

NEWSLETTER

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Department of Biology
Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas 67156

Number 32
February 1970

Board of Directors Meet

The annual winter meeting of the Board was held in Newton on 14 December. Board members present were Charles A. Ely, Amelia J. Betts, Eugene R. Lewis, Max C. Thompson, Stanley D. Roth, jr., H. T. Gier, Mrs. Ralph White, J. L. Zimmerman, and Robert S. LaShelle.

The President announced these appointments--Robert S. LaShelle to the publicity committee and John L. Zimmerman and Margery Davidson to the youth activities committee.

The treasurer's report showed that for the last two years the cost of the Bulletin had equaled and surpassed, respectively, the entire receipts from memberships. Mr. Lewis reported that the Society had a balance on hand of \$144.32 at this time to pay for the September Bulletin of \$252.28 and other smaller bills. The need for additional funds led to several suggestions--first, that the delinquent rem inders be mailed in March, rather than in May; second, that the Society needs many more members; third, that the Wichita area should have more members in KOS; fourth, that the president should contact nearby state societies on the possibility of combining journals to save money; fifth, that Newsletters could be sent to all prospective members; and sixth, that publishing stories of local birding areas in the Newsletter might interest new members to join.

Mr. Zimmerman suggested that a fee of 25-50¢ per participant in the winter bird count be charged to help offset the high cost of that issue of the Bulletin. This was held over for discussion at the spring meeting.

Mr. Roth reported that the conservation committee had four projects--the banning of DDT in the State; the protection of hawks, owls and eagles in Kansas; the preservation of a substantial piece of prairie land in the State; and the abatement of air and water pollution. Mr. Gier moved that all four be endorsed by the Board, that they be discussed at the annual meeting, and the legislators be advised of our stand during the January meeting of the legislature. Seconded and passed.

A discussion of the need for a permanent check-list committee to keep the Kansas bird list up to date resulted in the formation of the committee.

No location was decided upon for the fall meeting.

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The following amendments were proposed for consideration by the Society at the annual spring meeting 1970. In accordance with the constitution of the society, the following are the proposed amendments on which you will be voting on May 2, 1970:

Amend Article V, section 1 to read: The governing body shall be a Board of Directors, consisting of the immediate past president; the following officers elected at regular annual meetings from the active membership of the society:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Bulletin Editor, and four Directors-at-large; and the following appointive officers: Editor of the Newsletter and Chairman of the standing committees of Conservation, Membership, Publicity, and the Kansas Checklist. Of the four Directors-at-large, two shall be elected each year to serve two years, due consideration being given to obtain representatives from areas not otherwise represented on the Board.

Amend Article VII, Section 1 to read: The President shall preside at all meetings and he shall be empowered to call special meetings. The President shall appoint standing committees on Conservation, Membership, Publicity, and the Kansas Checklist, and such other ad hoc committees as he may deem necessary, to serve during his term of office. He shall, ex-officio, be a member of all committees and shall perform such other duties as may properly come within his province. He shall be a member of the Board and, during his term of office as president, shall act as Chairman of the Board.

Amend Article VII, Section 6 to read: The Editors of the KOS Bulletin and of the Newsletter shall be members of the Board.

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The President appointed the following to the Kansas Check-list Committee: Max C. Thompson, Chairman, Richard F. Johnston, Charles Ely, Orville Rice and Wallace Champeny. This committee is to keep an up-to-date checklist of the species of birds that have been recorded from Kansas. The committee will also keep on file references to the corroborative evidence for records accepted. The committee is also authorized to evaluate the Best Birds of the Year at the annual spring meeting. Further notices will be forthcoming in the Newsletter from the Chairman concerning the workings of this committee.

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PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES AT ONCE

Less than a half of the KOS membership had paid 1970 dues by 5 February! This is thirty less than last year, which was considered a "slow" year. The treasurer and I would much prefer to process memberships during January and February than later when birding gets better.

So--if you have not paid, please hunt up the reply-o envelope mailed with the December Bulletin and send it to the treasurer right now. Reminders will be sent in March to delinquents. These are an added expense for your Society, so please pay up before then.

Payments need not be limited to the exact amount of dues. We have had one member pay \$10 each of the last two years, which is certainly much appreciated.

We need many more members. Surely you know of persons who might be interested. Just send us their names and we will contact them, either with or without using your name, as you prefer. Amelia J. Betts, Membership Secretary.

Editors Note--If just one person was brought in by each member, that would double our number to 600. This would go along way to soothe our financial difficulties. We have 500 Bulletins printed so only a few more would be needed. See if you can't find an interested person today.

The White Ibis, Eudocimus albus, mentioned in the last Newsletter, was seen first on 16 August 1969 by Mrs. Bert Chewning and Mrs. J. H. Nelson, both of Lawrence. The next day it was seen by Dr. I. L. Boyd, Dr. R. F. Miller and Katharine Kelley, all of Baldwin. Twenty-power telescopes, as well as binoculars, were used.

Mrs. Chewning describes the bird as follows: "A marsh bird with a red bill, tipped with black, a white rump and belly, and dark wings." The Ibis stayed on the Lakeview marsh, northwest of Lawrence, at least two days. Amelia J. Betts.

