

The Official Newsletter  
of the  
Kansas Ornithological Society

## The Horned Lark

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### From The Keyboard -

After two years without a "winter", I'm sure many of you joined me in welcoming a nice, colder than normal November. Especially when we started seeing some rare to unusual birds in the state. Of course, that just heightens the expectations or hopes for the Christmas Bird Counts. A list of which can be found on page 16 by the way!

I entered into an interesting discussion with a few friends recently about the nature of birdwatchers. It was a discussion worthy of more thought and a future article in *The Horned Lark*, but for now it will only receive a brief mention. The concept was one of "sharing birders" and "selfish birders." Sharing birders are those who are always willing to help someone else, regardless of their experience or expertise. There are several birders in the region and nationally, that immediately come to mind. Then, there are the selfish birders. Those who have been to Attu six times, have 750+ birds on their life list and won't give a beginning birder the time of day.

Like many other KOS members, I obtained my copies of Kaufman's and Sibley's new guides just as soon as I could. I read an interview with Kenn Kaufman about the time that his guide was released. He was talking about why birding should be fun and how he would rather spend time birding with beginners, because everything was new to them, and the joy of the discovery was contagious. There's a sharing birder!

We're heading helter skelter into the Christmas season. If you are like me, you'll wind up stumped about what present to get for this or that person. Why not share your joy of birds? Buy somebody one (or both) of the new field guides.

Purchase a one year membership in KOS. There are a lot of possibilities. Sharing brings more rewards and long term satisfaction than selfish birding. As I've lead bird walks over the years, I have learned as much as those participating in the walks. Which just goes to prove the old adage, "teaching is the best way to learn!"

In this busy holiday season, take a little time to share the joy of birding with a relative, a child, a friend or a complete stranger. The gift you receive in return will be priceless!

Happy Holidays! *chuck*

### Who's Who in KOS - 2001

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## **KOS Spring Meeting**

**May 4 - 6, 2001 (tentative)**

**Crossed Timbers area  
(Chataqua/Elk County)**

Look for registration information in  
the March 2001 issue!

## **Heading To Cheyenne Bottoms?**

Birders heading to Cheyenne Bottoms need to be aware that highway K-156 is under construction and closed from Great Bend to the Barton-Ellsworth line. Bummer! Best bet if you are coming from a westerly direction is probably to come in from the west past the headquarters. If you are coming from an easterly direction follow the detour on highway K-4 and come in at the Redwing entrance (aka the Prairie Dog Town road). Information from the Kansas Department of Transportation indicates that K-156 is scheduled to be closed until July 2001. If you are headed to Quivira NWR take the detour to Claflin and then take the paved road south from the east edge of Claflin. This will eventually get you back to the road that goes into Ellinwood from the north.

## **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, Dave Williams at 1100 W. 21st St., Lawrence, KS 66049, (785) 843-1159, or via e-mail at DaveWmsKS@aol.com

## **Want to go to Africa?**

Max Thompson has advised us that he will be heading up a birding/mammal trip to Kenya and Tanzania, July 15 - 31, 2001. The price is quite reasonable out of Wichita. I've seen the itinerary and all I can say is that it's too bad I'll be busy with a county fair! For more details, cost and a copy of the itinerary you can contact Max Thompson at maxt@sckans.edu or (316) 229-6304.

## **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 - Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center**

**Spring 2002 - Junction City/Geary County**

**Fall 2002 - ??????????????????????**

**Spring 2003 - Emporia**

**Fall 2004 and Beyond - Volunteers and locations  
needed!**

## **New KOS Rare Bird Alert Hotline Number**

**316-441-5555**

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## Wrens At A Glance

by *John Rakestraw*

Small, active, and well camouflaged, the wrens can be a challenging group of birds to identify. When you compare the illustrations of the different wrens in a field guide, the differences may seem pretty clear. But in the real world, wrens seldom give you the opportunity to see them well. A quick glance and some chattering calls from the undergrowth may be all you get. If you require long studies to make your identifications, you will find the wrens to be a frustrating group. If you learn what to look for, however, you can identify most wrens at a glance. Then when that rare cooperative wren sits out in the open and sings for you, you can sit back and really enjoy it.

Eight species of wrens have been seen in Kansas. Below is a brief description of what to look for in each species.

Abundant throughout the state in the summer months, House Wrens are best distinguished by their lack of distinguishing marks. The upperparts are a dull grayish brown with fine barring on the wings and tail. The breast and belly are a pale grayish brown. House Wrens have a very indistinct pale supercilium (line over the eye).

Winter Wrens are uncommon migrants and winter residents, more likely to be found in the eastern half of the state. Winter Wrens can appear quite similar to House Wrens, but are darker overall, with very dark underparts. The pale supercilium is small but distinct. Look for strong barring on the flanks. The tail of this bird is noticeably shorter than that of other wrens, although this trait is not as obvious as in the illustration in the Peterson field guide. Winter Wrens tend to stay close to the ground.

Carolina Wrens are the easiest to identify. Large and stocky, these birds sport bright rusty upperparts, buffy orange underparts, and a long white supercilium.

Although slimmer in build, Bewick's Wrens appear similar to Carolinas. They have a very prominent supercilium, although it is usually not quite as white. The upperparts have a reddish cast, but are not as rusty as the Carolina's. The underparts of Bewick's Wrens are pale gray. The most distinguishing feature of a Bewick's Wren is its long tail, which the bird constantly flicks from side to side. The outer tail feathers are flecked with white.

Marsh Wrens are most often seen in cattail marshes. These birds display a lot of rusty color on the wings and rump, and light streaking on the dark back. The throat and breast are off white and the sides and flanks are a pale rufous. Marsh Wrens have a prominent white supercilium.

Sedge Wrens are residents of prairies and meadows. Their upperparts are a light brown with dark streaks on the back and an orange tinge on the rump. The underparts are a pale buffy orange. The supercilium on the Sedge Wren is not as distinct as that of the Marsh Wren.

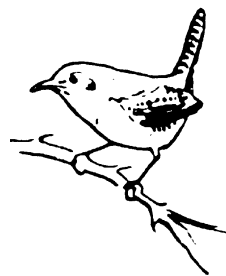
Rock Wrens are found in rocky habitat (go figure) in the western third of the state. The upperparts and breast are a light gray with fine speckles and streaks. The flanks are buffy, as are the tips of the tail feathers. Unlike the other wrens, Rock Wrens usually maintain an upright posture. They also have a habit of bobbing up and down.

Canyon Wrens have been seen a few times in far western Kansas. They have very long bills and a distinctive white throat. The head is grayish. The back, tail, and belly are dark rufous with dark barring.

If you can get a decent look at the birds, visual identification of wrens is not all that difficult. The difficult part is getting a decent look. If you are quiet and patient, most birds will reveal themselves in time. While I am not a big fan of noise making to attract birds, some wrens respond very well to gentle "pishing" if your time or patience is running out.

