

## OFFICER'S CORNER

As of this issue our new K.O.S. President, Elmer Finck, has passed the editorship of this newsletter to my hands. As President, Elmer has many responsibilities of his own and it is only proper that he pass some of his old duties to another member. Elmer has done a fine job as Editor these last few years and deserves a hearty "Thank-You" from the entire membership.

Any regular reader of the Newsletter has undoubtedly seen my name in print, but for the benefit of those whom I have not met I offer a little personal background. Although I have been an "outdoors person" since childhood I only became interested in birding about 11 years ago. On my first day I managed to identify nine species but was hampered somewhat by a one-eyed pair of binoculars and a field guide that was mostly a collection of written descriptions. Still I was hopelessly hooked. Most amateur birders seem to pursue their hobby on weekends or family vacations but I can honestly say that I have been on only one field trip in my life--it began on April 16, 1976 and hasn't ended yet! As a farmer and cattle rancher I spend most of my waking hours outdoors and have probably as many birding opportunities as any other birder in the state. Because of the thousands of hours a year I spend "afield" I have become familiar with several species that some birders seldom see. My wife Diane and I often play host for birders searching for these specialty species and having other birders in our home has only confirmed what we realized soon after joining K.O.S. about nine years ago--that birders are some of the nicest folks on Earth! Whether my obsession with Kansas birds qualifies me to be an editor is debatable and I'm somewhat puzzled by Elmer's choice of myself for his replacement. (I do happen to have a degree in English but I doubt that many people want announcements that read like a Henry James novel or care to see bird records published in sonnet form.) Nevertheless, I have agreed to do the job and will endeavor to do my best.

I foresee no great changes in the Newsletter but would like to initiate a few new features. One thing that has been missing from the Newsletter has been the timely and organized compilation of bird records. I plan to begin providing seasonal summaries of the more extraordinary bird records. Although this may be a difficult task, other organizations do it quite well. (For example: Denver Field Ornithologists gather, edit, and publish monthly summaries of their best birds and often have it in the mail by the 10th day of the following month!) Some of my other ideas may be thwarted by budget concerns. Because of negative cash flow during 1986 the K.O.S. Board has asked the editors to be conservative in our use of expenditures. So until the Fall Meeting when our financial condition becomes more clear the Newsletter will probably be a bit briefer than normal. Finally, if you have any suggestions for our publication please don't be afraid to speak up and if you have items to be published send it to the new address above. Now if you'll excuse me, Diane says there are some Sandhills going over.

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## Treasurer's Report

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September 30, 1986

Balance of all accounts, September 30, 1985	\$16,013.57
Checking balance, September 30, 1985	989.64

Receipts

Dues	\$1800.00	
Checklists & decals	361.30	
Bulletins	40.00	
T-shirts	30.00	
Donations	70.00	
Interest on checking account	56.95	
Interest from 3 CD's	895.61	
From DNA savings account	107.00	
Spring meeting	740.00	
		<u>\$4100.86</u>

Disbursements

Bulletins	\$1780.80	
Newsletters	676.33	
Postage & mailing	407.61	
DNA liability insurance	107.00	
Safe deposit box	10.00	
Telephone hotline	146.54	
Misc. expense for hotline	60.16	
Secretary of State	5.00	
Camp deposit	100.00	
Misc. printing	126.33	
Telephone	8.51	
Wildlife Heritage Month	50.00	
Conservation Forum	15.00	
Dr. Hall funeral flowers	23.29	
Spring meeting	680.00	
Spring meeting refund	18.00	
		<u>\$4214.67</u>

Checking balance, September 30, 1986	\$ 875.83
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Savings Accounts

Cert. No.	Maturity Date	
5111982	11/01/86	1261.17
5112887	7/21/87	1161.57
885298	4/21/88	1597.23
5072001	4/26/88	1454.10
607455	7/01/88	1503.58
5072857	2/15/89	1051.98
5031271	5/08/89	1025.74
837871	5/17/89	1027.16
5159111	2/04/90	1038.10
Passbook		1449.18
Dingus Natural Area Account		4139.20
Total of all accounts		\$17584.84
Amelia Betts Fund - \$901.54 (included in checking account)		

KOS WINTER BOARD MEETING  
Marvin Schwilling home, Emporia  
February 7, 1987

Members present: Elmer Finck, David Seibel, Dwight Platt, Jane Hershberger, Eugene Lewis, Joyce Wolf, Gerald Wiens, Donna Cooper.  
Non-voting: Ruth Fauhl, Marvin Schwilling, Scott Seltman.

