

# EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSOURI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

**William C. Rowe, Secretary**

This report summarizes records evaluated by the Committee between 26 September 2004 and 24 September 2005. 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. The latest AOU list is available on line at [www.aou.org/checklist](http://www.aou.org/checklist). 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 77 records that were finalized during this period, 68 were accepted and 9 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 88%. One record (Glossy Ibis, 2005-36) 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. One outside review (for Eurasian Wigeon, 2004-71) was obtained from Jessie Barry and Cameron Cox.

From the records covered by this report, three new species were added to the state list: Black Skimmer, Black-chinned Hummingbird, and Tropical Kingbird. Thus Missouri's total as of 24 September 2005 was 406 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 acceptable reports of the species, but none that meets the criteria for a first state record. The Annotated Checklist of Missouri Birds, with its latest updates, can be viewed at [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org).

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, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck; accidental, Black Skimmer). It also reviews records of species that are casual or accidental for the season when reported (example: Blue-headed Vireo in winter); records of species that are casual or accidental in the part of Missouri where reported (example: Sprague's Pipit at St. Louis); 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 2007 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

CA = Conservation Area

## RECORDS ACCEPTED

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), 2005-41: Six, 11 May 2005, Springfield, Greene Co. Dorothy Thurman, Ruby Ball, Jan Horton, Dwaine House, David Blevins (documentation). Casual transient; seventh record.

**TRUMPETER SWAN** (*Cygnus buccinator*), 2005-54: Pair with three young, June-July 2005, on a private lake near the Livingston/Carroll Co. line. Documented by Steve Kinder and Myrna Carlton, with photographs. This is the first record of Trumpeter Swans breeding in Missouri since the nineteenth century.

**GREATER SCAUP** (*Aythya marila*), 2005-5: Female, 18 December 2004, Maryville sewage lagoons, Nodaway Co. David Easterla. Documentation required on CBC's.

**EARED GREBE** (*Podiceps nigricollis*), 2005-55: One, 18 July 2005, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Larry Lade, Steve Kinder, Jack Hilsabeck, Tommie Rogers (documentation). Casual in summer; first July record for Missouri.

**WESTERN GREBE** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), 2004-67: One, 30 April-3 May 2004, Creve Coeur Lake, St. Louis Co. Found by Jim Malone and Joe Eades; documented by Jim and Charlene Malone. Casual in eastern Missouri.

**OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*), 2005-32: One, 25 January – 13 February 2005, near Edina, Knox County. Sam Gunter, Marilyn Goodwin, Anne Downing (documentation). Casual in winter.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** (*Elanoides forficatus*), 2005-48: One, 13-14 June 2005, El Dorado Springs, Cedar Co. Bill Neal, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gant, Jan Neal (documentation). Casual transient and summer visitor; sixth modern record.

**VIRGINIA RAIL** (*Rallus limicola*), 2005-15: One, 18 December 2004, water treatment cells, McBaine, Boone Co. Gail White, Paul McKenzie (documentation). Heard only; CBC record. The first winter record for Missouri was at this site in December 2000, and since then it has been found there consistently in December. No fewer than 12 birds were heard during the 2005 Columbia CBC by experienced observers at four widely separated pools. The MBRC has voted that documentation of this species on this CBC is no longer required.

**SANDHILL CRANE** (*Grus canadensis*), 2005-47: One, 4 June 2005, B.K. Leach C.A., Lincoln Co. Brian Loges, Mary Smidt, Dan Curran, Mike Thelen (documentation). Accidental in summer.

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** (*Pluvialis squatarola*), 2005-40: Two, 23 March 2005, near Palmetto, Greene Co. David Blevins. Second-earliest record for spring migration, and second March record. All marks noted on two birds out of a group of five; the others were probably this species as well.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa melanoleuca*), 2004-85: Two, 18 December 2004, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Arpad Nyari, Mark Robbins (documentation). Casual in winter; eighth record. CBC record. Identified both by visual characters and by call.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER** (*Actitis macularius*), 2004-80: One, 18 December 2004 through at least 26 February 2005, Winfield, Lincoln Co. Found and documented by Scott Schuette (photograph); also photographed by Joshua Uffman. Accidental in winter; second record.

