2027 Calendar



Online Preview

Filled with bird photos and details of species seen in Kansas!


Online Preview

Western Grebe ©David A. Rintoul

January 2027

Western Grebes have black extending below and behind the eye and typically have a duller yellow-green bill. Clark's Grebes have a white face surrounding the eye and a brighter yellow to yellow-orange bill. The Clark's Grebe tends to show more white in the wing and flanks. Prior to being classified as a separate species, the Clark's Grebe was known as the "white morph" of the Western Grebe.

Clark's Grebes
©Eric Dyck



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6	7 New Moon	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 1st Quarter Moon	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21	22 Full Moon	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 3rd Quarter Moon	30
31						

Western Grebes and Clark's Grebes are closely related. They look and behave much alike and often nest on the same lakes and wetlands in the western United States. Both Western and Clark's Grebes have spectacular courtship displays which include the famous synchronized "rushing" across the water seen below. This behavior helps individuals recognize each other and choose an appropriate mate.

Western and Clark's Grebes are very closely related species that normally mate with their own kind. Where their breeding ranges overlap, these species do occasionally crossbreed. There are confirmed breeding records of both species in Kansas. These hybrids can show a fascinating blend of characteristics from both species and can pose identification challenges.



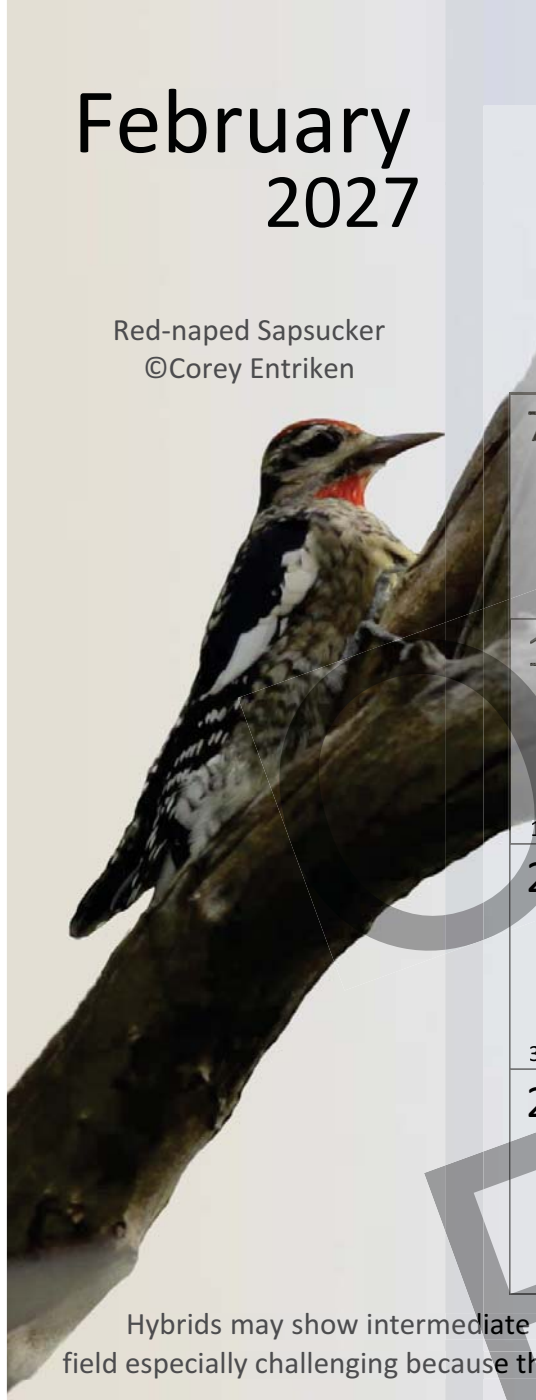
Clark's Grebe
©Emerson Harman

Online Preview



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker ©Brady Koch

February 2027



Red-naped Sapsucker
©Corey Entriken

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6 New Moon
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day 1st Quarter Moon	15 President's Day	16	17	18	19	20 Full Moon
21 3rd Quarter Moon	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Red-naped Sapsuckers are very closely related woodpeckers that occasionally hybridize where their ranges overlap. This happens most often in the Great Plains and the western parts of their distributions. They can pair and produce offspring with a mixture of characteristics from both species.

