



The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

June, 2000

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From The Keyboard -

There are so many things that I wanted to write about in this tiny little space. Many of us are having a better spring than in recent years and by the time you get this, many of us will have been actively running Breeding Bird Survey routes. A true labor of love if ever there was one!

My birding spouse, Jaye, and I have not run up as big a list, so far, this year as in past years. Work and family requirements have limited our ability to pursue as we might like. To compensate, we have spent more time birding closer to home. Sure, it's fun to bird the big name draws, but to regularly visit the same spot close to home can pay some really big dividends. It also ties you and connects you (see Chet's inaugural column on page 5) to a place close to home. When you see the seasons come and go in a favorite birding place, it causes you to start coming up with names for those places. Special names that no one else may be able to relate to, but they mean the world to you. Next time you're in Junction City, let me take you to "The Cathedral"!

By pure Internet fate, Jaye and I connected with a "young" soldier at Ft. Riley this winter. He had recently been hooked on birding by some of his family members. He will soon be getting out of the army to return to Wyoming and then to school in Spokane, WS this fall. So he wanted to see as many eastern birds as possible before heading west across the divide. Will is a good young birder with a lot of potential. He's also a lot of fun to bird with. His enthusiasm is contagious and he asks good questions. He doesn't just want to mark off another bird, he wants to learn the bird. I know that even after he leaves Kansas this summer, we'll stay in touch.

What Jaye and I really found this spring, was that birding seems to be best, when it is shared. Yes, we enjoy seeing the Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, but the thrill of showing a new birder his first tanagers was great. We had a fun day at Quivira and The Bottoms. Now more opportunities to share Kansas birding awaits us (page 13). I encourage all of you to share your love and share your knowledge of Kansas birds. Share it with friends, neighbors, even strangers. Share it with younger birders, and some day, the student may well become the teacher. Trust me! See you in October in Johnson Co.

chuck

Who's Who in KOS - 2000

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS!

KOS Fall Meeting

October 6 - 8, 2000

Johnson County Community College

Look for registration information in September issue!

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 barn_owl@mindspring.com

Checklists are also available from the Business Manager. They are \$0.15 each for members, \$0.20 each for nonmembers.

Membership Memo

This year, we used e-mail to reach as many members as possible when it was time for renewals, with great success. Many members found receiving their renewal notices via e-mail much more efficient than using snail mail and appreciated the effort to spend less money on KOS administrative costs. This year's mailing expenses for membership renewals has so far been less than 50 percent of what was spent last and in previous years. E-mail has also made keeping contact between the membership coordinator, Susan Barnes, and the members much easier than via letters or telephone calls.

If you have any questions about your membership, please feel free to contact Susan at bard_owl@mindspring.com. If you're not sure she has your e-mail address, please send her a note & update the database! If you don't have e-mail, don't worry, we still want to keep in touch as much as possible & look forward to your cards & calls.

Remember, it's YOUR Kansas Ornithological Society - help us make it work for you!

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 2001 - Chataqua/Elk County area
(aka the Crossed Timbers area)**

Fall 2001 - Pittsburg (need local committee!)

Spring 2002 - Junction City/Geary County

Fall 2002 - Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center

Spring 2003 - Emporia

Fall 2004 and Beyond - Volunteers and locations needed!

Keep a close watch on your mailbox in late August! The September *Horned Lark* will be arriving about that time and it will have all the details for the fall meeting at Johnson County Community College. There could be some changes in store..... like maybe some early field trips????? Keep checking out the web site (URL below) for call for papers and other early information!!!!!!

Check it out and keep checking back

<http://KSbirds.org>

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Bird Names

by John Rakestraw

On the Ohio-birds e-mail list recently the subject of bird names came up. Someone wrote in to ask what the heck a Blue-headed Vireo was. She assumed it was an old name since she could not find any reference to it in her field guide. (It is actually a new name for Solitary Vireo.) A short time later, someone wrote in about seeing a number of Sycamore Warblers. Within a week's time two people asked me what a Sycamore Warbler was, assuming that this was a new name. (It is an old name for the western race of Yellow-throated Warbler.)

But why do bird names change at all? How do we keep up with these changes and why should we?

Taxonomy is the process of classifying organisms into various categories, starting with the broadest category, Kingdom, and ending with the narrowest category, species or subspecies. In scientific literature, organisms are referred to by the last two categories, genus and species (and sometimes subspecies). This way, no matter what language the reader may speak, the identity of the organism is clear. Common names of organisms may vary from country to country. (The Black-bellied Plover found in the United States is called Gray Plover in England.)

