



The Official Newsletter  
of the  
Kansas Ornithological Society

# The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

December 1996

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This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

## From The Keyboard -

This newsletter is packed and I do mean packed! I was squeezing things in where ever I could find a column inch to work with. I'm still pushing to see how big of a newsletter we can put out each issue without running out of material. I could have easily gone another couple pages in this one! I guess those other articles will just wait until next issue.

With this issue we welcome a new columnist. Peter "Pete" Janzen steps in to fill the space that John Rakestraw vacated when he moved to Ohio. Pete's first article was so great I had to break it into 2 parts. "Birding in the Red Hills", Pete's inaugural entry is outstanding and I would have preferred to run it all in one issue but then there just wasn't space. Part I in this issue talks about birding the Comanche county portion of the Red Hills. In the March *Horned Lark* we will have Part II that takes us on into Barber County. If this article doesn't get you in the mood to head to southern Kansas and go birding, well then you just haven't had enough winter yet!! Welcome on board Pete and we all look forward to many more outstanding articles. And Pete - don't leave the state!

Of course what's the December *Horned Lark* without Christmas Bird Counts? My list is not complete. In 1995 we had 53 counts, so the 32 I have listed is probably about 60% of them. It's a good list with a real promise of some great birding as we head into December and early January. Let's all get out there and someone get me a 6 or 8 owl Christmas Count (don't laugh - it could be done!)

The first 2 issues of the *Horned Lark* in 1997 will wrap up my first 5 years as the Editor. When Dave Seibel asked me to take this on I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I'd like to think that both Dave and I got lucky! I told myself I'd try it for five years and then evaluate where I was with it. There's been some changes, actually there's been a lot of changes. Thanks to quite a few other people we're able to get more material into each issue. Each of my predecessors have done a

great job of creating more foundation and structure to build on which has made my job easier.

But I don't know that I'm done yet so you can relax Roy, I'm not bailing out on you. I'm still having fun (and I hope all of you are too) and I have quite a few more things I want to try out. Maybe each issue needs to have a little "under construction" sign in the masthead. The information technology revolution is just building up steam and I think we can springboard off of that and vault KOS and birdwatching in Kansas right into the 21st century. I'm excited about where this "ship" is headed! Anyone else want to come along on the adventure?

Happy Holidays everyone!

chuck

### Who's Who in KOS - 1997

**President**, Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry, Wichita, KS 67203

**Vice-president**, Greg Farley, FHSU, Dept of Biological Science, Albertson Hall, 600 Park St, Hays, KS 67601-4099

**Corresponding Secretary**, Karen Ganoung, Box 96, Hoisington, KS 67544

**Membership Secretary**, Margaret Wedge, 1645 Louisiana, Lawrence, KS 66044

**Treasurer**, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS

#### **Board Members:**

Bill Busby, 626 East 1900 Rd, Baldwin City, KS 66006

John Schukman, 14207 Robin Rd, Leavenworth, KS 66048

Pete Janzen, 3137 N Mascot, Wichita, KS 67204

Dr. Richard F. Johnston, 602 Dyche Hall, Univ of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2454

**Business Manager**, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059

**Editor, *The Bulletin***, Max Thompson, 1729 East 11th St, Winfield, KS 67156

**Editor, *The Horned Lark***, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 913-238-8800, OTTE@JC.NET

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

## **Message from the KOS President.**

Let me begin by saying thanks to everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as President of KOS. These are exciting times! There seems to be renewed vigor in ornithology in biology departments across the state, and of course birding as a recreational activity is more popular than ever. Our organization is on its way to becoming financially sound and able to continue to provide our excellent newsletter and Bulletin and the state hot line to document ornithological news and events. The endowment fund drive we opened last year is off to a very successful start, and we expect to make our goal by the big event: KOS's 50th anniversary in 1998. Our spring meeting this year will be quite different and interesting, as it is a joint meeting with the Wilson Ornithological Society. It will bring professional and avocational ornithologists together, and allow us to show off some of the Kansas birding hot spots.

I am grateful to have had the chance to work with Mike Rader the past two years - he set a tough standard as President of KOS, and I will try hard to do as good a job. I am fortunate to have a great slate of officers and board members to work with for the next two years, and look forward to a time of fun and accomplishment. Let me or any other member of the board know your thoughts on how to make KOS better meet your needs.

Roy Beckemeyer

## **Memorial Contribution**

The entire KOS family was saddened this past year by the untimely passing of past-President Jim Mayhew's wife Bobbie. Jim generously designated the KOS Endowment Fund for memorial contributions. This memorial generated \$1,711 for the endowment fund. The KOS Board of Directors would like to thank Jim for his generosity.

## **Welcome and Welcome Back !**

Several new members have joined KOS since the last issue of the Horned Lark and a few others came back to the fold after a few years absence. Let's welcome the following members to (or back to) the Kansas Ornithological Society!

Gerald Reeck, Aaron Pearse, Manhattan; Carol Cumberland, Wichita; William E. Jensen, Jeff Witters, Emporia; Ken Brunson, Pratt; Jim Storer, Moundridge; Doug Storer, Burton; Todd Miller, Council Grove; Mike Taylor, Leon.

We are in the process of updating our membership brochures. If you would like some copies to hand out to friends, or if you know of a Nature Center or some place where some could be placed then let me (Chuck Otte) know and I will make sure that you get some. Our best membership drive is through our existing members so make sure you're doing your part!

## **HELP WANTED !!**

Do you like birds and birding? Do you like to write? Have you ever read the *Horned Lark* and thought, "I could write something like that?!" Well, you're probably right! We are always looking for more material for the Horned Lark. If you have a one time article you'd like to write up or an idea for an ongoing series write it up, send it to the Horned Lark Editor, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, Kansas, 66441 (otte@jc.net) and you may see your name in print very soon!

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## **Christmas Bird Count Time Again**

### **1996 List of Christmas (Mid-winter) Bird Counts**

If you have been on a Christmas Bird Count (CBC) before you know how much fun they can be! Up at dawn (or before) to meet some other birders and spend part or all of the day beating the bushes and tromping the back roads to see how many of each specie can be found. There has been some very memorable bird watching come from CBC's and many a Kansas birder has scored a life bird to make those early mornings and frozen toes all worth while! The past several years we have seen a wonderful increase in the number of Counts being conducted as well as the total participation. Don't worry if your birding skills edge towards the rookie end of the scale! There are plenty intermediate and advanced birders more than happy to "take you under their

wing" for a day. New skills and new friends are probably the highlight of the CBC season.

This year could be an exceptional year judging by the northern finches that have been turning up already around the state. Peruse the following list and find one near you or one that interests you, then attend! This is not an all inclusive list and others may be posted on the Kansas Rare Bird Alert (913-372-5499) or the Burroughs Audubon Rare Bird Alert in the Kansas City area (913-342-2473).

Please note that **some** of these counts are National Audubon Society Christmas counts as well and participants may be charged the \$5.00 NAS fee.

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The following list gives the count name (see the March issue of *The Bulletin* for a complete list of those counts conducted last year), the compiler (person in charge), phone numbers where the compiler can be reached and any other information available at press time.

#### **Saturday, December 14**

**Manhattan**, John Zimmerman, (*days*) 913/532-6659, (*home*) 913/537-0238

**Dodge City**, Joleen Fromm, 316/227-6342, Meet at Pancake Inn for breakfast at 7:00 a.m.

#### **Tuesday, December 17**

**Olsburg**, Dave Rintoul, 913/537-0781, meet at the Randolph Cafe at 7:00 a.m.

#### **Friday, December 20**

**Quivira National Wildlife Refuge**, Call the Refuge Headquarters at 316/486-2393

#### **Saturday, December 21**

**Wichita**, Pete Janzen, 316/832-0182, Meet at Lawrence Dumont Stadium downtown at 7:30 a.m.

**Hays**, Greg Farley, 913/628-5965

**Lakin**, Leonard Rich, 316/275-5192

**Lawrence**, Galen Pittman, 913/842-7105

**Salina**, Meet at Lakewood Discover Center in Salina at 7:00 a.m. Alternate date is Saturday, January 4

**Wilson Reservoir**, Mike Rader, 913/658-2595

#### **Sunday, December 22**

**Baldwin**, Roger Boyd, 913/594-3172, boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu, meet at 7:15 a.m. at Sante Fe Depot in Baldwin (west end next to grain elevator) **Old Garfield County**, Barbara Campbell, 316/275-5430

**Oskaloosa/Perry Lake**, Richard Rucker, (*days*) 913/597-5199, (*home*) 913/842-3845

**Udall - Winfield**, Max Thompson, 316/221-1856

**Waconda Lake**, Mike Rader, 913/658-2595

**Wakefield**, Chuck Otte, (*days*) 913/238-4161, (*home*) 913/238-8800, otte@jc.net, meet at Lakeview Restaurant at 7:30 a.m.

