

# NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSOURI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

**William C. Rowe, Secretary**

This report summarizes records evaluated by the Committee between 24 September 2005 and 23 September 2006. 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 92 records that were finalized during this period, 77 were accepted and 15 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 84%. Members participating in the decisions were Bill Eddleman (Chair), Bill Rowe (Secretary), Bill Goodge, Brad Jacobs, Paul McKenzie, Mark Robbins, and Tommie Rogers. One outside review (for the dowitcher record, 2006-11) was obtained from Cin-Ty Lee and Andrew Birch.

From the records covered by this report, one new species, Gray Kingbird, was added to the state list. Thus Missouri's total as of 23 September 2006 was 407 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, Swallow-tailed Kite; accidental, Yellow-billed Loon). It also reviews records of species that are casual or accidental for the season when reported (example: Blackpoll in fall); records of species that are casual or accidental in the part of Missouri where reported (example: Prairie Falcon 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 2008 issue of *The Bluebird*.

RMBS = Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, 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*), 2006-41: One, 14 May 2006, Republic, Greene Co. Dean Rising. Casual transient and summer visitor; eighth state record.

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK**, 2006-63: One, 26 June to at least 30 June 2006, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Found by Andy Forbes; documented by Josh Uffman (with photographs). Casual transient and summer visitor; ninth state record.

**FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK** (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), 2006-58: Two adults and two juveniles, 20 June 2006, Missouri Department of Transportation Wetland Mitigation site, Stoddard Co. Rob Meade (documentation), Buck Brooks, Melissa Scheperle, Keith McMullen. The documentation mentioned that photographs were taken, but they were never submitted to the MBRC. There are a few previous summer records of this species, but none with evidence of breeding. Based on this record, Fulvous Whistling-Duck is now listed as an accidental summer resident (i.e., a breeding bird).

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** (*Anser albifrons*), 2006-62: Adult, 29 June into November 2006, RMBS. Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs), m. ob. Accidental in summer. This bird, usually with a flock of Canada Geese, was observed by various people off and on through 7 November. None of the observers reported seeing the bird fly; thus it may have been ill or injured.

**CINNAMON TEAL** (*Anas cyanoptera*), 2006-47: Male and probable female, 4 June 2006, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Bill Goodge (documentation), Edge Wade, Janice Gaston, Anne Downing, Sandy Elbert. Accidental in summer.

**RING-NECKED DUCK** (*Aythya collaris*), 2006-61: Female, 8 July 2006, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs), Joe Eades, Jim Malone. Casual in summer.

**COMMON GOLDENEYE** (*Bucephala clangula*), 2006-68: An unmated immature male and a female of unknown age, late May to mid-July 2006, SCNWR. Brian Lomas (documentation with photographs); also photographed by Nate Petersen. Previously considered accidental in summer; with this record, the species' status moves to casual.

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON** (*Gavia adamsii*), 2005-71: One, 25 November 2005, Thomas Hill Reservoir, Macon Co. Found and documented with photographs by Josh Uffman. Accidental; fifth report for the state and probably the second individual, since single Yellow-billed Loons documented at Table Rock Lake in the winters of 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, and 1994-95 were presumably the same individual.

**WESTERN GREBE** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), 2006-10: One, 22-24 October 2005, Winfield Dam, Lincoln Co. Eric Schuette (documentation), David Rogles. At the time, listed as a casual transient in eastern Missouri; has since been upgraded to "rare" statewide based on documented records like this one.

**WESTERN GREBE**, 2005-67: One, 23 October 2005, Thomas Hill Reservoir, Macon Co. Joe Eades. See comments on 2006-10, above.

**WESTERN GREBE**, 2005-66: One, 23 October 2005, RMBS. Joe Eades. See comments on 2006-10, above. The observer found this Western Grebe later on the same day as 2005-67; they were at widely separated locations and thus presumably different birds.

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), 2006-37: 75 birds and 22 nests counted, 17 May 2006, Truman Lake, Henry Co. Brad Jacobs (photographs). First nesting record for Missouri in many years; currently considered accidental as a summer resident (i.e., a nesting species), although lingering nonbreeding birds are often seen in summer. On 1 June, at least 24 nests were counted (Mark Robbins).