Organisms are placed into these categories according to their relationship to other organisms. Research sometimes reveals new information about these relationships, so organisms are given new designations and a new place on the taxonomic list. For example, a few years ago it was determined the Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) was actually three separate species. The new designations for these three species were *Vireo solitarius*, *Vireo plumbeus*,

and *Vireo cassinii*. In the U.S., the most accepted common names are those given by the American Ornithologists Union (A.O.U.). These three species were called Blue-headed Vireo, Plumbeous Vireo, and Cassin's Vireo.

Some birders get upset with name changes. When Roger Tory Peterson tells you a bird is called a Rufous-sided Towhee, then, by gosh, no egghead scientist is going to persuade you to call it a Spotted Towhee.

But there is good reason to keep up with the most current standardized bird names. If you are sharing information with others, we all have to use the same terminology. If you report a Solitary Vireo in Morton County, this information is useless because the name could refer to any one of three distinct species of bird.

So how do you keep up with current bird names? At this writing, the only field guide that is up to date is the third edition of the National Geographic. If you prefer to use another guide, consult the most recent KOS checklist for current names. Go ahead and write the changes in your field guides. These are tools for field use, not sacred scrolls. The entire A.O.U. checklist is available online at <http://pica.wru.umd.edu/AOU/birdlist.HTML>.

Whether you are an obsessive lister or just a casual birder who shares your sightings with others, it is important to keep up with current bird names. While some may consider it a bother, changes in bird taxonomy can provide new opportunities and challenges for your birding and listing pleasure.

John can be contacted at rakestraw@dayton.net

Proposed By-laws Change

To be voted on by the KOS membership at the Annual Meeting, October 7, 2000

Explanation: If adopted, the following change would create an appointed position of Sales Manager to serve under the Business Manager. The Sales Manager would be appointed by the President and would be responsible for managing all the sales items for KOS, maintaining inventory, taking orders, creating new sale items, etc. Any questions regarding this change may be directed to Chuck Otte.

The following items are proposed to be added:

Article V., Section 3. Appointed Positions

[G. The President may appoint a Sales Manager, to serve under, and assist the Business Manager with all aspects of KOS sale merchandise. This would include, but not be limited to: ordering merchandise, maintaining an accurate inventory, taking and filling mail/e-mail orders, having items available for sale at KOS meetings, and other activities as determined by the Business Manager.]

Article VI., Section 7. The Business Manager shall:

[I. Oversee the activities of the Sales Manager and report such activities to the Board of Directors.]

Submitted for consideration by Chuck Otte, Newsletter Editor, for the KOS Board.

KOS Board Positions Available !!

Interested Members Please Apply

As you may have read in other parts of this issue, there will be several positions on the KOS Board opening up this fall. To be specific, we need interested candidates for the positions of: Vice-president, Treasurer, Membership Development Coordinator, Business Manager and two Directors. Following is a brief description of these positions and their responsibilities.

The **Vice-president** is responsible for running meetings when the president is not present and serving as program chair for the spring and fall meetings. The program chair works with the local committee to make sure that each meeting is ready to go. They usually serve as emcee of the presented papers session as well. While not required so by the By-laws, the Vice-president often moves up to president. The Vice-president may serve two consecutive one year terms.

The **Treasurer** serves as a custodian of all KOS funds. They pay all the bills, coordinate with Membership Development Coordinator to keep an accurate listing of current members, prepare annual financial statements and other required reports. The current treasurer and the immediate past treasurer also serve on the KOS Finance Committee.

The **Membership Development Coordinator** (MDC) is responsible for keeping the record and history of KOS members in conjunction with the Treasurer. Additionally,

the MDC has the opportunity to create and oversee activities to help increase and retain KOS membership, and to develop outreach programs for youth and the general public on birds and the Kansas Ornithological Society.

The **Business Manager** is responsible for conducting the business activities of KOS including overseeing the printing and distribution of the *Bulletin* and the *Horned Lark*. The Business Manager also has oversight responsibilities of all for sale items of the Society.

The last three positions are one year positions and may succeed themselves as elected.

The two **Directors** serve a two year term and are not reelected, although they can be elected to an officer position. The directors provide input and direction to the rest of the KOS Board. These are good "entry level" positions to help a member learn more about KOS and help them decide if they might be interested in serving as an officer at some future date.

More information on the responsibilities can be found at the KOS web site (go to the history page) where the By-laws can be read. If you are interested in serving please contact KOS President, Greg Farley, or newsletter editor, Chuck Otte.

Cyberbirding Update

by Chuck Otte

State Birding Discussion Lists - Nearly 300 birdwatchers are now members of the Kansas Bird Discussion List. We exchange information and bird sightings. Sometimes, potential visitors to our state join up and ask for Kansas birding advice. Many of us have been able to help these "Kansas migrants". Several of us have also joined other state lists to prepare for an upcoming visit. I've lurked on lists from Oregon and Mississippi, to name a few. Many states now have state oriented discussion lists. They welcome folks joining up and joining in. A word of advice: join several weeks before your coming trip so you can get a feel for the list you are joining. Each list has a personality and you sure don't want to step on the toes of those you want to help you! For a good listing of different state's birding lists, visit: <http://www.virtualbirder.com:80/vbirder/realbirds/index.html> and just click on the state you want to visit!

