

# THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSOURI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

William C. Rowe, Secretary

This report summarizes records evaluated by the Committee between 26 September 1999 and 1 October 2000. 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 "Checklist of North American Birds", Seventh Edition (1998). For Accepted records, comments are added to indicate the records significance, and sometimes to mention the details that made it persuasive. For Not Accepted records, observer's 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.

Of the 89 records that were finalized during this period (including one recirculated, unresolved record from the previous year), 73 were accepted and 16 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 82%. No records were carried over into 2000-2001. Members participating in the decisions were Bill Eddleman (Chair), Bill Rowe (Secretary), David Easterla, Bill Goodge, Brad Jacobs, Paul McKenzie, and Mark Robbins. One outside review was solicited (see under Eurasian Collared-Dove, 1999-57).

Over the year covered by this report, no new species were added to the Missouri state list, which still stands at 398 fully accepted species, including 6 formerly occurring species that have been extirpated from the state and 2 extinct species. There are also an additional 19 hypothetical species on the list; this means that there are one or more reports of the species that are probably valid and would meet normal acceptance criteria, but none that meet the more stringent criteria for a first state record.

In general, the Committee reviews records of species that have been found fewer than 15 times in Missouri and are thus considered casual or accidental statewide (examples: casual, Barrow's Goldeneye; accidental, Roseate Spoonbill). It also reviews records of species that are casual or accidental for the season when reported (example: Baltimore Oriole in winter); records of species that are casual or accidental in the part of Missouri where reported (example: Red-shouldered Hawk in northwest Missouri); and other records of unusual interest, including first nesting records.

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 the March 2002 issue of "*The Bluebird*."

## RECORDS ACCEPTED

**PACIFIC LOON** (*Gavia pacifica*), 2000-31: One, 19 December 1999, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Chris Hobbs. Christmas Bird Count record. Accidental in winter.

**HORNED GREBE** (*Podiceps auritus*), 2000-32: Three, 19 December 1999, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Chris Hobbs. Christmas Bird Count record. Accidental in northern Missouri in winter.

**CLARK'S GREBE** (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), 1999-87: One, 23-24 October 1999, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Jim and Ellen Zellmer (documentation), Chris Hobbs, Lloyd Moore, Mark McKellar, David Staehling. Accidental; fourth documented state record.

**AMERICAN BITTERN** (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), 2000-37: One, 13 February 2000, Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Boone Co. Documented by Sandra Elbert, Bonnie Heidy, Susan Hazelwood, and Jean Leonatti; also observed by Jean Graebner, Barbara Sapp, Barbara Allen, Sandra Kubal, Frank Schffel, and Lee Kraft. Accidental in winter. Diagnostic features well described, and immature night-herons ruled out.

**GREAT EGRET** (*Casmerodius albus*), 2000-10: One, 31 December 1999, Bean Lake, Platte Co. Mike Beck (documentation), Frances Cramer. Christmas Bird Count record. Accidental in winter.

**TRICOLORED HERON** (*Egretta tricolor*), 2000-45: One, 15 April 2000, Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Chariton Co. Terry McNeely, Steve Kinder. About the fifteenth state record of this casual vagrant, and the second-earliest spring record.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), 2000-8: One immature, 21 December 1999, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. Mark Robbins (documentation, photograph), Ron Bell, Richard Speer. Casual in winter.

**WHITE IBIS** (*Eudocimus albus*), 2000-75: One immature, 24 May 2000, Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Stoddard Co. Bill Eddleman, with ornithology class. Fifteenth state record.

**WHITE-FACED IBIS** (*Plegadis chihii*), 2000-64: Four adults, 2 June 2000, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. David Easterla. Third summer record for Missouri.

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL** (*Ajaia ajaja*), 1999-43: One, 3-11 September 1999, Ray Co. Found and identified by Mike Messick; documented by Don Arney. Accidental in Missouri; second state record.

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL**, 2000-73: One immature, 17 July 2000 (or earlier) till at least 18 September, Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Chariton Co. Heather Lambert-Doherty (discoverer), Scott Doherty, Steve Kinder (written documentation and photographs); also documented by Paul McKenzie. Accidental in Missouri; third state record.

