

The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

December, 1998

Vol. 25, No. 4

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From The Keyboard -

This issue started off harmlessly enough. But the further into it that I got, the more it reminded me of a runaway train. It was headed straight to 24 pages, but I refused to let it go past 20. So a snip here and a snip there and push some of Debarah Arnett's great Fall Meeting photos back to the March issue and I think we've got it made.

The great part about editing an issue like this is that I get to be more of an editor and less of a writer. All of a sudden we had members popping up with articles they wanted to write! First of all we welcome back John Rakestraw and his column "Winged Tips". John has written for the *Horned Lark* in the past and his work has also been seen in some of the popular birding press. It's great to see his by-line back here! Helen Hands, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Wildlife Biologist at Cheyenne Bottoms then volunteered to write a regular article and create an open forum to discuss many wildlife management issues. I, for one, am glad to see this attempt to bring about open discussion of critical issues. I look forward to future articles from Helen.

Occasional sage and *Horned Lark* contributor, Mike Rader, brings us "Mike's Musings." Mike has been on the KOS Board as long as I have and it will be strange to not see his cheery face and listen to his thoughtful comments at Board Meetings. I guess that just gives me the excuse to get together with him and go birding more often!

Of course there is Pete's seasonal birding roundup and a whole lot of stuff from the Fall Meeting. More photos by Debarah Arnett and another great drawing from our multi-talented Business Manager James Barnes. If there are any other aspiring artists out there send me your work. I'll return your originals to you and you get to see your work published.

What's missing, still, is a KOS kids page. I know that there has to be a very talented author/birder out there. Several members have mentioned how much the kid's page is missed and I agree. If you are interested drop me a note and I'll help you get started.

Another issue draws to a close and the Christmas Bird Count season is drawing nigh. The holidays are a great time to gather with old friends, enjoy the wonders of nature and get in some great birding. The way things are shaping up it could be a very interesting birding season! Whatever you wind up doing this holiday season, enjoy the friends and the fellowship of loved ones and family! Happy Holidays!

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 1999

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

Vice-president, John Schukman, 14207 Robin Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048

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

Membership Development Coordinator, Susan Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, barnowls@juno.com

Treasurer, Edwin J. Miller, 218 Bermuda Dr, Independence, KS 67301

Board Members:

Gene Young, Dept of Biology, Southwestern College, 100 College St., Winfield, KS 67156

Jim Mayhew, 1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502

Suzanne Fellows, 6232 E 29th St North, Wichita, KS 67220

Carolyn Schwab, 601 SW 96th St, Sedgwick, KS 67135

Business Manager, James Barnes, 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, barnowls@juno.com

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

Editor, *The Horned Lark*, Chuck Otte, 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441, 785-238-8800, otte@jc.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WANTED! Authors

Some of my favorite areas of coverage weren't written about in this issue, BECAUSE we need more authors! Pete Janzen has taken over the Birding Roundup so we need someone to take over a birding tips/hints column. Other responsibilities have forced Amy Rose to give up the Kid's Page. And we are always looking for articles about what you, the KOS members, are doing.

Don't use the excuse of, "I'm no writer." Just get your ideas and thoughts down on paper and this old editor will take it from there! Mail your stories, thoughts, ideas to :

Chuck Otte
613 Tamerisk
Junction City, KS 66441

or e-mail me at:
otte@jc.net

I'm waiting to hear from you.....

Wanted! KOS History

Jim Mayhew is spearheading the effort to assemble the KOS history for its first 50 years. If you have any items, stories, photos or anything else to share you can contact Jim at:

Jim Mayhew
1909 Judson
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-776-5121
jdmayhew@kansas.net

KOS Items Available

If you would like to purchase KOS T-shirts, sweatshirts, window stickers, etc. then you need to contact the KOS Business Manager, James Barnes, at 1425 S Wichita, Wichita, KS 67213, 316-265-4059, or via e-mail at barnowls@juno.com

There are a limited number of Stokes 1999 Bird calendars left over from the fall meeting. \$9 including postage, first come, first served. New checklists are also available from the Business Manager. 1 is \$0.25; 2 - 24, \$0.20 ea; 25 - 49, \$0.15 ea; 50 or more, \$0.10 each. Shipping for 50 or less is \$3.00, \$4 for 75, \$5 for 99, \$7 for 100 - 199, \$10 for 200 - 500.

Someone sent James \$1 and an envelope for a KOS decal. James has misplaced the envelope, so if you ordered a decal and haven't received it yet, please call and let James know who you are!!

1999 Dues notices will be mailed around the end of the year, BUT you can send your dues to Ed Miller at any time! Avoid the rush!

Look for more membership info in the March issue!

Upcoming Meeting Locations

Please note the upcoming tentative spring and fall meeting locations. Mark your calendars, look for more information in coming issues and plan to attend!

May 1 - 2, 1999 - Winfield

October 2 - 3, 1999 - Hays

Spring 2000 - Southeast Kansas (maybe with Okla.)

Fall Meeting photos scattered within. Look for more Fall Meeting photos in the March 1999, *Horned Lark*.

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Birding With Beginners

by John Rakestraw

One of the best ways to learn something is to teach it. This adage is true for many subjects, including birding. Guiding an inexperienced birder is not only helpful for the neophyte, but it can vastly improve your own birding skills at the same time. Most of us, when we were beginners, received a great deal of knowledge and assistance from more experienced birders. Birders seem especially inclined to share information and experiences. But sometimes birders seem to forget what it was like to be a beginner. They may offer too much information or give the impression of being snobbish or superior to a new birder. With a little effort and patience, we can be a source of knowledge and encouragement, allowing the beginner to catch the birding bug for themselves.

START SLOWLY

To most of us, the idea of standing for hours on a mudflat scanning flocks of shorebirds or crawling on our hands and knees through sand-sage prairie to get a look at Lesser Prairie-Chickens is perfectly logical. However, to some unfortunate people who have not caught the birding bug, this behavior seems odd. If a person is just learning to appreciate birds, they are probably not ready to spend all day in the car or to walk several miles. If you are guiding a beginning birder, take a short walk or stake out a bird feeder or watering hole. Short doses of birding allow the beginner to absorb a few new birds at a time. Answer any questions they may have, but don't feel obligated to tell them everything you know about every bird you see.

START BIG

As experienced birders, we appreciate the challenges of identifying small sandpipers, sparrows and warblers. But beginning birders have not reached that point. You may be trying to explain the differences between the Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers, but the beginner is thinking, "Wow! Look at the size of that Great Blue Heron." Big flashy birds capture the beginner's attention and provide satisfying views. A Pileated Woodpecker

pounding on a tree or a Red-tailed Hawk sitting on a fence post - now those are birds. If you think about it, a Swainson's Warbler is a pretty dull, little brown bird which usually hides in the underbrush anyway. Let the beginner have great views of big flashy species until they discover for themselves the joy of the Little Brown Jobs.

PATIENCE, PATIENCE, PATIENCE

Every person learns at a different rate, but most would agree that learning to identify every species of bird in Kansas takes some time. One of the hardest things for experienced birders to accept is the beginner's willingness to let many birds go unidentified. To the beginning birder, each new species learned is a challenge and a joy. It doesn't matter if you counted 400,000 Red-winged Blackbirds on your last Christmas count, these are beautiful birds. The beginner may want to spend some time appreciating them, allowing other birds to fly by unnoticed. During one of my first visits to Cheyenne Bottoms, when I was just beginning to learn shorebirds (and when Cheyenne Bottoms actually had shorebird habitat), I met some other birders who had found a Ruff within a huge flock of Dowitchers. I knew Ruffs were very rare in Kansas and went back to the spot to try to find the bird. But after a few minutes of being buffeted by high winds and not finding the Ruff, I moved on. Today, I would be happy to spend as much time as needed scanning every bird in that huge flock in order to find the vagrant. But back then I wasn't at that point in my birding development. There were too many other birds to see. I wasn't worried about finding one lost Ruff. Encouraging new birders is one of the easiest and most important things we can do to promote the conservation of birds and their habitat. The more the general public knows about wildlife, the more likely they are to want to preserve it. Guiding beginning birders can be great fun. You get to relive the excitement of each new species. But beginners require a little finesse. Take a break from your hard-core birding and enjoy the slower pace. Allow the newcomer the time needed to catch the birding bug for themselves. Eventually, they will be anxious to spend a few hours helping you find that Ruff.

