

Kansas Ornithological Society

NEWSLETTER

Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66502

September, 1986

Vol. 13, No. 3

KOS

ANNUAL

FALL

MEETING

OCTOBER 3-5, 1986

OFFICER'S CORNER

Some of the things I look forward to each year are weekends, migration, togetherness with good friends and family, and birding.

Living in the midwest affords us the opportunity to experience the change of seasons. I look forward to winter because I know Spring is soon to come; I welcome summer because I know mid-August will bring the beginning of the fall flights southward.

As a sales manager for a Fortune 50 company, I face tension, stress, and business goals each day and most nights carry the load home for a few more hours of work. I manage the stress and pressure by exercise and weekend birding.

I have a tendency to never stop birding (I observe birds during work sessions with my sales team and always on non-birding family vacations), but because of time pressures and family pursuits, I bird extensively during migration and bank time during the rest of the year to be reinvested during peak movement times.

I enjoy my family and look forward to the special times we enjoy together. Having a hobby that we all enjoy (they perhaps, not as ardent as I) keeps us together most weekends during migration. Birding with good friends is also important! Although I have the tendency to go with the same individuals, I always enjoy meeting people in the field or being a member of a large group during a field trip.

So, what's the bottom line? Perhaps birding would provide YOU with the same stress release, intellectual pursuit, family and friendship outlet that it provides for me and many others.

The Annual KOS meeting is coming up October 3-5 with field trips scheduled; please try to be there. Join any field trip of your choice or go out by yourself during the coming months.

Dave Bryan
Overland Park, KS

POMONA LAKE CIRCLE - KANSAS SUMMER BIRD COUNT 1986

June 7, 1986; 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Overcast to partly cloudy, temp. 71°F. Wind 5-8 mph. 8 observers in three parties, 0 at feeders, 15.5 total party hours (7.5 by foot, 8 by car), 0 feeders, 0 owling. Total party miles 108 (99 by car, 9 on foot).

Great Blue Heron 9; Wood Duck 9; Turkey Vulture 11; Northern Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; American Kestrel 4; Northern Bobwhite 26; Killdeer 26; Upland Sandpiper 10; Rock Dove 1; Mourning Dove 55; Yellow-billed Cuckoo 32; Great Horned Owl 4; Common Nighthawk 2; Chimney Swift 21; Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-headed Woodpecker 14; Red-bellied Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 10; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern Flicker 9; Olive-sided Flycatcher 1; Eastern Wood-Pewee 17; Empidonax sp 4; Eastern Phoebe 4; Great Crested Flycatcher 19; Western Kingbird 6; Eastern Kingbird 41; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 8; Purple Martin 16; Northern Rough-winged Swallow 8; Barn Swallow 56; Blue Jay 30; American Crow 21; Black-capped Chickadee 57; Tufted Titmouse 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 5; Carolina Wren 2; House Wren 5; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 10; Eastern Bluebird 30; American Robin 129; Gray Catbird 2; Northern Mockingbird 5;

Brown Thrasher 31; Loggerhead Shrike 19; European Starling 69; Warbling Vireo 18; Red-eyed Vireo 3; Northern Parula 3; Common Yellowthroat 2; Northern Cardinal 39; Blue Grosbeak 2; Indigo Bunting 31; Dickcissel 187; Chipping Sparrow 3; Field Sparrow 8; Lark Sparrow 1; Grasshopper Sparrow 6; Red-winged Blackbird 69; Eastern Meadowlark 87; Common Grackle 158; Brown-headed Cowbird 65; Northern Oriole 20; American Goldfinch 9; House Sparrow 137.

Other birds seen the day before the count - Caspian Tern; Black Tern.

Total Species 66; 1706 individuals. Participants - Bob Culbertson, Dave and Mary Dunsmoor, Dean Grisell, Phyllis Henney, Gene Lewis, Tanya Tims, Bunnie Watkins (Compiler: 3212 West 24th Street Terrace, Lawrence, KS 66046) and Dan Williamson.

KONZA PRAIRIE VISITORS' DAY

On September 27, 1986 from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM the Konza Prairie Research Natural Area will have a Visitors' Day. The Visitor's Day provides an opportunity for YOU to see the 8,616 acre outdoor laboratory that is the Konza Prairie. The prairie, which once comprised the historic Dewey Ranch, is managed by Kansas State University for ecological research and is owned by The Nature Conservancy.

Scheduled Events

- 1) A slide show every half hour from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- 2) Guided hikes beginning at 9:30 AM and continuing until 3:30 PM. Hike length varies from a short hike (0.5 miles) to a moderate hike (2.0 miles) to a long hike (4.0 miles).
- 3) Demonstrations on prairie plants and animals, effects of fire on the prairie community, weather station, and current research.
- 4) History - The Riley County Historical Society will conduct tours of the ranch buildings throughout the day.

