

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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KOS Annual Spring Meeting

Sondra Williamson, Sec.

The Twenty-eighth Annual Spring Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas on May 1 and 2, 1976. Registration in Darbeth Hall was followed by the morning session. President Dwight Platt called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. Donald Rutherford, President of Southwestern College who welcomed KOS members to the campus. Vice-President Jean Schulenberg chaired the morning paper session.

A short business meeting was held prior to lunch. Pres. Platt gave an updated report on the Dingus Natural Area. Minutes of the Fall meeting and Winter Board meeting were read and corrections noted. Marvin Schwilling reported that the revised checklists are now available. Pres. Platt gave a summary of the work of the newly-formed Membership Committee.

Membership Secretary Amelia Betts reported 420 KOS members, 90 of them new members; Forty members dropped. Twenty charter members have paid. A membership card will be sent only to those who request it. Members were reminded to inform her of address changes as soon as possible. Gene Lewis gave the Treasurer's report. The balance on hand as of April 17, 1976 was: checking balance \$1131.14; savings passbook \$500.00; savings passbook \$1255.00; savings certificate \$1120.46 for a total of \$4006.60. Pres. Platt appointed Auditing and Resolutions Committees; John Zimmerman presented his committees' list of nominees for officers and the meeting adjourned for lunch.

The hour following lunch was used for a Board Meeting and the Bird-watcher's hour. The afternoon paper session was chaired by Jean Schulenberg. It was followed by a second business meeting. Editor Charles Ely requested additional material for both the Bulletin and the Newsletter. Bulletin material should be sent to him; Newsletter material to Renne Lohofener, both at Fort Hays State. Any member not receiving Newsletters or Bulletins should write Amelia Betts. Ruth Fahl, Librarian, reported one complete set of the Bulletin available for purchase at the meeting.

Gene Lewis presented the Dingus Natural Area report. A 3' X 4' sign has been erected at the site. Small perimeter signs have been purchased and will soon be in place. A request was made to the Board of County Commissioners of Linn County to have a platted road on the property legally vacated. It was legally vacated on January 19, 1976. Some burning has been done over an area of about one acre in hopes of restoring some of the prairie that once covered most of the area. The September KOS Bulletin will be devoted to the area together with

its history and sections on plants and birds. Total expenditures for the area have been \$241.12. Receipts from gifts for the Dingus Natural Area Fund total \$30.

Stan Roth gave the Conservation Committee report. The proposal to legalize falconry was defeated in the state legislature. KOS is on the State Conservation Service mailing list. The Auditing Committee (Dr. Gier and Allen Jahn) reported the KOS books were in perfect order. A motion to approve all committee reports was carried.

John Zimmerman, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for 1977: President - Jean Schulenberg; Vice-President - Steve Fretwell; Secretary - Sondra Williamson; Membership Secretary - Amelia Betts; Treasurer - Eugene Lewis; Editor - Charles Ely. An unanimous ballot was cast for this slate. The following were nominated for Board members: Ed Martinez, Steve Burr, June Hershberger, Lorena Combs, Robert Regier, Tom Shane, Mary Louise Myers. Steve Burr and Mary Louise Myers were elected for two year terms; Ed Martinez for a one-year term.

Max Thompson announced details of the Sunday morning field trips. Mr. Nossaman gave a summary of the proposed falconry legislation and its defeat. The business meeting was adjourned.

Dwight Platt presided at the evening meeting. Marvin Schwilling presented the ten best birds of the year.

The Resolutions Committee (Dr. Bussjaeger and Celia White) presented the following resolutions which were adopted:

1. Whereas Dr. Donald Rutherford, Max Thompson, and the local committees have provided the facilities and made the arrangements to make the twenty-eighth annual meeting of KOS a resounding success, be it resolved that KOS express its appreciation to them for their time and efforts in our behalf.
2. Whereas Amelia Betts has carried on her work for the Society in spite of personal difficulties, be it resolved that KOS thank Amelia for her enthusiasm and ceaseless efforts to improve and increase the membership of the Society.
3. Whereas the paper sessions of the program were an outstanding success and this was due in large part to the efforts of Jean Schulenberg, be it resolved that KOS recognize her fine effort for this meeting.

The Merit Award was presented to Elizabeth Cole. The Fall meeting will be held at the Dingus Natural Area and the Spring Meeting will be at Bethel College, Newton (with the Harvey Co. Parks Dept.). Dr. Platt thanked all members who worked to make KOS a better organization while he was president and introduced the new president, Jean Schulenberg. Pres. Schulenberg requested the help of all members working together to make KOS a continuing success.

Max Thompson presented an entertaining and informative movie of his recent trip to Africa to close the spring meeting.