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.

Kansas Ornithological Society Fall 1998 Meeting Field Trip Species List
October, 11, 1998
Lawrence, Douglas County and vicinity

(Thanks to David Seibel for compiling this list for the Horned Lark) Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Greater White-fronted Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Peter Dunne, Cape May Bird Observatory, gave the Friday evening program at the Fall Meeting entitled:
"Small-headed Flycatcher, Seen Yesterday, He Didn't Leave His Name"

photo by Debarah Arnett

Deadline for submissions for the
March, 1999 Horned Lark is
February 1, 1999.

KOS Reflections

by Mike Rader

I would like to take a few moments to reflect on what it has meant to me to be associated with and involved in the Kansas Ornithological Society. I first joined KOS, in 1987, at the suggestion of a good friend, Ted Cable. Ted was one of my major professors at Kansas State University, but we developed the friendship out of our common love for a couple of things - Chicago professional sports teams and, of course, birds.

I have always had an interest in watching birds. I was lucky enough to have grandparents that owned a fruit orchard, which was a haven for birds. They also let me keep a "flock" of my own birds, consisting of domestic ducks, geese, chickens, guinea fowl and peafowl. I would spend countless hours watching both the tame and wild birds in that orchard.

I maintained my interest in birds throughout my youth, and into college. Classes taught by John Zimmerman in ornithology and field ornithology were extremely influential on me. A switch in college majors led me to Ted's realm, which included park resources management and almost as importantly, "birding". I can recall many trips around the Manhattan area with the "Noon Birders". This group of guys, Ted, Dave Rintoul and Duane Kerr, spent many a lunch hour in search of birds and encouraging students to become as wrapped up in birding as they were. With influences like that, it's really no wonder I turned out this way!

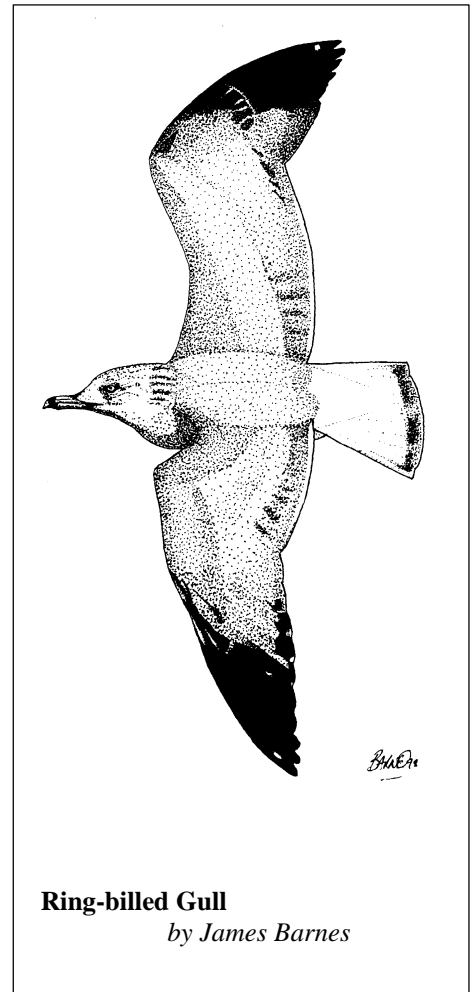
The first aspect of KOS that I was introduced to was the field trips to various areas of the state led by KOS members. Ted and I participated in a trip to Cherokee County in the mid-1980's, led by KOS member, Scott Seltman. It was an exciting,

memorable experience, with lots of "life" birds for me and the beginning of a "life" friendship as well. My life changed drastically from that point on. Birding became a passion that will burn forever.

The next KOS function I attended was a field trip to the southwest part of Kansas, Morton County and the Cimarron National Grasslands. I can still vividly remember stepping out of my car at Point of Rocks and meeting a large group of people. The first person to introduce himself to me was an intensely excited man named Mick McHugh. I think that before he even told me his name, he asked me a question. "Do you have Sage Thrasher, Rock Wren, and Brown Towhee on your Kansas bird list?" When my answer to that was "no", he said "Well, we just saw them here, let's see if we can find them again!".

KOS means a great many things to me. It means exciting Spring field trips, educational and interesting Fall meetings, and two outstanding publications. It means meeting people with similar interests sharing enthusiasm and knowledge, and having the opportunity to interact with folks from all walks of life. Most of all, KOS promotes a sense of camaraderie between people that love to watch, learn about, and teach others about birds.

I have been privileged to be involved in the operations of the Kansas Ornithological Society, first as a member of the Board of Directors, later as Vice-President, then serving as President. I was fortunate enough to have great people to learn from in each position I held. As my time on the Board as Past-President comes to a close, I look back and I am proud. I am proud of what has been



Ring-billed Gull

by James Barnes

accomplished in the organization, not so much by my actions, but the overall forward movement of KOS. I believe we are a better organization than we were ten years ago.

Personally, I am proud that I am more knowledgeable about birds and I am a better birder because of my involvement in KOS. It will be difficult to not attend Board meetings after so many years of doing so. That will take some adjustment. But the most important thing that I have gained from KOS is the friendships of many outstanding people. These friendships will last a lifetime and if a person is judged by the friends he has, I should fare pretty well.

Christmas Bird Count Season 1998 - 99

As the holiday season approaches many birdwatchers thoughts turn to planning, conducting and participating in Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). Christmas Bird Counts were started in the early 1900's as an alternative to the traditional Christmas hunt. They have grown over time to be very very popular.

The dates are traditionally spread over a 2 1/2 week period from about a week before Christmas to about a week after Christmas. In Kansas, some counts are sent in to the National Audubon Society for inclusion in their large database and report. However, virtually all Kansas counts are compiled into the KOS report for the March *Bulletin*. Last year there were 50 such counts conducted in Kansas, and some that are normally held were canceled due to inclement weather.

Some counts are large with over 50 observers. Others are somewhat limited with just 1 or 2 brave souls daring the elements. Some counts are relatively new, while others have long histories of 40 and 50 years or more. The Junction City CBC celebrated their 40th last year and the Manhattan and Halstead-Newton counts will be celebrating their 50th anniversaries this year. The two things that all counts have in common is fun and fellowship. You meet new birding friends, get together with old birding friends and you have fun birdwatching. Some counts you freeze your binoculars (not to mention other extremities) and other counts are so mild that the birding gets dismally slow in the afternoon.

If you've never been on a CBC, make 1998 the year to start! Following is a partial list of dates and contact people. Make a few calls, get in touch, and have some fun! (Some of these counts are not in Kansas, but are included because of their close proximity to KOS members.)

Friday, December 18

Quivira NWR - Gary Meggers, 316-486-2393

Saturday, December 19

Dodge City - Joleen Fromm, 316-227-6342, Meet at the Inn Pancake House, 1610 West Wyatt Earp Blvd, at 7 am

Halstead/Newton - Dwight Platt, 316-283-6708

Hays - Greg Farley, 785-628-5965 bigf@fhsu.edu

Lakin - Leonard Rich, 316-275-5192

Lawrence - Galen Pittman, 785-842-7105
glpitt@falcon.cc.ukans.edu

Manhattan - Dave Rintoul, 785-532-6663
drintoul@ksu.edu

Olathe - Don Weiss, 913-780-6588, dweiss@primenet.com

Southeast Kansas - Paul Milks, 316-421-3427, Meet at Braums at the east edge of Parsons (US 160) at 7 am.

Topeka - Gary Haden, 785-273-5598

Waconda Lake - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Wichita - Don Vannoy, 316-838-4062, Meet at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium at 7:30 am.