If the wren you are hunting is singing, then identification becomes much easier. Each species has a unique song, although there is a tremendous amount a variation among individuals. A seemingly limitless variety of musical notes, bubbling song, and harsh chatter, most wren vocalizations defy written description (although every field guide attempts it). Spend some time in the field and listen to recordings. You will quickly learn to recognize most of the "standard" vocalizations. With some practice, you will learn to recognize some wren species by the quality of their voice. Then those many birds who put their individual twists to their songs won't be quite so confusing.

*John can be contacted at [rakestraw@dayton.net](mailto:rakestraw@dayton.net)*



## Back In Time

by *Chet Gresham*

Every trip I take to the Red Hills in south-central Kansas takes me back into another time. I think of Black Bear living in the caves and James Mead, early trader, hunter, businessman, who smoked them out of their caves to hunt them. The Caldwell sheriff and his deputies being chased into a box canyon after they robbed the Medicine Lodge bank eventually to be lynched by a mob of residents; and, of course, of Goss back in those canyons searching for birds and finding the now endangered Black-capped Vireos to be common and nesting. The Red Hills like the Flint Hills have a saving grace in that they can't be tilled. Cattle, oil pumps, a few ranch houses, and the roads that connect them are the only signs of humans. The more time I spend there the closer I feel to a time before the "winning of the west."

Much of the Red Hills is privately owned which can make birding here difficult. With some work a person can receive permission to many of the areas in Barber and Comanche County, (the only two counties where the Red Hills are found). In some ways the canyons of southeastern Comanche County differ from those of Barber County. They seem a little more imposing depth and width wise and contain more exposed rock and boulders. These conditions can attract a rare visitor to our state -- the Rufous-crowned Sparrow. Never having seen them in the state I made it my mission to get down there. I had heard of a KOS field trip to Swartz Canyon in which the group had found the sparrows, so with a little work I obtained permission to bird there.

My permission had a few stipulations including that I bring a friend just in case I fell down a cliff or some other related disaster so I asked my friend Tyler Hicks who is willing to go about anywhere to see a bird. He of course said he would, and who wouldn't! - a chance to see a hard to find life Kansas bird, a breathtaking landscape, and a dream of finding a bird that has been extirpated from the state for over 100 years! So in early July, with a map, a picture of the exact place and moment when 20+ Kansas birders saw a Rufous-crowned Sparrow, back packs, sleeping bags, food, water, a Saturn, and dreams of two birds, one with a rufous cap and one with a black one, we set out.

After filling up the car in Medicine Lodge we kept moving down highway 160 and into the Red Hills. The Red Hills are like nothing else - their red soil shapes peaks and buttes and gypsum glistening from gullies, cedars line canyons and ponds are tucked away where only cattlemen and cattle know. And of course there are the birds. In the winter Mountain Bluebirds flocking into the hundreds can make an unreal color combo of red soil, evergreen, and that vibrant blue. Golden Eagles and Ferruginous Hawks stalk the crests and valleys and roadrunners slip through fence and are gone into canyons. And of course the ever present Painted Buntings of summer perched atop cedars singing their warbled song. These hills are hard to know. Driving down the few public roads that there are gives us a sense, but it's one only of awe and a need to know more. So when we turned off the dirt road onto the two ruts in the grass I started to feel Wichita, my job, and even all of industrialism fall behind me. When we realized we had taken the wrong fork because the thistle had eaten up what we thought was a road we abandoned the car and decided to walk the rest of the way. That is when the present truly began to slip away.

After crossing the Salt Fork of the Arkansas, causing some cattle anxiety and logging three miles under our boots we came to the mouth of the canyon. The sun was about to drop below the west wall and it was finally starting to dip below 100 degrees. We made camp and decided to look and listen for Rufous-crowned Sparrows. The picture seemed to have been taken near our camp, but no luck there. We were hearing and seeing Great-crested Flycatchers, Rock Wrens, Lark Sparrows and Painted Buntings, but no Rufous-crowned Sparrows. We decided to walk a little further up the canyon and quickly we heard a jumbled series of notes that seemed to be right. The sparrow's song is usually likened to a variation of a House Wren's song. Then we saw a sparrow chasing another sparrow in some brush up high along the cliff face and there they were, two Rufous-crowned Sparrows! One sulked into the brush while the other flew to a cedar and began to sing. Then a few minutes later we heard another Rufous-crowned Sparrow singing in a side canyon across from where we were and when we got back to where we had made camp we heard yet another bird singing just above our camp!

- - *continued next page*

That evening we heard a chorus of Chuck-will's-widows and Common Poorwills. The sky was cloudless and after the moon set the stars were so close and textured they felt like they were right on top of me. In the morning the sun rose over the Salt Fork valley and we woke to the calls of buntings, flycatchers, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, and even a Louisiana Waterthrush. We wanted to explore the canyon more in the hopes of finding more sparrows and maybe even a vireo. We had heard of a Black-capped Vireo that was seen just five miles south of Comanche Co. in Woods Co. Oklahoma. Just this year there were an estimated 2000 vireos in the Wichita Mountains of southwest Oklahoma. With these kinds of numbers and the still suitable habitat of the Red Hills it seems just a matter of time before a Black-capped Vireo is found again in Kansas. But after finding two more singing Rufous-crowned Sparrows we had no luck in finding a

vireo. It was quickly getting hot so we cut our day a little short and hiked out of the canyon and to the car.

Not seeing a Black-capped Vireo just gives me another excuse to explore the region even more. The canyon is reminiscent of other places I've been birding in Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, but it is right here in our state! The more I explore Kansas the more I love it and the wonderful birds that live and pass through here. Without cowbird control maybe the Black-capped Vireo couldn't viably return to our state, but it doesn't seem that far-fetched that they might. I will always hold out hope and hopefully some day we'll see their return. But until then I'm going to enjoy birding in the Red Hills and learn more with every visit.

*Chet can be reached at cogresha@juno.com*

**Ten Best Birds  
As presented by Gene Young  
At the KOS Fall Meeting Banquet  
October 7, 2000**

An annual tradition at the KOS Fall Meeting Banquet is the presentation of the Ten Best Birds of the previous 12 month period. There has been a great deal of debate over the years as to what constitutes the ten best birds. Elmer Finck continues to hold out for the Dickcissel, whereas Dave Rintoul feels that the list should be renamed the *ten rarest birds*. Regardless, tradition holds and following are the ten best birds as selected by a committee wishing to remain somewhat anonymous!

- 10 - Wood Stork (Garden City)
- 9 - Calliope Hummingbird invasion
- 8 - Pyrrhuloxia (Quivira NWR in May)
- 7 - Cassin's Finch
- 6 - Pygmy Nuthatch
- 5 - Williamson's Sapsucker (65 years since the last, and only, unsubstantiated record)
- 4 - Long-billed Thrasher
- 3 - Painted Redstart (Quivira NWR in May)
- 2 - Juniper Titmouse (not known for wandering)
- 1 - Flammulated Owl (Patti, Rader and Seltman, Morton County in May).