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.

Connections

by *Chet Gresham*

Our migrants have become someone else's residents. The frenzy of fueling up has slowed and the business of defending territories, reproduction, nest building, and feeding young is under way. Already young robins, chickadees, and house finches have found their wings and are scattering about the yard in the muggy mornings of late May. Watching their daily rituals I think of the birds that we can no longer observe in this way.

Extinction. It's a word that conjures up so much. Not only names, but the romantic pictures of massive flocks of passenger pigeons and eskimo curlews darkening the sky. The ghost-like flight of a massive woodpecker through a darkened cypress swamp. It all seems to bring out a feeling of loss and regret, but these images aren't what these birds were or are.

How are we to connect to these birds? Should we try? Today I've ducked into the climate control of a bookstore to escape the mid-day heat and start on Christopher Cokinos' new book, "Hope Is The Thing With Feathers". This book chronicles the lives and extinctions of the Carolina Parakeet, Passenger Pigeon, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Heath Hen and Labrador Duck and also Mr. Cokinos' own reactions and feelings toward these birds.

Like Mr. Cokinos I have tried to understand and come to some resolution with the extinction of these and other birds. I'm finding it hard to read. It is painful to come so close to the true lives of these birds that are now completely absent. I find it hard to look at a picture of a live Carolina Parakeet. At one time these birds were a mere thought and now this book is turning them into live, vibrant and real creatures that went through life just as the birds I watch now do.

I've always dreamt of seeing an Eskimo Curlew. I've read about the massive flocks feeding in burnt fields of the Flint Hills during migration. And I've always heard the rumors of populations still living. I've looked through "Birds in Kansas" and read about the "little curlew" Ed Martinez observed in 1982 and I strain to see brown lumps in the middle of charred fields as I drive I-70. But his sighting is almost 18 years past now and the likelihood seems to be getting smaller and smaller. But still I look.

A few years ago I chased a "little curlew sized" bird on the

north side of Quivira. My heart doubled its pace. My hands shook and I began to sweat. What if it was? What would that mean? I almost didn't want it to be what I thought. Would it be anything more than a check on my life list? Would there be any hope to save the slim remains of a once prolific species? Their food, their habitat, their gene pool - all gone. What remains are only spirits and dreams and that's all that bird was that I was chasing. A wish for the past. If these ghosts still haunt their arctic breeding grounds I wish them life and their daily rituals of courtship and nest building. I can see them eyeing a snowy owl while snatching up crowberries, alert and alive and that is what I want to hold on to not this dream that I will be given this bird, an epiphany, a revelation on wings. It isn't for me. And the same goes for all extinct birds. Regret helps nothing, but remembering and learning the way they lived and died can only bring us closer to understanding ourselves and the birds we live with.

We must watch and learn and remember what could happen. I think of the young chickadees roaming the backyard, begging and harassing their parents and I can see young carolina parakeets. They once lived each day. They had their specialized habitats, just as birds do now. They weren't doomed from the start. We need to know that even chickadees need certain things to live, just as we do. We must keep learning what human intrusion does to the land and its life. It's cliché to say the environment is a delicate balance, but there is no doubt that it is true.

And as I read I realize that being sad will do nothing. In reading this book we can learn from our past and help the future. I don't want to be reading a book in fifty years titled "Where Did We Go Wrong?: The Decline and Demise of North American Birds". In a composition class I taught while I was a graduate student I used the word "extinction" as the start of a brain storming project. When we got to bird species not one student could name an extinct bird from North America. These birds need to be remembered and Mr. Cokinos' book does just that. We need to relate the lives of these birds to others. Show people what we have lost and what we could still lose.

Birds are my connection to the world around me. Their wings carry me into the lives of so many wonderful places and that connection is precious to me. We must keep this connection vibrant between us and birds and always remember.

WINTER SEASON ROUNDUP

December 1, 1999 through February 29, 2000

by Pete Janzen

This winter season's weather was very similar to the previous year, with very mild temperatures for the most part, interrupted by a few short periods of cold weather. The large lakes remained at least partially unfrozen throughout the period. It was also a very wet season across most of the state. In Wichita it was the second-wettest winter on record.