Kansas City, Missouri - Meet at the Lakeside Nature Center in Swope Park, 4000 E Gregory Blvd, at 7:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 20

Oskaloosa/Perry Lake - Richard Rucker, 785-842-3845 - call Richard ahead of time to be assigned an area.

Udall/Winfield - Max Thompson, 316-221-1856
maxt@jinx.sckans.edu

Wakefield - Chuck Otte, 785-238-4161 otte@jc.net Meet at the Lakeview Restaurant at 7 am.

Wilson Reservoir - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Monday, December 21

Olsburg - Gary Jeffrey, 785-468-3587

Tuesday, December 22

Canyonlands - Debra Bolton

Cheyenne Bottoms - Helen Hands, 316-793-3066
bottoms@greatbend.com

Wednesday, December 23

Camp Naish - Stan Roth, 785-843-4764,
jroth@falcon.cc.ukans.edu

Slate Creek - Gene Young, 316-221-8380 (work)
youngg@jinx.sckans.edu

Saturday, December 26

Arkansas City - Gene Young, 316-221-8380 (work)
youngg@jinx.sckans.edu

Cedar Bluff - Scott Seltman, 785-372-5411,
sselt@ruraltel.net

Linn County - Roger Boyd, 785-594-3172
boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu

Sunday, December 27

El Dorado - Mike Lesan, 316-524-6332 Meet at McDonald's in El Dorado at 7:30 am.

Scott Lake - Tom Shane, 316-275-4616

Tuesday, December 29

Junction City - Chuck Otte, 785-238-4161 otte@jc.net
Meet at West Acres Floral west parking lot, 316 West 6th
at 7 am.

Old Garfield County - Barbara Campbell, 316-275-5430
at 7:00 a.m.

Friday, January 1, 1999

Mined Land - Steve Ford, 316-235-4745

Morton County - Sebastian Patti

Saturday, January 2

Baldwin City - Roger Boyd, 785-594-3172
boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu Meet at Sante Fe depot, in west
Baldwin at 7:15 am.

Red Hills - Pete Janzen, 316-832-0182
prarybrd@southwind.net

Leavenworth - John Schukman, 913-727-5141,
schuksaya@aol.com Meet at McDonalds in Leavenworth.

Black Mesa, OK - Sebastian Patti

Lake McConaughy, Nebr. - Stephen Dinsmore,
970-782-5264, Steve_Dinsmore@usgs.gov

Sunday, January 3

Bonner Springs - Galen Pittman, 785-842-7105
glpitt@falcon.cc.ukans.edu

Garden City - Marie Osterbuhr, 316-276-8145
moster@midusa.net

Liberal - Sebastian Patti

Saturday, January 9

Syracuse - Art Nonhoff, 316-277-2087

Sunday, January 10

Ulysses - Dan LaShelle, 785-296-0344

Saturday, January 16

Blackwolf - Mike Rader, 785-658-2595
mike_rader@hotmail.com (**tentative**)

To Be Announced

contact Mike Rader, 785-658-2595
mike_rader@hotmail.com if interested!

Webster Reservoir

Kanopolis Reservoir

Participants of one of the KOS 1998 Fall Meeting Sunday morning field trips look over a wet field.

photo by Debarah Arnett

SUMMER ROUND-UP

1 June, 1998 through 31 July, 1998

by Pete Janzen

While many birders put their binoculars on the shelf for the most part during the summer, there are many rewards for those who continue birding during the nesting season. This summer brought an interesting mix of bird reports from across the state. Read on and see what the birders of Kansas turned up this summer!

One of the big rewards of summer birding is the possibility of extending, or filling in, the range maps of nesting species, something veteran KBBAT volunteers can certainly appreciate. I saw lots of birds this summer, but the ones that I found most interesting were the Pied-billed Grebes, American Coots, and Song Sparrows, which I confirmed as nesting right here in the Wichita area, where they have rarely, or never, been known to do so. Other interesting nesting records, (some only probable), were Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Crawford County, Cedar Waxwings in Olathe and near Fort Riley, Chipping Sparrows at Olathe, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Hesston, and Chuck-wills-widow in Comanche County. Piping Plovers and Least Terns returned again to nest on the Kansas River sandbars, which were first colonized a couple of years ago. The injured Peregrine Falcon reported here was one hatched by a nesting pair hacked out in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Shorebirds put on a good showing this summer. Northbound birds often have barely departed our area when the first returning southbound migrants begin to return, and this year was no exception. I assume the 2

Willetts seen at Clinton on June 16 were late migrants, but likely the 2 seen at Cheney on July 11 were early returning birds. Shorebirds present in the summer are sometimes non-breeding individuals that just never make it all the way to the breeding grounds.

Continuing the trend of late migrants noted during the spring, a number of flycatcher and warbler species were seen well into June, much later than normally expected. Quite a few waterfowl species were seen in early June as well, later in the season than expected.

Another spring trend, the invasion of southern species, continued into the summer as well, at least in a minor way, as White-winged Doves and Laughing Gulls were reported in multiple locations across the state. Eurasian Collared Dove turned up in yet another new location, at Kinsley. Keep an eye out for this latest foreign invader, destined to become a fixture of urban birding over the next decade or so.

Then there are those birds records that just plain defy classification. How do you explain two loon species appearing at the same time on a Kansas reservoir in July? Or a Broad-tailed Hummingbird on the high plains in June? Must be stuff like that that keeps us out in the field.

It is good to see some reports coming in from places like Salina and Pittsburg, which been under-represented in this column in recent years. I encourage all of you to send

me records of even moderate interest, especially from those places that are off of the beaten track, birding wise.

Finally, a few corrections from my previous reports. The Brown-headed Nuthatch reported in Mission Hills this past winter was in Johnson County, not Wyandotte County. The Connecticut Warblers reported from Ft Leavenworth were actually seen across the river, in Weston Bend State Park, located in Missouri. Also, I omitted a number of names from the list of observers in the winter report. If you were one of them, I apologize. If you see any errors such as these, please let me know, and I will be happy to correct them in the following column. I never appreciated the amount of work required to compile this report until I started doing it myself.

By the time you read this, it will almost be time for the Christmas Bird Counts. I hope you all have happy holidays, and don't forget to send me all those great bird reports for the period of Aug. 1 - Nov. 30, which will be compiled in the next issue.

Underlined species name indicates an especially exceptional sighting.

Underlined dates and/or locations are exceptional for the species.

* denotes a sighting that was submitted to the Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>	<u>County</u>
*Pacific Loon	<u>6/28-7/6</u>	1 alternate plumage at Milford	CO, m.ob	Geary
Common Loon	<u>6/30-7/5</u>	1 basic plumage at Milford	GS, m.ob	Geary

