

The  
**BLUEBIRD**

**THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI**

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JUNE, 1979

# The Audubon Society of Missouri

## Founded 1901

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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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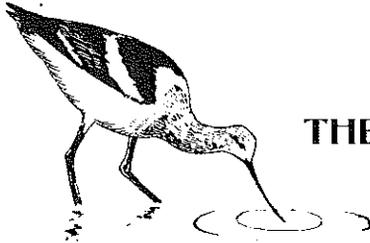
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# The Bluebird

VOLUME 46, Number 2

June, 1979



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

By Jim Rathert

### SPRING MEETING IS A WINNER, TOO

The Spring meeting at Schell-Osage Wildlife Area on April 21 and 22 was blessed with good birding, good weather, good food and great people. By the time I arrived, about 11 a.m. Saturday, most of the early arrivers had strapped on their binoculars and were out beating the brush for migrants--searching through the myriad of yellow-rumps for less common species.

After lunch, we divided the group into smaller groups -- a "wet-foot" and a "dry-foot" group, and headed for the marshes and bottomland timber. While standing on the bank of the Osage River, we noticed a blue-gray gnatcatcher actively moving about. Continuing to watch it, we eventually found the inconspicuous "bump on a log" nest about 30 feet up in a tree. We trained a spotting scope on it and everyone had a good, close-up look. It made repeated trips back and forth, apparently lining the nest.

After listing such species as Louisiana waterthrush, red-eyed and white-eyed vireos, house wren and common yellow-throat, we moved from timber to the open marsh.

A surprisingly large number of ducks were lingering on the area, possibly because of the excellent habitat provided there. Blue-winged teal were judged the most abundant, but there were good numbers also of shovelers, gadwall and pintails, as well as a few mallards and green-winged teal.

Several hundred shorebirds were found, with the lesser yellowlegs and pectoral sandpipers making up

the majority. A few least sandpipers and solitary sandpipers also were present, but the "star of the show" was a lone female Wilson's phalarope in its brilliant breeding plumage.

By late afternoon the groups were beginning to break up in favor of individual birding. After the full afternoon many peoples' thoughts were turning from the familiar feathered varieties of birds to the "Kentucky Fried" type.

After supper at Chicken Mary's restaurant in El Dorado Springs we tallied 96 species of birds seen that day. It was our consensus that we should make a strong effort to hold this type of meeting every spring. Possible future sites include Squaw Creek NWR and Mingo-Duck Creek in southeast Missouri.

Fall conference will be held Oct. 6 and 7 at Camp Rising Sun at the Lake of the Ozarks. Paul Bauer has offered to assemble the program, dealing with the "sport" of birding. This promises to be an excellent program, so mark your calendars NOW.

I was sad to announce that Vice-president Vicki McDonald has asked to be relieved of her duties so that she may pursue her doctorate out of state. We hate to see her go, but we wish her the very best in her new endeavor. Appointment of a successor is pending.

A head count showed an attendance of 31, with participants from St. Louis, Greater Kansas City, Maryville, Columbia, Rolla, Greater Springfield. The largest contingent (10) however, came from the Jefferson City area.

As if the day had not been full enough, a small group under the leadership of Tim Barksdale spent about three hours slogging around the cordgrass marsh in search of the elusive yellow rail. We didn't find any yellows -- a few soras -- but we sure did wake up an awful lot of night roosting pectoral sandpipers.

Everyone arrived at Taberville Prairie at 6 a.m. Sunday, to see about 14 prairie chickens courting on a distant ridge. Later, we heard the insect-like "tsi-lick" of the Henslow's sparrow. By aiming a scope at a nearby singing bird everyone got an ex-

cellent view of this rare and local species.

By late morning, most participants were headed back home after having taken part in a brief but an enjoyable weekend of birding and fellowship.

#### MAPLE WOODS SAVED BY SYLVIA AND THE "DESIGN"

"We believe the time for mindless destruction is past," says Sylvia Hein. And so this daughter of well-known Missouri Audubon Society members, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Fay of Ozark, rolled up her sleeves and went to work on the preservation of the Maple Woods.

Today the beautiful 40-acre stand of beautiful Missouri oaks, hickories and maples, with a long list of accompanying flora and fauna, is a testimonial to Mrs. Daniel Hein's powers of persuasion and persistence.

