



The Horned Lark

Kansas Ornithological Society

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President's message

Author John Gray says women are from Venus and men are from Mars. Does it really matter? Is there a difference in sexes when it comes to birding? I never gave it much thought until about a year ago when someone I birded with told me if I wanted to get better at birding to never go with a group of women. When I asked why, he told me that women talked too much and missed many birds in the process. It got me wondering if we really are that much different in the field. I don't know; rarely have I been alone with a huge flock of men out birding. I have been in the situation of being out with a bunch of men and my friends and I being the scarcer sex, but seldom do you hear about a man being the rare bird in a covey of gals.

I guess the guys think they have all the fun. Do they not know that we carry special cards when we go out birding and when we

get lifers, we trade in that card for Dairy Queen ice cream, or share in a special two-step called the prairie-chicken dance? Can you see a bunch of men doing that jitter?

I have fun when out birding with friends; I am a social birder for sure. I bird for many reasons, but the main one is that it gets me outside: hiking, driving, traveling and looking for birds. I love sharing the enthusiasm of seeing a lifer whether it is mine or not. If it isn't, I get to relive my past lifer over again through another's eyes. I enjoy the time spent with friends whether we have a great birding day or not. When we have an awesome day, it is an added bonus.

I have asked my male birder friends whether their outings with the guys are pleasurable social gatherings, too. They all said absolutely. I have a feeling that
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From the field



Tom Flowers and Tom Shane count geese during the lunch break at Meade State Park on the Meade Winter Bird Count, January 10, 2009. Photo by Sara Shane.

President's message, *cont.*

when you get right down to it, both sexes bird for similar reasons. When I quizzed my female friends whether they thought there was any differences with birding styles, objectives and strategies between the sexes, I received many of the same observations. They said that men's objectives were pretty straightforward: to see as many species possible in as little time possible and the rarer the bird the better. (We women enjoy the same things when out birding, too.)

Ladies, let me give you a few words of advice when birding in mixed company. I am not an expert, but over the years I have been subjected to a few lopsided male-dominated field trips.

- Never take your eyes off the bird, especially if it is a rarity. Keep studying the field marks, behavior and movement. Announce its presence in a calm voice. When describing its location, use the clock method, noting its placement such as noon for the top of the tree, ten o'clock for the upper left hand side and so on.

- Never scream when a snake crosses the path in front of you. I once did that and the expert male birder who was busy looking at warblers screamed, too, and fell off the path!

- When on a crowded boardwalk like Point Pelee or Boy Scout Woods, never give up your rail position when someone yells "Kirtland's up there in the tree!" You will miss the bird because you can't see over someone who is 6'3". If you do lose your place,

yell "Kirtland's on this side" and sneak back to your original position.

The time has come for us women to throw away our grannies-with-sneakers stereotypes. We need to stand up for our rightful place in the male-dominated world of birding. We need to assert our deserved and requisite positions so that the ol' boys network doesn't rule the roost. After all, in some animal societies, the world is ruled by Amazons. Shorebird sexual dimorphism and polyandry (where the female chooses several mates and the males have all the chick rearing duties) exist for a reason, although the scientific community has not come up with any hypotheses they can agree upon.

Of course, Venusians and Martians are only stereotypes and can't really be pinned on any one person. I did want to end this somewhat tongue-in-cheek column by saying I love birding with all of you. To me it doesn't matter if you are an XX or an XY. But one thing is certain: it sure is easier to find a bathroom when you are with your own gender!

I hope to see many of you at the spring KOS meeting in Tipton. I promise you will have a great time thanks to Pete Janzen and our hosts at the Ringneck Ranch. I look forward to birding at a different place, seeing lots of cool birds during migration, and being with good friends!

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Spring KOS meeting: May 14-16, 2010

Tipton, Kansas

There was such a tremendous response with reservations for the spring KOS meeting that the event is sold out! We've planned a great weekend of birding May 14-16, with the Ringneck Ranch in Mitchell County serving as our home base. All who registered will receive an e-mail with specific room assignments, detailed field trip schedules and other pertinent information in mid-April.

Major birding destinations for the field trips will include Jamestown Wetlands, Lovewell Reservoir, Waconda Lake, Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge, Webster Reservoir, Wilson Reservoir and a number of other sites. The combination of habitats should ensure a diverse and lengthy list of bird species. Henry Armknecht, Pete Janzen, Mike Rader and Scott Seltman will serve as guides.

To get to Ringneck Ranch from I-70, take the Sylvan Grove

Exit (#209) and go north on K-181 through Sylvan Grove to Hunter. (On your way north be sure to check for good birds at the Sylvan Grove wastewater lagoons along the highway just south of

Sylvan Grove). At Hunter, go west on K-181 four miles. The road turns north; follow it four more miles. Make the "S" curve across the creek on K-181. At 3/4 mile, look for the Houghton Ranch and Ringneck Ranch signs. Turn east at the Houghton Ranch sign and continue one mile to Ringneck Ranch.