For more details, and an entertaining discussion go to:  
[http://ksbirds.org/kos/bestbirds\\_2000.htm](http://ksbirds.org/kos/bestbirds_2000.htm)

**Cyberbirding -  
Bird Watchers Resources  
in the Virtual World**

Every week the resource list grows. It has reached a point far beyond where I thought it could, as quickly as it did! World Wide Web resources for the beginning, intermediate or experienced birder are there for the using IF you can find them.

Do you want to see web pages devoted to gulls or hummingbirds? They're out there. Need a bird checklist for almost any state in the union? It's out there. Interested in ornithological societies in other states? Just about every state organization now has a web page. Do you want to know what birds have been reported for every county in Kansas? That's now available also!

Because the list of resources changes daily, there is no one complete list. But that's okay. Once you get to a couple of pages, you'll find that they always have links to others. For the beginner (maybe you just got online for Christmas!), start at <http://ksbirds.org>, the home page for KOS and more. Look for "David Seibel's E-Birding Page" and click on it. You're now on your way. And if you want to join the Kansas Birds Listserve discussion list, drop me an e-mail message (otte@jc.net) and include your first and last name and e-mail address. Then sit back and wait for the fun to begin!

# SUMMER SEASON ROUNDUP

June 1, 2000 through July 31, 2000

by Pete Janzen

The summer reporting period of June and July 2000 was for the most part slightly cooler and wetter than normal in most parts of Kansas. The number of people reporting sightings always dips in the summer, but those venturing into the field this season had some interesting finds.

Many species enjoyed good nesting success this year. In the northeast, Blue-winged and Prairie Warblers lingered into June, again raising hopes of nesting as they did last year. Black-necked Stilts and other marsh birds moved into new nesting territory in several counties. In Wichita, big news was the discovery of a colony of Least Terns at a construction site located over two miles from the Arkansas River. Despite the vulnerability of the site, a number of terns fledged successfully, thanks to the efforts of several people, including the developer himself! A confirmed nesting of Red-breasted Nuthatch was recorded at Wichita this summer. The Pet Cemetery at Ft. Riley continues to be a mecca for nesting by species ordinarily found a bit further east, including Scarlet Tanager and Yellow-throated Vireo. Of interest was a singing Louisiana Waterthrush, which was found at Swartz Canyon in Comanche County. While it was several counties west of known Kansas nesting sites, the habitat there is

appropriate, and the species nests as far west as this, and not far to the south, in central Oklahoma.

A bird species getting a lot of media attention was the Painted Bunting, confirmed nesting at Clinton State Park near Lawrence. A rare nesting species in Douglas County, prior nestings have been recorded there in earlier decades. A well-written article in the Lawrence Journal-World about Clinton's Painted Buntings got picked up on the wires, and eventually even made CNN Headline News!

One odd event was the appearance of Long-billed Curlews in many locations across the state in early June. Late migrants, or failed nesters heading south early? An interesting event, whatever the explanation. The Sedgwick County sighting was the first for this species in many years.

A widespread drought on the Gulf Coast drove many waders inland, and a few of these drifted to Kansas, most notably the Wood Stork at Garden City, as well as a couple of Tri-colored Herons.

Two other birds deserve special mention. The Calliope Hummingbird at Garden City was an adult male, and joins only a handful of previous records. This mirrored a major

invasion into the Front Range of Colorado this year by this species. The Long-billed Thrasher report, if accepted by the KBRC, will become a first state record for the species. It was observed in the shelterbelt at Elkhart.

A major omission from the spring report was the Lesser Nighthawk seen by a group of experienced observers at Elkhart earlier this spring. This convincing sight record will likely result in the addition of this species to the state checklist, with hypothetical status. Another late report was received of several Black Vultures sighted at Tuttle Creek Reservoir by a Colorado birder sometime in May, and also apparently photographed! More on that later, hopefully.

Thanks for the reports that make this compilation what it is, and good luck with your birding this fall!

Abbreviations: CB: Cheyenne Bottoms, MDC: Marais Des Cygnes, m.ob. denotes multiple observers too numerous to list

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate exceptionally unusual sightings.

Underlined species indicate especially unusual species sightings for Kansas.

*Pete can be reached at:*

<u>Species</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Common Loon	3 at Tuttle Cr.	Riley	6/10	DB, TC
<i>Note: Common Loons were reported at Tuttle Creek throughout the summer.</i>				
White Pelican	14 on Ark R. in Wichita	Sedgwick	6/23	PJ
Great Egret	<u>200</u> at Quivira NWR	Stafford	6/17	SS
Tri-Colored Heron	1 on Kansas R.	Pottawatomie	6/18	PO

	1 at Quivira	Stafford	7/1	SF, CG, CM
White-faced Ibis	5 at Hargis Lake	Barber	7/4	DA, CR
<b>Wood Stork</b>	1 imm. at Garden City Zoo	Finney	6/16-19	DB, CG
Gr. White-fronted Goose	1 at Quivira	Stafford	6/17	SS
Ruddy Duck	1 with duckling at playa lake	Meade	6/10	TF
	3 all summer at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	PJ, m.ob.	
Hooded Merganser	1 female at Tuttle Creek	Riley	6/15	TC
Mississippi Kite	1 in downtown Lawrence	Douglas	6/7	DW
	<i>Note: M. Kites seem to be spreading into new nesting territory, including Salina, Junction City, Lawrence, and Overland Park.</i>			
	56 in staging flock, Garden City	Finney	7/20	BC
Broad-winged Hawk	1 adult at Perry Lake	Jefferson	7/22	RR
Northern Harrier	1 male	Dickinson	6/12	C&JO
	Pair at Wilson St. Park	Russell	6/22	MR
	1 at Fort Riley	Riley	6/28	DR
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 agitated female near Mulvane	Sedgwick	6/10	JB
Cooper's Hawk	nest w/ young at O.P. Arboretum	Johnson	6/19	MG
	1 on Little Ark R., Wichita	Sedgwick	6/18	PJ
	1 on BBS route	Barton	6/20	MR
	1 at Ft. Riley	Riley	6/28	DR, JR
Ferruginous Hawk	1 overhead at Ft. Riley	Riley	6/13	DR
Black Rail	1 at Quivira	Stafford	7/1	SF, CG, CM
	3 at Quivira	Stafford	7/19	CG
	1 at Hargis Lake	Barber	7/23	MG, PJ
Common Moorhen	1 juvenile near Kiowa	Barber	7/23	PJ
Sandhill Crane	several southbound at Garden City	Finney	7/16	BC
Piping Plover	1 at Quivira	Stafford	6/12	CG
Black-necked Stilt	2 at playa lake	Meade	6/10	TF
	pair w/3 juvenile young, Hargis Lake	Barber	7/23	DA, CG, MG, PJ
	<i>Note: The Hargis birds were observed in downy fledged age earlier in the summer.</i>			
	Nest with 4 eggs	<u>Meade</u>	6/1	LE
	Pair w/4 downy young	Meade	6/13	LE
	<i>Note: These were first county nesting records to the best of my knowledge. The BN Stilt nest with eggs that was reported in Liberal in late May was flooded out before the beginning of this report period.</i>			
Whimbrel	1 at Quivira	Stafford	6/25	SF, CG
Long-billed Curlew	1 on playa lake	Meade	6/10	TF

