



The Official Newsletter  
of the  
Kansas Ornithological Society

## The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

September, 1999

Vol. 26, No. 3

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

### Annual Meeting Issue Registration Information in Center Pull Out Section Register Today!

#### From The Keyboard -

Here it is already time to start planning for another KOS Fall Meeting! Of course right in the middle of getting this newsletter ready for printing I had to deal with the reality of my "real job" so there's a week spent at the County Fair!

I had started work on this issue way ahead of my normal time frame. It had become time to start using the new word processing program for the *Horned Lark*. The newsletter was the only thing that I hadn't converted over from the old version. Unfortunately conversions are never painless and some tasks ended up taking much longer than normal as I learned how the "new" program handled everything. Then to further complicate production of this issue my favorite proofreader became unavailable due to a death in the family. Sooooo, if you find a few errors, blame it on that!

I'm really looking forward to the fall meeting in Hays. It's always fun to head out west to go birding, and after missing last year's fall meeting, it'll be good to see many of you again. If there's one thing I've learned to treasure over the years, it's the friendships I've developed through KOS.

I've always felt that life is a journey through many different stages. We all are just entering a new stage of birding. The information explosion is becoming very apparent in ornithological circles and a whole generation of new bird books was heralded with first out of the chute, National Geographic Society's 3rd Edition *Birds of North America*. Adding to the wealth of information are the Breeding Bird Atlases. We are all anxiously awaiting the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas and enjoying the results from other states. The

future is about to descend upon us and it's an exciting future to be sure. Grab hold with both hands, it's going to be an exhilarating ride! See you in Hays....

*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

**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@integrityonline26.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!**

## **KOS Fall Meeting**

**October 8 - 10, 1999  
Ft. Hays State University**

**Details within**

**Keep digging,  
fill out the form,  
and we'll see you there!**

## **Do You Have A Desire To Serve?**

You would think that with over 400 members in KOS there'd be no shortage of people to fill the many roles that it takes to keep the organization running. And while there probably are many members out there willing and capable to serve..... no one knows unless you speak up! Every year there's a couple of board positions to fill, plus special projects and activities and occasionally officers, business manager and spring or fall meeting committees. If you have a desire to become more involved let Chuck, or one of the other board members know of your willingness to serve.

## ***Clarification***

In the December, 1998, *Horned Lark*, photos were published from the 1998 Fall Meeting/50th Anniversary Meeting. Several people had contacted me wanting to know about the Ornithological Ambassadors award bestowed upon Chris Hobbs and Sebastian Patti. Having not been able to attend the 1998 Fall Meeting I had to do a little digging. The awards were not KOS awards, but were presented by the KU Natural History Museum. The photo caption should have explained that and I apologize for any confusion!

*Chuck*

## **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@integrityonline26.com.

New checklists are also available from the Business Manager. They are \$0.15 each for members, \$0.20 each for non-members. Shipping for 50 or less is \$3.00, \$4 for 75, \$5 for 99, \$7 for 100 - 199, \$10 for 200 - 500.

New checklists will be available at the fall meeting. You'll also be able to pay your year 2000 dues at that time and save postage!

## **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!

**Spring 2000 - Morton County/Black Mesa in  
conjunction with Oklahoma**

**Ornithological Society**

**Fall 2000 - Northcentral Kansas, location to be  
announced.**

**Spring 2001 - Make a bid for your area!**

**Check it out and keep checking back**

**<http://KSbirds.org>**

*In this issue -*

*Announcements* 2  
*Winged Tips* 3  
*Birds in the Backyard* 4  
*Mike's Musings* 5

*Spring Birding Round-up* 6  
*Fall Meeting Information S1 - S4*  
*Information Infusion* 13  
*KDWP Forum* 14

*KOS Spring Meeting Bird List* 15  
*Membership Report* 16  
*Birds of Nebraska, A Review* 17  
*Spring Meeting Photos* 18  
*The Bird's Nest* 19

## The Sparrows of Autumn and Winter

by John Rakestraw

Last time we discussed several sparrow species that regularly nest in Kansas. If you took some time this summer to track down and study these birds, you should now be ready to tackle the influx of migrant sparrows that arrive in September and October. One disadvantage we face during fall migration is the fact that most migrating sparrows are not as vocal as the local breeders were during the summer months. Without distinctive songs to help clinch the ID, we may have to look a little more closely at our autumn migrants.

As with any group of birds, the sparrows are easier to learn if you familiarize yourself with a couple of "reference species," then compare new birds to those you know well.

The first sparrow you should learn is the **Song Sparrow**. This bird is common at feeders and in a variety of habitats. The Song Sparrow has a heavily streaked breast, usually with a dark central spot. The tail is fairly long and rounded. Song Sparrows can be rather shy, but they are common enough that you shouldn't have any trouble studying them at length. With the Song Sparrow under your belt, the following species become much easier to recognize.

**Savannah Sparrow** - Very similar to the Song Sparrow, but with a short, notched tail and without the dark central spot on the breast. Savannah Sparrows often show a little yellow above the eye

**Fox Sparrow** - Like a Song Sparrow on steroids, this big chunky sparrow usually shows contrasting areas of gray and rust on the upper parts.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** - Note the contrast between the gray supercillium and the buffy breast. The breast streaks are very fine.

**Swamp Sparrow** - Similar to the Song Sparrow in behavior, the Swamp Sparrow sports a rusty crown and wings, and a dull gray breast with little or no streaking.

**Vesper Sparrow** - A fine, but obvious white eye ring helps to identify this streaked sparrow. In flight, the white outer tail feathers and chestnut lesser wing coverts are dead giveaways.

Another reference species you should learn is the **American Tree Sparrow**. This common winter resident has a rusty crown, long tail, and a clear breast, often with a dark central spot. Note that the upper mandible is dark, while the lower mandible is yellow. The American Tree Sparrow can serve as a handy comparison to other clear-breasted species.

**White-crowned Sparrow** - While the bold black and white stripes on the crown of the adult White-crowned Sparrow are an obvious field mark, immature birds will sport dull brown and gray stripes. This can lead to confusion with the American Tree Sparrow. But the bill of the White-crowned is a uniform pinkish or yellowish color, unlike the two-toned effect shown by the tree sparrow.