Pied-billed Grebe	6/16	adult w/7 young in Wichita	PJ	<u>Sedgwick</u>
	7/2	9 juveniles at Wichita	PJ	Sedgwick
	7/4	1 at Stockdale Area	LJ	Riley
Eared Grebe	6/4	8 at Lake McCoid-courtship display.	MR	<u>Seward</u>
Western Grebe	6/4-6/21	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	MR	Barton
	<u>6/29-7/2</u>	1 at Lone Star Lake	AS, PW	Douglas
Clark's Grebe	6/4-6/21	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	MR	Barton
Least Bittern	6/9	1 at Lassiter Marsh	JB	Jefferson
Yellow-cr. Night-heron	7/26	1 near Pittsburg	BM	Crawford
Mottled Duck	6/25	1 at Quivira	BP	Stafford
Northern Pintail	6/2	1 at Kyle Marsh	JB	Jefferson
	6/4	12 at McCoid Lake	MR	Seward
Cinnamon Teal	6/20	male/female pair	SC, BP	Stafford
Northern Shoveler	7/2	1 at Wichita	PJ	Sedgwick
Canvasback	6/2	1 male at Wichita sandpit	PJ	Sedgwick
Lesser Scaup	6/6	1 drake at Quivira	MR	Stafford
Common Merganser	<u>7/11</u>	1 molting male at Cheney	Jba, ,PJ	Reno
Hooded Merganser	6/6	1 female at Quivira	DG	Stafford
Mississippi Kite	6/3	1 on KU Campus	DS	Douglas
	7/21	2 at Hays	MR	Ellis
	7/21	1 at Salina	DW	Saline
Bald Eagle	8 nests found statewide, 5 successful, 11 fledged in all			
Peregrine Falcon	6/4	1 on KU Campus	DK	Douglas
	7/25	injured juvenile at Tecumseh	MB	Shawnee
Black Rail	6/6	1 at Lassiter Marsh	GK, DL	<u>Jefferson</u>
Common Moorhen	6/25	adult w/5 young	SC, BP	Stafford
American Coot	6/2	adults with new fledglings	BG, PJ	<u>Sedgwick</u>
	7/2	23 fledges & juveniles same pond	PJ	Sedgwick
Black-bellied Plover	6/1	4 at Quivira	DW	Stafford
	6/6	13 at Quivira	MR	Stafford
Semipalmated Plover	6/6	3 at Quivira	MR	Stafford
Piping Plover	6/11	1 nest on Kansas R.	JH, DM	Wabaunsee
	7/25	Quivira	MC, MM	Stafford
Mountain Plover	6/5	adult w/chick	MR	Morton
Willet	6/1	1 at Lake McCoid	MR	Seward
	6/6	2 at Quivira	MR	Stafford
	<u>6/14</u>	1 at Quivira	SP, MR	Stafford
	<u>6/16</u>	2 at Clinton	LM	Douglas
	<u>7/11</u>	2 at Cheney Dam	Jba, PJ	Sedgwick
Upland Sandpiper	6/27	pair near Pittsburg	BM	Crawford
	7/22	100's of migrants	SS	Pawnee
	7/22-23	100's of migrants	MR	Russell
Whimbrel	<u>6/14</u>	2 at Quivira	SP	Stafford
Long-billed Curlew	7/25	1 at Quivira	MC, MM	Stafford
Hudsonian Godwit	<u>7/25</u>	2 at Quivira	MC, MM	Stafford
Ruddy Turnstone	<u>6/6</u>	5 at Quivira	DG, MR, CS	Stafford
Sanderling	<u>7/11</u>	1 at Cheney Res.	Jba, PJ	Reno
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	7/19	7 in burn near Colwich	PJ, DKi	Sedgwick
Long-billed Dowitcher	6/20	3 at Quivira	BP	Stafford
Short-billed Dowitcher	6/4	4 at Cheyenne Bottoms	MR	Barton
Franklin's Gull	<u>6/16</u>	95 at Clinton Lake	LM	Douglas
Laughing Gull	6/4	1 at Lake McCoid	MR	Seward
	6/7	1 at Clinton Lake	MM	Douglas
	7/11	1 at Cheney Res.	Jba, PJ	Reno
	7/19	2 at Cheney Res.	PJ, DKi	Reno

Laughing Gull	7/25	1 at Milford Res.	C&JO, BR	Geary
Forster's Tern	6/16	2 at Clinton Lake	LM	Douglas
Black Tern	6/16	110 at Clinton Lake	LM	Douglas
Caspian Tern	6/7	3 at Clinton Lake	MM	Douglas
	6/16	2 at Clinton Lake	LM	Douglas
Least Tern	6/11	6 colonies/sites on Kansas R.	JH, DM	Wabaunsee
	7/19-20	1 at Cheney Res.	PJ, Dki, DV	Reno
<u>*White-winged Dove</u>	6/7-9	1 near Bloom	GP	Clark
	6/1-21	1 at Wichita feeder	G&PT, m.ob	Sedgwick
<u>Eurasian Collared Dove</u>	7/20	1 at Kinsley	GP	Edwards
Black-billed Cuckoo	6/6	1 on Osage Trail	PJ	Harvey
Barn Owl	6/?	nest w/4 young central Crawford Co.	BM	Crawford
This was the second brood of the year for these Barn Owls. 1st brood fledged in early May				
Burrowing Owl	7/2	nest w/young Garden City	LB	Finney
Barred Owl	7/26	2 calling on Salt Fork	PJ, JNi	Comanche
Chuck-wills-widow	7/25	egg shells on Salt Fork & 3 calling	PJ, JNi	Comanche
Common Poorwill	7/23	fledge at Konza	DR	Riley
Ruby-th. Hummingbird	6/3	possible nesting pair Hesston	NP	Harvey
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	6/3-5	1 male at feeder	TS	Finney
Olive-sided Flycatcher	6/9	1 in Burcham Park	RA	Douglas
Western Wood-Pee wee	6/4	1 in small woodland	MR	Stevens
	6/5	1 at Boy Scout Area	MR	Morton
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	6/6	1 at Lone Star	PW	Douglas
Acadian Flycatcher	6/12	35 on canoe survey of MDC River	BB	Linn
Alder Flycatcher	6/6	1 on Osage Trail	PJ	Harvey
	6/10	1 on Smoky Hill R.	JH, DM	
Ash-throated Flycatcher	6/5	1 at Boy Scout Area	MR	Morton
	6/5	1 at nest box w/4 young-W. Crossing	MR	Morton
<u>Violet-green Swallow</u>	7/3	1 in w. Wichita	JN	Sedgwick
Carolina Wren	7/28	1 at Wilson Res	MR	Russell
Swainson's Thrush	6/10-12	1 in Burcham Park	RA	Douglas
Cedar Waxwing	6/16	nest w/eggs in Olathe	DA	Johnson
	6/27	Olathe eggs hatch	DA	Johnson
	7/8	pair at Ft. Riley	LJ	Geary
Chestnut-sided Warbler	6/1	1 in Prairie Village	N&JL	Johnson
	6/6	another in Prairie Village	N&JL	Johnson
	6/9	1 in Burcham Park	RA	Douglas
Magnolia Warbler	6/1	1 in Prairie Village	N&JL	Johnson
	6/4	1 male in w. Wichita	JN	Sedgwick
Black-th. Green Warbler	6/4	1 female in w. Wichita	JN	Sedgwick
Blackburnian Warbler	6/6	1 at Osage Trail	PJ	Harvey
Yellow-throated Warbler	7/5	2 at Ft. Leavenworth	JS	Leavenworth
Prothonotary Warbler	6/12	35 on canoe survey of MDC River	BB	Linn
American Redstart	6/2	1 fem at Burcham Park	RA	Douglas
	6/5	1 fem on Cimarron River	MR	<u>Morton</u>
Mourning Warbler	6/5	1 in yard	BR	Harvey
	6/6	1 on Osage Trail	PJ	Harvey
Hooded Warbler	6/5	1 on KU Campus	PW	Douglas
Wilson's Warbler	6/1	1 female in yard	H&SG	Sedgwick
	6/6	1 female in Lawrence	JY	Douglas
Canada Warbler	6/4	1 in small woodlot	MR	<u>Stevens</u>
Scarlet Tanager	6/8	1 on Fort Riley	C&JO	Riley
	7/5	1 yard bird	KM	Shawnee
Northern Cardinal	6/5	nesting in Elkhart	MR	<u>Morton</u>

Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6/1-22	female at Pittsburg feeder	AB, BM	<u>Crawford</u>
	7/22	male at same feeder	BM	<u>Crawford</u>
	6/13	singing on Jester Creek	CSc	Sedgwick
Black-headed Grosbeak	6/5	2	MR	Morton
Painted Bunting	7/4	3 singing males at Stockdale	TC, LJ	Riley
	7/6	1 singing at Wichita	PJ	Sedgwick
	7/13	4 males & 1 female at Stockdale	DA, TC	Riley
	7/23	still there	DA, TC, NH	Riley
	7/26	<u>15+</u> at Swartz Canyon	PJ, JNi	Comanche
Eastern Towhee	7/4	1 singing male at Stockdale	TC, LJ	Riley
	7/23	still there	DA, TC, NH	Riley
Cassin's Sparrow	7/25	4 near Aetna	PJ, JNi	Barber
<u>Rufous-crowned Sparrow</u>	7/26	3 in Swartz Canyon	PJ, JNi	Comanche
Chipping Sparrow	7/1	pair w/fledges	DA	Johnson
<u>Brewer's Sparrow</u>	6/5	1 at state line	MR	Morton
Song Sparrow	6/9	1 at Lassiter Marsh	JB	Jefferson
	7/11	1 singing male at Cheney	Jba, PJ	<u>Reno</u>
	7/12	2 singing males at Cheney	JBa, BG, PJ	<u>Reno</u>
	7/19	adult with juvenile	PJ, DKi	<u>Reno</u>
Great-tailed Grackle		colony throughout summer near Pittsburg	BM	Crawford
Pine Siskin	7/27	1 at Salina feeder	DW	Saline

Robert Antonio, Debarah Arnett, JBa-James Barnes, Larry Bradstreet, Joanne Brier, A. O. Brown, Marty Birrell, Ted Cable, Sherry Chapman, Mark Corder, Dan Gish, Harry Gregory, Sharron Gregory, Bob Gress, Nancy Harrington, Jerry Horak, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, DKi-Dan Kilby, Dan Kluza, Glen Koontz, Dan LaShelle, Jane Leo, Nancy Leo, Bob Mangile, Kathy McDowell, Mick McHugh, Dan Mulhern, JNi-Jim Nickel, John Northrup, Chuck Otte, Jaye Otte, Nancy Peachey, Brandon Percival, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, Bob Regier, David Rintoul, Barb Robbins, CSc-Carol Schwab, David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Tom Shane, Chris Smith, Art Swalwell, Gene Tipton, Phyllis Tipton, Phil Wedge, David Weible, Joe Yoder

Rare Bird Alert Numbers From Neighboring States

It's often fun to keep up on bird sightings from surrounding states, whether in anticipation of migration to come, preparation for an upcoming trip or just because it's fun. Following is a list of the Rare Bird Alert numbers for Kansas and our neighboring states. Most states have one or more hotlines or rare bird alerts (only Mississippi and Hawaii are without). If you need a hotline number give Chuck Otte a call.. Many states are also setting up Internet discussion groups about birds, and these hotlines are often posted on those lists. Information on joining the Kansas group or those in neighboring states is found in another article in this issue!

Kansas, Statewide - (316) 229-2777
Burroughs Audubon, Kansas City Area
(913) 342-2473
Wichita - (316) 681-2266
Oklahoma, Statewide - (918) 669-6646
Oklahoma City - (405) 373-4531
Missouri, Statewide - (573) 445-9115
St. Louis - (314) 935-8432
Nebraska, Statewide - (402) 292-5325
Colorado, Statewide - (303) 424-2144

Do You Want To Receive the Rare Bird Alert Electronically??

Then send the message: **sub KSBIRD-L Your Name** To the e-mail address: **listserv@listserv.ksu.edu**

Not only will you receive the Kansas and Kansas City rare bird alerts electronically, but you'll also get to share in the on-line discussions of over 200 other Kansas birders as they discuss bird sightings, bird identification challenges, bird habitat and bird conservation issues and occasional birder silliness!

Changes *by Helen Hands*

Starting with this issue I'm initiating a regular column to discuss issues relating to Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA), shorebirds, and webless migratory game birds (i.e., Sandhill Cranes, snipe, rails, and mourning doves). I decided to do this for a couple of reasons. First, these subjects, either alone or in combination, have generated much discussion and controversy in recent years. However, considerable inaccurate information has been used to support some positions. These discussions could have been more productive if more questions and comments had been directed to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP). This would have allowed those concerned to learn the reasons for KDWP's decisions, which are based primarily on the needs of the resource and secondarily on the needs of recreational users. Second, since the KOS meeting in Lawrence I have heard the sentiment that birdwatchers haven't really been welcome at CBWA for the past 30 years. In the 9 years that I've worked at CBWA, we (Karl Grover, area manager, and I) have tried to be fair to all users: birdwatchers, hunters, anglers, or researchers. Still, birders complain that we manage too much for hunting. Conversely, hunters complain we manage too much for birdwatchers. Maybe we've struck a good balance, but we're willing to listen to your thoughts. If you have any comments or questions about the management of CBWA; write us, give us a call, or stop in the office. We'd be glad to talk to you.

One example of an unpopular decision is the gated roads at CBWA. There are 6 dike roads with gates at CBWA. Four go between refuge pools and 2 between open pools. The dike roads between Pools 3A and 3B and between 4A and 4B were completed within the last 3 years and are open to foot traffic year round. (The only exception would be if whooping cranes were using any of these pools.) These roads are not open to vehicles because they are narrower than the other roads and, thus, would not permit 2-way traffic. KDWP built these dike roads, and all other dike roads on the wildlife area primarily to divide the marsh into smaller, more manageable pools. The Department chose to build these roads narrower than others on the Wildlife Area to reduce the costs of construction. Furthermore, by restricting vehicular access, these roads require less maintenance. This is an important consideration at CBWA because the staff already has more than enough to do.

Probably more unpopular than prohibiting vehicles on the new dikes in Pools 3 and 4 is the Department's decision to prohibit any access on the new dike roads in Pool 1 and on the dike road between Pools 1 and 5. The decision to close the road between Pools 1 and 5 was especially controversial because it had been open for years. However, this road was used by many primarily as a shortcut between highways 156 and 281

These road closures are based on our policy to restrict all access (either vehicle, boat, or foot) into refuge areas, which provide areas where wildlife are not disturbed by people. Some may feel that watching birds is not a significant source of disturbance to birds and other wildlife, whereas, hunting is. However, studies have shown that people don't have to shoot at wildlife to disturb them (e.g., Skagen et al. 1991, Human disturbance of an avian scavenging guild, *Ecological Applications* 1:215-225; Klein, M. L. 1993, Waterbird behavioral responses to human disturbances, *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 21:31-39). Activities such as driving, walking, boating, even canoeing, can interfere with the normal activities of wildlife. In fact, walking and canoeing may be more disruptive than driving or operating a motor boat because the former activities are slower and the disturbances last longer than the latter activities.