Hybrids may show intermediate or unusual patterns in the head, throat, breast, and back. This makes identification in the field especially challenging because the two species already have considerable variation in plumage with age and sex.

Three sapsucker species occur in Kansas. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are the expected species and have been seen in almost every Kansas county. Red-naped Sapsuckers have been seen in thirteen counties in the southwest part of the state but are on the Kansas Bird Records Committee review list. The Williamson's Sapsucker is the third species observed in Kansas and is the rarest of the three. There are only a handful of records for the entire state.



Williamson's Sapsucker ©Bob Gress, BirdsInFocus.com

Online Preview



American Goldfinch
©Walt Cochran

Online Preview

March 2027



American Goldfinch ©Janet Reynolds

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 ● New Moon	9	10	11	12	13
14 Daylight Saving Time Starts	15 ◐ 1st Quarter Moon	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 1st Day of Spring
21	22 ○ Full Moon	23	24	25	26	27
28 Easter	29 ◑ 3rd Quarter Moon	30	31			

Online Preview

Lesser Goldfinch ©David Rintoul



American Goldfinch (top)
Lesser Goldfinch (bottom)
©Corey Entriken



Hybridization between American Goldfinch and Lesser Goldfinch has only been documented once. Summer breeding plumages include bright yellow bodies on American Goldfinch, but winter plumages are muted. Lesser Goldfinch males are either green-backed or black-backed, but the brightness is affected by body condition and diet. Female Lesser Goldfinches have olive green upperparts and slightly lighter underparts and could be overlooked among mixed flocks at feeders.



Online Preview

White-faced Ibis
©Marc Mackey

April 2027

In breeding plumage, adult Glossy Ibis facial skin is blue above and below the brown eye but not continuing around it. White-faced Ibis have white feathering bordering facial skin and extending around back of a red eye. Hybrids show a mixture of features on the face and nonbreeding and immature birds are often not identifiable.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The White-faced Ibis and Glossy Ibis were split into two species in 1983 by the American Ornithological Society. The White-faced Ibis and Glossy Ibis hybridize frequently where their geographic ranges overlap. These hybrids can breed also. The prevalence of hybridization over many generations creates identification challenges in the field.				1	2	3
4	5	6 ● New Moon	7	8	9	10
11 Register for Spring KOS Meeting	12	13 ◐ 1st Quarter Moon	14	15 Tax Day	16	17
18	19	20 ○ Full Moon	21	22 Earth Day	23	24
25	26	27	28 ◑ 3rd Quarter Moon	29	30	

Online Preview

White-faced Ibis (left) and Glossy x White-faced Ibis Hybrid (right) ©Chad Remley

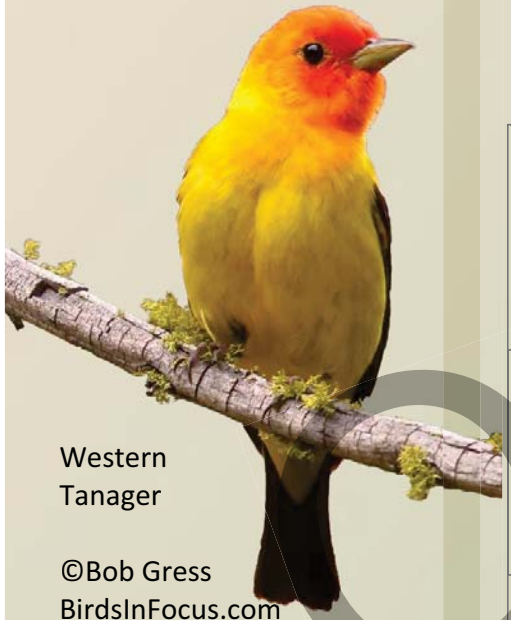
Immature Plegadis Ibises ©Catherine Doud

