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2025 REPORT OF THE KANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

This report summarizes the activities of the Committee for the calendar year 2025. The Committee evaluated 57 reports, recording the occurrence of 53 different birds, comprising 36 different species. All reports, whether evaluated or not, are archived by the Kansas Bird Records Committee and are available for review upon request to the secretary.



Figure 1. An adult male Lawrence's Goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*), first record for Kansas, observed on 25 March 2025, at Garden City, Finney County. Photograph by Sara Shane.

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. Check-list of North American Birds. American Ornithological Society. <https://checklist.americanornithology.org/>), updated through the 66th Supplement (Chesser, R.T., S.M. Billerman, K.J. Burns, C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, B.E. Hernández-Baños, R.A. Jiménez, O. Johnson, N.A. Mason, P.C. Rasmussen, 2025. Ornithology, Volume 142, Issue 3, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ornithology/ukaf015>).

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, including county; observer(s), with those documenting the record listed first; supporting physical evidence; and pertinent comments on changes to the species status on the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS) check-list. 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

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), 2025-24, adult, 6 July 2025, at Little Salt Marsh, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Stafford County, by Andrew Miller. Documented with photographs. **This is the first confirmed record in the state since 2007.**

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), 2025-33 and 2025-56, adult, 31 July 2025 and 14-20 November 2025, at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Barton County, by Mark Nolen, Mary Kowalski, respectively, and others. Both records are documented with photographs (Figure 2). Both records were presumed to be the same bird.

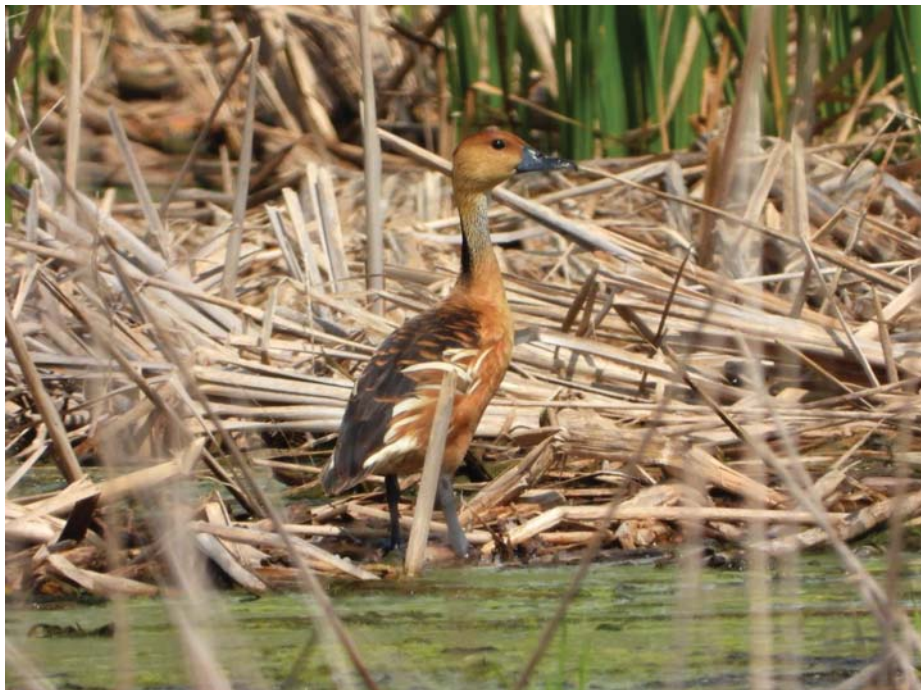


Figure 2. An adult Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), observed on 31 July 2025, at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Barton County. Photograph by Mark Nolen.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), 2025-45, adult female, 11 November 2025 to 21 January 2026, at the Rock Creek Public Use Area of Perry Lake, Jefferson County, first found by Chad and Trish Remley and seen by many other observers. Documented with photographs (Figure 3). The eider may have been present for several days prior to this, but not confirmed until 11 November. **This is the second state record, the first was shot by a hunter in nearby Douglas County in 1947 and preserved as a specimen at The University of Kansas Museum of Natural History (specimen #, KUMNH 27487).**



Figure 3. An adult female King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), second record for Kansas, observed on 11 November 2025, at Perry Lake, Jefferson County. Photograph by Chad Remley.

