

The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

Box 36, Nekoma, Kansas 67559

December 1989

Vol. 17, No. 3

SPRING AND SUMMER BIRD SUMMARY/ March through July 89/ by Scott Seltman

Kansas birders found a respectable number of interesting birds during the Spring and Summer of 1989 considering the extremes of weather that we were forced to deal with throughout the period. Looking back over the bird summaries of the last two years one could conclude that your editor is obsessed with weather as I have often devoted more space to the weather report than to the good birds seen during a given period. But the fact is that since the Autumn of 1987 Kansans have seen some of the most extraordinary weather conditions in our state's history. And the Drought of '88 which seemed to end this summer may be extending into 1989 as well. Kansas just experienced the driest November on record with most National Weather Service reporting stations recording ZERO precipitation for the entire month.

The last few days of February 1989 were quite mild and many shorebirds and passerines seemed poised to begin spring migration well ahead of schedule. But March roared in like a lion with a record setting blast of cold air from the north and for the rest of the month we experienced wild swings in outdoor conditions. Here at Nekoma on March 4 the temperature ranged between 0 and 12 degrees F with a steady 40 MPH breeze from the north. Just a week later on March 11 the daytime high was 88 F. On March 14 a major dust storm struck the state with hurricane force winds clawing away at topsoil that in many cases had seen minimal rain for at least 12 months. At this point members of the older generation, who had until this time vigorously denied any current resemblance between the late 80's and the "Dirty Thirties", finally admitted that the current drought at least reminded them of their youth. April was also very dry and windy with frequent duststorms in the West and major temperature variations statewide. While many low temperature records had been broken in the previous two months, late April saw record heat with the mercury breaking 100°F at many western localities on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. Never before had such a strong heat wave been recorded so early in spring.

Finally in May the rains began. Thunderstorms that had been occurring in eastern Colorado for about ten days finally moved into Kansas on May 13 and for the next month-and-a-half many areas of the state received more rain than they had during the last year-and-a-half. By early June some areas of southcentral Kansas were actually having flooding problems and some localities ended the month with over 20 inches of rain! This month also set many records for low

temperatures. Many areas of northwest Kansas flirted with frost on the incredible dates of June 14 and 15 with morning lows in the upper 30's. And on June 22 the daytime highs in westcentral Kansas were lower than the previous record lows for the date. The daytime high of 53°F in Dodge City was about 20 degrees below the normal minimum temperature! In July the weather seemed a bit more normal although the characteristic heat waves never really materialized. It should be mentioned that while most areas of the state received generous amounts of rain in late spring and early summer, there were isolated areas of dryness that persisted right through the summer months.

The numbers of migrating birds seemed very low in the western half of the state until the rains began in May. Trips to Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira were particularly depressing in early spring with overall numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds at incredibly low levels. As reported in the last Horned Lark, Cheyenne Bottoms was virtually 100% dry by late April. The last pool to disappear was Pool 1, which for a brief period contained a huge (but inaccessible) concentration of shorebirds. After May 1 numbers of all birds at The Bottoms dropped off dramatically. Water finally began to flow into the refuge in late May and early June but by then most waterbirds were long gone and prospects for the nesting season were grim. An all-day trip though the area on June 10 by the Seltmans was a real experience in birdlessness. Even coots were rare! It was rather obvious that the breeding season had been irreversibly damaged by drought conditions. At Quivira NWR conditions were somewhat better with breeding birds very scarce but with most normal species present. Perhaps the biggest event of the season at Quivira was a prairie fire in April that burned about 5000 acres at the north end of the refuge. For a brief period good numbers of birds were found feeding in this burn but nothing rare was ever discovered.

On March 31 Charles Holthaus reported that a pair of Bald Eagles were occupying a nest in submerged trees at the west end of Clinton Reservoir. It was immediately confirmed that these birds were incubating eggs. Over the next several months many birders witnessed the hatching, feeding, and fledging of two young. One adult disappeared soon after hatching occurred but the remaining adult still managed to feed both juveniles. Kansas ornithologists had long predicted that Bald Eagles would someday begin nesting at our eastern reservoirs but would not have chosen Clinton as the most likely spot. This lake is not only very new, but because of its proximity to Lawrence is one of the more heavily visited lakes in the region. As soon as the nest was discovered Parks and Wildlife officials attempted to secure the area of the lake around the nest site with signs and barriers. This gesture was apparently successful in that the eagles ultimately fledged, but speedboats were often seen buzzing the nest site and one enterprising canoe-load of wildlife lovers were seen pounding on the nest tree with their paddles so they could get a better look at the sleeping eaglets. If the birds return next spring perhaps the novelty of nesting eagles will have worn off and they will be granted a little more privacy by the local citizenry.