Glossy Ibis ©Eric Dyck



Summer Tanager
©Sarah Johnson

May 2027



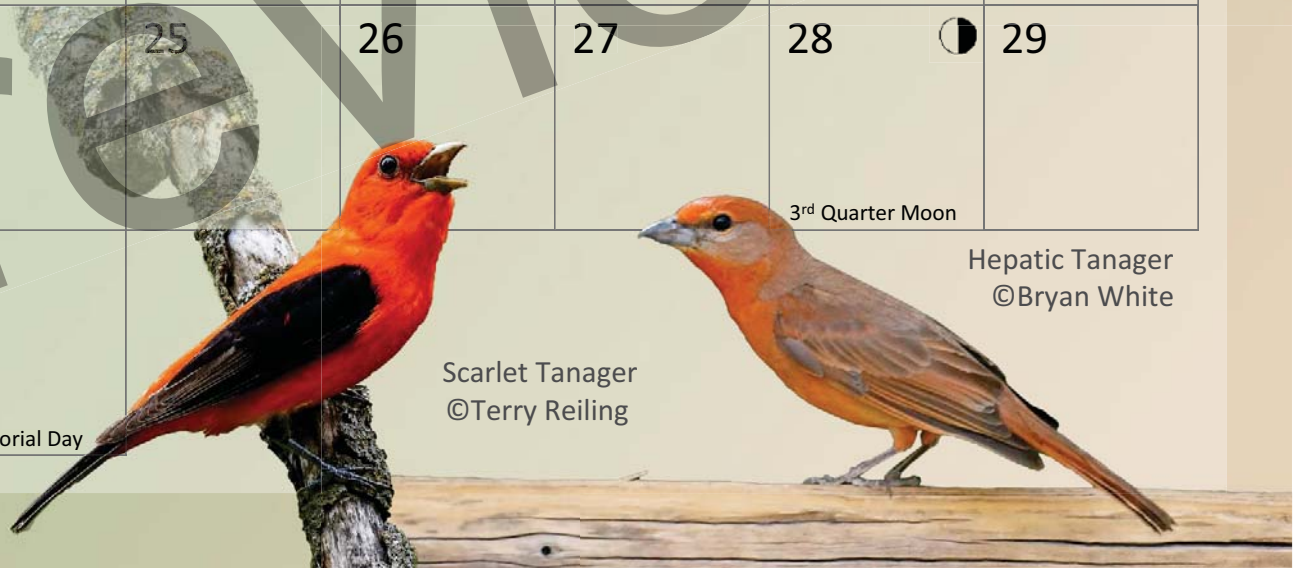
Western Tanager

©Bob Gress
BirdsInFocus.com

Tanagers have a sweet, mellow, robin-like warble song that can sound similar to Rose-breasted and Black-headed Grosbeaks. In thick foliage, the species are more readily separated with differences in call notes. The 3-part *pit-ti-tuck* of Summer Tanagers is quite different than the 2-part *chick-burr* of Scarlet Tanagers. Western Tanager call notes vary and can be 2 or 3 parts.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Kansas has records of Hepatic, Summer, Scarlet, and Western Tanager. Hepatic Tanagers are on the Kansas Bird Records Committee review list. Summer and Scarlet Tanagers are summer residents and breed in eastern Kansas while Western Tanagers are annual visitors primarily in western Kansas counties. Hybridization between tanager species is exceptionally unusual. Tanagers have considerable variation with age, sex, and molt; intermediate looking birds are not automatically a hybrid and should be carefully documented.						1
2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 New Moon	7	8
9 Mother's Day	10	11	12	13 1st Quarter Moon	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Full Moon	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 3rd Quarter Moon	29
30	31 Memorial Day					

Online Preview



Scarlet Tanager
©Terry Reiling

Hepatic Tanager
©Bryan White



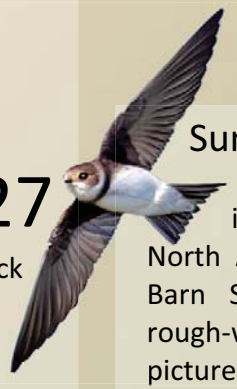


Online Preview

Cliff Swallow
©Bob Gress, BirdsInFocus.com

Cave Swallow
©Eric Dyck

June 2027



Bank Swallow © Eric Dyck

Cliff Swallows and Cave Swallows both have a light buffy rump. These two close relatives have hybridized, but hybridization between swallow species is quite rare.