**GREAT EGRET** (*Ardea alba*), 2006-26: One, 7 December 2005, SCNWR, Holt Co. Tommie Rogers (documentation), Ron Bell, Frank Durbian. Very late fall record.

**GREAT EGRET**, 2006-9: One, 17 December 2005, Winfield Dam area, Lincoln Co. Bruce Schuette (documentation), Florence DiTirro. Casual in winter. CBC record.

**GREAT EGRET**, 2006-4: One, 4 January to at least 5 February 2006, Lake Springfield, Greene Co. Documented by Kevin Eulinger, Greg Swick (photographs); also seen by Charley Burwick, Emily Kathol, Mike Skinner. Casual in winter.

**GREAT EGRET**, 2006-19: One, 23 January 2006, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Aaron Given. Casual in winter.

**WHITE IBIS** (*Eudocimus albus*), 2005-56: Two immatures, 15 August 2005, Winfield Dam area, Lincoln Co. Scott Schuette. Casual in northern Missouri.

**WHITE IBIS**, 2006-56: Adult, 8 May 2006, Bob Brown CA, Holt Co. Kristi Mayo (documentation), Doug Willis; apparently had also been seen the preceding week by Conservation Dept. personnel. Casual in northern Missouri.

**GLOSSY IBIS** (*Plegadis falcinellus*), 2005-57: One adult, 14 August 2005, Bean Lake, Platte Co. Kristi Mayo (documentation with photographs), Linda Williams, Doug Willis. Casual in western Missouri.

**GLOSSY IBIS**, 2006-34: One adult, 15 April 2006, Bean Lake, Platte Co. Kristi Mayo (documentation), Doug Willis. Casual in western Missouri.

**GLOSSY IBIS**, 2006-35: One adult, 26 April 2006, SCNWR. Tommie Rogers (documentation), John Rushin. Casual in western Missouri.

**GLOSSY IBIS**, 2006-57: One adult, 20 May 2006, SCNWR. Kristi Mayo. Casual in western Missouri. Like the birds in the three records above, this one was with White-faced Ibises and allowed excellent comparisons; the face pattern was described carefully. This individual was also distinguished from a possible Glossy x White-faced hybrid in the same group of about 15 *Plegadis*; that bird was superficially like Glossy but tended slightly toward White-faced in face pattern (blue facial border paler than typical and appearing to connect behind eye).

**BLACK VULTURE** (*Coragyps atratus*), 2006-71: One, 4 May 2005, Valley Park, St. Louis Co. Linda Tossing (documentation), Mike Zeloski. Accidental outside southern Missouri. Records of Black Vulture near St. Louis have begun to accumulate; the status of this species is clearly changing.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** (*Elanoides forficatus*), 2006-67: One, probable juvenile, 10 August to at least 28 August 2006, vicinity of Busch CA, St. Charles Co. Found and documented by Charlene Malone (with photographs by Al Smith and Ron Goetz); also documented by David Easterla and photographed by m.ob. Casual transient and visitor; seventh modern record and first for the St. Louis area. Secondhand reports from Busch CA personnel suggested that the bird was first seen on 6 August.

**PRAIRIE FALCON** (*Falco mexicanus*), 2005-72: One, probable adult, 3 December 2005, Winfield, Lincoln Co. Josh Uffman (photographs). Casual in eastern Missouri.

**PRAIRIE FALCON**, 2005-75: One, probable adult, 22 December 2005, BK Leach CA, Lincoln Co. Scott Schuette. Casual in eastern Missouri.

**PRAIRIE FALCON**, 2006-65: One, probable adult, 21 January 2006, between RMBS and Jones Confluence SP, St. Charles Co. Charlene and Jim Malone (photographs). Casual in eastern Missouri. While this bird and the two referenced above were in different locations at different times, and were properly documented as separate sightings, it is possible that any two of them, or even all three, could have involved the same individual wandering the Mississippi River lowlands during the winter of 2005-06.

