



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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Summer (June 1-July. 31)—to Kristi Mayo by Aug 10

Fall (Aug. 1-Nov. 30)—to Joe Eades by Dec. 10

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Front Cover—**This male Lazuli Bunting was Missouri's first winter record. It appeared at the feeder of Mark Haas in Jackson, Cape Girardeau County, on January 31 and stayed only two days. Photographed by Allen Gathman.**



Among the rarities seen this past winter was this male Eurasian Wigeon, **Missouri's 2nd, at Clarence Cannon Reservoir, Pike Co. Photo by Andrew Reago on February 28.**

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—SHARI HARDEN



Dear Fellow Birders,

I hope you have been able to get out and enjoy summer birding in Missouri. The heat, humidity, and thunderstorms have reduced my time at my favorite birding sites, but I have been rewarded with the songs and sights of many birds when I have managed to get outside.

A new agreement with MDC has been finalized for 2016 -2017. We have three priority areas: Grand River Grasslands (including Pawnee Prairie, Lot's Creek and Grand

Trace Conservation Areas), Missouri River Hills (including Danville and Daniel Boone CAs), and Mahan's Creek (including Rocky Creek CA, Buttin Rock and Eminence City Park Accesses). We also have ten focal conservation areas: Kendzora, Lamine River, Huzzah, Indian Trail, Caney Mountain, Meramec, Shawnee Trail, Ketcherside Mountain, Bismark, and Little Indian Creek. Please visit the focal areas as often as you can and add your data to eBird. Our agreements with MDC and DNR allow us to support bird conservation in a variety of ways.

Scott Laurent has done a great job working on the MDC/DNR agreements and the reports. Also, the Missouri eBird portal is up and running now. I hope it will help birders new to Missouri find ASM with the link to our mobirds page.

I recently received a letter from the GLADE (Green Leadership Academy for Diverse Ecosystems) coordinator thanking ASM for our continued support. The letter included reflections from participants who discussed how valuable the experience had been to them. After I read through the reflections, it was obvious that the GLADE experience involved so much more than learning about conservation issues. The opportunity to work with other like-minded young conservationists left a significant impression, and the program gave participants an increased awareness of career options available in future.

The Fall meeting is September 23 - 25 at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. We will have informative presentations, our annual board meeting, and our general meeting. Hopefully, we will also have good weather and great birding, but even if the weather is not good, we will certainly have time to reconnect with friends. This is our time to come together as members and discuss the present functions of ASM and the future of our organization. This organization would not exist **without the efforts of many people 'behind the scenes' and all of** these people are volunteers. If you would like to become involved with the work of ASM, find a board member or officer to discuss the opportunities that are available.

Good Birding,
Shari Harden, President
The Audubon Society of Missouri

WE WELCOME OUR NEW ASM MEMBERS!!

Kevin Wehner

Remember, new members are our future. If a new member lives **near you, say, "Howdy and welcome to ASM."** In addition, recruit another new member. Welcome to these 12 new ASM members in the 3rd quarter of 2016.

Mark Duchesne	St. Louis, MO
Eric, Jennifer, Katarina & Alex Heckenbach	Miller, MO
Yvonne Homeyer	St. Louis, MO
Sandy Laurie	Ballwin, MO
Paul & Janet Norris	Clark, MO
Donna Reed	Columbia, MO
Lane Richter	St. Louis, MO
Mark Schuver	Chesterfield, MO

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE FALL MEETING!
Camp Clover Point
Lake of the Ozarks State Park
September 23 – 25, 2016

Our fall meeting at Camp Clover Point should be a fun and relaxing **weekend. It's a chance to re-connect** with old friends and to make some new ones, while birding and learning more about birds.

Like last year, \$75 will cover two nights lodging, six meals, and your registration fee. There are several nearby motels for those who prefer not “to camp.”

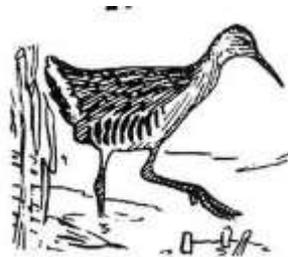
On Friday evening, we will hear about current wetland research from Mizzou graduate students. And then tour leaders William Orelana and Katinka Domen will speak on birdwatching and ecotourism in Honduras.

On Saturday, we are fortunate to have the accomplished wildlife photographer Danny Brown join us. During the afternoon, he will conduct a workshop on techniques of photographing wildlife. That **evening, he will present “A Decade of Photographing Missouri Wildlife: Images and Anecdotes.”**

The last weekend of September promises mild weather and a variety of migrant birds passing through. Ha Ha Tonka State Park and Bagnell Dam are among the possible field trip destinations.

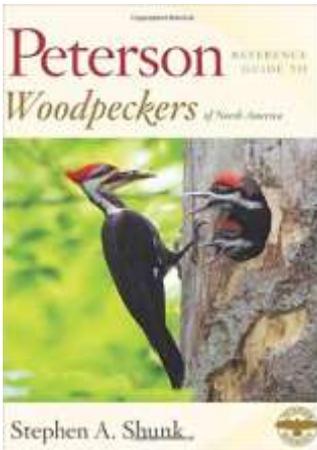
Visit our website, www.mobirds.org , to learn more about our speakers, details of weekend activities, and to register for the meeting. The registration deadline is September 18.

Please join us for some great birding fellowship. All birders are welcome!



BOOK REVIEW

Edge Wage



Woodpeckers of North America: A Peterson Reference Guide. by Stephen A. Shunk. 2016. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Hardbound. 320 pages. \$23.37 (on amazon.com).

If you attended the 2009 ASM Fall Meeting you met Steve, as he was the featured Saturday night speaker and led a workshop fieldtrip centered on woodpeckers—identification and life histories. Steve also gave presentations in St. Louis the same week, so even more Missouri birders had an opportunity to enjoy Steve's company and learn from him.

“Steve’s woodpecker book” was well underway in 2009. With its completion we can learn even more from North America’s premier woodpecker expert, vicariously following him through

pine forests, saguaro deserts, and our familiar oak-hickory woodlands, seeking, spying, enjoying a very special group of birds through the eyes and mind of one who celebrates their ecological role and shares the joy of knowing them well.

Steve lives in Oregon, and for many years has guided visiting birders to see **11 species of woodpecker on his “stomping grounds” between research** (library and field), speaking engagements, guiding worldwide, and, yes, working on the book.

And what a book! Color photos, informative illustrations, and excellent big range maps add to the fact-filled prose. This is a reference guide, not a field guide. It opens with a very readable section on the special anatomical features of woodpeckers—Anatomy and Adaptation—the stuff that gives them advantages in their place in birddom—skulls, tongues, stiff tails and the specialized parts between.

The behavior section covers breeding, feeding, social interactions, locomotion, and miscellaneous behaviors. **Any question you’ve had about drumming** is probably answered. Other topics explored include the mechanics of woodpecker tree climbing, and that distinctive woodpecker flight pattern.

Ecology and Conservation discusses woodpeckers as keystone organisms, **woodpeckers and fire, and habitat conservation.** It’s a section that no ethics-minded, conservation-prone birder should skip.

Then there’s the heart of the book, the species accounts—23 of them (including Ivory-billed)—spanning slightly more than 200 pages. And what pages!