	1 on Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	6/11	PJ
	5 on a playa near Liberal	Seward	6/15	LE
	1 east of Kinsley	Edwards	7/5	MR
Marbled Godwit	1 at Quivira	Stafford	6/25	SF, CG
	1 at Quivira	Stafford	7/12	CG
Ring-billed Gull	1 adult summered at Wichita	Sedgwick	6/1-7/31	PJ, m.ob.
Caspian Tern	6 at Clinton L.	Douglas	6/28	Gpa
	10 at Melvern Res.	Osage	7/22	MC, MM
	9 at Perry Res	Jefferson	7/22	RR
Least Tern	11 adults, 8 chicks, 2 eggs	Sedgwick	6/23	SF, BG, CG, PJ
	<i>Note: This first county nesting record received a lot of media attention. Despite being located in an active construction site, the colony successfully fledged a number of young.</i>			
Eurasian Collared-Dove	3 at Pittsburg feeder	Crawford	6/2	RM
	3 in Pratt	Pratt	6/17	SS
	1 in Lawrence	Douglas	6/19	RJ
	2 in Lawrence	Douglas	6/22	GP, DS
	2 in Kinsley	Edwards	6/20	MR
	2 adults w/fledgling in Valley Ctr.	Sedgwick	7/14	BM
Black-billed Cuckoo	singing birds on BBS route	Harvey/McPher.	6/3	GF
	Singing bird near Andale	Sedgwick	6/11	CG, PJ
Burrowing Owl	adults with fledges	Ness	7/8	SS
Greater Roadrunner	1 near Aetna	Barber	7/2	DA
	1 south of Sharon	Barber	7/23	DA, CG, MG, PJ
Rufous Hummingbird	1 imm. at Garden City feeder	Finney	7/19	T&SS
	1 male at Garden City	Finney	7/28	L&BR
	1 at Liberal feeder	Seward	7/28	LE
<b><u>Calliope Hummingbird</u></b>	1 adult male at Garden City feeder	Finney	7/28	L&BR
Least Flycatcher	1 banded at Ft. Riley	Riley	7/22	DR
Cassin's Kingbird	1 at Point of Rocks	Morton	6/2	JB
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 fledge found at Ft. Riley	Riley	6/13	C&JO
Black-billed Magpie	1 near Eskridge	Wabaunsee	6/11	DR
	Pair w/nest	Dickinson	6/12	C&JO
Tree Swallow	many at Cheney goose refuge	Reno	6/4	PJ, JN
	2 at Andale farm pond	Sedgwick	6/11	PJ, CG
Bank Swallow	Several in June at Wichita sandpit	Sedgwick	6/3-7/8	PJ, m.ob.
Red-breasted Nuthatch	adults w/2 recent fledges	Sedgwick	6/27	H&SG
	<i>Note: The second confirmed nesting for Sedgwick County!</i>			
Wood Thrush	1 singing male near Garfield	Pawnee	6/18	SS



<b><u>Long-billed Thrasher</u></b>	1 reported in the Elkhart Cemetery	Morton	6/2	JB
	<i>Note: If accepted by the KBRC, this will represent a first state record for this species</i>			
Blue-winged Warbler	1 male at Bonner Springs	Wyandotte	6/18	JS, MS
Northern Parula	singing male near Towanda	<u>Butler</u>	7/1	PJ
Cerulean Warbler	1 at Schermerhorn Park	Cherokee	7/3	AG, CG, MG, TH
Yellow-throated Warbler	1 fem. w/brood patch at Ft. Leav. 1 at Marais des Cygnes	Leavenworth Linn	6/4 6/17	JS MM
Prairie Warbler	1 singing male	Douglas	6/1	PW
Louisiana Waterthrush	1 singing male in Swartz Canyon	Comanche	7/8-9	CG, TH
	<i>Note: This is well west of known breeding areas for this species in Kansas.</i>			
Mourning Warbler	1 male netted at Ft. Riley	Riley	6/2	DR
Scarlet Tanager	present through June at Ft. Riley	Riley		C&JO, m.ob.
Spotted Towhee	1 female near Garfield	Pawnee	6/18	SS
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	5 males, 1 fem. at Swartz Canyon	Comanche	7/8-9	CG, TH
Vesper Sparrow	1 on BBS route 1 on BBS route	Doniphan Atchison	6/3 6/3	JS, MS JS, MS
Henslow's Sparrow	2 at separate locations 4 in family group	Ellsworth Barton	6/20 7/22	MR W&NB
Painted Bunting	1 at Clinton 1 feeding fledgling at Clinton 1 in Overland Park	Douglas Douglas Johnson	7/4 7/22 7/21	DG DG DH
Bobolink	2 m. and 1 f. carrying nest mat. 1 on BBS route	Leavenworth Atchison	6/3 6/3	JS, MS JS, MS
Bullock's Oriole	2 on BBS route	Jewell	6/8	P&MW
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 territorial male at Cheney	Reno	6/11	CG, PJ
Black-headed Grosbeak	1 singing male near Hardtner 1 at Scott Lake	Barber Scott	7/23 7/31	DA, CG, MG, PJ DG

**Observers:** Dennis Angle, Daniel Baffa, James Barnes, Nancy Beard, William Beard, Doris Burnett, Ted Cable, Barbara Campbell, Mark Corder, Lisa Edwards, Suzanne Fellows, Tom Flowers, Gregg Friesen, Matt Gearhart, Dan Gish, Alan Goodwin, Harry Gregory, Sharron Gregory, Chet Gresham, Bob Gress, Dave Henness, Tyler Hicks, Pete Janzen, Richard Johnston, Mark Land, Robert Mangile, Bev Maxey, Mick McHugh, Cheryl Miller, Jim Nickel, Chuck Otte, Jaye Otte, Peter Oviatt, Gerry Parkinson, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, Betty Rich, Leonard Rich, David Rintoul, Cam Rother, Richard Rucker, Jethro Runco, John Schuckman, Scott Seltman, Sara Shane, Tom Shane, Mike Stewart, Margaret Wedge, Phil Wedge, Dave Williams.

## **Grassland Bird Surveys at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area** *by Helen Hands*

This past June we began grassland bird surveys at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area (CBWA). The objectives of these surveys are to monitor changes in grassland bird abundance and species composition during the breeding season in response to management. The grasslands at CBWA have historically played second fiddle to the marsh in terms of management priorities and birder/researcher interest. However, these grassland areas encompass 7,500 acres around the perimeter of the Wildlife Area (over 35% of CBWA). Just like grasslands throughout the Great Plains, our grasslands need to be burned and grazed regularly to maintain the vigor of the grass and limit tree and shrub invasion.

