



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

The Horned Lark

2458 Coolidge, Wichita KS. 67204

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

Diane Seltman, Membership Secretary

Thanks in part to the efforts of enthusiastic KOS members and also the attractive new KOS membership brochures, the following persons have joined KOS since May, 1990.

Nadine Abrahams, Newton; Tim Barksdale, Columbia, MO; Mary Butterbrodt, Lawrence; Mark Corder, Olathe; Jack & Norma Dennett, Oxford; Robert Dester, Newton; Jean Doerr, Lansing; Francis Durbian III, Emporia; Ann Durham, Fredonia; Ann Ericson, Lawrence; Bill Evans & Annette Finney, Ithaca, NY; Bob Fisher, Independence, MO; Jonathan Jaffin, Leavenworth; Kenn Kaufman, Tuscon, AZ; Dale Kennedy & Doug White, Manhattan; Steve & Mariilyn Koshland, Prairie Village; Michael Laird, Kansas City; Sr. Jean Wm. Lockett, Leavenworth; Jim Locklear, Hesston; Alan Maccarone, Wichita; Lorna Manley, Topeka; Linda Mowbray, Topeka; Dan & Terry Mulhern, Manhattan; John D. Northrup, Wichita; Brian Obermeyer, Eureka; C.J. Ochs, Hays; Dena Podrebarac, Emporia; Ruth Rahmlow, Liberal; Teresa Rasmussen, Lawrence; Michael Rhodes, Alta Vista; Carolyn Schwab, Sedgwick; Gary Simonson, Minneapolis, MN; Dr. Walther Thiede, Koln, West Germany; Vi Thorne, Chanute, KS; Charles Wittenberg, Emporia.

All members are encouraged to distribute these new brochures to interested persons! The brochures can be obtained, free of charge, from Galen Pittman, R.R.4 Box 260, Lawrence, KS, 66044 or Diane Seltman, R.R. Box 36, Nekoma, KS, 67559.

Also, just a reminder to send in your 1991 dues to Rose Fritz. Renewal cards were mailed in November and dues are already rolling in. Thank you for supporting KOS!

KANSAS WINTER BIRDFEEDER SURVEY

The fourth annual Birdfeeder Survey sponsored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and KOS will be conducted January 10 through January 13, 1991. All KOS members are urged to participate. Participants from last year will be mailed forms. The forms are also available at regional offices of Kansas Wildlife and Parks.

1310 George Court, Apt. 1
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
December 11, 1990

Dear Friends and Fellow Members,

I am excited about the possibilities that this, my second (nonconsecutive) term as President, holds. Before getting into my thoughts about this, however, I want to thank some very important people and comment briefly on the wonderful meeting we had this fall in Newton.

First, let me extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Mick McHugh for the terrific job he did last year as President, and for his accepting the position when I needed the year off. In addition, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the other outgoing officers, as well as to the new and continuing officers (listed elsewhere), and all the other people who have given so much of themselves--committee members, spouses, and "unofficial" helpers alike--to promote the interests of the Society in various ways.

In no way lessening my gratitude to others not mentioned, I want to take this opportunity to thank four past officers, each still active in the society, whose immense contributions of time and talent have greatly enriched KOS for many years: Marvin Schwilling, for years the head of the bird records committee, constant friend of the Society during his career with what is now the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and continually in service in many other capacities as well; Max Thompson, who has served as President, Business Manager, and Newsletter Editor, among other offices, and who for years ably updated, produced, and distributed the KOS Checklist; Gene Lewis, for untold years the proficient treasurer of KOS; and Jane Hershberger, who served not only as Membership Secretary for as long as I can remember, but was so good at it that the Membership Committee established in the By-Laws (to assist the Secretary) never formally materialized! The Society (and indeed, the world) is enriched by people such as these.

And now a few words about this year's meeting in Newton: I think it was one of the very best I've ever attended. Attendance was excellent, not only in numbers but in enthusiasm and participation. Vice President Dave Bryan and the local committee of Nadine Abrahams, Bud Akin, Gregg Friesen, Lorna Harder, Jane Hershberger, Pete Janzen, Dwight Platt, Bob Regier, Nada and Wilma Voth, and Chairperson Rose Fritz put together a full agenda of enjoyable and enlightening presentations, quizzes, displays (including paintings by member Dan Kilby of Wichita), a book sale, and field trips (including one to Oxford, where the first Anna's Hummingbird ever to appear in Kansas--and its hostess, new KOS member Norma Dennett--were most accommodating). The staff at Bethel College were both cordial and professional. Kenn Kaufman, Wichita native and renowned bird expert, author, and tour leader, gave two exciting and memorable presentations, including the banquet address. We welcome him as our newest honorary life member. My thanks to them all!

