

*Kansas Ornithological Society*

# NEWSLETTER

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Kansas State University  
Manhattan, KS 66506

January 1987

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**REPORT OF  
ANNUAL  
FALL MEETING  
&  
1987 DUES  
REMINDER**

## OFFICER'S CORNER

As the old year ends and the new year begins, I would like to have you reflect along with me about this past year and what you and I have done for KOS and birds in general. I look back on 1986 as a very positive year for KOS. We began the year with a new Business Manager, Joyce Wolf. We thank Max Thompson for his many excellent years of service to KOS as Business Manager and wish Joyce continued success in this position. Our spring meeting at Camp Aldridge, the Cheyenne Bottoms, and Quivira was a great success. We thank Guy and Shelley Ernsting and their crew for the excellent time. Our fall meeting was at Camp Wildwood. Although the number of people in attendance was low, partially due to the flooding in eastern Kansas, the quality of the meeting and fellowship was excellent. We thank Dave and Linda Bryan and their crew for working so hard to make the meeting a success. The papers were excellent and were capped off by an excellent steak barbecue and banquet presentation on Alaska and the Pribiloff Islands by Wendell Mohling.

The year saw KOS members participating in many activities. We were part of the first annual Kansas Wildlife Heritage Month in March. Some of us gave presentations at the annual KOS fall meeting. We were active in Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Surveys. We went bird watching with friends new and old. We presented scientific papers at regional, national, and international meetings. We participated in the legislative issues concerning natural resources within the state and nation. We contributed articles and news items to the KOS Newsletter and Bulletin. We published papers in various ornithological journals. We responded to the call by President Roger Boyd, who we thank for his excellent service to KOS, to serve on committees and represented KOS at various functions across the state. We led the field trips and spoke at local club meetings and schools. We encouraged both young and old to appreciate our natural resources, especially birds. We were active on the Kansas Non-game Advisory Council and in the Conservation Forums. We conducted research on birds and watched them in our backyards.

For all of these activities, I as in-coming President of KOS and out-going Newsletter Editor, thank you. I encourage all of you to become active in KOS in your own way, to encourage other members of KOS to become active, and promote new memberships to KOS during 1987. YOU are the strength of KOS. Tell us what you want this society to be by your comments and actions.

Elmer J. Finck  
KOS Newsletter Editor  
Manhattan, KS

KOS ANNUAL FALL MEETING 1986  
Camp Wildwood  
LaCygne, Kansas  
October 3-5, 1986

The thirty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held at Camp Wildwood on October 3-5, 1986

### Saturday, October 4, Morning Session

Elmer Finck opened the meeting at 9:05 AM and introduced Roger Boyd who welcomed members to the thirty-ninth Annual Meeting and thanked Dave Bryan for making arrangements.

Elmer Finck chaired the papers section. The papers were presented in the morning session according to schedule except that the paper by Dwight Platt was cancelled.

A business meeting was called to order at 11:25 AM by President Roger Boyd.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Cal Cink, Chairman, gave the report of the Nominating Committee (Cal Cink and Bob Gress). The slate of candidates proposed for officers and directors was:

President: Elmer Finck  
 Vice-President: David Seibel  
 Corr. Secretary: Dwight Platt  
 Memb. Secretary: Jane Hershberger  
 Treasurer: Eugene Lewis  
 Bus. Manager: Joyce Wolf  
 Director: Gerald Wiens  
 Director: Ted Cable

The terms of Directors Donna Cooper and Joe Schaefer do not expire.

The meeting adjourned until afternoon.

#### Saturday, October 4, Afternoon Session

The Birdwatcher's Hour convened at 1:30 PM and a number of members showed slides. Eulalia Lewis and Joanne Brier told of picking up 538 dead birds after tower kills at two radio towers near Topeka.

Elmer Finck chaired the afternoon paper session which convened at 2:15 PM. The first paper was cancelled.

The afternoon business meeting was called to order at 2:40 PM by President Roger Boyd.

MINUTES: Roger Boyd asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the last annual meeting which had been published in the Newsletter. The minutes were approved as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Eugene Lewis gave the Treasurer's report. He reported that the balance in all accounts was \$17,584.84 on September 30, 1986, as compared with \$16,013.57 on September 30, 1985. However disbursements from the general operating fund have been more than receipts during the last year.

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT: An Auditing Committee composed of Rose Fritz and Ron Wolf reported that the Treasurer's books were in order. The Auditing Committee's report was accepted by a voice vote.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Joyce Wolf had no report.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: John Zimmerman reported that he needs manuscripts for the Bulletin. He has sufficient material for issues through March 1987 but nothing beyond that.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Elmer Finck asked members to keep information coming in for the Newsletter. He plans to finish publishing the backlog of county records in the next two issues. Subsequent issues will have maps of county records for some bird species. Dave Bryan has offered to print the Newsletter free of charge.

OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE'S REPORT: Marvin Schwilling, Chairman, reported for the Official Records Committee. The Committee has been considering reported county records. They compiled the ten best birds of the year.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jane Hershberger reported that KOS had 367 members as of September 30, 1986. She reported membership numbers for years back through 1977 which showed that memberships had dropped from a high of 433 in 1977, although membership has stabilized in the last few years.

MEETINGS: Marvin Schwilling reported that the Spring Field Trip Meeting will be the first weekend in May at a church camp (Tri-County Baptist Camp) in Cherokee County if all details can be worked out.

John Zimmerman reported that the 1987 Annual Fall Meeting will be at Kansas State University in Manhattan the first weekend in October.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS: President Roger Boyd declared nominations open for officers and directors of KOS. Margaret Boyd moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee. John Zimmerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

AMMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS: President Roger Boyd presented the first ammendment which had been published in the Newsletter and was recommended by the Board:

Change Article II, Sec. 3F

from "Student members \$2.00 per year (elementary through high school)."  
to "Student members \$2.00 per year (elementary through college, including full time undergraduate and graduate students)."

John Zimmerman moved that the ammendment be approved. Elmer Finck seconded the motion. Those opposing the ammendment suggested that college students could afford the extra \$4. Others felt the proposed change would bring in more student members. The motion was passed by more than a 2/3 majority.

Roger Boyd announced that the other ammendments published in the Newsletter were in error. Dwight Platt proposed a substitute motion to amend the Bylaws as follows.

1. Delte Article VI, Sec. 6C.
2. Change Article VI, Sec. 4.  
Add "E. Be authorized to countersign checks."
3. Change Article VI, Sec. 6A.  
Add at the end "All instruments for financial transactions must be signed by two of the following three officers: Treasurer, Business Manager or Corresponding Secretary."
4. Change Article VI, Sec. 6B.  
Delete "upon written authorization by the Business Manager."
5. Replace Article VI, Sec. 7G with the following:  
"G. Be authorized to countersign checks."

Marvin Schwilling seconded the motion. It was pointed out that these ammendments would replace the bonding of the Treasurer by a system of countersigning by two officers. Bonding has become very expensive. The motion passed unanimously.

The business meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Saturday, October 4, Evening Banquet

The annual banquet was served at 7:00 PM in the Dining Hall at Camp Wildwood. After the meal, Roger Boyd chaired the meeting.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: Scott Seltman reported for the Resolutions Committee (Scott and Dianne Seltman). He read the resolutions in verse expressing appreciation to all those who had contributed time and effort to the annual meeting. The resolutions were adopted by acclamation.

APPRECIATION: Roger Boyd thanked Dave Bryan for serving as Local Arrangements Chairman for the meeting. Dave Bryan thanked the staff at Camp Wildwood for their efforts in our behalf.

BEST STUDENT PAPERS: Roger Boyd presented awards for the best student papers to:  
 First -- Greg Farley  
 Second -- Mike Dwyer

LIFE MEMBERS: Jane Hershberger read the names of the following 21 persons who had completed life memberships in the last two years and presented pins to those in attendance: Lorena Combs, Paul Finninger, Richard Rucker, Tom Flowers, Don Yockey, Nanette Johnson, Jack Tyler, Esther Stockebrand, Jean Bailey, Dwight Platt, Emma Johnson, Clyde Johnson, Mark Pheasant, Peter Lowther, Dan LaShelle, Daniel Williamson, Calvin Cink, Thomas Cannon, Louis Banker, David Hedges and Tom Rodehouse.

TEN BEST BIRDS OF THE YEAR: Marvin Schwilling reported for the Official Records Committee on the Ten Best Birds of the Year. Forty-two records were considered. The top ten were:

1. Pyrrhuloxia (in Stafford County)
2. Fish Crow (in Cherokee County)
3. Black Phoebe (in Topeka)
4. Roseate Spoonbill (at Melvern Reservoir & Cheyenne Bottoms)
5. Monk Parakeet (in Sherman and Sedgwick counties)
6. Gray Flycatcher (in Morton County)
7. Pacific Loon (at Cedar Bluff Reservoir)
8. Virginia Warbler (in Morton County)
9. Red-necked Grebe (at Pomona Reservoir)
10. California Gull (at Tuttle Creek Reservoir & Cheyenne Bottoms)

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dave Bryan announced that the field trips would start after an 8:00 AM breakfast in the morning. Because of the high water it would be impossible to go to the Marais des Cygne Refuge but other sites would be found.