Sylvia didn't give up when the going got rough; she hung in there and saw the acreage, though reduced in size, become a nature preserve in the City of Gladstone, which is surrounded by Kansas City. Funds from the Design for Conservation were used to augment Bureau of Outdoor Recreation assistance. The acreage now is an invaluable outdoor laboratory of great aid to area educators.

Carrying the ball on this effort was Sylvia Hein, as regional representative of the Nature Conservancy. High tribute was paid the Conservancy at the area's dedication last fall, attended by many state and local officials, and featuring Sylvia Hein. Ownership now rests in the new Natural History Section of the Missouri Department of Conservation, and Joe Werner, Urban Biologist, hopes to develop it as a major area teaching tool, while still preserving the heritage.

The black and sugar maple trees are the outstanding species on the site, but Sylvia Hein has recorded many others, as well as a wide variety of woodland flowers and many bird species. Ken Weaver did his master's thesis in botany at the University of Missouri on the tract, recording such uncommon plants as the *Orchis spectabilis*, (listed by Steyermark in only 39 Missouri counties; the putty-root orchid, in 19 counties; the cut-leaved grape fern, listed as rare in the Rare and Endangered Species book, and the Indian pipe, *Monotropa Uniflora*.

"The Maple Woods experience has brought me wonderful friends," Sylvia Hein concludes.

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## CONSERVATION COMMENTS

by James P. Jackson

Your Conservation Action Line - As I write this, several important versions of an Alaska Lands bill are about to be voted on by the U.S. House of Representatives. But by the time you read this, that vote -- for better or worse -- will be history. The element of timing is often crucial when Congress is in session. Assuming you do keep up with national conservation issues, how can you contact your senators or congressman most quickly and effectively? In case you didn't know, by a public opinion mailgram. Merely call Western Union (try 1-800-555-1212 if you don't know the number) and, for \$2.95 per 100 words, plus \$1.35 if you want a copy mailed back to you, merely dictate your message and give your phone number and address; billing will be on your regular phone bill. Do contact your man in Washington D.C. by this most effective, inexpensive method. Maybe you can support a strong Alaska Lands bill when it gets into the Senate.

A Note to Birders - The ever-growing interest in birding among Americans is beginning to generate a unique problem: certain rare and endangered species may become loved to death. The competition to list certain species is causing them undue disturbances; some overzealous photographers are causing their share of problems. Specific disturbances which have been documented include such things as trampling the natural vegetation in the habitat of rare ground nesters, frightening hawks from their aeries, and routing songbirds from nesting territories by the use of confusing tape recordings. Rare bird alerts may offer excitement to avid birders, but the crowds they generate can become nuisances on both public and private sanctuaries. It is not my purpose to ruffle the feathers of avid birders, but merely to drop a gentle hint. The most recent, 1977 edition of Missouri's Rare and Endangered Species List indicates the following birds as endangered, according to the Missouri Department of Conservation: red-shouldered

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hawk, sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawk, marsh hawk, barn owl, least tern, Swainson's warbler among permanent residents; and double-crested cormorants, osprey and peregrine falcon among transients. This list does not include migratory or peripheral species which may be considered as rare.

Meramec Update - Both Missouri senators, and Representative Ichord --as they promised last spring if Meramec Dam were to be defeated -- have introduced bills into Congress for the deauthorization of said dam. These bills further authorize the Army Corps of Engineers (1) to conduct a study of how to dispose of 28,000 acres of federal land already acquired for the project and report on it within a year, and (2) meanwhile to manage and protect this acreage from vandalism and other public abuses. Right now the Meramec lands in federal ownership are being neglected and likely abused; furthermore, both senators and the congressman are neglecting the pursuit of getting this bill passed. They are, in other words, predictably dragging their feet on the matter.

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#### LIFE MEMBERSHIP IS POPULAR -- AND REWARDING!

The Audubon Society of Missouri is blessed with a number of Life Members, those in the Patron Class of support, who have paid a one-time \$100 membership fee. Others include those who have received honorary Life memberships in token of their service to this organization. Both are equally valued.

In addition to the list of Life Members published here last month, there are these others:

Paul Bauer, 4 Club Grounds South Drive, Florissant Mo., 63033, our immediate ex-president

Robert J. Allen, 14601 Holmes Road, Kansas City, Mo. 64145.

Mrs. Chandler S. Robbins, 7902 Brooklyn Bridge Road, Laurel, Md. 20810.

Our good friends Jim Comfort and Earl Comfort also were Life members of Missouri Audubon, earning the honorary title for their years of dedication.