**BLACK RAIL** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), 2005-69: One, 9 October 2005, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co. Heard and documented by Terry McNeely; also heard by Dana and Marissa McNeely. The call, which the bird gave off and on from 5:00 to 5:20 a.m., was well described. Casual transient; about the twelfth state record, the third and latest record for fall, and the first accepted record since 1990.

**VIRGINIA RAIL** (*Rallus limicola*), 2006-15: Eight birds, 17 December 2005, Columbia Waste Treatment Cells, Boone Co. Bill Goodge (documentation), John Besser, Ellen Ehrhardt, Sandra Cubal, Sue Bruenderman. These birds were heard at a site where the species has become expectable in winter. Because of this regularity, the Committee will no longer require documentation at this site, although the species will keep its status as accidental in winter elsewhere. CBC record.

**VIRGINIA RAIL**, 2006-16: Four birds, 17 December 2005, Columbia Waste Treatment Cells (3) and Eagle Bluffs (1), Boone Co. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Gail White, Roger Still, Justin Pepper. See notes on 2006-15, above. CBC record. The three birds at the Columbia Waste Treatment Cells were in different units than the ones reported in 2006-15.

**SORA** (*Porzana carolina*), 2006-22: One, 5 February 2006, Columbia Waste Treatment Cells, Boone Co. Chris Merkord (documentation), Heather Clenin. Identified by voice. Accidental in winter.

**SORA**, 2006-55: One, 19 June 2006, Columbia Waste Treatment Cells 1 & 4, Boone Co. Bill Goodge (documentation), Andy Forbes. Identified by voice. Casual in summer; this is the fifth consecutive summer that the species has been found at this site.

**SANDHILL CRANE** (*Grus canadensis*), 2006-69: Nesting pair, 16 May 2006 and other dates, SCNWR. Documented by Frank Durbian; nest photographed by Brian Lomas. Accidental in summer. Two cranes were observed, and two eggs were laid before the nest was abandoned. For details see

Lomas et al., "Second Confirmed Nesting Attempt by Sandhill Crane in Missouri," *Bluebird*, Vol. 73, No. 4 (December 2006).

**SANDHILL CRANE**, 2006-64: One, 16 July 2006, near Winfield, Lincoln Co. Charlene and Jim Malone (with photographs). Accidental in summer.

**SANDHILL CRANE**, 2006-66: Four birds, various dates through the summer, 2006, Kings Lake Unit, B.K. Leach CA, Lincoln Co. Observed on 29 July by Tom Bormann (documentation), David Rogles. With this record, the fifth documented summer record, the species' status moves to casual in summer.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS** (*Tringa melanoleuca*), 2006-30: Five birds, 3 December 2005, Winfield Dam area, Lincoln Co. Josh Uffman. Very late fall record.

**WHIMBREL** (*Numenius phaeopus*), 2006-38: Three birds, 17 May 2006, RMBS. Joe Eades. Casual spring transient in eastern Missouri.

**RUFF** (*Philomachus pugnax*), 2006-27: One, 29 March to 1 April 2006, near Bigelow Marsh, Holt Co. Documented by Tommie Rogers (with photographs), Robert Fisher, David Easterla. Previously listed as a casual transient; this is the fifteenth record, and thus the species' status moves to rare. There were varying opinions as to whether one or two birds were involved, but no observer ever saw more than one at a time. A majority of the Committee believed that the descriptions and photographs did not clearly indicate the presence of two birds.

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*), 2006-11: One, 2-3 December 2005, Winfield Dam area, Lincoln Co. Charlene and Jim Malone (documentation with photographs), Josh Uffman (additional photographs); also seen by Joe Eades, David Rogles. Very late fall record. This record was reviewed by Cin-Ty Lee and Andrew Birch, authors of a recent identification article published on line and in *Birding* (Vol. 38, No. 5). Their opinion was that the bird was a Long-billed Dowitcher, based on a number of subtle features, and the Committee accepted it as that species. The two dowitcher species are most difficult to tell apart in basic (winter) plumage, as this bird was, and the identification criteria are still being worked out. Any dowitcher lingering in Missouri as late as December is most unusual, although Long-billed is by far the more likely (Short-billed has not been documented after the first few days of October).