**Clay-colored Sparrow** - Adult Clay-colored in breeding plumage have a bold facial pattern that is hard to miss. But immature or winter plumaged birds may show a great similarity to the winter plumaged Chipping Sparrow. When the birds fly, check the color of their rumps. Clay-colored will show a brown rump, Chippies will show gray.

**LeConte's Sparrow** - This sought-after fall migrant resembles the Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows that we studied this summer. The LeConte's Sparrow shows bright orange-buff tones on the face, a prominent white stripe on the dark crown, and distinct dark streaks on the sides and flanks. At close range, the gray nape with chestnut streaks is distinctive.

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** - Similar in color to LeConte's Sparrow, this rare migrant has a dull gray crown stripe. The streaks on the sides and flanks are indistinct or lacking.

The other two species common in autumn and winter are White-throated Sparrow and Harris's Sparrow. Both of these birds are large and distinct enough to make identification easy, even for beginning sparrow watchers.

There are a few other sparrows to be found in Kansas, mostly western species, that I will not attempt to cover here. But if you become comfortable with all the species listed above, you will have all the skills you need to notice and identify any other sparrow you may come across.

## Late Summer/Early Fall in the Garden

by *Chuck Otte*

As summer wanes and early fall appears on the northern horizon, a lot of gardeners are ready to abandon their gardens. In fact, all too many gardeners have grown sick and tired of their gardens and want to mow them down, till them under or burn them off, just to get rid of the evidence of good intentions that ran dry.

Good gardening practices would dictate that the tangle of weeds and grasses that used to be a garden should be cleared off in the fall. All that debris certainly makes good cover for insects and diseases to overwinter. BUT all those weeds, grasses and debris also make good food and cover for many of our soon to be arriving fall and winter visitors.

Those nasty foxtails, barnyardgrass and even crabgrass provide a wealth of seeds for sparrows and finches. Lambsquarter, kochia, Russian thistle, ragweed even wild hemp can all be heavy seed producers that will attract a host of small avian friends. Have you got a fence row full of sunflowers? Count your blessings and worry about cutting them down next spring. Siskins, goldfinches, sparrows, finches and even that sought after Redpoll will find food and shelter in that wonderful state flower.

The truth is that by late summer most of these plants have already produced and released enough seeds to guarantee that you will see their offspring next year. Mowing, burning or removing the weedy residue won't decrease your weed crop enough to worry about. If there is anything that I would want to get out of the garden before winter, it would be the remnants of your tomato plants. Several common tomato diseases can overwinter on the old tomato plant residue. Pull the old vines and burn them up, but leave everything else alone.

By late winter, February or early March, you can clean off what's left of the debris on your garden and till everything under. Make sure that the soil is not too wet or you will wind up fighting clods and compacted soil all spring and summer long. If possible, till as much of the organic material into the soil as you can as it will add a wealth of humus and nutrients into the soil. Add some well rotted livestock manure or compost to the garden before tilling to further improve the soil!

Flower beds can be treated the same way. While neighbors may look in consternation at all that frosted, dead, weedy or overgrown tangle of plants, they don't know what you know; it'll be a great attractant to many bird species. There'll be plenty of time come spring to clean those flower beds and in the mean time all those mum plants will provide good cover and help collect snow and leaves for protection from winter's potential icy blasts.

I have a wonderful crop of volunteer sunflowers that come up every year along my fence from spilled sunflower seed. Wherever possible I let those plants grow and bloom as I know that many bird species will find enjoyment in them in late summer and fall.

Fall is also a great time to plant new trees and shrubs. Select those that have blossoms, berries or fruit that are attractive to birds. Your local nursery or County Extension Office can provide you with a list of desirable and adapted species.

*Chuck can be reached at 613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441 or [otte@jc.net](mailto:otte@jc.net)*

### **Silent Auction Donations Needed!**

Again this year there will be a silent auction at the fall meeting with the proceeds going to the Student Research Fund which is in need of support! Anything bird related is acceptable and remember it all goes to a good cause!

If you know that you are bringing something please either let Greg Farley or Chuck Otte know ahead of time - Chuck's contact information is on the front page of the *Horned Lark* and Greg's can be found on the Call for Papers form! We'll see you, and your donations, in Hays!

**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

## Fall?

by *Mike Rader*

It's strange to be writing about Fall when the temperature is hovering around 100 degrees, but though it seems like an eon away, short days and frosty night are just around the corner. Shorebirds and hummingbirds have (as of this writing) already begun their annual journey south. Hopefully, many of you took the opportunity to get out and enjoy the multitude of birds going by. It only gets better!

September signals the beginning of the southbound migration of flycatchers, warblers, and many other families of birds. It is truly an exciting month to be outdoors. I encourage anyone interested in Kansas birding to make a trip to Morton County in September. Find out what Scott Seltman and others have known about for a long time - the southwest part of the state is a great place to see bird species that are uncommon or nonexistent over much of the rest of Kansas.

October and November are "sparrow" months for Kansas, usually giving birders the challenging fun of trying to ID the little brown rockets shooting by and diving into the grass. Some sparrow species that breed here in Kansas usually pull up stakes and leave, such as Grasshopper, Chipping, and Cassin's, not to be seen again until next spring. But they are replaced by the influx of species that come from further north, such as Lincoln's, Vesper, and Song. Later in November we can look for the "treats", like LeConte's, Nelson's Sharp-tailed, and the return of the winter species, Harris's, White-crowned, and Dark-eyed Juncos. I failed to mention many of the sparrow species that are found in Kansas during parts of the year, but they are no less important to me. I consider sparrows very beautiful and one of my favorite groups of birds. Identification takes practice and patience - try it!

Waterfowl become more abundant in October and November, providing awesome spectacles at Kansas lakes and marshes. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT! Some of my favorite birding memories are of being at Quivira's Big Salt Marsh or the dikes of Cheyenne Bottoms at sunset, getting lost in the myriad of ducks, geese, and cranes coming in to roost. It's kind of like an avian Serengeti in the middle of Kansas.

November is also the month of the return of loons, grebes, and galls to Kansas lakes. Go out and test those identification skills. Take lots of good notes and photos, if possible. Identifying some of these species constitutes a great challenge to even the most careful of birders. The Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC) really appreciates the

reports submitted by observers. Good details and thoughtful time spent on the observation make a good report. By submitting reports of bird sightings, you can help document some of the more unusual species of birds found in Kansas. Please consider doing so.

