



The Official Newsletter  
of the  
Kansas Ornithological Society

## The Horned Lark

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613 Tamerisk, Junction City, KS 66441-3359

March 1993

Vol. 20, No. 1

This newsletter is printed on RECYCLED PAPER.

### **NEW MEMBERS (Since January 1, 1993), HOW TO GET THEM AND HOW TO KEEP THEM**

Doris Burnett, Chad Hedinger, both of Manhattan; Kelsey Crist, Bennington; Alyce Dyck, Newton; Phyllis Hinkle, Judy Marsh of Emporia; Joy Holt, Kansas City, KS; Linda Wilbanks, Hutchinson; and Harold and Wilma Larson of Hoisington.

Please make these new folks feel welcome! Why not give them a call if they're in your neck of the woods, and invite them on your next outing. In fact, if any member would like a list of the other members in their area, please give me a call. It's a great way to get a local group started and may lead to participation in other projects such as Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks and Christmas Counts.

Another way to boost membership is by sponsoring a "birding friend" to a year's membership. Not only does your friend benefit from this gift but KOS does as well.

And after these persons become members, keep them interested with regular outings and social gatherings. The Membership Committee is looking for persons interested in organizing such local groups. Please take the time to complete and return the questionnaire in this issue. Roy Beckemeyer, our newly appointed Membership Committee Chair, has come up with some great ideas that you will be hearing more about in upcoming issues.

*Note:* For clarification, according to the KOS Bylaws, September 1 is the cutoff date for a new year's membership. In other words, new members joining prior to that date receive all back mailings for that year and are due to renew on the next January 1. Members joining after September 1 receive mailings for the remainder of the current year plus the entire following year, with dues payable the following January 1st.

*Diane Seltman, Membership Secretary*

### **SPRING MEETING ALERT!!**

Registration forms are included in this issue of  
*The Horned Lark*  
—be sure to find it and send your registration in  
**BY APRIL 24, 1993**

send to:  
Gene Young, KOS Spring Meeting Coordinator  
805 Boyer  
Arkansas City, KS 67005

## KOS WINTER BOARD MEETING

February 27, 1993

Room 324, Ackert Hall  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, KS

**Members present:** Jim Mayhew, Dwight Platt, Galen Pittman, Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman, Mike Rader, Joanne Brier.  
**Non-voting:** John Schukman, Chuck Otte.

Jim Mayhew opened the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Jim Mayhew presented an operations format for 1993 (see attachment B). Each Director will be responsible to relate to one of the four areas of operations - organizational, membership, finances and events. Last fall Jim toured the Dingus Natural Area with Marvin Schwilling, a representative from the Kansas Nature Conservancy. There are a number of improvements that need to be done. We also need to make other arrangements for oversight since Bob Weese has difficulty getting out to the natural area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requested that we help with surveying the new part of the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Refuge. However they did not fund this project. KOS has been asked to help with a bluebird trail from Iola to Humboldt. We have also been asked to contact people to write their Senators and Representatives to urge continued support of the Cheyenne Bottoms project. The Kansas Herpetological Society has asked KOS for help in opposing rattlesnake roundups in Kansas.

Jim would like to accomplish the following goals for 1993: *a)* accomplish the goals of the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project; *b)* restore the Dingus Natural Area to its potential; *c)* maintain a balanced budget; *d)* respond to the needs of KOS members.

Jim has appointed the following committee chairs: **Conservation** - John Schukman; **Publicity** - Chris Hobbs; **Membership** - Roy Beckemeyer.

**MINUTES:** Dwight Platt corrected the minutes of the October 3, 1992 Board Meeting to include Rose Fritz as Treasurer in the report of the Nominating Committee and the slate of officers. Mike Rader moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Scott Seltman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:** Galen Pittman reported that he made 4 bulk mailings in 1992. The December Bulletin was late and so was not sent until February 1993. He has been holding publications so that he can send the Bulletin and the Newsletter together because we can send both for the same rate as one—16.4¢ per envelope. He has 38 T-shirts left. He requested Diane Seltman to remove the expiration dates from the address labels since a postal worker had questioned that as an individual message which is not allowed in bulk mailings. She will remove them next time.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT:** Chuck Otte reported that he was starting to work on the next issue. He will be writing the Seasonal Roundup until someone else volunteers to do it. Scott Seltman was thanked for his contributions in writing this summary of birding observations. Jim Mayhew suggested that we put out 4 issues of the Newsletter this year with deadlines for submission of material of 10 March, 10 May, 10 August and 10 November.

**BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT:** Jim Mayhew reported that Max Thompson was in need of manuscripts. Jim suggested the same deadline dates as listed for the Newsletter in submitting manuscripts to the *KOS Bulletin*.

**KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Galen Pittman reported for the committee. They published a report of 1991 activities in the June 1992 *Bulletin*. They plan to publish reports of annual activities in the June Bulletin each year. Sixty-six reports were submitted to the Bird Records Committee. Twenty-nine of these were circulated to committee members and twenty-four records were accepted. Galen decides what should be circulated to the committee and maintains files of all reports. He has acknowledged all of those reports that were circulated but is behind in acknowledging reports that were not circulated to committee members.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Since Rose Fritz could not attend the meeting, Jim Mayhew presented the Treasurer's report for fiscal year 1992. Jim reported that in examining a number of annual reports he found that the income had been staying about the same but expenses increase each year. He pointed out that we had to make a \$300 deposit in 1992 on facilities for the 1993 Spring Field Trip. KOS received a memorial gift all of which was put in the Student Research Fund. However some money will need to be used for purchases of two bird books for libraries (as requested by the family of Charles Edwards) and the rest will be left in the research fund. Mike Rader moved to accept the Treasurer's report (attachment C). Scott Seltman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT:** The report of the Auditing Committee (chaired by C. Pamela Wilson) was, by mistake, not brought to the meeting. Jim Mayhew stated that the committee had found the accounts in good order. A few corrections were made in assigning expenses to the correct account. They suggested that there should be better control over inventory. Joanne Brier moved that the Auditing Committee's report be sent to each Board member and that the approval of the report be handled by mail. Diane Seltman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Auditing Committee's report (attachment E) was sent to all voting KOS Board members and was approved by a mail ballot sent to the President. The ballot was completed by March 8.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Diane Seltman reported that 37 new members had joined KOS since October bringing the total membership to 479 (this includes approximately 100 1992 members who have not renewed yet for 1993). She will send reminders in March to those members who have not renewed for 1993. There are 112 fully paid life members and 15 partially paid. Galen Pittman stated that we presently print 500 copies of publications and with 479 members we might not have sufficient extra copies. He will increase the print run for March to 550 and then adjust it when we see how many members do not renew.

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT:** Mike Rader reported that not much had been brought to this attention. He had received a mailing on Cheyenne Bottoms and would be sending letters on this issue.

**Hotline:** Scott Seltman reported that the Treasurer's Report does not include \$217.49 of expenses for the Hotline in 1992 because he had not yet submitted the expenses to the Treasurer. The equipment is working okay but he has no backup. The backup equipment has been in for repairs but the repair business appears to have closed. The Board already authorized the purchase of a new machine at the last meeting. It was suggested that Scott buy a new machine if he is not able to get the old machine out of the repair shop.

**DINGUS NATURAL AREA:** Jim Mayhew reported that there has been some encroachment on the area and that deer hunters have built stands. The boundaries were not all marked and some fencing needs to be done. Mike Rader moved that Jim Mayhew develop a cost estimate for the Dingus Natural Area improvement project and bring it for consideration by the Board at the Spring Meeting. Galen Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**OAKWOOD FARM:** Oakwood Farm is a historical site near Topeka with buffalo wallows and native prairie. The proposed route of an expressway goes through it. A change in the route is being considered. Joanne Brier moved that the KOS Board of Directors support an alternate route for the expressway at Oakwood Farm by a letter sent to the Department of Transportation and by a notice in the Newsletter informing KOS members of this issue. The motion was seconded by Scott Seltman. The motion passed.

Jim Mayhew will send a letter to the Department of Transportation and then will send the information on this issue to John Schukman, Conservation Committee Chair.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP POLICY:** Diane Seltman asked if institutions could become life members of the Kansas Ornithological Society. The Board decided by consensus that only persons can be life members. Rose Fritz will be asked to return the payment made by an institution for a life membership.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** Diane Seltman asked if a membership directory should be published every year. The Board decided that a new directory should be published only every few years. The Membership Secretary should update the old directory with address changes and new members printed in the Newsletter.