#### **Monday, December 23**

**El Dorado**, Bill Langley, 316/321-6931, Meet at McDonalds at 7:30 a.m.

#### **Thursday, December 26**

**Cedar Bluff**, Scott Seltman, 913/372-5411 this may be on the 27th, call Scott to confirm

**Slate Creek Wetlands/Oxford**, Max Thompson, 316/221-1856

#### **Friday, December 27**

**Linn County/ Marais des Cygnes**, Roger Boyd, 913/594-3172, boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu, meet at Trading Post Restaurant at 7:30 a.m.

*Christmas Bird Count dates, continued*

**Saturday, December 28**

**Cimarron National Grassland**, Sebastian Patti, (*days*) 312/433-6910, (*home*) 773/248-0570

**Arkansas City**, Don Vannoy, 316/838-4062, meet at Newman Park, in Ark City, near bridge on US77, at 8 a.m.

**Sunday, December 29**

**Black Mesa, OK**, Sebastian Patti, (*days*) 312/433-6910, (*home*) 773/248-0570

**Junction City**, Chuck Otte, (*days*) 913/238-4161, (*home*) 913/238-8800, otte@jc.net, meet at Shoney's Restaurant at 7:30 a.m.

**Monday, December 30**

**Liberal - Seward County**, Sebastian Patti, (*days*) 312/433-6910, (*home*) 773/248-0570

**Camp Naish**, Stan Roth, 913/843-4764

**Wednesday, January 1**

**Scott Lake**, Tom Shane, 316/275-4616

**Friday, January 3**

**Webster Reservoir**, Mike Rader, 913/658-2595

**Saturday, January 4**

**Garden City**, Marie Osterbuhr, 316/276-8145

**Kirwin Reservoir**, Mike Rader, 913/658-2595

**Leavenworth/Atchison**, John Schukman, 913/727-5141

**Red Hills**, Pete Janzen, 316/832-0182, meet in City Park on US 160 in Medicine Lodge at 8:00 a.m.

**Sunday, January 5**

**Black Wolf/NW Ellsworth County**, Mike Rader, 913/658-2595

**Bonner Springs/Lansing**, Galen Pittman, 913/842-7105

**Saturday, January 11**

**Syracuse**, Art Nonhof, 316/277-2087

**Remember KOS....** If you would like to help the Kansas Ornithological Society 's future growth consider leaving a memorial trust for the Society or including the KOS in your will. If you would like more information feel free to contact any of the Board Members.

**Checklist from the Fall KOS Meeting, October 6, 1996**

The morning of October 6, 1996, was cloudy with some fog. The wind was southerly ranging from calm to 15 mph and the temperature was in the upper 50's and low 60's. Not the best of conditions for birding, in fact the light was terrible at times. But the courageous members of the KOS persevered and managed to scrounge up the following 94 species!

Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Redhead, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, American Coot, Killdeer, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Scissor-tailed

Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Spotted Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

## KOS ANNUAL FALL MEETING 1996

*Kropf Center  
Hesston College  
Hesston, Kansas  
October 5 - 6, 1996*

The forty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held October 5-6, 1996 at Hesston College in Hesston, Kansas.

### *Saturday, October 5, 1996, Morning Session*

Lorna Habegger Harder, Local Arrangements Chair, opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. She introduced Dr. Paul Keim, Academic Dean of Hesston College, who welcomed KOS to Hesston College and talked about birds in the ancient history of the Near East.

Roy Beckemeyer, vice-President of KOS, made a few announcements and introduced the program. The papers were presented as listed on the program (see Attachment A).

The morning business meeting was called to order by Mike Rader, President of KOS, at 11:10 a.m.

**MINUTES:** Roy Beckemeyer moved to approve the minutes of the 1995 Annual Meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gregg Friesen gave an interim financial report. KOS has more than \$46,000 in all funds. The Annual Report will be made to the Winter Board Meeting.

**BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** Galen Pittman reported that the September Bulletin had been mailed on October 1. Mike Rader thanked Galen for stepping in as Acting Business Manager.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:** The Membership Secretary's report was read by Mike Rader for Margaret Wedge who could not attend the meeting (see Attachment B). The current membership in KOS is 384.

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:** A motion was made to accept the officers' reports. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

**ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES:** Elmer Finck is vice-chairman of a task force to review the state endangered and threatened species program. It is a very diverse group with diverse interests. Some of the issues are: a) use of conservation incentives; b) inclusion of peripheral species; c) review processes; d) ecosystem management. Any ideas or comments from members of KOS should be given to him. He supports the endangered and threatened species program and incentives for their conservation. The task force is meeting at two-week intervals and is to have a draft report to the legislature by December 29.

**RARE BIRD HOTLINE:** Scott Seltman reported that the new machine works better. He is receiving 10-40 calls per day. The information is also being put on the Internet.

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:** Roy Beckemeyer reported for the Nominations Committee. They presented the following slate of officers:

President - Roy J. Beckemeyer

Vice President - Greg Farley

Corresponding Secretary - Karen Ganoung

Treasurer - Edwin J. Miller

Business Manager - James L. Barnes

Membership Secretary - Margaret Wedge

Board Members - Peter D. Janzen, Richard F. Johnston

The terms of Board Members Bill Busby and John Schukman do not expire and they will continue on the Board.

A motion was made to accept this slate of nominees. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

**BEST BIRDS OF' THE YEAR:** It was announced that nominations for Best Bird of the Year should be placed in the box at the registration table.

It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn the morning business meeting at 12:31 pm.

***Saturday, October 5, 1996, Afternoon Session.***

The afternoon session started with a tour of the Hesston College Bird Exhibit led by Richard H. Schmidt, who had prepared the exhibit. This was followed by the Birdwatcher's Hour chaired by Rose Fritz. Chuck Otte then did a demonstration of sites on the Internet. The program of papers started at 2:10 p.m. with a paper entitled: "Reutilization of old nests by Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*): a cost-benefit analysis" (There is an error in the title of the paper in the printed program). The remaining papers were presented as listed on the program (see Attachment A).

Mike Rader opened the afternoon business meeting at 4:18 pm.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS:** It was announced that the following should be added to the slate of officers presented by the Nominations Committee:

Bulletin Editor - Max C. Thompson

Newsletter Editor - Chuck Otte

A motion was made to accept the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the slate proposed by the Nominations Committee. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

**SPRING MEETING:** John Zimmerman reported on plans for the Spring Meeting. KOS will be meeting in conjunction with the Wilson Ornithological Society in Manhattan on April 17-20. There will be both field trips and papers.

**FALL MEETING:** The Fall Meeting in 1997 will be at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita on October 3-5.

**TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE:** It was announced that legislation will be introduced in the Congress in March to provide for federal excise taxes on many outdoor products. The funds will be sent back to the states for nongame wildlife programs.

**ENDOWMENT FUND:** Max Thompson announced that we now have about \$6-7,000 of the goal of \$15,000 for the Endowment Fund. A memorial to Jim Mayhew's wife has brought in \$1,711. Interest from this fund has helped us balance the budget.

Mike Rader thanked the Local Arrangements Committee and those who presented papers.

The afternoon business session adjourned.

***Saturday, October 5, 1996, Evening Banquet***

The Annual Banquet was served at the Schultz Student Center at Bethel College in North Newton after a reception at Kauffman Museum. Chuck Otte opened the meeting after the meal and chaired the evening session.

**Did you see a rare bird?** Or even a not so rare bird but in an uncommon time of year or location in the state? Please, please, please take good notes, photos or video help, and then write the whole thing up and send it to the Kansas Bird Records Committee care of Galen Pittman, 12042, 258th St, Lawrence, KS 66044. Your information can add greatly to the growing wealth of knowledge we are collecting on the birds of Kansas!

**SILENT AUCTION:** Roy Beckemeyer announced that the Silent Auction had brought in a little more than \$400.

**BIRD TRIVIA QUIZ:** Answers to the questions on the Bird Trivia Quiz were announced and prizes were given to persons who had the most and fewest correct answers.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:** Four persons have completed life memberships and a pin was presented to the one in attendance:

1. Philip Wedge
2. Jack Conover
3. Diane Jones
4. Mike Rader

**TEN BEST BIRDS OF THE YEAR:** The top ten birds of the year were presented by Max Thompson:

1. Lesser Black-backed Gull (at both Winfield and Tuttle Creek)
2. Yellow-billed Loon (Wilson Reservoir)
3. Mew Gull (Tuttle Creek)
4. Gray Vireo (Morton County)
5. Piping Plover nest (Wabaunsee County)
6. Calliope Hummingbird (Garden City)
7. Garganey (Jefferson County)
8. Roseate Spoonbill (McPherson County)
9. White-winged Dove (Morton County)
10. Western Grebe nest

**THANKS TO BOARD:** Mike Rader thanked the Board for their service during the last year.

**SERVICE AWARD:** Mike Rader presented a duck carving to Dwight Platt for his years of service on the KOS Board.

Dwight Platt introduced Robert W. Regier, long-time KOS member and retired member of the Art Faculty at Bethel College. Bob Regier presented a very beautiful and inspirational two-projector slide program entitled: "More than Three: The Intimations of Pattern."