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), 2025-54, immature, 29 September 2025, at feeder near West Clark Road and High Point Road in rural Reno County, by Andrew Miller. Documented with photographs. **Seventeenth accepted record.**

Calliope Hummingbird (*Selasphorus calliope*), 2025-48, adult male, 2 July 2025, at feeder in St. Mary's, Pottawatomie County, by Brandon Magette. **Sixteenth accepted record.**

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*), 2025-25, adult, 13 July 2025, at Neosho Wildlife Area, Neosho County, by Andrew Burnett. Documented with photographs. **Twenty-third accepted record.**

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*), 2025-44, unknown age, 16 November 2025, at the Emporia State University Woods, Lyon County, by Denise Cameron. Documented with photographs. **Twenty-fourth accepted record.**

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*), 2025-49, unknown age, 22 October to 2 November 2025, at Cheyenne Bottoms WMA, Barton County, by Sara Shane and observed by many other observers. Documented with photographs. **Twenty-fifth accepted record.**

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*), 2025-32, adult, 25-27 June 2025, at Pracht Wetlands, Wichita, Sedgwick County, by Dennis Farris. Documented with photographs (Figure 4). **The first Kansas record since 2003.**



Figure 4. An adult Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*), observed on 25 June 2025, at Pracht Wetlands, Wichita, Sedgwick County. Photograph by Dennis Farris.

Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*), 2025-03, adult, 31 January to 4 February 2025, at a playa near 107th and Yucca Road, Ford County, by Christi McMillen and seen by many other observers. Documented with photographs (Figure 5). This bird was found deceased on 5 February 2025. The remains were recovered by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks staff, and deposited at the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute (tissue specimen # KT 40902). **This is the second Kansas record.**



Figure 5. An adult Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*), second record for Kansas, observed on 3 February 2025, at a playa near 107th and Yucca Road, Ford County. Photograph by Christi McMillen.

Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*), 2025-01, first winter plumage, 19 November 2024, at Scott Lake State Park, Scott County, by Mark Peterson. Documented with photographs. **Sixteenth accepted KBRC record.**

Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*), 2025-07, adult, 7 February 2025, at M&M Point Cheney Reservoir, Reno County, by Kaleb Kroeker and Hezekiah Swihart. Documented with photographs. **Seventeenth accepted KBRC record.**

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), 2025-04, adult, 3 February 2025, at East Shore area, Cheney State Park, Reno County, by Mark Nolen. Documented with photographs (Figure 6). **This is the first record for Kansas and will be added to the KOS Check-list.**



Figure 6. (Top) An adult Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) in background, with an American Herring Gull (*Larus smithsonianus*) in foreground, observed on 3 February 2025, at Cheney State Park, Reno County. (Bottom) Same Slaty-backed Gull about to take flight a few minutes after top photograph was taken. Photographs by Mark Nolen.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*), 2025-50. Immature, 3-21 August 2025, Marais des Cygne Wildlife Area, Unit G, Linn County, by Chris Krafft and seen by many other observers. Documented with photographs. **Fifteenth state record. An August 1988 record for Wood Stork from Scott Lake State Park, Scott County, has been previously overlooked but is now included to accurately reflect the number of Wood Stork records.**

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*), 2025-08, adult, 10-30 August 2024, Little Salt Marsh, Quivira NWR, Stafford County, by Carol Morgan. Documented with photographs. **Thirteenth state record.**

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*), 2025-42 and 2025-43, adult, 31 October to 27 November 2025, Carnahan Creek Park and Stockdale Park Areas of Tuttle Creek Reservoir, Pottawatomie and Riley Counties, respectively, by Lynette Muller and Jim Patten, respectively and seen by many other observers. Both records documented with photographs (Figure 7). Given the close proximity between the two locations, and similarities in plumage, these are being considered to be the same bird. **Fifth state record.**



Figure 7. An adult Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*), observed on 31 October 2025, at Carnahan Creek Park, Tuttle Creek Reservoir, Pottawatomie County. Photograph by Lynette Muller.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), 2025-14, unknown age, 18 April 2025, Prairie Rail Trail, Princeton Access, Franklin County, by Malcolm Gold.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), 2025-15, unknown age, 15 April 2025, LaCygne Wildlife Area, Miami County, by Peter Sullivan.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), 2025-16, unknown age, 22 April 2025, Clear Creek Lake, Atchison County, by Don Merz.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), 2025-09, unknown age, 17 August 2024, Mulvane, Sumner County, by Kevin Groeneweg. Documented with photographs.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), 2025-31, unknown age, 14 August 2025, Warren Riverview Park, Derby, Sedgwick County, by AiLeng Chen. Documented with photographs.

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*), 2025-46, adult, 9-17 December 2025, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Headquarters Park, Pratt, Pratt County, by Mike Rader, seen by many other observers. Documented with photographs (Figure 8).

Third state record, first since 2013.



Figure 8. An adult Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*), third record for Kansas, observed on 9 December 2025, at Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Headquarters Park, Pratt County. Photograph by Chelsea Hofmeier.

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*), 2025-35, adult, 17 May 2025, Lakewood Park, Salina, Saline County, by Kaleb Kroeker. Documented with audio recording.