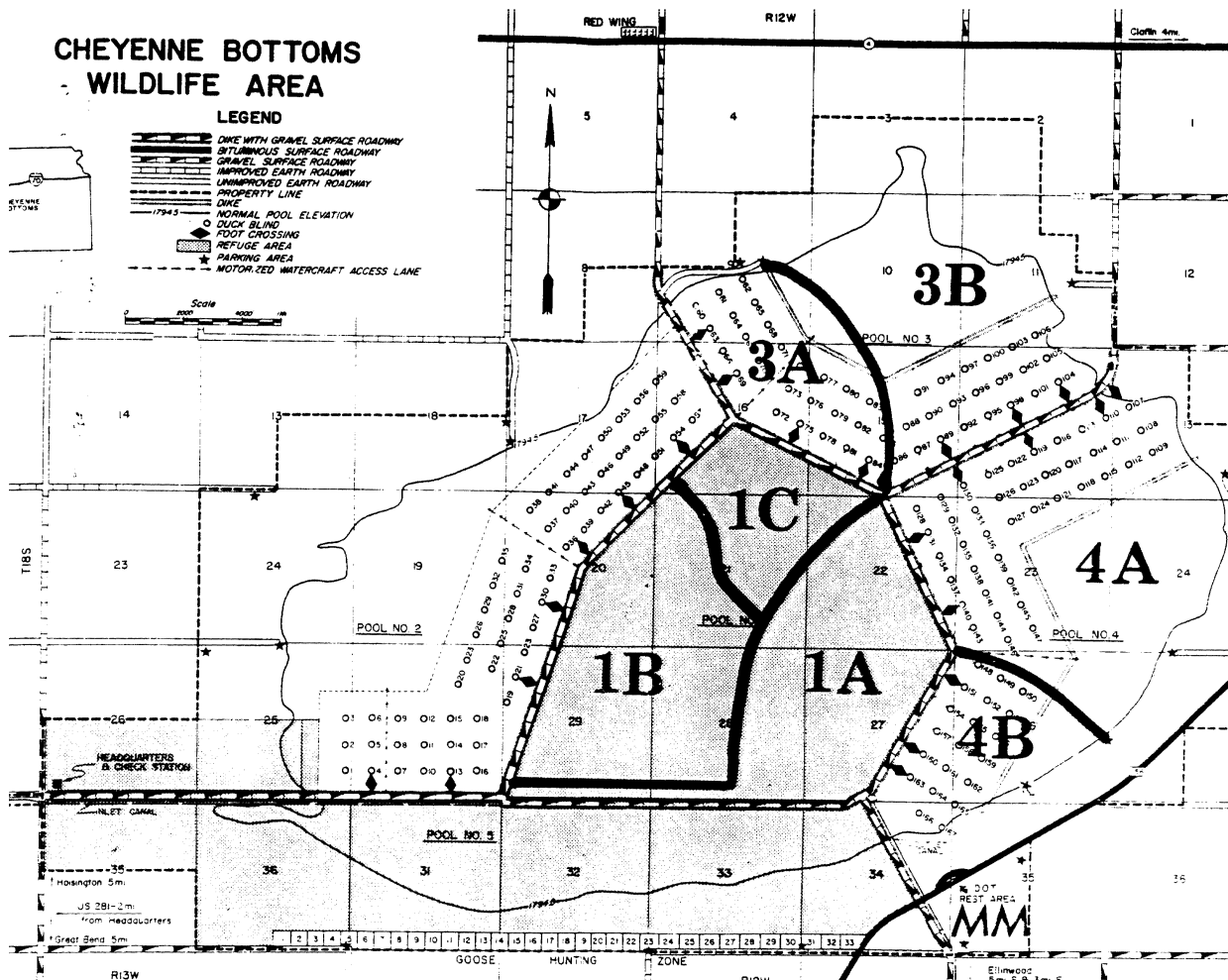
Although we recognize that designating some areas as refuge is unpopular and reduces the area open for recreational activities, our primary objective is to meet the needs of wildlife, primarily birds, that depend on CBWA. Throughout the year, be it during migration or the nesting season, birds need habitat where they can rest, feed, nest and raise their young undisturbed. If birds are disturbed too much while stocking up their energy resources for migration, they may be delayed in getting to their breeding areas or may not put on enough fat to make it to the next good staging area. Excessive disturbance during the nesting season may cause birds to abandon nests or reduce nesting success. Inability to perform these activities ultimately can lower the chances of survival for an individual and/or its offspring.

Individually, our recreational activities could be detrimental to an individual bird, but probably not to a population (group of individuals of the same species) or community (group of species in an area). However, if you

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multiply each individual's activities by the 40-50,000 people that annually visit CBWA, our cumulative activities could negatively impact wildlife if we don't provide refuge areas. Thus, please do your part to allow refuges to function properly for wildlife at CBWA and other public areas. When you see a road with a gate at CBWA or other public area, look for and obey the sign that will tell you whether or not you are permitted to walk down the road.

I want this column to be a forum in which to discuss issues or answer questions you have. To do this, I need your participation. Please send me any questions or comments and I'll try to address them. My e-mail address is bottoms@greatbend.com and regular mail address is Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, 56 NE 40 Rd., Great Bend, KS 67530.



**Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area
New Pool Numbering Plan**
map courtesy Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Notes:

Congratulations to our newest life member Don Weiss. Don and his wife Lori are birders from the Olathe, KS area. Two long time KOS members slipped away from us this past year. E. Maurice Nuss was a charter member and Phyllis Henney had been a member since 1969. We are saddened by their passing.....

Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 1999 Fall KOS Meetings Lawrence, Kansas

Update on the Breeding Status of the Least Tern in Kansas Roger L. Boyd, *Biology Dept, Baker Univ, Baldwin City, KS*

In the early 1980's there were an average of 92 Least Terns (*Sterna athalassos*) nesting in 9 colonies in the state. These colonies were found in Stafford County at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, 1 colony, 48 adults; Meade County, 3 colonies with 30 adults; and Clark County, 5 colonies with 14 adults. Breeding success was quite variable from zero to as high as 0.95 young fledged per nesting pair. During the 1998 breeding season there were 102 adults nesting in 8 colonies across the state. The location and makeup of those colonies was as follows: Quivira NWR, 1 colony, 40 adults; Meade County, 1 colony, 10 adults; Clark County, no colonies, no adults; Jefferson County, 1 colony, 10 adults; Pottawatomie County, 3 colonies, 16 adults; Wabaunsee County 2 colonies, 26 adults. Discussion will focus on habitat changes which have led to the current condition and the prospects for the future of the species in Kansas.

Migration of Least and Traill's Flycatchers in Northeast Kansas Calvin Cink, *Biology Dept, Baker Univ, Baldwin City, KS*

Migrations of Least and Traill's Flycatchers were studied at a mist-netting station at the Baker Wetlands in northeast Kansas, where both are regular but low-density transients. A total of 110 *Empidonax minimus* and 84 *E. trailli* were handled during 5 years. Fall migration of *minimus* was gradual, without pronounced peaks and extended from 25 July to 28 September, with a straggler on 10 October. There appears to be differential migration, with adults preceding immatures. Spring migration of *E. minimus* extended between 2 May and 8 June. Fall migration of *E. trailli* extended from 28 July to 18 September with a small peak in August. Adults appear to precede immatures. Spring extreme dates were 10 May through 15 June but about 80% of all birds were recorded from 20-28 May.

A Half Century of Change in Birds of the KU Natural History Reservation Henry S. Fitch, *2060 East 1600 Rd., Lawrence, KS*

Changes in numbers and local distribution have occurred in all species of the local avian community. A major habitat trend has been the encroachment of the forest into former pastures and cultivated fields. Common species

eliminated include: Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Screech Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Yellow-breasted Chat, Dickcissel, Lark Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow. Twelve other species have undergone significant reduction and nine others have undergone one or more reversals in population trends. About one-third of the species have shown little change. The only species gained are the Wild Turkey and the White-breasted Nuthatch.

Rodent Density and Foraging Behavior as Indicators of Risk of Nest Predation Jacob R. Goheen, Kenneth A. Schmidt, and Richard S. Ostfeld, *Kansas State Univ, Manhattan, KS (JRG), Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY (KAS and RSO)*

Over the past several decades, populations of neotropical migratory songbirds have undergone significant decline in numbers. Decreased reproductive success due to increased levels of nest predation may be one factor responsible for these declines. During the summer of 1998, we investigated the role of white-footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*) and eastern chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*) as nest predators in an oak-dominated forest in south-central New York. We monitored 54 artificial nests baited with plasticine clay eggs and zebra finch (*Poephila guttata*) eggs over a 14-day period. Using dental impressions from clay eggs, we found that white-footed mice were responsible for 56% of all predation events within contiguous forest. Eastern chipmunks and medium-sized predators were responsible for fewer predation events. Nest survivorship was influenced by surrounding vegetation cover and foraging activity of mice. Further, risk of nest predation may increase following years of high masting (acorn production) by oaks, as rodent densities have been shown to fluctuate with mast production.

Status of Sandhill Cranes in the Central Flyway Helen Hands, *KS Dept of Wildlife and Parks, Great Bend, KS*

Sandhill cranes occurring in the Central Flyway are part of the mid-continent population, one of 9 Sandhill Crane populations in North America. Population estimates from the last 2 years are near the upper threshold set by the Management Plan for the Mid-Continent Population of Sandhill Cranes (1993) and are the highest recorded since surveys began in 1982. The large number of cranes in the

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mid-continent population has allowed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to permit hunting since 1961. Although number of cranes harvested has increased since 1982, the annual harvest rate including cripples has remained between 5 and 8%, which is lower than the population's estimated recruitment rate of 11%. The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission did not permit Sandhill crane hunting until 1993. However, despite concerns from some, Kansas crane hunting season has not significantly increased the Flyway or North American crane harvest and has not resulted in cranes migrating through the State faster. Concern for the mid-continent population's 2 subpopulations and 3 subspecies has also been expressed. However, recent data show that these subgroups are more numerous than previously estimated.

