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2015 REPORT OF THE KANSAS BIRD RECORD COMMITTEE

This report summarizes the activities of the Committee for the calendar year 2015. The Committee received 38 reports, of which 32 were evaluated, recording the occurrence of 29 different birds. All reports are archived in The University of Kansas Natural History Museum in Lawrence, Kansas.

Submissions are assigned a sequential number in the order in which they are received, with the year of receipt as a prefix. Submissions that are not on the review list, or not considered extraordinary, may not be circulated to the Committee. Birds are listed in phylogenetic order under each of two categories: Records Accepted and Records Not Accepted. Taxonomy and nomenclature follow the American Ornithologists' Union *Checklist of North American Birds*, Seventh Edition, 1998, updated through the 56th supplement (2015, *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* 132:748-764, 2015).

After the English and scientific name the following, if available, are provided: KBRC record number, the number of individuals seen, with sex, age or plumage notes; date(s) of observation; locality; observer(s), with those documenting the record listed first; supporting physical evidence; and finally, pertinent comments on changes to the species status on the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS) checklist. Records that were not accepted by the Committee have observer(s) names omitted, with a brief explanation of the rationale behind that decision.

Authors, when citing KBRC records from this report, are encouraged to give credit to the observer(s) associated with the observation along with a full citation of this report.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), 2015-19, adult, 12 June 2015, Steven Lloyd Wetlands, Milford Lake, Clay County, reported by Marie Rust, documented with a photograph. **Eighteenth state record.**

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*), 2015-34, adult, 23 December 2015, Wilson Lake, Russell County, reported by Brent Galliard and Dave Klema, documented with

photographs. **First state record for Kansas and will be added to the KOS Checklist.**

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), 2015-24, adult, 19 to 20 August 2015, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Barton County, reported by Jacob Cooper, also reported by Andrew Miller, and seen by many observers, documented with photographs. **Sixth state record.**

Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*), 2015-28, unknown age, 6 October 2015, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Barton County, reported by Robert Penner, documented with a photograph. **Second state record. First with documentation and will be removed from the hypothetical list.**

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*), 2015-29, immature, 7 to 8 October 2015, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Barton County, reported by Nick Varvel, also seen by many observers, documented with photographs. **Twenty-first state record.**

The KBRC received several records in 2015 of Kumlien's Gull, a purported subspecies of Iceland Gull. Gull identification is challenging at best, and the Thayer's/Iceland/Kumlien's complex is extremely so. The American Ornithologists' Union currently considers Kumlien's to be a subspecies of Iceland Gull. Others consider Kumlien's to be a hybrid of Iceland and Thayer's Gull, and others feel that all three are Iceland Gulls with Kumlien's and Thayer's being subspecies of Iceland Gull. The committee chose not to evaluate the records on the subspecies level and simply evaluate them as Iceland Gulls.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*), 2015-03, immature, 10 February 2015, Reno County Landfill, Reno County, reported by Andrew Miller, also seen by Bryant Miller, documented with photographs. **Twelfth state record.**

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*), 2015-05, immature, 12 February 2015, Reno County Landfill, Reno County, reported by Joseph Miller, also seen by Bryant Miller, and Andrew Miller, documented with photographs. Photos indicate that this bird is different than KBRC Record #2015-03. **Thirteenth state record.**

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*), 2015-04, 2nd winter plumage, 15 February 2015, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Barton County, reported by Aaron Balogh, also seen by Nate Shipley, documented with photographs. **Fourteenth state record.**

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*), 2015-07, 1st winter plumage, 20 February 2015, Reno County Landfill, Reno County, reported by Andrew Miller, also seen by Bryant Miller, documented with photographs. **Fifteenth state record.**

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*), 2015-08, adult, 3 March 2015, Hillsdale Lake State Park, Miami County, reported by Mark Land, documented with a photograph. **Sixteenth state record.**