In the past 25 years, only the grass in Pool 5 has been intentionally burned. Grasslands in the other pools have not been intentionally burned because the CBWA staff is too small and our fire equipment is inadequate to burn them safely. The main concern is keeping the fire within the CBWA boundaries.

It has been at least 25 years since any of the grass has been grazed. The grazing program ceased due to problems with getting water to cattle and with tenants. A couple of changes may make it possible for a renewed effort to regularly burn and graze the perimeter grasslands. First, establishment of The Nature Conservancy preserve along much of the boundaries of Pools 2 and 3 may minimize some of the concerns for containing controlled burns. Second, the new tractor and disk, better fire equipment, and better trained staff should make controlled burns safer. Third, as the cattail problem is dealt with more efficiently with bigger equipment, there may be more time to administer a grazing program.

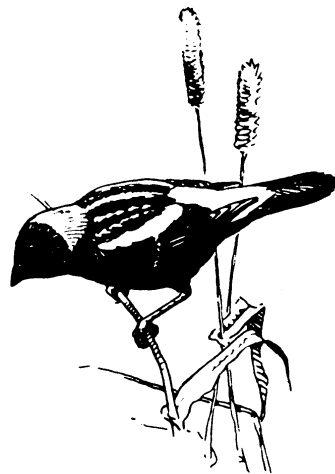
Grassland birds were counted in June. I had help conducting these surveys from Glen and Betty Erikson, Larry Hesel, Gordon Jones, Dusty Jones, Floyd Tuzicka, Rob Penner, and Karl Grover. We surveyed birds at 91 points scattered throughout the grass in Pools 2, 3, 4, and 5. At each point, we counted all the birds we saw and heard within two 3-minute periods. The survey points were located at least 275 yards apart and at least 100 yards from

edges of the main marsh, crop fields, tree rows, and property boundaries. Surveys were started at sunrise and continued for 3 hours. Surveys were conducted only on dry mornings when wind speeds were less than 10 mph.

Twenty-eight species were detected with red-winged blackbirds, dickcissels, and western meadowlarks by far the most common. Although bird density was fairly similar among pools, it was somewhat higher in Pool 3 than in Pools 2, 4, and 5. There seemed to be an inconsistent relationship between bird density and time since the most recent burn. Pool 3 was burned in spring 2000 and Pool 5 was burned most recently in spring 1999. In contrast, the grass in Pools 2 and 4 has not been burned for at least 10 years.

We plan to continue these surveys on an annual basis. More volunteers would allow us to survey more ground. If you are interested in helping, call me at 316-793-3066 or e-mail me.

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



**Rare Bird Alert Hotline - 316-441-5555**

# KOS Fall Meeting Bird List

October 7 & 8, 2000

Following is the list of birds seen on the field trips at the Fall 2000 Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society. Field trips took birders to Johnson, Linn, Miami and Douglas counties. Thank yous to all the leaders of those field trips. Thank you to Galen Pittman for providing the compiled list of 111 species.

Common Loon	Rock Dove	Eastern Bluebird
Pied-billed Grebe	Mourning Dove	American Robin
American White Pelican	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Gray Catbird
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Horned Owl	Northern Mockingbird
Great Blue Heron	Barred Owl	Brown Thrasher
Great Egret	Common Nighthawk	European Starling
Turkey Vulture	Chimney Swift	American Pipit
Canada Goose	Belted Kingfisher	Cedar Waxwing
Wood Duck	Red-headed Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler
American Wigeon	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler
Mallard	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Northern Shoveler	Downy Woodpecker	Black-throated Green Warbler
Northern Pintail	Hairy Woodpecker	Mourning Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Northern Flicker	Spotted Towhee
Osprey	Pileated Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Eastern Phoebe	Clay-colored Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Field Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Loggerhead Shrike	Savannah Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Red-eyed Vireo	Grasshopper Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Blue Jay	LeConte's Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	American Crow	Song Sparrow
American Kestrel	Horned Lark	Lincoln's Sparrow
Merlin	Tree Swallow	Swamp Sparrow
Northern Bobwhite	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	White-throated Sparrow
Sora	Barn Swallow	Harris's Sparrow
American Coot	Black-capped Chickadee	White-crowned Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	Tufted Titmouse	Dark-eyed Junco
American Golden-Plover	White-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Semipalmated Plover	Brown Creeper	Indigo Bunting
Killdeer	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Lesser Yellowlegs	House Wren	Eastern Meadowlark
Least Sandpiper	Winter Wren	Common Grackle
Long-billed Dowitcher	Sedge Wren	Great-tailed Grackle
Common Snipe	Marsh Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Franklin's Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Finch
Bonaparte's Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	American Goldfinch
Ring-billed Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Sparrow

**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.

# Abstracts of Papers and Posters Presented at the 2000 Fall KOS Meetings Johnson County Community College Overland Park, Kansas

**The role of farmed wetlands as habitat for birds in Kansas.** *James W. Rivers, Ted T. Cable, and Philip S. Gipson, Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506 (JWR, PSG); and Dept. of Horticulture, Forestry, and Recreation Resources, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506 (TTC). [Poster]*

Wetlands are an important part of the natural landscape in the Great Plains because they provide habitat for a diversity of species. However, many wetlands continue to be impacted by agricultural practices. To better understand the influence of agriculture on wetlands, we surveyed two types of farmed wetlands that occur in Kansas. A total count method was used to quantify avian use of 12 playa wetlands and 12 flood plain wetlands twice each during spring, summer, and fall of 1998–1999. A total of 51 bird species were observed using farmed wetlands; 39 on farmed playa wetlands and 31 on farmed flood plain wetlands. The two most abundant wetland-dependent groups were shorebirds (Charadriiformes), comprising fourteen species, and dabbling ducks (Anseriformes), represented by six species. Avian use of farmed wetlands appeared dependent on available food resources (e.g., aquatic invertebrates, seeds from moist-soil plants). We conclude that cultivation practices in Kansas farmed wetlands appears compatible with habitat management for wetland dependent birds because cultivation mimics traditional disturbances that provided suitable habitat for these species.

**Bird mortality at transmitting towers in Kansas during the spring.** *Tanner Lundy and Eugene A. Young\**, Dept. of Biology, Southwestern College, Winfield, KS 67156. (\*Current address: Dept. of Biology, Cowley County Community College, Arkansas City, KS 67005.)

Few data are available on the frequency of spring tower kills or the number of individuals killed at towers during the spring migration. We present data on recent spring studies from several towers in south-central Kansas. Three of these towers in Winfield, Kansas, are less than 500 ft. tall. Mortality was minimal at these smaller towers, with only three individuals found during

spring 2000 (Yellow Warbler, Common Grackle, and Rock Dove). Additionally, we provide a synopsis of historical observations and literature reports for spring tower kills in Kansas.

