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### LATE SUMMER ROSEATE SPOONBILLS IN WESTERN KANSAS

by

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On 12 August 2001, a single Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) (Photo 1) was located on a playa 7.8 miles north on US Highway 83 and 1.3 miles west, Garden City, Finney County, Kansas, by Marie and Ronald Osterbuhr. The playa was a half-mile long and one-tenth mile wide. The playa had receded from slightly higher water levels filled during two large summer rains. On the evening of 12 August the bird was observed at Ackley Lake, 7 miles north, 4 miles west, Garden City and then observed at the original playa on subsequent visits. On 19 August, two birds were observed by Mark Corder and Marie Osterbuhr, and that pair remained together from then on. Several local farmers said they observed five and six spoonbills in the area during the last week of July. The spoonbills primarily spent their days loafing in shallow water with waterfowl and a few egrets. At sunset, they became considerably more active. The birds would then feed in shallow water (8-14 inches) by walking rapidly and moving their bills side-to-side.

On 30 August the two spoonbills moved farther southwest to Lowe Lake, 3



**Photo 1** – Roseate Spoonbill, August 2001, Finney County, Kansas. Photo by Marie Osterbuhr.

miles north, Holcomb, KS. The lake started receiving heavy use by teal hunters in mid-September, and the spoonbills were last observed on the 21st (D. Vannoy, pers. comm.). Both birds appeared to be second year birds (Dumas 2000, Sibley 2000). More than 65 birders and wildlife viewers from Kansas, Colorado, Missouri and Texas were fortunate enough to find and observe this infrequent Kansas species.

An additional Kansas spoonbill was observed by Mike Rader on 30 Aug 2001 at the Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Management Area, Barton County. The 2001 observations in Finney and Barton counties account for the fifth and sixth Kansas records of the species in 103 years.

The species has been observed on four previous occasions in Kansas, twice in spring and twice in summer-fall, in the counties of Butler, Chase, Osage, and Barton (Thompson and Ely 1989). Colorado has four old records from four counties, two known from spring and one summer-fall (Bailey and Niedrach 1965, Andrews and Righter 1992). Nebraska has four records from four counties, one spring and three summer-fall (Johnsgard 1998, Sharpe et al. 2001). Iowa has two summer-fall records from two counties (Kent and Dinsmore 1996, R. Silcock pers. comm.). Missouri has three summer-fall records from three counties (Robbins and Easterla 1992, E. Wade pers. comm.). New Mexico has three records, two known summer-fall from three southeastern counties (P. Snider pers. comm.). The Texas Panhandle has four records, one spring and three summer-fall from three counties (Seyffert 2001). Oklahoma has 19 records from 14 counties, three spring and 16 summer-fall (Baumgartner and Baumgartner 1992, J. Arterburn pers. comm.). Arkansas has 36 summer-fall records from 13 counties (James and Neal 1986, M. Parker pers. comm.).

In the nine state region of Kansas and surrounding states (Texas Panhandle only), 70 (89%) of the 79 records occurred during the summer-fall period with the remaining nine sightings during spring. The earliest record for the region occurred on 20 March 1899 when a specimen (present whereabouts unknown) was collected in Butler County, Kansas. The latest record for the region was a bird that was observed with a flock of egrets on 18 Oct 1978, Miller County, Arkansas. When age was recorded, 44 (85%) of 52 spoonbills observed in the region were immature birds while eight were adults.

The first nine spoonbills were recorded between 1884 and 1939 in the northwest half of the region. All four Colorado records occurred during this period. Also included were birds in Lancaster (1884) and Buffalo (1932) counties in Nebraska; the previously mentioned 1899 Kansas bird; and in Randall (1937) and Deaf Smith (1939) counties of the Texas Panhandle. Birds of these earlier years were no doubt postbreeding Mexican birds since all Texas populations had been totally extirpated by 1895, and only about a dozen pairs each could be found in the states of Louisiana and Florida at the time (Dumas 2000). Thousands of spoonbills were hunted during the feather and plume trading years which began during the mid-nineteenth Century. The beautiful pink wings were popular as fans among women of the era (Bent 1926).