They begin with Lewis's Woodpecker, the bird collected by Meriwether Lewis and described by Alexander Wilson as "woodpecker with a necklace." As with all extant species, the Lewis's account includes a full-page color photo and multiple photos showing field mark variations (sex and age, for example) and behavior—feeding young, and even sunbathing. A Red-headed Woodpecker covering food stores with carefully placed bark, Acorn Woodpeckers caching (you guessed it: acorns), and a Pileated taking a dust bath give a fair idea of the photos that teach as well as enthrall.

The species accounts are clearly the work of a consummate field ornithologist who is as mesmerized by his subjects as the most ardent amateur birder. He provides a discussion of a brief history of the bird as it was found and has fared in the presence of humans on the North American continent. Distribution and habitat (typical topics within species accounts) are joined by a discussion on detection—the bird's sounds and behavior to listen and watch for, followed by a section on visual identification, more on behavior, and that ever-increasingly important subject: conservation.

Get *Woodpeckers of North America* for yourself or as a gift (then borrow it back). It will give you many hours of pleasant reading, learning, and probably some dreaming about a family of birds with members we see nearly every day, and some cousins we must travel afar with hopes to get at least a glimpse.

In Memory of a Great Birder: Dennis Wheeler Bill Eddleman

When I moved back to Missouri 22 years ago, one of the things I enjoyed doing was meeting all the local birders. The scene around Cape Girardeau had changed a lot since I had lived there the first 21 years of my life, and there was now a good cadre of birders in the area. I learned that one of the most active core groups of birders was in Jackson, which lies 8 miles west of Cape, and the main organizer of that group was a recently-retire public school administrator, Dennis Wheeler.

Dennis organized nearly annual trips for himself and his wife, those local folks who were interested, and for his friends. These and other trips took him to all 50 states and 36 foreign countries over the years. In recent years, for example, he's gone to (among others) California, Alaska, Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Australia, and finally, Colombia. I had the pleasure of participating in the Alaska and Ecuador trips, and had a blast on both. Dennis's extensive experience with Neotropical birding made his an invaluable companion in the field, and he and the Jackson group could always be counted on to

help with Christmas Bird Counts or Spring Migration counts. (Not only that, I really did look forward to trying one of the microbrew beverages he would always bring for lunch on the Big Oak Tree State Park Christmas Bird Count!)

Dennis passed away on June 24 after a long period of declining **health. I'm happy to report that his goal of reaching 2500 species** on his world bird list was realized in Colombia, SA a bit over two months earlier. This last trip was with a friend, Larry Hendershott, and his daughter, Denise, son-in-law John Pahl, and granddaughter **Elena. I'm sure going on this trip was a struggle for him, but I know** he was overjoyed at reaching that milestone.

Dennis was 84 years old at the time of his death, and I still remember marveling at how well he could navigate the hills and muddy trails in Ecuador (when he was a mere 79). He was born in Quincy, Missouri, and married Lola Mae Bollinger in 1951 in Illmo, Missouri. After a stint in the Army during the Korean conflict, and time in the Army National Guard, he returned to the area to earn a B. S. in Education from Southeast Missouri State in 1957, and M. S. in Education from University of Missouri in 1967.

Dennis was a music teacher in Zalma and later Oran, Missouri, a guidance counselor in Woodland School District in Marble Hill, and finally an assistant superintendent at East Prairie, Missouri (where he worked with his lifelong friend and main fishing buddy, Randel Blankenship (also a birder)). He retired in 1987, and was a Boy Scout leader and member of the Rotary Club, Lions Club, and Optimist Club in Jackson (formerly president of the latter).

I've noticed many birders also have a keen interest in family history, and Dennis also authored a book on the genealogy of his Wheeler family. Dennis also served on the ASM Board for one term around 15 years ago.

I always enjoyed birding with Dennis. He was always even-tempered, knowledgeable, and had just the sort of off-keel sense of humor I can appreciate (even if a few of his jokes were really, really bad!). Missouri birding is poorer without him.

I'm going to miss him, and I guess me or someone else will have to bring those craft beers to future CBCs!

WINTER 2015-2016 SEASONAL REPORT

Mary Nemecek

December 2015 was the warmest winter since records began in 1895, coming in 9 degrees above the long-term average. The warm temps were also accompanied by unprecedented late-December flooding that closed portions of I-70, I-55 and I-44. The average statewide rainfall was 7.37 inches, more than 5 inches above average, and closed out the fourth wettest year on record. Precipitation moderated in January, which was a little more than 1 inch below the normal rainfall average. Average temperatures settled in a little less than a degree above normal for January. Snow finally started to fall on January 9, but not without once again breaking a record: The city of Columbia broke a 126-year-old record for the latest measurable snowfall. Temps started to dip near or below zero in the northern half of the state from 9-13 January and again from 16-19 January. February saw average temperatures rise back up to 4 degrees above normal and precipitation stayed low with averages an inch below normal. East and east-central Missouri saw the only significant snowfall. Perhaps the most notable impact the mild weather supported was numerous grass fires that broke out across the state.

Waterfowl benefitted from more open water due to milder temperatures, including a second-state-record Eurasian Wigeon at Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge. Perhaps the most spectacular seasonal sighting was a first winter record of a Lazuli Bunting. There was also a fourteenth state record of a Rock Wren. Common Redpolls spent a lot of time at a yard in St. Louis and a few days at feeder in Greene County.

Seasonal reports submitted from observers around the state remain a primary source for the data included in this report, as well as a review of Christmas Bird Count and eBird data. Missouri bird watchers are encouraged to submit their observations through eBird. The author is grateful to Kristi Mayo for reviewing this document. Her comments and suggestions greatly enhanced the quality of the report.

WATERFOWL

Greater White-fronted Geese are becoming reliable in large numbers across the state including over 5,000 at the sewage lagoons in Maryville *Nodaway* on 17 Feb with temps in the 60s and a strong south wind (DE) and 2,900 counted at SCNWR on 6 Dec (CH, MR). At RMBS, BR reported

Greater White-fronted Geese more reliable than Snow Geese. SCNWR had a seasonal high count for the refuge of 750,000 Snow Geese on the 18 Dec CBC (AG, JC). Cackling Goose is rare in the east and had single digits at RMBS, including 7 reported on 16 Jan (BR). A Trumpeter Swan high count in the west of 518 occurred at SCNWR on 12 Dec (MR), beating the previous record by two birds. There was rapid drop-off in population numbers at RMBS from hundreds of birds such as the personal high of 460 for BR on 16 Jan and the 547 on 25 Jan at RMBS (JM, CM), to 13 birds by 16 Feb (PL). Tundra Swan set a new high count of 35 at RMBS on 17 Dec (BR, Mike Rowe) and numbers were up to 58 on 23 Jan (CM, JM). They remained in good numbers of 10-20+ birds at RMBS throughout the season even when the Trumpeter Swan numbers dropped off. Rare in the north, 6 Wood Ducks were reported at SL on 19 Jan (CE). Gadwall were at a new high on the CCNWR CBC with 15,000 on 21 Dec (BR, Dick Palmer). The first winter record and second state record of Eurasian Wigeon was reported on 20 Feb and continued through the end of the season at CCNWR (Tom Bormann, Dave Rogles, JM, m.obs.). Green-winged Teal, rare in the north, stayed in good numbers at SCNWR during Dec with a peak count of 300 on 2 Dec (JHa). All 3 scoter species were reported this winter. Single Surf Scoters were at Perry County Community Lake *Perry*, 2-16 Dec (RF, m.obs.); Chapman Farms Lake *Jackson*, 30 Dec (Michael Beck); and RMBS 27 Dec (CMc, AR). One White-winged Scoter was at RMBS on 5 Dec (Gabriel Amrhein), and one Black Scoter was at RMBS on 1 Dec (SM, DM). Long-tailed Ducks were present for extended periods of time in three locations: SL 9-25 Jan (MN, m.obs.), including several dates with 2 females present; 1 at RMBS 16-19 Jan (SM, DM, m.ob); and 1-2 present at Webb City Water Treatment Plant *Jasper* 27 Jan—21 Feb (JH, GSw, Jeff Cantrell, m.obs.). A Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser was seen at Purtle Springs *Johnson* by DC 27 Jan. Red-breasted Mergansers made a couple of winter appearances, including 5-13 birds observed at Binder Lake *Cole*, 1-2 Dec (Brad Jacobs, Edge Wade, LS) and 12 were at Higginsville City Lake *Lafayette*, 20 Feb (Ellen Zellmer, SH).

