

The
BLUEBIRD

THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

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DECEMBER, 1979

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The Audubon Society of Missouri

Founded 1901

PURPOSE

The Audubon Society of Missouri is a non-profit statewide society organized in 1901 and affiliated with The National Audubon Society. It is dedicated to the preservation and protection of birds and all wildlife forms and habitat, to the education of the citizenry toward appreciation of the natural world, and to working for wise conservation practices related to people and wildlife.

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(All dues should be sent with your name, address and zip to Mrs. Katherine Wade, 2202 Missouri Blvd., Jefferson City, 65101)

Regular	\$ 5.00	Contributing	\$20.00
Family	6.00	Benefactor	50.00
Student	3.00	*Affiliate (Individual)	3.00
Sustaining	10.00	*Affiliate (Organization)	12.00

+ + +

Patron (Life Member) . . . \$100.00

* An organization in accord with the purposes and activities of the Audubon Society of Missouri becomes an Affiliate Organization upon payment of dues according to a sliding scale based upon membership: \$12.00 for the first 200 members and \$12.00 more for each additional 400 members or fraction thereof.

Individuals belonging to an Affiliate Organization may join the Missouri Audubon Society (membership includes a subscription to The Bluebird) for \$3.00 provided their dues are remitted through their local treasurer.

The Bluebird is the official quarterly publication of the Audubon Society of Missouri. Articles essays and stories on all phases of natural history and conservation are invited and will be printed within the limits of available space. Copy to be used should reach the editor by February 1, May 1, August 1, or November 1 for the next issue.

The Bluebird

VOLUME 46, Number 4

December, 1979



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

By Jim Rathert

At the fall meeting at Camp Rising Sun, in addition to sharing in the fellowship and birding, I was given stewardship of a valuable set of Audubon Society of Missouri Newsletters, the predecessor of our present Bluebird. This is nearly a complete set beginning with Volume 1, Number 1 dated June 1934. During the first 25 years each issue was typically a 6-page mimeographed monthly publication. Subjects dealt with a range from the need for hawk protection to folksy items from members around the state. It's been a delight and a revelation to browse through these "archives" -- to look back at our organization and to share in Missouri's ornithological past.

I now share with you a potpourri of early items which I felt were of interest:

June 1934, Vol. 1, No. 1. California Gull was added to the hypothetical list, based on a Lincoln, Neb. specimen.

"All records of the Starling should be sent to THE SECRETARY." This note was precipitated by scattered nesting records in all parts of the state. It was offered that the starling is by no means as undesirable as the English sparrow.

A bulletin, An Introduction to Bird Study in Missouri, printed by the State Game and Fish Department, is obtainable for 1 1/2 cents postage.

Now "extinct" species such as the Arkansas Kingbird, willow thrush, migrant shrike, Grinnell's water-

thrush and red-eyed towhee were noted during the spring migration in the Columbia vicinity.

It was suggested that the Society's emblem be changed from the cardinal to the bluebird.

July 1934, Vol. 1, No. 2.

A new book, Field Guide to the Birds, by R. T. Peterson (\$2.75) was hailed as one of the most useful field books to appear in recent years.

A request for locations of breeding colonies of great blue herons with the advisement that their locations not be too widely advertised, for fear of shooting.

August 1934, Vol. 1, No. 3.

The Webster Groves Nature Study Society and the Lebanon Nature Club were announced as affiliates of A.S.M. Incidentally, Marshall Magner, our present Vice-president, was the chairman of the Bird Group of WGNSS.



September 1934, Vol. 1, No. 4.

The Society's first regional field trip was announced for September 29 or 30. Group from each Region was asked to spend a day in the field for "sport and social enjoyment" and to send their reports to Dr. Rudolf Bennitt in Columbia.

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WILD TURKEYS ARE A SUCCESS STORY

That was an inspiring account by Joel Vance in All Outdoors, of the Missouri Department of Conservation, concerning the resurgence of Missouri's wild turkey population. He says success of spring and fall shoots can be tied to the procedure of using a cannon net, devised for work with Canada geese. Trappers in the 30-year program, now being phased out, caught and used 2,611 birds to restock 142 sites in 87 counties with young birds. Last spring with 90 of the 114 counties open to hunting, nearly 14,000 were taken. The just-closed fall season more than doubled the number taken in 1978, with 9,359 birds taken in 65 counties. John Lewis, turkey biologist, was pleased with the ratio of juveniles to adults of about 60 to 40 per cent. Ollie Torgerson, special programs biologist, says the success of the program is astonishing, and turkeys still will be available for trades with other states for wildlife that we can use in Missouri -- such as ruffed grouse!



CONSERVATION COMMENTS

by James P. Jackson

IN CONGRESS - With so many demanding issues to contend with, such as the economy, the energy crisis and the turmoil of international affairs, Congress is currently neglecting our environmental interests. This should not be allowed. With an election year coming up soon, it behooves all of us to let our congressmen know how we feel on such matters as Missouri wilderness, the Alaska lands and the deauthorization of Meramec Dam. There are other issues, of course, but these three must remain our priorities.

(1) Senate Bill S1685, which designates four outstanding Missouri areas for wilderness preservation, is being supported by both of our senators. But where we really need help now is in securing a House version of the same bill; so please write your district representative in Congress and urge him to co-sponsor a bill similar to S1685.

