

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

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From The Keyboard -

I've been playing again. I've been looking at other publications, both birding and non-birding, to see how I like or dislike things, and then trying to get other people's opinions on ideas. Let me know if you see some new layouts in *The Horned Lark* that you really like or really don't like.

Like most human beings, we all become comfortable with having things a certain way and then keeping them that way. How many times have you gone into a grocery store only to find that, once again, they have moved everything around. Just about the time you become accustomed to the new layout, they change it again. There is a lot of theory and logic as to why they keep changing things, but the bottom line is that they want to keep you looking. The more you look the more you're liable to buy. I don't want to change so much that you'll get upset. But I do want to change things just enough to keep you looking, so you don't miss any thing.

I think we often find ourselves getting into the same old habits in our birdwatching. We go to the same spots where we've always gone birding. Sometimes it's because we know that there is good habitat there and we have a good chance to see something good. But too often, perhaps, we go there because we are comfortable there. Rather than being daring, and go looking for some place new, we avoid the risk of maybe not finding a good new location, for the predictable comfort of knowing what we'll probably see.

The past several months have changed our lives in many different ways. The comfortable sameness that we had felt for years was shattered on a Tuesday morning in September. So now we all find ourselves trying to settle into a new reality. Maybe part of that new reality is trying different birdwatching locations. Maybe you break out of that routine of doing the same Christmas Bird Counts that you've always done, and try a new one, or two, or three.

Maybe you've never gone to a spring field trip, so come to Junction City in May. Maybe you've never been to Meade County, join us there in October of 2002. Growth doesn't occur without change. Sometimes that change is scary and uncertain. But you can be impacted by change, or you can impact change. It's only the future, don't be afraid!

Until the next time, Happy Holidays to one and all!

chuck

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

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 2002** - Junction City/
Milford Lake
- Fall 2002** - Meade County
- Spring 2003** - ???
- Fall 2003** - Cowley County
- Spring 2004 and Beyond** -

Volunteers and locations needed! Our list is rapidly being used up. Start thinking of where you'd like to go, or if you would be willing to host a spring or fall meeting.

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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

DON'T WAIT, RENEW YOUR KOS MEMBERSHIP TODAY!
DETAILS ON PAGE 12!

FRS Radio Recommendations from ABA

Several years ago, Family Radio Service (FRS) frequencies were opened up by the Federal Communications Commission. This allowed the use of low power two-way radios in certain ultra high frequency (UHF) bands. As these radios became available in the market place, it didn't take birdwatchers long until they started using them in the field. The combination of low power and UHF frequencies limits these radios to a range of less than two miles under the best of conditions. But this is still adequate range for birders at Quivira, Cheyenne Bottoms of the town of Elkhart. Just as the CB craze of the 1970s had its problems, FRS radio usage has created its own as well.

The American Birding Association (ABA) formed a committee to look into the usage of FRS radios and made a recommendation that, whenever possible, birders use channel 11, subcode 22 as a continent-wide standard for communications by birders. More details on the ABA recommendation can be found at: <http://americanbirding.org/resources/resfrs1.htm>

Wanted!

KOS Kid's Page Editor

Contact Chuck if interested!

A Kansas Birder in Cave Creek Canyon

by Chet Gresham

Waking at 5:30 a.m., the sun still waiting below the horizon, and outside a thick whirr of hummingbird wings, the chee-lup, lup-chee of a flycatcher. And as I open my eyes my life comes back to me in a rush; I am in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona, and outside a Blue-throated Hummingbird drinks at my feeder and a male Buff-breasted Flycatcher sings for a mate. Quickly other birds join in the chorus; Painted Redstart, Grace's Warbler, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Hepatic Tanager, Hutton's Vireo, Bridled Titmouse, Acorn Woodpecker, and as the day goes on the list will expand to fill this whole page.

It is Monday, the beginning of my weekend from working at the Southwestern Research Station. I see birds that my friends in Kansas would probably love to see about this time on a Monday, but my mind wanders back to the plains and hills of Kansas. I must have bluestem veins pumping oxygen to my brain, and a Western Meadowlark's song my life's theme music. I yearn for my return to Kansas and walking in my parents pastures in Marion County up to my armpits in bluestem watching the sun spread out each evening transforming windmills and farm ponds into bronzed relics. I know those times even though sometimes far and few between will fill me and my need for home and horizon.

If someone were to pull out a map of the U.S. and ask me to point to the best birding spots Kansas probably wouldn't be where my finger would end. But I'm not writing this to convince birders that Kansas is the ultimate birding vacation spot; I just want to reassure myself that these are healthy and real emotions and assure other Kansas birders that we aren't missing out on more exciting and challenging birding elsewhere. The birds aren't always rarer or more interesting as soon as you cross the state line. Every bird I observe in Kansas is in a context for me. Here in Arizona I am slowly finding some semblance of context for the birds around me, but I know that this can't come quickly no matter how much I study and look for birds. I don't believe a person needs to grow up in a place to connect to and understand it, but it doesn't hurt.

Kansas is where I understand my sense of place. With time and observation it is difficult not to have the land, animals, weather, history, city, country, people, time, direction, and an endless array of ideas and things weave in and out of your life directing and pushing your understanding of your world. Kansas is that world for me and many of you, and just the word automatically brings a sense of birds to many of us. We can sense when a Baltimore Oriole has arrived in the Cottonwoods or when a Harris's Sparrow will be singing in the bushes as you walk to your car on a crisp October morning. We know when a bird is out of place, we accumulate so much information without even knowing it. Here in Arizona my sense of place comes from a birdfinding guide, which really gives me no feeling of connection to these birds or their habitat. That is one reason I wanted to be here for a while. I know I won't get to see all of the seasons come and go and the birds with them, but compared to the week long trip I took eight years ago it will seem like a lifetime.

When I was here in the fall of 1993 it was easily the most exhilarating birding experience of my life. Every bird was new and stimulated my senses. I couldn't sleep in the anticipation of the next day of birding. And when I look back on the trip I remember the excitement and fun (which I would never want to lose), but I also can't remember the birds or the place. They are now becoming imprinted into my senses, but Kansas will always tug at the back of my need to bird.

So, as the birding blues set in and you are dreaming of Costa Rica or Nepal or southeastern Arizona remember that just outside, in your backyard, you are the seasoned veteran that can start to make sense out of what is actually happening in the world because you are part of that world, not a completely detached observer. I am not going to stop exploring and learning, but I will always know where I feel whole and return there to recharge and remember what home really means.

*Chet is now safely back in Kansas
and can be contacted at: cogresha@yahoo.com*

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.

Winter Raptors

by John Rakestraw

With less foliage on the trees and fewer songbirds to distract you, winter is a great time of year to study birds of prey in Kansas. While Kansas always boasts an impressive array of raptors, large numbers of these birds enter the state from the north and west at this time of year. Their large size and relatively slow movements make them ideal subjects for careful study. These magnificent birds really liven up the rather bleak Kansas winter landscape.

In addition to sheer numbers, **Red-tailed Hawks** arrive in a dazzling array of plumages. They can range from birds with mottled backs and clean white underparts to chocolate-brown birds with chestnut heads and breasts. Your first question when identifying a large raptor should be, "Is there anything to suggest that this bird is not a Redtail?" It is much easier to start with the assumption that any large raptor is a Red-tailed Hawk, and then look for field marks and behaviors that might indicate another species. One field mark shared by all plumages of Red-tailed Hawks in flight is a dark patagium, the leading edge of the wing (equivalent of the upper arm).