LOONS THROUGH EAGLES

A single Pacific Loon was seen on two separate occasions at SL: 6 Dec (CH, MR) and 16 Jan (LO, MN, MM). Common Loons were present at Stockton L. *Cedar* twice this winter: 32 on 8 Dec (BB, DB) and 13 on 13 Feb (DB). Eared Grebes once again spent much of the winter at SL with 1-3 seen 5 Dec—17 Jan (MM, m.obs), matching the winter high count record. A Western Grebe was observed at SL 15-17 Jan (MM, m.obs.). American White Pelican set a new winter high of 1,500 on 27 Feb (Jesse Kohler). One Cattle Egret (**acc.**) was documented at SCNWR 16 Jan (**ph.**, †Daniel Swofford) Great Egrets were present, including a new winter high count of 3, with 1-3 at SCNWR 2-24 Dec (JHa, m.obs) and 1-3 at RMBS 1-16 Dec (SM, DM, m.obs.). Despite being accidental other than in the south, a Black Vulture showed up a couple times around St. Louis with one making a first-ever appearance on the St. Louis-area CBC at Weldon Springs CA on 20 Dec (BR) and again on 22 Feb (BR), and 5 were in the vicinity of Defiance

St. Charles on 6 Feb (Gail Gagnon). Osprey, a rare winter visitor, was seen on 2 occasions: 7 & 11 Dec in *Christian* (AL). A single **Swainson's Hawk** (acc.) made its first winter appearance at CCNWR on 12 Dec (†Robert Mustell, †Corey Alger) The seventh winter appearance of a Ferruginous Hawk (acc.) occurred 6 Feb at Shawnee Trails State CA, *Pike* (ph., †MR, JB). Single Golden Eagles were reported in 7 counties spread across all three winter months.

COOTS THROUGH GULLS

Two Virginia Rail were reported 19 Dec in *Boone* (John Besser). Sandhill Cranes were reported in four counties, including two new high counts of 28 at SCNWR on 15 Dec (JHa, ML) and 30 on 18 Dec (MR), while CCNWR had 2 birds fly over on 28 Feb (JU). Least Sandpiper was reported from four counties, including new high numbers in *Dunklin*: 100 on 5 Dec, 85 on 18 Jan (TJ); and two mid-winter sightings: 2 on 1 Jan EBCA (GL) and 2 on 2 Jan MLCA (JMo). Pectoral Sandpiper made one late winter appearance with 5 on 27 Feb OSCA (CB, BBe, SD). Dunlins were present three times in *Dunklin* with 8 on 15 Dec & 15 Jan and 47 on 18 Jan, all reported by TJ. A staggering number of Long-billed Dowitchers were reported *Dunklin* by TJ: 100 in one location and 226 in another on 5 Dec; 350 on 8 Dec; 8 on 7 Dec; and 10 on 24 Dec. There were 2 reports of **Wilson's Snipe** from SCNWR, where they can be rare during the winter in the northern half of the state, with 7 on 6 Dec (MR, Jenny Gearheart, Matt Gearheart) and 4 on 15 Dec (ML, JHa). Two late **Bonaparte's Gull** were at RMBS 12 Dec (BR). Two first-year **Franklin's Gulls** were feeding at the Maryville Sewage Lagoons *Nodaway* on 1-4 Dec (DE), and single birds were reported in three locations: 5 Dec (AR, CMc, CM) and 12 Dec (PL) at RMBS; 14-17 Jan at SL (MN, m.obs.); and 23-26 Jan (EW, m.obs.) and 13-14 Feb (Eric Hough, EW) at Longview L. *Jackson*. A single **Thayer's Gull** was reported at a couple lakes on the west side of the state: SL on 30 Jan (KD) and 14 Feb (MN); and Longview L. *Jackson* 23-30 Jan (JMo, ML, CE, Sherry Leonardo) and 19 Feb (EW). Lesser Black-backed Gull is a rare transient and winter resident but is seen yearly along the Mississippi R. and larger reservoirs, as was the case this winter with 2 on 3 Dec (BR) and 5 on 5 Dec (CMc, AR, CM) at RMBS; multiple sightings at Longview L. *Jackson* beginning 30 Dec (Kathy Carroll, Ginny Culver, SH) and continuing off and on until 19 Feb (m.ob); SL on 16 Jan (MN, LO, MM), and 6 & 15 Feb (MN). Kansas City-area lakes also hosted Glaucous Gulls: SL on 15 Jan (MM, Brett Budach, ML with sightings off and on thru 28 Feb (m.ob), including 2 on 15 Feb (MN); Longview L on 23-30 Jan (EW, m.ob) and 2 on 26 Jan (LO). One Iceland Gull was seen at Longview L *Jackson* on 23 Jan (Eric Mosley). There were two reports of a **Forster's Tern** 10-11 Dec at RMBS (ph. PK, Allen Smith, WW, DBr) and on 15 Dec *Dunklin* (TJ).

DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES

Two well-described White-winged Doves* were noted at a private residence on 14 Feb *Dunklin* (Kent Freeman). An adult female Snowy Owl



This taiga Merlin (*Falco columbarius columbarius*) was at Bradford Farm in Boone County, where it was photographed by Peter Kondrashov on February 18.

found its way to the sewage lagoons on the 15 Dec for the Maryville CBC *Nodaway* (DE). Hummingbirds came in strong with three species reported. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was reported 18 Dec—3 Jan in *Clay* (MM). An **Anna's Hummingbird** continued to delight visitors to a private residence in *Greene* through 18 Jan (ph. PK, m. ob.). A Rufous Hummingbird banded last winter returned to a residence *Cape Girardeau* in November and continued through 27 Jan (ph. DM, SM, m. obs) A high number of Merlins were reported in *Dade* with 4 on 23 Jan (GOAS birds, m.ob) and 3 on 30 Jan (GOAS birds, SM, DM). The Taiga subspecies of Merlin was photographed by PK at Bradford Farm *Boone* on 18 Feb. A pair of Peregrine Falcons was seen several times on campus of University of Washington, School of Medicine, *St. Louis City* 26 Jan, 11 & 26 Feb (Kyle McCommis) and on 12 Dec at RMBS (BR). **Say's Phoebe** (acc.) spent the season in three counties, with one showing up in *Dade* on 11-17 Dec (†DB, BB, GOAS birds); a second in *Perry* 25 Jan—6 Feb (†Joe Eades, m.ob); and a third in *Howell* 20-28 Feb (†Donald White). A Northern Shrike continued from 6 Dec—26 Jan (GL, Karen Wosilait, m.obs.) at Bradford Farm *Boone*.