**TURKEY VULTURE** (*Cathartes aura*), 2000-16: Two, 18 December 1999, Boone Co. Mark Fink (documentation), Alix Fink. Christmas Bird Count record.

**TURKEY VULTURE**, 2000-17: Two, 18 December 1999, Boone Co. Georgia Sneed. Christmas Bird Count record.

**TURKEY VULTURE**, 2000-18: One, 18 December 1999, Boone Co. Boyd Terry. Christmas Bird Count record.

**TURKEY VULTURE**, 2000-19: Two, 18 December 1999, Boone Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation), Russ Sewell, Stephanie Smith. Christmas Bird Count record.

**TURKEY VULTURE**, 2000-20: One, 18 December 1999, Boone Co. Barbara Sapp (documentation), Betty Overall. Christmas Bird Count record.

**TURKEY VULTURE**, 2000-21: One, 18 December 1999, Boone Co. Lesa Beamer (documentation), Jean Leonatti, Bonnie Heidy. Christmas Bird Count record.

**CINNAMON TEAL** (*Anas cyanoptera*), 2000-59: One male, 4 June 2000, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. David Easterla (documentation), Jack Hillsabeck. Accidental in summer.

**REDHEAD** (*Aythya americana*), 2000-66: One male, 2-4 June 2000, and two females 2 June 2000, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. David Easterla (documentation), Jack Hilsabeck. Casual in summer.

**GREATER SCAUP** (*Aythya marila*), 2000-25: Male and female, 18 December 1999, Lake Jacomo, Jackson Co. Mike Beck (documentation), Bob Fisher. Christmas Bird Count record.

**GREATER SCAUP**, 2000-33: Male and female, 19 December 1999, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Chris Hobbs. Christmas Bird Count record.

**GREATER SCAUP**, 2000-15: Male and female, 24 December 1999, Joplin, Jasper Co. Barry Jones (documentation), Larry Herbert. Christmas Bird Count record.

**COMMON MERGANSER** (*Mergus merganser*), 2000-60: One male, 2-4 June 2000, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. David Easterla (documentation), Jack Hilsabeck. Accidental in summer.

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** (*Buteo lineatus*), 2000-69: Two adults and two juveniles, 30 June and 5 July 2000, near Watson, Atchison Co. David Easterla (documentation), Jack Hilsabeck. See Easterla, The Red-shouldered Hawk rediscovered nesting in northwest Missouri after 30 years, "*The Bluebird*", Vol. 67, No. 3 (September 2000). Very rare at all seasons in northwest Missouri.

**FERRUGINOUS HAWK** (*Buteo regalis*), 2000-6: One adult, 16 December 1999, Prairie State Park, Barton Co. Mark Robbins (documentation), Brian Barber. Accidental in winter; fourth documented and accepted state record for that season. Observed in the exact location where the same observer photographed an adult Ferruginous Hawk on the same date in 1994.

**SANDHILL CRANE** (*Grus canadensis*), 2000-56: Two, 6 May to at least 19 June 2000; one bird still present 7 July; Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. Documented by David Easterla (photographs), seen by m.ob.; Rick Speer observed on latest date. Previous late date in spring was 18 May; accidental in summer. There is a possibility that these birds nested on the refuge.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** (*Pluvialis dominica*), 1999-92: One adult, 10 December 1999, Cooley Lake, Clay Co. Randy Knotts. Latest fall record. Remarkably, this bird was mostly still in alternate plumage, with black underparts down to the undertail coverts.

**SNOWY PLOVER** (*Charadrius alexandrius*), 2000-47: One adult, 22-23 April 2000, Little Creve Coeur Lake, St. Louis Co. First found and identified by Mike Thelen (documentation); also documented by Jim Malone (photographs) and Paul and Barbara Johnson (photographs) and seen by m.ob. First St. Louis area record and first for eastern corridor of counties in Missouri; third record away from northwest corner.

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), 2000-65: Three, 2 June 2000, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. David Easterla. Casual in June.

**BLACK-NECKED STILT** (*Himantopus himantopus*), 2000-58: Two, 12-13 May 2000, Holt Co. David Easterla (documentation), Angelo Bufalino, Jack Hilsabeck. Casual outside southeast Missouri.

