



The Horned Lark

The newsletter of the
Kansas Ornithological Society

March 2007

Vol. 34, No. 1

President's message

The heart of any society is its volunteers and the Kansas Ornithological Society is no exception. We depend upon volunteers for our very existence because we have no paid personnel. We volunteer for *our* society to keep it running, to keep it solvent, and to keep it on top of any problems. Remember, it is not the officer's society, nor the board's. It is *our* society.

I have held every position on the board except secretary and treasurer, neither of which I am suited for. I assure you that the jobs of business manager, editor, secretary, and treasurer require countless hours of input to keep KOS functioning. **Pete Janzen** spends hours stuffing envelopes with the *Bulletin* and *Horned Lark*, and making sure we receive it on a
(continued on page 2)

From the field

Ten years in the making, "The Birds of Sedgwick County," by **Pete Janzen**, is now in print. Inspired by "Birds of Cimarron National Grassland," by **Ted Cable** and **Scott Seltman**, Pete set out to not only document the 379 bird species of Sedgwick County, but to research the natural history of the area and the legion of birders who kept sight records and field notes. His sources ranged from academic papers housed in the Wichita State University Libraries Department of Special Collections to the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas.

Each species account gives dates of occurrence, and when applicable, significant historical notes and information on breeding status is provided. This work also presents an interesting snapshot of the times of settlement, and the ways in which species have

adapted or failed to adapt as the county has become largely developed.

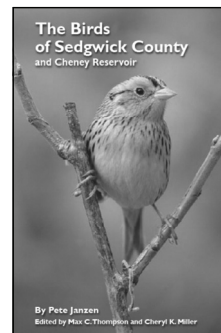
Pete would be the first to say he didn't do this on his own. In fact, he names more than 15 people in his acknowledgements. In particular, he thanks the birders who shared their sight records,

whether it be through giving him copies of their field notes or posting to the KSBIRD-L listserv. However, all kudos belong to Pete for tying the information together and making it accessible. All level of birders will find something of value

and interest in this book.

Proceeds from book sales will be returned to the KOS book royalty fund, which financed its publication. To order a copy, turn to page 4 .

—CKM



President's message, *continued*

regular basis. He also handles all sales for KOS. **Cheryl Miller** spends hours getting the *Horned Lark* out on a regular basis. **Cal Cink** has a big job in trying to insure that the *Bulletin* has publishable papers, and also in putting together the March issue of Christmas Bird Counts. **Dan Larson** spends a lot of time just making sure we have money when we need to pay bills.

I don't want you to think that the other officers have minor jobs. Each and every job on the board is important for the functioning of KOS.

So, if you are asked next fall by the nominating committee to serve as an officer or board member, please step up to the bar and say "Yes, I will be glad to serve." You might also be asked by a committee member to serve in some capacity because you have an expertise that the committee needs to function.

Get involved in *our* society!

Max C. Thompson

Kansas Ornithological Society Balance Sheet

12/31/2006

Assets

Fund	118117.77
Certificate of Deposit	6571.30
Checking	131.98
Business Manager	200.00
Sub Total	125021.05
Dingus Land	56000.00
Total	181021.05

Liabilities and Fund Balances

General Fund	558.59
Business Manager Advance	200.00
Endowments	67653.24
Life Membership Account	22172.00
Book Royalty Fund	19831.49
Dingus Natural Area Fund	7967.58
Dingus Natural Area Land	56000.00
Student Research Fund	6638.15
Total	181021.05

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•**Editor** *KOS Bulletin*, Gene Young, Northern Oklahoma College, 1220 E. Grand Ave., Tonkawa, OK 74653-0310; eugene.young@north-ok.edu, youngg6264@yahoo.com

•**Editor** *The Horned Lark*, Cheryl K. Miller, avian67226@gmail.com

•**Past-President** Gene Young, Northern Oklahoma College, 1220 E. Grand Ave., Tonkawa, OK 74653-0310; eugene.young@north-ok.edu, youngg6264@yahoo.com

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Remembering and honoring Henry Pelzl

By Pete Janzen

Long-time Kansas

Ornithological Society member **Henry Pelzl** was killed in a car accident near Harper on December 5, 2006. He was on his way to meet **Max Thompson** to give him part of his extensive bird egg collection for donation to the University of Kansas Natural History Museum. He was 63 years old.

Henry was raised in Pratt and Harper counties, and earned a bachelor's degree from St. Louis University and a master's degree from Washington University. During his career he collected egg specimens in Belize and elsewhere in Central America. He had one book published, a preliminary report of the birds of the British Honduras Keys. The only known surviving copy is housed at the library at the American Museum of Natural History. Henry is also cited as a source in a number of ornithological books and in *The Auk*.

Henry's interest in birds and oology (eggs) dated to his early youth. At age ten, he and his brother were reprimanded by a state wildlife officer for collecting eggs without a permit, and he still felt guilty about that incident at age sixty.

I first met Henry during the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas and found him to be one of the most eccentric, unique birders I have ever had the pleasure of knowing—and that's saying something. He rarely used binoculars in the field, preferring

instead to study nests and eggs by crawling into thickets, up trees, and up steep river banks to investigate nest holes. His knowledge of nests and eggs was incredible (probably unmatched by anyone in Kansas). In fact, he had been a curator of the oological collection at the AMNH for some years before returning to Harper to care for his mother until her death.

I think Henry set a record during KBBAT for the most hours of field work in the 10 square-mile blocks, with more than 250 hours in one, and "only" 180 in another. I had to practically pry the data from him at the end of year six, at the very last possible minute. It was accompanied by extensive unsolicited supplemental notes which were fascinating to read.

Sometimes Henry would call me unexpectedly and we would talk for over an hour. The topic of discussion was very much a moving target, covering anything from the proper technique for blowing out eggs, to the composition of Least Bittern nests, to his theory that Lark Sparrows should be in the same genus with Old World buntings.

The last time I birded with Henry was during a Wichita Audubon field trip to Slate Creek Wetlands a few years ago. Despite his long career in the field, he had never seen Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows and wanted to see one alive and up close. I guess I walked the group way too much, because by the time we got to the old "sweet spot," most everyone

decided that sprawling on the observation tower and yakking away was more fun than hiking to "the place." Only **Kevin Groeneweg** and I, along with Henry, took the hike to the cordgrass stands. Kevin and I got absolutely killer looks at the Nelson's, and yelled at Henry to get over to us. He came running up, spry as a little kid, with an excited gleam in his eye, and was really delighted to see them so well.

