

# SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSOURI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

William C. Rowe, Secretary

This report summarizes records evaluated by the Committee between 28 September 2003 and 25 September 2004. It is divided into two sections: Accepted and Not Accepted.

Birds are listed in phylogenetic order under each of the above two categories. Taxonomy and nomenclature follow the American Ornithologists' Union's *Checklist of North American Birds*, Seventh Edition (1998), and subsequent supplements. For Accepted records, comments are added to indicate the record's 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's files, which are currently housed in the Division of Ornithology, University of Kansas Natural History Museum, Lawrence, Kansas.

Of the 83 records that were finalized during this period, 72 were accepted and 11 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 87%. No records were carried over from the preceding year; one record (Common Goldeneye, 2004-56) was carried over into the next year for outside evaluation. Members participating in the decisions were Bill Eddleman (Chair), Bill Rowe (Secretary), Bill Goodge, Brad Jacobs, Paul McKenzie, Roger McNeill, Mark Robbins, and Tommie Rogers (new member as of 25 September 2004). No outside reviews were solicited this year.

From the records covered by this report, no new species were added to the state list. One species, however, was added as the result of a decision published by the AOU in the summer of 2004: the Canada Goose was split into two species, Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*, and Cackling Goose, *Branta hutchinsii*. Since the Cackling Goose ("Richardson's" subspecies, *B. h. hutchinsii*) was already known to occur in Missouri, it was automatically added to the state list. Thus Missouri's total as of 25 September 2004 was 403 fully accepted species, including 6 formerly occurring species that have been extirpated from the state and 2 extinct species. There are an additional 17 hypothetical species on the list. "Hypothetical" 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, California Gull; accidental, Inca Dove). It also reviews records of species that are casual or accidental for the season when reported (example: Scarlet Tanager in winter); records of species that are casual or accidental in the part of Missouri where reported (example: Eurasian Tree Sparrow at Columbia); 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 or e-mail him at [rowe@tjs.org](mailto:rowe@tjs.org). The next report will appear in the March 2006 issue of *The Bluebird*.

REDA = Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles Co.

SCNWR = Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co.

MNWR = Mingo National Wildlife Refuge

CBC = Christmas Bird Count

NAMC = North American Migration Count

## RECORDS ACCEPTED

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), 2004-42: One, 30-31 May 2004, Binder Lake, Jefferson City, Cole Co. Found by Richard George; documented by Edge Wade; also seen and photographed by others, although no photographs were submitted to the Committee. Casual transient; sixth state record.

**FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK** (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), 2003-61: Many birds seen on various dates between 29 June and 17 October 2003, with a maximum of 21 on 11 October, in "Dexter rice fields," Stoddard Co. Found and documented by Joe Eades (group of seven, 29 June); also documented by Josh Uffman and Jim and Charlene Malone (photographs). Casual transient and summer visitor, with about eight previous records. These were by far the most birds ever found in Missouri, remaining over the longest interval of time.

**GADWALL** (*Anas strepera*), 2004-59: Three, 11 July 2004, Lewis and Clark State Park, Buchanan Co. Kristi Mayo (photographs). Casual in summer in northwest Missouri.

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL** (*Anas discors*), 2004-27: Male, 17 and 19 December 2003, SCNWR, Holt Co. Observed by Ron Bell (documentation) and Frank Durbian. Accidental in winter in northern Missouri. CBC record.

**BLUE-WINGED/CINNAMON TEAL** (*Anas discors/cyanoptera*), 2004-5: Female, 20 December 2003, Winfield Dam, Lincoln Co. Scott Schuette (documentation), Bruce Schuette, David Gronefeld. This observation was submitted as Blue-winged Teal (accidental in winter in northern Missouri) and probably represents that species, but the description did not rule out the possibility of Cinnamon Teal. CBC record.

**CINNAMON TEAL** (*Anas cyanoptera*), 2004-50: Male, 5 July 2004, REDA. Many observers; documented by Charlene and Jim Malone (photographs). Accidental in summer, second record.