After the program, Dwight Platt recognized Richard Schmidt as the only charter member attending the meeting.

Chuck Otte read resolutions of thanks and appreciation which were adopted by acclamation.

Chuck Otte dismissed the meeting.

#### ***Sunday, October 6, 1996, Morning Field Trips***

Field trips were held on Sunday morning to eastern and western Harvey County and to Marion Reservoir. Lunch and compilation of species were held at the Stutzman Retreat Center.

The Annual Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted, Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary,  
Kansas Ornithological Society*

## **KOS FALL BOARD MEETING 1996**

*October 5, 1996  
Hesston College  
Hesston, KS*

Members present: Galen Pittman, Chuck Otte, Roy Beckemeyer, Max Thompson, Gregg Friesen, Bob Gress, Dwight Platt, Bill Busby, Mike Rader. Non-voting: Mick McHugh, Edwin Miller.

Mike Rader opened the luncheon meeting at 12:10 p.m.

**SPRING 1997 MEETING:** Chuck Otte reported that the joint KOS/Wilson Ornithological Society meeting will be at Kansas State University April 17-20. The Sunday field trips are shaping up. He will be calling on other people to help with them.

**POLITICAL ACTION:** Mike Rader reported that Elmer Finck would like to know what the stance of KOS is with regard to political issues like endangered and threatened species. The KOS constitution says that one of the purposes of KOS is to support conservation. It was the consensus of the Board that we support Elmer to represent us on this issue.

**MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES:** We have about 3,000 membership brochures left but there are a number of items of information that are now in error. However, it was pointed out that pressure sensitive labels could be printed on a laser printer to make these changes. Max Thompson volunteered to print the labels. Bob Gress volunteered to see that the labels were put on the brochures. Gregg Friesen moved to abandon the plan to print KOS new membership brochures as authorized at the Fall 1995 Board Meeting and, instead, to print labels to correct the old brochures that we have in stock. Max Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY' S REPORT:** Mike Rader reported that Margaret Wedge is concerned that membership in KOS is declining. Forty-three old members did not renew this year. She wondered whether she should send a questionnaire to those who did not renew. The Board did not think a questionnaire would be worth the effort. We need new membership brochures to maintain membership.

**NOTICE OF MEETINGS:** The timing of the final mailing about the meeting this year was quite late. Our guidelines for meetings say that it should be sent out in August. Chuck Otte said that he will try to get it out earlier. Dwight Platt will send a copy of the Annual Meeting guidelines to Chuck Otte.

**KOS LIBRARY:** Mike Rader reported that our exchanges are going to two places in the Kansas University Libraries, the Science Library and the Bird Division at the Museum. It was suggested that we need to find out where each of these journals is going and publish it in the Newsletter so that they are more available to members.

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND:** A report from Tom Shane was read by Mike Rader (see Attachment A). The first research scholarship has been awarded to Laurie Wyland of Holcomb, Kansas.

**BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE:** Mick McHugh reported that the committee was working well. However, there are still some KOS members who are critical of the committee and do not send their records to the committee. It was suggested that Board members and officers should feel responsible to document their records.

**KANSAS NONGAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL:** Chuck Otte reported that KNWAC had not met for awhile.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** KOS meeting sites have been determined through Fall 1999 (see Minutes of Fall Board Meeting 1995). It was decided not to determine any further meeting sites at this time.

**ENDOWMENT FUND:** Max Thompson reported that about \$6,500 has been collected.

The Memorial Fund for Jim Mayhew's wife has amounted to \$1,711. Max Thompson will report on this at the afternoon business session. It was suggested that appreciation should be expressed to the Mayhews in the Newsletter. Gregg Friesen reported that interest from the Endowment Fund is bailing us out this year. Mike Rader expressed appreciation to the Finance Committee.

**BULK MAILING:** A question was raised about dropping the address corrections on our bulk mailings since they are expensive. But how can we keep from sending out materials and not knowing when they were not delivered?

Mike Rader thanked the Board for their service to KOS.

Chuck Otte moved that the Board Meeting be adjourned. Max Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary  
Kansas Ornithological Society*

## **A WALK IN THE WOODS WITH ROGER TORY PETERSON**

by Dan Gish

"Birds are sensitive indicators of the environment, a sort of 'ecological litmus paper'... The observation of birds leads inevitably to environmental awareness."  
Roger Tory Peterson

The morning was beautiful with clear skies, no wind, and a twinge of autumn in the air. It was a perfect day for a walk in the woods at Woodridge Park on the west side of Clinton Reservoir. I led our group of eleven birders slowly down the winding trail that led through a tall stand of oak, shagbark hickory, and hackberry. A twelfth birder was with us, but you couldn't see him.

Nevertheless, he pointed out the lower yellow mandible and large undertail spots on a slim brown-backed bird with a white breast to help identify it as a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Later he helped identify an all red robin-sized bird with a rounded crown (not a crest) as a Summer Tanager. He did this without saying a word. He did it with his artists eye and his paint brush when he first published *A Field Guide to Birds* back in the mid-1930s, a book that has since gone through several editions. The twelfth birder was Roger Tory Peterson, the man who has done more to promote the pursuit of bird-watching than any person in this century. His field guides introduced new ideas to bird identification that made it easier for novices and experienced birders, alike, to pick out the field marks of different species that set them apart from near "look-alikes". Each of the paintings in his field guide have arrows pointing to distinguishing features such as the lower yellow mandible and large undertail spots on the Yellow-billed Cuckoo mentioned above. By combing through Peterson's field guide, studying the

paintings and accompanying remarks, you can take Roger with you each time you go to the field. And as you go, remember Roger. He died this past July at the age of 86 after suffering complications from a stroke. He had been working on his 5th edition to his *Field Guide to Eastern Birds* in another attempt to make bird-watching even more enjoyable. He will be missed; but not forgotten.

As we continued our walk down through the woods toward the lake, we came upon Red-bellied and Hairy Woodpeckers, a White-breasted Nuthatch, a Carolina Wren, and a Northern Cardinal. The sweet song of the Carolina Wren on a still cool morning puts a spring in your step when you thought you had none. After reaching the lakeshore, we walked south for a short distance before moving away from the lake into an open meadow that was lined with trees on the west side. It was there where we, once again, were treated to the beauty of a pair of Summer Tanagers actively foraging in the treetops. Ever so briefly, a couple of Blackburnian Warblers in their less than spectacular fall plumage flitted about in the same vicinity as the tanagers. Eastern Wood-Pewees, Eastern Phoebe, and Eastern Bluebirds darted out from the trees snatching insects from the air. Speaking of insects, Monarch butterflies were everywhere, clustered in trees or flying lackadaisically in a generally southward flight plan that would lead them to southern Mexico and Central America to spend the winter. Our morning concluded with stops at Clinton Wildlife Area (a short distance south from Woodridge Park) and the Rock Creek boat launch area. Our species list was not large, thirty-five, but we had a wonderful walk in the woods with Roger.

## **ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE FALL KOS MEETING**

### **UPDATE ON PARTNERS IN FLIGHT**

*Author: Bill Busby, Kansas Biological Survey, 2041  
Constant Ave., Lawrence, KS*

Partners in Flight is an international partnership of organizations, agencies and individuals that promote understanding about the status, limiting factors, and conservation needs of land birds. Within the U.S., Partners in Flight seeks to develop conservation plans at the state and regional level that contain four steps: 1) identify and prioritize species most in need of conservation; 2) set habitat and conservation objectives; 3) turn general objectives into concrete programs; and 4) implement bird conservation plans and monitor success, making use of partnerships, research, education and outreach, and policy. Progress is well underway on a conservation plan for the Southern Great Plains region. A Kansas Partners in Flight working group held its first meeting in May, 1996 and development of a bird conservation plan for the state has begun.

### **KBBAT: ARE WE THERE YET?**

*Authors: Bill Busby, Kansas Biological Survey,  
Lawrence, KS and John Zimmerman, Div. of Biology,  
Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS*

Status of completion will be reviewed. Distribution patterns of selected species based on current data will be illustrated. Plans for publication of the Atlas will be discussed.