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*), 2015-06, 1st winter plumage, 20 February 2015, Clinton Reservoir, Douglas County, reported by Jon King, documented with photographs. **Sixteenth state record.**

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*), 2015-13, adult, 14 April 2015, Lucas Park area of Wilson Lake, Russel County, reported by Dave Klema, documented with photographs. **Seventeenth state record.**

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*), 2015-31, immature, 24 to 25 October 2015, urban residence, Topeka, Shawnee County, reported by Ralph Hoover, documented with photographs.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*), 2015-18, adult female, 6 August 2014, Oak Park, Wichita, Sedgwick County, reported by Paul Griffin, documented with photographs. **Eleventh state record.**

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*), 2015-23, adult female, 12 August 2015, rural residence, Partridge, Reno County, reported by Andrew Miller. Also seen by Myron Miller and Bryant Miller, documented with photographs. **Twelfth state record.**

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), 2015-30, adult female, 11 October 2015, rural road intersection, west of Chanute, Neosho County, reported by Sheryl Busse, also seen by Kristy Hughes, documented with photographs.

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaius*), 2015-16, adult, 8 to 10 May 2015, Scott Lake State Park, Scott County, reported by Christopher Lituma, Brandon Percival, Bryan White, and many observers, documented with photographs. **First state record for Kansas and will be added to the KOS Checklist.**

Pacific Wren (*Troglodytes pacificus*), 2015-21, unknown age, 20 December 2014, Scott Lake State Park, Scott County, reported by Jeff Calhoun, and also seen by Henry Armknecht, documented with video and audio recording. **First state record for Kansas and will be added to the KOS Checklist.**

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*), 2015-25, immature female, 24 August 2015, near Arlington, Reno County, reported by Andrew Miller. Also seen by Michael Miller, Anthony Miller, and Bryant Miller, documented with photographs. A westerly record in Kansas.

Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*), 2015-20, adult male, 29 April 2015, Ford County State Fishing Lake, Ford County, reported by Jeff Calhoun, documented with photograph and video. **Fifth state record.**

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), 2015-01, adult of unknown gender, 13 January 2015, Shawnee Mission Park, Johnson County, reported by Brett Budach. A rare winter record for this species in Kansas.

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*), 2015-27, sub-adult male, 28 May 2015, rural intersection in central Kiowa County, reported by Jay Newton. **Second state record.**

Cassin's Finch (*Haemorhous cassinii*), 2015-26, adult female, 8 January 2014, rural residence near Partridge, Reno County, reported by Andrew Miller, also seen by Bryant Miller, documented with photographs. Easternmost record in Kansas.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*), 2015-17, of unknown age, 13 May 2015, in flight near Kansas River, Johnson County. Details provided did not rule out a cormorant species.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*), 2015-33, adult of unknown gender, 29 August 2015, Elk City Lake, Montgomery County, accompanied by one photograph. Insufficient details to separate from other *Calidris* sandpipers.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), 2015-32, adult, 18 November 2014, sandpit near Hutchinson, Reno County. Description and photographs did not rule out similar gull species.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*), 2015-10, male of unknown age, 11 April 2015, Overland Park residence, Johnson County. Details provided did not rule out leucistic/albinistic hawk or other large owl species.

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*), 2015-02, unknown age or gender, 1 September 2014, Clark State Fishing Lake, Clark County. Insufficient details to separate from other *Empidonax* flycatchers. *Empidonax* flycatchers in the fall are notoriously difficult to differentiate.

Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*), 2015-15, adult male, 6 May 2015, Wichita State University Campus, Sedgwick County. Details provided did not rule out similar warbler species.

Members of the KBRC voting on these records:

Jeff Calhoun
Kevin Groeneweg
Jon King
Terry Mannell
Cheryl Miller
Chuck Otte (secretary)
Eugene A. Young (chair)

Submitted by Chuck Otte, KBRC Secretary

PROBABLE NESTING BY A YOUNG-OF-THE-YEAR EASTERN BLUEBIRD

William R. Brecheisen¹ and William H. Busby²

¹24685 Lyons Road, Chanute, KS 66720-6461;

²Kansas Biological Survey, 2101 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66047-3759.

