

# ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSOURI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

**Chris Hobbs, Secretary 1997-98, and William C. Rowe, Secretary 1998-99**

This report summarizes records evaluated by the Committee between 30 September 1997 and 26 September 1998. 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 A. O. U. Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (1998). For Not Accepted records, observers names are omitted and a brief explanation is provided as to why the record was not accepted. All photographs are now 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.

Of those records that were finalized (including recirculated and unresolved records from prior reports), a total of 59 were accepted, with 19 not accepted. Members participating in the decisions were Paul McKenzie (Chairman), Chris Hobbs (Secretary), David Easterla, Bill Eddleman, Brad Jacobs, Mark Robbins, and Bill Rowe. Outside reviews were provided by Peter Pyle, Dave DeSante, Steven N. G. Howell, and Keith Hansen (Black-headed Grosbeak, MBRC #1997-27); and Dennis Paulson (Ruff, MBRC #1995-63).

One species, Curlew Sandpiper, was added to the Missouri state list. This makes a total of 397 fully accepted species for Missouri, including 6 formerly occurring species that have been extirpated from the state and 2 extinct species. There are also 19 hypothetical species on the list (which means that there are one or more reports meeting normal acceptance criteria, but none meeting the criteria for a first state record).

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. The next report will appear in March 2000.

## **RECORDS ACCEPTED**

**RED-NECKED GREBE** (*Podiceps grisegena*), 1998-06; 1 adult, 26 November through 6 December 1997, Creve Coeur Lake, St. Louis Co. A. John Solodar. Also documented by James and Charlene Malone. A very rare migrant.

**WESTERN GREBE** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), 1998-16; 1 adult, 27 December 1997, Table Rock Dam, Taney Co. Bo Brown and Jane Fitzgerald. An accidental winter visitant.

**CLARK'S GREBE** (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), 1998-18; 1 adult, 27 December 1997, Table Rock Dam, Taney Co. Bo Brown and Jane Fitzgerald. Third documented state record.

**TRICOLORED HERON** (*Egretta tricolor*), 1998-58; 1 adult, 16 April 1998, Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Stoddard Co. William Reeves and Steve Dilks. A casual transient; this is the second-earliest spring record.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), 1998-48; 2 immatures, 19 December 1997, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Photographed and documented by Mark Robbins and Roger McNeill. Casual winter visitant.

**WHITE IBIS** (*Eudocimus albus*), 1998-57; 1 immature, 13 April 1998, Big Oak Tree State Park, Mississippi Co. Dan Kluza and Thomas Ryan. Twelfth record and earliest spring record.

**WHITE IBIS**, 1998-78; 1 immature, 7-10 July 1998, Bushwacker CA, Vernon Co. Randy Haas. Photographed. Thirteenth record.

**WHITE IBIS**, 1998-71; 1 immature, 23 July through 26 August 1998, Lake Springfield, Greene Co. Documented by Kay Johnson (photographs) and Lisa Berger; also by David Easterla (photographs) and Dean Rising. Fourteenth record, and first to provide photographic documentation for Missouri.

**BLACK VULTURE** (*Coragyps atratus*), 1998-66; 1, 25 July 1998, Linn Co. David and Netta Witten. The northernmost documented record for Missouri, although there is a pre-1960 report for Squaw Creek NWR.

**BRANT** (*Branta bernicla*), 1998-44; 1 adult, 24 October through 8 November 1997, Stockton Lake, Cedar Co. Knox and Nelda McCrory, Carl Pepmiller. Also documented by Paul McKenzie and Susan Hazelwood. Casual transient.

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL** (*Anas discors*), 1998-10; 1 male, 1 female, 19 December 1997, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Mark Robbins and Roger McNeill. A rare winter resident.

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL**, 1998-28; 1 male, 4 females, 27 December 1997, Duck Creek CA, Bollinger Co. Bill Reeves and Jude Vickery. Photographed by Linda Cheek, Teresa Oyler.

**OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*), 1998-09; 1 adult, 20 December 1997, Easley, Boone Co. David and Michael Witten. Casual winter visitant.