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*), 2025-36, unknown age, 13 September 2025, Cimarron National Grasslands (CNG), Middle Springs, Morton County, by Andrew Miller. Documented with photographs. **Fifteenth accepted record.**

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*), 2025-37, unknown age, 13 September 2025, CNG, West Bend, Morton County, by Andrew Miller. Documented with photographs. **Sixteenth accepted record.**

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*), 2025-38, unknown age, 13 September 2025, CNG, Boy Scout Campground, Morton County, by Andrew Miller. Documented with photographs. **Seventeenth accepted record.**

Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*), 2025-02, unknown age, 30 April 2024, Richfield Cemetery, Morton County, by Malcolm Gold. Documented with photographs. **Fourteenth accepted record.**

Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*), 2025-05, unknown age, 7 August 2024, Scott State Park, Scott County, by Mark Peterson. **Fifteenth accepted record.**

Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*), 2025-53, unknown age, 6 September 2025, CNG West Bend, Morton County, by Ryan Giordanelli. Documented with photographs. **Sixteenth accepted record.**

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), 2025-55, first year male, 15 November 2025, South Mound eBird hotspot, Neosho County, by Andrew Burnett and others. Documented with photographs.

Western Warbling-Vireo (*Vireo swainsoni*), 2025-29, unknown age, 13 May 2023, CNG Boy Scout Area, Morton County, by Mark Nolen. Documented with audio recording. **With the recent split, this is the first definitive record for Kansas and will be added to the KOS Check-list.**

Chihuahuan Raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*), 2025-10, unknown age, 7 February 2025, North of Richfield, Stanton County, by Kevin Groeneweg. Documented with photographs.

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*), 2025-40, twelve adults and immatures, 14 September 2025, near the Elkhart Cemetery, shelterbelt and sewage ponds, Morton County, by Andrew Miller. Documented with photographs.

Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*), 2025-06, unknown age, 6 January 2025, in a rural residential yard near Inman, McPherson County, by Kelly Unruh. Documented with photographs (Figure 9). **One of the furthest east records in the state.**



Figure 9. A Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*), observed on 6 January 2025, at a rural residence near Inman, McPherson County. Photograph by Kelly Unruh.

Lawrence's Goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*), 2025-13, adult male, 25 March to 2 April 2025, at feeders in Garden City, Finney County, by Sara and Tom Shane and seen by many other observers. Documented with photographs (Figure 1). **This is the first record for Kansas and will be added to the KOS Check-list.**

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), 2025-57, adult, 20 December 2025, along South Emma Creek Road, Harvey County, by Carolyn Schwab. Documented with photographs (Figure 10). **Fourteenth state record.**



Figure 10. An adult Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), observed on 20 December 2025, along South Emma Road, Harvey County. Photograph by Carolyn Schwab.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*), 2025-19, adult male, 28 April 2025, in Oak Park, Wichita, Sedgwick County, by Kevin Groeneweg. Documented with photographs (Figure 11). Rare outside of extreme eastern Kansas.



Figure 11. An adult male Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*), observed on 28 April 2025, at Oak Park, Wichita, Sedgwick County. Photograph by Kevin Groeneweg.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*), 2025-22, adult female, 1 June 2025, Fall River State Park, Fredonia Bay Area, Greenwood County, by Malcolm Gold. Rare in eastern Kansas.

Tropical Parula (*Setophaga pitiayumi*), 2025-21 presumed adult female, 6-13 May 2025, Dillon Nature Center, Hutchinson, Reno County, by Mark Nolen and seen by many other observers. Documented with photographs (Figure 12). The bird appears within the plumage range of an adult male due to black mask and overall bright colors, or a female due to a lack of color in breast. However, the bird was observed carrying nesting material and building a nest, a behavioral characteristic of a female. As far as is known, the bird was not recorded or observed singing, a typical male behavioral characteristic. **This is the first record for Kansas and will be added to the KOS Check-list.**



Figure 12. A presumed adult female Tropical Parula (*Setophaga pitiayumi*), first record for Kansas, observed on 7 May 2025, at Dillon Nature Center, Hutchinson, Reno County. Photograph by Mark Nolen.

Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*), 2025-47, adult male, 1 June 2025, Cheney Wildlife Area, Ruebke Cove, Reno County, by Andrew Miller. Documented with photographs (Figure 13). Rare outside of extreme eastern Kansas.



Figure 13. An adult male Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*), observed on 1 June 2025, at Cheney Wildlife Area, Reno County. Photograph by Andrew Miller.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Mexican Duck (*Anas diazi*), 2025-34, adult male, 1 September 2025, at the Liberal Water Treatment ponds, Seward County. Due to the extreme similarity in plumage and potential hybridization among species in the Mallard/Mottled Duck/American Black Duck/Mexican Duck complex, it was felt that based on the information and photographs submitted it was not possible to say for certain what species this bird was.

