



THE BLUEBIRD

The voice of ASM since 1934

**March 2010
Volume 77, No. 1**



***The Audubon Society of Missouri
Missouri's Ornithological Society Since 1901***

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Deadlines for submission of material for publication in *The Bluebird*

Manuscripts for *The Bluebird*—to the editor by:

Feb. 1 for March issue; May 1 for June issue;

Jul. 15 for Sept. issue; *Nov. 1 for Dec. issue*

Deadlines for submissions to the Seasonal Survey Compilers

Winter (Dec. 1-Feb. 28)—to Joe Eades by Mar. 10

Spring (Mar. 1-May 31)—to Kristi Mayo by June 10

Summer (June 1-July. 31)—to Josh Uffman by Aug 10

Fall (Aug. 1-Nov. 30)—to Bill Eddleman by Dec. 10

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Special Insert: Spring 2010 ASM Meeting

Front Cover— **Missouri's second state record** Common Poorwill found by Kirby Goslee after being hit by a car north of Maitland, Holt Co., on November 21, 2009. The bird was kept overnight and released the next day. Photo by David A. Easterla.



Ruddy Turnstone, Sandy Slough, Winfield Lock and Dam, Lincoln Co., August 11, 2009. Photo by Al Smith.

THE BLUEBIRD is published quarterly by The Audubon Society of Missouri. The submission of articles, photographs, and artwork is welcomed and encouraged. The views and opinions expressed in this journal are those of each contributing writer and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of The Audubon Society of Missouri or its officers, Board of Directors, or editors. Send address corrections to ASM, 2101 W. Broadway, PMB 122, Columbia, MO 65203-1261.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER—JIM ZELLMER



As I look out my window, I am looking at a complete wall of fog. The weather is very much of a reminder that it is still winter and that we still have several weeks of this mess to go before we can expect to see the movement of the spring migrants. Having said that, I hope that everyone had a nice holiday season with your family and friends. And, that your ventures out doing the annual Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) were very productive. Certainly one of the highlights of the winter

season is the CBCs.

The Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) is continuing its involvement with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the CACHE project. With the negotiating skills of Edge Wade, ASM signed an agreement with MDC in record time to complete CACHE V. The new target areas for CACHE V are as follows: Big Creek (Adair Co), Bohigian (Phelps Co), Bois D'Arc (Greene Co), Duck Creek (Stoddard Co), Little Dixie Lake (Callaway Co), Little Prairie (Phelps Co), Perry Memorial (Pettis Co), Platte Falls (Platte Co), Prairie Home (Copper Co) and St. Stanislaus (St Louis Co) conservation areas.

With changes within the organization of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), ASM has been in discussions with Mike Currier. We are getting ready to sign an agreement with MDNR very soon. When that happens, I will inform every one of the new target sites for the agreement.

As most of you know, for the past several years, ASM has been devoted to the prairies of this state. And with that comes the birds that make the prairie their home. In particular, the Greater Prairie Chicken (GPC) is literally on the verge of being extirpated from our state. Since late October 2009, Mike Doyen and I have had discussions on ASM's involvement with saving the GPC. The question then comes to how ASM can stay informed of the changes to the prairies and the prairie chicken. I have therefore appointed Mike Doyen to the liaison position of Grassland Bird Coordinator. Mike will be in close contact with Max Alleger who is employed by MDC and is

heading up a coalition called the Grassland Technical Coalition. This ties in and is related to the Missouri Grassland Coalition that is headed up by Max Alleger. Mike will be attending any meetings and taking part in areas that can be relayed back to ASM and how we can further the efforts of saving the Greater Prairie Chicken. Thanks Mike and congratulations!

The next main event that is on the horizon is the upcoming spring meeting. This year it will be in Southeast Missouri at Cape Girardeau. Imagine being in the southern part of the state for the spring migration and having the opportunity to see some of the best birds in the state and having some of the best places to go! This is **going to be one that you won't want to miss. It seems like with each year the spring meetings just keep getting better and better.** Plan on getting your registration in early and we will see you there! Look for the announcement in this issue of *The Bluebird*.

Stay warm, go birding when you can, and be sure to go to the CACHE/SPARKS areas and continue to help ASM with these worthwhile partnerships that we have with our partners in conservation.

Jim Zellmer
President, The Audubon Society of Missouri

INHERITING A LIFE LIST—WHY I BIRD DAVID STARRETT

I grew up in California, the son of a birder. My father was a mammalogist by trade but had a strong related interest in birds. For 50 years, I did not. Growing up, birding happened in our house. On vacations, camping trips, in the backyard, in the FRONT yard. Binoculars in hand. I tolerated it. It never caught my fancy. My mother was also a biologist, and I know they talked birds in the house. I grew up not knowing what I wanted to be, but knowing what I did NOT want to be: a biologist. All the time I was growing up, a bird list was simmering and growing in our house, and I never knew it.

Naturally, I became a biologist after all and moved 2,500 miles across country to do research with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. My father came to visit us in Maryland. We visited local wildlife areas at his request. January. 15 degrees. Early morning. Standing out in the cold by the Patuxent River. I have a photograph of my 2-year old son standing next to grandpa, kiddy binoculars in hand,

aimed at some imaginary spot in the sky just like grandpa. The list might have grown that day.

My father visited us here in Missouri a number of times. While I was at work he was sitting in my backyard, binoculars in hand. The list was still growing and I was aiding and abetting by harboring a birder. He came with nature reserve directions in hand. We abided by his request and took him to the back swamps of Illinois and Missouri. We drive down dusty gravel roads, in the heat of August, with **the windows open!** My father would periodically blurt out, **“Stop the car!”** We would stop and he would cock his head like a pointer listening. He would announce the name of a bird and then find it moments later in his binoculars. The list was being added to, riding shotgun in the passenger seat of my car.

On one trip through the backwoods at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, my oldest son announced he had found an owl up in a tree. Sure enough, according to my father he had spotted a Barred Owl perched in the branches high above us. My dad instructed my young sons to find a “pewee”. He told them what it should sound like. A bit later it was one of my own sons blurting out: **“I hear a pewee!”** We stopped the car. They added to the list. To this day both of my sons recognize an Eastern Wood-pewee, by call!

As my father sat in my backyard over breakfast, my wife sat with him and became corrupted. I believe she helped the list grow. I found a tattered and folded quick identification sheet to eastern birds in our house. She was birding under my very nose. She obtained a bird field guide along the way—where, I am not sure. She would sometimes tell me there was an Eastern Bluebird in our backyard, or a Goldfinch, even a Northern Cardinal. I saw them. A blue bird, a yellow bird, a red bird. She advanced to bird feeders. I became an accomplice in putting them up, and squirrel-proofing them. In spite of my involvement, I was able to maintain my innocence and purity; our fine feathered friends had not grabbed my fancy!

Last year, my father passed away after a courageous bout with a **combination of Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases.** We spread his ashes off the California coast with Humpback Whales underneath and birds soaring in the skies above. My father’s three children spent a lot of time together reminiscing and talking about my father’s birding obsession. We also went through his personal belongings. He had bird guides, bird books, bird pictures, bird knick-knacks, and many more items for the birds. He also had a pair of stabilizing binoculars. I tried them and was impressed. I asked for them and my brother and sister agreed. Little did I know how much power these binoculars really had.

Stuffed in the binocular carrying case was a large bright orange sticky note with a couple dozen bird names listed on it. I asked my **stepmom whose it was because the date was well into my father's battle with his diseases and it wasn't his writing. She had taken him** out to bird and she wrote down what they saw/heard. My father was in the middle stages of dementia and was out in the field identifying birds by sight and sound. It was his last birding foray. The list had stopped growing.

My wife, kids and I took a cruise to Alaska last summer to notch our 50th state. While in a book store before we left, on an unexpected whim, I bought a field guide to Alaska birds. The cruise was wonderful. I sat on the balcony of a ship watching the waves go by, and whales, sea lions, dolphins and other wildlife. And birds. Lots of birds. In the air, on the water, along the shore. **Stabilizing binoculars don't care about the movement of a ship. Had I known what was** happening I might have sought help (is there a Birders Anonymous?). Before I knew it, I was cracking open a field guide to find a **bird I had seen, before it was too far in the ship's wake to be identifiable.** After seven days on the ship, I had a couple dozen bird names **(and dates, and locations) scratched on the backs of the ship's daily activity sheets, seen with my father's binoculars.**

We spent another nine days in Anchorage, Denali Park, and Fairbanks. More birds. Little birds, big birds, ducks, waders, seed eaters, insectivores, passerines, Townsend's Warblers, Varied Thrushes, *Sterna paradisaea*, and *Cygnus buccinator*! My list grew. Forty birds were on those scraps of paper by the time I got back to Missouri. My wife and I headed to Taiwan for nine days the following week to visit **family. They have birds in Taiwan. I had my dad's binoculars. Fourteen** bird names, entered in an Excel Spreadsheet on a laptop, with notes on habitat, dates, locales, and whether my wife had seen the bird as well. Oh, and longitude and latitude from Google Earth, to within a few feet of where the bird actually was in some cases.

My dad went to Taiwan when I was married there. I wondered if I had seen the same birds he had. Or, maybe, just maybe, one he hadn't. **When I got home I asked my brother if he could get me a copy of** the bird list my dad kept. I now have a second tab in my Excel spreadsheet with his 8,336 entries of sightings of 2,654 unique birds. My tab had one bird from Taiwan that his tab did not. The list was growing again!

My father's bird list was a biography of his life. He had entries from when he was 15-years old, with locations, notes, habitat, etc. I found

his trip to Taiwan. I found his visits to us in Maryland and Missouri. And my goodness, he had one heck of a list of birds seen from my **backyard; I now know what he saw there. My son's Barred Owl** sighting. The Pewee. There they were! My father took a trip to **Alaska. He saw some birds we didn't and vice versa. He detailed the** places he stayed. We had stayed in the very same cabins that he did, a somehow comforting discovery. A particularly rough period in his life was noticeably devoid of bird sightings while the list grew at the different places he lived at and on his trips around the globe. **The list contains an entry for the Patuxent river. My son's first bird en-**try. The list references a trip my father took me on to Hawaii. I am in the spreadsheet!

The list reveals a few mistakes over the last couple entries. He has entries weeks before being diagnosed. His last entry bore evidence of his disease. In his advancing dementia he still fell back on the family sense of humor and entered a bird species name only he could make up, *Turdus migratorius!*

My father has been gone well over a year. Over the past nine months I have bought a larger pair of stabilizing binoculars, a spotting scope, and a Digital SLR camera with stabilizing telephoto lens. **My wife uses my father's pair of binocs, which is appropriate as she** connected with him, including his love for birds. I have discovered in pictures from trips we took over the past several years that my wife was taking bird pictures. Where date and locale was determinable, those became entries in her list. I have now seen every bird my **father saw in Missouri, save a couple of warblers he saw here. But I'll** get them.

One of my most cherished photographs is the one of grandpa and grandson, binoculars in hand. My siblings kid me; no one knew who would get the bird bug. My brother got the plant bug (he tells me at **least his obsessions don't fly away before you can ID them). My sister thought she'd get it, but is relieved it expressed itself in me.** Maybe it was the binoculars. Maybe his list. Maybe just a latent festering avian fetish. I enjoy birding. My wife and I do it together. It is exciting. It is rewarding. It is outdoors. It is a challenge. It is something to look forward to. It is something to dread ending for the day. It is something my father did, it is something I do. It is a connection

to my father, it keeps his spirit and memory alive. *Turdus migratorius*, the American Robin, the last bird my father entered in his list. The first bird of 361 on my list, and growing.