Typical Cliff Swallows in Kansas has a light forehead compared to the Cave Swallow's dark forehead. Careful study is required in the field however, as a southern Cliff Swallow subspecies also has a dark forehead.

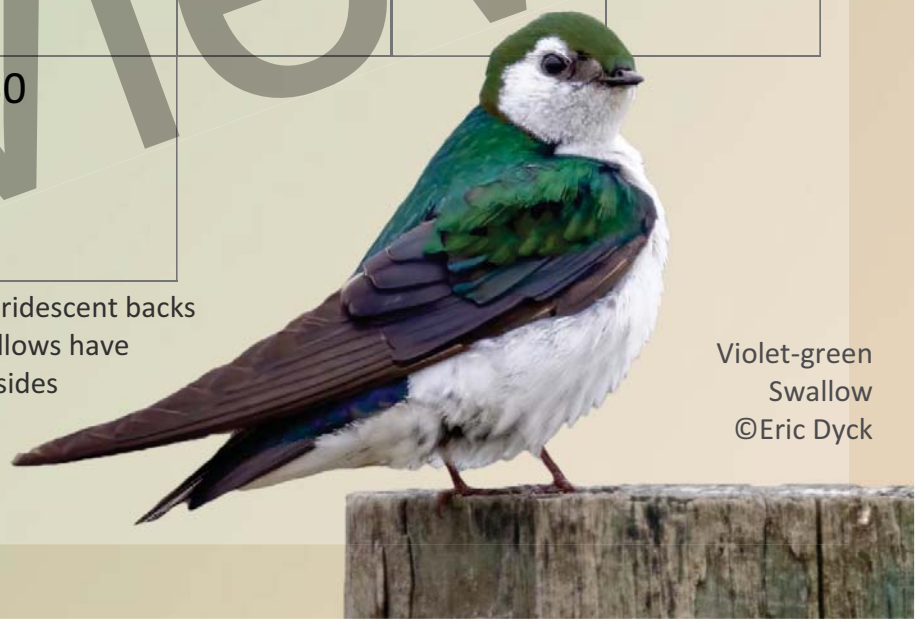
Tree Swallow
©Alicia Hoch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The *Hirundinidae* family includes eight species in North America. Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, and Northern rough-winged swallow are not pictured on this page.		1	2	3	4 New Moon	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 1st Quarter Moon	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Full Moon	19 Juneteenth
20 Father's Day	21 1st Day of Summer	22	23	24	25	26
27 3rd Quarter Moon	28	29	30			

Online Preview

Tree Swallows and Violet-green Swallows both have iridescent backs with white breasts and throats. Violet-green Swallows have a white eye patch and extensive white rump sides missing in Tree Swallows in addition to the back color differences.