**SPRING MEETING 1993:** Max Thompson will be gone at the time of the Spring Meeting so someone else will need to organize it. Mike Rader will try to get field trip leaders.

**BIRD FEEDER SURVEY MAILING:** We received 34 new members from the Bird Feeder Survey mailing last year. Galen Pittman was asked to try to get a list of persons who asked for more information about KOS on the survey reports this year. He should send out information to those persons if the list warrants it.

**KANSAS NONGAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL:** Ted Cable is the KOS representative to KNWAC. We have been informed that KOS will be dropped from membership if we don't have someone in attendance at the next meeting. Jim Mayhew will contact Elmer Finck to find out when the next meeting will be.

**KANSAS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROGRAM:** We need to keep encouraging people to volunteer to help with this program. In areas of the state where there aren't many KOS members, we might consider "block busting" trips by a number of members to complete blocks. We will discuss this at the Spring Meeting.

**FALL MEETING 1993:** The Fall Meeting will be in Hays on October 2-3. Chuck Ely will be in charge.

**SPRING MEETING 1994:** The Spring Meeting in 1994 will be in the Mound City area to visit the Dingus Natural Area and the Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge.

**FALL MEETING 1994:** KOS was invited to North Newton for the Fall Meeting in 1994. Kauffman Museum at North Newton is tentatively scheduled to have an exhibit on the Great Plains Flyway in 1994.

**NATIONAL BIRDING DAY, MAY 8:** Many people across the country are taking part in a National Birding Day on May 8. It is proposed to be an activity like the Christmas Bird Count. It will be organized to cover county-wide areas. The count will be repeated on a yearly basis to find out where migratory birds are on the second Saturday of May each year. It was decided that KOS will advertise it in the Newsletter and KOS members will be encouraged to organize Birding Day counts.

The Board adjourned for lunch and reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

**MAILING LIST:** The American Birding Association has requested to use the KOS mailing list. The Board decided that we would not make the membership list available to other organizations.

**PARTNERS IN FLIGHT:** The Conservation Chair, John Schukman, was asked to contribute Kansas news to Partners in Flight whenever he thought it useful.

**AMENDMENTS TO KOS BYLAWS:** Dwight Platt's memo of November 8, 1992, to the KOS Board (see attachment D) with drafts of amendments to the KOS Bylaws was discussed. These amendments would make the KOS Bylaws consistent with the Kansas Bird Records Committee Rules of Procedure. The memo also raised some other issues with regard to rules and procedures. Galen Pittman will discuss these issues with the Kansas Bird Records Committee and report back to the Board at the Spring Meeting. The Board will consider action on amendments to the Bylaws at the Spring Meeting.

**KOS BULLETIN:** Jim Mayhew proposed that we might consider combining the four quarterly issues of the KOS Bulletin into one annual issue. This would make it a larger and more impressive publication and might save on printing and mailing costs. Others favored the four issues per year. No decision was made.

**KOS DUES:** Jim Mayhew stated that our expenses in KOS have been larger than our income in the last few years. There was concern that we need to change the dues structure. It was also suggested that life memberships were not paying their share of expenses. Joanne Brier moved that the president appoint a committee to propose changes in the dues structure to the Spring Board Meeting. Diane Seltman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jim Mayhew appointed Joanne Brier, Scott Seltman and Allen Jahn to this committee.

Mike Rader moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Joanne Brier. The motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted, Dwight R. Platt, Corresponding Secretary.*

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#### KBBAT VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

The Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas (KBBAT) project had a good first year in 1992, but we have a long way to go. Volunteers are still desperately needed in various parts of the state. Southeast Kansas still has a lot of unassigned blocks and there are even some good blocks still to be had in potential "hot spots" like Stafford County.

If you don't feel like you can tackle a block by yourself, get a couple of friends to help you..."tag team blocking" is perfectly acceptable and probably even more fun! If you have not yet volunteered and are interested, contact KBBAT Coordinator, John Zimmerman, or better

yet, one of the regional coordinators--*Pete Janzen, SC 316/832-0182; Mick McHugh, EC 913/677-1436; Mike Rader, NC 913/658-2595; Richard Rucker, NE 913/842-3845; Scott Seltman, SW 913/372-5411 and Sara Shane, NW 316/275-4616.*

Bill Gilges is a KBBAT volunteer from Leawood who also has experience with the Missouri Breeding Bird Atlas project. Bill wrote a wonderful article about his experiences last year with the KBBAT project which he has agreed to share with us so be sure to read his "Friends in the Territory."