**WHIMBREL** (*Numenius phaeopus*), 2005-50: One, 24 May 2005, REDA, St. Charles Co. Josh Uffman. Casual spring migrant in eastern Missouri.

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT** (*Limosa haemastica*), 2005-3: One, 29 August 2004, Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Kristi Mayo, Joe Eades (documentation). Casual in fall migration; appears to be the sixth record.

**LEAST SANDPIPER** (*Calidris minutilla*), 2004-81: 21 birds, 17-18 December 2004, Winfield, Lincoln Co. Scott Schuette. At the time, Least Sandpiper was still considered casual in winter; it has since been moved to "rare" in winter statewide thanks to well-documented records like this one.

**LEAST SANDPIPER**, 2004-86: Four, 18 December 2004, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Arpad Nyari, Mark Robbins (documentation). CBC record. See comments on 2004-81.

**LEAST SANDPIPER**, 2005-14: Two, 18 December 2004, water treatment cells, McBaine, Boone Co. Neal Young, Ellen Ehrhardt, John Besser, Shane Pruett (documentation by latter two). CBC record. See comments on 2004-81.

**LEAST SANDPIPER**, 2005-25: Three, 18 December 2004, Four Rivers CA, Bates Co. Kristi Mayo. CBC record. See comments on 2004-81.

**RUFF** (*Philomachus pugnax*), 2005-34: Male, 1 April 2005, SCNWR, Holt Co. Found and documented by Tommie Rogers (photographs). Casual transient; fourteenth record.

**CALIFORNIA GULL** (*Larus californicus*), 2005-26: Adult, 2-8 December 2004, REDA, St. Charles Co. Joe Eades, David Rogles, Josh Uffman, Jim and Charlene Malone (documentation with photographs). Casual; about the fourteenth state record.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*Larus fuscus*), 2005-33: Adult, 4 March 2005, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Kristi Mayo (photograph). Accidental away from the Mississippi River.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** (*Rissa tridactyla*), 2004-76: One juvenile/first-winter bird, 27-29 November 2004, Bagnell Dam, Miller Co. Found and documented by David Easterla (photographs); also documented by Kristi Mayo. Casual away from the Mississippi River.

**BLACK SKIMMER** (*Rhynchops niger*), 2004-69: One, 25 September 2004, REDA, St. Charles Co. Found and documented by David Becher; also documented by Josh Uffman and by Jim and Charlene Malone (photographs) and observed by many others. **FIRST STATE RECORD.**

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** (*Zenaida asiatica*), 2004-75: One, 26 November 2004, Maryville, Nodaway Co. Peter Kondrashov (documentation with photographs). At the time, considered casual in Missouri; thirteenth state record. The species has since been moved to "rare" statewide, with documentation no longer required.

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE**, 2005-37: One, 1-3 May 2005, Springfield, Greene Co. Janna Dampier, James Fossard (documentation). Fourteenth record. See note on 2004-75.

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE**, 2005-53: One to three birds, 28 June – 14 July 2005, East Prairie, Mississippi Co. Joe Eades (photograph). Fifteenth record. See note on 2004-75. The observer saw a nest that may have belonged to these birds.

**BURROWING OWL** (*Athene cunicularia*), 2005-35: One, 18-19 April 2005, SCNWR, Holt Co. Found by Frank Durbian; documented by Susan Hazelwood and by Tommie Rogers (photograph). Casual transient; fifteenth record. The species is also accidental in the winter (two records) and in the summer (one definite nesting record, near SCNWR).

**BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD** (*Archilochus alexandri*), 2004-79: Hatch-year female, 10 December 2004, Farmington, St. Francois Co. Captured, banded, and documented with diagnostic measurements by Lanny Chambers; photographed by Linda Chambers. In female and immature plumages, this species is very difficult to distinguish from Ruby-throated; measurements are necessary for certainty. However, the photographs show, among other features, the club-like shape of the outermost primary, P10 (Ruby-throated would have narrower and more pointed P10) and the tail extending no farther than the tips of the folded wings. The bird pumped its tail continuously while hovering at a feeder, a behavior that is characteristic of this species (though not exclusively so) and could offer the first clue that a hummingbird might not be a Ruby-throat. **FIRST STATE RECORD.**

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** (*Selasphorus rufus*), 2004-70: Adult male, at least 7-30 September 2004, Creve Coeur, St. Louis Co.; home of Janice Weil. Documented by John Solodar and photographed by Mike Thelen. At the time, Rufous Hummingbird was still considered casual in eastern Missouri; it has since been moved to "rare" statewide thanks to a series of well-documented records like this one. While documentation of Rufous Hummingbird in fall is no longer required, observers are cautioned that all female and immature birds should be reported as *Selasphorus* sp. unless captured and measured. The same is true of apparent adult males with green backs, for a small percentage of adult male Rufous can have green backs like Allen's. Only adult males with all or mostly rufous backs can be confidently identified at sight (they are Rufous Hummingbirds). Whenever a bird is captured by a bander and identified by measurements, we ask the bander to report the supporting measurements to the seasonal editor.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**, 2004-74: Hatch-year female, 20 November 2004, Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau Co.; home of Bill and Hope Eddleman. Captured, banded, and documented with diagnostic measurements by Lanny Chambers; photographed by Steve Juhlin. See comments on 2004-70.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**, 2004-77: After-hatch-year female, 1 December 2004, Libertyville, St. Francois Co. Captured, banded, and documented with diagnostic measurements by Lanny Chambers; photographed by Linda Chambers. See comments on 2004-70.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**, 2005-12: Hatch-year female, 27 November 2004 into January 2005, Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau Co.; home of Bill and Hope Eddleman. Documented by Bill Eddleman with measurements by Lanny Chambers, who banded it; photographed by Bill Eddleman and Linda Chambers. See comments on 2004-70.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**, 2005-17: Female, 14 to at least 19 December 2004, Joplin, Jasper Co.; home of Paul and Charlene Harris. Documented by Larry Herbert; measured and banded by Troy Gordon; photographed by both. **CBC record.**

Though more frequent as a migrant these days, and now listed as “rare” statewide in migration, Rufous Hummingbird is still considered accidental in winter.

**RUFIOUS/ALLEN’S HUMMINGBIRD** (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*), 2004-66: Male, 16 July 2004, Lake of the Ozarks, Camden Co.; at home of Bill and Patty Koetting. While the bird was likely a Rufous, the description did not distinguish between Rufous and Allen’s. The record is of interest as the earliest of a *Selasphorus* hummingbird in Missouri.

**EASTERN PHOEBE** (*Sayornis phoebe*), 2004-84: One, 18 December 2004, Longview Lake, Jackson Co. Nanette Johnson, Erika Burger, and JoAnn Garrett (documentation). Casual in winter in northern half of Missouri. CBC record.

**SAY’S PHOEBE** (*Sayornis saya*), 2004-68: One, 6 September 2004, Chillicothe, Livingston Co. Found and documented by Myrna Carlton at her home; also documented by Steve Kinder (photographs). Casual; eighth state record.

**TROPICAL KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus melancholicus*), 2004-72: One, at least 30 October – 9 November 2004, Sunshine Lake, Lafayette Co. Found and documented (with photographs) by Kristi Mayo; also documented by David Easterla and Edge Wade and photographed by Chris Valentine; audio recording by Mark Robbins (Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, # 126497). While the excellent descriptions and photographs made it clear that this bird belonged to the Tropical/Couch’s Kingbird species pair, the two species are extremely similar, and it was only the audio recording of the bird’s rapid twittering call that permitted positive identification. **FIRST STATE RECORD.**

**NORTHERN SHRIKE** (*Lanius excubitor*), 2005-4: Immature, 30 November 2003, Bethel Prairie, Barton Co. Joe Eades. Accidental outside of the northwestern and west-central parts of Missouri; this is the southernmost record for the state.