INTRODUCTION AND METHODS

The operation of bluebird trails consisting of nesting boxes placed along trails or roads (Zeleny 1976) is a popular activity among bird enthusiasts and is believed to be an important factor in increasing numbers of the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) in North America (Gowaty and Plissner 1998).

Since 1968, W. R. Brecheisen (WRB) has operated nine bluebird trails with a total of over 500 nest boxes in Anderson, Allen, Franklin, and Neosho counties in eastern Kansas, operating under federal banding permit #07776. Side-opening nest boxes were checked after first blocking the entrance hole with a plug. Adult birds were removed from the box and if banded, the band number was read one digit at a time and recorded on a data form. After recording the band number, the band number was read again to assure the number was correct. The bird was always checked for the presence of a brood patch. Un-banded birds and large nestlings were removed from the nest box, banded, and returned to the box.

OBSERVATION

On 18 May 2010 at 11:20 h, WRB banded a nestling with band number 2541-11127 from Box H-32 located on Ohio Road about 3.2 km south and 4.8 km west of Bush City (N 38° 10' 53.55", W 095° 12' 15.6"). It was recorded as a nestling in nest with flight feathers in the pin phase.

Several months later, on 4 August 2010, WRB found a bird with the same band number incubating 3 eggs in Nest Box 5 on E-Trail along SW Kiowa Road approximately 2.4 km east and 2.4 km north of Colony, Anderson County (N 38° 05' 28.92", W 095° 19' 36.06"). The bird had a very red brood patch and a few faded spots on the breast. A male bluebird was the only other bluebird in the vicinity and it exhibited aggressive nest defense as it dived at the observer's head several times. On a subsequent visit, two of the eggs in Nest Box 5 had hatched and the young were banded with band numbers 2551-03420 and 2551-03421. The distance from the original banding site at Box H-32 to Nest Box 5 on E-Trail, where the bird was found incubating, was 15 km to the southwest.

DISCUSSION

This was the only occurrence of a young-of-the-year bird found to be nesting in its first year on these bluebird trails. Many bluebird females changed nest boxes for

the second nesting, but they usually choose a nest box located only one or two boxes away from the first nest box (WRB unpubl. data). One female nested five times in one season but always on the same or an adjacent trail (WRB unpubl. data).

Eastern Bluebirds typically breed for the first time at one year of age (Gowaty and Plissner 1998). The mean age at first breeding was 305.6 days in a study in South Carolina (Gowaty 1980) and 312 days (range 243-370) in Tennessee (Laskey 1943). Assuming the bird in question was 11 days old when banded and that the clutch of 3 eggs in Nest Box 5 was initiated on about 1 August, the bird was approximately 88 days old at first egg production. We are not aware of other reports of bluebirds nesting in the same season of hatching. Considering the enormous amount of data accumulated from bluebird banding projects one would assume that this possible early first age at breeding would have been recorded previously, especially in the south. Most bird species have an age at first breeding of one or more years. Among the species that reach sexual maturity in less than one year of age are Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*), 80-90 days (Mirarchi and Baskett 1994); Japanese Quail (*Coturnix japonica*), in captivity, 52-63 days (Tachutu et al. 2013); Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), 160 days (Baldini et al. 1952); and Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), 180 days (Tachutu et al. 2013).