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS  
1/1/92 THROUGH 12/31/92

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS  
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GENERAL FUND  
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|   |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|
| BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/92                      |            | 3,947.90   |
| RECEIPTS:                                     |            |            |
| DUES - '92                                    | 2,766.00   |            |
| DUES - '93, '94, '95, '96, '97                | 730.00     |            |
| SALE OF CHECKLISTS                            | 102.35     |            |
| SALE OF T-SHIRTS AND DECALS                   | 664.00     |            |
| SALE OF BULLETINS                             | 127.50     |            |
| INTEREST - PASSBOOK SAVINGS                   | 91.58      |            |
| INTEREST - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT            | 984.97     |            |
| CONTRIBUTIONS - RBA                           | 110.00     |            |
| CONTRIBUTIONS - KBBAT                         | 20.00      | 5,596.40   |
|   | -----      |            |
| DISBURSEMENTS:                                |            |            |
| PRINTING - BULLETINS                          | (1,704.01) |            |
| PRINTING - NEWSLETTERS                        | (1,162.36) |            |
| PRINTING - MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY               | (174.55)   |            |
| PRINTING - STATIONERY                         | (167.60)   |            |
| BULK MAILING FEES                             | (675.00)   |            |
| ICBP ANNUAL FEE                               | (100.00)   |            |
| BANK CHARGES                                  | (69.07)    |            |
| SAFE DEPOSIT BOX RENTAL                       | (25.00)    |            |
| ANNUAL CORPORATION FEE                        | (5.00)     |            |
| EXPENSE OF BUSINESS MANAGER                   | (455.61)   |            |
| EXPENSE OF PRESIDENT                          | (73.67)    |            |
| EXPENSE OF MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY               | (180.94)   |            |
| EXPENSE OF TREASURER                          | (29.00)    |            |
| EXPENSE OF KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE      | (269.08)   |            |
| EXPENSE OF KBBAT                              | (312.25)   |            |
| SPRING MEETING EXPENSE - CAMP HORIZON DEPOSIT | (300.00)   |            |
| COST OF DECALS                                | (285.02)   |            |
| COST OF T-SHIRTS                              | (750.00)   | (6,738.16) |
|   | -----      |            |
| ENDING BALANCE 12/31/92                       |            | 2,806.14   |

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE (CHECKLIST MAILING)  
-----

|                           |  |         |
|---------------------------|--|---------|
| BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/92  |  | 137.79  |
| CHECKLIST SALES           |  | 53.75   |
| POSTAGE & COPYING EXPENSE |  | (50.23) |
|                           |  | -----   |
| ENDING BALANCE 12/31/92   |  | 141.31  |
|                           |  | -----   |

|                                   |  |          |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------|
| TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS 12/31/92 |  | 2,947.45 |
|                                   |  | =====    |

## RESTRICTED FUNDS

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## LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND

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|                                     |           |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/92            | 13,709.50 |           |
| LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES RECEIVED       | 675       |           |
| DELETION OF PARTIALLY PD MEMBERSHIP | (37.50)   |           |
|                                     | -----     |           |
| ENDING BALANCE 12/31/92             |           | 14,347.00 |

## KOS STUDENT RESEARCH FUND

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|                          |        |          |
|--------------------------|--------|----------|
| BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/92 | 560.60 |          |
| INTEREST EARNED          | 23.14  |          |
| MEMORIAL FUNDS RECEIVED  | 711.00 |          |
|                          | -----  |          |
| ENDING BALANCE 12/31/92  |        | 1,294.74 |

## DINGUS NATURAL AREA ACCOUNT

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|                             |          |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/92    | 7,152.85 |          |
| INTEREST EARNED             | 222.25   |          |
| LIABILITY INSURANCE PREMIUM | (157.00) |          |
|                             | -----    |          |
| ENDING BALANCE 12/31/92     |          | 7,218.10 |