Why do I bird? I am my father's son! His list is my list and the list keeps growing.

ATTEMPTS TO COMBINE WINTER BIRDWATCHING WITH BUSINESS IN SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

or BIRDING INSANITY 101

Paul M. McKenzie
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Any birder/ornithologist who has been to southeastern Arizona understands the excitement of birding in this part of the United States. A recent business trip to Tucson, Arizona on January 25-29, 2010 rekindled that excitement but also highlighted the frustration and challenges associated with attempting to combine business with birding, especially given I did not have a vehicle.

Our meeting was held at the marvelous Westward Look Resort in north-central Tucson very close to Pima Canyon. The resort has some excellent nature trails that I took full advantage of before and after scheduled work. Despite a tight time line and a total rainout one day (yes, it does rain in southeastern Arizona!), I was able to spend several hours in the field. As any birder that has visited southeastern Arizona can attest, it is impossible to see all the species in this region of the state during one trip. You must have multiple visits if you want to see a larger percentage of birds observed in the continental U. S.

There were several birding highlights during my morning and evening walks. One obvious observation was that some species (e.g., **Gambel's Quail, Cactus Wren, Lesser Goldfinch, Gila Woodpecker, Anna's Hummingbird, Phainopepla, Western Bluebird, Curve-billed Thrasher**) were common and/or conspicuous while others such as Canyon Towhee, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, and Black-throated Sparrow (easier to see the recent one in Missouri!) were secretive and harder to view. Also obvious was that some species were greatly outnumbered by their more numerous cousins (e.g. **Ladder-backed Woodpecker vs. Gila Woodpecker; Costa's Hummingbird vs. Anna's Hummingbird**).

Another observation was how poorly many desert species respond to spishing compared to birds in the Midwest. Another somewhat unexpected observation is that despite fairly mild temperatures, some species were often more easily viewed in full sunlight than at first light or at twilight. Perhaps one explanation for this discrepancy was the fact that coyotes were very common and extremely tame, especially during dawn and dusk. They certainly were much less wary than coyotes I have observed in the Midwest. One fact known by all birders is that we have all come to expect the unexpected- this trip was no exception. At first light one morning I was pleasantly surprised to see a Merlin (rare in winter in southeastern Arizona) **being hotly pursued by a very agitated Anna's Hummingbird.** How enjoyable it was to see an avian predator being harassed by a potential prey species that would provide no more than a small snack as nourishment!

Certainly the birding highlight of my trip was the events surrounding my attempt to see a Violet-crowned Hummingbird that was visiting a hummingbird feeder not far from the resort where I was staying—this would be a life bird for me and one I had missed on a previous trip to southeastern Arizona. But to see the bird, I had to get past a few obstacles: I had to find a car; the only scheduled time I could attempt to see the bird was about 1 hr. on the last day of my trip; and most non-birders are not very sympathetic to those of us who go out of our way to enjoy birds.

Most of my colleagues at the conference were not only unsympathetic to my plight but they were shocked that: 1) I had taken the time to check the southeastern Arizona Rare Bird Alert before I left Missouri, 2) I was willing to call and visit a total stranger who I had never met, and 3) the lengths I took to borrow a car when I had only one hour to get to the residence and hope to see the bird. Obviously, my non-birding colleagues were totally alien to the comradery of the birding community. They were convinced that I could possibly end up as an abduction or robbery statistic or met with worse fowl (yes Edge, pun intended!) play.

After arranging a visit to the home of Rich Hoyer in north-central Arizona, I frantically asked several colleagues on Thursday if they had a car I could borrow. After several failed attempts I finally secured a car but had a few other obstacles to overcome: 1) the colleague who had a rental could not give me the keys until 8:30 a. m., 2) **I had to have the car back to the individual a “few minutes before 10:00,”** and 3) **my shuttle back to the airport was leaving promptly at 10:00 a. m.** I was asked if I could guarantee that the car was back on time, “Sure!” I said (as others reading this account would have

said) confidently. There were those who laughed but they failed to realize that I had done my research: 1) the location was estimated to be no more than 15 minutes away, 2) I memorized the directions and the necessary parts of the Tucson map, and 3) Rich had informed me **on the phone that the bird was more easily seen in “mid-morning.”**

I got the keys exactly at 8:25 a. m. and made a dash to the location 17 minutes later—**time is now 8:42. I pulled into Rich’s driveway** and was pleasantly surprised to see at least 15 hummingbird feeders scattered in the front and back yards. If it took me 17 minutes to return and I established a must-leave time of 9:40 a.m., it meant I had exactly 58 minutes to see one of the two Violet-crowns visiting his feeders. Rich came out to greet me and guaranteed me that I would see the bird within 10 to 15 minutes (anyone ever heard something similar?). After an extremely frustrating ½ hr (time is now 9:12 a.m.) without seeing a Violet-crown **but lots of Anna’s, a Broad-billed Hummingbird and a possible Costa’s x Black-chinned hybrid hummingbird, Verdin, and even Gila Woodpeckers visiting Rich’s feeders, Rich attempted to locate one of the birds on its usual favorite perch.** As you might have guessed by now, Rich was unsuccessful and had to leave for work at 9:15 a. m. But Rich had no sooner left his drive when I heard the call notes of a hummer I did not recognize and by process of elimination knew it had to be one of the Violet-crowns. I was able to quickly locate the origin of notes- it was a Violet-crown **at a feeder “it did not usually go to”**- unfortunately, I could see the bill and back enough for a positive identification but I wanted a better look so I decided to stick to my 9:40 a. m. departure goal (time is now 9:18 a. m.). At 9:37 a. m. my patience paid off- Wow! I got good views of all field marks: white underparts, gray back, red bill, violet crown. Fantastic! I jump in the rental and make a dash back—with a few stoplights in my favor, I arrive at the resort at 9:50 a. m., take another 8 minutes to get a final look a male **Costa’s Hummingbird feeding a patch of planted *Salvia* sp,** drop the car keys off at 9:58 a. m., run to catch my airport shuttle as they were loading at 9:59 a. m.

Some of my colleagues who were shocked to see that I was still alive asked, **“Did you see the bird?” “Of course,” I replied- “piece of cake!” Oh, the insanity of birding! It never gets old, even those of us “senior birders” where a life bird is a rare event. If you have never birded southeastern Arizona, you owe it to yourself to make multiple trips—but it would be best to avoid attempts to combine business and birding.**

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSOURI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
William C. Rowe, Secretary

This report summarizes records evaluated by the Committee between 28 September 2008 and 26 September 2009. It is divided into two sections: Accepted and Not Accepted.

Birds are listed in phylogenetic order under each of the above two categories. Taxonomy and nomenclature follow the American Ornithologists' Union's *Checklist of North American Birds*, Seventh Edition (1998), and subsequent supplements. The latest AOU list is available on line at www.aou.org/checklist. For "Accepted" records, comments are added to indicate the record's significance. For "Not Accepted" records, observers' names are omitted, and a brief explanation is provided as to why the record was not accepted. All photographs will be archived in Mylar envelopes and deposited in the Committee's files, which are currently housed in the Division of Ornithology, University of Kansas Natural History Museum, Lawrence, Kansas.

The transition to on-line documentation and review of records continues. A few documentations are still submitted in hard copy, but most are posted by the observer to a secure web site, where the secretary prepares them for review. Photographs in .jpg format can be uploaded to accompany documentations. Upon notification by the Secretary, Committee members review records in batches and submit their evaluations. Documentations that are mailed or emailed to the secretary are scanned and uploaded so that they can be reviewed in the same fashion. Thus all records from the point of changeover (December 2007) have been electronically archived. In addition, hard copies will continue to be archived at the University of Kansas as described above. The Committee once again thanks Patrick Harrison for his continuing work in refining this system. We also thank Joshua Uffman for his work in assembling data on the occurrence of Missouri birds on a single web site, www.showme-birds.com. This has made it much easier to track the number of records of any unusual species, and the early and late dates of many species.

Of the 118 records that were finalized during this period, 104 were accepted and 14 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 88%. Members participating in these decisions were Joe Eades, Brad Jacobs (Chair), Kristi Mayo, Paul McKenzie, Mark Robbins, Bill Rowe (Secretary), and Walter Wehtje. Record #2009-26 (Western X Glaucous-winged Gull) was sent to Jon Dunn for outside review, and

#2009-43 (Orange-crowned Warbler) was sent to Kimball Garrett for review of subspecific identification.

New species added to the state list this year were Allen's Hummingbird, Cave Swallow, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Mottled Duck, and Golden-fronted Woodpecker. Thus Missouri's total as of 28 September 2009 increased to 416 accepted species; these include four formerly occurring species that have been extirpated from the state and four extinct species. There are an additional 12 hypothetical species on the list. The Annotated Checklist of Missouri Birds, with its latest updates, can be viewed at www.mobirds.org.

In general, the Committee reviews records of species that have been found fewer than 15 times in Missouri and are thus considered **"casual" or "accidental" statewide. It also reviews records of species** that are casual or accidental for the season when reported (example: Dickcissel in winter); records of species that are casual or accidental in the part of Missouri where reported (example: Eurasian Tree Sparrow in Cape Girardeau Co.); and other records of unusual interest, including first nesting records. The Review List, also maintained at www.mobirds.org, lists all species that require review due to their year-round casual/accidental status in all or part of the state, plus a few for which the Committee still wishes to receive **documentation despite their status as only "rare" (e.g., Black-headed Grosbeak, Little Gull).** The Review List does not cover out-of-season status; for information on seasonal occurrence, consult the Annotated Checklist.

The Committee extends its thanks to the many birders throughout Missouri who submitted their observations, and to the Audubon Society of Missouri for its continued support and funding of the **Committee's efforts. Observers who would like a status report on their** current submissions can write the Secretary or e-mail him at rowe@tjs.org. The next report will appear in the March 2011 issue of *The Bluebird*.

RMBS = Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles Co.

SCNWR = Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co.

MNWR = Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Bollinger/
Stoddard Cos.

OSCA = Otter Slough Conservation Area, Stoddard Co.

CBC = Christmas Bird Count

NAMC = North American Migration Count

CA = Conservation Area

SP = State Park

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

RECORDS ACCEPTED

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), 2008-81: Two to ten birds, 7-19 August 2008, near OSCA. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Casual transient and summer visitor; twelfth state record.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK, 2009-80: Up to 18 birds, 22 April to 15 June 2009, southwest of Sedalia, Pettis Co. Documented by Walter Wehtje for Betty Viernes, who found the birds; photographed by Peter Kondrashov. Casual transient and summer visitor; thirteenth state record.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK, 2009-54: Two, 14-16 May 2009, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Found by Dick Baskett; documented by Brad Jacobs (photographs), Walter Wehtje (photographs) and Paul McKenzie. Casual transient and summer visitor; fourteenth state record.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK, 2009-79: One, 1 July to at least 31 July 2009, Raymore, Cass Co. Larry Rizzo (documentation), Vesta Myer and spouse (photographs). Casual transient and summer visitor; fifteenth state record.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), 2009-65: Two, 2-3 June 2009, near OSCA. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Brad Jacobs (photographs), Mark Robbins. Casual transient and summer visitor; about the fourteenth state record.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK, 2009-78: Four, 13 August 2009, near Caruthersville, Pemiscot Co. Devin Bosler (documentation with photographs). Casual transient and summer visitor; about the fifteenth state record.

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*), 2009-75: Male, 13 July 2009, OSCA. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Accidental in summer outside northwestern Missouri.