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## THE SAGA OF MR. SAM



Mr. Sam arrived via Suzuki 11-4-1978, in the hand of a lad who rescued him after a harvesting accident. Being injured was traumatic enough, but to be bounced over a gutted country road on dirt bike would send anyone into shock. Mr. Sam is a young Western meadowlark -- with a broken wing and a strong constitution. With "CARE of THE WILD -- FEATHERED and FURRED" by Mae Hickman and Maxine Guy in hand I followed step-by-step instructions on how to splint and anchor a broken wing. I get an "A" for the part that says at first you will be all thumbs. As I sat back to admire my ever so neatly splinted patient---Mr. Sam managed to get both feet up under the tape. This made him topple over. I held Mr. Sam in one hand and thumbed thru the book with the other--stopping to give Mr. Sam an occasional dropper of milk to settle my fraying nerves. No answer in the book.

I clipped the masking tape, released Mr. Sam's feet and reanchored the splint. When I returned with a bit of nourishment for Mr. Sam--RIGHT ON--both feet up under the tape. I released his feet and left the splint on, but did not anchor it--he was losing too many feathers. On Monday I took the bird to the veterinarian. He did not read my book--no splint--he just taped the wing tightly to the body.

Mr. Sam is doing fine. He is a young bird and rapidly growing, so he'll soon need a new tape job. He is still very people-wary and whisks his tail back and forth when excited, but he sure likes all people food--hamburger, cottage cheese, egg yolks, , milk and canned dog food in preference to his bird seed. He is our guest for three months longer.

With young Mr. Sam in one hand and BIRDS of NORTH AMERICA by Robbins in the other, I proclaimed him a Western Meadowlark. One A.M. I turned on Good Morning America before I removed Mr. Sam's night cover--he heartily reminded me with a loud rattling roll. That was his first vocal sound in captivity. I was elated, and Mr. Sam seemed surprised.

Mr. Sam soon let me know that he was an Eastern Meadowlark by his repertoire of the eastern's song.

Often he sang a very plaintive song in a tiny voice that sounded far away. At other times he sat on his perch and sang vigorously with an occasional scolding roll. "Laziness will kill you" echoed through the house every time I stopped for a cup of coffee-- that seemed to be one of Mr. Sam's favorite phrases.

Mr. Sam became excited when other meadowlarks were in the yard. He would pace his cage and give his rolling rattle-- hop upon his perch, scold and repeat the procedure.

In March Mr. Sam had the run of the enclosed porch, perching on window sills and a tree limb we brought in for him. Mr. Sam was banded by Mary Louise Myers 3-27-79. His plaintive song seemed to plead--- "Release me--please--do-o." So on 3-28 he ate a hearty breakfast of raw steak, boiled egg yolk, sunflower hearts and wheat germ mixed with grain. I released him in the meadow by a little stream. There was good ground cover, trees and other meadowlarks. He went to a 4-foot branch, dropped into the grass and scurried into the brush. I saw Mr. Sam the next morning for the last time. I went on a birding trip to observe sandhill cranes in Nebraska.

My husband found Mr. Sam while I was gone, between the house and the barn. He had no visible sign of injury, so I don't know what happened to him.

Every time I hear an Eastern Meadowlark I am both happy and sad. Happy to have given Mr. Sam 5 months of life, and sad that he didn't survive. He was truly one beautiful bird, and I truly miss him.

\* I do not know if Mr. Sam was male or female -- I named him for the lad who brought him to me.

\*\* "Laziness will kill you" is credited to Lilyan Warner--- that is what her mother told her meadowlarks say.

JoAnn S. Garrett Pleasant Hill, Mo.

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#### GOOD PLACE TO MEET THE PRESIDENT

The seventh president of the National Audubon Society is Russell W. Peterson, well known to all conservationists. He was elected last fall by the board of directors to succeed Dr. Elvis J. Stahr, who had earlier expressed a desire to step down.

Peterson has been director of the Office of Technology Assessment. Formerly he was governor of Delaware, chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality and director of research and development for the Du Pont Company. In 1976 he left the C.E.Q. and started New Directions, a citizen's lobbying organization concerned with environmental issues. Dr. Peterson will be on hand at the biennial meeting of the National Audubon Society at Estes Park late in June. Make your plans to meet him there!

