other events surrounding "SAVING CHEYENNE BOTTOMS" will be a Friday evening film fest for those who arrive early, and a Sunday morning field trip to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge for those who stay over. A Saturday afternoon tour of the Bottoms and the diversion dam on the Ark River will be scheduled if enough people are interested.

Registration is \$3.00 per person. There are limited camping facilities available nearby; a list of Great Bend motels and prices will be returned with your registration confirmation. We wildlife enthusiasts have an opportunity to speak out for one of our favorite areas, and if we don't do it, who will? Please plan to attend "SAVING CHEYENNE BOTTOMS" -- and

WHY I BIRD

1994

Several months ago there was an interesting conversation occurring on BirdChat--that big birders gab session existing in the virtual reality known as the Internet. It concerned birders who were avid listers (to the point of obsession) and whether they bird for the pleasure of birding or merely to get one more species on their life list, etc., etc. As happens with these ongoing conversations, they sometimes go on for entirely too long and such was the case with this one. Everything that needed to be said had probably been said 4 or 5 times. After about a week it came to an end when fellow birder and Birdchatter Carol Schumacher from Winona, Minnesota (southeast Minnesota on the Mississippi River) posted the following eloquent bit of verse. Carol graciously granted permission for it to be reproduced here.

Why I Bird

by Carol Schumacher

reprinted with permission of the author

I don't bird to list but I list
I don't bird to submit Seasonal Reports and
Nest Records but I do
I don't bird to chase but I do enjoy seeing birds I've never
seen before and those I've never seen before
I bird to challenge my eyes, ears, spirit and perspective
I bird to add my observations to the big picture
I bird for the exercise....I much prefer walking
I bird for the rhythm of the seasons that I've come to tune
to, and that represent seasons of my spirit too
I bird for the spiritual sense that requires me to slow down,
be quiet with to enjoy
I bird to be in the stunning river bluffs that are
the cradle of Winona
I bird for peak experiences...I never know what this day
will bring...but I'll never forget the first nest I
documented and the awe of watching the female
Broadwing blend with her nest
I bird for the connections and dear friends I've made
I bird for the sheer excitement that the first record Curlew
Sandpiper allowed me to express (first in MN)
I bird for the joy of standing in poison ivy watching a
stunning male Prothonotary feed three virtually
hidden gray young and alternately sing
I bird to see all the parts of Minnesota and the
diversity of this state
I bird to see the world...what an excuse to see Costa Rica,
Manzanillo, all the places I've never been
I bird...an uncommon love I share with all I can,
helping them connect with a world of knowledge
unknown to them

THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

Most of us have probably seen some of the announcements regarding the recent mammoth undertaking by the American Ornithologists Union and the Academy of Sciences of Philadelphia, to produce "The Birds of North America." Most of us have probably already determined that the price of this wonderful resource is out of our reach. Fear not! Bill Busby of the Kansas Biological Survey recently wrote me with the following wonderful news. Bill writes, "I would like to announce in the newsletter that the Kansas Natural Heritage Program is receiving The Birds of North America. This publication will consist of profiles (biographies) for each of the roughly 700 breeding species in the United States and Canada. Profiles for each species are published as they are completed; I have received about 100 profiles so far and they estimate all will be finished over the next 10 years."

The biographies were donated to all State Natural Heritage Programs to be used in conservation planning. They will also be available to KOS members. Anyone interested should contact: Bill Busby, Kansas Biological Survey. The University of Kansas.

I have had occasion to see one of the species accounts. It was well written and with more detail than I could have imagined! Thank you Bill for that good news!

KOS Perspectives: The news in Summer, across five decades

Lesser Prairie-Chickens

by John Rakestraw

2004

One of my favorite Kansas birds, Lesser Prairie-Chickens are small grouse native to sand-sage prairies and Shinnery Oak rangelands of the southern Great Plains. They differ from the Greater Prairie-Chicken by their paler plumage, plum-colored vocal sacks, bubbling call, and more aggressive behavior on their leks.

Most people view Lesser Prairie-Chickens during the birds' spring courtship rituals. Male prairie-chickens gather to vie for dominance and to attract the attention of passing females. But some people feel that sitting in a blind has a "canned" quality to it, so they prefer to find the birds away from the leks. During autumn and winter, Lesser Prairie-Chickens can be seen flying into grain fields to feed at dawn and dusk.

Viewing Lesser Prairie-Chickens has become increasingly difficult over the past few decades, not because of the birds' elusive nature, but because of a steady decline in the species' population.

In the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, these birds were abundant, with single flocks of several thousand being reported feeding in grain fields adjacent to the birds' prairie habitat. Market hunting and poaching during this period, followed by the "Dust Bowl" conditions of the 1930s dealt major blows to the Lesser Prairie-Chicken population. Since that time, more and more of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken's habitat has been converted to farmland and altered to promote cattle grazing. Biologists estimate that the species' occupied range has decreased by at least 78 percent since 1963 and by 92 percent since the 1800s. The birds that remain are in small isolated populations in southwestern Kansas, southeastern Colorado, the Oklahoma Panhandle, western Texas, and eastern New Mexico. As the space between pockets of good habitat grow larger, it becomes less likely that the birds will be able to re-colonize parts of their former range and maintain sufficient genetic diversity. There have been at least 12 attempts to reintroduce Lesser Prairie-Chickens to areas of their former range, but all have failed.

In the past, intensive agriculture and cattle grazing have been the most common causes of habitat degradation and fragmentation. But oil and gas exploration and development continue to expand within the bird's range. Within the last decade, commercial wind-power facilities have appeared in increasing numbers. Prairie-Chickens show a strong avoidance of tall structures such as utility poles and wind turbines.

As areas of habitat continue to shrink, Lesser Prairie-Chickens face new threats from other bird species. In western Kansas, Lesser Prairie-Chickens have recently hybridized with Greater Prairie-Chickens. When a bird's population is dangerously low, hybridization further weakens the gene pool. Introduced Ring-necked Pheasants compete with Lesser Prairie-Chickens for food and nesting territories. Pheasants are known to disrupt the nesting of Greater Prairie-Chickens by laying their eggs in prairie-chickens' nests. This parasitism has recently been documented in Lesser Prairie-Chicken nests.

Most birders travel to the Cimarron National Grasslands to find Lesser Prairie-Chickens, but this species can be found at scattered sites throughout the southwestern third of Kansas. The birds may be expanding their range slightly northward. When I lived in Kansas, my favorite site was the Pratt Sandhills Wildlife Area, but lek counts in 2002 and 2003 did not find any birds there.

I encourage you to seek out Lesser Prairie-Chickens whenever you can, even if you don't "need" them for your state list. When traveling to find these birds, tell every gas station attendant, motel clerk, and waitress why you are there. Offer private landowners a few dollars for the privilege of viewing these birds on their land. The more the public becomes aware of the plight of these birds and of the financial benefits of protecting them, the better the chances that Lesser Prairie-Chickens will survive their current decline.

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

2004

White-winged Doves

by Helen Hands

With so many species declining in numbers and with ranges that are contracting, it's unusual to hear about a species whose numbers are increasing and whose range is expanding. That's the case with the White-winged Dove and other species in the Columbiformes. Historically, a bird of Mexico and the southwestern portion of the U.S., according to Lloyd Moore's compilation (<http://www.ksbirds.org/KBRC/wwdo.htm>), there were 56 White-winged Dove records in 27 Kansas counties through August 2003 (plus at least three additional records in two new counties since then).

Actually, there are four breeding populations of White-winged Dove and not all are doing equally well. The Western population (in California, Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico) is decreasing in both numbers and range, although in some areas numbers have remained stable. Little is known about the Upper Big Bend population whose range is much smaller than the other populations. The breeding ranges of the Mexican Highland and Eastern (southern half of Texas, northeastern Mexico, and Florida) populations have expanded northward. White-winged Dove that have been sighted recently in Kansas are most likely from the Eastern population.

As late as 1980, most White-winged Dove in the Texas portion of the Eastern population nested in the Lower Rio Grande River Valley. During the 1980s, some freezes and a 4-year drought devastated citrus orchards, where approximately 50% of the White-winged Dove nested. Consequently, numbers of White-winged Dove declined, but then White-winged Dove numbers in south-central Texas, near San Antonio, started increasing. Over 200,000 breeding White-winged Dove were estimated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in San Antonio in 1990. By 2001, the breeding population in San Antonio had reached nearly 1.1 million with an additional 285,000 in Austin. During 1990-2001, the breeding population was higher in south-central Texas, mostly in urban areas, than in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Breeding Bird Survey data corroborate the Texas surveys. White-winged Dove increased in Florida (23.6%), Texas (10.8%), New Mexico (22.0%), California (9.1%), but declined in Arizona (-1.7%) during 1980-2003.

The wintering range of White-winged Dove has also increased as shown by Christmas Bird Count data, (<http://www.birdsource.org/features/doves/doves.html#map2>). Historically, White-winged Dove wintered in Mexico and

other countries in Central America. By the 1990s, White-winged Dove commonly wintered in central Texas and there was even a record as far north as Morton County, Kansas.

White-winged Dove are an interesting example of a bird species that can adapt to human-caused changes in habitat, as long as the changes are not too severe. In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, White-winged Dove populations increased when native brush habitats were first being converted to irrigated grain farming in the early 1900s. However, as more native brush was converted to agriculture and urbanization, White-winged Dove populations declined. When citrus production was introduced in the 1940s, White-winged Dove started to depend on citrus trees for nesting. However, then White-winged Dove populations became susceptible to occasional declines due to freezes that killed citrus trees.

In the past 15 years, White-winged Dove have been successful nesting in urban areas in Texas, but urbanization and suburbanization in Arizona have been detrimental. The key for White-winged Dove being able to adapt to habitat changes seems to be to retain a good mix of woody vegetation for nesting and grain production for foraging. Urban areas with woody vegetation (as well as bird feeders, lawn sprinklers, and bird baths) apparently provide nesting areas with less nest predation where White-winged Dove can produce more young than rural areas. In addition, the warmer temperatures and bird feeders in urban areas allow White-winged Dove to remain during winter, rather than face the hazards of migration.

*Helen is a Wildlife Biologist for the
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks
Helenh@wp.state.ks.us*

Reasons why you should attend the fall KOS meeting!

- * A chance to meet other birders who share your passion.
- * Listen to great presentations by students and members.
- * Birding Field Trips
- * The Birdwatcher's Hour
- * Presentation of the Best Birds of the Year!
- * Birding Field Trips
- * Guest banquet speaker Jon Dunn
- * The Resolutions
- * Birding Field Trips
- * Because it's just fun!!

66th Meeting of the KOS

Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, Kansas

October 3-5, 2014

Join KOS members for a weekend of paper presentations and birding in central Kansas.

Fall Meeting Program

Call for Papers

Registration Information (PDF)

Registration Form Only (PDF)

Map of Kansas Wesleyan Campus

Sorry - no online registration option.

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 3

6:00-9:00 p.m. — Registration and informal reception at Lakewood Discovery Center Lodge, Lakewood Dr, 250, Salina, KS.

Directions: Located in Salina's Lakewood Park, with access from North or Iron Streets. (Lakewood Discovery Center Lodge is east of Orscheln Farm & Home store and Lakewood Middle School.) There is no road access to Lakewood Park from the east or west.

Saturday, October 4 (Detailed Saturday Schedule)

8:00 a.m. — Registration and refreshments at Sams Hall of Fine Arts on the Kansas Wesleyan University campus. Main Entry is on the east side of the building.

9:00 a.m. — Welcome and paper session in Fitzpatrick Theater in the Sams Hall of Fine Arts.

11:00 a.m. — Business meeting.

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. — Lunch on your own. Board will meet at a location on Kansas Wesleyan University to be announced.

1:30–2:30 p.m. — Birdwatchers' Hour.

2:30–4:00 p.m. — Paper session. Silent auction ends.