**CANVASBACK** (*Aythya valisineria*), 2004-55: Two males, 18 May to at least 6 July 2004, with one continuing to at least 16 July, REDA. Many observers; documented by Charlene and Jim Malone (photographs). Accidental in summer.

**GREATER SCAUP** (*Aythya marila*), 2004-17: Two, 20 December 2003, Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone Co. Chris Corben (documentation), Gail White. CBC record (documentation required).

**SURF/WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** (*Melanitta perspicillata/fusca*), 2004-11: One female or immature male, 24 December 2003, Mississippi River at B.K. Leach Conservation Area, Lincoln Co. Bruce Schuette (documentation), Scott Schuette. This observation was submitted as Surf Scoter, but the description did not completely rule out White-winged Scoter. CBC record.

**WESTERN GREBE** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), 2004-25: One, 8 November 2003, Thomas Hill Reservoir, Randolph Co. Josh Uffman (documentation), Joe Eades, Kristi Mayo. Casual transient in eastern Missouri. A large grebe, presumably this individual, was seen at this location both one day before and two hours after this observation, and was reported on the Mobirds listserve as the accidental Clark's Grebe. This documentation made it clear that the bird was a Western Grebe.

**AMERICAN BITTERN** (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), 2004-60: Two birds on two nests, 9 June 2004, SCNWR. Found by Ron Bell; documented by David Easterla (photographs). American Bittern is listed as a rare summer resident in Missouri, but these were apparently the first documented nests since 1986.

**GREEN HERON** (*Butorides virescens*), 2004-36: One, 20 December 2003, Meramec River, Crawford Co. Linda Frederick. Accidental in winter, second record. CBC record.

**GLOSSY IBIS** (*Plegadis falcinellus*), 2004-53: One adult, 14 May 2004, SCNWR. Kristi Mayo. With very few documented records in western Missouri, Glossy Ibis is considered casual there. This bird, feeding among White-faced Ibis, showed key field marks of Glossy.

**BLACK VULTURE** (*Coragyps atratus*), 2003-63: Eight birds, 12 January 2003, Rocky Ridge, St. Genevieve Co. Joe Eades (documentation), Jim and Charlene Malone. Accidental winter resident outside of extreme southern Missouri. These birds were part of a large Turkey Vulture roost that contained over 250 birds.

**TURKEY VULTURE** (*Cathartes aura*), 2004-9: One, 23 December 2003, Maryville, Nodaway Co. David Easterla (documentation), Peter Kondrashov. Accidental in winter in northern Missouri.

**WHITE-TAILED KITE** (*Elanus leucurus*), 2004-57: One, 7 May 2004, near Columbia, Boone Co. Brad Jacobs. Accidental; two previous records were accepted as valid by Robbins and Easterla (*Birds of Missouri*, 1992). The species remains hypothetical, as all three records are single-party sightings with no photograph or other physical evidence.

**MERLIN** (*Falco columbarius*), 2004-65: One female or juvenile, 3 August 2004, Mud Lake, Buchanan Co. Larry Lade and Steve Kinder (documentation), Ted Vawter. Earliest record for Missouri by nearly a month (previous early date, 31 August 1968). This bird showed the characters of the "Prairie Merlin," *F. c. richardsonii*.

**PRAIRIE FALCON** (*Falco mexicanus*), 2003-55: One, 16 November 2003, Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge, Pike Co. Mike Bathke and Patrick Harrison (documentation), Joyce Bathke. Casual in eastern Missouri.

**VIRGINIA RAIL** (*Rallus limicola*), 2004-23: Five, 20 December 2003, Columbia waste treatment cells, Boone Co. Bill Goodge (documentation), John Besser, Ellen Ehrhardt, Shane Pruett. Five birds heard, one of which was seen. Accidental in winter; third record at this site. CBC record.

**SANDHILL CRANE** (*Grus canadensis*), 2004-46: Two heard, 8 May 2004, SCNWR. David Easterla (documentation), Kirby Goslee, Derek Graupman. NAMC record (documentation required).