MOTTLED DUCK (*Anas fulvigula*), 2009-64: Male, 2 June to 16 July 2009, near OSCA. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Brad Jacobs (photographs), Mark Robbins; also documented by Bill Reeves and photographed by Josh Uffman. First state record.

NORTHERN PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*), 2008-92: Male, 29 June 2008, rice fields, Stoddard Co. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photograph). Casual summer visitor outside northwestern Missouri (where rare).

NORTHERN PINTAIL, 2009-66: Two males, 2 June 2009, OSCA. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Brad Jacobs, Mark Robbins; one bird documented 3-27 June by Chris Barrigar. Casual summer visitor outside northwestern Missouri.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Anas crecca*), 2009-77: Male, 3-16 June 2009, at and near OSCA. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Casual summer visitor outside northwestern Missouri.

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*), 2009-16: One female-type, 21 December 2008, RMBS. Mike Thelen (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter.

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), 2008-79: Up to eight birds and two nests, 18 June through 29 August 2008, Little Creve Coeur Lake, St. Louis Co. Rob Meade (documentation with photographs), John Howland, John Mehuys, Nate Muenks. Accidental summer resident.

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*), 2008-98: Two, 16 March 2008, Table Rock Lake, Stone Co. Mike Thelen. Accidental in spring; only the third record for that season. Most records occur in fall, when **listed as “rare” and documentation not required.**

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), 2009-32: Immature, 18 February to at least 3 March 2009, Lake of the Ozarks, Camden Co. Andy Kline (documentation), Connie Turek (photographs), John Stavropolis. Seventh state record, and first in winter.

BROWN PELICAN, 2009-69: Immature, 11 May to at least 18 July 2009, RMBS. Found by Bill Rudden; documented by Josh Uffman (photographs). Casual as a transient and summer visitor; eighth state record.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), 2008-84: Adult, 27 June 2008, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Patty Herman. Accidental in eastern and central Missouri.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, 2009-49: Immature, 25-26 April 2009, Schell-Osage CA, Vernon Co. Documented by Brad Jacobs (photographs) and Kathleen Anderson. Rare in western Missouri but remains on the Review List for the entire state.

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*), 2009-46: Adult, 11 and 26 April 2009, OSCA. Chris Barrigar. Since this observation, the status of Anhinga has been changed from casual to rare, but it remains on the Review List; each occurrence should be documented.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*), 2008-94: 12 birds, 29 June 2008, South Pintail Pool, SCNWR. Tommie Rogers. These birds appeared to be nesting, the first evidence of this on the refuge. Refuge personnel eventually confirmed approximately 20 nests, in Buttonbush (Brian Lomas, photographs). Numbers present rose to 250 by August. The species is casual as a breeding bird outside southeastern Missouri.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), 2008-95: One, 29 June 2008, SCNWR. Tommie Rogers. The significance of this record—a bird heard at the location of the nesting Cattle Egrets—is that the observer asked refuge personnel Brian Lomas and Frank Durbian to check for nesting. They did, in July, and found two or more nests of Black-crowned Night-Herons near the Cattle Egret nests. This species is casual as a breeding bird outside southeastern Missouri.

WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus albus*), 2008-82: Juvenile, 9 August 2008, OSCA. Chris Barrigar. Formerly casual, this species is now listed as rare in southern Missouri and will no longer require documentation.

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*), 2008-80: Adult, 2 May 2008, near Muskrat Lake, Buchanan Co. Jack Hilsabeck (documentation with photographs), Leo Galloway, Larry Lade. Casual in western Missouri.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL (*Platalea ajaja*), 2008-85: Adult, 1 September 2008, OSCA. Chris Barrigar. Casual summer visitor; eighth state record.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL, 2008-89: Four immatures, 7 to at least 28 September 2008, Grand Tower Island, Perry Co. Rhonda Rothrock (documentation), Mary McCarthy. Casual summer visitor; ninth state record, and the largest number ever reported at one time in Missouri.

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*), 2009-57: One, 16 May 2009, Klondike Park, St. Charles Co. Mike Thelen (documentation with photographs). Uncommon in southern Missouri, accidental in northern Missouri, with the St. Louis area lying in the zone of transition. While this species has been seen more regularly on the south side of the St. Louis area in the past few years, this observation occurred somewhat north and west of its usual haunts and may be the first St. Charles Co. record.

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*), 2009-67: Adult, 2 June 2009, near OSCA. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Brad Jacobs, Mark Robbins. Considered casual in summer at the time of observation, the Osprey

is now listed as rare at that season and no longer requires documentation.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*), 2008-87: Adult, 5 September 2008, along the Mississippi River, Mississippi Co. Found by Mark Monroe and documented by Brainard Palmer-Ball; also observed by Eddie Huber and photographed by all three observers, who watched it from the Kentucky side of the river. Casual transient and summer visitor; eighth modern record.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (*Buteo regalis*), 2009-39: Juvenile, 16 February 2009, Prairie Home CA, Cooper Co. Jonathan Pons (documentation with photographs). Accidental in winter. An outstanding series of photographs showed every character of Ferruginous Hawk, for which other hawks (primarily various forms of Red-tailed Hawk) are often mistaken.

SORA (*Porzana carolina*), 2008-99: Adult, 16 July 2008, Columbia Bottom CA, St. Louis Co. Bill Rudden (documentation with photographs). This bird was found dead, and there was no reason to doubt that it had been killed at the CA where found (as opposed to accidental transport from elsewhere). Casual as a summer resident and visitor.

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 2009-45: One, 8 April 2009, B.K. Leach CA, Lincoln Co. David Rogles. Apparently the earliest arrival date for this species away from southeastern Missouri.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*), 2009-70: One, 22 March 2009, Coon Island CA, Butler Co. Chris Barrigar. Earliest spring arrival by several days.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*), 2009-31: Two, 24 February 2009, OSCA. Bob Lewis (documentation with photographs). Accidental in winter.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*), 2008-88: Two adults, 3 September 2008, RMBS. Torrey Berger and Charlene Malone (documentation), Dave Rogles, John Solodar, Paul Bauer. Casual in fall; ninth record for that season.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT, 2008-90: Five or six, 3 September 2009, Hayford Road, St. Charles Co. Charlene Malone. Casual in fall; tenth record.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT, 2008-86: Juvenile, 4 September 2008, OSCA. Chris Barrigar. Casual in fall; eleventh record.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT, 2008-96: Three, 7 September 2008, Clarence Cannon NWR, Pike Co. Josh Uffman. Casual in fall; twelfth record, and last in an unusual 2008 series of records of this normally very rare fall migrant (see previous three entries).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT, 2008-97: One, 22 September 2002, RMBS. Josh Uffman. Casual in fall. At the time, this bird represented the sixth fall record.

WESTERN SANDPIPER (*Calidris mauri*), 2009-52: Two, 9 May 2009, near Bradford Farms, Boone Co. Paul McKenzie. Documentation required for North American Migration Count.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*), 2009-50: Male, 22-25 April 2009, OSCA. Found and documented by Bill Reeves; photographed by Chris Barrigar. Sixteenth state record; listed as rare but remains on the Review List.

LAUGHING GULL (*Leucophaeus atricilla*), 2009-14: Adult, 20 December 2008, Winfield Dam, Lincoln Co. Joe Eades. Accidental winter visitor.

LAUGHING GULL, 2009-7: Adult, 1 January to at least 14 February 2009, RMBS. David Rogles (documentation), Tom Bormann, Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs). Accidental winter visitor. Two Laughing Gulls were reported at this location by other observers, but these documentations, each of a single bird, were the only ones received.

LAUGHING GULL, 2009-8: Adult, 4 January 2009, Long Branch Lake, Macon Co. Peter Kondrashov (documentation with photographs). Accidental winter visitor.

LAUGHING GULL, 2009-68: Second-cycle bird, 27 June 2009, Thousand Hills SP, Adair Co. Peter Kondrashov (documentation with photographs). Accidental in summer away from Mississippi River corridor.

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*), 2008-91: Adult, 14 September 2008, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Bob Fisher. Casual transient; about the fifteenth state record.

THAYER'S GULL (*Larus thayeri*), 2009-27: First-cycle bird, 10-20 February 2009, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Kristi Mayo. Accidental away from Mississippi River corridor.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*), 2009-21: First-cycle bird, 18-23 January 2009, Long Branch SP, Macon Co. Documented by Brad Jacobs, Edge Wade, and Peter Kondrashov (photographs). Accidental away from Mississippi River corridor.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*), 2009-37: Adult, 29 December 2008 to 3 January 2009, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Linda Williams (documentation with photographs), Doug Willis. Accidental away from Mississippi River corridor. Observers on 30 December reported two Lesser Black-backed Gulls, but no documentation was received for a second bird.

GLAUCOUS GULL (*Larus hyperboreus*), 2009-24: One first-cycle bird, 19 and 23 January 2009, and two on 20 January 2009, Long Branch SP, Macon Co. Single birds documented by Edge Wade and Peter Kondrashov (photographs); two birds together documented by Edge Wade. Casual away from Mississippi River corridor.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*), 2009-58: One, 30 December 2008 to 12 January 2009, St. Joseph, Buchanan Co. Larry Lade. Accidental in winter.

GREATER ROADRUNNER (*Geococcyx californianus*), 2009-56: One, 18 May 2009, near Steeleville, Crawford Co. Russell Weisman. Slightly east of traditional range.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus sasin*), 2008-103: Immature male, 27 November 2008, Fenton, St. Louis Co. Lanny Chambers (documentation), Linda Chambers (photographs). First state record. **This bird came to the observers' feeder and was captured and banded; while it was in hand, measurements were taken that identified it as an Allen's Hummingbird rather than the extremely similar Rufous Hummingbird. In particular, the very narrow outermost rectrix (2.1 mm wide) was diagnostic of Allen's.**

GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes aurifrons*), 2009-72: Female, 12-24 April 2009, New Franklin, Howard Co. Don Baldridge (documentation with photographs), Dana Morris, Paul Porneluzi. First state record. Excellent photographs taken at the **reporter's feeder showed all characters clearly including head colors, entirely black tail, and unbarred, white uppertail coverts and rump.** While this species seems to show very little tendency to wander, with only two extralimital records in eastern North America known to the Committee, the identification was unquestionable, and there was no suspicion of human-assisted displacement.

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*), 2009-60: One, 12 January 2009, Rock Bridge SP, Boone Co. Andrew Forbes. Casual in winter in northern Missouri.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus savana*), 2009-48: Immature, 26-28 April 2009, near Muskrat Lake, Buchanan Co. Found and documented by Connie Thompson (photographs) with Gary

Thompson; also documented by Linda Williams (photographs), Jo Ann Eldridge, Kathleen Anderson, and David Easterla (photographs). First state record. Photographs by Williams, showing emarginated primaries, established that this individual came from the highly migratory nominate subspecies *savana*, which breeds in southern South America.

NORTHERN SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*), 2008-105: Immature, 27 October 2008, near Thomas Hill Reservoir, Macon Co. Anne Downing. Casual in north-central Missouri.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, 2008-107: Adult, 8 November 2008, near Thomas Hill Reservoir, Randolph Co. Joe Eades. Casual in north-central Missouri.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, 2008-101: Immature, 12-23 November 2008, Columbia Bottom CA, St. Louis Co. Torrey Berger, Pat Lueders, and Bill Rowe (documentations), David Rogles, David Becher (photographs). Casual in eastern Missouri.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, 2008-106: Adult, 16 November 2008, near Winfield, Lincoln Co. Joe Eades. Casual in eastern Missouri.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, 2008-104: Adult, 29 November to 1 December 2008, near Niawatha Prairie CA, Dade Co. Lisa Berger (documentation), Charles Burwick (photographs), David Ringer; also documented by Larry Herbert. Casual in southwestern Missouri.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, 2008-116: Adult, 29 December 2008 to at least 3 January 2009, Weldon Spring CA, St. Charles Co. Found by Joe Eades; documented by Mike Thelen (photographs), Jim Malone, David Rogles. Casual in eastern Missouri.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, 2009-10: Adult, at least 29-31 January 2009, Whetstone Creek CA, Callaway Co. Edge Wade, Kathleen Anderson. Casual in central Missouri. Possibly the same bird documented at this location the previous winter.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, 2009-61: Adult, 13 January 2009, Drovers Prairie CA, Pettis Co. Andrew Forbes. Casual in central Missouri.