Dave Bryan introduced the speaker Wendel Mohling who gave a very interesting, illustrated talk on Alaska and the Pribiloff Islands.

Sunday, October 5, Field Trips

Field trips were taken in Miami and Linn counties. Participants met for lunch at Camp Wildwood. The compilation totaled 91 species seen on the field trips.

The Annual Meeting adjourned.

Dwight R. Platt  
 Corr. Secretary  
 Kansas Ornithological Society

KOS FALL BOARD MEETING  
 October 4, 1986  
 Camp Wildwood  
 La Cygne, Kansas

Members present: Roger Boyd, Elmer Finck, Dwight Platt, Jane Hershberger, Eugene Lewis, Joyce Wolf, David Bryan.  
 Non-voting: John Zimmerman, Marvin Schwilling, Ruth Fauhl, Margaret Boyd.  
 Guest (newly nominated officer): David Seibel

The KOS Board meeting was called to order by President Roger Boyd at 11:35 AM.

AWARDS FOR BEST STUDENT PAPERS: Roger Boyd asked what award should be given for the best student paper. Suggestions included a KOS membership, a T-shirt and a monetary award. Jane Hershberger moved that interest from the Amelia Betts Fund be used to award a \$25 first prize and a \$10 second prize for the best student papers presented at each Annual Meeting in 1986 and 1987. Elmer Finck seconded the motion. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Eugene Lewis reported that we have more than \$17,000 in all funds. However we spent more from the general operating fund last year than our income to this fund. The cost of the Bulletin was higher, partly because issues were larger. David Bryan suggested that he could duplicate the Newsletter free of charge.

THE SUN CAME OUT!!

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: John Zimmerman reported that he had no backlog of manuscripts. The December Bulletin will probably be two pages. It was suggested that we might save typesetting costs if the editor submitted computer discs to the printer. John agreed to look into this.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Elmer Finck reported that he had a backlog of county records from the Official Records Committee to be published in the Newsletter. It was suggested that this list of records be published in the next couple of issues. It was also suggested that some of the maps showing county records for species might be published in the Newsletter.

REFUNDS FROM ANNUAL MEETING: There have been a number of cancellations for the Annual Meeting this year. David Bryan asked if we should give refunds. It was suggested that refunds be given if money is left after we have met the expenses.

SPRING MEETING: Marvin Schwilling reported that he had contacted the Tri-County Baptist Camp two miles west of Weir in Cherokee County for the Spring 1987 meeting. It is 25-30 miles from Schermerhorn Park but there is good birding around the camp. Elmer Finck moved that Marvin be asked to pursue this possibility and make the necessary arrangements. Dave Bryan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned to eat lunch at 12 noon. The Board meeting reconvened after lunch.

PRINTING THE NEWSLETTER: Elmer Finck moved that we accept the offer by David Bryan to duplicate the Newsletter free of charge. Joyce Wolf seconded the motion. The motion passed.

FALL MEETING 1987: John Zimmerman solicited suggestions for the next Annual Fall meeting but none were forthcoming.

AMMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS: The proposed ammendments which were discussed by the Board last Fall were printed in the Newsletter prior to this meeting. There was discussion of the proposed change in student memberships and some Board members were opposed to it. However it will be brought to the Annual Business Meeting as printed in the Newsletter for approval or disapproval.

It was pointed out that there were errors in the ammendments proposed to change the method of paying expenses. Eugene Lewis also pointed out that all financial transactions, not just checks, should require the signatures of two officers. It was decided that a substitute motion should be brought to the Annual Business Meeting. Such a substitute motion will require a 95% or more positive vote to pass since it was not circulated to members before the meeting. Dwight Platt was asked to write substitute ammendments before the business meeting.

KACEE: The Kansas Advisory Council on Environmental Education (KACEE) has asked to be placed on the KOS Newsletter mailing list. John Zimmerman moved that KACEE be placed on the Newsletter mailing list. Jane Hershberger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CONSERVATION FORUM: Elmer Finck reported that the Conservation Forum met in June. It will be meeting again in October and Roger Boyd will be attending.

WILDLIFE HERITAGE MONTH: Elmer Finck has been representing KOS in the planning for Wildlife Heritage Month. Wildlife Appreciation Day will be March 18 and cooperating organizations are being asked to set up tables in the State Capitol to sell their programs. We need to decide what we will have at our table by the January Board meeting.

