

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSOURI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

William C. Rowe, Secretary

This report summarizes records evaluated by the Committee between 1 October 2000 and 29 September 2001. 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, observers names are omitted, and a brief explanation is provided as to why the record was not accepted. All photographs will be archived in Mylar envelopes and deposited in the Committee files, which are currently housed in the Division of Ornithology, University of Kansas Natural History Museum, Lawrence, Kansas.

Of the 72 records that were finalized during this period, 60 were accepted and 12 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 83%. No records were carried over into 2001-2002. Members participating in the decisions were Bill Eddleman (Chair), Bill Rowe (Secretary), Bill Goodge, Brad Jacobs, Paul McKenzie, Roger McNeill, and Mark Robbins. Two outside reviews were solicited (Dark-eyed Gray-headed Junco, 2001-30, and Dark-eyed Pink-sided Junco, 2001-38).

Over the year covered by this report, one new species (Smew) was added to the Missouri state list, and one other species (Gyr Falcon) was moved from the hypothetical to the main list; thus Missouri's total now stands at 400 fully accepted species, including 6 formerly occurring species that have been extirpated from the state and 2 extinct species. There are also an additional 18 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 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 2003 issue of "The Bluebird".

* REDA = Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area

ACCEPTED RECORDS

RED-THROATED LOON, (*Gavia stellata*), 2001-51: One, basic plumage, 9 May 2001, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. David Easterla (documentation), Brent Thoma. Casual in spring; this is the fifth spring record.

TRICOLORED HERON, (*Egretta tricolor*), 2001-39: Juvenile, 20 August 2000, Four Rivers C.A., Vernon Co. Found by Dave Williams; documented by Matt Gearheart (including photographs). Casual

visitor; about the sixteenth state record. Since this species has now exceeded the standard of fifteen records or less for 'casual' status, it has been removed from the Review List. There is now no need to document a Tricolored Heron in Missouri unless it is outside the known dates of occurrence (mid-April to mid-September).

TRICOLORED HERON, 2001-45: Adult, 2 May 2001, Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Chariton Co. Steve Kinder (documentation including photographs), Doris Fitchett, Heather Lambert-Doherty. See comments under 2001-39.

WHITE IBIS, (*Eudocimus albus*), 2001-46: Adult, 2 May 2001, Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Chariton Co. Steve Kinder (documentation), Doris Fitchett, Heather Lambert-Doherty. Sixteenth state record. With more than fifteen documented and accepted records, White Ibis has reached the cutoff point for "casual" status and has therefore been removed from the Review List, like Tricolored Heron. It is not necessary to document a White Ibis between late April and the end of August. As a side note, neither species of 'Plegadis' ibis is on the Review List either.

BLACK VULTURE, (*Coragyps atratus*), 2001-29: Two, 4 February 2001, Hawn State Park, St. Genevieve Co. Joe Eades. The species is casual or accidental north of the southernmost Missouri counties. This also constitutes the first winter record in the St. Louis area.

GREATER SCAUP, (*Aythya marila*), 2001-17: Two, 30 December 2000, Raintree Lake, Jackson Co. JoAnn Garrett (documentation), Nanette Johnson. Christmas Bird Count record, for which documentation is required everywhere in Missouri except Lake Jacomo and (beginning with the 2001-2002 season) the rest of the Kansas City count circle.

GREATER SCAUP, 2001-52: Female, 9-19 May 2001, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co. David Easterla (documentation), Kirby Goslee, Jack Hillsabeck, Brent Thoma, Bob Fisher. Seen during North American Migration Count, for which documentation of this species is required.

GREATER SCAUP, 2001-61: Female, 12 May 2001, Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone Co. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Brad Jacobs, Bill Goodge, Edge Wade, Bonnie Heidy. Same comment as 2001-52.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*), 2001-10: Adult male, from 12 January to at least 27 January 2001, REDA, St. Charles Co. Found by Charlene Malone; documented by Randy Korotev and Bill Rowe. Accidental in winter. About the eleventh state record. All major diagnostic features of Barrow's were observed, ruling out a hybrid between this species and Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) such as one recent Missouri record proved to be.