(2) All seems to be quiet on the Alaska front, but mainly because certain senators are trying to delay, and therefore kill, any chances for passage of a strong Alaska Lands bill. Keep posted on this issue and, when the time is right, let your senators know that it must be shoved aside again.

(3) Our Missouri senators, but especially Senator Eagleton, are trying to advance a bill which would deauthorize Meramec Dam (see our resolution on this issue). Not so in the House. We need to remind ourselves that porkbarrel is almost sacred to congressmen, and that they will resist all efforts to kill any dam project. Write your representative and remind him that the people of Missouri proved, by their nonbonding referendum vote, that we do not want a dam on the Meramec! Ask him what he is doing about it, then urge him to do what public opinion insisted upon -- to deauthorize the dam.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION LANDS - Just in case you are not fully aware of what the one-eighth cent sales tax, voted in effect in 1977, is being spent for, consider these facts. Since 1977, the Department has bought

144 tracts of land in 74 Missouri counties, totalling 64,165 acres, for \$41.6 millions. With land values up constantly, and natural lands growing more scarce, we must agree that the tax money was spent very wisely and will prove a worthy investment for generations to come.

THE MARTHASVILLE OAK - Since I wrote of this in the last issue, the story of this tree has reached its concluding chapter. It was cut down, by decree of the heavy-handed Missouri Highway Department, on August 14 -- this in spite of a noble grafting experiment whose outcome, though uncertain, was filled with hope. The remains of the trunk have been hauled to Columbia, and placed behind the Agriculture Building, home of the horticulture department which was trying to save the tree.

SUMMER COUNT IN 16 COUNTIES GETS HELP

Missouri's second summer bird count co-ordinated by Michael D. Morrison of the Southern Illinois Bird Observatory at Carbondale garnered the support of 96 observers, same as last year, in 16 counties. Almost 34,000 birds of 140 species were seen between June 1 and July 6, though many areas again were without representation.

Complete count results for Missouri, Kansas, Illinois or Indiana are obtainable from the SIBO at P.O. Box 2471, Carbondale, Ill. 62901. SIBO is an independent, nonprofit organization supported by membership, donations and volunteer labor. Willing observers to break new ground in 1980 are being sought, says Tim Merriman, president.

Mike Morrison, the count co-ordinator, has moved to his former home at 1627 S. Willow, Ottawa, Kan., 66067, but will continue to direct summer counts.

POMARINE JAEGER AT ALTON DAM !

Far from its oceanic habitat, a Pomarine Jaeger was seen and photographed last month (2 days) by Jim Rathert and others at Alton Dam on the Mississippi. This is the fourth state record. On the west side, Nan Johnson, Kelly Hobbs et al could do no better than white-winged crossbills at Lake Jacomo, plus scoters.

HIS WOOD DUCKS ON WATERFOWL STAMP -

Judges for the open competition for the Missouri waterfowl stamp looked at five factors and decided David Plank's offering was the best. The Audubon member and wildlife artist from Salem, Mo. won over 40 other Missouri artists with his painting of a pair of wood ducks. It will feature the \$3 stamp in 1980. Funds from its sale will go for wetland projects in Missouri and Canada that benefit waterfowl. Runners-up included Glenn Chambers, Columbia; Rob Sadler, St. Louis; Gary Lucy, Gerald, and Richard Harvey, Galena. The stamp now in use, featuring three Canada geese, is by Charles Schwartz. Judges were Jeff Fountain, Bill Nunn, Dr. Frank Bellrose and Mike Milonski, with Schwartz as an adviser.

HOPE TO HELP THE BARN OWLS -

Four young barn owls, taken illegally from a barn nest near Caruthersville, and which came to Jim D. Wilson, state ornithologist, have been released to the wild. Wilson hopes two others put into a captive breeding program will result in other young owls to release. The tearing down of old owls has put a dent in the population.

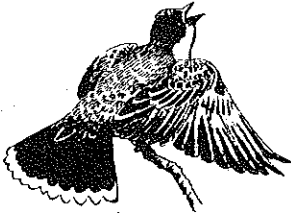
YOU CAN CLEAN UP TWO WAYS!

The bounty on aluminum cans and food containers has been raised by the Reynolds Aluminum Co. from 17 to 23 cents a pound, in hopes the higher price will prove an incentive to recycling. The company started in 1968, paying 8 cents a pound, and has recycled 14 billion cans, for which it paid \$100 million. Recycling saves about 95 per cent of the energy required to make aluminum from bauxite.



QUAIL ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY

The bitter winters of the last three years have been rough on Missouri's quail population, and Joel Vance reports a low production index of five. Jack Stanford, quail biologist, says there may be some large coveys in northwest Missouri and the Lower Ozarks. Rural mail carriers who have been counting the number of broods seen for years, report that populations are down.



Summer Survey

Compiled by Jim Rathert
and Jim D. Wilson

June 1, 1979 through July 31, 1979

June was milder than normal with precipitation adequate. During that month the temperature at Columbia rose into the lower 90's only twice. In July temperatures were hotter, but seldom did the highs exceed the century mark. Precipitation was once again generally adequate, but drought condition did develop in some areas.