### **THE COMBINED EFFECTS OF PREDATION RISK AND FOOD SUPPLY ON THE NESTING SUCCESS OF BROWN THRASHERS (*Toxostoma rufum*)**

*Authors: John F. Cavitt and John L. Zimmerman  
Div. of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS*

The most important cause of nest failure for many birds is nest predation. A survey of nesting passerines found that 55% of all eggs and 66% of all nestlings are lost to predators. It has been suggested that an abundant and available food supply may act to reduce predation by allowing parents to spend more time engaged in antipredatory behaviors. We tested this hypothesis in a population of Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*) nesting on the Konza Prairie Research Natural Area by providing parents with food supplements. Parents receiving extra food had higher nesting success, spent significantly more time perched near their nest and

responded more quickly to a model predator relative to controls.

### **THE CACTUS WREN: A NON-SOCIAL SPECIES IN A SOCIAL GENUS**

*Author: Greg Farley, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Fort  
Hays State University, Hays, KS*

Species in the wren genus *Campylorhynchus* exhibit several rare avian behaviors, including obligate nighttime roosting in enclosed nests and cooperative breeding. Individuals construct nests using plant material, maintain them year-round, and sleep inside them nightly with other members of their large social groups. These traits are regularly expressed despite wide variation in ecology and environment among the twelve species in this lineage, which are generally restricted to the Neotropics. The lone exception is the cactus wren, which has northern range boundaries in the southwestern U.S. In this species, adults live in pairs throughout the year, and they do not breed cooperatively. A comparison of the southernmost and northernmost cactus wren subspecies revealed these traits are consistently expressed within this species, despite environmental variation. These derived features may have allowed the historical northward range expansion of the cactus wren.

### **THE GROWTH OF WINTERING POPULATIONS OF CANADA GEESE IN WICHITA**

*Author: Alan D. Maccarone, Dept. of Biology, Friends  
University, Wichita, KS*

This paper presents the results to date of a continuing study of the overwintering population of Canada Geese in Wichita. Twelve years of January censuses show a significant and steady increase in the number of geese from virtually no birds to >12,000 in recent years. Possible causes for this increase will be discussed together with estimates for the maximum potential size of the Canada Goose population.

### **THE EFFECTS OF AN ANNULAR ECLIPSE ON WADING BIRD BEHAVIOR**

*Author: Alan D. Maccarone, Dept. of Biology, Friends  
University, Wichita, KS*

This presentation is an opportunistic and anecdotal report of the response of a breeding colony of wading birds in Wichita to an annular eclipse. Of two predictions made about the effects of this eclipse on foraging flight patterns at the colony, one was supported by the results and one was not.

**REUTILIZATION OF OLD NESTS BY BROWN THRASHERS (*Toxostoma rufum*): A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS**

*Authors: Todd A. Miller, John F. Cavitt, and John L. Zimmerman, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS*

In a three-year study of nesting success on the Konza Prairie Research Natural Area, it was determined that Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*) reuse old nests from previous years. The frequency of nest reuse was found to be highly variable. During the 1996 breeding season, we initiated a preliminary study to examine the costs and benefits associated with nest reuse. Parents using old nests may experience savings in time and energy, but may pay a cost in higher parasite loads. Nests were collected after fledging and mites were collected to determine their effect on mean brood mass and the number of fledglings produced.

**INVASION OF THE CALLIOPE**

*Authors :Thomas G. Shane and Sara J. Shane, 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846*

Unlike the Rufous Hummingbird that has wandered to almost every state and province in North America, the Calliope Hummingbird is just the opposite. It has been observed in only four states east of the 92nd meridian, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and North Carolina. Since its original sighting in 1952 in Morton County, it has only been observed three additional times in Kansas prior to 1996: August 15-18, 1992 in Rush County; and July 20- 22, 1994 and August 9, 1995 in Finney County. The summer of 1996 produced eight additional sightings of the Calliope Hummingbird and is probably a glimpse of a fairly significant migration through western Kansas. In

1996, sightings have been made in Morton and Finney Counties between July 23 and August 30. During this same period, one bird each was observed in South Dakota, and Nebraska, along with twelve in the Texas panhandle. Sixty- nine percent of the Calliopes observed on the plains have been made since 1990. The peak period of movement has been the last ten days in July.

**NEST SITE SELECTION IN BROWN THRASHERS: THE EFFECTS OF OLD NESTS**

*Authors: Aaron Pearse, John Cavitt, and Dr. J.L. Zimmerman, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.*

The presence of old nests from previous breeding seasons has been suggested to be an important cue used in nest site selection. We tested the hypothesis that Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*) select nest sites based on the presence of old nests. Twenty study sites were selected at the Konza Prairie Research Natural Area before territories were established. Each site contained 1-2 old nests. The sites were randomly assigned to either have old nests removed or left in place. The presence of new nests was then monitored throughout the breeding season. Removal sites had fewer nests initiated, however the difference was not statistically significant.

**INTRODUCTION OF OSPREY AT THE EL DORADO LAKE**

*Authors: Mike Taylor (c/o Bill Langley), Butler County Community College, El Dorado, KS*

The procedures used to introduce Osprey to the El Dorado Lake and the Wolf Creek Power Station's Nature Area will be described, together with the Ospreys' reactions and behavior upon introduction.

**Where Can I Get.....**

KOS members who attended the Fall Meeting had the opportunity to pick up a copy of the recent published, *Birds of Cimarron National Grassland* written by Ted Cable, Scott Seltman and Kevin Cook. This is a USDA Forest Service publication and is free of charge. If you would like a copy you can write to: Rocky Mountain Forest and Ranger Experiment Station, 240 W Prospect Rd, Fort Collins, CO 80526. Ask for a copy of *Birds of Cimarron National Grassland*, General Technical Report RM-GTR-281. It has a good write up of the grasslands as well as excellent species accounts and ornithological history of Cimarron National Grasslands.

If you need a copy of the Kansas Birds Record Committees Rare Bird Report Form see the March 1996 Horned Lark (page 17) OR drop me a note and I'll send it to you OR I can send you the computer file so you can fill it in on your computer, just tell me what word processor you use. If you need the latest KOS checklist in electronic format let me know. In fact I can probably find an electronic version of just about anything you'll need. Send me your wish list and give me some time. And if you are using your computer in new and different ways drop me a note and let me know about it - you may get featured in a future issue of *The Horned Lark!*

**JOINT MEETING**  
**of the Kansas Ornithological Society**  
**and the Wilson Ornithological Society**  
**Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas**  
**April 17 - 20, 1997**

The Wilson Ornithology Society was founded in 1888 and took the name of Alexander Wilson, pioneer American ornithologist and artist. Like the Kansas Ornithological Society, amateur (non-professional) ornithologists have always been involved in the activities of the Wilson Society. This mix has always made the meetings of the Wilson Society, like the meetings of the KOS, a most pleasant and congenial experience. Indeed, the Manhattan meeting will be highlighted by the inaugural presentation of the The Margaret Morse Nice Plenary Lecture, named after one of North America's most famous amateur ornithologists.

Scheduled activities will begin Thursday evening at 8 p.m. with a reception in the newly completed Beach Art Museum on the K-State campus. Papers sessions will be held all day on Friday and Saturday in the K-State Union and will tentatively include symposia on Great Plains Ornithology, New World Wrens, and the impact of the Crop Reserve Program on grassland birds. The Wilson Society has a very active Undergraduate Outreach Committee and will develop sessions on the teaching of ornithology that will interest many of you. Additionally, there will be ample opportunity for contributed papers and posters, and KOS members are

encouraged to submit abstracts for a position on the program, following directions that you will receive in early December in the meeting announcement brochure. On Friday evening there will be a bison barbeque on Konza Prairie, and the Friends of Konza Prairie will offer van rides into the bison area as well as opportunities for hiking on your own. The annual banquet will be Saturday in the K-State Union. There is no banquet speaker, but traditionally the president of the Wilson Society, currently Keith Bildstein, Director of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania, will make a few brief remarks.

The Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society will lead local birding trips on both Thursday and Friday mornings, and the Kansas Ornithological Society will be organizing trips on Sunday - an all-day trip to Quivira/Cheyenne Bottoms and half-day trips to Milford Reservoir, Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area, and Konza Prairie.

So plan on attending, 17 to 20 April 1997. Plan on presenting. Plan on making folks from across the nation welcome in the Great American Desert.

## Cyber-birding Update

I had the opportunity to present a short program at the Fall KOS Meeting about birding resources on the Internet. The talk generated quite a bit of interest so let me pass on some of my favorite birding World Wide Web links. There are hundreds out there (I saw a recent note on BIRDCHAT that quoted a figure of 900+ birding sites. The great thing is that once you get to a couple you can find almost anything.

