

Participation Guidelines for the 2026 Kansas Birding Big Year competition

1. Participants must register via the online form on or before April 1st to be part of the program for 2026. Any questions can be directed to Mike Rader at mike.rader@ks.gov
2. Participants must read and abide by the set of rules governing the competition. These rules are adapted from the American Birding Association Recording Rules and Interpretations and include the Code of Birding Ethics. Breaking or disregard for these rules will disqualify the participant from the competition
3. Participants are **required** to log their data into the online service, eBird, available on the Cornell University web site: www.ebird.org
Each participant will need to create an individual profile, with sign-in and password to begin the submission of sightings.
4. Participants will need to submit a running total list of observed species quarterly to the coordinator of the program. This is to help track progress and provide quality control. The program coordinator and competition committee have final say on list totals. Dates for 2026 submission will be: June 30th, September 30th and December 31st.
5. Winners of the competition in each category will be determined by a committee as determined by the program coordinator. Winners will be recognized, and prizes will be awarded in mid-January of the following calendar year. Categories are defined as:
Youth – 17 and under
Adult – 18-64 (3 skill levels: Novice, Intermediate and Advanced)
Senior – 65 and up
6. Prizes will be awarded based on availability and appropriateness per division, as determined by program coordinator and competition committee.