Those attending the KOS meeting may check in anytime after 4 p.m. at the Ranch House. An informal meet and greet including snacks and beverages



will take place there until at least 10 p.m. for those arriving later in the evening. Anyone needing to contact KOS should either call the ranch at (785) 373-4835 before 6 p.m. or Pete Janzen at (316) 519-1970 after 6 p.m. Any inquiries about the meeting prior to the event should be directed to Pete Janzen by e-mail: pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net. For more information about Ringneck Ranch, go to www.ringneckranch.net.



New bird in town

Ken and Lee Ann Brunson are hosts to Wiley, a Greater Roadrunner which has taken up residence in their backyard near Pratt. Here Wiley sits on a feeding station created by Pete Janzen. Photo by Ken Brunson.

A lesson learned

By Mike Rader

I received a call in mid-May 2009 from Ed Vickers, a teacher from Harper, concerning an injured bird that a student had brought in. Vickers allows his students to raise chicks and pigeons as part of their science studies, so he was the logical teacher to bring a bird. He told me that the bird appeared to be some kind of sandpiper with a broken wing, and it had a silver band on one leg and a yellow band on the other.

It's best to leave wildlife alone. However, I was willing to make exception with this injured banded shorebird because of the possibility of retrieving important migration movement on a particular species. This report sounded interesting, so I went to the school to both identify and pick up the bird.

I learned that Koby Stolsworth, the student who found it, observed the bird that morning on the walk to school. It was dragging the injured wing. He caught it and took it to Vickers. I identified the bird as a Semipalmated Sandpiper, a small shorebird species that migrates through Kansas annually. It is a small brown and white bird with partial webbing between its toes. The bird was active but still bleeding from its wound. I took the opportunity to speak to the class on the bird and its biology. I was frank with the students, letting them know that this bird would probably not survive. Blood loss, shock and the inability to give the bird what it needs to eat are common problems with keeping them alive. Sandpipers eat small invertebrates such as snails, midge and mosquito larvae, and other tiny prey, so keeping

one fed and alive is impossible. The bird probably flew into a power line, and it didn't survive.

The leg bands on this bird presented a great opportunity to give the class a perspective on what it may have experienced and where it had been. Scientific researchers capture, band and release birds with the hope of getting information back from sightings of banded individuals or recovery of bands from birds that did not survive. Recovered bands can be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the agency will send a certificate to the reporting individual, detailing information about the bird in question.

I have a friend who works with shorebird research in the USFWS office in Denver, so I dropped a note to her about this sandpiper. Knowing that school in Harper might be out by the time the information got back by regular means, she did me a favor and got the information fast-tracked by putting out the word to bird banders. The number and color combination let us know that this particular Semipalmated Sandpiper was banded as a chick in a nest of three at a site just outside Barrow, Alaska, in June of 2008. That's right, Barrow, Alaska! That's more than 3,000 miles from Harper.

Chances are, this bird was only halfway back on its spring trip to the Arctic. Semipalmateds leave the Alaskan breeding grounds in late summer, typically flying to British Columbia, Canada, along the Pacific coast, and cut across inland from there. They use marshes throughout the central U.S. to feed and replenish fat reserves, continuing to wintering

grounds from the West Indies to the coasts of northern and central South America. That trip can be as far as 6,000 miles from its birthplace in Alaska. That's a tremendous journey for a bird that is approximately 5-6 inches long and weighs less than 2 ounces. Some individuals of this species that breed in the eastern Arctic are thought to make a non-stop flight of 1,900-2,500 miles from New England, across the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean to Central America. Pretty amazing!

This bird probably flew all those miles from Alaska with other juvenile sandpipers, independent of any parental guidance. Adult sandpipers usually migrate first, with the young-of-the-year birds leaving later in the summer. The sandpiper would have survived its first winter in South America and was making its way back to the Arctic for the summer. There are numerous perils along the way: from animal and avian predators, bad weather, drought conditions, the potential of starving, and physical barriers such as highlines, cell phone and other towers and wind turbines.

I am sorry this bird did not survive — I do take heart in knowing that one student, a teacher, and his class were concerned enough to contact me. This little bird provided valuable scientific information to those who study shorebirds and helped students in Harper understand shorebird migration.

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the July/August 2009 issue of *Kansas Wildlife & Parks* magazine. It is reprinted with permission.

