

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
THE MISSOURI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
William C. Rowe, Secretary

This report summarizes records evaluated by the Committee between 16 December 2012 and 15 December 2013. It is divided into two sections, Accepted and Not Accepted, with birds listed in phylogenetic order under each of these 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 <http://checklist.aou.org>. For Accepted records, comments are added to indicate the record's significance. For Not Accepted records, observers' names are omitted, and a brief explanation is provided as to why the record was not accepted.

On-line documentation and review of records is now the norm. Most documentations are posted by the observer to a secure web site, where the secretary prepares them for review; to get started, go to www.mobirds.org and click on Documentation Form under "Bird Records." Photographs in .jpg format, with a size limit of one MB, can be uploaded to accompany documentations. Observers are strongly urged to use the online system, but if this proves unworkable for some reason, documentation can be mailed or emailed to the secretary. All records from the point of changeover (December 2007) have been electronically archived. In addition, 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 (KUNHM). The Committee once again thanks Patrick Harrison for his continuing work in refining this system, Ann Johnson for her partnership with Patrick in this effort, and Joshua Uffman for his continuing work in assembling data on the occurrence of Missouri birds at www.showme-birds.com.

Of the 89 records that were finalized during this period, 74 were accepted and 15 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 83%. Members participating in these decisions were Joe Eades, Brad Jacobs (Chair), Kristi Mayo, Paul McKenzie, Mark Robbins, Bill Rowe (Secretary), and Josh Uffman. Five records (Whooping Crane 2013-66, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 2013-50, Red Crossbill 2013-32, and Hoary Redpoll 2012-72 and 2013-16) were sent to outside reviewers; see those accounts for details.

One new species, Golden-cheeked Warbler, was added to the Missouri list with a Definitive Record; another, Hoary Redpoll, was moved from Provisional status to full acceptance with a Definitive Record; and a third, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, was added to the list with Provisional status. Thus Missouri's total as of December 2013 consisted of 420 fully accepted species; these include four formerly occurring species that have been extirpated from the state and four extinct species. There are an additional 11 Provisional species on the list. The Annotated Checklist of Missouri Birds, with its latest updates to reflect changes in Missouri status as well as changes made by the AOU, can be viewed at www.mobirds.org.

The Committee reviews records of species that are considered “casual” (5-15 records) or “accidental” (1-4 records) statewide. It also reviews records of species that are casual or accidental for the season when reported (example: Yellow-throated Warbler in winter); records of species that are casual or accidental in the part of Missouri where reported (example: Purple Gallinule outside southeastern Missouri); and other records of unusual interest, including first nesting records. The Review List, also maintained at www.mobirds.org, lists all species that require review due to their year-round casual or accidental status in all or part of the state, plus a few for which the Committee still wishes to receive documentation despite their status as only “rare” (e.g., California Gull). The Review List does not cover out-of-season status; for information on seasonal occurrence, consult the Annotated Checklist.

The Committee extends 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 email the Secretary at rowemb45@gmail.com. The next report will appear in the March 2015 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/Wayne

Cos.

OSCA = Otter Slough Conservation Area, Stoddard Co.
CBC = Christmas Bird Count
CA = Conservation Area
SP = State Park
NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

RECORDS ACCEPTED

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*), 2013-51: Adult male, 7 August 2013, Clarence Cannon NWR, Pike Co. Charlene Malone. Casual in fall; seventh record.

NORTHERN PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*), 2013-68: Ten birds, 16 June 2013, OSCA. Greg Samuel (documentation with photographs), Laura Samuel. Casual summer visitor in most of Missouri.

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*), 2013-28: Male, 19-21 April 2013, Sumner, Chariton Co. Allen Smith (documentation with photographs), Paul McKenzie (documentation), Larry Beason, Steve Kinder, Terry McNeely, Brad Jacobs. Accidental transient. First located by Amara Weiss, this is only the second Missouri record of this Old-World vagrant.

GREATER SCAUP (*Aythya marila*), 2012-71: Nine birds, 22-26 December 2012, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Kristi Mayo (documentation with photographs), Matt Gearheart, Mike Beck, Brett Budach. CBC record. Due to confusion with Lesser Scaup,

documentation is requested on all but a few specific CBC's where Greater Scaup is of regular occurrence.