The evidence presented here suggests first-year breeding by a female Eastern Bluebird. However, no genetic testing was conducted to determine parentage of the young. With declining daylight hours the physiological requisites are not present for a first time breeder, especially a juvenile. However, bluebirds hatched in May sometimes have partners by September (Thomas 1946). While it is possible that the juvenile bird followed one or both parents to the new site, helpers are not common for the species (Gowaty and Plissner 1998) and would not be expected to have a well-developed brood patch. Unrelated females normally drive off juvenile birds, although juveniles have been observed entering active nest holes of unrelated bluebirds (Gowaty and Plissner 1998). We encourage other operators of bluebird trails to closely monitor birds for unusual nesting behavior.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ERRATA: Page 25 of the March 2016 Bulletin (Vol. 67 No. 1) had alignment errors from Long-tailed Duck down to gull sp.. Below (page 36) is the corrected portion of page 25 from the March 2016 issue. An updated page 25 with the entire table will appear on-line as a corrected version of the entire manuscript (<http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/bulletin/Bulletin.htm>).

The editor takes full responsibility for this error. Sorry for any inconveniences this may have caused. EAY

2015-2016 KOS CBC Table

Species	Olhburg	Oskaloosa Perry Lake	Parsons	Quivira NWR	Red Hills	Salina	Sawyer	Scott Lake	Shane Creek Wetlands	SE KS Mined	Tallgrass Prairie NP	Topoka	Utah- Winfield	Wisconsin Lake
Long-tailed Duck	CW	37	8	16		4		2	13		14	12	16	30
Bufflehead	8	432	31	5		43						202	281	980
Common Goldeneye	8	11	26	CW		2					2	13	10	10
Hooded Merganser	3	40	2	24								2	CW	15000
Common Merganser		1				90			4	15		1	CW	
Red-throated Diver			6	8		6								
Ruddy Duck	250	70												
duck sp.														
Scaled Quail	36		10	66	120	35	26	24	6	18	22		20	3
Northern Bobwhite				9	1	17			62				1	
Ring-necked Pheasant														
Greater Prairie-Chicken	134	89	70	24		7	20	173	4	74		76	16	82
Wild Turkey		2												1
Common Loon														
Black-billed Cuckoo			17			2	1	1	6	3		44	7	
Pied-billed Grebe		5											CW	
Horned Grebe														
Eared Grebe														
Western Grebe		2												
Neotropical Cormorant														
Double-crested Cormorant	33		40											8
American White Pelican	30	5	CW			2	6	1	6	4		1	27	
Great Blue Heron	1		28	3	5							4	6	
Great Egret														
White-faced Ibis														
Osprey			7	41	3	1	1		8	5		3	14	7
Bald Eagle adults	4	32												
Bald Eagle immatures	3		71	24	1	6	1		1	8		3	3	
Northern Harrier	21	36	2	67	36	3	7	15	24	8	22	3	38	12
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	3	2	6	3	10		2	5	1	2	4	3	1
Cooper's Hawk	1	2	1	8	6	3		2	6	1		11	6	1
Red-shouldered Hawk			11		1	1								
Broad-winged Hawk														
Red-tailed Hawk	36	134	98	80	84	54	32	23	149	51	17	83	153	57
Harlan's Hawk	CW	2	17	5	4	2		4	4	1		4	4	
Ferruginous Hawk				4	3	2		3	1					
Rough-legged Hawk	CW	1		7	3	2		3	1			1	1	2
Belted sp. Hawk	1					1		2						
Golden Eagle														
Virginia Rail				1			1	1						
Snowbird				1										
American Coot	1	6	195	3		15	2		6			600	34	126
Sandhill Crane				450	12340		CW							
Killdeer		1	1	1					4					
American Avocet				CW										
Greater Yellowlegs				CW					2					
Lesser Yellowlegs									1					
Purple Sandpiper														
Lesser Scaup			16						4					
Wilson's Snipe			50		3				2					
American Woodcock														
Black-legged Kittiwake		225											CW	1
Bonaparte's Gull														
Franklin's Gull														
Ring-billed Gull		15521	31	16		460							150	221
California Gull														
Herring Gull		203		2									CW	77
Thayer's Gull														
Glaucous Gull														
gull sp.	9	47												