Not until about 1940 did significant breeding colonies become established once again along the gulf coast of Texas and Louisiana when Oklahoma recorded its first spoonbill followed by Arkansas in 1959, Iowa 1960, and Missouri 1986. The Roseate Spoonbill is second only to the White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) of all North American waterbirds in its population growth and recovery from the feather trade era. The spoonbill population has increased 14.7% per year during the Breeding Bird Survey years of 1966-1995 (Peterjohn et al. 1996). From no more than several dozen pairs of spoonbills in the United States around 1900, local populations have been as high as 2,900 pairs in Texas, 1,700 pairs in Louisiana, and 900 pairs in Florida during the last couple of decades (Dumas 2000).

For sharing records and observations and record clarification of Roseate Spoonbills we thank, Jim Arterburn, Mark Corder, Charles Mills, Helen Parker,

Max Parker, Brandon Percival, Mike Rader, Scott Seltman, Ross Silcock, Pat Snider, Don Vannoy, and Edge Wade. We also thank Debra Bolton for reading an earlier draft of this paper.

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## CAVE SWALLOWS IN KANSAS-A SPECIES NEW TO THE STATE

by  
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This note details the first occurrences of the Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon* [=*Hirundo*] *fulva*) in the State of Kansas. The first birds were seen in July 2001, at Cheyenne Bottoms, Barton County; the second birds in late September, at Ackley Lake, Finney County. This note discusses these two sightings, the important identifying field marks of the species compared to the similar Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), and the current distribution of the species.

### THE CHEYENNE BOTTOMS BIRDS

On 13 July 2001, at about 1600 hours CDT while birding the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Barton County, Kansas, Patti saw a perched swallow that appeared to be a Cave Swallow. This location is 6 miles northeast of the refuge headquarters, where the "Redwing Road" intersects the main refuge road that encloses Pool 1. Chris Hobbs also saw the bird, and agreed that the bird showed characters consistent with a juvenile Cave Swallow. Shortly, the two

found a second bird that they also identified as a Cave. The second bird was molting, and in sub-adult plumage. Patti and Hobbs watched the birds for a short time, and then contacted Mike Rader, who arrived at about 1730 hrs. He agreed that the two birds were Cave Swallows. Ted Cable took two photos of the sub-adult bird. These two birds would forage for 15-20 minutes at a time over the cattail marshes, and then return to the same general area to roost and rest on dead branches and the metal pipes of water-flow control structures. They were loosely associating with Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*), although Bank (*Riparia riparia*), Cliff, Northern Rough-winged (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*), and Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) were also present.

A number of birders came to Cheyenne Bottoms on the morning of 14 July 2001. One bird, the sub-adult bird was present for the better portion of the day. Ted Cable was able to secure a number of photographs and video of this bird. A number of the pictures and some captures from his videos were posted on the Kansas Ornithological Society web-site (<http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/>). This bird was also seen by a number of birders on 16 July 2001.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE BARTON COUNTY BIRDS**

The first bird that was seen was apparently a bird in juvenal plumage. It was generally dark brownish on the upperparts, wings and tail, and buffy/dirty white on the underparts. The rump was pale. Most striking, however, were the head and throat areas. The crown was the same dark brown as the upperparts. The forecrown and the throat were pale buff, as was the nape. The bird was seen at very close range (< 20 feet), and Patti carefully noted the pale auriculars. This combination of features gave the bird a "capped" appearance that was quite different from the many Cliff Swallows that were in the vicinity. Although some of the young Cliffs had pale areas on the throat, all had dark or dusky auriculars; this gave them a "helmeted" appearance. This bird was not photographed, and was not seen again after its discovery on 13 July 2001.