Significant reports were of breeding pied-billed grebes at Springfield, nesting mute swans also at Springfield, mid-summer Caspian terns, barn owls breeding in extreme northwest and southeast Missouri, and the first summer occurrence of vesper sparrow in the St. Louis area.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL -- Reports of pied-billed grebes seemed more common this summer with one in St. Charles County on July 7 (PS), two at Trimble W.A. on June 10 (SP, NM), and one at Busch Wildlife Area on July 28 (RK). Their most exciting occurrence was at a small pond in an industrial section of Springfield. A nest was discovered there on May 30 and young were seen at that nest on June 27. On June 28 a search revealed three additional nests, two of which had young. By July 7, all four nests had young present with four and five in two nests and unknown numbers in the remaining nests. Evidently, this is the first breeding record for the Springfield area. (CB, RM)

Two late white pelicans were detected at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge (hereafter SCR) on June 2 (FL). Little blue herons were reported as follows: two at Marais Temps Clair (hereafter MTC) on July 7 (PS); one at Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge (hereafter SLR) on July 25 (BG) and ten at SLR on July 31

(BG). The only cattle egret reported was one at Cleveland on June 29 (MS). A snowy egret, rare outside the Bootheel region, was reported at Trimble Wildlife Area on July 29 (SP). Ten black-crowned herons were seen by many observers on June 4 at MTC. Sightings of least bitterns were restricted to MTC (PS) and Big Lake Marsh (JR). No ibis species were reported.

A pair of mute swans with two downy young were seen at Lake Springfield (RM). Two green-winged teal were present at Thomas Hill (hereafter TH) throughout the summer (JR). Blue-winged teal nested at several locations near Columbia and at TH (JR). A lesser scaup at St. Charles on July 7 was late (PS). A single white-fronted goose at St. Charles County on June 12 was also late (SP, NJ).

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS -- Single sharp-shinned hawks were seen at Springfield on July 16 (CB) and at Aldrich on July 29 (BD, CB). A Cooper's hawk was located at Springfield on July 8 (CB). Single red-shouldered hawk reports come from the Ashland Wildlife Area on June 17 (BG) and Gray Summit on July 4 (J. Cook). Single Swainson's hawks were reported at Lake Contrary on June 3 (FL); Cass County on June 16 (JG); Springfield on July 7 and 22 (RM); and at Aldrich on July 29 (BD, CB). A marsh hawk was seen in Cass County on June 16 (JG).

A Virginia rail was located in Platte County on June 23 (KH). The first migrant shorebird was a solitary sandpiper at TH on July 9 (JR). Semipalmated plovers were seen as follows: three at Trimble on July 15 (SP); three at TH on July 24 (JR, BG); and seven at SLR on July 25 (BG).

Four willets were at TH on July 24 (JR, BG) and two were present the next day at SLR (BG). Three greater yellowlegs were at SCR on July 21 (FL) and 200 + lesser yellowlegs were at TH on July 24 (JR, BG). Seven long-billed dowitches were at SCR on July 21 (FL), ten at TH on July 24 (JR, BG) and twenty-five at SLR on July 25 (BG). Forty-five stilt sandpipers were at SLR on July 25 (BG). Three western sandpipers and three sanderlings were present at TH on July 24 (JR, BG). A male Wilson's phalarope was at TH on July 14 (RB) and July 17 (JR). Twenty-one (21) ring-billed gulls in St. Charles County were considered late on June 6 (TP). Two Forster's terns were seen at Montrose

Wildlife Area on June 30 (HS) and four were present at Thomas Hill along with one common tern on July 9 (JR). The only least tern was reported at Horseshoe Lake near St. Joseph on June 30 (FL). A Caspian tern was on the Missouri River near Hermann on June 30 (IA) and two were present on the Missouri River near McBaine on July 6 (JR).

CUCKOOS THROUGH OWLS -- Black-billed cuckoos were found at several locations. Two were detected in Cass County on June 16 (JG); one was in Clay County on June 25 (HG).

Reports of barn owls were exciting. A nest with four young was discovered near Caruthersville on July 13 (fide JW). Another nest in southeast St. Joseph produced at least five young, four of which fledged. Still another nest was discovered in the St. Joseph area, but was destroyed when the barn was destroyed. The young were removed and placed in the raptor rehabilitation center at Tyson Park. They are to be released at a suitable time and place.

Western kingbirds nested again south of Lake Con- trary (FL) and near Big Lake at SCR area (JR).

Willow flycatchers were detected throughout the state with two at Springfield on June 12 (BD,CB); three in St. Charles County on June 21-28 (PS); and two or more at TH on July 25 (BG). An Alder fly- catcher (probably a late migrant) was south of Colum- bia on June 2 (BG) while still another was seen on the same date on the Ohio BBS (SP, NJ).

Between 300-400 purple martins were seen at the Busch area on July 17 (PS).

Adult and young Bewick's wrens were found in Jefferson County on July 6 (PS) and young fledged at Columbia on July 21 (BG). Carolina wrens were repor- ted in Springfield, Columbia and St. Louis.

Eastern bluebirds were reported in good numbers in Springfield (CB). Lawhon described them as very scarce in the St. Joseph area. They were absent on the Madison BBS in Monroe and Shelby County (BG).