Limpkin (*Aramus guarana*), 2025-12, unknown age, 14 July 1978, below Lowell Reservoir, Cherokee County. This record recently came to light from evaluation of a letter written to Marvin Schwilling. It was felt that there were insufficient details to separate this sighting from an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*), 2025-11, unknown age, 23 February 2025, La Cygne Lake Dam, Linn County. Insufficient information to separate from other loon species.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), 2025-52, unknown age, 30 August 2025, Quivira NWR, Stafford County. Insufficient details to separate from a juvenile Turkey Vulture.

Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*), 2025-51, unknown age, 29 August 2025, CNG, Middle Springs, Morton County. Insufficient details to separate from other fall Empidonax flycatchers.

Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*), 2025-39, adult, 13 September 2025, Elkhart Shelterbelts, Morton County. Photographs and written description were insufficient to separate from other "Solitary Vireos"

Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*), adult, 2025-41/Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*), 2025-20, unknown age, 4 May 2025, Battin Park, Johnson City, Stanton County. These two records were submitted on the same bird seen by many birders during the KOS Spring Field Trip in southwest Kansas. The KBRC evaluated many photographs of this bird. Ultimately it was felt that some photographs showed characteristics of one species and other photographs showed characteristics of the other species. Therefore, it was treated as an undetermined species.

Western Warbling-Vireo (*Vireo swainsoni*), 2025-26, unknown age, 28 April 2001, CNG, Turkey Trail, Morton County. Insufficient details to separate from Eastern Warbling-Vireo.

Western Warbling-Vireo (*Vireo swainsoni*), 2025-27, unknown age, 31 August 2017, St. Francis Golf Course, Cheyenne County. Insufficient details to separate from Eastern Warbling-Vireo.

Western Warbling-Vireo (*Vireo swainsoni*), 2025-28, unknown age, 17 May 2020, CNG, West Bend, Morton County. Accompanying audio was not adequate to separate from Eastern Warbling-Vireo.

Western Warbling-Vireo (*Vireo swainsoni*), 2025-30, unknown age, 28 September 2024, CNG, West Bend, Morton County. Insufficient details to separate from Eastern Warbling-Vireo.

NOTES

The addition of Slaty-backed Gull, Western Warbling-Vireo, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and Tropical Parula, brings the official Kansas Check-list to 492 documented species. Three species are not included on the active check-list because they no longer occur. The Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) and Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) are extinct, and the Gunnison Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*) has been extirpated from the state. A record for Taiga/Tundra Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*/*Anser serrirostris*) was accepted in 2020. However, since it wasn't accepted at the species level it was not added to the KOS Check-list.

The current Kansas check-list can be viewed at:
<https://www.ksbirds.org/checklist/KansasChecklist.pdf>.

Members of the KBRC voting on these records:

Matt Gearheart
Andrew George
Malcolm Gold
Kevin Groeneweg
Pete Janzen (Alternate)
Mark Nolen
Chuck Otte (Secretary, Alternate)
Mike Rader
Mark Robbins
Max Thompson (Chair)
Eugene A. Young

Submitted by Chuck Otte, KBRC Secretary

Manuscripts Needed and Instructions to Authors

The Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin is the official peer-reviewed journal of the Society, which is published quarterly. The KOS 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. The following guidelines should be followed if you wish to submit manuscripts.

1) Authors should review recent issues of the Bulletin as a guide to style and format for manuscripts (<https://www.ksbirds.org/kos/bulletin/Bulletin.htm>). Most Featured Articles should be assembled in this order: title page, abstract, text (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments, and Literature Cited), tables, figure legends, and figures. Manuscripts should be double-spaced throughout (including the title page, tables, and figure legends); use the same font (12 point, prefer Times New Roman) throughout the manuscript. Margins should be at least 2.5 cm (1 inch) on all sides of the page.

2) Authors are asked to submit one word processing file (preferably MS Word [.DOC], but others may be accepted) with the text, tables, and figure captions via e-mail to the editor. Each figure should be submitted as a separate graphics file (a dpi of 300 is preferred minimum) as a .tiff or .jpg format. Manuscripts can be sent to the editor as hard copies via normal surface mail; however, the authors must provide three copies of all materials for review. Color images are acceptable, and efforts will be made to include color, but the editor may choose to use black-and-white.

3) Please include affiliations of the authors, authors' names, and e-mail addresses of authors (if you want them to be copied on the status of the manuscript). You may suggest up to two possible reviewers, and provide their names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses. Depending on the scope of the article, one to three (anonymous) reviewers may review a manuscript. Reviewer comments will be forwarded to the authors electronically. Authors will be provided with a time-line for returning the manuscript and when publication may take place.

4) For photographs or drawings a copyright notice with the photographers or artist's name and year may be included in the cutline.

Any questions or submissions can be sent to the editor:
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