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2020 REPORT OF THE KANSAS BIRD RECORD COMMITTEE

This report summarizes the activities of the Committee for the calendar year 2020. The Committee received 45 reports of which 43 were evaluated recording the occurrence of 38 different birds. All reports are archived by the Kansas Bird Records Committee and are available for review upon request. Two records from 2019 that were under further review received final action.

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 Ornithological Society's Check-list of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. Check-list of North American Birds: The Species of Birds of North America from the Arctic through Panama, Including the West Indies and Hawaiian Islands. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.), updated through the 62nd Supplement (R. T. Chesser, S. M. Billerman, K. J. Burns, C. Cicero, J. L. Dunn, B. E. Hernández-Baños, A. W. Kratter, I. J. Lovette, N. A. Mason, P. C. Rasmussen, J. V. Remsen, Jr., D. F. Stotz, and K. Winker, 2021. Sixty-second Supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Check-list of North American Birds. *The Auk*, Volume 138, 2021, pp. 1 – 18, DOI: 10.1093/ornithology/ukab037).

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

Mexican Whip-poor-will, (*Antrostomus arizonae*), 2020-32, one bird heard calling 15 September 2020, at Middle Spring, Cimarron National Grassland, Morton County, reported by Steve Kingswood. **This is the first record of this species in Kansas. Since the record was submitted without physical evidence the bird will be added to the KOS Check-list as a hypothetical species.**

Anna's Hummingbird, (*Calypte anna*), 2020-25, one immature, 13 October through 11 November 2020, at a feeder in Dodge City, Ford County, reported by Christi McMillen also seen by Stan McMillen, Jeff Calhoun, and Kathy Carroll. Documented with photographs. **Eleventh state record.**

Little Gull, (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*), 2020-22, one in second year plumage, 18 October 2020, at Melvern Lake, Osage County, by Debra McKee also seen by Mark Pheasant. **Twenty-third state record.**

Short-billed Gull, (*Larus brachyrhynchus*), 2020-02, one adult, 10 January 2020, Melvern Lake Dam, Osage County, reported by Malcolm Gold also seen by Joseph Mosley. **Thirteenth state record.**

Short-billed Gull, (*Larus brachyrhynchus*), 2020-04, one adult, 2 February 2020, Lake Quivira, Johnson and Wyandotte Counties, reported by Mark Land and Malcolm Gold, also seen by Kathy Carroll and many other observers. Documented with photographs. **Fourteenth state record.**

Yellow-billed Loon, (*Gavia adamsii*), 2020-38, one immature, 15 November 2020 through 3 February 2021, Wilson Lake, Russell County, reported by Mike Rader, also seen by Dave Klema and many other observers. Documented with photographs (Figure 1). **Sixth state record.**



Figure 1. Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*), right, with a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), left, located at Wilson Lake, Russell County, on 15 November 2020. Photograph by Kathy Carroll.

Wood Stork, (*Mycteria americana*), 2020-18, one immature, 22 August 2020, Lake Scott State Park, Scott County, reported by Jay Miller, also seen by Karole Erikson and Christopher Frick. Documented with photographs. **Thirteenth state record.**

Magnificent Frigatebird, (*Fregata magnificens*), 2020-33, one unknown age female, 5 November 2020, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Stafford County, reported by Tom Blandford. Documented with photographs. **Seventh state record.**

Magnificent Frigatebird, (*Fregata magnificens*), 2020-35, one adult female, 8 November 2020 at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Barton County, reported by Rob Penner.

Magnificent Frigatebird, (*Fregata magnificens*), 2020-36, one unknown age/sex, 10 November 2020 at Clinton Lake, Douglas County, reported by Logan Smith.

Frigatebird records in the central Great Plain pose a conundrum for records committees and the KBRC spent considerable time discussing these records. There is reason to believe, given the date of the sightings, that this was the same bird and as such is being treated as the seventh state record. A more crucial issue is separating Magnificent Frigatebird from Great or Lesser Frigatebird which do have records from nearby states. The KBRC strongly urges birders in the future to not just assume that a frigatebird is a Magnificent but to pay close attention and take note of crucial details such as size, white in axillary of wing and chest patterns, bill length, and try to ascertain sex and age to help eliminate confusion with similar species.