**SANDHILL CRANE** (*Grus canadensis*), 1998-01; 1 adult, 24 September 1997, east of Springfield, Greene Co. Documented by Greg Swick. Rare migrant.

**BLACK-NECKED STILT** (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 1998-68; 1, 25 March 1998, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Photographed and documented by Robert Lewis. Earliest spring record.

**BLACK-NECKED STILT**, 1998-69; 17 May 1998, Bigelow Marsh, Holt Co. Photographed and documented by David Easterla. Casual transient outside the southeast corner of the state.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa melanoleuca*), 1998-11; 2, 19 December 1997, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Mark Robbins and Roger McNeill. First winter record.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS**, 1998-53; 1, 5 February 1998, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. Linda Frederick. Second winter record.

**WESTERN SANDPIPER** (*Calidris mauri*), 1998-61; male and female, 9 May 1998, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Timothy Barksdale. One of few documented records of this species in May.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** (*Calidris melanotos*), 1998-47; 1, 19 December 1997, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Documented and photographed by Mark Robbins and Roger McNeill. First winter record.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** (*Calidris ferruginea*), 1998-70; 1 adult male, 14-15 July 1998, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Discovered and documented by Tom Curtis and Bill Goodge. Photographed and

documented by Eric Preston. Also documented by Paul McKenzie and Susan Hazelwood. First state record.

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*), 1998-12; 1, 19 December 1997, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Mark Robbins and Roger McNeill. First winter record.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** (*Rissa tridactyla*), 1998-07; 1, first winter, 6 November 1997, Creve Coeur Lake, St. Louis Co. Charlene Malone. Casual transient.

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** (*Zenaida asiatica*), 1998-65, 1 adult, 18 July 1998, Springfield, Greene Co. Lisa Berger. Third documented record for the state.

**GREATER ROADRUNNER** (*Geococcyx californianus*), 1998-85, 2 adults, 16 June through 17 July 1998, Marquand, Madison Co. Photographed and documented by Daisy and Bob Roe. Northeast of expected range. Number assigned is out of sequence because of an error (last number in this record year is 1998-78).

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Archilochus colubris*), 1998-45; 1 adult male, 10 November 1997, Miller Co. Deborah and Brian Yount residence. Photographed by Jim Rathert and documented by James D. Wilson. Very late.

**ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD** (*Calypte anna*), 1998-03; 1 female, 3-10 November 1997, Lee's Summit, Jackson Co. Residence of Pauline Chamberlin. Documented by JoAnn Garrett and Chris Hobbs. Fourth Missouri record.

**ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD**, 1998-46; 1 immature male, 14-19 December 1997, Des Peres, St. Louis Co. Faith Phillips residence. Identified by James Malone (documented) and David Becher. Photographed and documented by Bill Rowe. Fifth Missouri record.

**Selasphorus** sp., 1998-50; 1 immature male, 29 October through 15 December 1997, Southwest City, McDonald Co. Documented and photographed by Mrs. Billy Brown. Submitted as a Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) but identifiable only to genus; not possible to rule out Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*).

**Selasphorus** sp., 1998-43; 1 female, 31 October through 2 November 1997, Carthage, Jasper Co. Richard and Mary Campbell residence. Photographed and documented by Larry Herbert.

**EASTERN PHOEBE** (*Sayornis phoebe*), 1998-13; 1, 19 December 1997, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Mark Robbins. North of expected winter range.

**EASTERN PHOEBE**, 1998-20; 1, 28 December 1997, Plattsburg, Clinton Co. JoAnn Garrett and Nanette Johnson. North of expected winter range.

**EASTERN PHOEBE**, 1998-31; 1 adult, 3 January 1998, north St. Louis Co. Paul Bauer. North of expected winter range.

**ROCK WREN** (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), 1998-67; 1, 18 December 1997, below Bagnell Dam on the Osage River, Miller Co. Videotaped and documented by Kevin Muenks for the ninth state record.

**HOUSE WREN** (*Troglodytes aedon*), 1998-24; 1, 27 December 1997, south of Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Stoddard Co. Stephen Dilks and Neil Gunn. Casual winter visitant.

