



# **THE BLUEBIRD**

*The voice of ASM since 1934*

**December 2011  
Volume 78, No. 4**



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

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# THE BLUEBIRD

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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 Peter Kondrashov by Dec. 10

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Front Cover— **One's deck is usually not the place one would expect to see Black-bellied Whistling Ducks!** These three appeared at the home of Linda and Steve Krohn in Independence, Jackson County, on June 4. Photo by Linda and Steve Krohn.



Kentucky Warbler, Powder Mill, Shannon County, May 3, 2003. Photo by Bill Eddleman.

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—BRUCE BECK



Dear Fellow Birders,

The ASM Fall Meeting at Clover Point was as enjoyable as ever – warm fellowship, good birding, excellent speakers, and great food. **I invite you to next year's annual meeting September 21-23.** You will not be disappointed.

A remarkable amount of business was reported to the ASM Board of **Directors. Most of ASM's work** throughout the year is done by committees and individuals. Their

work is vital to ASM and its members. Following are highlights of the reports.

Membership – Membership chair Jerry Wade reported that ASM has 42 new members in 2011, due in large part to the on-line membership enrollment and pay system inaugurated in August of this year. Total membership is 378. Income was \$5,890 from enrollments and *Bluebird* subscriptions.

MoBirds Listserve – Susan Hazelwood and David **Sheu report, "MOBirds-L continues to grow annually, with subscribership up 6%. However, total posts are down 11% over the reporting period. Total number of topics decreased by 9% over the period, which is a trend the list owners view as a sign of more subscriber-to-subscriber, off-list, conversation. Decreased posting activity may also reflect that most of us receive more email than we used to and are less eager to send out additional messages as a result of our own personal inflow." There are 750 subscribers to the MoBirds-L at present.**

Facebook – Phil Wire maintains the ASM Facebook page. He reports 361 current "likes" (akin to online group members), 165 average weekly visitors, and 71 current active monthly users. The page grew exponentially at first with peak activity and rate of joining about 3-4 weeks after creating the page.

Since then, it has plateaued around the current figures. By the numbers, we can deduce many members on the Facebook page are not yet members of ASM, meaning we have a great chance for outreach to an interested audience. The video and photo sharing aspects of the page have become most popular, with ID questions and posting of local field trips also present but less frequent.

Conservation Partnerships – Edge Wade reported on the history and recent developments of the CACHE and SPARKS programs, operated by ASM under formal agreements with MDC and DNR. These departments compensate ASM for the service of developing and maintaining the online database for bird checklists and occurrence data for the agencies, researchers and the public. The ASM Board has committed funds beyond the costs of the database to participate as a funding partner in projects to restore and improve bird habitat and other bird-related activities. Among the partnership projects have been prairie and oak savannah restoration work, Mingo Basin and Montrose wetland infrastructure improvements, and bird surveys.

Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative – Susan Hazelwood represents ASM to this partnership of 62 organizations that get excited about birds, care about bird conservation, and/or have formal legal responsibilities for bird conservation. The Cerulean Warbler and Wood Duck were highlighted in the **Governor's proclamation of Bird Conservation Day** on May 14.

Grassland Coalition – Mike Doyen represents ASM to this coalition dedicated to the preservation and restoration of grassland birds, including the Greater **Prairie Chicken and Henslow's Sparrow**.

Webmaster – Patrick Harrison reported on a long list of website improvements working with Ann Johnson of the Iowa Ornithological Society, who is a website developer. This has been a valuable investment by the ASM Board. The most notable additions are the ability to register for spring and fall meetings, and to pay for registrations and for ASM membership, and make scholarship donations online via PayPal. The work of the secretary, treasurer, membership chair

and meeting organizers is improved and made much simpler. See the full report on-line. Patrick and Ann continue to serve ASM. The board is now doing business on-line between annual meetings. The motions and results are available to members in the **“Members Only” section. Once these are incorporated into official minutes they would also show up publicly.** The minutes of the board meeting, the 2012 budget, and current approved motions are now available on the ASM website.

*The Bluebird* – Editor Bill Eddleman reported that the past year was a very successful one for *The Bluebird*. We were able to print a very nice mix of seasonal reports, organizational reports, peer-reviewed papers, peer-edited papers, book reviews, “joy of birding” articles, the Site Guide entries and other articles of general interest. We’ve had a wide cross-section of people writing things. I’ve had the good fortune to have several members who have contributed nice photos to complement the seasonal reports and provide filler. The editor and the board are looking into producing an online edition of the *The Bluebird* in the near future, improving the quality of the quarterly while reducing the costs to ASM. A printed edition would also be available at a higher cost.

At the annual membership meeting Saturday evening two new board members were chosen – Jeff Cantrell from Neosho, and Louise Wilkinson from Rolla. The Board even now is continuing its work via e-mail and on-line voting. You have reason to be proud of the board members, who are all devoted to ASM’s mission.

We are proud of ASM’s members, who are also dedicated to the mission to the preservation and protection of birds and other wildlife; to education and appreciation of the natural world; and to effective wildlife and habitat conservation practices.



Bruce Beck, President  
Audubon Society of Missouri

## AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI MEMBERSHIP DUES

It is that time of the year already - Christmas, New Year, and ASM membership dues. The membership year runs from January 1 to December 1. All ASM membership dues other than Life Memberships are due in January. As has been done in the past, a membership renewal form and an addressed return envelope is included in *The Bluebird*.

However, this year for the first time you can also renew on-line. Go to ASM's website, [www.mobirds.org/](http://www.mobirds.org/) and click on the "pay membership" under the ASM Quick Links list on the left side on the home page. Then, follow the directions.

If you renew on line, you have a choice on how you pay. You can pay directly using Pay Pal or you can send a check to: Audubon Society of Missouri; 2101 W. Broadway, PMB 122; Columbia, MO 65203-1261.

Hope to hear from you. Your membership is important. It is how ASM supports its activities to enhance birding in Missouri and your experience as a birder.

Jerry Wade  
Membership Chair

## BIRDS, BISCUITS, AND PIE

Bill Clark

**One of my great joys in "retirement" has been active participation in the CACHE and SPARKS programs. CACHE is a marriage between the Audubon Society of Missouri and the Missouri Department of Conservation, and SPARKS pairs ASM with the Department of Natural Resources' State Parks Division. The object in both is to eventually develop bird checklists for all 1,050 MDC-owned or managed properties and the 83 state parks and historic sites.**

**For the past 300 weeks without a miss, I've joined with Edge Wade, Bill Mees, Laurie Shawver and assorted others to visit over 840 MDC areas and 71 state parks. We've been to every MDC and DNR site in 80 counties - which means we've been all over the state and eaten a lot of lunches in a lot of small towns. In fact, these lunches have become a major reason we bird. To date, we've listed 111 small**



town eateries - mostly on the main street or the town square - as special.

A total of 68 MDC sites and 111 DNR parks have been designated as target sites--special areas requiring year-round birding. They are truly statewide. As we have concentrated on these target areas, **we've taken special care to find good grub nearby. I'd like to share 15 of these jewels with you with the idea that you'll take time to join us in the CACHE and SPARKS programs - maybe for the first time - just to share these great gustatorial experiences.**

Here they are: town, restaurant, target area.

***We'll start north of the Missouri River.***

MACON: THE APPLE BASKET CAFE and its famous loaded sweet potato. Nearby are Thomas Hill and Atlanta CA, and Long Branch SP.

GREENCASTLE: **SANDY'S COUNTRY COOKIN'**. Union Ridge CA.

MEADVILLE: **HELEN'S HOME COOKIN'** located on Highway 36, not downtown. Persing SP and Fountain Grove CA (a target area new in 2011).

WILLIAMSBURG: **MARLENE'S CAFE AND CRANE'S COUNTRY STORE**. Whetstone Creek CA.

WESTON: WESTON CAFE and its Rachel Reuben. Little Bean Marsh CA, Platte Falls CA, and Weston Bend SP.

KAHOKA: **STEVE'S FAMILY DINING** and CANTON: AVENUE OF THE SAINTS BUFFET. Both are portals to Deer Ridge CA in Lewis County.

*South of the Missouri River:*

WARSAW: RUSTY SKILLET. Lost Valley Hatchery, Big Buffalo Creek CA.

RUSSELLVILLE: MOOSE BROTHERS BAR AND GRILL. Scrivner Road CA.

SCHELL CITY: SCHELL CITY CAFE. Schell-Osage CA and Taberville Prairie CA.

ST. CLAIR: LEWIS CAFE. Little Indian Creek CA, Meramec SP.

PUXICO: MEL'S DINER. Duck Creek (Main Unit) CA. Also a "must see" is the adjacent Mingo National Wildlife Refuge.