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa melanoleuca*), 2003-68: Two, 19 December 2003, Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Wes Mueller, Ken Rampley. Casual in winter. CBC record.

**GREATER/LESSER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa melanoleuca/flavipes*), 2004-29: One, 28 February 2004, Otter Slough Conservation Area, Stoddard Co. Bob Lewis. This observation was submitted as Lesser Yellowlegs, but the description did not rule out Greater Yellowlegs. Greater is casual during winter, Lesser accidental.

**WHIMBREL** (*Numenius phaeopus*), 2004-44: Two, 23 May 2004, REDA. Found by Josh Uffman (documentation) and Dave Rogles; also documented by Jim and Charlene Malone (photographs). Casual spring migrant in eastern Missouri.

**WHIMBREL**, 2004-48: Sixteen birds, 25 May 2004, REDA. Charlene Malone. Casual spring migrant in eastern Missouri, and the highest number ever found in the state.

**WESTERN SANDPIPER** (*Calidris mauri*), 2004-47: One, 8 May 2004, SCNWR. David Easterla (documentation), Kirby Goslee. NAMC record (documentation required).

**LEAST SANDPIPER** (*Calidris minutilla*), 2003-67: Twenty, 19 December 2003, Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Wes Mueller, Ken Rampley. Casual in winter. CBC record.

**LEAST SANDPIPER**, 2004-4: One, 20 December 2003, Winfield Dam, Lincoln Co. Scott Schuette (documentation), Bruce Schuette, David Gronefeld. Casual in winter.

CBC record.

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus lobatus*), 2004-43: Female, 6 May 2004, SCNWR. David Easterla. Earliest spring record.

**RED PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus fulicaria*), 2004-51: One in basic or transitional plumage, 10 May 2004, SCNWR. Mark Robbins (documentation), Kirby Goslee, Alexis Powell. Casual transient.

**LAUGHING GULL** (*Larus atricilla*), 2004-38: One, 30 January 2004, REDA. Josh Uffman. Accidental in winter, third record.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** (*Larus pipixcan*), 2004-39: One, 31 December 2003 and 2 January 2004, REDA. Charlene and Jim Malone. With this record (the fifth winter record for Missouri), the species moves from accidental to casual in winter. Like some other winter Franklin's Gulls in the midwest, this bird appeared to be in alternate plumage, with a full black hood.

**LITTLE GULL** (*Larus minuta*), 2003-58: One in first-winter plumage, 2 November 2003, Montrose Lake, Henry Co. Joe Eades. Casual transient; tenth state record. This bird was described as having a pale gray mantle and a bit of gray on the nape and rear crown, among other characters. See next record.

**LITTLE GULL**, 2003-71: One in (or retaining much of) juvenal plumage, 2 November 2003, Montrose Lake, Henry Co. Edge Wade (documentation), Jerry Wade, Joyce and Mike Bathke. This bird, seen the same day and location but about six hours later than the one reported in 2003-58, was described as having a dark mantle scalloped with gray and a dark cap, quite unlike the other bird. It was accepted as a different individual, the eleventh state record.

**BONAPARTE'S GULL** (*Larus philadelphia*), 2004-30: 27 birds, 20 December 2003, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Matt Gearheart and Kristi Mayo (documentation), Alan Godwin, Marti Gulick, Will Chatfield-Taylor. Casual in northern Missouri in winter. CBC record.

**CALIFORNIA GULL** (*Larus californicus*), 2003-60: Adult, 28 November 2003, REDA. Josh Uffman (documentation), Joe Eades. Casual; about the thirteenth state record.

**FORSTER'S TERN** (*Sterna forsteri*), 2003-53: One, 30 October 2003, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Kristi Mayo. Latest fall date for Missouri by five days; there is also one winter record.

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** (*Zenaida asiatica*), 2004-45: One, 19 May 2004, Cedar Hill, Jefferson Co. Wally George (photographs). Casual; twelfth state record.