KOS Bird list Spring Meeting

Winfield, May 1 & 2, 1976

Jean Schulenberg

Eared Grebe	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Loggerhead Shrike
Pied-billed Grebe	Great Horned Owl	Starling
White Pelican	Barred Owl	Red-eyed Vireo
Double-crested Cormorant	Common Nighthawk	Warbling Vireo
Great Blue Heron	Chimney Swift	Black-&-white Warbler
Green Heron	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Tennessee Warbler
Yellow-cro. Night Heron	Belted Kingfisher	Orange-crowned Warbler
Canada Goose	Yellow-shafted Flicker	Nashville Warbler
Mallard	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Parula Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Red-headed Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Hairy Woodpecker	Myrtle Warbler
Baldpate	Downy Woodpecker	Blackpoll Warbler
Northern Shoveler	Eastern Kingbird	Palm Warbler
Wood Duck	Western Kingbird	Northern Waterthrush
Lesser Scaup	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Kentucky Warbler
Common Merganser	Great Crested Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Red-breasted Merganser	Eastern Wood Pewee	House Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Empidonax sp.	Eastern Meadowlark
Cooper's Hawk	Horned Lark	Western Meadowlark
Red-tailed Hawk	Tree Swallow	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Broad-winged Hawk	Bank Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Swainson's Hawk	Rough-winged Swallow	Orchard Oriole
Marsh Hawk	Barn Swallow	Baltimore Oriole
American Kestrel	Cliff Swallow	Rusty Blackbird
Bobwhite	Purple Martin	Common Grackle
Ring-necked Pheasant	Blue Jay	Brown-headed Cowbird
American Coot	Common Crow	Summer Tanager
Semipalmated Plover	Black-capped Chickadee	Cardinal
Snowy Plover	Carolina Chickadee	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Killdeer	Tufted Titmouse	Blue Grosbeak
Upland Sandpiper	White-breasted Nuthatch	Indigo Bunting
Spotted Sandpiper	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Painted Bunting
Solitary Sandpiper	House Wren	Dickcissel
Willet	Bewick's Wren	Pine Siskin
Greater Yellow-legs	Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch
Lesser Yellow-legs	Northern Mockingbird	Rufous-sided Towhee
Pectoral Sandpiper	Gray Catbird	Savannah Sparrow
Baird's Sandpiper	Brown Thrasher	Grasshopper Sparrow
Least Sandpiper	American Robin	Lark Sparrow
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Swainson's Thrush	Chipping Sparrow
Long-billed Dowitcher	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Clay-colored Sparrow
Stilt Sandpiper	Eastern Bluebird	Field Sparrow
Wilson's Phalarope	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Harris' Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	White-crowned Sparrow
Franklin's Gull	Water Pipit	White-throated Sparrow
Common Tern	Sprague's Pipit	Lincoln's Sparrow
Rock Dove	Cedar Waxwing	Song Sparrow
Mourning Dove		

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Amelia J. Betts

K.O.S. membership totaled 403 after the spring meeting. This is the highest ever for this date and only 17 less than all 1975. However, since the spring meeting is also the cut-off date, 61 members were dropped from the mailing list -- a total much above average. Many of these are one-year members who joined last summer and who may not know that our dues-year is the calendar year. Another effort will be made to contact them besides the delinquent card they received in April.

Post offices are becoming more particular about correct mailing addresses. Some publications are returned to K.O.S. for lack of box numbers on routes. Others are returned because members moved. First class mail is forwarded for a time but not our permit mailings. All returns cost the Society 10¢ plus re-mailing charge. So -- if you move or if your address changes even slightly, please notify me at Baldwin City, Box 43, 66006 as soon as you know.

KOS Spring Board Meeting

Sandra Williamson

The annual Spring Board meeting was held in Kibbøe Conference Room, Southwestern College at Winfield, Kansas on May 1st, 1976 at 1:00 PM. Those present were Dwight Platt, Gene Lewis, Jean Schulenberg, Steve Fretwell, Marvin Schwilling, Katharine Kelley, Amelia Betts, Charles Ely, Mary Louise Myers, Ruth Fahl, and Tom Shane.

President Platt brought the meeting to order. Gene Lewis gave a report on the Dingus Natural Area (already recorded in the general meeting minutes). A motion was made and carried to extend one year the period of time Nature Conservancy has to remove the property from the tax rolls.

Copies of the draft proposal of Guidelines for KOS Spring Meetings were given to Board members. A motion was made and carried that the registration fee for the annual Spring meeting be \$1.00 with any excess funds turned over to the treasurer. A motion was made and carried that the counting period for species will begin the morning of the first day of meetings and will end at the compilation after field trips. A motion was made and carried to adopt the Guidelines as corrected. The Vice-President will work with the local chairman on arrangements for the Spring meeting. Steve Fretwell will make copies of the Guidelines and they will be kept with the Vice-President's papers.

