



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

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From the Keyboard -

Well, it looks like the vast majority of the 1994 spring migration has passed on through at this writing. I had some good birding days (never as many as I would like, though!), participated in the North American Migration Count and even helped out the Northern Flint Hills Audubon in their annual birdathon on the last day of April (which was a cold day and started with snow!).

Unfortunately, I missed the spring meeting and what a spring meeting it was! 170 species tallied (although I noticed they missed House Sparrow!) and a great attendance roster. Numerous KOS members who were in attendance dropped me a note or called to let me know what a great time they had and what good birds I missed. As one KOS Board Member said, "It was a great meeting and good to see so many old friends!" That's what these spring and fall meetings are all about! A great time birding with old and new friends alike. I cringe every time I miss one and look forward to the next one. Please note in this issue a preliminary announcement of the fall meeting in Garden City, as well as the list of upcoming spring and fall meetings through 1998!

The survey responses have been very interesting and supportive, with some excellent constructive comments, many of which we are working on right now, while others may take a little bit longer. We've had a range of respondents so far from a 10 year old first year member up through someone who missed being a charter member by 1 year! We still need your surveys, though. If you've got an idea - send it in. If you've got a gripe - send it in. If you've got a compliment - send it in. Your responses will remain

anonymous. We just want to know how you feel about KOS!

After last year's deluge across much of Kansas, many of us are looking forward to some normal summer weather so we can run our Breeding Bird Survey routes without a pontoon boat and get caught up on our KBBAT blocks. If you are currently an atlaser, get out there and let's get caught up. If you aren't an atlaser you can easily become one. Contact myself or John Zimmerman and we'll get you in touch with a regional coordinator. We're a little behind schedule, (it's the middle of the 5th and we're down 3 runs for you baseball fans) but we're not completely out of the picture. A good summer and we can catch back up and get ahead. It's a little bit of work, but it's a lot of fun. Become part of this record making event. You never know what you'll find out there in your block!

Be sure not to miss the next installment of "Is Your Landscape for the Birds?" I'm having a lot of fun with this series and may wind up making it an irregular visitor to the *Horned Lark* after the first four installments. One thing that Jaye and I have noticed is the increase in bird activity as our landscape has started to get some size and maturity to it. We try to work in the back yard anymore and we just get scolded from all sides by birds who feel that *we* are in *their* space. I'm still waiting for that spring when I get a passerine fall out in my trees.... maybe next year.

Have a good summer, get those Atlas blocks done and we'll see you in Garden City!

--chuck

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PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE

At the winter board meeting on February 26, 1994, the KOS Board of Directors voted to forward the following two By-laws changes to the membership to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in Garden City in October. (Please note that there were a couple of minor errors in the proposed change that was published in the March newsletter. The lettering sequence was not correct and I omitted one category. The correct version follows.)

It was moved, seconded and passed that the following parts of Article II, Section 3 of the KOS by-laws be amended to read:

- A. Regular members: \$15.00 per year.
- B. Sustaining members: \$25.00 per year
- D. Family regular members: \$20.00 per year
- E. Family sustaining members: \$30.00 per year
- F. Contributing members: \$40.00 or more per year
- G. Student members: \$5.00 per year (elementary through college, including full time undergraduate or graduate students.)
- H. Any foreign category or subscription add \$5.00 per year.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the following part of Article II, Section 3 of the KOS by-laws be amended to read:

- C. Life members: a lump sum payment of \$300 or \$150 each year in two (2) consecutive years.

These proposed changes would take affect January 1, 1995. Members who are currently paying on life memberships would be allowed to finish their payments. Sections A, B, D, and E are all \$5.00 increases. Section F was changed by adding the words "or more". Section C is currently a lump sum payment of \$150 or 4 consecutive annual payments of \$37.50. Section G, student memberships was left unchanged. Section H is a new section, added to help defray the expense of foreign mailings.

The Board of Directors felt that they had 2 choices. Raise dues or cut services. The Board doesn't want to reduce what the members get from KOS, in fact they want to provide more. We all hope that you will attend the Fall Meeting in Garden City (see related article in this issue) and support this by-laws change. If you have any questions about this change feel free to contact any one of the Board Members or the *Horned Lark* editor.

When WAS That?

A special KOS committee is already starting work on a special annual meeting on our 50th Anniversary. The only problem is that there appears to be some confusion as to when the first annual meeting occurred and when the 50th anniversary will happen! If you can shed some light on this mystery, or are interested in helping plan this special celebration, please drop a note to KOS President **Jim Mayhew** (1909 Judson, Manhattan, KS 66502) or the newsletter editor **Chuck Otte** (613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441).

NEW MEMBERS????

It's no secret that the only way any organization can survive is to have an active and growing membership. More than likely we all have birdwatching friends who aren't (gasp) KOS members. Maybe you've never told them about KOS, maybe you've never had a membership brochure to give them, or maybe you're just too shy to bring it up. For whatever reason, *there are options!* Send me the name and address of potential members and I'll send them a membership brochure. Or get in touch with myself or one of the officers and get a supply of membership brochures. Or even do like I did with my brother. I paid for the first year membership and after that he was on his own. It worked though, he's still a member! Ohh.... don't forget to mention the benefits such as the wonderful Newsletter and *Bulletin* they get 4 times a year!!!!

DIRECTORY DIGRESSIONS

Now that you've had a couple months to check out the new membership directory, I'll give you one more chance to request a large print edition. If you would like a large print version of the membership directory, *please don't hesitate* to request one. We recognize that we all have different sight capabilities. My father, at age 77, can drive down the road just fine without his glasses..... just don't ask him to read the speedometer! If you need a large print version, drop me a note and I'll get one in the mail.

Check out the
CLASSIFIEDS

on page 5...

There's *something* for everyone!

