

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Southwestern College
Winfield, Kansas 67156

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SPRING MEETING

This is the final announcement for the 1974 spring meeting to be held on April 27-28 at Kansas State College of Emporia. The paper sessions will be held in the biology building beginning at 9:00 a.m. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be available at the registration area. You should have your papers into Dwight Platt if you haven't already done so. He is in bad need of papers for the Saturday program.

An amendment to the KOS constitution will be placed before the membership at the afternoon session of the spring meeting. The amendment will be to that portion of the constitution which deals the duties of the treasurer. Presently, the Secretary prepares a voucher which the Secretary and President must sign for the treasurer to be authorized to make payment. The change will be made for either the President or Secretary to countersign the check instead of a voucher. The Board felt this would speed up payment in the event the Secretary or President were unavailable to sign the voucher. The exact wording will be given at the business meeting.

Dingus Natural Area, Mound City

The Board of Directors of the Kansas Ornithological Society met with Ben Duffield, Nature Conservancy Field Representative at the Dingus Natural Area near Mound City on April 7. The meeting was called by President Max C. Thompson to discuss future plans for the area. Present were Lloyd Hulburt, Bob Weese, Lloyd Fox, District Biologist of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission and the following KOS members: Max C. Thompson, Dwight Platt, Amelia Betts, Eugene Lewis, Jean Schulenberg, Steve Fretwell, Mary Louise and Jim Myers, Celia White, Dr. and Mrs. Ivan Boyd, Mr and Mrs. Concannon, Katherine Kelley, Eulalia Lewis, Ralph White.

The group hiked through a beautiful tract of mixed oak-hickory forest, spring flowers such as red trillium, spring beauty, rue anemone, dog toothed violet, dutchman's breedhes marked each step. It was a forest complete with a winding clear water creek and a thriving Great Blue Heron colony.

The members met briefly to consider various aspects of KOS leasing or acquiring the area. It was decided to discuss it further at the spring meeting, April 27. Everyone extended whole-hearted thanks to Mr. and Mrs. White for the chili. Jean Schulenberg
Secretary

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

Reminders were sent April 8th to 85 KOS members that their 1974 dues had not been paid yet. That is about the average number of "duns" necessary each year. Members paid up to this date number 283, of which 18 are new members, 15 life members, 80 sustaining 179 regulars, and 9 students. It is hoped that the delinquent members will soon send their dues to Eugene R. Lewis, 1285 Mac Vicar, Topeka 66604. The number of new

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members is much below last year. If you know of any persons who might be interested in KOS please send their names to me at Baldwin City, 66006. Amelia J. Betts

Members are reminded that this is the last of the Bulletins and Newsletters sent to delinquent members. Editor

FALL MEETING

The fall meeting will be a joint meeting with the Oklahoma Ornithological Society at Cheyenne Bottoms on September 21-22. All members are urged to attend and welcome our fellows birders from the south.

Notes of Interest

Admire--Jean Schulenberg reports the following birds of interest: Red-breasted Merganser, March 20; Black-headed Grosbeak, present January 16-22, photographed and banded; Common Redpoll, February 28; Vesper Sparrow, March 27; Upland Sandpipers (Plovers to you veterans), March 31; Barn Swallow, March 31.

Winfield-- The migration commenced early this year. Purple Martins arrived on March 9; Barn Swallow on March 31; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, April 7. Pine Siskins moved in around the first week of March and have been abundant everywhere in town. Max C. Thompson

Camp Towanyak --December was a wetter than usual month, with scattered snows and rains. Our Pine Siskins began building up, plus a dozen goldfinches. 1973 left with a wintry blast of 12" of snow and temperatures -20. This pattern held for the next two weeks, with an additional 2" of snow and frigid, below normal temperatures. On January 12 the temperature plunged to -19. The temperature finally crawled above freezing on the 14th. It was a difficult time for all wildlife. Birds came to our feeders by the hundreds. A single grackle, with a slightly injured wing, came during a snowy spell the third week in December and remained until January 3. A Mockingbird took over the feeding stations and had to be captured and hauled 10 miles away to a multiflora rose hedge. January 8th, during a snow and sleet storm, we counted 48 Cardinals in the yard. It was a frigid 8 degrees and there were in excess of 250 birds feeding in the yard. None of them Starlings and very few English Sparrows.

February was above normal in all respects and did not live up to its bad reputation until near the end. March came in like a lamb and brought the first Phoebe with it. the earliest date I have recorded in 19 years of keeping records. On March 6th the Carolina Wren built a nest in the barbeque grill. An early nest, especially when the temperature dropped to 9 degrees. The 5 eggs hatched on April 4. March 20 found the temperatures once again skidding to 9 degrees. Spring flowers were destroyed. On March 30, the first Turkey Vultures were seen soaring overhead. Mary Louise Myers

(This is just a portion of the material that Mary Louise sent to us. The rest has been filed for inclusion in the Birds of Kansas. We are in bad need of additional material for the Newsletter. We sometimes edit it heavily, but the material is filed for future reference. Editor).