

KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Division of Biology, Kansas State University  
Manhattan, KS 66506

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APRIL 1979

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear KOS Members,

As your president, it has taken me a while to get my thoughts clearly focused on what I can do to do my job well. This delay has mostly come about from personal distractions rather than a lack of interest in the problem. These distractions were finally settled, for the most part, by my recent marriage (Nov. 11) to Miss Adair Prewitt of Louisville, Kentucky. Adair and I are working together now to see what we can do to bring KOS success in fulfilling its stated and unstated purposes.

It seems clear that in order to really be effective as an organization, we need to have some regularity and system to our publications, for these are our biggest budget expenditures. We also need to do well with our meetings, for these involve more of our members than any other activity except our publications. They also probably constitute our largest total expenditure of resources as individuals, since the costs of travel and lodging for the members who come to the meetings exceeds our total annual budget. I am willing, for the time being, to stop there. That is, I feel that if we can get the newsletter out on time, and with the news that our members need to know, and if we can get a bulletin out on time, with contents that serve the ornithological archives of the nation, and if we can hold our three meetings per year in decent order, and in a way that inspires the members that attend to greater participation in the phenomenon known as ornithology, we will have done well.

I realize, of course that there is more to an effective ornithological society than a good newsletter, a good journal, and some good meetings. We need to represent the birds of the state, and the bird lovers, in dealing with those threats that arise to their well being. Also, we need to be leading others into more involvement in their birdwatching. And, we need to be developing our own skills and maturity in appreciating the lives of the birds that we live with. But I am willing to lay those objectives down until the basics are firmly established. At present, we have a way to go before we are established in those areas. We can do substantially better with the newsletter, there is a shortage of papers for the bulletin, and some aspects of our fall and spring meetings are still uncomfortable. We're not doing badly, but we are sufficiently irregular in our performance, that we cannot represent anyone very well, nor would anyone wanting to learn more about birds feel safe leaning on us, nor do our newer members have any reason to see us as an organization that will guide their own study.

Why am I saying this to you all? Why not just talk to the organizers of the meetings, or the editors of the newsletter, and bulletin? First, I have talked to these folks, and will continue to work with them on these problems. But we always come back to the problems that can only be solved with your support. For example, consider the newsletter. What is supposed to go in it? News. News about what? Well, clearly, news about organizational matters is appropriate, but we surely want more than that. Basically, we need news

about who is doing what bird-wise in the state. The newsletter can contain news about the birds in the state, but most of us are interested in what trips are being taken, and what research projects are going on, and what people are learning. The whole idea of news is that it encourages the reader to see what good things are happening to others. But who has the news, besides you-all? We need you to get the news to us.

Let me be specific. The Flint Hills Audubon Society recently gave me a check list to fill out, to help them prepare a local check list for the Manhattan-Junction City area. That's news. The Kansas State University Ornithology and Field Ornithology classes are planning field trips to Cheyenne Bottoms on April More news. Townsend's Solitaires were so common around the Manhattan area this winter that folks in town were reporting them at their bird baths. No Pine Siskins at bird feeders this winter (or hardly any). Lots of Hawks at bird feeders. And so on. What's the news out your way? Drop us a line, so we can all keep in touch.

I want someone who writes letters easily to serve as a correspondent for the newsletter editor. This person would have the responsibility of writing a bunch of letters each month to members around the state asking them to pass on the local news. Then the correspondent would send what they have learned to the editor. Please, if you think that you could do this job, volunteer your time and efforts.

The bulletin similarly needs attention. The editor of the bulletin ought to have a backlog of papers to be published that extends at least six months. It's a big enough job just editing and improving the content of the bulletin, without having to worry where the next manuscripts are coming from. We need more reports of ornithological work done in the state, and maybe we need more research activity. I'm just now thinking about how to get more manuscripts submitted to the editor, but I suspect that we may only need to invite the scientists, both amateur and professional, to send us reports of their work.

Fortunately, the membership at large has been very faithful with their dues, and the membership recruiting so that we have the resources to do a good job with the bulletin. We only need more papers. I'll be in touch with some of you about this; meanwhile, if you know of any neat studies that we could be publishing, encourage the researcher involved to write it up for the bulletin.

I appreciate your reading through all this, and your efforts on our behalf. KOS is a viable, healthy organization and there is a great opportunity for us to become a much more effective spokesman for the birdlife and the bird-watchers of the state. This is no small honor, nor a slight responsibility. Let's live up to it.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Fretwell, President  
February 26, 1979

SPECIAL SUMMER SCHOOL COURSE - DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EMPORIA, KANSAS 66801.

AMERICAN BIRDS, 3 credit hrs, Undergraduate (ZO 459), Graduate (ZO 859).