**Birds at Selected Parks**= [http://ice.ucdavis.edu/US\\_National\\_Park\\_Service/NPS\\_birds.html](http://ice.ucdavis.edu/US_National_Park_Service/NPS_birds.html)

**Oregon Birders On Line** = <http://oregon.uoregon.edu/~lbiggs/obol.html>

**Optics for Birding Home Page** = [http://www.aib.com/~edm/opt\\_faq.html](http://www.aib.com/~edm/opt_faq.html)

**Birdlinks** = <http://www.phys.rug.nl/mk/people/wpv/birdlink.html>

**Birding Links** = <http://www.princeton.edu/~llarson/>

**Birding** = <http://www.birder.com/>

**Birding** = <http://www.zender.com/birder/>

For those of you not on the KSBIRD-L discussion list yet you need to drop me a note so we can get you added. This Kansas birding discussion group has recently grown in size and activity with recent discussions on what's moving through everyone's backyards, what to be looking for, the current influx of northern finches and county record databases. Drop me a note at [otte@jc.net](mailto:otte@jc.net) to join the fun!

# Birding in the Red Hills

## Part 1 - Commanche County

by Pete Janzen

The area known as the Red Hills lies mostly in Barber and Comanche Counties, on the southern border of Kansas, about 90 miles southwest of Wichita. This is an interesting area from an ornithological standpoint, as well as from a geological one. Many large buttes composed of highly erodible ferrous soils and gypsum deposits make the area quite picturesque and rugged in appearance. Cedars are the dominant tree in the upland areas, and combined with the hilly topography, make the area unique in comparison to other areas of the state.

I have had an opportunity to become familiar with this area as a result of work done for the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas over the last five years, and I initiated a Christmas Bird Count here several years ago, due to my interest in the area. Many portions of the Red Hills are still unfamiliar to me, but I would like to share a few of my observations on the birds of the area, as well as a few places it might be worthwhile for the visiting birder to investigate. I have spent little time in this area during migration, so this article is biased towards summer and winter resident species.

The two primary watersheds in the Red hills are the Medicine River, which flows across northern and eastern Barber County, and the Salt Fork of the Arkansas, which flows through southern Comanche and southwestern Barber Counties. The riparian habitat along the Medicine is more eastern in flavor. Mature hardwoods give shade to thick underbrush, and bird species such as Barred Owl, Chuck-wills-widow, and Eastern Wood Peewee are present in the summer. The Salt Fork has a more "western" appearance, with much more open woodlands, and a lot of scrubby brush. The uplands in the Salt Fork watershed are often a sage dominated habitat, unlike the midgrass prairies of the Medicine watershed. Painted Buntings can be amazingly common along the Salt Fork, especially in brushy draws adjacent to the river. Bewick's Wren, Lark Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak and Mississippi Kite, among others, are present here in very high numbers during the breeding season as well.

There are two large public lakes in the area: Barber County State Fishing Lake, on the northwestern edge of Medicine Lodge, and Coldwater Lake, about a mile south of Coldwater, in Comanche County. These two lakes have almost all of the public land to be found in the Red Hills. Both attract waterfowl in season, and I once found a

Common Loon at Barber Co. Lake. Both lakes also have adjacent wooded areas that attract good numbers of birds at all seasons, including migrant passerines.

The hills are very popular with hunters, as the numbers of deer and Wild Turkey in particular, are very high. For this reason, you will see a plethora of No Trespassing signs, and must for the most part bird from the roads. I have had no difficulty obtaining permission to trespass from local ranchers, but it is highly recommended that you do so before crossing any fences in the area. Also, I can't emphasize enough the extreme caution that must be exercised when driving on dirt roads here, if rain has occurred in the prior 24 hours. The soils here are among the most treacherous in the state when saturated, and unless you have a four wheel drive vehicle, you are best advised to remain on paved roads at these times, although a few of the heavily used gravel roads are passable at all times.

A good bird tour, parts of which are described in Zimmerman and Patti's "Guide to Bird Finding in Kansas and Western Missouri", begins at Hardtner, at the junction of KS highway 14 and US highway 281. Continuing west on a paved road from Hardtner, which eventually becomes a gravel road, you will pass into Oklahoma for a few miles, then re-emerge into Kansas in Comanche County. Look for Roadrunners, as I have seen them twice on this road, and local residents all mention seeing them infrequently, but regularly in this area. From where the road turns straight north at a 't' intersection in extreme south-east Comanche Co., go four more miles, then turn right onto a birdy sort of a road that zigzags it's way north and west for about 20 miles, eventually reaching KS Highway 1, about 7 miles south of Coldwater. The turn off for Coldwater Lake is just south of the city on Highway 1, on your left. A small fee is required at some seasons to enter the lake grounds. I was very surprised to hear Black Rails calling from the wetland area at the extreme north end of Coldwater Lake several years ago, and since then Black Rails have been heard in a small wetland in Barber Co. as well, located in an atlas block. Cormorants, terns, gulls and waterfowl can all be expected here in small numbers during migration. Below and west of the dam are some nice stands of trees and brush that offer the best passerine birding at the lake.

*continued next page...*

*Red Hills, continued...*

This southeastern quarter of Comanche County has the most interesting habitat, marked by very deep canyons south of the Salt Fork, especially Fancy and Schwartz Canyons. Anywhere you cross a deep draw with scrubby brush in this area, you are likely to hear a Painted Bunting. This is the specific area where Painted Buntings reach their highest densities. This is also where Black-capped Vireos were found nesting in the 19th century. Goss considered them common at that time, but there are no records in the 20th century for them here. However, as there is still a small surviving population of this species only 60 miles to the south in Oklahoma, it is not impossible that a wanderer from this population could eventually be found here, most likely as a spring overshoot. The habitat is still there. Cowbirds most likely were the primary cause of this species extirpation in Kansas. A note about Fancy and Schwartz canyons: These are wholly privately owned, and require driving on pasture roads for some distance, as well as a good deal of hiking through very tall, thick prairies. Information on whom to contact for permission to enter these areas is available from the author. The owners have been very accommodating to Kansas birders to date, only denying permission to enter during periods of extreme fire danger. Continued respect for the property rights of the owners must be a priority if birders are going to be continued to be allowed entry here.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow, another bird common not too far to the south, was heard singing in Schwartz Canyon this year by a knowledgeable observer, in addition to an old fall record from this area of Comanche County, so this is another species that die-hard rarity chasers can dream of here, although most likely in vain.

Least Terns have been seen along the Salt Fork in spring, but I do not think the size of the sandbars is large enough

for them to actually nest here, although this species is a common nester along the Salt Fork in Oklahoma, especially at the Great Salt Plains refuge, about 50 miles downstream.

Other nesting species of interest in this part of Comanche County are Poorwill, Barn Owl, Rock Wren, Cassin's Sparrow, and Lark Buntings. Barn Owls are actually almost common in the Red Hills. They are found in an amazingly high percentage of rural buildings in the area. Look for tell tale heaps of their large, shiny black pellets on the floor of abandoned buildings. Rock Wrens occur right up to the edge of the easternmost buttes, just west of US 281, nesting in cavities excavated from the soft red soil of the steepest cliffs. I have only observed Lark Bunting and Cassin's Sparrow in Comanche Co., but locals indicate that Lark Bunting is found in central Barber Co. during drought years, and Cassin's Sparrow has been seen as far east as the vicinity of Aetna, in western Barber Co..

One other good spot in Comanche Co. can be reached by going south from the town of Protection, which is in the western part of the county, for about 13 miles on a well maintained gravel road. This road curves and crosses Bluff Creek, then the Cimarron River, on two large bridges. Massive numbers of Cliff Swallows nest under these bridges. Don Vannoy had a very vocal King Rail scolding loudly, and in the open, from the Bluff Creek bridge in early June, on successive nights. In spring you might get lucky and see migrant Least Terns here, as they do nest upstream in Meade County. This drive is worth the view alone from the bridge over the Cimarron. I often linger here, just taking in the view from the bridge. This spot has a real "western" look to it. The Oklahoma line is two miles further south on this road.

*next issue - Part 2 - Red Hills, Barber County*

Dear KOS Members;

By way of introduction, I am a KOS and Audubon member from Pittsburg, Kansas, who is studying the migration of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. As a master hummingbird bander and rehabilitator, I band and mark birds in and around Crawford County. The mark is an easily recognizable spot of color on top of the bird's head.

I hope that you will help me identify birds that I have banded. If marked birds are observed at feeders or flowers, I would appreciate a telephone call with the location, date and color of the bird's mark. You may call me at 316/235-0996, or send a postcard to Jan Hall, 1514 Woodland Terrace, Pittsburgh, KS 66762.