## BOOK ROYALTY ACCOUNT

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|                          |          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/92 | 2,795.70 |          |
| ROYALTIES RECEIVED       | 481.23   |          |
| INTEREST EARNED          | 100.75   |          |
|                          | -----    |          |
| ENDING BALANCE 12/31/92  |          | 3,377.68 |

TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS 12/31/92

26,237.52

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## MEMBER SKILLS, INTEREST, NEEDS INVENTORY

After volunteering to be a "volunteer coordinator" for KOS last fall, I got to thinking that what I really needed to do that job was a lot of information about YOU, the KOS members. We now have a membership committee composed of the KOS Membership Secretary, Diane Seltman, myself and Allen Jahn of McPherson. We are sincerely interested in making KOS work for you, and in convincing you that you can work for KOS by offering your unique and valuable skills and knowledge to share with us all.

To begin, we are asking you to volunteer a few minutes of your time to fill out the questionnaire enclosed in this issue of *The Horned Lark*. Tell us what you would like to get out of your membership in KOS, but also about the skills and knowledge that make you uniquely capable of helping others get what they want out of KOS. Do you

have experience at fund raising? Can you speak well in public? Are you a whiz at photography? Do you know how to interest youngsters in nature and the outdoors? Do you have a special recipe for suet that has the woodpeckers standing in line at your feeders? Do you need help building bird house? Do you have spare books about birds that you no longer need? Are you interested in getting together with other "birdy" folks over a cup of coffee and a doughnut every month or so and sharing tales?

Well, please get out a pencil, fill out the form, put it in an envelope and get it in the mail to me now before you put the newsletter down and forget! I'm looking forward to hearing from every one of you!

Roy Beckemeyer, 957 Perry, Wichita, KS 67203

## BIRDING HOTSPOT

*Junction City's Highland Cemetery, Geary County*  
by Dan LaShelle

Founded in 1870 as the city's first public cemetery, this beautiful 16-hectare hillside tract overlooking the lower Smoky Hill valley contains scores of tall junipers and exotic pines, and quite an assortment of deciduous trees and shrubs. Although it lacks a pond or permanently-flowing stream, the birds' requirement for bathing and drinking water is partially met by large plastic buckets placed beneath the many spigots located along the lanes. (I habitually rinse and fill a few of these as I birdwatch). And although the back yards of new residences have encroached upon two sides of the cemetery, plenty of cover, including a wooded ravine on the south side and weedy areas on the south and east sides, remains available for the birds.

At least one hundred species of birds have been observed here. Many common species, such as Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Western Kingbird, American Crow, House Wren, American Robin, Northern Cardinal, Chipping Sparrow, Common Grackle and Northern Oriole, nest here regularly. Uncommon nesters have included Red-breasted Nuthatch (1974), Painted Bunting (1983) and Lark Sparrow (late 1950's); Red Crossbills possibly nested here in the summer of 1991. House Finches have resided here since 1990. Rare migrants observed include White-throated Swift (November 1990) and Pine Warbler (April 1976 and September-October 1992). Rare winter visitors include Pygmy Nuthatch (December 1985-February 1986), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (most recently December 1992), Brown Thrasher (December 1974), Bohemian Waxwing (January 1986) and "White-winged" Junco (December 1972 and

March 1986). A few Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers reside here in most winters, and large flocks of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings and Pine Siskins have been found here during the colder months.

Each October, a flock of small songbirds, including Black-capped Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warblers, forms and remains until early spring. Its location is unpredictable, but often it is found in the pines about a hundred meters north of the southwest corner, along the east side, or in the center south of the Anderson obelisk. However, it is often scattered, at least temporarily, by an *Accipiter* hawk or Merlin that takes up residence in the area. During spring and fall migrations, sparrows and other small songbirds can be found in the weedy areas south of the mausoleum on the east side, and south of the row of junipers along the south side.

Open daily from sunrise to sunset, the cemetery is located on the southwest corner of Ash and Webster streets on the south side of town, and is easily visible from Interstate 70 (take Exit 296). This locality can be covered thoroughly by birders spending an hour or two; avoid very windy weather. Though it is adequately birded in the colder months, observations data from spring (April-June) are lacking (but attend to your atlas blocks and survey routes first!). Field work at this season should produce a good variety of flycatchers, vireos, *Dendroica* warblers and sparrows. Please report unusual species found to Chuck Otte and the Kansas Rare Bird Alert.