ST. ELIZABETH: MISS KITTY'S BAR AND GRILL. Saline Valley CA.

BATES CITY: BATES CITY BBQ. James A. Reed CA.

EAST PRAIRIE: DEPOT BBQ. Ten Mile Island CA, Big Oak Tree SP.

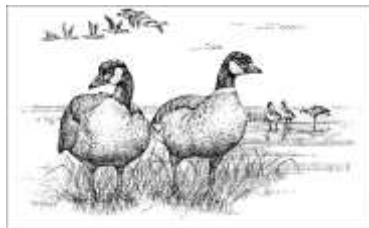
LAMAR: PEPPER MILL. Shawnee Trail CA, Bushwhacker Lake CA, Prairie SP.

**I've been to all of the restaurants above within the last year and assume they are all still open today. If not, the birding is still good. Directions? You can find the towns on any road map. Every restaurant is found downtown, if there is a downtown, unless listed otherwise above.**

The site directions for CACHE areas are at <http://mdc.mo.gov/>. Go to the Conservation Atlas menu and type in the area you want to visit. For SPARKS sites, <http://mostateparks.com/find-a-park>. Click on the park you want to visit.

It is very easy to report your findings to CACHE and SPARKS> First, go to the Audubon Society of Missouri website: <http://www.mobirds.org/> You must log in to enter data, so if you have not **already created an account, click on "Create Account" under the "Login/Logout" heading to create one. Otherwise, use your User Name and Password to login.** Then, just enter the information asked for in the boxes, and the numbers of each species in the appropriate boxes. When you are finished, review your data by clicking the **"Review My Entries" button at the bottom of the page. To submit the data, click "Submit My Trip." You are done!**

Birding with a purpose is great fun and great grub will truly enhance the pleasure of being a part of CACHE and SPARKS. Enjoy!



## MDC CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF CONSERVATION IN MISSOURI

*Missouri's unique, citizen-led conservation agency began in November 1936*

JEFFERSON CITY Mo -- The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary through October 2012. Throughout the next year, the MDC-produced magazine, *Missouri Conservationist*, will highlight the Show-Me-State's unique, citizen-led conservation story, successful conservation partnerships and programs and future challenges. To read the *Missouri Conservationist* online or to subscribe, free to Missourians, visit <http://mdc.mo.gov/conmag>. MDC will also host anniversary events throughout the coming year at nature centers and other locations throughout the state. To follow anniversary activities, visit <http://mdc.mo.gov/about-us/get-know-us/75th-anniversary>.

**“Conservation in Missouri is unique,”** said MDC Director Robert Ziehmer, **“unique in its history, unique in the way it derives its authority and funding from citizens, and unique in the passion, partnerships and commitment of Missourians to perpetuate this legacy.”**

Ziehmer added that Missourians have achieved some amazing results.

**“Working together, the Department and citizens have restored and conserved dozens of fish and wildlife species,”** he said. **“We have ensured that Missouri is a great place to hunt and fish, transformed forestry into a sustainable industry, created a system devoted to serving both rural and urban private landowners, invested in the hearts of major urban areas to encourage participation in the outdoors, developed an accessible network of public lands and facilities, and partnered the entire way with citizens and communities throughout the state.”**

**The need to protect, conserve and sustain Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife resources began well before the creation of the MDC.** During their expedition in the early 1800s through what is now known as Missouri, explorers Lewis & Clark described the stunning abundance and variety of fish, forests and wildlife. However, by the 1860s, **our state's fish, forest and wildlife resources were depleted** through unchecked hunting, fishing, logging and burning of land. By

the 1930s, the existing Missouri Department of Game was underfunded and largely a token gesture weakened by powerful interests.

These circumstances set the stage for citizen-led efforts to begin the **restoration of Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife resources 75 years** ago. In September 1935, Missouri sportsmen met and formed the Restoration and Conservation Federation of Missouri. They drafted an amendment to the Missouri Constitution aimed at creating an apolitical conservation agency and set to work getting it passed. On Nov. 3, 1936, voters approved Amendment 4 to the Missouri Constitution, creating the Conservation Commission and the apolitical, science-based conservation agency with authority over fish, forests and wildlife. On July 1, 1937, Amendment 4 took effect.

**“Not in their wildest imaginations could those early sportsmen have imagined what has been achieved,”** said Dave Murphy, executive director of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. **“On the same landscape, at the same time that our human population has doubled, we’ve seen the restoration of wild turkey, deer, geese, river otters, raccoons, black bass, elk and so much more.”**

In 1970, the Conservation Federation of Missouri led an effort to establish dedicated funding for conservation through the Design for Conservation. Passed in 1976, it included a pledge to obtain land for recreation, forestry and protection of critical habitat, increased services to the public in the areas of wildlife and forest conservation, the creation of conservation nature centers throughout Missouri, and funding through the 1/8-of 1-percent conservation sales tax.

**This sales-tax revenue makes up 58 percent of MDC's annual operating budget with no funding coming from the state's general revenue.** Permit revenues from fishing, hunting and trapping account for **approximately 20 percent of the Department's annual revenue.** MDC also receives 14 percent of its funding in the form of federal reimbursements from sources including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's **Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration programs.**

Efforts to ensure healthy forests, abundant fish and wildlife and **productive waters provide benefits to citizens' quality of life and the state economy.** Today, hunting, fishing and wildlife watching, along with forest industries support about 95,000 Missouri jobs and generate more than \$11.4 billion annually to state and local economies.

The Department is led by the Conservation Commission, which consists of four commissioners appointed by the Governor for six-year unpaid terms. Current Commissioners are: Don R. Johnson of Festus; James T. Blair, IV, of St. Louis; Don C. Bedell of Sikeston; and Becky L. Plattner of Grand Pass.

(Reprinted from *Missouri Department of Conservation NEWS*: Nov. 15, 2011)

## A REMEMBRANCE OF JIM ZIEBOL

Jim Ziebol, long-time birder and founder of current president of the St. Louis Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, passed away on October 19, 2011. A number of his friends remembered him in postings to MOBIRDS, which we share below.

### Jack Cowan:

I'll remember Jim fondly as a friend, one of the most skilled birders I ever met and an ardent conservationist. Jim was the first birder I ever met. He was standing in the meadow outside the Gaddy Bird Garden on a beautiful late afternoon in May when I walked into Tower Grove Park with a cheap pair of binoculars intent on seeking birds. I have no idea how many birds he pointed out to me that day because just about every bird that flew by was new to me. And Jim didn't just point out birds. He made sure I saw them, patiently explaining to me where the birds were and what field marks I should be looking for. I walked out of the park amazed that someone would spend that much time showing a newbie birds. He was always patient, always friendly, always eager to show people birds.

Later when I would see him eaten up by cancer and bone disease, I would marvel at his courage and tenacity. I would tell myself I'm going to be like Jim; I won't let old age or sickness defeat me. I'll go birding.

### Michele Baumer:

When I first started at the Busch Conservation Area in 1989 as a budding naturalist for the Missouri Department of Conservation Jim mentored me in my birding, taking time out of each week to make sure I could identify birds. He would reassure me that being able to identify and share birds with people visiting the area was a

very important role for a naturalist. He was correct and it is something that has stayed with me since.

Each week he would arrive in a very clean car, but after jumping in and out of the car several times it was always dirty on the inside and out, but he never complained. He would come with cans of water (that was before bottled water became so popular) and snacks. Jim was the one doing me the favor but he always made sure I had food, water and shelter for the next couple of hours birding.

**Jim's patience with this slightly ADD naturalist always amazed me.** I had been exposed to birders who see the bird, mark it off the list **and off the next bird...especially at the Busch Area, but not Jim.** We would look for and watch birds for hours, and in my heart of hearts I was always hoping I could remember the correct name of the bird we were watching so not to disappoint my mentor. I remember once seeing a late Black and White Warbler and to my amazement listen to him rattle off the latest date he previously had seen that bird. Wow how does he remember all that? Whenever I would struggle to identify a bird, instead of getting aggravated with me he would start **describing key characteristics; "look at the eye ring", pause, then another hint, "remember the wing bars"** His descriptions of birds were like an artist pulling out a pallet of paint; remembering each minute detail to create a work of art.

Jim not only taught me to identify birds but taught me about birding ethics, really broadening my horizons by making me think of birding issues differently. It has been a long time since I had seen Jim, but yesterday as I was running past Tower Grove Park during the St Louis Rock and Roll ½ Marathon, I thought of him. I thought of how I saw my first fallout there with him, (I did not even know what a fallout was before that), how the water garden attracts so many species of birds and how Tower Grove Park and many birders like me will forever miss Jim being in our lives. Jim was a one of a kind birder and I will never forget him.