**HOUSE WREN**, 1998-52; 1, 27 December 1997, Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Stoddard Co. Documented by Bill Eddleman. Casual winter visitant.

**HOUSE WREN**, 1998-27; 1, 27 December 1997, Duck Creek CA, Bollinger Co. Bill Reeves and Jude Vickery. Casual winter visitant.

**HOUSE WREN**, 1998-25; 1, 28 December 1997, northwest of Bayouville, New Madrid Co. Bill Eddleman and Helena Wood. Casual winter visitant.

**MARSH WREN** (*Cistothorus palustris*), 1998-08; 11 individuals, 19 December 1997, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Mark Robbins and Roger McNeill. Equals record high count for winter period.

**MARSH WREN**, 1998-14; 2, 20 December 1997, Cole Co. Jude Vickery.

**VARIED THRUSH** (*Ixoreus naevius*), 1998-76; 1 male, 1 February 1997, south of Chamois, Osage Co. Karen Sieg. Seventh state record.

**VARIED THRUSH**, 1998-55; 1 female, 6 April 1998, under the Gateway Arch in downtown St. Louis, St. Louis Co. Rob Williams. Eighth record.

**GRAY CATBIRD** (*Dumetella carolinensis*), 1998-19; 1, 27 December 1997, Jellystone Park area, Taney Co. Bo Brown. About the fourteenth winter record.

**GRAY CATBIRD**, 1998-38; 1, 17 January 1998, James A. Reed CA, Jackson Co. Don Arney. About the fifteenth winter record.

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** (*Vermivora pinus*), 1998-77; 1 male, 25 August 1998, Bluff Woods CA, Buchanan Co. Jack Hilsabeck. First fall record for northwest Missouri.

**BREWSTER'S WARBLER** (*Vermivora pinus* x *V. chrysoptera*), 1998-62; 1 adult male, 9 May 1998, Boone Co. Paul McKenzie. Rarely-encountered hybrid.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** (*Vermivora celata*), 1998-23; 1, 27 December 1997, east side of Lake Wappapello, Wayne Co. Stephen Dilks and Neil Gunn. About the tenth winter record.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**, 1998-37; 2, 27 December 1997, Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Stoddard Co. Neal Young, Bill Eddleman, and Ken Rampley. About the eleventh winter record.

**CAPE MAY WARBLER** (*Dendroica tigrina*), 1998-49; 1 male, 28 December 1997 through mid-January 1998, Chillicothe, Livingston Co. Photographed and documented by Steve Kinder at his home. Fifth winter record.

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** (*Icteria virens*), 1998-02; 7 October 1997, Springfield, Greene Co. Bird struck a window and was revived and released. Documented by Jeff Cantrell. Late record.

**FIELD SPARROW** (*Spizella pusilla*), 1998-32; 1, 2 January 1998, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. Mark Robbins. Rare winter resident in northern Missouri.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 1998-34; 7 males, 17 December 1997, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Mike Beck and Susan Hazelwood.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** (*Icterus galbula*), 1998-51; immature female, about 3 January through 17 January 1998, Phelps Co. Documented and photographed by Ann and Bob Wethington. Casual winter resident.

**Icterus**, sp., 1998-39; 1, 27 January through 22 March 1998, Lake Wappapello, Wayne Co. Documented by Stanton Hudson and William Reeves. Photographed by William Reeves. Although the bird most closely resembled a first-year Baltimore Oriole, a hybrid with Bullock's Oriole (*I. bullockii*) could not be ruled out.

**RED CROSSBILL** (*Loxia curvirostra*), 1998-42; 1 adult female, through the summer of 1997, Doniphan, Ripley Co. Photographed and documented by Mary Ann Ensz. Casual summer visitant.

**WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL** (*Loxia leucoptera*), 1998-04; 1 female, 13 November 1997, Jefferson Co. Peter Hoell.

**COMMON REDPOLL** (*Carduelis flammea*), 1998-15; 1, 20 December 1997, Lake Jacomo, Jackson Co. Robert Fisher.

**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*), 1998-36; 25-30, from November 1997 through 9 January 1998, Palmyra, Marion Co. Travis and Kathi Moore. Casual away from the St. Louis area.