Five singing prothonotary warblers were located on a 1¼ mile portion of Perche Creek south of Colum- bia (BG). Worm-eating warblers nested in three loca-

tions south of Columbia (PG). Six cerulean warblers at Gray Summit on June 23 were considered high (RG). A late mourning warbler was heard singing and seen at Whetstone Wildlife Area on June 4 (RB). A late Wilson's warbler was detected in Jackson County on June 18 (KH).

BOBOLINKS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS -- Bobolinks were found at several locations in northern Missouri including St. Joseph, Madison, Thomas Hill, Reed Area, Trimble, and Clinton County (MOB). Yellow-headed blackbirds nested only at Big Lake Marsh and Lake Contrary (FL). The great-tailed grackle of Big Lake Marsh nested successfully and were gone by June 2 (FL). Scarlet tanagers were seen more regularly than summer tanagers in the St. Joseph area (FL). Several reports indicate higher than normal populations of blue grosbeaks (PS,TB). A singing painted bunting was found at Protem on July 6 (RB, TB). This species, previously seen only at occasional suburban feeders, may be increasing in the Springfield area. This season they have been found along brushy rural roadsides (CB). Henslow's sparrows continue to occur in suitable grassland habitat. **This** summer they were found at Taberville prairie, Tucker Prairie, Whetstone Wildlife Area, Gray Summit, Ohio BBS and in St. Clair County.

A well documented vesper sparrow at St. Charles County on July 7 was the first summer record for the St. Louis area (PS). Six Bachman's sparrows were found at Bascom Bald near Ava on July 6 (RB, TB).

The Contributors:

IA - Ike Adams
CB - Catherine Bonner
BD - Betty Dyer
BG - Bill Goodge
HG - Harry Gregory
JG - JoAnn Garrett
RG - Ron Goetz
KH - Kelly Hobbs
NJ - Nanette Johnson
RK - Randy Korotev
FL - Floyd Lawhon

RM - Rebecca Matthews
NM - Norman McLaughlin
SP - Sebastian Patti
TP - T. Parmeter
HS - Harold Smith
MS - Millie Stephens
PS - Phoebe Snetsinger
JR - Jim Rathert
JW - Jim Wilson
TB - Tim Bartsdale
RB - Rose Ann Bodman

UNUSUAL ITEMS IN A BIRD COLLECTION AT FAYETTE

Many birders are unaware that Central Missouri has one of the finest bird collections in the Middle West, housed in the Stevens Museum in the T. Berry Smith Hall of Science on the Central Methodist College campus in Fayette. Many nearby residents have never seen it. Sad.

Can museums come to life? It can be said of this one, through the efforts of a new curator, Mrs. Maryellen McVickers, an interested faculty, and friends of the college. Mrs. McVickers is arousing interest with such displays as a bald eagle killed many years ago near Atlanta, Mo., and the beautiful 24-piece collection of hand-blown glass marine models made by the famous father-and-son team of Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka, while they were still living in Germany. Their famous hand-blown glass flowers known as the Ware Collection are housed at Harvard College. The Stevens collection in Fayette contains coelenterate and nudibranch molluscs. The secret of making these remarkable models died with the father and son.

Mrs. McVickers has taken great pains to clean and restore the bird items, in a year of hard work, and the items have been appraised and insured. Black shades have been installed and ultra-violet filters placed on the lights to protect colors of plumage.

The Hardeman Bird Collection is mainly the work of teachers, students and birders, and includes 269 mounted specimens and 423 skins, representing 247 of the 382 species listed by Easterla and Anderson in their new state check list. (Lists obtainable from Katherine Wade, Treasurer, at eight for \$1).

The Alexander egg collection represents 89 species. The mounted birds, from tiny hummingbird to w hooping crane, are from 75 to 100 years old, but retain their bright colors, and feathers are in good condition. Practically all birds native to Missouri are represented, with such others as birds of paradise from the tropics, a king penguin from the Hagenbeck expeditions to Antarctica, a kookaburra from Australia, and a great hornbill from Venezuela. Where else in our state could we see the extinct Carolina parakeet, the passenger pigeon, ivory-billed woodpecker and the heath hen, all

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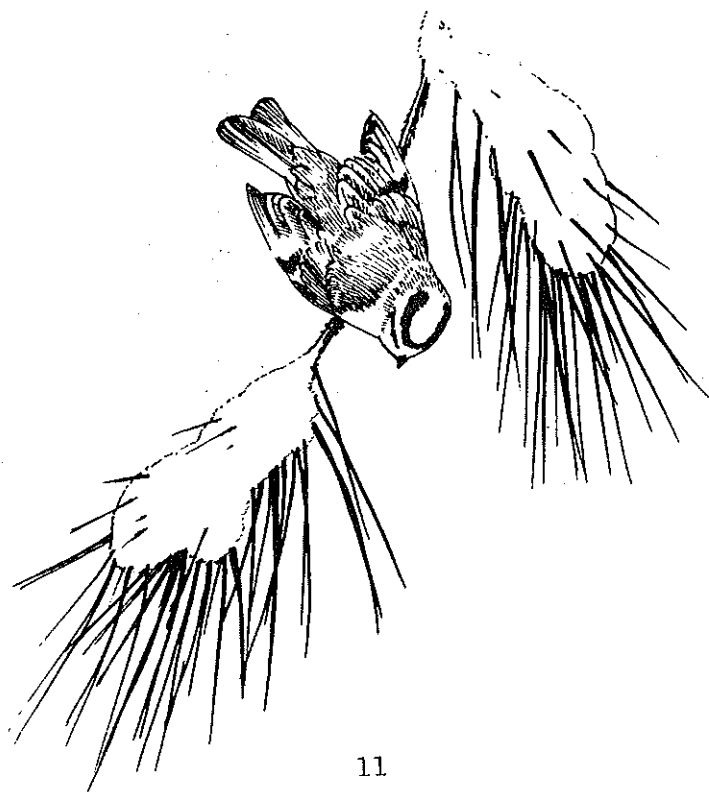
in the same room?

