

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Division of Biology, Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506

Volume 6, No. 5
NOVEMBER 1979

KOS ANNUAL FALL MEETING 1979
Albertson Hall
Fort Hays Kansas State University, Hays
October 5-7, 1979

Saturday, October 6, Morning Session

Registration was followed by the morning session in room 310. The meeting was opened at 9:40 a.m. by Charles Ely. Dr. Eugene D. Fleharty, Chairman of the Department of Biology at Fort Hays State University, welcomed the KOS to the Fort Hays campus. Steve Fretwell, President of KOS, responded to the welcome. Charles Ely made a number of announcements and then turned the meeting over to Roger Boyd who chaired the morning paper session.

Morning Business Session
Called to order by Steve Fretwell at 11:55 a.m.

CONSTITUTION REVISION: Steve Fretwell endorsed Amelia Betts' call for a revision of the KOS Constitution, presented in the last paper of the paper session. Larry Nossaman moved to request the President to appoint a committee to look into the revision of the KOS Constitution. The motion was seconded by Roger Boyd. In response to an inquiry it was stated that the committee would be an ad hoc committee. The motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: John Zimmerman announced that Christmas Bird Count forms are available from him.

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

Saturday, October 6, Afternoon Session

After lunch, the Birdwatcher's Hour was led by Katherine Kelley. Charles Ely chaired the afternoon paper session.

Afternoon Business Session
Called to order by Steve Fretwell at 4:40 p.m.

President Steve Fretwell presented summaries of the reports by officers and committees except as indicated below.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Membership Secretary is doing a good job. Cards have been sent to all members for their suggestions of names of potential new members.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gene Lewis presented the Treasurer's report and also announced that he has new brochures on KOS available.

EDITOR'S REPORT: The publication of the Bulletin and Newsletter have been on time but there has been some problem with mailing some issues on time.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT: The Librarian has been selling back issues of the Bulletin. Notices of the availability of back issues of the Bulletin will be coming out in some other bird journals.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: The Conservation Committee has not been appointed yet.

FUNDING OF NON-GAME SPECIES PROGRAM: Marvin Schwilling announced a meeting sponsored by the Kansas Fish and Game Commission to be held on October 7 at 2:00 p.m. at the Barton County Community College to discuss the funding of the non-game species program. He stated that Missouri enacted a soft drink bottle tax to fund what is one of the leading non-game species programs; California has an aggressive program; Colorado also has an excellent program funded by a voluntary check-off or contribution of a portion of a citizen's income tax refund.

Larry Nossaman pointed out that the selling of non-game licenses to fund the non-game species program would make the Fish and Game Commission eligible for additional federal funds which are allocated on the basis of the number of licenses sold.

DINGUS NATURAL AREA COMMITTEE REPORT: The Dingus Natural Area Committee reported that no large expenditures of funds were needed at the present time.

MEETINGS: Chris Johnson announced that the Spring Field Trip will be the first weekend in May (May 3 & 4), 1980 in a park south of Galena in southeastern Kansas.

Roger Boyd announced that the 1980 Fall Meeting will be at Baker University, Baldwin, on the first weekend in October (Oct. 4 & 5), 1980.

Steve Fretwell reported that no sites had been selected for Spring and Fall 1981 meetings. The Board is open for suggestions.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: Steve Fretwell appointed Chris Johnson and Steve Kingswood to a Resolutions Committee.

The meeting adjourned.

Saturday, October 6, Evening Session

The Annual Banquet was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Black and Gold Room of the Memorial Union.

Steve Fretwell opened the meeting and introductions were made. Marvin Schwilling reported on the Best Birds of the Season.

Charles Ely reported on the bird identification contest. Calvin Cink won in the old pro group and Roger Boyd in the serious beginners' group. Charles Ely also expressed thanks to all the persons who had worked on arrangements for the meeting.

Steve Fretwell announced that Phyllis Henney had completed a life membership.

Chris Johnson reported for the Resolutions Committee and moved the adoption of the following resolutions:

Whereas the accommodations, facilities, and arrangements for the Fall Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society held at the Fort Hays State University on October 4 and 6, 1979, have been of highest quality,

And whereas the papers presented at the meeting were both stimulating and informative,

Be it therefore resolved that the Society and its members herewith express sincere appreciation to the University and to Dr. Charles Ely, Mrs. Jan Ely, and all members of the local committee for insuring the success of this, the 32nd annual meeting of the Society.