**AMERICAN AVOCET** (*Recurvirostra americana*), 2000-68: One, 9 June 2000, Stockton Reservoir, Polk Co. Greg Swick (documentation), Phil Moran. First June record for Missouri.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa melanoleuca*), 2000-63: Two, 4 June 2000, Holt Co. David Easterla (documentation), Jack Hilsabeck. Casual in June.

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa flavipes*), 2000-41: Two, 19 February 2000, Winfield Lock and Dam, Lincoln Co. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Bill Goodge, Brad Jacobs, Bill Rowe. Nine days earlier than previous early arrival date (MBRC record 1999-55; see Twelfth Annual Report).

**MARBLED GODWIT** (*Limosa fedoa*), 2000-50: One, 20 April 2000, Busch Conservation Area, St. Charles Co. Jeannie Moe. Casual transient in eastern Missouri. Care must be taken with the identification of this species in spring, since female Hudsonian Godwits are not dark chestnut below like males; they have color of underparts paler, approaching that of dowitcher or Marbled Godwit, often intermixed with white but also barred (Paulson, "*Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest*", U. of Washington Press, 1993). The diagnostic black wing linings and black-and-white tail of a Hudsonian may not be visible at rest, nor is a good size comparison always available (Hudsonian barely larger than Greater Yellowlegs, Marbled much larger). This problem is not discussed in field guides and probably accounts for some reports of Marbled Godwit in Missouri. The bird in this report, however, was satisfactorily described, including the finely barred tail.

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*), 2000-62: One, 2 June 2000, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. David Easterla. Accidental in June.

**LEAST SANDPIPER** (*Calidris minutilla*), 2000-30: Five, 17 December 1999, Four Rivers Conservation Area, Vernon Co. Mark Robbins (documentation), Roger McNeill. Christmas Bird Count record. Casual in winter.

**LEAST SANDPIPER**, 2000-24: Two, 16 January 2000, at Montrose Conservation Area, Henry Co., and five at Aldrich arm of Stockton Reservoir, Polk Co. Mark Robbins. Casual in winter.

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** (*Calidris bairdii*), 2000-61: One, 2 June 2000, Mound City, Holt Co. David Easterla (documentation), Jack Hilsabeck. Accidental in June.

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** (*Streptopelia decaocto*), 1999-57: One, from 16 May 1999 into the summer at the home of Lewis Cox, Mexico, Audrain Co. Lewis Cox and Edge Wade (documentation, photographs). Some Committee members were initially skeptical of this record, believing that Ringed Turtle-Dove (or a hybrid) was not ruled out by the descriptions and the photographs, which provide reasonable but not very close images. Ultimately the evidence was sent for outside review to P. William Smith, who wrote a comprehensive article about the species for "*American Birds*" (Vol. 41, No. 5, 1987). Smith's opinion was that, with reasonable certainty, the bird was a pure Eurasian Collared-Dove. On the next round following receipt of this opinion, the record was accepted. Diagnostic features included the much darker primaries, gray undertail coverts, and three-note cooing song. This rapidly-expanding species has been seen various places in Missouri, and an article about it has appeared in "*The Conservationist*" (Missouri Department of Conservation). The Committee encourages documentation of its occurrence. At this point only a handful of records have actually been submitted and accepted, thus keeping it on the Review List for now.

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE**, 2000-36: Five on 31 January 2000 and 11-12 on 27 April, Malden, Dunklin Co. Tim Sage. See comments on 1999-57. Dark primaries and gray undertail coverts were described and sketched, and three-note cooing song was described well.

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE**, 2000-57: One, 22 April, and two, 25 April 2000, Saline Co. Mick McHugh, Chris Hobbs. See comments on 1999-57. Dark primaries and undertail coverts, and raspy mewing call, were sufficient to establish the birds as this species.

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE**, 2000-77: Sixteen, 12 August 2000, Marshfield, Webster Co. Betty Dyer (documentation), Zelda Ellison, Bonnie and Charles Noble. See comments on 1999-57. Gray undertail coverts were the key point noted in this description.

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE**, (*Zenaida asiatica*), 1999-86: One, 1 September 1999, Barton Co. Scott Burger. Casual; ninth state record.