SMEW, (*Mergellus albellus*), 2001-9: Adult male, 13 January to at least 5 March 2001, REDA, St. Charles Co. Identified by Matt Gearheart and Roger McNeill; documented by them with Joe Alburty and by Brad Jacobs, Susan Hazelwood, and Georgia Sneed. Observed by hundreds of additional birders; photographed by Chris Wood, Jim Malone, and others. After much research and discussion, this bird was accepted unanimously as a first state record. The Committee readily acknowledges that it is impossible to be 100% sure that the bird was wild; with waterfowl and other birds that are sometimes kept in captivity, there is always the chance of an escape. In our judgment, however, the bird showed no sign of being an escapee, while there were many reasons to think it had a natural origin. The committee accepted the record based on a preponderance of evidence in favor of natural origin. As with all Committee decisions, this one could be reopened for discussion and possibly even reversed if evidence to the contrary should ever come to light. A full account of the Smew's discovery and its sojourn at REDA, and of the factors entering into the Committee's decision, will appear in a forthcoming issue of, "The Bluebird".

LITTLE GULL, (*Larus minutus*), 2000-80: Two juveniles, 29 September into October 2000, REDA, St. Charles Co. One first observed by David Becher; one documented by Bill Rowe and both by Edge Wade; one also videotaped by Jim Ziebol. One bird appeared fully juvenile, the other partially molted into first-basic plumage; the two birds were seen both separately and together at one time or another. Collectively, the ninth state record.

SABINE'S GULL, (*Xema sabini*), 2000-81: Several birds, 24 September to mid-October 2000, REDA, St. Charles Co. First observed by Jeff Lundt (two birds); documented by Bill Rowe, Mike Thelen, Edge Wade. In various combinations, a minimum of four birds (three juveniles and one adult) were seen during this period. Collectively, about the tenth state record.

MISSISSIPPI KITE, (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 2001-59: Nesting record, June 2001, Joplin, Newton Co. David Ringer (documentation), Bob and Ruby Ball, Naomi Miller; photographs by Karen Long. Nest in an oak in vacant lot in residential suburban area. A regular nesting bird in southeast Missouri north to St. Louis and perhaps beyond, but only a casual nesting species elsewhere.

GYRFALCON, (*Falco rusticolus*), 2001-58: One immature female, 22 November 2000, Holt Co. Found, captured, and documented by David Scarbrough; also photographed by David Easterla. Accidental statewide. This Gyrfalcon is the first fully documented individual in Missouri; the species was on the hypothetical list based on three previous records of birds that were well described but did not meet the criteria for a first state record (each was seen by only one observer or party and no photographs were obtained). With this record, the species is added to the main list. See the article by Easterla, with photographs, in "The Bluebird", Vol. 68, No. 2 (June 2001).

VIRGINIA RAIL, (*Rallus limicola*), 2001-24: Two, 16 December 2000, McBaine, Boone Co. Bill Goodge (documentation), John Besser, Sandra Kubal, Glenn Richter. This appears to be the first winter record for Missouri, although the species is known to linger occasionally into winter in other northern and midwestern states (e.g., Illinois). The birds were well observed among the cattails and mud of water treatment cells; observers noted their smallish size, rusty color,

WHIMBREL, (*Numenius phaeopus*), 2001-57: One, 24 May 2001, Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone Co. Edge Wade. Rare spring transient in western Missouri, accidental in the east; thus a record from central Missouri is worthy of review.

WHIMBREL, 2001-50: Four, 26 May 2001, REDA, St. Charles Co. Joshua Uffman. Accidental spring transient in eastern Missouri; this appears to be the fourth spring record for the St. Louis area.

LEAST SANDPIPER, (*Calidris minutilla*), 2001-1: Two, Stockton Lake, 2 December 2000, Polk Co. Charles Burwick (documentation), Susan Dornfeld, Betty Dyer, Zeldia Ellison, Charles and Bonnie Noble. Casual in winter.