Location

From K-177: At the east end of the Kansas River bridge in Manhattan, follow McDowell Creek Road (Riley County 901) about 6 miles, turn south at the Konza Prairie sign and continue 1 mile to the headquarters area.

From I-70 heading east: Exit 307 and go northeast on McDowell Creek Road (RC-901) about 5 miles, turn south at the Konza Prairie sign and continue 1 mile to the headquarters area.

From I-70 heading west: Exit 313 and go north on K-177 for about seven miles to just south of the Kansas River bridge then turn left and follow McDowell Creek Road (RC-901) for about six miles, turn south at the Konza Prairie sign and continue 1 mile to the headquarters area.

For more information, Contact John L. Zimmerman, (913) 532-6659 or the Division of Biology Office, (913) 532-6615.

KANSAS WILDLIFE HERITAGE MONTH 1987

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: Kansas Wildlife Heritage Month is a cooperative effort of conservation organizations whose purpose is to increase the public's awareness of and appreciation for the wildlife and associated natural resources of Kansas by focusing on a series of activities in March.

Kansas Wildlife Heritage Month shall be the function of a Task Force, whose membership shall consist of representatives of Kansas conservation and education organizations and interested individuals. The Kansas Wildlife Heritage Month Coordinators shall be appointed by the Task Force through the consensus of the representative members in attendance at the annual April meeting. The Task Force shall meet monthly, or at the call of the Coordinators, to prepare and plan for the next Kansas Wildlife Heritage Month. The subject for the following Kansas Wildlife Heritage Month shall be determined by those in attendance at the May meeting of the Task Force. The Task Force functions shall be carried out by the Executive Committee, whose membership shall consist of the immediate past and present coordinators.

Plans are underway to celebrate our wildlife heritage during March 1987. The theme of the celebration will be Wetlands. Our permanent motto will be "Habitat - A Place To Grow" and will be incorporated into the logo, which is the 1986 poster with some modifications. The heron and the words KANSAS WILDLIFE HERITAGE MONTH will be kept. Along with the statewide activities carried out by numerous organizations to celebrate Kansas Wildlife Heritage Month, we are planning to observe Kansas Wildlife Day on Wednesday, March 18, 1987. We have reserved the first floor of the Capitol Building in Topeka from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM so that organizations and businesses can display their products or promote their organizations. We hope to be able to demonstrate the importance wildlife plays in the economic and recreational aspects of Kansas. We hope you and your organization can join with us on that day in Topeka.

Meetings about Kansas Wildlife Heritage Month will be occurring between now and March at various locations throughout the state. We encourage you to participate in these meetings and the celebration during March 1987.

Meeting Dates, Times and Places

August 19	Emporia	Room 153 Bruckelman Science Building, ESU
September 23	Great Bend	Location to be announced
October 20	Manhattan	Room 202 Memorial Union, KSU
November 18	Topeka	Location to be announced
December 15	Manhattan	Room 202 Memorial Union, KSU
January 20	Hays	Location to be announced
February 17	Manhattan	Room 202 Memorial Union, KSU

All meetings will be from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

For more information about Kansas Wildlife Heritage Month and/or the monthly meetings contact either one of the 1987 coordinators.

Steve G. Sorenson
P.O. Box 382
Concordia, KS 66901
913-243-2180

OR

Maure Weigel
Route 1, Box 199
Testcott, KS 67484
913-282-4894

If you have any suggestions about KOS participation in Kansas Wildlife Heritage Month 1987 or Kansas Wildlife Day please contact me. We participated in Kansas Wildlife Heritage Month 1986 with a monetary contribution, by sending a representative to all of the planning meetings and Cedar Crest on Wildlife Day, and by starting a pamphlet about birds for beginning birders.

Elmer J. Finck
 Division of Biology
 Kansas State University
 Manhattan, KS 66506
 913-532-6629

WHAT KIND OF BIRD(ER) WATCHER ARE YOU?

That's a question I've been asking myself since shortly after I began bird watching in 1975. Others, such as Roger Tory Peterson, Chuck Bernstein, Russ Peterson and Bill Oddie have tried to answer this question before but none to my complete satisfaction. Two important factors are ability and commitment, but even these are not enough. I have come to some of my own conclusions after meeting many people that are into birds. Let's see if you agree with me.

The Main Categories:

1. Sportsmen
2. Back-yard Bird Watcher
3. Typical Bird Watcher
4. Lister
5. Birder
6. Hard Core Birder (Twitcher)
7. Ornithologist & Good Nature Photographers

Sportsmen must be included in the group in that they are certainly interested in birds, if only game birds. Their total scope may be limited but they do watch birds, especially the ones they miss. Many bird watchers began as sportsmen and we do share a major common goal - Habitat Protection. If sportsmen and environmentalists could get together, they could form a very effective political team. I think the National Wildlife Federation and the Audubon Society realize this and am hopeful that someday we see some positive changes.