This brings me to my final points for now: Two years ago, when I began to conceptualize our new membership brochure, I had a hard time, at first, thinking of exciting things to say about KOS, or compelling reasons that peo-

ple should join. The truth is, we don't give away fancy gizmos as membership incentives; our publications are not colorful or "high tech"; we don't offer trips to exotic places, or for that matter, anywhere, very often; and so what exactly is there to be excited about?

The answer, simply, is the members themselves! We've got a great bunch of people in this club, and among them, an immense amount of knowledge about birds, connections that circle the globe, innumerable talents and skills, and boundless enthusiasm, not to mention friendliness and a willingness to share what we know that is hard to match. So there it is: Even if we did nothing but get together twice a year, our very composition is exciting.

Of course, we do a good deal more than that, and I hope to lead us toward doing even more (and more widely noticeable) good things. Many are already underway or in the works: We have a new, thoroughly modern and functional Kansas Bird Records Committee as of the fall meeting (thanks in particular to Galen Pittman, for his continuing work on this); we have a Rare Bird Hotline that is easily among the best I've heard anywhere in the country (my special thanks to Scott Seltman for his tireless efforts, also ongoing); we are making strong headway toward establishing a Breeding Bird Atlas project in Kansas, under the continuing leadership of Mick McHugh; we have committed the entire Amelia Betts Fund to purchasing educational, hands-on bird displays that will be used widely around the state (thanks especially to Pete Janzen and Bob Gress); we have committees and funds available to finance student research and the publication of amateurs' research (the latter funded entirely by royalties donated by Max Thompson and Charles Ely); our new membership directory, to be adorned with illustrations by Dan Kilby, is nearing completion (special thanks also to Diane Seltman); and the list continues well beyond the space I should take here, for the moment. I and others will address more of our activities elsewhere in this and future issues.

Elsewhere in this issue, also, I have included a request for assistance on the several committees through which KOS continues these functions, and (space permitting) descriptions of the responsibilities of each. If you possibly can, please contact me or the chair of any committee that interests you, and volunteer your assistance. We need your help!

Finally, I ask one simple bit of help from every member, but one that can vastly increase the size and vitality of the Society: Please, please recruit at least one new member this year! It's so easy to do; just hand a birding friend our new brochure (copy enclosed) and tell them what a great club it is, or give a new membership as a gift (this makes a thrilling surprise for a youngster interested in birds--at least, it did for me, about 22 years ago!), or simply distribute brochures in places frequented by bird lovers, such as Audubon or Sierra Club meetings, Christmas Bird Count compilations, libraries, nature centers, even veterinarians' offices. Be creative!

Good Birding,

David E. Seibel

David E. Seibel
President

KOS COMMITTEES

Following is a list of the standing committees of the KOS and their functions. Along with the name of each committee I have listed the chairperson and how you may contact him or her, if you wish to volunteer your assistance on committee projects. Please browse through the duties listed below and consider helping with those that match your skills or interests; with few exceptions, the committees continually need and would immediately welcome additional help.

A. Standing Committees (Named in By-Laws)

1. Conservation - Chair: Pete Janzen 316-832-0182
3137 North Mascot
Wichita, KS 67204

Duties:

- Initiate, evaluate, or contribute supporting research to projects within the state which promote the preservation of avian species.
- Evaluate and recommend ways in which KOS can contribute to worthy conservation efforts for birds elsewhere.
- Draft society position papers and responses to requests for opinions or assistance regarding bird conservation issues.
- Coordinate KOS participation with other groups in conservation activities, subject to board and general society approval.

2. Membership - Chair: Jan Boyd 913-594-3172
520 3rd Street
Baldwin City, KS 66006

Duties:

- Promote increase in KOS membership by organizing membership drives, producing promotional materials (e.g., membership brochure), and assisting membership secretary in responding to inquiries from interested parties, distributing information to target groups, etc.
- Investigate most effective ways of increasing and maintaining KOS membership, e.g., by surveying members about perceived strengths and weaknesses of society, services and activities desired (both existing and possible), and ways of improving society.
- Coordinate membership services such as book and T-shirt sales.
- Man booth at annual meetings for disseminating membership information and receiving dues from new and renewing members.
- Coordinate promotion of various activities with Publicity Committee.

3. Publicity - Chair: Chris Hobbs 913-441-2473
13121 Swartz Road
Bonner Springs, KS 66012

Duties:

- Write, and distribute through appropriate media, announcements of upcoming KOS events.
- Write and distribute press releases highlighting KOS activities, to increase public awareness throughout the state about the society and about birds.
- Arrange and participate in interviews with various news media about KOS activities, ornithological events, bird conservation needs and opportunities, etc.

