



THE BLUEBIRD

The voice of ASM since 1934

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

THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

Officers

June Newman*+, President (2014)
209 Santa Fe Street; Carrollton, MO
64633; (660) 542-0873
june@binmail.net

Shari Harden*+, Vice-President
(2014)
513 NE Grant Drive; Blue Springs,
MO 64014; (816) 229-3979
kestrel277@comcast.net

Scott Laurent*+, Secretary (2014)
610 W. 46th Street, #103; Kansas
City, MO 64112; (816) 916-5014
rscottlaurent@gmail.com

Pat Lueders*+, Treasurer (2014)
1147 Hawken Pl., St. Louis, MO
63119; (314) 222-1711
pllueders479@aol.com

Honorary Directors

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Columbia, (573) 819-9252

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Bowling Green

Chairs

Bill Clark, Historian
3906 Grace Ellen Dr.
Columbia, MO 65202
(573) 474-4510

Jerry Wade, Membership
1221 Bradshaw Avenue
Columbia, MO 65203
(573) 445-6697
wadej@missouri.edu

THE BLUEBIRD

The Bluebird Editor:

Bill Eddleman*+, 1831 Ricardo Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701, (573)
335-1507, eddlemanw@sbcglobal.net

Christmas Bird Count Compiler:

Randy Korotev, 800 Oakbrook Lane, St. Louis, MO 63132,
(314) 993-0055, rllkorote@artsci.wustl.edu

Communication Services:

Patrick Harrison Webmaster, <http://mobirds.org>,
Susan Hazelwood and David Scheu, Co-owners Listserve,
mobirds-l-request@po.missouri.edu

ASM Scholarship Committee:

Sue Gustafson, Chair, 429 Belleview Ave., Webster Groves MO 63119
(314) 968-8128, smgustafson@juno.com

MO Bird Records Committee:

Brad Jacobs+—Chair, 11300 Vemers Ford Road, Columbia, MO 65201,
(573) 874-3904, brad.jacobs@mdc.mo.gov
Bill Rowe—Secretary, 9033 Big Bend Road, St. Louis, MO 63119,
(314) 962-0544, rowemb45@gmail.com

Seasonal Survey Editors:

Spring: Josh Uffman, 707 Ashton Way Circle, Eureka, MO 63025
(636) 587-6016; birdsandbugs@sbcglobal.net

Summer: Kristi Mayo, 1807 Clear Creek Dr., Kearney, MO 64060
(816) 289-7828, writebirds@yahoo.com

Fall: Peter Kondrashov, Biology Department, A. T. Still University of
Health Sciences, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, 800 W. Jeff
erson St., Kirksville, MO 63501 Mo. State Univ., pkondrash@gmail.com

Winter: Joe Eades, 517 Willow Lane, Kirkwood, MO, 63122, (314) 835-
0353, joseph.w.eades@monsanto.com

* Executive Committee Member

+ Board Position

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— These Wood Storks were among four immatures found by Steve Kinder at Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Chariton Co. on July 10, 2012. The birds stayed through July 23, and are the 6th record of the species in Missouri since the 1930s. Photographed by Frankie Cuculich.

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—JUNE NEWMAN



Dear Fellow Birders,

In the seven or eight years I've been a member of The Audubon Society of Missouri, my awareness of the history of our organization and the history of conservation in Missouri has grown slowly. It got a **major boost at ASM's 2012 Fall Meeting** at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. I was awed by accounts of the conservation related accomplishments of Jim Jackson, a former president of ASM, which led to his being honored with the Rudolf Bennitt award. Jim's Friday afternoon portrayal

of Daniel Boone, in costume, complete with longrifle, was a treat and fleshed out what little I knew about Daniel Boone's life in Missouri.

On Friday evening, Seth Gallagher of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory described a current change in conservation focus, beyond public lands, to the cultivation of individual stewardship of private lands. It was encouraging to hear about Colorado ranchers who are now managing grasslands with needs of wild birds in mind. Seth and his 7 year old son Will, an enthusiastic birder himself, stayed and interacted with us all weekend.

From closer to home, Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke, of the Missouri River Bird Observatory, gave an impressive account of the education and monitoring work they do all over the state. Expect to hear more from them! I look forward to knowing more about the relatively new science of acoustic monitoring, one of Ethan's special interests. Take time to look at MRBO's website, www.mrbo.org. Dana and Ethan Duke also got up very early Saturday and Sunday mornings to demonstrate bird banding for us.

Brad Jacobs, Paul McKenzie, and Kristi Mayo of the Bird Record Committee gave us useful insight into the rare bird documentation process. I suspect each of us took from that experience new appreciation for the importance of detailed field notes, and for the work of our Missouri Bird Record Committee.

New ASM board members elected at fall meeting are Scott Laurent of Kansas City, Mark Haas of Jackson, and Brent Galliard of St. Joseph. Scott also agreed to serve as our secretary. Shari Harden who

had been the secretary, became the vice president. I am grateful to each of them for their willingness to serve.

At Sunday's compilation, 103 bird species were recorded. See the list after this article. Add September 27-29, 2013 to your calendar now, and commit to attend next year's fall meeting.

It is exciting to begin my term as the president of ASM with vivid impressions of some of the accomplishments of those who have been in the picture for a long time, and those who are hard at work now. It is a good place from which to make plans for the future. In that plan are workshops devoted to groups of bird species, such as gulls, shorebirds, and marshbirds. If you wish to receive those details by email, let me know at june@binmail.net . If you'd like to receive information by postal mail, request that by phone at 660-542-0873.

ASM's Spring Meeting, 2013 will be in St. Joseph, Missouri, May 3-5. For details, see the March issue of *The Bluebird* and watch the website, <http://mobirds.org>, in April, for online registration. Plan to be there!

If you have ideas, requests, or suggestions you'd like to see made into plans for the future, please tell me!

June Newman, President

Save the Date: March 22-23, 2013
Marshbird Madness Workshop!!
June Newman

Part of my plan for the next two years is to have workshops devoted to groups of bird species, such as gulls, shorebirds, and marshbirds. The first of these will be March 22-23, 2013, and will be a Marshbird Madness workshop involving ASM, the Missouri River Bird Observatory, and MDC. Many more details will be forthcoming!

If you wish to receive those details by email, let me know at june@binmail.net. If you'd like to receive information by postal mail, request that by phone at 660-542-0873.

Hope to see a lot of you at the workshop!

Board Minutes, Fall 2012 Meeting— Shari Harden

The Annual Board Meeting of the Audubon Society of Missouri Board of Directors was called to order at 1:35 p.m. on Saturday, September 22, 2012, 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, Pat Lueders, Susan Hazelwood, June Newman, Shari Harden, Clare Wheeler, Bill Eddleman, Louise Wilkinson, Jeff Cantrell. Board members absent were Gary Chastain and Ruth Simmons

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Susan Hazelwood, second Larry Lade the minutes of the 2011 Board Meeting were approved as written and unanimously passed.

Bruce Beck proposed the time of adjournment to be 3:30.