Mrs. McVickers has arranged for a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship grant to pay talented students who help care for the collections. She hopes to double the size of the museum and make climate control a reality.

The museum at Central has something of interest for all, from seashells, insects and reptiles to mammals, rocks and minerals, with other items of interest which are related to Indian, pioneer, college and church history. While primarily a teaching museum, it affords great knowledge and pleasure to the many children, birders, tourists and people in general who drop in.

By Mrs. Estelle Snow,
Bunceton, Mo. 65237

Christmas Greetings





THE SERIOUS SIDE OF BIRDING

Paul E. Bauer

Every sensitive person enjoys seeing beautiful wild creatures. Ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, founder of Bird Lore which preceeded Audubon magazine, said, "Everyone is born with a bird in his heart". When the enjoyment of seeing birds becomes a driving passion, you have moved from bird watcher to birder; you no longer consider your activities as bird watching, but you go-birding!

It must be the dynamics of birding that makes it such an all-consuming hobby. The challenges are both mental and physical. One major challenge is the desire to be able to identify every bird sighted or heard. In my mind one advantage of birding over other outdoor hobbies is that the adventure of the hunt has no closed season and no limits, except the physical challenge of your own endurance. Many people pursue birding in severe winter weather, at night as well as day, in any weather and every season on almost any spot on earth and even at sea.

The unknown element of birding adds the greatest measure of excitement to the hunt. Finding a rare bird or a new bird for the area makes you an instant local hero. Finding early or late arrivals during migration also contributes to the unexpected pleasures that can occur on any birding trip. From the published records of unusual bird observations, it would seem that any bird can be seen in almost any place. Amateur birders provide the huge bulk of field observations in North America.

The value of this huge volume of field observations has grown tremendously important as the quantity and quality of bird observations has increased. An individual observation of an unusual bird may seem trivial, but hundreds of observations collected and evaluated by knowledgeable people provides amazing insight to population trends, and can provide early warning clues that adverse influences of our complex society may have altered the environment necessary for continued survival. Since learning the lesson from DDT pesticides and the resulting thin egg shells that would not support incubation, we collectively have become more acutely aware of the need for early warning clues. These clues come from the numerous bird observations that are properly reported.

Now we have arrived at the "serious side of birding" when we realize that our routine birding observations can actually contribute to protecting the very birds we enjoy seeing. These observations only have a value when we take the time to properly report them so they can contribute to our collective knowledge.

If you accept the above described need for reporting birding observations, several questions arise that must be answered:

1. What birding records should be kept
2. What determines if a bird is noteworthy or unusual
3. What information is wanted for unusual birds
4. Who should be notified

Let me tackle these questions one at a time, realizing that they are tailored for the St. Louis area which includes portions of Missouri and Illinois.

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1. Birding Records- The key element is what species were seen. The number of birds seen for each species is useful but more effort to tabulate all day; mostly wanted for Christmas counts or breeding bird census activities, but can be useful to visitors or later review in the future if population changes have been large. Even estimated numbers are better than words such as many or few. Other data desired includes: date; major places visited; temperature, sky and wind conditions which affects bird movements; observers present, especially those most experienced with an unusual bird; hours in the field; miles walked and/or driven to indicate extent of coverage; and comments on any special conditions.

The use of a printed checklist makes the collection of this sort of data easy, uniform in content and presentation, and easy to review in the future. A group of people birding together should always compile a composite day list before disbanding to provide a meaningful future record.

2. Unusual Birds- Often a checklist will provide a strong clue. The Complete List of St. Louis Area Birds has three indications that a bird is noteworthy:

- a) An * behind the species name indicates it is very rare for the area, since only 2 to 5 records exist
- b) If the bird is accidental and only one record exists, it is shown in a special group at the end of the normal checklist for special emphasis
- c) If the bird is not included on the published list, it is most noteworthy since it has never been previously reported and accepted for the area (or was seen after the last publication).

A checklist does not usually provide data on the usual time of arrival and departure for migrants, which birds breed, and the relative abundance or commonness of a bird species. Usually this information is available from local birding guides. (At present, the St. Louis Area Birding Guide is out of print and is actively being revised and updated from 1968).

Other indications of unusual birds include: the Rare and Endangered List published by the Missouri Dept. of Conservation and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (1977 edition); or the latest (1978) Blue List of Special Concern or threatened birds published annually in American Birds by the National Audubon Society. A composite of these lists tailored to the Missouri area is published at the end of this article in a form that can be inserted into your fieldguide inside cover.