Violet-green Swallow
©Eric Dyck


Online Preview

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
©Hannah Mooney

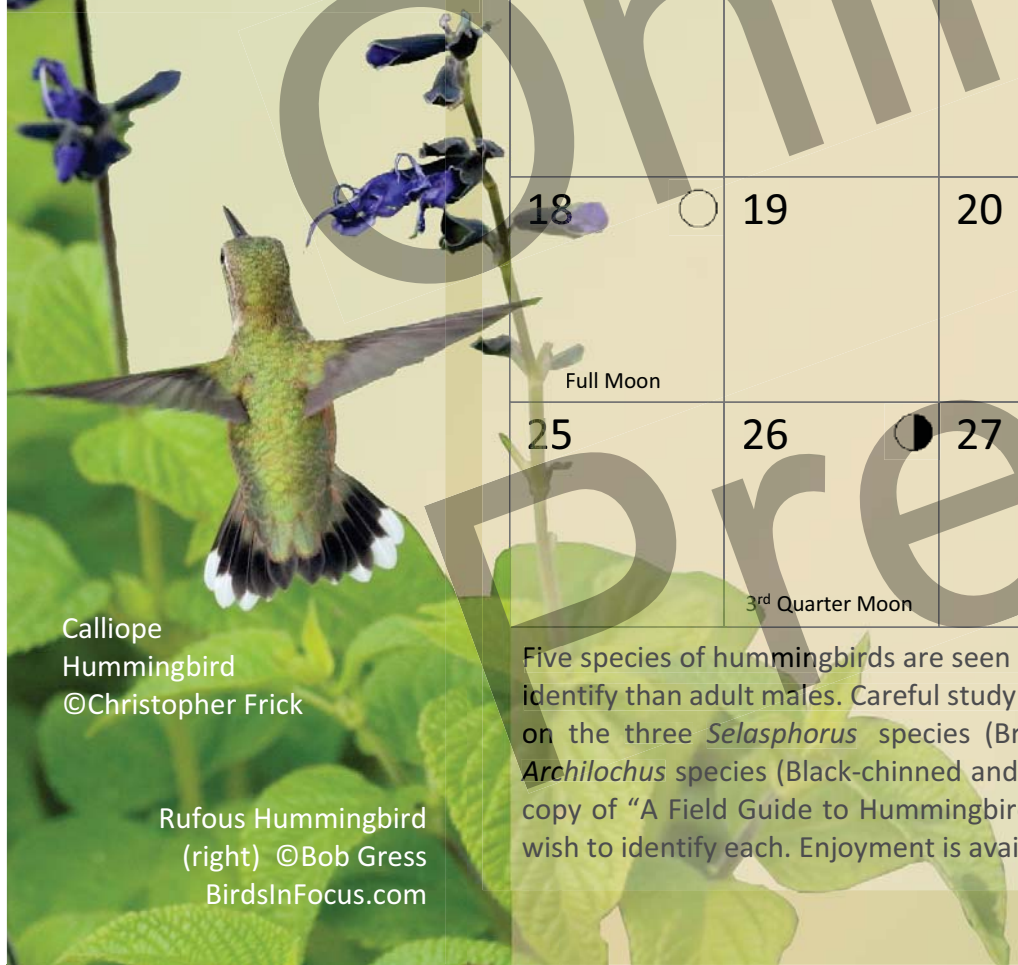
July 2027



Black-chinned Hummingbird ©Christopher Frick

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbirds are similar in appearance but can be separated by gorget color on males, wing feather shape, and other subtle differences. Where newly expanding breeding ranges of the Black-chinned Hummingbirds now overlap Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, there is evidence of hybridization as occurs between other hummingbird species.				1	2	3 ● New Moon
4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9	10 ◐ 1st Quarter Moon
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 ○ Full Moon	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 ◑ 3rd Quarter Moon	27	28	29	30	31

Online Preview



Calliope Hummingbird ©Christopher Frick

Rufous Hummingbird (right) ©Bob Gress BirdsInFocus.com

Five species of hummingbirds are seen annually in Kansas. Juveniles and females are tougher to identify than adult males. Careful study of a fanned tail will reveal red at the base of tail feathers on the three *Selasphorus* species (Broad-tailed, Calliope, and Rufous) but not on the two *Archilochus* species (Black-chinned and Ruby-throated). The availability of digital camera and a copy of "A Field Guide to Hummingbirds of North America" are strongly recommended if you wish to identify each. Enjoyment is available, luckily, without identification.





Plumbeous Vireo
©Malcolm Gold

Online preview

August 2027

In 1997, the American Ornithologists' Union split the "Solitary Vireo" into three distinct species: Blue-headed Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, and Plumbeous Vireo. All three species migrate through western Kansas and since the split three decades ago, it has been a challenge to identify which vireo is present where their ranges overlap.

DNA evidence suggests hybridization between Plumbeous Vireo and Cassin's Vireo as well as between Cassin's Vireo and Blue-headed Vireo in the overlap breeding range. Detecting a hybrid in the field may be nearly impossible as the physical characteristic of each species varies by age, sex, and season.