The second bird was in transitional plumage, and clearly an older bird than the first. The back was bluish with distinct white streaks with brownish wings and tail. The rump was cinnamon rufous. The underparts were whitish. The throat, auriculars, and the nape were all straw buff; some peach colored feathers were apparent in the throat area. The bird's crown was brownish, the forecrown, although in molt, had some rufous cinnamon feathers posterior to the eyes. The bird was molting on the left wing, and some of the new secondary coverts were still sheathed. Patti heard this bird call on several occasions on 14 July. He believed the call was the same call that is contained on the Cave Swallow recording in the Field Guide to Western Bird Songs by R.T. Peterson, and is the "chee" contact call referenced in the Birds of North America account of the species (West 1995). This bird was the subject of a rare bird documentation submitted to the Kansas Bird Record Committee, which accepted the record (KBRC 2001-30) as the first occurrence of the species in the state documented by physical evidence (photographs). As a result, the species will be added to the state check-list (D. Rintoul pers. comm.).

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE FINNEY COUNTY BIRDS**

While conducting a shorebird census on the afternoon of 27 September 2001, at Ackley Lake in Finney County, Shane and Marie Osterbuhr found two adult-plumaged Cave Swallows in association with a flock of other swallows. This location is 7 miles north, 4 miles west of Garden City. The birds arrived with a flock of eleven Barn Swallows and one Bank Swallow. Osterbuhr was able to secure a single digital photo of the two Cave Swallows. Shane noted the following field marks: wings and tail dark with a squared tail; the crown, cap and forehead, dark; the upper breast, throat, malar and auricular areas, the sides of the neck, and most of the undertail coverts all uniformly buff. The lower breast and the belly were white. The nape was a grayer buff than the other areas of the head.

Most noticeable was the definite line of demarcation between the dark crown/cap, and the buff colored areas below. This ran from the base of the bill to the ventral side of the eye to the upper nape.

Shane returned to the area the next day, and was unable to relocate the two Cave Swallows. Shane submitted a report to the KBRC, accompanied with the digital photo taken by Osterbuhr. Although the photo is small, we believe that it shows field marks diagnostic for Cave Swallow. The report has been docketed (KBRC 2001-53) by the KBRC, and will be circulated and voted on during the next round of voting in early 2002 (D. Rintoul pers. comm.).

### IDENTIFICATION ISSUES

Two species of *Petrochelidon* swallow occur in North America: the wide-ranging and familiar Cliff Swallow, and the localized Cave Swallow. Members of the genus can be identified immediately by their pale rumps. The two species are superficially similar in both juvenal and adult plumages.

Several key differences exist. Generally as adults, Cave Swallows have light throats, sides of the head, and napes; the forecrown is rich chestnut (West 1995, Sibley 2000), with pale auriculars (Sibley 2000). This contrasts sharply with a dark cap, and the birds look "capped." The same is true for juvenile Caves. Adult Cliff Swallows, by contrast, have dark, chestnut-colored throats and, in most subspecies, light forecrowns (Brown and Brown 1995, Sibley 2000). The auriculars are dark, or dusky (Sibley 2000), and Cliffs look "helmeted" rather than "capped."

Hatching-year Cliff Swallows, especially very young birds, can have whitish areas on their throats (Sibley 2000), and care must be exercised in identifying some of these young birds. Even these "white-throated" young Cliffs have dark or dusky auriculars, however, and light auriculars are diagnostic for Cave Swallow at any age (D. Sibley pers. comm.).

Additionally, Cave Swallows molt on the breeding grounds, while Cliffs molt on the wintering grounds. (Sibley 2000). The usual call of Cave Swallow is rendered as "weet!" (Oberholser 1974), or "chee." (West 1995).