3. Unusual Bird Data Wanted- It is essential to always carry a small note book into the field to be able to record on-the-spot details as you saw the bird, not as you study the field guide that evening at home. The notes can be rewritten later to be more presentable, but the original data is most valuable if taken while observing the unusual bird. Although standard forms exist to provide verifying documentation of an extraordinary sight record, it is not required that they be used as long as all of the required data are provided.

Provide species name; number seen; specific location seen; date; time seen (from ___ to ___); good description of size, shape, color-pattern of all parts of the plumage, beak and feet coloration, diagnostic characteristics as seen in the field; describe voice (if heard); bird behavior; habitat general and/or specific; describe similar appearing species eliminated by previous four questions; distance to bird (measured or estimated); optical equipment and power; quality of light for viewing or position of sun in relation to bird and you; previous experience with this species and similar appearing species; other observers; was there agreement on the identification; other observers who independently identified this bird; books, illustrations and advice consulted and resulting influence on above description; time elapsed after observing this bird until initial description was written; your signature and printed name; address, city, state, zip; date submitted. Many authorities now recognize that sight records can be as reliable as a collected bird species if properly documented.

Many birders do not like to see rare birds collected, even for scientific reasons, so the effort of reporting is worthwhile.

It should be remembered that this above extensive documentation is very valuable, but only necessary for extraordinary sightings, which means all bird records that are the first sighting in an area and certainly those birds that are rare or accidental, and have been seen only 1 to 5 times previously.

Those birds on the Missouri Rare/Endangered/ Blue List should also be documented in a similar manner. However, the descriptive details to verify the bird identification may be greatly reduced or omitted as appropriate, unless of course the bird is also indicated on the St. Louis checklist in the 1 to 5 sightings category or shown as accidental or rare on the checklist for Missouri Birds considering the local region of the state and season of the year involved.

4. Who Should Be Notified- If an accidental or rare bird is to be properly documented to become an accepted record, it is important to try to get other birders to confirm and verify the unusual sighting. For this reason it is desirable to go birding with at least one other birder. If you are alone, be sure to study the bird extensively and make all the required notes in your notebook before heading to the nearest telephone.

If your birding is in the St. Louis area (Missouri or Illinois), notify the Birding "Hot Line" at any of the three prime numbers below. They will contact someone in each key group and try to get birders to the spot as soon as possible, if that type of response is warranted.

Mrs. Katherine Arhos 631-3090

Mrs. Terry Barker 878-8617

Mrs. Phoebe Snetsinger 968-3442

The key things to report are: What bird was seen; When was it seen; Where was it seen (road directions for others); Who first saw it; what plumage.

Documentation for St. Louis area birds (Missouri or Illinois) should now be mailed to:

Mrs. Phoebe B. Snetsinger

420 Algonquin Pl.

Webster Groves, Mo. 63119

She will collect the records for the St. Louis area (within 50 miles of St. Louis city limits) and send them to the proper state authorities. Also include copies of slides or photographs made. Indicate if you want them returned.

All birding records for Missouri are being coordinated by Jim Wilson and Jim Rathert. So non-St. Louis area records for Missouri should be mailed directly to:

Mr. Jim D. Wilson, Ornithologist

Missouri Department of Conservation

2901 N. Ten Mile Dr. (P.O. Box 180)

Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

All birding records for Illinois are coordinated by Vernon Kleen. Also Mr. Kleen is regional editor of the Middlewestern Prairie Region for American Birds which publishes the noteworthy birding records for the United States and Canada. His address is:

Mr. Vernon M. Kleen

Div. of Wildlife Resources

Ill. Dept. of Conservation

Springfield, Ill. 62706

Birding Seasons used by American Birds for Records are:

Autumn Migration: 1 Aug - 30 Nov

Winter Season: 1 Dec - 28 Feb

Spring Migration: 1 Mar - 31 May

Nesting Season: 1 Jun - 31 July

Remember your birding observations are more than enjoyable, they are valuable in protecting the birds if properly reported.

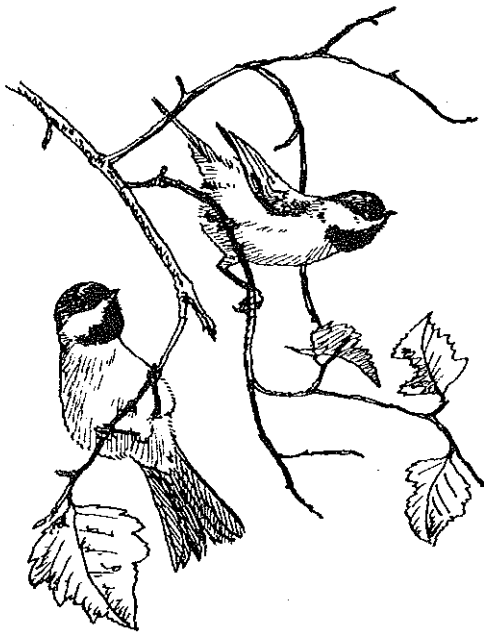
KEEP HAVING FUN - GO BIRDING.