As one might expect given this weather, a majority of the unusual bird sightings were of southern species lingering well north of their usual winter haunts, sometimes in surprisingly large numbers. Sparrows in particular seem to be shifting their winter range in recent years. Song, Savannah, and White-throated Sparrows were all found across the state in higher than usual numbers. More unusual sparrow species, such as Henslow's and LeConte's, also appeared in unexpected places. Christmas counts turned up some interesting patterns, with House Wrens appearing in Medicine Lodge and Elkhart on the same weekend, and Eastern Phoebe on 3 widely separated counts. Wetland and water birds also appear to be shifting their winter ranges northward. Species such as Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, and Double-crested Cormorant all survived the winter period at a variety of locations, sometimes in surprising numbers. Really odd finds in the "should be way south of here by now" category included White-faced Ibis, Willet, multiple Whooping Cranes, Sedge Wren, Gray Catbird, Northern Parula, and Cape May and Pine Warblers. No you aren't seeing

things, there really were two different Anna's Hummingbirds seen in Kansas this winter!

Wichita once again was a mecca for gull watching. The unique conjunction of a massive landfill with numerous adjacent lakes, ponds, and rivers seems to act as a powerful magnet for gulls from across the region, which often include outstanding rare species from both ocean coasts, as well as the Arctic. The peak was probably Feb. 12, when an amazing eight species of gulls were identified in the dump/river/sandpit area. One more winter remains for this gull mecca, so it's next year or nothing for all you gull freaks out there....you know who you are!! Other areas were productive for gulls as well, with Cheyenne Bottoms producing a Great Black-backed Gull, and other good gull sightings from John Redmond, Clinton, Wilson, and elsewhere.

Several interesting waterfowl species included Surf and White-winged Scoters, and 2 Barrow's Goldeneye reports. Long-tailed Duck (formerly Oldsquaw), and American Black Duck both appeared in a good variety of locations. A waterfowl die-off was reported at Quivira in late November and early December, but seemed to dissipate before becoming a major event.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion, first noted in the fall, continued unabated throughout the winter. Many observers commented on the large scale of the invasion. Few birders missed this bird on trips out this

winter. Purple Finches put on perhaps their best showing in years. Pine Siskins were considered common by at least some observers, an encouraging change from recent years. White-winged Crossbills and Snow Buntings made a couple of cameo appearances, but other northern invasive species seemed to be absent this year.

The west was more quiet this winter, but the Western Scrub Jay was reported from two locations, and a surprise find was made of two Barred Owls along the Cimmaron R. at the state line, of considerable interest to Colorado birders in particular. How about 4 million Lapland Longspurs in a single flock? This incredible sight, reported by Scott Seltman in Pawnee County on Jan. 17, represented a reasonable estimate based on the acreage covered, and was reported to be louder than a jet engine when the birds all took flight at once.

Hope you enjoy the report, don't forget to keep those records coming to me, either on KSBIRD or by letter or phone. As always, all bird records listed here are subject to review by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

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>COUNTY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>
Common Loon	11 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/19/99	MR
	1 at Clinton Lake	Douglas	12/28/99	LM
	1 at Cheney Res	Reno	1/7-19/00	CG
Note: Up to 5 Common Loons were seen at once at Cheney over the winter months				
	1 at Burlington Lake	Coffey	1/16/00	MM,MC
	3 at Wilson Lake	Russell	2/2	MR
Pacific Loon	1 at Cheney Res.	Reno	10/31/99 -2/2/00	CG
Horned Grebe	1 at Marion Dam	Marion	12/13	DWE
	2 on Olsburg CBC	Pottawatamie	12/22	CJ
Western Grebe	3 at Cheney Res	Reno	12/7/99	CG
	3 at Marion Dam	Marion	12/13/99	DWE
	4 at Cedar Bluff Res	Trego	12/16/99	SS
	1 on Manhattan CB	Riley	12/18/99	TC,DB
	5 at LaCygne Lake	Linn	1/31-2/26	MC
	1 possible Western/Clark's hybrid		Sedgwick	2/3-5 DV,
m.ob				
American White Pelican	8 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	2/18/99	GP
	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Wyandotte	1/3/00	LM
	1 at Cheney Res.,	Reno	1/7/00	CG
	1 at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	1/8/00	MM
	11 at Cheney Res.	Reno	1/19/00	CG
<i>Note: White Pelicans successfully overwintered at several lakes and marshes this winter.</i>				
Double-crested Cormorant	100 at Wichita	Sedgwick	2/26	CG,TH
	several at Tuttle	Riley	2/26	TC
<i>Note: DC Cormorants also survived the winter successfully at several locations.</i>				
Black-crnd Night-Heron	3 at Wichita,	Sedgwick	12/18/99	PM, ES
Note: these birds were present for at least most of December on the grounds at the zoo.				
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/26/99	GP
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	1/3/00	MG
White-faced Ibis	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	12/18/99	BG,MR
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	1/3/00	MG
Turkey Vulture	2 seen near McClouth, 1 st of spring	Jefferson	2/21	WO
Trumpeter Swan	1 N of Wakefield	Clay	12/19/99	CO
	4 NE of Ottawa	Franklin	12/15	MS
	5 at Tuttle Creek	Riley	12/20/99	DB
	3 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/28/99	RR
	4 at Dodge City	Ford	12/31/99	JD
	2 N of Chanute	Neosho	2/31/99	RM
Note: Chanute birds were found shot, 1 dead, 1 survived but lost a wing				
	2 at Harvey Co. East Lake	Harvey	2/3	GF
Tundra Swan	2 imm. At Waconda Lake	Mitchell	12/10/99	KDWP
	6 SW of Nekoma	Rush	2/6	SD & StS
	3 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	2/20-26	CG