Rough-legged Hawks are winter visitors throughout Kansas. They are the large hawks most likely to hover in place like a Kestrel. (Although, if the wind is right, Red-tailed Hawks will occasionally hover, as well.) Rough-legs are also the only large hawk that frequently perches on the small twigs of treetops. Since their bills are small, Rough-legs have a more dainty appearance than other large raptors. On typical light phase birds, look for the extensive black bellies on juveniles and adult females (males have more mottled bellies). In flight, Rough-legs show black wrist patches and light tails with a broad dark band near the tip. Wrist patches and belly bands are not as apparent on dark phase birds, but these birds show the same light tail with a dark band.

Ferruginous Hawks are the largest hawks in Kansas, and are usually found in the western half of the state. They get their name from the rusty coloring on their backs, shoulders, and leg feathering. The underside of the tail is white (even on dark phase birds), while the upper side has a light rusty wash. When the bird is in flight, watch for the white "windows" on the upper side of the primary feathers. Ferruginous Hawks often perch on the ground, but they will take advantage of utility poles and trees. Look for these birds around prairie dog towns when the rodents are active.

The most notable field mark of **Golden Eagles** is their large size. Found in small numbers in western Kansas, they are generally dark in plumage with gray or white at the base of the tail. Golden hackles give the birds their name. Immature Golden Eagles usually show white patches at the base of the primaries. While young **Bald Eagles** can also be quite dark, they usually show much more white mottling on the their undersides than do young Golden Eagles. Bald Eagles are most often found near bodies of water, unlike the Golden, which is normally found in arid habitats.

One of my favorite Kansas birds is the **Prairie Falcon**. Whether perched on a utility pole or diving into a covey of Bobwhite, Prairie Falcons are an impressive bird. They show the classic falcon shape, with long pointed wings and long tails. The upperparts are a sandy brown, while the underparts are light with dark spotting. The most obvious field mark of the Prairie Falcon is the dark axillaries (wing pits) visible on flying birds. While more common in the west, these birds are found throughout the state in winter.

Northern Harriers are most often seen flying low over grassy fields and marshes in search of small rodents. Their long rounded wings, long tail, and white rump patch make identifying these birds easy, even at a distance. Harriers are so often seen on the wing that you might not recognize a perched bird right away. Male harriers are pale gray above, with black wing tips and mostly white underparts. Females are dark brown with dark streaks on the underparts. Immature birds resemble adult females, but have a cinnamon wash to the underparts.

These are just a few of the raptors to be found in Kansas in the winter. Others include **Red-shouldered Hawks** in the southeast, **Merlins** in the southwest, **Cooper's** and **Sharp-shinned Hawks** visiting your bird feeders, and the occasional **Goshawk**. As always, study your field guide at home before venturing out into the field so you know what to look for. One of the best resources for hawk watchers is *Hawks in Flight* by Dunne, Sibley, and Sutton.

So do your homework, bundle up, and go scan the power lines and treetops for winter raptors.

John can be contacted at: jmrake@quik.com

Remember to renew your KOS membership today!

Thank you Wichita!

On behalf of the 116 people who attended the KOS Fall Meeting, the editor would like to thank the Wichita local committee who planned and hosted the 53rd KOS Fall Meeting. If space allowed, I would include the complete registration list!

The following people contributed to the effort to put on this meeting: Carol Cumberland, Sherry Brewer, Patty Marlett, Kevin and Laura Groeneweg, Harry and Sharron Gregory, Bob Gress, Cheryl Miller, Roy and Pat Bekemeyer, Tyler Hicks, Chet Gresham, Pete and Victoria Janzen, and Gene Young. If I missed anyone, I apologize!

Additional thank you's to all those who presented papers and a special thanks to Roger Boyd for a wonderful presentation at the banquet which was thoroughly enjoyed by the 90, or so, individuals who were able to attend.

Thank you to everyone who contributed items to the silent auction and to everyone who placed bids on those items. Nearly \$500 was raised for the Student Research Fund. (Start planning now for contributions to next year's silent auction!)

Let me also add one more round of thanks to Pete Janzen who always goes out of his way to make sure everything at these events goes so well. We have been invited to Meade County in October 2002, so start making plans now to attend!

KOS Fall Meeting Field Trip Bird List

compiled by Pete Janzen

These are the birds found by 6 parties of birders attending the KOS fall meeting. Field trips were conducted on Saturday a.m. around the Great Plains Nature Center at Wichita, and the main field trips on Sunday, which visited El Dorado, Cheney, Slate Creek Marsh, and a number of locations around Wichita and Mulvane. Since 6 counties were involved, I have not listed counties in most cases, as this would have been rather laborious.

Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe (Belle Plain sewage ponds, Sumner Co.), American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern (Slate Creek), Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Turkey Vulture, Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, Osprey, Bald Eagle (Cheney Res., Reno Co. and El Dorado L, Butler Co.), Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, (Slate Creek), American Coot, Black-bellied Plover (2 at Cheney, Reno Co.), Killdeer, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Red Knot (4 at Slate Creek Marsh), Sanderling (Cheney, Reno Co.), Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, California Gull (1st winter, Cheney, Reno Co.), Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great-horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Western Kingbird (Slate Creek), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue-headed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Sedge Wren (Slate Creek), Marsh Wren (Slate Creek), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Tennessee Warbler (Oak Park), Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler (Cheney, Reno), Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Eastern Towhee (Slate Creek), Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow (Cheney, Reno), Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Total was 128 species. This was a better list than expected, considering the very high winds on Sunday. But the combination of lingering summer birds, early winter arrivals, and a variety of migrants made it a good cumulative species list. I think the Slate Creek trip had the best list overall.

Pete can be contacted at: prarybrd@southwind.net

KANSAS SUMMER SEASON ROUNDUP

June 1, 2001 through July 31, 2001

By Lloyd Moore

Well! Here we are at the end of another nesting season. Already shorebirds, hummingbirds, swallows and others are heading south to their winter residences. The season has been mostly a success with bird populations, at least momentarily, replenished with young. One of those successes here in Kansas is the increasing number of resident Bald Eagles. With 13 nesting pairs producing at least 21 young this year.

Weather during the period was wetter in the east and west but quite dry in the central and south central. Playa

Lakes in Finney County that had not held water for years were full and numerous waterbird species were arriving by the end of the period.

The rarity event of the season was the **Cave Swallow** found at Cheyenne Bottoms by Sebastian Patti and Chris Hobbs and seen by many others. This was the first ever reported in the state. Other rare species reported during the season were White-tailed Kite, Swallow-tailed Kite, Calliope and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds and a Lewis's Woodpecker seen at Ft. Riley.

Thanks to all who have contributed their bird sightings. Keep on reporting and remember to send documentation of rare or unusual species to the KBRC. Use either the electronic form on the KOS web site or regular mail to Dave Rintoul at Kansas State University.

