

President's Message

The Bicentennial Year has been a good one for KOS. The Dingus Natural Area is a reality thanks to the tireless efforts of so many -- Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Dingus, the Nature Conservancy, Max C. Thompson, Dwight Platt, Eugene Lewis and the Dingus Natural Area Committee and everyone else who lent a hand. Last October many of us had the opportunity to visit the lovely place and it is the hope of KOS that members will continue to do so.

Looking ahead into 1977 KOS has some aspirations. The Board of Directors shall be bringing before the membership a constitutional change to create a joint or family membership category. We will be inviting experts to our spring meeting to discuss the important falconry issue.

The spring meeting will be held April 30 and May 1 at Newton with Mike Janis as local arrangements chairman. We have plans for a varied program and some first-rate field trips. We will, hopefully, have available for sale KOS car window decals and are working on an idea to make up a Kansas Life List Booklet.

Any other ideas? KOS is a responsible, far-thinking organization that stands for the welfare of all wildlife in the state of Kansas. Members may differ, but we always need suggestions, comments and even criticism from all of you. What do you think we should be doing?

I wish each of you the pure joy of days to come with the wind in your face and wild wings in the air.

Happy New Year,

Jean Schulenberg

President, Kansas Ornithological Society

PLEASE PAY YOUR KOS DUES!

This is the month that the membership secretary is supposed to send out notices to all members who have not paid for 1977.

BUT- only 227 (plus ten new members) have paid so far and that means about 200 are DELINQUENT! I don't want to do that much extra work and it is not fair to the KOS to have to spend \$18.00 in postage to tell you that the first of the year is past.

So, please hunt up the dues envelope that came with the September Bulletin and mail it PDQ. If you have lost the envelope, just use any envelope and mail your dues to Eugene R. Lewis, 1285 MacVicar, Topeka, Ks. 66604. And if you've forgotten, the dues are \$6.00 sustaining, \$3.00 regular, \$1.00 for student, and \$100.00 for life (whole or \$25.00 annually).

Thanks,

Amelia J. Betts

Membership Secretary

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1977 DUES YET?

KOS Winter Board Meeting - December 5, 1976

The annual Winter Board Meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society Board members was held Dec. 5, 1976 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Schwilling in Pratt, Kansas.

A noon meal was served to the Board members and their spouses by Floy Schwilling. Dr. John Bruekelman asked the blessing. Those attending were : Max Thompson, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Ely, Katherine Kelley, Amelia Betts, Eulalia and Eugene Lewis, Stanley Roth, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Martinez and Kathy, Steve Burr, Mike Janis, Dr. John Bruekelman, Dr. and Mrs. Dwight Platt, Floy and Marvin Schwilling, Jean Schulenberg, Ruth Fauhl, and Sondra Williamson.

President Jean Schulenberg called the meeting to order. The Spring Board meeting minutes were read and approved.

President Schulenberg informed Board members of a \$50 gift from the Jayhawk Audubon Society for the Dingus Natural Area. Jean sent a note of thanks.

Steve Fretwell will chair the paper session for the Spring meeting. A call for papers will be in the January Newsletter. The deadline will be February 15th.

Gene Lewis gave the treasurer's report. Our total assets as of November 27, 1976 are \$4,275.66.

Editor Ely urgently requested manuscripts for Newsletters and Bulletins. He reported on the many causes for delays in members' receiving Bulletins. There are 550 copies printed of each Bulletin and 450 Newsletters. Reprinting costs are \$7.50 a page for 100 copies.

It was decided that Newsletters will not be sent again if there is an unreported address change. Bulletins will be sent to a new address when returned. Ruth Fauhl reported that 400 KOS decals can be ordered for \$75. A motion was made and carried to buy them and sell them for \$1.00 each. They will be for sale at the Spring meeting.

Amelia Betts, membership secretary, reported that 416 members paid dues for 1976 and 213 had already paid for 1977. She also reported that new membership cards need to be printed. A motion was made and carried that the Board of Directors recommend to the membership at the Spring meeting the adoption of a family membership category in the dues structure. It will require amending the constitution as follows:

ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 4 shall be changed from:

The annual membership dues for regular members shall be \$3.00 (all of which goes for subscription to the KOS Bulletin), for sustaining members \$6.00 (of which \$3.00 goes for subscription to the Bulletin), and for student members (to include only Grade and High School Students) - \$1.00.

Changed to :

The annual membership dues for regular individual members shall be \$3.00 (all of which goes for subscription to the KOS Bulletin) and for regular family members - \$5.00, for sustaining individual members - \$6.00 (of which \$3.00 goes for subcription to the Bulletin) and for sustaining family members - \$10.00, for contributing individual members shall be \$25.00 and for contributing family members - \$40.00 , and for student members (to include only Grade and High School Students) - \$1.00. Members may contribute to special funds of Kansas Ornithological Society.

Katharine Kelly reported that the membership committee has recruited eight new members.

Marvin Schwilling reported that there are plenty of check-lists available.

In his conservation report, Stanley Roth said little information is being received from the Corps of Engineers which indicates less activity. The National Park Service recommended three locations for a Prairie National Park to the legislature.

The falconry issue may be brought up in the legislature again. This might be discussed by the membership at the Spring meeting to determine KOS policy on falconry laws.

The Dingus report by Eugene Lewis is as follows:

The small (3' x 4') sign at the Dingus Natural Area has been removed and repainted to show only the name of the area and the direction and distance from K-52 Highway. As soon as permission is granted the sign will be erected along the highway. The large sign will be erected on the Area property.

