



THE BLUEBIRD

The voice of ASM since 1934

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

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

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

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

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

Deadlines for submissions to the Seasonal Survey Compilers

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

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

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

Fall (Aug. 1-Nov. 30)—to Peter Kondrashov by Dec. 10

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Front Cover— This immature White Ibis appeared at a farm pond south of Columbia in Boone County on August 21, and remained until at least August 25. Photograph by Ryan Douglas.



Franklin's Gull, Smithville Lake, Clay County. Taken by Al Smith on September 21, 2012.

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,

I want to share with you some of the ways the Audubon Society of Missouri is giving life to the words in our mission statement: *“ASM is dedicated 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.”*

Because much of Missouri was tall grass prairie not so long ago, many of our native birds evolved to depend on that habitat. And because that prairie grows good corn and beans, it was plowed under, and grassland birds were put in a precarious position. Much of that habitat destruction can never be undone, but there are remarkable efforts by individuals and organizations to restore and preserve what we can.

The Missouri Prairie Foundation is one of those organizations. ASM was invited to partner with them on two projects, including one in Dade County at the Welsch Tract. The following is from the final report on the work we facilitated:

Work completed thanks to the ASM grant of \$4,600 to MPF:

- Girdled trees were cut and piled on 10 acres of historic but degraded savanna
- Any re-sprouts of these girdled trees were cut and the cuts treated with herbicide
- Tree sprouts were cut and treated with herbicide on an additional 3 acres of previously cut trees
- A bulldozer operator was hired, per prior permission from Audubon Society of Missouri, to push trees and brush into piles on 16 acres of cut down trees
- All work was conducted in the historic savanna portion of the 80-acre Welsch Tract, which is directly west of Coyne Prairie, a high quality, original prairie.

ASM also provided funding for woody growth removal at Stilwell Prairie in the Marmaton/Wah'Kon-Tah Conservation Opportunity

Area. Stillwell, an original, unplowed prairie, is a location for the federally listed Mead's Milkweed. Learn more about the Missouri Prairie Foundation at <http://www.moprairie.org/> .

The Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems (GLADE) is a summer academy held at Bulls Shoals Field Station in the Drury-Mincy Conservation Area in southwest Missouri. ASM was able to provide funds for one high school student to attend that academy in the summer of 2013. Greater Ozarks Audubon Society and Missouri State University have developed this opportunity for young people to experience a variety of hands-on ecology activities that include bird banding, water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, leadership development, and community improvement. Learn more about GLADE at <http://www.greenleadershipacademy.org/> .

The Missouri River Bird Observatory is a relative newcomer to the Missouri ornithological community, but they are doing exciting work! In a recent request of ASM, Ethan Duke explained, "We at MRBO are currently pioneering acoustic monitoring of birds to supplement traditional methodologies of monitoring in Missouri. These projects include nocturnal flight call monitoring, marsh bird occupancy assessment, Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship on prairies. We use Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) for these supplemental efforts. Unfortunately, ARUs capture a great deal of **"noise", record with no visual behavioral observations, and capture** the best quality recordings for many other potential uses only by chance. This is one reason why we are requesting support from the Audubon Society of Missouri for the purchase of appropriate equipment to capture quality recordings of vocalizations of birds in Missouri." The ASM board voted to provide up to approximately \$2,400 for purchase of the equipment they need.

ASM is able to be a partner in projects like these because of those of you who contribute your birding reports to CACHE and SPARKS. It is a way for watchers of birds to become supporters of birds. For more information, see <http://mobirds.org> .

Upcoming educational opportunities for Missouri birders include the March 22-24 Marshbird workshop at Duck Creek CA, hosted by Missouri River Bird Observatory. Find more information on the next page or at mrbo.org.

June Newman, President

Plan to Attend “*March Marsh Bird Madness*” March 22-24 at Duck Creek/Mingo!!

ASM and the Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO) will be co-hosting “**March Marsh Bird Madness**” at Duck Creek Conservation area with field trips Mingo National Wildlife Refuge on March 22-23. The flexible program is designed to provide enthusiasts with options of marsh bird survey training or birding. All will be pleasant and enjoyable. Field trips will occur at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Duck Creek CA, and other premier area wetlands. Bird conservation enthusiasts will be offered the opportunity to volunteer with the Missouri Marsh Bird Survey project (Link here to www.mrbo.org/Pages/marshbirds.html).

On Friday evening, Duck Creek biologists will give an introduction before Bill Eddleman offers a presentation on marsh bird sightings and research in Missouri. Ethan Duke and Bill Eddleman will later discuss marsh bird identification by plumage and sound.

Two field trips will be held on Saturday morning. Presentations offered in the afternoon will include Duck Creek Biologist Keith Cordell’s “**Wetland Bird Management**” followed by an instruction on Marsh Bird Survey Training by Ethan Duke. Those inclined to learn more about conducting marsh bird surveys will be given an opportunity learn in the field that evening.

The event will conclude Saturday evening with two informative talks on “**Marsh Bird Conservation and Population Trends**” and “**Conservation/Management in the Bootheel.**”

The basic cost of the workshop is \$10, and includes all field trips and training sessions. Meal plans are available for a small cost. To register for the workshop, please visit fill out the registration form at <http://mobirds.org/education/marshmadness2013.aspx> and email it to June Newman at june@binmail.net. The workshop fee is payable upon arrival on March 22. Alternatively, you can simply email your name, contact information including cell phone number, and indication of meal choices to June.

Most or all workshop attendees will want to stay together at the Lake Wappapello State Park Cabins. There are seven two-bedroom cabins available (\$120/night), one three-bedroom cabin (\$165/night), and four one-bedroom “camping-cabins” (\$65/night).

All cabins have a futon or pull-out couch in the living room, thus several people can stay in one cabin to share costs. The cabins have

full kitchens in regular cabins and small fridge, microwave, and coffee pot in camping cabins. Further information about the cabins can be found here: <http://breakinwavesrentals.com/cabin-pricing.html>.

Participants are responsible for making their own cabin reservations and plans for sharing with others - reserve by calling Karl and Carol at Breakin Waves Rentals at 573-297-3817. For schedule details, refer to the table below.

March 22 - Friday night @ Duck Creek:

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.—Dinner

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.—Welcome/introductions by Keith Cordell or Matt Bowyer of Duck Creek

History of marsh bird sightings and research in Missouri by Bill Eddleman

Marsh bird ID by plumage and vocalizations by Ethan Duke with Bill Eddleman

March 23 - Saturday Field Trips and Activities:

Group 1	Group 2
7:00 a.m. – sunset: Field Trip to Mingo NWR led by Bill Eddleman. Option to take an indoor lunch break.	7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Field Trip to Mingo NWR led by Ethan Duke & June Newman
	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Classroom training at Duck Creek CA: Wetland/bird management by Keith Cordell. Marsh bird survey training by Ethan Duke
	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.: Marsh bird survey field training at Duck Creek CA.

Saturday evening @ Duck Creek for all:

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.—Dinner

7:30 - 8:30 p.m.—Marsh bird conservation and population trends by Ethan Duke
—Habitat management in the Bootheel by local conservation biologists.

March 24th Sunday morning @ Duck Creek

Group 1	Group 2
7:00 a.m. – noon: Field trip on Duck Creek CA led by Bill Eddleman.	6:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.: Second marsh bird survey training. Duck Creek CA.

TOP TEN SPECIES FOR 2011

Missouri Bird Records Committee

1) WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus albus*): 226 birds, 26 May 2011, near Ben Cash CA, Dunklin Co. Found and photographed by Timothy Jones. By far the highest number ever recorded in Missouri, on the same day that 6000 were estimated at Bald Knob NWR, White Co., in north-central Arkansas.

2) DARK-EYED (“GRAY-HEADED”) JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*): One, 13-18 February 2011, near Rolla, Phelps Co. Found and photographed by Linda Frederick. Second documented and accepted record of this Rocky Mountain form, which eventually might be restored to species status. The entirely pale bill color apparent in photographs showed that this individual belonged to *caniceps* (the northern form of “Gray-headed” Junco) rather than *dorsalis* (the more southern form).

3) MOTTLED DUCK (*Anas fulvigula*): (1) Female, 29 August 2011, Confluence Point State Park, St. Charles Co. Found and photographed by Josh Uffman. (2) Adult, 1 September 2011, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Found and photographed by Chris Barrigar. Accidental; these are the third and fourth state records.

4) GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*): Adult, 9 January to 16 March 2011, Linn, Osage Co. Found and photographed by Steve Dilks at his residence. Accidental; fourth state record.

5) WHOOPING CRANE (*Grus americana*): Adult and juvenile, 21 November 2011, near Neosho, Newton Co. First reported by a hunter (Jeff Richards) and then located and documented by Jeff Cantrell along with Kevin Badgley, Randy Haas, Casey Carr, and Phyllis Chancellor; photographed by Becky Wylie. Sixth modern record of this globally endangered species.