Back-yard Bird Watchers are just that. While they probably own a field guide and a cheap pair of binoculars, most have never gone on a field trip. Most have certainly never taken a vacation strictly for observing birds. They are probably the nicest people in the group and donate a lot of money to wildlife organizations.

Typical Bird Watchers usually go on three or four local field trips a year (usually in the spring). They may own a spotting scope and four or five bird books. They can probably identify up to 300 species without many mistakes. There is a wide range of abilities in this group. Some are pretty good while others are just "dicky"-birders (in Kansas that's spelled J. Dickey-Birders). These are the ones that are in far over their heads, like the guy I met at Cheyenne Bottoms who was excited about the Sharp-tailed Grouse which was really a female Ring-necked Pheasant. Then there was the lady calling the immature female Northern Harrier a Red-shouldered Hawk. Or there are those at the bird club meetings who say they hate hawks for eating their cardinals and

chickadees or the man who hates owls because they eat his Purple Martins. These people have no concept of the overall scene and yet say they enjoy birds. I am NOT knocking all bird watchers however. Most of them usually vote intelligently and give a lot of money to Audubon and other groups. Also, as I've said, many of them are pretty good at identifying birds and understanding nature.

Lister is often associated with the Birder, but some listers are not, nor never will be, good birders. They simply enjoy checking the bird off their life or whatever list and don't really care about them anymore. They are more like sportsmen with perhaps even less commitment to the overall bird scene.

Birders all keep life, year and at least one state list (see there is nothing really wrong with keeping lists). They own spotting scopes, expensive binoculars and possibly a camera with a telephoto lens. They go out almost every weekend (unless the temperature is below 20 degrees or above 95 degrees) to observe birds, often alone. They often go in the rain and sometimes their families come second to birds. They either belong to the American Birding Association or subscribe to American Birds. If they have a VCR they tape nature shows about birds. They can identify over 600 species of birds (many by song only) with only a little help from their bird books. They also have a small library of bird books.

Hard-Core Birders are the envied elite (although not necessarily for their egos). They think about very few things other than birds. They talk about scapulars, wing extension, tarsus length, mantle color, orbital ring, coverts, and other terms. They also like to talk about lumping and splitting (and why). They take trips to Texas, California, and Alaska to visit sewage lagoons, trash dumps and outer islands. They own Leitz or Zeiss binoculars and Questar spotting scopes and are much more likely to lead a bird tour/trip than to take one. They are probably Life Members of the American Birding Association and can identify over 1000 species of birds by their calls alone. They are usually single or if married, childless (hopefully for family sake). They have life lists either over or approaching 600, do Big Days, compile Christmas Counts and dedicate their lives to birds. They observe birds in all temperatures and weather conditions.

Ornithologists (and Nature Photographers) are the professionals. They usually have Masters or Doctorate degrees. They may not be able to tell a bird in the field but certainly can one in the hand. They are usually married with at least one child and actually take many weekends to be with them. Most of them do not keep lists and belong to the American Ornithologist's Union. Most are either tour leaders, teachers or work for the government. I do not profess to be anywhere near this group even though I have a degree in Biology. It is fun though, to study other aspects of birds besides just identifying them. This is the group I would most like to be in.

I tried not to take this too seriously. Birding (Watching) should most of all be FUN and however you enjoy it should be fine with everyone else (as long as nobody tries to force their standards on anybody else). Finally, what am I? Like most, at different times I am a little bit of each one. Overall however, I fit into the Birder category. So, where do you fit?

Good Birding,

Steve Crawford
Olathe, Kansas

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1986 ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The KOS will hold its annual fall meeting at the Wildwood Outdoor Education Center, near the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Management Area in Linn County on October 3-5. The meeting will start on Friday evening and end on Sunday after lunch. Field trips will be held on Sunday.

Wildwood Outdoor Education Center is located at the north end of the LaCygne Power Lake a short distance east of Highway U.S. 69 near the Linn-Miami County Line. Turn east on a gravel road past the Bell Telephone relay tower to their large sign and gate that leads south into the camp.

Wildwood overlooks the upper end of the lake. Habitats in and around the camp are varied and should be excellent birding areas. Accommodations are dormitory or family room style. A bed is provided but you must bring your own sheets, blankets and pillow as well as soap and towel. The staff cooks the meals and all of us will eat in the dining hall unless you have other arrangements. If you bring your camper there is limited space for about five units. Check with the management for assigned parking area. There are no electrical hookups. Tent camping space is not available. You may want to use Linn County Park just south along the west side of the lake. Campers who prefer electrical hookups may also want to use this park.