### CURRENT DISTRIBUTION

The Cave Swallow currently breeds from Arizona (sic)(AOU 1998) and southeastern New Mexico, central and West Texas, (with isolated breeding in southeast Texas and southwestern Louisiana) south, through northern Mexico, south to Chiapas. (West 1995, AOU 1998, Sibley 2000). A separate subspecies is found in the Greater Antilles and Yucatan and breeds in south Florida. (AOU 1998, Sibley 2000). The species formerly nested exclusively in rocky caves (Oberholser 1974), but underwent an ecological expansion of sorts in the 20th century, and is now known to nest under bridges and culverts, sometimes in the company of Cliff Swallows (West 1995). Cave Swallows have hybridized with Cliff Swallows (in Arizona) and with Barn Swallows (West 1995). The species is migratory in the United States' portion of its breeding range, and vagrants have been found in areas far-removed from any known breeding, e.g., Nebraska (Johnsgard 1998, Sharpe et al. 2001), Nova Scotia, New York, New Jersey (Paxton, et al. 1998), and California (Sibley 2000).

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## T. C. HENRY'S HARLAN'S HAWK AND OTHER 1850'S KANSAS BIRDS

by

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While interest has waned in historic bird records and subspecies like Harlan's (Red-tailed) Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*), this information is important to understanding the changing status of avifaunas over time. Thomas Charlton Henry (1825-1877) was a source of such data in the mid-19th century, including from his travels through Kansas to and from New Mexico in 1852 and 1858, respectively (Hume 1942). Once in New Mexico, he served as a surgeon in the United States Army, although his avocation was in observing and collecting birds. As a result, Henry (1855, 1859) was able to gather sufficient information to publish two summary papers on the birds of southwestern New Mexico. In the process, he also mentioned two species encountered in Kansas, which he referred to as the Indian Territory. The first was that state's earliest report of Harlan's Hawk, observed in the vicinity of Great Bend in the spring of 1852 (Henry 1859). In fact, Henry likely substantiated that occurrence with a specimen (Smithsonian Institution, USNM 6351), although it lacks original data (as did his other 1852-1858 material) and has long been attributed to New Mexico (e.g., Baird et al. 1858). In addition, he also made observations on Northern Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) in Kansas, pointing out the presence of a boundary between eastern (yellow-shafted) and western (red-shafted) forms in the Council Grove area. Finally, among his specimens are several eastern birds that Henry (1855, 1859) never mentioned from New Mexico, although so attributed by Baird et al. (op. cit.). In fact, we suspect all or most of these probably came from northeastern Kansas, where very likely collected in the spring of 1852.

Although trained as a medical doctor, Henry's writings and other sources reveal him as an avid and able student of birds—if not aspiring ornithologist. Indeed, he was a protégé of the ornithologist John Cassin of the Academy of Natural Sciences (ANSP) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—where he long resided and doubtlessly acquired much of his knowledge about birds (Hume 1942). After completing medical school in 1850, Henry soon qualified for service as a

surgeon in the U. S. Army's Medical Department. In April 1852, he was hired as a contract physician and ordered to accompany a detachment of Army recruits to New Mexico, where he was commissioned as an assistant surgeon in March 1853. The particulars of Henry's trip to and from New Mexico are only poorly documented, although by August 1852 he had reached Fort Fillmore in that state's lower Rio Grande Valley (Henry 1855). In a September 1853 article in the Philadelphia Inquirer (Hume 1942), Henry wrote that his Army detachment had earlier traveled from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to Fort Union, New Mexico—doubtlessly along the Santa Fe Trail in spring 1852. Concerning that trip west, he wrote: "Taking it all in all, I have much enjoyed the one thousand miles [from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Fillmore] passing over which I have lived in the saddle...I procured a large number of fine birds (new, many of them) on the route, and prepared them despite the inconvenience of doing so while traveling rapidly through the country. Tired out, as I always was in arriving at the end of each day's march, many a night when greatly wearied have I sat up until 12 or 1 o'clock, with the prospect of breakfast at break of day following my favorite pursuit [of observing and collecting birds]." On completing his tour of duty in New Mexico, Henry departed there in summer 1858—arriving at St. Louis, Missouri on 11 September en route back to Philadelphia and life thenceforth in the East (Hume 1942).