**INCA DOVE** (*Columbina inca*), 2004-2: One, from 1 January to at least 29 January 2004, South Shores, St. Charles Co. Originally identified by Tom Bormann (documentation), David Becher, and Connie Alwood; also documented by Jim and Charlene Malone (photographs) and seen by many observers. Accidental, third state record.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** (*Selasphorus rufus*), 2003-54: Hatch-year female, 13 November 2003, St. Louis Co. Banded, identified, and documented by Lanny Chambers; photographed by Jurek Majeka. Casual in eastern Missouri.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**, 2003-56: After-hatch-year female, 14 November 2003, Chesterfield, St. Louis Co. Banded, identified, and documented by Lanny Chambers; photographed by Mike Grant. Casual in eastern Missouri.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**, 2003-57: Hatch-year female, 25 November 2003, Farmington, St. Francois Co. Banded, identified, and documented by Lanny Chambers. Casual in eastern Missouri.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**, 2003-59: Hatch-year male, 30 November 2003, St. Louis City. Banded, identified, and documented by Lanny Chambers. Casual in eastern Missouri.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**, 2003-65: Hatch-year male, 12 October to 20 December 2003, near Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau Co. Banded and identified by Lanny Chambers; documented (photographs) by Bill Eddleman. Casual in eastern Missouri.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** (*Tyrannus forficatus*), 2004-49: Pair at nest, 13 June 2004, Scott Co. Leslie Keith Koller (documentation with photographs), Katherine Cramner. Casual summer resident in southeastern Missouri. Since this record, the species' checklist status has been changed to "rare" summer resident in the southeast; thus MBRC review is not required in the future.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**, 2004-61: Male, 12 June 2004, Andrew Co. David Easterla. Casual in summer outside southwest and west-central Missouri.

**NORTHERN SHRIKE** (*Lanius excubitor*), 2004-31: One, 14 December 2003, Ted Shanks Conservation Area, Pike Co. Susan Hazelwood and Janice Gaston (documentation), Jean Leonatti, Chris Corben, Ken Vail, Ken Hines. Accidental; fourth record outside northwestern and west-central Missouri. CBC record.

**BROWN CREEPER** (*Certhia americana*), 2004-52: One, 25-26 May 2004, along Current River, Shannon Co. Mark Robbins. Casual summer resident in the Mississippi River floodplain; unrecorded

in summer elsewhere. While these dates are technically not within the summer period, they are far beyond the Brown Creeper's normal migration window, and the bird was singing persistently; this suggests summer residency.

**ROCK WREN** (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), 2004-34: One, 23-26 March 2004, Rich Hill, Bates Co. Discovered and documented by Larry Herbert; also documented by Kristi Mayo, Edge Wade, and Tommie Rogers (photographs). Casual in western Missouri, eleventh record.

**HOUSE WREN** (*Troglodytes aedon*), 2004-13: One, 27 December 2003, Stoddard Co.

Bill Eddleman. Casual in winter in southern Missouri. CBC record.

**HOUSE WREN**, 2004-14: Two, 27 December 2003, Stoddard Co. Steve Dilks (documentation), Michael Zeluski. Casual in winter in southern Missouri. CBC record; clearly different individuals than the one in 2004-13, though on the same CBC.

**HERMIT THRUSH** (*Catharus guttatus*), 2004-26: One, 17 December 2003, SCNWR. Mark Robbins. Casual in winter in northern Missouri. CBC record.

**GRAY CATBIRD** (*Dumetella carolinensis*), 2003-66: One, 19 December 2003, near Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Wes Mueller. Casual in winter in southern Missouri. CBC record.

**GRAY CATBIRD**, 2004-32: One, 23 December 2003, Springfield, Greene Co. Dean Rising (photographs). Casual in winter in southern Missouri. CBC record.

**GRAY CATBIRD**, 2004-33: One, 1 January 2004, Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area, St. Charles Co. Aaron Jungbluth (documentation), Angie Naughton. Accidental in winter in northern Missouri. CBC record.

**SAGE THRASHER** (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), 2004-40: One, 2 May 2004, Newton Co. Larry Herbert. Accidental, second state record.