Any help you can give me with this project will be greatly appreciated!

Very truly yours,

Jan Hall, Master Hummingbird Bander #22497

## SPRING AND SUMMER ROUNDUP

April through July 1996 by Chuck Otte

Spring and summer 1996 birding was good if you were in the right place at the right time. Many of the more active birders were busy with year 5 of the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project (KBBAT) valiantly trying to wrap the project up within its projected time frame. While these activities brought in many note worthy sightings it also kept many birders away from the more common spring and summer hot spots. Among the more notable sightings coming from KBBAT blocks were Cinnamon Teal, American Wigeon, Mountain Plover, Least Flycatcher and Bullock's Oriole. With the recent Northern Oriole and Rufous-sided Towhee splits Kansas birders should take extra notes to help build up current databases on locations and time of season.

Ted Cable was in the right place at the right time and spent all day, April 24, watching a massive movement of Blue Jays moving north on the west side of Tuttle Creek Reservoir. Cable reported groups of 50 to 100 Blue Jays moving north throughout the day. Even common birds can provide us with impressive shows.

The spring KOS field trip to Morton County was outstanding. Space does not allow mention of all the good sightings, however, several must be mentioned. The Gray Vireo, seen by many of the spring field trip participants and photographed by Cable is a potential new start record pending action by the Records Committee. Clark's Grebe and Western Grebe were both found for new Morton County records. The Given's had the enviable fortune to have Indigo, Lazuli and Painted Buntings at their feeders at the same time.

Speaking of Lazuli Buntings they were showing up with starting regularity this spring a little further west than normal with numerous records from Wichita north to Junction City in mid-May. While Lazuli Bunting sightings this far east are not that uncommon, the regularity that they were being reported in their eastern range was.

Another specie making the trek east this season was Cassin's Sparrow. Many reports were made to the KOS hotline that were 30 to 50 miles further east than normal. Whether it was cooler than normal summer temperatures, wetter than normal summer rains or "just because" we may not know, but it is occurrences like this that keep many of us returning to the field!

Equally open to speculation was the summer invasion of Red Crossbills into and through the state. Red Crossbills were reported from one end of the state to the other and

in adjoining states as well. Drought, fires and food shortages have all been mentioned as possible contributing factors, and all must be considered seriously. There was even a report from Iowa of one poor crossbill running into a K-Mart window. The bird recovered and was released after a well-meaning, but fortunately unsuccessful, attempt to straighten its bill with a pair of pliers!

July saw the start of a hummingbird parade in western Kansas that would continue into August. Before August was out Garden City would be host to 7 hummingbird species. Late July saw the start of the invasion with Calliope Hummingbirds in both Garden City and Elkhart. Excellent video of some of these visitors was shared with KOS members at the Fall Meeting. Of course more information on this hummer invasion will be in the Fall Birding Roundup in the March, 1997 issue! ***Make sure you send in your 1997 dues so you don't miss an issue***

*I now digress for a few moments:*

I am probably not in the minority when I say that I dislike paperwork and filling out forms. However, I find that certain paperwork tasks are necessary. This "birdwatching thing" we do we do for many different reasons not the least of which is to add to the scientific body of ornithological data on the birds of Kansas. While the sightings that we report to the hotline (and shortly thereafter go around the world on the Internet) and the selections from these reports that follows this narrative are very helpful to amateur birders and professional ornithologists alike, they are unofficial. The KOS has adopted a process whereby records of accidental, rare and uncommon birds can be reviewed. This process is very similar to the one used in many states and by the ABA (American Birding Association) and AOU (American Ornithological Union). It is not a perfect process but it depends on birders like you and me to fill out the forms and send them back along with any supporting evidence (pictures, video, specimens) for review. I've had records accepted and I was an observer on a record that was rejected. But even rejected records add to the body of knowledge that exists. But remember that it is a joint venture that only works if we all cooperate. Next time you see a rare bird (call me if you need a list of what to report) take the time to do the paperwork!

With that said please keep in mind that the following list (and 10 Best Birds reported in the Fall Meeting Minutes) are unofficial until records have been submitted and acted upon by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

**BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS / April 1996 through July 1996**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Location and number</u>	<u>Observers</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>County</u>
Red-throated Loon	1 at Pottawatomie Co. Lake #2	GS,TC	4-04-96	Pottawatomie
		still present	4-05-96	
Red-throated Loon	1 in basic plumage Pott Co Lake #2	DR,GR	4-27-96	Pottawatomie
Common Loon	imm at Wyandotte Co Lake	LM	5-30-96	Wyandotte
Horned Grebe	53 at LaCygne Cooling Lake	LM	4-01-96	Linn
Western Grebe	2 at CB Pool #2	m.ob.	4-27-96	Barton
Western Grebe	1 dead along Elkhart Sewer Ponds	SS	5-05-96	Morton
Western Grebe	at QNWR	HMF	5-30-96	Stafford
Western Grebe	1 at CB	SA,EP	7-13-96	Barton
Clark's Grebe	1 on Elkhart Sewer Pond	TC	5-05-96	Morton
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at Sewer Lake, Liberal	SP	5-02-96	Seward
Neotropic Cormorant	1 at CB	GP	6-08-96	Barton
Least Bittern	at QNWR	JSB	5-19-96	Stafford
Little Blue Heron	1 imm at Pottawatomie Co. Lake #2	CHe	4-12-96	Pottawatomie
Tri-colored Heron	2 at QNWR	PJ	5-18-96	Stafford
Tri-colored Herons have been reported by many from May on this summer.				
3 were reported on June 9th by Janzen and again on June 22nd by McHugh and Pittman.				
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	1 at MDC	BF,MM	4-13-96	Linn
dark ibis possibly Glossy Ibis	3 east of Big Salt Marsh QNWR	HMF	5-30-96	Stafford
Glossy Ibis	in breeding plumage at QNWR	GP	6-08-96	Stafford
White-faced Ibis	620 at QNWR	SS,MR	5-11-96	Stafford
Roseate Spoonbill	extreme se McPherson County	BJR	5-27-96	McPherson
Trumpeter Swan	imm at W. Lassiter Marsh	DLS	5-27-96	Jefferson
		through	6-04-96	
Ross' Goose	1 at MDC	BF,MM	4-13-96	Linn
<u>Garganey</u>	1 male at Lassiter Marsh	DLS	4-07-96	Jefferson
Cinnamon Teal	in KBBAT block	PJ	6-07-96	Edwards
American Wigeon	in KBBAT block	PJ	6-07-96	Edwards
Canvasback	pair at QNWR	PJ,JNi	6-09-96	Stafford
Greater Scaup	2 on Linn Co Park sewage ponds	LM	4-01-96	Linn
Greater Scaup	1 pair at QNWR	JR	4-13-96	Stafford
Oldsquaw	1 at Pottawatomie Co. Lake #2	DB,JM	4-12-96	Pottawatomie
		still present	4-13-96	
Red-breasted Merganser	25 at LaCygne Cooling Lake	LM	4-01-96	Linn
Red-breasted Merganser	at QNWR	SS,MR	5-11-96	Stafford
Cooper's Hawk	w of QNWR headquarters building	PJ	6-09-96	Stafford
Cooper's Hawk	nesting at Lone Star Lake	PW	7-20-96	Douglas
Broad-winged Hawk	1 dark phase in Oak Park	PJ	4-27-96	Sedgwick
	still present as were several others in Wichita in late April		4-30-96	
Swainson's Hawk	1 at Lenexa	CH	4-11-96	Johnson
Swainson's Hawk	20 following tractor	SS	4-12-96	Barton
Peregrine Falcon	1 at QNWR	HMF	4-18-96	Stafford
Peregrine Falcon	1 at MDC	MM,BF, LM	4-20-96	Linn
Peregrine Falcon	1 at QNWR	JR	4-24-96	Stafford
Peregrine Falcon	1 at MDC	LM	4-27-96	Linn
Peregrine Falcon	2 at Jamestown WMA	MRo,NR	5-02-96	Republic/Cloud
Peregrine Falcon	2 at MDC	CH	5-05-96	Linn
Peregrine Falcon	1 s of Wakefield City Park	CO	5-11-96	Clay
Common Moorhen	1 early at CB	BT,et.al.	4-22-96	Barton
Whooping Crane	Pair north of Marsh Road, QNWR	GK	4-18-96	Stafford
American Golden-Plover	1 at MDC	LM	4-01-96	Linn
American Golden-Plover	10 at MDC	LM	4-13-96	Linn

Snowy Plover	3 at Waconda Lake	MRO,NR	5-02-96	Mitchell
Piping Plover	3 at Slate Creek Marsh	MT	4-24-96	Sumner
Piping Plover	2 at QNWR	m.ob.	4-27-96	Stafford
Piping Plover	1 at QNWR	JN,CG	4-28-96	Stafford
Piping Plover	3 at QNWR	MR	5-02-96	Stafford
Piping Plover	3 at Jamestown WMA	MRO,NR	5-02-96	Republic/Cloud
Piping Plover	2 at Waconda Lake	MRO,NR	5-02-96	Mitchell
<b><u>Piping Plover</u></b>	confirmed nesting along Kansas River BB		7-10-96	Wabaunsee

This nest was the first confirmed nesting of Piping Plover in Kansas. The adult was incubating 3 eggs. On July 17 this nest had 1 hatchling and 2 eggs. A second family group was found further upstream with a pair of adults and 2 fledglings by Rintoul, Mulhern and others.