Acknowledgement of Electronic and other Votes since last Board Meeting:

Treasurer's Report: Pat Lueders discussed the 2011 year-end financial report and the 2012 year-to-date financial report. Jerry Wade answered questions about postage issues. Every time a Bluebird is returned, it costs us \$2.10. an additional cost beyond what is listed under Bluebird costs. Susan Hazelwood made a motion to approve the profit/loss statement for the 2012 budget. Bill Eddleman seconded. Motion passed. When we commit money to projects/organizations the money may not be released for several years and we must make sure we keep that money in our budget. Edge keeps a chart on the ASM website updated to keep track of these expenditures. The proposed budget was discussed. CACHE/SPARKS expense and income not included in the proposed budget as we do not know what they may be yet. The Fall meeting expenses include the caterer/camp and the speaker. Susan Hazelwood made a motion to approve. Terry McNeeley seconded. Motion approved. We should select a committee to conduct an audit, including Pat and three other members. Sue Gustafson was suggested as one member. Pat visited an investment advisor to discuss options for investment of funds.

The board discussed looking into some options, including CD's, mutual funds, and others of low to moderate risk. Pat volunteered to find information to bring to the board. Phil Wire made a motion for Pat to investigate low to medium risk mutual funds for a minimum of \$50,000. Larry Lade seconded. Approved. We may need a strategic plan for future spending; projects, scholarships, etc. Project ideas might be solicited from our members.

Committee Reports:

Reports were submitted for MOBCI (Susan Hazelwood), Listserv MOBIRDS -L (Susan Hazelwood), Website (Patrick Harrison), Grassland Birds (Mike Doyen), and Facebook Page (Phil Wire).

Scholarship Committee— Sue Gustafson submitted a report. Susan Hazelwood mentioned that we need to try to get more applicants. We only had two this year.

Missouri Bird Records Committee (MBRC)—Brad Jacobs will report the top 10 at the general meeting. Susan Hazelwood made a motion for a workshop on bird identification for the membership in the next year. Pat Leuders seconded. Approved. (Perhaps on owls, rails, flycatchers, shorebirds, sparrows.)

Membership—Jerry Wade presented his report. It would be better to move the sign up of membership and meetings to on-line. Saves time. Please advocate in your birding groups. Also change of address can be done at the ASM website and it will save time and reduce errors. Practically all of our new members have come through the website. Terry McNeeley made a motion to no longer include an envelope in the *Bluebird* for membership renewals and instead have an insert with the website information and a mailing address. Bill Eddleman seconded. Approved.

Bluebird—Bill Eddleman sent a report on *The Bluebird*. **Ketch's Printing** works with us and is fast, but the quality of photos is not very good. If we go on-line, we will still need to mail copies to some members and libraries that have archives of *The Bluebird*. Bill believes we should very slowly transition. Bill will work with Patrick and June to try to work through this issue.

CACHE/SPARKS—The SPARKS contract has been signed and returned to DNR. The CACHE agreement has been updated and will be sent. DNR is remodeling their website and they will put links to the checklist when they have the site up and running within the next year. They will have a link to ASM.

Annual Appointments—The following annual appointments were made: Membership—Jerry Wade, *Bluebird* editor—Bill Eddleman, MBRC Chairman—Brad Jacobs, Web Master/Web Monitor—Patrick Harrison, Conservation Partnership Coordinator (CACHE and SPARKS)—Edge Wade, CACHE Editor—Mike Thelen, MoBirds-L owner and co-owner—Susan Hazelwood and David Scheu, Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI)—Susan Hazelwood, Grassland Bird Coordinator—Mike Doyen, Fall Meeting Worship—JoAnn Eldridge, ASM Facebook Page—Phil Wire.

New Business:

Elections and Appointments: Two persons have agreed to be re-nominated to the Board and serve if elected for terms expiring in 2014, Susan Hazelwood, Columbia, and Phil Wire, Kirksville. Larry Lade nominated Brent Gailliart from St. Joseph to fill the board position from which Larry is retiring. Gary Chastain will be replaced by Mark Haas. Pat Leuders has agreed to serve as Treasurer. The nominee for Vice President/President-Elect is Shari Harden, and the nominee for Secretary is Scott Laurent. Confirmation of treasurer, secretary, webmaster, *Bluebird* editor, committee chairs (membership, conservation partnership, listserv owners, Facebook owner, MoBCI, MOList compiler, MBRC members).

We did not get to additional new business.

Future Meetings: The Spring Meeting will be in St. Joseph May 1-3, 2013, and Fall 2013 will be at Lake of the Ozarks State Park, Sept. 27–29, 2013.

There was discussion about having the Spring 2013 meeting in the Northeast. Phil Wire would like to have one there, but it is a bad time of year for him time-wise and there is no local organization and not many birders. Maybe St. Louis people could help? Kirksville and Hannibal were discussed as possible sites, and Hannibal might be the better spot. Board members would need to help man tables for registration and lead field trips.

Bruce Beck adjourned the meeting at 3:45.

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

Minutes of the General Meeting, Fall 2012, Camp Clover Point Shari Harden

Jim Jackson was presented the Rudolph Bennitt Award for his contributions to ASM.

Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke gave a presentation about the work of the Missouri River Bird observatory.

Bruce Beck, President of the Audubon Society of Missouri, welcomed the attendees and called the ASM General Membership Meeting to order at 9:10 p.m. on Saturday, September 22, 2012, at Camp Clover Point, Lake Ozark State Park.

Old Business:

Members were informed that all of the information of the workings of the board are available on our website.

New Business:

Bruce Beck then presented the slate of nominees standing for election to the Board of Directors. The slate of officers is the following:

Treasurer: Pat Leuders
Secretary: Scott Laurent
Vice President/President Elect: Shari Harden

Board Positions for 2012 - 2014: Susan Hazelwood has agreed to serve another term and Brent Gailliart from St. Joseph will fill the Northwest position vacated by Larry Lade. **Mark Haas will take Gary Chastain's position.**

The slate of officers was approved by vote of the members.

Bruce Beck then shared the names of those filling appointed positions. 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 coordi-

dinator; and Mike Doyen as Grassland Bird Coordinator. Phil Wire as Facebook page Monitor.

Brad Jacobs from the MBRC gave the annual report of the state's top ten birds from 2011. The top 10 birds are as follows: 10) Pomarine Jaeger 9) Burrowing Owl 8) Eurasian Wigeon 7) Vermillion Flycatcher 6) Common Ground Dove 5) Whooping Crane 4) Golden-crowned Sparrow 3) Mottled Duck 2) Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco 1) White Ibis.

Future Meeting Locations:

2013 Spring meeting: St. Joseph

2014 Spring meeting: possibly Hannibal

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting ended at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Harden, Secretary,
The Audubon Society of Missouri.

Missouri Christmas Bird Counts—2010-2011

Randy L. Korotev, CBC Editor

SUMMER 2012 SEASONAL REPORT

KRISTI MAYO

The summer of 2012 was dominated by historic drought and extreme heat. According to the Missouri Climate Center, June 2012 was the 6th driest on record and the driest since 1988. To make the situation worse, 100-plus degree temperatures set in at the end of June, the first time Missouri had experienced triple digits during June since 1988. The situation only worsened in July, which tied with 1954 as the 5th hottest on record, and ranked as the driest since 1970. By the end of July, the majority of the state was ranked in “**extreme drought**” by the U.S. Drought Monitor, with the **southeastern counties in “Exceptional Drought,” and “Severe Drought” in the far northwestern tier of counties.**

The impact of the combined drought and heat led to widespread crop and pasture losses, dry streams and ponds, and low river and reservoir levels. Burn bans were in effect, and grassfires and forest fires became routine.