DUNLIN, (*Calidris alpina*), 2001-35: One, 15 March 2001, Lake Contrary, Buchanan Co. Larry Lade. Earliest spring date, and apparently first Missouri observation in March.

LAUGHING GULL, (*Larus atricilla*), 2001-23: One adult, 17 January 2001, REDA, St. Charles Co. Chris Wood (documentation, including photographs), Jim and Susan Hengeveld. Accidental in winter; this is the second winter record for Missouri (and first for the St. Louis area). Though this bird was rather small and exhibited more dark color on the head than do most basic-plumaged Laughing Gulls, it was typically a Laughing Gull in every other respect: at rest, a long, slightly drooping bill, long primaries extending well beyond tail, long legs; in flight, from above, solid blackish outer primaries containing no internal white markings but only small white tips that formed a trailing edge, and from below, extensive black in the outer primaries shading to gray on the inner primaries. These features

eliminate Franklin's Gull. Around the time of this observation, a Franklin's Gull was casually reported at REDA by various observers but was never documented; it is likely that this bird was the source of those reports (Franklin's is also accidental in winter in Missouri).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE, (*Streptopelia decaocto*), 2000-79: Eleven, 1 September 2000, Marshfield, Webster Co. David Ringer (documentation), Charles Burwick. A careful description that eliminated the domestic Ringed Turtle-Dove. Based on the number of documented, accepted records, this species is still casual in Missouri, but in fact the Department of Conservation has received many more reports from various parts of the state. In recognition of its widespread occurrence, the Committee dropped the species from the Review List in September 2001.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE, 2001-31: One, 25 December 2000, Cape Girardeau Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Hope Eddleman, Gene and Barbara Dallen. Same comments as 2000-79.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE, 2001-43: Two, 5 May 2001, Marais Temps Clair C.A., St. Charles Co. Bill Rowe (documentation), Brad Jacobs, m.ob. Same comments as 2000-79.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE, 2001-54: One, 18 March 2001, Pasaic, Bates Co. Edge Wade (documentation), Susan Hazelwood. Same comments as 2000-79.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE, (*Zenaida asiatica*), 2001-47: Two, 3 May 2001, near Fountain Grove C.A., Linn Co. Discovered by Kay Freisner in her yard; documented by Steve Kinder. Casual; eleventh state record.

RUFOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD, (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*), 2001-44: Hatching-year male, 8 October 2000, Kirkwood, St. Louis Co. Lanny Chambers (documentation), Arnie Baker, Linda Chambers. This record clearly eliminated all other hummingbird species but did not fully distinguish Rufous (the far more likely species) from Allen's (which has not yet been recorded from Missouri but has been recorded from elsewhere in the midwest, including Bonner Springs, Kansas). The width measurements of rectrices 1 and 5, and the degree of emargination in rectrix 2, were not provided in the documentation; these are necessary for a certain identification. The shape of rectrix 5 was sketched but is insufficient without an accurate width measurement. Nonetheless, the record is of great interest, since there are very few records of any 'Selasphorus' in eastern Missouri (about four documented Rufous and at least three Rufous/Allen's).

RUFOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD, 2001-11: Hatching-year male, 16 December 2000, St. Louis Co. Lanny Chambers (documentation including photograph), Arnie Baker, Linda Chambers. Same comments as 2001-44.

EASTERN PHOEBE, (*Sayornis phoebe*), 2001-25: One, 16 December 2000, McBaine, Boone Co. Bill Goodge (documentation), John Besser, Sandra Kubal, Glenn Richter. Casual in winter outside extreme southern Missouri. Christmas Bird Count record.

EASTERN PHOEBE, 2001-19: One, 23 December 2000, Bennett Springs, Dallas Co. David Blevins (documentation), Barbara Blevins. Same comments as 2001-25.

WESTERN KINGBIRD, (*Tyrannus verticalis*), 2000-86: One, 16 October 2000, Macon Co. Edge Wade (documentation), Janice Gaston. Latest fall record for Missouri.