**BLUE-HEADED VIREO** (*Vireo solitarius*), 2005-9: One, 17 December 2004, Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman. Accidental in winter; second record. CBC record.

**FISH CROW** (*Corvus ossifragus*), 2005-27: One, 18 December 2004, near Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Matt Gearheart, Mark Land (documentation). Apparently the first winter record outside of southeastern Missouri. CBC record.

**BROWN CREEPER** (*Certhia americana*), 2005-28: One, 8 May 2004, Excelsior Springs, Clay Co. Elly Stock. A rather late date; NAMC record.

**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** (*Sialia currucoides*), 2006-11: One, 17-19 December 2004, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (photograph). Casual; eleventh state record, and first for eastern Missouri. CBC record.

**HERMIT THRUSH** (*Catharus guttatus*), 2004-88: Two, 14 December 2004, SCNWR, Holt Co. Mark Robbins. This species is still considered casual in northern Missouri in winter. CBC record.

**GRAY CATBIRD** (*Dumetella carolinensis*), 2005-21: One, 4 January 2005, St. Joseph, Andrew Co. Ruth Galloway, Lee Galloway (documentation). Accidental in winter in northern Missouri.

**GRAY CATBIRD**, 2005-22: One, 23 and 26 December 2004, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Matt Gearheart, Doug Lindeman, Kristi Mayo (documentation). Accidental in winter in northern Missouri. CBC record.

**AMERICAN PIPIT** (*Anthus rubescens*), 2004-87: Three birds, 18 December 2004, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Mark Land, Matt Gearheart, and Mark Robbins (documentation). CBC record. At the time, American Pipit was still considered casual outside southeastern Missouri in winter; its status has since been changed to "rare" in all of southern Missouri, "casual" in northern and central Missouri. Thus documentation will no longer be needed on this CBC.

**AMERICAN PIPIT**, 2005-24: 25 birds, 18 December 2004, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Kristi Mayo. CBC record. See notes on 2004-87.

**AMERICAN PIPIT**, 2005-1: Five, 30 December 2004, near Elsberry, Lincoln Co. Jim Malone. Casual in winter in northern and central Missouri. CBC record.

**AMERICAN PIPIT**, 2005-6: One, 18 December 2004, Maryville sewage lagoons, Nodaway Co. David Easterla. Casual in winter in northern and central Missouri. CBC record.

**AMERICAN PIPIT**, 2005-23: Nine, 26 December 2004, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Doug Willis. Casual in winter in northern and central Missouri. CBC record.

**SPRAGUE'S PIPIT** (*Anthus spragueii*), 2005-45: One, 3 May 2005, between REDA and Confluence State Park, St. Charles Co. Steve Mitten. Accidental transient in eastern Missouri; only the second modern record for the St. Louis area. Although the Committee is cautious about accepting records of Sprague's Pipit where not expected, due to the ease of confusion with other species (especially juvenile Horned Lark), this bird was well described, and the characters noted were diagnostic when taken together. These included a generally pale tan appearance, a large black eye on a pale face, scaly dark markings on the back, limited streaking on a white breast, and pinkish legs. The observer had had considerable prior experience with this species.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** (*Vermivora celata*), 2005-20: One, 18 December 2004, Lake Wapapello, Wayne Co. Steve Dilks. Casual in winter in southern Missouri; thirteenth record statewide, tenth for southern Missouri. CBC record.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**, 2005-29: One, 13-28 January 2005, Kimberling City, Stone Co. Kathy Lee (documentation with photograph). Fourteenth winter record statewide and eleventh for southern Missouri; see comment on 2005-20.

**PALM WARBLER** (*Dendroica palmarum*), 2005-10: Two, 17 December 2004, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (photograph). Casual in winter; eleventh record. CBC record. The whitish breast suggested the widespread nominate race *palmarum*.

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** (*Mniotilta varia*), 2005-31: One, 9 December 2004, Hawn State Park, St. Genevieve Co. Doug Willis. Latest date for Missouri by over a month. Surprisingly, the bird was heard singing.