Shorebird Management at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area *Helen Hands and Karl Grover, KS Dept of Wildlife and Parks, Great Bend, KS*

Cheyenne Bottoms has long been an important stopover area for migratory shorebirds and has been designated as a Hemispheric Reserve by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. In recent years, shorebird numbers at the Bottoms have declined and concerns about the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks commitment to shorebird management have been expressed. Shorebird management involves providing very shallow water in areas with little to no vegetation during the migratory period. However, in addition, managers must consider invertebrate densities, effects on cattail, water availability, avian botulism potential, construction, and the needs of other wildlife species before manipulating water levels to provide shorebird habitat.

Analysis of Long-eared Owl Pellets from Southwest Nebraska *Scott A. Kimball, Kristen Mitchell, Douglas A. Robinson, Jr., Biology Dept, Baker Univ, Baldwin City, KS (SAK, KM), Biology Div, Emporia State Univ, Emporia, KS (DAR)*

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) pellets were collected from a communal roost in southwestern Nebraska and analyzed to determine preference for prey type. Also, small mammal trapping was preference for prey type. Also, small mammal trapping was conducted to determine any correlation with pellet content. Twenty-two pellets were used to determine a percentage of skeletal material. As pellet weight increased, the percentage of skeletal material remained relatively constant. The remaining pellets were dissected to determine prey content only. *Reithrodontomys* spp. were the most abundant prey type whereas *Microtus*

spp. made up the majority of biomass. Small mammal trapping data, while not extensive, suggested that traps and Long-eared Owls are not sampling small mammal populations in the same manner.

Least Terns and Piping Plovers Nesting on the Kansas River, 1996-1998 *Dan Mulhern, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Manhattan, KS*

In July 1996, while working on a Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas block, Bill Busby discovered an active Piping Plover nest on a sandbar on the Kansas River in Wabaunsee County. This was the first ever documented account of nesting by this species in the state. He also observed several Least Terns foraging along the river immediately upstream of the plover nest site. During subsequent surveys by state and federal biologists, an active tern nesting colony was located, in which 14 adults and 12 pre-fledged young were found. In 1997, approximately this same number of adults was again discovered, separated into two smaller colony areas seven miles apart. In 1998, extensive river surveys were conducted from Milford Reservoir downstream to Lawrence. Terns and plovers were located at several sites, including four active Least Tern colonies containing over 40 adults, as well as evidence of at least four Piping Plover nests.

Nutrient Contents of Invertebrates on Different Sites: The Potential to Impact Avian Reproductive Success *Shawn G. Papon and Robert J. Robel, Southwestern College, Winfield, KS (SGP), Div. of Biology, Kansas State Univ, Manhattan, KS (RJR)*

Invertebrate biomass commonly comprises over half of the dietary intake of breeding grassland birds. The nutrient content of the insect forage base for birds differs by taxonomic category and site. One of the reasons proposed to explain the differences in nutrient contents of insects from different sites was the food substrate quality of the insects collected. To test this hypothesis we collected insects from sites of different soil fertility (determined by total C and N content) and compared the nutrient contents of those collections. Pitfall traps were used to capture representatives of Carabidae, Gryllidae, and Acrididae from annually burned and 6-yr burned sites on the Konza Prairie Research Natural Area in eastern Kansas and from a sand sagebrush site in southwestern Kansas. Total C and N content in soil samples from the southwestern Kansas were significantly lower ($p < 0.05$) than those from eastern Kansas sites; total C and N in soils of annually burned sites were not significantly different than those of 6-yr burned sites. Total C contents of insects were significantly higher

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on Konza, and total N (crude protein) contents of the herbivorous insects, i.e., Gryllidae and Acrididae, were significantly higher in more fertile sites. Data collected in this study indicate that the site-related differences reported earlier in nutrient and energy contents of invertebrate biomasses could be associated with the food substrates of invertebrates. We believe the quality of the food source for breeding grassland birds could impact nesting success, nestling growth rate, and other reproductive outcomes.

Ornithology at the KU Natural History Museum: Past, Present, and Future *Richard O. Prum, KU Natural History Museum, Lawrence, KS*

Ornithological studies at the University of Kansas Natural History Museum have been on going for over a century. I will review the history of the faculty, student and staff ornithologists at KU and their ornithological contributions. I will also give a portrait of current research in the Division of Ornithology and our plans for the future of research and education in ornithology at KU.

An Inventory of Avian Ectoparasites from North-central Argentina *James W. Rivers, Troy G. Smith, and Mercedes R. Rouges, Div. of Biology, Kansas State Univ, Manhattan, KS, 363 Broken Oak Loop, Eugene, OR, Dept of Biology, Univ of Missouri - St. Louis*

In order to document the avian ectoparasites from a north-central Argentina montane forest, we visually examined mist-netted birds for the presence of ectoparasites at three sites during the 1996 rainy and dry seasons. In 2271 mist-net hours we captured 653 individuals of 47 bird species and found ticks, mites, and

chewing lice (Mallophaga) to be common avian ectoparasites. Most captured individuals (41.7%) had at least one ectoparasite type yet only 5.4% were captured with all three types present. Species in the family Muscicapidae had the highest mean parasite scores while members of the family Tyrannidae had the lowest mean parasite scores; differences in mean scores between Fringillidae and Furnariidae family members were not significantly different. This preliminary analysis may serve as a basis for future investigations into the relationships between birds and ectoparasites in this distinct ecosystem.

Botany for Birders: The Application of Habitat Ordinations to Ornithology *David M. Watson, Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Research Center, Univ of Kansas, Lawrence, KS*

Ornithologists have long been aware of the close association between habitats and birds, and have struggled to find repeatable, objective ways of quantifying habitat characteristics. This is further complicated by the array of possible habitat characteristics that can be measured, without anyway of knowing which ones are especially important. Habitat ordinations have been used with some success, and here I present the three main methods used in the literature, focusing on the advantages and disadvantages of each. The commonly used method Principal Components Analysis is shown to be inappropriate for most ecological work, with a relatively new method, Multidimensional Scaling, proving superior on all counts. I use community-level data from a previous study, and demonstrate just how useful MDS can be at unraveling the often complex relationships between birds

Membership Report by Susan Barnes

It's taken me a few months to get this all together but here are all the "new" members for 1998. I appreciate everyone's patience and hope that if you have any questions you will e-mail, write or call me (see front page for specifics). Happy Holidays!! (Space does not allow printing of hometowns for the new members, the Editor apologizes but be on the lookout for the new membership directory which should have everyone's pertinent information! ceo)

Christa Edwards, PJ Grayman, Zach Palmer, Jeff Chynoweth, Michael Sevigny, Jim Strine, Jim Fuller, Kimberly Bostwick, Jennifer Delisle, Steve Polson and Marjorie Wholey, Daniel Thalmann, Judy and Wayne Doyle, Steve and Kathy McDowell, Neal Whitaker, Debarah Arnett, John and Jennifer Perry and Family, Brad and Carol Williamson and Family, Michael Stoakes, Judy and Wayne Doyle, John Wachholz, Nancy Harrington, John and Jennifer Perry, Gary Crook, Cassie Dodge, Allen Engle, Kevin Groeneweg, Mr. Jones' Biology Class/Franklin Elementary School, Kalob McCaffrey, Jan McLaughlin/Earhart Environmental Magnet School, Nicole Ryan, Casey Schuetz, Jon Seltz, Carolyn and Harold Smith, Preston Unruh, Jessica Whitehead, Shawn Papon, Raymond Davis, Louis Schweizer, Eric Preston, Jack Hilsabeck, Vic McLeron. Pete Dunne, Jacob Goheen, Ron Klataske, Patrick A. Wakeman, Joe Yoder, Calvin Wohler, Mark Land.