Be it further resolved that the Kansas Ornithological Society supports

efforts to establish ways to secure funds for non-game species research, to improve habitat, and to aid in other ways benefitting these species. The motion was seconded by Joyce Davis. The motion was passed by acclamation.

Charles Ely made announcements about the Sunday field trips.

After a few minutes rearranging tables and chairs and setting up a projector, Charles Ely introduced Warren D. Harden, who gave an interesting illustrated lecture on the "Birds of Colima, Mexico."

The meeting adjourned for the night.

Sunday, October 7, Field Trips

Two field trip groups were out in the vicinity of Hays on Sunday morning. Lunch and the species compilation were in Frontier Park, south of Hays. A total of 72 species were reported.

The 32nd annual meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted -- Dwight R. Platt
Secretary
Kansas Ornithological
Society

KOS FALL BOARD MEETING
October 6, 1979
Mars Restaurant, Hays, Kansas

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kansas Ornithological Society was called to order by President Steve Fretwell at 12:35 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the Spring Board Meeting had been published in the Newsletter and had been distributed to all Board members. The minutes were approved as distributed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Steve Fretwell reported that he felt that interest in ornithology in the state of Kansas is increasing and KOS needs to plan to serve a larger membership. He reviewed the objectives of KOS. He pointed out that we are doing a good job in promoting ornithology but need to do a better job in advancing members in ornithological sciences. We have sometimes been active and sometimes inactive in promoting conservation. We are doing a good job in providing for the publication of papers.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Charles Ely reported that there was no difficulty in getting papers for the Fall Meeting.

EDITOR'S REPORT: John Zimmerman reported that the Bulletin and the Newsletter are being published on schedule. The December Bulletin will be an index and the March Bulletin will be the Christmas Bird Count summary. He encouraged organizers to get more people out on the Christmas Bird Counts because it is a good way to interest people in birds. We also need wider coverage of the state in Christmas Bird Counts.

Winfield Press does a good job of printing the publications and is economical. However, there is a problem with mailing at Southwestern University when Max Thompson is not there. The last Bulletin has been at Southwestern for mailing since September 1. Suggestions made to solve this problem were: to hire someone in Winfield to get mailings out; to use a mailing service; to provide copy to the printer earlier to allow for delay in mailing. John Zimmerman will work out a solution to the problem.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jan Hershberger reported that we have 435 members for 1979 as of September 1. The Membership Secretary's report is attached to the minutes (see Exhibit 1). Twenty cards have been recieved from members suggesting names of potential new members.

EDUCATION: It was suggested that KOS might do more work with elementary teachers and possibly write some educational materials for them to use. Audubon doesn't have many materials anymore but 4-H has a good set of materials on bird study. It was suggested that KOS members can lead bird field trips for schools and that we might have an elementary school page in the Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gene Lewis gave the Treasurer's report (a copy is attached).

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT: The minutes of KOS meetings are in the Kansas Collection at Kansas University but they have not yet been copied. A copy will be made soon and given to the Secretary.

We have an oversupply of some back issues of the Bulletin. Ruth Fauhl asked whether she could distribute them for use in schools. The Board by consensus gave the Librarian discretion to distribute copies of issues that are in oversupply.

The Board by consensus asked the Librarian to prepare a list of journals that are in the KOS Library and send it to John Zimmerman for publication in the Newsletter.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT: Bob LaShelle reported that he will send out postcards to compilers to collect information on the Christmas Bird Counts that are being planned. A news release will then be sent to appropriate newspapers.

FUNDING OF NON-GAME SPECIES PROGRAM: Marvin Schwilling announced that the Kansas Fish and Game Commission is sponsoring a meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 7 at Barton County Community College to discuss methods of funding the non-game and threatened and endangered species program. The meeting is open to anyone interested. Both Colorado and Missouri have excellent non-game species programs. Missouri funds it with a tax on soft drink bottles and Colorado has a voluntary check-off contribution of a portion of income tax refunds. Some states have also tried stamps or licenses but the most common method of funding is from the general tax fund.