Ross's Goose	50+ at Cedar Bluff Res	Trego	12/16/99	SS
	1 blue phase at Cheney	Reno	12/24	CG
	55+ in	Pawnee	12/27/99	SS
	1 first county record	Meade	2/27	TF, m.ob.

Note: Many other sightings of Ross's Geese were reported statewide this year

Mallard/N. Pintail hybrid	1 at Quivira	Stafford	1/3	MG
Black Duck	2 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/18/9	GP
	2 at Perry Lake	Jefferson	12/28/99	LM
	1 N Lawrence Sand Pit	Douglas	1/8/00	MM
	1 at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	2/14	GP,MC
	1 at Wichita (2d Co. record)	<u>Sedgwick</u>	2/15-16	PJ,CG,DK,WC
Blue-winged Teal	6 at Marais des Cygnes	Linn	2/26	MM
	2 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	2/26	CG, TH
Greater Scaup	10 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	2/10/99	JH
	3 on Oldsburg CBC	Pottawatomie	12/24/99	CJ
	5 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	12/26/99	PW
	10 at Wichita	Sedgwick	2/14	JB,CG,TH
Surf Scoter	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/3/99	LH
	1 at Wichita	Sedgwick	1/24/00	PJ
White-winged Scoter	1 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	1/30-2/12	AS,RP. M.ob
Oldsquaw	1 at Shawnee Mission Lake	Johnson	12/19-28/99	AM,mob
	1 at Emporia	Lyon	12/19	MS
	1 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	12/28/99	BB
	1 at Wyandotte Co. Lake	Wyandotte	1/3/00	LM
	1 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	2/8	MP
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	1 imm. male at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	2/9-17	PJ,CG,W&RJ
	1 imm. male at Emporia	Lyon	2/12	MS
Red-breasted Merganser	4 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/28	TC, MR
Hooded Mergansers	30+ at Cheney Res	Reno	12/7/99	CG
	225 at Cedar Bluff Res.	Trego	12/16/99	SS
	200+ at Hillsdale Lake	Miami	1/30/00	MC
Bald Eagle	150 at Milford	Geary	12/27/99	CO
<i>Note: While Bald Eagles were common in the north, many southern lakes had very few this year.</i>				
Osprey	1 at Neosho WMA	Neosho	<u>12/11/99</u>	SAS
Northern Goshawk	1 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/18/99	GP
	1 on Waconda CBC	Mitchell	12/18/99	HA, SS
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 imm. At Marion Lake	Marion	1/7/00	CG
	1 near Eureka	Greenwood	1/30	BBR
	1 imm. at Wichita	Sedgwick	2/8/00	CG
	1 near Yates Center	Woodson	2/14/00	MC, GP