**AMERICAN WOODCOCK** (*Scolopax minor*), 2006-6: One, 19 December 2005, Big Oak Tree SP, Mississippi Co. Denise Dowling (documentation), Sara Scheper, Allison Vaughn. Casual winter resident in southern Missouri. CBC record.

**LAUGHING GULL** (*Larus atricilla*), 2005-60: Juvenile, 18 September 2005, Thomas Hill Reservoir, Macon Co. Joe Eades. Casual transient away from the Mississippi River.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** (*Larus pipixcan*), 2006-12: Adult in alternate plumage, 29 December 2005 to at least 22 January 2006, Smithville Lake, Clay and Buchanan Cos. Documented on various dates by Larry Lade, Jack Hilsabeck, Bob Fisher, and Jennifer Reidy; also seen by John Rushin and Randy Cartwright. Accidental in winter. The documentations, from several points around the lake, described a Franklin's Gull in full alternate plumage; it is most likely that these all referred to the same individual. Winter records of this species in Missouri and neighboring states have often involved birds in alternate plumage with full black hoods.

**LITTLE GULL** (*Larus minutus*), 2005-63: First-winter bird, 23 October 2005, Thomas Hill Reservoir, Macon Co. Joe Eades. Casual transient; twelfth state record.

**LITTLE GULL**, 2005-68: Second-winter bird, 30 October 2005, Thomas Hill Reservoir, Randolph Co. Joe Eades. Casual transient; thirteenth state record. Along with this bird, the observer saw a first-winter Little Gull that was presumably the bird observed on 23 October (see 2005-63, above).

**LITTLE GULL**, 2006-33: Adult, 12 April 2006, RMBS. Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs), Jim and Charlene Malone, David Rogles, Connie Alwood. Casual transient; fourteenth state record, one of few in spring, and possibly the first in alternate plumage with full black hood.

**THAYER'S GULL** (*Larus thayeri*), 2006-32: Adult, 2-28 February 2006, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Kristi Mayo (documentation), Doug Willis. Accidental away from the Mississippi River. Carefully observed at close range; dark eye noted; sketched to show pattern of primaries from above and below.

**GLAUCOUS GULL** (*Larus hyperboreus*), 2006-13: Two juveniles, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. One bird was observed 16 December 2005 to 3 January 2006; then two appeared (including, apparently, the original individual) from 16 January to 24 February 2006. Kristi Mayo (documentation with photographs), Doug Willis, Matt Gearhart. Casual away from the Mississippi River.

**CASPIAN TERN** (*Hydroprogne caspia*), 2006-28: One, 29 March 2006, RMBS. Josh Uffman (photographs). Almost a month earlier than the previous early date.

**INCA DOVE** (*Columbina inca*), 2006-29: One, 6 February to 2 March 2006, Springfield Conservation Nature Center, Greene Co. Charley Burwick (documentation), Art Daniels (photographs), m.ob. Accidental; fourth state record.

**INCA DOVE**, 2006-46: One, 12 April 2006, near Columbia, Boone Co. Sarah Pelc (documentation), Michael Pelc, Nancy Pelc, Leah Pelc. Previously listed as accidental; this record, the fifth for the state, elevates the species' status to "casual."

**LONG-EARED OWL** (*Asio otus*), 2006-49: Nesting record; birds observed 1 March to 13 May 2006, Livingston Co. Steve Kinder (documentation with photographs), Noppodol Paothong (photographs), Brad Jacobs, Andy Forbes, Larry Lade. Two nests with a total of ten or more birds (adults plus young) were found in a privately-owned pine grove where up to 15 Long-eared Owls had wintered for the preceding two or more years. Considered a casual summer resident in Missouri; most recent prior nesting evidence was in 1983.

**KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus sp.*), 2006-2: One, 17 December 2005, Mingo NWR, Stoddard Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Wes Mueller. This bird, seen flying over and past the observers at fairly close range, was determined to be a yellow-bellied kingbird, but it could not be identified to species. Any of the possible species would be accidental in winter. CBC record.