Say's Phoebes are less commonly seen in eastern Missouri, so this bird that appeared January 25-February 6 in Perry County was a treat for numerous local birders. Found by Joe Eades and photographed on January 26 by Rob Francis.

VIREO THROUGH WARBLER

A large number of 22 Fish Crows were seen 23 Feb *Dunklin* (TJ). They continued to be reported in the Mississippi lowlands with a single bird in flight at the home of BE 19 Feb *Cape Girardeau*, a single bird on the same date at Perry County Community L. *Perry* (RF), and 6 on 27 Feb at OSCA (CB, BBe, SD). In the southwestern quarter of the state, a single Fish Crow was observed on 1 Jan *Taney* (GOAS birds) and a single bird was at Springfield L. City Park, *Greene* on 20 Feb (Kendall Lloyd). A Tree Swallow was documented 11 Dec at Stewartsville WTP *Clinton* (acc., †SF), and an early spring migrant was reported 28 Feb at Binder L. *Cole* (CB). Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce, with only single birds reported in seven counties, and 2 in St. Louis on 24 Jan (Jonathan Lidgus). Rock Wrens staged a winter invasion, with a single bird reported at *Lakey's Bait Shop* in *Polk* 3 Dec—6 Feb (LO, DC, ph. PK, CB, m.ob) and another at RMBS, 23 Jan—20 Feb (Nick Carson, m.ob). Sedge Wrens were present in four counties, including 11 in *Barton* on 10 Dec (MR) and a sighting of a single bird on 14 Feb (SM) at EBCA. There was one **Bewick's Wren** 21-23 Feb in *Lawrence* (GOAS Birds, CBu, ph. SM, m.ob). Marsh Wrens are not unexpected during mild winters, which was the case with 5 reported 18 Dec at SCNWR (MR). American Pipits had a good showing around the state, appearing in six counties—including 49 birds on the HFRCA CBC 14 Dec (MR, JB); 3 at **EBCA on 9 Feb (acc., †SM)** and a careful count of **28 birds at Weldon Springs CA St. Charles** on 25 Jan (Garrett Sheets, The Birding Project).



Another bird that was seen and appreciated by many was this Rock Wren at January 23-February 20 at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary in St. Charles County. First found by Nick Carson, this photo by Chris Barrigar on January 31.

Smith's Longspurs are rare in the east but that didn't stop a couple from presenting in *Dunklin*, with one on 15 Jan (TJ) and 2 on 20 Jan (TJ). Five counties hosted Orange-crowned Warblers, including 1 in *St. Louis* at a private residence from 9 Jan—14 Feb (Geoff Anderson) and 4 in *Dunklin* on 4 Feb (TJ). *Dunklin* had 2 birds on 4 Dec, 1 bird on 9 Dec, 2 on 23 Jan, 4 on 4 Feb and 3 on 5 Feb, all sighted by TJ. A Common Yellowthroat visited the state from north to south: 1 on 7 Dec SCNWR (KD) and again on 18 Dec with 3 birds (MR); 2 on 19 Dec at DCCA *Bollinger* (MH, Allan Gathman); 1 in *Dunklin* 17-26 Feb (TJ); and 1 at MNWR on 19 Dec (BE) and 27 Feb (CB, BBe, SD). There was a nice winter find of 2 Palm Warblers at RMBS on 3 Dec (BR). Pine Warblers were reported in eight counties, mostly in the south, including 4 seen on 20 Feb in *Christian* (DB, BB)--with one notable report outside of the shortleaf pine region: *St. Louis* 11 Jan (Bryan Prather). A northern high count of 7 Yellow-rumped Warblers (Myrtle form) was photographed on 17 Dec *Adair* (ph. PK, Frankie Cuculich).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A Spotted Towhee frequented a feeder in *Phelps* 27 Dec—23 Feb (Chris Herzog). Two additional sightings of a single bird were had on 5 Jan *Miller* (CB) and 31 Jan *Crane* (J. Steele). Chipping Sparrows made an appearance in six counties in the south where it is rare: *Cape Girardeau* 2 Dec—28 Feb, with 2 birds being present on several dates (MH); an observation of a single bird (WW, DBr) and then 2 birds (MH), both on 8 Dec at Busch CA



This female Spotted Towhee was found on January 5 at Saline Valley Conservation Area, Miller County. Found and photographed by Chris Barrigar.

St. Charles 31 Dec (acc., †David Rudder); at a private feeder on 22 Jan *Christian* (AL) and in Delaware Cemetery on 18 Feb (DB) and 29 Feb (CB); a total of 11 in Branson *Taney* on the CBC (GOAS birds, JH, DM, SM) and 11 were again reported on 20 Feb *Taney* (DB, BB); and 1 was reported in *Greene* 19 Feb (JH, GOAS birds). Savannah Sparrows were reported in 5 northern counties where they are rare: 7 on 23 Feb in *Caldwell* (SF); 1 on 9 Dec (SF), 1 on 16 Dec (DA), 2 on 17 Jan (DA), and 2 on 22 Feb (SF, AB) in *DeKalb*: 8 on 9 Dec and 2 on 10 Dec in *Gentry* (SF, m. obs); 5 on 2 Dec (JHa), 2-3 on 18 Dec (MR, JC, AG), and 1 on 16 Jan at SCNWR and 2 on 16 Jan at Bob Brown CA *Holt* (LS); and 8 on 9 Jan at Muskrat L. (LO) and 1 on 11 Jan at Lewis and Clark SP in *Buchanan* (Don Mertz). **LeConte's Sparrow** were counted in 11 counties, with one showing in the north of a single bird on 10 Dec *Gentry* (AB, Brian Ortman). JoAnn Eldridge had a female, leucistic Northern Cardinal, with a completely white head, at her feeders in *Clay* 1 Jan through the end of the season. The first winter record of a Lazuli Bunting (acc.) came from †MH (ph.) at his residence in *Cape Girardeau* 31 Jan—1 Feb. †MH also photographed an Indigo Bunting (acc.) at his home 15 Dec. Common Redpolls stayed the winter at a residence in *St. Louis* (m. obs) from 27 Dec—24 Feb, with 1-4 birds, and they were present 24-25 Feb at a residence in *Greene* (m. obs), with numbers varying from 2-4 birds. A single Common Redpoll was also reported at James A Reed CA *Jackson* 29 Dec (Matthew Cameron).