This course will consist of a field identification study of the birds of the central and the southern Rio Grande Valley Areas of Texas. The departure date from Emporia, Kansas, will be Monday, May 21, 1979 with return on Saturday, June 2, 1979. The estimated cost for the two-week trip will be approximately \$200.00-\$250.00, which includes tuition (resident), motel (3-4 per room), food (\$8.00-\$10.00 per day), and transportation from Emporia, Kansas and back. Participants do not have to be biologists, however, all must enroll for either undergraduate or graduate credit, either for a letter grade or pass/no pass grade. Deadline for confirmation of class enrollment must be made by April 30, 1979, with Dr. John Parrish or Dr. Allen Tubbs, Division of Biology, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas 66801 (PHONE: (316) 343-1200, #xt. 311/800-362-2578). Please contact Dr. Parris for further details or questions.

Below is a tentative itinerary for the course:

- May 21 - Depart 0700 to Austin, Texas.
- May 22 - Austin area Hill Country.
- May 23 - Enroute to Brownsville, Texas.
- May 24 - Brownsville area and Gulf coast.
- May 25 - Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Reservation.
- May 26 - Laguna Atascos NWR and Matamoros, Mexico.
- May 27 - Enroute to McAllen, Texas and Santa Anna NWR.
- May 28 - Santa Anna NWR.
- May 29 - Anzaduas Dam and Bensten State Park.
- May 30 - Falcon Dam and enroute to Welder Wildlife Sanctuary.
- May 31 - Welder Wildlife Sanctuary.
- June 1 - Enroute to Dallas, Texas, with stop at Jones Forest.
- June 2 - Return to Emporia, Kansas.

Winter, December 1 to February 28, 1979 - Jean Schulenberg, Admire, KS

Black Duck	1 on 12/17 new species on Emporia CBC	Marvin Schwilling Roger Wells	Lyon
Hooded Merganser	<u>22</u> on 12/3	Schulenberg's	Osage
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3 for 1/1 to 1/7 1 on 1/6	Allen Tubbs Schulenberg's	Lyon
Bald Eagle	wintering at Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge High of 24 on 12/19  After severe snow storms in early Jan., 2 ad. on 1/2, 7 (3 ad. and 4 im.) 1/20, 9 on 1/23 and 2/7 8 on 2/22  end of winter count showed 16 (11 ad. 5 im.) on 2/24 birds tend to winter around open water areas on the Neosho River.	Carl Freeburg	Lyon/ Coffey

Prairie Falcon	1 on 1/6, 1 on 1/12	Schulenbergs	Lyon
Glaucous Gull	2 subadults mid Dec.	Orville Rice	Shawnee
Bonaparte's Gull 200	<u>200+</u> on 12/3	Schulenbergs	Coffey
Mourning Dove	very few wintering 4 found dead on 1/4	Yogi Gilliland	Lyon
Snowy Owl	1 at Marion Reservoir	fide Marvin Schwilling	Marion
Steller's Jay	1 on 12/29 Morton Co CBC	Marvin Schwilling Al White	Morton
Scrub Jay	1 on 12/29 Morton Co. CBC (specimen)	Marvin Schwilling Al White	Morton
Mountain Chickadee	13 on 12/29 Morton Co. CBC  1st documented record for Kansas. Specimen and photograph obtained. (1 previous sight record Schwilling from Finney Co.)	Sebastian Patti Charles A. Ely Marvin Schwilling Al White Jean Schulenberg	Morton
Townsend's Solitaire	1 on 12/17 Emporia CBC 1 seen same location mid Jan.	Kathleen Tabor John Parrish	Lyon
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2 at feeder from 12/15 to 12/17 seen on Emporia CBC	John Breukelman	Lyon
Blackbird species	Greater than usual Rustys, Brown-headed Cowbirds Common Grackles numbering in the hundreds.	John Parrish et al	Lyon
Northern finches Pine Siskins	Way down A possible exception during severe weather of Jan. and Feb. with up to 30 at feeders	Schulenbergs	Lyon
McCown's Longspurs	good numbers on 12/31	Charles A. Ely Sebastian Patti J. Schulenberg	Morton

#### KOS MEMBER DISCOVERS NEW SPECIES "DOWN UNDER"

Mr. Walter E. Boles, a member of the Kansas Ornithological Society who is associated with the Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, in participation with a team from the Queensland Museum discovered a previously unidentified species of honeyeater in the rain forests of the Eungella range, west of Mackay in North Queensland. The newly found bird differs from the closely related northern bridled honeyeater by having a solid black bill instead of a two-tone bill and has a smaller head with colored streaks in its grey-brown feathers. This information kindly supplied by Margaret Schulenberg.

## AMELIA BETTS REPORTS FROM BALDWIN

On December 1, 1978, Katharine Kelley caught a Cape May Warbler in her mist net. Also two Short-eared Owls were seen a mile outside the Baldwin count circle the day after the Christmas Count. Short-eared Owls were also identified at the airport north of Olathe. There also has been a very white Buteo in the Baldwin area; its head and neck and underparts are very white, while its back is pale and speckled. After much consultation among the Baldwin bird-watchers (which, by the way, probably involves the highest density of expertise in field ornithology in all of Kansas - Editor), it was decided that it was a light phase Red-tailed Hawk. And would you believe that not a single Pine Siskin has been banded this winter in Baldwin?