Kansas Fall Season Roundup

August 1 – November 30, 2010

Mark Corder, compiler

Whooping Cranes and swans at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Area were the focal points for birders in Kansas this past fall. Observers saw at least 27 Whooping Cranes at these critical habitats on a single day in November. Good numbers (perhaps greater than 25) of Tundra and Trumpeter Swans graced Quivira also in November. Many bird enthusiasts experienced the delight of getting to observe these large, nearly all white birds at fairly close range.

November was also a good month for loons. Scott Seltman had a Red-throated Loon in Mitchell County. Pete Janzen reported a Pacific Loon from Cheney Reservoir. Observers reported multiple Common Loons in eleven counties. Reports came in for Western Grebes from five locations during the period as well as three individual Clark's Grebes.

Great and Snowy egrets lingered into late November, as did Black-crowned Night-Herons. Seltman observed several of the lattermost species at Quivira on November 30.

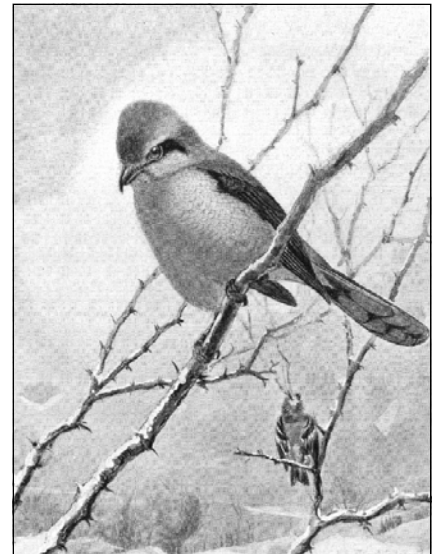
Perhaps one of the oddest sightings was a Black Vulture at John Redmond Reservoir in mid-November reported by Matt Gearheart and members of the Burroughs Audubon Society. Observers submitted a report to the records committee. Other raptor reports during the period include 95 Turkey Vultures in a kettle over Lawrence, 250 Mississippi Kites

over Garden City, increasing numbers of Bald Eagles and 12 Broad-winged Hawks in Scott City.

Becoming nearly an annual event was the appearance of a Yellow Rail at Baker Wetlands in mid-October. Steve Sorenson found approximately 300 Virginia Rails in Cloud County at the Jamestown Wildlife Area in September. Mike Andersen and Jon King tallied 187 American Golden Plovers at Cheyenne Bottoms in early October. This duo also counted 117 American Avocets at Quivira and 10 Red-necked Phalaropes at Cheyenne Bottoms. Reports of Buff-breasted Sandpipers came in from six counties.

Except for a lone California Gull, a few Sabine Gulls and several Laughing Gulls, the *Laridae* family did not make a very impressive showing. Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to expand their range with as many as 483 sitting and flying around the elevator in Scott City in early November. The Shanes reported a Costa's Hummingbird at their residence in October; a Calliope appeared at a residence for several weeks in the Louisburg area; and a late Rufous hung around for approximately one week in November at a Manhattan residence.

The Shanes located a female Williamson's Sapsucker in a Garden City cemetery, which was thereafter enjoyed by many



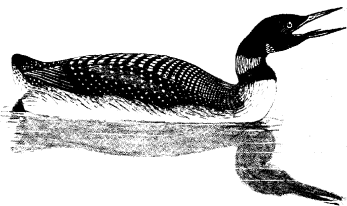
observers over the course of 19 days in October. Elkhart hosted a probable juvenile Black Phoebe in September. Observers submitted documentation to the records committee.


Loggerhead Shrikes appear to be continuing their decline in Kansas. Northern Shrikes are becoming more regular in the fall. Red-breasted Nuthatches were very hard to find this year. Good warblers reported, all singles, were Townsend's, Yellow-throated, Prairie and a very late Northern Waterthrush (November 30). And finally, awesome numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds (thousands), Brown-headed Cowbirds (10,000) and Purple Martins (20,000) were notable.


Thanks again to all of you who take the time to submit your reports of Kansas birds.

Mark Corder may be reached at buddesystem@msn.com.