Observers:

Danny Akers (DA), Chris Barringer (CB), Bruce Beck (BBe), Barbara Blevins (BB), David Blevins (DB), John Bollin, (JB), Aaron Boone (AB), Diane Brimont (DBr), Charles Burwick (CBu), Jacob Cooper (JC), Dan Cowell

(DC), Stephen Dilks (SD), Kyle Driggers (KD), David Easterla (DE), Bill Eddleman (BE), Corey Entriiken (CE), Sean Fitzgerald (SF), Rob Francis (RF), Andrew Guttenberg (AG), Mark Haas (MH), Jennifer Hammett (JHa), Shari Hardin (SH), Jill Hayes (JH), Tim Jones (TJ), Steve Kinder (SK), Andrew Kinslow (AK), Peter Kondrashov (PK), Greg Leonard (GL), Ann Liles (AL), Micky Louis (ML), Pat Lueders (PL), Charlene Malone (CM), Jim Malone (JM), Debbie Martin (DM), Steve Martin (SM), Chrissy McClarren (CMc), Joseph Mosley (JMo), Marky Mutchler (MM), Mary Nemecek (MN), Larry Olpin (LO), Lisa Owens (LO), Andrew Reago (AR), Bill Rowe (BR), Laurie Shawver (LS), Greg Swick (GSw), Joshua Uffman (JU), Eric Walters (EW), William Wood (WW).

Key

- * Documentation needed for MBRC review (Observers involved are encouraged to submit documentation.)
- † Documentation received by MBRC for review
- acc. Documentation reviewed and accepted by MBRC

Abbreviations

- acc Accepted by MBRC
- CA Conservation Area
- CBC Christmas Bird Count Co-County
- Imm. Immature
- m.ob Multiple observations
- NWR National Wildlife Refuge
- MBRC Missouri Bird Record Committee
- ph. photographed
- SP State Park

Location abbreviations (counties are in italics)

- BCA-Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, St. Louis County
- CCNWR-Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge, Pike County
- CSP-Confluence State Park, St. Charles County
- DCCA-Duck Creek Conservation Area, Bollinger/Stoddard County
- EBCA-Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Boone County
- HFRC-Horton-Four Rivers Conservation Area, Vernon County
- LBL-Long Branch Lake, MaconLvL- Longview Lake, Jackson
- MLCA- Montrose Lake Conservation Area, Henry County
- MNWR-Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Stoddard/Wayne County
- OSCA-Otter Slough Conservation Area, Stoddard County
- RMBS-Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles County
- SCNWR-Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt County
- SLNWR-Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Chariton County
- SL-Smithville Lake, Clay County
- STJ- St. Joseph

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A BIRDERS' GUIDE TO MISSOURI PUBLIC LANDS

Edge Wade and Others

BOONE'S LICK STATE HISTORIC SITE

Edge Wade, spring 2016

51.17 acres Howard Co. DeLorme 30, I-1; GPS: 39.0819404,-92.874276; DNR owned; for more information call (660) 837-3330

Directions: From Boonville, cross into Howard County on the Boone's Lick Bridge over the Missouri River on MO 5/US 40/MO 87. Shortly beyond the bridge, turn left to stay on MO 87. Go about 10 miles to a left turn onto MO 187. Go 2.1 miles to the entrance. NOTE: as of spring 2016, the right turn entrance into the site is only .3 mile beyond the sign on 187 that says it is one mile ahead. If you hit gravel, you've just past the entrance road.

ADA Information: The kiosk and picnic area are accessible (including table space suitable for wheelchairs). The trail 3/8-mile trail down to the salt-works has a steep grade that includes a section of dirt/chat filled steps boxed in with railroad ties. Step risers average about 12 inches.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Most visits here have been in spring and fall. Summer and winter records are woefully sparse. Six species of warbler have been reported. Summer Tanager, Orchard Oriole, Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeak, and Dickcissel are among summer sightings. Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned and Ruby-Crowned Kinglets stop here in migra-

tion, and at least one Red-breasted Nuthatch has dropped in. This is a very good area for woodpeckers.

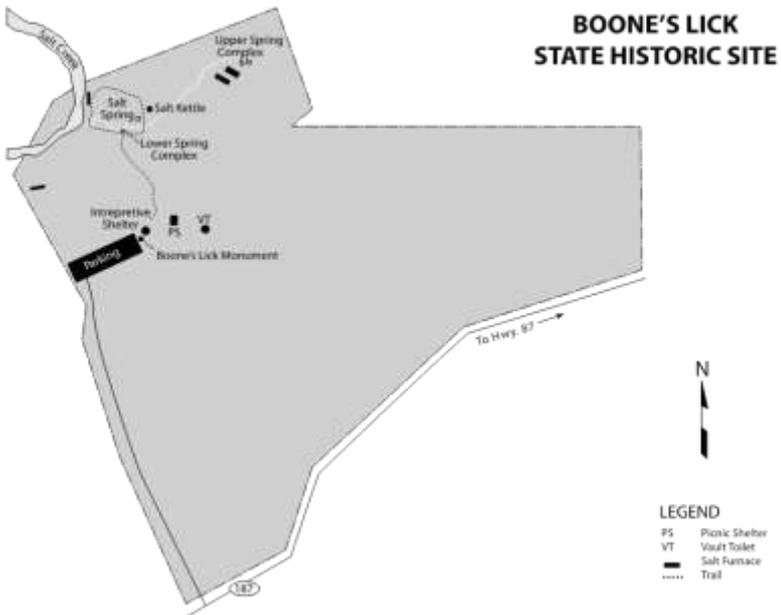
Features of interest to birders: A small pond on the left just after the entrance may harbor dabblers or a wader. The entrance road can be walked to bird the grass and woods ecotone. The area around the parking lot, kiosk and picnic shelter is open and gives good views into the surrounding upland woods. The trail down to and through the saltworks is good for viewing creek bottom species and for a peek into the hillside of the upper spring complex.

Toilets: 1 vault toilet

Camping: None. A picnic shelter seats about 40 people

Hazards/Limitations: The trail to the lower saltworks area is steep (see above). A saltwater species of mosquito may be bothersome in summer.

Nearby Birding Sites: Peters, D.C. Rogers and Ricketts Lake (Fayette), Stump Island Access (Glasgow), Franklin Island CA. Arrow Rock SHS is close on the map, but a long way around by road.



BLACK ISLAND CONSERVATION AREA: BRADFORD UNIT

Allen Gathman, 2016

6365.24 Acres Pemiscot Co. DeLorme 71, B-9; GPS: 36.2919302,-89.6816569; MDC owned; for more information call 573-290-5730

Directions: From Hayti I-55 exit, take Highway 84 east, then County Road 337 north, and County Road 338 east to the area.

ADA Information: Birders with limited walking ability have good opportunities to experience the area from the parking lots, camping area, and by car along the elevated roads.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Spring and fall would be the best times to visit, when wetland birds are migration through the area. Depending on water conditions, some wintering water birds could be expected.

Features of interest to birders: The Stephen C. Bradford Unit of Black Island Conservation Area is enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), which is a program through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) designed to restore and protect wetlands.

The Stephen C. Bradford Unit consists of a recently abandoned river channel of the Mississippi River. Two wetland pools were created, and will be managed for waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds. The remaining portion of the area is agriculture fields that will be converted to riverfront forest.

About 400 feet after entering the area on CR 338, there is a parking lot to the left. From this lot it is possible to walk along a ditch northward about 300 yards. The trees and shrubs along the ditch often harbor warblers and tanagers, while the fields to the east are good for grassland species. This is also a good location to watch for flyovers.

A half mile further east on CR 338 there is a parking area with a gravel boat launch on the right. This spot offers a good view of a slough where there may be some waterfowl, and of more woodland species in the trees around the parking lot, as well as across the slough on the edge of the Gayoso Bend Unit.