WANTED--Mr. Robert M. Vaughan, 1212 S. Fern, Wichita, 67213, would like to have any stamps that KOS members get on letters and don't want. He would also like to have old duck stamps.

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The AIR CAPITAL PURPLE MARTIN SOCIETY of Wichita is having a contest to elect a Miss Purple Martin Queen of Wichita, with a first and second runner up. This will make her eligible to enter the Miss KAKE Land preliminary which is preliminary to the Miss Kansas contest. A preliminary judging will be held, and six finalists will be eligible for the Miss Purple Martin Queen. The Miss Purple Martin Queen winner will receive a \$200.00 wardrobe. This will be presented on Friday night, March 13th at the Cotillion Ball Room in Wichita. (Editor's Note--Mr. Roy Harding, President of the Purple Martin Society is one of our newest members. At there first meeting, they had around 200 members).

NOTES

Xmas Count from Southeastern Kansas--The following count was taken 12-25-69 from a car. 10 Mockingbirds, 10 Bluebirds, 8 Tree Sparrows, 1 Fox Sparrow, 1 Loggerhead Shrike, 1 Oregon Junco, 1 Bewick Wren, 2 Carolina Wren, 4 Tufted Titmouse, 3 Brown Creeper, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 White-breasted Nuthatch, 6 Am. Goldfinch, 2 Purple Finch, 1 Hairy Woodpecker, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 4 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1 Yellow-breasted Sapsucker, 6 Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2 Turkey Vulture, 2 Sparrow Hawk, 1 Marsh Haw, and 3 Red-tailed Hawks. 1 White-throated Sparrow, 1 Harris Sparrow, 4 Crows, 35 Robins and 35 Mourning Doves. Birds too numerous to count: Rusty Blackbird, Purple Grackles, meadowlarks, Cardinals, Blue Jays, Starlings and Slate-colored Junco. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Qualls

I want to report an almost albino Starling at the feeder along with other Starlings. The body was light gray, flecked with small dark streaks, wings were from light beige to almost white. I am enclosing a few wing feathers for your observations.

On 6 January 1970, 500 Snow Geese passed over our house heading south. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Qualls

Bird Notes from Camp Towanyak--Fall 1969. Camp Towanyak is located in Northeast Johnson County, near Shawnee, Kansas. Comprised of 94 acres of densely wooded and two large open meadow-like areas. A few miles north lies the Kaw River, and not far away is the point where the kaw empties into the Missouri River.

August 30--First large flock of Robins; August 31--Red-shafted Flicker

September 1--Gray-cheeked Thrush (1); 2nd--Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, Black and White Warbler, 7th--Pigeon Hawk, Magnolia Warbler, 8th--Cardinal feeding cowbird fledgling; 11th--Bald Eagle (immature); 15th--Yellow-billed Cuckoo with just-fledged young on ground below nest; 21st--Am. Redstart(2), Nashville Warbler(1); 23rd--definite migration wave, Wilson Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Black & White Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, White-throated Sparrow(first date), Solitary Vireo 28th--Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing (75).

October 4--Yellow-bellied Sapsucker(first date), Black-throated Green Warbler (first date), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (first date); 6th--Another definite wave-- Winter Wren, Myrtle Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo; 14th-- first frost--Brown Creeper (first date); 15th--Chimney Swifts (last date); 21st-- Slate-colored Junco (first date).

November 5--Red-shouldered Hawk; 9th--Harris Sparrow (first date); 19th--Purple Finch (first date); 23rd--Tree Sparrow. Mary Louise and Jim Myers.

The above note by the Myers is but a small part of the note that Mary Louise sent in. If everyone could send in notes from their area, the editor wouldn't have to look so hard to find publishable material. Some notes are filed in our Kansas Checklist Committee file for further reference. The material not published in this newsletter from the Myers had been included within that file.

Editors Notes

Starting with the April Newsletter, a separate sheet will be devoted to the better birding spots in Kansas. If you have a spot that is always good for birds and that you can count on to produce, please write it up with directions on how to get there, what kind of habitat it is, the better birds to be expected and the best time of year to visit the area. If you can, a rough drawing of the immediate area would be worthwhile. I know of many spots in Kansas that should be written up for the information of other members. If there is enough material, we will do more than one per issue of the Newsletter.

Have you heard of the American Birding Association? They are devoted to the bird watching profession and put out six issues of a journal entitled "Birding" each year. Supplements are included with each issue on where to find rare birds. It cost \$3 per year and the dues should be sent to the ABA, P. O. Box 4335, Austin, Texas 78751. One of the highlights is the publication periodically of the birders in the United States with A.O.U. area life lists above 500. They also publish those peoples names who have seen more than 60% of all the species in any one state. The last publication of the latter list had Elizabeth Cole leading the pack for Kansas followed by yours truly and her husband Dean. I know you will enjoy your membership in this fledgling club.

Next month you will receive the first notice of the annual meeting on May 2-3. The meeting is to be held in Winfield and we are fortunate to be able to have Dr. George M. Sutton as an evening banquet speaker. Better plan on attending and joining in the fun.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND ME YOUR NEWS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

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