Any area with water became an oasis for bird activity. This was particularly true of Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, where Steve Kinder discovered four immature Wood Storks on July 10. The **state’s 11th Brown Pelican**, that first appeared late in the spring season, remained at Binder Lake in Cole Co. through the summer. A 10th modern record of Swallow-tailed Kite was recorded at Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge on July 28. It is also interesting to note that an unusually large number of lingering and over-summering waterfowl were reported this year. The biggest avian surprise was a first state record Western Wood-Pewee in the Kansas City area, initially detected on June 10.

WHISTLING-DUCKS THROUGH FALCONS

When our wintering geese (and some ducks) are found lingering into summer, most are assumed to be sick or injured. A single Greater White-fronted Goose* and 2 Snow Geese were at the Ellington sewage lagoons *Reynolds* on 20 Jun (EW, JW). Up to 12 Snow Geese—some maintaining the ability to fly—spent the summer at OSCA (CBa, PM), and SCNWR provided refuge to 2 still present on 2 Jun. Up to 3 m Gadwall were present throughout the season at OSCA (CBa), and 2 on 13 Jun at Fountain Grove CA *Linn/Chariton* “**appeared to be a pair**” (EW). Blue-winged Teal, rare summer residents, were reported in small numbers across the state. A total of 9 on 2 Jun at RMBS **represented “quite a few for June in St. Louis area”** (JU). Other sightings in the St. Louis area included: (6) 3 Jun, BKL-Bittern Basin

Unit (MP, JU) and (2) 28 Jun, CCNWR (PL, SLAS trip). In the southeast, numbers of 1-6 were found from 4 Jun-29 Jul at OSCA (CBa). In the southwest 2 were counted at L. Springfield *Greene* on 1 Jun (AK), and 10 were at Carl Junction Lagoon *Jasper* on 19 Jun (LH). The high count came late in the season from north-central MO: (15) 28 Jul, SLNWR (SK). Northern Shoveler records included: (3 m) 4 Jun, then at least (1 m) present 13 Jun-29 Jul, OSCA (CBa, MT); (1 ad m) 5-8 Jun, RMBS (JU); (1) 14 Jun, EBCA (PL, CH); and (1) 1 Jul, Ted Shanks CA *Pike* (PK). Northern Pintail were all recorded near the Mississippi R., with one exception: a single bird that lingered from mid-May through 28 Jul at EBCA (RD, PL, CH). Reports near the Mississippi R. included: (4) 3 Jul, OSCA (CBa); (1 ad m) late May-8 Jun, RMBS (JU-ph.); (1 m, 1 f) 16-19 Jun, *Stoddard* (CBa); and (1 ad m) 1 Jul, Ten-Mile Pond CA (MP, MM, CH, JU). Observers acknowledged that most of these were likely sick or injured birds. Green-winged Teal were reported in three locations: (1 ad m) 2-3 Jun BKL-Bittern Basin Unit (JM, PL); (2 m) 4 Jun-29 Jul, OSCA (CBa†); and (1 m) 20 Jul, SLNWR (SK). A single drake Canvasback* continued at RMBS through at least 8 Jun (JU, m.ob.). Ring-necked Ducks were in three locations this summer: (2) 26 Jun, SLNWR (SK); (1 m) 3 Jul, OSCA (CBa); and (1 m) present throughout the period, Fountain Grove CA *Livingston/Linn* (SK). One drake Lesser Scaup was at OSCA on 19 Jun (CBa) and 2 were at SLNWR on 26 Jun (SK). Two m Common Goldeneyes were accompanied by a hen on 2 Jun at RMBS, but on 8 Jun only the two drakes were present (JU-ph.). Hooded Merganser is a rare summer resident away from the southeast. Notable sightings away from the Bootheel included: (1) 2 Jun, RMBS (JU); (up to 3) 1 Jun-19 Jul, EBCA (PL, CH, m.ob.); (1) 14 Jun, near Cassidy *Christian* (GS); (4) 16 Jun, BKL-Bittern Basin Unit (MT); and (1) 29 Jun, SCNWR (Garrett & Dylan Sheets). Red-breasted Merganser, an accidental summer visitor, was reported in two locations: (1 ad f) 5-8 Jun, RMBS (JU-ph.) and (1 m) 7-24 Jun, Duck Creek CA *Stoddard* (CBa†). Ruddy Duck sightings came primarily from central MO: (1) 3-5 Jun, EBCA (Kyle McCommis); (1 m) 24 Jul, South Farm R-1 L. *Boone* (Richard Stanton); and (2) 28 Jul, SLNWR (SK). The exception was 1 female in the east, at BKL-Bittern Basin Unit, on 28 May-6 Jun (CMc, JM).

PRAIRIE-CHICKEN THROUGH WADERS

Greater Prairie-Chicken numbers continue to decline, particularly at DR, where 1 on 6 Jun and 2 on 16 Jun likely represented the bulk of this area's population (TN). They are doing better in the southwest, where reintroduction efforts have recently resulted in successful nestings. Sightings this season included 1 hen on 4 Jun at Taberville Prairie CA *St Clair* (SK, Dianne Kinder) and 1 on 10 Jun at Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie *St Clair* (CMc). A single Common Loon in basic plumage was on SL *Clay* from 9 Jul through the end of the period. The observer noted primary molt that likely hindered the bird's ability to fly (DW). High counts for Pied-billed Grebe included 14 on 8 Jun at BKL-Bittern Basin Unit (CH) and 12 from 15-21 Jul at SLNWR (SK, JU, m.ob.). One highlight of the season was a group of 4 imm Wood Storks found by SK at SLNWR on 10 Jul. These birds—the first at