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Trumpeter Swan	2, South Park Lake	Johnson	9/22	NN
	16, Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/7	CM,NL,CS
Tundra Swan	12, Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/7	GF
Swan sp.	<u>25</u> , Quivira NWR (9 Trumpeters)	Stafford	11/18	SS
<i>Flocks of varying sizes, probably of both species, at Quivira NWR all of November</i>				
Am. Black Duck	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/14	PJ,WAS
	1, Flint Hills Wildlife Area	Osage	11/14	MG,BAS
Mottled Duck	2, Winfield Gun Club	Cowley	8/4	GY
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	8/22-29	MR, SS
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	10/2	MA,JK
White-winged Scoter	1, Rooks State Lake	Rooks	10/31	PJ
Black Scoter	1 f., LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	10/25	PJ
	2 f., Cheney Reservoir	Kingman	11/21	PJ
Barrow's Goldeneye <D>	1 f., Wichita	Sedgwick	11/28	LL
Red-breasted Merganser	1 f., LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	11/7	PJ
	2, Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	11/14	PJ,WAS
	6, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	11/15-16	NA
	15, Wyandotte County Lake	Wyandotte	11/18	JB
	12, Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	11/21	PJ
	5, Winfield City Lake	Cowley	11/27	MT,GY
	3, Little Salt Marsh Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/29	BJ
Greater Prairie-Chicken	1, sitting atop a vehicle at mall	Sedgwick	10/18	PJ rep.
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	8, eastern public lek	Morton	9/12	SS
Red-throated Loon	1, Waconda Reservoir	Mitchell	11/1	SS
Pacific Loon	1, Cheney Reservoir	Reno	11/21	PJ
Common Loon	<u>20-25</u> , Waconda Reservoir	Mitchell	11/1	SS,PJ
	4, Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	11/9	DM
	1, Larned sandpit	Pawnee	11/11	SS
	5, Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	11/14	PJ,WAS
	5, Winfield City Lake	Cowley	11/14	MT
	2, Melvern Reservoir	Coffey	11/14	MG,BAS
	1, Lyon County Lake	Lyon	11/14	MG,BAS
	1, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	11/15	NA
	3, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	11/16	ML
	2, LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	11/18	PJ
	4, Milford Lake	Geary	11/21	CO
	1, Winfield City Lake	Cowley	11/24	MT
	2, Wilson Wildlife Area	Russell	11/28	MR



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Western Grebe 	2, Kirwin Reservoir	Phillips	9/11	PJ
	2, Wilson Lake	Russell	10/4	MA, JK
	9, Wilson Lake	Russell	10/31	MR
	2-3, Winfield City Lake	Cowley	11/14,27	MT
	1, Milford Lake	Geary	11/21	CO
	1, Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	11/21	PJ
Clark's Grebe	1, LaFarge sandpit, Wichita	Sedgwick	10/17	PJ
	1, Wilson Lake	Russell	10/31	MR
	1 possible, Tuttle Creek	Riley	10/31	TC
<u>Brown Pelican</u> <D>	1 imm., John Redmond Reservoir	Coffey	8/29	NJ, JG
Neotropic Cormorant	2, John Redmond Reservoir	Coffey	8/30	ML, MG, NA
American Bittern	1, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	<u>11/1</u>	BA,RJ,BS
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>11/5</u>	RP
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/7</u>	GF
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/7</u>	JH
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/20</u>	MR
Least Bittern	<u>11</u> , McPherson Wetlands	McPherson	8/23	GF
Great Egret	2, farm pond, rural area	Rooks	<u>10/31</u>	SS,HA
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>11/15</u>	MR
	2, Shawnee Mission Park	Johnson	<u>11/16</u>	ML
	2, Twin Lakes, Wichita	Sedgwick	<u>11/24</u>	RH
	2, Brandy Lake	Reno	<u>11/25</u>	GF
Snowy Egret	1, Tuttle Creek	Riley	<u>11/1</u>	TC
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/14</u>	PJ,WAS
<u>Tri-colored Heron</u>	1, Patterson Marsh	Harvey	8/21	RW
Black-crnd Night-Heron	1 juv., Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/18</u>	MP
	Several, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/30</u>	SS
White-faced Ibis	<u>394</u> , Lake McKinney	Kearney	8/31	T&SSh
<u>Black Vulture</u> <D>	1, John Redmond Reservoir	Coffey	<u>11/14</u>	MG,BAS
Turkey Vulture	<u>95</u> , kettle over Lawrence	Douglas	10/9	MA
Osprey	1, Lake Shawnee	Shawnee	<u>11/15</u>	DM,TAS
Mississippi Kite	<u>250</u> , kettle over Garden City	Finney	8/19	T&SSh
Bald Eagle	<i>Numerous reports from appropriate habitat statewide</i>			m.ob.
Northern Goshawk	1 imm., near Milford Lake dam	Geary	10/15	MR
Broad-winged Hawk	12, over Scott City	Scott	9/26	SSh