Other birds of interest included breeding House Finches in both Topeka and Emporia with summering birds present in both Kansas City metro area and in several neighborhoods of Wichita. Can Lawrence and Baldwin be far behind? The sudden appearance of House Finches in eastern Kansas and western Missouri has created considerable controversy. While some analysts and American Birds commentators insist that birds found east of the Flint Hills originate from the eastern populations it is unclear why they have assigned sedentary status to birds in the western half of Kansas that have been marching eastward at the

rate of about 25 miles a year for the last decade while granting vast pioneering skills to birds from the East. It should be pointed out that on 1988 Christmas Bird Counts Missouri birders participating in 26 different counts found a total of 44 birds in their state (1.7 birds/count) with almost half of those coming from towns near the Kansas border (St. Joseph and Springfield). Meanwhile, 10 western Kansas counts tallied 616 House Finches (61.6 birds/count). This despite the fact that numbers of participants were very low and half of the counts contain no urban areas. While no one knows the total population of Kansas House Finches everyone who has birded in western towns knows that the number is very high, certainly many thousands of individuals. Judging from CBC's one must to go east all the way to Indiana to find comparable densities of House Finches to those currently in the western three-fifths of Kansas. It would appear that all Kansas cities (and even those in Central Missouri) are geographically closer to our finch factory than to any known concentration of House Finches east of the Mississippi River. It may well be that birds from the East are now arriving in Missouri and even eastern Kansas, but it seems that many people are seriously underestimating the ability of western House Finches to become airborne. Persons annoyed by this paragraph should call Chuck Ely or Marvin Rolfs in Hays. This team has banded over 8000 House Finches during the last decade. Perhaps you can convince them that all of these birds were local residents and never wandered east of Hays. Of course, in another ten years the entire East vs. West controversy will be just a dim memory as House Finches seem destined to occupy every county of every state in the Lower 48.

Several standouts among the birds reported from spring and summer include a Barrow's Goldeneye that stayed for a week or two in Topeka this April. This bird was seen by many area birders and its identity was confirmed by local experts. While there is still no specimen or even a photograph of this species in Kansas, the number of good sight records continues to mount. Black Rails were reported by several individuals at their normal haunts at the northwest edge of Quivira's Big Salt Marsh. The mosquito population was simply awesome there this summer. In addition to a good flashlight and wading boots, birders in the future should consider taking along a few units of blood.

The Little Gull found by Ted Cable at Tuttle Creek was probably the best bird of the season. It was present for about five days and was seen by quite a few Manhattan area birders. Kansas is averaging about 1 or 2 sightings of this gull per year. Otherwise, a few out-of-range warblers were seen across the state and there was a definite invasion of Cassin's Sparrows into the western counties. The spring migration had an unusual number of very early arrivals and very late departures, just a few of which are mentioned below. No doubt the early heat in April and the cold rainy weather in late May was the cause behind most of these anomalies.

The next reporting period covers the period from August through November 1989. We all should know by now that the fall season was incredibly exciting in the southwest with many rarities being recorded. I need a thorough report from each birder who visited southwest Kansas this fall including dates, places, and birds seen in order to write a full report on this phenomenal invasion in the next Horned Lark. Other than a certain family of raptors at Tuttle Creek it was quiet autumn in eastern Kansas, but perhaps you have just been holding out on us. I am still receiving reports from only a few ambitious souls. The next newsletter goes to press in February.

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS/ March through July 1989

Olivaceous Cormorant	1	LM,MM,BF	4-30-89	Coffey
Great Egret	1 early at Perry	DLS	<u>3-26-89</u>	Jefferson
Snowy Egret	1 in breeding plumage	DLS	6-18-89	Jefferson
Tundra Swan	1 remaining at MDC	LM	3-18-89	Linn
Trumpeter Swan	1 at MDC presumably	LM	3-18-89	Linn
	one of five Minnesota birds first found in February.			
Ross' Goose	1 at Melvern	LM,MM	3-25-89	Osage
Wood Duck	1 female with 7 downy young at Alma sewage ponds.	DLS	5-20-89	Wabaunsee
Cinnamon Teal	pair s. of Ogden	DLS	4-30-89	Riley
Greater Scaup	2 well seen males at Tuttle Creek St. Park sewage lagoons. Green gloss, rounded heads, and extended wing stripe all mentioned in report.	LJ	3-25-89	Riley
Lesser Scaup	pair at Perry	DLS	<u>5-27-89</u>	Jefferson
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	1 imm. male at sewage lagoons. Found by Dan Gish and confirmed by Gene Lewis and other area birders. Outside dates not reported.	DG,m.ob.	Apr. 89	Shawnee
Mississippi Kite	sev. very early locally	SS	4-27-89	Pawnee
Mississippi Kite	1 imm. over Manhattan	DR	7-26-89	Riley
Osprey	late straggler at Stockdale Cove seen repeatedly.	DR,LJ,RW	June 89	Riley
Bald Eagle	<u>pair nesting</u> at Clinton	CH	3-31-89	Douglas
	First modern nesting record for Kansas.			
Bald Eagle	2 imm. at Milford	DLS	<u>5-29-89</u>	Clay
Swainson's Hawk	<u>120</u> on ground in field	SS	4-25-89	Rush
Swainson's Hawk	<u>160</u> following tractor	SS	4-25-89	Pawnee
Golden Eagle	1	LM,MM	4-25-89	<u>Coffey</u>
Peregrine Falcon	1 well seen and well described adult seen at Stockdale area on west side of Tuttle Creek Res. June or July sightings very rare anywhere in Kansas.	LJ	<u>6-17-89</u>	Riley
Greater Prairie Chicken	1 in wheat nw. Larned	SS	4-23-89	Pawnee
	Very rare locally.			
Black Rail	1 calling at Quivira	PJ	7-01-89	Stafford
Sandhill Crane	2 w. of Big Salt Marsh	SC,RP	<u>5-07-89</u>	Stafford
Piping Plover	3 at Perry Res.	DLS	4-23-89	Jefferson
Piping Plover	5 at KW&P Headquarters	GB	5-03-89	Pratt
Piping Plover	1 at Quivira	SC,RP	5-06-89	Stafford
Piping Plover	1 at CB	SC,RP	5-06-89	Barton
Piping Plover	1 at Melvern Res.	SC,RP	5-07-89	Osage
Mountain Plover	3 at Big Salt Marsh	TC	4-22-89	Stafford
Mountain Plover	1 plover with deformed bill believed to be of this species reported from Clinton Res.	EL,JB	4-23-89	Douglas
Black-necked Stilt	2 at Perry Res.	DLS	5-24-89	<u>Jefferson</u>
Willet	1 roadkill	SP,SS	5-15-89	Stanton
Whimbrel	1 at Quivira	JZ,30+obs.	4-29-89	Stafford
Ruddy Turnstone	2 at n. end Tuttle	TC,MR,SS	5-20-89	Riley
White-rumped Sandpiper	1 remaining at Perry	DLS	6-18-89	Jefferson
Dunlin	3	TC,MR,SS	5-20-89	Riley
Short-billed Dowitcher	1 with other shorebirds at Nature Trail Area, Lake Afton.	PJ	4-17-89	Sedgwick
Short-billed Dowitcher	3 identified by call at Stockdale area.	LJ	5-13-89	Riley
Red-necked Phalarope	1 male at Perry Res.	DLS	5-27-89	Jefferson
<u>Little Gull</u>	1st winter bird along the dam at Tuttle Creek for about 5 days.	TC,m.ob.	5-15-89	Riley & Pott.
Common Tern	1 basic plumage Perry	DLS	6-03-89	Jefferson

