

# *Kansas Ornithological Society*

## BULLETIN

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### **2021 REPORT OF THE KANSAS BIRD RECORD COMMITTEE**

This report summarizes the activities of the Committee for the calendar year 2021. The Committee received 21 reports, recording the occurrence of 19 different birds, of which 18 were evaluated. All reports are archived by the Kansas Bird Records Committee and are available for review upon request.

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, 7th 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 age, sex 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

**Eurasian Wigeon**, (*Mareca penelope*), 2021-04, one adult male, 31 March 2021, at Lake Scott, Scott County, by Tom Shane and Kathy Carroll, also seen by Sara Shane, John and Linda Zempel, Diane Persons, and Christopher Frick. Documented with photographs (Figure 1). **Eleventh state record.**



**Figure 1. Male Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca Penelope*) with American Wigeon (*Mareca americanus*) at Lake Scott, Scott County, on 31 March 2021. Photograph courtesy of John Zempel.**

**Mottled Duck**, (*Anas fulvigula*), 2021-12, one adult, 3–11 August 2021, at Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area, Linn County, by Malcolm Gold, also seen by many other observers. Documented with photographs and video.

**Anna's Hummingbird** (*Calypte anna*), 2021-02, one immature male, 31 January 2021, at a private residence in rural Augusta, Butler County, by Pete Janzen, also seen by Jeremy Birket, Tom Ewert, Kevin Groeneweg, Cheryl Miller, and Mark Nolen. **Twelfth state record.**

**Broad-billed Hummingbird** (*Cyananthus latirostris*), 2021-15, one unknown age, female, 19– 27 November 2021, at a private residence on the east side of Tuttle Creek Lake, Pottawatomie County, by Doris Burnett and Kathy Carroll and many other observers. Documented with photographs. **Fourth state record.**

**Royal Tern** (*Thalasseus maximus*), 2021-11, one adult, 14 August 2021, at Marion Reservoir, Marion County, by Lisa Hoffman and seen by many other observers. Documented with photographs (Figure 2). **This is the first record of this species in Kansas and will be added to the KOS Check-list, bringing the total to 484 species.**



**Figure 2. First state record Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) with Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) located at Marion Reservoir, Marion County, on 14 August 2021. Photograph courtesy of Lisa Hoffman.**

**White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)**, 2021-09, one adult, 20 May 2021, in Garden City, Finney County, by Tom Shane, also seen by Marie Osterbuhr, Karl Osterbuhr, and Sara Shane. Documented with photographs. **Seventh state record.**

**Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)**, 2021-13, one sub-adult, 2 November 2021, at Cimarron National Grasslands, Morton County, by Jesse Ellis.

**Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)**, 2021-01, one adult, 7 January 2021, in Minneola, Clark County, by Vernon Tunnell. The bird was seen by many other observers over several weeks being last reported on 6 February 2021. **Ninth state record.**

**Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*)**, 2021-07, one adult male, 16–17 May 2021, at a residence in Dodge City, Ford County, by Stan McMillen, also seen by Henry Armknecht, Dan Larson, Jeff Calhoun, and Christi McMillen. Documented with photographs (Figure 3). **Sixth state record.**



**Figure 3. Male Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*) found at a residence in Dodge City, Ford County, on 16 May 2021. Photograph taken on 17 May 2021, courtesy of Stan McMillen.**

**Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), 2021-06, one adult, 13 May 2021, at the Boeing Landfill in Wichita, Sedgwick County, by Kevin Groeneweg. Documented with photographs.

**Hammond's Flycatcher** (*Empidonax hammondi*), 2021-19, one adult, 12 May 2021, at Cimarron National Grasslands Cottonwood Picnic area, Morton County, by Kathy Carroll also seen by Terry and Sam Mannell, Diane Persons, Molly Zahn, and Jo-Ann Moore. Documented with photographs. **Thirteenth state record.**

**Brown-headed Nuthatch** (*Sitta pusilla*), 2021-14, one adult, 13 October 2021 to 21 April 2022, at a residence in Garden City, Finney County, by Sara Shane, also seen by Tom Shane and many other observers. Documented with photographs (Figure 4), audio and video recording. **Second state record.**



**Figure 4. Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) found at a residence in Garden City, Finney County, on 13 October 2021. Photograph taken on 30 October 2021, courtesy of Sara Shane.**

**Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)**, 2021-05, one adult, 1 April 2021, along the River road between Coolidge and Syracuse, Hamilton County, by Kathy Carroll, also seen by Diane Persons. Documented with photographs.

**Connecticut Warbler (*Oporonis agilis*)**, 2021-10, one adult male, 19–20 May 2021, at the Fitch Natural History Reservation, Douglas County, originally found by Mark Robbins and reported by Malcolm Gold, also seen by many other observers. Documented with audio recordings. **Thirteenth state record.**

**Connecticut Warbler (*Oporonis agilis*)**, 2021-18, one adult male, 21 May 2021, at a swampy area along York Road, Labette County, by Chad Gardener, also seen by Andrew Burnett. Documented with audio recordings. **Fourteenth state record.**

## **RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED**

**Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*)**, 2021-03, one immature, 28 January 2021, at Clinton Lake, Douglas County. Insufficient details to separate this bird from a Ring-billed Gull

**Crested Caracara (*Caracara plancus*)**, 2021-08, one adult, 5 May 2021, alongside a road in Rice County. Insufficient details to separate this bird from other raptors.

**Couch's Kingbird** (*Tyrannis couchii*), 2021-19, one of unknown age, 27 November to 2 December 2021, near Lyon State Fishing Lake, Lyon County. Viewed by numerous observers, included many photographs and video. Many of the photos showed outside tail feathers with lateral white edges, which are inconsistent with a Couch's Kingbird. Vocal recordings are not consistent with expected vocalizations of a Western Kingbird (*Tyrannis verticalis*). The bill appeared smaller than what a Couch's Kingbird should have. Based on the physical evidence, and discussions with experienced ornithologists, it was felt that the data presented was inconclusive as to its parentage and could not rule out a hybrid.

Members of the KBRC voting on these records:

Nic Allen (did not vote this round)  
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.

## **KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS 2021-2022**

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**Treasurer:** Max Thompson (maxt@cox.net)

### **Board of Directors (all terms expire in October of respective year)**

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Rachel Roth (lilbluestem@gmail.com) – 2022

Robert Penner (rpenner@tnc.org) – 2023

Kurtis Meier (kurtis.meier@ks.gov) – 2023

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**Past-President:** Cheryl Miller (avian67226@gmail.com)

**KOS Webpage:** <https://ksbirds.org/kos/KOSindex.html>

## **Update on Status of the KOS Bulletin and Requests for Manuscripts**

Members, libraries, museums, and friends of the Kansas Ornithological Society, as the editor of the *Bulletin* I want to express my sincere apologies for the delay of the December 2021 issue. With this mailing, Volume 72 of the *Bulletin* should be complete.

The *Bulletin* is the official peer-reviewed journal of the Society, which is published quarterly. The *Bulletin* is devoted to the field study of birds in Kansas, although other suitable materials can be published. Featured articles, and short notes of scientific or general interest are solicited; potential authors are encouraged to submit any materials that contribute to the understanding of birds in Kansas, including details for documentation of unusual or rare species.

Respectfully,

Eugene (Gene) A. Young, Editor

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