**Association of Brown-headed Cowbird foraging flocks with grazing ungulates in tallgrass prairie.** *Renae Schmitt, William Jensen, and Jack Cully, Dept. of Biology, Creighton University, Omaha, NE 68178 (RS); and Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506 (WJ, JC).*

Few empirical studies have examined the association of Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) foraging flocks with ungulate grazing, especially in the historic range of cowbirds and their supposed ungulate commensals. We compared cowbird relative abundance in tallgrass prairie among paddocks grazed by bison (*Bos bison*) or cattle (*Bos bos*), among cattle-grazed and ungrazed watersheds, and among cattle herds and random points within grazed watersheds at Konza Prairie Biological Station, Kansas. Although some behavioral differences were observed among bison and cattle, there was no difference in the number of cowbirds recorded per treatment. Cowbird relative abundance was slightly higher in cattle-grazed vs. ungrazed prairie. However, the number of cowbirds seen associating with cattle herds vs. random points within the surrounding grazed vegetation differed considerably. Differences in cowbird association with domestic cattle vs. bison herds deserve consideration at larger spatial scales. Despite the noticeable association of cowbird foraging flocks with ungulate herds, there are alternative hypotheses regarding the benefits of this association to the cowbird.

**Post-breeding dispersal and fledgling survivorship of House Wrens.** *Jamie E. Timson, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays State University (FHSU), Hays, KS 67601.*

In order to investigate the pattern of post-breeding dispersal and post-fledgling survivorship of House Wrens, 150 nest boxes were erected along riparian habitat in Ellis County and studied during the 2000

- continued on next page

breeding season. There were 115 individual breeding attempts in 92 different boxes, and 72 attempts (63%) were successful. A total of 40 nesting attempts (35%) failed because of predation. I color-banded 493 individuals (38 males, 52 females, and 403 nestlings) to allow for identification at nests and to facilitate observations away from nests. Efforts are continuing to observe banded individuals to assess the extent of post-breeding dispersal and to quantify fledgling survivorship. As of 15 September, only five hatch-year birds (1%), a minimum age of 8 weeks post-hatch, and two adults (2%) had been re-sighted or recaptured. All but two of these birds were observed within 100 m of their nest box; another was found dead 0.8 km from its natal box, and one was caught on the FHSU banding site 4.25 km from its natal box. These efforts will continue through 31 October 2000.

**Use of experimental perches by Brown-headed Cowbirds in tallgrass prairie.** *Colleen Truman, William Jensen, and Jack Cully, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.*

Several studies have supposed or demonstrated correlations of the frequency of brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) and the proximity of host nests to elevated perches in open habitats. These perches are thought to aid cowbirds in surveying for potential hosts. We attempted to experimentally test the hypothesis that the presence of perches in tallgrass prairie influences the distribution of cowbirds and the frequency at which cowbirds parasitize grassland hosts. Dried *Helianthus* stems, 2–3 m in height, were staked at 40-m intervals within grids of experimental plots after host territories were thought to have been established. The experimental plots were paired with equally sized control plots within three watersheds at Konza Prairie Biological Station, Kansas. We then compared the relative abundance of cowbirds and brood parasitism rates of Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) and Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) nests among the experimental and control treatments. Both male and female cowbirds were more abundant in the experimental-perch treatments. Few nests were found within most watersheds, and so nest data were pooled among watersheds. Brood parasitism rates were higher in the experimental treatment vs. the control treatment for pooled host species (90% vs. 64%) and Dickcissels alone (88% vs. 57%), but these differences were not statistically significant. Cowbirds alighted often upon the experimental perches, which influenced their abundance estimates in the experimental treatment, but the extent to which this perch use influences parasitism

rates of grassland hosts needs to be examined at larger scales to increase sample size.

**Are birds at risk from wind turbines in Kansas?** *Eugene A. Young, Dept. of Biology, Cowley County Community College, Arkansas City, KS 67005.*

Avian mortality associated with wind turbines has been reported and extensively studied in the western United States, but minimal data exist for the eastern United States. Kansas has the potential to utilize wind energy as a major resource where wind farms might contain 50 or more turbines. Preliminary data will be presented on two turbines studied at Western Resources Jeffrey Energy Center, Pottawatomie County, where no mortality was observed. A synopsis of studies conducted at large wind farms throughout the United States will be examined to help identify potential impacts on birds in Kansas.

**A Wintering Flock of Dark-eyed Juncos and Harris's Sparrows in Southwest Kansas.** *Thomas G. Shane and Sara J. Shane, 1706 Belmont Place, Garden City, KS 67846.*

A flock of Dark-eyed Juncos and Harris's Sparrows was observed at our backyard feeding station in Garden City, Kansas, during the winter of 1999–2000, with the highest daily count of each species recorded on the days observations were made. The first Harris's Sparrow was observed 15 November, and the last wintering individual was observed 4 March. The first Dark-eyed Juncos (2) were observed 13 October, and the last individual was seen on 17 April. The Harris's Sparrows maintained a fairly constant population, with an average of 4.0–5.2 birds/day from November to January and a high count of 10 birds on 1 December. The Dark-eyed Juncos continued to increase in numbers from 3.2 to 16.8 birds/day from October to January, with the highest count of 26 individuals on 10 December. The population gradually decreased from February to April. Two waves of migrant Harris's Sparrows came through on 21–31 March and another from 15 April through 5 May.

**Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas: Publication preview.** *William H. Busby, Kansas Biological Survey, 2041 Constant Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047.*

The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas was a six-year study (1992–1997) of the distribution of breeding birds in the state. Data were gathered by 188 volunteers in 782 study blocks. The results of the atlas project will be published as a book that will be available from University Press of Kansas in Spring 2001.

**KOS Fall Board Meeting**  
**October 7, 2000**  
**Johnson County Community College**  
**Overland Park, Kansas**

Attendance:	Greg Farley	Chuck Otte
	Ed Miller	Carolyn Schwab
	Jan Boyd	Suzanne Fellows
	Dave Rintoul	Bill Busby
	John Schukman	

Chairman, Greg Farley called the meeting to order. Carolyn Schwab moved to approve the minutes from the winter board meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Miller provided a balance sheet and commented on the growth of the KOS budget from about \$4,000 in 1977 to about \$46,000 in 1996 to about \$100,000 currently. However, Ed noted that this year's expenses are exceeding income from membership dues. This was also the case in 1999 when interest from the income account was used to cover the extra expenses. The reason for this situation is largely because publications cost about \$17 per member each year whereas dues are only \$15. He raised the question of whether we should continue to use part of the endowment income to subsidize memberships. A discussion followed. Chuck Otte is checking into getting advertising into the Newsletter that might amount to \$1000, which might be sufficient to bring dues into balance with expenses. Ed's term as Treasurer is ending, but he will continue to attend board meetings for one year as stipulated in the bylaws.

Vice President: John Schukman discussed the nominees for positions on the board: John Schukman, President; Gene Young, Vice President; Mike Stewart, Membership Secretary; Dan Larson, Treasurer; Max Thompson, Bulletin Editor; Chuck Otte, Newsletter Editor; Bill Busby, Corresponding Secretary; Dave Williams, Business Manager; and Debarah Arnett and Chet Gresham, Directors.