Chrissy McClarren and Rose McClarren:

I came in on the tail end of Jim Ziebol's life and spent almost the last two years close to him as a birder and as a friend. I didn't realize at first that he was literally latching onto me for dear life in Tower Grove Park, but I soon picked up on that. He'd see me birding there every day last spring of 2010 and asked if he could accompany me birding. I am grateful to him for doing so. I realized the birds were what was keeping him alive and were what he was living for, despite a horrendous list of medical conditions.

Over some weeks, after praising me endlessly for my birding skills, he told me "I'd brought back his love of the little birds again." He said he was seeing and hearing more because he didn't rush on account of me and the way I birded. He said it gave him such pleasure. It hadn't been easy at first. Jim is an acquired taste. And he knew that. At first I'd want to hit him over the head with a baseball bat when he'd launch into another tirade about something or someone not doing something right or doing something wrong. Sometimes we'd get into heated debates. Jim never shied away from sharing his opinions on, well, everything. So, not being exactly shy myself, I'd share right back with such radical notions, even Jim would do a double-take. He knew he'd met his match, and he liked it. But I'd always draw him back to the birds, something he was grateful for, since his mind raced with worry over the world and the birds constantly. I learned that distracting him with a bird sighting helped him come back to the present and leave his distress for a bit. He cared so deeply about the fate of the birds. He was very disturbed by a fact he'd repeat many times - that in the 60's, the neotropical migrants were counted up to near 10 billion, and that now, they are counted at somewhere near 2 billion.

I made it my goal to help him stay focused on the birds, since whether we were walking or sitting, when he'd see a bird, he'd often forget his pain. That wasn't easy. Jim is strong willed - and I could be impatient. But our joy in the birds became a strong bond that overcame everything as his death became more imminent. This past May of 2011, when he realized he has a couple months to live (and outlived that prediction by a few months), he angered much more easily. At first, I had a hard time with this. I started to avoid him. Then I forgave him - and myself. His pain had increased and the cancer had spread a lot further. I realized I'd probably be an even looser cannon than usual, too.

I was fortunate to make a visit to him 5 days before he was found dead by his brother, Philip, who'd brought Jim to his house shortly after my visit to be cared for by hospice. He was found dead by Philip the morning of October 19, Philip's birthday, a cruel gift for Philip. But Jim was very lucky. He had an amazing and wonderful brother in Philip, who cared so dearly about him. It was incredible to witness the love in their relationship when they would be out birding together. They were very much like my sister and me - representing two seeming polar opposites on the political spectrum, but not caring. It was the love and fun together that mattered.

During my last visit, Jim cried most of the time I was there. I'd never seen him cry. He was still his generous self, rushing to give me more books on birds, giving me his artwork. He couldn't walk more than a few feet without labored breathing. He was deeply frustrated. He said he wasn't supposed to still be alive. The pain and fluid buildup were taking their toll.

But one of the last things he did before I left was to do his usual - to praise his favorite young birders. What stood out was his praise of Mike Thelen. He showed me once again Mike's account of the ravaging of the land happening around one of the lakes at Busch CA area and wanted me to read it again, praising Mike's work. That was Jim. Always praising us. Your work made him happy, Mike. Thank you.

In between the joking, the tirades, the latest movie he'd seen, the praise, the history of birding and birders in St. Louis and surrounding areas (he loved Horeshoe Lake), and his birding lessons (whether I wanted one or not, he was determined that I was to learn all my birds WELL, not matter how resistant I was - he'd give me advanced books on gulls and flycatchers and hawks and eventually all the birds, hoping...we'll see, Jim) was one steady factor: he was gaga over the birds, butterflies and the wild. My favorite moment was when we were at Horseshoe Lake in Illinois and he spotted two snakes mating. (If he was here, he'd remember the event like yesterday - and the species.) Wow. I'd never seen mating snakes before. That was awesome.

So were you, Jim. AWE - filled. I loved calling each other all excited with our sightings at Tower Grove Park. I'll miss you. Fly past me at the park every now and then, will ya. I know you loved the Cape May Warbler (known as the little tiger) in particular, cause you loved tigers, big and small. I'll think of you when the tigers fly, Jim.

#### Bill Rudden:

I read the emails in honor of Jim with joy and with sadness. As I read Chris McClarren's email in honor of Jim to her father tears came to both of us. I met Jim through Chris while we birded Tower Grove Park. Early on I was impressed by Jim's knowledge of all of nature's creatures that surrounded us and his willingness to share this love of it. He was a walking encyclopedia. Yes he could also be obstinately passionate about his opinions on politics and conservation problems. He talked and I nodded often in agreement. Still at the same time he and I could sit on the bench in Gaddy just being lazy birders having a good laugh while he tried to help me learn the



names of insects and butterflies I was seeing. And most of all I loved Jim for his courage to keep going through pain knowing death was very near. Most of us like to forget that. Thanks Jim for all the good times You will be dearly missed.

On November 13, 2011, a large group of good folks joined to remember Jim Ziebol at Tower Grove Park Palm House.

The Z-man loved birds and the park.

## **Board Minutes, Fall 2011 Meeting—Shari Harden**

The Annual Board Meeting of the Audubon Society of Missouri Board of Directors was called to order at 1:40 p.m. on Saturday, September 24, 2011, at Camp Clover Point, Lake Ozark State Park, by President Bruce Beck.

Roll Call: Board members present were Bruce Beck, Brad Jacobs, Terry McNeely, Phil Wire, Larry Lade, JoAnn Eldridge, Pat Lueders, Susan Hazelwood, June Newman, Shari Harden, Clare Wheeler. Board members absent were Bill Eddleman, Gary Chastain, Ruth Simmons, Lisa Berger.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Bruce Beck, the minutes of the 2010 Board Meeting were approved as written and unanimously passed.

Agreement on the meeting agenda and time of adjournment: Larry Lade made a motion for the meeting to adjourn at 4:00. The motion passed.

Acknowledgement of Electronic and other Votes since last Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Pat Lueders discussed the 2010 year-end financial report and the 2011 year-to-date financial report. The proposed 2012 budget was discussed. Note of thanks for the books donated by Bill Goodge. Pat Wheeler saved ASM by doing our taxes for us. We were made aware of the possible increase in the printing of the Bluebird in the future. All but 13 people used Paypal for the Fall meeting. Transfers to checking went smoothly. \$62.92 fees for the use of Paypal. Pat noted it was worth it for the time and effort saved. ASM received \$500 fidelity charitable gift grant from Walter and Cynthia Metcalf. Susan Hazelwood made a motion to place the money in the scholarship fund and to send a second note of thanks informing the Metcalfs of the deposit into the scholarship fund. JoAnn Eldridge seconded. Motion passed. Susan Hazelwood made a motion to approve the proposed 2012 budget. Phil Wire seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

MOBCI - Susan Hazelwood submitted a report.

Scholarship Committee— Sue Gustafson submitted a report.

Listserv MOBIRDS-L—Susan Hazelwood submitted a report. Subscribers are increasing, but posts are decreasing.

Website—Patrick Harrison submitted a report about the usage of the website. On-line documentation is already working for MBRC. More ability to access CACHE data to come. Still working on on-line registration for Spring meeting. Local group will help with form creation. One fee for all registrants - no reduction for skipped meals, students, etc. Will we lose people for this? It would take more time to build the form. Maybe have 10 complimentary passes for the members from Joplin just this one time? One fee, but anyone can bring a new member? Discount for people under 25? Student? Who pays the extra to cover the discount? Phil made a motion for people 13 to 25 years of age pay half price, Pat Lueders seconded, motion passed.

Missouri Bird Records Committee (MBRC)—Brad Jacobs reported. Discussion about a rotation for members or have a few non-voting members who sit in on the meetings to learn about the process? It was suggested the by-laws be placed on the website.

Membership - Jerry Wade presented his report. Some of the increase in new memberships is due to members switching from individual to family. Please inform Jerry of any suggestions to help with the membership process. Only members can see the membership list. It is available at the ASM website. It was noted that Boeing will match money donated by individuals: 50% for employees, 25% for retired employees.

The Bluebird—Bill Eddleman sent a report on the *The Bluebird*. The board discussed posting *The Bluebird* on line. Will be able to include photos. Lower cost. Suggestion to charge a fee for printed copies. Discussion continued about the impact to members and how other clubs have dealt with this issue. Bruce is going to discuss options with Bill.