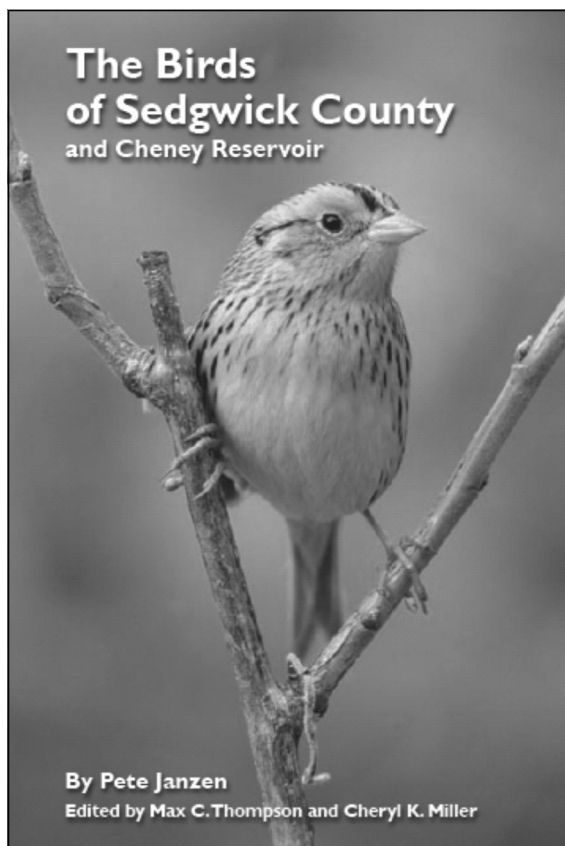
This past June was the last time I saw Henry, during the Walk With Wildlife at Chisholm Creek Park in Wichita. I had a morning shift at the owl station, and he relieved me for the afternoon. Just as I was leaving, a group of young children came along, and he was explaining to one of them why an owl's flight was silent. He looked so happy to be sharing what he knew with an interested kid. It could be described as a kind of Mister Rogers moment, although I think his detailed explanation of barbule structure might have gone a bit over the kid's head. In so many ways he was a perfect stereotype of the absent-minded professor.

I liked Henry a lot. He didn't have many friends and I know he led a very lonely life. He had lots of dreams which exceeded any vestige of reality, and you always knew they would never come true. However, it was always so charming to feel his utterly disarming belief in them. The last time I got one of his refreshingly serendipitous phone calls, he was

(continued page 4)



The Birds of Sedgwick County and Cheney Reservoir



"Pete Janzen's field experience with Sedgwick County birds is truly phenomenal, and this superb book gives us all the benefit of his exhaustive knowledge. The detailed information on the status and history of every species will make the book valuable far beyond the borders of Kansas, and will give it lasting value as a benchmark for future work on bird distribution."

—Kenn Kaufman

Kansas residents, please send \$12.70 for each book; out-of-state residents, please send \$11.85 per book. These prices include shipping, handling and sales tax. Send your check, payable to KOS, to Pete Janzen, 3137 Mascot, Wichita, KS 67204.

Please send me _____ copies of "The Birds of Sedgwick County and Cheney Reservoir." I have enclosed a check for _____.

Name

Address

Pelzi, *continued*

planning his latest dream: to build a children's natural history museum in Viola. Because of his schedule, it would only open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons or something like that. He just had to find that grant money.

Henry had a brilliant mind and could have had a brilliant career, but instead spent the last fifteen years of his life in relative isolation in Harper County, unknown and unsung. He was an eccentric in the true British sense of the word, focused on just a handful of topics and oblivious to almost everything else.

Not many KOS members knew Henry, but I will really miss him. He died a lonely death on a remote rural highway, and no service was held to mark his passing. I'll always think of him when I am birding in Harper County and the Red Hills. I hope that his priceless collection of specimens, journals and field notes will not be thoughtlessly discarded. I think he foresaw his own demise, as he was quite urgent about getting it all to KU, especially during the last few months of his life.

I honor his memory and feel

a very deep sadness about his death. To quote the old warhorse Winston Churchill, "with his passing, a bright light has been extinguished."

Nice knowing you, Henry. It really was.

Gregg Friesen and Scott Seltman also contributed to this article.

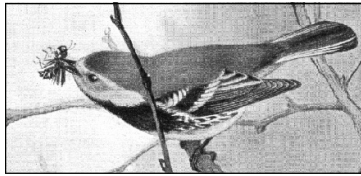


KOS spring meeting, May 4-6, 2007

Sabetha, Brown County

The KOS spring meeting will be held in the glaciated region of northeast Kansas, with Sabetha serving as home base. Glaciers covered this area during the Pleistocene Epoch, between 1.6 million and 10 thousand years ago. In some places, this ice sheet was 500 feet thick. As glaciers advanced, they pulverized rocks and sediments in their path. As they melted, this pulverized rock (silt) was deposited on the floodplains by streams coming from the melting ice sheet. Downwind deposits of dried soil developed the deep loess hills of northeastern Kansas, especially in Brown and Doniphan counties and along the bluffs of the Missouri River as far south as Kansas City.

Bluff forest, agricultural fields and pasture dominate the landscape spotted by small lakes. There may be opportunities to access the Missouri River in Doniphan County in extreme northeast Kansas. Target species include warblers, since spring migration will be in full force.



Schedule of Events

Friday, May 4

6:00 p.m.—Informal reception at Sycamore Springs Campground. Listen for owls and nightjars after dark. <http://www.ssresort.com/>

8:00 p.m.—Board meeting.

Saturday, May 5

6:30 a.m.—Leave for all-day field trips.

6:30 p.m.—Evening banquet and fellowship at the Sycamore Springs Club House in Sabetha.

Sunday, May 6

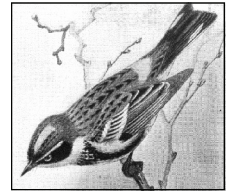
6:30 a.m. — Half-day field trips depart.

Noon—Compilation. Meet at the Sycamore Springs Campground for a catered lunch.

Field Trips: Opportunities are still being explored. Possibilities include trips in Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska:

- Brown State Fishing Lake

- Mission Lake
- Pony Creek Lake
- Nemaha Wildlife Area
- Nemaha County State Park
- Missouri River/Bluff Forest
- Squaw Creek NWR (Missouri), www.fws.gov/midwest/squawcreek/
- Indian Cave State Park (Nebraska), www.ngpc.state.ne.us/parks/guides/parksearch/showpark.asp?Area_No=91



Lodging: There are few lodging options in Sabetha. Please make reservations early.