Mountain Plover	several near K-51	KOS	5-03-96	Morton
Mountain Plover	juv in KBBAT block	RB	7-06-96	Greeley
Black-necked Stilt	possible nesting pair at Liberal	SP,MR	6-06-96	Seward
Whimbrel	1 at Liberal	SP	5-02-96	Seward
Whimbrel	25 at Elkhart sewer ponds	m.ob.	5-04-96	Morton
Marbled Godwit	4 at Pottawatomie Co. Lake #2	CHe	4-12-96	Pottawatomie
Marbled Godwit	2 at QNWR	MM,GP	6-22-96	Stafford
Red Knot	7 at QNWR	SS	5-11-96	Stafford
Red Knot	7 at Lassiter Marsh	DLS	5-12-96	Jefferson
Sanderling	<u>250</u> at QNWR	MR	5-19-96	Stafford
Least Sandpiper	2000 at Jamestown Wildlife Area	MRO,NR	5-02-96	Republic/Cloud
Baird's Sandpiper	4000 at Jamestown Wildlife Area	MRO,NR	5-02-96	Republic/Cloud
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	40 - 50 s of Mt. Hope	DK	5-14-96	Sedgwick
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 at Lassiter Marsh	LM	4-23-96	Jefferson
Long-billed Dowitcher	<u>1400</u> at Jamestown Wildlife Area	MRO,NR	5-02-96	Republic/Cloud
Red-necked Phalarope	female at Upper Ferguson Marsh	DLS	5-11-96	Jefferson
Red-necked Phalarope	at QNWR	SS,MR	5-11-96	Stafford
Red Phalarope	1 at SCM	??	4-??-96	Sumner
Herring Gull	1 late at QNWR	BT,et.al.	4-22-96	Stafford
Common Tern	1 at QNWR	JN,CG	5-16-96	Stafford
Common Tern	25 at La Cygne Lake	LM	5-21-96	Linn
Common Tern	2 at QNWR	JSB	5-27-96	Stafford
<b><u>Arctic Tern</u></b>	1 probable at Tuttle Creek Res	TC	4-13-96	Riley
<b><u>Least Tern</u></b>	nesting colony along Kansas River	DM,DR	7-17-96	Wabaunsee
	this colony contained 14 adults and 12 chicks			
Long-eared Owl	nest with 3 chicks, QNWR	JSB	5-27-96	Stafford
Short-eared Owl	1 at QNWR	JSB	5-19-96	Stafford
Calliope Hummingbird	at Gidden's feeder in Elkhart	TNG	7-23-96	Morton
Calliope Hummingbird	2 m at Shane's feeders	TSh,SSh	7-26-96	Finney
		1 still present	7-29-96	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	at a feeder in Elkhart	TNG	5-04-96	Morton
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	in St. John	JR	5-20-96	Stafford
Lewis' Woodpecker	in Elkhart Cemetery	DLB	5-03-96	Morton
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	pair near Point of Rocks, CNG	MC,EC	6-22-96	Morton
Western Wood-Pewee	singing along Cimarron River, CNG	MC,EC	6-22-96	Morton
Eastern Wood-Pewee	singing along Cimarron River, CNG	MC,EC	6-22-96	Morton
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	at Westin Bottoms	TC,MR	5-13-96	Leavenworth
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2 at MDC	LM	5-21-96	Linn
Least Flycatcher	pair on territory KBBAT block	SP	6-04-96	Brown
Ash-throated Flycatcher	nesting along Cimarron River, CNG	MR	6-08-96	Morton
Cassin's Kingbird	single birds on successive days	KOS	5-03-96	Morton
			5-04-96	

Purple Martin	arrived at Southwest College	MT	4-01-96	Cowley
	this was 17 days later than their normal arrival date			
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	2 at Linn Co Park sewage ponds	LM	4-01-96	Linn
Blue Jay	massive movement dawn to dusk	TC	4-24-96	Riley
	west shore of Tuttle Creek Lake			
Brown Creeper	1 late at MDC	LM	4-13-96	Linn
Brown Creeper	1 record late in Salina	BT	5-12-96	Saline
Rock Wren	1 east of normal range at PCL #2	CMF	4-28-96	Pottawatomie
Winter Wren	1 singing at Walla Walla Road	CO,JO	4-07-96	Geary
Sedge Wren	10 at MDC	CH	5-05-96	Linn
Marsh Wren	1 singing along BBS route	SS	6-08-96	Gove
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	first of season at Pawnee Prairie Park	JN	4-01-96	Sedgwick
Mountain Bluebird	late female at Middle Springs	KOS	5-03-96	Morton
		still present	5-04-96	
Townsend's Solitaire	1 at Wichita's Pawnee Prairie Park	JN,CG	4-12-96	Sedgwick
Gray Catbird	<u>115</u> at QNWR	SS,MR	5-11-96	Stafford
American Pipit	<u>150</u> in Unit A, MDC	BF,MM	4-13-96	Linn
Sprague's Pipit	record late in Norton County	SS	5-18-96	Norton
<b><u>GRAY VIREO</u></b>	1 in shelterbelt n of Elkhart cemetery	SS,MR,TC	5-05-96	Morton
	This bird was found during the spring meeting of the KOS. It was observed for over 30 minutes by 13 observers. If accepted by the KBRC this will be the first record of this bird for Kansas.			
Solitary Vireo	all 3 races n of Elkhart Cemetery	KOS	5-04-96	Morton
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 at MDC	MM,BF,LM	4-20-96	Linn
Yellow-throated Vireo	n of Elkhart Cemetery	SP	5-04-96	Morton
Philadelphia Vireo	n of Elkhart Cemetery	GF,DLB	5-04-96	Morton
Virginia's Warbler	2 n of Elkhart Cemetery	KOS	5-04-96	Morton
Virginia's Warbler	1 f in St. John	JR	5-10-96	Stafford
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Chisholm Creek Park	DV	5-06-96	Sedgwick
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Mill Creek	MM	5-09-96	Johnson
Golden-winged Warbler	3 at Girl Scout Camp	MT, et.al.	5-11-96	Cowley
Golden-winged Warbler	3 at Overland Park Arboretum	DS	5-15-96	Johnson
Yellow Warbler	<u>200</u> in one spot at Girl Scout Camp	MT, et.al.	5-11-96	Cowley
Cape May Warbler	at MDC	CH, MRo	5-09-96	Linn
Black-throated Gray Warbler	n of Elkhart Cemetery	KOS	5-04-96	Morton
Townsend's Warbler	in Elkhart Cemetery	TSh	5-04-96	Morton
	still present		5-05-96	
Yellow-throated Warbler	10 at Westin Bottoms	JS	4-21-96	Leavenworth
Palm Warbler	1 at Oak Park	PJ,JN,PH	4-27-96	Sedgwick
Palm Warbler	at QNWR	SS,MR	5-11-96	Stafford
Cerulean Warbler	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	JN	4-29-96	Sedgwick
		still present	5-01-96	
Prothonotary Warbler	1 at Oak Park, Wichita	ST	5-01-96	Sedgwick
Prothonotary Warbler	1 at Lakewood Park, Salina	BT	5-02-96	Saline
Worm-eating Warbler	at Oak and Pawnee Prairie Park	JN,CG	5-02-96	Sedgwick
Worm-eating Warbler	2 at Middle Springs	DS	5-04-96	Morton
Worm-eating Warbler	1 at Overland Park Arboretum	MM	5-09-96	Johnson
Worm-eating Warbler	at QNWR	SS,MR	5-11-96	Stafford
<b><u>Swainson's Warbler</u></b>	1 singing in Chisholm Creek Park	JN	5-07-96	Sedgwick
Mourning Warbler	m. at Oak Park, Wichita	PJ	5-21-96	Sedgwick
Hooded Warbler	at Oak Park	CG	5-02-96	Sedgwick
Hooded Warbler	at Boy Scout area	JH	5-04-96	Morton
Hooded Warbler	at Chisholm Creek Park	JN	5-06-96	Sedgwick
Hooded Warbler	f. at Oak Park, Wichita	JN,CG	5-14-96	Sedgwick
Hooded Warbler	singing m at Scott Lake	MC,EC	6-23-96	Scott