It was reported that Eulalia Lewis has been working with her State Representative and he will introduce a bill to fund the non-game program patterned after the Colorado program. Marvin Schwilling suggested that the most stable source of funds might be a license or permit for the use of state fish and game lands.

DINGUS NATURAL AREA COMMITTEE REPORT: Gene Lewis gave the report for the Dingus Natural Area. No major expenditure of funds is needed right now.

MEETINGS: It was announced that the Spring Field Trip will be in southeastern Kansas the first weekend in May and the Fall Meeting will be in Baldwin. There will be no Winter Board Meeting but the President will call a meeting in early Spring. An announcement will be put in the Newsletter asking for suggestions of locations for the Spring 1981 Field Trip.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 5:10 p.m. in room 310 in Albertson Hall on the campus of Fort Hays State University.

DISTRIBUTION OF DECALS: John Zimmerman moved that KOS send out decals to new members. The motion was seconded by Gene Lewis. The motion passed.

EXTRA BANQUET TICKETS: John Zimmerman moved that KOS absorb the cost of extra banquet tickets that had been reserved but not sold. The motion was seconded by Gene Lewis. Charles Ely had reserved about 10 more places at the Banquet than had been sold. The motion passed.

AVAILABILITY OF MEMBERSHIP LIST: The Birding Book Club has requested a copy of the KOS membership list. John Zimmerman moved that we not furnish the KOS membership list to the Birding Book Club. The motion was seconded by Jane Hershberger. The motion passed.

BIRDS OF SHAWNEE COUNTY: Woods had inquired about KOS support for the publication of his "Birds of Shawnee County." We will stand good on our support authorized earlier by the Board with a limit of \$400. The book should be priced so that KOS can get its money back.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NON-GAME SPECIES PROGRAM FUNDING: Steve Kingswood asked for the Resolutions Committee whether there should be a resolution in support of the effort to obtain funding for the non-game species program. The consensus of the Board was that the Resolutions Committee should prepare such a resolution.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted -- Dwight R. Platt
Secretary
Kansas Ornithological
Society

Members in attendance: Fretwell, Ely, Platt, Hershberger, Lewis, Fauhl, Zimmerman, Kingswood, Johnson, and Edwards.

TREASURER'S REPORT, Gene Lewis

<u>Balance</u> , April 4, 1979		\$5353.11
<u>Receipts:</u>		
Dues	\$301.00	
Checklists & Decals	168.21	
Bulletins	30.00	
Interest	130.94	
Total receipts	\$630.15	\$5983.26
<u>Disbursements:</u>		
Bulletin	\$493.37	
March	\$354.32	
June	\$139.05	
Newsletter	\$161.50	
April	\$80.75	
July	\$80.75	
Newsletter Typing	26.50	
Southwestern College (mailings)	200.00	
Postage, etc.	3.46	
Box Rent	5.00	
Fidelity Bond	25.00	
Total Disbursements	\$914.83	
Balance October 3, 1979		\$5068.43

Savings Certificates (2)	\$2505.11
Bank Passbook Savings	595.13
Savings & Loan Passbook	1357.04
Checking Account	611.15
TOTAL	\$5068.43

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, Jane Hershberger

		TOTALS 4-28-79
MEMBER TOTAL FOR 1979 (Closed September 1, 1979)	435	(437)
TOTAL MEMBERS PAID FOR 1979 as of September 1, 1979		
REGULAR		
Individual	202	(198)
Library	25	(25)
Family	<u>47</u>	<u>(52)</u>
	274	(275)
SUSTAINING		
Individual	88	(88)
Family	<u>32</u>	<u>(32)</u>
	120	(120)
STUDENT (grade and high school only)	11	(9)(9)
LIFE		
Fully Paid	23	(23)
Partly Paid	<u>6</u>	<u>(6)</u>
	<u>29</u>	<u>(29)</u>
	434	(433)

October 6, 1979
REPORT OF
THE DINGUS NATURAL AREA COMMITTEE

The Committee was charged with bringing to this meeting a proposed budget of expenses needed to survey the Natural Area and fence certain portions not now fenced and which appear to need protection. Some preliminary figures from Bob Weese of Mound City indicates that both surveying and fencing are beyond our means. The Linn County Surveyor estimated that cost at \$1500 and this would include considerable cutting of brush and small trees by KOS to give line-or-sight viewing. Fencing would be equally prohibitive and would require complete removal of all shrubs and trees twenty feet on each side of the fence line. In each case the removal of shrubs and trees would be against the very idea of a natural area and other ideas must be pursued. There is a possibility of acquiring the piece of land that forms a triangle between the north border and the abandoned road. This move would give us a recognizable north boundary from the northeast corner to the point where it goes north to Little Sugar Creek. Howard Wade, who owns the property forming the triangle, is amenable to our purchasing it if we can come to a reasonable agreement on cost. Perhaps The Nature Conservancy will help us with the purchase.