**GRAY KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus dominicensis*), 2006-45: One, 23-24 May 2006, Salem, Dent Co. Found and documented by David Plank; also documented by Loretta McClure. This bird, which perched on wires and rooftops around a municipal swimming pool, was well described by both observers and beautifully sketched by Plank. Absent physical evidence such as a specimen or a photograph, Missouri standards require at least two documentations that are "independently written and independently acceptable." The Committee deemed this to be the case and gave the record full acceptance. **FIRST STATE RECORD.**

**BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE** (*Pica hudsonia*), 2006-23: One, 8 December 2005, Maryville, Nodaway Co. Jane Dawson (documentation), Suzanne Dawson. Accidental; about the third record in the past sixty years. This bird was seen on the TV antenna of the observer's home! Considering the proximity

to known populations in Iowa and Kansas, the Committee decided that it was most likely of natural origin.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** (*Sitta canadensis*), 2006-60: Male and female with two juveniles, 7-13 June 2006, Kansas City, Jackson Co. Nic Allen (documentation with photographs), Ted Allen. Accidental summer resident; this appears to be the second record for Missouri with evidence of nesting (first in 1955, also in Kansas City). The young were observed begging and being fed by the female.

**WINTER WREN** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), 2005-59: One, 9 September 2005, Burr Oak Woods CA, Jackson Co. Jim Zellmer. Earliest record for the state by about a week.

**RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET** (*Regulus calendula*), 2006-70: One, 19 August 2006, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Jackie Chain (documentation), Rose Ann Bodman. Appears to be the earliest fall record for Missouri by one week.

**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** (*Myadestes townsendi*), 2006-1: One, 28 December 2005 to at least 28 February 2006, Kirkwood, St. Louis Co. Found and documented by Anne McCormack; also seen by m. ob.; photographed by Randy Korotev and others. Accidental outside northwestern Missouri; first record for the eastern half of the state.

**VARIED THRUSH** (*Ixoreus naevius*), 2005-65: One, 15 October 2005, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Found and documented by Sherry McCowan; also observed by Nick Barber, Jack Cowan, Yvonne Homeyer, and Jim Ziebol. Casual; thirteenth state record, and first for fall.

**GRAY CATBIRD** (*Dumetella carolinensis*), 2005-76: One, 14 December 2005, Big Lake SP, Holt Co. Larry Rizzo (documentation), Larry Lade. Accidental in winter in northern Missouri. CBC record.

**GRAY CATBIRD**, 2006-8: One, 8 January 2006, near B.K. Leach CA, Lincoln Co. Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs). Accidental in winter in northern Missouri.

**AMERICAN PIPIT** (*Anthus rubescens*), 2006-31: Five birds, 18 December 2005, near Winfield, Lincoln Co. Josh Uffman. Casual in winter in central and northern Missouri.

**AMERICAN PIPIT**, 2006-44: One, 29 May 2006, near RMBS. Bill Rowe. Apparently the latest record for Missouri by over two weeks.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** (*Vermivora celata*), 2006-5: One, 1 January 2006, Lake Taneycomo, Taney Co. Documented by Greg Swick and Dean Rising; also seen by Bo Brown and Marvin DeJong. Casual in winter in southern Missouri. CBC record.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**, 2006-14: One, 3-4 January 2006, Creve Coeur, St. Louis Co. Josh Uffman (documentation), Christopher Brown. Casual in winter.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**, 2006-24: One, 10 February 2006, Lake Springfield, Greene Co. Eric Schuette. Casual in winter.

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER** (*Dendroica striata*), 2005-62: One, probably immature, 2 October 2005, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Joe Eades. The Blackpoll is a common spring migrant in Missouri, but its migration pattern shifts sharply eastward in the fall. It is presently considered accidental and hypothetical at that season, since there is no physical evidence of its occurrence then (no photograph

or specimen), nor has there ever been a written description of one as far as the Committee is aware. There are a few credible fall sight records by experienced birders, but this is the first since 1988 and the first to be documented.