Least Tern	1 at Perry Res.	DLS	6-17-89	Jefferson
Black-billed Cuckoo	1 (rare this summer)	JY	6-11-89	Sedgwick
Tree Swallow	Early birds at Stockdale.	LJ	3-26-89	Riley
Tree Swallow	Several birds seen	LJ	6-11-89	Riley
	carrying insects into nest cavities in submerged trees at Stockdale.			
Tree Swallow.	Pair of adults seen	LJ	6-24-89	Riley
	feeding fledglings outside nest. This is believed to be the first record of breeding Tree Swallows in Riley County.			
Cliff Swallow	30 at Quivira. Early.	PJ	<u>4-08-89</u>	Stafford
Cliff Swallow	5 at Q	SS	4-15-89	Stafford
Carolina Wren	1 singing in Larned	DS	5-02-89	<u>Pawnee</u>
Sedge Wren	1 at new wildlife area	TS,SN	4-16-89	Finney
Swainson's Thrush	1 late migrant	PJ	6-03-89	Sedgwick
White-eyed Vireo	1 along Bear Creek	SP	5-15-89	<u>Stanton</u>
White-eyed Vireo	1 heard at Konza	DR	5-20-89	Riley
Solitary Vireo	1 ' <u>plumbeous</u> ' Bear Cr.	SS	5-15-89	Stanton
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 singing for several weeks along Wildcat Creek.	CS,DR,m.ob.	July 89	Riley
Golden-winged Warbler	1 singing male at Perry WMA.	DLS	4-28-89	Jefferson
			and 5-12-89	Jefferson
Magnolia Warbler	1 at Oak Park	PJ	5-12-89	Sedgwick
Black-th. Blue Warbler	1 male Bear Creek	DS	5-15-89	<u>Stanton</u>
Palm Warbler	1 eastern race	SS	5-15-89	Stanton
Mourning Warbler	1 at Pawnee Prarie	PJ	5-15-89	Sedgwick
MacGillivray's Warbler	1 male	SS	5-22-89	Pawnee
Lazuli Bunting	pair in Oak Park	JY,JN	4-29-89	Sedgwick
Painted Bunting	2 at Stockdale	TC	4-19-89	Riley
Cassin's Sparrow	<u>36</u> singing on Gove BBS	SS	6-03-89	Gove
Cassin's Sparrow	<u>100+</u> heard	SS	6-03-89	Logan
Brewer's Sparrow	1 bird singing at dawn	SS	<u>6-03-89</u>	Gove
	from heavily eroded hillside covered with yucca. Area not revisited.			
Baird's Sparrow	adult seen at length	SS	5-09-89	Norton
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1 flushed by dragging rope in hay field nw. Quivira.	TC	4-23-89	Stafford
Harris' Sparrow	1 late bird	TC	<u>5-31-89</u>	Stafford
House Finch	1-3 birds in Wichita	PJ	July 89	Sedgwick

LIST OF OBSERVERS: Gene Brehm (GB), Joanne Brier (JB), Ted Cable (TC), Steve Crawford (SC), Bob Fisher (BF), Dan Gish (DG), Charles Holthaus (CH), Lowell Johnson (LJ), Pete Janzen (PJ), Dan LaShelle (DLS), Eugene Lewis (EL), Mick McHugh (MM), Lloyd Moore (LM), Sara Norman (SN), John Northrup (JN), Richard Parker (RP), Sebastian Patti (SP), Mike Rader (MR), David Rintoul (DR), Diane Seltman (DS), Scott Seltman (SS), Chris Smith (CS), Ruth Welti (RW), Joe Yoder (JY), John Zimmerman (JZ).