The field trips are being coordinated by local Kansas City birders. They will include trips to the nearby Marais des Cygne Wildlife Management Area as well as LaCygne Power Lake. Final field trip itineraries will be available at Wildwood upon arrival.

Friday October 3 - Friday evening is left open as a social evening at Wildwood from 8:00-10:00 PM. There will be registration from 6:00-9:00 PM and a buffet supper from 6:30-8:00 PM.

Saturday October 4 - Registration begins at 8:00 AM. The paper session begins at 9:00 AM. The ever-popular Birdwatchers Hour will be from 1:00-2:00 PM. Saturday night we will enjoy a steak barbeque dinner grilled outside. Wendell Mohling, past president of the Burroughs Audubon Society, former co-director of the Prairie Center in Olathe, and one of the final 100 candidates for the Teacher in Space Program will be our banquet speaker.

Sunday October 5 - Several field trips are scheduled to the best birding spots in the area. We will compile the list at about noon at Camp Wildwood.

Advance Payment and Registration is Required. The center needs to know how many persons are going to attend the meeting so they can prepare for us. We ask that you have your registration and payment in by September 20. You must pay registration (the \$12.50 includes a \$10 fee that covers complete use of the Wildwood Camp facility, boating, fishing, hiking, tennis courts, meeting areas; \$2.50 for KOS, and then you may select any combination of meals and lodging). We ask your cooperation in promptly sending us your registration.

For more information or clarification, call Dave Bryan, 913-341-9584 during weekdays after 7 PM.

REGISTRATION

Please return this portion with your registration fee and ENTIRE payment of lodging and meal selections by September 20. Cancellation and a refund can be made until October 1.

FEES

Registration: \$12.50 per person (this fee includes \$10 for complete use of the Wildwood facility, boating, fishing, hiking, tennis courts, meeting areas, etc. and \$2.50 for K.O.S)

Lodging: \$10.00 per night, per person (bring own bedding, towel and soap).

Meals: Breakfast \$3.50 per person
Lunch \$3.00 per person
Dinner \$4.50 per person
Banquet \$10.50 per person

Camper Space: Trailers and campers \$3.00 per night, limit of 5 spaces. Tent camping not available (tent campers may want to use Linn County Park just south, along the west side of the lake).

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Table with 4 columns: Description, Amount, No., Amount. Rows include Registration Fee, Meals (Dinner Friday Night, Breakfast Saturday, Lunch Saturday, Banquet Saturday, Breakfast Sunday, Lunch Sunday), and Lodging (Friday, Saturday).

SEND COMPLETED REGISTRATION TO: Dave Bryan
Kansas Ornithological Society
9214 West 82nd Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66204

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Kansas Ornithological Society

CALL FOR PAPERS

K.O.S. ANNUAL MEETING, 1986

The Kansas Ornithological Society will meet 3, 4, and 5 October 1986, at Camp Wildwood. The contributed paper sessions will be on Saturday, 4 October. The only requirement is that papers deal with birds in some way! We especially encourage graduate and undergraduate students to present the results of their studies. The most interesting papers are often by people who consider themselves amateurs but nevertheless have considerable expertise. We encourage you to share your experiences with the group. Both long and short presentations are welcome.

We are again requesting that all contributors submit an abstract or short summary of their presentations. These will be printed in the next issue of the Newsletter.

 Complete this form and mail to:

Elmer J. Finck
 Division of Biology
 Kansas State University
 Manhattan, KS 66506
 Phone: 913-532-6629 or 913-537-1171

Contributed Papers Session, 4 October 1986

AUTHOR(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TITLE OF PAPER: _____

ABSTRACT: Send now or bring to the meeting an abstract or short summary of 150 words.
 DON'T FORGET!!

Time for presentation and questions: 10 min. 15 min. 20 min.

Audio-visual equipment needed: _____

MUST BE SENT BY SEPTEMBER 22, 1986

BEST BIRDS OF THE SEASON

SPECIES _____ SUBMITTED BY _____

DATE _____ COUNTY & LOCALITY _____

DETAILS: (Send separate sheet for each species).

SEND BY OCTOBER 1 TO: Marvin Schwilling
1407 College Drive
Emporia, KS 66801

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

It has been recommended by the Board of Directors that the following three amendments to the Bylaws be considered and voted upon at the annual fall meeting.

Article II

Sec. 3. Classes of membership,

- F. Student Members \$2.00 per year
(Change elementary through high school to read elementary through college, including full-time undergraduate and graduate students.)

Article VI

Sec. 6. The Treasurer shall:

- C. (Delete "Be bonded")

Sec. 7. The Business Manager shall:

- G. Authorize payment of bills and be authorized to (counter)sign checks (with the President or the corresponding secretary) in the absence of the Treasurer.

Roger Boyd
Baldwin City, KS