Bulletin Editor and Finance Committee: Max Thompson was not present.

Newsletter Editor: Chuck Otte reported that he is aiming to get the December newsletter out by Thanksgiving.

Bird Records Committee: Dave Rintoul announced that the Records Committee has received lots of reports, most of which have been submitted electronically.

Nominations Committee: John Schukman said nominees for vacant positions had been recommended (see candidates for vice president, membership secretary, business manager, corresponding secretary, and directors above). A vote will be held this afternoon on whether to create a Sales Manager position, for which a candidate is still needed.

**Future Meetings**

Spring 2001 – May 4-6 in the Chautauqua Hills in southeastern Kansas with a focus on Elk and Chautauqua counties. Ed Miller said a good selection of motels is available in Independence. Alternatively, he might be able to arrange to stay at a ranch in the area. Ed and Max will organize this meeting.

Fall 2001 – Plan was to have this in Pittsburg. However, since there are few KOS members in southeastern Kansas, Wichita was suggested as an alternative meeting site, perhaps at Great Plains Nature Center. Stay tuned.

Spring 2001 – Junction City

*- continued on next page*

Editor Positions: This will be Max's last year as Bulletin Editor.

New Business:

John Schukman passed out sample release forms provided by Mark Corder, acting KOS lawyer. After discussion, Greg Farley moved to add the shorter version of the release form to registration forms for future KOS meetings. The motion was seconded and passed.

Greg brought up the topic of management of KOS's Dingus Natural Area in Linn County. He had been contacted by the Kansas Chapter of the Nature Conservancy (TNC) about whether KOS might be interested in turning over management of the property to TNC in the event that TNC acquired surrounding property. The board was favorably inclined to this possibility. No decision is needed at this time.

Winter Board Meeting: A tentative date of February 17 was selected in Junction City or Manhattan.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Busby, Corresponding Secretary

**KOS General Meeting  
October 7, 2000  
Johnson County Community College  
Overland Park, Kansas**

President, Greg Farley called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m..

Ken Brunson visited briefly with the membership regarding the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) and what it would mean to nongame wildlife in Kansas. Ken encouraged everyone to contact their legislators urging them to support the CARA legislation.

Greg briefly reviewed the proposed by-laws change which would allow a Sales Manager to be appointed to serve under the Business Manager and assist with all for sale items of the Society. It was moved by Chuck Otte to approve the by-laws change. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The general KOS membership made an affirmative vote on the slate of officers for the coming year: John Schukman, President; Gene Young, Vice President; Mike Stewart, Membership Secretary; Dan Larson, Treasurer; Max Thompson, Bulletin Editor; Chuck Otte, Newsletter Editor; Bill Busby, Corresponding Secretary; Dave Williams, Business Manager; and Debarah Arnett and Chet Gresham, Directors.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Busby, Corresponding Secretary

**Thank You Fall Meeting Committee!**

On behalf of everyone who attended the Fall Meeting in Overland Park, we would like to thank David Seibel and John Schukman and everyone else who assisted them with the Fall Meeting. It was a great time and everyone enjoyed themselves. The Friday evening presentation was a nice addition! Thank you also to everyone who presented papers and posters. The Board would encourage everyone to start thinking and planning now for papers or posters to be presented at the Fall 2001 meeting in Wichita!

## 2000 - 2001 Christmas Bird Count Season

It's almost here! That time of year when you often have to bundle up so you don't freeze your optics and go out and count birds! Many of us look forward to the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season. The past couple of years we have averaged right at 50 counts in Kansas. Following is information on some of these counts. Not all that were conducted last year are listed here. If you saw a CBC in last years *KOS Bulletin* that caught your eye, and you don't see it listed below, contact the compiler from last year and see what the plan is for this year. In all cases it is probably a good idea to contact the compiler and let them know you are thinking about participating. This makes it easier for the compiler to make a "plan of attack". I would also encourage you to visit the KOS website on the World Wide Web, <http://ksbirds.org>, for as current a listing as we can muster. So dig out your long johns and mittens and get out there and participate. It's a great way to spend the day birding, meeting new friends, and learning new birding hotspots!

### To be announced - contact compiler

**Baldwin** - Roger Boyd, (785)594-3172,  
boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu, contact for details

**Webster Reservoir** - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595,  
mike\_rader@hotmail.com

### Thursday, December 14

**Cedar Bluff Res** - Scott Seltman, (785)372-5411,  
sselt@ruraltel.com, contact for details

**Wilson Reservoir** - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595,  
mike\_rader@hotmail.com Meet at Wilson State Park  
office at 7 AM

### Friday, December 15

**Quivira NWR** - Gary Meggers (316)486-2393 Meet at  
the Quivira NWR headquarters at 7 AM

### Saturday, December 16

**Halstead-Newton** - Dwight Platt, (316)283-6708 Meet  
at the Kauffman Museum (27th and Main) at 6:45 AM.  
Contact Dwight if you are planning to participate.

**Hays** - Greg Farley, (785)628-5965, gfarley@fhsu.edu

**John Redmond Reservoir** - Bob Culbertson  
(316)364-2522, meet at the Corps of Engineers office  
at 7:30 AM.

**Lakin** - Leonard Rich, (316)275-5192

**Lawrence** - Galen Pittman (785)842-7105,  
glpitt@ukans.edu, contact for details

**Manhattan** - Dave Rintoul, (785)532-6663,  
drintoul@ksu.edu, contact for details.

**Olathe** - Don Weiss, (913)780-6588,  
dweiss@primenet.com, meet at Ernie Miller Nature  
Center on K-7 Hiway at 7 AM

**Topeka** - Gary Haden, (785)273-5598

**Wichita** - Pete Janzen, (316)832-0182,  
prarybrd@southwind.net, meet at Lawrence-Dumont  
Stadium at 7:30 AM

### Sunday, December 17

**Perry Lake** - Richard Rucker, (785)597-5144 ext. 14,  
richard.c.rucker@usace.army.mil, contact for details

**Udall/Winfield** - Max Thompson, (316)221-1856,  
maxt@sckans.edu

**Waconda Lake** - Contact Mike Rader for details.  
(785)658-2595, mike\_rader@hotmail.com

**Wakefield** - Chuck Otte, (785)238-8800, otte@jc.net  
Due to construction on the causeway bridge, meeting  
location details are pending. Contact Chuck for more  
information.

