

# Kansas Ornithological Society

# NEWSLETTER

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Box 36, Nekoma, Kansas 67559

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## OFFICER'S CORNER

My tenure as President of KOS is beginning to come to an end. As it does I have been reflecting on changes in KOS. Two issues head my list of things that are changing. One is an ever increasing need for funding and the other is an increasing call for commitment. These two issues are not necessarily unrelated and they both seem to drive the system. Both issues are at the forefront of KOS.

We have been feeling the pinch of inflation because we have not had a dues increase for several years. This spring the KOS Board of Directors recommended an amendment to our By-Laws for a dues increase. If KOS is to maintain and improve our publications, namely the KOS Bulletin and KOS Newsletter, and remain active in the issues within the state that affect birds, we must increase dues to offset the cost. We need to decide whether we want to make a commitment for continued publication of these two items and whether we will be active in the affairs of the state of Kansas that affect birds. We need to increase our membership and increase attendance at both the spring and fall meetings as well as other field trips that we have throughout the state. You as a member must make your needs and wants known to the Board of Directors and those individuals who represent us on various committees, so we can move KOS in the direction that you as members want.

We are presently involved with a lot of issues within the state of Kansas that are now requiring an increased commitment. The Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks has recently increased their commitment to Cheyenne Bottoms and nongame across the state. They are asking us how we want to be involved. Are we going to be able to assist them as we have in the past or will we drop out? That is the choice of the membership, which will be shown by your support. We are active in the Kansas Wildlife Heritage Month and the Conservative Forum. Do you support both of these endeavors?

Become involved by serving on the various committees, by representing KOS at meetings across the state, and by letting the leadership know your opinion. Begin by attending the fall meeting in Wichita, writing or calling me and other KOS members about your ideas. As an organization we are on the verge of some exciting changes! I hope you are an active part of them.

*Elmer J. Fink*  
*KOS President*

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE! PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO KOS BYLAWS

The Board of Directors at the Spring meeting approved a proposed amendment to the KOS Bylaws to raise the membership dues. This proposal was approved because KOS income in recent years has been insufficient to cover current expenses. This amendment to the Bylaws will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in the Fall. A two-thirds majority vote supporting the amendment will be needed to pass it and, if passed, the revised dues will take effect in the 1989 membership year.

Current reading of Article II, section 3 of the Bylaws:

- Sec. 3. Classes of membership and schedule of dues.
- A. Regular members: \$6.00 per year.
  - B. Sustaining members: \$12.00 per year.
  - C. Life members: \$125.00 in a lump sum or \$31.25 in each of four consecutive years.
  - D. Family regular members: \$10.00 per year.
  - E. Family sustaining members: \$20.00 per year.
  - F. Student members: \$2.00 per year (elementary through college, including full time undergraduate and graduate students).

Proposed revision of Article II, section 3 of the Bylaws:

- Sec. 3. Classes of membership and schedule of dues.
- A. Regular members: \$10.00 per year.
  - B. Sustaining members: \$20.00 per year.
  - C. Life members: \$150.00 in a lump sum or \$37.50 in each of four consecutive years.
  - D. Family regular members: \$15.00 per year.
  - E. Family sustaining members: \$25.00 per year.
  - F. Contributing members: \$40.00 per year.
  - G. Student members: \$5.00 per year (elementary through college, including full time undergraduate or graduate students).

KOS WINTER BOARD MEETING  
February 13, 1988  
Marvin Schwilling home, Emporia

Members present: Elmer Finck, David Seibel, Dwight Platt, Jane Hershberger, Eugene Lewis, Donna Cooper, Gerald Wiens, Ted Cable, Jean Schulenberg.  
Non-voting: Marvin Schwilling, Scott Seltman, John Zimmerman.

Again this year a delicious lunch was served by Mrs. Schwilling, after which the Board meeting was called to order by President Elmer Finck at 12:35 PM.

MINUTES: The minutes of the Fall 1987 Board Meeting were accepted as published in the Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Eugene Lewis reported that membership dues are coming in at a more rapid rate this year. However, income may be \$1000 less than expenses this year because of increased expenses and decreased interest income on life memberships. Jane Hershberger moved that Gene prepare a revision in dues structure that would meet the annual expenses of KOS and bring it to the Spring Meeting for consideration by the Board. Donna Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jane Hershberger reported that membership renewal cards were sent out separately this year and response was much better. About 14 members who dropped membership last year have renewed in 1988.

Jane reported that copies of Peterson's "First Guide to Birds" which we have been giving to new members are running out. Ted Cable moved that KOS discontinue the practice and when the supply is exhausted give new members a KOS decal and bird checklist instead. Gerald Wiens seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Elmer Finck brought up a suggestion by Joyce Wolf of a deadline for dues payments with a penalty fee for dues not paid by the deadline. This would save postage on special mail-

ings. Gene Lewis will consider this suggestion when preparing his recommendation for a revised dues structure.

