

Why K. O. S. Needs to Increase Membership Dues

By Amelia J. Betts
(Membership Secretary)

If K. O. S. had a hundred more members, there would be no need for the proposed increase in membership dues. We already pay for 500 BULLETINS. Any less would cost the society as much. And with 400 members, instead of the 285 we had in 1965, we could save money by mailing under a special postal permit. Treasurer Carson's report for 1965 showed average expenses of \$2.70 per member and average receipts of only \$2.40. This shows that the many regular members are not paying their share. The 30-plus sustainers barely offset the special dollar rate given to students.

Some members have said, "Put out a cheaper BULLETIN." But a study of the membership list shows that we would lose 30 or more members (including libraries) if the Kansas Ornithological Society printed nothing but a bird-gossip sheet. Many sustaining members would drop. The Oklahoma Ornithological Society (with 650 members, incidentally) has been asked to consider a "printed publication" which would "receive more recognition" than the multilith type of newsletter that they now publish (albeit a good one). Members of the K. O. S. Board have hoped that the publication of the six-times-a-year NEWSLETTER would widen the appeal of our publications. But the response has been a double disappointment. First, very few members have contributed any news—despite appeals in each issue. Second, the membership has increased only thirty in the two years since NEWSLETTERS have been appearing.

K. O. S. membership, in our 15 years of existence, has increased only from 140 to 285, or an average of about 10 new members a year. We probably need more publicity such as in newspapers, in periodicals, and in meetings of kindred organizations. Members in all areas of the state can help by encouraging interested people to join K. O. S. The names of two prospective members were obtained at the Burroughs Club booth at the recent Flower Show in Kansas City through the efforts of a K. O. S. member, Miss Esther O'Connor. K. O. S. has a write-up in the current issue of the Kansas School Naturalist, a publication of the K. S. T. C., of Emporia. (This issue is entitled "What Good are Insects?", written by another K. O. S. member Dr. John Breukelman. Every K. O. S. school teacher should have a copy.) But most of all, we need personal invitations and introductory gift memberships. I'll gladly send out membership invitations to any names you submit to me. We'll send extra copies of BULLETINS and NEWSLETTERS to prospective new members.

Overwintering Red-winged Blackbirds in Jewell Co., Kansas

By Geo. A. Montgomery

During recent weeks I have been receiving reports from Mankato, Jewell Co., Kansas, of an unusual concentration of birds, most of which are reported to be male Red-winged Blackbirds. I have not been in that area, so what I relate here is based on letters I have received. Here are some of the things related:

1. This concentration has remained throughout the winter (at least as late as 15 March); when zero readings continued for several days, the flock didn't diminish.

(cont.)

