

On October 3, 1909, I secured a specimen of Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), it was wading in the mud along the edge of a small pond and I first took it to be a plover, but on approaching nearer I found it was an unknown bird to me. As I had no gun with me I had to return over a mile to get it, on returning I found the bird swimming in the shallow water. It was an immature male in fine plumage. There is a previous record of its capture in the state, made I believe by Goss.

A fine specimen of Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria morinella*) was taken October 1, 1911, on the bank of a large artificial lake near here, it is an adult male. There is one previous record, a single specimen taken by Mr. F. E. Forbes on the Kansas River, August 16, 1898 (Snow). In Prof. Snow's last Catalog of Kansas Birds he states that he has omitted from it fourteen species that were inserted in his first and second editions on the authority of Dr. Brewer and Prof. Baird, but no specimens having been secured to date he preferred to drop them. Among them were the Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*) and the Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*). I have four specimens of the former, two males and one female, adults, and an immature male. The first three were taken on the same lake as the turnstone, September 8, 1912, there were six in the flock, all adults; the other was taken a few days later, October 13, at the same place, and was alone. A Red-breasted Merganser was shot out of quite a flock of ducks, March 1, 1912. It is a male in full plumage.

In company with the Black-bellied Plovers I secured a specimen of Eastern Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*) for which I do not think there is a published record for the state. The difference is quite apparent when the two birds are placed side by side. Our common Kansas bird being the western form.

On December 21, 1910, I was fortunate to secure a specimen of Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*), a male, and I should judge in full plumage. It was shot out of a flock of about a dozen as they were flying overhead, I was unable to secure other specimens. This also is I think a first record for the state.

I also have specimens of Knot (*Tringa canutus*), Stilt Sandpiper (*Micro-palama himantopus*) and Red-legged Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) also Red Backed Sandpiper (*Pelidna alpina pacifica*), all of which are of such rarity as to be classed as accidental visitants.

Identifications of all the above have been verified by the University of Kansas.—G. C. RINKER, *Hamilton, Kansas*.

A Quaint Reminiscence of Audubon.—After John James Audubon had completed his double elephant folio "Birds of America" and published also his "Synopsis of the Birds of North America," and had in 1839 returned from his last voyage to England, he lived for a while in New York City, previous to his moving in 1842 to the then suburbs, or what is now known as Audubon Park.

During this time he seems to have turned his attention more particularly

to quadrupeds, having in preparation his great work on this subject, and a document in my possession throws a quaint light on his researches at this time, as well as the thoughtfulness of the mayor in protecting the "inhabitants" from stray shots. The following is a reproduction of the document.— F. H. KENNARD, *Newton Centre, Mass.*

Mayors Office.
New York Aug 20 1841

*Permission is hereby given Mr Audubon
or his son, to shoot Rats at the Battery
early in the morning, so as not to
expose the inhabitants in the vicinity
to danger.*

Robert H. Morris
Mayor

A Correction.— In the article by Thurston and Boyle on Long Island birds in 'The Auk,' XXX, line three, page 545, 'Ruby-crowned Kinglet' should read Golden-crowned Kinglet.— HENRY THURSTON, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*