

KOS Fall Meeting, 1975

The Board Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held at the Western Power building in Great Bend on the evening of September 6, 1975. Present were: Dwight Flatt, Charles Ely, Max C. Thompson, Joan Schulenberg, Eugene Lewis, Mary Louise Myers, Katharine Kelley, Ruth Fauhl, Sondra Williamson.

President Platt brought the meeting to order. The minutes were read, corrected and approved as corrected. The membership report was given by Katharine Kelley. As of 1 September there are 412 members: 90 new, 96 sustaining, 17 life, 279 regular, and 20 student. Six members have paid their dues for 1976. Editor Charles Ely initiated a discussion concerning the publishing of a book, "The Birds of Shawnee County.: A motion was made, seconded and carried to consider the publishing of said book by KOS. The KOS Bulletin will continue to be printed by the Winfield Courier.

Max C. Thompson gave a report on checklists. The new ones will be ready by next week. A new checklist will be included in the next Bulletin. They will be sold at 25¢ each or \$3.00 per hundred. The average number of checklists sold has been 10,000 every three years. Dues envelopes have been printed.

The type of paper used for the Bulletin was discussed. The slick finish is more expensive. New kinds will be tried and a new type will be chosen. More Bulletins are needed than are printed at the present time due to exchanges and requests for back issues. It was decided that 550 will be printed in future issues. The file is out of Bulletins 25-2, 25-4 and 26-1. A motion was made and carried that these three issues of the Bulletin be reprinted in quantities of 100 each.

Eugene Lewis gave the report on the Dingus Natural Area. (see special report in this issue, Ed.) A 4' x 8' sign will be made at a cost of \$100 to KOS. Smaller inexpensive signs will be posted throughout the area. A suggestion was made to check the possibility of the State of Kansas erecting a sign on the highway near the property. Another suggestion was that a future Bulletin be devoted entirely to the Dingus Natural Area. A motion was made and carried to give Gene Lewis the authority to purchase the large sign and perimeter signs.

President Platt gave a report of the supply of official stationery and envelopes. New envelopes will be printed.

The Christmas Bird Count was discussed. The usual 50¢ fee per person for those participating will be charged with the exception of grade and high school students. A motion was made and carried that the Editor be authorized to send a Christmas Count issue of the Bulletin to those who participate in the Christmas count and are non-members.

President Platt will appoint a KACEE representative in the near future.

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Preparations are being made for the Spring Meeting in Winfield. Information concerning the Spring Meeting will be in the March Bulletin. Mary Louise Myers invited Board members to hold the Winter Board meeting at Shawnee, Sunday December 7th. The invitation was accepted.

A decal for KOS was discussed. Some samples were examined and sources of supply were considered but no decision was made at the time.

President Platt adjourned the meeting.

Notes from Sunday Afternoon Meeting

President Platt, on behalf of KOS members attending, thanked the Schwillings for their fine hospitality. Until further notice Newsletter material should be sent to Charles Ely at Hays. A word of appreciation went to Tom Shane for handling the Newsletter for the past year. 115 members signed the register for the fall trip. 126 bird species were recorded. Secretary, Sondra Williamson.

Membership Report

For several years I have been thinking that KOS should have as many members as the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. Not too long ago we had only half as many. In 1975 we almost caught up with them; they had 452, we had 420.

KOS had 281 regulars at \$3.00 each, OOS had 262 at \$4.00 and 75 family at an average of \$3.00. We had 96 sustainers at \$6.00; they had 24 at \$7.00. We had 20 students at \$1.00; they had 22 at \$2.00. We have 18 life members at \$100; they have 69 at \$50. At the rate we are growing, we should catch up with them in 1976.

Please remember that 1976 dues are due before January 1. You should have received your dues envelope by now. Please mail it as soon as possible. Those who put it off, usually forget it. Reminder post cards are expensive and will be more so in 1976. And they are a tedious chore for me. I'll quit if they number over 100 again!

Be sure to send your dues to Treasurer Eugene R.. Lewis, 1285 MacVicar, Topeka, Kansas 66604--not to me. Amelia J. Betts, Membership Secretary

Dr. Miller's Biography Booklets

Although Dr. Miller died last November, the Baldwin Bird Club has a good supply of the booklets left.

If you want any one of the "Biographies of People For Whom Birds Have Been Named" - or all seven of them, they may be obtained from the Bird Club Treasurer, Amelia J. Betts, Baldwin City, Kansas 66006, at 50¢ per copy plus 15¢ postage each. Dr. Miller's booklets contain over twice as many biographies as Gruson's book "Words for Birds."