After a delicious lunch served by Mrs. Schwilling, the Board meeting was called to order by President Finck at 12:55 PM.

MINUTES: David Seibel moved that the minutes of the Fall 86 Board Meeting be approved as published in the Newsletter. Jane Hershberger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Eugene Lewis circulated a modified treasurer's report with total expenses for 1986. It projected the income for 1987 with present dues structure or with a dues increase of \$2 and projected 1987 interest income. He pointed out that our spending exceeded our income in 1986 by more than \$1000 and that the general fund portion of our checking account is in arrears by approximately \$600. However total fund balances are still approximately \$17,000. Gene suggested that we need to find ways to get the costs of printing and distributing the Bulletin and Newsletter down. Joyce Wolf reported that David Bryan has offered to duplicate the Newsletter free of charge if an issue was limited to four pages (eight sides). There was a discussion of the pros and cons of limiting the size of the Newsletter. John Zimmerman moved that the maximum size of each issue of the Newsletter be limited to four pages. Jane Hershberger seconded the motion. A concern was raised as to whether we were taking advantage of Dave Bryan's generosity. The motion did not pass. Scott Seltman will confer with Dave to see what he is willing to do.

Raising of membership dues was discussed. There was a feeling that this would not increase cash flow since there would be some loss of membership. It was decided that it would be better to make a greater effort to increase membership. Giving premiums for new memberships was suggested. Joyce Wolf moved that KOS give a copy of Peterson's First Guide to Birds to any person who provides a gift membership in KOS in any category (except for students). David Seibel proposed an amendment to the motion to give a copy of the book to any new member of KOS, regular, sustaining, or life. John Zimmerman seconded the amendment. The amendment passed. The amended motion passed. It was decided that this policy would be effective as soon as it is announced in the Newsletter. An appeal to KOS members to find new members for KOS will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jane Hershberger reported that there are 183 members so far in 1987. There are 80 life members with 10 more paying on their life memberships. She reported that the supply of membership brochures is low and the brochure needs correcting. David Seibel suggested that we need a new and more effective membership brochure. He will bring a rough design of the replacement to the next Board meeting. In the meantime, Jane was asked to have enough corrected brochures printed to last through 1987.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT: John Zimmerman distributed a report showing that the size of the Bulletin has been rather constant over the last nine years, averaging 39 pages per year. John reported that he has sufficient copy through the September issue. A desktop publishing system was discussed. David Seibel will look into the system at the K.U. Museum and see if we could use that system.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Elmer Finck announced that Scott Seltman is willing to edit the Newsletter. Gene Lewis moved that the Board approve the appointment of Scott Seltman as Newsletter Editor. The motion was seconded by David Seibel. The motion passed.

BOARD RESIGNATION: Joe Schaefer has resigned from the KOS Board since he will be leaving the state. It was decided that an appointment to fill the remainder of his term is not needed since his term expires in October.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT: Joyce Wolf reported that she needs more envelopes for mailing the Bulletin. David Seibel volunteered to see if he could find a source where they could be obtained at lower cost.

Joyce Wolf also reported that she needs new computer software to handle the KOS membership list and mailings. The software would be shared by KOS and Jayhawk Audubon. Half of the cost would be \$28.60. John Zimmerman moved to approve the expenditure of \$28.60 for the computer software for the Business Manager. The motion was seconded by Jane Hershberger. The motion passed.

SPRING MEETING 1987: Marvin Schwilling has made arrangements for May 1-3 at Tri-County Baptist Camp in Cherokee County. The camp cannot furnish meals but Floy Schwilling has volunteered to manage the catering of the meals. Marvin proposed a registration fee of \$1, a charge of \$4.50 per night for lodging and meal charges of \$3 for breakfast, \$3.50 for lunch and \$5 for dinner. The Board suggested that the registration fee be raised to \$2. The Board accepted Floy's generous offer to supply meals.

SPRING MEETING 1988: Scott County State Lake and Cheyenne County were discussed as locations for the Spring 1988 field trip but neither was agreed to.

FALL MEETING 1987: John Zimmerman reported that the Fall Meeting in 1987 will be at Manhattan on October 3 and 4. Ed Pembleton of the Audubon Society will be the banquet speaker. The lunch and field trip compilation on Sunday will be at Konza Prairie Headquarters.