Max Thompson reported that the Southwestern College KOS Fund has been depleted and is in the red. This will be remedied by Treasurer Gene Lewis. A motion^{was} made and carried to hold the Fall meeting at the Dingus Natural Area. Dwight Platt issued an invitation to KOS to hold the next Spring meeting at Bethel College in Newton, Kansas. A motion was made and carried to accept the invitation. A motion was made and carried to order 200 KOS decals. Ruth Fahl will place the order. President Platt adjourned the meeting.

Summer Projects

Birders frequently ask how they can contribute useful information on Kansas birds while enjoying bird-watching. The possibilities are many. If you live near a college or university you might be able to assist with some ongoing research as some KOS people already do. Some of the managers of state or federal areas appreciate information on the birds of their areas and are receptive to volunteer help. One example of a specific project - John Zimmerman is always seeking volunteers to help with the Breeding Bird Surveys. Here, knowledge of the regular birds (and their songs) is more important than the ability to identify rarities.

Don't overlook "simple" possibilities in your own area: 1) Recording migration dates and peaks over a period of years can be very valuable. Good fall departure dates are not available for many areas. 2) Make simple population counts and record present environmental conditions to document changes that occur in the birdlife as the habitat changes. 3) Document nesting of various species by finding nests (BE CAREFUL), noting adults carrying food and by noting young birds. We have very little information on the breeding distributions of many fairly common birds (e.g., Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow Warbler).

Eugene and Eulalia Lewis spend a 4-day period in June concentrating on the birds of a single county. Last year they surveyed Ottawa County for species near the limits of their breeding range (e.g., gnatcatcher, Scarlet Tanager). Why not write them at 1285 Mac Vicar Ave., Topeka 66604 for suggestions. The "good" spots and the "rare" birds are usually well documented but we need better information on the more common ones to follow future changes in distribution and numbers.

Max Thompson and I recently compiled county "lists" using our notes and sightings supplied by KOS members. Although very incomplete, these lists show the unequal coverage around the state. Nine counties have over 250 species but 11 have 30 species or less. I'm sure sightings from some of these counties are in someone's notebook but they do suggest places where one might fill in gaps while enjoying a change in scenery. Some of the least documented counties, by area are: NE - Brown, Marshall, Jefferson, Franklin (4-30); NC - Washington, Saline, Smith, (40-47); NW - Sherman (71); SE - Bourbon, Chautauqua, Elk, Wilson (10-24); SC - Marion, Harper, Rice (16-33); SW - Steven, Stanton, Grant (29-66). The Lewis' have the list of totals by county. Charles A. Ely.

SHORT NOTES

Sheridan St. Lake. - On May 8, Renne Loehfener, Marvin Rolfs, Mike Stearns, Wes Wikoff and I saw a Common Loon (winter plumage) and watched an Osprey capture a fish. Mr. Wikoff had seen the loon the previous night and the osprey on several occasions. C. A. Ely.

Ellis Co. - Among the better birds this spring were: Wood Thrush (10 May) and Marbled Godwit (with Steve Anshutz on 12 April) - both county firsts. Others were: Bay-breasted Warbler, 4 and 10 May; Scarlet Tanager (6-10 May, Greg Dunn, Larry Williams, then netted) R. Lohofener.

Paper Session - Spring Meeting 1976

Review of Kansas Scoter Records	Marvin D. Schwilling
Was it a year among the Philistines?	John L. Zimmerman
The Texas Cedar Breaks and its Warbler	Thomas G. Shane
Colonial Bird Register	Dwight Platt
What Bird is This? A quiz	Allen W. Jahn
Seed Preferences in Cardinals and Field Sparrows	Nancy B. Taylor
Patterns of Migration Pinpointing of Tree Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos	Ivan Boyd
Summer Birds of Ottawa County, a Survey	Eugene Lewis
A Tribute to Frank Robl	Marvin D. Schwilling
Predation on a Dickcissel nest by a Speckled King Snake	Stephen D. Fretwell
Netting a Hoary Redpoll in the Kansas City Area	Mary Louise Myers
The Chaplin Nature Center, a Project of the Wichita Audubon Society	Louis J. Bussjaeger
A Raptor Rehabilitation and Release Program	Mike Janis
A Natural Forest Fire and One Year Later in Grand Teton National Park	Dale Taylor
Roads, Rodents and Raptors	Jeff Cox & Andy Finfrock
Breeding Bird Survey	John L. Zimmerman

SHORT NOTES

Elk Co. - April: 7th, Upland Sandpiper, Grasshopper Sparrow, Brown Thrasher; 11th, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (early, but also seen 8 April 1974); 13th, Chuck-will's Widow; 15th, Eastern Kingbird; 22nd, Baltimore Oriole. Greg Hutchins.

Augusta. - Santa Fe Lake, 24 April: 1 Black-necked Stilt, 1 Pectoral Sandpiper, 5 or 6 Eared Grebes (some in spring plumage), 1 female Scaup. Bill and Sue Jehle and Judi Meyersick. I have had a White-crowned Sparrow at my feeder daily since the 27th. (J.M.)