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<u>Species</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Common Loon	1 at Cowley Co. State Lake	Cowley	06/07	LH
Western Grebe	1 at Liberal sewer ponds 38 at Cheyenne Bottoms (Several with young)	Seward Barton	06/09 07/21	SP MG
Clark's Grebe	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07.21	MG
Double-crested Cormorant	1 at Meade State Lake	Meade	06/02	TF
Great Egret	150 at Kyle Marsh, PWA	Jefferson	07/26	DW
Tricolored Heron	1 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 at Quivira NWR	Barton Stafford	06/08 06/13	GP SP, CH
Glossy Ibis	<D> 1 in pool 3A, Cheyenne Bottoms <D> 1 in pool 3A, Cheyenne Bottoms (Video)	Barton Barton	06/08 07/14	GP B&NB
White-faced Ibis	320 at Cheyenne Bottoms 500 in roost, Quivira NWR	Barton Stafford	07/21 07/27	MG BF
<u>Swallow-tailed Kite</u>	2 flying, 2 miles E. of Riley (A brief but intriguing sighting. Dad was presumably watching the road.)	Riley	07/12	ER
White-tailed Kite <D>	1 1mi W & 13 mi N of Kalvesta	Finney	06/29	SB
Mississippi Kite	80 in 3 "kettles" at Garden City 1 soaring above Mission	Finney Johnson	07/13 07/29	T&SSH MG

Bald Eagle	1 adult near nest N of Oldsburg <i>(The following nesting data provided by Dan Mulhearn, USF&W)</i> 2 chicks Clinton Lk. (Wakarusa Arm) Douglas Co. 1 chick Clinton Lk. (Rock Creek Arm) Douglas Co. 2 chicks Hillsdale Lk. (Big Bull Arm) Miami Co. 2 chicks Hillsdale Lk. (Little Bull Arm) Miami Co. 3 chicks Osage Co. (new for '01) 2 chicks Neosho Co. (new for '01) 3 chicks Norton Res. Norton Co. 1 chick Kansas River @ LeCompton, Douglas Co. 2 chicks Kansas River @ Williamstown, Jefferson Co. 1 chick Perry Lake, Jefferson Co. 1 chick Waconda Lake, Mitchell Co. ? chicks Hodgeman Co. Wolf Creek Lake, Coffey Co.: May have been incubating at one time, but were not successful.	Pottawatomie	06/08	DR
	1 imm. At Kyle Marsh, PWA <i>(2nd or 3rd year bird.)</i>	Jefferson	07/26	DW
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 on LeLoup BBS route	Franklin	06/02	GP, MM
Cooper's Hawk	1 on LeLoup BBS route 1 on Jamestown BBS route 1 young-of-the-year N. of Larned Pair nesting NW of Larned 2 on Wreford BBS route 1 in Franklin Co. 1 fledgling near Mulvane	Franklin Cloud Pawnee Pawnee Geary Franklin Sumner	06/02 06/17 06/17 06/17 06/23 07/04 07/16	GP, MM PW, MW SS SS C&JO MG, ML TH
Swainson's Hawk	1 in reclaimed mine land	<u>Linn</u>	<u>07/14</u>	MG
Ferruginous Hawk	1 in sw Hodgeman <i>(carrying a snake)</i>	Hodegman	06/09	SS
Peregrine Falcon	1 dark bird at Quivira NWR <i>(Was being dive-bombed by Least Terns.)</i>	Stafford	07/14	DG
Prairie Falcon	2 in sandhills S of Holcomb	Finney	07/17-18	CHa
Scaled Quail	3 pair S. of Garden City	Finney	06/21	T&SSh
Black Rail	1 calling, E side wildlife loop QNWR	Stafford	0714	B&NB
King Rail	1 near Anthony	Harper	07/02	SGP
Sora	1 at Black Vermilion Marsh	Marshall	06/08	DR
Common Moorhen	1 with 3 young, Quivira NWR	Stafford	07.28	PM
Sandhill Crane	1 flying over west Manhattan 1 at Quivira NWR	Riley Stafford	<u>06/06</u> <u>07/13</u>	JH DG
Piping Plover	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	07/27	BF
Killdeer	<u>500</u> at Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	07/25	GY

Marbled Godwit	1 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/13	SP
	6 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	07/27	BF
	1 at playa 6 N. of Garden City	Finney	07/30	T&SSh, CHa
Ruddy Turnstone	2 at Lassiter Marsh	Jefferson	06/03	AS, Tfl
Dunlin	4-6 at Lassiter Marsh	Jefferson	06/03	AS, TFl
Short-billed Dowitcher	3 In Stockdale Area, Tuttle Creek (<i>heard calling</i>)	Riley	07/04	LJ
Laughing Gull	1 1 st year at Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/27	BF
Franklin's Gull	9 at sheep farm	Kearny	06/12	T&SSh
	1 at Lowe Lake	Finney	07/30	T&SSh, CHa
Caspian Tern	3 at Wilson Lake	Russell	07/13	MR
Common Tern	2 at Quivira NWR	Stafford	06/13	SP
Forster's Tern	1 at playa 6 N. Garden City	Finney	07/30	T&SSh, CHa
Least Tern	1 in Wichita	Sedgwick	07/09	CC
	(<i>flying up Little Ark River carrying a fish</i>)			
	1 in NW Wichita	Sedgwick	07/08	LMa
	3 adult, 1 hatchling, 1 egg, 1 immature, Wichita,	Sedgwick	07/09	CC, BG
	2 at Bradford North Lake, Wichita	Sedgwick	07/31	LMa
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u> <D>	1 in Bucklin	Ford	06/11	GP
	1 in Valley Falls	Jefferson	06/	GP
	small colony in NW Lawrence	Douglas	06/12	GP
	4-5 in roadside park on US73	Atchison	06/08	SP
	(<i>near Atchison/Leavenworth County line</i>)			
	1 on W side of Wichita	Sedgwick	06/22	JN
	Pair nested at Medicine Lodge	Barber	06/22	DA
	100's in Meade	Meade	06/23	TF
	(<i>Nesting in Meade since 1996. Also in Plains and Fowler</i>)			
	1 at Scott City	Scott	06/17	T&SSh
	1 in NW Garden City	Finney	06/22	T&SSh
	2 in Cullison	Pratt	06/02	T&SSh
	#? In Hazelton, Kiowa, Medicine Lodge and Hardtner	Barber	06/24	DA
	2 in Pittsburg	Crawford	07/02	RM
	2 in Wilson	Ellsworth	07/05	MR
Nesting at Medicine Lodge residence (<i>This is 2nd brood, 2 young in first brood.</i>)	Barber	07/13	DA	
1 in Goodland	Sherman	07/28	TH	
<u>White-winged Dove</u>	1 in Atchison	Atchison	06/02-08	RP, SP
	1 on US-54 near Cullison	Pratt	06/09	SP
	1 3 S of Garden City	Finney	06/12	MO
	1 at Larned residence	Pawnee	06/01	DK
Inca Dove	1 "still calling" in Meade	Meade	06/13	TF
Black-billed Cuckoo	1 at Garden City residence	Finney	07/27	MO

Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1 at Garden City residence	Finney	06/01-16	MO
Burrowing Owl	49 S of Holcomb (Seen on 3 small Prairie Dog towns and included many young birds.)	Finney	07/25	T&SSh
<u>Calliope Hummingbird</u>	1 female at Garden City residence	Finney	07/29	L&BR
<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u>	1 at residence	Rush	07/11	Dse
<u>Lewis's Woodpecker</u> <D>	1 at Estes Draw, Ft. Riley	Geary	06/10	DR
Willow Flycatcher	1 at Garden City residence 1 singing at Meade State Lake	Finney Meade	<u>06/05</u> <u>06/04</u>	T&SSh AP, S&KS
Least Flycatcher	1 on Wreford BBS route 1 at Ft. Riley banding station	Geary Geary	<u>06/23</u> 07/26	C&JO DR
Say's Phoebe	1 nesting S. of Lake Waconda (young observed in the nest)	<u>Mitchell</u>	06/17	HA,PW,MW
Ash-throated Flycatcher	2 at w Cimarron Rvr. Crossing	Morton	06/05	AP, S&KS
Chihuahuan Raven	1 W. of Garden City	Finney	07/19	BP
Purple Martin	<u>1500-2000</u> on KU campus <u>1000+</u> in downtown Wichita	Douglas Sedgwick	07/12 07/12	BA KG
Tree Swallow	Pair nesting Clark State Lake 8 nesting near Goose Refuge, Cheney	Clark Reno	06/11 06/23	GP PJ, Jba
<u>Cave Swallow</u> <D>	<u>2</u> at Cheyenne Bottoms (1 st state record if accepted by KBRC. Video by TC)	Barton	07/13-15	SP,CH,m.ob.
<D>	<u>1</u> (poss. Adult) Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	07/27	BF
Cliff Swallow	<u>10,000</u> below Lake Concannon dam	Finney	07/23	T&SSh
<u>Black-capped Chickadee</u>	1 at Garden City residence (First seen on 04/02. First Finney Co. record in 15 years.)	<u>Finney</u>	06/01-07/31	MO
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 at work station shelterbelt	Morton	06/05	AP, S&KS
<u>Carolina Wren</u>	Pair with young at Garden City residence (Have been present last two years.)	<u>Finney</u>	July	MO
Swainson's Thrush	1 at Elkhart shelterbelt 1 at Sharon Springs	Morton Wallace	06/04 06/05	AP, S&KS AP, S&KS
Hermit Thrush	2 at Meade State Lake	Meade	<u>06/03</u>	TF
Wood Thrush	4 at Homer's Pond, Junction City (1 female seen carrying nesting material) 12 at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms 3 at Ft Riley (banded)	<u>Geary</u> Leavenworth Riley	06/10 06/16 07/10	C&JO JS DR
Cedar Waxwing	Several at residence in Meade	Meade	07/12	TM

<u>Black-throated Blue Warbler</u>	1 male at Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	06/04	AP, S&KS
Yellow-throated Warbler	6 at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms	Leavenworth	06/16	JS
Prairie Warbler	<D> 1 at Ft. Riley (First seen 05/21/01, photos)	Geary	07/09	DH
	1 singing near banding station at Ft. Riley. (Possibly present all summer. Different location than above.)	Geary	07/22	DR
American Redstart	30+ at Ft. Leavenworth Bottoms	Leavenworth	06/16	JS
Prothonotary Warbler	1 banded at MAPS site, Ft. Riley (Only the 2 nd banded at Ft. Riley in 8+ years)	Geary	07/11	DR
Spotted Towhee	1 singing male at Lake Perry	<u>Jefferson</u>	<u>07/16</u>	RR
Henslow's Sparrow	1 singing	Franklin	07/04	MG, ML
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 on farmstead near Andale	Sedgwick	06/23	PJ, Jba
	1 at DeWeese Park, Cheney Rs.	Reno	06/23	PJ, Jba
Painted Bunting	1 singing male, Clinton SP	Douglas	06/06	Gpa
	3+ W end Wakarusa causeway	Douglas	06/08	JB, m.ob
	1 at Garnett Lake	Anderson	07/04	MG, ML
	1+ Stockdale Area, Tuttle Creek	Riley	07/04	LJ

Underlined dates, locations or comments indicate unusual, late or early sightings.

Underlined species indicates unusual species.

Underlined species in bold indicate species with no records or fewer than 10 records for Kansas.

<D> Indicates documentation submitted to KBRC (Kansas Bird Records Committee).

Abbreviations: Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Kansas Bird Records Committee (KBRC), Nelson Environmental Study Area (NESAs), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR), Cheyenne Bottoms (CB), Perry Wildlife Area (PWA),

Observers: Dennis Angle, Bob Antonio, Henry Armknecht, James Barnes (JBa), Scotty Baugh, Joanne Brier, Bill & Nancy Beard (B&NB), Ted Cable, Charles Cope, Bob Fisher, Tom Flowers, Tom Flanigan (TFI), Dan Gish, Matt Gearheart, Bob Gress, Kevin Groeneweg, Christian Hagen (Cha), Leon Hicks, Tyler Hicks, Dan Hegarty, Jack Holl, Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Don Kazmaier, Mark Land, Mick McHugh, Robert Mangile, Linda Mallonee (LMA), Patty Marlett, John Northrup, Chuck & Jaye Otte (C&JO), Marie Osterbuhr, Ralph Pike, Gerry Parkinson (GPa), Sebastian Patti, Brandon Percival, Shawn G. Papon (SGP), Galen Pittman, Alexis Powell, Mike Rader, Dave Rintoul, Ellen Rintoul, Leonard & Betty Rich (L&BR), Richard Rucker, John Schukman, Scott Seltman, Diane Seltman (DSe), Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSH), Scott & Kylee Sharp (S&KS), Art Swalwell, Phil Wedge, Margaret Wedge, Dave Williams, Gene Young

Statewide Shorebird Survey

by Helen Hands

As many of you know, shorebirds migrate thousands of miles between wintering areas in South America and breeding areas in the Arctic. Many of these birds fly inland routes through Kansas. Inland-migrating shorebirds tend to make shorter hops and stay at smaller areas for a shorter time than coastal-migrating shorebirds. Shorebirds migrating through the Great Plains evolved this opportunistic migration strategy to cope with irregular availability of wetlands, due to the drier climate. Larger wetland complexes in the Great Plains, such as Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira, provide suitable habitat for shorebirds more frequently due to their larger size and more-regular supply of water. However, even these wetlands can be too wet (e.g., spring and summer-fall 1993) or too dry (e.g., summer-fall 1991 and spring 1992) for shorebirds. At these times, shorebirds need alternative sites to allow them to continue migration. Although these alternative sites may not attract as many shorebirds as regularly or for as long as large wetlands, each stop along the way is important and necessary for shorebirds to complete their journeys.

Shorebird use of Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Slate Creek Wetlands, Benedictine Bottoms, and Baker Wetlands has been well documented with regular surveys (i.e., surveys conducted at least twice monthly throughout the spring and summer-fall migratory periods). Shorebird use of other areas, even extremely important sites such as Quivira, is known only anecdotally because regular surveys have not been conducted. Data from these unsurveyed areas are needed to quantify the importance of other stopover areas and protect them if needed. Thus, these unsurveyed areas are the focus of the statewide shorebird survey I'd like to start.

To adequately quantify the number of shorebirds using each site, surveys need to be conducted twice a month throughout the spring and summer-fall migratory periods – late March through May and July through October. Frequent surveys are needed because shorebird numbers at a site vary widely within each migratory period. Surveying too infrequently increases the chance of underestimating the value of a site to shorebirds. Shorebird surveys in North, Central, and South America have been coordinated by the

International Shorebird Survey (ISS) for the past 25 years. ISS surveys are done every 10 days, a tradeoff between what is feasible and what is needed to quantify shorebird use. I'd prefer to see surveys conducted more frequently than twice a month, but I understand that most people don't have the time or the interest to do that.

The methods for shorebird surveys are fairly simple; just count the number of birds you see by species. Time of day and weather conditions aren't strict; just don't survey at a time when visibility is poor; such as fog, heavy rain, or into the sun.