The remainder of the property north to the creek is for sale by Howard Wade but at a cost far exceeding our ability to pay. Currently the price is \$15,000.

The Board of The Nature Conservancy was to meet earlier this month to act on transfer of title for the Dingus Natural Area to KOS. Rex Boner, Director of Land Stewardship for TNC, assured me there should be no problem but that the paperwork may not be finished until after the first of next year. This should pose no problem since the lease has an extension clause.

One problem of groups wanting to do studies at the Area for more than one day has been to find a place to camp. Mr. Wade has said they may camp on the land immediately to the north between the boundary and the creek. It will be strictly rough camping with no water or facilities. Potential campers should contact Mr. Wade or Mrs. Wade before camping is attempted. Incidentally, Mr. Wade is a new member of KOS.

-- Eugene R. Lewis, Chairman

TEN BEST BIRDS OF THE SEASON (1/2 year)

April 1979 - September 1979

Marvin D. Schwilling

Information used in choosing the top ten included the "best birds" reports plus a search of the Bulletin, Newsletter, unusual bird report cards, letters and conversations at the annual (fall) meeting. Some late reports have been added that altered the list as reported at the annual meeting.

Contestants were:

1. Pine Grosbeaks, 26 May. One male and two females, Morton County. -- Eddie Stegall
2. Ovenbird, early May into June. News with three young. Territorial males, and young being fed out of nest, Douglas County Fishing Lake Woods & Baldwin Woods. -- Calvin Cink and Roger Boyd
3. Lesser Goldfinch, May 12, 22, 24, 26, 29 and June 1. Kingman Wildlife Management Area Headquarters feeding on dandelions with Am. Goldfinches, was a single male black-backed form. -- Byron Walker
4. Tree Swallows (nesting), 27 May. Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Management Area first reported at least a dozen females gathering nesting material. The area was checked by canoe on 4 & 5 June. Nineteen nests were recorded and 75-100 birds observed. -- Orville Rice
5. Black-necked Stilts (nesting), 2 June. Quivira National Wildlife Refuge at least two pair. One nest with 4 eggs photographed. -- Marvin Schwilling
6. Cedar Waxwing (nesting), 6 June. Osage State Fishing Lake and Riley County a pair observed gathering and carrying nesting material. -- Bob Wood and Ken Brunson
Also 3 June nest with 4 eggs in Riley County. -- Stephen Fretwell
7. Yellow-crowned Night Heron (nesting). In city limits of Topeka fledged four young. -- Gene & Eulatia Lewis
8. Magpie, during summer. Several sightings north of Winfield. -- Celia White
9. Scarlet Tanager, 8 May. Near Harvey County West Park. First County record since 1968. -- Jane Hershberger & Rose Trity
10. Great-tailed Grackle, 2 May. Bethel College campus. Second County record. -- Dwight Platt

11. Chuck-wills-Widow, 7 May. Bethel College Campus. First County record since 1966. -- Dwight LaVonne & Kamala Platt
12. Magnolia Warbler, 15 May. Along Sand Creek near Newton. -- Dwight Platt
13. House Finch (nesting), Spring. -- Marvin Rolfs
Residence Hays. -- Marvin Rolfs
14. Broad-tailed Hummingbird, 13 & 14 August. One mile north of Oxford feeding at feeder and canna beds, male made wing noise. -- Wallace Champeney
15. Curve-billed Thrasher (nesting), 14 June. Four miles north of Montezuma in Gray County. Bird and nest in Cholla cactus. Also March 1979, old nest in Hamilton County. -- J. Allen White
16. Brewer's Sparrow (nesting), Spring. 6 nests with 23 singing males. Cimarron Grasslands in Morton County. -- Mark Ports