CAVE SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon fulva*), 2009-1: Adult female, 7 October 1977, Maryville, Nodaway Co. David Easterla (documentation with photographs of specimen, Northwest Missouri State University Collections, NWMSU DAE 2986). First state record. After a lapse of nearly three decades, the reporter relocated this specimen and sent photographs of it to David Sibley for confirmation of the identification. Curiously, it proved to be of the nominate Caribbean subspecies *fulva*, which occurs in Florida. Recent

annual fall incursions of Cave Swallows across the Midwest and along the Atlantic coast have been documented as the Texas and mainland Mexican subspecies *pallida*. For a full account, see Easterla, "A specimen of Caribbean Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva* cf. *fulva*) from Missouri," *North American Birds*, Vol. 62, Number 2, 200-203.

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*), 2009-9: Three, 14 December 2008, OSCA. Chris Barrigar. Formerly considered casual in southeastern Missouri in winter, this species is now listed as rare there at that season and will no longer require documentation there.

HOUSE WREN, 2009-5: One, 20 December 2008, MNWR. Chris Barrigar (documentation), Jeff Wright. See comment on preceding record, 2009-9. CBC record.

HOUSE WREN, 2009-6: One, 20 December 2008, MNWR. Chris Barrigar (documentation), Jeff Wright. A different individual than 2009-5. See comment on 2009-9. CBC record.

HOUSE WREN, 2009-19: One, 1 January 2009, OSCA. Chris Barrigar. See comment on 2009-9.

WINTER WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), 2009-51: Two, 9 May 2009, Rock Bridge SP, Boone Co. Paul McKenzie. Latest spring record by one day.

SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*), 2009-4: Five, 20 December 2008, MNWR. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photograph), Jason Lewis, Jeff Wright. Casual in winter outside southwestern Missouri.

SEDGE WREN, 2009-42: Three, 20 December 2008, Karst Trail, Rock Bridge SP, Boone Co. Michael Warnock (documentation), Steve Caird, Mark Gutchen. Casual in winter outside southwestern Missouri.

SEDGE WREN, 2009-20: Eight birds, 1-2 January 2009, OSCA. Chris Barrigar. Casual in winter outside southwestern Missouri. This record represents observations on two different days, with three wrens noted on 1 January and eight on 2 January and some overlap in areas covered. Eight is the minimum possible total of birds present.

SEDGE WREN, 2009-22: One, 2 January 2009, rural Stoddard Co. Bob Lewis (documentation), Steve Dilks. Casual in winter outside southwestern Missouri.

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*), 2009-35: One, 9 January to 1 March 2009, Busch CA, St. Charles Co. Found by Clark

Creighton (photographs); documented by Josh Uffman. Casual in southern Missouri in winter; accidental in northern Missouri.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Vermivora celata*), 2009-53: One, 2 December 2007 to 27 February 2008, Jefferson City, Cole Co. Appeared at home feeders of Betty Richey (documentation); photographed by Jim Rathert. Casual in winter in northern Missouri.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, 2009-43: One, 20 January to at least 21 March 2009, Florissant, St. Louis Co. Frances Zottorella (photographs); information transmitted to the MBRC by Connie Alwood. Casual in winter in northern Missouri. This bird, which came **to feeders at the observer's home, was a brighter yellow than is typical** for the eastern nominate subspecies *celata* and may have represented a western form such as *lutescens*. Kimball Garrett, who reviewed the record, felt that a definitive subspecific identification was not possible.

YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*), 2008-100: One, 2 November 2008, Columbia Bottom CA, St. Louis Co. Bill Rowe. Extremely late date; there is one accepted later record (8 November 1969), but none for the five-week period between late September and November.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Dendroica virens*), 2008-93: Three adult males, 6 April 2008, MNWR. Chris Barrigar (documentation), Jeff Wright. A remarkable number for such an early date.

PALM WARBLER (*Dendroica palmarum*), 2008-112: One, 14 December 2008, near Dudley, Stoddard Co. Chris Barrigar. Casual in winter.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH (*Seiurus motacilla*), 2009-38: One, 8 March 2009, Castlewood SP, St. Louis Co. David Marjamaa (documentation with photographs), Mary Anne Marjamaa. Earliest spring record by several days.

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*), 2008-115: One, 27 December 2008, near Prairie SP, Barton Co. David Ringer (documentation), Charles Burwick (photographs), Jeff Nichols. Formerly considered casual in winter, but now listed as rare in the southern third of Missouri and will no longer require documentation there.

CHIPPING SPARROW, 2009-11: One, 30 December 2008, OSCA. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs), Deborah Barrigar-Tucker. See comment on preceding record, 2008-115.

CHIPPING SPARROW, 2009-13: Nine, 5 January 2009, Shrewsbury, St. Louis Co. Joe Eades. Casual in northern and central Missouri. A remarkable number for winter.

CHIPPING SPARROW, 2009-17: Adult, 16 January 2009, Festus, Jefferson Co. Thomas Mills (documentation), Lynda Mills. Casual in northern and central Missouri.

CHIPPING SPARROW, 2009-34: Five, 28 January 2009, Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co. Mark Haas (documentation with photographs). See comment on 2008-115, above.

VESPER SPARROW (*Pooecetes gramineus*), 2009-18: One, 13 January 2009, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Jennifer Reidy. Casual in winter in southern Missouri; accidental in northern Missouri.

LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*), 2009-30: One, 24 February 2009, near Stella, Newton Co. Larry Herbert (documentation), Rod Sallee. Accidental in winter.

NELSON'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus nelsoni*), 2009-73: One, 4 May 2009, B.K. Leach CA, Lincoln Co. Scott Schuette. Earliest documented spring record.

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*), 2009-12: Female, 14-17 December 2008, Chesterfield, St. Louis Co. Phillip Ross (documentation with photographs). Given the dates of occurrence, this is both the latest fall record and only the second winter record of this species.

LAZULI BUNTING (*Passerina amoena*), 2009-55: Adult male, 15 May 2009, Freeman, Cass Co. Joan Jefferson (documentation with photographs), Bob Jefferson. Accidental away from northwestern Missouri.

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*), 2009-2: One, 1 January 2009, Columbia Bottom CA. Bill Rowe (documentation), Tom Parmeter, David and Mary Anne Marjamaa, Lorrie Vit. Casual in winter. CBC record.

INDIGO/LAZULI BUNTING, 2008-111: Female, 20 December 2008, MNWR. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Casual or accidental in winter. While this bird was clearly a female bunting, and probably an Indigo, the Committee did not believe that the much less likely female Lazuli was entirely ruled out by the description and the photographs. CBC record.

DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*), 2008-109: Female/immature bird, 20 November to 10 December 2008, Conway, Laclede Co. Rose Calton (documentation with photographs). Very late fall record.

DICKCISSEL, 2009-23: Female/immature bird, 18 December 2008, rural Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Wes Mueller. Casual in winter. CBC record.

DICKCISSEL, 2009-3: Female/immature bird, 27 December 2008, Prairie Slough CA, Lincoln Co. Kevin Eulinger (documentation), Gary Calvert. Casual in winter. CBC record.

DICKCISSEL, 2009-29: Female, 10 February 2009, Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co. Mark Haas (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 2009-36: Flock of 40, 20 December 2008, rural Stoddard Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Steve Henroid. Listed as rare in winter statewide, but documentation required on Christmas Bird Counts (as in this case).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, 2008-113: Two females, 26 December 2008, rural Clay Co. Bob Fisher. See comment on preceding record, 2009-36.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*), 2008-102: Adult male, 23 November 2008, Gladstone, Clay Co. Dennis Garrison (documentation with photographs), Maggie Garrison. Very late fall record.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE, 2008-110: Adult male, 7-12 December 2008, St. Joseph, Platte Co. Frances Cramer (documentation with photographs), Georgia Hathorne. Very late fall record.

RED CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*), 2008-108: Adult female, 12-13 July 2008, near Smithville Lake, Clinton Co. Terry Miller (documentation), Miller family (photographs by Terry and son Jake). Casual summer visitor.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*), 2009-33: One, 27 February 2009, Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co. Mark Haas (documentation with photographs). Casual away from St. Louis and the northern Mississippi River corridor. Apparently the first record from southeastern Missouri.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW, 2009-44: One, 27 March to at least 1 April 2009, Bradford Farm, Boone Co. Documented by Paul McKenzie, Edge Wade, and Kathleen Anderson. Casual away from St. Louis and the northern Mississippi River corridor.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

It should be understood that "Not Accepted" does not necessarily mean that

the identification is considered to be incorrect. In some cases the Committee may believe the bird was misidentified, but in other cases, while it seems possible or even probable that the identification was correct, the information provided is insufficient to rule out other species completely. The Committee may be unable to accept even a very likely record if the description is too sketchy or vague, or if it fails to mention critical field marks that would distinguish that species from all others. Our belief is that a report should go into the permanent scientific record only if it is free of reasonable doubt. This is the standard approach of bird record committees everywhere.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*), 2009-74: Five, 4 July 2009, near Ellington, Reynolds Co. These birds did resemble Greater White-fronted Geese in general coloration and white frontal blaze, but they showed no black barring on the underparts, had (in at least one case) anomalous bill structure, and showed no evidence of hunting injury (often the reason for a wild **artic goose's presence in summer**). **These facts plus the number of birds and their proximity to some domestic geese suggested a possible domestic and/or hybrid origin for these birds.**

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*), 2009-41: Female, 27 March 2009, RMBS. This bird, seen and photographed with Blue-winged Teal, did show some characters of female Cinnamon, notably a rich reddish wash on the head and body and a reduced pale spot at the base of the bill. However, it also had a definite dark transocular line, creating a distinct buff supercilium (unlike the very bland face pattern of a "classic" female Cinnamon), and in one photograph, next to a female Blue-winged, it clearly had a bill of the same size and shape, rather than the longer, more spatulate bill of Cinnamon. **In the Committee's opinion, the bird was possibly a hybrid, especially in view of the fact that hybrid males are seen regularly, including Missouri observations in the spring of 2009.**

OSPREY, 2008-114: One, 27 December 2008, B.K. Leach CA, Lincoln Co. This bird was seen at an estimated distance of half a mile but was observed only through binoculars, and no direct size comparison with other raptors was made. The documentation did not mention any definitive characters of an Osprey; in fact, the head pattern described (top of head dark and cheek white) was incorrect for Osprey. The possibility of an immature Bald Eagle was not eliminated. CBC record.

WESTERN X GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL (*Larus occidentalis x glaucescens*), 2009-26: First-cycle bird, 15 January 2009, RMBS. Photographs showed this dark first-cycle bird to be something unu-

usual, certainly not a Herring Gull and probably of west-coast origin. However, the Committee agreed with Jon Dunn, to whom the record was sent for review, that it was not possible to assign it firmly to any specific taxon or hybrid combination based on the photographs. No written description was provided.