- Sabetha Country Inn, (785) 284-3377
- Koch Motel, (785) 284-2145
- Sycamore Springs: campgrounds, primitive cabins and hotel rooms, (785) 284-3088, www.ssresort.com.
- Country Gardens Inc B & B, (785) 284-3119 *limited availability*
- Mulberry Creek: campground and cabins, (888) 459-1595

Dining: This is the complete list of restaurants in Sabetha:

- Gus' Grill, (785) 284-2555
- Buzz Café and Oxen House, (785) 284-3177
- Dick's Steak and Smoke House, (785) 284-0555
- Dairy Queen, (785) 284-2049
- Pizza Hut, (785) 284-2117
- Subway Sandwiches, (785) 284-0333

Registration: Please mail registrations no later than April 20, and include full payment for registration and catered meals. See page 20 for the registration form. Meal prices include beverages, dessert and gratuity. *Cancellations may be made with a full refund until April 20.*

Other than the Saturday banquet and Sunday lunch, participants are responsible for meals and snacks. All participants must sign the liability release on the registration form in order to participate in any portion of this meeting.



Rare birds are where you find them, sort of

By Galen Pittman

It pays to be prepared for zooties (aka rare birds). Even though luck can play a big part, you have to be able to recognize that a zootie has found its way into your world. And in that regard there is really no good substitute for experience and the study of field guides to first recognize the bird, and second, to determine just how far out of range the bird is.

Twenty plus years ago I often heard some birders say that the birds didn't read the field guides and therefore it was okay to ignore range maps whenever it suited their need to identify a rare bird in spite of the likelihood it shouldn't be where they found it. Today the best birders would tend to trust those range maps to a much greater degree. Current range maps are good enough that almost anything that is substantially out of range should throw up a red flag. And that should be a signal for birders to be more careful and work a little harder to verify the unlikely ID.

Recognizing rare birds can often just be a matter of "looking at a bird" with something other than your naked eye. I often scan large flocks of birds—like shorebirds on a mud flat, or gulls on the ice, or a raft of waterfowl on a lake—in the hopes of spotting the one that is different. This sort of searching for zooties is calculated and can be time consuming. However, when one does find a real zootie in this way it helps to justify the effort and lessen the sense of "wasting"

birding time.

Now, if you find a really good bird and you weren't actually looking for it and it was just a matter of blind luck, then consider yourself blessed by the birding gods. And if your bird is located in such a place that many other birders get to see it and it actually stays put for a while—then how lucky can you get?

This all brings me to the White-tailed Kite that showed up at the Nelson Environmental Study Area in Jefferson County from 11 to 23 September last fall. The area where this bird spent most of its time is not a place I would normally check for birds during my duties and activities at NESAs. It was truly fortunate that the main perching and hunting area the bird chose was readily viewable from a public road that didn't require any special access. For this bird to have stayed so long during fall migration and be generally that easy to see virtually every day from a public road is indeed fantastic luck!

I estimate that 100 or more birders got to see the bird, and most of them got to add the bird to their Kansas life list or their ABA life list. I first saw a White-tailed Kite many years ago in south Texas. I saw one for the first time in Kansas in 1989 and in California in 2003. However, I did get to add a new bird to my Jefferson County list and to my 2006 Kansas year list. (And don't think I didn't follow the bird around on a couple of occasions to see if it would fly into either Leavenworth County—just a few

hundred yards to the east—or into Douglas county which is only about one-half mile to the south. Alas, I saw the bird only in Jefferson County.)

The really remarkable thing was how I just happened to find the bird as I was driving back to my office late in the afternoon on the 11th. I saw a fairly large white bird flying over some of the research ponds just a few hundred yards from my office. I first thought it was a migrant gull so I put my binos on it (which I virtually always have with me and *never* in the case). About the time I had it in view it started to hover in mid-air and I knew I was on to something good. After I watched it hunting over the ponds for perhaps a minute or two and had made a positive ID, I decided that I had better dash to my office and get a camera so I could document it. When I returned in just a few minutes I couldn't locate it! However, it had been gradually working its way to the

(continued on page 7)

Galen's truisms:

1. Doing bird identification homework always pays off.
2. The further away from its normal range you find your zootie, the better it tends to be.
3. Sometimes it's just luck when it comes to rare bird sightings.



White-tailed Kite, Jefferson County

Right: The White-tailed Kite at NESAs raises its wings for takeoff as a Cooper's Hawk approaches.

Below: The kite frequently perched in this tree. For more photos, go to <http://staff.jccc.edu/dseibel/birds/WTKI.htm>.



Rare birds, *continued*

north when I left to get the camera. So I drove a few hundred yards north and hoped that it had not just moved on. To my great elation I spotted it sitting in a small dead tree that would prove to be one of its favorite perches near the NESAs weather station.

I managed to get a few more photos and then it flew to another perch that it also favored during its stay. I took a few more photos and was confident that I had at

least one decent shot that I could use for Kansas Birds Record Committee documentation. Then the bird flew out of sight to the west. This behavior of leaving the daytime hunting area in the late afternoon and flying to the west to roost for the night was repeated every day to my knowledge. Yet this bird returned to hunt (and was seen repeatedly to successfully feed) in and around the core of the NESAs property for the next 13

days. This would be only the third "documented" sighting for Kansas and indeed one of the most cooperative and easy to see Kansas zooties to come along in awhile.



Meet a Kansas birder: Henry Armknecht

By Jon Strong

At the top of the Kansas County List for birding sits **Henry Armknecht** with 11,268 species observed in 105 counties. Henry rocketed to the top of the standings in June 2005 by recording 75 or more species in the remaining few Kansas counties he had not yet listed in. (To participate in the listing compiled by **Lisa Edwards**, birders must have 75 or more species sighted in a county to be named on that particular county list. Numbers from all counties with more than 75 sightings go toward the total list amount.)

A native Kansan, Henry was born in St. Francis and grew up on a farm in southwest Cheyenne County near the Kansas-Colorado border. The birds he most remembers as a youngster on the farm are Barn Swallows and Western Kingbirds.

When asked about his start in birding, Henry said, "My first experience with birders was at a Manhattan Christmas Bird Count in 1977 or 1978. My next exposure was with **Chuck Otte** at a teacher in-service in

Marysville probably 10 or so years ago."

Henry didn't start recording bird observations until 2001.

"The hummingbird irruption in the fall of 2002 was the inspiration for finally getting busy doing more careful observations to try to ID those crazy little green things," he said. "I enjoyed the challenge and was hooked."