- TOP TEN -

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Ovenbird (nesting) | Calvin Cink/Roger Boyd |
| 2. Broad-tailed Hummingbird | Wallace Champeney |
| 3. Lesser Goldfinch | Byron Walker |
| 4. Cedar Waxwings (nesting) | Bob Wood and Ken Brunson
& Stephen Fretwell |
| 5. Yellow-crowned Night Heron (nesting) | Gene & Eulalia Lewis |
| 6. Brewer's Sparrow (nesting) | Mark Ports |
| 7. House Finch (nesting) | Marvin Rolfs |
| 8. Tree Swallows (nesting) | Orville Rice |
| 9. Black-necked Stilts (nesting) | Marvin Schwilling |
| 10. Pine Grosbeaks | Eddie Stegall |

NEXT SUMMER'S AOU MEETING TO BE CLOSE TO HOME

The American Ornithologists' Union will hold its annual meeting at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, August 11-15, 1980. An interesting program of scientific papers, lectures, exhibits, and tours is planned. The public is invited. For information about the local arrangements, write Dr. Gustav A. Swanson, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523. For information about the program of papers, write Dr. Kendall Corbin, Secretary, American Ornithologists' Union, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

TO ALL KOS MEMBERS (AND FRIENDS) INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE MORTON COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This year's Morton County CBC will be held on the last weekend of December. While the exact date has yet to be set, I anticipate leaving Kansas City in the early morning hours of Saturday, December 29 (or maybe Friday evening), and counting in Morton County on Sunday, December 30. Monday, December 31, could be set aside for birding in the region or counting at Keeton, OK (Black Mesa) if there is enough interest. Tuesday, January 1, would be used for the return trip to eastern Kansas and KC. I'd appreciate receiving any comments on the proposed dates and any signs of interest in making this trek. We've had quite a bit of luck there in the last few years, and if we can generate additional interest this year, we should do even better (70 species maybe, including many neat western accidentals????????). Let me hear from you.
Sebastian Patti, 6528 Wenonga Terrace, Shawnee Mission, KS 66208

HOW ABOUT A DIFFERENT TYPE OF BIRDING EXPERIENCE IN KANSAS?

No one in the state of Kansas could have been more aware of the severity of the recent winter than those dedicated and hardy birdwatchers who braved the elements in search of their feathered friends. Adding to the birders' difficulties was the fact that birds were often scarce or absent as a result of the extreme weather. Many of us, nevertheless, have special feelings about being outdoors at this time of year; but occasional changes in this routine are usually appreciated. Let me suggest that this winter you visit The Jungle Building at the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita.

The Jungle Building is currently the major exhibit for birds at the zoo. Over 100 birds range freely throughout the naturalistic habitats that portray different aspects of the tropical rain forest. Diversity is represented by 39 species from 19 families in 10 orders that are found on every continent except Antarctica. Although the dominant group exhibited is the passerines, various species of waterfowl, pheasants, plovers, pigeons, parrots and barbets all provide exotic comparisons with Kansas species. On the other hand, birds such as Hartlaub's Turaco or the Lilac-breasted Roller are from groups which are probably unfamiliar to most of us. Bird life in the Jungle Building is conspicuous, especially during the early morning or late afternoon hours, but other tropical groups are present - four species of mammals, a crocodile, and several species of fish.

And then there are the plants. The plants are, without a doubt, the dominant feature of this exhibit. A wood-chip path winds its way among the 150 different plant species. This verdant landscape combined with the sights, sounds and smells of the animals makes an educational and enjoyable experience, especially when the outside temperature keeps dropping and the winds keep howling.

Birds on display in other areas of the Sedgwick County Zoo are domesticated species typical of American and Asian farms as well as larger nonpasserines found on the veld in Africa. A large aviary is currently under construction that will depict grassland habitats of Australia (the "outback") and South America (pampas). At this time 30 species of birds that will eventually be present in the Pampas-Outback exhibit are housed in temporary quarters until this exhibit opens next June. Although these birds are not on public display, if you make prior arrangements with me, I'll be happy to give you the opportunity to see these species too.

Steve Kingswood, Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 Zoo Blvd., Wichita, KS 67212
(316) 942-2212.