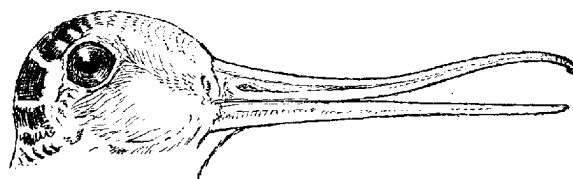
<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Golden Eagle	1, soaring over Leavenworth	Leavenworth	10/25	DW
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/9	MM
	1 imm., rural area	Sheridan	11/21	T&SM
Merlin	1, Satanta City Park	Haskell	10/2	KH
	1, rural area near Derby	Sedgwick	11/4	JC
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/14	J&LZ,GC
	1, Cheney Reservoir	Sedgwick	11/21	JC,KG,TR
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	11/30	SS
Peregrine Falcon	1, Heimerman Point, Cheney Reservoir	Reno	10/4	PJ,KOS
Prairie Falcon	1, K-17 and Castleton Road	Reno	10/4	PJ,KOS
	1, rural area	Russell	11/8	ML,NA,MG
	1, sitting on silo, rural area	Bourbon	11/11	DL
<u>Yellow Rail</u>	1, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	10/15	MA, JK
Virginia Rail	 300+/- Jamestown Wildlife Area	Cloud	9/22	SSo
Whooping Crane		Stafford	11/4-6	BJ
	<u>16- 23</u> , Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	11/5-8	JR,MR
	<i>Flocks of varying sizes present at Quivira NWR all of November</i>			
Black-bellied Plover	6, Quivira NWR	Stafford	10/2	MA, JK
	4, on pond near Osborne	Osborne	10/16	HA
American Golden Plover	3, Smith Center Airport	Smith	9/19	HA, T&SM
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	10/2	MA, JK
	<u>187</u> , Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	10/4	MA, JK
Killdeer	2, west of Derby	Sedgwick	<u>11/27</u>	JC,SH
	<u>15</u> , Winfield City Lake	Cowley	<u>11/27</u>	MT,GY
Mountain Plover	20, five miles northeast of Garden City	Finney	10/10	SSh
Black-necked Stilt	<u>150</u> , Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/20	HH
American Avocet	<u>117</u> , Quivira NWR	Stafford	10/2	MA,JK
	<u>50+</u> , Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/14</u>	PJ,WAS
	6, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>11/15</u>	MR
	Small flock, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/18</u>	SS
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/20</u>	MR
Greater Yellowlegs	1, small watershed lake	Cowley	<u>11/27</u>	MT,GY
	3, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/30</u>	SS
Lesser Yellowlegs	3, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/30</u>	SS
Solitary Sandpiper	1, Wilson sewer ponds	Ellsworth	<u>10/18</u>	MR
Whimbrel	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	9/4	BJ

Species	Number and Location	County	Date	Observer(s)
Long-billed Curlew	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	9/4	BJ
Red Knot	3, Patterson Marsh	Harvey	8/15	PJ, CM
Western Sandpiper	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/21</u>	SS
Least Sandpiper	5, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/21</u>	SS
Dunlin	4, Quivira NWR <i>Seven species of shorebirds were reported this date from Quivira NWR</i>	Stafford	<u>11/14</u>	PJ, WAS
	1, Melvern Reservoir	Coffey	<u>11/14</u>	MG,BAS
	9, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/21</u>	SS
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1, Colwich Sod Farms	Sedgwick	8/2	PJ
	11, north of Lawrence sod farms	Douglas	8/3	MA
	6+, sod farm east of Saint Mary's	Pottawatomie	8/6	BM
	2, Lawrence sod farms	Douglas	8/21	SR
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/23	MR
	20, Cranmer Sod Farm	Sedgwick	8/23	PJ
	2, Quivira NWR	Stafford	9/3	BJ
	8, field northwest of Osborne	Osborne	9/3	HA
	6 in a field, Quivira NWR	Stafford	9/6	ML
Long-billed Dowitcher	<u>20+</u> , Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/14</u>	PJ,WAS
American Woodcock	1, rural area	Cloud	<u>11/24</u>	BSo
Red-necked Phalarope	2, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/24	ML, MG, NA
	1, Elkhart sewer ponds	Morton	9/12-13	SS
	<u>10</u> , Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	10/4	JK,MA
Laughing Gull	1, Clinton Lake Beach	Douglas	8/12	JK
	1 imm., Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/14	MR, CW
	1, Tuttle Creek Reservoir	Riley	8/14	LJ
	2 2 nd year, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/19	SS, SS _e
	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	8/29	SS
	1, John Redmond Reservoir	Coffey	9/3	MA
	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	9/6	ML
Bonaparte's Gull	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	<u>8/23</u>	MR
California Gull	1, Cheney Reservoir	Reno	8/15	PJ, CM
Sabine's Gull	1, Wilson Lake	Russell	8/29	MR, ER, JR
	1 imm., Lovewell Reservoir	Jewel	9/14	ML, MG
	1 imm., Quivira NWR	Stafford	9/25	BJ
	1 imm., LaFarge sandpit	Sedgwick	10/17	PJ
	1 imm., near Rocky Ford	Riley	10/31	TC
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<u>483</u> , Scott City elevator	Scott	11/7	T&SSh
White-winged Dove	1, Manhattan residence	Riley	8/5	JR