SURF SCOTER (*Melanitta perspicillata*), 2013-43: Female, 23 May 2013, Fellows Lake, Greene Co. Greg Swick (documentation), Charles Burwick (photographs). Latest spring record by four days.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*), 2012-63: Adult male, 12 December 2011, near Ectonville, Clay Co. Taken by hunter Clint Anderson. The MBRC was informed of this record by David Easterla, and data along with photographs of the specimen were provided by Craig Putnam of the MDC. Casual transient and winter visitor; eleventh modern record.

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*), 2013-10: One, 23-26 January 2013, Table Rock State Park, Taney Co. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Brad Jacobs. Accidental in winter; third record.

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*), 2013-9: Two, 23-26 January 2013, Table Rock State Park, Taney Co. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Greg Samuel (documentation with photographs), Brad Jacobs, Greg Swick, Charles Burwick. Accidental in winter; fourth record.

EARED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*), 2012-77: One, 22 December 2012, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Kristi Mayo (documentation), m.ob. Eared Grebe is an uncommon transient in western Missouri but casual in winter statewide; this is the fifteenth record. CBC record. This individual was probably the same one reported on Smithville Lake 11-16 December 2012.

WESTERN GREBE (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), 2013-11: One, 26 January 2013, Table Rock State Park, Taney Co. Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs), Allen Smith (photographs), Matt Malin, Jim & Charlene Malone, Mark Paradise. Casual in winter; ninth record.

WESTERN GREBE, 2013-12: One, 16-17 February 2013, RMBS. Jim Malone and Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs), m.ob. Casual in winter; tenth record.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), 2013-64: Adult, 15-18 November 2013, Lake Springfield, Greene Co. Greg Samuel and Greg Swick (documentation with photographs), Charles Burwick, Jill Hayes, m.ob. Latest fall record by seven weeks.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*), 2013-65: Two immatures, 13 October 2013, Schell-Osage CA, Vernon Co. Greg Samuel (documentation), m.ob. Late fall record.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*), 2012-67: One, 13 December 2012, County Road 723, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs). Latest fall record.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), 2013-15: 1-6 birds on various dates, 28 November 2012 to 9 March 2013, County Road 722, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs). Casual winter visitor; eleventh record.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*), 2013-20: Adult, 10 March 2013, Springfield, Greene Co. Charles Burwick (documentation with photographs). Earliest spring record.

WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus albus*), 2013-42: Adult, 20 May 2013, Winfield, Lincoln Co. Al Smith (documentation with photographs). At the time of observation, this species was listed as casual in the northern half of Missouri; its status has since been changed to rare in southern and central Missouri, and casual only in the northern third of the state. Thus documentation will no longer be needed at the latitude of St. Louis or just to the north, as in Lincoln and Pike Counties (and similarly across the state).

DARK IBIS, sp. (*Plegadis, sp.*), 2013-70: One, 5 December 2013, near Clarence Cannon NWR, Pike Co. Derick Driemeyer. Latest fall record of a *Plegadis* ibis in Missouri; there are also two winter records.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*), 2013-29: One, 21 April 2013, Weldon Spring CA, St. Charles Co. Christine Kirmaier. Casual transient and summer visitor; twelfth modern record.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE, 2013-54: One, 14 August 2013, Routes O and 72, Phelps Co. Larry Houf (documentation), Garry Houf. Casual transient and summer visitor; thirteenth modern record.

PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyrio martinicus*), 2013-48: Adult, 14 April 2013, Springfield, Greene Co. Mark Lohmeyer (documentation with photographs). Casual transient away from southeastern Missouri.

YELLOW RAIL (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), 2013-13: One, 22 August 2012, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co. Auriel Fournier. Earliest fall migration record. This bird was flushed twice and also observed on the ground at close range by a researcher familiar with Yellow Rail as well as Sora and Virginia Rail.