Grassland Birds—Mike Doyen reported to the board. Woody removal at Taberville continues, followed by burns. Riparian work at Schell-Osage has been successful and tree removal on private lands has improved habitat for **prairie chickens. Henslow's sparrow habitat improvements at Hi-Lonesome prairie.**

CACHE/SPARKS—Data must be in a useful format that is continuously updated, for ASM to continue to earn money, income we can use for conservation work in MO. To date ASM has earned about \$70,000. Only about \$16,000 has been used to keep the website up to date and make the data useful. First priority for the CACHE money is to keep the database operational. The remainder may be used for partner projects which are the most convenient way to distribute the money to projects that will probably continue and be successful. SPARKS money can be used for other things - scholarship, cover expenses for Fall meeting, etc. What do we do with the money earned from interest? Edge asked the board why they do not support the program by participating more (at least one CACHE/SPARKS report per month)? Susan Hazelwood made a motion to accept the contract. June seconded, motion passed.

Facebook Page—Phil Wire submitted a report about the Facebook page. It has been successful and there are no problems with spam.

## New Business:

Elections and Appointments: 2011---A slate of nominees for Board of Directors positions was discussed. The slate of officers with terms expiring in 2014 is the following: Ruth Simmons, Louise Wilkerson, and Jeff Cantrell. Susan Hazelwood made a motion, Terry McNeely seconded, motion passed. Executive Committee positions with terms expiring in 2012 is the following: Bruce Beck, President; June Newman, Vice-President; Pat Lueders, Treasurer; and Shari Harden, Secretary. The following people were appointed for another one year term: Patrick Harrison as Webmaster and Web Monitor; Mike Thelen as editor for CACHE; Edge Wade as Conservation Partnership Coordinator to CACHE and SPARKS; Susan Hazelwood as the MoBCI Conference Representative for ASM/co-owner for Mobirds-L; David Scheu as Co-owner of Mobirds-L; Bill Eddleman as Editor of *The Bluebird*; JoAnn Eldridge as worship coordinator; and Mike Doyen as Grassland Bird Coordinator. Jerry Wade as membership chair.

2012 budget: Matching Bauer scholarship - **\$500 from Bauer's this year**, \$500 from grant, and additional \$1000. We could use SPARKS money to make sure we have at least \$2000 in the fund. June Newman made the motion, Jo Ann Eldridge seconded. Motion passed. A donation button will be added to the ASM site.

Conducting ASM business between annual meetings - must respond to e-mails and reply to all. **Will be addressed 'ASM board'**

Need to change by-laws to continue the VP position to serve as president-elect.

Add new board position - Patrick Harrison as Communication chair (webmaster), but since he is paid for services he would have to be a non-voting member. Pat Leuders made the motion, discussion continued. No second or vote.

Future Meetings: Joplin for 2012 (April 27-29); Fall - Lake of the Ozarks State Park (Sept. 28-30)

Bruce Beck adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Harden, Secretary,  
The Audubon Society of Missouri.

## Minutes of the General Meeting, Fall 2011, Camp Clover Point Shari Harden

Bruce Beck, President of the Audubon Society of Missouri, welcomed the attendees and called the ASM General Membership Meeting to order at 8:50 p.m. on Saturday, September 24, 2011, at Camp Clover Point, Lake Ozark State Park. Bruce thanked John Faaborg and the MU students for their presentations on clearcuts and breeding birds in Missouri.

### Old Business:

Bruce thanked Patrick Harrison for his work on the website improvements, and Edge Wade for her work on the CACHE/SPARKS project.

### New Business:

Bruce Beck then presented the slate of nominees standing for election to the Board of Directors. The slate of officers with terms expiring in 2014 is the following: Ruth Simmons, Louise Wilkerson, and Jeff Cantrell. Bonnie Heidi made the motion and Delores Clark seconded. Approved.

Bruce Beck then shared the names of those filling appointed positions for one year terms. Patrick Harrison as Webmaster and Web Monitor; Mike Thelen as editor for CACHE; Edge Wade as Conservation Partnership Coordinator to CACHE and SPARKS; Susan Hazelwood as the MoBCI Conference Representative for ASM/co-owner for Mobirds-L; David Scheu as Co-owner of Mobirds-L; Bill Eddleman as Editor of *The Bluebird*; JoAnn Eldridge as worship coordinator; and Mike Doyen as Grassland Bird Coordinator.

**Brad Jacobs from the MBRC gave the annual report of the state's top ten birds from 2010. The top 10 birds are as follows: 10) Chestnut-collared Longspur 9) Swallow-tailed Kite 8) Say's Phoebe 7) Scarlet Tanager 6) Harlequin Duck 5) King Rail 4) Long-tailed Jaeger 3) Lesser Goldfinch 1) Black-throated Green Warbler 1) Black-bellied Whistling duck.**

### Future Meeting Locations:

2012 Spring meeting: Joplin

2013 Spring meeting: St. Joe

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shari Harden, Secretary,  
The Audubon Society of Missouri.

## SUMMER 2011 SEASONAL REPORT

### *KRISTI MAYO*

The summer season began with about ten days of unusually high temperatures in June, averaging 8-10 degrees above normal. It would go down as the hottest June 1-10 period since 1934. This pattern broke in the northern half of the state, however, and more comfortable, seasonable temperatures prevailed. Lower temperatures were accompanied by above-average rainfall in the Northeast. Meanwhile, the southern half of Missouri remained in a hotter air mass, and it would go down as one of the hottest Junes on record. In early July, a powerful ridge of high pressure settled over the Midwest to create the hottest month in Missouri in more than 30 years. Most of the state saw high temperatures of 90°F or warmer throughout the month, and a high of 107°F was reached in Protem in Taney County and Ava in Douglas County on July 11 and July 27, respectively. The Southwest saw extremely dry conditions throughout the period, and below-average rainfall had reached across the entire state by July.

In northwestern Missouri, the dry conditions were offset by flooding along the Missouri River. Excessive snow runoff and spring rains in Montana and the Dakotas forced the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release water from Gavins Point Reservoir—the southernmost dam on the Missouri River near Yankton, South Dakota—at record rates, topping out around 160,000 cubic feet per second. This high rate of release continued throughout the summer season, resulting in catastrophic flooding in northwestern Missouri. Levees were overtopped from Atchison County to Platte County, completely inundating areas such as Big Lake and Bob Brown Conservation Area in Holt County. Although the Missouri River never actually reached the refuge, high water in nearby streams and occasional heavy rains and flash flooding caused water levels at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Holt County to rise to the point that the auto tour loop was closed on June 28—and it remained closed through the end of July. Further east, the Missouri River stayed very close to flood stage with far less severe and more localized flooding. Josh Uffman reported that the high water provided excellent wader habitat in the St Louis area.

Away from the big rivers, however, below-average rainfall spelled a slow season for birding in marsh habitat. In the Chillicothe area, for example, Steve Kinder reported no observations of Marsh Wrens, Pied-billed Grebes, rails, bitterns, or night-herons. He added that

shorebird habitat in north-central Missouri was limited only to areas that had not been drawn down early in the season.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

A group of 3 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks perched on a deck railing at the home of Linda & Steve Krohn in Independence *Jackson* 4 Jun, providing a unique, up-close photo opportunity. Blue-winged Teal is a rare summer resident, but because of higher water levels and appropriate habitat at CBCA, the presence of 3 m on 12 & 17 Jun and then 1 m and 2 f on 5 Jul was not surprising (JU). Northern Shovelers were present at OSCA in July, with 1 on 9 Jul and 2 on 15 Jul (CBa). Northern Pintails were reported in two locations, with 2 m at SLNWR on 25 Jun (SK, LL) and 1 m at OSCA on 24 Jul (CBa)\*\*. A single m Green-winged Teal was spotted on 5 Jul at TRW (SK). Ring-necked Ducks turned up in two spots in June: (3) 13 Jun EBCA (Kathleen Anderson, Sandy Elbert) and (1) 26 Jun Stockton L *Cedar* (Carol Morgan). A single Lesser Scaup was also reported 8-13 Jun at EBCA (Bonnie Heidy, Eric Wood, Kathleen Anderson, Sandy Elbert). Hooded Merganser is listed as rare in the summer away from the south-eastern part of the state, so a single f at RMBS on 30 Jul was worth noting (JU). A rather late spring-migrant Common Merganser was at HL 10-16 Jun (LL). Two Ruddy Ducks, rare summer visitors, were at the Maryville Sewage Lagoons *Nodaway* on 19 Jun (David Easterla). Observing their decline statewide, many birders find it worth noting the detection of any Northern Bobwhites: Three were at CBCA on 17 Jun (JU); 1 f and 8 imm were seen on 31 Jul at BKL-King's Lake Unit *Lincoln* (JU, SS); and Pat Lueders noted that in the St Louis area, many were heard during spring, especially at CBCA—but few were heard or seen after these areas flooded later in the summer. In an even more serious state of decline, the Greater Prairie-Chicken produced some positive news this season. Bill Graham wrote in the article “Weather gives endangered prairie chickens a nesting boost”, *Missouri Department of Conservation News*, 30 Aug 2011: “MDC crews located 29 prairie-chicken nests this summer at Wah’Kon-Tah and Taberville prairies in St. Clair County. Of those, they determined that hens in 23 nests hatched broods. Biologists and students from the University of Missouri-Columbia directly observed 52 chicks during field work.” Things did not look as good at DR—the prairie-chicken stronghold in the north; only 2 were reported there 10 Jun (TN). A single Common Loon in very worn basic plumage was photographed on 23 Jul at Table Rock L *Stone* by Mitchell Pruitt. Larry Lade noted a complete absence of Pied-billed Grebes in the St Joseph area in July, where they are usually seen throughout season with young. The latest one was 16 Jun at LC (LL). Similarly, Steve Kinder reported none were observed in the Chillicothe area. Conversely, a significant group of 32 was recorded on 5 Jul at Sparta *Christian*. This group included 4 ad with young. Apparently this is the first nesting report from this part of the state in 15 years (GSa). Finally, 2 ad and 8 juv were observed on 31 Jul at CCNWR north of the St Louis area (JU, SS). Double-crested Cormorants were observed in groups of 6-32 throughout the season at RMBS, while 10 were at CCNWR on 16 Jul (PL, m.ob.). Two