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
White-winged Dove	57, Garden City residence	Finney	9/2	T&SSh
	1, Fort's B&B, Ulysses	Grant	9/7	KH, SG
	1, residence, Scott City	Scott	9/26	SSh
	112, residence, Garden City	Finney	10/2	T&SSh
	1, backyard Satanta residence	Haskell	11/1	KHe
Greater Roadrunner	1, 6 mi. southwest of Larned	Pawnee	8/13	DK
Barn Owl	unknown numbers, Satanta park	Haskell	11/1	KH
Long-eared Owl	4, Otoe Area, Wilson State Park	Russell	10/31	DKI
Common Nighthawk	115, over Garden City residence	Finney	9/26	T&SSh
Common Poorwill	8, calling west of Point of Rocks	Morton	9/11	SS
Chimney Swift	400+, northeast of Topeka	Shawnee	10/8	AM
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1 ad. m., residence, Satanta	Haskell	8/31	J&NC
	1 f., Seltman farm	Pawnee	9/14	SS
<u>Costa's Hummingbird</u>	1 probable, Garden City residence	Finney	10/2	T&SSh
Calliope Hummingbird	1 imm., Garden City residence	Finney	8/29	T&SSh
	1 female, Seltman farm	Pawnee	9/15	SS
	<D> 1 possible, Louisburg residence	Miami	8/8-9/15	J&JG
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1 imm. f., Garden City residence	Finney	8/1	T&SSh
	1 ad. f., Larned residence	Pawnee	8/14	SS, DK
	1 imm., Garden City residence	Finney	9/6	T&SSh
Rufous Hummingbird	1 imm. m., Larned residence	Pawnee	8/9	SS
	1 imm. m., Newton residence	Harvey	8/13	CS
	1, Ulysses (green-backed)	Grant	8/22	LM
	1 imm. f., Garden City residence	Finney	8/26	T&SSh
	1, Manhattan residence	Riley	11/8-15	J&DR
<u>Williamson's Sapsucker</u>	1 f., Garden City cemetery	Finney	10/9-27	T&SSh, m.ob.
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	4, along Cimarron River	Morton	9/12-13	SS
Western Wood-Pewee	3, along Turkey Trail	Morton	9/12	SS
Dusky Flycatcher	1, Garden City residence	Finney	9/6	T&SSh
Cordilleran Flycatcher	2, along Cimarron River	Morton	9/12	SS
<u>Black Phoebe</u> <D>	1 juvenile, Elkhart	Morton	9/13	MS,PHa,GJ,DSt
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1, Elkhart shelterbelt	Morton	9/12	SS
Cassin's Kingbird	3, three different locations	Morton	9/26	SS

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Cassin's Kingbird	3, Satanta	Haskell	9/25	KHe
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	2, Lake McKinney area 7, west of Larned	<u>Kearney</u> Pawnee	8/31 10/3	T&SSh SS
<u>Loggerhead Shrike</u>	1, rural area	Bourbon	11/11	DL
<u>Northern Shrike</u>	1 imm., northwest of Larned 1 ad., rural area 1, rural area 1, Quivira NWR	Pawnee Rush Graham Stafford	11/8-20 11/16 11/21 11/21	SS SS T&SM BJ
Cassin's Vireo <D>	1, along Turkey Trail 1, Maple Grove Cemetery, Wichita	Morton Sedgwick	9/12 9/19	SS PJ
Blue-headed Vireo	1, near headquarters Quivira NWR 1, farmstead	Stafford Wabaunsee	<u>11/2</u> <u>11/14</u>	BJ CO
<u>Western Scrub-Jay</u>	2, Cimarron National Grasslands 1, Frazier Park, Ulysses	Morton Grant	9/26 10/15	SS DS
Fish Crow	2, John Redmond Reservoir 3, calling along Kansas River	<u>Coffey</u> Shawnee	8/8 8/23	MG, NA MA, PH
Purple Martin	<u>20,000</u> roost, Wichita 1, Baker Wetlands	Sedgwick Douglas	8/3 <u>10/25</u>	KG BA
<u>Cave Swallow</u>	1, Cheyenne Bottoms	Barton	8/14	MR, CW
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1, Garden City residence 1, Saint Mary's residence <i>Scarce this year</i>	Finney Pottawatomie	8/10 11/23	T&SSh BM
Rock Wren	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	10/2	MA,JK
Winter Wren	1, Riley Park, Derby 1, Flint Hills Wildlife Area	Sedgwick Lyon	11/13 11/14	JC MG,BAS
Sedge Wren	4, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	<u>11/22</u>	BA,RJ
Marsh Wren	2, Quivira NWR 6, singing, Baker Wetlands "Lots chattering," Quivira NWR	Stafford Douglas Stafford	11/20 11/22 <u>11/30</u>	MR BA,RJ SS
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1, Beaver Creek Road	Rawlins	<u>9/12</u>	PJ, m.ob.
Mountain Bluebird	1, along Cimarron River 1, Quivira NWR 6 +/-, Hell Creek Area, Wilson 1, rural area 8, Minooka Park	Grant Stafford Ellsworth Kingman Russell	10/17 10/30 10/31 11/8 11/28	KH BJ DKI LH MR
Townsend's Solitaire	1, Newton residence	Harvey	11/2	GF

