

Kanas Tallgrass Prairies
September 19 – 27, 2021
Tour Species List



With Guides Edward Pembleton and Seliesa Pembleton, with 11 participants
Donna, Merrill, Kat, Julie, Tad, Katheryn, Roy, Yvonne, Hannah, Carol and
Daniel

Prepared by: Ed Pembleton

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

(I)=introduced

Sites visited: Dyck Arboretum, Cheyenne Bottoms WMA, Quivira NWR, Maxwell Game Preserve,
Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (TPNP), Konza Prairie, Mount Mitchell Prairie.

BIRDS (78 species recorded, of which 1 was heard only):

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (10)

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*—Small numbers observed at Quivira & Cheyenne Bottoms and a few on golf course ponds.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*—On the last day, four got up and flew down Fox Creek on the TPNP.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*—Most common ducks sighted at Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*—Small numbers at Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*—Several swimming with Blue-winged teal at the Bottoms and a raft of 80-100 at Quivira.

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*—A few mixed in with Gadwall and Mallards at Quivira

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*—Small flocks at two Quivira stops.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*—A dozen along the wildlife drive at Quivira.

Redhead *Aythya americana*—Small flock of 10-12 at Quivira.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*—Several diving and feeding on Quivira wildlife drive.

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*—HO on two days at TPNP

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (1)

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*—Seen on two days feeding along creek bottom land at Quivira and north of TPNP.

GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*—Foursomes and pairs seen at the Bottoms and Quivira.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (3)

Rock Pigeon (1) *Columba livia*—Seen every day of the tour, mostly around towns.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (1) *Streptopelia decaocto*— Commonly seen in small towns during the first three days of the tour and then again in Manhattan.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*—Seen every day of the tour. This appeared to be a good reproductive year for Mourning Doves.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*—Two spotted flying over TPNP on the last day of the tour.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (1)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*—A single bird seen on the Konza hiking trail.

RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (1)

American Coot *Fulica americana*—Hundreds seen at the Bottoms and Quivira.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*—Small numbers at the Bottoms and Quivira.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*—Several dozen feeding at the Bottoms, and even more at Quivira in pools along the wildlife drive.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (1)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*—A parking lot resident near the Wichita airport.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (9)

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*—Half dozen at the Bottoms.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*—Several hundred at the Bottoms and Quivira.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*—Just a few mixed in with Baird's at Quivira.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*—Spotted at the Bottoms.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*—A single individual at Quivira.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*—A small squad repairing the marsh mud at Quivira.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—Two different individuals bobbing along on the riprap protecting the dike at Quivira.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*—A couple dozen seen and heard calling at the Bottoms and 10-15 at Quivira.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*—Two observed at Quivira.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (3)

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*—Large numbers flying, feeding and loafing at the Bottoms and a few hundred at Quivira.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*—Several thousand and the most common gull at both the Bottoms and Quivira.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*—Just a few lingering individuals at the Bottoms and Quivira.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*—First observed in pond north of Wichita, then at both the Bottoms and Quivira.

PELICANS: Pelecanidae (1)

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*—An impressive large raft seen across Pool 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms was too far away to count, but likely several thousand.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (5)

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus*—Just as we were leaving, two individuals flew up out of the cattails along the wildlife drive at Quivira.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—The Bottoms, Quivira, Kanopolis and Council Grove Reservoirs treated us with feeding GBHs.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—Seen on two days and mixed in with Snowy Egrets at Quivira they made for “great” comparisons.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*—75-100 feeding along Quivira’s wildlife drive.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*—One skulking in the cattails at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center, while 200 fifth graders were engaged in outdoor lessons.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*—Small flock of 20-30 seen at the Bottoms on two consecutive days.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (1)

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*—Seen every day of the tour. A roost has developed in Council Grove so numbers there are climbing.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (4)

Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*—

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius*—Seen on three days. Most were large female birds with one male seen over prairie at TPNP.

Cooper’s Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*—

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*— Single individual seen at Quivira.

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus* Circed over us for several minutes at the TPNP. Apparently, an early arrival from the north.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—Certainly not as common as usual on this trip. Less than half-dozen were observed on three days.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*—Single birds observed at the Bottoms and Quivira.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (3)

Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*—A dependable sighting that for the first time did not happen this year.

Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*—Most commonly seen woodpecker found on five days of the trip.

Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens*—Observed during picnic lunches at Maxwell and Kanopolis Reservoir.

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*—One observed along the Konza hiking trail.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (1)

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*—Singles and pairs observed on roadside power lines during the first three days (most western part of the itinerary).

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (3)

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*—Observed on the first tour day in local Wichita park and then at Quivira.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*—Single bird at Quivira.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*—Single bird at Maxwell.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*—Another dependable sighting that did not happen this year. Migration seemed to happen early when dry conditions set in during late summer, apparently causing an insect population crash.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (2)

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*—Seen on six days of the tour, including southbound streams of migratory birds.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—Seen on five days of the tour in all kinds of habitats.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (2)

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*—Seen the first and last days of the tour.

Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor*—Three seen in the gallery forest along the Konza hiking trail.

LARKS: Alaudidae (1)

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*—A single bird feeding along a gravel road near Council Grove.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (3)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*—Several dozen feeding at Quivira.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—Several hundred continued occupying wires and guardrails at the Bottoms.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*—Vying with the Barn Swallows for seating at the Bottoms.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*—Spotted on four tour days, mostly at picnic areas.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling (I) *Sturnus vulgaris*—Observed every day.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (2)

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*—

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum*—Seen foraging in brushy habitat during picnic lunch at Kanopolis Reservoir.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (1)

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—Seen on most days of the tour and mainly in urban settings.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus*—Seen on all but one of the tour days, but more common in the eastern locations.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (1)

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis*—Only one observed until the last morning of the tour when a flock flew into a patch of sunflowers at TPNP and turned it into a wonderful yellow circus.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (1)

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*—Several along the Quivira wildlife drive.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (5)

Meadowlark *Sturnella*—Observed on four days in very small numbers for this area. None were singing or close enough for visual assignment to species.

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Large mixed flocks at the Bottoms and Quivira—murmurations at the Bottoms.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*—In addition to mixed flocks, we observed them fulfilling their native role as “Bison birds” at Maxwell and TPNP.

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*—Individuals and flying in the mixed flocks.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—Parking lots in Wichita were the most common habitats.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (2)

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*—Single individual feeding in the trees along the Konza hiking trail.

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*—Observed during a picnic lunch at Kanopolis Reservoir.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana*—A third missing species that is normally seen on this tour. Further indication of early migration perhaps due to lack of insects.

Mammals (8 species)

Nine-banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus*—Several observed as vehicular victims during the western part of the itinerary.

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus*—Seen near sunset at Coronado Heights.

Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*—

Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger*—Seen on three days as residents of small towns.

Black-tailed Prairie Dog *Cynomys ludovicianus*—Observed with Bison in a small dog town near the small town of Saint John.

American Bison *Bison bison*—Observed with prairie dogs near St. John; up close (some with late calves still in their red coats) on a tram at Maxwell; and on foot at a distance at TPNP.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*—creek bottoms feeding north of Council Grove.

Common Raccoon *Procyon lotor*—up in a tree at night during the owl prowl.

Coyote *Canis latrans*—two that had suffered vehicular catastrophes.

Reptiles (1 species)

Common Slider *Trachemys scripta*—in pools at Quivira.

Eastern Collared Lizard *Crotaphytus collaris*