REVISED CHECKLISTS AVAILABLE

The new field checklists (rev. 1989) have been printed and are available for sale. To get your new copies of the KOS Checklist make checks payable to KOS and send your order to Max Thompson, 1729 E. 11th, Winfield, KS 67156. Prices are as follows: \$.35/one copy, \$2.00/10 copies, \$3.75/25, \$5.00/50, \$8.00/100. Larger quantities are available at special prices. Prices include postage.

KANSAS WINTER BIRDFEEDER SURVEY

The third annual Birdfeeder Survey sponsored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and KOS will be conducted January 18 through January 21, 1990. All KOS members are urged to participate.

KOS RARE-BIRD-ALERT HOTLINE

Call (316)-343-7061 for birding information and the location of state rarities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|----------------|---|
| Dec. 30, 1989 | Cimarron Grasslands CBC, Elkhart, KS. Call (913)-329-4411. |
| Dec. 31, 1989 | Black Mesa CBC, Kenton, OK. Call (913)-329-4411. |
| Dec. 31, 1989 | Junction City CBC. Meet at Denny's Restaurant at 6:30 AM, off I-70 at Exit 296. Free lunch provided by Geary County Fish & Game Association. Robert LaShelle, (913)-238-2668. |
| Jan. 6-7, 1990 | Scott Lake and Cedar Bluff CBC's. Call Tom Shane (316)-275-4616 or Scott Seltman (913)-329-4411. |
| May 5-6, 1990 | KOS Spring Meeting, Cimarron Grasslands, Elkhart, KS. Lodging may be scarce so you should consider making early reservations at the El Rancho Motel, (316)-697-2117. |
| Oct. 6-7, 1990 | KOS Fall Meeting, Bethel College, Newton, KS. |
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BIRD IDENTIFICATION COURSE

Spring Semester Bill Langley will offer a bird ID course through Butler County Community College at Andover. The course is title BI 230 Seminar: Bird Identification and is 2 credit hours. The course is designed for those just beginning birding or those who would like to improve their birding skills. Classes meet on four Saturday mornings from 9 AM to 12 Noon starting January 27th at Andover. Other meetings include two one-day and two two-day field trips. For more information call Bill Langley at (316)-321-5083 (days) or (316)-682-5880 (nights).

PRAIRIE ECOLOGY WORKSHOP

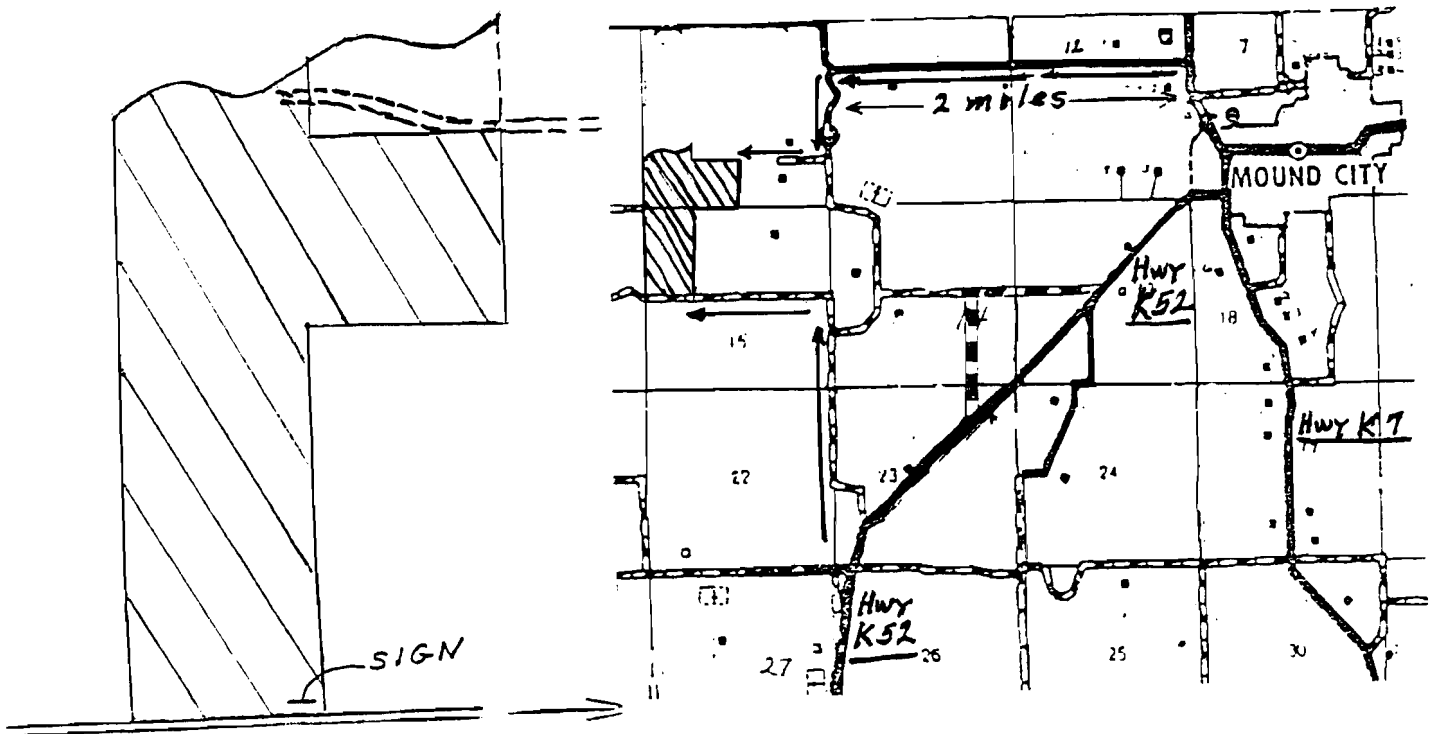
Bethel College in North Newton, KS, will be offering a three-week Summer Workshop On Prairie Ecology For Elementary Teachers in June 1990. Participants will earn 3 hours of graduate credit from Bethel College. Leaders are Dwight Platt, Professor of Biology at Bethel, and Betty Holderread, Elementary Science Coordinator for the Newton Public School District. This workshop is being supported by a grant from the Kansas Board of Regents and therefore tuition and fees will be waived for participants in the workshop. Participants will also receive free board and room on the Bethel campus for the three weeks of the workshop. Twenty applicants will be chosen with a March deadline. For more information write: Prairie Ecology Workshop, Bethel College, 300 E. 27th, North Newton, KS 67117.