CAVE SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon fulva*), 2008-83: Juvenile, 8 August 2008, near Rich Hill, Bates Co. This bird may well have been a Cave Swallow, but the observation was very brief, not the kind of detailed study that would be needed for the addition of a species to the state list even as a hypothetical (at the time, this would have been the first known state record). The observer himself mentioned an initial reluctance to document for this reason. Also, juvenile Cliff Swallow can be confusingly similar to juvenile Cave Swallow, and this report did not fully address that problem.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE (*Poecile carolinensis*), 2009-15: Two, 19 December 2008, near Easley, Boone Co. The photographs submitted showed whitish edging to the wing coverts as well as the secondaries, a strong buff color on the flanks, and a less-than-clean-cut boundary to the black bib. These characters suggested a Black-capped Chickadee or a hybrid. CBC record.

HOUSE WREN, 2009-28: One, 20 December 2008, rural Stoddard Co. The Committee could not accept this record because the documentation provided only the circumstances of the observation, with no description of the bird at all.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*), 2009-25: One, 4 January 2009, Busch CA, St. Charles Co. While the characters observed seem to fit a Prothonotary Warbler, the circumstances of the observation leave the identification uncertain. The bird was seen high (est. 50 feet) in a tree along upland wood edge, and only from below against an overcast sky; thus the study was incomplete, especially for such an unprecedented record.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), 2009-47: One, 15 April 2009, Lyon, Franklin Co. While this may have been a Swainson's Warbler, it was not described fully enough for such an unusual report: record-early date, out of range, and atypical habitat and behavior (in pin oak and ash, singing from a treetop).

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER (*Oporornis tolmiei*), 2009-63: One, 7 May 2009, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Based on the photographs submitted, the bird appeared to be a Tennessee Warbler.

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER, 2009-71: Female, 23 May 2009, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Inconclusive photographs showed

a bird that could have been a female Mourning Warbler as easily as a MacGillivray's, with yellowish throat (in some of the images), eye-arcs that were not abruptly cut off and striking, and indeterminate ratio of tail length to undertail coverts (not visible in the images). No written description was provided that might have elucidated the photographs.

LARK SPARROW, 2009-40: One, 10 March 2009, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Observation conditions were not ideal (through a car windshield in the rain), and the description did not eliminate other sparrow species.

NELSON'S SPARROW, 2009-59: One, 29 August 2009, Howard Co. The date was extremely early; the habitat (gravel road and crop field, associating with Horned Larks) was completely atypical of this secretive species, which is found in dense moist vegetation; and the **description included characters that did not fit a Nelson's Sparrow** (e.g., unstreaked breast).

WESTERN TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*), 2009-76: Male, 30 August 2009, James A. Reed Wildlife Area, Jackson Co. This bird was not described in full enough detail to be sure it was a Western Tanager.



Hairy Woodpecker, Troy, Lincoln Co., May 12, 2008. Photo by John Hitzeman

FALL 2009 SEASONAL REPORT WALTER WEHTJE

Fall 2009 continued the trend of extreme weather we experienced during the summer. August was significantly cooler than normal, with temperatures throughout the state ranging from 3-5 degrees below the long-term average. The only exception was the period of 8-17 August, when temperatures approached normal. Precipitation also departed from the long-term average, with much of northern Missouri receiving record amounts of rain during the month. Several locations set new one-day records for August. Chillicothe received 7.2 inches on the 17th, while several other sites had one-day amounts exceeding 5 inches. September was a little warmer, with temperatures approaching normal in the eastern portion of the state, while still below normal in the west. However, the rainfall pattern changed, with the northern portion of the state being relatively dry, and the southern parts much wetter.

The earlier weather patterns were amplified in October, which will go down as the 5th coldest and 2nd wettest month on record. The first two weeks of the month were extraordinarily chilly, with record low temperatures noted throughout the northwestern 2/3 of the state. This coincided with record-setting precipitation in the southern parts of the state, where much of the area received two to three times more rain than average. One rain gauge in Neosho *Newton* recorded 7.1 inches of rain on 9 October. As a result, flooding was reported throughout much of southern Missouri, with *Christian* and *Greene* especially hard hit. This pattern abruptly ended in November when another shift in weather patterns ended the fall season on a warm and dry note.

What did this mean for our resident and migrating birds? The widespread flooding kept waterfowl and shorebirds from concentrating in their traditional haunts, while the cold October probably discouraged many migrants from lingering. Finally, the warm November temperatures slowed down waterfowl migration, as plenty of open water remained to our north and west.

The season's highlights included 2nd records for Mottled Duck and Common Poorwill, the state's 5th record of Clark's Grebe, both Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, and a California Gull. Few observers reported good birding for fall migrants, although Joe Eades did mention: "A nice tight flock including 12 warbler species plus Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher,

House Wrens and many Indigos at end of Sandy Slough Rd on 5 September.”

A valuable, but less enjoyable way to monitor migration is to check TV transmission towers for nocturnal migrants killed when they hit the tower or its guy wires. Federal regulations require tower operators to light their towers to minimize the risk of aircraft striking them at night. Unfortunately, during cloudy conditions these safety lights attract nocturnal migrants, who then circle the tower. Many are killed or injured when they strike the tower, the guy wires, or other birds. The KMOS-TV tower in northern Morgan County was checked on ten occasions in September. During a ten-day period (15-24 September) more than 670 migrant birds of 50 species were salvaged from the area during that time. Given that not all encountered birds were salvaged, many birds were depredated before sunrise and more than 35% of the area below the tower wasn't searched, the above numbers represent less than half of the birds killed during this period. The most commonly killed species were Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, Gray Catbird, Black-and-white Warbler and Northern Waterthrush. Some of the more unusual species killed included Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Black-billed Cuckoo, Sedge Wren, Mourning Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager and Bobolink.

Note: Records marked with a single asterisk (*) require documentation, but no documentation has been received by the Missouri Bird Records Committee (MBRC). Observers involved with such sightings are encouraged to submit documentation. The MBRC has received documentation of those records marked with two asterisks (**), and those marked (acc.) have been accepted.

WATERFOWL

Conditions for migrating ducks were very good this year. The extremely wet October provided large flooded areas for the birds to rest in and prevented farmers from harvesting their crops. This allowed ducks to feed on unharvested grain and loaf in large numbers away from their traditional haunts. Even then, numbers were rather high in conservation areas and national wildlife refuges. Coordinated counts by MDC and USFWS on publicly managed wetlands enumerated close to 800,000 ducks, the majority Mallards, in the state on 30 Nov (Frank Nelson, MDC). This is nearly 15% higher than the five-year average for this count. Whistling-Ducks continued to visit the state, but in different regions. The thirteenth record of Black-bellied Whistling-duck* was a pair at Fountain Grove CA

Linn/Livingston on 12 Aug (SK). In the Southeast, Fulvous Whistling-Duck* returned to CCP, site of previous sightings in June 2008. This time there was one bird on 9 Aug (JWE), four on 13 Aug (Devin Bosler, acc.), and two on 30 Aug (JWE). The first report of migrating Greater White-fronted Geese came from the southwest where hundreds of birds were seen and heard flying over PSP on the night of 10-11 Oct (BE). Farther north, the last report of this species for the west came from the Maryville Sewage Lagoons *Nodaway*, where 59 were seen on 21 Nov (DAE). Along the Mississippi R., 400 were reported at CCNWR on 27 Nov (JWE). Snow Geese were reported in low numbers, with early reports of 7 at RMBS on 17 Oct (JWE). **Ross's Geese** were also early, with 7 birds seen at RMBS on 17 Oct (BR). This is a very early date for eastern Missouri, but two of the birds were juv, so they were migrants. Farther west, the earliest report was of a single ad at the MSL on 23 Oct (DAE). Cackling Goose, another arctic migrant, showed up somewhat later, with the first 30 birds reported from SCNWR on 1 Nov (JWE). With the large resident population of Canada Geese **in the state, it's sometimes** difficult to differentiate between migrants and residents, but 150 at RMBS on 13 Oct were considered noteworthy (JWE). Swan numbers are also up; as reintroduction efforts show success throughout the Midwest, Trumpeter Swan sightings continue to increase. The earliest sightings this season were of 6 birds at RMBS on 2 Nov (PB). **The duck of the season was undoubtedly Missouri's second Mottled Duck** (acc.). Following on the heels of the first state record in June, a male was harvested at Bob Brown CA *Holt* on 20 Nov (Norb Geissman). Initially identified as a Black Duck, the hunter was sufficiently puzzled by the bird's appearance to check a field guide to be sure of its identification. Upon realizing the significance of his record, he generously donated the specimen to the University of Missouri. It is now in the MU bird collection in Columbia (MU #3612). Based upon this record, the previous observation from SE Missouri in June, and the continuing presence of two Mottled Ducks in Iowa, birders should give dark, fem-type Mallards a close look, especially during the spring, summer and fall. It may well be that this southern species is more common than we think. Migrating dabblers arrived generally within normal range. Blue-winged Teal were present in *Liv- ington* on 1 Aug (SK), and noted as late as 7 Nov at SCNWR (Debra McKee). Northern Pintail were reported on 3 Oct at BKLCA (JWE), while Northern Shovelers were present in good numbers in the Bootheel. A possible summering bird was present at OSCA on 9 Aug (JWE). However, 19 birds at the same location and 18 near Caruthersville *Pemiscot*, both on 30 Aug, were undoubtedly migrants (JWE). Green-winged Teal arrived in Oct, with 40 ob-

served at CCNWR 1 Oct (MT). Diving ducks weren't present in large numbers. Greater Scaup were scarce, with a single birds present at RMBS (BR) and just west of OSCA (CB, BE) on 1 Nov and 22 at the MSL on 22 Nov (DAE). The peak number of Lesser Scaup was 2000+ birds on Lake Contrary *Buchanan* on 16 Nov (JH). These low numbers are likely the effect of a warm November, which allowed waterfowl to remain on ice-free lakes to our north. Sea ducks were also reported in low numbers. Single Surf Scoters were found at Creve Coeur Lake *St. Louis* and Binder Lake *Cole* on 1 Nov. Two were present at Binder on 12 Nov. The larger White-winged Scoter was seen only once, at RMBS on 6 Nov. A single Black Scoter was at Little Dixie Lake CA *Callaway* on 1 Nov (BJ). The two other reports of this species were of a fem-type bird on SL on 7 Nov (SK) and another single fem at RMBS on 25 Nov (JWE). Finishing up the ducks, transient Ruddy Ducks were present in small numbers in the St Louis area during the week of 13-18 Oct (JWE). To the west, as many as 1,000 ruddies were present on SL on 2 Nov (SK).