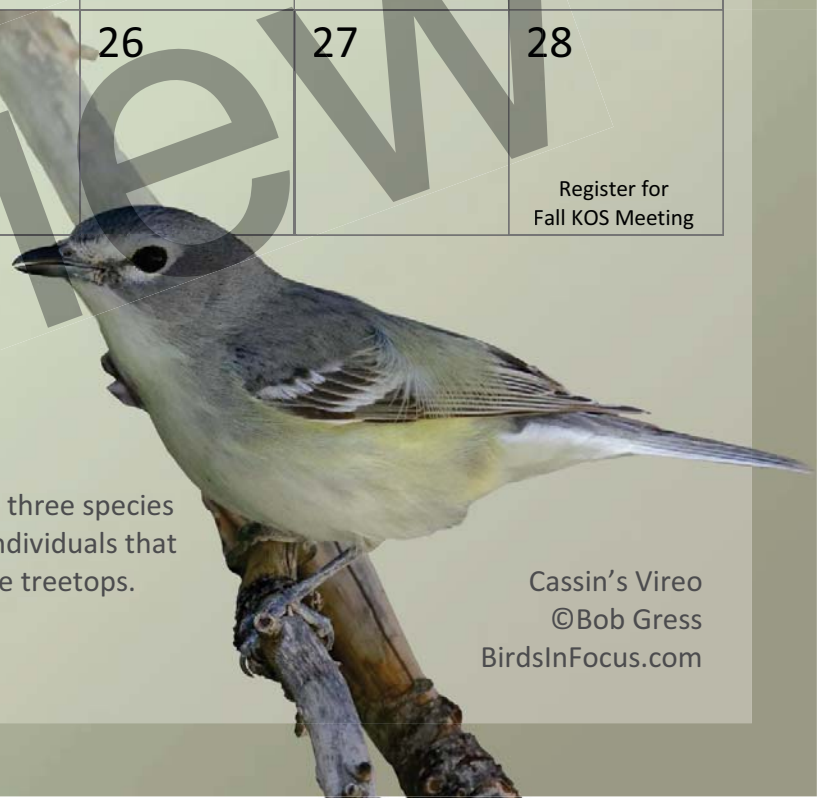
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 New Moon	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 1st Quarter Moon	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Full Moon	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 3rd Quarter Moon	25	26	27	28 Register for Fall KOS Meeting
29	30	31 New Moon				

Online Preview



Blue-headed Vireo
©Bryan White

Identification challenges of these three species are compounded with individuals that often frequent shade treetops.



Cassin's Vireo
©Bob Gress
BirdsInFocus.com


Online Preview

Black-throated Green Warbler
©JC Avena

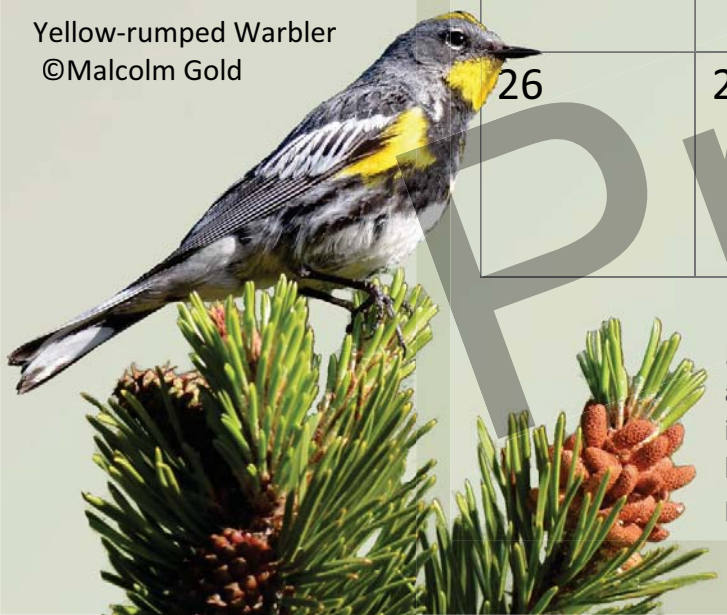
September 2027



Black-throated Green Warbler ©Bryan White

The Black-throated Green Warbler females are like males in color but duller overall with less black on their throat. Immature females often have little or no black on throat, like the one pictured above.