DINGUS NATURAL AREA

Many newer KOS members may not know of the Dingus Natural Area in Linn County. In 1973 Wilson and Eunice Dingus deeded 167 acres of largely undisturbed land to The Nature Conservancy who in turn asked KOS to manage the area through a five year lease agreement. Later The Nature Conservancy deeded the land to KOS. The DNA has been maintained in its natural state ever since and offers some unique and interesting flora and fauna. Especially attractive are the many ferns found there, some quite rare for Kansas, and the many large hardwoods, especially sugar maples, at the north end. Pileated Woodpeckers have been seen flying to and from the north side.

The maps below show the location of the DNA in relation to Mound City. Access can be from either the south or the north, and walking the area from either direction can be rewarding but somewhat rugged at times. In approaching from the north, the east-west road seems to stop but public access continues west along the field edge to the northeast corner of the DNA. At the present time there is no sign to let you know you are there but the sudden, dense nature of the forest lets you know. On the south there is a sign at the southeast corner.

If there is enough interest a visit to the DNA will be scheduled for the spring, probably April. Incidentally, camping is not allowed. Research is encouraged. Contact me at 1285 MacVicar Ave. Topeka, KS 66604 (913-232-1847) - Gene Lewis.



KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 9/30/89

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CHECKING ACCOUNT

BEGINNING BALANCE 10/1/88		1,359.89
RECEIPTS:		
DUES	2,741.00	
T-SHIRT & CAP SALES	142.00	
CHECKLIST & DECAL SALES	61.40	
INTEREST ON ACCOUNT	86.58	
NAS - CBC HONORARIUM	120.00	
REGISTRATION FEES, FALL & SPRING MEETINGS	1,556.50	4,707.48
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DISBURSEMENTS:		
PRINTING - BULLETINS	(1,909.06)	
PRINTING - NEWSLETTERS	(556.99)	
PRINTING - MEMBERSHIP CARDS	(46.20)	
POSTAGE & SUPPLIES	(277.00)	
TELEPHONE HOTLINE	(184.64)	
ANSWERING MACHINE, TAPE, REPAIR	(132.94)	
T-SHIRTS & CAPS	(238.88)	
LIABILITY INSURANCE - DNA	(149.00)	
AWARDS	(40.00)	
CHECK CHARGE	(8.50)	
SAFE DEPOSIT BOX RENTAL	(13.30)	
SECRETARY OF STATE - ANNUAL CORPORATION FEE	(5.00)	
FALL & SPRING MEETING EXPENSE	(1,412.36)	(4,973.87)
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ENDING BALANCE 9/30/89 (INCLUDES AMELIA BETTS FUND - \$1041.15)		1,093.50

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

BEGINNING BALANCE 10/1/88		11,732.95
INTEREST EARNED		1,250.48
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ENDING BALANCE 9/30/89		12,983.43

PASSBOOK SAVINGS

BEGINNING BALANCE 10/1/88		1,187.02
LIFE MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS		827.50
INTEREST EARNED		109.75
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ENDING BALANCE 9/30/89		2124.27

DINGUS NATURAL AREA ACCOUNT

BEGINNING BALANCE 10/1/88		6,225.15
INTEREST EARNED		402.91
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ENDING BALANCE 9/30/89		6,628.06

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE (CHECKLIST MAILING)

ENDING BALANCE 9/30/89		109.02
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TOTAL ASSETS 9/30/89		22,938.28
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KOS FALL BOARD MEETING
October 7, 1989
Baker University
Baldwin City, Kansas

Members present: David Seibel, Mick McHugh, Rose Fritz, Jane Hershberger,
Dwight Platt, Mike Rader.