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER** (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), 2005-51: One, 10-11 July 2005, Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Center, Liberty, Clay Co. Documented by Craig Hensley and Terry Swope (video); photographed by Linda Williams. This surprising record was the first summer occurrence of Swainson's Warbler away from its usual breeding range in extreme southern Missouri. The habitat was upland woods, which is uncharacteristic of Swainson's Warbler in Missouri. The bird sang persistently and may have been on the site since June, according to one observer.

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** (*Oporornis agilis*), 2005-44: Male, 14 May 2005, Cuivre River State Park, Lincoln Co. Steve Mitten. NAMC record, where documentation required.

**CHIPPING SPARROW** (*Spizella passerina*), 2005-13: One, 12 to at least 19 December 2004, Columbia, Boone Co. Jerry Wade, Edge Wade (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter. CBC record.

**CHIPPING SPARROW**, 2005-18: One, 19 December 2004, Joplin, Newton Co. Barry Jones. Casual in winter. CBC record.

**LARK BUNTING** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 2004-78: Female or immature male, 4 December 2004, Weldon Spring CA, St. Charles Co. Bill Rowe (photographs). Accidental away from northwestern Missouri; second record for the eastern half of the state.

**DARK-EYED JUNCO** (*Junco hyemalis*), 2004-82: One, probably female, 8 July 2004, Shaw Nature Reserve, Franklin Co. Chris Brown. Accidental in summer, with two previous records, both in June. The bird apparently showed no signs of injury.

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), 2005-2: Male, 29 December 2004, Thompson River wetland, Livingston Co. Steve Kinder. Accidental in winter; apparently the third record.

**LAZULI BUNTING** (*Passerina amoena*), 2005-46: Male, 8-13 May 2005, Fairfax, Atchison Co.; home of Evonne and Wilbur Wright. Documentation by Tommie Rogers, reporting the Wrights' description. Lazuli Buntings have been appearing at the Wrights' home in May most years since 1996. Otherwise, the species is a casual transient in western Missouri.

**PAINTED BUNTING** (*Passerina ciris*), 2005-43: Pair, 15-21 May 2005, near Gerster, St. Clair Co. Norman (documentation) and Sheila Murray. Presence of male and female together suggested breeding, at a site near the northern limits of the species' range.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), 2005-16: Female, 11 January 2005, Prairie State Park, Barton Co. Documented by Doug Willis; photographed by Linda Williams. Casual in winter outside the northwestern sector of Missouri.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 2004-83: About 100 birds, 30 December 2004, near Annada, Pike Co. Scott Schuette, Bill Rowe (documentation). At the time, considered casual in winter outside west-central Missouri; it has since been moved to "rare" statewide in winter, but documentation is still required on Christmas Bird Counts (like this record).

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**, 2005-8: 13 birds, 19 December 2004, Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Joe Eades. CBC record. See comment on 2004-83.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**, 2005-19: About 100 birds, 18 December 2004, near MNWR, Stoddard Co. Steve Dilks. CBC record. See comment on 2004-83.

## 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.

**EURASIAN WIGEON** (*Anas penelope*), 2004-71: Male, 31 October 2004, REDA, St. Charles Co. This was clearly an unusual wigeon, and perhaps a pure Eurasian. The description did not, however, rule out a hybrid Eurasian x American, in the opinion of outside reviewers to whom the record was sent.

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON** (*Gavia adamsii*), 2004-73: Flock of about 25, 3 November 2004, Iron County. Given the extreme rarity of this species in the midwest, the presence of even two birds together would be astounding. From the description and some very distant photographs, it seemed likely that the observers saw Double-crested Cormorants.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE**, 2005-42: One, 6 April 2005, Christian Co. This bird was observed very briefly, through a windshield while driving, without binoculars, and by an observer who was unfamiliar with Swallow-tailed Kite. Details of the observation were minimal and not fully consistent with that species. The Committee believed that other raptor species were not ruled out.