**AMERICAN PIPIT** (*Anthus rubescens*), 2004-24: Four, 20 December 2003, Missouri River, Boone Co. Michael Warnock. Casual in winter outside southeastern Missouri. CBC record.

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER** (*Dendroica coronata*), 2004-16: One female or imm. male, 8 June 2003, Jasper Co. Roger McNeill. Accidental in summer, second record.

**AMERICAN REDSTART** (*Setophaga ruticilla*), 2004-12: Female, 27 December 2003, Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Stoddard Co. Jude Vickery (documentation with photographs), Carrie Vickery, Jim Kelly, Bill and Debbie Reeves. First winter record of a species that winters primarily south of the United States, although some linger into the winter in southern Florida, Texas, and Louisiana. CBC record.

**OVENBIRD** (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), 2004-7: Male, found dead 13 December 2003 in Ashland, Boone Co., by Kay Palmer. Window-killed bird; specimen photographed and deposited as #93084 in the University of Kansas Natural History Museum. Latest fall record for Missouri.

**SUMMER TANAGER** (*Piranga rubra*), 2003-64: Female, 12 December 2003, near Republic, Greene Co. Observed and documented by Dorothy Thurman (photograph). Second-latest record for Missouri.

**SCARLET TANAGER** (*Piranga olivacea*), 2004-28: Male, 19 December 2003 to 7 January 2004, near Savannah, Andrew Co. Observed and documented at his home feeder by Dr. R. F. Claxton (photograph). First winter record of a species that normally winters in South America.

**CHIPPING SPARROW** (*Spizella passerina*), 2004-3: Three, 3 January 2004, Taney Co.

David Blevins (documentation), Barbara Blevins. Casual in winter in southern Missouri. CBC record.

**CHIPPING SPARROW**, 2004-37: One, 20 December 2003, Little Prairie Lake, Phelps Co.

Mike Doyen (documentation), Mary Harris. Casual in winter in southern Missouri. CBC record.

**VESPER SPARROW** (*Pooecetes gramineus*), 2003-69: One, 19 December 2003, Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Wes Mueller. Casual in winter in southern Missouri. CBC record.

**LAZULI BUNTING** (*Passerina amoena*), 2004-54: Male, 7 July 2004, near Kingsville, Johnson Co. Don Arney. Accidental in summer, second record.

**INDIGO BUNTING** (*Passerina cyanea*), 2004-63: One, 20 December 2003, near Black River, Butler Co. Bill Reeves (documentation), Debbie Reeves. Casual in winter in southern Missouri.

**INDIGO BUNTING**, 2004-64: One, 20 December 2003, near Poplar Bluff, Butler Co. Paul Kaufman (documentation), Karla Kaufman. Casual in winter in southern Missouri.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 2003-70: 37 birds, 19 December 2003, Mississippi Co. Dennis Wheeler (documentation), Norman Thompson. Casual in winter outside of west-central Missouri. Full description; carefully distinguished from other blackbirds; some were dark-eyed females. CBC record.

**GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE** (*Quiscalus mexicanus*), 2003-62: 60 birds, 7 December 2003, near Old Monroe, Lincoln Co. Joe Eades (documentation with photographs), Jim and Charlene Malone. Casual in eastern Missouri. Since this record, the species' checklist status has been changed to "rare" transient and winter resident in eastern Missouri; thus MBRC review is not required in the future.

**GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE**, 2004-1: Five females, 1 January 2004, Bryan Island Stable, St. Louis Co. Bill Rowe (documentation), Tom Parmeter. See comments on preceding record. CBC record.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** (*Icterus galbula*), 2004-10: Female, 3-5 January 2004, South Shores, St. Charles Co. Found by Ian Hunt; also seen by Charlene Malone and Steve Griffaw (documentation), Connie Alwood, Tom Bormann. Casual in winter, eighth record.