Remember to come on out to Hays for the KOS meeting in October. Many interesting bird-related presentations will be slated and field trips are planned to surrounding lakes. It should be an extremely enjoyable weekend. Have a great Fall and I hope to see many of you in Hays.

### Whispers of Autumn

I sat outside tonight and felt the heat fade.  
The day had been hot, but a front had passed  
And the wind was cool out of the north.  
It was the middle of August, and I listened...

Slowly the daytime noises faded away.  
Even in town, it was starting to get quiet.  
As a quarter moon rose in the eastern sky  
I heard the calls coming from overhead...

There! An Upland Sandpiper, maybe three or four.  
And there! Was that a Greater Yellowlegs?  
Then a chip and a whistle of some southbound bird,  
Whispering to us all that autumn is on its way...

*Chuck*

***KOS Fall Meeting  
October 8, 9 & 10, 1999  
Ft. Hays State University  
Hays, Kansas  
Information in the center pullout section.***

# SPRING ROUND-UP

March 1, 1999 through May 31, 1999  
by Pete Janzen

This is a compilation of significant bird records from Kansas for the spring period, March 1 through May 31. Many birders spend more time afield in spring than in any other season, and consequently the number of reports is a bit daunting, especially with the Internet making it easier for us to generate and exchange information. However, this makes for a great report!

One species was a potential addition to the Kansas checklist, a Lesser Nighthawk found by Sebastian Patti, Mick McHugh, Chris Hobbs, and Galen Pittman in Elkhart. While not yet reviewed by the KBRC, this species may well be added to the hypothetical list for Kansas, since no photographs were taken as far as I know. While not entirely unexpected, since the species has "heard-only" records from Morton County, this was undoubtedly the best bird of the season.

One of the topics for discussion on the KSBIRD Internet chat group this spring, revolved around "fallouts", a term used to describe weather-related occurrences of unexpected numbers of migrants. What constitutes a fallout is open to question, since migrants are on the move in some kind of numbers all during the spring. One point made in the discussion was that the majority of any given species' population migrates all at once, and sometimes a number of species northbound movements are triggered simultaneously. There are some excellent examples of broad movements within a relatively narrow time frame in this report. These include the following: Glossy Ibis occurring in two locations less than 24 hours apart, Cinnamon Teal broadly distributed across eastern and central

Kansas between April 2-April 10, American Golden-Plovers appearing in large flocks in both Cherokee and Sedgwick Counties on March 29-30, flocks of Buff-breasted Sandpipers in three counties on May 8, Cape May Warblers in three counties on the weekend of May 2-3, followed by two sightings of Cape Mays on the weekend of May 14-15, and Hooded Warblers found from border to border in the last few days of April. After a winter with almost no sightings, suddenly a flurry of Northern Goshawk reports came in early April, but where these birds were going to or coming from was a bit unclear. Who knows how broad these trends would appear if birders were distributed evenly across the state?

Weather certainly played a part in the birding this spring. The period was very wet. It was the wettest spring in recorded history in Wichita, and heavy rains were widespread across the state, although the northwest was a bit drier. Shorebirds were found in a variety of locations, as temporary wetlands were all over the place this spring. After a big explosion of rare migrants on May 2-3 in Wichita, things died out really quickly, but easterners enjoyed great birding well into the third week of May. Meanwhile, out in Rush County, Seltman pronounced the warbler migration as the worst in memory, with only six species recorded there for the entire season.

Several waterfowl species lingered late across the state, as shown below. Surf Scoter and Oldsquaw are both species expected more in the fall than the spring, so were pleasant surprises. Sabine's Gull is another species encountered much more in the fall than

the spring, so the Hillsdale sighting was interesting. The 17 Whimbrels at Garden City must have been a nice surprise.

The dove invasion marches on, with multiple sightings in Pawnee County of White-winged Doves, and those darned Eurasian Collared Doves are just popping up all over, with confirmed nesting in Harvey and Sedgwick County, and who knows where else. Another invasive species, Fish Crow, is colonizing new territory in southeastern Kansas.

Another good bird was the Cassin's Vireo reported in Pottawatomie County. While birders should beware of dull Blue-headed Vireos, this was a bird was carefully studied and described, and is quite unexpected anywhere on the plains in spring.

As always, I could ramble on about these records for a long time, but that's enough from me. Read on, and don't forget to keep those records flowing on the Internet, the phone lines, or however. This report is only as good as the information I get!

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate exceptionally unusual sightings.

Underlined species indicate especially unusual species sightings for Kansas.

*Pete can be reached at:  
prarybrd@southwind.net*

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Western Grebe	3 at LaCygne Lake	GP, m.ob	4/19	Linn
	1 at Washington Co. St. Lake	DT, m.ob	5/8	Washington
Eared Grebe	1	RM	4/16-18	Crawford
	1 albinistic bird at Quivira	JS	4/30	Stafford
American Bittern	1 early at Quivira	DWl	3/29	Stafford
Least Bittern	1 at Mt. Hope Marsh	PJ	5/8	Sedgwick
	1 at Slate Creek	GY	5/13	Sumner
Great Egret	1 near Lawrence	GP	3/24	Douglas
Cattle Egret	20 near Pittsburg	RM	3/1	Crawford
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>	1 at Lawrence Airport	GP, m.ob.	4/7-19	Douglas
	1 at Slate Creek Wetlands	KOS	5/1	Sumner
	1 at Quivira	GP,m.ob.	4/30	Stafford
Tundra Swan	6 at Quivira	LE	3/3	Stafford
	4 at Quivira	RB, m.ob	3/15	Stafford
	1 near Winfield	MT	4/4	Cowley
Gr. White-fronted Goose	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	CH, m.ob.	5/14	Barton
Ross's Goose	3 at Elkhart	BP	4/16	Morton
Blue-winged Teal	1 at Lassiter Marsh	AS	3/15	Jefferson
Cinnamon Teal	1 at Neosho WMA	JA	4/2	Neosho
	1 at Slate Creek on April 5	MT, m.ob.	4/5	Sumner
	1 at Shawnee Mission Lake	ML	4/8	Johnson
	1 at Lawrence Airport	GP, m.ob.	4/7-11	Douglas
	1 at Harvey East Lake	BD	4/7-9	Harvey
	1 at Baker Wetlands	AP	4/10	Douglas
	2 at Marais des Cygnes	RM, m.ob	4/10	Linn
	1 near Mulvane	TH	4/17	Sedgwick
Falcated Teal	escaped bird on farm pond	fide RM	3/26	Crawford
Greater Scaup	3 near Parsons	M&Egd	3/22	Labette
	12 at Lone Star	DW	3/24	Douglas
<u>Surf Scoter</u>	1 at Quivira	LE, MR, SS	<u>4/24-29</u>	Stafford
Oldsquaw	1 at Sedgwick Co. Park	H&SG, m.ob	<u>4/4-10</u>	Sedgwick
	<u>2</u> at Sedgwick Co. Park	DV	<u>4/10</u>	Sedgwick
Bufflehead	1 female at Cheyenne Bottoms	CH, m.ob	<u>5/13</u>	Barton
Common Goldeneye	1 at Bone Creek Res	RM, m.ob	<u>5/8</u>	Crawford
Common Merganser	1 drake at Cheyenne Bottoms	SP, m.ob	5/13	Barton
	1 at Ft. Leavenworth	JS	<u>5/29</u>	Leavenworth