Below, I've listed some suggested areas for surveys. If you know other sites that you'd rather survey, I'm open to suggestions. I've selected the following sites based on the likelihood of having shorebirds and management potential. If you're interested in helping, please select a site that you wouldn't mind surveying 5 times in spring and 8 times in summer-fall. Thus, you might want to choose a location that's no more than 10 miles from home or a place that you regularly bird.

Cheyenne Co. Marsh, Jamestown Wildlife Area, Kirwin NWR, Lincoln Co. Marshes, Norton Reservoir, Webster Reservoir, Wilson Reservoir, Clinton Reservoir, Lake View oxbow, Lonestar Lake, Perry Reservoir, Tuttle Creek Reservoir, Cheyenne Bottoms, TNC Preserve, Claussen playa, Herron playa, Isabel marsh, Lake McKinney, Quivira NWR, Wild Turkey playa, Other playas, Cheney Reservoir, Colwich wetland, El Dorado Reservoir, Kanopolis Reservoir, Marion Reservoir, McPherson Wetlands, Mt. Hope Wetland, Big Hill Lake, Elk City Reservoir, Fall River Reservoir, John Redmond Reservoir, Melvern Reservoir, Neosho Wildlife Area, Pomona Reservoir, Toronto Reservoir

I'd like to start these surveys in March 2002 and continue them annually like the Breeding Bird Survey, or for at least 5-10 years. This will allow us to assess a variety of sites through a variety of different weather conditions. Some sites might attract shorebirds only during wet years, some only in dry years. So consider this time commitment before volunteering.

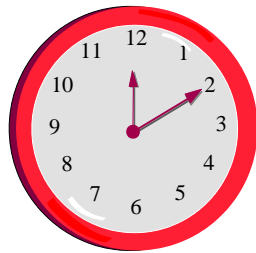
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Membership Renewal Time!

Annual dues are payable to the Treasurer in January. Please check the label on this month's mailing for your subscription expiration date. Members with an expiration date of 1201 need to renew for the coming year. KOS sincerely hopes that you will renew your membership for 2002, since we value you as a member of KOS and don't want you to miss out on the benefits KOS offers. You should find a renewal form enclosed with this mailing. Please fill it out and return the form along with your dues to:

Dan Larson
KOS Treasurer
4531 SE 27th Street
Topeka, KS 66605

Your renewal today will save the Society time and money by reducing the need for multiple reminders. Thanks, and we look forward to serving you in 2002.



- *Shorebird Survey, concluded*

Right now, you are probably thinking that these surveys would require a lot of work and are wondering, "what's in it for me." If we're able to pull off these surveys, we'll join Ohio as the only states conducting statewide shorebird surveys. Second, monitoring is one of most important needs identified in the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan so you'll be doing your part to help these birds. Finally, and more concretely, those who volunteer will get a free copy of Gene Brehm's new shorebird identification video and an excellent shorebird identification book. If you're interested in volunteering, call me at 620-793-3066 or e-mail me at helenh@wp.state.ks.us.

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



Northern Harrier by Matt Gearhart

- - *Continued from following page*

Sunday, December 30

Kenton (Black Mesa), Oklahoma - Sebastian Patti, (312) 248-0570, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com, meet at the Townsman Motel Restaurant in Boise City, OK, at 7 AM or at the Regnier Ranch House east of Kenton between 8:30 and 9 AM

Bonner Springs/Lansing - Galen Pittman, (785)842-7105, gpittman@ku.edu

Monday, December 31

Liberal/Seward County - Sebastian Patti, (312) 248-0570, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com,

Wednesday, January 2

Old Garfield - Barbara Campbell, (620)275-5430

Saturday, January 5

Garden City - Marie Osterbuhr, (620)276-8145

Red Hills/Medicine Lodge - Pete Janzen, (316)832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net

Sunday, January 6

Kanopolis Lake - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595, mike_rader@hotmail.com

Doniphan - John Schukman, (913)727- 5141, Schuksaya@aol.com

Saturday, January 12

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

Syracuse - Art Nonhof, (620)277-2087

2001 - 2002 Christmas Bird Count Season

Ah, the Christmas Bird Count Season (or early winter bird counts or holiday bird counts... whatever you choose to call them. Those wonderful days when you head out into bitter cold, wet slushy snow, or unseasonable heat waves, all in the interest of seeing how many bird species and individuals you and your colleagues can find in a circle 15 miles in diameter. You may find a wonderful rarity, you may freeze your binoculars off. Is this a great time of year or what?! Following is a list of the counts that have been posted on the Kansas Bird Discussion List (KSBLD-L) or reported directly to the editor. If you have any questions regarding the details of a particular count, please contact the count compiler directly. While not all of the Kansas counts are submitted to the National Audubon Society (NAS), most all are published in *The Bulletin*. For 2001 and all future counts, NAS has set the count dates as December 14th through January 5th, inclusive. The dates that are acceptable for inclusion in *The Bulletin* may be slightly different. All of the following count information, as well as last minute changes, will be posted on the KOS web site; <http://ksbirds.org>

Friday, December 14

Quivira NWR - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595,
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Saturday, December 15

Lakin - Leonard Rich, (620)275-5192

Lawrence - Galen Pittman, (785)842-7105,
gpittman@ku.edu

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

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

Olathe - Don Weiss, (913)780-6599,
dweiss@conseva.com Meet at Ernie Miller Park, on K-7 Highway at 7 AM. Contact Don if you plan on participating.

Pratt County - Linda Loomis,
farmbirdies@yahoo.com

Smoky Hills Audubon (Salina) -

Topeka - Gary Haden, (785)273-5598

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

Wichita - Pete Janzen, (316)832-0182,
prarybrd@southwind.net

Sunday, December 16

Emporia - Jean Schulenberg, (620)341-5896,
schulenj@emporia.edu

Marion County - Chet Gresham,
cogresha@yahoo.com

Oskaloosa/Perry Lake - Richard Rucker,
(785)842-3845(home), (785)597-5144(work),
Richard.C.Rucker@nwk02.usace.army.mil

Wakefield - Chuck Otte, (785)238-8800, otte@jc.net,
meet at the restaurant in Wakefield at 7:30 AM.

Wilson Lake - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595,
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Winfield - Max Thompson, (620)221-1856
maxt@sckans.edu

Monday, December 17

Olsburg - Gary Jeffrey, (785)468-3587

Wednesday, December 19

Slate Creek Wetlands - Gene Young, (620)441-5331,
(620)442-4165 (home) youngg@cowleycollege.com.

Meet at Slate Valley Baptist Church at 8 AM.

Thursday, December 20

Cheyenne Bottoms - Helen Hands, (620)793-3066,
helenh@wp.state.ks.us, meet at the headquarters at 8 AM

Saturday, December 22

Arkansas City - Gene Young, (620)441-5331,
youngg@cowleycollege.com. Meet at Newman Park on Hwy 77, south edge of town next to the Arkansas River, at 8 AM

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

Junction City - Chuck Otte, (785)238-8800,
otte@jc.net Meet at Sapp Bros Truck Stop at 7:30 AM

Linn County - Roger Boyd, (785)594-3172,
roger.boyd@bakeru.edu, meet at the Texaco Truck Stop just south of the US69 LaCygne interchange at 7:15AM.

