

Kansas Birds

Over 470 bird species can be found in Kansas. From the Canada Goose to the Western Meadowlark, the state is home to a diverse avian population.

Part of this diversity is due to Kansas' location in what is called the Central Flyway. The Central Flyway is a large bird migration route spanning across North America. The state's wetlands and tallgrass prairie serve as an important stop for birds as they migrate.



There are several ways to distinguish different species of birds. A bird's plumage or feathers can differentiate one type of bird from another. Another characteristic that identifies a bird is its song. Some songs, like the blue jay's "jay, jay, jay," can be quite repetitive while other songs can be quite melodic and pleasing.

Bills are another indication of a bird's classification. Bills come in a variety of shapes and styles and allow different birds to feed on different food supplies. For example, eagles and hawks have sharp, hook-like beaks for catching prey. Pelicans have large deep bills for catching fish.

Birds' feet can also indicate information about the species. A number of different foot styles exist among birds. Ducks, for example, have webbed feet for swimming, and hawks and eagles have claws for catching small animals like mice.

Different birds build different types of nests. Some birds build nests that hang from limbs on a tree. Others build nests of twigs that sit perched on top of a tree's limbs.

Birdwatching is a popular hobby in Kansas. Many species of birds can be spotted right in your backyard. Especially if provided food, cover, and water. Bird feeders are a simple way to attract birds to your yard. For more information on bird feeding, visit the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks website.

DIY Recycled Birdhouse

Supplies:

- Recycled milk jug
- Stick
- String
- Bird seed
- Markers or paint (optional)



1. Clean out the recycled milk jug using soap and water.



2. Cut out windows on two sides of the container, opposite of the handle.

3. Cut two holes on either side of the lid. Thread a piece of twine through both holes and tie a secure knot underneath the lid.



4. To create a ledge for the bird, cut two holes into the corners underneath the windows you created. Pull the stick through the holes.



5. Decorate the container using markers or paint.

6. Fill with bird seed and hang the bird feeder in a tree.