KOS Fall Board Meeting
Kansas Union, University of Kansas, Lawrence
10 October 1998, noon

Attendance: Greg Farley Max Thompson
 Roy Beckemeyer Richard Johnston
 Pete Janzen Karen Ganoung
 Gene Young Ed Miller
 Mike Rader

Minutes: The meeting was chaired by Greg Farley, after lunch. Pete Jantzen moved the minutes be approved as corrected in the Horned Lark issue of September 1998; motion seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Miller presented a KOS statement of accounts dated 10-1-98. It was agreed that financial records need be kept for 5 years only, being alert to keep those of possible historical value.

Membership: Roy Beckemeyer plans to recognize at a later gathering the one charter member present, plus 11 members present who have been members of KOS for 40 years or more.

Reports:

- * Max Thompson, editor of the Bulletin, said the September issue had gone to press.
- * Since the Dingus area is changing, Board members thought it desirable to have a chairman and committee to plan and execute proper management of that property, using money from the Dingus Fund.
- * Richard Johnston has another bird-of-the-month column ready; his October bird is the Great Horned Owl. New checklists are available for those who registered at the meeting.

Other Business:

Gene Young described the NY and TN plans to study "tower kills", especially at peak migration times. Tower kills are affected partly by weather, guywires, height of tower, etc., and a commercial business such as a wind generating station wants such information before deciding on location and construction. His idea of KOS supporting such a study, along with other conservation groups, met with a positive response from the Board. He was asked to make a presentation before the entire membership later that day.

Karen Ganoung mentioned how useful the Kid's Page had been in the Horned Lark, to attract kids and to inform younger and experienced members alike. Perhaps a plea to the general membership could attract a writer willing to produce another Kid's Page.

Future Meetings: The winter Board meeting is to be 13 February 1999 at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita. The spring general meeting is scheduled in Winfield 1-2 May 1999: the emphasis of an ID contest will be shorebirds. The fall meeting will be in Hays 2-3 October 1999.

Max Thompson moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded and carried, and the meeting adjourned at 12:55.

/s/Karen Ganoung
Corresponding Secretary
Kansas Ornithological Society

Thank You KU Local Committee!

A big thank you to the local committee responsible for the 50th Anniversary celebratory meeting: Rick Prum, Mark Robbins and Town Peterson, KU faculty members and: Lisa Ball, Kim Bostwick, Guojun Chen, Brian Barber, Dan Kluza, Oliver Kumar, Nate Rice, Kristof Zyskowski and Dave Watson, KU students! A job well done!!!!

Downs Auditorium, Dyche Hall 4 October 1998, Saturday evening

Silent Auction, of 49 items, earned \$594; this was half the items of last year, but \$200 more.

Door prizes, 3 gifts from the Museum gift shop, were distributed by Lisa Ball.

New life member is Don Weiss.

Roy Beckemeyer expressed appreciation for the planning and efforts of the local committee. Members of long standing, that were present, included Dr. Fitch, Catherine Kelley (Charter Members), and 14 others who had been members at least 30 years. Free registrations and memberships to an ornithological magazine were given to all students who gave papers, or who helped on a planning committee.

A special logo honoring the KOS 50th anniversary was displayed by Susan Barnes.

The Ten Best Birds of the year were announced, out of 453 on the state list. Gene Young listed the ten given honorable mention; Max Thompson named the top 10, which were:

- Long-billed Murrelet
- Gull-billed Tern
- Brown-headed Nuthatch
- Mew Gull
- Glaucous-winged Gull
- Iceland Gull
- Western Bluebird
- Curlew Sandpiper
- Common Raven
- Black Vulture

Two Ornithological Ambassadors, Chris Hobbs and Sebastian Patti, were recognized by Town Peterson, for their efforts to "bring science into the world."

Named adjunct curator, Max Thompson received an award for his contribution to the KU Museum.

A flamboyant resolution in honor of the 50th Anniversary was read by Roy Beckemeyer. The enthusiastic audience repeated the closing in unison: "... in 50 years, we shall return, in body or in spirit."

Dr. Glen Woolfenden, who graduated from KU 40 years ago, dedicated his presentation, *Jays of Our Lives: Nature's Soap Opera*, to Dr. Henry Fitch who served on his M.S. committee at the University of Kansas.

Officers Notes from the Program, Morning and Afternoon Business Meetings

On Friday night, Mark Robbins introduced Pete Dunne, of the Cape May Bird Observatory, who entertained us with his outstanding presentation, "Small-headed Flycatcher. Seen Yesterday, He Didn't Leave His Name.

Dr. A. Townsend Peterson opened the meeting on Saturday and welcomed everyone to Lawrence and the University of Kansas.

General Meeting held prior to lunch: 11:00 - 11:25 am

Slate of nominations offered for board and officer positions was presented by Greg Farley. Nominations were also opened to the floor. No nominations from the floor were offered. Nominations moved, seconded and approved were for:

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Greg Farley, President
John Schukmann, Vice President
Ed Miller, Treasurer
Karen Ganoung, Secretary
James Barnes, Business Manager
Susan Barnes, Membership Secretary
Jim Mayhew, 2nd year of 2 year term as board member
Gene Young, 2nd year of 2 year term as board member
Carolyn Schwab 1st year of t year term as board member
Suzanne Fellows 1st year of t year term as board member
Chuck Otte, Horned Lark Editor
Max Thompson, Bulletin Editor

Greg Farley also reviewed the proposed changes to the by-laws. There were no questions from the floor concerning these. Both officer/board positions and the by-law amendment will be subject to a vote at the afternoon meeting.

Ed Miller read a brief treasurer's report that indicated that the organization is in good financial health. We are awaiting end-of-year income reports from our investments, and will summarize financial status in the newsletter issue following receipt of the investment summary. Recall that the finance committee chose to invest 80% of our funds in fixed income accounts, and 20% in equity accounts.

Membership report indicated that there are currently 401 members, 124 life, 119 regular, 35 family, 28 complimentary, 25 sustaining, 13 sustaining family, 18 library, 18 student, 11 exchanges, 6 contributing, 3 honorary life, and 1 partially paid life member. Of our total membership, 7 are international and 99 are non-Kansas, with 35 states represented (most from MO, CO, and OK, with 15, 12, and 10, respectively). Attendance at this meeting was 126 pre-registered, 15 walk-ins, and 5 no-shows, for a net of 136.

Members were reminded to look over the history table to review what was there and to see what they might be able to contribute, either in the form of identification of people on photos, or to add to the collection.

The business meeting was closed so that the attending members could convene for a group portrait on the steps of the Natural History Museum building. Photographs were taken throughout the meeting by Town Peterson (with a digital camera) and by Deb Arnett (with a 35 mm camera).

Afternoon General Meeting: 4:10 - 4:30 pm

The Student Paper Award committee consisted of Bill Busby, Greg Farley and Richard Johnston. They unanimously selected Jacob Goheen of Kansas State University to receive a one year membership in a North American ornithological society of his choosing.

The elections for officers and board members proceeded, and all nominees were unanimously elected.

The by-law change was brought forward, and Richard Johnston asked why it was felt necessary to change the title of the position. Roy Beckemeyer explained that the change in responsibilities made the position one which was much more active and involved not simple book-keeping of membership information, but more active development of membership, and that the change in title was felt to more accurately reflect the change in role. The by-laws change was voted on and unanimously approved without further discussion or debate.

The meeting was closed by the new president.

Above - KOS Charter members Catherine Kelley and Dr. Henry Fitch (left to right) with one of KOS's newest members, Tyler Hicks.

Left - Long time KOS member, Board Member and *Bulletin* editor, Max Thompson, was recognized as Adjunct Curator of Ornithology by the KU Natural History Museum.

Below - Chris Hobbs (left) and Sebastian Patti (right) were recognized as Ornithological Ambassadors.