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number and Location</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Townsend's Solitaire	2, Scott Park	Scott	11/7	T&SSh
Veery	1, Beaver Creek Ranch B&B	Rawlins	9/12	PJ, m.ob.
Wood Thrush	1, Rader's porch, Wilson	Ellsworth	10/6	MR
Curve-billed Thrasher	5, Hugoton Cemetery 3, farmhouse west of Rolla	Stevens Morton	9/11 9/27	SS SS
Sprague's Pipit	1, Pawnee County field	Pawnee	9/30	SS
Townsend's Warbler	1, Beaver Creek Road	Rawlins	9/12	PJ, m.ob.
Yellow-throated Warbler	1, Colbenz Marsh, Clinton Wildlife Area	Douglas	8/30	MA,JK
Prairie Warbler	1, along a small stream	<u>Barber</u>	10/5	GY
Northern Waterthrush	1, Quivira NWR	Stafford	<u>11/30</u>	SS
<u>Western Tanager</u>	1, Beaver Creek Road 1 f., Garden City residence	Rawlins Finney	9/12 <u>10/30</u>	PJ, m.ob. T&SSh
Green-tailed Towhee	2, along Turkey Trail	Morton	9/26	SS
Brewer's Sparrow	1, 9/12; 3, 9/13 south of river	Morton	9/12-13	SS
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1, Baker Wetlands	Douglas	10/25	BA
McCown's Longspur	50, 8 miles northwest of Larned	Pawnee	10/19	SS
Black-headed Grosbeak	2, Beaver Creek Ranch B&B 1, Frazier Park, Ulysses	Rawlins Grant	9/12 9/20	PJ, m.ob. KH, SG
Lazuli Bunting	3-5, Beaver Creek Ranch B&B	Rawlins	9/12	PJ m.ob.
Brewer's Blackbird	" <u>Thousands</u> ," rural areas	Russell	11/8	ML, NA, MG
Brown-headed Cowbird	<u>10,000</u> , Slate Creek Marsh	Sumner	8/23	MT
Purple Finch	2, feeders 1, Shawnee residence	Pottawatomie Johnson	11/7 11/19	DB DR
Cassin's Finch	1 m., Fort's B&B, Ulysses	Grant	<u>8/29</u>	KH, SG
Evening Grosbeak	1 f., Fort's B&B, Ulysses	Grant	8/26	KH, SG, JRa



Probable bill of Woodcock, showing extent to which upper mandible can be moved.

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 than 10 records for Kansas.
- <D> indicates documentation was submitted to Kansas Bird Records Committee.

Abbreviations: adult (ad.), Bed and Breakfast (B&B), female (f.), immature (imm.), juvenile (juv.), Kansas Ornithological Society fall meeting (KOS), male (m.), multiple observers (m.ob.), National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), reporting (rep.), species (sp.).

Observers: Nic Allen, Mike Andersen, Bob Antonio, Henry Armknecht, John Bolin, Doris Burnett, Burroughs Audubon Society, Ted Cable, Jeff Calhoun, Glenn Caspers, Jack and Norma Conover (J&NC), Gregg Friesen, Joann Garrett, Matt Gearheart, Kevin Groeneweg, Sam Guy, Paul Habiger (PHa), Helen Hands, Kellye Hart, Kelvin Heitmann (KHe), Leon Hicks, Pete Hosner,

Pete Janzen, Gary Johnson, Lowell Johnson, Nan Johnson, Richard Johnson, Barry Jones, Don Kazmaier, Jon King, Dave Klema (DKI), Mark Land, Dave Larson, Nancy Leo, Larry Londagin, Larry Madsen, Brandon Magette, Terry and Sam Mannell (T&SM), Andrea May, Debra McKee, Cheryl Miller, Nea Nuessle, Chuck Otte, Ellen Rader, Jennifer Rader, Mike Rader, John Rakestraw (JRa), Debbie Reasoner, Steve Roels, Travis Ross, John Row, John and Diane Row (J&DR), Carolyn Schwab, Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman, Steven Seltman (SSe), Sara Shane (SSh), Tom and Sara Shane (T&SSh), Bryan Sorensen (BSO), Steve Sorensen (SSo), Bill Staples, Mike

Stoakes, Don Stout (DSt), Max Thompson, Topeka Audubon Society, Rod Wedel, Wichita Audubon Society, Dave Williams, Curtis Wolf, Gene Young, John and Linda Zempel (J&LZ).