Yellow-rumped Warbler ©Malcolm Gold



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Labor Day	7 1st Quarter Moon	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Full Moon	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 1st Day of Fall & 3rd Quarter Moon	24	25
26	27	28	29 New Moon	30		

Black-throated Green Warbler males have a black chin, throat, and breast. They also have bright yellow faces with dull olive auriculars and backs. Their white belly is streaked with black on the sides and white wing bars.

Townsend's Warbler ©Emerson Harman



Black-throated Green Warbler and Townsend's Warbler breeding ranges overlap in a narrow band that extends along the Rocky Mountains. This overlapping band is around 40 miles wide and in that region hybridization is common. Townsend's Warblers are primarily seen in western counties during migration.

Online Preview


Online Preview

Cassin's Kingbird
©Bob Gress, BirdsInFocus.com

October 2027



Couch's Kingbird
©Malcolm Gold

Eastern Kingbird
©Ryan Giordanelli



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Three kingbirds are found annually in Kansas. The Eastern Kingbird is black on the cap, neck, and back with white on the throat and belly. The white on the tip of the tail is also often conspicuous. The Western Kingbird and Cassin's Kingbird both have gray backs and heads, yellow bellies, and brownish colored wings. These two species can look quite similar at a distance or in poor light, but the Cassin's Kingbird is a darker gray with a stronger contrasting throat and belly.					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 1st Quarter Moon	8	9
10	11 Indigenous People's & Columbus Day	12	13	14	15 Full Moon	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 3rd Quarter Moon	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 New Moon	30
31 Halloween	Kingbirds are known to hybridize with other species. Hybridization between kingbird species as well as other flycatcher species have been documented. A large-billed yellow bellied kingbird, likely from Couch's Kingbird lineage, was found in Kansas one fall but hybridization was a concern with that individual and that species remains off the state list.					



Western Kingbird
©Joy Brannon

Online Preview



Least Sandpiper ©Corey Entriken

November 2027

Shorebird migration through the central flyway and Great Plains is a magical spectacle and one that hopefully all get to experience. Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area are two important bird areas that often have large numbers and diversity present.

Shorebirds are challenging to identify. Appearances can vary by age, sex, and season. Hybridization is quite rare but is more frequently reported in recent years.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 1st Quarter Moon
7 Daylight Saving Time Ends	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13 Full Moon
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 3rd Quarter Moon
21	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27 New Moon
28	29	30				



Western Sandpiper
©Malcolm Gold

Spotted Sandpiper
©Jimmy Ellison



Semipalmated Sandpiper
©Malcolm Gold

Online Preview



Purple Finch
©Kevin Keltner

Online Preview

December 2027



House Finch
©Alicia Hoch

Cassin's Finch
©David A. Rintoul

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The three small red, raspberry, or cranberry juice colored, finches of Kansas are pictured here. Males have the reddish coloration while females are brown. Head and bill shape as well as facial patterns can be used to separate them.			1	2	3	4
5	6 1st Quarter Moon	7	8	9	10	11
12 Start of KOS CBC period	13 Full Moon	14 Start of Audubon CBC period	15	16	17	18
19	20 3rd Quarter Moon	21 1st Day of Winter	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26	27 New Moon	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	

Hybridization between House Finch and Purple Finch has occurred in limited instances in the eastern United States. Anecdotal evidence of intermediate individuals between Purple Finch and other species suggest possible hybridization between other species, but hybridization between the other species combinations is not well studied and needs work.

Online Preview

Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS)

For more information on Kansas birds and birdwatching, current projects supported by KOS, the history and mission of the society, and how to join, please visit https://www.ksbirds.org/.

We invite you to attend the spring and fall meetings, to join local bird walks, to visit nature centers, and to explore wildlife areas. We also encourage you to share your enjoyment and love of birds and love of nature with others.

Online Preview

American White Pelicans ©Scott Laurent
Eastern Kingbird (Front Cover) ©Brady Koch