YELLOW RAIL, 2013-14: Eight birds, 27 September 2012, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co. Justin Lehman (observer), Auriel Fournier (documentation). Highest one-day count of this species recorded during fall migration in Missouri. These birds were seen during nighttime rail surveys and were identified in flight by small size and white secondary patches; multiple birds were seen on various occasions, with this being the highest count.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*), 2012-74: One, 22 December 2012, Winfield Lock & Dam, Lincoln Co. Andrew Reago (documentation with photographs), Chrissy McClarren. First winter record. This bird's plumage was largely in breeding aspect.

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 2013-21: Four birds, 12 March 2013, County Road 723, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photograph). Earliest spring record by 11 days.

AMERICAN AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*), 2013-17: One, 27 December 2012 to 21 January 2013, Winfield Lock & Dam, Lincoln Co. David Marjamaa (documentation with photographs), Mary Anne Marjamaa. First winter record. On 18 February 2013, well beyond the final date of observation at Winfield, Brad Jacobs observed an American Avocet at RMBS, about 25 miles southeast of the Winfield Dam. Presumably this was the same individual.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*), 2012-69: 19 birds, 16 December 2012, County Road 723, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photograph). First documented winter record. In just the past three years, this observer has recorded this and other shorebird species in extreme southern Missouri through the winter, when previously unknown.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*), 2013-7: Three, 14 September 2012, RMBS. Allen Smith (documentation with photographs). Casual transient in fall; fourteenth record.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT, 2013-8: One, 5 November 2012, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co. Steve Kinder (documentation with photographs). Casual transient in fall; fifteenth and latest record for that season.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*), 2013-50: Adult, 3 and 5 August 2013, Columbia Bottom CA, St. Louis Co. David Becher, Ken Hollinga, and Pat Lueders (documentation), Connie Alwood, John Solodar. The documentation of this Asian vagrant was reviewed by Kevin Karlson, Paul Lehman, and Dennis Paulson, all of whom concurred that, collectively, the descriptions fit an adult Sharp-tailed Sandpiper; moreover, the date fits well with the occurrence pattern of adults in the lower 48 states. In the absence of photographs, however, the Committee found that the record did not meet the requirement of at least two independently acceptable documentations from independent observers for full acceptance, as stated in its bylaws. Hence Sharp-tailed Sandpiper has been accepted to the Missouri state list as a Provisional species. This is not to be interpreted as merely "possible" occurrence; the Committee has voted to accept the record, but with not quite the level of evidence required to make it a Definitive state record.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*), 2012-66: An estimated 7000 birds, 13 May 2012, County Road 723, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs). This astounding aggregation of Dunlin was found in shallowly flooded or muddy fields.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Calidris subruficollis*), 2013-45: Adult, 2 June 2013, sod fields near Old Monroe, Lincoln Co. David Becher. This is the latest spring record, following observation of six birds on 17 May and one on 21 May at this location by Jim and Charlene Malone (photographs). Further inquiry has revealed that these are among a mere handful of records for eastern Missouri; hence the status of Buff-breasted Sandpiper has been changed to casual in spring in that half of the state, and documentation of all occurrences is requested.

LAUGHING GULL (*Leucophaeus atricilla*), 2013-31: First-cycle bird, 15 September 2012, Thousand Hills SP, Adair Co. Peter Kondrashov (documentation with photographs). Casual transient away from the Mississippi River corridor.

LAUGHING GULL, 2013-46: Immature, 16 June 2013, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Nick Varvel (documentation with photographs), Doug Willis (photographs). Accidental summer visitor away from the Mississippi River corridor.

LAUGHING GULL, 2013-69: One, 5 November 2013, Maryville Sewage Lagoons, Nodaway Co. David Easterla. Casual transient away from the Mississippi River corridor.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*), 2013-4: One, 9 January 2013, Cape Woods CA, Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau Co. Mark Haas. Accidental winter visitor; second record for that season, aside from birds that have sometimes been in year-round residence at East Prairie.

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*), 2013-57: One, 26 September 2013, Joplin, Newton Co. Chris Pistole. Casual transient and winter visitor; sixth state record.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus americanus*), 2013-33: One, 16 April 2013, near Warbler Woods CA, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs). Earliest spring arrival date.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL (*Aegolius acadicus*), 2012-64: Adult female, 16 January 2012, Homestead Springs Farm Research Station, Webster Co. Documented by Andrew Kinslow; mist-netted and banded by Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke; photographed by Bo Brown. Age and sex established by measurements and plumage characteristics. Considered a casual winter resident in southern Missouri, but may be more frequent there than the few observations indicate.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL, 2012-65: Adult female, 21 December 2012, Drury-Mincy CA, Taney Co. Documented by Andrew Kinslow; mist-netted and banded by Kinslow and Janice Greene; photographed by Greene. See comments on 2012-64.