Concerning his Kansas encounter with Harlan's Hawk (listed as a distinct species, *Leucopternis harlani*), Henry (1859) wrote: "I have met with this bird on four occasions only, once at the Big [=Great] Bend of the Arkansas River, Indian Territory, in May 1852." He then went on to cite his other records, which were along the Gila River in southwestern New Mexico in the summer of 1857. Concerning these, he further wrote: "I was induced to believe that [this hawk] breeds high up on this stream, for having observed pairs each time when it was seen." While Henry's report of *harlani* in Kansas is plausible (as discussed below), that for New Mexico is clearly erroneous. This is because Harlan's Hawk summers (and breeds) only in Alaska, southern Yukon, and northern British Columbia, although its winter range does include New Mexico (e.g., Mindell 1983). Instead, these observations probably pertain to the Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*), of which Henry did take a specimen in the state (ANSP 1489). However, some of his Gila birds could have been Common Black-Hawks (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) and/or melanistic Red-tailed or Swainson's (*Buteo swainsoni*) hawks, although these are less likely than the preceding. This is because melanistic hawks are quite rare in that region in summer, while *Buteogallus* may well have then been absent on the upper Gila (Phillips 1968). Whatever the case, Henry's New Mexico birds were certainly not *harlani*, and in fact even his Kansas record deserves closer scrutiny—as will be done below.

Given the preceding, it is evident that Henry's perception of Harlan's Hawk differed from that of Audubon (1831), who had originally described this species (now subspecies) and whose characterization still widely obtained in the 1850's. That description (plus a color plate) was based on two melanistic birds taken in 1829 near St. Francisville, Louisiana, where Audubon incorrectly thought they were breeding. Their darkish, barred tails indicate the two were immature or subadults, as adult *harlani* have whitish to pale reddish tails—typically mottled (sometimes barred) with darker colors (Taverner 1927, Mindell 1983). However, Henry's melanistic specimen has an adult tail, and in fact it was the basis for the first published description of this plumage in *harlani* (Baird et al. 1858). Given this, if that specimen was indeed the source of his Kansas record, then Henry (1859) obviously did not adhere to Audubon's (op. cit.) tail characters in assigning it to *harlani*. Instead, his emphasis must have been on its dark body plumage, for that is the main character (a lesser one being the unfeathered tarsi) allying his bird with those of Audubon. We suspect Henry approached his *Buteo albonotatus* specimen with the same emphasis, consequently calling it *harlani* despite its equally divergent tail (and other) characteristics. Notably, these

identifications would have been finalized after Henry returned to the East, where he had access to the literature, expert taxonomic advice, and both his and comparative specimen material (ANSP and USNM). Thus, his presumed assignment of these two specimens to *harlani* resulted from laboratory study, not impressions gained in the field.

Besides the above, Henry probably suspected other dark buteos encountered in the West were *Buteo harlani*, although neither such birds nor that taxon appear in his first New Mexico paper (Henry 1855). In fact, he at least tentatively identified three specimens as *harlani*, as shown on invoices for material shipped to Spencer F. Baird at the Smithsonian (Henry 1852, 1856). Thus in 1854, two of his five buteos were suspected of being *harlani*, as was one of three in 1856. In the absence of original data or other identifiers, we can only guess at which these specimens might have been. However, one in 1854 was likely the alleged Kansas *harlani*, while the other was probably a melanistic adult Red-tailed Hawk (USNM 8527, now ANSP 1516). In fact, the latter would become the type of *Buteo [jamaicensis] calurus*, a species described by Cassin (1855) and distinguished by its dark plumage and a black-barred, red tail. As for 1856, we suspect that specimen was also an example of *calurus*, most likely USNM 8528 or 8529. These specimens are now missing from the Smithsonian collection, but they presumably resembled the taxon as described by Cassin (op. cit) and later Baird et al. (1858). If so, this provides further evidence that Henry's "search image" for *harlani* primarily involved dark body plumage, with little or no adherence to the tail characteristics described by Audubon (1831). However, Henry no doubt modified his image after *calurus* was described, so that dark birds with black-barred, red tails were assigned to that form rather than *harlani*. Even so, his view of the latter's tail characteristics surely remained broader than Audubon's, as suggested by his presumptive assignment of the *albonotatus* and adult *harlani* specimens to that taxon.