**WHOOPING CRANE** (*Grus americana*), 2005-39: About 60 birds in three flocks, 21 April 2005, Liberty, Clay Co. Missouri lies well east of the Whooping Crane's normal migration route. For most of the past century, the species has been accidental here, with only three accepted records of one or two birds, whereas the flocks in this report would constitute about one-third of the entire wild Canada/Texas population. The coordinator of Whooping Crane migration sightings for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service informed the Committee that the birds typically migrate singly or a few at a time, and that reports of large flocks are generally given no credence. In addition, this sighting was made without binoculars, and the description does not eliminate American White Pelicans. Absent a photograph, the Committee could not accept the report.

**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** (*Empidonax flaviventris*), 2005-49: One, 14 May 2005, Cuivre River State Park, Lincoln Co. NAMC record, where documentation required. While some parts of the description suggested this species, Acadian Flycatcher and other *Empidonax* were not fully eliminated. In particular, the throat color and back color were not specifically mentioned, the voice descriptions were confusing, and the observer used a process of elimination based on misleading points from field guide illustrations.

**CAVE SWALLOW** (*Petrochelidon fulva*), 2005-52: Immature, 6 August 2005, near Montrose, Henry Co. While the bird observed may well have been a Cave Swallow, the report fell short of the requirements for a first state record. The observation was very brief, and the descriptions provided by the observers were somewhat sketchy and not in total agreement with each other; one observer described a "whitish to buff forehead," which would argue against Cave Swallow. Some features desirable for a full description were not noted (e.g., back pattern). The fact that the bird was immature made the identification more uncertain, since separation of immature Cave and Cliff Swallows has not been fully worked out and can be difficult. It is likely, however, that Cave Swallow will soon be recorded in Missouri, since the species has recently been dispersing northward in the fall in large numbers, with multiple records from many eastern and midwestern states.

**NASHVILLE WARBLER** (*Vermivora ruficapilla*), 2005-30: One, 18 December 2004, Montrose Lake, Henry Co. CBC record. While it is possible that this was a Nashville Warbler, there was too little detail to establish such a remarkable record. Several Committee members thought the observer might have seen the much more likely Orange-crowned Warbler, judging from some of the features



mentioned; that species is often misidentified as Nashville or various other warblers. Unfortunately, the observer did not write an actual description, but simply made a sketch and labeled certain features. For documentation purposes, it is more helpful to provide a full written description of the whole bird, in addition to a sketch.

**KIRTLAND'S WARBLER** (*Dendroica kirtlandii*), 2005-38: One, 11 May 2005, St. Louis Co. This species is globally rare, with a total of 1341 singing males censused in 2004—probably a good approximation of the number of breeding pairs in existence. Missouri does not lie on its normal migration route between Michigan and the Bahamas; there is a single specimen (1885) and a single accepted sight record (1950) from our state. Given these facts, any report of Kirtland's Warbler should be supported by a very full description of the bird's plumage, structure, and behavior, preferably with photographs or sketches. The present observation lasted only 15-20 seconds, and the brief description provided, while consistent with Kirtland's Warbler as far as it went, did not rule out other species such as Magnolia Warbler. The report failed to mention various characters that might have tended to confirm the identification, such as head and face pattern, back pattern, exact pattern of flank streaking, tail-wagging behavior, or size comparison with other warblers. Such details are necessary for acceptance of a report of any extremely rare bird, whether an endangered species like this one or simply a vagrant.

**DARK-EYED "PINK-SIDED" JUNCO** (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*), 2005-7: Adult, 18 December 2004, Maryville, Nodaway Co. The description suggested that this bird was probably a true "Pink-sided" Junco. A previous sight record, however, was not accepted, following review by an outside expert, George Barrowclough; he was of the opinion that a specimen or photograph would be necessary for unequivocal elimination of other junco subspecies and intergrades. The Committee continues to believe that this criterion should be met for a first state record of this form, which may some day be elevated to species status. The criteria for acceptance may be less stringent in other states that already have established records and have more regular occurrences of this form.