SLNWR and the 6th record for the state since the 1930s—were observed by a steady stream of birders. They were last seen on 23 Jul (SK†, RD†, KA†, m.ob.). Two Neotropical Cormorants in alternate plumage, rare summer visitors in the west, were located on 23 Jul on the northern half of SL *Clinton*. Many birders had the opportunity to see them through the end of the period, with as many as 3 being seen at one time (DW-ph.). A nesting colony of Double-crested Cormorants—present for a number of years now—on the Clinton Arm of Truman L. *Henry* yielded 175 birds and 135 nests. Observer Doug Willis wrote: “...at least 7 nests contained at least 16 juv birds. At least 6 different adults observed feeding young at this location.” An additional 55 cormorants were counted on the main body of the lake. Farther north, a total of 255 were counted at SL (DW). High counts of American White Pelicans included 96 on 28 Jul at SCNWR (SLa) and (50) on 6 Jun at TRW (SK). The state’s 11th Brown Pelican (acc.), first spotted by Richard George on 29 May, remained on Binder L. *Cole* through the end of the season. There was only one report of an American Bittern: 1 on 3 Jun found on the Trading Post BBS Route *Bates* (Matt Gearheart, Nic Allen). SLNWR provided excellent habitat for Least Bitterns, with a high count of 13 on 15 Jul (SK). They were also reported across the state in numbers of 1-3 in *Buchanan*, *Holt*, *Johnson*, and *Lincoln* (JP, GSa, Larry Olpin, JU). Not surprisingly, no significantly large numbers of large waders were reported. High counts for Great Blue Herons included 200 on 14 Jul at MNWR *Stoddard* (GSa) and 140 on 7 Jun at FRCA (DW). High counts for Great Egret in the east were 632 on 8 Jul at, MNWR-Monopoly Marsh (CBa); and at OSCA, 366 were counted on 30 Jun and 234 were tallied on 23 Jun (CBa). In the west, 350 were at FRCA on 7 Jun (DW). The largest group Snowy Egrets contained 25 birds on 29 Jul at Duck Creek CA (CBa). A high count of 418 Little Blue Herons was compiled 28 Jul at MNWR-Monopoly Marsh (CBa). Single Tricolored Herons—rare summer visitors—made appearances 28-30 Jul at MNWR-Monopoly Marsh and 29 Jul at private L. Mead *Stoddard* (adjacent to the west side of OSCA) (CBa). There was only one report of Cattle Egrets from the northwest: 4 on 5 Jun at Horseshoe & Muskrat Lakes *Buchanan* (JP). On 15 Jul, Paul McKenzie found a group of 26 Green Herons—as well as Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons—congregated around a large pond along the Forum Nature Trail in Columbia *Boone*. “This large pond had a couple feet of water the first week of July,” wrote McKenzie. By 29 Jul, the pond was reduced to a small puddle, and by 5 Aug it was completely dry. Singles and pairs of Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported in 10 counties across the state. The highest count was of 6 birds on 21 Jul at RMBS (via eBird). Seven active Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nests were reported in early Jun along Shoal Creek in Joplin *Newton* (JCa). Additionally, a high count of 12 birds was at SLNWR on 15 Jul (SK). Immature White Ibis turned up in two locations in the Bootheel: 2 on 22-23 Jun at OSCA (CBa, MT); 1 on 8-15 Jul at MNWR-Monopoly Marsh, and then 2 on 28 July at the same location (CBa). A single White-faced Ibis* was photographed on 26 Jul at Shepherd of the Hill Fish Hatchery *Taney* (Nathan Shorts, John Miller). Additionally, *Plegadis* ibises (i.e. “dark ibises”) unidentifiable to species were reported in two loca

tions: (1) 2 Jun, BKL *Lincoln* (CMc); and (2) 8 Jul, Big Muddy NFWR *Cooper* (RD).

OSPREY THROUGH CRANES

Osprey, rare summer residents, were found nesting in three locations: 2 nests were occupied on 2 Jun at the Deepwater Arm of Truman L. *Henry* (SK); on 9 Jun, nesting activity was observed for the fourth year at a cell tower in *Dade*, and 2 chicks were first seen there on 27 Jun; and 2 adults were at a cell-tower nest on 23 Jun near Jacksonville *Randolph* (KA). Additionally, a single bird was at SL *Clinton* from 19 Jul through the end of the period (DW, m.ob.). A Swallow-tailed Kite—potentially the 10th modern record for the state—was spotted soaring with a group of Mississippi Kites on 28 Jul at CCNWR (JE†). Mississippi Kites in north-central MO are quite unusual—so 1 on 16 Jun and then 2 on 26 Jun at SLNWR were unexpected (SK, LL). The highest count reported was 16 at a water tower in *Callaway* on 30 Jul. **“A slow gathering high above the water tower accumulated into about 16 kites, some resting on top of it,”** wrote observer Joseph Bieksza. **“After an hour or so, they headed in a northwest direction.”** In the southwest (where it might be time to upgrade their summer-resident status from rare to uncommon), Jeff Cantrell summarized the Mississippi Kite nesting activity: 5 confirmed nests in *Jasper* (2 in Joplin, 2 in Carl Junction, 1 by Asbury) during June; and 2 confirmed nests in *Barry* (1 in Butterfield, 1 near Monett) during Jun. An active nest was also reported 26 Jul in Gleahaven *Greene* (CBu). Other southwest sightings: (up to 4) 10 Jun-28 Jul, L. Springfield (AK, GSa); (1) 8 Jul, Turners River Access *Greene* (GSa); and (up to 5) throughout season, Joplin residence *Jasper* (LH). Single Northern Harriers were reported, mainly in mid- to late Jul, in *Pike, Clay, Livingston, Carroll, Stoddard, St. Charles, Holt, and Lincoln* (PL, CBa, et al.). There was only one report of 2—on 3 Jun at SL (Brian Sevy). Adult and imm Sharp-shinned Hawks (rare summer residents in the south) were **“marauding feeders” throughout the season at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service field office in Columbia *Boone* (PM).** Single birds were also reported on 10 Jun at L. Springfield (AK) and 23 Jul at PLS Business *Webster* (GSa). Two Swainson's Hawk nests were reported in *Greene*, including one that contained 3 young on 3 Jul (CBu). Single sightings, all from the southwest, included: (1 ad) 5 Jun, w of Aurora *Lawrence* (JCa); (1) 7 Jun, FRCA (DW); (1) 11 Jun and (1) 13 Jun, in different locations in *Barton* (SK, LL); (1) 15 Jul, Nixon Farm Area (not far from one of the nest sites) *Greene* (Jill Hayes); (2) 30 Jul, SW Power Plant *Greene* (GS, CBu); and (1) 21 Jul, Truman L. *Henry* (Joseph Mosley). King Rails had confirmed successful nestings in two locations: ad with chick were observed 6 Jun at BKL-Bittern Basin Unit (CMc-video); and another ad was feeding 2 chicks on 21 Jun at CCNWR (CH). Single Soras* were reported 15 Jul at SLNWR (SK) and 17 Jul at Horseshoe & Muskrat Lakes (JP). Common Gallinule sightings included 1 on 2 Jun at BKL *Lincoln* (PL, JM); 3 on 28 Jun, n of CCNWR (PL, CH); and 1 on 8 Jul at MNWR (CBa). After several attempts in past years, the first known successful nesting of Sandhill Cranes at SCNWR (and the second for the state in modern times) was confirmed on 29 Jun,

with two adults and one colt present (Jackie Davis, Darrin Welchert, Ronald Bell). Meanwhile, at EBCA, 3 imm were present 3-14 Jun EBCA (Lori Turner, ph.; MN, PL, CH); and at SLNWR, 1 was present 9 Jul (PL, m.ob.). In the east, 1 was present 5-12 Jul in *St Louis* (Glen De Hart, JM, CMa). In the south, where accidental, 1 Sandhill Crane* was in Bolivar *Polk* on 9 Jun (Dan & Ann Liles) and another was heard only at Monopoly Marsh, MNWR on 8 Jul (CBa†).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS

A single American Golden-Plover on 3 Jun at RMBS was a late migrant (MT). The first report of southbound Semipalmated Plovers was also the high count: 19 on 26 Jul at WLD (CMa). Also at WLD on 26 Jul, a high count of 750 Killdeer was reported (CMa). Black-necked Stilts were found nesting in two eastern MO locations north of St. Louis. At the first location, BKL *Lincoln*, four downy chicks were observed 6 Jun (CMc, video). The high count at that location was 21 on 3 Jun (JM). And at CCNWR *Pike*, 2 ad and 2 juv were spotted 21 Jul (PL, MT, m.ob.). These now represent the farthest-north nesting records on the east side of the state. The high count for southeastern MO (which holds the largest and oldest nesting population in MO) was 120 on 16 Jul in *Dunklin* (TJ). American Avocets, rare transients, were on the move through the state by 26 Jul when 6 were found at SL (DW). They were also found in five other locations. In the northwest: (1) 26 Jul, L. Contrary *Buchanan* (JHi); (1) 26-27 Jul, Horseshoe L. (JHi); and (2) 28 Jul, SCNWR (SLa). In the southwest: (1) 27 Jul, Aldrich *Polk* (GS, CBu, GSa). And north-central: (2) 31 Jul, SLNWR (SK). The highest count of 25 Spotted Sandpipers came on 31 Jul at SLNWR (SK). A group of 4 Solitary Sandpipers were detected on 2 Jul at SCNWR (SK, LL). By 21 Jul, 30 were at CCNWR (MM). A single Greater Yellowlegs on 5 Jun at RMBS (JU) was likely a late spring migrant. After the mid-Jun lull, the first presumed fall migrant was found on 1 Jul at Ten-Mile Pond CA *Mississippi* (MP, MM, CH, JU), and another was at Crowley Ridge CA *Stoddard* on 5 Jul (CBa). A single Lesser Yellowlegs was at TRW on 21 Jun (SK). The **season's high count was 60 on 21 Jul at CCNWR Pike** (MM). As expected, northern MO boasted the highest counts of Upland Sandpipers: (16) 12 Jun, DR (TN) and (14) 18 Jun, Grassland BBS route *Adair & Sullivan* (SK, LL). Reports of this grassland species also included: (2) 6 Jul, Poosey CA *Livingston* (Terry McNeely); (3) 23 Jun, Hi-Lonesome Prairie CA *Benton* (MP, MM, JU); and several observations throughout period at a new land addition on the west side of Pershing SP *Livingston* (SK). Likely migrants, up to 3 were found at CCNWR *Pike* 21-29 Jul (David Becher, PL, MT, JU). The high count of 6 Sanderlings came on 27 Jul from CCNWR (JM). Other Sanderling reports, all of single birds, included: 1 Jun, EBCA (CBu, et al.); 25 Jul, Horseshoe L. (Keith Brink); and 26 Jul, SL (DW). During the first week of Jun, good numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers remained: 200 on 1 Jun at EBCA (Charles Burwick, GSa) and 120 on 1 Jun at RMBS (JM, CMa). The last spring report was of 8 at RMBS on 8 Jun (JU). A single mid-summer bird was found 19 Jun at TRW (SK). The first push of fall migrants consisted of 145 birds on 26 Jul at WLD (CMa). Three of the four Western

Sandpiper reports came on the same day: (1) 21 Jul, SLNWR (KM, MR, JE, PM, BR, JU, RD); (1) 21 Jul, WLD (MT); and (2) 21 Jul, South Farm R-1 L. *Boone* (found by Richard Stanton; RD) The odd-one-out was found 26 Jul at WLD (Cma). Jun records for Least Sandpiper were of 5 on 4 Jun at OSCA (CBa) and 2 on 14 Jun at EBCA (KA). The first fall migrant, a single bird, was reported 1 Jul at South Farm L. *Boone* (RD). The reported numbers grew to 10-70 birds by mid-July statewide. High counts included 200 on 29 Jul at WLD (MM, JU) and 135 on 29 Jul at CCNWR (MM, JU). White-rumped Sandpiper is a late spring migrant, so it is no surprise that records spanned from the beginning of the period—with a high count of 300 birds on 1 Jun at EBCA (CBu, GSa)—through mid-June. The latest record was of 2 on 19 Jun at TRW (SK). A single Pectoral Sandpiper was at TRW on 19 Jun (SK), and 3 were in *Dunklin* on 7 Jul (TJ). The high count for the season was 600 on 26 Jul at WLD (Cma). A group of 3 Dunlin lingered at RMBS 1-6 Jun (JU, m.ob.). A single bird found 14 Jul on the Osage River *Cole/Osage* would be the second Jul record for the state if accepted (RD†). **There was just one early-Jun record of Silt Sandpiper:** 2 on 3 Jun at RMBS (Dave Gibson). That was followed by two late-June records (apparently southbound migrants): 1 juv on 21 Jun at TRW (SK) and 1 on **21 Jun at EBCA (KA†). The season's high count was of 48 on 26 Jul at WLD (Cma).** Buff-breasted Sandpipers returning south hit the state on 26 Jul, with 15 at CCNWR *Pike* (Cma) and 1 at Horseshoe L. *Buchanan* (JHi). **This was followed by the season's high count of 45 on 27 Jul at England Pond Dade (GS, CBu, GSa).** Additional sightings: (4) 27 Jul, Stockton L.-Aldrich Arm *Polk* (CBu, GS, GSa); (5) 28 Jul, *Dunklin* (TJ); and (2) 29 Jul, CCNWR (MM, JU). The first Short-billed Dowitcher of the season was found 8 Jul at CCNWR *Pike* (CMc). Records span the remainder of the period with 1-5 birds each. The first fall migrant Wilson's Snipe was reported 21 Jul at CCNWR *Pike* (PL). On 21 Jul, a group of birders observed an unusual sight: an American Woodcock feeding in the open on a mudflat in the middle of the afternoon at SLNWR (MBRC Committee Members). Single Laughing Gulls were reported 3 Jun at RMBS (CMc) and 4 Jun at North Riverfront Park *St. Louis City* (MP). Franklin's Gulls began to trickle into the state on 26 Jul, when a single bird was detected at SL (DW). Additional sightings included 1 on 27 Jul at Aldrich *Polk* (GS, CBu, GSa) and 2 juv on 31 Jul at SLNWR (SK). A group of 12 Ring-billed Gulls returned to SL on 9 Jul (DW)—but the big push began 20 Jul when 20 were at SLNWR (SK), followed by 85 on 23 Jul at SL (DW).

TERNS THROUGH NUTHATCHES

Away from the Mississippi R., Least Tern is listed as a rare summer visitor. In the northwest, 2 (an apparent pair) were found on a sandbar in a shallow-water area of the Missouri R. at the Watson Access *Atchison* on 28 Jun (EW, JW). A little farther south, 3 on 26 Jul and 1 on 27 Jul were found at Horseshoe L. (JHi). In the southwest, single birds were at Schell-Osage CA *Vernon* on 2 Jun (SK) and FRCA on 7 Jun (DW). Peak counts came from the Mississippi R. at RMBS: 14 on 5 Jun and 23 on 1 Jul (JU, CMC). There were three summer sightings of Caspian Terns: 2 on 23 Jun in *Pike* (MM,