One-third mile beyond the boat ramp parking area, CR338 reaches the eastern boundary of the Bradford Unit. If you stop here it is possible to walk north along the edge of the conservation area for some distance. To the west there are trees and brush that are good for passerines, and depending on conditions, there should be some marsh or shallow pond areas spanning the boundary. This marshy area has produced shorebirds and waders, including American Bitterns on one occasion.

Continuing one-half mile further east on CR338 (1.4 miles from the point where the road first entered the conservation area), CR339 branches off to the left (unmarked). The slightly raised roadbed provides another opportunity to view the marsh and shallow pond areas to the west and open fields to the east.

CR339 reaches a strip of conservation area at a tree line in 0.4 mile, and follows the area boundary north one-fourth mile to another tree line. At the second tree line, turn west to a parking area between fields. This area is mostly good for grassland species. It is marked as a primitive camping area on the MDC map.

After this parking area, the road continues west and north by half-mile zig-zags to another parking lot (about 2 miles from the camping area in total). From here it is usually possible to walk west along a small ditch and tree line. There is excellent grassland habitat north of this line, and the trees have been good for warblers and orioles. There is a large shallow pond (**marked “Big Lake” on the MDC map**) southwest of this line that has been good for waders, gulls, and waterfowl, sometimes in large numbers. Depending on conditions it may be possible to walk to the levee about one-third mile west of the parking area.

If you return to the campground, you can follow CR339 one-half mile north to CR336. Continue a half mile east on CR336 to a junction with CR333. From here, go three-quarters of a mile north on CR333 to a parking area with a gate to the right. Walking in to the east about 1/3 mile you reach an extensive newly developed pond and wetland area and Robinson Lake, all of which should provide waders, shorebirds and waterfowl.

It is also possible to continue east from the CR333/CR336 junction 3 miles to get access to the easternmost portion of the Bradford Unit. There are several gates along CR336 between 3 and 4.5 miles east of CR 333. The gate 3.5 miles east of CR333 gives foot access to a fairly good service road north through the woods; this should be good for woodland species.

Toilets: None.

Camping: One primitive camping area on CR339.

Hazards/Limitations: All public use is prohibited, except fishing and waterfowl hunting by boat only, when the Mississippi River water level is at or above twenty-eight (28) feet on the Caruthersville gauge. The area is popular with hunters, particularly during deer seasons. Check the MDC website for dates and take appropriate precautions. There are no formal trails. Walking may be difficult depending on the time of year and extent of recent maintenance. Most wooded areas have a lot of poison ivy.

The county roads mentioned are all gravel at best, and may be impassable due to mud if there has been a lot of rainfall. High-clearance vehicles are recommended.

Nearby Birding Sites: Triangle Boat Club Access; Black Island Conservation Area – Gayoso Bend Unit; Black Island Conservation Area – DeSoto Unit; Black Island Conservation Area – Wolf Bayou Unit.

BLACK ISLAND CONSERVATION AREA*



BUTTIN ROCK ACCESS

10 acres Shannon Co. DeLorme 55, 8-1

MDC owned; leased. For more information call 573-226-3616; GPS: 37.1405967, -91.3614016

Directions: In Eminence north of the junction of MO 19 and MO 106, just before the south end of the bridge, the gravel access road is on the west, paralleling MO 19 into the area.

ADA Information: This is a gravel bar and articulated mat boat launch with no amenities. There is no trail. A two-track road goes into the area and circles around it. The surface is river gravel and silt.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Anytime can provide some surprises. For such a small area, the species seen here are remarkably varied. Spring and summer records include Broad-winged Hawk, Green Heron, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, White-eyed, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed **Vireo, Fish Crow, Purple Martin, Barn and Cliff Swallow, Swainson's Thrush, Gray Catbird, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, Palm, Kentucky Warbler and Common Yellowthroat.**

Autumn/winter and early spring sightings include Mallard, Bald Eagle, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied and Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

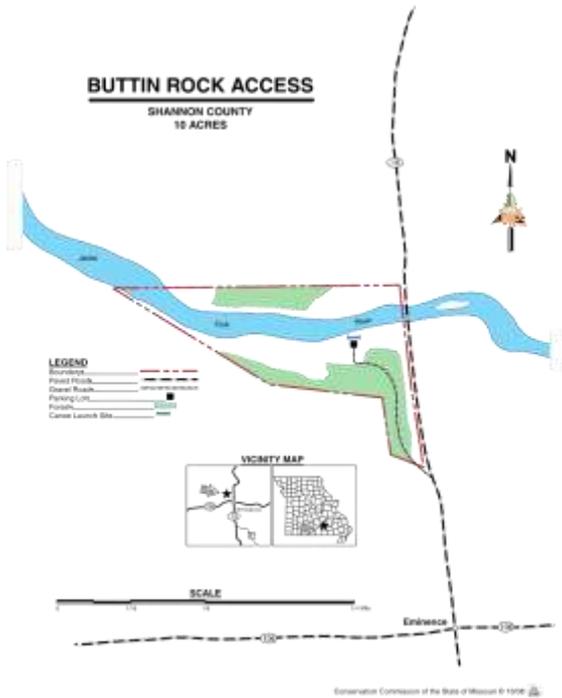
Features of interest to birders: This is a large gravel bar with a small area of bottomland forest. The east boundary of the 10-acre area runs along MO 19 from the entrance road. The north boundary is along Tom Akers Road on the north side of the Jack's Fork River.

Toilets: None.

Camping: None.

Hazards/Limitations: There is a potential for flooding.

Nearby Birding Sites: Eminence City Access, Rocky Fork CA (38,000 acres in multiple tracts), Current River SP, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Sunklands CA, Angeline CA.



CHILTON LANDING (EMINENCE CITY ACCESS)
a.k.a. Chilton (Joshua T.) Access

1 acre Shannon Co. DeLorme 55, I-8; GPS: 37.152843, -91.354288 ; Owned by City of Eminence; for more information call 417-256-7161 (MDC) or 573-226-3521 (City of Eminence)

Directions: In Eminence at the junction of MO 19 and MO 106, go east on MO 106 less than a tenth of a mile to the park entrance on the left (north).

ADA Information: The entrance road, parking lots and two boat ramps and walkway to the restroom provide solid surfaces.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: The limited habitat here offers a challenge. The small number of reports includes a variety of species that indicates this site is worth a stop when in the neighborhood. Sightings have included Wood Duck, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Fish and American Crow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin, Warbling Vireo, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Dark-eyed Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Summer Tanager and Baltimore Oriole.

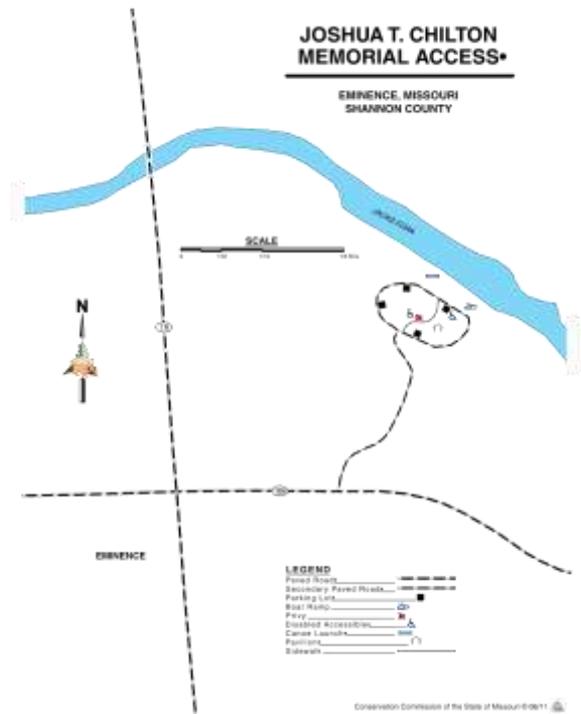
Features of interest to birders: The access is within a city park that includes a baseball field and mowed area. The boat ramps allow views (limited) of the Jacks Fork River. Trees and shrubs along the river and the borders of the park provide some bird-friendly habitat to explore.