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#### MISSOURI'S FIRST SUMMER BIRD COUNT

With major assistance from our sister state of Illinois, Missouri's first summer bird count was conducted last summer between June 8 and July 8, with 96 observers in 21 counts, tallying 29,631 birds of 146 species. The northern, southeastern and St. Louis areas were not covered at all, so it is hoped the 1979 Summer Bird Count will be more successful.

The count is sponsored by the Southern Illinois Bird Observatory, a nonprofit, independent organization supported primarily by memberships and donations. Michael Morrison, field director of SIBO, said the count was started to promote summer birding activity and to provide an estimate of breeding bird populations. As participation increases, the count is expected to build a valuable source of data for statistical analysis.

It is rather like a Christmas count except that the reporting unit is an entire county. This year each county may use more than one day for the count, as long as no area is counted in more than once, so as to allow more observers to participate and to cover more areas.

The weather was varied (after all, this was in Missouri!). Marion County birders started in at 4:45 a.m., and Pike County stayed out the latest (10:30). Shannon County fielded the most birders (14), Cass counted the most birds (6,973), and Buchanan saw the most species (93).

Compilers, with their county and number of bird species sighted:

Barry County, Merle Rogers, 81; Buchanan, Floyd Lawhon, 93; Cass, JoAnn Garrett, 74; Clay, Harry Gregory, 77; Clinton, Christopher Hobbs, 85; Dent,

David Plank, 89; Greene, Dr. James Key, 88; Jackson, Harry Gregory, 70; Johnson, Mark Belwood, 23; Marion, James Shaw, 51; Newton-McDonald, Mrs. Norma Crews, 76; Phelps, Jack Scrivner, 40; Pike, Betty Rosser, 67; Platte Chris Hobbs, 70; Pulaski, Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Pesante, 27; Ralls, James Shaw, 36; Saint Francis, Pat Gillett, 41; Sainte Genevieve, Pat and David Gillett, 15; Saline, Mark Belwood, 78; Shannon, Sadi Negaard, 78, and Texas, David Plank, 69.

Morrison says the complete county-by-county results may be obtained from him at the Southern Illinois Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 2471, Carbondale, Ill. 62901. Also available are summer bird counts done in Illinois (28 counties, 190 species), and Indiana (20 counties, 145 species).

The compilers and the 96 observers made the count possible, Morrison says, and he thanks them and the Southern Illinois Audubon Society for their support. Ninety-three Missouri counties were not covered, so anyone interested in helping on this is asked to contact Morrison.

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#### ACTIVE WITH PEN AND CAMERA BOTH ---



Our own James P. (Jim) Jackson of Washington, Mo., a former editor of this publication, honored teacher, careful student and adept outdoorsman, is in the news with two signal accomplishments. His superb photo of the yellow lady's slipper, *Cypripedium Calceolus*, which first appeared in a recent issue of Missouri Highways, now adorns the front cover of School and Community, publication of the Missouri State Teachers Association.

Jim Jackson also is the author of a new book, "The Biography of A Tree," recently published at \$10.95 by Jonathan David Publishers, Inc., 68-22 Eliot Ave., Middle Village, N.Y. 11379. Jackson, who lives at 103 Terry Lane, Washington, Mo. 63090, is a former education consultant to the Missouri Department of Conservation. As Jim Auckley said in The Conservationist, the book "ties together the multiplicity of factors of a white oak's painfully slow growth from acorn to forest monarch." Worth getting and reading.

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## MISSOURI RIVER ALERT !

An opportunity to hear David Brower, president of Friends of the Earth, is ours on June 4, when he addresses a luncheon sponsored by the newly formed Missouri River Society at Oscar's Restaurant in Jefferson City. Proceeds will help promote the "Year of the River-1980," an effort to tell the public of the cultural, historic, natural and recreational values of the Missouri River. Suggestions and donations may be sent to Missouri River Society, P.O. Box 1671, Jefferson City, Mo. 65201, says Don Pierce, Midwest F.O.E. representative.

Brower also will address the Greater Ozark Endangered Species Conference at 7:30 the evening of June 4 in the Geology Auditorium at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Jim Wilson, endangered species co-ordinator for the Missouri Dept. of Conservation, and Don Pierce also will speak.

Marti Kardinal of Columbia, representing the Ozark chapter of the Sierra Club, is chairman of its Missouri River Committee, and is in the forefront of the effort to help the Army Engineers fulfill its mission of reversing the destruction of fish and wildlife habitat along the 750-mile stretch from Sioux City to St. Louis. Mitigation procedures planning is proceeding very slowly, and a redraft of the Environmental Impact Statement issued in January is in order. Missouri has lost 50,000 acres of public trust water and wetlands, but the Corps refuses to recognize this loss. Letters to Governor Teasdale and your congressman are indicated.