PRAIRIE-CHICKENS THROUGH RAPTORS

There were no reports of Greater Prairie-Chickens for the 2009 fall season. The earliest Common Loons reported was at RMBS on 1 Nov (MT). A high count of 133 at Stockton Lake *Cedar* on 11 Nov (BJ, AF) may be a single day all time high for the state (fide Mark Robbins). A still impressive 67 birds were still present on 29 Nov (JWE). Such numbers attest to the drawing power that large reservoirs exert on migrating waterbirds. Grebes also provided some highlights this fall. Horned Grebes arrived in mid-Oct, with the first individual present at RMBS on 12 Oct (JWE). Peak numbers at this site occurred on 4 Nov, when 37 birds were present (JPU). In the northwest, peak numbers included 36+ at Lake Contrary *Buchanan* on 16 Nov, and 27 on 27 Nov (LL). The warm conditions may account for the relatively low numbers seen in the southwest, where only 10 were seen on Stockton Lake *Cedar* on 29 Nov. (JWE). The observer remarked that this number seemed "low for this lake and time of year". An uncommon transient in western Missouri, the Eared Grebe is rare in the east. Eleven birds at the MSL on 23 Oct (DAE) and a single bird at Browning Lake *Buchanan* on 16 Nov are therefore expected, while two separate birds at RMBS on 31 Oct (BR) and 6 Nov (JPU) were more of a surprise. However, the biggest grebe surprise was a **Clark's Grebe**** that showed up at SL in early Nov. One Western Grebe was reported on 2 Nov (KM). Four were seen on 3 Nov (SK). On 4 Nov, three birds were present, of which one was a **Clark's Grebe** (DW). These birds remained at

least until 25 Nov, providing many birders with the opportunity to **see Missouri's 5th record of Clark's Grebe, and to study the differences** between it and Western Grebe. American White Pelicans moved through the state from Aug until the end of Oct. The high count along the Mississippi River was 800 birds at BKLCA *Lincoln* on 18 Sept (BJ). In the north-central part of the state at SLNWR, they peaked at 500 birds on 4 Aug (JWE). Migrating Double-crested Cormorant numbers peaked somewhat later, with 300 at CCNWR on 11 Oct (MT), and 2500 at RMBS on 13 Oct (JWE). On the western side of the state, the high count was 185 birds at the MSL on 11 Oct (DAE). More unexpected was an Anhinga* that soared over a backyard in Shell Knob *Barry* on 4 Sept (Nancy Rochavansky). If confirmed, this record would only be the third sighting of this species away from its former stronghold in the Mississippi Lowlands. American Bitterns are reclusive, so seeing 2 during the SLAS Yellow Rail Walk at BKLCA on 3 Oct was noteworthy (m.obs). Unfortunately, the only migrant Least Bittern report was of a tower-killed bird on 15 Sept at KMOS *Morgan* (WW). More conspicuous and far more common were Great Egrets. At SLNWR more than 300 were present on 4 Aug (SK); while a single bird at SCNWR on 28 Nov was flirting with freeze-up. As Glossy Ibis spread west and White-faced Ibis move east, Missouri birders face the challenge of separating these two species in the field. Given the late date, a flock of five *Plegadis* ibis at RMBS on 17 Oct and six at EBCA on 23 Oct (SM) were most likely White-faced Ibis. Two birds were still present at EBCA on 2 Nov (BJ). Further west, 2 ibis at SCNWR on 1 Nov were equally late. A Black Vulture soaring with Turkey Vultures in *McDonald* on 3 Sept (LH) was within its expected range, while one at Bagnell Dam, Lake of the Ozarks *Camden* on 27 Nov (JWE) was both late and farther north than expected during any time of year. Away from their traditional roost in Columbia *Boone*, few Turkey Vultures linger in central Missouri beyond the end of Oct. Single birds in *Montgomery* and *Callaway* on 25 Nov were therefore noteworthy (JPU). Given that Osprey migration normally peaks towards the end of Sept, that all six birds reported were seen between 2 Aug and 5 Sept (JWE, MT, JPU) suggests that few observers reported this species. Another species with few reports was Mississippi Kite. Three birds were noted, with both sightings from southwestern Missouri. Two ad were seen in Joplin *Jasper* on 9 Aug (LH), while a single bird was seen in adjacent *Newton* on 25 Aug (LH). Early aggregations of Bald Eagles included 7 at Winfield Dam *Lincoln* on the Mississippi River on 3 Oct (JWE), and 4 at CCNWR on 11 Oct (MT). An ad Bald Eagle sitting on a nest at CMMSP *St. Louis* on 1 Nov (MT) provided an intriguing puzzle as to

its intent, but a lack of further sightings suggest the bird may just have been checking out the view. Early Northern Harriers included one on 23 Aug in *Lincoln* (JWE). A week later, the same observer found another Northern Harrier along the Mississippi River in *St. Genevieve*, much farther south. A visit to Prairie State Park on 29 Nov tallied 50 Northern Harriers (DR), an impressive total for this grassland species. Few people noted Sharp-shinned Hawks, with only seven reported during the period. The earliest was seen near Joplin *Jasper* on 4 Sept (DR), while the latest sightings were of two separate birds on 21 Nov in *St. Charles* (JWE). **Cooper's Hawk** was only reported from western Missouri, and apart from 3 birds seen at Bushwhacker CA *Vernon* on 29 Sept (LH), only single birds were seen (m.obs). However, as one observer noted, this species can be found on any day of the year in St. Joseph (JH), a testament to this **species' ability to adapt to suburban life. Finally, there was only one** report of Northern Goshawk, an imm. bird seen at SCNWR on 15 Oct (LL). Buteos can provide some of the most spectacular migration events during the fall, but this year no large aggregations were reported. A high of 6 Red-shouldered Hawks at SLNWR *Holt* on 19 Sept (SK) was notable, as this species is quite rare in the northern half of Missouri. A late bird was also seen in St. Joseph *Buchanan* on 19 Nov (Jason Miller). The only kettles of Broad-winged Hawks reported were seen during the ASM fall meeting at Lake of the Ozarks, with kettles of 20 and 25 seen at Bagnell Dam *Miller* and Saline Valley CA *Miller*, respectively (JWE, BR, MT). An imm. **Swainson's Hawk** (photo.), seen on 31 Oct (Mary Nemececk) south of St. Joseph *Buchanan* was one of the latest records for the state; **most Swainson's Hawks are well on their way to Argentina this time** of year. Only three Rough-legged Hawks were reported during the season, the earliest near Newtonia *Newton* on 15 Oct (JC). Three Golden Eagles were reported this season, all imm.. One bird was **found in a farmer's field in Shelbina** *Shelby* on 15 Oct suffering from lead poisoning. It is now recovering at the MU Raptor Rehab Center (MURRC). The other sightings, of healthy birds, were from *Macon* on 31 Oct (RJB) and *Clinton* on 3 Nov (SK) counties. Merlins arrived in early Sept, with the first bird seen at SLNWR eating a shorebird on 7 Sept (BJ). The last was seen on 31 Oct at RMBS (BR). Only two of the 16 Peregrine Falcon **sightings weren't from** along the east side of the state, the exceptions being a single bird at SL on 12 Sept (SK) and another bird at the KMOS TV Tower *Morgan* on 24 Sept that had made a meal of an unlucky Northern Flicker. Conversely, both Prairie Falcon observations came from the western tier of counties: single birds were seen near BBKA on 1 Nov and at PSP *Barton* on 27 Nov (LH).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

Rails are notoriously difficult to see, but far more common than we suspect. A case in point is that only one Virginia Rail was reported during the fall season, on 10 Aug at SLNWR (SK), but 11 were recovered under the KMOS Tower *Morgan* on 24 Sept (WW). Soras were noted beginning in late Aug, with the FOS at BKLCA *Lincoln* on 29 Aug. The high count was a staggering 125 at SWLNWR *Chari-ton* on 14 Sept (SK). Although this number was high, Steve noted **that it's at least 100 fewer than he's recorded at this site in previous years**. Other high counts include 4 below the KMOS TV Tower *Morgan* on Sept 24 (WW) and 15 at BKLCA *Lincoln* on 3 Oct (JWE). The only report of Common Moorhen was from *Buchanan*, where two ad were observed on 31 Aug on Horseshoe Lake (LL). Sandhill Cranes continue to remain in the state during the summer and into the fall season. A pair that enjoyed EBCA for much of the summer stayed until the end of Oct (SM). Sandhill Cranes were also present at SCNWR, where 5 were present on 7 Nov (JWE), and 6 were seen on 28 Nov (m.obs.). The heavy rains in Aug and Sept flooded shore-bird habitat throughout the state. As a result, many waders weren't concentrated in the places where birders normally search for them, or they overflowed our state in search of drier climes. American Golden-Plovers were late this year, not reported until 29 Aug, when a single bird was seen on sod fields in *Lincoln* and 4 birds were on another sod field in *Warren* (JWE). Black-bellied Plovers were timelier, first seen on 9 Aug in SE Missouri, where 4 individuals in full alternate plumage were at the CCP (JWE). The last report for this species was on 31 Oct at RMBS (BR). A late Semipalmated Plover was at Horseshoe Lake *Buchanan* on 8 Oct (LL), while the only Piping Plover reported was at SLNWR on 10 Aug (SK). Unprecedentedly late was a Killdeer chick found in *Stoddard* on 13 Nov (CB). Based upon its size, the parents probably initiated nesting in late Sept/early Oct. American Avocets arrived the third week of Aug, with a high count of 15 at Lake Contrary *Buchanan* on 8 Oct. The latest bird arrived in Nov at RMBS and lingered until 14 Nov, a very late date, but not a record (BR). Black-necked Stilts continue to be common in the SE corner of the state, with 67 counted at CCP 9 Aug (JWE). Usually gone from the state by late Sept, a single Spotted Sandpiper on 15 Oct was a tardy migrant at THR *Macon* (BJ). Other late migrants included 4 Greater Yellowlegs at SCNWR on 7 Nov (JWE). A Lesser Yellowlegs at the same locality was only present until 1 Nov. Upland Sandpipers are a shorebird **that doesn't linger. This year the last birds were seen on 7 Sept at Grand Pass CA *Saline*** (BJ). Ruddy Turnstones are normally only

seen as singles in fall migration, so a flock of 10 birds at SLNWR on 10 Aug was noteworthy (SK). Apart from a late flock of 200 Least Sandpipers at WLD *Lincoln* on 3 Oct (JPU), there were no reports of large numbers of *Calidris* sandpipers. Two reports of Western Sandpiper were of two birds at the CCP 9 Aug (JWE) and a single bird foraging with 7 other shorebird species at EBCA on 16 Aug (BJ). The late date for Pectoral Sandpiper was of 5 birds at SCNWR on 1 Nov (JWE). Dunlin migration usually peaks in Oct and this year the high count of 11 birds at RMBS occurred on 17 Oct. Among the latest birds reported were 7 at BBCA on 20 Oct (DAE). Late Stilt Sandpipers included 2 in *Chariton* on 25 Oct. Buff-breasted Sandpipers are another arctic breeding species where ad return early. A single bird at TRW on 1 Aug fit this pattern nicely. Surprisingly, there were no sightings of multiple birds except for 2 at RMBS on 2 Sept. A general rule in the fall is that Short-billed Dowitchers are more common in late July while Long-billed Dowitchers predominate from mid-Aug onwards. Three birds at the CCP on 9 Aug that looked like Long-billed Dowitchers were therefore assigned to Dowitcher sp. (JWE). The highest numbers of Long-billed Dowitchers were 150 at SCNWR on 15 Oct (LL), while the latest report was of 6 birds at the same locality 1 Nov (JWE). **Wilson's Snipe** arrived early, with a single bird at RMBS on 1 Aug (JPU). As an example of how difficult some bird species are to locate when not displaying, there were no reports of American Woodcock for the fall season. Two Red-necked Phalaropes were at RMBS on 3 Sept (JWE), when expected in the state. Gull sightings tend to increase as the temperature falls and these birds flock to landfills, dams and reservoirs. The warm November weather slowed this pattern so few large flocks were seen, especially along the Mississippi River. Laughing Gulls are a rare transient along the Mississippi, with a single bird at RMBS on 24 Oct, a fairly late sighting (JWE). **Franklin's Gulls** are more common in the western portion of the state, with at least 10,000 at SL on 29 Sept, an expected number (KM). Further south, more than 800 were migrating over WGCA on 2 Nov (JC). Near St. Louis, this species is far rarer, so single birds at RMBS on 7 Nov (MT) and at CCL *St. Louis* 26 Nov (JWE) were notable. **Bonaparte's Gulls** arrived when expected, in early Oct, with high numbers of 200 at Montrose Lake *Henry* on 31 Oct (JWE). With less than 15 records for California Gull* in the state, a first year bird at RMBS on 25 Oct (JWE) was a very nice sighting. One would expect this species to be more common in the western portion of the state, but as Kristi Mayo points out: "The majority of the records have been from eastern MO — It seems to be rarer in the west, oddly enough". A single ad Herring Gull at