4:00–4:30 p.m. — Business meeting.

6:00–9:00 p.m. — Banquet, awards and speaker at the Salina Country Club, 2101 East Country Club Road. Salina, KS. Directions: Drive east on Iron Ave. (the former Marymount College will be on your left), turn left onto Marymount Road and drive one block north to the Salina Country Club. Turn left off Marymount Road and go up the hill. Park in upper parking lot. Our after dinner speaker will be Al Batt. Al is from Minnesota and is a regular columnist for Bird Watchers Digest. Al is a birder and conservationist and has a great sense of humor. Anyone who reads one of his regular columns will want to hear him in person!

Sunday, October 5

7:00 a.m.—Half-day field trip locations will include areas around Salina and possibly reaching out to include Ottawa and Ellsworth Counties. We will meet at the Lakewood Middle School's south parking area to car-pool for field trips. Lakewood Middle School is east of Orscheln Farm and Home Store on North Ohio. Turn east on Circle Drive immediately on the south side of Orschelns - this will lead to the entry to the school parking lot. Lakewood Middle School is immediately west of the Lakewood Discovery Center Lodge.

11:30 a.m.—Lunch and compilation at outdoor covered shelter about a block south of Lakewood Discovery Center Lodge in Lakewood Park. In case of inclement weather, the compilation will be moved indoors to the Lakewood Discovery Center Lodge.

Lodging in Salina:

Blocks of rooms have been reserved at two hotels which are located near each other. Please note that there is a large multi-state conference scheduled to take place in Salina the same weekend as the KOS Fall Meeting. One of the hotels in which we wanted to reserve rooms was nearly sold out by the first week of April. Your reservation must be made by the cut-off date specified by each hotel to ensure you have a room at the group rate. **Call NOW!!!!**

Comfort Suites

715 W. Schilling (1-135) 785-404-6944

Group block (all king rooms, no smoking)

Must make reservation by Thursday, September 4, 2014 to get an \$89 (single) rate and a room.

Ask for the “Kansas Ornithological Society group block.”

Best Western Plus

745 W. Schilling Road 785-493-9800

Group block (all double queen rooms) under “Kansas Ornithologists Bird Watchers.”

Must make reservation by Sept. 27, 2014 to get an \$82.95 rate and a room!

Dining

Plenty of restaurants may be found in Salina, especially south on South 9th Street.

Registration

The meeting registration fee is \$25. The Saturday evening banquet is \$28. The Sunday box lunch is \$8. Registration fee is waived for students 25 and under. Registrations must be received by September 26th to be included in meal counts. No refunds for cancellations after September 26th.

The registration form may be found on the next page or on the KOS website at <http://ksbirds.org/kos/Fall2014/Fall2014RegForm.pdf> . All participants must sign the liability release in order to participate in any portion of this meeting.

Mail completed registration form and payment to:

Max Thompson

1729 E 11th Ave,

Winfield, KS 67156

Silent auction

Members and guests are strongly encouraged to bring donated items for the Silent Auction. Suitable donations include birding-themed equipment, field guides, bird houses, bird baths and optics. All proceeds go to the KOS Student Research Fund.

Best Bird of the Year

Nomination for unusual or rare birds observed since September 30, 2013.

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).

**Registration Form KOS Fall Meeting
October 3 - 5, 2014 Salina, Kansas**

**Registrations will be accepted through September 26.
Payments for meals are non-refundable after September 26.**

I (we) plan to attend the 2014 KOS Fall meeting.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Registration Fee \$25.00 x _____ = \$ _____
(Waived for students 25 and under)

Saturday Banquet \$28.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Payment for banquet must be received by 9/26

Sunday Box Lunch \$ 8.00 x _____ = \$ _____
Payment for lunch must be received by 9/26

Total Amount Due (Checks payable to KOS) \$ _____
(No refund for cancellations after September 26)

Number of persons in party: _____

Please mail completed registration with full payment to:
Max Thompson, 1729 E 11th Ave, Winfield, KS 67156

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 2014 KOS fall meeting.

Signatures Date

Signatures Date



Nominations for the 2014 Avian Conservationist of the Year

The Kansas Ornithological Society's is seeking nominations for the 2014 Avian Conservationist of the Year Award which 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 and/or education within the State of Kansas. Please consider nominating someone this year, we have a lot of great people doing some amazing things in the world of bird conservation. For a copy of the nomination form and a list of past winners visit. <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/AvianConservationist.html>

This award will be presented during the fall annual meeting.

Robert L. Penner II The Nature Conservancy
Cheyenne Bottoms 593 NE 130 Avenue
& Avian Programs Manager Ellinwood, KS 67526
rpenner@tnc.org
(620) 786-4745

KOS Call for papers

The Kansas Ornithology Society is inviting you and your students to attend or participate in our fall meeting. The KOS fall meeting traditionally features papers given by scientists, students, and birders. The Fall 2014 Meeting will be held at Kansas Wesleyan University (<http://www.kwu.edu/campus-map>) in Salina on October 3-5, 2014. Paper presentations are on Saturday, October 4th. Details are included below. More information about KOS is available at the web site:http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/Fall2014/2014_KOS_Fall.htm This site also includes the call for papers.

We have waived the registration fee for students 25 and under. KOS also sponsors some student research projects by providing funding. Details are available at <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/StuResearch.html>. This fund supports student members attending Kansas schools. We want to encourage studies investigating the scientific aspects of birds found in Kansas (study area not limited to Kansas). Awards are for one year with grants ranging from \$100-\$750.

Please forward this information to any staff or students who may be interested. Also, please feel free to contact me with any questions or for more information.

Thank You,
Matt Gearheart
Kansas Ornithology Society

Past President of the KOS—Dr. J Walker Butin, 91, dies

Dr. James Walker Butin, 91, died Thursday, August 7, 2014. He was born Friday, July 13, 1923 in Fredonia, KS and moved with his parents, Dr. James A. and Mrs. Berenice Walker Butin to nearby Chanute in 1926. Upon graduation from Chanute Senior High School in 1940, Walker was awarded a Summerfield Scholarship to the University of Kansas, graduating in 1944 with a degree in Zoology. He earned his MD from KU in 1947, followed by a fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He married the former Betty Belle Launder in 1949, and the two moved to Wichita to begin his medical practice at the Wichita Clinic. After Betty Belle's death in 1981, Walker married the former Patricia (Lanning) Guinan in 1984. He often shared with his children how much both of his marriages brought him deep joy. His children remember him as patient, gentle and full of wisdom. In addition to his family, Walker was especially passionate about bird watching, music, his college fraternity, the practice of medicine, and his faith in God. Bird watching was a life-long hobby of Walker's. A co-founder of the Wichita Audubon Society (1954), he received a meritorious service award in May of 2014 for his enthusiastic support. Walker was a past president of the Kansas Ornithological Society. His love of nature was contagious, and he was intentional about sharing his love of God's creation with his children and grandchildren. Favorite places included Chaplin Nature Center, near Arkansas City, the Lake of the Ozarks in MO, Grand Lake in Oklahoma, a Beaver Lake home in Arkansas, and a treasured historic pine cabin near Pikes Peak in CO.

-See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/kansas/obituary.aspx?n=james-walker-butin&pid=172032644&fhid=4860#sthash.ZxoBinDI.dpuf>

It's time to renew your KOS membership!

New Member Renewal

Please clearly mark your choice of membership category below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Individual | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular 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



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

Winter, 2014

Vol. 41, No. 4

Kansas Top Ten Birds 2013-2014

Seems like several species are not even considered anymore, though they are great finds in Kansas. They just don't quite cut it: Barrow's Goldeneye, Lesser Goldfinch, Lesser Black-backed Gull, White-winged Dove, Golden-crowned Sparrow, or Common Redpoll.

1. HOODED ORIOLE, 4/30/2014 — Kathy McDowell, Douglas County; *first state record*.
2. BEAN GOOSE (TAIGA RACE), 1/25/2014 — Rob Penner and Mike Radar, Minooka Park, Wilson Lake, Russell County; *if accepted first state record*.
3. CRESTED CARACARA, 2nd record, 9/1/14 — Mike Blair, Barber County (video).
4. HEPATIC TANAGER, 5/11/2014 — Will Chatfield-Taylor and Jeff Calhoun, Elkhart Shelterbelt, Morton County; *second state record*.
5. GRAY VIREO, 5/10/14 — Will Chatfield-Taylor, D. Burnett, T Cable, N. Shipley, M. Rader, D. Wiggins, (maybe others), Elkhart Shelterbelt, Morton Co.
6. GRAY FLYCATCHER, 5/10/2014 — Will Chatfield-Taylor, D. Burnett, T Cable, N. Shipley, M. Rader, D. Wiggins, (maybe others), Morton County; *would be eighth state record*.
7. CAVE SWALLOW, 6/17/2014 and a different one on 7/8/2014 — Mick McHugh, Linn County.
8. SOLITARY SANDPIPER, 12/29-30/2014, — Jeff Calhoun, Derby CBC; *first winter record*.
8. RUFF, 11/6/2013 — Jonathan Lauterbach, QNWR and 7/27/2014 — Barry Jones, QNWR; *tenth and eleventh state records*.
9. LITTLE GULL, 8/16-25/2014 — Millers, Barry Jones, et al, QNWR.
9. ICELAND GULL (Kumlien's race), 2/21/2014 — Jonathan Vande Kopple, Rooks County.
10. WOOD STORK, 6/23/14 — Sue Newland, Linn County.
10. ROSEATE SPOONBILL, 8/20/2014 — Tom Ross, who told Jack and Norma Dennett, Sumner County.
10. MCGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER FALLOUT, 5/11/2014 — Ted Cable, Mike Rader, Doris Burnett, Nate Shipley, David Wiggins, Jeff Calhoun, and Will Chatfield-Taylor; *more than 100 estimated*.

Honorable Mentions

Great Kiskadee from 29 Sept through 24 Nov 2013

Morton County: Red-naped Sapsucker, Cassin's Vireo, Western Scrub Jay (plus Finney County)

From the Keyboard

By the Editor

Where I live, the sun comes over the horizon about eight hours a day, rising at 08:30 and setting about 16:30; it very often is overcast with slate grey clouds. This makes birding in winter difficult to reconcile with my work schedule. Yet winter's solstice has a reward--for it is nice to be up late on a Saturday, sipping coffee and savoring a slow start to the day, without feeling guilty about shucking out of the prime birding hour for a few more hours of indulgent sleep. Anyway, I have to bird wherever and whenever I can.

Like during the first week of December when I saw some species of smallish Eurasian raptor snag a Rook in flight from a swarm of rooks while I was waiting for an espresso during a coffee break in a training exercise. What was amazing was that the rook survived; partly this was because the rook was larger than the raptor and because the rest of the swarm quickly turned on the raptor. There was a racket. The raptor quickly beat a retreat and the lucky bird flew off to a perch to recover its wits.

There is always something to see when birding, even when the backyard and the small patch of forest has all the usual winter suspects. And the usual winter suspects (and some summer suspects too) are moving ever further north as the planet warms so they are good to enjoy. Recently I read an article posted to the KSBirdlist highlighting some of the eBird data that is being used to forecast this movement north. It's nice to know that the observations of common birds, the robins and indigo buntings and house wrens, can contribute this kind of picture to the science literature and then be used to make evidence based predictions.

Thanks to all of you who will count birds during the CBCs this year. It's a great data set and good fun as well.

Mark Van Horn



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The President's Pen

By Matt Gearheart

Greetings KOS Friends!

First and foremost, it is a great honor to serve as your new KOS President, following in the footsteps of many other well-renowned leaders. I would especially like to extend my gratitude to Henry Armknecht for his excellent mentorship as President for the past 2 years. I must also express appreciation to working with such a proficient Board of Directors, this makes the new President's job much easier.