MP, JU); 2 on 8 Jul at Schell-Osage CA (Jim Zellmer); and 3 on 9 Jul at SL (DW). The high count for the season of Black Terns was of lingering spring migrants: 120 on 2 Jun at FRCA (SK). Additional sightings included 5 on 15 Jul at SLNWR (SK), and 42 in late Jul at SLNWR (SK). A single Forster's Tern lingered at EBCA until at least 11 Jun (MN). Returning fall migrants were detected by mid-Jul, with 12 on 15 Jul at SLNWR (SK). High counts came from SL with 22 on 19 Jul and 32 on 26 Jul (DW). White-winged Doves were still present in the same East Prairie *Mississippi* location where Joe Eades originally found them in 2004: 2 were counted on 23 Jun and 1 was there 1 Jul (CBa, MP, MM, CH, JU). Additionally, 3 were at a residence in Bronaugh *Vernon* on 5 Jul (Ron & Kay Thompson, *fide* LH). A careful count on back roads through cotton crops (with some corn and soybean) in *Dunklin* yielded 315 Mourning Doves on 25 Jul (TJ). Only one Black-billed Cuckoo was reported in the south, at Big Cane CA *Butler* on 18 Jul (PM). Additionally, there were only two reports in the north: 1 at DR on 4 Jul (DW) and 1 at SCNWR on 28 Jul (SLa). An adult Greater Roadrunner was observed bringing a skink to its nest, then sitting (apparently incubating), on 25 Jul in Springfield *Greene* (CH-ph., GS, CBu). There were also reports of single birds from *Stone, Taney, Douglas, Jasper, and Christian* (EW, JW, AK, Joe Strange, JCa, Dan Crane). The highest tally of Red-headed Woodpeckers was 14 on 21 Jul at SLNWR (MBRC Committee Members). The bird of the season had a fun story behind it: On 10 Jun, Chris and Nicole Hobbs were driving through the L. Lotawana community *Jackson* with their window rolled down—no birding equipment in the vehicle—when Chris was stopped in his tracks by the vocalization of a Western Wood-Pewee—a first for the state. He managed to trace the sound to



Missouri's First Western Wood-Pewee appeared in a residential area of Lake Lotawana, Jackson Co., where it was first heard by Chris and Nicole Hobbs on June 10. The bird was subsequently heard and seen by many birders.

Photo by Al Smith.

someone's back yard and, using a smartphone, Nicole recorded its call. High-resolution photos and high-quality recordings were taken in the days following. The bird's vocalizations and plumage were all consistent with Western Wood-Pewee. It stayed "on territory" and vocalized frequently, remaining through at least 23 Jun (Chris Hobbs†, Sandra Elbert†, MR†, David Easterla, m.ob.). Western Kingbirds are now being seen in three corners of the state, with exception of the under-birded northeast. Its stronghold continues to be the western third of the state, but reports of individuals, nests, and nestlings have come this season from *St. Louis*, *St. Louis City*, *St. Charles*, *New Madrid*, *Cape Girardeau*, and *Dunklin* in the east, and *Boone*, *Callaway*, *Chariton*, and *Livingston* in central MO. As Brad Jacobs suggests, "Check all electrical substations, sports stadiums with night lights, and urban industrial parks." They are likely present in most parts of the state. As with Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is no longer a rare sight in most of the state. An eBird range map for the 2012 nesting season shows sightings across west-central, southwest, central, and south-central MO, and a few additional sightings in the St. Louis area and the southeast. Loggerhead Shrike is always of interest in these reports because of its declining status. Brad Jacobs notes: "Breeding Bird Survey (USGS) indicates Missouri population decreasing population -2.5%/year for last 10 years, -3.0% from 1966-1999." There were seven reports this season, plus observations of 4 nests during Jun in *Newton* (JCa). Sightings included: (1) 4 Jun, about two miles NW of Hi Lonesome Prairie CA *Benton* (BJ, JHa); (2) 14 Jun, NE of Knob Noster *Pettis* (BJ, JHa); (1) 15 Jun, *Moniteau* (BJ, JHa); (5) 18 Jun, Grassland BBS route *Adair & Sullivan* (SK, LL); (1) 23 Jun, Hi-Lonesome Prairie CA *Benton* (MP, MM, JU); (1) 1 Jul, *New Madrid* (MM, CH, MP, JU); and (1) 1 Jul, *Stoddard* (MM, CH, MP, JU). Bell's Vireo was reported in two locations in the south and east, where it is rare: 1 on 1 Jun in Jackson *Cape Girardeau* (MH); and an impressive count of 11 on 30 Jun at OSCA (CBa). Also of note, Jeff Cantrell surveyed 8 nesting pairs in Jun at Prairie SP *Barton*—including one adult Bell's feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird fledgling. Fish Crows were seen "a few times during the season" at SLNWR—the only report this summer from well north of the Missouri R. (SK). A notable number of Northern Rough-winged Swallows—110—seemed to be staging on 27 Jun at Fredericktown City L. *Madison*, a somewhat surprising sight for mid-summer (MH). The highest count of Bank Swallows was of 100 on 16 Jul at Conoco Quarry *Greene* (GS, et al.).

WRENS THROUGH FINCHES

There were just seven reports of Bewick's Wrens across the state, all consisting of 1-2. These came from *Benton*, *Cass*, *Cedar*, *Laclede*, *Newton*, *Webster*, and *Boone*. This includes one confirmed nest in Neosho *Newton* (JCa, PM). A high count of 23 Sedge Wrens—all singing birds—came from SLNWR on 21 Jul (MBRC Committee members). In the south and east, where this species is rare, 1 was at OSCA on 15 Jul (CBa); 8 were at RMBS on 27 Jul (JU); and 5 were found at CCNWR on 29 Jul (MM, JU). Steve Kinder took a boat out to tally the season's high count of Marsh Wrens, a