6) COMMON GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina passerina*): (1) One, 5 November 2011, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Documented by Kevin Brunke. (2) One, 24 November 2011 through 8 January 2012, Weldon Spring CA, St. Charles Co. Found by Mike Brady and documented by David Easterla and Ryan Douglas (with photographs). The eighth and ninth state records of this casual species.

7) VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*): Male, 19 December 2011 through 11 January 2012, home of Nancy and Clark

Thompson, Perry Co. Documented with photographs by Nancy Thompson. Casual; eighth state record and first winter record.

8) EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*): Male, 30 April to 1 May 2011, Squaw Creek NWR, Holt Co. Documented by Al Smith (with photographs), Mike Thelen, Edge Wade. Casual transient; eighth state record, and the first in twenty-six years.

9) BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*): One, 20 April 2011, County Road 622, Dunklin Co. Documented with photographs by Timothy Jones. Accidental transient in eastern Missouri.

10) POMARINE JAEGER (*Stercorarius pomarinus*): Juvenile, 10 November 2011, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Found by Doug Willis and documented by Kristi Mayo; photographs by Linda Williams. Tenth state record of this casual species.

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

This report, marking a quarter century of work by the MBRC, summarizes records evaluated by the Committee between 29 September 2011 and 15 December 2012. It is divided into two sections: Accepted and Not Accepted.

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

The transition to on-line documentation and review of records is mostly complete. A few documentations are still submitted in hard copy, but a large majority are posted by the observer to a secure web site, where the secretary prepares them for review. Observers are urged to use the online system if at all possible. Photographs in .jpg format can be uploaded by the observer to accompany documentations. Upon notification by the Secretary, Committee members review records in batches and submit their evaluations for each batch to the secretary electronically. Documentations that are mailed or emailed to the secretary are scanned and uploaded so that they can be reviewed in the same fashion. Thus all records from the point of changeover

(December 2007) have been electronically archived. In addition, hard copies will continue to be archived at the University of Kansas as described above. The Committee once again thanks Patrick Harrison for his continuing work in refining this system, Ann Johnson of Iowa for her partnership with Patrick in this effort, and Joshua Uffman for his continuing work in assembling data on the occurrence of Missouri birds at www.showme-birds.com.

Of the 106 records that were finalized during this period, 83 were accepted and 23 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 78%. Members participating in these decisions were Joe Eades, Brad Jacobs (Chair), Kristi Mayo, Paul McKenzie, Mark Robbins, Bill Rowe (Secretary), and Josh Uffman. One record (2012-19, Red-naped Sapsucker) was sent to Dr. Jocelyn Hudon for review.

One new species, Western Wood-Pewee, was added to the state list. Thus **Missouri's total as of December 2012 consisted of 418 fully accepted species**; these include four formerly occurring species that have been extirpated from the state and four extinct species. There are an additional 11 provisional species on the list. The Annotated Checklist of Missouri Birds, with its latest updates, can be viewed at www.mobirds.org.

In general, the Committee reviews records of species that have been found **fewer than 16 times in Missouri and are thus considered "casual" or "accidental" statewide. It also reviews records of species that are casual or accidental for the season when reported (example: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in winter); records of species that are casual or accidental in the part of Missouri where reported (example: Black-legged Kittiwake away from the Mississippi River); and other records of unusual interest, including first nesting records.** The Review List, also maintained at www.mobirds.org, lists all species that require review due to their year-round casual/accidental status in all or part of the state, plus a few for which the Committee still wishes to **receive documentation despite their status as only "rare" (e.g., Little Gull).** The Review List does not cover out-of-season status; for information on seasonal occurrence, consult the Annotated Checklist.

The Committee extends its thanks to the many birders throughout Missouri who submitted their observations, and to the Audubon Society of Missouri **for its continued support and funding of the Committee's efforts.** Observers who would like a status report on their current submissions can write the Secretary or e-mail him at rowemb45@gmail.com. The next report will appear in the March 2014 issue of *The Bluebird*.

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

SCNWR = Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co.

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

OSCA = Otter Slough Conservation Area, Stoddard Co.

CBC = Christmas Bird Count

NAMC = North American Migration Count

CA = Conservation Area

RECORDS ACCEPTED

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), 2011-84: Eight birds, 21 November 2011, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Of eight observed by hunters Eric Francis, Ryan Campbell, Justin Nayduhr, and David Breuer, five were shot (and noted by staff member Preston Stogsdill), and two of those were donated to Eagle Bluffs CA for display and another to Four Rivers CA. Photographs were taken of the donated specimens by Vic Bogosian and transmitted to the MBRC. The species is now listed as rare and is no longer on the Review List; this, however, is the latest fall record.

MOTTLED DUCK (*Anas fulvigula*), 2011-67: Female, 28-29 August 2011, Confluence Point State Park, St. Charles Co. Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs); found by Matt Andrews. Accidental transient and summer visitor; third state record.

MOTTLED DUCK, 2011-62: One, 1 September 2011, OSCA. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Accidental transient and summer visitor; fourth state record.

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*), 2011-74: Adult male, 15 October 2011, Little Prairie CA, Phelps Co. Jerry Decker. Listed as a rare transient, but this is only the fifth fall record.

NORTHERN PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*), 2011-58: Male, 24 July 2011, OSCA. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Casual in summer outside of northwestern Missouri.

NORTHERN PINTAIL, 2012-55: Four birds, 9 June to 15 July, 2012, OSCA. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Casual in summer outside of northwestern Missouri.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Anas crecca*), 2012-53: Two males, 4 June to 29 July 2012, OSCA. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Casual in summer in southern Missouri.

GREATER SCAUP (*Aythya marila*), 2012-27: Adult male, 20-22 May 2012, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Ryan Douglas and Nicholas March (documentation with photographs). Latest spring record.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*), 2012-54: Male, 7-24 June 2012, Duck Creek CA, Stoddard Co. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Accidental in summer.

EARED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*), 2011-91: One, 16 December 2011, Mozingo Lake, Nodaway Co. David Easterla (documentation), Zach Hutchinson. Casual in winter; tenth record for that season.

WOOD STORK (*Mycteria americana*), 2012-59: Immature, 21-22 November 2004, near Schell-Osage CA, St. Clair Co. Scott Robertson (documentation with photographs). Casual; at the time, the fourth record since the 1930s; latest fall record.

WOOD STORK, 2012-36: Four immature birds, 10-21 July 2012, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co. Steve Kinder (documentation with photographs); also documented by Kathleen Anderson, Ryan Douglas. Casual; seventh record since the 1930s.

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelicanus occidentalis*), 2012-30: Adult, 29 May 2012 and thereafter, Binder Lake, Cole Co. Ryan Douglas, Nicholas March, Kathleen Anderson, and Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs); found by Richard George. Casual transient and summer visitor. This Brown Pelican set a record for residency in Missouri: it was observed from 29 May on through the summer and fall, to at least 11 December 2012.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), 2011-88: Adult, 1 December 2011, Nathaniel Greene/Close Memorial Park, Greene Co. Betty Johnson (documentation with photographs). Very late fall record.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, 2011-95: Immature, 17 December 2011, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Ryan Douglas. Fifth winter record for northern or central Missouri. CBC record.

WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus albus*), 2011-57: Juvenile, 17 July 2011, Columbia Bottom CA, St. Louis Co. Mike Thelen (documentation), Bill Rudden (photographs). Casual in northern Missouri.

WHITE IBIS, 2011-59: Juvenile, 6 August 2011, RMBS. Jim and Charlene Malone (documentation with photographs). Casual in northern Missouri.

WHITE IBIS, 2012-42: Juvenile, 21 August 2012, Columbia, Boone Co. Edge Wade and Kathleen Anderson (documentation with photographs); found by Carl Gerhardt. Casual in northern Missouri.

WHITE-FACED IBIS (*Plegadis chihi*), 2012-50: One or two juveniles, 6 October 2012, Winfield, Lincoln Co. Chrissy McClarren (documentation), Andrew Reago (video). Of the two birds observed, one showed the pinkish facial skin and dark red eye diagnostic of White-faced Ibis; the other bird seemed to show neither these characters nor the thin facial outline of a Glossy Ibis, indicating that it had not matured sufficiently to be identifiable. While there are fall records of *Plegadis* ibis, most or all presumed White-faced, the previous latest date for a definite White-faced was October 2.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL (*Platalea ajaja*), 2011-63: Juvenile, 2 September 2011, OSCA. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Casual transient and summer visitor; twelfth state record.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL, 2012-46: Four immatures, 2 September 2012, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Ryan Douglas (documentation with photographs); found by Sandra Elbert and Kathleen Anderson. Casual transient and summer visitor; thirteenth state record.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*), 2011-65: One, 11 August 2011, on the Eleven Point River in Oregon Co. Mary Blanks (documentation), Tom Haney. Casual transient and summer visitor; tenth modern record.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE, 2012-38: One, 28 July 2012, Clarence Cannon NWR, Pike Co. Joe Eades (documentation), David Becher, Bill Duncan. Casual transient and summer visitor; eleventh modern record.