Anhingas made an appearance on 9 Jun at MNWR (CBa). The high count for American White Pelicans during the season came from MNWR, with **289 on 9 Jun (CBa)**. “Hundreds” were at RMBS on 31 Jul (PL) and 50 were at CCNWR on 23 Jul (PL). Farther west, 80 were at TRW on 11 Jun (SK); 20-30 remained at this location through the end of the season. Steve Kinder reported no bitterns of any species in the Chillicothe area this summer. Backing up that observation, the lone sighting of an American Bittern posted to the eBird database was an individual recorded 5 Jun on the Trading Post BBS *Bates* (Matt Gearheart). Least Bittern was recorded with more regularity, though the bulk of the reports came from the St Louis area: (2) 11 Jun CBCA (PL); (2) 5 Jul RMBS (JU); (2) 10 Jul CBCA (BR); and (1) 31 Jul RMBS (PL). And two reports came from the Northwest: (3) at nests 15 Jun SCNWR *Nodaway* (MN); and “several” 10 Jun through the end of period at LC, where they were assumed to be nesting in the cattails in the area (LL). A count of 1,000 Great Egrets at FRCA on 19 Jun was impressive for early in the summer season (SK, LL). The highest count in east was 437 on 9 Jun at MNWR (CBa). Hundreds were present throughout July at CBCA and RMBS, and 250 were counted at CCNWR on 31 Jul (JU, SS). The **award for “most unusual” Great Egret sighting goes to a melanistic individual** photographed by Josh Uffman in the company of 65 Great Egrets on 10 Jun at CBCA. All reports of Snowy Egrets came from the St Louis area. Counts of 26 on 10 Jun at CBCA and 20 on 31 Jul at CCNWR were notable **in absence of a rookery (JU, SS)**. The season’s high count of Little Blue Herons was 779 on 9 Jun at MNWR (CBa). At CBCA, counts began at 53 on 10 Jun (JU) and climbed gradually through the season to 220 on 10 Jul (BR). In the West, more than 70 were present at FRCA—with the previously mentioned 1,000 Great Egrets—on 19 Jun (SK, LL). The sole sighting of a Tricolored Heron was of an adult present 30-31 Jul at RMBS (JU). Cattle Egrets topped out at 100+ on 31 Jul at RMBS (PL), and there was only one report of this species from the West: 1 on 19 Jun spotted while running a BBS route in *St Clair* (SK, LL). The highest count of Green Herons submitted was 16 on 1 Jul at MNWR (CBa). Steve Kinder noted no observations of night-herons in the Chillicothe area. The five reports of Black-crowned Night-Heron were limited exclusively to the St Louis area, with a high count of 20 on 31 Jul at RMBS (PL, Dick Palmer). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported with lower frequency, with single birds only on 2 and 12 Jun at Forest Park *St Louis City* (JU, PL). In the Southwest, a colony with 5 active nests was reported in early Jun on Shoal Creek *Newton* (JCa). An imm White Ibis present 17-19 Jul at CBCA caused a stir among local birders (MT, doc with photos) (acc.). The *Plegadis* ibises (i.e. “dark ibises”) **maintained their presence in the state during the season**. One imm bird, unidentifiable to species, was present at EBCA on 5 Jun (Jean Leo-

natti, Elizabeth Garrette, doc with video) (acc.). A nice count of 4 Glossy Ibis were at OSCA on 16 Jul (CBa). White-faced Ibis appeared on both sides of the state, with 16 on 3 Jun at Lewis and Clark SP *Buchanan* (Richard Anderson) and 2 on 5 Jun at CBCA (David & Mary Anne Marjamaa). Reports of Black Vultures included 3 on 14 Jun soaring over MO Hwy 19 between Greer and Alton *Oregon* (SH), and a nice confirmed nesting with 2 ad, 2 fledglings on 29 Jun in *Christian* (Bob Kipfer). An adult Osprey was observed on its nest atop a cell-phone tower 4 & 12 Jun in *Dade*, the third season this nest has been active (CBu). Another bird was observed on 20 Jul at HL (LL). The high count for Mississippi Kite away from the Miss. R. involved 2 ad, 6 juv on 29 Jun at the University of Missouri campus, Columbia *Boone* (RD). There were seven other records—each involving 1-2 birds—in *Newton, Jasper, Barry, Putnam, and Greene*, including 2 ad at a nest in *Greene* on 9 Jul (Jessie Knapp). Northern Harriers were detected in seven locations across the western half of the state—in *Harrison, Dade, Bates, and Barton*—with a high count of 2 f on 29 Jun in *Sullivan* (SK, LL). Single Cooper's Hawks were reported on 25 Jun in Joplin *Jasper* (LH) and on I-64 in *St Louis* (MT). Family groups of 5 on 26 Jun and 6 on 1 Jul were found in *Greene* (CBu). The only report of a Red-shouldered Hawk in the Northwest—where it is listed as rare—was of a single bird near Avenue City *Andrew*, heard only on 28 Jun and 3 Jul; an imm bird was seen on 10 Jul (Ryan Evans). Swainson's Hawks continue to nest in the Southwest, with 2 ad and 2 chicks observed on their nest 11 Jul in *Greene*. In all, 4 nests total were reported in *Greene* this season (CBu, GSa). The high count for American Kestrel in the west was 10 on 28 Jul at HL and LC (LL). The high count in east was 8 on 16 Jul at BKL (PL). A single adult Peregrine Falcon was noted 1 Jul at the South Prong Access of the Jack's Fork R *Texas* (EW).

## RAILS THROUGH GULLS

Steve Kinder reports that no rails were observed in the Chillicothe area. Common Gallinules were noted across the state. In the Southeast, 2 on 5 Jun and 1 on 15 Jul were at OSCA (CBa). In the Northwest, 2 were observed at nests at SCNWR on 15 Jun (MN); 2 were at LC on 23 Jul—and later in the season, 1 adult and 6 3/4-grown juveniles at the same location (LL). In the Northeast, 1 was observed at CCNWR on 23 Jul (PL). Five American Coots, apparently non-breeders, were observed in late Jul at LC (LL). A pair of Sandhill Cranes produced the first young ever observed in the state in modern times. The two adults and two colts were seen in flight in mid-July (m.ob.; doc by Paul McKenzie and RD) (acc.). A single Black-bellied Plover was at TRW on 30 Jul (SK). Semipalmated Plovers appeared to move into the state on 31 Jul, with a single bird on the Hwy 79 corridor *Lincoln* (PL) and 2 at CCNWR (JU, SS). A high count of 117 Killdeer was tallied on 15 Jul at OSCA (CBa). There were only two Black-necked Stilt reports away from their stronghold in the Southeast: a pair on 19 Jun at CBCA (BR); and 3 on 28 Jun at EBCA (Lottie Bushmann, Laura Pintel). A single American Avocet on 14 Jun at SLNWR represented one of only a few June records for that species (SK). A Solitary Sandpiper on