Non-voting: John Zimmerman, Scott Seltman, Marvin Schwilling.

David Seibel called this lunch meeting to order.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: David Seibel reported that Joyce Wolf was unable to attend and that she had indicated that she did not want to continue as the Business Manager. He also announced that the duties of the Business Manager and the Membership Secretary were being reorganized to lighten the load of the Business Manager. The Membership Secretary will maintain the mailing list and supply mailing labels to the Business Manager.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Scott had nothing to report but indicated that he would like to be relieved of his duties. Jane Hershberger said that Scott had done a fantastic job and she hoped he would not step down. David Seibel said that he hoped the Newsletter could become more popular and have sections on various aspects of bird watching such as bird feeder information, informal book reviews, identification tips, etc. Marvin Schwilling suggested publishing new county records in one issue each year. Scott said that he had too much work to continue in the position but agreed to continue until the Spring Board Meeting.

SPRING MEETING 1990: It was suggested that we try to go to the Cimarron National Grasslands in Morton County the weekend of May 5-6. Lawrence and Ruth Smith and Dennis and Jan Tregallas were suggested as local members who might help organize it.

FALL MEETING 1990: Dwight Platt announced that the Fall Meeting would be at Newton on the weekend of October 6-7.

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: Marvin Schwilling announced that there were 186 new county records and 24 new nesting records this past year. They had tried to have a new edition of the checklist ready for this meeting but it should be out in a week or two. Max Thompson is having them printed and orders for them will still go to him. The Board approved a request by Wichita Audubon to reprint the old list until the new one came out. Marvin also reported that a new tape recorder had been purchased for the hotline. There had been 105 calls received in August and 125 in September.

BIRD FEEDER SURVEY: David Seibel announced that 400 requests for information about KOS had been received as a result of the short statement about KOS on the Winter Bird Feeder Survey forms.

NEW MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES: David Seibel reported that development of the new brochures was still in progress. He would be willing to complete the brochure.

REVISIONS TO THE BYLAWS: Questions were raised about some Bylaws provisions that may need revision:

- 1) The Bylaws provide that the financial year is from January 1 to December 31 and also state that one of the duties of the Treasurer is to make an annual financial report at the Fall Meeting. This means that the Treasurer must prepare two separate financial reports. The Board would propose the following amendment to the afternoon business meeting: To amend Article VI, Sec. 6D to read "Prepare an interim financial statement to be presented at the annual

business meeting and an annual financial statement to be published in the Newsletter."

2) The Bylaws provide that all checks must have the signature of two officers. This is inconvenient and the banks do not monitor two signatures. Rose Fritz will propose other methods of handling checks and of auditing the Treasurer. She will bring these proposals to the Winter Board Meeting.

GUIDELINES FOR MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS: Draft copies of new guidelines for meetings and field trips were distributed to Board members to be discussed at the Winter Board Meeting.

AFFILIATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION: Rose Fritz moved that the Board go on record as favoring the affiliation of KOS with the ICBP. Mike Rader seconded the motion. The motion passed. The question will be brought to the afternoon business meeting.

ROYALTIES FROM BIRDS IN KANSAS: David Seibel announced that all royalties from the sale of the book Birds in Kansas that would otherwise go to authors Chuck Ely and Max Thompson were being donated to KOS. It was estimated that this would amount to \$4,000 per edition. It was suggested that these funds might go to promote publications. It was further suggested that the President appoint an Ad Hoc Committee for Publications to administer these funds and that it would consist of Chuck Ely, Max Thompson and the KOS Treasurer. This committee would be in existence until 1999 and will make annual reports to the Board at the Fall Meeting concerning the use of these funds.

COMMITTEE DUTIES: A draft listing of committee duties was distributed to Board members to be discussed at the Winter Board Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: It was suggested that we need to publish a new membership directory.

SPRING AND FALL MEETINGS 1991: It was suggested that we look into the possibility of northwest Kansas (Goodland area) for the Spring Meeting 1991. The Board will wait for invitations for the Fall Meeting 1991.

WILDLIFE HERITAGE MONTH: This will be put on the agenda for the Winter Board Meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight Platt
Corresponding Secretary, KOS

KOS ANNUAL FALL MEETING 1989
Baker University
Baldwin City, Kansas
October 7-8, 1989

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society met in the Owens Musical Arts Building on the campus of Baker University. The meeting was co-sponsored locally by the Baldwin Bird Club and the Biology Department at Baker University.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, MORNING SESSION

Roger Boyd, Local Arrangements Chair, opened the meeting and made some announcements for those in attendance. He introduced Dr. Daniel M. Lambert, President of Baker University, who welcomed KOS to the Baker University campus. David Seibel, President of KOS, thanked Baker University for hosting the meeting and welcomed the members in attendance. He then turned the meeting over to Mick McHugh, Vice-President, who chaired the morning paper session. The papers were presented in the morning session according to the schedule.