One of my first memories with the KOS was attending the Fall 1998 meeting in Lawrence, KS, which also happened to be the 50th anniversary of the organization. It was really great to meet many veteran birders, attend field trips with them and even meet Pete Dunn. I was a true fledgling amongst the full-feathered flock; however, I quickly learned this was not a bad thing. I think the best thing about KOS is how it has such a wide diversity of species in its membership -from the beginner novice birder I was, to esteemed scientific professors, all are welcomed with open wings to join. Now, I can honestly say, some of my best friends are those I met thru KOS. This seems like a great time to remind you to renew your membership or better yet, send a gift membership to a fledgling friend.

Reflecting back on 2014, I have many excellent birding memories – (is it bad that I tend to remember birding milestones better than other life events?) I got to see many Lifers in Southern California with friends from Wichita, was fortunate to pick up a few Kansas Life birds, such as the Little Gull at Quivira and the Hooded Oriole in Lawrence, and I have even enjoyed adding new birds to our yard list in Lenexa. The KOS Spring meeting in Junction City and Fall meeting in Salina were both great successes. Besides being very interesting and covering a wide array of subjects, I believe we had more paper presentations this year than in many years. Many thanks are due to Chuck Otte, Mike Rader and many others who helped make these events top-notch!

As we finish the CBC season and begin our 2015 year lists and birding goals, be sure to mark your calendar for the Spring KOS meeting to be held in Scott City on May 1-3. More details will be coming soon. We have not decided yet for a Fall meeting location- please feel free to send along any suggestions or better yet -help volunteer.

...And as the sign at the Elkhart sewage lagoons says "Enjoy the Birds"

-Matt Gearheart

2014 Avian Conservationist of the Year

Mike Rader, nominated by Chuck Otte

I can't remember when I first met Mike Rader, but it didn't take long before it seemed like I had known him, and his family, my entire life. His excitement and enthusiasm about birds, and their habitats, and their survival, is infectious to anyone he is around. Since its inception in 2005, Mike has nominated many individuals for the Avian Conservationist of the year award, and it is my privilege to now nominate him for this award.

Mike Rader has a passion for helping others understand and care about birds. A native of north central Kansas, Mike didn't become an avid birder until college, where he was strongly influenced by Ted Cable. But after that birds become his driving force. Mike spent summers in college, and a short time after graduation from Kansas State University, working for the Corps of Engineers at Perry Lake and Truman Lake. He went to work full time for Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, now KDWP, in 1989. First at Wilson Lake as a Conservation Worker, and now as Wildlife Education Coordinator out of the Pratt Office, Mike spends considerable time working on projects that will benefit birds and all wildlife, and helping other people learn more about the wildlife around them.

Mike has long been an integral member of KOS. Mike joined KOS in 1987 and started serving on the board, as a Director, in 1988. He served an additional director's term recently and served as KOS President from 1994 thru 1996. He often helps with KOS meetings either on the local planning committee or as a field trip leader and was a great help when I was president serving on the nominating committee.

Conserving our avian resources has become Mike's life long, all-consuming work. Certainly, Mike's birding is his passion, but making sure that we still have birds to watch has become his driving force. Even before his current position with the Department, Mike spent time presenting both formal and informal educational programs at Wilson Lake and in local schools in the Wilson Lake area. Just ask his three daughters about all the school programs that he gave! In his current position he also writes a regular article about birds for the Kansas Wildlife and Parks magazine.

In 1999, when it was decided to take the EcoMeet competitive program, a high school competition that challenges students on their knowledge of Kansas plants, animals and ecosystems, from a regional program to a state wide event, Mike was in the lead helping to establish more regional meets and organize and conduct the state wide meet. He is still heavily involved in this program today. Through this event, students that have an interest in the natural world are encouraged and challenged. Because of this event, thousands of students now know more about the natural world and dozens have ended up in careers focused on conserving and educating others about our natural world.

In the current era of tight budgets, Mike understands the importance of citizen science in producing baseline knowledge that will be used for future decisions on conservation issues. Since the late 1980's he has compiled dozens of Christmas Bird Counts, as many as six in one season, but also participating in many others. He runs two Breeding Bird Survey routes and was very involved in the 1990s when the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas was being conducted. When we started the BirdinginKansas.com website, a project to provide county by county information on birding locations, Mike stepped up to the plate and has written eight county accounts, to date.

Mike has also long been involved in KACEE, the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education. He has served on their board and strives to constantly become a better professional and to help others be better conservation educators.

The Senegalese environmentalist, Baba Dioum, in 1968, said “In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.” Mike Rader has taught us all about birds of Kansas and turned us into better conservationists.

KOS Fall Meeting Checklist

*For a complete checklist by county visit ksbirds.org; compiled by Chuck Otte. Thanks go to all our field trip leaders.

Field trips went to Ellsworth, Ottawa and Saline county. For the day, 102 species were spotted.

Cackling Goose
 Canada Goose
 Wood Duck
 American Widgeon
 Mallard
 Blue-winged Teal
 Northern Shoveler
 Northern Pintail
 Redhead
 Ruddy Duck
 Northern Bobwhite
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Wild Turkey
 Pied-billed Grebe
 Double-crested Cormorant
 American White Pelican
 Great Blue Heron
 Great Egret
 Turkey Vulture
 Osprey
 Northern Harrier
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Swainson's Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 American Coot
 Killdeer
 Spotted Sandpiper

Franklin's Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Forster's Tern
 Rock Pigeon
 Eurasian Collared-Dove
 Mourning Dove
 Great Horned Owl
 Barred Owl
 Common Nighthawk
 Chimney Swift
 Belted Kingfisher
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 American Kestrel
 Eastern Wood-Pewee
 Least Flycatcher
 Eastern Phoebe
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
 Blue-headed Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Horned Lark
 Cliff Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 House Wren
 Carolina Wren
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Eastern Bluebird
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 Brown Thrasher
 European Starling
 American Pipit
 Sprague's Pipit
 Cedar Waxwing
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Spotted Towhee
 Eastern Towhee
 Chipping Sparrow
 Clay-colored Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Northern Cardinal
 Indigo Bunting
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Western Meadowlark
 Common Grackle
 Great-tailed Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 House Finch
 Pine Siskin
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow

Kansas Summer 2014 Summary

Jon King, compiler

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: One at CBWA 6/7 (CW(rep)).

Greater White-fronted Goose: One at CBWA 7/17 (DS).

Snow Goose: Laggards included singles at CBWA 6/5 (PV) and Webster Res. 6/10 (JVK), along with five at Wilderness Wetlands (*Johnson*) 6/19 (LB).

Gadwall: One at KCPL wetlands (*Johnson*) 6/1 (ML) was a rare summer sighting in e KS.

Northern Shoveler: Rare in e Kansas during summer. Two near-flightless individuals at Baker Wetlands 6/1 (DL, RB).

Cinnamon Teal: One at CBWA 6/19 (MR) with another sighting there 8/18 (PL), a drake at Hain SFL 6/19 (JC-ph). Most notable though, was a drake at Neosho WA 6/1 (AB).

Canvasback: Rare summer visitor in e KS with singles reported from Neosho WA 6/8 (AB-ph) and JEC 6/11 – 7/6 (BMA).

Ring-necked Duck: One at Neosho WA 6/6 (AB-ph).

Lesser Scaup: Sightings from *Barton, Cowley, Edwards, Neosho, Pratt, Riley, Rooks, and Stafford*.

Hooded Merganser: A good summer for this rare and regular summer resident with sightings from *Barton, Clark, Douglas, Ford, Linn, Riley, Rooks, Sedgwick, and Stafford*.

Ruddy Duck: Two at Cedar L. (*Johnson*) 6/7-9 (RW) where rare during summer.

Common Loon: One 1st summer individual at Leavenworth SFL 6/21 (JT-ph), one at Lyon SFL 8/1 (JMv), and one 1st summer individual at Perry L. 8/16-24 (DA-ph).

Pacific Loon: One at Perry L. 7/17-8/28 (CM, SN, ph.). This is Kansas' second summer record.

Clark's Grebe: An "apparent" bird at CBWA 6/19 (SS). The bird was distant.

Wood Stork: One imm. at MDC WA Unit G 6/23-29 (CM, SN, ph.).

Neotropic Cormorant: Singles at JEC 6/5-11 (BMA), one in the MDC area 6/24 (MMh), one at the Wichita heron rookery 6/26 (PJ et al.), and an ad. at Quivira 7/31 (JnL). Reported throughout the period at CBWA with nesting confirmed by many observers.

Brown Pelican: One at Cheyenne Bottoms 6/19 (RP), 1 ad. of the Atlantic race at Quivira 7/3 (JC-ph, PJ).

Great Egret: Highest count: 312 at Wichita rookery 6/26 (PJ et al.).

Snowy Egret: Highest count: 143 at Wichita rookery 6/26 (PJ et al.).

Little Blue Heron: Highest count was 503 at Wichita rookery 6/26 (PJ et al.).

Cattle Egret: Highest count: 3639 at Wichita rookery 6/26 (PJ et al.).

Roseate Spoonbill: One imm. visiting an oxbow in n *Sumner* 8/20-21 (ND, mo-ph).

Osprey: One at JEC 7/9 (JH, JW) was early and another at Cedar Bluff Res. 7/26 (JC) was slightly early.

Mississippi Kite: Reported at Topeka in Aug for the second year in a row 8/11 – x. Maximum of 3 there 8/13 (JMa). This species is still rare in far northeast Kansas away from Kansas City.

Swainson's Hawk: One on the Trading Post BBS (*Linn*) 6/14 (MG, ML) was easterly in Jun.

Black Rail: Reported throughout the period at Quivira, where expected.

King Rail: Several Jul reports from Quivira, where expected. Not reported elsewhere.

Sora: One at Heritage Park 7/17 (MGo, NV) was unseasonable.

Common Gallinule: Reported throughout the period at *Barton* and *Stafford* where expected, but elsewhere one at Clinton L. 7/17 (JK).

Snowy Plover: Away from *Barton* and *Stafford* where expected, sighted throughout the period at Wilson L. (*Russell*) with 16 there 7/27 (MR) including young, and throughout the period at Webster Res. with a maximum of 6 there 7/21 (JVK) including downy young.

Piping Plover: One at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 7/13 (MR), and sightings throughout the summer at Webster Res. with a maximum of four there including downy young (JVK). One at Nesho WA, 8/28-29 (AB).

Black-necked Stilt: Highest count was 120 at Quivira 7/15 (BJ).

American Avocet: Highest count was 2140 at Quivira 7/15 (BJ).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Two at Hain SFL 6/22 (DA,DH,JC,TE) were not expected in mid-late Jun.

Solitary Sandpipers: High counts were 27 at Neosho WA 8/4 (AB) and 32 in ne *Douglas* 7/19 (JK).

Whimbrel: One at CBWA 7/17 (AS,NS) was an excellent summer sighting.

Red Knot: Two ad. at Quivira 7/28 (MR).

Dunlin: One at Quivira 6/2 (MR) and another at Wilson L. (*Russell*) 7/13 (MR) were unseasonal.

Least Sandpiper: Highest count was 1510 at Quivira 7/15 (BJ).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Two at Quivira 7/18-28 (DS,GP) were unseasonal as were 14 at Quivira 7/15 (BJ).

Wilson's Snipe: One at Quivira 7/18 (NV) was early.

American Woodcock: Seldom reported in summer, so singles at Banner Creek Res. 7/1 (JH) and Iron-woods Park 7/31 (CE) were notable.

Red-necked Phalarope: Two at Quivira 7/18 (DS-ph,GP) and continuing into Aug, were early. Two HY individuals at Neosho WA (AB-ph) were early and easterly. One at Wilson WA (*Russell*) 7/27 (MR) was early.

Red Phalarope: Ad. f. at Quivira 7/18 (DS-ph,GP).

Little Gull: One HY individual at Quivira 8/16-24 (AM,BM,MM,ph.).

California Gull: One 1st summer individual at Webster Res. 6/23-26 (JVK-ph).