### Monday, December 18

**Olsburg** - Gary Jeffrey, (785)468-3587, contact for  
details.

### Wednesday, December 20

**Cheyenne Bottoms** - Helen Hands, (316)793-3066,  
helenh@wp.state.ks.us, meet at the headquarters at 8  
AM

**Slate Creek Wetlands/Oxford** - Gene Young,  
(316)221-8380, youngg@cowleycollege.com, contact  
for details

### Friday, December 22

**Camp Naish** - Stan Roth, (785)843-4764

### Saturday, December 23

**Arkansas City** - Gene Young, (316)221-8380,  
youngg@cowleycollege.com, contact for details

**Leavenworth/Atchison** - John Schukman,  
(913)727-5141, schuksaya@aol.com, contact for  
details.

### Tuesday, December 26

**Junction City** - Chuck Otte, (785)238-8800,  
otte@jc.net

Meet at Sapp Brothers Truck Stop (US77 & I-70) at 7  
AM

### Wednesday, December 27

**Linn County** - Roger Boyd, (785)594-3172,  
boyd@harvey.bakeru.edu, contact for details

**Old Garfield County** - Barbara Campbell,  
(316)275-5430



Saturday, December 30

**Blue Rapids** (a new count)- Tom Parker, (785)363-7228, tlparker@networksplus.net, meet in front of the Community Center just off the town square.

**Bonner Springs/Lansing** - Galen Pittman (785)842-7105, gpitt@ukans.edu, contact for details

**Cimarron National Grassland** - Sebastian Patti, (312)603-4416, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com

**El Dorado** - Bill Langley, meet at the El Dorado McDonalds at 7:30 blangley@butler.buccc.cc.ks.us

**Pratt/Sawyer** - Ken Brunson, (316)672-7289, meet at the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Headquarters at 7 AM.

**Scott Lake** - Tom Shane, (316)275-4616, shane@pld.com

Sunday, December 31

**Kenton (Black Mesa, OK)** - Sebastian Patti, (312)603-4416, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com

Monday, January 1

**Kirwin Reservoir** - Shannon Rothchild, Shannon\_Rothchild@fws.gov, meet at the refuge

headquarters around sunup.

Monday, January 1, continued

**Liberal/Seward County** - Sebastian Patti, (312)603-4416, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com

**Ulysses** - Sara Shane , (316)275-4616, shane@pld.com

Saturday, January 6

**Doniphan** - John Schukman, (913)727-5141, schuksaya@aol.com, contact for details

**Garden City** - Marie Osterbuhr, (316)276-8146, moster@midusa.net

**Red Hills** - Pete Janzen , (316)832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net, meet at Indian Grill Restaurant in Medicine Lodge at 7:30 AM. Talk to Pete if you are planning to participate.

Sunday, January 7

**Syracuse** - Art Nonhof, (316)277-2087, anonhof@gccc.cc.ks.us

Saturday, January 13

**Blackwolf** - Contact Mike Rader for details. (785)658-2595, mike\_rader@hotmail.com

Sunday, January 14

**Kanopolis Lake** - Contact Mike Rader for details.

## Christmas Bird Counts Completed in Kansas 1900-1948: The Early Audubon Society Years

*By Dan L. LaShelle and Thomas G. Shane<sup>1</sup>*

It is our attempt to supply the researcher, historian, county list compiler, or anyone interested in locating Christmas Bird Count data by listing all known counts conducted in the state of Kansas. For those ornithologists and birders not living in one of the university towns we hope this list facilitates getting needed copies through the interlibrary loan services at their local libraries.

This first part is strictly a list of the counts conducted prior to the founding of the Kansas Ornithological Society, from 1900 through 1948 and published by the Audubon Society in Bird-Lore 1900-1939, Audubon Magazine 1940-1945 and Audubon Field Notes 1946-1948. The remaining years, KOS years 1949-1999, will appear in a future issue of The Horned Lark. Many of the early counts were under eight hours, exact location often lacking and most reported without party miles. During this early period,

much of the CBC effort was made on foot by only a few observers. However, these counts certainly can provide insight on bird populations during the first half of the twentieth century. The Christmas count year is always found in the following year's publication. Kansas City counts including Missouri were not listed. Data from all counts is now available at the Audubon/Cornell website: <<http://birds.source.tc.cornell.edu/cbcdata/>> however, information such as observers, time, temperature, etc. is lacking.

Those library facilities used to complete this list include: The Bird Range Library, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas; Forsyth Library, Fort Hays State University; and a special thanks to Carolyn Schwab, Asst. Circulation Head, Hale Library, Kansas State University for helping clear up last minute complications.

<u>Count Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pages</u>
	<i>Bird-Lore</i> (All counts in No. 1 issue of year)			
1900-03	no counts			
1904	Abilene, Independence	07	1905	30-31
1905	Lawrence	08	1906	25 (table completed on following page)

1906	no counts			
1907	Clay Center, Abilene to CC	10	1908	25
1908	Clay Center	11	1909	33
1909	Wichita	12	1910	35
1910-11	no counts			
1912	Wichita	15	1913	43
1913	no counts			
1914	Coolidge, Wichita	17	1915	38
1915	Wichita	18	1916	38
1916-18	no counts			
1919	Lawrence, Topeka	22	1920	41
1920	Coolidge, Topeka, Wichita	23	1921	28-29
1921	Hays, Hesston, Lawrence, Topeka	24	1922	37-38
1922	Hesston, Topeka	25	1923	41
1923	Hesston, Lawrence, McPherson Co., McPherson, Pittsburg	26	1924	47-48
1924	Hays, McPherson, Woodbine	27	1925	55-56
1925	no counts			
1926	Hays, Horton	29	1927	46
1927	Hays, Hesston, Oakley	30	1928	62
1928	Hays, Wichita	31	1929	59
1929	Wichita	32	1930	60
1930	Hays, Hesston, Wichita	33	1931	71
1931	Hesston, Wichita	34	1932	71-72
1932	Pittsburg, Wichita	35	1933	49-50
1933	Kansas City, Wichita	36	1934	56-57
1934	Kansas City, Wichita	37	1935	74-75
1935	Wichita	38	1936	76
1936	Junction City, Wichita	39	1937	63
1937	Wichita	40	1938	61
1938	Atchison, Colony, Salina, Wichita	41	1939	44-45
1939	Colony, Erie, Wichita	42Su?	1940	119
	<i>Audubon Magazine</i> (Su= Supp., S= Sec., P= Part)			
1940	Colony, Norwich, Wichita	43/Su	1941	132
1941	Norwich, Wichita	44/Su	1942	59
1942	Baldwin, Norwich	45/1P2	1943	47
1943	Baldwin, McPherson Co., Norwich, Wichita	46/1S3	1944	51-52
1944	Baldwin, Hays, Norwich, Wichita	47/2S2	1945	51
1945	Baldwin, Hays, Kansas City, Wichita	48/2S2	1946	78-79
	<i>Audubon Field Notes</i> -- No. (#)			
1946	Baldwin, Clearwater, Hays, Wichita	01(1)	1947	100-01
1947	Baldwin, Clearwater, Topeka, Wichita	02(2)	1948	102-03
1948	Baldwin, Lawrence, Topeka, Wichita	03(2)	1949	129-30

<sup>1</sup> 238 SW Gage Blvd. #1208, Topeka, KS 66606, and 1706 Belmont, Garden City, KS 67846

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