- Notify other nature-oriented organizations (e.g., Audubon and Sierra Club chapters, ornithological societies in neighboring states) of upcoming KOS events.
- Provide publicity for special events in cooperation with various other KOS committees.

4. Kansas Bird Records - Co-chair: Dr. Charles Ely 913-628-8444
 Department of Biology
 Ft. Hays State University
 Hays, KS 67601

Duties:

- Maintain and regularly update official list of Kansas birds, with distributional information, status of records and documentation on marginal species, etc.
- Solicit, review, and screen reports of rare or marginal species in the state and publish decisions periodically in The Horned Lark.
- Update and revise KOS Check-list of Kansas Birds on regular basis.
- Maintain and operate KOS Birding Hotline.
- Prepare and present "Ten Best Birds" list at annual meeting.

B. Standing Committees (Newly Formed)

1. Education - Chair: John Schukman 913-727-5141
 R.R. 2, Box 111-37
 Leavenworth, KS 66048

Duties:

- Prepare and disseminate list of audio/visual and other educational resource materials available for loan, rent, or purchase to KOS members and other Kansas users, emphasizing but not limited to Kansas birds.
- Coordinate educational events and publications presented or sponsored by KOS.
- Investigate and organize effective new educational activities for groups of various age and expertise (including workshops at annual meetings and field trips) and solicit participation and instruction by KOS members.
- Coordinate promotion of various activities with Publicity Committee.

2. Student Research Fund - Chair: Dr. Elmer Finck 316-342-4781
 Div. of Biological Science
 Emporia State University
 Emporia, KS 66801

Duties:

- Establish guidelines for solicitation and distribution of funds for student research, as provided for during Fall meeting, 1988.
- Oversee preparation of legal documents and take other steps necessary to establish and administer fund.
- Solicit and screen applications for student research funding, making recommendations to board annually or semi-annually as to which proposals to accept.

3. Birds of Kansas Publications Fund - Chair: Rose Fritz 316-283-6685
 1816 Cypress Lane
 Newton, KS 67114

Duties:

- Solicit and review applications for funding of publication of research results by Kansas ornithologists, especially amateurs.
- Administer fund established by donation of royalties from the sale of Birds of Kansas by Max C. Thompson and Charles A. Ely.
- Award publication and/or research grants as deemed appropriate, and report all activities to the Board of Directors.

4. Dingus Natural Area - Chair: (Pending)
 Contact: David Seibel 913-841-7932
 1310 George Court, Apt. 1
 Lawrence, KS 66044

Duties:

- Administer care and maintenance of Dingus Natural Area (DNA), including upkeep of signs and fences.
- Monitor DNA bird life and report to membership on significant changes or trends.
- Facilitate use of DNA by KOS members and other birding or research groups.
- Determine policies for use of DNA, for approval by the Board of Directors.

- David Seibel

SUMMARY OF 1990 ANNUAL MEETING

The forty-third annual meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held October 5, 6 and 7 on the Bethel College campus in North Newton, Kansas. Seventy-five persons including eight students registered for the weekend event which began with an informal gathering at the Kauffman Museum on Friday evening.

Paper sessions, business meetings and the always popular birdwatcher's hour filled the day on Saturday. Members and friends gathered in the evening at the student center for the annual banquet at which time Mick McHugh passed the gavel to David Seibel, who then presided over the events of the evening. Resolutions were read by John Zimmerman. New life members were recognized by Diane Seltman with those present receiving pins. Marvin Schwilling announced the best bird of the year, the Anna's Hummingbird, seen for several weeks at Oxford. This was a first Kansas sighting of this bird.

Guest speaker of the evening was Kenn Kaufman from Tucson, Arizona, noted birder and author of the newly published Field Guide to Advanced Birding. Kenn gave a delightful presentation during which the speaker wore various hats representing stages in birding and highlighted his points with various slides.

Kenn participated in all our week-end events, even autographing books for us. He was presented an honorary life membership in our organization during the evening.

Despite the chilling, blustery weather, field trips departed early Sunday a.m. for Harvey County West Park, Marion Lake, areas around eastern Harvey County and Oxford (for those wanting to see the still present Anna's). Lunch and compilation followed. A total of 108 species was seen by the group during the week-end.

Rose Fritz

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES

The Manitoba Department of Natural Resources (DNR) suspects that the wintering grounds of Canadian Loggerhead Shrikes includes Kansas. Despite intensive banding and color marking of shrikes across the Canadian prairies, DNR has not had a recent recovery or observation in Manitoba. Since it is critical to understand where Canadian shrikes are overwintering, DNR urges us to be on the lookout for these banded and color-marked shrikes. Please take an extra good look at any shrikes you encounter. The shrikes have been marked with (a) FWS aluminum bands during all years; (b) red plastic bands on the opposite leg in 1988; (c) red/white plastic band on the opposite leg in 1989 and 1990; and (d) larger juveniles were marked with fluorescent orange on the tail and/or primaries in 1989 and 1990. Any sightings of these birds should be reported to Ken De Smet, Department of Natural Resources, Box 14, 1495 St. James Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3H 0W9 or telephone collect at 204-945-6301.