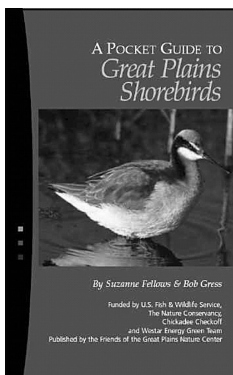
He cites Chuck, **Scott Seltman** and **Mike Rader** as some of his biggest influences. "Chuck got me thinking about birding, but my real introduction was doing CBCs with Scott and Mike," Henry said. "The next step was attending KOS events and meeting other birders. There are so many great birders in Kansas who also happen to be great people. It is always a pleasure to bird or correspond with Kansas birders and I try to learn from all of them."

Henry has had many great bird sightings. One of his favorites encounters was with an aggressive Wild Turkey. He said, "the turkey attacked me, attacked my car, then flew up on the hood and left a "deposit" as

he stared at me through the windshield. He didn't even fly off immediately when I started the car and began backing up."

Henry's favorite group sighting was the videotaped Western Screech-Owl in Morton County several years ago. "It was fun to witness a group of birders getting the documentation that had eluded them for several years," he said. His favorite rarity sighting is the Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch he spotted in Greeley County in October 2006. That was the first record for the species in Kansas. Henry's Kansas life list total currently stands at 346 species.

Henry has a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Kansas State University and a master's degree in educational administration from Fort Hays State University. He is the K-12 Principal at Platte Valley Schools in Ovid, Colo. He and his wife, Debby, have two adult children.



Pocket Guide features Great Plains shorebirds

"A Pocket Guide to Great Plains Shorebirds," by **Bob Gress** and **Suzanne Fellows**, provides species accounts for 38 of the most visible and common shorebirds known on the Great Plains.

Free copies of the booklet are available at the Great Plains Nature Center. They also may be mailed at a cost of \$2.00 each,

which includes postage. Make checks payable to Friends of the GPNC and mail to:

Pocket Guides
Great Plains Nature Center
6232 E. 29th Street N.
Wichita, KS 67220



Kansas fall season roundup

August 1 – November 30, 2006

Mark Corder, compiler

Topping the list this roundup period is a potential first state record. A Gray-crowned Rosy-finch was seen by a single observer in rural Greeley County on October 20. Unfortunately, the bird could not be relocated the following day and was not seen again. A report has been submitted to the Kansas Bird Records Committee, but no verdict has been rendered as of this writing.

In contrast with this sighting was a much more cooperative White-tailed Kite—a species recorded only three times previously and not seen in the state since 2001. This breathtaking, red-eyed raptor provided excellent views for multiple observers for twelve days in September at the Nelson Environmental Study Area north of Lawrence.

Another species with fewer than ten state records was a Lesser Nighthawk reported from Morton County in September. Eleven different Calliope Hummingbirds frequented mostly western residential feeders in August and September, upstaging the more-likely Rufous Hummingbird, which was represented by only eight records during approximately the same time period.

Hammond's and Cordilleran Flycatchers, both with fewer than ten state records, also appeared in Morton County.

Another Hammond's Flycatcher was photographed in Wichita County and documentation of this find was submitted to the KBRC. Morton County also hosted two Violet-green Swallows seen among the more numerous Tree Swallows at the sewer ponds in Elkhart in late September.

Another very cooperative rarity was a Red-throated Loon found at Heritage Park in Johnson County. It was photographed frequently and stayed around for nearly a week in late November before cold weather apparently caused its departure.

A Lesser Black-backed Gull was observed in Sedgwick County on November 1. Also found in November was a well-documented Black-legged Kittiwake seen for nearly three weeks below John Redmond dam in Coffey County. A California Gull was recorded in mid-November at Cheney Reservoir. A juvenile Little Gull had put in a one day appearance there for several lucky birders at the end of October.

Several late shorebird reports continued into the winter months, including a Greater Yellowlegs, two Least Sandpipers, two Dunlin, and seven Wilson's Snipe. All were reported in late November.

Shawnee Mission Park in Johnson County served as a magnet for unusual sparrows in



October when Nelson Sharp-tailed and LeConte's Sparrows were observed closely in early October. An estimated 15 Smith's Longspurs were seen later in the month.

Finally, a most encouraging note is the number of observers whose reports to the KSBIRD-L listserv made it into this roundup. Nearly 75 individuals are recognized in the summary. A sincere thank you goes out to everyone who took the time to submit their sightings.

You may reach **Mark Corder** at buddesystem@msn.com



Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
<u>Blk-bd Whslg-Dk</u>	2 Lake Olathe	<u>Johnson</u>	08/23	BW
Tundra Swan	<u>10</u> QNWR	Stafford	11/04-25	RW, M:obs
<u>Mottled Duck</u>	1 QNWR	Stafford	08/20	ML, MG, AM, WCT
Canvasback	200 QNWR	Stafford	10/28	SS, DB
Greater Scaup	2 Cottonwood Falls sewer ponds 2 Heritage Park, Olathe	Chase Johnson	11/25 11/26	RS DSe
Surf Scoter	1 Baxter Springs sewer ponds	Cherokee	11/07	DH
Black Scoter	1 F, LaFarge Sandpit	Sedgwick	11/05	PJ
Long-tailed Duck	1 Belle Plaine sewer ponds 1 LaFarge Sandpit 1 Melvern Lake	Sumner Sedgwick Osage	11/05 11/05 11/11	LHi PJ MG, BAS
Barrow's Goldeneye	1 Sedgwick County Park	Sedgwick	11/11-27	PG, M:obs
Grtr Prairie Chicken	17 on lek, Konza Prairie	Riley	10/28	DR, JN
<u>White Ibis</u>	1 fish farm in N Lawrence	Douglas	08/01-05	MT, MRo
<u>Glossy Ibis</u>	1 QNWR	Stafford	08/20	ML, MG, AM, WCT
<u>Black Vulture</u>	3 Riverton	Cherokee	10/25	DH
<u>Red-thrtd Loon</u> <D>	1 Heritage Park, Olathe	Johnson	11/20-26	DF, M:obs
Pacific Loon	2 Cheney Res 1 Winfield City Lake	Kingman Cowley	11/12 11/24	D&FV MT
Common Loon	30 Clinton and Perry Lakes	Dgls and Jffrsn	11/05	ML, MG, AM
Western Grebe	1 Perry Lake 13 Cheney Res	Jefferson Reno	11/05 11/11	ML, MG, AM MG, PM
Neotropic Cormorant	1 adult CB 1 John Redmond Res	Barton Coffey	08/26 09/19	SS MG
<u>White-tld Kite</u> <D>	1 NESAs	Jefferson	09/11-22	GP, M:obs
Mississippi Kite	1 in NE Shawnee <u>40</u> over Ulysses <u>26</u> over Salina l	<u>Johnson</u> Grant Saline	10/08 08/24 08/23	MG KH RH
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	1 CNG work station	Morton	09/30	TC
Red-shldrd Hawk	1 along Clark's Creek 2 Winfield City Lake	Morris Cowley	10/01 10/11	GH MT



Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Red-shldrd Hawk	1 juv in NW Wichita	Sedgwick	10/14	KG, PJ
	1 near rural res	Leavenworth	08/19	DW
	5 Slate Creek. Wetlands	Sumner	08/26	MT, WB
	1 over FHSU campus	Ellis	09/03	GFa
Broad-winged Hawk	5 Elkhart shelter belt	Morton	09/29	TC
	5 shelter belt, cemetery, work station	Morton	09/30	TC
	1 Elkhart sewer ponds, shelter belt	Morton	09/20-22	SP, CH, MT
Swainson's Hawk	<u>135+</u> hay field SE of Salina	Saline	10/01	JP
	<u>200-250</u> N of Belle Plaine	Sumner	10/04	TR
Ferruginous Hawk	12 prairie dog town	Grant	10/01	KH
Golden Eagle	1 imm Konza Prairie	Riley	10/28	DR, JN
Merlin	1 farm	Harvey	10/15	CM
	1 Garden City	Finney	10/15	SSh
	1 fly over rural res	Butler	10/17	BB
	1 Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	10/25	ML
	1 flyby, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	10/30	ML
	1 Greenwood Cemetery, Newton	Harvey	11/21	GF
Prairie Falcon	1 near Ulysses	Grant	10/01	KH
	1 SE Harvey County	Harvey	11/04	RW
Black Rail	1 flushed from roadside QNWR	Stafford	08/14	NL, JL
King Rail	1 Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	08/06	MT, GY
Virginia Rail	2 Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	08/06	MT, GY
Sora	<u>8</u> Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	08/06	MT, GY
Common Moorhen	15 Slate Creek Wetlands	Sumner	08/06	MT, GY
Whooping Crane	4 Wilson Lake	Russell	11/03	fide CO
	4-5 QNWR	Stafford	11/04	RW
	4 CB	Barton	11/11	LP
Black-bellied Plover	6 QNWR	Stafford	10/28	SS, DB
Am. Golden Plover	<u>140+</u> Big Salt Marsh, QNWR	Stafford	10/28	SS, DB
Piping Plover	2 Wakefield Mudflats, Milford Lake	Clay	08/06	CO
Mountain Plover	<u>300+</u> in pasture NW of Ulysses	Grant	10/01	KH
Greater Yellowlegs	1 Lake Kahola	Chase	<u>11/25</u>	RS
Long-billed Curlew	4 CB	Barton	08/20	ML, MG, AM, WCT
	1 CB	Barton	08/29	HH

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Least Sandpiper	2 Lake Kahola	Chase	11/25	RS
Dunlin	2 John Redmond Res	Coffey	11/19	ML
Buff-brstd Sandpiper	1 CB 1 QNWR	Barton Stafford	08/29 09/16	HH KG
Wilson's Snipe	5 John Redmond Res 2 Lake Kahola	Coffey Chase	11/19 11/25	ML RS
Red-nckd Phalarope	1 St. Francis sewer ponds	Cheyenne	09/02	PJ, et al
Parasitic Jaeger	1 Tuttle Creek Lake	Riley	10/30	TC
<u>Little Gull</u> <D>	1 juv Cheney Res	Reno	10/28	PJ, WAS
California Gull	1 Cheney Res	Kingman	11/12	D&FV
Lssr Blck-bckd Gull	1 1 st winter, LaFarge Sandpit	Sedgwick	11/01	PJ
Sabine's Gull	2 imm Elkhart sewer ponds 2 different imm, Elkhart 2 imm QNWR	Morton Morton Stafford	09/20-21 09/22 09/24	SP, CH, MT SP, CH, MT SS, SP, CH
Blck-lggd Kttwk <D>	1 John Redmond Res	Coffey	11/11-29	MG, BAS
Eurasian Cllrd-Dove	<u>132</u> milo pile, Scott City 1 near res (county 1 st) 2 Bonner Springs	Scott <u>Leavenworth</u> Wyandotte	11/05 09/09 09/17	T&SSh JSc CH
White-winged Dove	<u>116</u> feeders, Garden City res 2 res in Wilson 1 5 mi S of Concordia 1 Elkhart	Finney Ellsworth Cloud Morton	10/14 08/15 09/15 09/22	T&SSh JG BS SP, CH, MT
Inca Dove	2 res in Elkhart	Morton	10/21	SP, SS, TC
Greater Roadrunner	2 Cheney Lake 1 between Wilson and Blackwolf	Kingman Ellsworth	11/19 08/ ?	CS TT
Burrowing Owl	9 prairie dog town NW Ulysses 23 SW Pierceville dog town	Grant Finney	10/01 09/17	KH T&SSh
Long-eared Owl	3 Lyon County State Lake	Lyon	11/11	MG, BAS
<u>Lesser Nighthawk</u>	1 E of K-27 bridge on Cimarron Riv	Morton	09/21	CH, SP
Common Nighthawk	<u>400</u> in migration, Wichita	Sedgwick	08/22	CM
Rby-thrtd Hmngbrd	3 res Larned 1 res Garden City 1 res Hays	Pawnee Finney Ellis	08/07 <u>10/06-11</u> 10/08	DK T&SSh TM



Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Rby-thrtd Hmngbrd	1 res Wilson	Ellsworth	10/11	MR
Calliope Hmngbrd	1 res Larned	Pawnee	08/07	DK
	1 adult M, Wichita res	Sedgwick	08/09	PJ
	1 F, res Ulysses	Grant	08/29	KH
	2 Shane res Garden City	Finney	09/01	T&SSh
	3 Osterbuhr res Garden City	Finney	08/31	MO
	1 Shane res Garden City	Finney	09/12	T&SSh
	1 F, Oak Park, Wichita	Sedgwick	09/12	PG
	1 Kazmaier res Larned	Pawnee	09/24	DK, SS
Brd-tld Hmngbrd	1 M, heard, Garden City zoo	Finney	08/13	DS, SSI
	1 Kazmaier res in Larned	Pawnee	09/24	DK, SS
Rufous Hmngbrd	1 imm res Garden City	Finney	10/12-21	T&SSh
	1 F/imm type res	Pawnee	08/17	SS
	1 rural res NW of Lawrence	Douglas	08/25	KM
	2 Lakin	Kearny	08/26	TS, MRa
	1 imm M, Riverside, Wichita	Sedgwick	08/26	RM
	1 Shane res Garden City	Finney	09/01	T&SSh
	1 Kazmaier res Larned	Pawnee	09/24	DK,SS
	Rd-hdd Woodpecker	<u>75-100</u> flock Perry Lake	Jefferson	09/26
Rd-npd Sapsucker	1 pair CNG Middle Springs	Morton	09/30	TC
Wstrn Wood-pewee	1 (singing) Kuhrt Ranch	Sherman	09/02	PJ, et al
<u>Hmnd's Flyctchr</u> <D>	1 CNG Work Station	Morton	10/01	TC
	1 (photo)	Wichita	09/02	PJ, et al
<u>Dusky Flycatcher</u>	1 (singing) Kuhrt Ranch	Sherman	09/02	PJ, et al
<u>Cordilleran Flyctchr</u>	1 Turkey Trail, CNG	Morton	09/22	SP, CH, MT
	1 CNG work station	Morton	09/22	SP, CH, MT
Say's Phoebe	1 Tuttle Creek Res	Pottawatomie	09/13	DBu
<u>Vrmln Flyctchr</u> <D>	1 M, pasture	Washington	09/11-26	DT, WBu
<u>Myiarchus flyctchr</u>	1 CNG work station	Morton	<u>11/03</u>	JS
Cassin's Kingbird	2 Boy Scout Area & N part county	Morton	09/22	SP, CH, MT
Northern Shrike	1 Elkhart Cemetery	Morton	10/22	SS, SP, TC
Cassin's Vireo	1 CNG Middle Springs	Morton	10/01	TC
	1 Republican Riv 1/2 mi S NE line	Cheyenne	09/02	PJ, et al
Blue-headed Vireo	1 Pittsburg res	Crawford	<u>11/02</u>	LH
Fish Crow	2 El Dorado Lake	<u>Butler</u>	09/15	GY



Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Chihuahuan Raven	2 east of Copeland	Haskell	10/22	SS, TC
Purple Martin	<u>50,000</u> estimated roost Wichita	Sedgwick	08/09	KG
<u>Vlt-grn Swallow</u>	2 Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	09/22	SP, CH, MT
Rock Wren	1 Schwab res	Harvey	09/23	CS, BD, CM
Carolina Wren	1 Elkhart	<u>Morton</u>	09/22	SP, CH, MT
Sedge Wren	12 below dam Shawnee Mission Lake 5 Baker Wetlands	Johnson Douglas	10/05 10/29	ML BA
Marsh Wren	3 below dam Shawnee Mission Lake	Johnson	10/05	ML
Winter Wren	1 Manhattan res	Riley	11/22	DM
Mntn Bluebird	5 6mi NE Garden City 130 Morton County 5 QNWR 75+ Wilson State Park 30 NE Ottawa County	Finney Morton Stafford Russell Ottawa	10/17 10/21-22 10/28 11/18 11/24	T&SSh SP, SS, TC SS, DB MR C&JO
Twnsnd's Solitaire	2 Seltman farm NW Larned 2 Elkhart	Pawnee Morton	10/04 09/22	DS SP, CH, MT
Varied Thrush	2 Elkhart	Morton	10/21-22	SP, SS
Gldn-wngd Warbler	1 imm F, Mill Creek Park	Johnson	08/31	DSe
Townsend's Warbler	1 Turkey Trail, CNG	Morton	09/22	SP, CH, MT
Bay-brstd Warbler	1 Maple Grove Cemetery, Wichita	Sedgwick	09/09	PJ, KG
Western Tanager	1 Elkhart	Morton	09/22	SP, CH, MT
Green-tailed Towhee	1 N Fork Cimarron	Morton	09/22	SP, CH, MT
Brewer's Sparrow	1 St. Francis WMA	Cheyenne	09/02	PJ, et al
LeConte's Sparrow	12 below dam Shawnee Mission Lake	Johnson	10/05	ML
Nlsn's Shrp-tld Sp	1 Shawnee Mission Park 6 Kyle Marsh, Perry WA	Johnson Jefferson	10/04 10/07	ML DG
Smith's Longspur	several flocks over Konza Prairie 15 Shawnee Mission Park 60 pasture near Lyon Co. State Lake 99 extreme SE Chase County	Riley Johnson Lyon Chase	10/28 10/24 11/11 11/25	DR, JN ML MG, BAS RS
Bldk-hdd Grosbeak	1 Mill Creek Park	<u>Johnson</u>	11/20	ML



Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Purple Finch	1 Scott Lake 1 near res	Scott Leavenworth	11/05 11/12	T&SSh DW
Cassin's Finch	1 Boy Scout Camp CNG	Morton	10/22	SS
Gry-crnd Rsy Fnch <D>		Greeley	10/22	HA
<i>(1 White Woman Creek 2mi W of Greeley/Wichita Co. line perched on a concrete bridge over the creek)</i>				
Pine Siskin	3 rural res	Butler	10/30	BB

Key:

- Underlined dates, locations or comments indicates unusual, late or early sightings.
- Underlined species indicates unusual species.
- Underlined species in bold** indicates species with no records or fewer that 10 records for Kansas.
- <D> indicates documentation was submitted to KBRC (Kansas Bird Records Committee).

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (CB), Cimarron National Grassland (CNG), Fort Hays State University (FHSU), Nelson Environmental Study Area (NESA), Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR), female (F), male (M), immature (imm), juvenile (juv), Reservoir (Res), residence (res), M: ob (many observers); fide (reliable unofficial report).