Rose-breasted Grosbeak	pair along Cimarron River, CNG	MC,EC	6-22-96	Morton
Black-headed Grosbeak	good numbers in both counties	SS	5-18-96	Norton/Sheridan
Lazuli Bunting	at a feeder in Arkansas City	GY	4-24-96	Cowley
Lazuli Bunting	at Oak Park, Wichita	JN,CG	5-14-96	Sedgwick
Lazuli Bunting	1 at Milford Res and Walla Walla Rd	JO,CO	5-19-96	Geary
Lazuli/Indigo Bunting hybrid	seen where Lazuli m summered in 1995 at Camp Horizon Road	JN	6-15-96	Cowley
Painted Bunting	male at Elkhart feeder	TNG	5-04-96	Morton
Painted Bunting	s of Trousdale	GP	6-07-96	Edwards
Spotted Towhee	5 pair in KBBAT block	SP	6-10-96/ 6-11-96	Cheyenne/ Rawlins
Canyon Towhee	1 n of Elkhart Cemetery	KOS	5-03-96	Morton
Cassin's Sparrow	several common in eastern Gove Co.	SS	6-08-96	Gove
Cassin's Sparrow	2 singing in eastern Hodgeman Co.	SS	6-09-96	Hodgeman
Cassin's Sparrow	southeast of Kinsley	JD	6-08-96	Edwards
Cassin's Sparrow	carrying food to nest nw of QNWR	MM,GP	6-10-96	Stafford
Cassin's Sparrow	several skylarking in pasture	MM,GP	6-10-96	Reno
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	at Point of Rocks	KOS	5-03-96	Morton
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	1 at Schwartz Canyon	SP,MR	6-07-96	Comanche
Black-throated Sparrow	2 on n side or River e of e of K-27	JH,EM	5-04-96	Morton
Baird's Sparrow	1 at Pawnee Prairie Park, Wichita	JN	4-02-96	Sedgwick
Baird's Sparrow	at Kirwin Res	MRo,NR	5-03-96	Phillips
Henslow's Sparrow	at RML	CH	5-05-96	Linn
LeConte's Sparrow	1 at QNWR	JN,CG	4-28-96	Stafford
Lincoln's Sparrow	1 late at CNG Middle Springs	MR	6-08-96	Morton
Golden-crowned Sparrow	at feeder west of Lawrence	???	mid-May	Douglas
Harris' Sparrow	1 late bird	PJ	6-14-96	Butler
Bullock's Oriole	in KBBAT block	SP,MR	6-07-96	Edwards
Cassin's Finch	male s of Garden City	MO	mid-July	Finney
Red Crossbill	imm m s of Ark River near Gard City	TSh	7-04-96	Finney
Red Crossbill	3 in Frontier Park, Hays	TSh	7-12-96	Ellis
Red Crossbill	1 at feeder e of Douglas	fide MT	7-10-96	Butler
Red Crossbill	present through July 12			
Red Crossbill	2 at feeder in Norton	DF	7-13-96	Norton
Red Crossbill	as many as 9 present through July 24			
Red Crossbill	1 f at feeder near Wichita	DBo	7-16-96	Sedgwick
Red Crossbill	present through July 17			
Red Crossbill	at feeder near Emmet close to county line	BrM	7-28-96	Pottawatomie
Pine Siskin	early fall arrival?	SS	7-27-96	Rush
<b>Exotics</b>				
Mute Swan	unknown origin, Ottawa Co Lake	BT	4-21-96	Ottawa

### **Key to Abbreviations**

BBS = Breeding Bird Survey

CB = Cheyenne Bottoms

Co. = County

CNG = Cimarron National Grasslands

e = east

f = female

imm = immature

KBBAT = Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Project

L = Lake

m = male

m.ob. = many observers

MDC = Marais des Cygnes

PCL #2 = Pottawatomie County Lake #2

QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Res. = Reservoir

RML = Reclaimed Mine Land south of LaCygne Lake

s = south

SCM = Slate Creek Marsh

WMA = Waterfowl Management Area

w = west

***Observer list for Spring/Summer Roundup on next page***

**LIST OF OBSERVERS:** Steve Addinal (SA), James and Susan Barnes (JSB), Roger Boyd (RB), Donna Borg (DBo), Doris Burnett (DB), Bill Busby (BB), David & Linda Bryan (DLB), Ted Cable (TC), Mark Corder (MC), Elaine Corder (EC), Joyce Davis (JD), Clyde & Marilena Ferguson (CMF), Bob Fisher (BF), Dave Fischer (DF), Terrill & Nelda Giddens (TNG), Chet Gresham (CG), Pete Janzen (PJ), Chod Hedinger (CHe), Chris Hobbs (CH), Peggy Hockup (PH), Jerry Horak (JH), KOS Spring Meeting (KOS), Dan Kilby (DK), Glenn Koontz (GK), Dan LaShelle (DLS), Brandon Magett (BrM), Jim Mayhew (JM), Harold McFadden (HMF), Mick McHugh (MM), Ed Miller (EM), Lloyd Moore (LM), Dan Mulhern (DM), James Nickel (JNi), John Northrup (JN), Marie Osterbuhr (MO), Chuck Otte (CO), Jaye Otte (JO), Sebastian Patti (SP), Galen Pittman (GP), Eric Preston (EP), Mike Rader (MR), John Rakestraw (JR), Gerald Reeck (GR), David Rintoul (DR), Nathan Rice (NR), Mark Robbins (MRo), Bob & Jean Rogers (BJR), John Schukman (JS), Diane Seltman (DS), Scott Seltman (SS), Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane (TSh), David Seibel (DS), Guy Smith (GS), Sandra Tholen (ST), Bill Trelc (BT), Max Thompson (MT), Don Vannoy (DV), Phil Wedge (PW), Gene Young (GY)

**KBBAT Blocks? Past Time to Turn Them In!!!** If you have Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas Block paperwork still in your hands from work done this year get them turned into your regional coordinator as soon as possible. Even if you haven't met your target number or even if you know there was stuff you missed, still turn it in. You can always go back next spring and do some more work and turn in an update. This way we can see how much, or how little, remains to be done. If you are holding paperwork for a block and haven't done anything on it, send that in also. If you think you can get to it next year fine, include a note saying so, but if Dr. Zimmerman hears nothing from you the block will probably be handed out to someone else anyway. Send that paperwork in now!

## ***THANK YOU!***

As we draw another issue of the Horned Lark to a close, and another year as well it is only fitting that we take a few moments to thank a few special people. This year's fall KOS meeting saw a big turnover on the KOS Board.

Mike Rader stepped down after 2 great years as president. This editor gave Mike more than his fair share of teasing and harassment, probably because Mike was so good natured and usually dished it right back. As we prepared to go on a field trip that Mike led at a fall meeting several years ago I jokingly told Mike it would only be a success if he found me a Barn Owl. He did and it was! Thank you Mike!

Gregg Friesen had done an outstanding job as treasurer. Greg was on the committee that developed the current plan to expand the Endowment Fund. We have seen in other organizations that one sure way to be sure that funds will be available to do the things that the Society wants to do is to have a well financed Endowment Fund. We are now on track to do that and Gregg can take some of the credit.

Shannon Rayl and Bob Gress brought wonderful insight and discussion as board members. They were always cheerful and Shannon helped present an excellent fall meeting in 1995, and we'll see what Bob gives us next fall! I don't think this is the last we'll see or hear from either of these outgoing board members.

Two special thank you's are in order however. Galen Pittman stepped in without hesitation as acting Business Manager for a year and we can't thank him enough. Galen had been the Business Manager for several years and had stepped down 2 years ago. Then when his replacement became ill, Galen picked right back up without missing a beat. For the *Horned Lark* and *The Bulletin* to be successful we have to have a good business manager to see that they get printed and mailed. Thank you Galen!

Dwight Platt decided that after 20 years on the board, 18 of that as Corresponding Secretary, that he deserved a break. Words can not begin to express the thanks we owe Dwight for all his years of service. He helped keep us headed in the right direction and often served as the beacon to bring us back on track. Often times Dwight remembered "Why?" something had been done a certain way and when this editor needed correction or an explanation it was done kindly and with sincere consideration. I appreciated that greatly and will miss Dwight's presence at our Board Meetings! We can all learn much from Dwight's style and manner.....

Thank you Dwight and all the retiring board members and officers!! You may all know return to your normal lives!