**CHIPPING SPARROW** (*Spizella passerina*), 2006-17: Seven birds, 26 December 2005, near Poplar Bluff, Butler Co. Tom and Lynda Mills (documentation), Angelina Trombley. Casual in winter in southern Missouri.

**VESPER SPARROW** (*Pooecetes gramineus*), 2006-25: One, 19 February 2006, B.K. Leach CA, Lincoln Co. Eric Schuette. Casual in winter.

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), 2006-52: One, heard only, 6 July 2006, Lower Hamburg Bend CA, Atchison Co. Tommie Rogers. Accidental in summer. Identified by song.

**DARK-EYED JUNCO** (*Junco hyemalis*), 2006-53: One, 20 May to 3 June 2006, Kearney, Clay Co. Jo Ann Eldridge (documentation), Bob Eldridge. A very late spring record, extending into summer, when considered accidental.

**LAZULI BUNTING** (*Passerina amoena*), 2006-40: Adult male, 17 May 2006, St. Joseph, Buchanan Co. Documented by Larry Lade and by Jack Hilsabeck (with photographs). Casual transient in western Missouri.

**LAZULI BUNTING**, 2006-43: Adult male, 14-18 May 2006, Greene Co. at the residence of Sandy and Mike Buntain (photograph). Dean Rising transmitted the information and photograph to the Committee. Casual transient in western Missouri.

**PAINTED BUNTING** (*Passerina ciris*), 2005-58: Female or immature, 7 May 2005, Marais Temps Clair CA, St. Charles Co. Joe Eades. Casual transient outside southwestern Missouri.

**PAINTED BUNTING**, 2005-64: Female or immature, 18 October 2005, RMBS. Judy Bergmann. Casual transient outside southwestern Missouri. This is also apparently the latest fall date for the species.

**PAINTED BUNTING**, 2006-54: Adult male, 16 June 2006, Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City, Cole Co. Edge Wade (documentation), Joyce Bathke, Trana Madsen, Rich George, Julie Lundsted. Accidental in summer outside southwestern Missouri.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 2006-3: Total of 130 birds, 19 December 2005, Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Ken Rampley, Wes Mueller. Documentation required on CBC's statewide.

## 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.

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK**, 2005-73: One, 10 September 2005, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. While the identification may have been correct, the details provided were sketchy and did not eliminate other waterfowl, including possible escaped captive or domesticated birds. Moreover, the report was written three months after the observation.

**FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK**, 2006-48: One, 3 June 2006, Newton Co. The bird was seen at considerable distance in poor lighting conditions, and important field marks were not noted. The observer himself seemed unsure of the identification.

**TRUMPETER SWAN** (*Cygnus buccinator*), 2006-50: One, 13 May 2006, Livingston Co. This bird was clearly a Trumpeter Swan, but it bore a red neck collar, indicating that it came from an Iowa population that is not necessarily established yet; at least some of these birds have recently been relocated in Iowa from other points in that state or from other states (*fide* David Hoffman). Thus, as a potentially human-assisted bird, it should not be considered wild, unlike (for example) the Trumpeter Swans that winter at RMBS in the St. Louis area. NAMC record.

**SCALED QUAIL** (*Callipepla squamata*), 2006-36: One, 25 April 2006, Texas County. Almost no actual description of this bird was provided; identification was made by comparison with pictures on the Internet. This bird was most unlikely to have been a Scaled Quail.

**FERRUGINOUS HAWK** (*Buteo regalis*), 2006-18: Immature, 29 January 2006, Mozingo Lake, Nodaway Co. One of the four observers had prior experience with Ferruginous Hawks, and this bird may have been of that species. The description, however, failed to mention some key characters, the most important of which are the conspicuous whitish patches on the upper side of the primaries that are present in all plumages and should have been obvious with the light as good and the bird as close as reported. Some features stressed were impressionistic rather than actual field marks—e.g., separation from other buteos based on size, head shape, “eagle-like” proportions, etc., all easy to misjudge. One feature reported, leg feathering down to the feet, is indeed a point of separation from Red-tailed Hawk, but observers are sometimes misled by long thigh feathers that cover the leg and give the impression of feathered tarsi. Ferruginous Hawk is not only a rare species in Missouri but also one for which other species are easily mistaken; this is especially true of immatures. The Committee treats reports of this species very conservatively. To be accepted, the observation and the description need to be as detailed and thorough as possible.