The Ozark chapter is sponsoring World Environment Day with a float on the Missouri from Hermann to New Haven June 8 and 9. This passes the spectacular bluffs used as nesting sites by the Giant Canada geese. Register (\$1) with Marti Kardinal, 1264 Sunset Drive, Columbia, Mo. 65201, or call (314) 443-8564.

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TURKEY TOLL -- Hunters took 13,737 birds in the spring season, but John Lewis, Dept. of Conservation turkey biologist, says there are plenty left. "We just have a lot of turkeys," he said. "

# Winter Survey

Compiled by Jim Rathert  
and Jim D. Wilson



December 1, 1978 through February 28, 1979

This was our third severe winter in a row and it was not only hard on birds, but on birders. Based on the number of reports received, birding activity was light during the season. December was dry and mild and was the most productive for birds. By the end of December, the snow and cold temperatures had arrived and birding was curtailed. Most of the state had a continuous snow cover from about December 30 through February 20. Maximum snow depths varied from about 1 foot to over 2 feet in some regions. The Bootheel was free of a snow cover most of the winter, but Trenton had 29 inches on the ground on January 14.

Temperatures also were severe. Shelbina and Plattsburg reported -30 degrees on Jan. 15 and Feb. 11, respectively. Temperatures plummeted to below zero on 11 days straight at St. Joseph in January, with a low of -23 on Jan. 1. In spite of the harsh conditions, birding was not without its rewards. The bird of the season, if not the year, was the first state record of a bronzed cowbird. Other significant observations included ferruginous hawks, prairie falcons, a late ruby-throated hummingbird, common raven, Townsend's solitaire, and a McCown's longspur.

LOONS THROUGH HAWKS - Loons were seen throughout December in several locations: Two at Lake Jacomo on Dec. 1-3 (NMCL), one at St. Joseph on Dec. 2 (FL), one at Alton Dam on Dec. 5 (DA), and 10 on the Mingo CBC on Dec. 28. Horned grebes were reported up until Dec. 27 at Springfield. A rather late double-crested cormorant was seen at Lake Jacomo on Dec. 2 (NMCL).

A single green heron was seen at Springfield on Dec. 5 (BD, CB). Oldsquaw reports included one at

Alton Dam on Dec. 7 (PS, BR), one at Alta Villa Harbor on Dec. 18 (BR) and another at Alton Dam on Dec. 22 (TBK). Scoter findings were scarce, with one white-winged scoter at Alton Lake on Jan. 25 (TBK) and one surf scoter at Alton Dam on Dec. 15 (PS, BR). Mute swan sightings are becoming more numerous. One was seen on the Kansas City Southeast CBC on Dec. 16, and 9 on the Springfield CBC on Dec. 16.

The only goshawk reported was at the James A. Reed Wildlife Area on Feb. 9, 13 and 26 (BB). Sharp-shinned hawks were reported in about usual numbers and red-shouldered hawks were widely reported in the southern part of the state. There were differing reports regarding the abundance of rough-legged hawks. In Central Missouri they were more common than normal (BG). While in the St. Louis area they were generally considered "less common" (DA). Ferruginous hawks were seen on Dec. 10 and Dec. 30 in the Kansas City area (HB). Golden eagle reports were restricted to western and northwestern Missouri. Thirty-eight were counted on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service mid-winter eagle inventory which was conducted on Jan. 2 - 5. This compared to 26 one year ago. An extremely high number of 353 bald eagles was recorded at Squaw Creek on Dec. 17 (BH). Two days later 417 were counted there (TBK). Eight hundred twelve bald eagles were counted on the USFWS mid-winter eagle inventory, which compares to 776 the previous year.

The only prairie falcon seen this winter was at Taberville Prairie on Feb. 24 (KH, BF). Peregrine falcon findings were as follows: one at Alton Dam on Dec. 1 (PS), one at Kansas City on Dec. 16 (CS) and one at St. Charles County Jan. 6 (MS). Merlins were seen singly at these locations: Ozark County in mid-December (NF), the Reed area on Dec. 28 (NMCL), the Busch area on Jan. 11 (PS et al), and 4 were sighted at the Reed area from Dec. 4 - 12 (MOB).