The morning Business Meeting called to order by President Seibel at 11:30 AM.

MINUTES: The minutes of the last Annual Meeting had been published in the KOS Newsletter. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as published. The motion passed. The minutes of the Spring Board Meeting were read, by the Secretary, Dwight Platt. It was moved and seconded that these minutes be approved. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rose Fritz reported that the organization ended the year with almost \$23,000 in total assets. The Treasurer's Report is appended to these minutes.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jane Hershberger reported that KOS had 382 members as of October 1. This was down four from last year. Gene Lewis moved to accept the Membership Secretary's Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

KANSAS NON-GAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL: Elmer Finck, KOS representative of the council, reported that KNWAC was changing its role to become more advisory and less concerned with the annual budget. The council was also adopting new bylaws to expand the membership to include more organizations that are interested in the non-game wildlife program.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: John Zimmerman reported that the September issue of the Bulletin would be late because he had been lacking copy for it. He now has sufficient copy through the June issue. He invited those presenting papers at the Annual Meeting to submit those papers to the Bulletin.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION: David Seibel read a letter from Stan Senner, Chair of the U.S. Section of the ICBP. He pointed out that ICBP publishes the Red Data Book on rare and endangered species of birds. ICBP was responsible for classifying Cheyenne Bottoms as critical habitat for shorebirds. KOS is invited to become a member of the ICBP - US SECTION and support its legislative efforts in Washington. David Seibel reported that the Board had discussed the matter of membership and the issue would be voted upon at the afternoon business meeting. David encouraged members to vote to support ICBP.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: Galen Pittman reported the following slate of officers as being nominated by the Nominations Committee (other members Diane Seltman and Jan Boyd):

President:	Mick McHugh	Membership Sec:	Diane Seltman
Vice-President:	David Bryan	Business Man:	Galen Pittman
Treasurer:	Rose Fritz	Director:	Tom Shane
Correspond. Sec:	Dwight Platt	Director:	John Shukman

The terms of Directors Mike Rader and Pete Janzen do not expire.

The meeting adjourned until afternoon.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, AFTERNOON SESSION

A Birdwatcher's Hour was held at 1:30 PM led by David Bryan. The afternoon session was chaired by Mick McHugh and followed the schedule.

David Seibel called the afternoon business meeting to order after the paper session.

MEETINGS: David Seibel announced that the Spring Meeting would be held the weekend of May 5-6, 1990 at the Cimarron Grasslands in Morton County. The next Fall Meeting will be the weekend of October 6-7, 1990 in Newton.

INTERNATION COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION: David Bryan made motion that KOS affiliate itself with the ICBP and pay the annual membership dues. The motion was seconded by Mike Rader. The motion passed.

AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS: Dwight Platt read the following proposed amendment to the Bylaws being brought by the Board to the Annual Business Meeting: To amend Article VI, Sec. 6D of the KOS Bylaws to read "Prepare an interim financial statement to be presented at the annual business meeting and an annual financial statement to be published in the newsletter." This amendment was moved and seconded in order to make it unnecessary for the Treasurer to prepare two annual financial statements, one for the year ending at the Annual Meeting and another at the end of the financial year on December 31. The motion passed unanimously.

ROYALTIES FROM BIRDS IN KANSAS: David Seibel announced that all royalties that would normally go to Chuck Ely and Max Thompson from the book Birds in Kansas were being donated to KOS. He expressed appreciation to Chuck and Max for this gift. He announced that he had appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on Publications consisting of Chuck Ely, Max Thompson, and the KOS Treasurer to administer the use of these funds.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS: David Seibel opened the meeting to nominations from the floor for KOS officers and/or directors. John Zimmerman moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of nominees proposed by the Nominations. The motion was seconded. The motion was passed and the slate of nominees was elected.

REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE: The auditing committee was composed of Gene Lewis and Elmer Finck. Gene Lewis reported for the committee that they found the Treasurer's books in order. He made suggestions to the Treasurer that would make the task of auditing easier. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Audit Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

WILDLIFE/BREEDING BIRD ATLAS: Elmer finck made a motion that the KOS Board should investigate along with the State Biological Survey to determine if there are ways that KOS might be helpful in the compilation of the Wildlife Atlas being developed by the Kansas Heritage Program. The Board should bring a report to the Spring Meeting. The motion was seconded by Gene Lewis. The motion passed.

The Business Meeting adjourned after announcements concerning the evening banquet and the next day's field trips.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, EVENING BANQUET

The banquet was held at 6 PM in Harter Union on the campus of Baker University. Mick McHugh opened the meeting after a delicious meal.

RESOLUTIONS: John Zimmerman reported for Resolutions Committee (other members Stan Roth and Scott Seltman). He expressed appreciation to the local committees, to the persons who had presented papers at the meetings and to the outgoing officers and directors. The resolutions were accepted by acclamation.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS: Jane Hershberger announced that there were five new life members and she would be sending pins to Joan Berkley, Lawrence Herbert, Dan Kilby, Jim Mayhew, and Ben Powell III.