KOS T-SHIRTS: There are very few T-shirts left. Donna Cooper volunteered to make arrangements for a new supply. David Seibel moved that we have new shirts printed. Jane Hershberger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: John Zimmerman reported that the March Bulletin went to the printer before the 1st of February. He has copy for the June and September Bulletins. David Seibel checked on prices for printing the Bulletin in Lawrence and found them to be very similar to what we are paying now.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Scott Seltman reported that he had plenty of copy. He asked about the reduced print used in some parts of the December Newsletter. The consensus was that it was more difficult to read but was legible. It was suggested that the minutes also be printed in the small type.

SPRING MEETING: The Spring Meeting will be from April 30 to May 1 at Camp Horizon.

FALL MEETING: The Fall Meeting will be October 1 and 2 at the Sedgwick County Zoo. Wichita Audubon Society and Wichita Wild will co-sponsor the meeting. Bob Gress, local chairman, would like suggestions for speakers. Eugene Lewis moved that the announcement of the Fall Meeting be sent by first class mail in mid-August. David Seibel seconded the motion. The motion passed.

OFFICIAL RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT: Marvin Schwilling reported that new county records are still coming in.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Eugene Lewis reported that many bird slides are on hand or have been promised to KOS. Slides of small birds are still needed. Gerald Wiens will prepare a script for the slide show. It was suggested that KOS cooperate with the Dept. of Wildlife and Parks in preparing this slide set. We might donate it to the Wildlife and Parks Library where it would be available to the public.

KANSAS NON-GAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL: Elmer Finck reported that the Council will continue to be an active part of the non-game wildlife program. \$50,000 of non-game wildlife funds will be used for improvements at Cheyenne Bottoms.

KANSAS WILDLIFE HERITAGE MONTH: March is Kansas Wildlife Heritage Month and the theme this year is "Forests: More Than Just Trees." March 23 will be Wildlife Appreciation Day at the Capitol in Topeka. Donna Cooper moved that KOS participate. Jean Schulenberg seconded the motion. Eulalia Lewis volunteered to prepare an exhibit on the Dingus Natural Area. The motion passed. KOS will pay for the expenses.

SAVE CHEYENNE BOTTOMS COMMITTEE: The committee has evaluated the report done by the Kansas Biological Survey and has made some recommendations. The Department of Wildlife and Parks has planned a program of improvements for which there will be funds in fiscal 1990. Organizations can contribute money for improvements such as interpretive trails and towers. Recommendations on this program can be sent to the Secretary or Under Secretary of Wildlife and Parks. A question was raised about recent regulations that restrict entry into the pools after 10 in the morning.

PUBLICITY: David Seibel presented estimates from Pandion Graphics for a new membership brochure for which Marvin Schwilling had written text. He suggested that we should either

substantially upgrade the brochure as per the estimates (from \$.85 to \$1.07 per brochure for an order of 1,000) or simply reprint the old brochure with minor modifications and updating. Gerald Wiens moved that we update the old membership brochure including the text written by Marvin Schwilling and reprint it. Ted Cable seconded the motion. The motion was passed. David Seibel volunteered to work on the layout.

ROCK SPRINGS RANCH: Ted Cable reported that the administration at Rock Springs Ranch seemed interested in nature interpretation but they had not made any suggestions of a project that would be useful. Ted will write a letter to them asking that they suggest a project and we will evaluate it.

CEDAR CREST: Ted Cable reported that the improvement of a public outdoor area at Cedar Crest is a big project involving many agencies. Organizations can assume responsibility for implementing projects but funds would probably be available from the money raised for implementation of the project. KOS might sponsor an interpretive nature trail. Ted will bring recommendations to the Spring Meeting.

BIRD FEEDER SURVEY: Marvin Schwilling reported that there had been 675 responses to the Bird Feeder Survey. John Briggs is preparing a paper on the results which will probably be presented at the Fall Meeting. A suggestion was made that weather data should be included on the survey form.

TRUST FUND FOR STUDENT RESEARCH: Eugene Lewis had circulated a proposal for a trust fund for student research to KOS Board members and to selected colleges and universities. The University of Kansas Museum of Natural History and Kansas State University are interested in cooperating on the project but he had received little response from others. Jean Schulenberg moved that the President appoint a committee to develop guidelines for establishing a trust. David Seibel seconded the motion. The motion was passed. Elmer appointed Jean Schulenberg, John Zimmerman and Eugene Lewis to the committee.

CONSERVATION FORUM: The Conservation Forum met in October and January. Roger Boyd represents KOS on the Forum.

KANSAS RURAL CENTER: To remain on the Kansas Rural Center mailing list will require a contribution of \$20.00. It was decided not to remain on the list.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Elmer Finck asked for suggestions of persons to serve on the Nominating Committee and for suggestions of a new Treasurer to replace Eugene Lewis who has asked to retire after this year. Jane Hershberger suggested Rose Fritz of Newton as a candidate for Treasurer.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: Elmer Finck reported that he will be sending a letter from KOS to Senator Bob Dole in support of the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act.

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF BEST STUDENT PAPER: Jean Schulenberg pointed out that there were no guidelines for selecting the best student papers at the Fall Meeting and this had led to some frustration on the part of judges in the past. She moved that guidelines be drafted. Jane Hershberger seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight R. Platt  
Corresponding Secretary, KOS