Red-breasted Merganser	8 males at Lone Star	PW	3/25	Douglas
	several at Shawnee Mission Lake	ML	4/8	Johnson
	2 at Lake Shawnee	DL	4/8	Shawnee
	1 male, 9 females	RM	4/18	Crawford
Bald Eagle	1 at Kaw Wildlife area	MT, GY	5/8	Cowley
Broad-winged Hawk	1 early arrival near Manhattan	HH	3./3	Pottawatomie
	1 at Spring River Wildlife Area	JA	3/27	Cherokee
	1 at Elkhart Cemetery	KH, BP	4/26	Morton
	3 in Liberal	SP, m.ob.	5/1	Seward
	2 at the shelterbelt	JH, DM	5/4	Morton
Swainson's Hawk	1 <sup>st</sup> of season near Larned	DS	3/24	Pawnee
Ferruginous Hawk	1 near Upland	DB, DR	4/25	Dickinson
Northern Goshawk	1 near Larned	SS	3/14	Pawnee
	1 at Perry Lake	RR	4/2	Jefferson
	1 near Colwich	PJ	4/3	Sedgwick
	1 at Elkhart Cemetery	TD, BP	4/6	Morton
	1 at Baker Wetland	AP	4/10	Douglas
Golden Eagle	1 at Konza	DR	4/4	Riley
Prairie Falcon	1 at Marais des Cygnes	MG	3/6	Linn
	1 in Oak Park	H&SG	<u>4/27</u>	Sedgwick
Peregrine Falcon	1 near Rozel	SS	4/5	Pawnee
	1 in downtown Wichita	BG	4/28	Sedgwick
	4 at Quivira	NAMC	5/8	Stafford
Merlin	1 at Konza	DR	4/4	Riley
	2 seen	DB, DR	4/26	Riley
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	1 near Macksville	SS, m.ob.	5/8	<u>Stafford</u>
Black Rail	1 dead in downtown Topeka	TW	5/11	Shawnee
	1 at Quivira	TP, m.ob.	5/13	Stafford
	2 at Quivira	Topeka Audubon	5/15	Stafford
	2 calling at Coldwater Lake	PJ	5/30	Comanche
Common Moorhen	1 at Neosho WMA	RM	5/1	<u>Neosho</u>
Whooping Crane	8 in flight	LH	4/20	Rush
American Golden-Plover	approx. 30 near Colwich	PJ, DV	3/30-4/14	Sedgwick
	22 east of Cassoday	BL	4/16	Butler
	26 near Lawrence	GP	4/21	Douglas
	200 south of Pittsburg	RM	3/29	Cherokee
Mountain Plover	17 along Hwy. 51	TD, BP	4/6	Morton
	3 sighted	BP	4/16	Stanton
	several along Hwy. 51	AS	5/14?	Morton



Snowy Plover	1 early at Quivira	RB, m.ob.	3/15	Stafford
Piping Plover	at Quivira	DB	4/15	Stafford
	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	LE, m.ob.	4/24	Barton
	4 at Quivira	MR	4/28	Stafford
	4 at Quivira	NAMC	5/8	Stafford
	1 near Colwich	PJ	5/8	Sedgwick
Greater Yellowlegs	1 at Lawrence	DW	3/14	Douglas
Black-necked Stilt	1 at Hargis Lake	PJ	5/30	<u>Barber</u>
Whimbrel	<u>17</u> at sandpit near Garden City	BC, T&SS	5/2	<u>Finney</u>
	1 at Quivira	MR	5/7	Stafford
	3 at Quivira	MR, MS	5/23	Stafford
Long-billed Curlew	numerous southwest of Holcomb	L&SB	3/23	Finney
	10 at Liberal	LE	4/1	Seward
	5 along Hwy. 51	TD, BP	4/6	Morton
Hudsonian Godwit	1 near Lawrence	GP	4/15	Douglas
	300+ at Cheyenne Bottoms	MR, m.ob.	4/24	Barton
	12 on Kansas R.	LM	4/28	Wyandotte
	400-500 at Cheyenne Bottoms	SP, m.ob.	5/1	Barton
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1 near Mulvane	TH	4/17	Sedgwick
	3 east of Cassoday	BL	4/16	Butler
	2 w/ Golden Plovers in burn	NAMC	5/8	Harvey
	37 displaying near Mt. Hope	PJ	5/8	Sedgwick
	10 displaying near Lawrence	DW	5/8	Douglas
	15 at Quivira near Bobolink field	H&SG. m.ob.	5/15-17	Stafford
Pectoral Sandpiper	several at Lawrence	DW	<u>3/14</u>	Douglas
Ruddy Turnstone	4 at Quivira	SS	5/17	Stafford
	2 at Clinton Lake	DG	5/25	Douglas
Dunlin	1 at Kaw Fish Farm	GP	4/14	Douglas
	5 at Lawrence Airport	DG	4/19	Douglas
	3 at Marais des Cygnes	MM. M.ob.	4/19	Linn
	12 at Kaw Fish Farms	DT	5/6	Douglas
	3 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Topeka Audubon	5/15	Barton
Long-billed Dowitcher	1 near Colwich	PJ	3/8	Sedgwick
	1 during snowstorm	MB	3/13	Crawford
	9 near Colwich	PJ	3/10	Sedgwick
American Woodcock	ad w/3 fledges Maxwell Res	RC, others	4/12	<u>McPherson</u>
Red-necked Phalarope	1 at Mt. Hope Marsh	PJ	5/8	Sedgwick
	3 at Quivira	MR, m.ob.	5/8	Stafford
	1 female at Quivira	CH, m.ob.	5/13	Stafford
Laughing Gull	1 at Tuttle Creek Res.	GS	4/24-25	Riley