TEN BEST BIRDS OF THE YEAR: Marvin Schwilling reported for the Official Records Committee on the Ten Best Birds Of The Year. (A complete account of the report is in this issue of the Horned Lark.)

Mick McHugh introduced banquet speaker Dr. Alan Wentz. Dr. Wentz is Assistant Secretary of Kansas Wildlife and Parks and spoke on various wildlife programs in the State of Kansas.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, FIELD TRIPS

Field trips were taken on Sunday morning to various areas of Douglas County. Participants met for lunch and compilation of the list at Wells Park Overlook. The Annual Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight Platt
KOS Corresponding Sec.

ABSTRACT OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL FALL MEETING, OCTOBER 7, 1989

HABITAT MANAGEMENT FOR THE LEAST TERN IN KANSAS. Roger L. Boyd, Biology Department, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS 66006.

Research has been conducted on the population ecology and reproductive success of the Interior Least Tern in Kansas and northwestern Oklahoma since 1980. The subspecies was federally listed as endangered in 1985. Habitat management has been determined as one possible way to help stabilize, or even increase the population. Along the Cimarron River decreased water flows have allowed vegetation to stabilize the sandbars thus eliminating historic nesting sites. What remains are low sandbars that are slow to dry out and susceptible to flooding after the eggs are laid. In 1983 we began the manipulation of vegetation on an area called the Meade County Oxbow. this area is adjacent to an old channel of the Cimarron River, 1 mi. east of the K-23 bridge. The 1.3 acre area has subsequently been bulldozed 3 times to eliminate invading saltgrass. The number of pairs using the area has been a low of 8 in 1982 to a high of 15 in 1985. In 1989 there were 9 pairs and they successfully fledged 4 juveniles. The 2 colonies in Beaver Co., OK and Clark Co., KS did not fledge any birds and the 14 pairs in Harper Co., OK only fledged 1 bird. The Little Salt Plains in Woods Co., OK fledged 10 birds. It usually fledges over 30 juveniles. We feel that the main reason that the Oxbow colony was successful was due to the early availability of a dry nesting substrate. We have also been modifying nesting habitat at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in Stafford Co., KS. Since 1986 we

have 25 three foot diameter gravel and sand nesting pads protected from coyotes by electric fence. These have increased hatching success but not fledging success. This fall, with help from members of Flint Hills Audubon Chapter, we have constructed 170 additional pads and will fence all of them next spring. We hope that this will increase available nesting sites in drier parts of the alkaline flats, thus increasing survivability of the juveniles.

BREEDING RECORD FOR THE BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE IN KANSAS. David Rintoul, Div. of Biology, and Ted Cable, Dept. of Forestry, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

On the morning of August 6, 1989 Gary Radke of Olsburg, KS sighted an adult Black-shouldered Kite (*elanus caeruleus*) approximately 2 miles west and 1.4 miles north of Olsburg. Several phone calls were made to alert local bird-watchers, and a similar bird was seen by Dave Rintoul that afternoon, and by Ted Cable on the evening of August 7. On August 8 Ted Cable and Mike Rader discovered that a second adult bird was present in the area. A large expedition of birdwatchers from Kansas and other states found the birds on the weekend of Aug. 12-13; in addition, they observed the female on a nest at the top of a bur oak tree. The female bird was almost always on the nest, only leaving it for 20-30 minute periods to feed (and stretch) during the daylight hours. Photographs of the adults were taken on August 14 and 20. During the week of Aug. 20-26, hatching of the eggs occurred; young were first sighted by Jay Jeffrey on Aug. 24. Photographs of the female feeding the young were taken on Aug. 28 and Sept. 7. On Friday, September 8, 1989 a severe wind and rain storm apparently destroyed the nest. Ted Cable reported seeing the adults in the area on September 9, but the nest and the young birds were no longer to be found. Extensive searches for the birds on September 16 and 17 by several local birdwatchers revealed no sign of the adult birds. The photographs are the first documentation of the occurrence, and first documentation of breeding of this species in Kansas. Historically the species was confined to Texas, California and Arizona in the United States, extending to Argentina and Chile in South America. Recent records of breeding in Oklahoma and in North Dakota (American Birds, 1988, 42(1):94) indicate that these raptors may be expanding their range. Since Black-shouldered Kites commonly nest at the same site for several years, it is hope that these birds will return to Pottawatomie County in the summer of 1990.

WINTER RECORDS OF FRANKLIN'S GULLS IN NUPTIAL PLUMAGE. Robert Fisher, Lloyd Moore, Ted Cable, Earl McHugh.

At least 21 apparently-different individual Franklin's Gulls were among 33 reported in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Illinois in December-February of 1988-1989. Twenty-two records (at least 13 separate individuals) occurred in Kansas. All were in high breeding plumage. According to authorities cited, most Franklin's Gulls should be in basic plumage and south of the U.S. in winter. Only scattered post-November records exist for the species north of the Gulf Coast, few of them in nuptial feather. The authors speculate that the stress of the 1988 drought may somehow have stimulated aberrant physiological change, causing the winter Franklin's Gulls to develop unseasonal plumage and delay their migration. They offer no precise reason for the unusual phenomenon but argue the number of aberrant birds recorded is large enough to deserve further investigation.