Ferruginous Hawk	1 at Melvern Lake	Osage	1/16/00	MM,MC
	2 on El Dorado CBC	<u>Butler</u>	12/19/99	WAS
	1 dark morph near Ellinwood	Barton		DW
Golden Eagle	2 imm. at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/19/99	MR
	2 adult at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/24/99	MR
	2 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/3/00	DV
	imm. near Cassoday	Butler	1/7/00	BL
Merlin	1 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/9/99	MR
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/12/99	MR
	3	Pawnee	12/12/99	SS
	1 on Lawrence CBC	Douglas	12/18/99	GP
	1 on Olsburg CBC	Pottawatomie	12/24/99	CJ
	1	Kiowa	12/31/99	GF
	6 on Cimarron NG CBC	Morton	12/31/99	SP, m.ob.
Peregrine Falcon	2 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/3/00	PJ, JNI
	1 on El Dorado CBC	Butler	12/19	WAS
Virginia Rail	1 in downtown Wichita	Sedgwick	2/25/00	BG
	6 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	<u>1/3</u>	PJ, DW, TW
Sandhill Crane	5 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	<u>2/26</u>	CG,TH
	1500-2000 E of Medicine Lodge	Barber	<u>12/26/99</u>	CG, DW
Whooping Crane	5-10 thousand at Quivira NWR	Stafford	2/7	CG
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>12/3/99</u>	LH
Killdeer	2 flying over Great Bend	Barton	<u>12/11/99</u>	LH
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>12/28/99-1/1/00</u>	MR,TC
	3 on Bonner Spgs. CBC		<u>1/3/99</u>	GP & others
Greater Yellowlegs	1 at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	<u>1/8/00</u>	MM
	1-2 all winter on Ark R., Wichita	Sedgwick	all winter	m.ob
	2 near Dorrance	Russell	12/7/99	MR
	1 at Lakeview	Douglas	2/4/99	GP,DS
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/12/99	MR
	1 on El Dorado CBC	Butler	12/19	WAS
	3 on Slate Creek Marsh CBC	Sumner	12/22/99	GY
	2 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	2/20	CG
3 at Marais des Cygnes	Linn	2/26	MM	
Lesser Yellowlegs	25 in Sumner, Stafford	Barton	2/26	CG,TH
	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton.	2/20	CG
Willet	4 at	Stafford/Barton	2/26	CG,TH
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>12/18/99</u>	BG,MR,SF,JL
Least Sandpiper	4 at Lakeview	Douglas	12/4-18/99	GP,DS
	17 at Wichita	Sedgwick	12/18/99	CG, PJ
	6 at John Redmond Res.	Coffey	12/18/99	AS
Common Snipe	6 at Lakeview	Douglas	12/4-18/99	GP,DS
	5 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	2/26	CG,TH

American Woodcock	several displaying in SE	Jefferson	2/24	GP
<u>Franklin's Gull</u>	1 in alternate plumage, Lawrence 1 in alt. plumage, Wichita	Douglas Sedgwick	<u>1/8/00</u> <u>1/18-2/29</u>	MM CG,mob
Bonaparte's Gull	200+ at Wilson Lake 150 at Cheney Res. 20 at Baxter Springs	Russell Reno Cherokee	12/19/99 12/19/99 1/23/00	MR CG CG, MG
California Gull	1 2 nd yr at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Clinton Lake 1 adult at Wichita 1 1 st yr at Tuttle Creek 1 1 st yr at Wichita 1 1 st yr at Wichita landfill 1 1 st yr at John Redmond Res. 1 adult at Wolf Creek Lake	Barton Douglas Sedgwick Riley Sedgwick Sedgwick Coffey Coffey	12/12/99 12/18/99 1/23 1/26 1/26 2/5 2/12 2/14	MR MM PJ TC,MR JB DW,JB,LE MM GP,MC
Thayer's Gull	1 at Wichita 1 1 st year at Clinton Lake 1 1 st year at Wichita 1 1 st year at Wichita 2 1 st year at John Redmond Res. 1 adult at Wichita. 1 1 st yr at John Redmond Res.	Sedgwick Douglas Sedgwick Sedgwick Coffey Sedgwick Coffey	12/18/99 12/28/99 1/4/00 1/23/00 1/30/00 2/5 2/12	PJ LM CG PJ AS,RP PJ,DW,JB,LE MM
<u>Iceland Gull</u>	1 2 nd winter at Wichita	Sedgwick	1/24-2/18	PJ,CG
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1 adult in NW Wichita	Sedgwick	1/17-2/10	CG
Glaucous Gull	3 at Clinton Lake 2 at Clinton Lake 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 3 rd year at Wichita landfill 2 1 st yr at Wichita landfill 4-5 at Wichita landfill 1 at Wilson Lake	Douglas Douglas Barton Sedgwick Sedgwick Sedgwick Russell	12/24/99 12/18-23/99 12/28/99 2/5 2/12 2/18 2/25	DG MM MR,TC DW,LE PJ CG,PJ MR
<u>Glaucous-winged Gull</u>	1 1 st yr at Wichita landfill Seen again near K-96 bridge	Sedgwick Sedgwick	2/12 2/17	DW,PJ DV
<u>Great Black-backed Gull</u>	1 3 rd year at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	12/26-2/8/99	GP
Jaeger species	unidentified jaeger at Perry	Jefferson	12/4/99	RR
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u>	1 at Hardtner 5 at Burdett 19 at Girard 2 in Manhattan 18 in Hugoton	Barber Rush Crawford Riley Stevens	12/26/99 12/1/99- 1/16/00 1/1-3/00 1/22	CG GS,SS MP DR
<u>White-winged Dove</u>	1 at Wichita residence	Sedgwick	2/3-7	D&MC