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE**, 2000-78: One, 10-12 August 2000, near Columbia, Boone Co. Documented and photographed by John Schulz. Casual; tenth state record.

**PILEATED WOODPECKER** (*Dryocopus pileatus*), 2000-9: One, 21 December 1999, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. Mark Robbins. This species is only casual in the northwest corner of Missouri.

**EASTERN PHOEBE** (*Sayornis phoebe*), 2000-1: One, 18 December 1999, Greene Co. Constance Tyndall (documentation), Debby Good, Becky Matthews, et al. Christmas Bird Count record. Casual in winter outside extreme southern Missouri.

**EASTERN PHOEBE**, 2000-5: One 29 December 1999, Camden County. Lester Pannell (documentation), Charlene Pannell. Casual in winter outside extreme southern Missouri.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** (*Tyrannus forficatus*), 2000-71: Nesting pair from 7 July 2000, Union, Franklin Co. Found and documented by Ron and Cheryl Delashmit; also documented by Charlene and Jim Malone (photographs). A casual breeding species in eastern Missouri.

**NORTHERN SHRIKE** (*Lanius excubitor*), 1999-88: One adult, 30 October 1999, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Robert Fisher. Ties for the second-earliest fall record.

**NORTHERN SHRIKE**, 1999-91: One adult, 11 December 1999, Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area, St. Charles Co. Bill Rowe (documentation), members of birding class. First documented record outside the northwest and west-central sections of Missouri. This bird was never relocated after 11 December, but the following day the bird in the next account was discovered (which see).

**NORTHERN SHRIKE**, 1999-93: One adult, 12 December 1999 to at least 11 February 2000, Dwiggins Road, St. Charles Co. Found and documented by Paul and Barbara Johnson; also seen by m. ob. Second documented record outside northwest and west-central Missouri. This bird was almost certainly the same as an unidentified shrike seen at the same spot on 5 December; thus it remained in residence at this site for over two months. Despite frequent observation during that period, it was never observed more than one mile in any direction from a center point along railroad tracks with small trees, and for this reason was almost certainly not the same bird as the one in 1999-91, which was 5-6 miles away with poor habitat in between.

**FISH CROW** (*Corvus ossifragus*), 2000-43: Three, 24 March 2000, Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Boone Co. Bill Goodge (documentation), Eleanor Goodge. Several recent records in Boone County indicate that this species may be expanding its range westward along the Missouri River. The abrupt nasal calls, both single and two-noted, were heard clearly by an experienced observer.

**FISH CROW**, 2000-52: Two, 25 April 2000, Big Sugar Creek State Park, McDonald Co. Paul McKenzie.

**FISH CROW**, 2000-74: Three, 2 August 2000, near Hartwell, Henry Co. Mark Robbins. first record for Henry Co.

**HOUSE WREN**, (*Troglodytes aedon*), 2000-35: One, 2 January 2000, near Wappapello Dam, Wayne Co. Steve Dilks. Casual in winter.

**GRAY CATBIRD**, (*Dumetella carolinensis*), 2000-22: One, 18 December 1999, Columbia, Boone Co. Georgia Sneed. Christmas Bird Count record. Casual in winter.

**GRAY CATBIRD**, 2000-7: One, 22 January - 2 March 2000, University City, St. Louis Co. David and Wilma Kennell (documentation, photographs), Jim Ziebol. Casual in winter. This bird remained for the winter around a suburban yard, coming to suet feeder and water baths.

**AMERICAN PIPIT**, (*Anthus rubescens*), 2000-3: 42 birds, 21 December 1999, Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Wes Mueller. Christmas Bird Count record. Casual in winter.

**AMERICAN PIPIT**, 2000-4: One, 21 December 1999, Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Wes Mueller. Christmas Bird Count record. This bird was seen about 1-2 miles from the location of the flock of 42 (see above record) and was therefore treated separately.

**AMERICAN PIPIT**, 2000-27: Three, 1 January 2000, Taney Co. Kay Johnson (documentation), Betty Johnson, Bob and Ruby Ball. Christmas Bird Count record. Casual in winter.

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** (*Vermivora pinus*), 2000-53: One, 3 May 2000, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. Paul McKenzie. Casual migrant in extreme northwestern Missouri.