COMMON GALLINULE (*Gallinula galeata*), 2011-77: Juvenile, 2 November 2011, Busch CA, St. Charles Co. Al Smith (documentation with photographs). Latest fall record.

SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis*), 2012-56: One, 8 July 2012, MNWR. Chris Barrigar (heard only). Accidental summer visitor in southern Missouri.

WHOOPIING CRANE (*Grus americana*), 2011-85: Adult and juvenile, 21 November 2011, near Neosho, Newton Co. Jeff Cantrell (documentation), Becky Wylie (photographs), Casey Carr, Phyllis Chancellor, Randy Haas, Kevin Badgley. Casual transient; sixth modern record. The lack of color bands showed that these were birds from the wild population, not the experimental population established in Wisconsin.

AMERICAN AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*), 2012-17: One, 20 March 2012, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Grant Conette. Earliest spring record by four days.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*), 2011-54: One, 30 May 2011, Hornersville Swamp CA, Dunklin Co. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photograph). Very late spring date.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*), 2012-5: Two, 4 February 2012, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Ryan Douglas. Accidental in winter in northern and central Missouri.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*), 2011-64: At least five adults, 10 September 2011, Confluence Point State Park, St. Charles Co. Bill Rowe (documentation), Dan Burke and David Marjamaa (photographs). Casual fall migrant. This species is a common late-spring migrant in Missouri, but the migration pattern shifts eastward in fall, and there are very few documented records for Missouri during that season.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, 2011-68: One adult, 17 September 2011, Jamestown, Greene Co. Greg Samuel (documentation with photographs). See comments on 2011-64.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*), 2012-37: Alternate-plumaged adult, 14 July 2012, Osage River, Cole Co. Ryan Douglas. Second July record, and second-earliest fall migration record.

STILT SANDPIPER (*Calidris himantopus*), 2012-35: One, 21 June 2012, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Kathleen Anderson (documentation with photographs). First midsummer record; impossible to know whether this bird was a very late-lingering spring or a very early-returning fall migrant.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus lobatus*), 2012-25: Female, 29 April 2012, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Ryan Douglas. Earliest spring record.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, 2012-26: Female, 1 May 2012, RMBS. Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs). Second-earliest spring record (see 2012-25).

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), 2011-78: Juvenile, 4 November 2011, Montrose CA, Henry Co. Mark Robbins (documentation with photographs), Jon King. Casual transient; latest fall record.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*), 2011-86: First-cycle bird, 24 November 2011, Lake Wappapello, Wayne Co. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Casual transient.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, 2011-94: Adult, 17 December 2011, Maryville Sewage Lagoons, Nodaway Co. David Easterla (documentation), Zach Hutchinson. Casual in winter away from Mississippi River. CBC record.

LITTLE GULL (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*), 2012-6: Apparent second-cycle bird, 11 May 2009, RMBS. Al Smith (documentation with photographs). Found by Dan Kassebaum on Illinois side; flew into Missouri waters (Ellis Bay) for a while. Rare transient; remains on Review List; documentation still requested.

LITTLE GULL, 2011-90: First-cycle bird, 4 December 2011, Thomas Hill Reservoir CA, Randolph Co. Ryan Douglas. See comments on 2012-6, above.

FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*), 2012-32: Apparent first-cycle bird, 10-18 December 2011, Lake Wappapello, Wayne Co. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter. CBC record.

FRANKLIN'S GULL, 2011-98: Adult, 28 December 2011 to 9 January 2012, Long Branch Lake, Macon Co. Mark Robbins (documentation 28 December), John Bollin; Tony Elliott (documentation 9 January). Casual in winter. In breeding aspect with black hood; similarities in descriptions made it seem likely that the two observations were of the same individual.

FRANKLIN'S GULL, 2012-2: Adult, 16 January 2012, Big Lake SP, Holt Co. Mark Robbins (documentation), John Bollin. Casual in winter. Like the bird in 2011-98, **this bird's plumage was in breeding aspect with black hood.**

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*), 2011-83: Adult, 13 November 2011. Stockton Reservoir, Polk Co. Edge Wade (documentation), Greg Swick and Matt Andrews (photographs). Accidental in western Missouri. California Gulls in Missouri could be of either the nominate subspecies *californicus* or the northern Great Plains subspecies *albertainensis*, which averages paler on the mantle (though still slightly darker than a Herring or Ring-billed Gull). Photographs suggested that this bird might be *albertainensis*.

CALIFORNIA GULL, 2012-13: Adult, 14 February 2012, Columbia Bottom CA, St. Louis Co. Cornelius Alwood, Chris Kirmaier. Accidental in winter; fourth record for that season.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*), 2012-45: Adult, 1 September 2012, RMBS. Jim and Charlene Malone (documentation), Andrew

Reago (photographs and video); found by Chrissy McClarren. Earliest fall record.

POMARINE JAEGER (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), 2011-82: Juvenile, 10 November 2011, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Kristi Mayo (documentation), Linda Williams (photographs); found by Doug Willis. Casual transient; eleventh state record.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina passerina*), 2011-80: One, 5 November 2011, OSCA. Kevin Brunke. Casual transient and winter resident; seventh state record.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE, 2011-87: One, 24 November 2011 to 8 January 2012, Weldon Spring CA, St. Charles Co. David Easterla, Ryan Douglas (documentation with photographs); found by Mike Brady. Casual transient and winter resident; eighth state record.

CHUCK-**WILL'S**-WIDOW (*Antrastomus carolinensis*), 2012-49: One, 6 October 2012, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Ryan Douglas, Nicholas March, Kyle McCommis. Heard clearly several times. Latest fall record.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus rufus*), 2012-8: Adult male, 21 October 2011 to 29 January 2012, Horan Farm, Franklin Co. Dan Burke (documentation with photographs). Rufous Hummingbird is rare as a fall **transient, casual as a winter resident; this individual visited the Burkes' feeders for a remarkably long period, allowing many observers to see and photograph it, and was banded by Lanny Chambers.**

GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*), 2012-57: Gray-morph juvenile, 26 February 2005, County Road 1035, Chariton Co. Nicholas March (documentation with photographs); found by Kimberly March. Transient and winter visitor; as the fifth state record, this moves the species from accidental to casual.

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus sordidulus*), 2012-31: One, 9 June to at least 3 July 2012, Lake Lotawana, Jackson Co. Found and audio-recorded by Chris Hobbs, with Nicole Hobbs; also documented by Mark Robbins (audio recordings deposited at Macaulay Library, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology) and Sandra Elbert. Although an out-of-range pewee is potentially difficult to identify, this bird sang Western Wood-Pewee songs clearly and persistently for a period of days, and its plumage and structure were also consistent with this species. This is a Definitive State Record of a species never previously recorded in Missouri.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flaviventris*), 2012-41: One, 13 August 2012, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Chrissy McClarren (documentation with photographs). Second-earliest fall record.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, 2012-51: One, 14 October 2012, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Chrissy McClarren (documentation with photographs). Latest fall record until discovery of the next bird (2012-52).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, 2012-52: One, 23 October 2012, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Chrissy McClarren (documentation with

photographs). Latest fall record; appeared to be a different bird from the one in 2012-51.

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*), 2011-89: One, 1 December 2011, near Aldrich, Polk Co. Mark Robbins. Casual transient; ninth state record.

SAY'S PHOEBE, 2012-34: One, 1 January 2012, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co. Steve Kinder (documentation), Larry Lade. Casual transient; tenth state record. CBC record.

SAY'S PHOEBE, 2012-16: One, 17-27 March 2012, Capital View Access, Callaway Co. Found and documented by Bill Clark; also documented by Edge Wade, Kathleen Anderson, Walter Wehtje, and Ryan Douglas (with photographs). Casual transient; eleventh state record.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), 2011-97: Adult male, 19 December 2011 to 13 January 2012, home of documenter in Perryville, Perry Co. Nancy Thompson (documentation with photographs). Casual; eighth state record, and first in winter.

NORTHERN SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*), 2011-75: Juvenile, 24 October 2011, Providence Prairie CA, Lawrence Co. Bill Clark (documentation), Bill Mees. Casual in southwestern Missouri.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, 2012-14: One, 26-28 February 2012, Broemmelsiek County Park, St. Charles Co. Shawn Clubb (documentation with photographs), m. ob. Casual in east-central Missouri.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*), 2012-18: Singing male, 21 March 2012, near Wyatt, Mississippi Co. Mark Haas. Earliest spring record.

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*), 2012-33: Two, 19 December 2011, Lake Wappapello, Wayne Co. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Accidental in winter. CBC record.