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*), 2013-61: One, 19 October 2013, Big Spring, Carter Co. Mark Robbins. Latest documented fall record.

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*), 2013-1: One bird, 1-9 January 2013, Elsberry, Lincoln Co. Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs), Mark Paradise. Casual transient and accidental winter visitor; twelfth state record and fourth in winter.

SAY'S PHOEBE, 2013-56: One, 14 September 2013, McGee Family CA, Clinton Co. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Casual transient; thirteenth state record.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), 2013-36: Adult male, 2 May 2013, Crews residence in Pleasant Hill, Cass Co. Teresa Crews (documentation with photographs), Charles Crews. Casual transient; ninth state record.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus forficatus*), 2013-53: Nesting pair, 15 June 2013, rural Gentry Co. Terry McNeely (documentation with photographs). One of the northernmost nesting records for Missouri.

NORTHERN SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*), 2013-73: Adult, 14 December 2013, near Leslie, Franklin Co. Jack Foreman (documentation with photographs), Shirley Foreman. This species is now considered only rare in much of Missouri but still accidental in the Ozark region.

WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*), 2013-62: One, 20 October 2013, Big Spring, Carter Co. Mark Robbins. Latest documented fall record; there is also a single winter record.

FISH CROW (*Corvus ossifragus*), 2013-49: Nesting pair, 8-17 May 2013, Roaring River SP, Barry Co. Jeff Cantrell (documentation with photographs), Becky Wylie, Andrew Kinslow. While other Fish Crow nests may have been found in Missouri, this is the first documented record.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia currucoides*), 2012-68: Female, 15 December 2012, 1.5 miles east of Highway K, Daviess Co. Mark McNeely (documentation with photograph), Elizabeth McNeely. Casual transient and winter visitor; fourteenth state record.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (*Catharus minimus*), 2012-62: One, 11 June 2007, Big Oak Tree SP, Mississippi Co. Walter Wehtje. Latest spring-migration record for this species.

AMERICAN PIPIT (*Anthus rubescens*), 2012-75: One, 22 December 2012, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Kristi Mayo. Casual in winter in northern and central Missouri. Heard

only; call well described by an observer very familiar with it, in a location where it is regular. CBC record.

AMERICAN PIPIT, 2013-2: 10 birds, 1 January 2013, slough adjacent to Winfield Lock & Dam, Lincoln Co. Josh Uffman (documentation), Mark Paradise. Casual in winter in northern and central Missouri.

NASHVILLE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*), 2013-71: One, 5 December 2013, Reeds Spring, Stone Co. Jane Fitzgerald. Latest fall record; there is also a single winter record.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*), 2013-67: Immature, 29 September 2013, Lake of the Ozarks SP, Camden Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation), Terry McNeely. Rare spring transient and much rarer in fall, with few documented records for the latter season.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Setophaga striata*), 2013-59: One bird, 4 October 2013, Terpstra residence, Kirkwood, St. Louis Co. Margy Terpstra (documentation with photographs). Common in spring but accidental in fall, when the migration path of the species swings sharply eastward. This is only the third documented fall record for Missouri, and the second with photographs.

PINE WARBLER (*Setophaga pinus*), 2013-18: Adult male, 17-28 February 2013, Weber residence, St. Louis City. Dawn Weber (documentation with photographs). This record among others led the Committee to reassess the species' status as a rare (no longer casual) winter visitor and resident in southern and central Missouri; thus future documentation in those areas will not be necessary. This bird was visiting a residential feeder.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Setophaga coronata*), 2013-44: Male, 28 May 2013, Perry County Community Lake, Perry Co. Mark Haas. Latest spring-migration record except for one on 8 June.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Setophaga dominica*), 2012-76: One, 22 December 2012, Houck Park, Puxico, Stoddard Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Matt Malin. CBC record, and first winter record for the state. Located in shortleaf pines, a typical habitat for this species.