**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*), 2004-22: One, 23 November 2003 to 22 March 2004, Columbia, Boone Co. Shane Pruett (documentation), John Besser, Anne Thering. Casual away from St. Louis and Mississippi River corridor. Includes a CBC observation on December 20, 2003.

## RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

It should be understood that “not accepted” does not necessarily 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.

**RING-NECKED DUCK** (*Aythya collaris*), 2004-58: One, 26 June, SCNWR. This duck, while clearly an *Aythya* of some kind, was not unequivocally a Ring-necked Duck as described. The details given left open the possibility of a scaup or a hybrid.

**GREATER SCAUP**, 2004-8: One female, Mozingo Lake, Nodaway Co. The details offered in the documentation were not sufficient to distinguish Greater from Lesser Scaup with certainty. The white wing-stripe was not seen. A pale auricular patch was mentioned as diagnostic; in fact it can occur in females of both species (Sibley, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, 2000; K. Zimmer, *Birding in the American West*, 2000), though more frequently in Greaters (Zimmer). CBC record.

**GREATER SCAUP**, 2004-35: Male and 4 females, 1 January 2004, Mississippi R., St. Charles Co. Though the date and location were likely ones for Greater Scaup, a majority of the committee felt that the identification was not proven. The observers relied on head shape and color and did not observe the wing-stripe. CBC record.

**WILSON'S PLOVER** (*Charadrius wilsonia*), 2004-62: One, 25 July 2004, Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, St. Louis Co. The description was doubtful in some respects, and lacked the level of detail necessary for such an extreme rarity. In particular, the bird's size was judged to be close to that of nearby Killdeer, whereas a Wilson's Plover is substantially smaller than a Killdeer and much closer to a Semipalmated Plover.

**RUFF** (*Philomachus pugnax*), 2004-41: One, 19 April 2004, Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Boone Co. Only one documentation of this bird was received even though many birders observed it, and none of the photographs taken were ever submitted to the Committee. Some of the other observers, including two Committee members, felt reasonably sure it was a Pectoral Sandpiper of abnormal bill shape and coloration. The description included features that point toward Pectoral Sandpiper and rule out Ruff, including legs of about the same length as nearby Pectorals (any Ruff would be noticeably longer-legged than a Pectoral) and the breast with streaks in a bib effect (not described or illustrated in literature for any form of Ruff).

**BARN SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*), 2004-18: Five birds, 20 December 2003, Boone Co.

Aside from the extreme improbability of five Barn Swallows together in December (there is a single winter record, of one bird), the description of these birds did not include the long forked tail or any other diagnostic feature of this species. The observers considered the birds to be juveniles, but no Barn Swallow in December would still be in juvenal plumage. CBC record.

**CAROLINA CHICKADEE** (*Poecile carolinensis*), 2004-21: Five, 20 December 2003, Grindstone Park, Columbia, Boone Co. The plumage characters described (clean-cut edge of bib, duller color on the flanks), and the perceived difference in call notes, are not sufficient to separate Carolina from Black-capped Chickadee, especially in an area where Carolinas are not known to occur. There is also



the issue of possible hybridization, with the contact zone between the two species not too far to the south. Field identification of out-of-range birds of these two species is highly problematic. CBC record.

**GRAY CATBIRD**, 2004-20: One, 20 December 2003, Grindstone Park, Columbia, Boone Co. While this may have been a catbird, it was seen very briefly and only in flight. The description was minimal and did not include such points as the rusty undertail coverts or the black cap. The call was heard but not described; it was referred to simply as a "catbird's call." CBC record.

**CHIPPING SPARROW**, 2004-19: Six, 20 December 2003, Stephens Park, Columbia, Boone Co. This would be an unprecedented number of Chipping Sparrows in winter, and the description was not sufficiently detailed to rule out other species. CBC record.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**, 2004-6: One, 1 January 2004, South Shores, St. Charles Co. Description provided was insufficient to rule out Rusty Blackbird.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**, 2004-15: 40 birds, 27 December 2003, Duck Creek, Bollinger Co. Too little detail observed to establish the identification. Neither gloss colors of males nor eye color of females was noted.