<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1 ad. Lawrence Riverfront	MRb	3/11	Douglas
	1 ad. N. Lawrence	AP	3/14	Douglas
Glaucous Gull	1 1 <sup>st</sup> yr. at Clinton	AP	3/20	Douglas
	1 ad. & 1 immature near Lawrence	MRb	3/11	Douglas
	1 2d winter at Cheney	CG, PJ	3/14	Reno
<u>Sabine's Gull</u>	1 imm. at Hillsdale L.	ML, AM	3/24	Miami
Short-eared Owl	4 in grasslands	CS	3/14	Anderson
	1 in fresh burn	C&JO	3/20	Geary
Burrowing Owl	1 <sup>st</sup> of yr. near Liberal	LE	3/16	Seward
<b><u>Lesser Nighthawk</u></b>	1 <sup>st</sup> state record in Elkhart	CH, MM,GP,SP	4/30	Morton
Hummingbird sp.	1 unidentified in Colwich	PJ	4/3	Sedgwick
White-winged Dove	1 at Emporia	MSc	4/3	Lyon
	2 at Larned feeders	SS	5/1-2	Pawnee
	1 near Rozel	SS	5/1-4	Pawnee
	1 along Cimarron R.	DM, JH	5/2	Morton
	1 near Rozel	SS	5/31	Pawnee
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1 near Girard	RM	3/7	Crawford
	1 in Goodland	SS, JP	3/19	Sherman
	Pair nesting in N. Newton	GF	4/1	Harvey
	1 at feeder in Sedgwick	CS	5/27	Harvey
Black-billed Cuckoo	2 at Nelson area	GP	5/11	Jefferson
	1 at Clinton	PW	5/28	Douglas
	1 yard bird in Manhattan	DR	5/31	Pottawatomie
Common Poorwill	calling in sandhills near Quivira	SP, m.ob	5/13	Stafford
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1 at Burcham Park	RA	5/11	Douglas
	1 in Mission	MM	5/19	Johnson
Ash-throated Flycatcher	2 at W. Sta., 1 at Boy Scout Area	KH, BP	4/26	Morton
	6 in various locations	MM. M.ob	5/2	Morton
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	2 at Wilson State Park	MR	5/11	Russell
Cassin's Kingbird	1 well seen	JHk, DM	5/4	Morton
<u>Cassin's Vireo</u>	1 well seen near Tuttle	DM	5/7	<u>Pottawatomie</u>
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 in Oak Park	TW, m.ob.	5/3	Sedgwick
	5 in Martin Park	DW	5/5	Douglas
Purple Martin	1 in Wichita yard	BM	3/8	Sedgwick
	Pair in Emporia	KB	3/9	Lyon
	Several at Clinton	FB	3/16	Douglas
	1 at Southwestern College	MT	3/18	Cowley

Fish Crow	3 in Coffeyville 5-6 near Caney	CH., m.ob. MM. M.ob.	5/2 5/2	<u>Montgomery</u> <u>Chautauqua</u>
Carolina Wren	nest w/5 eggs near Baldwin	RB	3/17	Douglas
Winter Wren	1 fairly late	DB, DR	4/25	Pottawatomie
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1 late in Bonner Springs	CH	5/16	Wyandotte
Townsend's Solitaire	1 near Wilson	DK	3/6	Russell
Wood Thrush	1 at Chisholm Cr. Park	ST	5/23-27	Sedgwick
Veery	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	LM	5/11	Wyandotte
Bohemian Waxwing	1 in Garden City	TS	3/30	Finney
Brown Thrasher	1 over-wintered near Wilson	DK	3/1	Russell
Golden-winged Warbler	1 at Fitch Reserve 2 at Overland Park Arboretum 1 at Martin Park 1 at Bonner Springs 1 at Nelson Area 1 at Baker Wetlands 1 at Oak Park	KM MG DW CH GP, m.ob. DM KG	5/1 5/2 5/3 5/11 5/12-13 5/14 5/14	Douglas Johnson Douglas Wyandotte Douglas Douglas Sedgwick
Blue-winged Warbler	2 at Overland Park Arboretum 1 in Bonner Springs still there	MG CH GP	5/2 5/11 5/26	Johnson Wyandotte Wyandotte
<u>Cape May Warbler</u>	1 near Caney 1 yard bird near Sedgwick 1 at Oak Park 1 female at Ft. Leavenworth 1 female at Lake Shawnee	MM, m.ob. CS JN MR, RR CS, m.ob.	5/3 5/1 5/2 5/13-14 5/15	Chautauqua Harvey Sedgwick Leavenworth Shawnee
<u>Black-throated Blue Warbler</u>	1 in N. Newton	JN	5/8	Harvey
Blackburnian Warbler	1 near Harvey East Lake	BD	5/22	Harvey
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 at Oak Park 1 female at Lake Shawnee	JN. M.ob CS, m.ob.	5/2 5/15	Sedgwick Shawnee
Worm-eating Warbler	1 in Oak Park 1 at Ft. Leavenworth	DW, m.ob RR	5/2-3 5/15	Sedgwick Leavenworth
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 yard bird in North Newton 9 at Ft. Leavenworth	RRg JS	4/12 4/11	<u>Harvey</u> Leavenworth
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 at Dornwood Park 2 at Lake Shawnee gazebo area 3 in Bonner Springs	DL DG CH	5/11 5/12 5/18	Shawnee Shawnee Wyandotte
Pine Warbler	1 heard by at Ft. Leavenworth	MR	5/15	Leavenworth