WESTERN KINGBIRD, 2001-60: Nesting record, 12 July 2001, Charleston, Mississippi Co. James Haw. Nest on crossbar of utility pole in urban setting had two nestlings, and two adults in

attendance. Regular nesting species in northwest Missouri; casual elsewhere.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, (*Lanius excubitor*), 2000-84: One, 27 October 2000, near Thomas Hill Reservoir, Randolph Co. Jean Leonatti and Edge Wade (documentation), Janice Gaston, Bill Goodge. Third documented record outside the northwestern and west-central sections of Missouri, and the second-earliest fall record for the state.

FISH CROW, (*Corvus ossifragus*), 2001-41: Two, 6 April 2001, Hartsburg C.A., Boone Co. Paul McKenzie. The Committee has since reconsidered the status of this species and has scaled back the need for documentation. In spring and summer, it is no longer necessary to document Fish Crows anywhere from the Missouri River corridor south, or along the Mississippi River corridor from Pike County south. Only to the north of these areas are Fish Crows still casual or accidental and therefore in need of documentation. But we would like to receive documentation of nesting if evidence is discovered (the bird obviously breeds in our state, but no nest has been found to date). Moreover, the species is not known to winter outside the southeastern corner of Missouri; so any documentation from elsewhere at that season would still be welcome.

FISH CROW, 2001-48: One, 19 April and 12 May, Kansas City, Jackson Co. Fred Young. See comments under 2001-41.

BEWICK'S WREN, (*Thryomanes bewickii*), 2001-26: One, 13-14 December 2000, Columbia, Boone Co. Sandy Elbert (documentation), Ken Elbert. This Christmas Bird Count, count week record was reviewed because of the species' range contraction in recent years, making it a great deal rarer than it used to be in much of the midwest, including parts of Missouri (especially in winter).

AMERICAN PIPIT, (*Anthus rubescens*), 2001-12: One, 23 December 2000, Lake of the Ozarks, Morgan Co. David Easterla. Casual in winter.

AMERICAN PIPIT, 2001-20: Two, 23 December 2000, Bennett Springs, Dallas Co. David Blevins (documentation), Barbara Blevins. Casual in winter. Christmas Bird Count record.

AMERICAN PIPIT, 2001-22: Two, 30 December 2000, Bull Shoals Lake, Taney Co. David Blevins (documentation), Barbara Blevins. Same comments as 2001-20.

AMERICAN PIPIT, 2001-4: One, 1 January 2001, Greene Co. Charles Burwick (documentation), Dave Catlin. Same comments as 2001-20.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, (*Myadestes townsendi*), 2001-37: Adult, 18 March through 17 April 2001, William Jewell College, Liberty, Clay Co. Found by Andrew Rights; documented by Ruth Simmons, Kristi Gulick, and Edge Wade. Townsend's Solitaire is a rare winter visitor or winter resident in northwest Missouri; this observation is by far the latest record (the previous late date was apparently 6 March).

HERMIT THRUSH, (*Catharus guttatus*), 2001-7: One, 16 December 2000, Buchanan Co. John Kurtz (documentation), Peggy Voltz. Casual in winter in northern Missouri. Christmas Bird Count record.

HERMIT THRUSH, 2001-16: One, 30 December 2000, Swope Park, Jackson Co. Don Arney (documentation), Joe Harrington, Kevin Hogan. Same comments as 2001-7.

HERMIT THRUSH, 2001-15: One, 30 December 2000, Blue River Parkway, Jackson Co. Joe Harrington (documentation), Don Arney. Same comments as 2001-7.

HERMIT THRUSH, 2001-14: One, 30 December 2000, Unity Village, Jackson Co. Mike Stoakes. Same comments as 2001-7.

HERMIT THRUSH, 2001-5: One, 30 December 2000, Ted Shanks Conservation Area, Pike Co. Ken Vail (documentation), Mike Gallagher. Same comments as 2001-7.