Toilets: 1 flush toilet in the park.

Camping: None.

Hazards/Limitations: None noted other than potential flooding.

Nearby Birding Sites: Buttin Rock Access, Rocky Fork CA (38,000 acres in multiple tracts), Current River SP, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Sunlands CA, Angeline CA.



DANVILLE CONSERVATION AREA
Edge Wade, 2016

1,743 acres Montgomery Co. DeLorme 39, C-7; GPS: 38.8654023,-91.5070065; MDC owned; for information call 573-815-7900

Directions: If driving east, from I-70 exit 170 (Danville), take the south outer road east 2 miles, then Rt. RB south 2 miles to the entrance. If driving

west, take I-70 exit 174, then continue west on the south outer road to Rt. RB.

ADA Information: This is a generally rugged, ridge-valley area. Trails (largely old two-track roads) are rated moderate. They are chat/gravel or dirt/grass surface with some fairly steep sections. Birding from or near a vehicle along the road and in parking lots will provide opportunity to see/hear most of the expected species.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: The several small ponds and water-holes **don't provide enough water habitat for waterfowl or shorebirds**; only Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Killdeer and a flyover Lesser Yellowlegs have been reported. This makes the species list of 128 as of spring 2016 all the more impressive for an area mostly upland woodland, bottomland and upland forest, old fields and cropland, and glades accessible with some effort. As with most areas with narrow ridge/valley topography dominated by deciduous trees and shrubs, passerine migration, both spring and fall, can be very good times to bird here. Wintering sparrows can be fairly abundant, especially in brush piles and in tree/grass ecotones. Eastern Wood-pewee and Acadian Flycatcher are among the breeders; Olive-sided Flycatcher migrates through. Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos nest; Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos have been reported in May and June. Both kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper have been found in the cooler months. Thrushes are well-represented, with Gray-cheeked and **Swainson's passing through, Hermit earlier in spring and later in fall, and Wood Thrush nesting**. Also breeding here are Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Blue Grosbeak and Summer Tanager.

The diversity of riparian, woodland and glade habitats makes this an excellent milieu for a birder seeking warblers. Nineteen species have been found here. Yellow-breasted Chats are joined by Blue-winged and Prairie Warblers on and near the glades. The creek areas are good for Louisiana Waterthrush, Prothonotary, Kentucky and Hooded Warbler, Northern Parula and Common Yellowthroat. Oddly, through 2015, no Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian or Bay-breasted have been recorded here—surely due to lack of birder presence at the correct time, rather than lack of birds, for the habitats and location should host these species in migration.

Sparrowing can be fun in a place like this! Fourteen species plus Dark-eyed Junco and Eastern Towhee can be pushed up or stumbled upon here by a sparrow-savvy birder over the course of a birding year.

Features of interest to birders: The roads pass brush/tree lines and grassland. Turkey Ridge Rd. to the east goes through a ridge top camping area and then descends through woods to give good views into riparian habitat. Staying straight from Rt. RB, the road goes through an area being cleared of trees and brush in 2016. To the west on Turkey Ridge Rd., more clearing is underway. An active management program of controlled burns, cedar removal and pond improvements will bring some major changes.

Danville Glades Natural Area is in two sections. The 313-acre east section is accessible along the moderately rated 3-mile loop Danville Glades Trail with a trailhead at the parking lot at the east end of Turkey Ridge Rd., 1.4 miles from the entrance. Take the trail with a narrow, shallow (usually can be crossed with dry feet) creek just beyond the lot. The trail is an elongated loop, going clock-wise. It comes back to the road about 250 yards from the trailhead lot.

The first section of the trail generally follows a creek that looks ideal for **Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush and Louisiana Waterthrush**. There's an out-cropping of blue clay in the creek bank as you come to the first of two points where the trail crosses the utility right-of-way about halfway up the left half of the loop. There are old clay pits on the far side of the trail loop. The trail diverges from the creek and goes upslope with woods and open areas along the way. At the point the trail nears the power lines again there is a fork. The left fork leads to the north boundary and a field/food crop area. There are some woods that might be productive in migration, but no unusual habitat along the way. The right fork is the continuation of the loop trail. Unless you are looking especially for grass-loving sparrows, are in the correct season for glade-preferring species, or really like to hike, you may optimize your time and birdfinding potential by backtracking at this point and giving the creek side portion a second look, rather than completing the loop. From this second crossing of the utility right-of-way, the trail follows the ridge top through old-field grassland for a long way before beginning the descent to the road. The last section of the trail starts downhill through a bit of glade and woods to stream level again. There is a good look at a large glade to the right that begs to be explored. A fork goes left just before reaching the road. **It's good for checking for birds along the creek bottom. You must turn** around to rejoin the main trail. Staying right at the fork will return you to the road (and another crossing of the shallow creek) with some good woodland and brushy areas along the way. Walking this part of the trail counter-clockwise (the lowland and the ascent from this east side) beginning at the road, then backtracking, may be more productive, birdwise/timewise, than reaching it by walking the full loop.

The 48-acre west section of the Danville Glades Natural Area is across Turkey Ridge Rd. from the westmost parking lot. Go through the cable/gate at the road and continue through the old pasture and through a second (open) gate. The graveled road/trail curves right soon after reaching the tree line at the far end of this pasture. This section gives a great treetop view of the narrow valley. Migrating warblers, vireos, etc., will be at eye level for a birder on this short hike. The full trail is 1.5 miles one way (not a loop).

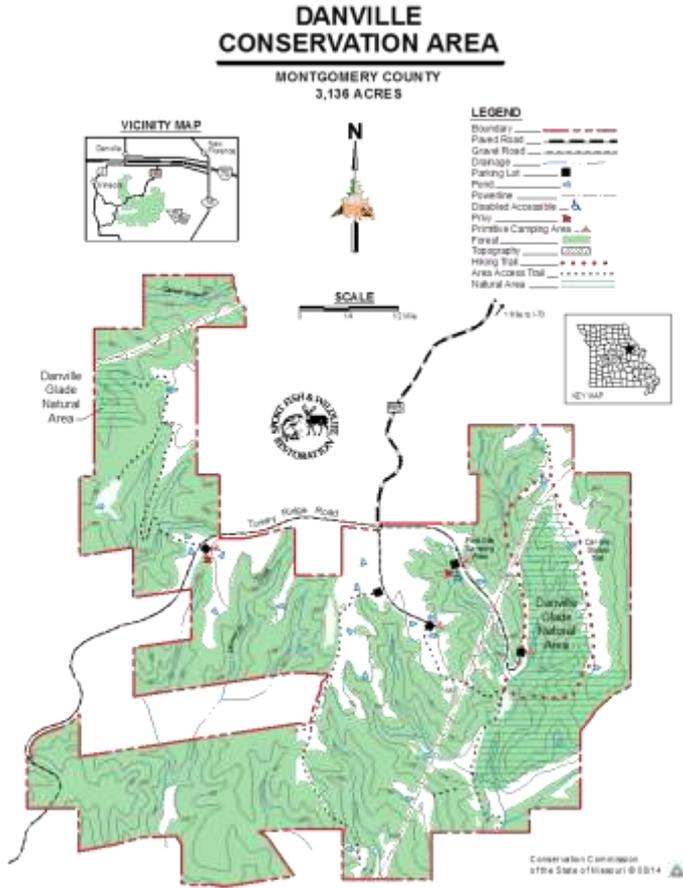
Toilets: Two privies. One is at the primitive Pin Oak camping area along Turkey Ridge Rd. east of Rt. RB; the other in the parking lot on Turkey Ridge Rd. west of Rt. RB. Both are ADA compatible.