**PARTICIPATE--COMPLETE the Member Skills/Interests/Needs Inventory--it's after the Birding Highlights!**

## FRIENDS IN THE TERRITORY

by Bill Gilges

Anyone who has surveyed a sector for KBBAT has no doubt made several friends in the territory. You come to know them, and look forward to seeing them again on every subsequent trip. It may be the pair of mockers that reside in the roadside hedgeapple tree and who take turns leading you down the lane—white insignia flashing—away from their home. Or perhaps the Yellowthroat that always comes to check you out when you pause by the brush willow thicket where the spring rill runs through the culvert under the road. Maybe the cock pheasant that you heard on previous trips before you finally saw him and his 3 hens make a mad dash across the young bean field, or the Red Tail you can always find hawking from his favorite dead branch high in the bur oak tree.

You almost get the feeling that they are as glad to see you as you are to find them well and happy in their chosen piece of habitat.

But I mean a different set of friends. I mean the farmer who lets you walk his ground, the little lady with the bird feeders and the purple martin house, the hunter conservationist with the great duck habitat who listens to a strange voice on the end of the phone and breaks his rules on strangers to let you make a single pass down the length of his dam, and the schoolboy who tells you about the location of the Barn Owl nest. These are not migrants who will head south in the fall, or even friends that you will leave behind when you start next year in a new territory. These are people who can become true friends, for years to come, and may bring you back to the old patch even after it has been gleaned of every species you can find.

And in the process, they help you build your list and may even become enamored of their surrounding birds for the first time. Here's how it happened to me.

On my first early spring pass through one of my two sectors in Jefferson County I was impressed by a neat, clean farmstead with pasture, ponds, fencerows and woods that offered habitat for a wide variety of species. I stopped and was met in the driveway by John Dunn who was farming the old family farm. Upon understanding my objectives he readily granted permission, asking only that I call each time before I walked the property so as not to surprise his 14 year old son Scott, who spent much of his time in the fields with his Brittany and his .22.

Was his son interested in birds, I asked. Perhaps he could help me by locating nests while he roamed his fields. John said he would see if Scott was interested. Thus began my acquaintanceship with the remarkable Dunn family, a relationship that blossomed into mutual respect and friendship. Scott became my partner on visits to the sector, and helped me find many additional nests and species. To his father's surprise and to my delight, he was already

interested in birds and knew most of the common species on sight. He had been moonlighting with a bird book on visits to his Grandmother's. One evening I was invited to dinner and then taken to a beautiful hidden meadow where I spent a mystical full-moon night in the back of my truck amidst waist-high grass with night sounds of katydid, coyote and coon coming from the woods surrounding me.

That night I got a Crested Flycatcher, a Whip-poor-will, a Barred Owl, a Screech Owl and a Nighthawk, and the next morning was greeted by a Bewick's Wren, a first on my life list. Scott told me about the Barn Owl, found my Phoebe on young under a bridge, just where I thought she would be. He was impressed, and I was more than a little proud. He watched the Barn Swallows until the young hatched and spotted the Black-crowned Night Heron. Together we found the female Baltimore Oriole who had gotten trapped in the loose strands of some nylon rope and perished trying to build the world's toughest hanging basket. It was in their front cedars that I found the Chipping Sparrow nest with eggs, and it was in their kitchen that I found John cooking the best breakfast sausage I ever ate.

I met Mrs. Dunn, Dorothy, "supermom" if there ever was one, the older son, and the youngest, a daughter who is destined to play the piano someday at Carnegie Hall. The bottom line was great new friends, an increased neighborhood awareness of KBBAT and its objectives, and a list that was 163% of target with 61% probable or confirmed. That is a combination I would recommend to anyone.

Even though my patch for next year is up in Atchison County, I'm sure I'll be passing through the old territory. I want to see if the mockers are back, say hi to my Yellowthroat, and wave at the old Red Tail. But more than that, I want to see Scott's new bird book and say hello to John and Dorothy. That Mockingbird makes beautiful music, but so does a little girl on a piano.

### **SPRING MEETING 1993**

*May 1 -2, 1993,*

*Camp Horizon, Arkansas City*

*Cabins and Camping Available  
Field Trips, Friends and Fun!!!*

*Complete and return your  
Spring Meeting Registration Form  
to Gene Young  
by April 24, 1993*





