DINGUS NATURAL AREA

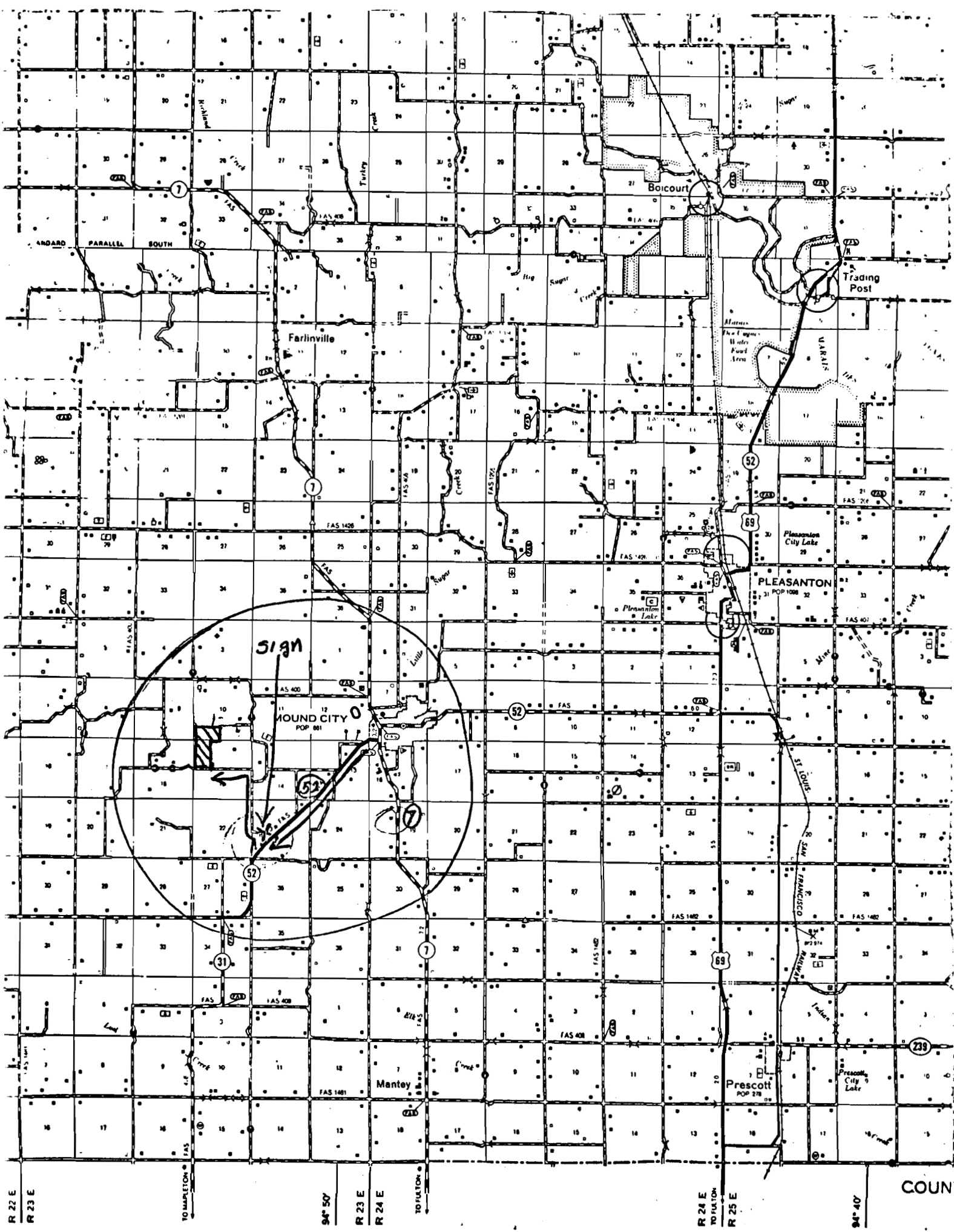
KOS has entered into a lease agreement with Nature Conservancy to manage a piece of unique and largely untouched land in Linn County near Mound City. The action was authorized by the membership at the Spring Meeting May 3, 1975 which was held at Rock Springs 4-H Center near Junction City.

The property, approximately 160 acres in size, is known as the Dingus Natural Area and was given to Nature Conservancy by long time KOS members Wilson and Eunice Dingus of Mound City. The land is mostly wooded although, when Wilson Dingus' grandfather settled there in 1853, the area was all prairie except for trees along the streams. As long as Wilson can remember the area has been timbered. There are still vestiges of original prairies persisting on some of the south slopes but even these are being invaded by woody plants. Because of its undisturbed nature the area offers an unusual opportunity for study, not only of birds, but of plant, insect and animal life.

A task-force committee has been appointed by President Dwight Platt for the purpose of preparing a management plan, preparerules and regulations, design and erect a large permanent sign and smaller perimeter signs, recommend a plan for a permanent committee to implement the management plan and to prepare a proposed budget for maintenance of the area. Much of the preparatory work has been done by the committee and a full report should be ready for the spring meeting at Winfield, in 1976. The committee consists of Mabel and Tom Concannon and Bob Weese of Mound City, Steve Fretwell and Lloyd Hulbert of Manhattan, Henry Fitch of Lawrence and Gene Lewis of Topeka, Chairman.

At the time authority was given by the membership to enter into the lease agreement, a Dingus Natural Area Fund was also established. This fund will be used for expenses in caring for the area including placing fencing where needed, maintaining signs and paying for liability insurance. If an endowment of sufficient size is established only the interest will be used for the various expenses. Until then any monies received will be used directly as they are needed. Donations to the Dingus Natural Area Fund may be sent to the KOS Treasurer, Gene Lewis, at 1285 MacVicar Ave., Topeka, KS 66604. Checks should be made payable to Kansas Ornithological Society along with a note saying they are for the Dingus Natural Area Fund.

The committee wants to encourage all KOS members who can do so to visit the area. A large sign will soon be erected on K52 about 2 1/2 miles southwest of Mound City and will give directions to the site. The enclosed map will give additional directions to the area which is 1 1/2 miles north and 3/4 mile west of the sign location on K52. Please!!!!. NO SMOKING IN THE AREA. The fire hazard is great.



R 22 E
R 23 E

TO MAPLETON

94° 50'

R 23 E
R 24 E

TO TULTON

R 24 E
TO TULTON
R 25 E

94° 40'

COUN