GALLIFORMES THROUGH PICIFORMES - Bobwhites were observed in very low numbers. A sandhill crane was seen at Alton Dam on Dec. 9 (PS et al). The first central Missouri sighting of glaucous gulls occurred Feb. 4 at Thomas Hill Reservoir (BG et al). All other glaucous gull sightings were at Alton Dam, where an

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estimated five were present during the season (TBK). A minimum of 13 individual Thayer's gulls wintered at Chain of Rocks at Alton Dam (TBK).

Four barn owls were recorded on Dec. 16 on the Montrose CBC and 4 on the New-Mac CBC on Dec. 28. No snowy owls were reported this year. Seventeen long-eared owls were observed on the Dec. 17 Trimble CBC and three on Jan. 4 at the Busch Area (RB). Short-eared owls were common, particularly in central Missouri. One saw-whet was seen several times between Dec. 11 and 18 at Lake Jacomo (CH). An extremely late ruby-throated hummingbird was last seen at the hummingbird feeder of Alice Gould on Dec. 9 at Cape Fair, Mo.

PASSERIFORMES - Two common ravens were seen by Rebecca Hein on Jan. 4 at Kansas City. Red-breasted nuthatches were "nearly absent" (BG).

Nine Carolina wrens were recorded on CBC's at widely scattered locations. In addition to 3 seen on the Springfield CBC, single birds were reported on Dec. 29 and Jan. 7. Mockingbirds were down in numbers. They were described as "scarce all fall" in St. Joseph (FL), and only two were observed in Licking (DH). CBC data for the past 5 years show the following trend:

1974-75	541	1975-76	535	1976-77	433
1977-78	373	1978-79	236		

There were 117 eastern bluebirds reported on this year's CBC in the state, as compared to 686 last year. A Townsend's solitaire was seen at St. Joseph on Dec. 18 (LG, FL) while another was reported at the I-70 Lamine River bridge on Jan. 15 (TBK).

The Mingo CBC produced two individual orange-crowned warblers on Dec. 28.

The first state record of a bronzed cowbird was observed on Dec. 15 at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge (BH, MR, DE, FL). Photographs were taken and a specimen was collected. A very late northern oriole persisted at St. Louis through Dec. 13 (DA).

Evening grosbeaks occurred in low numbers this year. An analysis of CBC data shows alternate years

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of abundance:

1974-75	0	1975-76	32	1976-77	0
1977-78	146	1978-79	18		

All common redpoll sightings were restricted to the Kansas City area. Eighteen were found on the Kansas City North CBC on Dec. 30. Ten single birds were also seen in the Kansas City area in late January. This was a down year for pine siskins. Their alternate years of abundance and rarity are shown in CBC data below:

1974-75	15	1975-76	553	1976-77	3
1977-78	767	1978-79	40		

Red crossbills were scarce and white-winged crossbills were absent. One red crossbill was seen in Kansas City on Feb. 4, another in St. Louis on Jan. 6 (DA), and two on Jan. 17 in St. Louis (CHA).

The first state record of a McCown's longspur was at the Busch Area between Jan. 11 and 16 (PS, CP, DJ, DA).

Snow buntings were seen widely in large flocks. There were several reports from Central Missouri.

They were first seen on Jan. 28, 20 miles north of Columbia (BG). On Feb. 2, 23 were counted in that flock (JR), and there were other estimates of 30 to 40 birds. Eleven were sighted four miles north of Savannah in northwest Missouri (JH). One occurred at the Busch Area on Jan. 1-27 (DA) and one at St. Charles County on Dec. 10 by Floyd and Vi Hallett. Snow buntings in St. Louis occurred in "record numbers" (DA).

The observers:

DA - Dick Anderson	BD - Betty Dyer
TBK - Tim Barksdale	DE - Dave Easterla
RB - Rose Ann Bodman	NF - Nathan Fay
CB - Catherine Bonner	BF - Bob Fisher
BB - Bonnie Brown	LG - Leo Galloway
HB - Harold Burgess	BG - Bill Goodge

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Observers, continued:

DH - Dan Hatch	CP - Carmen Patterson
CH - Connie Hath	JR - Jim Rathert
BH - Berlin Heck	MR - Mark Robbins
CH - Chris Hobbs	BR - Bill Rudden
KH - Kelly Hobbs	MS - Mickey Scudder
DJ - David Jones	PS - Phoebe Snetsinger
FL - Floyd Lawhon	CS - Carrie Swink
N.McL - Norman McLaughlin	

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HERE'S HOW TO KEEP IN TOUCH!

