

# TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSOURI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

**William C. Rowe, Secretary**

This report summarizes records evaluated by the Committee between 24 September 2006 and 29 September 2007. 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 87 records that were finalized during this period, 76 were accepted and 11 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 87%. Members participating in the decisions were Bill Eddleman (Chair), Bill Rowe (Secretary), Bill Goodge, Brad Jacobs, Paul McKenzie, Mark Robbins, and Tommie Rogers.

No new species were added during this year, and so Missouri's total as of 29 September 2007 remained at 407 fully accepted species, including 6 formerly occurring species that have been extirpated from the state and 2 extinct species. There were an additional 17 hypothetical species on the list. One of these, Common Eider, was removed as a result of re-examination of the record by the Committee (see below under "Not Accepted"), bringing the number of hypotheticals down to 16. 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. It also reviews records of species that are casual or accidental for the season when reported (example: Blackpoll Warbler in fall); records of species that are casual or accidental in the part of Missouri where reported (example: Snowy Plover 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 2009 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. Bollinger/Stoddard Cos.

CBC = Christmas Bird Count

NAMC = North American Migration Count

CA = Conservation Area

SP = State Park

## RECORDS ACCEPTED

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), 2006-78: Six, 8 August 2005, at the St. Louis Zoo, City of St. Louis. These birds were observed by zoo personnel including Eric Jeltos and Diane Wilson (photographs); the details and pictures were transmitted by Jeltos to Connie Alwood, who forwarded them to the committee. The birds remained for only a few hours. Zoo personnel recognized that they did not belong to the collection and wore no tags or bands. Casual transient and summer visitor; at the time, this was the eighth state record, with two more records following in 2006 (total of ten).

**GADWALL** (*Anas strepera*), 2007-68: Four, 29 July 2007, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Joe Eades. Accidental in summer in most of Missouri.

**AMERICAN WIGEON** (*Anas americana*), 2007-49: Male, 22 July 2007, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Joe Eades. Previously unrecorded in summer outside northwestern Missouri.

**CINNAMON TEAL** (*Anas cyanoptera*), 2007-40: Male, 5 May 2007, B.K. Leach CA, Lincoln Co. Laura Montgomery (documentation with photographs). At the time, Cinnamon Teal was listed as a casual transient in eastern Missouri; since then its status has been changed to "rare" statewide. A female associating with this bird appeared from the photographs to be a Blue-winged Teal.

**CINNAMON TEAL**, 2007-44: Male, 7-14 April 2007, near Winfield Dam, Lincoln Co. Joe Eades. See comments about status under 2007-40, above.

**NORTHERN SHOVELER** (*Anas clypeata*), 2007-60: Male, 30 June 2007, near Hornersville Swamp, Dunklin Co. Joe Eades. Casual in summer outside the northwestern sector of Missouri.

**NORTHERN SHOVELER**, 2007-67: Male, 20 June 2007, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Peter Kondrashov. Casual in summer outside the northwestern sector of Missouri.

**RING-NECKED DUCK** (*Aythya collaris*), 2007-62: Female, 11-13 July 2007, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Kathleen Anderson (documentation with photographs), Sandy Elbert. Casual in summer.

**SURF SCOTER** (*Melanitta perspicillata*), 2007-10: Immature male, 20 January 2007, RMBS. Mike Thelen (documentation with photographs). This individual was present for weeks, but this was the only documentation received. At the time, Surf Scoter was listed as casual in winter throughout Missouri; since then its status has been changed to "rare" in winter along the Mississippi River.

**SURF SCOTER**, 2007-41: Female, 17-24 February, RMBS. Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs). See comments on 2007-10, above.

**BLACK SCOTER** (*Melanitta nigra*), 2007-43: Three, females/immatures, 26 December 2006, RMBS. Josh Uffman (documentation with photograph), Joe Eades. Casual in winter along the Mississippi River.

**ANHINGA** (*Anhinga anhinga*), 2007-56: Adult, 19 June 2007, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Andy Forbes (documentation), Phil Wire, Scott Schuette, Emily Horner. Casual transient and summer visitor; apparently the thirteenth modern record.

**EARED GREBE** (*Podiceps nigricollis*), 2006-83: One, 16 December 2006, Fellows Lake, Greene Co. David Ringer (documentation with photographs), Charley Burwick, Marvin DeJong, Bob Ranney, Greg Swick. Casual in winter. CBC record.