**PRAIRIE FALCON**, 2006-59: One, 27 April 2006, over Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. An extraordinarily late date, and an odd location, for this species. The description was puzzling at some points, and Committee members believed that other more likely species (other falcons, immature Mississippi Kite) were not clearly eliminated.

**RUFF**, 2006-42: One, 21 May 2006, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. This bird may well have been a Ruff, but the descriptive details were not fully convincing.

**CAVE SWALLOW** (*Petrochelidon fulva*), 2005-61: One, 7 September 2005, Weston Bend SP, Platte Co. The observer described features that strongly suggested an adult Cave Swallow, and this is certainly a species that is likely to occur in Missouri as part of its recent dramatic northerly dispersal in fall. The bird was seen only briefly, however (for about 15 seconds), and only in straight-line flight past the observer. A majority of the Committee felt that these conditions precluded acceptance, even

to the hypothetical list. Acceptance to the main list would require additional independent observations or physical evidence.

**HOUSE WREN** (*Troglodytes aedon*), 2006-21: One, 5 February 2006, Boone Co. The description of this bird suggested a Winter Wren rather than a House Wren, and the bird was first seen when it responded to a tape of a Winter Wren song.

**VEERY** (*Catharus fuscescens*), 2005-74: One, 12 December 2005, Texas Co. Some of the characters described were superficially correct for a Veery, but too little detail was provided, and there was no indication that the observer was aware of the difficulties in identifying *Catharus* thrushes. A Veery in December would be extraordinary; it would need a very thorough description, and preferably photographs, in order to eliminate other species of thrushes, especially Hermit Thrush, which is the only expectable *Catharus* at this season.

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER** (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), 2006-39: One, 22 April 2006, Forest Park, St. Louis City. Identified solely by song, using a listening device that transposed the song to a different frequency. This bird may have been a Swainson's Warbler, but it was impossible for the Committee to evaluate the evidence. Other warblers may have songs with a very similar pattern—in particular, some songs of Hooded Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush can sound extremely close to that of Swainson's.

**FOX SPARROW** (*Passerella iliaca*), 2006-51: One, 4-18 May 2006, Columbia, Boone Co. This bird may have been a Fox Sparrow, but the details were uncertain, and there was no actual written description, only some brief notations. A photograph would be helpful for such a remarkably late spring record of this species.

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), 2006-7: Female, 8 January 2006, Mill Creek Valley, Phelps Co. The description lacked enough detail to eliminate similar species such as Purple Finch, or (if the bird was indeed a *Pheucticus*) Black-headed Grosbeak. The documenter's report of seeing four or five of the same species in December cast further doubt on the observation, as Rose-breasted Grosbeak is accidental in winter.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**, 2006-20: Ten birds, 27 May 2006, Springfield, Greene Co. The description provided was not convincing, and the date would be extraordinary for Brewer's Blackbird, since it is far later than any previous record—long past the normal migration period and well into the nesting season for a bird that does not nest within hundreds of miles. In addition, the description was written over a month after the observation.

**COMMON CHAFFINCH** (*Fringilla coelebs*), 2005-71: Male, 18-28 November 2005, Cedar Hill, Jefferson Co. This bird was well observed and photographed; there was no doubt about its identification. The Committee voted unanimously not to accept it, however, on grounds of origin. Since 2002, there have been well over 200 reports of Eurasian passerines (primarily European Goldfinches, but also many other species including Common Chaffinch) in the upper Midwest, apparently a result of releases into the wild by a Chicago bird importer who went out of business. Moreover, there is no clear pattern of vagrancy for the Common Chaffinch in North America that might outweigh the likelihood that it was a released bird. For a full analysis, see Craves and McKenzie, "Common Chaffinch in Missouri, with comments on its status in North America," *Bluebird*, Vol. 73, No. 2 (June 2006).