Herring Gull: Unseasonable sightings included a very bleached individual at Clinton L. 6/7 (MG-ph) that was relocated at Perry L. 7/17-19 (CM,SN). An ad. visited Perry L. 8/20 (DS-ph).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: One second-summer individual at CBWA 7/11 (MR-ph) may be Kansas' first Jun-Jul record. Another imm. visited Perry L. 8/20-24 (DS-ph).

Caspian Tern: Rare during Jun, with one at Milford L. (*Clay*) 6/16 (KK-ph) and two at Webster Res. 6/9 (JVK).

Common Tern: Two at JEC 6/28 – 7/9 (mo) were rare in summer.

Black-billed Cuckoo: A good summer for the species with sightings from *Chautauqua*, *Cowley*, *Harvey*, *Linn*, *Neosho*, *Osborne*, and *Rooks*.

Short-eared Owl: Two in *Clark* 7/3 (SR).

Greater Roadrunner: One in *Edwards* 7/5 (EF) and one in *Stafford* 7/10 (ME,PM) were at the n edge of the species range. One just e. of CBWA, 7/27 (RP).

Black-chinned Hummingbird: Two imm. in *Elkhart* 8/16 (MR), in the same location where a territorial male and female were observed during spring suggested breeding.

Rufous Hummingbird: One in *Riley* 7/23 (IH) was easterly.

Calliope Hummingbird: One in *Dodge City* 7/31 – 8/2 (JC-ph).

Prairie Falcon: One in *Saline* 8/16 (JCo) was early that far east.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Latest spring migrants were singles at Scott SP 6/2 (MH,NW) and L. Olathe (TS).

Least Flycatcher: Earliest arrival was a single in c *Reno* 7/17 (JM).

Ash-throated Flycatcher: Away from *Morton* where expected, singles at *Arkalon Park* 7/19 (MGo,NV,ph.) and in *Clark* 7/13 (JC-ph).

Great Crested Flycatcher: 15 in sw *Pawnee* 6/7 (JVK,SS) on a 10 mile route was a good count there and one in *Satanta* 6/23 (DH,JC,TE) was westerly.

White-eyed Vireo: One singing in *Manhattan* 6/9 (DM) was slightly westerly during summer.

Fish Crow: One at Kill Creek Streamway Trail (*Johnson*) 6/6 (NV). Although this species is now uncommon and expected in the Kansas R. valley during spring, it is still rare there during summer.

Sedge Wren: Highest count was 29 at the Baker Wetlands 8/17 (RB).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: West-most sightings were singles at Clark SFL 7/15 (DA,JC) and Cedar Bluff Res. 7/5 (MG,NV).

Curve-billed Thrasher: Sightings continue at the Hugoton Cem. with two there 6/17 (MHu,NW).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Apparently a local breeder in the Red Hills. This season, one was in c *Comanche* 6/17 (JnL).

American Redstart: One in c *Reno* 8/14 (AM,BM) was likely an early migrant.

Black-throated Green Warbler: One in c *Reno* 8/14 (AM,BM,ph.) was likely an early migrant.

Mourning Warbler: Singing m. in ne *Douglas* 6/1 (MRo). Migrants can be regularly found into the beginning of Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A singing and calling individual in *Wichita* 6/6 (PJ) was quite late.

Spotted x Eastern Towhee: One m. at *Webster WA* 7/22 (JVK-ph).

Cassin's Sparrow: Slightly easterly sightings included singing individuals at *Quivira* 6/5 (PV), *Byron Walker WA* 7/4 (JC), and *CBWA* 6/20 (RP).

Chipping Sparrow: In recent years an expected summer resident in c KS, with sightings this summer from *Ellsworth, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Russell, and Stafford*. This summer's west-most sighting came from *Dodge City* 7/9 (DA).

Vesper Sparrow: A very local breeder in ne KS with one in c *Jackson* 6/26 (MH).

Lark Sparrow: Easterly sightings included singles in *Washington* 7/2 (WB) and n *Riley* (DR).

Henslow's Sparrow: Six on the *Kanopolis BBS (Ellsworth)* 6/21 (MR) were westerly.

White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's): One late individual in *Morton* 6/4 (CH-ph,LT).

Summer Tanager: Sightings slightly west of normal include one heard near *McPherson SFL* 7/4 (EM), and one singing in w *McPherson* 7/3 (JC,PJ). Further west, two visited *Clear Cr. (Ellsworth)* 7/15 (DK).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Sightings s and w of the expected breeding range include an ad. m. singing in *Belvidere (Kiowa)* 6/2 (JnL,JsL), a pair four miles sw of *Little River (Rice)* 7/3 (JC,PJ), a heard only individual at *Kingman SFL* 7/4 (JC), and one in c *Reno* 7/14 (AM).

Rose-breasted x Black-headed Grosbeak: One m. at *Rooks SFL* 6/12 (JVK).

Painted Bunting: One ad. m. at *Wilson WA* (MHb,RH) was somewhat northerly although the species is becoming regular here.

Lazuli Bunting: One m. at *Webster WA* 7/22-24 (JVK-ph).

Bobolink: Territorial m. and f. in *Jackson* 6/27 (JH) where the species seems to be a rare and regular breeder. In central KS, sighted at *Quivira* throughout the period as expected, but one in c *Reno* 6/9 (BM,AM) was more surprising.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Rare summer visitor east to the *Manhattan* area, so four at the *Riley KSU Beef and Dairy Unit* 7/13 (JR) were noteworthy.

Bullock's Oriole: One in e *Dickinson* 7/4 (CO) was easterly.

Pine Siskin: Early bird at *Quivira* 8/18 (JM).

Some Abbreviations: *Cheyenne Bottoms WA* (CBWA), *Jeffrey Energy Center* (JEC), *Marais des Cygnes* (MDC), *Quivira National Wildlife Refuge* (Quivira), photo (ph), *Reservoir* (Res.), *State Fishing Lake* (SFL), *Wildlife Area* (WA)

Observers: *Andrew Burnett* (AB), *Andrew Miller* (AM), *Al Schirmacher* (AS), *Barry Jones* (BJ), *Bryant Miller* (BM), *Brandon Magette* (BMa), *Corey Enriken* (CE), *Chuck Otte* (CO), *Catherine Hamilton* (CH), *Carol Morgan* (CM), *Danny Akers* (DA), *Dallas Hewett* (DH), *Dave Klema* (DK), *Dan Larson* (DL), *David Rintoul* (DR), *David Seibel* (DS), *Elmer Fink* (EF), *Galen Pittman* (GP), *Irwin Hoogheem* (IH), *Jeff Calhoun* (JC), *Judith Collins* (JCo), *Jeff Hansen* (JH), *Jon King* (JK), *Jonathan Lautenbach* (JnL), *Joseph Lautenbach* (JsL), *Joseph Miller* (JM), *Jim Malcom* (JMa), *John Row* (JR), *John Tollefson* (JT), *Jonathan Van de Kopple* (JVK), *Janeen Walters* (JW), *Karen Kryschtal* (KK), *Luke Tiller* (LT), *Marsha Ebaugh* (ME), *Matt Gearheart* (MG), *Malcom Gold*

(MGo), Margaret Higbee (MHb), Mike Harding (MH), Mike Hudson (MHu), Mark Land (ML), Myron Miller (MM), Mick McHugh (MMh), many observers (mo), Mike Rader (MR), Mark Robbins (MRo), Norma Dennet (ND), Nate Schirmacher (NS), Nick Varvel (NV), Nathan Wilhite (NW), Pete Janzen (PJ), Pat Leuders (PL), Patty Marlett (PM), Phil Vreeman (PV), Roger Boyd (RB), Roger Higbee (RH), Robert Penner (RP), Scott Selman (SS), Sue Newland (SN), Samantha Robinson (SR), Tom Ewert (TE), Terry Swope (TS), Warren Buss (WB)

Remembrance of Prof Johnson

By David Seibel

Professor Johnston was a great man, as much because of his personal character as his prolific and enduring ornithological work. Graduate students flocked to him for advice and guidance, and he always obliged with the utmost kindness, wisdom, and personal attention. As a result, he mentored an extraordinary total of 39 successful master's or doctoral students at KU and served on the graduate committees of dozens more, including mine.

I know the number of his students because of research I did in the past few years - with much help from Tom Shane and Galen Pittman - for Dr. Johnston's nomination for the KOS Ivan L. Boyd Award (which he won in 2012) and a series of lectures on the history of Kansas ornithology that I presented for the Kansas Humanities Council last year. By 2012, Dr. Johnston was suffering from dementia, but to the very end he had moments of clarity that revealed his wit and charm. I had the pleasure of telling him he had won the Boyd Award, and he expressed his typical humility, surprise, and great appreciation for the recognition. Fellow KOS members, we did good that day.

In his honor, here's a brief summary of Dr. Johnston's contributions to Kansas ornithology and to the field in general:

Ph.D., U.C. Berkeley, 1955

KU Professor & Curator of Ornithology, 1957–1992

Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected 1967 (one of a handful of Kansas ornithologists so honored)

Directed National Science Foundation's Systematic Biology Program, 1968-69 (only zoologist ever to do so)

Editor of Systematic Zoology, 1967–1970

Editor of Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics, 1968–1992

Founding editor of Current Ornithology, 1981 (to 1988)

Published 3 monographs and dozens of scientific papers, often coauthored with students

Won AOU's prestigious Elliot Coues Award (with Robert K. Selander), 1975

Contributions to Kansas ornithology:

Wrote two directories to Kansas birds (1960, 1965) and nesting species (1964)

Authored or coauthored 23 papers for the KOS Bulletin and numerous presentations at annual meetings

Edited Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin, 1958–1969

Served on KOS Board of Directors, 1996–1998

Won Ivan L. Boyd Award, 2012

Dr. Johnston is missed by those of us fortunate enough to have known him. His legacy lives on through his many students (and his fine family), and his work will continue to benefit us all.

2014 Fall KOS Board Meeting

Present: Henry Armknecht, Matt Gearheart, Curtis Wolf, Max Thompson, Lisa Weeks, Gene Young, Cheryl Miller, Art Nonhof, Chuck Otte

Absent: Patty Marlett, Janeen Walters, Nic Allen, John Vande Kopple, Mark Van Horn

- I. Henry called the meeting to order at 12:03pm
- II. Treasurer's Report – Max Thompson (Handout provided)
 - a. Max presented a handout --“Kansas Ornithological Society Balance Sheet 9/15/12014” listing all fund balances as well as a listing of incomes and expenses.
 - b. Max noted that he was disappointed that information about the death of Celia White Markum (longtime member and past president of KOS) and information about the memorial established in her name was not published in the KOS newsletter. So far, this memorial fund has received \$570. We will need to decide what to do with these funds, which have no restrictions.
 - c. Max noted the investment fund account balance of \$188,289 and noted that these funds are liquid if needed. The investment fund has done very well this past year. Max has a copy of the investment statement if anyone is interested in how these funds are invested.
 - d. Max noted that a group met at the Dingus Area last Fall. The property seemed to be in good shape. The Dingus fund has plenty of funds available if we ever decide anything needs to be done. The group did agree that a new sign needs to be installed, but Max did not think this has happened yet. Matt will check with Bill Busby about a sign.
 - e. Discussion about the Markum Memorial Fund. Gene Young made a motion to move the Markum Memorial Funds to the Endowment. 2nd by Chuck Otte. Motion Passed.
- III. KOS Bulletin Report – Gene Young
 - a. Nothing more to report than what was said at the General Business Meeting.
- IV. *Horned Lark* Report
 - a. Mark was not present as he is still stationed overseas.
 - b. Chuck Otte noted that Mark's schedule is incredibly busy, and we may need to find a new HOLA Editor, but he was not sure who we could get. Max suggested that Mark continue to be editor this year, but that we work on finding a replacement.
 - c. Chuck is taking over the Bird Roundup from John King.
- V. Old Business—Combining KOS Bulletin with OOS Bulletin discussion
 - a. Gene Young noted that this topic has been something we've discussed for some time now. Art Nonhof asked for some history on this subject. Gene explained that he was approached by KOS and OOS members, including a couple who belong to both organizations, and since he is editor of both, this might be the time to pursue combining both Bulletins. Art asked if this would be a board decision or a decision of the entire membership, of which it was agreed that it is a board decision. Art also asked if this would change where the KOS Bulletin was printed.