**WESTERN GREBE** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), 2007-55: One, 18-20 June 2007, Lee's Summit, Jackson Co. Bob Fisher (documentation), Linda Casebolt. Accidental in summer.

**GREAT EGRET** (*Ardea alba*), 2007-14: One, 15 December 2006, near Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Wes Mueller, Rob Vinson. At the time, Great Egret was listed as casual in winter; since then its status has been changed to "rare" at that season owing to a series of recent winter records. CBC record.

**GREAT EGRET**, 2007-17: One, 23-31 December 2006, Wappapello Dam, Wayne Co. Judy Bergmann. See status comments on 2007-14, above.

**GREAT EGRET**, 2007-18: One, 10 January 2007, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Judy Bergmann. See status comments on 2007-14, above.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), 2007-9: Immature, 14 December 2006, SCNWR. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Ron Bell. Accidental in winter in northern Missouri. CBC record.

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL** (*Platalea ajaja*), 2007-65: Two immatures, 22 September 2004, Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Joe Eades (documentation); one bird photographed by Tim Barksdale. At the time, Roseate Spoonbill was listed as an accidental summer visitor; this was the fifth state record, moving the species to casual. It was reported that the birds had been around for much of the summer of 2004, and that a third individual had been present, but this was the only documentation received by the Committee.

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL**, 2007-66: One immature, 22-28 July 2007, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Joe Eades (documentation with photograph). Casual summer visitor; sixth state record.

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL**, 2007-74: One immature, 26 August 2007, Caruthersville Catfish Pond, Pemiscot Co. Joe Eades. Documented separately from 2007-66 and so treated by the Committee. Casual summer visitor; seventh state record.

**WOOD STORK** (*Mycteria americana*), 2007-50: Immature, 28-31 July 2007, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Found and documented by Nan Johnson with JoAnn Garrett; photographed by Nancy Leo; also documented by Peter Kondrashov (with photograph) and Edge Wade. Casual summer visitor, formerly more frequent; fourth record since the 1930's.

**BLACK VULTURE** (*Coragyps atratus*), 2007-46: One, 8 April 2007, near Pevely, Jefferson Co. Joe Eades. The observer has had a series of observations of Black Vultures in Perry and Ste. Genevieve Counties, up to nine birds; this was his first for Jefferson Co. The species is now considered locally uncommon in southern Missouri.

**PRAIRIE FALCON** (*Falco mexicanus*), 2007-1: One, probable adult, 7 January 2007, Columbia Bottom CA, St. Louis Co. Bill Rowe (documentation), Brad Jacobs. At the time, Prairie Falcon was

listed as casual in eastern Missouri; since then its status has been changed to “rare” statewide based on an accumulation of records.

**SANDHILL CRANE** (*Grus canadensis*), 2007-16: One, July-September 2006, rural yard near Sikeston, Scott Co. Leslie Koller (documentation with photographs). Casual in summer outside northwestern Missouri. The documenter saw this bird on 3 September and reported that the landowner, Mr. Darrell Gosset, said it had been present for over six weeks, using both farm fields and his yard with little fear of nearby humans.

**SNOWY PLOVER** (*Charadrius alexandrius*), 2007-54: Adult, 25-26 June 2007, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Found by Anne Downing, Kathleen Anderson (documentation with photographs), and Sandy Elbert (photographs); also documented by Bill Goodge, Paul McKenzie, and Edge Wade. Accidental outside northwestern Missouri, and previously unrecorded in summer anywhere in the state.

**BLACK-NECKED STILT** (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 2007-27: One, 2 April 2007, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Bill Goodge (documentation), Sandy Elbert (photograph). Earliest spring record by about two weeks.

**UPLAND SANDPIPER** (*Bartramia longicauda*), 2007-64: One, 17 March 2007, near Hornersville, Dunklin Co. Bill Reeves. Earliest record for Missouri by nine days.

**WHIMBREL** (*Numenius phaeopus*), 2007-48: Three, 31 March to 1 April 2007, RMBS. Charlene Malone (documentation), Jim Malone (photographs). At the time, Whimbrel was listed as casual in eastern Missouri in spring; its status has since been changed to “rare” statewide on the basis of a number of recent observations. In addition, this is the earliest Whimbrel record for the state.