Statement of non-profit status and copyright:

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**Kansas Ornithological Society
Balance Sheet**

12/31/2009

Assets

Investment Fund	121,892.23
Checking	8,220.14
Sub Total	<u>130,112.37</u>

Dingus Land	56,000.00
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Total	186,112.37
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Liabilities and Fund Balances

General Fund	1,932.28
Endowments	68,653.24
Life Membership Account	23,522.00
Book Royalty Fund	21,514.49
Dingus Nature Area Fund	7,967.58
Dingus Nature Area Land	56,000.00
Student Research Fund	6,522.78

Total	186,112.37
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In memoriam

Life member Ida Mabel Willis died September 15, 2009. Her daughter, Mary Washer, noted "she did love all things in nature all of her 102 years." Ms. Willis joined KOS in 1953.

Avian Conservationist of the Year Award

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.

Previous recipients:

2009 **Michael Watkins**

2008 **Bob Gress**

2007 **Chuck Otte**

2006 **Stan Roth**

2005 **Max C. Thompson**

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.

Cat Crazy

By Ken Brunson

I love cats. A long list of house cats from Claude 1 and 2, Skeeter, Popcorn, Cosmo and currently Boy, have accompanied me through life. When I was educated enough to realize their effect on wildlife, my pet cats were confined indoors. Emptying the litter box more often was an easy tradeoff against the daily loss of songbirds, lizards, quail and kangaroo rats on a regular basis. Boy does just fine as an inside cat and here's why.

Felis domesticus bred from wild felines centuries ago to become the most popular of companion pets. When these companion pets return to the wild they become feral cats. One of the most disingenuous arguments about feral house cats is that they are wildlife, and therefore, deserve the same level of respect and management as raccoons and bobcats—real wildlife. Even more alarming is a program called Trap, Neuter and Return.

In the September/October issue of Audubon magazine, Ted Williams insightfully explains the counterproductive nature of TNR. The program applies its acronym to feral cats under the misconception that a sterile feral cat is no threat because it can't reproduce. Proponents of TNR spread misinformation that feral cats are not a threat to wild birds and other wildlife. The American Bird Conservancy states that an estimated 150 million free ranging cats kill a half million birds annually. Considering that each cat

could easily kill at least one bird a day, this seems a gross underestimate. Williams' article leads with an astute accusation: "With something like 150 million free-ranging house cats wreaking havoc on our wildlife, the last thing we need is Americans sustaining them in the wild." TNR sustains house cats in the wild. The cats still kill wildlife, with or without intact reproductive organs. While perhaps they are not that much collective danger to any of our state's threatened and endangered species (unlike the case in Hawaii), their collective kill of birds, small mammals, amphibians and reptiles is in the billions.

Organized feeding programs for feral cats are equally as dysfunctional. You'll soon find yourself scratching your head over a practice that not only exacerbates survival challenges for wildlife but also contributes to problems with nuisance and diseased skunks, opossums, raccoons and other critters that are attracted to free handouts.

As Williams acknowledges through interviews with wildlife professionals, at least having non-reproducing feral cats is better than the alternative of having them breed unfettered. However, the problem is that the adoption of TNR is presented as an alternative to more effective control methods for feral cats.

While people love their cats,



Boy Brunson enjoys watching birds from indoors. KB

they also generally love wildlife. A reasonable option is keeping cats indoors. The American Bird Conservancy offers excellent information about their "Cats Indoors" program. Of course, other effective controls include humane euthanasia, a practice that has traditionally been the common sense approach to reducing the problem. Yes, the "E" word that gets otherwise fairly normal people thinking illogically is much more humane than the slow, agonizing deaths feral cats get from the jaws of a coyote or disease. It is impractical to think that every cat that comes to a humane society building can be effectively neutered and released to either a home or the wild. There simply are too many for placement. It borders on insanity to just let them loose to prey on and be preyed upon by wildlife.

As an avid birder/conservationist, be alert when TNR is proposed for your community. Consult Web sites of the American Bird Conservancy (www.abcbirds.org/cats/) and the National Audubon Society (www.audubonmagazine.org) for great information on how to deal with free roaming cats.

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 Dr. Ivan L. Boyd Recognition 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:

- 2008 **Tom Shane**
- 2007 **John Zimmerman**
- 2005 **Celia Markum, Dwight Platt**
- 2004 **Katharine Kelly**
- 2003 **Chuck Ely, Marvin Schwilling, and Max Thompson**

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1. Send this completed form and attachments to Nancy Leo, 4505 W. 66th St., Prairie Village, KS 66208, njleo@earthlink.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.