1 Jun at a residence in Bloomfield *Stoddard* was a late spring migrant (CBa). The first fall migrants detected in the North were 2 on 6 Jul at TRW (SK). In the South, the first 2 appeared on 15 Jul at OSCA (CBa). A record high count (based on R&E) of 24 was recorded on 18 Jul at a WRP area in *Linn* (SK). The first fall-migrant Greater Yellowlegs were 2 on 3 Jul at TRW (SK). A record high count (based on R&E) of 15 Willets was tallied on 3 Jul at TRW (SK). Three other reports, all of single birds, were from the last half of July at SLNWR, Pershing SP *Linn*, and TRW (SK). Lesser Yellowlegs appeared back in the state with a single bird on 3 Jul at TRW (SK). The high count for Upland Sandpiper was 8 on 29 Jun at DR (TN). Also from the Northwest, 3 were recorded on the Frazier BBS Route *Clinton* on 6 Jul (KM). In the Southwest: (7) 4 Jun *Dade* (CBu), (2) 15 Jun Schwartz Prairie *St Clair* (JCa), and (2) 16 Jun *St Clair* (SK, LL). Finally, in the Northeast, 4 were in *Adair* on 24 Jun (Frankie Cuculich, EW). A single Ruddy Turnstone was recorded 30 Jul at TRW (SK). Sanderling sightings were limited to 2 on 18 Jul and 1 on 31 Jul at the Hwy 79 corridor *Lincoln* (PL). A count of 8 Semipalmated Sandpipers came from RMBS on 30 Jul (JU). Least Sandpipers were in the state by 9 Jul, with 3 at OSCA (CBa), and their numbers expectedly grew toward the end of the season with a peak of 40 on 30 Jul at RMBS (JU). White-rumped Sandpiper moves late in the spring season, so 8 on 9 Jun at MNWR (CBa, Brad Pendley) and 20 on 14 Jun at SLNWR (SK) were not out of line. A pair of Pectoral Sandpipers on 9 Jul at OSCA were beginning their trip back south (CBa), and their numbers at RMBS had grown to 18 by 30 Jul (JU). A single Dunlin on 14 Jun at SLNWR was a very notable late spring migrant. A group of 20 Stilt Sandpipers was a nice sighting on 29 Jul TRW (SK). A single Buff-breasted Sandpiper on 23 Jul at a flooded soybean field in the LC area *Buchanan* exceeded the early date in R&E by three days; and 12 Short-billed Dowitchers were in the same area on 19 Jul (LL). A single Wilson's Phalarope appeared at TRW on 30 Jul (SK). A Red-necked Phalarope on 14 Jun at SLNWR was a rather late migrant (SK). On 31 Jul, a group of 60 Ring-billed Gulls along the Hwy 79 corridor set a record season high count (based on R&E) (PL).

## TERNS THROUGH NUTHATCHES

At RMBS, Least Terns were observed in groups of 1-3 throughout season (PL, m.ob.), with a high count of 9 on 5 Jul (JU). It is uncertain whether nesting occurred on the barge placed there to encourage Least Tern nesting. High water levels did not provide adequate nesting habitat for these birds. The only other report of these terns away from RMBS was of a single bird on 24 Jul at a flooded soybean field in the LC area *Buchanan* (MN, LL). One Caspian Tern was at CCNWR on 23 Jul (PL). Several Black Terns were sighted on 19 Jun at FRCA (SK, LL). Later in the season, 11 were at CCNWR on 23 Jul (PL) and 5 were at LC on 26 Jul (LL). Several Forster's Terns were at FRCA on 19 Jun (SK, LL). There were no reports of White-winged Dove at their usual location in East Prairie *Mississippi*, but 1 was noted on 27 or 28 Jul in Advance *Stoddard* (Matt Bowyer, *vide* CBa). A high count of 100+ Mourning Doves on 29 Jun came by watching while they

flew to their evening roost in downtown Chillicothe *Livingston* (SK). Several people noted Yellow-billed Cuckoos seemed more widespread this season, speculating this may have been due to the emergence of the periodical cicada **Brood 19 (PL)**. **The cuckoos were also reported to be “more plentiful this year” in Buchanan**, however—where the periodical cicadas are largely absent. There were just two reports of Greater Roadrunner from the Southwest: (1) 14 Jun *Ozark* (SH) and (1) 7 Jun & 27 Jul *Greene* (CBu). Pairs of Barn Owls were reported 26 Jun at PRSP (JCa) and 15 Jul at Carl Junction Lagoons *Jasper* (LH). **Herbert notes: “A pair has been at the Carl Junction lagoons salt barn for years, but there is no place to nest. The manager would not allow a nest box put up.” Two records were submitted of Chuck-will's-widow:** (1) 4 Jun *Crawford* (PL) and (4) 28 Jun *Webster* (AK). Likewise, reports of Eastern Whip-poor-will were scarce. Only one report was contributed to the compiler (2 on 28 Jun in *Webster* (AK)). There were a handful of reports on eBird—all but two from south of the Missouri R. None were reported from northwestern, north-central, or northeastern Missouri. A high count of 47 Acadian Flycatchers came on 9 Jun from MNWR (CBa), and 10 were at Meramec SP *Franklin* on 4 Jun (JU). The last spring-migrant Alder Flycatcher observation was of 3 on 2 Jun at TRW (SK). Western Kingbird continues to solidify its presence in the East, with nests reported in *St Charles* and *St Louis* (PL, m.ob.). In the Chillicothe area *Livingston*, the species has expanded to at least four known nesting locations (SK). Likewise, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is becoming more regular in the St Louis area, but it is still rare enough to garner attention from local birders. There were two reports from the metropolitan area: 1 or 2 1-11 Jun at Hwy N and Henke Road (a.k.a. Dardenne Prairie) *St Charles* (JU, PL, m.ob.); and (1) 9 Jun *St Louis* (PL). From central Missouri, RD reports 1 on 29 Jun at South Farm R-1 Lake *Boone*, and adds that the species “certainly seems to be spreading around Columbia with reports from at least four locations.” **All the reports of Loggerhead Shrike came from the West:** (2) 12 Jun *Lawrence* (GSa); (3) 29 Jun DR (TN); (1) 3 Jul 10 miles east of *Adrian Bates* (Jacob Decker); and three confirmed nestings in Jun at PRSP, near Capps Creek CA *Newton*, and at a prairie off Hwy 86 between Neosho & Joplin *Newton* (JCa). Bell's Vireo were reported from four locations in the St Louis area, where it is listed as rare: (1) 11 Jun BCA (MT); (1) 11 Jun Dardenne Prairie *St Charles* (MT); (3) 19 Jun CBCA (BR); and (3+) 25 Jun Blue Grosbeak Trail, WSCA (BR). Reports from West included a high count of 8 on 26 Jun at PRSP (JCa) and confirmed nesting at Lattner *Vernon*, Cook Meadow TNC area *Barton*, Golden Prairie *Barton*, Denison Prairies *Barton*, and Providence Prairie *Lawrence* (JCa). The highest count of Red-eyed Vireos reported was 14 on 4 Jun at Meramec SP *Franklin* (JU). Fish Crows turned up in two reports from Southwest, were they are now expected: (3) 4 Jun FRCA (SK) and (1) 22 Jul *Jasper* (LH). **Purple Martins were staging at RMBS on 30 Jul, providing the season's high count of 60 (JU)**. The following day, approximately 500 Bank Swallows were seen exhibiting the same behavior in *Lincoln* (JU, SS). The high count for the season of Cliff Swallows was 112 on 26 Jun at PRSP (JCa). It was theorized that the large colony of swallows may have been coming from nearby mine. Also, **“hundreds” were reported 24 Jul in Stoddard** (CBa).