Camping: The sites at Pin Oak camping area have fire rings and are on graveled, tree-shaded pull-ins. Two additional designated camping areas are at large parking lots. One, with no facilities, is at the end of the road going

straight (south) from Rt. RB; the other, with a privy, is to the west along Turkey Ridge Rd.

Hazards/Limitations: This is a popular deer, turkey and small game hunting area.

Nearby Birding Sites: Graham Cave SP, Loutre Creek Access, Whetstone Creek CA, Reform CA, Daniel Boone CA, Little Lost Creek CA.



HUZZAH CONSERVATION AREA

6,225 acres Crawford Co. DeLorme 47, E/F-10; GPS: 38.0307136,-91.1903016; MDC owned, leased; for more information call 636-441-4554

Directions: From I-44 Exit 214, go south to Leasburg on Rt. H, then an additional 5 miles south, through Onondaga Cave State Park. The area begins on the right immediately south of the river.

ADA Information: Disability access birding is essentially limited to birding by car and around the 9 parking areas. The area is rugged. See comments below about the undesignated road east of Road 28.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: The site list, as of summer of 2016, is approaching 120 species. Most of the visits have been in migration and early summer, with only 5 reports from December through March. April has only one report. Mid to late summer and autumn have no recorded visits.

Winter reports include Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle and Red-shouldered Hawk, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco and Purple Finch.

The spring/early summer lists are full of warblers. Expect Ovenbird, Blue-winged, Worm-eating, Kentucky, Hooded, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Yellow, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-and White, Prothonotary, Common Yellowthroat, Pine, Yellow-throated, Prairie. Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Chipping Sparrow, and Summer Tanager are abundant. Acadian Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo, and Blue Grosbeak are present.

Features of interest to birders: More than 98% of the area is forest and woodland. Non-prairie grassland is listed as 43 acres; old fields (mostly field plots) as 40 acres. About 7 miles of the Ozark Trail, designated as the Colonel Plassmayer Wildlife Viewing Trail, runs generally north/south through the area. Segments can be accessed from parking areas for short forays. The portion through The Narrows at the southwest end of the area, though running largely along a hogback ridge, may be inaccessible due to high water. Some of the best birding can be had along the roads. Cave Road and Scotia Ranch Road are wide, allowing careful stopping along straight stretches. Ovenbird and Wood Thrush sound off along Cave Road. Listen for Hooded Warbler along Scotia Ranch Road, especially east of Road 28. Road 22 (a.k.a. Big Eddy), to the right at the intersection of Cave Rd. and Scotia Ranch Rd., is good gravel to the end, turn-around lot. It passes through pine stands good for Pine and Yellow-throated Warblers.

Road 21 (a.k.a. Pattons Rd.) south off Rd. 22, has an area at a high point with some open, non-wooded land and a great view. Check it at dawn or dusk for nightjars. The road deteriorates after the parking area on the right about a half-mile from the west area boundary and may be impassible due to high water toward the end. Listen for Worm-eating Warblers at the parking area. Check the scrubby area on the north side of the road just east of the lot for a variety of summer birds.

The lower end of Cave Road as it nears two parking areas along Huzzah Creek has some old field/grassland habitat on the south side that gives views of the largest hunk of more or less open, non-wooded, sometimes wetland-like habitat. This area is prone to flooding.

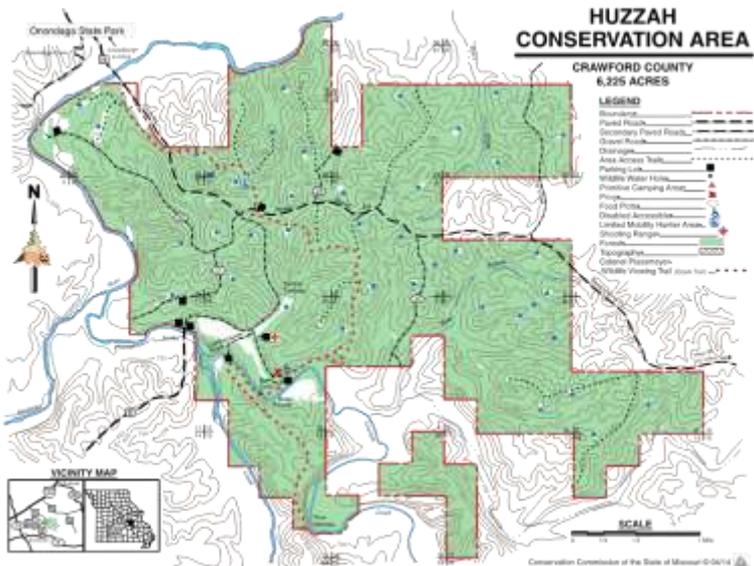
Campground Road and Road 23 to the shooting range and then Courtois Creek, are fairly flat, but low-lying, so prone to flooding. The campground may be walked during the closed season (May 16 to September 14). Road 28 (a.k.a. Pay David Rd.), running north off Scotia Ranch Rd. has good birding **with virtually no traffic (but it leads to private, occupied land, so don't block it)**. A pull-off on the left provides parking for the trail leading north along a ridge. The undesignated short road about a half-mile east of Rd. 28 is gated. There is room to park at the gate, and very good, mostly level, undisturbed birding through pines and oak-hickory woods along a ridge on the short road and the two-track trail beyond. Road 32, a.k.a. Huzzah Club Rd. (mailbox for Huzzah Club at intersection with Scotia Ranch Rd.) is narrow gravel through mixed woods and a former primitive camping area. Listen for Worm-eating and Hooded Warbler along it. It leads to private land, where a turn around is just beyond the gate.

Toilets: 2 privies. One is just off the parking area at Courtois Creek. The other is along Campground Rd. in the area closed from May 16 to September 14, but may be accessed by foot.

Camping: A 16-site primitive camping area is along Campground Rd. is open September 15 through May 15.

Hazards/Limitations: Much of the area is low-lying and subject to flooding. Low water crossings may be impassible after heavy rains. The un-staffed shooting range (closed Mondays) opens 1/2 hour after sunrise and closes 1/2 hour before sunset. Expect heavy hunter presence in season.

Nearby Birding Sites: Onondaga Cave SP (adjacent, across Meramec River), Meramec SP, Meramec CA, Little Indian Creek CA, Pea Ridge CA.



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