ROCK SPRINGS 4-H CENTER: Joyce Wolf reported that the Rock Springs 4-H Center is looking for a brochure on Kansas birds to be used in a natural history center for student groups. It was suggested that we might use money from the Amelia Betts Fund to develop such a brochure. It was suggested that Ted Cable, who has been nominated as a KOS Director, might give leadership to such an effort since he teaches nature interpretation. Elmer Finck will contact him and ask him to contact the people at Rock Springs if he is interested in this project. It was suggested that we might use this as our project for Wildlife Heritage Month. The question was raised as to whether such a brochure could be used at other camps. However it was suggested that the brochure might need to be site specific.

The Fall Board Meeting adjourned.

Dwight R. Platt  
 Corr. Secretary  
 Kansas Ornithological Secretary

TEN BEST BIRDS OF THE YEAR  
 October 1, 1985 - September 30, 1986  
 Official Records Committee

Information used in choosing the "top ten" included sightings reported on the Rare Bird Alert Hotline, Best Birds of the Season report forms, Christmas counts, correspondence and phone call reports.

As in the past, consideration was given to previous state records or specimens, geographic location in the state, season of sighting, nesting, etc., and committee judgements.

We considered 42 candidates:

TOP TEN CANDIDATES

1.	Thayer's Gull	Clinton Resv.	Oct. 6	Mick McHugh
	Thayer's Gull	Clinton Resv.	Oct. 19&22	Lloyd Moore
	Thayer's Gull	Tuttle Creek Resv.	Nov. 7	Dave Rintoul & Ted Cable
	Thayer's Gull	Tuttle Creek Resv.	Nov. 27	Ted Cable
2.	Monk Parakeets	Sherman Co.	Oct. 15	John Palmquist - 1st seen in June
	Monk Parakeet	Sedgwick Co.	Sept. 22	Dwane Mitchell
3.	Clark's Grebe	Kirwin Resv.	Oct. 15	Scott Seltman
4.	Bohemian Waxwing	Russell	Nov. 11	Jane Holland
	Bohemian Waxwing	Junction City	Jan. 4	?
5.	Northern Shrike	Invasion in Central, KS	Nov.	Scott Seltman
6.	Snow Bunting (2)	Clinton Resv.	Nov. 9	Lloyd Moore
	Snow Bunting	E of Perry Resv.	Dec. 2	?
	Snow Bunting	Scott Co.	Dec. 26	Scott Seltman
7.	Red-necked Grebe (4)	Pomona Resv.	Nov. 16	Dave Bryan & Mike White
	Red-necked Grebe (1)	Pomona Resv.	Sept. 27	Mick McHugh
8.	Pacific Loon	Cedar Bluff Resv.	Nov. 23-26	Scott Seltman
9.	Trumpeter Swan	Cedar Bluff Resv.	Nov. 26	Scott Seltman
	Trumpeter Swan (4)	Barber Co.	Feb. 1	?
	Trumpeter Swan (1st KS Specimen)	Lyon Co.	Dec. 12	John Hertling
10.	Pygmy Nuthatch (2)	Junction City	Dec. 21-29	Dan LaShelle
	Pygmy Nuthatch	Salina	Dec. 27	Charley Morrison
	Pygmy Nuthatch	Dodge City	Jan. 8	Marvin Schwilling
	Pygmy Nuthatch (5)	Morton Co.	Dec. 28	Sebastian Patti & others
11.	Painted Bunting	Hutchinson	Feb. 7	Dick Langenwalter
12.	Ross' Geese (8)	Quivira	Jan. 22	Gary Sullivan
13.	Black Phoebe	Topeka	Mar. 2	John Lamb
14.	California Gull (?)	Tuttle Creek (Rocky Ford)		Ted Cable
	California Gull (ad)	Cheyenne Bottoms	Apr. 15	Wayne Hoffman
15.	Fish Crow (3)	Cherokee Co.	May 4	Scott Seltman & others
16.	Reeves (Ruff)	Cheyenne Bottoms	May 12-17	Wayne Hoffman
17.	Black Rail	Quivira	May 8	Jay Newton
	Black Rail	Quivira	July 7	Ted Cable
18.	Olivaceous Cormorant	Quivira	May 29	Jay Newton
19.	Great Egret (30 nest)	Wichita	June	Bob Gress
20.	Mountain Bluebird (4 young)	Wallace Co.	June 8	Marvin Schwilling
21.	White-winged Dove	Sedgwick Co.	June 24	Peter Janzen
22.	Tri-colored Heron	Quivira	July 7	Ted Cable
23.	Laughing Gull (ad)	Cheney Resv.	July 15	Duane Mitchell and Gordon Schneider
	Laughing Gull (1st year)	Cheyenne Bottoms	Aug. 19	Scott Seltman