Swallow-tailed Kite, (*Elanoides forficatus*), 2020-17, one adult, 13 August 2020, North Newton Exit of I-135, Harvey County, reported by Travis Stebbins and Carolyn Schwab and seen by many other observers. Documented with numerous photographs.

Swallow-tailed Kite, (*Elanoides forficatus*), 2020-19, one adult, 21 to 25 August 2020, Filby Park area of Junction City, Geary County, reported by Joshua Keating and Chuck Otte, also seen by Jeff Keating and Jaye Otte and many other birders. Documented with photographs.

Swallow-tailed Kite, (*Elanoides forficatus*), 2020-42, one adult, 9 August 2020, Lawrence Riverfront Park, Douglas County, reported by JC Avena and seen by many other birders. Documented with photographs.

Northern Goshawk, (*Accipiter gentilis*), 2020-03, one immature, 21 January 2020, rural residence near Hope, Dickinson County, reported by Kenneth Barnard. Documented with photographs (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Juvenile Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) observed on 21 January 2020 near Hope, Dickenson County. Photograph by Kenneth Barnard.

Northern Goshawk, (*Accipiter gentilis*), 2020-41, one immature, 25 December 2020, south of Marion, Marion County, reported by Kevin Groeneweg.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker, (*Dryobates scalaris*), 2020-01, one adult female, 2 January 2020, Manter Dam, Stanton County, reported by Kathy Carroll, also seen by Diane Persons. Documented with photographs.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker, (*Dryobates scalaris*), 2020-08, one adult female, 14 April 2020, Minooka Park, Wilson Lake, Russell County, reported by Dave Klema. Documented with photographs.

Hammond's Flycatcher, (*Empidonax hammondi*), 2020-20, one unknown age, 4 September 2020, Middle Springs, Cimarron National Grasslands, Morton County, reported by Dan Broers. Documented with photos and video. **Twelfth state record.**

Gray Flycatcher, (*Empidonax wrightii*), 2020-24, one adult, 12 September 2020, Middle Springs, Cimarron National Grasslands, Morton County, reported by Kathy Carroll. Documented with photos. **Eleventh state record.**

Black Phoebe, (*Sayornis nigricans*), 2020-05, one adult, 5 April 2020, Cimarron National Grasslands campground area, Morton County, reported by Lucas DeCicco. Also reported by Stephen DeHart. Documented with photographs. This is the second state record but the first to be supported with physical evidence. This species will be removed from the hypothetical list.

Black Phoebe, (*Sayornis nigricans*), 2020-06, one adult, 7 April 2020, Middle Springs, Cimarron National Grasslands, Morton County reported by Ted Cable. Also seen by Pete Janzen. Documented with photographs. **Third state record.**

Black Phoebe, (*Sayornis nigricans*), 2020-09, one adult, 22 May 2020, at a residence near Louisburg, Miami County, reported by Amy Mesh Frederick. Documented with photographs. **Fourth state record.**

Vermilion Flycatcher, (*Pyrocephalus obscurus*), 2020-34, one adult male, 6 November 2020, at Wilson Lake, Russell County, reported by Dave Klema and Bob Kruger. Also seen by many other birders. Documented with photographs.

Cassin's Vireo, (*Vireo cassinii*), 2020-27, one unknown age, 12 September 2020, at Middle Springs, Cimarron National Grasslands, Morton County, reported by Kathy Carroll. Documented with photographs.

Chihuahuan Raven, (*Corvus cryptoleucus*), 2020-13, two unknown age, 15 May 2020, in extreme northwestern Morton County, reported by Joseph Miller, also seen by Andrew Miller, Anthony Miller, Michael Miller, and Bryant Miller. Documented with photograph.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), 2020-11, two unknown age, 17 May 2020, rural Hamilton County, reported by Joseph Miller, also seen by Andrew Miller, Anthony

Miller, Michael Miller, and Bryant Miller. Documented with photographs.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), 2020-14, one unknown age, 17 May 2020, south central Greeley County, reported by Joseph Miller, also seen by Andrew Miller, Anthony Miller, Michael Miller, and Bryant Miller.

Mountain Chickadee, (*Poecile gambeli*), 2020-31, one adult, 24 October 2020 to 1 April 2021, residential yard near Grinnell, Gove County, reported by Christopher Frick, and seen by many other observers. Documented with photographs

Violet-green Swallow, (*Tachycineta thalassina*), 2020-07, one adult, 15 April 2020, Pratt County Lake, Pratt County, reported by Mark Peterson, also seen by Mike Rader. Documented with photographs.

