

KOS Treasurer's and Membership Report (June 1, 2021)

Submitted by Steve Kistler, KOS treasurer

Treasurer's report.

Currently, our checking account assets total \$ 37,053 broken out as follows:

Anne Stamm Avian Education Fund - supports educational projects that will instill children with a deeper appreciation of birds and nature.

\$ 0.

Burt Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund - supports research by students and ornithologists studying birds in Kentucky.

\$ 5.

Gordon Wilson Fund - provides funding for research, publication costs, and environmental education projects.

\$ 1,000.

The Kingsolver Fund - sponsors one or two Kentucky teenagers to attend American Birding Association summer camps each year in New Jersey and Colorado.

\$ 7,382.

General Fund - used for ongoing operating expenses. The KOS Board may use this fund to supplement the special funds listed above to support worthwhile projects.

\$ 28,666.

Of this \$ 37,053 total, \$ 8,000 is encumbered due to commitment by the KOS Board to support a new Breeding Bird Atlas project being established by the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

We also have an account with the Community Foundation of Louisville. Our balance in that fund is currently \$ 38,669, of which \$ 7,092 is accessible to us. The remainder stays with the Foundation to generate income for us and for their projects.

TOTAL unencumbered funds accessible to KOS

as of June 1, 2021: \$ 36, 145

Special Fund activities, 2020 and 2021

We have had a very active year with our education and conservation funds, providing support to a number of worthwhile projects around Kentucky. Others were approved but eventually curtailed, due to COVID restrictions.

Detailed grant applications are carefully reviewed by fund committee members before being submitted to the KOS Board for their approval. The KOS Board may fund all or part of a grant request.

Burt Monroe Fund –

- In 2020, KOS funded two graduate student research projects, allotting them \$ 1,000 apiece.
- These grants were followed by three more research grants in 2021, for work at UK and Murray State, totaling \$ 4,250.

Anne Stamm Fund –

We have funded a number of environmental education projects during 2020 and 2021. These include

- Helping the Henry County 4H Natural Resources Club build a wildlife blind, build bird feeding centers, and create informational signs in a park in Newcastle, Kentucky. (\$ 550 grant)
- Providing funds to the Northern KY Bird Club to increase their collection of legally-collected preserved bird skins, which they use for family environmental education purposes. (\$2,251 grant)
- Funding YesArts of Frankfort, Kentucky, in conjunction with Frankfort Audubon Society and Wild Birds Unlimited. Funds were used to support a one-week middle grades youth camp in Frankfort called “Bird’s Eye View –

Birding Basics.” Participants will be given a field guide and a pair of binoculars as part of their experience. (\$ 2,000 grant)

- Funding Josephine Sculpture Park in an extensive project including five Art in Nature camps, ages 6 – 16; Bluebird Trail monitoring project; and a two acre meadow restoration, done with native plants and including educational signage for park visitors. (\$ 4999 grant)

Gordon Wilson Fund –

- We funded a collaboration between EKU and KDFWR, modeling bald eagle nesting habitats and analyzing data from 34 years of population monitoring. (\$ 3220)

Kingsolver Fund -

This fund is used to send Kentucky teenagers to ABA birding camps in New Jersey and Colorado. The camps have been closed due to COVID, but we plan to send young people again next year.

More information about supporting these funds and applying for assistance can be found at www.birdky.org

Membership Report

At the current time, KOS has 338 members. This represents a net increase of 29 members during the past twelve months.