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER** (*Dendroica magnolia*), 1999-89: One, 7 November 1999, Busch Conservation Area, St. Charles Co. Jeannie Moe. Latest fall record for Missouri.

**PINE WARBLER** (*Dendroica pinus*), 2000-28: One, 17 December 1999, Four Rivers Conservation Area, Vernon Co. Chris Hobbs (documentation), Brian Barber. Christmas Bird Count record. Accidental in winter away from pine groves in the Ozarks.

**COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** (*Geothlypis trichas*), 2000-29: Immature male, 17 December 1999, Four Rivers Conservation Area, Vernon Co. Chris Hobbs (documentation), Brian Barber. Christmas Bird Count record.

**FIELD SPARROW** (*Spizella pusilla*), 2000-26: One, 29 December 1999, Livingston Co. Terry McNeely (documentation), Dena McNeely. Christmas Bird Count record. This species has been over-reported on Christmas Bird Counts in northern Missouri; in fact it vacates roughly the northern one-third of the state in winter and is quite rare there. Thus documentation is required on counts in that area. This individual was carefully described and all field marks were noted.

**SAVANNAH SPARROW** (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), 2000-67: One, 2 June 2000, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. David Easterla. Accidental in summer.

**DARK-EYED JUNCO** (*Junco hyemalis*), 2000-70: One, 13 May 2000, Sunbridge Conservation Area, Buchanan Co. Peggy and Jim Voltz (documentation), John Kurtz. Unusually late record; seen on North American Migration Count.

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR** (*Calcarius lapponicus*), 2000-54: One adult male, 9 May 2000, Bradford Farm, Boone Co. Paul McKenzie. Latest spring record for Missouri.

**LAZULI BUNTING** (*Passerina amoena*), 2000-51: One male, 13 May 2000, Boone Co. Jared Parks (documentation), Zach Parks, Lee and Frank Schiffel. Casual transient. Observed during North American Migration Count.

**INDIGO BUNTING** (*Passerina cyanea*), 2000-2: One male, 19 December 1999, Knob Noster State Park, Johnson Co. Timothy McKain, Kathy Schuster. Christmas Bird Count record. Casual in winter. Bird showed strong blue color.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 2000-11: One female, 21 December 1999, Fortescue, Holt Co. Don Arney, Mike Healy, Mike Beck. Christmas Bird Count record, thus requiring documentation. Dark eye and other features observed at close range.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** (*Icterus galbula*), 2000-12: One adult male, 18 December 1999, home of George Nelson, St. Joseph, Buchanan Co. Tom Nagel (documentation), John Rushin (photograph). Casual in winter; at least the sixth winter record. This bird, associating with Eastern Bluebirds in a hackberry tree, was entirely missing its tail!

**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*), 2000-46: One, 16 April 2000, Marion Co. Jim Rathert (documentation), Anita Gorman, Jack Triplett, Larry Strobel. Casual outside the St. Louis area, although it is being observed with increasing frequency along the Mississippi River corridor between St. Louis and the Iowa border.

## 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 bird record committees everywhere.

**THAYER'S GULL** (*Larus thayeri*), 2000-14: One, 18 December 1999, Daviess Co. The description was minimal and did not include any of the standard field marks of Thayer's Gull.

**GLAUCOUS GULL** (*Larus hyperboreus*), 2000-76: One, 19 May 2000, Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau Co. Although there is a possibility that this was a late-lingering Glaucous Gull, the bird was observed without optical equipment, and all details mentioned are consistent with a faded immature Herring Gull in its first or second spring. The wear and bleaching that young gulls experience by spring or summer can make them quite different from field guide illustrations, and hard to identify.

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa flavipes*), 2000-39: One, 16 February 2000, Otter Slough Conservation Area, Stoddard Co. The description of the bird and its call suggested a Greater Yellowlegs, not a Lesser.