Webster Reservoir - Mike Rader, (785)658-2595,
mike_rader@hotmail.com

Sunday, December 23

Cedar Bluff - Scott Seltman, (785)372-5411,
sselt@gbta.net

Saturday, December 29

Baldwin City - Roger Boyd, (785)594-3172,
roger.boyd@bakeru.edu, meet at the Sante Fe Depot in Baldwin at 7:15 AM

Cimarron Nat'l Grasslands - Sebastian Patti, (312) 248-0570, sebastianpatti@hotmail.com, meet at the Elkhart Cemetery at 8:30 AM

El Dorado Lake -

Blue Rapids - Tom Parker, (785)363-7228,
tlparker@flinthills.com, Meet in front of the community center on the town square at 7 AM.

Kirwin NWR - Shannon Rothchild, (785)543-6673
Exten 223, Shannon_Rothchild@fws.gov

Leavenworth/Atchison - John Schukman, (913)727-5141, Schuksaya@aol.com

Scott Lake - Tom Shane, (620)275-4616,
shane@pld.com

Continued on Page 12

Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 2001 Fall KOS Meetings Great Plains Nature Center Wichita, Kansas

* = presenter on multi-authored papers.

ARCTIC-NESTING SHOREBIRDS LACK GONADAL DEVELOPMENT DURING SPRING MIGRATION: EVIDENCE FROM KANSAS STOPOVER SITES. *Authors/Affiliations: James W. Rivers**, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS; and *James V. Briskie*, Department of Zoology, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Abstract: To cope with a constricted breeding season, birds nesting at high latitudes may copulate during migration to reduce the time needed to find a mate and to arrive on the nesting grounds ready to breed. We surveyed 12 species of shorebirds during spring migration to determine if (1) males produced abundant sperm and (2) females harbored functional sperm storage tubules (SSTs). Of 9 long-distance migrants, only 9.8% (n = 41 individuals) harbored sperm whereas 100% (n = 8 individuals) of short-distance migrants held sperm. In addition, length of testes in long-distance migrants was smaller than that of breeding individuals. In females, no long-distance migrants held sperm in their SSTs and most SSTs were small compared with breeding individuals. Our results indicate that shorebirds nesting at high latitudes were generally not reproductively active during migration, perhaps because the energetic costs of transporting a fully developed reproductive system are greater than any advantages accrued by being able to mate while on migration.

PREDATION ON ARTIFICIAL NESTS IN GRASSLANDS OF EAST-CENTRAL KANSAS. *Author/Affiliation: Luke A. Westerman** and *Elmer J. Finck*, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas.

Abstract: Habitat destruction has affected much of the tallgrass prairie of the Midwestern United States. As a result, grassland birds have declined faster than any other guild in North America. Habitat fragmentation caused by habitat destruction increases the amount of edge in the habitat, thus, creating travel corridors for mesopredators to easily find nests of grassland birds. Edge effects have been shown to occur in heavily fragmented habitats in the Midwest, however, previous work in the Flint Hills and Osage Questas region of Kansas did not show a clear edge effect. An

additional predator type in the interior of the grassland could be contributing to the lack of an edge effect. We used clay eggs and Trailmaster cameras to identify predators and monitor nests success of artificial nests. Artificial nests included two house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and one clay egg. We also used trapping and monitoring techniques to identify predator locations in relation to the habitat edge. Mice (*Peromyscus* sp.) and rats (*Sigmodon hispidus*) were the most frequent (90% of total predation) predators of artificial nests. Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) were the only other predators documented, 6% and 4% of total predation, respectively. Additionally, no edge effect was found in our study. Depredation by small mammals might be an important factor limiting reproductive success of grassland birds. There was no indication that small mammals were specific to a particular area in relation to the habitat edge. This might explain why previous work did not show a clear edge effect in east-central Kansas.

BANDING BIRDS AT FT. RILEY - THE MAPS BANDING PROGRAM, 1993-2000. *Authors/Affiliations: David A. Rintoul*, Biology Division, Kansas State University, Manhattan KS 66506-4901.

ABSTRACT: MAPS is a "constant-effort" mistnetting and banding program, created by the Institute for Bird Populations in 1989 to provide critical data for understanding the status (and changes in status) of North American breeding birds. At the present time there are nearly 500 banding stations, in 17 states, which are participating in the program. These are located on military bases and reservations, and much of the funding for the program has come from the Department of Defense. Since 1993, 6 of these stations have been on Ft. Riley, an infantry training base between Manhattan and Junction City KS. Since 1998, three volunteers (Patricia Yeager, Hoogy Hoogheem, and Dave Rintoul) from the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society have been assisting MAPS interns in this effort at Ft. Riley. For the period 1993-2000, 3716 birds were banded, and 1036 birds were recaptured after banding, either during the same season or when they returned to the site in subsequent seasons. These

banding and recapture data provide some interesting insights into landbird population biology, migration, and distribution of birds in Kansas.

USE OF GRASSLAND BIRD COMMUNITIES BY BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS IN THE FLINT HILLS.

Authors/Affiliation: William. E. Jensen and Jack F. Cully, Jr., Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.*

ABSTRACT.—Recent studies from the Midwestern United States report that the brood parasitic brownheaded cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) avoids grassland bird communities and prefers woodland nesting hosts. This pattern is not supported by studies from the tallgrass prairiedominated landscapes of the Kansas Flint Hills. We present cowbird habitat use data from 20 years of linetranssect surveys among experimentallymanaged tallgrass prairie watersheds and gallery forest at Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS), Kansas. We also report preliminary findings of geographical variation in cowbird abundance and brood parasitism on grassland birds across the Flint Hills region. On KPBS, cowbird relative abundance and cowbird:host ratios were higher in prairie than in forest, but were not related to watershed burn regime despite the encroachment of woodlands in infrequently- burned prairie. Our data also show that grassland nesting birds at KPBS are heavily parasitized by cowbirds. However, at a regional scale we found considerable latitudinal variation in cowbird abundance and brood parasitism intensity on grassland birds across the Flint Hills. Parasitism rates of Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) nests ranged from 85% in the northern Flint Hills to 0% in southeast Kansas and northeast Oklahoma. The causes for such drastic geographic variation in cowbird use of grassland-nesting hosts across a relatively uniform landscape are unclear. We are currently investigating the possibility that cowbirds expand from their preferred habitats where their abundance is sufficiently high.

MEADE COUNTY CHICKADEES, A MIXED

LOT. *Author/Affiliation: Thomas L. Flowers, Meade, Kansas.*

ABSTRACT: Measurements of Chickadees in Meade County show the population to be a mixed lot, with most being hybrids of the Black-capped Chickadee and Carolina Chickadee. All sight records in Meade County are suspect without careful measurements.

A DISCUSSION OF HOUSE FINCH POPULATIONS IN MEADE COUNTY, KANSAS.

Author/Affiliation: Thomas L. Flowers, Meade, Kansas.

Abstract: House Finch populations in Meade County, Kansas are cyclic in nature and are directly affected by diseases. Banding data on over 1700 birds shows the population changes which have occurred in Meade County since 1985, including a population crash in 1998 and 1999.

STATEWIDE SHOREBIRD SURVEYS *Authors/Affiliations: Helen Hands, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks*

Abstract: During migration, millions of shorebirds stop at numerous wetlands throughout Kansas. However, to my knowledge, their presence is documented quantitatively on a regular basis at only a few wetlands – Cheyenne Bottoms, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, and Slate Creek Wetlands. Although these wetlands are extremely important to migrating shorebirds, other Kansas wetlands also are important in most or some years. Thus, an annual, statewide survey of shorebird numbers conducted twice monthly during late March-May and July-October is needed to quantify shorebird use of wetlands throughout Kansas. These data are necessary to identify wetlands important to shorebirds, so that these wetlands can be protected and managed for shorebirds.