Gene noted that the OOS Bulletin is printed at NOC for substantially cheaper costs; however, OOS is also responsible for mailing out the publication.

- b. Gene Young said he will be attending the OOS meeting in the coming weeks and will address this again with them.

VI. Old Business—15-year index

- a. Gene mentioned that he and Max had looked into this and it appears we are at the 10-year mark, so this will be addressed in the future.

VII. Old Business—Strategic Plan

- a. Mark Van Horn had initiated work on a strategic plan for KOS over 1 year ago.
- b. Henry asked where we were on the strategic plan? And if anyone had time to continue working on this? It was agreed that this was something that probably would not get done due to everyone's schedules and time commitments.

VIII. New Business—PayPal Discussion

- a. Patty Marlett had emailed the board previously about the possibility of setting up PayPal to allow online membership renewals. Lisa suggested PayPal would also be useful for merchandise sales and registrations for meetings, etc. Max noted that there is a fee for using PayPal, but it is negligible.
- b. Gene Young made a motion that KOS set up a PayPal account to be used for memberships and any uses (i.e. registrations, merchandise, etc.) as deemed beneficial in the future. 2nd by Matt Gearheart. Motion passed.
- c. Lisa will be in contact with Patty and Max to make sure what needs to be done to get this set up, including setting up the account, establishing an email address attached to the account, and bank account information to use.

IX. Student Research Committee Report

- a. John Schukman provided a handout from the committee showing 2013 student presenters, 2013 Best Paper Award recipients, 2013 Student Research Award winners, 2014 Student Research Award winner and 2014 student presenters.
- b. It was noted that we need to get addresses from all student presenters this year, so we know where to send the free KOS memberships.
- c. There also has been some discussions about problems with purchasing society memberships for winners of the Best Paper Awards in recent years. Max suggested that instead of KOS paying for a society members of the student's choosing that we simply give winners a \$60 check and the student can do with it what they want. Chuck made this motion. 2nd by Gene. Max then amended the motion to rename the Best Student Paper Award the Celia Markum Award. 2nd by Chuck. Both motions passed.

X. New Business—Future Meetings

- a. Matt reported that several people have proposed that the Spring 2015 meeting be held in Scott City on May 1-3, 2015. Tom Shane has expressed a willingness to help with (but not chair) the local arrangements.
- b. There have been no arrangements made for the Fall 2015 meeting, which will be held on Oct. 3-4, 2015. Several locations were suggested, including Emporia (ESU), Hillsboro (Tabor). Board members are encouraged to talk with individuals to find a host.

XI. New Business—Merchandise Sales

- a. Lisa Weeks reported that sales of merchandise have struggled, and asked for suggestions on what can be done. Lisa noted a good supply of 2011 KOS shirts, and it was proposed that these extra shirts be sent to the Kansas Wetlands Education Center to be sold. All thought this was a good idea, and Lisa will work with Curtis Wolf on arranging this. Curtis suggested that the KWEC set up the shirts for sale on consignment and issue checks to KOS as they are sold.
 - b. Lisa asked what the purpose of the merchandise was, and all agreed that income and promotion of KOS was the main drivers. She also suggested possibly looking into a KOS ballcap.
- XII. New Business—ksbirds.org web hosting fee
- a. Chuck noted that the ksbirds.org web hosting fee will be coming due sometime. He will take care of this when due.
- XIII. Adjourn—Meeting was adjourned at 12:54pm so the Board could finally go eat.

~Respectfully submitted by Curtis Wolf, KOS Corresponding Secretary

The Thing With Feathers: The Surprising Lives of Birds and What they Reveal About Being Human (Book Review)

By Eugene A. Young

The Thing With Feathers: The Surprising Lives of Birds and What they Reveal About Being Human by Noah Strycker (2014, 288 pages, \$27.95 hardcover, ISBN 978-1-59448-635-7, Riverhead Books, Penguin Group LLC, NY).

This is a fun read. Whether you are a professional ornithologist, naturalist, avid or novice bird watcher, historian, or sociologist, you will enjoy this book. This is an endearing, inquisitive look at birds from a uniquely humanistic perspective that provides a keen insight to many aspects of ornithology, but also ourselves. It is organized into three “Parts” (Mind, Body, Spirit), each with a series of chapters, but not your traditional chapter 1, 2, 3. Instead, each chapter has a unique title, which is captivating, making one want to jump from one to the other...the only downside of the book.

There is a brief “Introduction” that starts with the following: “Imagine what might happen if birds studied us. Which human traits would catch their interest? How would they draw conclusions?” This leads into the basic premise of scientific study, observation. He makes a strong argument, that while this “is pure anthropomorphism,” the more we examine avian life histories, the more we actually find “parallels” with ourselves. The author goes on to break the book into three “Parts” followed by Acknowledgments, Notes and Sources, and an Index.

“Part One: Body” is a look at everything from migration, flocking, smell, irruptions, to flight. In the chapter “Fly Away Home: How Pigeons Get Around,” he provides an amusing story of Welsh ornithologist, Ronald

(Continued on page 21)

Kansas 2014 CBC Shirts

CBC Participants

You'll be the envy of other Kansas CBC participants when you saunter in wearing this new design.

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Gifts

Other KOS designs are available on the Zazzle website. Any of the designs would make great holiday gifts for the birders in your life.



Order and pay for merchandise directly through the KOS Zazzle store. You may choose where to ship the items. Visit <http://www.zazzle.com/kosbirds>.

2014 Fall KOS General Business Meeting

October 4, 2014

Salina, KS (Kansas Wesleyan University)

- I. Henry Armknecht called the meeting to order at 11:26am
- II. There was no Membership report available—Patty Marlett was not present.
- III. Max Thompson presented the Treasurer's Report.
 - a. Investment funds were transferred to a different firm last year. Since then, investments have increased 18%. Including the investment fund and checking account balance KOS has over \$199,000 in liquid assets.
 - b. The Dingus Nature Area is currently valued at \$110,540 by Linn County; however, we are maintaining the value at \$56,000.
 - c. Other fund balances include: \$95,260 in endowment, \$39,540 in life membership account, \$37,554 in book royalty fund, \$9,947 in Dingus fund, and \$5,979 in Student Research fund
 - d. It would be nice for someone to find a way to use the book royalty funds for a project, which is what they are there for.
- IV. There was no Vice President Report-Matt Gearheart
- V. There was no Secretary Report-Curtis Wolf
- VI. Lisa Weeks presented the Business Manager's Report
 - a. Please buy KOS t-shirts. There is a table setup in the lobby and we need to get rid of these shirts in stock.
 - b. Also there are Kansas bird checklists available for sale.
- VII. Gene Young presented the KOS Bulletin Report
 - a. Apology for delays in mailings. The March and June issues were delayed due to computer failures.
 - b. Currently there are no manuscripts waiting to be published. Professors please encourage students to publish their research. Novices, your anecdotal data is definitely publishable. There are many resources and mentors available in KOS to help you out if you need help in putting information into a publication. Also, KBRC reports can easily be made into manuscripts, and these are very useful even if the report is not accepted by KBRC.
- VIII. John Schukman presented the Student Research Committee Report
 - a. There was one student research award granted this year: Eric Wilson, who will be presenting today.
 - b. Reminder that all student presenters will receive a free 1 year KOS membership and we need all their addresses. There is a sheet to provide this information at the registration table.
- IX. Chuck Otte presented a Christmas Bird Count Report
 - a. Please get the dates to Chuck for your CBC as soon as possible so they can be added to the KOS website.
- X. Mike Rader presented the KOS Nomination Committee slate of candidates that will be voted on this afternoon:

President – Matt Gearheart

VP – Robert Penner

Corresponding Secretary - Curtis Wolf

Membership Development Coordinator - Patty Marlett

Treasurer - Max Thompson

At-Large Board Members – Jen Rader & Jeff Calhoun

Board Member (to fill vacancy of John Vande Kopple) – Cheryl Miller

Business Manager - Lisa Weeks

Editor, The Bulletin - Eugene Young

Editor, The Horned Lark - Mark Van Horn

Henry Armknecht stays on the Board as Past President and the term of At-Large Board Member Art Nonhof does not expire

There were no other nominations from the floor

XI. Announcements

- a. Reminder that funds from the Silent Auction fund the Student Research Fund
- b. There are many other KDWPT brochures that are available at the registration table. Everyone is welcome to take these.
- c. Henry thanked Mike Rader for his behind-the-scenes work on the meeting, and it was also noted there were many others who helped with the meeting arrangements-Shannon Rayl, Smoky Hills Audubon, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Salina.
- d. There appeared to be only 1 presenter this year for Bird Watcher's Hour, so the listed afternoon presentation times would be bumped up 30 minutes.

XII. The Business meeting was adjourned at 11:45

Continued after lunch—Called to Order at 4:35pm

- I. Vote on the slate of candidates for the KOS board. Chuck Otte motioned that we cease nominations and that we cast a unanimous ballot for the officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. Somebody seconded it. Motion was passed.
- II. Announcements
 - a. Mike Rader reminded everyone to sign up for the Sunday fieldtrips
 - b. Shannon Rayl gave directions to the evening banquet and fieldtrip meeting places
 - c. Henry thanked the local committee and presenters.
- III. Adjourned at 4:40pm

~Respectfully submitted by Curtis Wolf, KOS Corresponding Secretary

2014 KOS Fall Meeting Paper Abstracts

The Effects of Seasonal Climate and Food Availability on Woodland Avian Flock Composition -

Samual D. Richards and Calvin L. Cink Department of Biology and Chemistry, Baker University*

This research explored the environmental factors that influenced composition of mixed species bird flocks in an oak-hickory forest in northeast Kansas through the fall and winter seasons. Throughout the experiment sixty-five individual birds of 6 different species were trapped, banded, measured, and color-marked for individual recognition. Temperature and snow cover were recorded for days of trapping and flock observation. Observations of flock composition were made on the same day in two areas, one with small feeding trays baited with seed, and one (control) with no supplemental food source. Numbers of each species were counted in the flocks, as well as individuals identified by color marks. Those individuals new to a flock were identified by the lack of color marks or a leg band. Flock size grew as ambient temperatures decreased during the fall and appeared to be highest in late winter when temperatures were lowest and snow covered the ground. Flock size was greater in areas with supplemental food compared to control areas. New individuals never captured in the fall appeared to be recruited to flocks as winter progressed. Wind appeared to influence flock activity in an inverse relationship resulting in low levels of activity during periods of strong winds. Bird-hunting hawks were observed only once and caused rapid break-up and dispersal of the flock. Core species in flocks were more predictable than in other published studies.

Blazing and grazing for conservation: habitat use by Upland Sandpipers in an experimental landscape -

Brett K. Sandercock, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, and Virginia L. Winder, Benedictine College*

Upland Sandpipers (*Bartramia longicauda*) are a terrestrial species of migratory shorebird that require native grasslands for breeding and migration. Intensification of grazing management for cattle production may impact habitat quality and reproductive success. We investigated space use and habitat-specific demography of sandpipers in an experimental landscape with different fire and grazing treatments in northeast Kansas. To investigate space use, we radio-tracked 37 sandpipers with intensive daily monitoring for a 2-year period. Resource utilization functions (RUF) based on individual home ranges showed preferences for higher elevation, recently burned areas, high stocking rates, and habitat edges. To investigate nest placement and nest survival, we monitored an average of 30 nests per year for a 9-year period. The strongest predictor of nest placement was burn treatment with preference for sites not recently burned. Nest placement affected reproductive success because the highest rates of nest survival were in unburned and ungrazed sites. Our demographic results indicate that conservation of Upland Sandpipers and other grassland birds will require partnerships with private landowners to reduce use of prescribed fire and grazing intensity.