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** (*Limnodromus griseus*), 2000-44: Three, 22 March 2000, and one, 29 March, Buchanan Co. A description and sketches were presented as evidence of Short-billed Dowitcher of the eastern subspecies "griseus" (never recorded in Missouri). The description, however, was consistent with Long-billed Dowitcher in basic (nonbreeding) plumage, and the sketches tended to support that identification, showing a darkish bib on the breast with a distinct line of demarcation from the white belly. Long-billed is the expectable species at this date, since there is

no definite record of Short-billed in Missouri before April 27. Any dowitcher seen in March or most of April must be considered a Long-billed unless very carefully proven otherwise.

**GREATER ROADRUNNER** (*Geococcyx californianus*), 2000-72: One, 29 May 2000, Herculaneum, Jefferson Co. It is possible that this bird was a roadrunner, but the description was too sketchy to make any definite judgment.

**GRAY JAY** (*Perisoreus canadensis*), 1999-90: One, 13 November 1999, Laclede Co. The description was too minimal to allow even a guess as to what this bird might have been.

**FISH CROW** (*Corvus ossifragus*), 2000-49: One, 30 April-14 May, Jackson Co. This bird's call was simply described as more nasal than an American Crow's; the description specifically stated that the observer never heard a two-note call during four different encounters. But a nasal sound alone is not diagnostic of Fish Crow, since young American Crows make nasal calls too. Fish Crow calls are abrupt and usually include a two-note version (something like uh-uh) if one listens long enough. Thus the Committee felt that the identification, though perhaps correct, was not proven.

**HOUSE WREN** (*Troglodytes aedon*), 2000-55: One, 18 December 1999, Butler Co. The Committee was unable to accept this record because no description at all was provided.

**HOUSE WREN**, 2000-40: One, 21-23 February 2000, Lebanon, Laclede Co. This bird, observed without optical equipment, was possibly a House Wren, but the description provided did not eliminate other wren species.

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING** (*Bombycilla garrulus*), 2000-48: One, 17 April 2000, Duck Creek Conservation Area, Bollinger Co. Other than general grayness, the description did not include any field marks of Bohemian Waxwing such as rusty undertail coverts, rusty facial color, or white markings on the wing.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** (*Vermivora celata*), 2000-38: One, 21 February 2000, Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Stoddard Co. The details provided were insufficient to be sure of this bird's identification. The observer had no previous experience with this species.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** (*Seiurus motacilla*), 2000-42: Two, 27 March 2000, Bennett Spring State Park, Dallas Co. The description was insufficient to confirm the identification. Louisiana Waterthrush is the expected species in March, and the date is far earlier than the normal migration period for Northern Waterthrush.

**CHIPPING SPARROW** (*Spizella passerina*), 2000-23: Five, 18 December 1999, Boone Co. The number reported would be unprecedented for Missouri in winter (the previous high number is two), and the description was sketchy. Committee members believed that other possible sparrows (including immature White-crowned) were not eliminated.

**CHIPPING SPARROW**, 1999-94: One, 19 December 1999, Springfield Lake, Greene Co. The minimal description was insufficient for positive identification. Clay-colored Sparrow (a rare possibility) was not eliminated, and some members believed that Swamp Sparrow was not eliminated. The bill was described as uniformly dark, which does not fit the standard pattern for any of the clear-breasted sparrows in winter.

**VESPER SPARROW** (*Pooecetes gramineus*), 2000-34: One, 15 January 2000, Henry Co. This report left the Committee uncertain what species had really been seen, for some parts of the description cast doubt on the bird's identification as a Vesper Sparrow. White outer tail feathers were observed,

but the breast was described as clear (streaking along flanks only) and the head as small and flattened, details that do not fit Vesper Sparrow. More expectable possibilities such as immature female Lapland Longspur were not eliminated. In fact, the observers mentioned chestnut secondary coverts, and if this refers to the greater coverts, then this detail favors the longspur and rules out Vesper Sparrow.

**SMITH'S LONGSPUR** (*Calcarius pictus*), 2000-13: Group of 20, 18 December 1999, Harrison Co. Seen among Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*). Aside from the rarity of Smith's in winter and the low likelihood of a group of Smith's intermingled with Laplands, the description provided was consistent with immature female Laplands: a buff wash on the breast, with fine streaking but no blackish smudges, and a dark triangular facial pattern. Smith's would be entirely buff on the under parts, down to the belly (no mention of this), and at least some members of a group this size would show white on the lesser wing coverts (also not mentioned).