Prairie Warbler	1 in Topeka yard	DG	4/21	Shawnee
	1 at Marais des Cygnes	RA, JH, EH		Linn
	1 near Lawrence	PW, m.ob.	5/8-16	Douglas
Cerulean Warbler	1 at Shawnee Lake gazebo area	RM, m.ob	5/12-13	<u>Shawnee</u>
Connecticut Warbler	1 at Camp Naish	CH, MR	5/26	Wyandotte
Hooded Warbler	1 at Burcham Park	RA	4/26	Douglas
	1 at Elkhart Cemetery	KH, BP	4/26	<u>Morton</u>
	1 at Oak Park	ST. m.ob	4/27-5/4	Sedgwick
	1 female in Kinsley	GP, m.ob.	4/30	<u>Edwards</u>
	1 yard bird in Manhattan	DM	5/9	Riley
	1 in Bonner Springs	CH	5/16	Wyandotte
1 at Ft. Leavenworth	MR, RR	5/15	Leavenworth	
Canada Warbler	1 at Burcham Park	RA	5/11	Douglas
	1 at Marais des Cygnes	MM	5/14	Linn
	1 in Bonner Springs	TP, m.ob.	5/13	Wyandotte
	6 in Bonner Springs	CH	5/16	Wyandotte
Yellow-breasted Chat	2 at Ferguson Marsh	DG	5/22	Jefferson
Scarlet Tanager	1 at Martin Park	DW	4/28	Douglas
	2 at St. Francis	MRe	5/9	Cheyenne
	1 at Lake Shawnee gazebo area	RM, m.ob	5/12	Shawnee
	1 in Wichita yard	JN	5/30	Sedgwick
Cassin's Sparrow	1 near Macksville	SS, m.ob	5/8	Stafford
Brewer's Sparrow	1	Jhk, DM	5/4	Morton
Lark Bunting	1 near Manhattan	LJ	5/7	<u>Riley</u>
	1 near Cheyenne Bottoms	H&SG, m.ob	5/15	Barton
Grasshopper Sparrow	1 very early at J. Redmond Res.	MM	3/6	Coffey
Henslow's Sparrow	2 territorial males near Milford	CO	5/13	Geary
LeConte's Sparrow	1 at Wilson Res	MR	3/3	Russell
	1 in Unit F, Marais des Cygnes	LM, M.ob	4/19	Linn
	1 in Burnett yard	DB	4/25	Pottawatomie
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1 at Lassiter Marsh	DG, DLs	5/22	Jefferson
Song Sparrow	feeding young at Marais des Cygne	MM	5/14	Linn
Harris's Sparrow	1 at Pittsburg feeder	RM	<u>5/16-28</u>	Crawford
White-throated Sparrow	1 near St. Francis	MRe	5/6	<u>Cheyenne</u>
Golden-crowned Sparrow	present all of March in Garden City	MO, m.ob.	thru 3/28	Finney
Dark-eyed Junco	1 late bird in Leavenworth	C&JO	<u>5/22</u>	Leavenworth

Smith's Longspur	20 near Hoyt	BT	3/11	Jackson
	1 near Larned	SS	3/2	Pawnee
Lazuli Bunting	1 seen	MR,SS	4/29	Barber
	1 yard bird in Liberal	LE	5/8	Seward
	1 at Slate Creek Wetlands	GY	5/13	Sumner
	1 near Lawrence	KM, MP	5/16	Douglas
Painted Bunting	1 near Olathe	DSe, MSt	5/12	Johnson
	1 near Elk Falls	GW	5/21	Elk
Bobolink	50-100 near Lawrence	DW, m.ob	5/12-16	Douglas

**Cited observers:** Robert Antonio, Jim Ausemus, Mavis Benner, Franklin Bidinger, Roger Boyd, Ken Bradstreet, Larry Bradstreet, Sandy Bradstreet, Doris Burnett, Barbara Campbell, Randy Clark, Bob Dester, Todd Dilley, Lisa Edwards, Gregg Friesen, Mike Gearhardt, Dan Gish, Ewleen Good(EGd), Max Good(MGd), Chet Gresham, Kevin Groeneweg, Eric Hanley, Joe Harrington, Larry Hesed, Tyler Hicks, Chris Hobbs, Ken Hollinga, Jerry Horak (JHk), Pete Janzen, Dave Klema, Mark Land, Bill Langley, Dan Larson, Robert Mangile, Richard Martin, Bert McClard, Kathy McDowell, Aaron Mitchell, Kylee Moon, Dan Mulhern, Jim Nickel, Chuck Otte, Jaye Otte, John Palmquist, Sebastian Patti, Brandon Percival, Town Peterson, Galen Pittman, Marie Plinsky, Alexis Powell, Marlin Reeb (MRe), Robert Regier(RRg), Mark Robbins (MRB), Richard Rucker, Marvin Schwilling(MSc), David Seibel(DSe), Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman, Sara Shane, Tom Shane, Guy Smith, Julie Stielestra, Mike Stoakes(MSt), Marge Streckfus, Art Swalwel, Bill Trelk, Dan Thalman, Max Thompson, Phil Wedge, David Weible(DWI), Dave Williams, Gloria Jones-Wolf, Tracy Wohl

Did you see a good bird, an unusual bird, a common bird out of season or 'out of location?' Be sure to call the KOS Hotline at **316-229-2777**.

Did you see a **REALLY** good bird?? Take the time to complete a KBRC Official Report form and send it to Dave Rintoul, 1124 Woodland, Manhattan, KS 66502. A KBRC report form was in the March, 1997 *Horned Lark* (pg. 17) and can also be found on the KOS World Wide Web homepage at <http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~drintoul/kos>. Click on the Rare Bird Record Committee menu option.

### Information Infusion

When the 3rd edition of the National Geographic Society's *Birds of North America* hit bookshelves this summer, it started what is going to be a flood of new books. In this issue, Tom Shane reviews a great book bargain from Nebraska. I had the opportunity to write a review of the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas (a worthy addition to your library.) A trip to the Dakotas and I came back with a copy of the South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas. Several more new field guides are scheduled to hit the shelves in 2000 and 2001. Better start saving up now! Gregg Friesen graciously called to my attention a great web site <http://www.avisys.net>, that has a free downloadable file, in several formats, which is a quick index for your new National Geographic Guide. You can paste it right in the back cover and have a quick reference as you relearn which birds are where in the new guide AND the new taxonomic order!

## Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira: A Tale of Two Wetlands

by Helen Hands

Frequently, we at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA) are asked, "Why is there so much cattail growth at CBWA and not at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge?" The answer is that although CBWA and Quivira are only 20 miles apart, the two wetlands couldn't be more different.