Henry was hardly alone in his confused and seemingly evolving perception of the characteristics and other features in Harlan's Hawk. In fact, significant improvement in such knowledge would not appear until the 20th century and the work of Taverner (1927) and most recently Mindell (1983, 1985). Meanwhile, Henry's mentor, friend, and raptor specialist John Cassin (1991) did not help matters in 1856, when he wrote that *harlani* was "one of two or three species of black buzzards [*Buteo*] which inhabit Mexico or Central America, and we suspect...of being identical with *B. albonotatus* (Gray [1847])." Indeed, the latter comment may well have led Henry (1859) to identify as *harlani* the dark hawks he had observed on the Gila River in 1857, despite presumably having *albonotatus* in hand! At the same time, he also accepted Cassin's (1855) position that the less-divergent *calurus* was specifically distinct from *harlani*, based mainly on the former's redder, typically dark-barred tail. As a consequence, Henry (op. cit.) doubtlessly reassigned all but two of his western records of blackish, bare-shanked buteos to *calurus*, the exceptions being the *harlani* reported from Kansas and the Gila River. Even so, Henry still regarded *calurus* as a rare bird, with only eight or 10 encountered during in his six-year residence in New Mexico. Of these, he claims to have collected four, which certainly must include the two or three enumerated above. Incidentally, Henry indicated that *calurus* occurred only in winter in the lower Rio Grande Valley, although Cassin (op. cit.) gave the type locality as Fort Webster (Mimbres River, Grant County), New Mexico.

In light of the foregoing, we believe circumstantial evidence exists that Henry's (1859) Kansas record of *Buteo jamaicensis harlani* is valid, based on the adult, melanistic specimen (USNM 6351) he likely collected near Great Bend, present Barton County in May 1852. While May seems late for such an occurrence, it is notable that another late *harlani* was found alive in central New Mexico (Bernalillo County) on 22 May 1991 (now Mus. Southwestern Biol. 8537). Furthermore, it should be recalled that Kansas winters in the 1850's tended to be longer, colder, and snowier than at present, as most of temperate North

America was still in the grips of the Little Ice Age (C.S.C.D.G.C. 2000). As a consequence, taiga breeders such as Harlan's Hawk may have lingered later in the south in spring than now. At any rate, even without specimen substantiation, Henry's (op. cit.) *harlani* record predates the next in Kansas by 19 years—that a specimen collected at Lawrence in October 1871 (Snow 1903). However, whether 1852 or 1871, Harlan's Hawk has no doubt long wintered in that state—which is part of its wintering metropolis in Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana (Mindell 1985). As for Kansas per se, Dickerman (1989) identified 10 of 36 (27.8%) adult Red-tailed Hawk specimens (University of Kansas sample) as *B. j. harlani*. That is the highest proportion reported in any such sample, although probably somewhat inflated by selective collecting and/or retention of specimens. Nevertheless, Kansas is no doubt an important wintering area for this boreal North America breeding bird, dating back almost 150 year in historic time and doubtlessly much earlier before then.