1978 LIST: BIRDS OF SPECIAL CONCERN - SEEN IN MO.

	Rare	Endangered		Aud. Blue List	
	Mo	Mo	US	Mo	St. Louis
Red-necked Grebe				Ca	*
Western Grebe				Ca	*
White Pelican					
Double-crested Cormorant		E			
Reddish Egret				A	*
Black-crowned Night Heron					
American Bittern					
Wood Stork				Ca	*
White-faced Ibis				Ca	*
Fulvous Whistling Duck				A	A
Canvasback					
Mississippi Kite	R			R	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		E			
Cooper's Hawk		E			
Red-shouldered Hawk		E			
Swainson's Hawk					
Ferruginous Hawk				A	*
N. Bald Eagle	R				
Marsh Hawk		E			
Osprey		E			
Prairie Falcon				Ca	*
Peregrine Falcon		E	E	R	
Merlin				R	
Amer. Kestrel					
Ruffed Grouse	R			Ca	
Greater Prairie Chicken	R			R	
King Rail	R			R	
Black Rail	?	?		A	*
Piping Plover				R	
Snowy Plover				Ca	
Upland Plover	R				
Common Tern					
Least Tern		E		R	
Black Tern					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo					
Barn Owl		E		R	
Burrowing Owl				A	---
Short-eared Owl					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					
Red-headed Woodpecker					
Lewis' Woodpecker				A	---
Hairy Woodpecker					
Purple Martin					
Bewick's Wren					
Eastern Bluebird					
Loggerhead Shrike					
Bell's Vireo					
Warbling Vireo					
Swainson's Warbler		E		Ca	*
Yellow Warbler					
Yellow-breasted Chat					
Dickcissel					
Grasshopper Sparrow					
Henslow's Sparrow	R			R	
Vesper Sparrow					
Bachman's Sparrow	R			R	

E = Endangered; * = 2 to 5 Records
 R = Rare; Ca = Casual
 A = Accidental, a vagrant

DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY ! HAVE YOU SENT YOURS?



AMONG THE BRANCHES

DUES PAID?

St. Louis Auduboners and members of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society welcomed the eminent Dr. Julian Steyermark, author of many books including the monumental "Flora of Missouri," on his recent visit. The Missouri Botanical Garden presented him the Henry Shaw Medal, and the Steyermark Woods, an 80-acre tract at Hannibal, was dedicated . . . Eagle Scout projects at Wild Haven near Columbia earned for Scouts Danny Brush, Hal Johnson, Dean Notbohm and Marshall Millikan certificates of appreciation from Columbia Audubon, plus tickets to Audubon Films . . . Bill and Dolores Clark now head Columbia's publicity committee, and Bill, a baseball scout, offers valuable tips on good birding areas he has encountered elsewhere, in The Chat . . . David Plank of Salem, widely known Missouri wildlife artist, has presented Bluebird beautiful new bird drawings for headings etc. Thanks much! . . . Claudia Spener is capably filling in as editor of the W.G.N.S.S. NATURE, during the surgical stay of Editor Margot Holsen. . . Mark Belwood deserves a lot of credit for chairing the successful booth of the Mosage Audubon chapter at the State Fair. Mosage is asking other chapters to send helpers along next year. Contact Mark, Mary Lou Janssen, Freeda Swope or Doris Linhardt. Ellen Cole served as cochairman of the booth project.

NEW NATURAL AREAS FOR BIRDERS

Several exciting areas are being added to Missouri's list of good birding territory under the Design for Conservation. A 2,100-acre tract on Malta Bend of the Missouri River, to be added next March, will offer good habitat for the 50,000 ducks and geese seen there last December. The Conservation Commission is paying \$3.2 million for the varied tract. Larry Gale, director, says it is a prime waterfowl area, with Korean pheasants, wild deer and turkeys. The pheasants are from a 1958 stocking that had difficulty expanding because of a loss of nesting habitat.

In addition, three tracts managed by the Department of Natural Resources have been designated natural areas. They are Pickle Creek, 55 acres on 2.4 miles of high quality stream in Hawn State Park in Ste. Genevieve County; Coonville Creek, 49 acres along 2.1 miles of a narrow valley in St. Francois State Park in St. Francois County, and Big Sugar Creek, 56 acres on 2.3 miles of an Ozark border headwater stream in Cuivre River State Park in Lincoln County.

GROOVE-BILLED ANIS TAKING OVER

Yet another groove-billed ani, for the second year in a row, and the fifth in six years, has showed up in Missouri, at Fulton, to be specific. Jim D. Wilson, state ornithologist, says the bird could have arrived in a truck load of Texas citrus or it could have been a young bird migrating the wrong way. Last year's ani was returned to Texas by the Burroughs Audubon Society and Braniff Airlines.

NEW ON THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Missouri Conservation Commission has been rounded out to its full 4-member strength with recent appointments by Gov. Joseph Teasdale. Carl DiSalvo, a St. Louis auto dealer, replaces G. Andy Runge of Mexico, whose 6-year term expired in June. Earlier, Jack Waller, a Malden banker, was appointed to replaced the late Robert Talbot of Joplin.

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by Walter Crawford and his student aides from the Raptor Rehabilitation Project at the Tyson Research Center at Eureka a \$300 grant to the center was voted.

Highlights of the evening program also were the beautiful and informative color slide story by Harold Burgess on the Trumpeter Swans in Alaska, and the thrilling slide story by Paul Bauer on his wide-ranging birding over the entire country.