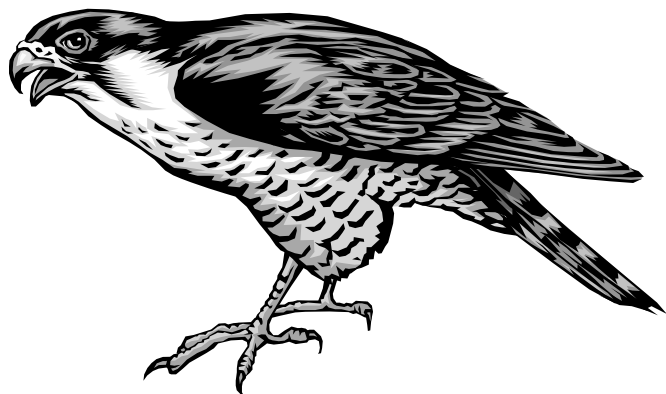
Observers: Bob Antonio, Henry Armknecht, Walter Boles, Bob Broyles, Dave Bryan, Doris Burnett (DBu), Burrough's Audubon Society (BAS), Warren Buss (WBu), Ted Cable, Bob Dester, Greg Farley (GFa),

Dave Fischer, Gregg Friesen, Jane Galliard, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Paul Griffin, Kevin Groeneweg, Gary Haden, Helen Hands, Kellye Hart, Dave Henness, Larry Herbert, Leon Hicks (LHi), Robert Highgate, Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Don Kazmaier, Mark Land, Jane Leo, Nancy Leo, Terry Mannell, Patty Marlett, Kathy McDowell, Rosa McHenry, Cheryl Miller, Aaron Mitchell, Dan Mulhern, Jackie Nooker, Chuck Otte, Chuck & Jaye Otte (C&JO), Marie Osterbuhr, Judd Patterson, Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Liz Peyser, Mike Rader, Mike Ramsey (MRa), Dave Rintoul,

Mark Robbins (MRo), Travis Ross, John Schukman (JSc), Carolyn Schwab, David Seibel (DSe), Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman, Steven Seltman (DSI), Sara Shane (SSh), Tom Shane, Tom & Sara Shane (T&SSh), Jim Shroyer, Ross Silcock, Bryan Sorensen, Tom Taggart, Will Chatfield-Taylor (WCT), Dan Thalmann, Max Thompson, Don & Fran Vannoy (D&FV), Bunnie Watkins (BWa), Rod Wedel, Wichita Audubon Society (WAS), Dave Williams, Brad Williamson, Gene Young.

Statement of non-profit status and copyright:

The Kansas Ornithological Society is a 501(c) 3 organization created for the study, conservation and enjoyment of wild birds. *The Horned Lark* is the membership newsletter of the society and all material contained herein is copyrighted.





Kansas Ornithological Society 2007 Avian Conservationist of the Year Nomination Form

The Kansas Ornithological Society's Avian Conservationist of the Year Award is given to an individual who makes significant contributions to bird conservation and/or education. Nominations should be made for outstanding work in bird conservation through the management or preservation of habitats, education, or research. A nominee may be any professional, volunteer, educator, or other person who has accomplished significant contributions in any of the areas listed. The nominee does not have to be a member of KOS, but the nominator must be a current member of KOS. The accomplishments should reflect a long-time commitment to bird conservation and/or education within the state of Kansas. This award will be presented at the annual fall KOS meeting.

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JULY 1. Send this completed form and attachments to Robert L. Penner, 1490 East Highway 56, Ellinwood, KS 67526 or rpenner@tnc.org.

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Nominator: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Attach a typed description of no more than two pages. You may use both sides of the paper. Give a detailed account of specific work the nominee has accomplished. Past and current achievements, organization membership, or any other information the nominator feels pertinent will be considered.



Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition Award

KOS founding member **Ivan Boyd** was the first president of our organization and the first editor of the *Bulletin*. A professor at Baker University, he was active in KOS from 1949 until his death in 1982.

In honor of Dr. Boyd, the Kansas Ornithological Society recognizes one of its members for outstanding contributions and service to the Society. The Board may choose to recognize more than one recipient per year, or may choose not to name a recipient in a given year. Winners receive a plaque.

KOS members must nominate individuals for the award. Nominations should be submitted to the President and include a list of the nominee's contributions to KOS. This

could entail number of years of offices held, committee involvement, papers presented at KOS, papers published in the *Bulletin* or *Horned Lark*, number of CBCs compiled, and years of membership. This is not an exclusive list and other contributions to the Society may be provided. Current KOS Board members are not eligible to receive this award.

Previous Recipients:

2005	Dwight Platt
2004	Katharine E. Kelly
2003	Charles A. Ely, Marvin D. Schwilling, and Max C. Thompson

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1. Please send nominations by August 1 to Max Thompson, 1729 E. 11th Ave., Winfield, KS 67156; maxt@cox.net.

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Nominator: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Attach a typed description of no more than two pages. Give specific examples of contributions to KOS the nominee has made.

Shorthand typing: another way to keep bird records

By Lisa Weeks

Are you tired of typing in a lengthy list of birds seen when reporting your sightings to the listserv? Do you remember if and where a hyphen is located in those three and four part bird names? Save yourself time by learning how to type "shorthand". Here is an example with step by step instructions.

Let's say you are writing an article about the Northern Saw-whet Owl. Let's also say that you want the species name to appear in italics in the article. You can save precious keystrokes by setting up an entry in the Auto Correct feature in Microsoft Word.

1. Open a Microsoft Word document.
2. Type the longhand version into the blank document. It should appear like this:
Northern Saw-whet Owl

1. Modify the version with any special punctuation, italics, bolding, font size, style and color that you want. Now it looks like this:

Northern Saw-whet Owl

1. Highlight the text.
2. Click **Tools | Auto Correct Options**.

3. The **Auto Correct** Tab should appear with the text located in the **With** field.

4. Select the option **Formatted Text**.

5. Type the "shorthand" word or acronym you want to use in the **Replace** field. For this example you could use the four letter banding code nsw, the six letter banding code nswowl, or an entirely different code that makes sense to you, since you are the only one that will ever see it.

6. Click **Add | OK**.

Now any time you type "nsw" the program will automatically change it to *Northern Saw-whet Owl*. The Auto Correct feature will work in related Microsoft Programs such as Word, Power Point, and most Outlook fields.

Don't want the Auto Correct feature to "fix" your typing this time? Type the shorthand, let the Auto Correct feature change it, then type **Ctrl + Z** and it will "undo" what you just typed.