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT** (*Limosa haemastica*), 2007-75: Six, 8 September 2007, RMBS. Bill Rowe (documentation), Matt Rowe, Connie Alwood, Chris Kirmaier. Casual in fall; the six previous records were of single individuals. These birds flew by the observers at fairly close range but never landed.

**BAIRD’S SANDPIPER** (*Calidris bairdii*), 2007-2: One in basic plumage, 14 December 2006, Big Lake SP, Holt Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation with photographs), Andy Forbes. Accidental in winter; this is the second winter record for Missouri. Baird’s Sandpiper is extremely unusual at such a late date anywhere in the United States.

**DUNLIN** (*Calidris alpina*), 2007-11: One, basic plumage, 20 January 2007, near Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Joe Eades. Accidental in winter.

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*), 2007-61: Adult, 15 July 2007, Confluence SP, St. Charles Co. Bill Rowe. First documented July record of this species in Missouri. Southbound Short-billed Dowitchers (*L. griseus*) occur commonly in July, but Long-billed has not previously been recorded before August. Characters noted included voice.

**LAUGHING GULL** (*Larus atricilla*), 2007-34: Juvenile, 5-11 September 2006, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Found by Doug Willis; documented by Kristi Mayo with photographs by Linda Williams. Casual transient away from the Mississippi River.

**LAUGHING GULL**, 2007-39: Three adults, 4 May 2007, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Bob Lewis (documentation with photographs), Steve Dilks. Casual transient away from the Mississippi River; also, this appears to be the only record of multiple birds away from the Mississippi River.

**COMMON TERN** (*Sterna hirundo*), 2006-75: Juvenile or basic adult, 22 October 2006, RMBS. Josh Uffman (documentation with photograph). Latest documented record for Missouri.

**Columbina**, sp., 2007-37: One, 30 March 2007, New Madrid Co. Rob Meade. Details made it clear that a species of *Columbina* was observed. Submitted as a Common Ground-Dove and likely that species, but the Committee believed that other members of the genus (Inca Dove and Ruddy Ground-Dove) were not fully eliminated.

**GREATER ROADRUNNER** (*Geococcyx californianus*), 2007-36: Two, 2005-2007, Arcadia, Madison Co. Grace Young (documentation with photograph). East of usual range. Described as having been present around the observer's yard for over two years, as of 1 March 2007.

**GREATER ROADRUNNER**, 2007-63: Male, 18 May 2007, Eminence, Shannon Co. Paul McKenzie. East of usual range.

**RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD**, 2007-31: Immature female, November 2006 through 29 March 2007, Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau Co. Wesley Mueller (documentation with photographs), Lanny Chambers (in-hand measurements). Accidental in winter. The photographs show the bird to be a *Selasphorus* hummingbird, either Rufous or Allen's, and the measurements established it as a Rufous.

**RUFOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD** (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*), 2007-20: One, 10 November 2006 to 15 February 2007, Rolla, Phelps Co. Gary Mueller (documentation with photograph), Mary Mueller. Accidental in winter. While Rufous Hummingbird is by far the more expectable species, the nearly identical Allen's Hummingbird has been documented in various eastern states and could occur in Missouri. This individual could not be identified to species by plumage alone, and no measurements were taken; hence it has been accepted only to this species pair.

**EASTERN PHOEBE** (*Sayornis phoebe*), 2007-8: One, 28 December 2006, near Elsberry, Lincoln Co. Dave Faintich (documentation with photograph), Dave Pierce, Dency Kahn, Johanna Shipley, Elliot Glassman. Casual in winter in northern Missouri. CBC record.

**EASTERN PHOEBE**, 2007-26: One, 18 February 2007, Cuiivre River SP, Lincoln Co. Bruce Schuette. Casual in winter in northern Missouri.

**WARBLING VIREO** (*Vireo gilvus*), 2007-52: One, 26 March 2007, Shaw Nature Reserve, Franklin Co. Margy Terpstra. Earliest arrival date by eleven days.