How many Northern Flicker species are there in North America? -

Joseph D. Manthey, Mark A. Geiger, Robert G. Moyle, Biodiversity Institute and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas*

Avian species range from monomorphic to highly polytypic. Some species, such as Dark-eyed Juncos in North America, may be morphologically diverse, though currently published genetics has not been able to identify any phylogeographic structure. The Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) and Gilded Flicker (*Colaptes chrysoides*) are a polytypic superspecies group with a complex history of species splitting and clumping. There are up to 13 described subspecies within this superspecies group, which represent slight geographic variation of five main morphological groups: red-shafted flickers of western North America (*cafer* group), yellow-shafted flickers of eastern North America (*auratus* group), Cuban flickers of the Caribbean (*chrysocaulosus* group), Gilded flickers of the U.S. southwest and Mexican northwest (*chrysoides* group), and Guatemalan flickers of

Central America (*mexicanoides* group). These groups are largely differentiable by variation in shaft color, malar color, throat color, crown color, and back barring. Here, I use various genetic sequencing methods to obtain genetic data for all five morphological groups. I assess genetic structure of all morphological groups, as well as potential gene flow among them. With this data, the *mexicanoides* group is the only genetically distinct lineage within the superspecies group, with large amounts of gene flow among other morphological groups.

Citizen Science and its Importance for Creating Effective Ecological Niche Models – Jacob C.

*Cooper**, KU Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas

Occurrence data is paramount for understanding species geographical and ecological characteristics, which are often analyzed via ecological niche models. Gathering occurrence points has always been challenging, and many data-gaps exist. Ornithologists have long relied on citizen science data to improve upon our knowledge of bird distributions through such initiatives as breeding bird atlases and the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Despite these programs, most citizen effort is placed towards recreational birding and often escapes formal collection. Given the number of birders worldwide, tapping into this resource has attracted a lot of attention in recent years and has led to the creation of several public databases for bird observations, including eBird. The increasing popularity of such interfaces has led to an all-time high of public data collection and provides an unprecedented amount of locality information. With this influx of crowd-sourced data, these models can be even more effective in predicting distributions and understanding species' ecological requirements.

Functional Relationships Among Lesser Prairie-Chicken Survival, Habitat Use and Movements

- *Samantha Robinson**; *R.T. Plumb* and *J.M. Lautenbach*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, *D.A. Haukos*, U.S. Geological Survey, Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS USA, *J.C. Pitman*, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Wintering ecology of Lesser Prairie-Chickens (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) has not been studied as extensively as breeding season demographic rates and habitat use. This is especially true for the contemporary northern range of the species, where they have expanded since the 1980s. As a non-migratory species of concern, relationships between survival, habitat characteristics and movement are required to accurately inform management decisions. Females were captured during the spring lekking season using drop-nets and walk-in drift traps. Each captured female was fitted with a VHF radio transmitter or GPS satellite transmitter. Nonbreeding movements were estimated for Lesser Prairie-Chickens in two ecoregions within Kansas, the Red Hills mixed grass prairie, and the Northwestern Short-Mixed-grass Prairie and CRP Mosaic. Home range size was estimated using kernel density estimators. Vegetation measurements were collected at point locations for birds throughout the nonbreeding season. Initial analyses show no significant relationships between survival and any of the chosen covariates. These lack of relationships are likely due to the random nature of non-breeding season mortality. Future estimations of annual survival relationships using broad-scale habitat variables may indicate significant relationships.

Object Permanence demonstrated by a Double Yellow Headed Amazon Parrot *Amazona oratrix* and an African Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* - Lauren Brown, Ashtyn Stephens, Andrew Sensenig*

Tabor College

Object permanence is the ability of an animal to recognize the existence of an object after it disappears from the senses. Many species rely heavily on vision, and hence object permanence can be tested in such an animal by showing it an object and then hiding it with a visual barrier. Object permanence has been demonstrated in parrots, crows, Capuchin Monkeys, adult cats, dogs, two year old humans and other great apes. An adaptive explanation for object permanence is that it enhances food acquisition in complex environments, such as when the subject loses sight of the food while climbing or hunting, and it improves escape from an approaching predator that weaves in and out of the landscape.

Conservation genomics reveals multiple evolutionary units within Bell's Vireo - Luke B. Klicka*, Biodiversity Institute -Ornithology Division, University of Kansas; Kevin J. Burns, Biology Department, San Diego State University; Barbara E. Kus, United States Geological Survey, San Diego, CA; Pascal O. Title, Biology Department, University of Michigan

The Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) is a widespread species of North American bird consisting of four subspecies (*V. b. pusillus*, *V. b. medius*, *V. b. bellii*, and *V. b. arizonae*) breeding from central Mexico to the central and south-western United States. Subspecies were delimited in the late 1800's and early 1900's on the basis of plumage variation. The subspecies *V. b. pusillus* is federally endangered, and the other three are listed by Partners in Flight as birds of conservation concern. This is the first study to examine geographic variation in the Bell's Vireo using genetic data. We reconstructed evolutionary relationships within the complex using mitochondrial ND2 and genome wide variation in the form of SNPs. We sequenced ND2 for 87 individuals from throughout the breeding range of the Bell's Vireo, and obtained SNP data for a subset of those individuals. Bayesian analyses of these data identified two major clades within Bell's Vireo. The two clades follow an east/west division with a potential contact zone in New Mexico. The eastern clade contains *V. b. bellii* and *V. b. medius*, while the western clade contains *V. b. pusillus* and *V. b. arizonae*. Support for these clades, and additional within clade structure, was discovered with the SNP data. Most notably, all the endangered Least Bell's Vireo individuals grouped into a well-supported clade. The east and west clades are approximately 3% divergent in their mitochondrial sequence data, a similar level to that observed between other avian species. Using BEAST and an ND2 divergence rate of 0.0115 per lineage per million years, we estimate the two clades diverged from 1.1 - 2.0 million years ago.

A Comparison of Diurnal and Nocturnal Foraging Behavior by Black-crowned Night-herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) at an Artificial Weir -Rachel E. Renken*, Alan D. Maccarone, Biology Department, Friends University; Bayleigh L. Hamilton, Wichita High School East, Wichita

To better understand how time of day and light level affect foraging patterns and feeding success in a primarily nocturnal wading bird, observations were made in 2013 on Black-crowned Night-herons at an artificial weir located in the Little Arkansas River in Wichita, Kansas. Numbers of foraging birds at the weir were recorded using intervals of 1-h during both day and nighttime periods. Strike rates, capture rates, relocation rates, prey sizes, and rates of aggression were compared. A similar number of Black-crowned Night-herons used this site during the day and at night. Nor did mean strike rates, capture rates, or relocation rates differ between day and night. However, focal birds captured significantly larger fish during the day, when they also experienced rates of intra- and interspecific aggression three times higher. Since basic foraging patterns did not differ by time of day, it is likely that differences in the behavior, detection, and availability of prey account for the capture of larger fish during the day than at night. We have continued this study in 2014, and will report and differences between years. Thus far, it appears that diurnal foraging by Black-crowned Night-herons appears to be important in meeting increased energy demands during the breeding season.

A Telemetry-based Study of Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) Nest-Attendance Patterns, Food-Provisioning Rates, and Foraging Activity -Alan D. Maccarone* and Heather M. Stone, Biology Department, Friends University; John N. Brzorad, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory North Carolina

The breeding season is a demanding period in an adult bird's annual cycle because it must balance energy gains with the competing demands of reproduction and self-maintenance. To better understand how this balance is reached, nest-attendance patterns, food-provisioning rates, and foraging patterns were studied in radio-tagged Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*) breeding in a mixed-species colony in Wichita, Kansas from 2011-2013. A total of 777 records of feeding sites yielded travel times, flight velocities, and flight distances. Prey-capture rates, capture efficiencies, prey sizes and aggressive interactions were recorded at rivers, ponds, and weirs. Food-provisioning intervals (Mean = 196 ± 18 min; Range = 30-2044 min) differed among radio-tagged birds and among years. Round-trip distances to feeding sites in 2011 (16.3 ± 17.8 km) and 2012 (16.0 ± 7.0 km)

were similar but both were longer than those in 2013 (11.1 ± 3.3 km). Flight distances to feeding sites also differed among birds and increased with breeding stage. Strike rates and capture rates differed by year but not by microhabitat (rivers, ponds, weirs), while capture efficiency differed among these microhabitats. Fish captured at weirs averaged 6 times heavier than those caught at rivers or in ponds. Aggression rates at weirs were 5-10 times greater than at ponds and rivers. Distances to foraging sites were combined with published values for flight energetics to estimate flight costs, and prey-capture rates were combined with caloric values of fish to estimate energy gain for each bird.

Habitat Use by Secretive Marsh Birds in Moist Soil Managed Wetlands in Eastern Kansas - Eric Wilson*, William Jensen, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University, Richard Schultheis, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism

Moist soil management is a common form of wetland management for waterfowl, where wetlands are de-watered in spring and flooded in fall to enhance summer vegetative production. The use of moist soil managed wetlands by other marsh birds (e.g., rails) has received little study. Our objective was to determine variation in abundance of the American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), Least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), King Rail (*Rallus elegans*), Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*), and Sora (*Porzana carolina*) in relation to habitat structure within moist soil managed wetlands in Eastern Kansas. We used call-playback surveys to survey marsh bird abundance, and also recorded abundances of common songbirds. Study sites included the Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge and the Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge and State Wildlife Area in eastern Kansas. Surveys were performed during the spring migration and summer breeding seasons of most marsh birds in Kansas. Six individual marsh birds of three species, Least Bittern, American Bittern, and Sora, were detected in only three of 31 wetland units across all sites. Vegetation cover and height were generally greater at points where these birds were detected. Dickcissels (*Spiza Americana*) and Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) were generally more abundant at points with greater vegetation cover and height and less abundant at points with greater water coverage and depth. We are currently surveying marsh birds in fall using flush counts, which might reveal patterns with habitat structure. Call-playback surveys will resume in spring.

Ciprofloxacin-Resistant Bacteria in Bird Species Exposed to Varying Levels of Human Disturbance - Jeffrey J. Carter*, Greg H. Farley, Eric T. Gillock, Department of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University

The emergence of bacteria resistant to prescribed antibiotics presents a difficult challenge for treatment of human disease. Over time many antibiotic compounds have become ineffective due to spread of resistant genes, which has greatly decreased the number of viable treatment options for bacterial infections. This study focused on the bacterial flora assayed from avian species to assess the potential spread of antibiotic-resistant genes through the environment. We tested for bacteria resistant to ciprofloxacin in nestlings of nine bird species located in three study sites in western Kansas. Study sites were selected to reflect a gradient of human disturbance where antibiotics were introduced into the environment. A total of 194 Individual nestlings were sampled during two field seasons, with 12 individuals housing bacteria resistant to ciprofloxacin. All three study sites were represented in these positive results, which may indicate antibiotic resistant genes are more widespread in the environment than previously thought. Several of the species assayed are Nearctic – Neotropical migrants, suggesting a potential for the spread of these genes through environmental vectors.