WINTER WREN (*Troglodytes hiemalis*), 2011-66: One, 8 September 2011, Claire Gemp Davidon CA, St. Louis Co. Mark Haas. Earliest fall record by one day.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Poliioptila caerulea*), 2011-81: One, 9 November 2011, St. Francis River levee road, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs). Second-latest fall record.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, 2012-11: One, 5 February 2012, MNWR. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Accidental in winter; third record.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia currucoides*), 2011-76: Female, 31 October 2011, Prairie SP, Barton Co. June Newman (documentation with photographs). Casual winter resident and winter visitor; twelfth state record.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD, 2012-60: Hatch-year male, 15-19 November 2012, SE 341 Road, Johnson Co. Al Smith (documentation with photographs); also documented by Edge Wade, Brad Jacobs; found by Kurt Dean. Casual winter resident and winter visitor; thirteenth state record. Close

photos showed extensive bright blue upperparts, indicating a male, and molt limits in the greater coverts, indicating a first-winter bird.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT (*Anthus spragueii*), 2011-69: Two, 1 October 2011, Prairie SP, Barton Co. Brian Davis (documentation with photographs). Rather early fall record.

HOODED WARBLER (*Setophaga citrina*), 2012-48: Female or young male, 3 October 2012, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Chrissy McClarren (documentation with photographs). Late fall record.

NORTHERN PARULA (*Setophaga americana*), 2011-79: One 5 November 2011, St. Francis River levee road, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones. Latest fall record.

PINE WARBLER (*Setophaga pinus*), 2012-40: Adult male, 30 June 2012, Wallace State Park, Clinton Co. Edge Wade. Apparently the first summer record of this species in northwestern Missouri.

YELLOW-RUMPED "AUDUBON'S" WARBLER (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*), 2011-71: Male, 16 October 2011, J.D. Christie and E.N. Davis Memorial CA, Andrew Co. Edge Wade. The western-mountain subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler; casual transient in Missouri.

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Setophaga discolor*), 2011-56: One, 1 July 2011, northwestern Lincoln Co. Phil Wire. Heard only; song well described. Casual in summer in northern Missouri.

SPOTTED TOWHEE (*Pipilo maculatus*), 2012-61: Two females, 11 October 2012, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis. Chrissy McClarren (documentation), Andrew Reago (video). While only one bird appears in video, other observers concurred that two were present. Early fall record for eastern Missouri.

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*), 2011-93: Two, 17 December 2011, Fry Road near Clay Co. line, Platte Co. Steve Bingham (documentation), Sara Scheil. Casual in winter in northern and central Missouri. CBC record.

CHIPPING SPARROW, 2012-12: Adult, 13 February 2012, near Columbia, Boone Co. Ryan Douglas (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter in northern and central Missouri.

LARK BUNTING (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 2012-21: Apparent first-spring male, 1 April 2012, Taberville Prairie, St. Clair Co. Craig Hensley (documentation), Jenna Rhoades (photographs). Accidental transient outside of northwestern Missouri (where casual).

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*), 2012-58: Adult male, 17 July 2012, Poplar Bluff, Butler Co. Paul McKenzie. Accidental in summer outside southwestern Missouri.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 2012-4: Female, 28 December 2011, NE 101 BC Road near Prairie Flower School Road, Benton Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation with photographs), Janet Haslerig, Ryan

Steffens, and Pete Grayum. Rare in winter; documentation required on CBCs (like this bird) for most parts of Missouri.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*), 2011-96: Adult male, 18 December 2011, Columbia, Boone Co. Julie Fisher (documentation), Ted Fisher. Casual in winter.

LESSER GOLDFINCH (*Spinus psaltria*), 2012-10: Male, 18 January to 20 February 2012, Humansville, Polk Co. Calvin Borntrager (documentation), Lester and Ervin Borntrager, Bill Baughman (photographs). Accidental winter visitor and resident; fourth state record. This male was of the green-backed form.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

“Not accepted” does not necessarily mean that the identification should be assumed to be incorrect. In some cases the Committee may indeed believe that the bird was misidentified, but in other cases, while it seems possible or even probable that the identification was correct, the information provided is insufficient to rule out other species completely. The Committee may be unable to accept even a likely record if the description is too sketchy or vague, or if it fails to mention critical field marks that would distinguish that species from all others. Our belief is that a report should go into the permanent scientific record only if it is free of reasonable doubt. This is the standard approach of bird record committees everywhere.

BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*), 2012-20: Adult, 31 March 2012, James Reed Wildlife Area, Jackson Co. This bird was definitely a Barnacle Goose, but the Committee considered its origin to be problematic. There is, however, an emerging pattern of occurrence of apparently wild Barnacle Geese in the northeastern U.S. and Canada. If such a pattern is eventually demonstrated in the Midwest, this record and others of the species could be re-evaluated.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*), 2012-7: One, 18 March 2011, Springfield, Greene Co. It is possible that this was an early Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, but the bird was seen only in flight and identified primarily by the fact that the species had been seen in the vicinity in previous years; no diagnostic characters of Yellow-crown were described.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*), 2012-3: Adult, 17 December 2011, Binder Lake Park, Cole Co. Although some of the features described seemed to fit Broad-winged Hawk, the description lacked full detail, and some of the details offered were a matter of judgment (e.g., size judged to be small for a buteo but with no direct comparison to other birds). The committee felt that Red-shouldered Hawk was not eliminated. As nearly all Broad-winged Hawks leave North America in fall, a winter record is best substantiated with photographs.

YELLOW RAIL (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), 2012-29: One, 23 May 2012, Perry County Community Lake. Aside from the date (far later than any pre-

vious spring record of Yellow Rail), the description of this bird and its behavior did not sound like a Yellow Rail.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus griseus*), 2012-23: Two, 18 April 2012, SCNWR. The expected dowitcher during April is Long-billed, and the earliest accepted date for Short-billed is 27 April 1974. No photographs were obtained, voice was not heard, and no characters were mentioned that would be diagnostic of Short-billed.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Cyananthus latirostris*), 2011-61: Adult male, 8-9 August 2011, Bull Shoals Lake area, Ozark Co. While the plumage and bill colors described did suggest this species, the observation was made without optical equipment, details were few, and no photographs were obtained. Broad-billed Hummingbird shows up as an occasional vagrant at great distances from its normal southwestern range and should be watched for at feeders.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilocus colubris*), 2012-39: One, 30 March 2012, Cape Woods CA, Cape Girardeau Co. The observer saw a hummingbird, but only in flight; no characters were noted that would identify the bird as Ruby-throated. Other species of hummingbird, though rare, are possible in any season of the year.

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*), 2012-19: Male, 22-23 March 2012, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. In photographs, this bird appeared to show characters of both Red-naped Sapsucker (broad red throat displacing the black frame) and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (broad, somewhat diffuse bands of white mottling on back; no red or just slightest suggestion of pinkish on nape). The record was sent to Jocelyn Hudon of the Royal Alberta Museum, who had conducted extensive studies of these two species and their hybrids in Alberta; his scoring of several characters yielded a total that was squarely in the hybrid range. Though the bird was not a pure Red-naped, it was clearly an interesting western vagrant.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax traillii*), 2012-24: One, 23 April 2012, Phelps Co. This would have been a record-early date for the species, but the bird was heard only, and the voice was not recognizably described as that of a Willow Flycatcher.

EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), 2012-9: One, 17 December 2011, Duck Creek CA, Bollinger Co. Even though three observers offered some details, these were scanty and did not establish the identification as a definite Eastern Kingbird. Most important, the white terminal tail band was not seen, and the behavior reported was not typical for Eastern Kingbird. CBC record.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, 2012-1: Adult, 6 January 2012, near Pineville, McDonald Co. This may well have been a Northern Shrike, but the description cited only the apparent size (no direct comparison with other birds), the manner of flight, and the contrast of light crown and dark mask, but not any characters that would be diagnostic of Northern Shrike.

CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), 2012-15: Five birds, 11 March 2012, McAllister Springs Access, Saline Co. Description of these early swallows did not eliminate Cave Swallow or Northern Rough-winged Swallow.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (*Catharus minimus*), 2012-22: One, 15 April 2012, near Rogersville, Webster Co. Photographs by the observer showed this bird to be a Hermit Thrush with an ashy-gray head contrasting with a darker, browner back (unlike an actual Gray-cheeked Thrush, whose back and crown are a more uniform gray-brown). Brown thrushes of the genus *Catharus* can be notoriously hard to identify, and apparent early or late individuals must be checked very carefully to eliminate the more probable species. Hermit and Gray-cheeked, in particular, can be easily confused.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT, 2011-60: One, 7 August, Shawnee Trail CA, Barton Co. Leg color was described as pink (consistent with Sprague's Pipit), but the rest of the description was equivocal, with certain important features not noted, like a necklace of streaks on the breast, and some details were wrong for that species (e.g., tail judged to be longer than Horned Lark's). Sprague's Pipits occur primarily in October; a record as early as this would be extraordinary and best substantiated by photographs. This species has not been recorded prior to mid-September in Missouri.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*), 2012-28: One, 21 May 2012, Weldon Spring CA, St. Charles Co. A single-observer report, with no photographs. For a record like this, of an extremely rare species at an astonishingly late date, a photograph would be a necessity.

AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*), 2011-73: Female, 22 October 2011, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Late record by eight days, but no field notes or photograph submitted.

CAPE MAY WARBLER (*Setophaga tigrina*), 2012-43: Male, 22 August 2012, Trail of Tears SP, Cape Girardeau Co. Possible record-early fall arrival, but only the head was observed; no view of breast streaking, white wing patch, bill structure, or any other indications of a Cape May.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*Setophaga magnolia*), 2012-44: Three immatures, 22 August 2012, Trail of Tears SP, Cape Girardeau Co. Possible record-early fall arrival, but details noted were not clearly diagnostic of Magnolia Warbler; apparent absence of side streaking was puzzling.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Setophaga striata*), 2011-72: One, 17 October 2011, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Accidental in fall. Very difficult to separate from Bay-breasted Warbler at that season; no photographs taken.

YELLOW-RUMPED "AUDUBON'S" WARBLER, 2011-70: One, 12 October 2011, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Single-observer record of this rare form; no field notes or photograph submitted.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (*Setophaga nigrescens*), 2012-47: Adult male, 16 September 2012, Duck Creek CA, Bollinger Co. Single-observer record; no photograph. Details provided were good, but the obser-

vation was very brief (a few seconds) and no notes were taken or sketch made on the spot. The committee believed that more certainty was needed to add this species to the Missouri state list, even on a Provisional basis.

DARK-EYED “PINK-SIDED” JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*), 2011-92: One, 17 December 2011, Maryville, Nodaway Co. The description suggested that this bird may well have been a pure “Pink-sided” Junco. The various subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco can be hard to separate in the field, however, and the frequent intergradation between them makes that separation more complicated. Two previous sight records were not accepted, following review of the first by outside reviewer George Barrowclough; he was of the opinion that a specimen or photograph would be necessary for unequivocal elimination of other junco subspecies and intergrades. The Committee continues to believe that this criterion should be met for a first record. The criteria for acceptance may be less stringent in other states that already have established records and have more regular occurrences of this form.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella neglecta*), 2011-55: One, 1 July 2011, northwestern Lincoln Co. Heard only; song reasonably well described, but as the observer acknowledged, song is not entirely diagnostic, since each meadowlark species may learn the song of the other on occasion. A visual confirmation would be needed for a first summer record in the easternmost counties.



Female Black-throated Blue Warbler. Photographed on September 28, 2012 at Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City, by Al Smith.

FALL 2012 SEASONAL REPORT *PETER KONDRASHOV*

The historic drought which impacted Missouri over the summer intensified in August, and according to the Missouri Climate Center by the end of the month 97.44% of the state was in extreme or exceptional drought. Some moisture relief was brought by the remnants of Hurricane Isaac on the last day of August and much of the state reported substantial precipitation from Isaac over Labor Day weekend in the form of a steady rain. The statewide precipitation average for August was 1.3 inches below normal. Extreme heat was less frequent and intense during August, compared to the previous two months. Preliminary data indicate the statewide average temperature for August was 0.1°F above the 30-year normal. Drought impacts persisted and worsened, including widespread crop and pasture losses; grassfires were numerous and averaging well above normal. The extreme conditions adversely affected gardens, lawns, trees and shrubs. Wildlife was impacted by the lack of healthy vegetation and dwindling water resources.

Cooler September temperatures in Missouri, in combination with some rain events, mitigated the severe drought conditions, but by no means eliminated it. Statewide average temperatures were slightly below normal, while rainfall averages were nearly one inch above normal in part due to the remnants of the Hurricane Isaac. Some of the driest conditions this month were in far northern and northwestern sections, where rainfall was below normal. Despite the higher rainfall this month according to the Missouri Agricultural Statistics Service, at the end of September, 61% of topsoil moisture in the state was in short to very short supply, and 89% of the subsoil moisture supply was reported short to very short. Varying periods of warm and cool weather occurred during October, but preliminary data indicates below average temperatures and near average rainfall. Topsoil moisture conditions improved across the southwestern, south central and northeastern sections where there was near to above normal rainfall. Occasional rain events, cooler temperatures and the lack of any widespread killing freeze for most of October allowed vegetative growth across the state. However, long-term drought conditions remained, with various levels of dryness impacting all of Missouri. Even though overall drought conditions have improved across Missouri this fall, a complete recharge of water resources above and below the ground was not realized by the end of October. Seasonable temperatures and dry weather prevailed across

the state in November. Preliminary data indicates the average statewide temperature was less than one degree above normal for the month.

Precipitation was limited statewide, and rain events were few and far between during the month. Preliminary data indicated an average rainfall about 1.25 inches below normal. Drought continued to impact Missouri by the end of November, with more than 95% of the state experiencing moderate to severe drought according to the Drought Monitor map. Surface water and ground water supplies were still running well below normal despite some improvement in September and October. January through November precipitation deficits exceeded 10 inches in many Missouri locations, and it ranked as the driest January through November period in more than 30 years, or since 1980.

Winter is typically the dry season in Missouri and it is unlikely surface and ground water supplies will fully recover before next spring. The highest likelihood for hydrological drought to carry over into next year exists across northwestern Missouri, where year-end precipitation deficits exceed a foot and only 3-4 inches generally falls between December and February. Better chances for drought recovery will exist over southern sections where 7-12 inches typically fall from December to February.

The highlight of this fall season was an unprecedented irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatches and winter finches; including Red Crossbills (18 reports submitted!), White-winged Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks, and high numbers of Pine Siskins. Other highlights included the 13th state record Mountain Bluebird and four Roseate Spoonbills.

WHISTLING-DUCKS THROUGH GREBES

Migrating Greater White-fronted Geese were noted in mid-October with the highest count of 1000 on 18 Oct at SLNWR (SK). Lower than usual numbers of Snow Geese were recorded in the state, with only 20,000 at SCNWR on 27 Nov (DAE). The highest Cackling Goose count was 20 from SFRL on 5 Nov (EW). Trumpeter Swans were reported in small numbers (up to 10 birds) from RMBS starting 1 Nov (PL, MT). The highest count in the St. Louis area included 262 at Great Rivers Area *St. Charles/St. Louis* on 27 Nov and another unusually high count of 113 came from the north-western part of the state at SCNWR on the same date (DAE). The high count for Tundra Swan included 5 at RMBS on 24 Nov (JM, CM). Impressive waterfowl numbers on 26 Oct at SL included 5,000 Gadwall (KM). A high count of 313 American Wigeon was at OSCA on 12 Oct (CBa). American Black Ducks were reported in small numbers only from the eastern

part of the state with 2 at each of the following locations: Clarence Cannon NWR *Pike* on 27 Oct (WR), Great Rivers Area *St. Charles/St. Louis* on 1 Nov (PL), and RMBS on 11 Nov (WR). The highest count of 15,000 Mallards came from SCNWR on 27 Nov (DAE). The earliest Blue-winged Teal of the season was at Sandy Slough *Lincoln* on 4 Aug (JM, CM) and the last 2 were at Carl Junction Lagoon *Jasper* on 28 Nov (LH). The highest count for Northern Shoveler was lower than usual with only 510 on 2 Nov at MSL (DAE). Single Northern Pintail made an early appearance on 5 Aug at RMBS (WR), while the high count for this species involved 2,500 at SL on 26 Oct (KM). A relatively low high count for Ring-necked Duck came from MSL on 2 Nov with 321 (DAE). 185 Redheads on 12 Nov at SL **represent the season's high count (MBR)**. A major push in waterfowl migration occurred on 26-27 Oct resulting in some high counts and uncommon species arriving. This included 2 Surf Scoters at RMBS (JM, CM) on 27 Oct, 1 on 29-30 Oct at MSL (DAE), and 6 White-winged Scoters at MSL on Oct 27; the latter persisted until 1 Nov peaking with a new state high count of 11 on 28 Oct (DAE). David Easterla called it the "Fall of the White-winged Scoter". The same front brought 600 Ruddy Ducks on 17 Oct at WD (WR). At least 8 Greater Prairie Chickens were present and vocalizing at TPCA on 27 Oct (RD, NM) and 4 were there on 18 Nov (JC). An impressive count of 103 Common Loons was at SL on 11 Nov (KM). The highest count for Pied-billed Grebe included 75 on 18 Sep at SLNWR (SK). Horned Grebes were recorded throughout the season starting with a single at THCA on 16 Sep (EW) and peaking on the same dates that many of the other waterfowl did this season, with counts of 12 on 26 Oct at SL (KM), 12 on the same date at LBSP (PK), and 18 on Oct 27 at WD (WR); birds were recorded throughout November with a high of 15 on 7 Nov at LBSP (PK). Two Red-necked Grebes were present at LBSP on 7 Nov (PK, ph.) and another 2 in similar plumage (possibly the same individuals) were reported farther south at Binder Lake *Cole* on 12 Nov (EW). The only Eared Grebe reported was at MSL on 20 Oct (DAE) and strangely no Western Grebes reports were received.