**FISH CROW** (*Corvus ossifragus*), 2007-47: One, 24 May 2007, Webster Co. Andrew Kinslow. Outside of known range.

**CAROLINA CHICKADEE** (*Poecile carolinensis*), 2007-22: One, 16 December 2006, near Columbia, Boone Co. Carl Gerhardt (documentation with photographs), Laura Hillman, Robert Folgenlogen. Photographs of this bird showed most of the standard characters that separate Carolina Chickadee from Black-capped, and the site where it was observed is not far from known Carolina range. Although the bird clearly exhibited Carolina plumage, the Committee recognizes that a hybrid could not be eliminated based on the evidence. CBC record.

**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** (*Myadestes townsendi*), 2006-77: One, 14 March 2006, Binder Lake, Cole Co. John Howland (documentation), Richard George. Accidental outside of northwestern Missouri.

**HERMIT THRUSH** (*Catharus guttatus*), 2007-71: One, 18 August 2007, Long Ridge CA, Franklin Co. Bill Rowe. Earliest fall record for Missouri by at least ten days.

**GRAY CATBIRD** (*Dumetella carolinensis*), 2007-23: One, 16 December 2006, Columbia, Boone Co. Chadwick Rittenhouse (documentation), Tracy Rittenhouse, Jennifer Hamel. Accidental in winter in northern Missouri.

**ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** (*Vermivora celata*), 2007-3: One coming to backyard feeder, 9 December 2006 through 7 January 2007, Lee's Summit, Jackson Co. Karen Stair (documentation with photographs), Terry Stair, Sherry Leonardo. Casual in winter in northern Missouri.

**YELLOW-RUMPED "AUDUBON'S" WARBLER** (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*), 2006-79: Adult male, 25 November 2006, Randolph Co. Found and documented by Joe Eades; also documented by Scott Schuette and observed by Josh Uffman. Apparently the seventh state record of this distinctive western subspecies.

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** (*Dendroica virens*), 2007-30: One, 23 March 2007, near Hillsboro, Jefferson Co. Tom and Lynda Mills. Earliest record for Missouri by over a week.

**PINE WARBLER** (*Dendroica pinus*), 2007-51: Two adult males, 24 June 2007, Thousand Hills SP, Adair Co. Peter Kondrashov (documentation with photographs). Previously unrecorded in summer in northern Missouri.

**PALM WARBLER** (*Dendroica palmarum*), 2007-12: One, 13 January 2007, Missouri Botanical Garden, City of St. Louis. Judith Graber. Casual in winter.

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER** (*Dendroica striata*), 2006-74: One, apparently immature, 23 October 2006, Forest Park, City of St. Louis. Sherry McCowan (documentation with photographs). The Blackpoll is a common spring migrant in Missouri, but its migration pattern shifts sharply eastward in the fall. It is presently considered accidental in Missouri at that season; a record of 2 October 2005 at Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City, was the first to be documented, though by written description only (Joe Eades). This photographic record removes Blackpoll from hypothetical status in fall.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), 2006-80: One, 12 November 2006, Richmond Heights, St. Louis Co. Michael-John Voss. Latest state record by nearly a month.

**HOODED WARBLER** (*Wilsonia citrina*), 2006-72: Adult male, 10 September 2006, Weston Bend SP, Platte Co. Kristi Mayo. At the time of this sighting, Hooded Warbler was considered casual as a transient in northwestern Missouri; now, owing to this and other recent records, it has been moved to "rare" as a transient there and no longer requires documentation.

**WESTERN TANAGER** (*Piranga ludoviciana*), 2007-13: Adult male, 18 January to at least 26 January 2007, Ferguson, St. Louis Co., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Bruns. Photographed by Mr. Bruns; also documented (with photographs) by Paul Bauer, Jim Malone, Mike Thelen, and David Easterla, and documented by Paul McKenzie. Western Tanager is a casual transient in Missouri; this is the first winter record. Thanks are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Bruns, who welcomed a large number of visiting birders into their home.

**SPOTTED TOWHEE** (*Pipilo maculatus*), 2007-45: Female, 22-25 May 2007, Tower Grove Park, City of St. Louis. Joe Eades, Mike Thelen. About two weeks later than the previous latest date for Missouri.

**CHIPPING SPARROW** (*Spizella passerina*), 2006-82: One, 11 December 2006, St. Joseph, Buchanan Co. Jack Hilsabeck. Very late fall record.