VARIED THRUSH, (*Ixoreus naevius*), 2001-34: Adult male, 16-20 December 2000, Plattsburg, Clinton Co. Mark McKellar (documentation with photographs), Joanne Holman. Casual; tenth state record.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, (*Dendroica virens*), 2001-63: Female or immature, 4 August 2001, Polk Co. Cathie Foster. Earliest fall record by about two weeks.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER, (*Dendroica fusca*), 2000-85: One adult male, 8 June 2000, along St. Francois River, Madison Co. Patty Wilson (documentation), Margaret Tucker. Second June record; ties the latest spring migration record.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, (*Icteria virens*), 2000-87: One, 12 October 1999, Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Boone Co. Edge Wade (documentation), Bonnie Heidy. Latest fall record for Missouri.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, (*Spizella pallida*), 2001-40: One singing male, 6 April 2001, Ashland, Boone Co. Paul McKenzie. Earliest spring record by five days.

VESPER SPARROW, (*Pooecetes gramineus*), 2001-3: One, 30 December 2000, Wayne Co. Bill Reeves (documentation), Jim Kelly, Brian Boyer, Bob Stillwell. Casual in winter. Christmas Bird Count record.

DARK-EYED "GRAY-HEADED" JUNCO, (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*), 2001-30: One, 6 December 2000 into April 2001, Polk Co. Cathie Foster (including photographs). First documented and accepted record of this Rocky Mountain form, which is likely to be restored to full species status eventually. The entirely pale bill color apparent in photographs showed that this individual belonged to 'caniceps' (the northern form of 'Gray-headed' Junco) rather than 'dorsalis' (the more southerly form). The documentation and photographs were submitted to Dr. George Barrowclough of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, an expert on the Dark-eyed Junco complex; he concluded that the bird was a 'Gray-headed' Junco without any doubt.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR, (*Calcarius ornatus*), 2001-42: Two adult males, 8 April 2001, Dunn Ranch, Harrison Co. Paul McKenzie. Latest spring record by three days of this rare migrant.

LAZULI BUNTING, (*Passerina amoena*), 2001-55: Adult male, 1-2 May 2001, Fairfax, Atchison Co., at residence of Evonne and Wilbur Wright. Edge Wade (documentation), Larry Lade, Frances Cramer, Leo Galloway. Undoubtedly the same individual that has now appeared six years in a row (1996-2001) in the Wright's yard, mostly in early May (earliest date April 30). The species is a casual transient in western Missouri.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), 2001-32: Female, 25 December 2000, Cape Girardeau Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Barbara Dallen. Accidental in winter outside northwest Missouri.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 2001-21: One ad. male, 29 December 2000,

Vernon Co. Fred Young (documentation), Curtis Brobisky. Brewer's Blackbird does occur in winter, especially in western Missouri, but it must be separated with care from both Rusty Blackbird and Common Grackle. This individual was seen at close range in a feed lot, and all main features were observed in direct comparison with Common Grackles, including smaller size, shorter bill, shorter tail, and contrast of purple head color and greenish body color. This color contrast also ruled out Rusty Blackbird. See also notes under 2001-18 in the Not Accepted section. Christmas Bird Count record.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, (*Quiscalus mexicanus*), 2000-83: One adult male, 29 October 2000, Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge, Pike Co. Bill Rowe. Casual in eastern Missouri.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, 2001-27: 77 birds, 16 December 2000, Columbia, Boone Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation), Hope Woodward, Jude Vickery, Michael Vickery. An unusual number for central Missouri, although the species has been spreading sporadically in the Columbia area for several years. Christmas Bird Count record.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, 2001-2: Three female-type birds, 1 January 2001, St. Louis Co. Bill Rowe (documentation), Tom Parmeter. Casual in eastern Missouri. Christmas Bird Count record.

LESSER GOLDFINCH, (*Carduelis psaltria*), 2001-49: Male, 18 May 2001, Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co. Curt Casteel. Accidental; second state record. Like the first record (April 1971), this was of a black-backed male. It came to a thistle-seed feeder with American Goldfinches.

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.