CORMORANTS THROUGH CRANES

Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 675 at THCA on 26 Sep (EW). Peak counts of American White Pelican were recorded in Sep with the top count being 800 on Sep 24 at SLNWR (SK). The Brown Pelican present at Binder Lake *Cole* since May persisted throughout the season into December (m. ob.). Most American Bittern reports were from SLNWR, with 4 still present on 22 Oct (SK); a single bird at Mon Shon Prairie *Barton* 14-16 Nov was quite late (Becky Wylie). SLNWR was also the source of all Least Bittern records, starting with 8 on 7 Aug and the last 1 recorded on 14 Oct with the high count of 10 on 3 Sep (SK). Due to the drought conditions heron counts were much lower than usual with the highest count for Great Egret being only 120 at SLNWR on 7 Aug (compared to 920 last year); latest record for the season was 1 at BCA on 19 Nov (JU). An imm. Tricolored Heron found at BCA on 2 Aug by David Haenni stayed until at least 11 Aug (RD, m. ob.); another was reported by refuge staff from SLNWR on 6 Sep (*vide* SK). An imm. White Ibis showed up at a farm pond



Four Roseate Spoonbills provided Columbia area birders a treat when they appeared at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Boone County, on September 2.
Photo by Ryan Douglas.

south of Columbia *Boone* on 21 Aug (EW, acc., RD, ph.) and was still present on 25 Aug (PK, FC). A *Plegadis* sp. identified as a Glossy Ibis was at OSCA on 14 Sep (CBa). White-faced Ibis included: 3 on 2 Sep at RBMS (PL), 1 in *Greene* (CBu), and 1 in *Lincoln* (Chrissy McClarren, acc.). Four Roseate Spoonbills got the Columbia birders excited when they showed up at EBCA on 2 Sep (RD, ph., acc.). Black Vulture high counts included 75 at Table Rock Lake *Taney* on 29 Nov (GSa) and 55 farther north at Bagnell Dam *Miller* (CBa). Several high counts of Turkey Vultures were recorded including 200+ at the Lake of the Ozarks Hawk Watch *Camden/Miller* on 9 Sep (PL, m.ob.), 145 at Van Buren *Carter* (MBR) and 138 at Bagnell Dam *Miller* on 9 Nov (CBa). A late Osprey was at THSP on 4 Nov (FC). Three Mississippi Kites were in Springfield *Greene* on 25 Aug (CBu); this species was present in Columbia *Boone* since May with the last report of 2 on 2 Sep (RD); 2 other reports of single birds were from Turkey Creek *Jasper* (Brian Davis) and Webster Groves *St. Louis* on 12 Sep (PL). Only 33 Bald Eagles were reported from SCNWR on 27 Nov (DAE). Two-hundred ninety-seven Broad-winged Hawks were recorded during St. Louis Audubon Society "hawk watch" led by Christian Hagenlocher on 22 Sep at SNR (MT). A Golden Eagle was at TPCA on 18 Nov (JC). Two Virginia Rails were at RBMS on 26 Aug (PL) and 1 at BKLCA on 13 Oct (JU, PL). A high count of 30 Soras came from RBMS on 26 Aug (MT). Sandhill Crane is rare in eastern MO, so 2 at BKLCA on 5 Aug were notable (JU); the high count for this species included 23 at SCNWR on 27 Oct (DAE, PL).

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS

American Golden Plovers lingered longer than usual with 2 at England Pond *Dade* (GSW) on 14 Nov and 1 from Palmetto *Greene* on 11 Nov (GSa). The only report of Black-necked Stilt was 4 from BK LCA on 5 Aug (JU). American Avocet reports included: 4 at Lake Springfield *Greene* on 5 Aug (GSa), 3 at RMBS on 26 Aug (MT, PL), 1 at OSCA on 30 Aug (CBA), and 2 at RMBS on 19 Oct (PL). The highest count for Spotted Sandpiper was 30 at SLNWR on 15 Aug (SK); the latest record for this season was of a single on 24 Oct at Pape Lake *Lafayette* (EW). The latest Solitary Sandpiper report was of 1 bird at PCL on 27 Sep (MH). There were several November Greater Yellowlegs reports, including: 1 at RMBS on 3 Nov (JM, CM), a high late count of 7 at SLNWR on 5 Nov (SK), and 1 at LBSP on 7 Nov (PK). Four Willets were at EBCA on 1 Sep (EW). Ten Lesser Yellowlegs at BCA on 6 Nov represent a high late count (CM). A Hudsonian Godwit* at SLNWR on 5 Nov is the latest fall record by almost 2 weeks (SK). A Marbled Godwit was at RMBS on 16 Sep (MT). Both Western Sandpiper reports involved single birds at SFRL on Aug 15 (RD) and at RMBS on 2 Sep (JU). Least Sandpipers were present throughout the season, starting with a single at PCL on 1 Aug (MH) and finishing with a high late count of 26 at Sandy Slough *Lincoln* on 26 Nov (JM, CM). Three Dunlins were at Montrose CA *Henry* on 15 Nov (EW). Fewer Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports were received this year compared to last, with the highest count of 10 from *Greene* on 3 Aug (GSa), 1 at SFRL on 23-25 Aug (EW, FC, PK), 2 in *Buchanan* on 1 Sep (JH), and 1 at SL on 2 Sep (KM). The highest count for **Wilson's Snipe** included 25 birds at Palmetto *Greene* on 13 Oct (GSa); last record for the season involved 4 on 13 Nov at SFRL. Doug Willis (*vide* KM) located a Red Phalarope* at SL on 19 Sep; likely the same bird was seen again on 20 Sep (KM), but the identification was left as Red/Red-necked Phalarope due to distance to the bird. The high count for **Bonaparte's Gull** included 75 at SL on 26 Oct (KM). The remnants of Hurricane Isaac might have contributed to the occurrence of the Laughing Gull at RMBS on 1-2 Sep (JM, CM, PL); an imm. appeared at THSP on 15 Sep (PK, ph., *). An early **Franklin's Gull** made an appearance at RMBS on 11 Aug (JM, CM), while the highest count was 1000 at 26 Oct (KM). November records included: 4 at RMBS on 17 Nov (JM, CM), 1 at BCA on 23 Nov (JU, ph.), and 2 at LBSP on 21 Nov (PK, ph.). An early imm. Herring Gull was at RMBS on 8 Aug (JM, CM) and an adult was there 24-25 Aug (JM, CM). A record-early ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was at RMBS on 1 Sep (JM, CM†, acc.); **another 1 showed up at the same location on 4 Nov (JM, CM)**. Four Least Terns were at Horseshoe Lake *Buchanan* on 1 Sep (JH). The highest count for Caspian Tern involved 15 birds at Stockton Lake *Polk* on 14 Sep (GSa). The highest Black Tern counts included 55 at SLNWR on 7 Aug (SK) and 54 at RMBS on 26 Aug (MT). Forty **Forster's Terns** at SLNWR on 7 Aug represent the high count for this season (SK).

DOVES THROUGH FALCONS

Interesting late breeding records for Eurasian Collared-Dove came from Dexter City Lake *Stoddard* where 1 bird was on a nest on 22 Aug and 4