Also among Henry's specimens were several eastern birds likely collected in northeastern Kansas in spring 1852, despite their past attribution to New Mexico (e.g., Baird et al. 1858). These consist of single skins of the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*; USNM 6119); Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*; USNM 6132, now ROM 45189); White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*; USNM 6836); Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*; USNM 7117); Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*; USNM 4364 [= 6364]); and Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*; USNM 6709). As with other Henry birds, these apparently lacked labels—again leading Baird to recreate their collection localities (but not dates). In assuming these were from New Mexico, he apparently overlooked or ignored the fact that Henry (1855, 1859) never mentioned such species from that state. In addition, Baird may have been unaware that Henry (in Hume 1942) collected and prepared birds while en route from Kansas to New Mexico in 1852. Furthermore, if these specimens were taken in Kansas in 1852, they should have been among those shipped to the Smithsonian in 1854. In fact, all but the Red-bellied Woodpecker were part of that first shipment (Henry 1854), this exception perhaps having been sent as well but misidentified or overlooked. Notably, all these represent species long known to occur in northeastern Kansas (Thompson and Ely 1989), whereas most are recent vagrants to New Mexico (Hubbard 1978). Exceptions are the Northern Cardinal and Orchard Oriole, the first resident in southwestern and recently eastern parts of the state, and the second a breeder in the southeast. Finally, the Pileated Woodpecker is unconfirmed in New Mexico, although the western *D. p. picinus* has been attributed to the state by the A.O.U. (1957:315). In fact, that report may well be based on Henry's specimen (above), which our examination reveals as either the nominate form or *D. p. abieticola*—both of which occur in eastern Kansas.

The only other Kansas bird specifically mentioned by Henry (1859) is the Northern Flicker, which he distinguished as two species—later called the Yellow-shafted (*Colaptes auratus*) and the Red-shafted (*C. mexicanus* = *C. "cafer"*) forms. Concerning the latter, he wrote: "Replaces...*auratus* everywhere south [= west] of Council Grove, Indian Territory [Kansas], as my observation goes, a few miles south [west] of the place referred to is the farthest south [west] I have met with the *auratus*, though it is not improbable their range may extend somewhat more south[west]erly." No date is indicated for these observations, but they were likely in May 1852 (and/or possibly August 1858)—when Henry en route to or returning from New Mexico, respectively. Either way, we assume the birds would have been breeding, as opposed to being migrants in the area. If so, this suggests the Red-shafted Flicker likely nested then along the Arkansas River (and in similar areas) west of Council Grove. This is notable in that Thompson and Ely (1989) found no indication that flickers of this type have ever bred in Kansas. Southward in Oklahoma, Red-shafted Flickers (or intergrades with yellow-shafted birds) presently breed only in far-western Cimarron County (Sutton 1967), which lies beyond Kansas' western boundary. However, such birds were previously

reported as summering in Oklahoma eastward to Major and Grady counties, roughly on a line with Henry's point intercept with the Arkansas River west of Council Grove. Given this, perhaps they also once bred in western Kansas, even though they do not now. Why such a change may have occurred is uncertain, but perhaps that red-shafted population was replaced (or absorbed) as the yellow-shafted form spread westward in association with American settlement of Kansas.

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**Night-Roosting of Robins in an Open Hayfield** – On 31 March 2001 while conducting a Greater Prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) lek survey in northern Lyon County, KS, I observed what is likely a case of night-roosting by American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) in an 40 ha open native grass hayfield. At 0655, 16 minutes before sunrise (0611), 46 robins left the hayfield. At this time, the grass (mostly bluestem, *Andropogon spp.*) was approximately 15 cm high and the temperature was 7° C with a light fog. At 0701, another group of 34 robins left the same part of the field. Both groups of robins had been observed prior to departure, roosting among the short grass near a prairie chicken booming ground. All of the robins flew north when they departed.