Logistically, cattail is easier to manage at Quivira because it has fewer wetland acres than CBWA. Although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns and manages 22,135 acres at Quivira, only 7,000 acres are regularly flooded. The rest of the Refuge is grassland that floods only during very wet periods. At the state-owned and managed CBWA, 12,500 of its 19,857 acres are regularly wet. At CBWA, close to twice as many wetland acres are managed by less than half as many full-time employees as at Quivira. This higher ratio of wetland acres to full-time employees contributes partially to cattail management being less successful at CBWA than at Quivira.

Manageability of these wetland acres probably is more important than the wetland acres to full-time employee ratio in influencing the success of cattail control. Although the Big Salt Marsh at Quivira encompasses 1,500 acres, most of the other 17 pools are 200-300 acres in size. At CBWA, pool size ranges from 24 to 2,940 acres and averages 828 acres. Only the six pools in the goosepen and the Mitigation Marsh are smaller than 700 acres, however, these pools comprise less than 2% of the wetland area at CBWA. Cattail in smaller pools is easier to control because smaller pools can be drained, treated, and flooded quicker than larger pools. This quickness could be the difference between accomplishing effective cattail management or not.

Independent pool management is another component of manageability. The advantage of independent pool management is that each pool can be drained or flooded without affecting management of another pool. Managers at Quivira have had the ability to independently manage water levels in all 18 pools since the early 1970s. Independent pool management didn't become possible at CBWA until 1993, when the three new pump stations were constructed.

Perhaps the most important difference between Quivira and CBWA that affects cattail management is salinity. Quivira is classified as a salt marsh and CBWA as a freshwater marsh. Salinity is lowest when water levels are high and increases as water evaporates. During droughts, salinity in

the last puddles of water in Quivira's Big Salt Marsh has been measured at three times that of sea water. Although salinity also varies among Quivira's 18 pools, salinity typically is 10 to 33% of sea water. The highest salinity recorded at CBWA was about 80% of sea water, but typically is less than 10% of sea water. Cattail apparently doesn't thrive as well in the saltier water at Quivira because cattail management isn't even necessary in the Big Salt Marsh.

So what should be done to improve the effectiveness of cattail management at CBWA? The renovation effort involving the subdivision of pools and addition of pump stations has significantly improved the Department of Wildlife and Parks' ability to manage cattail. The acquisition and extensive use of a large, tracked tractor and 30-foot disk have dramatically reduced cattail cover in Pools 4A and 4B during the last 3 years. However, more needs to be done. The most important factor affecting success of cattail management at CBWA and Quivira, salinity, can't be feasibly altered and biologically shouldn't be. Pool size can be reduced by constructing new dikes. However, it would be very expensive to construct enough dikes to make all pools 200-300 acres in size.

Furthermore, if more dikes were constructed, much marsh area would be replaced by dikes, more pump stations would be needed to maintain independent pool management, and more employees would be needed to maintain so many more water control structures and pump stations. Thus, adding more dikes wouldn't be a realistic option. A better option would be to acquire and/or rent more cattail management equipment (e.g., another large tractor and disk) and hire more maintenance personnel who would be responsible for managing cattail. Two bills, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act and Resources 2000, being considered in Congress may provide the funds to do just that.

*Special thanks to the Quivira NWR managers, Dave Hilley and Kathy Owens for providing the information on Quivira.*

*(Helen can be reached at: [bottoms@greatbend.com](mailto:bottoms@greatbend.com))*

## KOS Spring Meeting Bird List

The following list was graciously compiled by Max Thompson following the spring meeting held in Winfield. Due to the short time frame between the end of the meeting and the deadline it could not be included in the June issue. It is presented here to let you know what wonderful things you could have seen had you attended and to hopefully encourage you to go to the fall meeting in Hays and the spring 2000 meeting in Morton County. The following sightings were from Cowley and Sumner counties for the period April 30 through May 2, 1999. Thank you to Max and to everyone who hosted and attended the spring meeting!

Common Loon	Baird's Sandpiper	White-breasted Nuthatch	Kentucky Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Pectoral Sandpiper	Carolina Wren	Common Yellowthroat
Double-crested Cormorant	Stilt Sandpiper	House Wren	Hooded Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Long-billed Dowitcher	Sedge Wren	Wilson's Warbler
Great Egret	Common Snipe	Marsh Wren	Northern Cardinal
Snowy Egret	Wilson's Phalarope	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Cattle Egret	Franklin's Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Blue Grosbeak
Green Heron	Forster's Tern	Eastern Bluebird	Indigo Bunting
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Rock Dove	Veery	Dickcissel
Yellow-crowned	Mourning Dove	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Eastern Towhee
Night-Heron	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Swainson's Thrush	Spotted Towhee
Glossy Ibis	Great Horned Owl	Hermit Thrush	Chipping Sparrow
White-faced Ibis	Barred Owl	Wood Thrush	Clay-colored Sparrow
Canada Goose	Common Nighthawk	American Robin	Field Sparrow
Wood Duck	Chuck-will's-widow	Gray Catbird	Vesper Sparrow
Mallard	Whip-poor-will	Northern Mockingbird	Lark Sparrow
Northern Pintail	Chimney Swift	Brown Thrasher	Savannah Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Ruby-throated	American Pipit	Baird's Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Hummingbird	Sprague's Pipit	Grasshopper Sparrow
Gadwall	Belted Kingfisher	Cedar Waxwing	Henslow's Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Red-headed Woodpecker	Loggerhead Shrike	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Red-bellied Woodpecker	European Starling	Lincoln's Sparrow
Osprey	Downy Woodpecker	Bell's Vireo	White-throated Sparrow
Mississippi Kite	Hairy Woodpecker	Solitary Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Northern Flicker	Warbling Vireo	Harris' Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Pileated Woodpecker	Red-eyed Vireo	Red-winged Blackbird
Swainson's Hawk	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Tennessee Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Red-tailed Hawk	Least Flycatcher	Orange-crowned Warbler	Great-tailed Grackle
American Kestrel	Eastern Phoebe	Nashville Warbler	Common Grackle
Ring-necked Pheasant	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Parula	Brown-headed Cowbird
Wild Turkey	Western Kingbird	Yellow Warbler	Orchard Oriole
Northern Bobwhite	Eastern Kingbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
Sora	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Black-throated Green	House Finch
American Coot	Horned Lark	Warbler	Pine Siskin
Semipalmated Plover	Purple Martin	Blackburnian Warbler	American Goldfinch
Killdeer	Tree Swallow	Palm Warbler	House Sparrow
Greater Yellowlegs	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Blackpoll	
Lesser Yellowlegs	Bank Swallow	Black-and-white Warbler	
Solitary Sandpiper	Barn Swallow	American Redstart	
Spotted Sandpiper	Blue Jay	Prothonotary Warbler	
Upland Sandpiper	American Crow	Worm-eating Warbler	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Black-capped Chickadee	Ovenbird	
Least Sandpiper	Carolina Chickadee	Northern Waterthrush	
White-rumped Sandpiper	Tufted Titmouse	Louisiana Waterthrush	