FALL MEETING 1988: It was suggested that the possibility of having the Fall Meeting 1988 in southcentral Kansas be explored.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS: Marvin Schwilling reported that the Committee on Educational Materials has met but has not made much progress. The National Audubon Society now has an introductory booklet on birdwatching available for 50¢. Marvin suggested that KOS might develop a leaflet that would introduce Kansas birds, birding spots, and KOS and that we could supply this leaflet, the Audubon booklet, and a Kansas Bird List to those who inquire about birds.

A suggestion was made that KOS might develop a taped narrative to go with a slide set for use by schools and organizations. The Audubon Council, K-State Extension, and the KU Museum all have slide sets and KOS might explore the possibility of using some of these slides. It was decided to appoint two committees: 1) A committee to develop written material on birds to send to those who inquire about birding-- Marvin Schwilling (chairman), David Seibel, Ruth Fauhl, and Roger Boyd. 2) A committee to develop a slide set and narrative-- Gene Lewis (chairman), Gerald Wiens, and Donna Cooper.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: A concern was raised about the need to activate the Publicity Committee. Elmer Finck will work on that. David Seibel volunteered to bring some ideas for publicity to increase membership to increase membership to next Board meeting.

**KANSAS WILDLIFE HERITAGE MONTH:** The main emphasis this year will be Wildlife Appreciation Day on March 18 in the State Capitol. KOS participation was discussed. It was pointed out that to do a good display would be expensive, time is short, and effectiveness is uncertain. John Zimmerman moved that KOS not participate. Gerald Wiens seconded the motion. The motion passed (3 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions).

**STATE WATER PLAN:** Elmer Finck reported that he attended meetings on the State Water Plan. Some bills implementing the plan have passed the Senate.

**NON-GAME WILDLIFE PROGRAM:** Marvin Schwilling reported that Joe Schaefer will be leaving the program February 20 and is going to Florida to work in an urban wildlife extension program. Fish and Game is looking for a replacement.

Contributions to the Chickadee Checkoff rose to \$130,000. Marvin explained that the premiums offered to contributors cost very little to the checkoff fund. Marvin made available some literature from the Non-Game Wildlife Program.

Elmer Finck asked how the KOS President came to be designated as the representative to the Non-Game Wildlife Advisory Council. Dwight Platt explained that it was the result of Board action in 1980, but that it could be changed by Board action.

**CONSERVATION ISSUES FORUM:** Elmer Finck reported that Roger Boyd is the KOS representative to this forum. It provides us with information on legislative issues.

**REORGANIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCE AGENCIES:** The Governor will be proposing a reorganization of the Kansas Fish and Game Commission and the State Park Authority under a cabinet-level Secretary of Wildlife and Parks. Roger Boyd will attend a meeting with the Governor on February 9 as a representative of KOS. KOS may at some time be asked for a position on this plan. John Zimmerman moved that the President supply information on this matter to Board members as soon as it is available and that he be authorized to determine a KOS opinion on the plan by canvassing the Board members without calling a special meeting. The motion was seconded by David Seibel. The motion passed.

**REPORT OF THE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE:** Marvin Schwilling distributed a report from the Records Committee.

**BIRD FEEDER SURVEY:** Marvin Schwilling reported that some other states are organizing winter bird feeder surveys. He distributed informational materials from Iowa and asked whether KOS should sponsor such a survey. It was decided to bring this issue up at the Fall Annual Meeting to see if there are volunteers to organize a survey.

**INTERPRETIVE NATURE TRAIL AT ROCK SPRINGS RANCH:** Ted Cable is pursuing the planning of this trail as a project for one of his classes.

**SAVE CHEYENNE BOTTOMS:** Elmer Finck reported that the Cheyenne Bottoms Report is now completed and if anyone wishes to see the report or the executive summary he should contact him. The report contains five options ranging from the status quo to ameliorative measures costing an estimated five million dollars. The Cheyenne Bottoms Task Force will be meeting at the end of February and KOS will be represented by Elmer.

**MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES:** Jane Hershberger moved that KOS charge non-members an extra \$3 registration fee to attend meetings. Donna Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**TRUST FUND FOR STUDENT RESEARCH:** Gene Lewis described a trust fund that makes grants for student research on birds that has been established by the Arkansas Audubon Ass'n. Gene was asked to bring a similar proposal before the next Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Dwight R. Platt  
 Corr. Secretary  
 Kansas Ornith. Soc.

CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS

At the Winter Board Meeting Eugene Lewis made it clear that the KOS Treasury is having cash flow problems. Our current assets are still at \$17,000, but nearly 70% of that amount is in the form of life memberships. The Treasurer is not allowed by our constitution to use any principal from the life membership fund for operating expenses. With interest rates dropping down to 6 or 7% on money-markets funds our income from CD's will soon nosedive. Expenses in 1986 exceeded income by \$1,000, an alarming deficit considering that our "accessible" reserves are only a few thousand dollars. One alternative is to raise dues, an event no one welcomes. The best alternative is to increase membership. With a larger membership we could not only increase revenues, but could also spread our fixed costs over a broader base.

To avoid an increase in dues for 1988 each KOS member should do one of the following:

- 1) Persuade a birding friend to join KOS.
- 2) Buy a Gift Membership for a friend.
- 3) Upgrade your own membership to a higher category.

Added Incentive: All NEW members in 1987 will receive a free copy a new field guide for beginners entitled Peterson's First Guide to Birds of North America, sugg. ret. \$3.95. This means that when you buy your friend a membership or convince them to join they are essentially receiving a \$4 book plus membership in KOS for as little as \$2.

Categories of Dues are as follows:

Regular Individual	\$ 6.00
Regular Family	10.00
Sustaining Individual	12.00
Sustaining Family	20.00
Life Membership	125.00 (payable in four installments of \$31.25)

Send payment to:	Eugene Lewis	To check your membership status	Jane Hershberger
	1285 MacVicar	you may call or write:	18 Circle Drive
	Topeka, Ks.		Newton, Ks. 67114
	66686		ph. 1-800-362-0180 (KS)
			M-F 8AM to 5PM
			home ph. 316-283-5129

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1-3, 1987      The Spring Meeting will be held in Cherokee County. Details will be published in the next Newsletter.

October 3-4, 1987      The Fall Meeting will be at KSU in Manhattan.

KOS FIELD TRIP TO CHEROKEE COUNTY/ May 3-4, 1986 / by S.S.

As a preview of the upcoming Spring Meeting it is appropriate that I offer this report from the same area on the first weekend of May last year. This field trip to one of the more interesting birding spots in Kansas at the most exciting time of year attracted only six participants: Ted Cable, Mike Rader, Neil Shanker, Dave Bryan, Mike Whited, and myself. The weather was partly cloudy, temperature 50-75°F, with winds S 0-20MPH. Because of the south wind we missed any significant migrant fallout, but nevertheless the birding was very good. Our species total was a mere 98 species, but included an impressive 73 passerines. Most birding time was divided between Galena's Schermerhorn Park and the "island" between Lowell and Riverton. Highlights were:

Red-shouldered Hawk	2 adults were seen soaring s. of Riverton
Solitary Sandpiper	single bird seen by Dave Bryan - first county record
Barred Owl	nesting pair seen on island. half-grown owlet found on ground Sunday morning. bird apparently healthy.
Acadian Flycatcher	territorial bird watched at length
Least Flycatcher	1 heard
Fish Crow	The most extraordinary sighting of the weekend involved 3 Fish Crows seen and heard repeatedly over a 2 hour period on the 4th. Several times they flew directly overhead and called to each other with their unmistakable nasal "caws". Cable and Seltman, both of whom are familiar with Fish Crows in Florida, Louisiana, and elsewhere, also agreed that the birds seem to be smaller and flew with faster wingbeats than typical American Crows (admittedly a very subjective fieldmark). The feeling on the Official Records Committee is that while this and a couple other Fish Crow records are convincing it will be very difficult to place this species on our state's checklist without obtaining a specimen. Considering the rate at which Fish Crows are increasing in Oklahoma, it is inevitable that we will soon be adding this bird to our avifauna. Who knows? Maybe we will see some <u>this</u> Spring!!
Carolina Wren	After its population crash a few years, the Carolina Wren is definitely coming back. At least 4 pair were seen.
Bewick's Wren	only 1
Veery	1 heard by Seltman at Schermerhorn Park
Gray-cheeked Thrush	10+
Swainson's Thrush	100+
Wood Thrush	1 heard
White-eyed Vireo	5
Magnolia Warbler	1 male on "island"
Yellow-throated Warbler	very few seen, but perhaps the date was a little early
Cerulean Warbler	1 seen by Bryan and Whited
Prothonotary Warbler	seen in good numbers as expected
Ovenbird	1
Northern Waterthrush	1
Louisiana Waterthrush	1
Kentucky Warbler	several
Great-tailed Grackle	seen by Cable, et. al.