## WRENS THROUGH FINCHES

Following a couple hard winters, Carolina Wrens are still scarce north of the Missouri R away from towns or rural homes with feeders (EW, KM). A query to eBird confirms this, with only a few reports north and along the Missouri R into the Northwest, one on 6 Jul in *Clinton* (KM), a lone sighting from DR on 5 Jun (Keith Brink), and two reports from *Pike* in the Northeast. A Bewick's Wren was singing 12 Jun on the Kingsville BBS Route *Johnson* (KM) and one was banded 30 Jun at the World Bird Sanctuary (PL). Sedge Wrens were sparsely reported this season, with only two sightings submitted: (3) 31 Jul RMBS (PL) and (2) 10 Jun DR (TN). Few Marsh Wrens were reported, as well; there were only two sightings: (1) 16 Jul BKL and (2) 31 Jul St Louis area (PL). None were observed in the Chillicothe area (SK). Of Eastern Bluebirds in the Joplin area *Jasper & Newton*, Larry Herbert wrote: **“Only six of 67 nest boxes were active on 29 Jul. Generally 12 or 15 should still be active at this time in southwestern Missouri. Perhaps the warm weather was discouraging?”** And in the St Louis area, Pat Lueders reported that few were seen in the usual areas. The high count for Ovenbirds this season was 9 on 4 Jun at Meramec SP *Franklin* (JU). There was one report of Worm-eating Warbler from the North, where they are rare: 1 on 9 Jun at Poosey CA *Livingston* (Myrna Carlton, *fide* SK). A single Golden-winged Warbler in the southeastern corner of the state on 5 Jun at OSCA was apparently a late migrant (CBa). One Swainson's Warbler on 23 & 30 Jul in *Bollinger* was logged in the eBird database (Alan Brant). A count of 12 Kentucky Warblers on 4 Jun at Meramec SP *Franklin* was considered a nice tally (JU). Up to two Hooded Warblers were detected 1 and 3 Jun at Lewis and Clark SP *Buchanan* (Richard Anderson). An American Redstart sporting a brood patch was noted during banding at Drury Mincy CA *Taney* on 19 Jun. This breeding evidence was worthy of **note, since this species' population is much less dense in the Southwest (AK, Janice Greene)**. Meanwhile, more than 4, including males, were detected on 25 Jun at the Lost Valley Trail, WSCA, where their presence is noted to be irregular (BR). A single Cerulean Warbler was recorded in the Southwest, where it is listed as rare, on 10 Jun at Drury Mincy CA *Taney* (Greg Swick, CBu). A high count 10 Yellow-breasted Chats came on 11 Jun from BCA (MT), and the high count in the Southwest was 13 on 28 Jun at Stilwell Prairie *Vernon* (JCa).

## TOWHEES THROUGH SISKINS

A single Vesper Sparrow was spotted at Pawnee Prairie Natural Area *Harrison* on 8 Jul (SK). Grasshopper Sparrows were plentiful in the oxbow region south of St Joseph, with 11 on 28 Jul at Muskrat L *Buchanan* (LL). Meanwhile, PL recorded (3) on 17 Jul at CBCA and added, **“Very few compared to previous seasons.”** A nice count of 17 Henslow's Sparrows was posted 26 Jun at PRSP (JCa), and 3 were counted at Bois D'Arc CA *Greene* on 14 Jun (Bo Brown). Rose-breasted Grosbeak is at the edge of its breeding range in St Louis, but it is proving to be expected in summer at CBCA; one was observed there on 11 and 19 Jun (PL, BR). Four reports of

Painted Bunting were submitted, all from the Southwest: (1) 7 Jun at the Southwest Power Station *Greene* (CBu); (1 m, 1 f) 18 Jun Roaring River SP *Barry* (JCa); (1 m, 1 f) 2 Jul n of Cassville *Barry* (JCa); and (1 m) 2 Jul n of Shell Knob *Barry* (JCa). Dickcissels were abundant, as usual, at CBCA, with 87—almost all singing—on 19 Jun. Bobolinks were reported in several locations across the northern tier of counties, with a high count of 36 on 5 Jun at DR (Michael Weaver). There were no reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds after mid-June (2 were at SCNWR on 13 & 15 Jun) (MN, Heidi Retherford). Since their nesting strongholds in *Holt*, at Bob Brown CA and SCNWR, were flooded this year, it will be interesting to see how they bounce back in the coming years. The high count for Great-tailed Grackle was 20 in *Bates* on 7 Jun (SK). Additional sightings included: 5 nesting just south of the Rogersville City Park *Webster* on 3 Jul; (10) 4 Jul Southwest City *McDonald* (JCa); and (5) 22 Jul Monett *Barry* (JCa). Pat Lueders in the St Louis area and Larry Lade in *Buchanan* noted that Orchard Orioles seemed more plentiful than in past years, with numbers such as (8) 11 Jun at CBCA (PL) and (6) 28 Jun Stilwell Prairie *Vernon* (JCa).

### Observers

Chris Barrigar (CBa), Charley Burwick (CBu), Jeff Cantrell (JCa), Ryan Douglas (RD), Susan Hazelwood (SH), Lawrence Herbert (LH), Steve Kinder (SK), Andrew Kinslow (AK), Larry Lade (LL), Pat Lueders (PL), Kristi Mayo (KM), Tom Nagel (TN), Mary Nemecek (MN), Bill Rowe (BR), Greg Samuel (GSa), Scott Schuette (SS), Mike Thelen (MT), Joshua Uffman (JU), Edge Wade (EW).

### Key

- \* Documentation needed for MBRC review
- \*\* Documentation received by MBRC for review
- acc. Accepted by MBRC

### Abbreviations

ad-Adult  
 CA-Conservation Area  
 f-Female  
 imm-Immature  
 juv-Juvenile  
 L-Lake  
 m-Male  
 MO-Missouri  
 m.ob.-many observers  
 MBRC-Missouri Bird Records Committee  
 R&E-Robbins & Easterla, *Birds of Missouri: Their Distribution and Abundance* (1992)

Location Abbreviations (counties in italics)

BKL-B. K. Leach CA *Lincoln*  
 BCA-August A. Busch Mem. CA *St Charles*

CCNWR-Clarence Cannon NWR *Pike*  
CBCA-Columbia Bottom CA *St Louis*  
DR-Dunn Ranch *Harrison*  
EBCA-Eagle Bluffs CA *Boone*  
FRCA-Four Rivers CA *Vernon*  
HL-Horseshoe Lake *Buchanan*  
LC-Lake Contrary *Buchanan*  
MNWR-Mingo NWR *Stoddard*  
OSCA-Otter Slough CA *Stoddard*  
PRSP-Prairie SP *Barton*  
RMBS-Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary *St Charles*  
SCNWR-Squaw Creek NWR *Holt*  
SLNWR-Swan Lake NWR *Chariton*  
TRW-Thompson River Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) area *Livingston*  
WSCA-Weldon Spring CA *St Charles*

## A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

### Edge Wade

#### JOHNSON SHUT-INS STATE PARK

8,670 acres Reynolds Co. DeLorme 56, C & D-2 &3; DNR owned; for additional information call: 573-546-2450

Website: <http://mostateparks.com/park/johnsons-shut-ins-state-park>

Directions: From Hwy. 21 north of Pilot Knob, turn onto Rt. N and follow it to the park entrance. Or, from Hwy. 72 west of Lesterville, turn onto Rt. N to reach the entrance.

**Johnson's Shut-Ins** was dedicated as part of Missouri state parks system in 1955. It's large acreage encompasses a sample of the rugged St. Francois Mountains. The central feature is the "shut-ins" stretch of the East Fork of the Black River as it flows through a narrow channel cut into 1.4 billion year-old rhyolite.

Two recent events, one manmade, one natural, caused major habitat changes in the park. The breach of the Taum Sauk Reservoir (site of an electrical power generating operation) in 2005 caused 1.3 billion gallons of water and waterborne debris, including mature trees and large boulders, to cascade down Proffit Mountain and through the park, scouring a wide swath along hillside and valley, leaving a desolate, barren landscape several hundred yards wide.

In May, 2009, a massive severe windstorm roared through the St. Francois Mountains, leaving thousands of acres of felled trees strewn haphazardly in its wake. These straight winds, with the damaging force of a tornado, are called "derecho" (Spanish for "straight ahead"). Parts of Johnson's Shut-Ins SP were severely impacted by the storm. This natural event impacted the

East Fork Wild Area most profoundly. In recent years, the woodlands have rejuvenated from the windstorm, resulting in a canopy cover in line with the early historic records of the area. Pine and post oaks are among the most commonly encountered species in the derecho impact. Woodland flora is lush, dominated by a grass/forb mix unlike in other parts of the park. The word “devastating” is appropriate for the effects of both of these events, especially for the wildlife dependent on food and shelter in the ecosystems that lay in their paths. But the changes they wrought carried opportunity, too; and birds, like all living things, are opportunistic. The loss of a portion of the habitat needed by some species has meant creation of conditions favorable for others.

**Birdlife at Johnson’s Shut-Ins SP** is thriving. The park may well now have greater numbers and diversity than were present for many, many years. Birders able to time their trips well and those willing to explore a bit will be well-rewarded with a trip here.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: This park has a high number of visitors, but has not been explored often by birders. The SPARKS checklist shows 127 species (Oct. 2011). Species other than waterfowl are well represented on the list, but occurrence records are skimpy. Many birds are to be found in the rich, varied habitats. Every season will produce rewarding birding experiences here. Take special note of the Hazard/Limitations section.

Features of interest to birders: This is a remarkably diverse park. Seventeen natural terrestrial communities support more than 850 plant species (40% of the species found in Missouri). This plant and geologic diversity supports a broad spectrum of bird species. There are likely many more using the park land than appear on the checklist.

The natural fen in the day-use area was largely destroyed in the dam breach. Restoration is being attempted. Perhaps the Marsh Wren found there in 2010 is an indicator that the efforts will succeed, though the present day fen restoration is of a different character than the forested fen that was destroyed by the levee breach.