HISTORY OF AVIAN MORTALITY AT TRANSMITTING TOWERS NEAR TOPEKA, KANSAS, FROM 1950's-PRESENT.

Authors/Affiliations: Eugene A. Young, Department of Biology, Cowley County Community College, Arkansas City, KS 67156, and Mark B. Robbins, Division of Ornithology, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.*

Abstract: Two towers have been studied periodically near Topeka, Kansas since the 1950's. A total of 97 species of birds, mostly Neotropical migrants (80%), representing 4887 individuals have been recorded from the WIBW and KTKA TV towers. Most of this mortality has been associated with seven large kills (98%). Recent studies indicate that mortality is greater in the fall than spring and that species composition within a season can vary, likely depending on the chronology of migration and associated weather patterns. It appears that large kills occur after midnight, when clear skies become overcast due to approaching cold fronts.

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THE KANSAS COUNTY BIRD CHECKLIST PROJECT. *Author/Affiliation: Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Office, Junction City, Kansas.*

Abstract: Bird watchers of all skill levels enjoy having bird checklists available. While data on bird records, for individual Kansas counties, have been obtainable in the past, they have not been easily accessed. The goals of this volunteer project were: 1) to pull together available resources and create uniform bird checklists for all 105 Kansas counties, 2) have these readily available on the World Wide Web, 3) update the lists as information becomes available. The methodology used will be discussed as well as some of the interesting results after assimilating over 20,000 county species records.

BIG PINK BIRDS IN WESTERN KANSAS.

Author/Affiliation: Marie Osterbuhr, Ron Osterbuhr, Sara Shane, and Tom Shane; Garden City, Kansas.

Abstract: On 12 August 2001, Osterbuhrs found a single second-year Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) at a large playa 8 miles nnw of Garden City, Finney County, Kansas, where the bird stayed except for one occasion when it was located at Ackley Lake, 3 miles further west. By 19 August a second bird was found at the playa. The birds moved to Lowe Lake on 30 August, 7 miles southwest, where they stayed into September. During the day the spoonbills primarily spent time loafing in shallow water with waterfowl and a few egrets. At sunset they became considerably more active. The birds would then feed in shallow (8 - 14 inches deep) water by moving their bills side-to-side while walking through the water at a very rapid gait. One local farmer stated he had counted 5 spoonbills and two others said they had seen a half dozen when the spoonbills first arrived the last week in July. These observations are the first ever recorded for the western half of Kansas. Over sixty birders and local farmers were able to observe the spoonbills during their stay.

A CENSUS OF SPRING BIRDS USING SOUTHWESTERN KANSAS PLAYA LAKES.

Authors/Affiliations: Thomas L. Flowers, District Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Meade, Kansas.

Abstract: Earth Team volunteers censused birds on nearly 100 playa lakes in Southwestern Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000. The last organized census of "water birds" in Kansas was conducted by the Kansas Biological Survey in 1963, making this an important updated to our knowledge of birds using wetlands in Kansas. In spite of localized drought conditions, playa lakes in Southwestern Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle served as important habitat for over 100 species of birds. Small playa lakes are

vitaly important in supplying stopover habitat and nesting habitat for these birds.

RECREATIONAL PRESSURE AT FORT NIOBRARA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON AVIAN ACTIVITY AND SEASONAL PRODUCTIVITY ALONG THE NIOBRARA RIVER. *Author/Affiliation: Chris Anderson, Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Division of Biology, Kansas State University.*

Abstract: In modern times, increases in standard of living and free time have lead to growth in recreational opportunities and their promotion in the United States. Research has shown that recreational activities may impact animals through exploitation, disturbance, habitat modification, or pollution. Due to this, many conflicting concerns develop in areas that may be set aside for wildlife while still maintaining a multiple-use function (i.e. supporting various types of recreational, industrial, or business activities). Located along the northern edge of the Nebraska Sandhills, Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge provides an opportunity for multiple-use while still fulfilling its mission as a "preserve and breeding ground for native birds". The federally designated "wild and scenic" Niobrara river runs through the refuge and provides many recreational opportunities as well as economic benefits to the community due to these activities. Since 1961, river use in Fort Niobrara has increased from several hundred people per year to more than 30,000. In this particular situation, as well as in other cases on public land, managers find it necessary to recognize any potential risks as well as any realized or perceived hazards that may affect wildlife, particularly if in an adverse manner, due to various human uses occurring. Quantification of the effects of these activities would provide a baseline to aid in the understanding of these types of human disturbances, as well as provide a basis for management decisions. During the summer of 2000, a pilot study investigating potential shifts in avian relative abundance, species composition, and spatial distribution was conducted within Fort Niobrara NWR. Point counts and transects were utilized to examine avian use in areas with or without recreational activities. Periods of low and high recreational activity were also examined at various temporal scales. No apparent shift in species composition or spatial distribution was apparent at this broad scale level. However, certain species such as the Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) and Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) were found to be potentially sensitive to human intrusion. Initial results of the pilot project were used to select specific avian species for population-level studies.

BREEDING ECOLOGY OF UPLAND SANDPIPERS IN KANSAS. *Author/Affiliation: Brett K. Sandercock, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, 666503. E-mail: bsanderc@ksu.edu.*

Abstract: Upland Sandpipers (*Bartramia longicauda*) are a grassland bird that is listed as threatened or endangered in at least 12 states, including Iowa and Indiana in the midwest. The breeding biology of this species remains poorly known because it is secretive during the nesting period and the sexes are indistinguishable. I report results from a breeding study conducted at Konza Prairie in 2001 and compare my estimates to published values. Habitat requirements of Upland Sandpipers changed over the nesting cycle. Pre-laying pairs were usually sighted foraging in watersheds that had been burned the previous spring. Of 16 nests found in 2001, 81% were in watershed with a heavy accumulation of thatch: ungrazed areas not burned for =1 year or grazed areas not burned for =3 years. Three nests were found in watersheds burned the preceding spring but were initiated 2-3 weeks later than all other nests. After hatching, parents led broods to burned watersheds. Egg-laying was 1 egg per day, modal clutch size was 4 eggs, and length of incubation was 24 days. Females took a greater role in incubation and brood-rearing than males. Future research will use radio-telemetry to examine breeding biology and mating system of this species.

PRE-FLEDGING GROWTH RATES OF COMMON NIGHTHAWKS. *Author/Affiliation: Travis Englebert*, Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, 67456 and Brett K. Sandercock, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, 666503. E-mail: bsanderc@ksu.edu.*

Abstract: No estimates of growth rates have been published for any species of nightjar. The purpose of this study was to examine growth and development of juvenile Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*). Growth rates of nightjars are of interest for three reasons. Nighthawk young are semiprecocial, an uncommon mode of development found only in the Caprimulgidae, Laridae, and Alcidae. Nighthawks are ground-nesters and high rates of nest predation may select for rapid growth rates. Finally, standardized growth curves may be a useful tool for aging young in nests that are found after hatching. Nonlinear regression based on the logistic growth curve was used to estimate growth rates (K) and inflection points (I) for body mass, two measures of structural size (total head and tarsus), two measures of flight performance

(wing and tail). Growth rates were highest for head and tail. Nighthawk young fledged with wings and tails =50% of asymptotic adult size. Despite differences in ecology, the growth rates of nighthawk young are very similar to those of other birds with semiprecocial young. A strong relationship between wing length and age ($r^2 > 0.95$) indicated that wing length would be the best trait for estimating the age of young found after hatching.