**CHIPPING SPARROW**, 2007-24: Two, 16 December 2006, Columbia, Boone Co. Chris Merkord (documentation), Bill Peterman. Accidental in winter in northern Missouri. CBC record.

**LARK BUNTING** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 2007-6: One, 17 January to 8 February 2007, in or near Oak Ridge CA, Stoddard Co. Found by Bill Reeves (documentation) and Bob Lewis; also documented by Bill Eddleman and Brad Jacobs. Accidental away from northwestern Missouri; third record for the eastern half of the state, and second winter record in any part of the state.

**LAZULI BUNTING** (*Passerina amoena*), 2007-38: Male, 3-4 May 2007, Martha Thompson Nature Sanctuary, Clay Co. Found by Ron Berry; documented with photographs by Linda Williams. At the time, Lazuli Bunting was listed as a casual transient in northwestern Missouri; since then has been moved to "rare" in that part of the state.

**INDIGO X LAZULI BUNTING** (*Passerina cyanea x amoena*), 2007-42: Male, 10 May 2007, Atchison Co. Tommie Rogers (documentation with photographs). This bird was associating with two Lazuli Buntings at the home of Yvonne and Wilbur Wright, who have hosted a number of Lazuli Buntings over the years. Its plumage showed a mix of characters of the two species.

**PAINTED BUNTING** (*Passerina ciris*), 2007-53: Adult male, 19 June 2007, Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City, Cole Co. Bill Goodge (documentation), Eleanor Goodge, Carl Gerhardt. North of normal summer range.

**DICKCISSEL** (*Spiza americana*), 2007-5: One, immature male or adult female, 16 January 2007, Tebbetts, Callaway Co. William Huffmaster (documentation with photograph), Noel Huffmaster. Casual in winter.

**WESTERN MEADOWLARK** (*Sturnella neglecta*), 2007-70: Male, 6 June 2007, near Montgomery City, Montgomery Co. Paul McKenzie. Casual in summer outside northwestern and west-central Missouri. Although this bird was never seen, the song and the diagnostic call note were both heard by an experienced observer.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 2007-7: Group of 24, 3 January 2007, Barton Co. Larry Herbert (documentation), Steve Ford. While Brewer's Blackbird is now considered rare throughout Missouri in winter (rather than casual or accidental), documentation is still required on CBC's due to frequent confusion with other blackbirds. This observation included gray-brown females with dark eyes. CBC record.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**, 2007-15: Group of 30, 15 December 2006, Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation with photographs), Wes Mueller. See comments on preceding record. Photographs illustrated an adult male. CBC record.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**, 2007-25: Adult male, 16 December 2006, Columbia, Boone Co. Chris Merkord. See comments on 2007-7. CBC record.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** (*Icterus galbula*), 2007-19: Female or immature male, at suet feeder at least 19-26 December 2004, St. Peters, St. Charles Co. Randy Davis (photograph). Casual in winter.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE**, 2007-29: Female or immature male, 19 January to 21 March 2007, Cedar Hill, Jefferson Co. Wally George (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter. Bird came to feeders and bubbler in yard; observed on 39 days.

**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*), 2007-32: Two birds, 24 March 2007, Boone Co. Wanda Darby (documentation with photographs), John Darby, Brad Jacobs. Casual away from St. Louis and the Mississippi River corridor. This pair appeared to be carrying nesting material into a nest box.

**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW**, 2007-33: Up to four birds, 26 March and 9 April 2007, Centralia, Boone Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation with photograph), Edge Wade. Casual away from St. Louis and the Mississippi River corridor.

**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW**, 2007-69: About fifteen birds, 27 July 2007, Flamm City Access, Jefferson Co. Paul McCaslin. South of usual St. Louis area range.

**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW**, 2007-72: Two adults with one young, June to August 2007, Columbia, Boone Co. Nested at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin West (documentation); nest also documented by Bill Goodge. Casual away from St. Louis and the Mississippi River corridor.