An excellent trail system provides opportunities suitable for the most casual to the most ardent birder. Always check on the status of trails before planning a birding trip, especially along the longer trails. Closures due to the dam breach or the derecho may still be necessary. For a full listing of the trails, check with the park office or online. Below is a sampling particularly suited for birding.

Day-use area:

The Black River Trail System is comprised of several sections and loops (2 miles total) that meander from the Black River [visitor] Center near the entrance to the store near the beginning of the Shut-Ins Trail leading to the river. The Black River Trail allows easy birding along the valley, past decid-

uous woods and some pines, by small thickets, the fen, through picnic areas, the boulder field, and scoured creek area.

The Horseshoe Glade Trail (1.5 mile loop) begins near the store, along the Shut-Ins Trail. This loop traverses the East Fork Wild Area. Oak-hickory woods, scattered pines and glades are delightful for birds and birders. The view of the river and mountains would be worth the walk, even if the birds **weren't there to see.**

The Ozark Trail section through the East Fork Wild Area will provide a remarkable view of the impacts of the May 2009 windstorm. Look for the Ozark Trail sign on Hwy. N south of the park office turnoff. You can also access the trailhead from the Goggins Mountain Wild Area.

The service road (entrance on Rt. N, and running behind the Black River Center building to the store) is especially birdy in the early morning as sunlight hits the hillside here before other parts of the valley. This road is also a good bet when other parts of the park are overrun with people. It is posted for no vehicles, but permission to drive it may be sought in the park office. Of course, the best birding is on foot.

Campground area (entrance on Rt. MM):

The Campground Trail system leads through the 5 camping loops and along the .25 mile Beaver Pond Trail. A slow drive through the campground loops will produce birds for folks short on time. Between the turn off of Rt. MM (the campground entrance) and the camper check station is a small lot with a picnic shelter and vault toilet. This small area and the trailhead for the Goggins Mountain Equestrian Trail is especially attractive to a variety of species and is worth a walk-around in any season.

Scour Trail and vicinity:

The Scour Trail (2 mile loop with a length-shortening connector) begins at a parking lot on Rt. N east of the main entrance. The trail goes through woods and along the scour channel created by the dam breach. The scour channel may not be full of birds, but it may harbor some species not easily seen in other parts of the park. The Scour Trail parking lot and the country lane type road extending from it provide a quiet area for birding when the park is full of visitors enjoying the shut-ins area. This road leads to private land. Do not go beyond the park boundary.

Toilets: Flush toilets at the Black River Center (visitor center) parking lot; several vault toilets in the day-use and campground areas.

Camping: A full range of camping options is available.

Hazards/Limitations: This is a heavily visited park. Summer and warm off-season weekends may have too many people to allow enjoyable birding experiences in the day-use area. Plan your birding visit with this in mind. Even if your birding visit is during a peak park use period, birding in early morn-

ing or in an area away from the main activity will be a pleasant experience.

Remember to check on the open/closed status of trails (especially the 14 mile Ozark Trail).

Pets, food and disposable containers are not allowed on the Shut-Ins Trail.

As an acknowledgement of the potentiality of a recurrence of a dam breach and the threat it would have to people in the path, a siren alarm system and signage detailing appropriate response are present. Read the signs and know what to do if the sirens sound.

Nearby Birding Sites: There are many state parks and conservation areas in the St. Francois Mountains area. The sites listed here are a selection based on pleasurable birding. Lower Taum Sauk Lake CA, Ketcherside Mountain CA, Bismarck Lake CA, Lesterville Access (especially for Cerulean Warblers), Dillard Mill SHS, St. Joe SP.

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## PRAIRIE STATE PARK by Edge Wade

3,942 acres Barton Co. DeLorme 50, D-1; Owned by DNR; for additional information call 41-843-6711

Website: <http://mostateparks.com/park/prairie-state-park>

Directions: From the south, from Joplin (about 35 miles), go north about 25 miles on Hwy. 43, then left (west) onto Hwy. 160 for 2 miles. Turn right (north) onto Rt. NN. Go one mile to Central Road (gravel); turn left (west) for 3 miles. Turn right (north) onto 150th Lane and go 1.3 mile to the visitor center.

From the north (about 110 miles south of Kansas City), Go south on US 71 to the Hwy. 160 (Lamar) exit. Turn right (west) onto Central Road and go 3 miles, turning right (north) onto 150th Lane. Go 1.3 miles to the visitor center.

**When to Visit/Species to Expect:** Le Conte's, Henslow's (more common now in the park than 20 years ago), Grasshopper, Lark, Vesper and Harris's Sparrows are among the 17 sparrow species on the 166-species SPARKS printable field checklist. Greater Prairie-Chickens have not been reported **within the park recently as Missouri's native population continues to dwindle** toward extirpation. Come in summer to enjoy Eastern and Western Kingbirds, and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (although expanding in the state, less common here recently). Flycatchers seen here include Alder, Willow, Acadian and Least. Autumn and winter are good times to seek raptors at Prairie SP. Merlin, Peregrine and Prairie Falcon are visitors. Rough-legged Hawks hover in winter as Northern Harriers course the prairie by day and



may linger into April or even May. Harriers are often replaced by an evening or dawn shift of Short-eared Owls. Winter also brings Loggerhead Shrikes to the park. One Northern Shrike was seen in January, 2008.

The wooded campground and picnic areas are excellent for spotting woodpeckers, grosbeaks, creepers and kinglets in season.

**Features of interest to birders: Prairie State Park is Missouri's largest prairie remnant.** The prairie landscape and the suite of flora and fauna dependent on it are maintained by the active management policies and activities of DNR staff. There is concern that the overall abundance and variety of bird species is declining due to the effects of increased grazing needs of the expanding bison herd.

Four natural areas (East Drywood Creek, Regal, Hunkah and Tzi-sho) have been combined into the Regal Tallgrass Prairie Natural Area. This full range of prairie natural communities, including the great diversity of grassland bird species, may be explored on foot via a 12-mile network of mowed, natural surface trails. A SAFETY NOTE: Contact visitor center staff before hiking--bison roam the park.

Let your eyes stray from the birds and look and listen for the more than 380 species of plants, more than 20 butterfly species, or the very special northern crawfish frog and prairie mole cricket.

See the Prairie SP website for detailed descriptions of the five trails listed below. All offer potentially productive birding, as well as opportunities to observe prairie plants and fauna. NOTE: No pets are allowed on trails.

Coyote Trail (1 mile linear trail)

Gayfeather Trail (1.5 mile loop)

Path of the Sky People (1.75 mile loop)

**Drover's Trail (small .25 mile loop and large 2.75 mile loop)**

Sandstone Trail (4.25 mile loop)

Toilets: Flush toilets at the visitor center. A vault toilet is near the basic campground sites.

Camping: Basic, primitive campsites suitable for individuals or groups of up to 20 people are available in a wooded setting. At the backpack camp visitors may experience sleeping under a canopy of stars on the open prairie. NOTE: NO CAMPFIRES. Contact parks staff at 417-843-6711 for reservations and current information. The backpack camp may be closed due to presence of bison.

Hazards/Limitations: Check the MDNR web site for the visitor center schedule of open days and hours, which vary seasonally. Check on the location of bison and elk at the visitor center before hiking. These are wild animals; do not approach them. Smoking is not allowed on the trails.

Nearby Birding Sites: Shawnee Trails CA, Bushwhacker Lake CA, Stockton Lake SP.

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LESTERVILLE ACCESS  
by Edge Wade

53 acres Reynolds Co. DeLorme 56, E-3: MDC owned; for more information call 573-223-4525.

Directions: From Lesterville go one mile east on Hwy. 21, turn south onto Peola Rd. (CR 342). Take CR 342 south to the junction with CR 364. Take CR 364 south 1.5 miles to the access on the right.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: This is a very fine place to seek warblers from mid April through May. The 62 species CACHE checklist includes 15 warbler species. Cerulean Warblers nest here. The site has not been birded **much beyond this timeframe, so its full species potential isn't represented.**

Features of interest to birders: The Black River has changed course and the site no longer has easy access to the river. Birders will have little disturbance from other users, so may scan the river bottom trees in leisure.

CR 364 runs through the area for about a quarter mile along the bluff. This stretch of road with the ecotone of upland and bottomland, and the road to the parking lot through the floodplain give good access for bird finding in a mix of rich habitat.

Toilets: None

Camping: No amenities

Hazards/Limitations: None noted.

Nearby Birding Sites: Johnson's Shut-Ins SP, Lower Taum Sauk Lake, Centerville Access, Ketcherside Mountain CA.



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