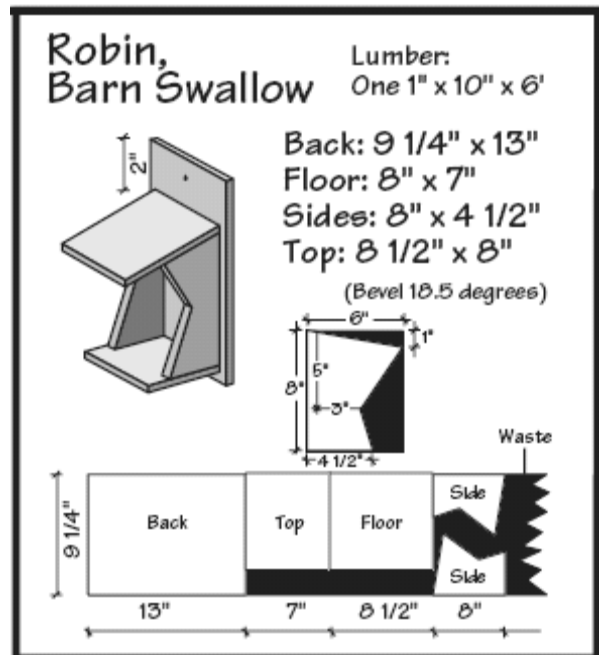
These instructions are written specifically for Word 2003. The steps needed for other versions may vary slightly.

AVIAN REAL ESTATE

Looking for a quick afternoon project?

To the right is a simple design plan for a nesting shelf likely to be used by American Robins and Barn Swallows.

For more ideas on bird houses, go to this KDWP Web page:
www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/other_services/wildlife_diversity/bird_houses.



Sellouts

By Tyler L. Hicks

Tap...tap...tap. The beaks of House Sparrows tap on the bottom of my windowsill feeder. I warm some tea in the microwave and load 15 pounds of books into my backpack. It is a chilly 2° F out this morning, but I am prepared with a barrage of layers to battle the cold as I jump on my bicycle. The ride to the campus takes about 10 minutes and generally lacks much bird life this time of year. However, there are always a few crows, magpies and doves to see along the way. I appreciate the company of these birds, but sometimes I wonder how they live with themselves. At what point in the evolutionary past did they give up the woods and wildlands that they once called home? The House Sparrow, despised primarily because it is introduced, must have packed up and moved to the city long ago for even its name bears witness to its desertion. Many birds familiar to us have done so including Purple Martins, House Finches, Rock Pigeons, and the list goes on.

Fourteen years ago when I started birding, I saw my first Eastern Phoebe. Like many birders who are encountering their first Eastern Phoebe, I was standing on a bridge. The Eastern Phoebe adapted quickly to the man-made structures built after the settlement of North America by Europeans. However, the Eastern Phoebe holds a special place in my heart as it is one of the first passerine migrants to return after the long winter in most areas of the eastern U.S. If you can hear phoebes, then spring isn't far behind. But I have to ask myself how I can adore a

bird who has given up the wildlands, its soul, the very thing I endeavor to preserve. How can I respect a bird that associates with us, and only us and our concrete and wooden structures? I have much greater admiration for species like Connecticut Warblers deep in their northern bogs or Boreal Owls high in their formidable mountain alpine forests. Like Geronimos of the bird world they are simply unwilling to give up and conform to our way of living. They are the sentinels of wilderness.

Early one summer I returned to the place where I had found my passion for birding. It is a small lake surrounded by limestone hills where prairie and oak forest battle wind and flame for control of the landscape. One morning while exploring a shady oak-lined stream, I discovered a small sink hole within the limestone where ferns and mosses flowed over the rocks in a stream of vivid green chlorophyll. There on a small overhang above the aquamarine pool sat an Eastern Phoebe incubating her eggs. I sat back against a 100-year old post oak and spent a few moments watching the male come and go with spiders and dragonflies in his beak. The forest here was alive with birds. Red-eyed Vireos sang incessantly from hills above. Summer Tanagers *spit-tukked* in the oaks and the liquid pure songs of Wood Thrushes shattered like glass in the forest. I can only imagine that this scene had played itself out for hundreds of years right in this very spot.

Like most of the phoebes, Thoreau left woods because he found life becoming too routine. Yet

I think the inherent beauty of nature is in its routine. Like a watch with a billion cogs and wheels, it predictably ticks and tocks. Each cog and wheel is a species, and other species depend on its timely turning. Hummingbirds returning from the tropics count on the wells sapsuckers drilled in aspens as sapsuckers depend on the rise of the spring sap. Only through some catastrophic event or human intervention do the cogs become out of sync. Yet nature has a remarkable repairman, evolution. Through natural selection the cogs and wheels are carefully realigned and the watch keeps ticking.

Yet in less than a million years since *Homo sapiens* struck out across the world we have removed more cogs and wheels than any other creature to walk the planet. Most scientists now agree we are amidst the sixth great extinction this planet has experienced. The sentinel cogs of the wild are ceasing to turn. Yet there are species that are adapting to the altered and beaten landscapes, and Eastern Phoebes are among them. I understand, as a biologist, why Eastern Phoebes utilize bridges, barns and buildings as nest sites. These sites are unparalleled in their difficulty to access by predators. The thumping of car tires, the roar of engines, the squeaking of brakes, and the numerous other artificial noises these "sellout" phoebes live with are a small price to pay for high reproductivity. However, sometimes when I find myself in the urban jungle and I am surrounded by the modern world, I think back to those phoebes in the oak woodlands. I envy them.

Registration form
2007 KOS spring meeting
May 4-6, 2007
Sabetha, Brown County

I (we) plan to attend the 2007 KOS spring meeting.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Registration Number ___ @ \$6.00 each \$ _____

Saturday dinner Number ___ @ \$11.00 each \$ _____

Sunday lunch Number ___ @ \$6.50 each \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

In submitting this registration I (we) understand that KOS is not responsible or liable for any accidents or injury that might be associated with the 2006 spring field meeting.

Signatures

Date



Please pre-register with full payment by **April 20**. Make checks payable to **Kansas Ornithological Society**. Mail your registration form and checks to **Lisa Weeks**, 8902 W 99th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66212. KOS is unable to accept payment by credit card.

Chickadee Checkoff: It's not West Nile Virus

As April 15 approaches, birders may be outlining for accountants their volunteer activities and charitable contributions that may qualify as deductions. This also is an opportunity to ask the preparer to mark the box "Chickadee Checkoff" and direct that part of any state refund goes to this Kansas Department of Wildlife

and Parks program.

Donations are matched with federal funds to support state wildlife grants for many projects protecting sensitive species. Chickadee Checkoff also:

- supplied major funding for the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas;
- supports the Kansas Winter Bird Feeder Survey; and
- supports recovery efforts for

threatened and endangered species.

Taxpayers who forgot to make a contribution to Chickadee Checkoff through their state return may write checks payable to KDWP, and mail them to **Ken Brunson**, KDWP Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, 512 SE 25th Avenue, Pratt, KS 67124.