## Membership Report by Susan Barnes

As of July 1, 1999, KOS membership stood at 418 which is up nearly 30 members from the first of the year. Several current members have been busy recruiting new members. Current honor roll is: Ed Miller with three new members, Gene Young, John Schukman, and Mike and Ellen Rader who've all recruited two new members and with one new member each are: David Pantle, Brent Brock, Jim Nickel, Ted Cable, Don Weiss, Phil Wedge and Walker Butin. If others have recruited new members be sure to contact me and let me know or, if you are in the process of recruiting new members, write your name on the membership form that you give those potential new members!

Following is a list of new members and their hometown.  
**Denver, Colorado:** Robert Righter; **Baldwin City:** Richard B. Garrett, Bill Nye; **Hepler:** Jim Ausemus;

**Kansas City:** Alan R. Godwin; **Manhattan:** Doris Burnett, Todd Hoernemann, Dusty Becker, Mark Hollingsworth, Luke Westerman, Christine Wooley; **Mayetta:** Maren N. Harding; **Newton:** B. Aileen McCune, Donna Ratzlaff, Chad "Jethro" Runco; **North Newton:** Vel Teichroew; **Olathe:** Lori Weiss; **Overland Park:** D.O. Smart; **Parsons:** Paul L. Milks; **Pittsburg:** Robert J. Mangile; **Pratt:** Gordon Hedrick; **Randolph:** Sara Baer, Matt Whiles; **Salina:** Jonathan Conrad, Marge Streckfus; **St. Mary's:** Brandon Magette; **Stafford:** Kathy Owens; **Stillwell:** G. Ken Baum; **Wichita:** Patricia L. Butin, Mary Ann Lowry, Lowell W. Wilder; **Edgartown, MA:** E. Vernon Laux.

*Susan can be reached at:  
barnowls@integrityonline26.com*

We regret that due to space and reproduction constraints, this photo is not available in this electronic format.

You meet some of the most interesting people when you are birding!



## **A Review of *The Birds of Nebraska*** *by Thomas G. Shane*

*The Birds of Nebraska* by Paul A. Johnsgard. Available from Dr. Paul A. Johnsgard, School of Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0118. 1998: 138 pp., 2 numbered text figures, 248 range maps. \$10 postage paid (plastic spiral bound). As Nebraskans and their neighbors await the long overdue breeding bird atlas of Nebraska, another useful book has emerged. This is an updated version of the 1980 edition of *A Preliminary List of the Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States*.

The book is divided into two sections. Part 1. includes: Birdwatching Through the Year in Nebraska; Fundamentals of Birdwatching; Optical Equipment and Acoustic Aids; Reference Materials; Vernacular and Technical Names of Birds; Backyard Birding Opportunities; and Monitoring Bird Populations, which are all nicely condensed for the beginner and the serious ornithologist on the first 12 pages.

Part 2. includes an Introduction with the parameters for the List of Species that follows along with a section on the Vegetation and Topography of Nebraska. Examining the species accounts, you quickly realize the value of the book when three to four paragraphs are found on the common species and three to four lines on the vagrants. Johnsgard opens an account with an introduction on the status of the species then moves on to an excellent description of the migration. The third section is a very brief description of the species habitats. The final paragraph is a comments section which usually concludes with the Breeding Bird Survey trends for that species.

Johnsgard uses his same map outline as previously used in his 1980 book, which includes all or parts of eleven states (entire Kansas) from North Dakota to Oklahoma. He states that half the maps have been updated. The most important change is the blackened areas on the range maps showing the areas of highest relative abundance obtained from the Breeding Bird Survey data. For those bird students that were not able to afford the 1995 book by Price et al., *The Summer Atlas of North American Birds*, this is a welcome addition. Although the book is primarily about Nebraska, many, not all of the additions to the Kansas records have been incorporated into the maps. A few of the maps do need some urgent updating especially in regard to Kansas and Colorado, i.e. Mississippi Kite, House Finch, and Great-tailed Grackle.

Almost every avian species with some history in the state is mentioned. The reader spots this immediately with the first species listed, the Crested Tinamou, an unsuccessful introduction in 1970. All respectable observations are reported as hypothetical, even though the author is not convinced and it has not been accepted by the Nebraska Records Committee. The reference section is short, however, records from the *Nebraska Bird Review*, and other journals are noted in the text by volume and page number only.

At only \$10, this may be the last great bird book deal of the millennium!

*Tom can be reached at: 1706 Belmont, Garden City, Kansas 67846.*

*What do you think was the best bird of the past twelve months? It could be an uncommon or rare bird, or it could be a fairly common bird out of range or at an uncommon time of the year. Maybe a breeding record for Kansas for a species that hasn't bred in Kansas or seldom breeds in Kansas. Look in the pull out section for the Annual Meeting, fill out the Best Bird nomination form and mail it in, or e-mail your nomination to Max Thompson at maxt@jinx.sckans.edu*

**Deadline for submissions for the  
December, 1999 Horned Lark is  
November 10, 1999.**

## More Spring Meeting Photos!

*photos by Debarah Arnett*

We regret that due to space and reproduction constraints, this photo is not available in this electronic format.

Everyone looks on with rapt attention as Dr. Max Thompson explains the finer identification points of some of the study skins in the Southwestern College collection.

We regret that due to space and reproduction constraints, this photo is not available in this electronic format.

Everyone knows the proper position when engaged in spring time birding activities. Keep reading in future issues for home remedies for “Warbler Neck”!