Anderson et al. (1971, Wilson Bull. 83:443-444) observed robins in open hayfields in central Illinois at night (between 2000 and 2100) while nightlighting Ring-necked Pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*) on 4 April. They speculated that the robins had landed in the hayfield because of low temperature (2° C), winds of 19-24 kph, overcast, and snow flurries. Prior to my observations, the nighttime low had been 2° C, with no wind, or precipitation with a clear sky. The light fog developed 20-30 minutes before sunrise so was probably not a factor in grounding the diurnal robin migration.

Although it is well known that many migrating birds do not use their typical habitats during migratory stopovers, grassland is the dominant landscape feature in this area of Lyon County. The nearest trees to this observation were around farmsteads at 0.8 km and 1.2 km from the field. All fields immediately adjacent were native grass pastures and hayfields. Because large areas of Kansas are open grassland, it is conceivable that robins must night-roost in grassland situations when it is not possible to traverse open country to arrive at woodland sites.

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**Extralimital nesting of the White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica*** – The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the A. O. U. Checklist of North American Birds (American Ornithologists' Union 1998) states that the White-winged Dove is resident from central Arizona, central New Mexico, western and central Texas, southern Louisiana and southern Alabama south to South America, with casual occurrences north to Alaska, Minnesota, northern Ontario, New Brunswick, Maine and Nova Scotia. Thompson and Ely (1989, Birds in Kansas, Volume I, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence) describe the species as probably a vagrant in Kansas, and list four unconfirmed records from Hodgeman, Linn, Russell and Sedgwick counties. In recent years the Kansas Bird Records Committee of the Kansas Ornithological Society has accepted several sightings of the species in the state, including at least one confirmed by a photograph (Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin 47:34-35 (1996); 49:26-29 (1998); 51:22-27 (2000)). These records have come from Cloud, Morton (2), Marion, Reno, Clark, Sedgwick and Douglas counties, with four coming in one year, 1998. There are additional records in the Kansas Bird Record Database (Southwestern College, Winfield, KS) from Linn, Russell, Hodgeman, Cowley (adult dove banded May 12, 1998),

Pawnee, Ford, Shawnee, and Grant counties. It is of interest to note that most of the records are for spring and early summer. We know of no reports of breeding in the state, however.

On 15 May 2001 we located a breeding pair of White-winged Doves in Atchison County, Kansas. The birds were first detected due to the persistent singing of the male, which sang a song resembling an anemic Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) "Who cooks for you?" song. The nest was located approximately 6 m above ground in the fork of a limb in a silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) in a residential area in the 200 block of Greentree Street in the town of Atchison. The nest resembled that of the Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*), appearing to be a loosely organized array of sticks. One bird was observed sitting on the nest, while the second sat on a nearby branch. The nest contents were not examined. On subsequent days (16 and 17 May) a bird was observed sitting on the nest, and at least once the birds were observed to exchange places at the nest. Matt Gearheart and Roger McNeill visited the site on 18 May, and found that the nest had been damaged by a windstorm that had passed through Atchison the previous day (M. Gearheart, pers. comm.). They collected a broken egg that was found below the nest and sent it to the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas. Gearheart and McNeill also obtained a video recording of the pair copulating on 18 May. On 20 May, Gearheart and Mark Land visited the site, and discovered the pair of doves about two blocks northwest of the original nest site (again in a silver maple), but did not find a second nest.

This breeding record, in conjunction with the increased number of sightings in Kansas in recent years, suggests that the White-winged Dove may be expanding its range northward. Such range expansions in birds may be in response to the general pattern of global increase in temperature in recent years. In any event, additional breeding records of the White-winged Dove should be sought in Kansas and in adjacent states.

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### **New Editor**

The new editor of the Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin is Calvin Cink. All future manuscripts should be sent to his attention at: Baker University, P. O. Box 65, Baldwin City, KS 66006. His email address is: [cink@harvey.bakeru.edu](mailto:cink@harvey.bakeru.edu). The manuscripts that haven't been published yet will be sent to the new editor.

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