Inca Dove	1 at Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	12/15/99	CH
	1 at Oxford	Sumner	12/15/99	WC
	4 in Greensburg	Kiowa	1/14/00	SS
	6 at Feeder in Meade	Meade	1/?-2/29	TF
Greater Roadrunner	3 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/3	ME, GJ, m.ob
Barn Owl 16+ at Cedar Bluff Res	3	Trego	12/16/99	SS
	2 on Cimarron NG CBC	Geary	12/19/99	C&JO
	2 in barn near Lehigh	Morton	12/31/99	SP, m.ob
		Marion	through period	CN
Burrowing Owl	3 on Cimarron NG CBC	Morton	<u>12/31/99</u>	SP & others
Barred Owl	2 at state line, Cimm. R	<u>Morton</u>	1/20/00	BP, CW
Snowy Owl	1 near Glen Elder	Mitchell	1/7/00?	<i>Fide</i> HA
Long-eared Owl	2 at Cedar Bluff Res.	Trego	12/16/99	SS
	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	1/3/00	MG
	3 near Salina	Saline	1/3/00	DW
	25-30 at Lyon Co. State Lake	Lyon	1/5/00	CG
	12 in cedar grove Hillsdale Lake	Miami	1/24/00	MG,AM
Short-eared Owl	3 at Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	1/6/00	CG
<u>Anna's Hummingbird</u>	1 adult female at Salina residence	Saline	<u>1/13-25</u>	DR
	1 adult female at Overland Park	Johnson	<u>2/7</u>	CH
Eastern Phoebe	1 on Slate Creek CBC	Sumner	<u>12/22</u>	GY
	1 at Lone Star Lake	Douglas	<u>12/29/99</u>	PW
	2 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	<u>1/3/00</u>	DA,GF,SR,ES
	2 at Oxford	Sumner	2/26	CG,TH
Northern Shrike	1 N. of Keats	Riley	12/15/99	DR
	1	Pawnee	1/8/00	SS
	1	Rush	1/13/00	SS
	1 imm. At Quivira NWR	Stafford	2/7	CG
<u>Western Scrub Jay</u>	1 at residence in Dodge City	Ford	12/12/99	JD
	1 at Boy Scout area, Cimarron NG	Morton	1/20	BP,CW
American Crow	75,000 at Wichita roost	Sedgwick	12/18/99	PJ
<u>Tree Swallow</u>	1 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	<u>12/18/99</u>	TC,DB
	Several at Flint Hills NWR	Coffey	2/26/00	C&JO
Sedge Wren	2 in Fancy Canyon	Comanche	12/26/99	CG
	1 s. of Medicine Lodge	Barber	1/3/00	DA,CG,DW,TW
<u>House Wren</u>	1 on Cimarron NG CBC	Morton	<u>12/31/99</u>	SP & others
	1 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	<u>1/3/00</u>	GF, AP, SR

Mountain Bluebird	25 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/9/99	MR
	20 at Wilson Lake	Russell	12/19/99	MR
	50 in	Barber	12/26/99	CG
	120	Kiowa	12/31/99	GF
	1066 on Red Hills CBC	Barber	1/3/00	PJ & others
	12 at Wilson State Park	Russell	2/3	MR
	56 (3 flocks)	Morton	2/6	BP, MJ
	25 at Wilson State Park	Russell	2/26	MR
Hermit Thrush	2 at Presbyterian camp, Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>12/13/99</u>	CG
	1 on Webster Res. CBC	Rooks	<u>12/26/99</u>	SS
	1 on Ark City CBC	Cowley	<u>12/26/99</u>	GY
	1 in Manhattan yard	Pottawatomie	<u>1/1/00</u>	ASE
<u>Gray Catbird</u>	1 at Olathe residence	Johnson	<u>1/3-28</u>	MC
<u>Orange-crowned Warbler</u>	1 in Lawrence	Douglas	<u>12/12/99 – 1/5-7/00</u>	RR
	1 in Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>1/1/00</u>	BM
	1 at SW College	Cowley	<u>2/17</u>	CG
<u>Northern Parula</u>	1 at Southwest College, Winfield	Cowley	<u>12/19/99</u>	MT
<u>Cape May Warbler</u>	1 imm. at Lawrence feeder	Douglas	<u>1/30-31</u>	JC,PW
<u>Pine Warbler</u>	1 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	<u>12/18/99</u>	DR
Eastern Towhee	1 on El Dorado CBC	Butler	12/19/99	WAS
	1 at Harvey West Park	Harvey	1/13/00	GF
<u>Vesper Sparrow</u>	1 at Cimarron NG	Morton	<u>1/20/00</u>	BP,CW
<u>Lark Bunting</u>	1 on Cimarron NG CBC	Morton	<u>12/31/99</u>	SP, m.ob
Savannah Sparrow	30 near Winfield	Cowley	1/29/00	MT
	<i>Note: Savannah Sparrows were reported from many locales this winter.</i>			
<u>Henslow's Sparrow</u>	1 on Manhattan CBC	Riley	<u>12/18/99</u>	MS
	1 W of Medicine Lodge	Barber	<u>12/26/99</u>	CG
LeConte's Sparrow	8 at Baker Wetlands	Douglas	12/18/99	RB
	3 on Slate Creek CBC	Sumner	12/22/99	GY
	1 at Medicine Lodge	Barber	1/3/00	CG, m.ob
	2 at Lyon Co. St. Lake	Lyon	1/29/00	DR, JSC
White-throated Sparrow	1 in Elkhart	Morton	1/21/00	BP, CW
	Unusually common all winter	Sedgwick		m.ob
	Ditto for Harvey Co. all winter	Harvey		m.ob
Song Sparrow	330 at Wichita	Sedgwick	12/18/99	PJ
<u>Golden-crowned Sparrow</u>	1 at Wolf Creek Lake	Coffey	1/26	MS