Possible Effects of Black-Tailed Prairie Dogs on Abundance and Diversity of Raptors in Mixed and Shortgrass Prairie of Western Kansas - Nina M. Luna* and Greg Farley, Fort Hays State University

Black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) distribution has been significantly reduced by habitat modification for farmland, government-supported eradication programs, and disease. Black-tailed prairie dogs are a possible keystone species of the Great Plains and organisms such as ferruginous hawks and golden eagles have had population decline where prairie dog populations declined. This study quantifies and compares spe-

cies diversity and individual abundances of raptors on rangelands with and without prairie dogs. We conducted raptor surveys from April 2013 to January 2014 in western Kansas. Objectives were: 1) quantify raptor species diversity and abundance, 2) identify seasonal patterns by species 3) assess possible ecological associations with common raptor species. More individual raptors ($n = 175$) were on the prairie dog treatment than non prairie dog treatment ($n = 107$). Observations of ferruginous hawks ($n = 38$) and golden eagles ($n = 31$) were abundant during the overwintering period on prairie dog treatments. Prairie dog treatment ($n = 13$) had 4 more species detected than non prairie dog treatment ($n = 9$). Burrowing owl, prairie falcon, merlin, and bald eagle were only observed on prairie dog treatment.

Grasshopper Sparrows on the Move: What Explains Variation in Within-Season Breeding Dispersal in a Declining Songbird? - Emily J. Williams*, W. Alice Boyle, Kansas State University, Division of Biology
Grassland birds are declining throughout North America, likely primarily due to habitat loss. The grassland-obligate Grasshopper Sparrow (hereafter, sparrows) is declining at 3% per year, including in their core breeding range in the Flint Hills of Kansas. During the 2013/14 breeding seasons, we observed that many sparrows dispersed 1-3km within our 3,487-ha study area at the Konza Prairie Biological Station, presumably between nesting attempts. Consequently, patterns of sparrow relative abundance changed dramatically over the breeding season. We hypothesized that these dispersal events are due to spatial and temporal changes in relative predation/parasitism risk associated with different land use. We predicted that dispersers have lower nest success than individuals that maintain consistent territories, and that nests of dispersing individuals suffer higher parasitism rates. We captured and individually marked ~400 male Grasshopper Sparrows between May-July 2013/14 on 18 plots managed with cattle, bison, or no grazers, and burn frequencies of 1-3 years. We found a total of 116 nests via rope-dragging and behavioral observations. Nests were monitored every 2 days to determine nest fate, and daily nest survival was estimated in Program MARK and in Program R (Package RMark). Preliminary results indicate that dispersing individuals experienced much lower overall nest survival (0.11) than non-dispersed individuals (0.47). Contrary to prediction, parasitism rates were not different between dispersers or non-dispersed birds ($P=0.9853$). Ongoing studies quantifying temporal and spatial patterns of predation risk, food abundance, and habitat change will help determine the consequences of different land management regimes on grassland bird movements and habitat quality.

Female Lesser Prairie-Chicken Response to Grazing Practices in Western Kansas Grasslands - John D. Kraft* and J. Lautenbach, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, D. A. Haukos, U.S. Geological Survey, Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Kansas State University, J. C. Pitman, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, C. A. Hagen, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*; hereafter LPC) is a grouse species endemic to the grasslands of the southern Great Plains. In March, 2014, cumulative habitat degradation and subsequent population decline led to the listing of this species as "Threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. The vast majority of the species range occurs on private grazed lands. Therefore, LPC population responses to livestock grazing strategies need to be investigated and quantified for conservation planning. We investigated the effects of various grazing pressures on reproductive success and habitat use within Kansas grazed lands. During the springs of 2013 and 2014, individuals were captured on breeding/display grounds (leks) and fitted with either a 17-g VHF bib-style transmitter or a 22-g model 100 GPS Platform Transmitting Terminal (PTT). Locations of tagged birds, nest sites, and broods were recorded. Grazing data were collected via producer correspondence and vegetation surveys. Initial results indicate that functional grasslands are an important resource for LPC populations during all seasons. Furthermore, measures of LPC habitat use and reproductive success were positively related with lower values of grazing intensity (AUM and percent forage utilization rates). Analyses indicated loamy upland, limy upland, red clay prairie and saline subirrigated ecological sites were used more than other available range sites. Understanding and creating meaningful relationships be-

tween livestock production and LPC population demography will provide additional information for LPC conservation and management.

Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat Use in Kansas and Colorado – Dan S. Sullins*, *Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Biology, Kansas State University*

The range of the lesser prairie-chicken (LPC) has decreased ~85% over the past 100, primarily due to the loss and degradation of available habitat. Kansas contains the largest portion of the LPC range where the majority of the now federally threatened species reside. To appropriately implement and assess conservation efforts for LPC, a clear understanding of habitat use across its northern range in Kansas and Colorado is needed. Therefore, my objective was to estimate the relative importance of habitat variables (visual obstruction, percent forbs, and litter depth) with the probability of use by LPC among multiple study areas in Kansas and Colorado. Logistic regression was used to estimate effect size for explaining habitat use between variables measured at used ($n = 4,325$) and available points ($n = 3,688$). The predictive power of variables related to cover, nesting, and food suitability were assessed in separate model groups. Of each grouping, the quadratic relationship of forbs was the best supported food variable, and overall best univariate predictor of LPC use, litter depth was an informative nesting variable, and the quadratic relationship of vegetation height (dm) at which 25% visual obstruction occurs was the best supported cover variable. All were positively related with LPC use and had 95% confidence intervals that did not overlap zero. Best supported single variable models were combined to assess multivariate predictors. Overall, the additive model including food, nesting, and cover variables was the best predictor of LPC occupancy. Future management efforts should consider these variables when identifying and evaluating LPC habitat.

A Big acknowledgement to all whom presented and did the research to further Ornithology in Kansas and beyond! From the KOS Board.

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Lockley, using Manx Shearwaters from Wales's Stockholm Island transplanted in Venice and Boston only to travel back to their burrows in 14-days (average of 65 mi/day, over land) and 12-days, 12-hours, 31 min (average 250 mi/day, over the Atlantic Ocean) respectively. Although he goes off on a tangent about mammals (pp. 9-10), it does help to put into perspective birds' abilities to navigate as a result of flight. He provides a nice history of our fascination with avian navigation, focusing on the pigeon. You may ask why the pigeon--perhaps because they were domesticated at least 5,000 years ago, "even before chickens." He even pointed out that Genghis Khan and Julius Caesar used pigeons for "long distance communication." Pigeons' homing abilities were so important that an estimated 1/2 million were used in WWI and the British used 250,000 in WWII. Strycker goes on to discuss the science behind pigeon navigation, which readers should find fascinating, since it includes sight, orientation to the sun, navigation by stars, use of magnetic fields, use of nostrils and smell, and sense of infrasound, the low-frequency noise made by oceans and air currents, all for orientation.

In the chapter "Spontaneous Order: The Curious Magnetism of Starling Flocks," he provides an interesting perspective on a much maligned species, the European Starling. Have you seen the viral video "Murmuration" of a large starling flock (google it, readily available on-line)? In this chapter he explains how the video came to be, but more importantly, he helps us understand this "collective behavior" and how physics is playing the critical role to decipher how it's done.

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Ever hear of John Bachman, Charles Darwin, John James Audubon, or Kenneth Stager? You will in “The Buz-zard’s Nostril: Sniffing out a Turkey Vulture’s Talents.” This chapter provides a nice historical overview of how science works, all by examining whether new world vultures can smell.

The author even puts in perspective the Snowy Owl irruption of 2011-2012, including a mention of their movement into Kansas (p. 71). This chapter “Snow Flurries: Owls, Invasions, and Wanderlust” provides a synopsis of historical irruptions. He also sheds light on the unpleasant reality that birds in North America are struggling when you consider during this invasion “Washington had closer to 100 sightings than the 1,000 in 1916, and that’s with magnitudes more human observers than existed a hundred years ago” (p. 77). He continues to point out it was probably the best documented irruption considering the advent eBird, which docu-mented the largest concentrations being centered in the Great Plains. He uses a couple of paragraphs to es-tablish that Snowy Owls, as well as other species, those that we’re familiar with in Kansas, also make periodic winter irruptions: redpolls, crossbills, and nuthatches. But, the ultimate question is, why do these irruptions occur? Thus, the rest of the chapter is devoted to the scientific examination of irruptive behavior.

The last chapter in Part One, “Hummingbird Wars: Implications of Flight in the Fast Lane” is really fun with tidbits of information that make you want to learn more about these miniature marvels. For example, a study in 1985 only found 13 confirmed instances of predation on adult hummingbirds in North America, including “praying mantises, spiders, fish, and frogs.” As a result of few natural predators, these diminutive critters ac-tually have relatively lengthy life spans, between 5.5 and 6.1 years. Broad-taileds have been known to live about 12 years (p. 94). On the other hand, a hummingbird in Central and South America might have it a little more dangerous. He reports a study in Venezuela where a pair of Bat Falcons captured 10 species of hum-mingbirds in 164 days, an estimated 100 individuals. The author even dives into physiology, indicating that hummingbird hearts have been measured at over 1,200 beats per minute, with up to 250 breaths per minute. But my favorite tidbit, we all know that hummingbirds at feeders are fiercely competitive and territorial; how-ever, did you know the Aztecs knew about their violent tendencies, thus named them their “god of war: Huitzilopochtli.” The term roughly translates “as the ‘hummingbird on the left,’ who demanded occasional human sacrifices to stave off the end of the world” (pp. 97-98).

In “Part Two: Mind,” the author examines everything from fear to memory in birds. The “Fight or Flight: What Penguins are Afraid of” describes his curiosity of how 300,000 Adelie Penguins fit into a valley about a mile wide at Cape Crozier, Antarctica. Since they are not molested by human contact, these birds will act with curiosity, untying shoelaces, preening his pants, and lining up behind him as if to play “follow-the-leader.” The stories of capturing penguins to apply GPS tags are vividly described and hilarious. All of this is an intro-duction to the “fight or flight” response, with a nice discussion on the physiological aspects and how it relates to emotions. Strycker illustrates that examining penguins actually helps us to understand ourselves and ulti-mately how that examination helps us understand penguin habits.

The chapter “Beat Generation: Dancing Parrots and Our Strange Love of Music” ties birds together with the modern era of the internet and “You Tube” with the story of “Snowball: The Dancing Parrot.” It’s a wonder-ful summary of how a rescued parrot, observed on “You Tube” was able to captivate a scientist, resulting in a detailed study demonstrating the first time another animal, besides humans, coordinated movement to an “external musical rhythm.” This sets up an interesting discussion on the ability for animals, including birds, to dance in general, and how this relates to evolution. The perception, is that animals that have the ability to vocalize, have the ability to dance to music. But not any vocalization will do. It might be more about the abil-ity to “mimic vocal sounds,” which interestingly enough our closest relatives, monkeys and apes, lack this abil-ity. It appears the list of true mimics is relatively small: “songbirds, parrots, hummingbirds, whales, dolphins,

porpoises, walruses, seals, sea lions, elephants, some bats, and humans.” He then takes us on a journey to the significance of music to humans...a clever way of examining our own evolution with music, but using birds to help us understand.

In “Seeing Red: When the Pecking Order Breaks Down,” you can read about the hierarchal system within a chicken coop and how this led to the term “pecking order.” You also learn about professional tennis (yes, I said tennis) and the use of logic in sports in general, which is tied back to the significance of the color red to chickens. It’s an amusing journey, but along the way you will probably learn something you didn’t know before, very informative.

As typical with all of his chapters, the last chapter in Part Two, “Cache Memory: How Nutcrackers Hoard Information,” starts with an interesting set of facts which grasps you, making you want to know more. Ever wonder how Clark’s Nutcracker got its name? Or why we don’t have Clark’s Crow? Have you heard of Lewis’s Woodpecker? The first couple of pages in this chapter will help you answer those questions by examining the work of Lewis and Clark in association with Alexander Wilson. Then the author takes you on a journey to understand how Clark’s Nutcrackers remember up to “5,000 caches” of pine seeds through a winter. Strycker accomplishes this first by explaining our own ability to use memory, with an examination of “memory” games and the development of “memory athletes.” Eventually we learn about Stephen Vander Wall’s study of the nutcracker while a graduate student at Northern Arizona University. The author has a remarkable ability to tie together the old with the new, the legendary tales with the facts. Readers jump from the Greek poet Simonides, to the USA Memory Championship, to the similarities of the human brain and a computer, all in an effort to comprehend the ability to memorize. Ultimately, he points out the brain, whether from a nutcracker or human, uses “spatial techniques to recall facts,” a trait lacking in computers. And in fact, birds, at least in recovering caches, are better than humans are.