**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW**, 1998-40; 1, 8 May 1998, northeast of Frankford, Pike Co. James Malone. Casual away from the St. Louis area.

## **RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED**

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

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON** (*Gavia adamsii*), 1998-05; 1, 3-4 October 1997, William Fields Lake, Maries Co. Description did not rule out other loons.

**YELLOW RAIL** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), 1998-59; 1, 22 April 1998, Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles Co. Field marks that distinguish Yellow Rail were not noted. Size and behavior were consistent with Sora (*Porzana carolina*).

**RUFF** (*Philomachus pugnax*), 1995-63; 1 male, 6 August 1995, near Marais Temps Clair CA, St. Charles Co. Originally accepted by the MBRC after two rounds of voting, this record was later scrutinized by shorebird authority Dennis Paulson. From the description and the finely detailed sketch submitted, he concluded that most features of the bird (including size, structure, and plumage) suggested a male Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) rather than a Ruff. Upon consideration of his comments, the Committee reversed its decision in a third round of voting. The Committee was pleased that one observer made an excellent drawing of the bird, but on the other hand was discouraged that no one else submitted documentation even though many good observers saw it. All decisions have to be made on the basis of what is actually submitted, not on hearsay or reputation, and in many cases it is very helpful to get several independent writeups of a rare species.

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** (*Streptopelia decaocto*), 1998-56; 2 adults, 13 April 1998, Delta, Cape Girardeau Co. Although this species, having first colonized Florida, is now naturally expanding across North America, there have also been releases of captive birds in some areas, raising origin issues. Furthermore, its similarity to the domestic Ringed Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*) complicates field identification. This particular report did not describe field marks that would eliminate Ringed Turtle-Dove.

**BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Selasphorus platycercus*), 1998-64; 1 immature, 12 June 1998, Oronogo Bottoms, Jasper Co. Description did not rule out other hummingbird species.

**SAY'S PHOEBE** (*Sayornis saya*), 1998-60; 2 adults, 4 May 1998, Springfield, Greene Co. The size (comparable to Eastern Kingbird) and early evening light conditions were problematical, and the description was minimal.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), 1998-54; 29 March 1998, Three Creeks State Forest, Boone Co. Description did not rule out Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*), which would be much more likely on this date.

**AMERICAN TREE SPARROW** (*Spizella arborea*), 1998-73; 5, 9 May 1998, northern Knox Co. No description of distinguishing bill or face pattern.

**AMERICAN TREE SPARROW**, 1998-74; 2, 9 May 1998, Liberty, Clay Co. The description was written from memory nearly three months after the observation.

**AMERICAN TREE SPARROW**, 1998-75; 1 9 May 1998, near Watkins Mill State Park, Clay Co. Description did not eliminate Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*).

**CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR** (*Calcarius ornatus*), 1998-17; 1, 26 October 1997, near Montrose, Henry Co. Details of the tail pattern, as described, were not consistent with this species.

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), 1998-35; 1 female, 30 December 1997. Ha Ha Tonka SP, Camdenton Co. Description did not rule out a female Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*).

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), 1997-27; 1, 13 December 1996, Springfield, Greene Co. In the opinion of the Committee as well as the outside reviewers of this record, the photos and written details did not eliminate a hybrid with Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Certain features suggested both species.

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK**, 1998-63; 1 female, 16 May 1998, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. Description did not eliminate Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

**LAZULI BUNTING** (*Passerina amoena*), 1997-16; 1, 8 May through 15 May 1997, Fairfax, Atchison Co. No description was furnished.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 1996-68; 1, 28 December 1996, north of Mingo NWR, Wayne Co. Description did not eliminate Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*).

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**, 1998-33; 1, 19 December 1997, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Description did not eliminate other blackbird species.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**, 1998-26; 4, 28 December 1997, Mississippi Co. Description strongly suggested Rusty Blackbird.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**, 1998-29; 1, 30 December 1997, Chariton Co. Description strongly suggested Rusty Blackbird.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**, 1998-30; 5, 3 January 1998, St. Charles Co. Description did not eliminate Rusty Blackbird.