Caution is the word in regard to fencing around the property. We have been advised to go slow because of the possibility property owners along that section along the west that is unfenced may want to reach a fencing agreement. We could not afford that much fencing right now. As for the north and northeast, we are waiting to hear if the near neighbor, Howard Wade, is willing to sell his property which lies in the pocket north of the area along Little Sugar Creek. He has indicated a willingness to sell but his asking price is too high to be really serious. It is hoped he will come down sufficiently for the Nature Conservancy to buy it and let it become part of the Area.

The fall meeting of KOS in Linn County was a success if the number of attendees is any indication. Many people visited the Natural Area and most of them seemed to be impressed by the variety of vegetation. There was some disappointment with the small variety of birds. The September Bulletin was devoted to the Area. A total of \$130 has been donated to the Dingus Natural Area Fund.

Jean Schulenberg gave a report on the KACEE meeting at Topeka. The educational materials committee is compiling curriculum materials for Kansas schools. There was a discussion on public health and the environment. KACEE sponsors workshops for teacher training in conservation.

Mike Janis gave a report on the plans for the Spring meeting to be held in Newton on April 30th to May 1.

After much discussion, it was decided to delete the 50¢ charge for KOS participation in the Christmas Bird Count. All those non-members participating will receive a March Bulletin, and invitation to join KOS and a membership card.

President Schulenberg adjourned the meeting. Secretary Sondra Williamson.

KOS Spring Meeting to be Held in Newton

The Spring Meeting of the KOS will be held in Newton on Saturday, April 30 and May 1. The co-sponsors of the meeting are Bethel College and the Harvey County Parks and Recreation Department.

Among the plans under consideration for the weekend include a nature photography and wildlife art display with the works of such artists as Harm, Singer, Frace and Coheleach. The Kauffman Museum on the Bethel College campus will be made available to the group. A Friday evening get together will be held at the new log cabin type building at Camp Hawk County Park.

The Saturday paper session will be held at the auditorium at Bethel College. Saturday evening the Annual Banquet will be held at the Newton Ramada Inn and will be buffet style. The Banquet Speaker will be Dr. Richard Baldaup, Director of Education at the Kansas City Museum who will present a program entitled "Listen to the Earth". This presentation features some truly excellent nature photography coupled with a message concerning the Conservation Ethic.

Sunday morning field trips will cover areas ranging from the Sand Hills to the Flint Hills. The traditional bird list field trip will be held. Other possible field trips under consideration may include a beginners bird identification trip and a trip to the Harvey County Parks for birdsing as well as providing the opportunity to observe the Raptor Rehabilitation and Release Program operated by the Parks Department. This would also offer the chance to take close-up photographs of the birds of prey being worked with. The one mile long interpreted Lakeside Nature Trail and the Park interpretive Center will also be visited.

For those needing accommodations for the weekend there are several motels in the Newton area. They include the Ramada Inn and I-35 Inn Motel both on 1st Street in Newton and the Townsman Motel in Halstead. For the campers in the group, Harvey County West Park will be available at a very slight fee. Room Rates, motel address, camping fees and registration fee will be listed in the next Newsletter.

Look forward to seeing you all at the KOS Spring Meeting in Newton on April 30 and May 1. Michael J. Janis, Local Chairman

Important Business

KOS members should be thinking about presenting papers at the spring meeting. The official call (with information forms) will appear in the February Newsletter.

Also, please be thinking about the constitutional change concerning our dues structure as given on pages 2 and 3 of this issue. This proposal to add a family membership will be voted upon during the spring meeting.

Baldwin Bird Notes

Purple finches have appeared early and frequently at Baldwin this winter. So far this winter I have banded 40 (Dec. 26 to Jan. 14). Last winter I caught and banded only 8 (January through April). The winter before the total was 53 and 46 of them were in April.

This winter the finches came on Dec. 26, last winter it was Jan. 17 and the year before it was on Jan. 26. Of the 40 banded so far only one is a return.

Katharine B. Kelley

Snowy Owls

Marion Reservoir	One on November 26 observed by Allen Jahn
Longford	One on December 5 reported by Bob LaShelle
Goessel (4 Miles North)	One on January 12 observed by Michael J. Janis

Immature Black-legged Kittiwake

An immature black-legged kittiwake was observed on John Redmond Reservoir by Jean Schulenberg and myself on November 24. The bird was observed through binoculars at a distance of 30-40 feet. I identified the bird by the combination of head pattern (dark bar on nape behind dark cheek spot), wing pattern (very prominent and dark wing band plus black outer primaries-no white), back plain grayish and the size or slightly larger than the Bonaparte's Gull.

David A. Easterla

Backyard Bird Bundle

The Kansas Wildlife Federation announces the availability again this year of the very popular "Backyard Bird Bundle". The Federation has called upon the knowledge of the personnel with the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission and State Extension Service for professional help in selecting plants. In addition to being attractive to songbirds, the selection of plants has been made keeping in mind the varied climatic conditions that occur across Kansas. With proper planting site preparation and reasonable care after planting, the plants included should do well over most of the state. Each bundle will contain 3 eastern redcedar, 2 each fragrant sumac, red-osier dogwood and golden elder, 1 Tatarian honeysuckle and 5 coralberry.

Persons interested in purchasing bundles (each costs \$7.00) should order from Skinner Nursery, P.O. Box 8068, Topeka, Ks.

Marvin Schwilling