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Setophaga discolor*), 2013-39: Male, 11 May 2013, near Thousand Hills SP, Adair Co. Peter Kondrashov (documentation with photographs). Casual summer resident and transient in northeastern Missouri.

PRAIRIE WARBLER, 2013-30: Male, 6-16 June 2012, Thousand Hills SP, Adair Co. Peter Kondrashov (documentation with photographs). Casual summer resident in northeastern Missouri.

GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER (*Setophaga chrysoparia*), 2013-27: Adult male, 19-22 April 2013, Creve Coeur, St. Louis Co. Found and documented by Josh Uffman (photographs); also documented by David Becher, Pamela Bachman, and Paul McKenzie. Definitive State Record. The breeding range of this Federally-endangered species lies entirely within Texas, and this is apparently only the fourth documented United States record outside of that state (others are from California, Florida, and New Mexico). The bird remained at one site on private property and was observed off and on for four days, often located by its song.

VESPER SPARROW (*Pooecetes gramineus*), 2013-3: One, 3 January 2013, B.K. Leach CA, Lincoln Co. Mike Treffert (documentation), Chrissy McClarren, Joe Carter. Casual winter visitor in northern Missouri.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), 2013-25: Adult male, 9 April 2013, vicinity of Stringtown, Butler Co. Luann Holst (documentation with photographs). Earliest spring arrival date.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), 2013-40: Female, 12 May 2013, Kinslow residence, Webster Co. Andrew Kinslow (documentation with photographs), Gene Kinslow, Naomi Kinslow, Dawn Huber. Rare transient; female still on Review List due to identification difficulties. Photographs showed the buffy-orange breast, the very limited streaking in the center of the breast, and the bicolored bill, with dark mandible and pale maxilla.

LAZULI BUNTING (*Passerina amoena*), 2013-37: Male, 2-4 May 2013, two miles southwest of Macon, Macon Co. Nicholas March (documentation with photographs), Gale March, Kim March, Brad Jacobs. Casual transient outside of northwestern Missouri. This individual had only partially molted into alternate plumage and retained much brown color on its head and back.

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*), 2013-5: One, 12 January 2013, Springfield, Greene Co. Jill Hays (documentation with photograph). Casual winter visitor in southern Missouri.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 2012-70: Flock of 54, 20 December 2012, Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation with photographs), Allen Gathman, Josh Hager. CBC record. Due to frequent confusion with other blackbirds, documentation is requested on all CBCs except those in the Osage Plains, where Brewer's is of most regular occurrence.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, 2012-73: Flock of 19, 22 December 2012, Highway J, Stoddard Co. Steve Dilks (documentation with photographs), Nina and Gary Chastain. CBC record. See comments on 2012-70, above.

RED CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*), 2013-32: One, 2 December 2012, Rocky Forks Lake CA, Boone Co. Ryan Douglas (documentation with audio recording), Nicholas

March, Jenna March, Saadia Bihmidine. In recent years it has been recognized that there are a number of different populations of Red Crossbill whose flight calls are characteristic and can be identified by analysis of a spectrogram produced from an audio recording. It may be that some of these populations are reproductively isolated and thus should be considered separate species. At this point the best course is to record the calls when possible, determine the type, and archive the information for future reference. So far nearly all Red Crossbills occurring in Missouri, when vocally analyzed, have been of Types 2 and 3. During the crossbill invasion year of 2012-13, however, this individual was recorded and its calls analyzed by Matt Young of Cornell University, who determined that it was a Type 5, a type known to have occurred very few times in the eastern U.S.

COMMON REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*), 2013-34: Adult female, 21 April to 8 May 2013, Palmer residence near Ashland, Boone Co. Bill Palmer (documentation with photographs), Kay Palmer. Latest spring departure date by nearly a month.