young fledged on 18 Sep (CBa); 2 hatchlings were also observed in a nest at OSCA on 10 Sep (CBa). A White-winged Dove was found by Liz Mangile in Webb City *Jasper* on 30 Aug. A Greater Roadrunner was in Shell Knob *Barry* on 1 Oct (JC) and Neosho *Newton* on 2 Nov (JC). A nesting pair of Barn Owls with 7 eggs was in a nest box at MWP on 18 Aug (CBa). Short-eared Owls were first noted in Nov with 1 in *Livingston* on 4 Nov (SK), another at Pennsylvania Prairie *Dade* on 9 Nov (CBu), and 2 at TPCA on 18 Nov (JC). Most Northern Saw-whet Owl reports came from banding stations in *Saline* (total 34 banded 26 Oct – 8 Nov, Ethan Duke) and *St. Louis* (total 6 banded 12-13 Nov, PL); a single individual was detected in Columbia *Boone* on 31 Oct (RD) and 2 were found at Henry Sever North *Knox* on 7 Nov (FC). Both high counts of migrating Common Nighthawks came from *St. Louis* with 85 on 27 Aug (JU) and 40 on 26 Sep (PL). A very late **Chuck-Will's-Widow** was heard at EBCA on 6 Oct (RD, NM, Kyle McCommis, acc.). Chimney Swift high counts included 610 in Springfield *Greene* on 8 Sep (GSa) and 590 in *St. Louis* on 7 Oct (PL). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were last reported in the state on 14 Oct with singles in *Boone* (RD) and *Webster* (GSa). A Rufous Hummingbird showed up at Dan and Ann Liles residence *Christian* on 10 Aug and another appeared at Sarah Driver's residence *Christian* on 27 Oct and stayed through the end of the season. A *Selasphorus* sp. (Rufous/Allen's) hummingbird was at a feeder in St. Joseph *Buchanan* 27-28 Nov (JH). Mark Robbins noted that Red-headed Woodpeckers were very scarce in oak-hickory forest in Van Buren and BSSP 24-28 Oct. A record-early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Terry **McNeely's residence** *Daviess* on 13 Sep (fide SK, *). A Red-shafted Northern Flicker was at BSSP on 27 Oct (MBR). Seven Belted Kingfishers were at DCCA on 16 Sep (CBa). Merlins were reported throughout the season, with all reports involving single birds except 2 at SNR on 22 Sep (MT) and 2 at BKLCA on 27 Oct (WR). Peregrine Falcon reports spanned the season, with the first at RMBS on 5 Aug and 2 at the same location on 10 Nov (MT). A lone Prairie Falcon was seen in *Chariton* on 29 Oct (SK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

A late Olive-sided Flycatcher was at MWP on 26 Sep (MH). Several reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were received, with all observations involving single birds; the most notable are both the earliest – Aug 13 (acc.) and latest – 23 Oct (acc.) state records by Chrissy McClarren from TGP. An early Alder Flycatcher was recorded at TRW on 11 Aug (SK). A high count of 34 Eastern Kingbirds was noted at Holly Ridge CA *Stoddard* on 22 Aug (CBa). The 2 high counts for Scissor-tailed Flycatcher included 20 birds in Joplin *Jasper* (LH) and ~20 were observed along Hwy ZZ on 16 Aug in *Butler* (Tyler Gooddale fide CBa); 2 last reports for the season were on 1 Nov of single birds near Phenix Access *Greene* (EW) and east of Hooten Town Access *Stone* (EW). Four Loggerhead Shrikes were in *Dade* on 14 Nov (CBu); 2 were also at High Prairie *Webster* on 29 Nov (GSa); the rest of the records involved single birds spanning the whole season. The last Yellow-throated Vireo was at BSHS on 4 Oct (MH). Seven Philadelphia Vireos were banded at MWSU 4-28 Sep (JH). The highest counts for Amer-



This Mountain Bluebird, found near Warrensburg in Johnson County on **November 15**, was **Missouri's 13th record**. Documented by **Edge Wade** and photographed on November 19 by Al Smith.

ican Crow involved 245 in *Stoddard* on Aug 17 (CBa) and another 241 at OSCA on 24 Sep (CBa). Seventeen was the high count for Fish Crow this season on 5 Aug at RMBS (WR). Among several late Sep and early Oct records the most unusual is of a single bird at SLNWR on 14 Oct (SK). Thousands of Tree Swallows were at RMBS on 21 Oct (PL, m. ob.). This was an invasion year for the Red-breasted Nuthatch, with numerous individuals reported across the state. The first arrived at TGP on 9 Sep (MT) and the high count of 17 was at RFLCA on 21 Nov (RD). Two Winter Wrens were banded at MSSU on 18 Oct (JH), 1 was banded at WBS on 28 Oct (PL), and 1 was in Joplin *Jasper* on 28 Oct (LH). The high count for Sedge Wren was 15 at PSP on 12 Aug (SK); the latest was 1 at BCA on 3-4 Nov (MT, PL).

Kristi Mayo notes that "Carolina Wrens have recovered from the 2 harsh winters of 2009-10 and 2010-11 when they had disappeared from most habitats from Clay County northward, aside from backyard feeders, but after the mild winter of 2011-12, they were detected on almost every outing this **summer and fall.**" A **Bewick's Wren** visited SFRL on 21 Aug (RD). A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at PCL on 17 Sep (MH). A high count of 28 Golden-crowned Kinglets was at OSCA on 18 Oct along with 49 Ruby-crowned Kinglets (CBa). Fifty+ Eastern Bluebirds were at MNWR on **30 Sep (CBa)**. The state's 13th record Mountain Bluebird spent 15-17 Nov near Warrensburg *Johnson* (EW, acc., m.ob.). A very early Gray-cheeked Thrush was at WBS on Aug 30 (PL). A very early record and a high early count of 4 **Swainson's Thrushes** was recorded at WBS on Aug 30 (PL). Another early record from this location was a Hermit Thrush on 23 Aug (PL). An estimated 250,000 American Robins were seen at NWMSU cam-

pus in Maryville *Nodaway* on 11-14 Nov (DAE). The highest count for Gray Catbird was 16 at Holly Ridge CA *Stoddard* on 10 Sep (CBA); the last was recorded on 13 Oct at MNWR (MH). Ten **Sprague's Pipits** were found by Joe Neal (*fide* WR) at PRSP on 2 Nov. High count for American Pipit was 60 at SL on 3 Nov (KM) with the last sighting of the season of 6 on 17 Nov at PRSP (JC). An impressive 650 Cedar Waxwings were at BCA on 6 Nov (CM) and a smaller flock of 400 was in Jackson *Cape Girardeau* on 17 Nov (MH). The earliest Lapland Longspur of the season was at SL on 26 Oct (KM) and the high count of 100 was in *Harrison* on 24 Nov (SK). A Chestnut-collared Longspur was photographed by Joe Neal (*fide* WR) at PRSP on 2 Nov. SK reported several small flocks of **Smith's Longspurs** at Pawnee Prairie CA and Dunn Ranch *Harrison* on 30 Oct; the high count included 75 at Pennsylvania Prairie *Dade* on 24 Nov (CBu). A Snow Bunting was at RMBS on 4 Nov (JM, CM) and 8-10 Nov (MT, PL).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A high number of 19 Ovenbirds was banded at MWSU 3-25 Oct (JH). A very late Worm-eating Warbler was at DCCA on 16 Sep (CBA). A record-early Northern Waterthrush* was at PSP on 6 Aug (SK). A rather late Tennessee Warbler was at Columbia Bottom CA *St. Louis* on 20 Oct (WR). Seventy-one Orange-crowned Warblers were banded at MSSU 21 Sep – 25 Oct (JH); the last of the season was at RMBS on 15 Nov (JM, CM). A high number (96) of Nashville Warblers was banded at MWSU 5 Sep – 17 Oct (JH); a late bird was at Knob Noster SP *Johnson* on 27 Oct (EW). A male Common Yellowthroat in full breeding plumage was seen carrying a moth at MNWR on 30 Sep (CBA). An adult male Cerulean Warbler at Little Dixie Lake CA *Callaway* was a nice find by RD on 1 Sep and rather late bird was at PCL on 19 Sep (MH). The last Northern Parula was recorded on 12 Oct along with a late Magnolia Warbler (PL) at TGP. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was banded at MWSU on 2 Oct, which was “only 2nd in 40 years of banding” (JH); a female was seen in *St. Louis* on 20 Oct (RD). A late Pine Warbler was in *Taney* on 29 Nov (GSW). Sixty-six Yellow-rumped Warblers were banded at MWSU 5 Sep – 23 Oct, which is the “highest ever” for this location; a high single-day count of 95 was recorded at PCL on 11 Oct (MH). A record-early **Wilson's Warbler*** was in Chillicothe *Livingston* on 17 Aug (SK). Spotted Towhee is uncommon in the east, so 2 at TGP on 12 Oct were notable (Chrissy McClarren, PL). A late Vesper Sparrow was at Hi Lonesome Prairie *Benton* on 23 Nov (MBR). Observers noted that few **Le Conte's Sparrows** were seen throughout the season most likely due to the drought, but usual numbers of **Nelson's Sparrows** were reported. An early **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at TRW on 12 Sep (SK); a high count of 18 was at PSP on 29 Sep (SK) with the last bird reported from PCL on 6 Nov (MH). A high count of 48 Swamp Sparrows was recorded at Big Oak Tree SP *Mississippi* (MH). A record number of 135 White-throated Sparrows was banded at MWSU 3 Oct – 25 Oct (JH). **Harris's Sparrows** were reported from across MO with a high count of 12 at PSP on 20 Oct (SK). The earliest Dark-eyed Junco of the season was banded on 20 Sep at MWSU (JH). A high late count of 4 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was