total of 12 birds, on 15 Jul at SLNWR. American Robins are known to form nocturnal roosts, even during the summer nesting season—but 1,200 birds pouring out of a stand of willows, cottonwood, sumac, and grapevine in Kearney *Clay* at sunrise on 21 Jul was still an impressive sight (KM). At Sand Prairie CA Scott, a total of 23 Northern Mockingbirds were counted over about 2.5 hours on 15 Jul (MH). The highest count of Cedar Wax-wings was of 30 on 27 Jun at Roselle Access *Madison* (MH). Also notable, **as they are “pretty uncommon in the St. Louis area in summer,” were 4 on 9 Jul in *St. Louis* (JU).** It was noted that a single Worm-eating Warbler, rare in the north, had returned to Poosey CA on 22 Jun (SK). A single Swainson's Warbler was at Roaring River *Barry* on 10 Jun (GS). A single singing m Chestnut-sided Warbler on 7 Jun at Little Creve Coeur L. *St. Louis* was an interesting sighting (DB). A singing Pine Warbler on 30 Jun in a small stand of pines at Wallace SP *Clinton* was well north of the **expected range for this species in the state (EW†).** A Prairie Warbler* present from 3-17 Jun at Thousand Hills SP *Adair* was north of its usual range (PK). Farther south at Chute Ridge Glade *Barry*, a nice count of 6 pairs were surveyed during Jun (JCa). One Vesper Sparrow*, a rare summer resident in the north and casual in the south, was reported at Hi Lonesome Prairie CA on 19 Jul (Jesse Ross). A nice count of 30 Henslow's Sparrows was tallied on 23 Jun in *Benton* (MM, MP, JU). Song Sparrows are rare summer residents in the southwest, so 1 that turned up in the mist nets on 12 Jun at the Homestead Springs Research Station *Webster* was worth noting (AK). Two early-Jun Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were likely late migrants: 1 on 7 Jun in Bloomsdale *Ste. Genevieve* (MH), and 1 m on 8 Jun at Holly Ridge CA *Stoddard* (CBa). The Jefferson City *Cole* Painted Bunting returned for another year, being noted on 3 Jun (MP, JU, m.ob.). In the southeast, a single ad m Painted Bunting* on 17 Jul in Poplar Bluff *Butler* was a surprise (PM). The remainder of Painted Bunting sightings came from the southwest, where the species is rare: 1 m, singing, on 12 Jun, w of Golden Prairie *Barton* (SK, LL); 1, nesting, on 16 Jul at Conoco Quarry *Greene* (GS, et al.); 1, nesting, 30 Jul at SW Power Plant *Greene* (CBu); 2 m, singing, during Jun, Old Wire Rd / Trail of Tears historical route by Flat Creek *Barry* (JCa); 1 pair & 1 m singing during Jun at Chute Ridge Glade (JCa); and 2 m, singing during Jun & Jul in *Newton* (JCa). On 30 Jun, a high count of 178 Dickcissels came from OSCA (CBa). EW noted Dickcissels were **“virtually gone from n and central MO before the end of July.”** A pair of Bobolinks were recorded in west-central MO, where they are rare: 1 displaying m and 1 f were seen flying over a private native prairie near Mora *Benton* on 4 Jun (BJ, JHa). In the north, the high count was 21 on 27 Jun at DR (TN). Bobolinks were recorded at 13 locations on 18 Jun during the Grassland BBS route *Adair & Sullivan* (SK, LL). And 3 were found on 3 Jul at TRW, apparently the first post-breeding wanderers of the season (SK). A high count of 3,000 Common Grackles was tallied on 5 Jul at Red Rock Landing CA *Perry* (MH). A total of 85 Great-tailed Grackles—appearing on 7 out of 50 stops of the Grassland Coalition's Knob Noster annual survey route *Johnson/Pettis*—were counted on 14 Jun (BJ, JHa). Finally, a single Pine Siskin appeared at a feeder in *St. Louis* on 9 Jul (Bernie Favara, CMc, ph.).

Observers

Kathleen Anderson (KA), Chris Barrigar (CBa), Charley Burwick (CBu), Jeff Cantrell (JCa), Ryan Douglas (RD), Joe Eades (JE), Mark Haas (MH), Christian Hagenlocher (CH), Lawrence Herbert (LH), Janet Haslerig (JHa), Jack Hilsabeck (JHi), Tim Jones (TJ), Brad Jacobs (BJ), Steve Kinder (SK), Andrew Kinslow (AK), Peter Kondrashov (PK), Larry Lade (LL), Pat Lueders (PL), Scott Laurent (SLa), Matt Malin (MM), Charlene Malone (CMa), Jim Malone (JM), Kristi Mayo (KM), Christina McClarren (CMc), Paul McKenzie (PM), Tom Nagel (TN), Mary Nemecek (MN), Mark Paradise (MP), Jake Phillips (JP), Mark Robbins (MR), Bill Rowe (BR), Greg Samuel (GSa), Greg Swick (GS), Mike Thelen (MT), Joshua Uffman (JU), Doug Willis (DW), Edge Wade (EW), Jerry Wade (JW).

Key

- * Documentation needed for MBRC review
- † Documentation received by MBRC for review

Abbreviations

acc.-Accepted by MBRC

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

SLAS-St. Louis Audubon Society

Location Abbreviations (counties are in italics)

BKL	B. K. Leach CA <i>Lincoln</i>
CCNWR	Clarence Cannon NWR <i>Pike</i>
DR	Dunn Ranch <i>Harrison</i>
EBCA	Eagle Bluffs CA <i>Boone</i>
FRCA	Four Rivers CA <i>Vernon & Bates</i>
MNWR	Mingo NWR <i>Stoddard & Wayne</i>
OSCA	Otter Slough CA <i>Stoddard</i>
RMBS	Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary <i>St Charles</i>
SL	Smithville Lake <i>Clay & Clinton</i>
SLNWR	Swan Lake NWR <i>Chariton</i>
SCNWR	Squaw Creek NWR <i>Holt</i>
TRW	Thompson River Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) area <i>Livingston</i>
WLD	Winfield Lock & Dam 25

Location Abbreviations (counties are in italics)

BCA	Busch CA <i>St. Charles</i>
BMSHS	Bollinger Mill State Historic Site <i>Cape Girardeau</i>
CSP	Castlewood SP <i>St. Louis</i>
CBCA	Columbia Bottom CA <i>St. Louis</i>
DCL	Dexter City Lake <i>Stoddard</i>
DCCA	Duck Creek CA <i>Bollinger, Stoddard, and Wayne</i>
DR	Dunn Ranch <i>Harrison</i>
EBCA	Eagle Bluffs CA <i>Boone</i>
FGCA	Fountain Grove CA <i>Linn</i>
HRCA	Holly Ridge CA <i>Stoddard</i>
LCCL	Little Creve Coeur Lake <i>St. Louis</i>
MWP	Maintz Wildlife Preserve <i>Cape Girardeau</i>
MNWR	Mingo NWR <i>Stoddard, Wayne and Bollinger</i>
EBP	East Battlefield Pond <i>Greene</i>
OSCA	Otter Slough CA <i>Stoddard</i>
PCCL	Perry County Community Lake <i>Perry</i>
PESP	Pershing SP <i>Linn</i>
RBRL	Red Bridge Road Loop <i>Christian</i>
RMBS	Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary <i>St. Charles</i>
RRSP	Roaring River SP <i>Barry</i>
RRCA	Rockwoods Reservation CA <i>St. Louis</i>
SCNWR	Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge <i>Holt</i>
SLNWR	Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge <i>Chariton</i>
TRW	Thompson River Wetlands <i>Livingston</i>
TGP	Tower Grove Park <i>St. Louis City</i>
WSCA	Weldon Spring CA <i>St. Charles</i>
WBS	World Bird Sanctuary <i>St. Louis</i>

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A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

Edge Wade & Others

WESTON BEND STATE PARK Frances Cramer, Edge Wade (revised July, 2012)

1,133 acres Platte Co. DeLorme 26, D-3; DNR owned; for additional information call 816-640-5443; <http://mostateparks.com/park/weston-bend-state-park>

Directions: From the south take I-29 to Platte City, exit 18. Go west on MO 92 about two miles to MO 45/273; then northwest about 4 miles. Watch for the signs.

Along with Lewis and Clark SP, Bluffwoods, Kneib Memorial, and Little Bean Marsh CA, Weston Bend SP is an important part of the 100,000 acre Iatan/Weston River Corridor IBA. The park includes a significant portion of the Weston Bend bottomlands, the largest tract of old-growth bottomland forest along the Missouri River. These bottomland forests and marshes are of critical importance to many migrants and nesting species.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Weston Bend's wooded bluff tops have delighted birders with several spring migration fallouts. More than 140 species are on the SPARKS checklist. There are few trip reports for late autumn and early winter, so many species may be underrepresented (Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch, for example).