Off-the Beaten-Path Birding Hotspots at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area

by Helen Hands

This past spring was not unusual in that there were excellent birding opportunities off the main road through Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (between Highway 156 and the office). Water levels were high enough that few shorebirds could be seen from the main road. Although this route goes by some excellent viewing areas, areas off the main road frequently offer additional birding opportunities. These out-of-the-way places include the parking lots behind Pools 3 and 4, the DOT rest area along Highway 156, the Pool 3A-3B and 4A-4B dikes, and the Mitigation Marsh.

On the CBWA map, the parking lots are marked with stars and the names of the best for wildlife viewing are labeled. Habitat features near parking lots that attract birds include shallowly excavated and disked areas with sparse to no cattail and tree belts. In addition, all parking lots provide access to grassland habitat where you can find a variety of songbirds. The roads to some of the parking lots are not as good as the main roads. So, be careful after rains.

Redwing Lot – Check for shorebirds in ditch on north side of road to parking lot.

Pike Lot – Look for shorebirds and ducks if water is abundant in Pool 3B.

Schrepel Lot – If lots of water in Pool 4A, check for shorebirds, ducks, and wading birds in flooded grass. Tree belt for woodland birds.

Deadman Lot – Tree belt for woodland birds.

White Rock Lot – Check for shorebirds and ducks in shallow excavations and in flooded grass.

Ridge Road Lot – If ample water in Pools 4A and/or 4B, check for shorebirds.

DOT Rest Area – If high water in Pool 4B, look for shorebirds, ducks, and wading birds in flooded grass.

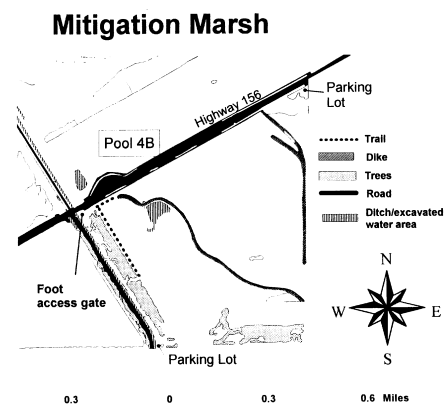
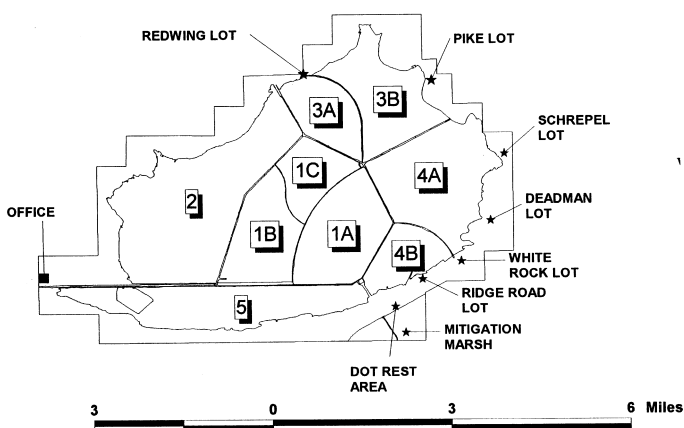
Pool 3A-3B dike – If portion of Pool 3A visible from main road is too dry for ducks and shorebirds, try walking this dike from Redwing Lot.

Pool 4A-4B dike – Additional viewing of birds in Pools 4A and 4B that might not be visible from main road.

Mitigation Marsh (see map) - The wetland features of this former crop field were enhanced in the early 1990s with 2 low dikes and a pump station. The dike, which runs northwest to southeast, splits the Mitigation Marsh into 2 pools. Thousands of shorebirds and ducks used both pools of the Mitigation Marsh this past spring. Unfortunately, you can't see most of these birds from a road. It's about a ¼-mile walk to good viewing locations.

These off-the-beaten-path birding spots may take some time and effort to reach. However, when conditions are right, these spots can provide excellent birding.

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We regret that the Kid's Page is not available in this electronic format.