“Part Three: Spirit” takes readers on a continued trek to understand avian courtship, intelligence, even relationships within the human species. The first chapter, “Magpie in the Mirror: Reflections of Avian Self-awareness,” puts into perspective the ability for mammals (humans, great apes, orcas, dolphins and elephants) to recognize themselves in a mirror. Up until 2008, they were the only animals known to be able to do so, until a study conducted by German researchers demonstrated that Eurasian magpies could recognize themselves as well. Suddenly, he suggests that ornithology had crossed into “psychology and even philosophy” as a result of asking: “What does it mean, anyway?” He uses this as an opening to understand magpies and intelligence.

We’ve all seen video or pictures of the elaborate courtship of Bowerbirds, and in “Arts and Craftiness: The Aesthetics of Bowerbird Seduction,” he provides a vivid understanding of these amazing birds. This chapter is the literary version of watching a documentary narrated by famed naturalist Sir David Frederick Attenborough.

In “Fairy Helpers: When Cooperation is Just a Game” he examines altruistic behaviors. His interest takes us back to Australia to understand fairy-wrens and cooperative nesting. Then he magically intertwines them with an understanding of our own altruism, to the point of demonstrating the mathematical concept of “game theory,” related to situations against cooperation, though cooperation would produce better results. Finally, he ties this together to get us to understand that science has a problem examining altruism. While we can define it, does it actually exist? He compares answering that to confirming or denying the “...existence of magic. It’s really a matter of personal philosophy.”

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KOS Perspectives: The news in Summer, across five decades

1964

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Dingus are now in Florida for the winter. They have spent most of 1963 traveling with a house trailer from Texas to Arizona to California to Kansas and to Florida. As of December 18, 1963, they had a year list of 429 species!

There are several reports of Snow Buntings from Missouri and a possible sighting at Amelia Betts' feeding station at Baldwin. Unfortunately, the birds flew before she or Kathryn Kelly could get their binoculars. I suggest that birders be on the lookout for them. I am not sure when the last sighting was made in the State, but specimens in the University of Kansas collections were last taken in 1879.

1974

As the accumulation of our nesting data has greatly increased over the past several years (we now have some 200,000 nest-record cards on file) we have been frequently asked if we could supply nesting records for certain areas, particularly for wildlife refuges and states. We are now able to supply breeding data for geographical areas on a limited basis. Our current procedure is that all cards for species for which we have more than 1000 records are continually updated and stored on magnetic tapes. A list of these species is given below. We are now in a position to answer requests for data on these major species for particular areas at a fixed cost for the computer time, and an additional charge for the number of lines printed and on the number of cards punched. The computer time is independent of the number of records printed, although it decreases with the number of species searched. The charge for the print-out is directly related to the number of records. Recently, we supplied all the Michigan records of these major species to a researcher for a cost of \$26.00. This amount was roughly divided equally between computer time and print-out, a total of some 3,500 records.

1984

HIMALAYAN TREK

Dr. Robert Waltner (KOS Member) is organizing another trek for the summer of 1984 (7 June-19 July). He lived in India for 17 years. Nepal treks in which he has participated have resulted in new records of birds for that country. The trip will be of interest to students as well as adults who especially enjoy adventure, photography, hiking, birding, and meeting new people. The trip features views of 20,000' peaks from a distance of 6 miles; camping in subtropical, temperate and alpine habitats; crossing passes in excess of 13,000'; leisurely pace carrying only day-packs; porters or pack ponies carry necessities; Hindi speaking tour leader with experience in ecology of the Himalayas; 200 species of birds; visit people of a different culture; "normal" tourist attractions i.e. Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri, Jaipur, Red Forts in Agra and Delhi; six weeks with options for first or last three weeks; small group.

Total cost of \$3450 includes round trip air fare Wichita-Delhi-Wichita and tour expenses in India (based on current air fare rates and monetary exchange rates). Group size is limited to 5-10 participants.

TOP TEN

1. Golden-crowned Sparrow - Observed February 15 and 17 in Cowley County by James L. Barnes.
2. Western Tanager - Observed December 18 in Douglas County (Lawrence Christmas Count) by Roger Boyd and Cal Cink.
3. Varied Thrush - Observed May 9 in Wallace County by Ed and Jean Schulenberg.
4. Rufous-crowned Sparrow - Observed December 26 in Geary County (Christmas Count) by John Zimmerman and others.
5. Blank Brant - Observed April 21 and 14, a single bird in Lyon County by Gilbert Leisman.
6. Ash-throated Flycatcher - Observed on July 10, adults feeding 3 or 4 fledglings, Wolf Canyon, Meade County by Roger Boyd, Bill Starks, and Tim Wagner.
7. Cape May Warbler - Observed on December 19 in Cowley County (Udall-Winfield Christmas Count).
8. Great Egrets - Observed nesting June 13 (3 nests) in Sedgwick County by Bob Gress.
9. Long-eared Owl - Observed nesting on May 1 (young in nest) in Morton County (spring KOS meeting) by Calvin Cink.
10. Common Loon - Seven birds remained all summer at Wolf Creek Reservoir, Coffey County, Steve Williams and Dan Williamson.

KOS Perspectives: The news in Summer, across five decades

1994

Interstate Rest Areas

by Chuck Otte

One of my favorite hotspots is not "a" spot, but rather a series of spots. Namely the rest areas along interstate highways. It seems that whenever I take a little extra time at these rest areas I can always find some good birding.

One of my favorite in Kansas is the east bound rest area on I-70 just west of Colby. A couple of years ago, birding spouse Jaye and I stopped there in March and found a Red-naped Sapsucker in the shelterbelt along the south side of the rest area. An extended stop there at the end of September this year yielded numerous "winter" sparrows and juncos obviously just moving into the region, as well as several warbler species.

South of Oklahoma City a ways, southbound on I-35, there is another wonderful rest area with good bushy scrub behind the restrooms. A little further south of that, just as you get into the Arbuckle Mountains, is another good rest stop. Jaye and I chased a first spring male Painted Bunting around juniper trees for 20 minutes before we finally figured him out!

Birders who have spent much time in the southwest are familiar with the Patagonia Lake area and the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary and a situation known as the Patagonia Picnic Table Effect. It seems that if you go to the Patagonia area, find a quiet picnic table and be patient, a really good bird is bound to show up before long. Well, it isn't just at Patagonia that this can happen. The trick is patience!

Best Bird of the Year

by Tom Shane

October 1, 1993 thru October 1, 1994

(Read at KOS Banquet, October 1, 1994)

1. Swainson's Warbler, May 9 - 10, 1994, Rush County, Scott Seltman
2. Phainopepla, Labor Day Weekend, 1994, Morton County, John Rakestraw
Phainopepla, September 25 - 30, 1994, Finney County, Leonard Rich
3. Pyrrhuloxia, January 9 - 16, 1994, Hamilton County, Art Nonhoff
4. Canyon Wren, December 30, 1993, Scott County, Tom and Sara Shane
5. Little Gull, October 14, 1993, Hillsdale Reservoir, Lloyd Moore
6. Black-legged Kittiwake, January 8, 1994 Hillsdale Reservoir, Christmas Count
7. Black-chinned Hummingbird - male, July & August, 1994, Finney County, Leonard & Betty Rich, Marie Osterbuhr
8. Broad-tailed Hummingbird, August 16, 1994, Pawnee County, Jonni Millington
9. California Gull, December 30, 1993, John Redmond Reservoir, Lloyd Moore
10. Brant, March 6, 1994, McPherson County, Alan Jahn

Sandhill Crane Ringing in NE Siberia

Since 1991 Sandhill Cranes have been ringed in the Avtakool River - Anadyr River Lowlands, Chukotka, NE Siberia. Green neck bands and conventional foot metal bands have been used. Any information on sightings of cranes marked with green neck bands should be sent to: Andrey Sokolov, Institute of Biological Problems of the North, K.Marx pr. 24, Magadan 685000, Russia. FAX: (413)-22-53082, email: IBPN@IBPN.Magadan.su

2004

Favorite Kansas birding spot: Hargis Lake

by Pete Janzen

Hargis Lake is a small man-made lake with peripheral wetland areas, located along Salty Creek in southwestern Barber County. I do not know the history of this site, but I believe it was a wetland basin that was significantly altered in order to facilitate water management in the general area. It is entirely privately owned, but adjacent county roads allow reasonably good viewing opportunities for birding, especially with the use of a spotting scope. For birders visiting the Red Hills area, this is an interesting spot to visit, offering a completely different set of birds than the rugged hill country a few miles to the west.

Hargis Lake is very similar to Quivira NWR in its habitats and avifauna, although it is obviously a tiny fraction of the size. Like other Kansas wetlands, water conditions can vary dramatically from year to year and season to season, but I have never seen the main lake dry up completely.

To reach Hargis Lake, go east 1 ½ miles on Corwin Road from the little community of Hazelton, located on Highway 2 in extreme southeastern Barber County. Where the road tees, go south for ¾ mile to Hargis Road and turn east again. After about ½ mile you reach the wetland areas. There are playa wetlands on both sides of the road at this spot. Black-necked Stilt nested south of the road several years ago. American Avocet is present throughout the summer and may nest at this site. During migration an excellent variety of shorebirds have been seen here, including Whimbrel and Hudsonian Godwit. South of the road the upper end of the main body of the lake is visible, where a number of waterfowl species have been observed, including one June record of Mottled Duck.

Continue on Hargis Road to the next intersection at Harper Road. Go south on Harper Road for ½ mile to an old concrete bridge at the outlet structure. From the bridge

you can view the deepest part of the lake. When the playas are dry, look for shorebirds in the exposed mud along the water at this spot. Other species expected here include a variety of herons, White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, and waterfowl. Listen for rails in the cattails near the bridge. Black Rail has been recorded at this spot. This is also where the Roseate Spoonbill spent a few weeks during the summer of 2003. Continue south on Harper Road; there are some more wetland areas to the west.

The next intersection is with Hawkins Road. Take it back to the west and scan over the pastures south of the lake. There are many small potholes there that can be productive for shorebirds in wet years, but they are difficult to see well except from a few slightly higher points along the road. In the winter months if you are here at dawn or dusk, look for numbers of Short-eared Owls hunting over the grasslands along this road.

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In the last chapter, “Wandering Hearts: The Tricky Question of Albatross Love,” he tackles the concept of “love.” He demonstrates it’s not a topic that scientists work on since it has too many meanings. But yet, culturally, socially, it’s an important subject. He explains the initial onslaught of hormones and chemicals involved with the initial “attraction.” He has an entire paragraph (p. 250) devoted almost exclusively to questions associated with albatrosses, known for their long-term monogamous relationships. He ties it together with the use of modern DNA studies showing many avian species thought to be in monogamous relationships actually being in more of a “steady” pair-bond (beneficial to raising young), since individuals in broods are sired by different males as a result of mothers being out for “surreptitious quickies.” He eventually turns us back into understanding the parallels between what albatross go through and what we as humans go through in these long-term relationships.

This is a thoroughly enjoyable book from cover to cover. It has great appeal for secondary education; it could entice young minds to want to become ornithologists. Amateur birding enthusiasts should find this very enjoyable and while it will provide some good scientific information, it should also make readers want to be more observant. I think the professional ornithologist will enjoy the book as well, allowing them to reminisce about their own parallel endeavors in the field...and perhaps rekindle the search for knowledge of questions long since forgotten. Lastly, it’s apropos that he summarizes that the brain “...needs a story—any story—to latch on to important information. Sometimes, a picture really is worth a thousand words” (pg 179-180). For that is what he so eloquently does with this book, makes readers “latch on.”

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