GREATER AND LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN (TYMPANUCHUS) INTERACTIONS IN WESTERN KANSAS. *Author/Affiliation: Matthew R. Bain*¹, Greg H. Farley¹, and Roger D. Applegate², ¹ Dept of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays St Univ, Hays, KS, ² Kansas Dept of Wildlife and Parks, Emporia, KS.*

Abstract: Greater (*Tympanuchus cupido*) and lesser (*T. pallidicinctus*) prairie-chickens are considered to be historically and presently allopatric. We surveyed 96 leks in western Kansas this spring and 27 contained individuals of both species. Twelve males were heard giving booming vocalizations unlike typical greater and lessers. These vocalizations contained elements of greater and lesser booms and were intermediate in acoustic measurements and overall similarity. These males displayed additional characteristics that were not typical of greater or lessers.

BREEDING PRODUCTIVITY AND POST-FLEDGING MOVEMENTS OF HOUSE WRENS. *Author/Affiliation: Jamie E. Timson* and Greg H. Farley, Dept of Biological Sciences, Fort Hays St Univ, Hays, KS.*

Abstract: Prior to 2000 and 2001 breeding seasons, 150 nest boxes were erected throughout riparian habitat in Ellis County to study breeding productivity and post-fledging movements of house wrens. During that interval there were 222 individual breeding attempts, 113 (51%) of which were successful. A total of 39 (32%) nesting attempts in 37 different boxes failed because of predation during the first breeding season; predation occurred more frequently during the second year, resulting in the loss of 59 (55%) nesting attempts in 52 different boxes. I color-banded 786 individuals (94 females, 62 males, and 630 nestlings), and a total of 16 individuals (10 AHY and 6 HY) from the 2000 breeding season exhibited site fidelity in 2001. Hatch-year individuals from the 2000 breeding season traveled greater distances from their natal nest box than the after hatch-year birds did between each year's breeding attempt. Radio transmitters were used to monitor movements of fledglings and allowed for behavioral observations during the immature stage.

KOS Fall Board Meeting
October 6, 2001
Great Plains Nature Center
Wichita, KS

Attendance:	Chuck Otte	Dave Williams
	Gene Young	Greg Farley
	Jan Boyd	Dave Rintoul
	Bill Busby	John Schukman
	Max Thompson	

Chairman John Schukman called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m. The minutes from the winter board meeting (2/24/01) were reviewed and approved.

Membership Report: John stated that more brochures are needed. Mike will develop an in-house printable brochure.

KBRC Report: Dave Rintoul distributed a report on records from the first voting round and submitted records for calendar year 2001. Thirty-one records were reviewed and most were accepted.

Bulletin Editor's Report: Max reported that the bulletin was mailed this week. He has material through the December bulletin only. Cal Cink has agreed to take over the bulletin, perhaps with help from Roger Boyd, starting in 2002. The cost and process of publishing the issue with CBC results was discussed as this is the biggest bulletin task. Currently, results are compiled in Excel and publication cost is about \$1,300.

Newsletter Editor's Report: Chuck is working on the December issue and has photos from Debarah Arnett from the Cimarron trip. Lloyd Moore will be doing the roundup again.

Vice-President's Report: Gene had no news.

Membership Report: Mike was absent but had provided a written report summarizing recent membership by member category, membership directory (zero balance), and membership development news. The board agreed that work on a new directory should start soon and be published in 2002. A smaller format will be used this time.

Business Manager's Report: Dave stated that the mailings are going fine. There are still 6,000 copies of the 9th checklist available. There was a discussion of how to use these checklists. Greg volunteered to find a student to help produce a stamp or sticker with the KOS web address and place these on the checklists. The checklists will then be distributed free at strategic locations such as nature centers.

New Business:

Great Bend Birding Festival. John talked with contacts about the festival and suggested that the role of KOS should be to provide field trip guides and to help plan field trips. Gene and Mike are on the advisory board for the festival and will represent KOS interests. Field trip ideas such as having scopes set up at birding stops were discussed.

Future Meetings:

Spring, 2002	Junction City. Chuck reported that planning is going well.
Fall, 2002	Meade. Suggested by Tom Flowers. Moved and accepted.
Spring, 2003	Undecided. Alternatives suggested were Comanche County and northeast KS
Fall, 2003	Cowley County

Board Business by Email. This topic was discussed but a decision was postponed until the winter board meeting.

Dingus Natural Area. A relative of the former owner of the Dingus tract had contacted KOS with an offer to help replace signs, etc. John will visit the area and report back.

CBC Committee. Producing the CBC issue of the bulletin is a big job and John will check with Cal Cink about the need for others to help out.

American Bird Conservancy. John reported that KOS had been requested to join ABC; he'll check into this organization and the merits of joining.

KOS Board. There are two open board positions. Replacements will be needed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45.

General Business Meeting

President John Schukman called the general business meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

The following slate of officers and directors was forwarded to the membership:

President	John Schukman
Vice-president	Gene Young
Corresponding Secretary	Bill Busby
Membership Development Coordinator	Mike Stewart
Treasurer	Dan Larson
Board Member	Marvin Kuehn
Board Member	David Seibel
Business Manager	Dave Williams
Editor, <i>The Bulletin</i>	Calvin Cink
Editor, <i>The Horned Lark</i>	Chuck Otte

It was moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for the slate presented. The motion was seconded and carried. The board will be joined by held over board members Debarah Arnett and Chet Gresham.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Busby
Corresponding Secretary

Ten Best Birds

Always a fun activity, the ten best birds are nominated by KOS members and selected by a committee that wishes to remain anonymous. The results were announced at the KOS Banquet by Gene Young.

1. Harlequin Duck, 3/7/01 - Wyandotte County
2. Cave Swallow, 7/14/01 - Barton County & 9/27/01 - Finney County
3. White-tailed Kite, 6/29/01 - Finney County
4. Juniper Titmouse, 10/7/01 - Morton County
5. Roseate Spoonbill, 8/12 - 9/16/01 - Finney County
6. White-throated Swift, 4/23/01 - Ford County
7. Western Bluebird, 12/16/01 - Ellis County
8. Plumbeous Vireo, 9/24/01 - Sedgwick County
9. Chihuahuan Raven, 11/14/01 - Cowley County
10. Harris's Hawk, 11/11 - 11/24/01 - Cowley County

Honorable Mention: Little Gull, Virginia's Warbler, Gyrfalcon, Lewis's Woodpecker, Vermillion Flycatcher, Red Phalarope, Black Vulture, Gray Flycatcher, Calliope Hummingbird, Hammond's Flycatcher, Connecticut Warbler.

Remember, while the list isn't necessarily the rarest, species are considered based on rarity, as well as location, time of year and length of stay.

A Labor Day Weekend trip to Morton County has become an annual pilgrimage for many KOS members. KOS Board Member Debarah Arnett accompanied the pilgrims this year and provided the following photographs. Birders have now become an accepted sight in the alleys of Elkhart, gathering en masse to view the hummingbirds that are visiting the feeders.