RMBS on 23 Aug (JWE) and an ad and juv bird on 31 Aug (JWE) were unexpectedly early. A third-year Lesser Black-backed Gull at RMBS was seen on 12 Oct and 24 Oct (JWE). Twenty years ago **this would've been an exceptional sighting, but this species is now** annual in the state. Glaucous Gull is also a rare but regular visitor along the Mississippi River. A first-year bird found at RMBS on 24 Nov was present through the end of the period (BJ, JWE). As detailed in the summer seasonal report, Least Terns were encouraged to breed on barges in the Mississippi River this past summer. The efforts were successful, with at least 20 ad and imm. birds present at RMBS on 1 Aug (JPU, m.obs). As many as 10 were still there on 23 Aug (MT), but all had departed by 29 Aug (JWE). Black Terns migrated through the state in Aug, with a high of 200 at SLNWR on 4 Aug (SK, LL).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

High numbers of Eurasian Collared-doves for the period include 60+ at a grain elevator in Chillicothe *Livingston* on 28 Sept, and 23 along Highway 79 in *Lincoln* on 27 Nov. Black-billed Cuckoo is a retiring species, so the individual that allowed a group of birders to observe it during the ASM fall meeting at Lake of the Ozarks on 27 Sept was most appreciated (m.obs.). The last Yellow-billed Cuckoo reported was an imm. bird at CCNWR on 11 Oct (MT). Barn Owls are rare throughout the state and the only one reported was at **Bois D'Arc CA** *Greene* on 8 Nov and 22 Nov (ChB, *fide* DR). Five Long-eared Owls were roosting in a pine grove on private property in *Livingston* on 10 Nov (SK), while a single Short-eared Owl was on a private prairie in *Newton* on 14 Nov (JC). Common Night-hawks began migrating through the state on cue in late Aug. Thirty-five on 28 Aug was a high count from the *St. Louis* area (MT). A single bird on 15 Oct in *Greene* (DT *fide* DR) was much later than usual, but 30 days short of the record. Two birds overflying the NWMSU Campus on 17 Oct were the latest ones reported (DAE). More spectacular was the Common Poorwill** hit by a car north of Maitland *Holt* on 21 Nov (Kirby Goslee, DAE). The bird was kept overnight and released the following day. Interestingly, the previous record for the state also involved an injured bird. Chimney Swift numbers peak in late Sept, and the birds are mostly gone after the third week of Oct. A flock of 70 on 20 Oct in Eureka *St. Louis* (JPU) was therefore within normal range, and the last sighting of a single bird in University City *St. Louis* on 24 Oct (MT) was about average. As fall progresses and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds begin to leave their feeders, there are always a few stragglers and the possibility of an unusual species showing up. An imm. male in New Ha-

ven *Franklin* 1-6 Nov (Peter K. Connolly) was very late, but well photographed and undoubtedly this species. Rufous Hummingbirds were present in southwestern Missouri. An imm. male was in *Greene* until 8 Nov, while a second or possibly the same male was at a second feeder in *Greene* until the end of the period. Another male arrived at a feeder in *Christian* on 5 Oct and stayed until the end of the period. Red-headed Woodpeckers appeared in good numbers this fall. A high of 14 were at CCNWR on 11 Oct, while more than 20 were in a small woodlot in *Chariton* on 14 Nov (WW). A dead Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at the KMOS TV tower *Morgan* on 24 Sept was the first reported in central Missouri, while a single bird in Joplin *Jasper* on 10 Oct (LH) was a first for the season in the southwestern portion of the state. An Olive-sided Flycatcher north of Joplin *Jasper* on 13 Aug (LH) fit the pattern of early southbound migrants for this flycatcher. Another early migrant was an Alder Flycatcher seen, and more importantly heard, at SSCA on 30 Aug (BR). Due to the difficulty of identifying Willow and Alder Flycatchers in the field, the fall migration timing of these two species is poorly known. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are considered rare in western Missouri, but several individuals were captured at Missouri Western State University *Buchanan* during the season. The earliest one was banded on 30 Aug and the last one on 26 Sept (JH). A late Least Flycatcher was at Missouri Western on 8 Oct (LL). Western Kingbirds have been expanding their range to the north and east during the past decades. A bird along Hwy 94 *St. Charles* on 6 Aug (Dave Faintich) was indicative of this trend. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are also more common farther east than in the past. A male at CBCA on 24 Oct was both very far east and late. In Newton County, the latest bird was reported on 4 Nov, on schedule for this Neotropical migrant. Outside of their SE stronghold, Loggerhead Shrikes were seen *Macon*, *St. Clair* and *Vernon* (JWE, BJ, LH). Continuing the trend of the past two years, multiple Northern Shrikes were reported this fall. Single birds were observed in *Dade*, in western *Livingston* and near Wah-Sha-She Prairie CA *Jasper* (ChB *vide* DR, SK, JWE). The last observation may be the furthest south this species has ever been recorded in Missouri (JWE). Blue-headed Vireo is an uncommon transient, with three reported at TGP on 18 Oct (JWE). In the northwest an extremely late bird was reported at SCNWR on 1 Nov (DW). Another late record was of two Philadelphia Vireos at Missouri Western *Buchanan* on 10 Oct (JH). Red-eyed Vireos are common summer residents; however, many of the 120 birds salvaged at KMOS *Morgan* 15- 24 Sept were undoubtedly migrants from more northern states (WW). American Crows begin to aggregate in late fall as migrants and residents join

to form large flocks. The largest reported was for 300 individuals in *Boone* on 27 Nov (JWE). Purple Martins begin staging for fall migration in July, but numbers peak in mid-Aug. A flock of 800 roosting in Joplin *Jasper* on 15 Aug (LH) was the highest number reported for this season. The last individual bird was reported on 18 Sept at RMBS (BJ). RMBS was also the site for a flock of 2,000+ Tree Swallows observed on 4 Oct (BR). While this number is only a small portion of what was seen at the traditional roost in *Chariton* in late Sept through early Oct, it was a notable number nonetheless. A single bird at Little Dixie Lake *Callaway* on 17 Nov (BJ) was very late for this species. Other late swallows include 10 Northern Rough-winged at CCNWR on 11 Oct, five Barn Swallows at the MSL on 23 Oct (DAE) and a single Cliff Swallow (photo.) at OSCA on 1 Nov (CB) – possibly a record late date for this species. Red-breasted Nuthatches **usually don't arrive until the second or third** week of Sept, so one in NW *Livingston* on 1 Sept (SK) was earlier than expected. A high count of 10+ birds was reported from *Buchanan* on 24 Oct (LL). The only report of **Bewick's Wren** was a bird observed at WGCA 30 Sept (JC). As expected, House Wren numbers peaked in late Sept, with 20+ recorded near Chillicothe *Livingston* on 24 Sept (SK). The same morning 14 were salvaged under the KMOS TV Tower *Morgan* (WW). The last sighting was of



Late Cliff Swallow at Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co., 1 November 2009. Photo by Chris Barrigar.

a single bird at Hayford Rd. in *St. Charles* on 17 Oct (JWE). This **was also the same day that the season's first** Winter Wren was reported from the same site, later than usual (JWE). Sedge Wrens appear in wet meadows come mid-July, and this year there was plenty of habitat to go around. A high count of 5 singing males at RMBS on 23 Aug was a nice find, as were 20+ birds near Chillicothe *Livingston* on 25 Sept. Five Marsh Wrens were at FGCA on 5 Aug, most likely breeding birds, but the 23 salvaged under the KMOS TV Tower *Morgan* on 24 Sept were most definitely migrants. The latest sighting for this species was of a single bird at South Creek *Greene* on 17 Oct (DT, *fide* DR). Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets were at TGP on 20 Sept (MT). A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* was at OS-CA on 14 Oct (CB), possibly the first October record for the state. *Catharus* thrushes are much less easily seen during fall migration than during the spring. During this season most reports are from banded or tower-killed birds. An early Veery seen at TGP on 30 Aug (BJ) along with a second Veery and a Gray-cheeked Thrush from the same site on 20 Sept were the only birds reported. In contrast, the MWC banded a record high 14 **Swainson's Thrushes**, 8 Hermit Thrushes and 73 Gray Catbirds (JH). This increase in banded birds is very likely due to succession increasing the amount of brush at this site. However, the more than 100 dead Gray Catbirds under the KMOS TV Tower *Morgan* on 24 Sept attest to this species being a very common migrant (WW). A very late catbird was at Pershing SP *Linn* on 23 Nov (SK). Another late mimid in northern Missouri was a Brown Thrasher that lingered in Country Club *Andrew* 11-26 Nov (Leo Galloway). American Pipit is considered an uncommon transient, so a high count of more than 250 birds near SCNWR on 14 Nov was noteworthy (SK, LL). Three individuals at PSP *Barton* on 28 Nov were very late for this species. **Sprague's** Pipit is also an uncommon migrant, with only one reported. This bird was at Dunn Ranch *Harrison* on 4 Oct (SK). Searches of close-mowed prairies in SW MO failed to find other individuals of this species (JWE).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

Golden-winged Warblers moved through at the expected time, with 3 at TGP on 30 Aug, an early high count (BJ). Tennessee Warblers were also seen when expected. High numbers were recorded at the KMOS TV Tower *Morgan* on 24 Sept, when 12 were salvaged. The last bird of the season was reported on 18 Oct at TGP. A fairly high total of 80 Orange-crowned Warblers was banded at MWC (JH). A single Nashville Warbler at SSCA 31 Oct was rather late (BR). A single Yellow Warbler at WGCA 16 Sept was rather

late for this migrant; most birds have left the state by the end of Aug (JC). More expected were 6 Magnolia Warblers at TGP on 20 Sept. An early Black-throated Blue Warbler was at TGP on 2 Sept (m.obs.). This species is far rarer in the western part of the state, so a first-year male banded at MWC on 11 Oct (JH) was notable. A Pine Warbler in Walter Woods CA *Newton* on 13 Oct (JC) was towards the end of its expected fall migration window. In the Bootheel, a single Prairie Warbler on 15 Aug at OSCA was a rare fall sighting (CB). Black-and-white Warbler migration peaks in mid-Sept, a fact borne out by the 45 individuals salvaged from the KMOS TV Tower *Morgan* on 24 Sept (WW). A high of 8 American Redstarts were seen at TGP on 20 Sept, a little later than when expected. Another species where TV tower kills corroborated birding observations was Ovenbird: seven birds seen at TGP on 20 Sept (MT) were followed by 84 birds salvaged at KMOS *Morgan* on 24 Sept (WW). Kentucky Warblers are early migrants. Two birds salvaged on 24 Sept at KMOS *Morgan* were quite late for this species (WW). Mourning Warbler is another early and secretive fall migrant. A single report from Grand Pass CA *Saline* on 7 Sept (BJ) was augmented by a salvaged bird at KMOS *Morgan* on 15 Sept (WW). Most Common Yellowthroats have migrated through Missouri by the first week of Oct. A tower-killed fem at KMOS *Morgan* on 12 Nov was a very late migrant (WW). Two Spotted Towhees at SLNWR on 25 Oct were the first and only birds reported from this part of the state (SK). An Eastern Towhee in *Barton* on 29 Nov was in an area where Spotted Towhees are more likely (JWE). Perhaps driven southwards by the unusually cold Oct weather, the first American Tree Sparrows of the season were observed at BKLCA on 11 Oct (MT). A Chipping Sparrow during the ASM field trip to Saline Valley *Miller* on 26 Sept was unexpectedly singing (MT), while a bird at Montrose CA *Henry* on 31 Oct (JWE) was toward the end of the expected window for this species. Clay-colored Sparrows normally arrive during the final days of Sept; two birds seen at TRW on 9 Sept may be a record early date for this species (SK). On the other hand, as Field Sparrows are scarce in the northern half of the state after Oct, a single bird at Weldon Springs CA *St. Charles* on 29 Nov was a good find (MT). Savannah Sparrows showed up early: two birds at CCNWR on 5 Sept were a week earlier than expected (JWE). **LeConte's Sparrows** arrived within the expected window; the first birds were reported on 30 Sept from *Linn* (SK) while the last were seen in Bois D'Arc CA *Greene* on 24 Oct (ChB, *fide* DR). All **Nelson's Sparrow** reports came from the first week of Oct: 8 on 1 Oct in *Linn* (SK), followed by at least 6 at BKLCA *Pike* seen during the SLAS Yellow Rail Walk on 3 Oct

