



Kansas Tallgrass Prairies September 14-22, 2019

With guides Ed & Sil Pembleton and Sharon Gunther, and participants:
Jean, Kathy, Don, Cindy, Lynette, Ellen, Steve, Joe, Linda and Phillip

Compiled by Ed & Sil Pembleton

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only
(I)=introduced

NOTE: QNWR = Quivira National Wildlife Refuge & CB = Cheyenne Bottoms State Game Refuge.

BIRDS (92 species recorded, of which 1 was heard only):

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (8) —Due to warm temperatures and strong prevailing south winds, very few migrating birds, especially waterfowl, had reached this far south by the time of our tour.
Canada Goose *Branta Canadensis*—Small flocks seen at QNWR & CB, urban populations on golf courses.
Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*—Small numbers found in wooded pond near QNWR.
Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*—A few early migrants found at Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms.
Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*—Limited numbers on QNWR & CB
Gadwall *Mareca strepera*—Several pairs found at QNWR & CB
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*— Limited numbers on QNWR & CB, individuals and pairs on ponds.
Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*—A few mixed in at QNWR & CB.
Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*—Several with Blue-winged teal at CB.

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*—Covey call heard from Coronado Heights near Lindsborg.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIE: Phasianidae (2)

Ring-necked Pheasant (I) *Phasianus colchicus*—Flock of roosters flushed & crossed the road-QNWR.
Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*—Flock feeding near Mt. Mitchell Prairie.

GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*—ubiquitous grebe at QNWR & CB

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (3)

Rock Pigeon (I) *Columba livia*—seen in all urban areas and most small towns with elevators.
Eurasian Collared-Dove (I) *Streptopelia decaocto*—Increasingly common, seen most days.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*—Abundant and observed every day.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*—Seen flying (migrating flocks) and roosting

SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica*—Large flock migrating flock mixed with Purple Martins flew over Wichita parking lot at welcome dinner. Smaller numbers seen in Lindsborg.

RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (1)

American Coot *Fulica americana*—Robust numbers at QNWR & CB

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*—Feeding at QNWR & CB

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*—Fair numbers at QNWR & CB

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (1)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*—Seen most days during the trip.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (7)

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*—Small flocks at QNWR & CB—water was still too deep at both.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*—Several individuals seen mixed in with Baird's at CB.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*—Small numbers at CB.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*—Feeding at both QNWR & CB.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*—Bonus bird at QNWR!

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*—Compared to "normal," small numbers at QNWR & CB.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*—CB produce our only Willet.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (4)

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*—Fair numbers at QNWR.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*—Commonly seen in and around most larger bodies of water.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*—CB still had a few on the wing.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*—Nice views at CB.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*—Both QNWR and CB provided views of feeding DCC

PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*—Nice flocks feeding at QNWR & CB.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (7)

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus*—Real treat to see them flying at both QNWR & CB.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—A few seen almost every day.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—Several individuals in small lakes, and lots of feeding birds at QNWR & CB

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*—A few in ponds and many at QNWR & CB.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—Tending to cattle at QNWR & on The Nature Conservancy CB properties.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—Seen and photographed at CB.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*—Spotted at CB.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*—Good sized flocks at both QNWR & CB.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (1)

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—Seen every day with a large roost at Council Grove.

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—Three different individuals on three different days.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (6)

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*—Several birds at the Dyck Arboretum in Hesston.

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius*—Curiously low numbers this year with only a few birds seen.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*—Individual seen at Dyck Arboretum.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*—An immature at QNWR

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*—Single bird near CB.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—Common everyday with a Harlan's phase at Cottonwood Falls

BARN OWLS: Tytonidae (2)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*—No sightings this year. Two nesting sites severely wind damaged this summer.

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*—Owl prowls near CB provided exciting views.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—Seen on five different days.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (3)

Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*—Seen at Kanopolis Reservoir & Konza.

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*—Fairly common around any wooded area.

Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens*—Seen at Maxwell Refuge.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (2)

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*—Fairly common on power lines along many country roads.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*—Single individual gave us a view as it "blitzed" past.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (3)

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*—Spotted near the historical mill in Lindsborg & Maxwell Refuge.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*—A few individuals commanding fence post views of prairie.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*—A treat with several flocks being enjoyed several times.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (2)

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*—Seen almost every day of the trip. Some migrating.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—Seen from city to country in substantial numbers.

LARKS: Alaudidae (1)

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*—Spotted as they flew up from the roadside and disappeared.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (6)

Purple Martin *Progne subis* – New Species for this trip. Large migrating flock over parking lot in Wichita (a known gathering spot for Purple Martins in migration).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*—In mixed flocks on the refuges.

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*—A few individuals seen near Chase Co. State Fishing Lake.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—Seen most days with large numbers at QNWR and CB.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—Mixed in with Barn Swallows at QNWR & CB.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (2)

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*—Areas with trees enjoyed the company of chickadees

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor*—Riparian woodlands at Konza & Allegawaho Heritage Park.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*—Feeding in the riparian woodland at Konza

WRENS: Troglodytidae (2)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—Spotted near our motel in Wichita on the first day!

Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus*—Near the historic mill in Lindsborg.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (2)

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*—Small family groups at Tallgrass Prairie Preserve & Konza nature trail.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—Seen most days. Single or in loose flocks.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (2)

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*—Found a pair on the Konza Nature trail.

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum*—Feeding in the vegetation at Dyck Arboretum

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling (I) *Sturnus vulgaris*—An everyday occurrence in all habitats.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (2)

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*—Urban setting in Wichita and Manhattan.

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis*—Seen sporadically, best along the Konza nature trail.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (7)

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*—CB treated us to several birds.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta*—Sighted and singing at QNWR.

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*—Surprisingly low numbers, but still flashy when they fly.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Most bodies of water with cattails harbored flocks.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*—Common at CB, QNWR, Maxwell (with Bison).

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*—QNWR & CB.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—Parking lot patrol birds in Wichita

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (1)

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*—One each near mill in Lindsborg & at Maxwell.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (2)

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*—Only at the Dyck Arboretum and Konza nature trail.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana*—Single spotting at The Nature Conservancy's CB property.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus*—Seen most every day.

MAMMALS (11 species)

Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus*—DOR

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus*—Great Plains NC, & several other sightings.

Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*

Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger*—Common in parks and riparian woodlands.

Black-tailed Prairie Dog *Cynomys ludovicianus*—high water flooded most dog towns. No dogs.

American Beaver *Castor canadensis*

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*—Common in parks, riparian woodlands.

Common Raccoon *Procyon lotor*

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Coyote *Canis latrans*—spotted on the owl prowl near Cheyenne Bottoms.

Bison *Bison bison*—Maxwell Game Preserve and Konza

REPTILES (5 species)

Ornate Box Turtle *Terrapene ornata*

Common Slider *Trachemys scripta*—Sunning on logs at Great Plains NC

Eastern Collared Lizard *Crotaphytus collaris*

Great Plains Skink *Plestiodon obsoletus*

Six-lined Racerunner *Aspidocelis sexlineatus*