Twenty-four species of warblers have been reported, including nesting Hooded Warbler; 7 species of vireo; all migrant thrushes (only one Veery--mid May) have been reported. There are 4 records of Black-billed Cuckoo (3 in May; 1 in September). Sightings of Olive-sided Flycatcher have been reported, May through September, with two being seen on one trip in August.

Features of interest to birders: Long a favorite of birders is the paved three-mile loop bicycle/walking/hiking trail beginning at a lot on the left just past the entrance/contact station. It follows a creek through a forest of cottonwood, sycamore and maple. In migration and/or breeding season, both species of cuckoo, Alder and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Bell's, Yellow-throated, and Blue-headed Vireos, Swainson's Thrush, Blue Grosbeaks, and more than 10 species of warblers can be found along this trail.

In breeding season, the West Ridge and McCormick trails can serve up Wiled Turkey, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Wood Thrush, American Redstart and the expected assortment of chickadees, titmice, vireos, and orioles, tanagers and grosbeaks. The Harpst Valley and Harpst Pass trails connect between the bike trail and the West Ridge Trail.

The River Trail and the North Ridge Trail are accessed from the parking area at the end of the road. The North Ridge Trail begins on the west side of the parking area and climbs steeply through a wooded area always good for woodland birds.

To get to the River Trail on foot, follow the pavement west around the gate barrier, cross the railroad tracks, and watch for signs. This trail follows the Missouri River through cottonwood and willow and borders a marsh that can be very productive for warblers and vireos during spring migration. The overlook on the bluff gives a fine view of the Missouri River and the countryside around Fort Leavenworth and the city of Leavenworth in Kansas.

Watch for Bald Eagles, Blue Herons and the occasional duck, but don't forget to check out the nearby treetops for smaller birds.

Toilets: Restrooms in campground, day use area, bicycle trailhead, and Bee Creek area.

Camping: A full range of camping options is available year-round.

Hazards/Limitations: Flooding may cause some trail closures.

Nearby Birding Sites: Platte Falls CA, Little Bean Marsh CA, Lewis and Clark SP.

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BALL MILL RESURGENCE
Edge Wade, October, 2012

20 acres Perry Co. DeLorme 58 inset, D-8; Owned by L-A-D Foundation; leased and managed by MDC; for more information call 573-290-5730.

Directions: From US 61 north of Perryville, about 1 mile north of MO 51, take Rt. V to the right (north) to the end of the pavement, then continue on CR 916 to the parking area on the left (west).

When to Visit/Species to Expect: The upland oak-hickory forest within this 20-acre natural area has the potential of attracting migrants, as it is an island of green within agricultural land with Blue Springs Branch at the north end. Resident species comprise a very nice array. The checklist of 62 species as of late 2012 is a good indicator of the excellent birding at this small site.

Features of interest to birders: The area is entered via a westward walking trail within a narrow non-agricultural strip, that widens as the trail bends. The half-mile long trail is as gentle as the rugged karst terrain allows. The resurgence is at the bluff bottom directly below the west branch of the loop trail, but can only be seen well from the east branch.

This is an example of a fairly large ball resurgence, so named because rocks that fall into the nearby sinkholes are tumbled smooth and round by the water action that, because of the pressure, resurfaces (resurges) at this site.

Toilets: None

Camping: None

Hazards/Limitations: Rugged terrain requires some up and down hiking.

Nearby Birding Sites: Perry County Community Lake, Red Rock Landing CA, Seventy-Six CA, St. Mary Access.

Second Confirmed Nest Success of Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) in Missouri

Jackie L. Davis, Darrin M. Welchert, Ronald L. Bell

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Squaw Creek N.W.R.
PO Box 158
Mound City, MO 64470-0158

The first documented successful Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) nest at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge (SCNWR) and the only the second known successful nest for Missouri was found on 29 June 2012. Although the actual nest was not located the parents and single offspring were observed in an area composed mostly of smartweed (*Polygonum amphibium*) in Cattail Pool (UTM Zone 15 North=309848.66 East, 4440080.499 North) in the northeastern portion of the refuge (Figure 1). The single colt was observed apparently in good health. Subsequent surveys of the area failed to observe the colt and it is unknown whether the individual died of natural causes or succumbed to predation.

The only other recorded successful nest for the state produced two colts at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area (CA) in Boone County in May 2011 (Rowe 2012, Mark Robbins, University of Kansas, personal communication 2012; Uffman 2012). However, there are several other unsuccessful nesting attempts recorded in Missouri. The first was at Grand Pass CA in Saline County from February to May of 1996. Floodwaters destroyed both the nest and the eggs (Hobbs 1998; Lomas et al. 2006). The second and third recorded nesting attempts are from SCNWR. The second attempt occurred between May and July 2000 (Rowe 2001; Uffman 2012), when the nest was likely abandoned. The third attempt, found in May 2006, resulted in two eggs but the adults apparently abandoned the nest or eggs were destroyed by predators (Lomas et al. 2006). In addition to the successful nest at SCNRW this year, evidence of two other nesting attempts was found this year also. The first nest was found on 2 April 2012 in Teal Pool (UTM Zone 15 North= 0306580 East, 4442523 North) and the second on 6 April 2012 in South Mallard Marsh (UTM Zone 15 North=0306416 East, 4440946 North). Both nests were revisited on 10 April 2012 and the Teal Pool nest had an adult sitting on it, but the South Mallard Marsh nest was abandoned. Later investigation of the Teal Pool nest failed to confirm the presence of either adults or young. Although the outcome of both nests is unknown, there is a possibility that both were depredated.

Sandhill cranes were extirpated from most of their breeding range in temperate mid-continent North America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries due to habitat loss and uncontrolled hunting. The area formerly occupied included virtually all of the Prairie Pothole Region, this includes: North

Dakota and South Dakota east of the Missouri River, southern Saskatchewan, and southwestern Manitoba (Krapu et al. 2011). There are also smaller subpopulations located in Mississippi, Florida, and Cuba (Tacha et al. 1992). In Missouri, Sandhill Crane was a rare summer resident or visitor (Jacobs 2001; Uffman 2012), rare transient, or casual winter resident (Robbins and Easterla 1992; Uffman 2012). The species is now considered a rare summer resident in northern Missouri (primarily Boone to Holt Counties: Uffman 2012). Sandhill cranes are long-lived and have the lowest recruitment rates (5–15% immatures/total cranes) of any North American game bird. Generally, sandhill cranes do not breed until 3–5 years of age and lay two eggs each year. Less than twenty percent of pairs are successful in raising young each year, and most successful pairs fledge only one young (Case and Sanders 2009). These birds roost in shallow, open wetlands and feed in small grain fields. Their nests are usually on open water but will also nest on dry ground. Their nests are usually composed of the dominant vegetation of the area (Tacha et al. 1992).

The single, most important factor regulating Sandhill Crane populations is habitat availability. Nesting effort and success, as well as survival of young, correlate directly with the amount and quality of nesting habitat (Tacha et al. 1992). The documentation of young at SCNWR and Eagle Bluffs CA further highlights the need for further restoration and proper management of wetlands in the state. More information about the number and location of nests in this state is needed to assess management needs for this species. It is hoped that ongoing bird monitoring efforts at SCNWR will result in further documentation of breeding by this species.



Figure 1. Sandhill Crane colt. 29 June 2012. Photo by Trevor Southards.

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