Sage Thrasher, (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), 2020-23, one adult, 12 October 2020, rural residential yard near Erie, Neosho County, reported by Andrew Burnett, also seen by Daniel Burnett. Documented with photographs (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) observed on 12 October 2020 near Erie, Neosho County. Photograph by Andrew Burnett.

Yellow-eyed Junco, (*Junco phaeonotus*), 2020-37, one adult, 2 November 2020 to 31 March 2021, Scott Lake State Park, Scott County, reported by Sara Shane. Also reported by Christopher Frick. Seen by many other observers. Documented with photographs (Figure 4). **First state record and will be added to the KOS Checklist.**



Figure 4. Yellow-eyed Junco (*Junco phaeonotus*) observed on 2 November 2020 at Scott Lake State Park, Scott County. Photograph by Sara Shane.

Bronzed Cowbird, (*Molothrus aeneus*), 2020-10, one adult male, 26 May 2020, Samson Rest Area along US 54 Highway, Seward County, reported by Stephen DeHart, also reported by Kevin Groeneweg and Pete Janzen, documented with photographs. **Third state record.**



Figure 5. Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) observed on 26 May 2020 at Samson Rest area along US 54 Highway, Seward County. Photograph by Stephen DeHart.

Bronzed Cowbird, (*Molothrus aeneus*), 2020-21, one adult male, 3 June 2020, Samson Rest Area along US 54 Highway, Seward County, reported by Kathy Carroll. Likely the same individual reported in 2020-10. Documented with photographs.

Cape May Warbler, (*Setophaga tigrina*), 2020-12, one adult male, 16 May 2020, Middle Springs, Cimarron National Grasslands, Morton County, reported by Joseph Miller, also seen by Andrew Miller, Anthony Miller, and Michael Miller, documented with photographs.

Cape May Warbler, (*Setophaga tigrina*), 2020-29, one adult male, 8 October 2020, in Elkhart, Morton County, reported by Alec Hopping. Documented with photographs.

Pine Warbler, (*Setophaga pinus*), 2020-16, one immature, 10-July-2020, backyard of a residence in Cheney, Kingman County, reported by Sarah Sales, documented with photographs. This record is considered a probable breeding record (first) in Kansas since photographs show at least one fledgling that likely could not have flown in from known breeding locations.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Gyr Falcon, (*Falco rusticolus*), 2020-40, 1 unknown age, 2 December 2020 from McPherson State Fishing Lake, McPherson County. Insufficient details to separate this bird from other falcon species.

Cassin's Vireo, (*Vireo cassinii*), 2020-26, 1 unknown age, 11 September 2020 from the Elkhart shelterbelt, Morton County. Insufficient details to separate this bird from Blue-headed Vireo.

Cassin's Vireo, (*Vireo cassinii*), 2020-28, 1 unknown age, 13 September 2020 from Middle Springs, Cimarron National Grassland, Morton County. Insufficient details to separate this bird from Blue-headed Vireo.

Shiny Cowbird, (*Molothrus bonariensis*), 2020-30, 1 adult male, 21 October 2020, from a residential area of Olathe, Johnson County. Insufficient details to separate this bird from a Brown-headed Cowbird.

RESOLUTION OF PREVIOUS YEAR RECORDS

Two records received during 2019 were not resolved until after the 2019 report was published. These results are listed below.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

Parasitic Jaeger, (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), 2019-28, one immature, 22 October 2019, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Barton County reported by Jay Miller. Documented with photographs. **Fifteenth state record.**

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Black-throated Sparrow, (*Amphispiza bilineata*), 2019-24, one immature, 14 September 2019, western crossing of the Cimarron River, Cimarron National Grasslands, Morton County. Photo and details were insufficient to confirm the identification of the bird.

Members of the KBRC voting on these records:

Nic Allen
Matt Gearheart
Malcolm Gold
Kevin Groeneweg
Cheryl Miller
Chuck Otte (Secretary)
Mike Rader (Alternate)
Max Thompson (Alternate)
Eugene A. Young (Chair)

Submitted by Chuck Otte, KBRC Secretary

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KBRC Webpage: https://ksbirds.org/kos/kos_kbrc.htm