(m.obs.). As an example of how monitoring efforts can vary with vegetation changes, 5 Song Sparrows were captured at MWC this fall, compared to 58 in 2006. Jack Hilsabeck ascribed this decline to succession making the banding area less appealing to this species. The earliest **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported from SLNWR on 19 Sept (SK). A high count of 20 came from EBCA on 30 Sept, while the last record was at Busch CA *St. Charles* on 21 Nov (MT). A high count of 15 Swamp Sparrows at BKLCA on 3 Oct was to be expected for this late migrant (MT), while 57 White-throated Sparrows banded at MWC was about normal (JH). The first **Harris's Sparrow** of the season was reported from Chillicothe *Linn* on 23 Oct (SK). A high count of 13 was from near BBCA on 1 Nov (JWE), while the last report was from WGCA 24 Nov. White-crowned Sparrows arrived on schedule, with the first birds reported from BKLCA on 3 Oct (JWE), while Dark-eyed Juncos were somewhat later with the first report coming from TGP on 10 Oct (JWE). Lapland Longspurs were first reported from *Daviess* on 28 Oct (SK), while the largest flock was one of 400 birds at Wah-Sha-She Prairie *Jasper* on 26 Nov (JWE). The only report of the much less common **Smith's Longspur** was of 6 birds at Dunn Ranch *Harrison* on 21 Nov (SK). Both Summer and Scarlet Tanager are considered accidental after mid-Oct, so a single Summer Tanager and two Scarlet Tanagers at Ferguson *St. Louis* on 13 Oct were notable (JPU).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks left the state early; the last birds were two reported from BKLCA on 2 Oct (MT). Indigo Buntings were timelier, with 50 birds seen at BKLCA on 11 Oct (MT), 10+ at Cuivre Island CA *St. Charles* on 17 Oct (JWE), and a single bird at **the same site on 24 Oct (JWE)**. Perhaps a late breeder, the “**Steak and Shake**” Painted Bunting in Jefferson City *Cole* was still singing behind the dumpsters on 2 Aug (Kathleen Anderson, Jim Rarthert). Most Bobolink reports were of flocks in late Aug (m.obs.). A flock of 30 at RMBS on 4 Oct was therefore rather late (BR). Blackbird flocks are a good place to look for rarer species. A single Yellow-headed Blackbird was among 6,000 Red-winged Blackbirds at CCNWR on 11 Oct (MT). The largest number of Rusty Blackbirds reported was a flock of 100 at SCNWR on 1 Nov (JWE). Other reports include 5-6 at Portage des Sioux CA *St. Charles* on 27 – 28 Nov (JWE, BR) and 15 at PSP 28 Nov (JWE). **Brewer's Blackbirds** arrived later than expected, with the first report of birds near Hawk Point *Lincoln/Warren* on 6 Nov (JWE). The high count was of 100 birds at Pomme de Terre Lake *Hickory* on 11 Nov (AF, BJ). Another western species that is expanding eastwards is the Great-

tailed Grackle. Previously rare east of central Missouri, 15+ birds were at the Bryan Island Stable *St. Louis* on 15 Oct, where they have wintered for the past ten years (BR). Other reports of this species include 12 in *St. Charles* on 27 Nov (JWE) and a small flock in *Barton* on 29 Nov (JWE). Brown-headed Cowbirds form large flocks in fall, a high count of 6,000 birds were foraging in a field near Lake Contrary *Buchanan* on 30 Sept (LL). Purple Finches herald the arrival of winter. The earliest report came from *Lincoln* on 23 Oct (JWE). The largest flock of American Goldfinches reported was one of 1,500 birds in *Lincoln* on 23 Oct (JWE). A flock of 600 at CCNWR on 11 Oct was another high count (MT). Finally, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow is moving south. A single bird visited a feeder in Bloomfield *Stoddard* on 22 and 28 Nov (CB**).



Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Bloomfield, Stoddard Co., on 22 & 28 November. Southernmost record for the state, if accepted by MBRC. Photo by Chris Barrigar.

Observers

Chris Barriger (CB), Paul Bauer (PB), Charley Burwick (ChB) Jeff Cantrell (JC), Joe Eades (JWE), David A. Easterla (DAE), Bill Edleman (BE), Andy Forbes (AF), Lawrence Herbert (LH), Jack Hillsabeck (JH), Brad Jacobs (BJ), Steve Kinder (SK), Larry Lade (LL), Shauna Marquardt (SM), Kristi Mayo (KM), Dean Rising (DR), Bill Rowe (BR), Mike Thelan (MT), Dorothy Thurman (DT), Josh Uffman (JPU), Walter Wehtje (WW), Doug Willis (DW).

Abbreviations

ad-adult, adults
CA-Conservation Area
fem-female
FOS-first of season
imm.-Immature
m. ob.-Multiple observers
MDC-Missouri Department of Conservation
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
photo.-photographed
SP-State Park

Location abbreviations (counties are in italics)

BBCA - Bob Brown CA, *Holt Co.*
BKLC A - B. K. Leach CA, *Lincoln Co.*
CBCA - Columbia Bottoms CA, *St. Louis Co.*
CCNWR - Clarence Cannon NWR, *Pike Co.*
CCP – Caruthersville Catfish Ponds, *Pemiscot Co.*
EBCA - Eagle Bluffs CA, *Boone Co.*
FGCA - Fountain Grove CA, *Linn/Livingston Cos.*
MNWR - Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. *Stoddard/Wayne Cos.*
MWC – Missouri Western College (banding station), *Buchanan Co.*
OSCA - Otter Slough Conservation Area, *Stoddard Co.*
RMBS - Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, *St. Charles Co.*
PSP - Prairie State Park, *Barton Co.*
SCNWR - Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, *Holt Co.*
SL - Smithville Lake, *Clay Co.*
SLNWR - Swan Lake NWR, *Chariton Co.*
SSCA - St. Stanislaus CA, *St. Louis Co.*
TGP – Tower Grove Park, *St. Louis City*
TRW – Thompson River Wetlands, *Linn Co.*
WGCA – Wildcat Glade CA, *Newton Co.*

A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

Edge Wade

LITTLE PRAIRIE CONSERVATION AREA

342 acres Phelps Co. DeLorme 47, F-6
MDC owned; for more information call 573-368-2225

Directions: From I-44 Exit 189 east of Rolla (Rt. U exit), take the outer road (north side of the interstate) going east. This is signed as Historic US 66. Turn left (north) onto Rt. RA. At .6 miles is the pull

in for Heilbrunn Prairie; .1 mile further, take a left onto Towell Lake Rd. to view the lake from the south side; .4 miles further on Rt. RA leads to the north side road and parking areas.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Anytime, but the area is especially good for waterfowl (October through April), including the possibility of seeing all species of geese expected in Missouri. Common Loons, Eared, Horned and even Western Grebes may appear. Twelve species of raptors have been reported; 21 species of warblers have been seen in migration and during the breeding season.

Features of interest to birders: 4 parking lots (two on each side of the lake), plus a parking pull-in at Heilbrunn Prairie. 32-acre Heilbrunn Prairie is a native prairie with a straight line trail going west from the parking pull-in; a small pond is south of the trail. 95-acre Towell Lake may be viewed from several points along Towell Lake Rd. and from the 4 parking areas. Although there are no designated trails, a mowed path for fishing access (1.1 miles) runs along the dam and the north side of the lake. It gives good access along the shoreline.

More than 3 miles of unofficial trail goes around the lake. Access points are from the south parking area, from Towell Lake Rd. at the corner of the dam, and from the entrance turn off RA (a.k.a. CR 2290 north of this point) on the north side of the lake. This is a long loop with no options for short cuts. It provides close views of the two arms at the west (upper) end of the lake, and goes through woods (about 98 acres), old fields about (95 acres), and along the dam at the east end.

Toilets: 3 privies (1 on south side of the lake, 2 on the north side)

Camping: None

Hazards/Limitations: None noted other than hunting seasons (archery only for deer)

Nearby Birding Sites: Schuman Park Lake (Rolla), Scioto Lake (James Foundation, St. James), Meramec Spring Park and Meramec Spring Fish Hatchery, Woods (Woodson K.) Memorial Conservation Area.

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BOIS D'ARC CONSERVATION AREA

3,172 acres Greene Co. DeLorme 51, G-10
MDC owned; for information call 417-895-6880

Directions: From Springfield, on I-44, go northwest on US 160 (exit 75) to Willard. From US 160 northwest of Willard, take Rt. UU along FR 84 or FR 94. The area may be reached from the south by taking Rt. T north from I-44 at exit 67, going through the town of **Bois D'Arc**.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Barn Owls have been seen here. March is a good time to look for waterfowl, especially Greater White-fronted, Snow **and Ross's Geese on the cropland, and to find** wintering Loggerhead Shrikes. A great variety of sparrows may be here, both in breeding season and wintering. Several small ponds and low areas may attract American Woodcock. The potential for passerines in migration has not been explored well.

Features of interest to birders: A grid system of roads at one-mile intervals gives good access to this large area. 22 parking areas, including the one at the headquarters [maintenance facility, only] privy, give easy access to points of entry to walk the area, or provide birding from the lots. The area has about a thousand acres in old fields, 1,200 acres in cropland, more than 600 acres in forest and woods, 200 acres of non-prairie grassland, about 80 acres of glade, and 10 acres of wetland. Management for small game hunting includes long stretches of shrub hedgerows and fencerows attractive to many bird species. These run along the roads and many are accessible from parking lots.

The 5-mile Osage Orange trail in the southeast part of the area (accessed from 2 parking lots on FR 94 on the south and 1 parking lot on FR 84 on the north) winds past woods, old fields, a glade and a couple of small ponds, providing a good sampling of the area habitats.

Toilets: Flush toilets in the Outdoor Education Center at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range off FR 61; 1 privy in parking lot at the headquarters (a maintenance facility, only) on FR 94, and a privy at the Aquatic Resource Education pond on Rt. UU.

Camping: Special use permit required

Hazards/Limitations: Active shooting ranges (firearms and archery); special hunts (managed deer hunt and turkey hunting for people with disabilities during which the area is closed to all other activities); heavy hunting use, especially in the fall; beagle field trials; youth dove hunting; several sinkholes dot the area.

Nearby Birding Sites: Rocky Barrens Conservation Area, Little Sac Woods Conservation Area, Phenix Access.

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