ROSS'S GOOSE, (*Chen rossii*), 2001-28: One, blue morph, 17 February 2001, Lake Jacomo, Jackson Co. A majority of the Committee felt that the details were insufficient to be sure this was a Ross's Goose of the rare blue morph, never before reported in Missouri. The possibility of a small blue-morph Snow Goose, or a hybrid, was not ruled out.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE, 2001-6: Male, 16 December 2000, Missouri River, Buchanan Co. The description of this bird was incomplete and unconvincing, with no mention of important features of Barrow's Goldeneye such as dorsal pattern, head shape, or the dark mark at the shoulder. The Committee believed that neither a Common Goldeneye nor a Common/ Barrow's hybrid was ruled out.

WHOOPING CRANE, (*Grus americanus*), 2001-53: Seven, 12 April 2001, Maryville, Nodaway Co. These birds did sound like possible Whooping Cranes, and the observer's description appeared to rule out other species, but there were no details about the head and tail. The Committee believed that a conservative approach was necessary with an endangered species and an observation made without optical equipment of birds in flight. Contact was made with Whooping Crane biologists of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who had no record of any other nearby observations at that time that might have represented seven birds off course.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK, (*Buteo regalis*), 2001-36: Adult, 19 March 2001, Platte Co. There were too many uncertainties in the description of this bird for the Committee to accept the record. Most of the described features could be duplicated in a very pale Red-tailed Hawk, whereas other important characters of Ferruginous (color of back and flight feathers, presence and shape of whitish panel on upper-side of primaries, tapered wing shape when soaring, etc.) were not mentioned. Ferruginous Hawk is a very rare bird in Missouri and needs to be described in full detail for an acceptable record.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE, 2001-33: Two to twenty-five birds, November-December 2000, Dade Co. These may well have been Eurasian Collared-Doves, but unfortunately no details were reported that would distinguish them from Ringed Turtle-Doves.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL, (*Aegolius acadicus*), 2000-82: One, 27 September 2000, City of St. Louis. The observer provided a lengthy description of a bird that may have been a Northern Saw-whet Owl seen at very close range at sunset, but the Committee believed that several important features were not noted (bill color, facial pattern, comparative size) or were ambiguous (uniform reddish-brown color and very slight hint of ear tufts, as described, are more descriptive of Eastern Screech-Owl than of Northern Saw-whet Owl). Moreover, the observation was made without binoculars.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, 2001-56: Immature, 23 May 2001, Tecumseh Park, Ozark Co. The description of this bird was not convincing. The presence of a juvenile solitaire at this time of year in southern Missouri would be extremely unlikely, and a majority of the Committee believed that a juvenile Eastern Bluebird (which may be predominantly gray, have an eye-ring, and have white outer webs to the outer rectrices) was not eliminated.

WESTERN TANAGER, (*Piranga ludoviciana*), 2001-62: Male, 24 July 2001, Warrenton, Warren Co. Described only as a yellowish bird with a red head, this was much more likely to have been a molting male Scarlet or Summer Tanager.

FIELD SPARROW, (*Spizella pusilla*), 2001-8: Two, 9 December 2000, Buchanan Co. The description was minimal and did not include important field marks such as bill color. Other sparrows have frequently been misidentified as Field Sparrows in northwest Missouri, where the species is very rare in winter.

DARK-EYED 'PINK-SIDED' JUNCO, (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*), 2001-38: One, 19 December 2000, Nodaway Co. Like 2001-30, this record was submitted to Dr. George Barrowclough, an expert on the junco complex. He concluded that the description provided by the observers did not allow a firm identification to a particular taxon; the bird could have been either 'Pink-sided' or some other western form, or a hybrid of two forms. He suggested that a photograph might allow positive identification. The 'Pink-sided' Junco, which could be elevated to species status eventually, may well occur in Missouri from time to time, but either photographic or specimen evidence will be needed for a convincing first state record.

INDIGO BUNTING, (*Passerina cyanea*), 2001-13: Male, 5 January 2001, Laclede Co. The minimal description mentioned only an all-blue.