at BSHS on 4 Oct (MH). A pair of nesting Blue Grosbeaks was at OSCA on 30 Aug, and the female was carrying food to a nest (CBa). A high count of 60 Indigo Buntings was recorded at MWP on 8 Aug (MH). Steve Kinder reported that Bobolink numbers were lower than normal at SLNWR, with only 40 recorded on 15 Aug (SK). A high count of 130 Rusty Blackbirds was at Shawnee Trail CA *Barton* on 25 Aug (JC). **Brewer's Blackbirds** were reported from across the state in late Oct – early Nov with the highest count of 300 in *Dade* (GSw). One hundred Great-tailed Grackles were notable at SLNWR on 9 Oct (SK) as well as 142 on 12 Oct in Palmetto *Greene* (GSa). A high count of 22 Baltimore Orioles was recorded at Trail of Tears SP *Cape Girardeau* on 22 Aug (MH). Red Crossbills made the first appearance in the state on 24 Sep at PSP (SK); an audio recording on 14 Nov showed at least 1 bird was of type 3 (MBR). Up to 18 were found by NM at RFLCA and seen throughout the season with a recording confirming type 2 (RD). Up to 20 (mostly type 2) stayed at THSP 4-10 Nov (FC, PK) and 20 were found at Watkins Mill SP *Clay* for which audio recording confirmed type 2 (KM). Six were at Carondelet Park *St. Louis City* on 19 Nov (Bill Rudden, m. ob.); SK found 15+ at Jamesport Lake CA *Daviess* on 20 Nov, from where MBR obtained audio recordings of 7 type 2 and 2 type 3 birds on 28 Nov. One was seen at Pine Ridge Recreation Area *Callaway* (NM). Up to 10 Red Crossbills entertained St. Louis birders beginning 24 Nov, when Jim and Charlene Malone first found them at Faust Park. White-winged Crossbills were prominent, but not as numerous as Red, with 1 heard at RFLCA on 3 Nov, 2 recorded at THSP on 4-10 Nov (FC, PK); 2 (imm. male



This fall saw the beginnings of an irruption of northern finches, including this White-winged Crossbill photographed at Faust Park in St. Louis County on November 27. Photo by Al Smith

and ad. female) were at Faust Park *St. Louis* (JU, ph.) and were last seen on 29 Nov (PL); and 2 were at Jamesport Lake CA *Daviess* on 28 Nov (MBR). A male Common Redpoll **was in Lee's Summit** *Jackson* on 18 Nov. Pine Siskins flooded the state, starting in late Oct with several counts over 30; the highest count involved 100 in Chillicothe *Livingston* on 23 Nov (SK). An Evening Grosbeak invasion did not materialize, with only 2 birds recorded in the state, 1 in Kansas City *Jackson* on 7 Nov (*fide* Linda Williams) and a female at a feeder in rural *Daviess* on 12 Nov (*fide* Mark McNeely). Two Eurasian Tree Sparrows were out of place in rural *Adair* on 4 and 8 Nov (FC).

Observers

Chris Barrigar (CBa), Charley Burwick (CBu), Jeff Cantrell (JC), Frankie Cuculich (FC), Ryan Douglas (RD), David Easterla (DAE), Mark Haas (MH), Larry Herbert (LH), Jack Hilsabeck (JH), Steve Kinder (SK), Peter Kondrashov (PK), Pat Lueders (PL), Charlene Malone (CM), Jim Malone (JM), Nicholas March (NM), Kristi Mayo (KM), Mark B. Robbins (MBR), William Rowe (WR), Greg Samuel (GSa), Greg Swick (GSw), Mike Thelen (MT), Joshua Uffman (JU), Edge Wade (EW).

Key

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

Abbreviations

acc.	Accepted by MBRC
CA	Conservation Area
imm.	Immature
m. ob.	Multiple observers
ph.	Photographed
MO	Missouri
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
SP	State Park

Location Abbreviations (counties are in italics)

BCA	August A. Busch CA <i>St. Charles</i>
BKLCa	B. K. Leach CA <i>Lincoln</i>
BSHS	Bollinger Mill SHS <i>Cape Girardeau</i>
BSSP	Big Spring SP <i>Carter</i>
DCCA	Duck Creek CA <i>Stoddard</i>
EBCA	Eagle Bluffs CA <i>Boone</i>
LBSP	Long Branch SP <i>Macon</i>
MNWR	Mingo NWR <i>Stoddard</i> and <i>Wayne</i>
MWSU	Missouri Western State University campus <i>Buchanan</i>
MWP	Maintz Wildlife Preserve <i>Cape Girardeau</i>
MSL	Maryville Sewage Lagoons <i>Nodaway</i>

OSCA	Otter Slough CA <i>Stoddard</i>
PCL	Perry County Lake <i>Perry</i>
PRSP	Prairie SP <i>Barton</i>
PSP	Pershing SP <i>Linn</i>
RFLCA	Rocky Fork Lakes CA <i>Boone</i>
RMBS	Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary <i>St. Charles</i>
SL	Smithville Lake <i>Clay/Clinton</i>
SCNWR	Squaw Creek NWR <i>Holt</i>
SFRL	South Farm R-1 Lake <i>Boone</i>
SLNWR	Swan Lake NWR <i>Chariton</i>
SNR	Shaw Nature Reserve <i>Franklin</i>
TGP	Tower Grove Park <i>St. Louis</i>
THSP	Thousand Hills SP <i>Adair</i>
THCA	Thomas Hill Reservoir CA <i>Macon/Randolph</i>
TPCA	Taberville Prairie CA <i>St. Clair</i>
TRW	Thompson River Wetlands <i>Livingston</i>
WBS	World Bird Sanctuary <i>St. Louis</i>
WD	Winfield Dam <i>Lincoln</i>

A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

Edge Wade & Others

EDWARD 'TED' AND PAT JONES/CONFLUENCE POINT STATE PARK Bill Rowe

1,118 acres St. Charles Co. DeLorme 41, C-9

Directions: From I-270 in north St. Louis County, take exit 31 and go north toward Alton, IL, on MO-367 (becoming US-67 beyond Lindbergh Blvd.). As you approach the Mississippi River bridge to Alton, take your last right-turn opportunity at a gas station. Drive past the station and continue on Riverlands Way for 2+ miles to a fenced equipment compound on the right. Just past this compound, make a right turn onto a gravel road signed for the state park. NOTE: This road is gated and opens at 8:00 a.m., assuming no malfunctions.

The gravel road leads through private agricultural land that provides open-country birding from the roadside (larks, longspurs, raptors, etc.). After nearly 3 miles, a large sign indicates that you are entering the state park, and it is then 1.5 more miles to a parking area at the end, near the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

Birding opportunities: The entry drive is the only road in the park, with roadside habitat of grasses, weeds, brush, or young cottonwoods and other trees that apparently will be allowed to grow into forest over time. Much of this can be explored on foot by pulling over wherever conditions look promising; there are no established trails except at the point (see below). Regular birds include blackbirds, sparrows of many species, nesting Dickcissels and Common Yellowthroats, migrant Bobolinks, and raptors, with the occasional rarity like the Northern Shrike that appeared one winter.

At times, ponds and mudflats, some of them close to the road, have appeared due to flooding and have lingered for long periods, producing some unusually high counts of wading birds (e.g., 100 Snowy Egrets) and adding a great diversity of ducks, shorebirds (29 species), and other water-related species to the area list, including a Mottled Duck in August, 2011. At this **writing, the area is basically dry, but a good “spring rise” might create these conditions again—and also might close the road for a while, as it has in the past.**

From the parking area at the end of the drive, a short trail leads up and along a levee through a patch of woodland. This trail, originally all paved and handicapped-accessible, is now deteriorated in places due to repeated flooding, but it is still an easy walk. It leads to a rocky point that angles right down into the water at the confluence, opposite the viewing platform in Columbia Bottom C.A. on the other side of the Missouri. The small woods here, including a cluster of willows at the point, offer the chance for some passerine diversity, especially in migration, when warblers and vireos can accompany the Black-capped Chickadees and Tufted Titmice.

Moderately well birded over the past few years, Confluence State Park has a bird list that currently stands at a healthy 182 species; nonetheless, there are still many species left to add that certainly must occur. Despite the limitations on access to most of its acreage, the park offers good possibilities in any season, either as a primary destination or as an addition to a trip to Riverlands, through which you must travel to reach it.

Toilets: There are relatively nice pit toilets at the parking lot, along with a roofed kiosk display of information about the confluence and its history.

Camping: None, one picnic table under the roofed display area at the pit toilet.

Hazards: None except for the usual poison ivy and mosquitos in season.

Nearby birding sites: A few stops in Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary are almost mandatory on your way to or from the state park; also recommended is the Audubon Center at Riverlands, with fine displays, large viewing windows, and multiple feeders. Close by is the Cora Island Unit of the Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge, about a 10-minute drive from the **park's entrance**-drive gate. A 20-minute drive to the south and east will bring you to Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, and by heading west on MO-94 you can reach Dresser Island CA in about 20 minutes and Marais Temps Clair CA in about 30 minutes. Additional good sites can be reached by crossing the bridge into Illinois.

THE BLUEBIRD

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