KOS ANNUAL FALL MEETING 1990
Bethel College
North Newton, Kansas
October 5-7, 1990

The forty-third Annual Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society met in Krehbiel Auditorium of the Fine Arts Center on the campus of Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas. Rose Fritz was chair of the local committee hosting the meeting.

Friday, October 5.

An evening reception was held at Kauffman Museum on the Bethel College campus.

Saturday, October 6, Morning Session.

Dwight Platt opened the meeting and introduced Dr. Brian Schrag, Academic Dean at Bethel College, who welcomed KOS to the Bethel campus. Mick McHugh, President of KOS, thanked Bethel College for hosting the meeting and welcomed the members in attendance.

Dave Bryan chaired the morning paper sessions which followed the printed schedule (see copy attached) except that the paper by Pamela C. Rasmussen was moved to the afternoon session because of a lack of time in the morning session.

The morning business meeting was called to order by President Mick McHugh at 11:45 a.m.

MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last Annual Meeting as they had been printed in the Newsletter. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Spring Meeting as they had been printed in the Newsletter. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rose Fritz gave an interim report. The total assets of KOS amount to \$25,947.81. Operating fund balance is approximately \$4000. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Diane Seltman reported that we have 372 members paid up for 1990. Last year at the October meeting we had 383 members.

BUSINESS MANAGER: Galen Pittman announced that members should contact him if they are not getting KOS mailings.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: John Zimmerman reported that the Bulletins came out this past year in the months stated. He requested more manuscripts.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Don Vannoy reported that he had gotten out one Newsletter since he took office. He requested material for the next issue.

KANSAS NONGAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL: The Council revised its Bylaws this last year. They added new organizations to the Council - Kansas Herpetological Society, Kansas Park Association and Kansas Fisheries Society. The Kansas Biological Survey was made an ex-officio member since it is a state agency. The Council is trying to operate in an advisory capacity before decisions are made by the department.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: Eulalia Lewis reported for the Nominations Committee (composed of Gene Lewis, Jean Schulenberg and herself) and proposed the following nominations:

President: David Seibel
Vice-president: Dave Bryan

Corr. Secretary: Dwight Platt
Memb. Secretary: Diane Seltman
Treasurer: Rose Fritz
Business Mgr.: Galen Pitman
Director: Joanne Brier
Director: Jim Mayhew

The terms of Directors Tom Shane and John Schukman do not expire.

The meeting adjourned until afternoon.

Saturday, October 6, Afternoon Session.

A Bird Watcher's Hour was held at 1:15 p.m. The afternoon paper session chaired by Dave Bryan followed the listing in the program, with the addition of the paper by Pamela C. Rasmussen which had been scheduled for morning (see attached program).

An afternoon business session was called to order by President Mick McHugh at 4:45 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The Spring Meeting next year will be to the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Refuge and the Dingus Natural Area. The Fall Meeting will possibly be at Hays.

ROYALTY FUND: Chuck Ely reported that the committee had not made a decision yet on the use of the fund accumulating from the royalties from the book, Birds in Kansas. They have discussed the use of these funds for publications, including the publication of local bird lists. The committee will have a proposal for the Board at its Winter Meeting.

RECORDS COMMITTEE: Chuck Ely reported that the committee is working on revised procedures. The committee will be meeting today and will have a proposal for the Winter Board Meeting. New bird records should be sent to Chuck Ely.

STUDENT RESEARCH FUND: Elmer Finck reported that the committee will be establishing research awards for both high school and college students. They will be reporting a proposal to the Winter Board Meeting.

AMELIA BETTS FUND: Pete Janzen reported that the Board had decided to use the Amelia Betts Fund to finance the construction of four Discovery Boxes on birds for use on loan by teachers. The boxes will be constructed by the Wichita Wild Program and one will be given to Wichita Wild for use by teachers in the Wichita area. The other three will be distributed to other parts of the state for use by teachers. The disposition of the other three boxes will be determined at the Winter Board Meeting.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS: Bill Busby reported that to implement a Breeding Bird Atlas project, they will need a network of volunteers, a coordinator and sufficient funding. The project will probably take 5-8 years. The Department of Wildlife and Parks has been approached for funding and they are considering it.

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES: David Seibel reported that a new membership brochure had been printed and members were urged to take a bundle and distribute them.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: Diane Seltman reported that the new Membership Directory will be out by the end of the year.