Audubon Society people want to be effective in supporting their own programs, it goes without saying. The best way we've seen is the booklet, "Guide for Citizen Action," recently published by the Washington office, with all you need to know about the workings of Congress, community organizing, use of the media, and meeting with legislators. For this valuable data on what you and your chapter can do to influence legislation, send \$1 to the National Audubon Society, 1511 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

LIVING WITH THE MONK PARAKEET

"The easiest fire to put out is a little one," says John Wylie, natural history officer for the Mo. Dept. of Conservation. He's talking about the monk parakeet, one of which has taken up residence in a south St. Louis condominium and seems to have ingratiated itself with the residents. This is a bad deal for other species, Wylie says, as they are vicious competitors for food and housing with other species.

FLASH !!

--New president of Burroughs Audubon-K.C. is Wendell Mohling, 12123 W. 69th, Shawnee Mission, Kan. 66216, a biology teacher at Shawnee Mission Northwest High. He succeeds Robert G. Fisher. Mohling has a great interest (and great films) in Alaska. Also elected are Jerry Overton, v-p; Barbara Shepherd, secretary, and John Ethridge, treasurer, with Norman McLaughlin, Pat Devine and Mary Louise Myers elected new directors, and Nancy Highgate and Dr. Earl S. McHugh holdovers.



# Notes and Feathers

that fall on the editor's desk

Hugh G. Hadley, Editor



Mind-boggling is the only word that can apply to the Smithville Dam project near that Clay County town north of Kansas City. Now due to be filled by late 1982, the \$88 million project is expected to draw 3 million visitors yearly. We'll see. Army people say the project was necessary to provide a reliable water supply, provide recreation and save the town of Smithville from incessant flooding. It would have been cheaper to have bought the town and moved it. But an incredible amount of development goes along with the lake, and it apparently will include industrial, as well as golf courses, motels, residential, office complexes, music halls, pitch-and-putt golf. The ill-fated (maybe) giant Canada geese seem to be sort of lost in the shuffle. Our Congress has not seen fit yet to do anything about Jackass Bend, touted as their new home. And the flat waters of the lake will cover a lot of good farmland and bird habitat. But that's progress.

Couple of interesting new books have crossed our desk lately. William Collins Publishers of Cleveland say that Colin Harrison's new book, "Nests, Eggs and Nestlings of North American Birds" is the first of a series of field guides they plan. Paintings by Philip Burton make it a beautiful tome. . . . Rosemary K. Collett visited Kansas City recently in a benefit for the projected Cave Springs park development in Raytown, and her sprightly talk and slides bore out the subject of her book, "Rescue and Home Care of Native Wildlife." That's a tender area for anyone to get into, but the Colletts have been doing it successfully for some years at their Felicidades Wildlife Foundation, Inc., at Venice, Fla. Her book is a loving account of the ups and downs of such an enterprise, and worth reading.

Your editor, who sees at a distance with one eye and reads with the other, nearly lost the latter in a ridiculous brush with brush in a strip pit at Montrose the last day of our spring meeting. Narrow escape, said Doc. Ye Ed may be in glasses next time. H.G.H.

## AUDUBON ORGANIZATIONS IN MISSOURI

NA	Audubon Society of Missouri	
M	Audubon Club of Springfield	Springfield
N	Bootheel Audubon Society	Kennett
M,N	Burroughs Audubon Society	Kansas City
M,N	Chariton Valley Audubon Society	Kirksville
M,N	Columbia Audubon Society	Columbia
M,N	Greater Ozarks Audubon Society	Springfield
M	Hawthorn Garden Club	Jefferson City
NA	Ladue Garden Club	St. Louis
M	Louisiana Garden Club	Louisiana
N	Mosage Audubon Society	
	Sedalia-Marshall-Warrensburg	
M	New-Mac Bird Club	Neosho
N	Ozark Gateway Audubon Society	Opplin
M,N	Ozark Rivers Audubon Society	Rolla
M,N	River Bluffs Audubon Society	City
M,NA	St. Joseph Audubon Society	Joseph
M,N	St. Louis Audubon Society	Louis
M	Webster Groves Nature Study S	Louis

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Student . . . . .	2.00	*Affiliate (I)	3.00
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+ + +

Patron (Life Member) . . . . .

\* 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.

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