## SOME WINTER FIELD RECORDS

Lesser Scaup - January 12, 15, and 27, 1979 (Sedgwick Co.); Hooded Merganser - 1 male and 2 females on December 1, 1978 and 1 female on January 15 and 27, 1979 (Sedgwick Co.). Sharp-shinned Hawk - January 1, 4, 5 and 27, 1979 (Sedgwick Co.); Winter Wren - January 20, 1979 (Cowley Co.); Great-tailed Grackle - 25 birds on December 21, 1978 (Sedgwick Co.). Steve Kingswood.

## HARVEY COUNTY BIRD LIST AVAILABLE

An annotated list of the birds of Harvey County, Kansas has been prepared by Dwight Platt based on field records that go back to the early 1940's. Copies can be requested by contacting Dr. Platt, RFD 2, Box 209, Newton, KS 67114.

## NOTES FROM MANHATTAN

Steve Fretwell has noted that Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are more abundant in town this spring than in recent years. Also he reports sightings of Golden Eagle (Jan. 14) on the prairies south of town, Hermit Thrush (Jan. 14) in Hackberry Glen, Prairie Falcon (Feb. 10) east of Manhattan, and the first Franklin's Gull on March 22. Dana Townsend had a Say's Phoebe in her yard on March 25. John Zimmerman noted the first Purple Martin on March 26.

## SPRING K.O.S. MEETING

The Spring Meeting of the K.O.S. will be held in Lawrence on April 28 and 29. Co-sponsors of the meeting are the Jayhawk Audubon Club and the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas. Please pre-register if possible.

Members and registrants who are artistically inclined are invited to send original art\* or photographs, relating to birds or other wildlife, for display and/or sale. Commissions from sales will be deposited in the K.O.S. Endowment Fund. Persons interested in participating in this show must write to Marion J. Mengel, Museum of Natural History, well in advance of the meeting for further details.

\* Art - paintings, ceramics, weavings and allied creative efforts.

Events at the meeting will include the following:

Friday, April 27 -- Persons arriving in Lawrence on Friday evening are invited to the home of Cynthia Clinton, 1635 Mississippi (see enclosed map) for an informal gathering from 7:30 to 9:30. An adjacent KU parking lot will provide easy parking.

Saturday, April 28 -- Registration will be held from 8:00 to 10:00 in the Public Education Room (Room 602, Dyche Museum). Coffee and doughnuts will be available. The proposed art show will be exhibited in this room which will also serve as an informal lounge throughout the day. The paper session will begin at 9:00 in Dyche Auditorium (Room 308). Lunch will be available in the Student Union (adjacent to the Museum) for less than \$3.00. The evening banquet will also be held in the Student Union for \$6.50. Prior to the banquet a cash bar (for 3.2% beer) will be open for persons who wish to attend.

Sunday, April 29 -- Field trips will be to sites near Lawrence. Participants will meet at the Douglas County Fairgrounds for lunch, which will be available for \$2.50.

Accommodations -- Camp sites are available at low cost at Perry Reservoir (about 15 miles NW of Lawrence) and at Lone Star Lake (about 8 miles SW of Lawrence). A KOA campground is located in Lawrence. Prices given for the motels listed below indicate the range from a single to a double with two beds.

Virginia Inn	Hallmark Inn	Holiday Inn	Ramada Inn
2907 W 6	730 Iowa	2309 Iowa	2222 W 6
843-6611	842-6500	843-9100	842-7030
(\$18-\$24)	(\$19-\$24)	(\$23-\$28)	(\$24-\$32)
Travelodge	Westview Motel	El Navaho Motel	
801 Iowa	1313 W 6	2512 W 6	
842-5100	843-6373	843-9729	
(\$20-\$26)	(\$10-\$16)	(\$11-\$16)	

#### FINAL NOTES ABOUT THE ANNUAL KOS SPRING MEETING

#### LAWRENCE, KANSAS

A full schedule of papers requires that registration begin at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, April 28, at the Museum of Natural History, and that the meeting start at 8:45.

The Banquet Speaker will be Dr. Paul Johnsgard, Professor at the University of Nebraska and author of books on the Waterfowl of North America and the Game Birds of North America. His topic will be "The Snow Geese of Hudson Bay."

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

SPRING K.O.S. MEETING

1979

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

		Number	Total
Registration Fee	\$2.50	_____	_____
Saturday Banquet	\$6,50	_____	_____
Sunday Lunch	\$2.50	_____	_____
			Grand Total _____
			Amount Enclosed _____

MAKES CHECKS PAYABLE TO "KOS-KU"

Note: Accomodations, Saturday lunch, and the cash bar preceding the banque are not included in the above amount.

Mail to: Marion J. Mengel  
Museum of Natural History  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas 66045