RESOLUTIONS MERITING YOUR ATTENTION!



In business session at the fall meeting your society voted:

"The Audubon Society of Missouri commends the two Senators from Missouri for their efforts in behalf of deauthorizing Meramec Dam. Its membership hereby urges both Sen. Thomas Eagleton and Sen. John Danforth to do whatever is possible to advance a bill through Congress written to: (1) permanently deauthorize Meramec Dam, (2) require the Army Corps of Engineers to protect all natural features within the acreage now under its jurisdiction within the originally planned Meramec impoundment area, and (3) to require a one-year study of potential alternative uses for the 28,000 acres of federal lands in the project to be deauthorized."

"The Audubon Society of Missouri offers its support for the Meramec River Recreation Area concept and also for its Master Plan designed to protect and enhance the natural, scenic and recreational potential of the lower Meramec River valley."

In other action, after talks by Ron Klataske, Audubon regional representative, and Ed Stegner of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, members were urged to push their representatives for renewal of the Endangered Species Act, designate Bell Mountain, Piney Creek, Rockpile Mountain and Devil's Backbone as wilderness areas, seek early acquisition of the 700-acre Clarksville Island in the Mississippi River as a habitat for bald eagles and other wildlife, and support a strong Alaska bill for wilderness areas.

Jim Jackson was named delegate to the Conservation Federation meet, with Sidney Wade and Betty Wilson.

That's quite an assignment for our friend Mark Robbins -- he'll be co-ordinating the Christmas count at Squaw Creek on Dec. 22, which is four days after he returns from his studies in Peru. . . President Jim Rathert has a new address -- 1307-E Ashland Gravel Road, Columbia, Mo. 65201. Tel. (314) 875-0251. . . . Your board of directors at the fall meeting agreed to offer the new 1979 check list for Missouri, compiled by Dick Anderson and David Easterla, at 8 for \$1, with copies of the former list at 12 for a buck. Students helped compile the authoritative new listing, which has 382 species positively recorded for Missouri . . . Easterla was reappointed check list chairman . . . Jim Jackson served as chairman of the ecology committee at the annual meeting of the Conservation Federation, aided by Sidney Wade and Betty Wilson . . . "Just plain got lobbied out," was Ed Stegner's explanation for the disgraceful setback given the Jackass Bend proposal in the House, Stegner recounted the need for a bill in the House to gain four wilderness areas, in his well-received talk at our state meeting.

An entirely appropriate action was the dedication of 18 acres of the Busch Wildlife Area as a memorial to Jim Comfort, sponsored by the Audubon Society of Missouri and the Webster Groves Nature Study Society. Paul Bauer told the state meet crowd of the selection of 12 field guides, presented to Pearlle Cassidy, Busch manager, and there was a touching acknowledgement from Florence Comfort.

□ □ □

GUIDE TO MISSOURI WILDLIFE REFUGES

Four Missouri refuges, Mingo, Squaw Creek, Swan Lake and Mark Twain, are featured in a new book, Guide to the National Wildlife Refuges, by Laura and William Riley, which has drawn high praise from Russell Train and many others. The book is available from Doubleday, and, as Roger Tory Peterson said, "will surely be in every bird watcher's backpack or glove compartment. . . It will also be a Baedeker for the nature photographer. I know that I shall refer to it often." Our copy has been placed in the library of the Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary at Liberty, in Charlie and Judy Schmidt's care. It tells how to get to 380 refuges in 49 states, and what you will find when you get there -- birds and facilities!



Notes and Feathers

that fall on the editor's desk

Hugh G. Hadley, Editor



The fall meeting was unusually noted for its fun and pleasure, its productive birding, its swift pace and its dedication to conservation interests. Some items merit repetition here:

Our new vice-president, succeeding the departing Vickie McDonald, is Marshall Magner of St. Louis, a founder and former president of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, the president-elect of the Entomological Society of America, and a friend of the late Jim Comfort.

Three Board members renominated from the class of 1979 are Dr. Leo Galloway, Dr. David Easterla and Paul Bauer. The 1980 meeting will be Sept. 27-28, Rising Sun.

A spring meeting will be held May 3-4 at Marais Temps Clair and the Busch Wildlife Area.

Dr. David Easterla was renamed check list chairman, and it was decided to revise the state list annually for changes in nomenclature and status. New lists are available at 8 for \$1; old lists at 12 for \$1. Bargain!

Chapters are asked to forward names of their conservation chaimen to Jerry Overton, 1201 E. 98th Terrace, Kansas City, Mo. 64131. This will enable the society to speak with a unified voice.

The Breeding Bird survey is being turned over by Richard Clawson to Jim D. Wilson, state ornithologist, who will be calling on you for help. This year 34 of the 37 state routes were run, a gain of one from 1978.

Paul Bauer announced that 18 acres of the Busch Wildlife Area had been designated a memorial to the late Jim Comfort, with the Audubon Society of Missouri and the Webster Groves Nature Study Society as co-sponsors. He selected 12 field guides to be presented Pearlle Cassidy, , manager. Florence Comfort gave a touching acknowledgment of the memorial to her late husband.

After the presentation on "Saving Birds of Prey"

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