## **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.

**COMMON EIDER** (*Somateria mollissima*), 1996-1: Flock of five adult males and two females, 18 December 1995, Claysville Island, Boone Co. This record, accepted by the Committee in 1996, was the basis for the inclusion of Common Eider on the Missouri checklist as a hypothetical species. Over time, at least two of the original Committee members became increasingly uncomfortable with the record and requested that it be recirculated and reconsidered. This time it was rejected, for several reasons: (a) the occurrence is extremely improbable; Common Eider is very rare in the Midwest, much less frequent than King Eider, yet even King Eider hardly ever occurs in multiples; thus a record of seven Commons (including five adult males, the least likely form) is mind-boggling; (b) there were no photographs or other physical evidence; and (c) the description, while superficially plausible, was somewhat sketchy; no field notes were taken during the observation, and the documentation was not written until three weeks later, relying entirely on memory. Consequently Common Eider is now removed from the state checklist.

**OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*), 2007-59: One, 18 June 2007, RMBS. Even though the observers very likely did see an Osprey (casual in summer), this record could not be accepted because no description of the bird was provided.

**WILSON'S PLOVER** (*Charadrius wilsonia*), 2007-73: One, 31 August 2007, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Wilson's Plover has been found only once in Missouri. For such an extreme rarity, the description of this bird lacked the thorough detail needed for acceptance in the absence of photographs, nor was it apparently based on any field notes or sketches made during the



observation. Some points mentioned were inconsistent with standard characters of Wilson's Plover; e.g., leg color was stated to be brownish rather than pinkish, and size was stated to be larger than Baird's Sandpiper. Other observers were unable to relocate the bird to corroborate and perhaps photograph it. Acceptance of this species would require fuller and more conclusive evidence.

**LEAST TERN** (*Sternula antillarum*), 2006-76: Flock of 55, 24 September 2006, Thomas Hill Reservoir, Macon Co. Identification was arrived at by a process of elimination; no actual field marks of Least Tern, such as bill color or wing pattern, were observed. Much better detail would be needed for acceptance of such a large flock of this species, especially at this season.

**GREATER ROADRUNNER**, 2007-58: One, 18 May 2007, near Ellington, Reynolds Co. This bird was observed without binoculars, the documentation form was filled out a month after the observation, and virtually no description was provided. At least a few details are needed for acceptance, even of a distinctive species like Greater Roadrunner.

**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** (*Sialia currucoides*), 2007-35: Male, 21 April, 2007, near Sedalia, Pettis Co. The color pattern as described suggested a possible Mountain Bluebird, but the bird was observed without binoculars, the details were sketchy, and there was no description of size and structure.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** (*Dendroica discolor*), 2006-81: One, 11-12 November 2006, near Bonne Terre, St. Francois Co. Upon inspection of photographs, this bird turned out not to have been a warbler at all but a finch, *Serinus flaviventris*, most likely a product of the Chicago cage-bird release in 2002, which has produced many records of exotic passerines all over the Midwest.

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW** (*Ammodramus leconteii*), 2006-73: One, 25 August 2006, B.K. Leach CA, Lincoln Co. While the observer had had extensive experience with *Ammodramus* sparrows, this observation was brief and partial, and not enough detail was noted to completely rule out other species of the genus; for instance, nothing was noted about the presence or absence of streaking on the underparts. For such a remarkably early record, a more thorough description would be needed.

**BULLOCK'S ORIOLE** (*Icterus bullockii*), 2007-57: Female, 9 May 2007, Galena, Stone Co. The description suggested that this bird may well have been a Bullock's Oriole, but the details were insufficient to separate it with certainty from a pale female Baltimore, or from a possible hybrid. One particular detail not mentioned was the pattern of the upper wingbar. It would probably take a series of good photographs to establish a female Bullock's Oriole without question.

**EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis carduelis*), 2007-4: One, 9 December 2006, Tebbetts, Callaway Co. This bird, seen in a residential yard, appeared to be correctly identified but was most likely another product of the Chicago cage-bird release (see above, 2006-81). According to information received by the Committee, that release did include European Goldfinches. See Craves and McKenzie, "Common Chaffinch in Missouri with comments on its status in North America," *Bluebird* 73 (2): 55-58 (2006).

**LINNET** (*Carduelis cannabina*), 2007-21: One, 19-21 December 2006, Big Oak Tree SP, Mississippi Co. This bird seems to have been correctly identified as a Linnet, but it was most likely another product of the Chicago cage-bird release (see above, 2006-81 and 2007-4). According to information received by the Committee, that release did include Linnets.