CALL FOR BIRD RECORDS

The Newsletter's first seasonal bird summary will be printed in the next issue. So if you have any interesting bird records for the period from Dec. 86 through Feb. 87 please send them to me by March 20. Do not include any records from Christmas Bird Counts.

SEPTEMBER IN MORTON COUNTY/ Sept. 19-21 and 27, 1986/ by S.S.

When Diane and I made our first September trip to Morton County in 1982 we knew that we had stumbled onto something special in Kansas birding. While watching a Western Tanager in the cottonwoods below Point of Rocks I noticed a Pygmy Nuthatch flitting through the same tree. Back at the car a few minutes later a flock of at least 100 Pinon Jays flew past us. Events like that make a Kansas birder sit up and take notice! Since then we have returned each September and have found new surprises every time.

In 1986 some "easterners" also made the trip. Participants were: Mark Corder, Steve Crawford, Bob Fisher, JoAnn Garrett, Nan Johnson, Mick McHugh, Lloyd Moore, Sebastian Patti, Mike Rader, Diane and Scott Seltman. A few additional records are included that were seen by Ted Cable, Rader and Seltman on the 27th. On the first weekend the weather was hot and windy, but the birding was simply HOT. Highlights were:

Cooper's Hawk	Migrants had to dodge <u>8</u> different birds.
Broad-winged Hawk	2 were seen above the river on the 20th, 1 on the 27th.
Merlin	2
Lesser Prairie Chicken	40 seen leaving milo n. of Wilburton at dusk on the 27th.
Common Barn Owl	3
hummingbird sp.	Unidentified hummer seen briefly by Corder.
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	2 seen including one at Point of Rocks.
Western Wood-Pewee	Of 15+ pewees seen several were identified as Westerns by call. Easterns also seen.
Hammond's Flycatcher	1 bird well seen by Seltman et. al. in Elkhart Cemetery. Identified by large gray head contrasting with olive back, long wings, short tail, hyperactive wing and tail flicking, and hard "pik" call.
Dusky Flycatcher	1 closely observed by Cable, Rader and Seltman below Pt. of Rocks on 27th. Small head did not contrast with back, long tail, short wings, whitish outer tail webbing, and visibly excited by Dusky tape. Another washed-out bird in cemetery on 21st was probably a Dusky.
Gray Flycatcher	1 carefully observed by Patti and McHugh at Middle Springs on 20th. Identified by uniformly gray plumage, downward tail wag and soft "whit" call note.
Western Flycatcher	1 reported on 20th but no details known.
Cassin's Kingbird	30 counted including some roosting in w. Elkhart.
Violet-green Swallow	Seen by Cable at sewer ponds on the 27th.
Rock Wren	80+ counted by Seltmans throughout county on 20th.
Bewick's Wren	5
Sedge Wren	1 at Middle Springs cattails seen by many. First in county.
Townsend's Solitaire	2 in Elkhart.
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1 at cemetery on 9-27. Many Hermits seen.
Sage Thrasher	3 birds seen on the first weekend were surprising but Cable, Rader, and Seltman saw <u>18</u> on the 27th including one group of 7 and another of 5. This is the largest concentration reported in Kansas.
Curve-billed Thrasher	3 birds seen including a juvenile in Elkhart.
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 seen by McHugh and possibly others.
Virginia's Warbler	1 seen at western river crossing by Patti et. al. This is the first sighting in Kansas in some time.
Black-throated Blue Warbler	One found by myself in Elkhart alley. Also seen by Patti and later by Diane. Probably the most out-of-place bird seen. 2 in cemetery and 1 at work station on the 21st.
Townsend's Warbler	2 in cemetery and 1 at work station on the 21st.
MacGillivray's Warbler	1 seen at Point of Rocks.
Western Tanager	10+ seen.
Green-tailed Towhee	2 at Boy Scout area and 1 at Point of Rocks on the 27th.
Brown Towhee	2 at Pt. of Rocks on the 19th. At least 1 seen by most birders.
Brewer's Sparrow	Several different groups seen in sagebrush s. of river.