HOARY REDPOLL (*Acanthis hornemanni*), 2012-72: One bird, 22 December 2012, Mees residence, Columbia, Boone Co. Bill Mees and Alice Robinson (documentation), Jeff Mees (photographs), Jan Mees. This species was previously considered Provisional on the basis of reports from Kansas City (1976) and St. Louis (1978), both of which the Committee now regards as unsubstantiated. This record, however, is a Definitive State Record, and the species is now confirmed for Missouri as an accidental winter visitor. The documentation and photographs were circulated to five outside reviewers—Louis Bevier, Edward Brinkley, Paul Buckley, Adam Byrne, and Peter Pyle—all of whom endorsed this bird as a definite (four reviewers) or probable (one reviewer) Hoary Redpoll of the subspecies *exilipes*, the one most frequently occurring in the U.S. south of Canada. The winter of 2012-13 saw a remarkable irruption of Common Redpolls, reaching the interior in large numbers, and among these were some Hoaries—very few compared to the Commons (as always) but many more than usual, and farther south, with occurrences in, e.g., Illinois, Iowa, and Colorado. While redpoll taxonomy is still unsettled, most current authorities (and the AOU) do consider Common and Hoary Redpolls to be separate species. An excellent article on North American redpoll taxa is Bevier, Brinkley, Buckley, and Byrne (2011); see Literature Cited.

HOARY REDPOLL, 2013-16: One, 27 December 2012, Alwood residence, Ferguson, St. Louis Co. Connie Alwood (documentation with photographs). This report too was circulated to four reviewers (Bever, Buckley, Brinkley, and Byrne), whose comments overall supported the identification of this bird as another *exilipes* Hoary Redpoll. The amount of flank streaking indicated that it was probably a first-winter bird. See discussion under 2012-72, above.

LESSER GOLDFINCH (*Spinus psaltria*), 2013-6: Green-backed male, 28 December 2012 to 26 January 2013, Nixa, Christian Co. Greg Samuel and Greg Swick (documentation with photographs), Matt Duzan. This is the fifth state record, moving the species from accidental to casual as a transient and winter visitor. All records have been at residential feeders.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*), 2013-63: One, 13 November 2013, Blind Pony CA, Saline Co. Edge Wade (documentation), Bill Clark, Laurie Shawver. Casual outside its normal range from St. Louis north to southeastern Iowa along the Mississippi River.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

“Not accepted” does not necessarily mean that the identification should be assumed to be incorrect. In some cases the Committee may indeed believe that the bird was misidentified, but in other cases, while it seems possible or even probable that the identification was correct, the information provided is insufficient to rule out other species completely. The Committee may be unable to accept even a 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.

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), 2013-22: 45 birds, 16 March 2013, Tingler Prairie CA, Howell Co. All modern Missouri records of this casual species have been of single birds. This report of two flocks, of 36 and 9 birds, was not supported by the description. A photograph would be needed for such an unprecedented record.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE, 2013-38: One, 6 May 2013, over replanted mine property, Vernon Co. The description provided too little detail, with no mention of the tail.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (*Buteo regalis*), 2013-35: Immature, 30 April 2013, near Oregon, Holt Co. Though the observer did have experience with Ferruginous Hawk, and some of the details suggested that species, the description was too incomplete for acceptance of such a rare bird, and at a record-late date. For example, there was no mention of characters such as tail pattern, lack of a patagial bar, feathered tarsi, or extent of gape.

WHOOPING CRANE (*Grus americana*), 2013-66: 30 birds, 18 November 2013, Webster Co. This report was accompanied by blurry photographs that could not be interpreted as Whooping Cranes, although the verbal description was plausible. The documentation was sent for review to Brian Johns of the Whooping Crane Migration Association, who commented that in 28 years of monitoring, he “never had a confirmed report of 30 Whoopers in migration together.” For such an extraordinary event—especially in Missouri, which is off the species’ main migration route—more definitive evidence would be needed.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER, 2013-55: Juvenile, 2 August 2013, Columbia Bottom CA, St. Louis Co. The written descriptions suggested a juvenile of this species. Using

eBird data, however, the Committee researched the occurrence of juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpipers in North America and found only a single documented record anywhere in the lower 48 states earlier than September, and that was 30 August. In general, the window of occurrence for juveniles is from mid-September to November; even in the Pribilof Islands, relatively close to the Siberian breeding range, juveniles do not normally occur until mid-August (Scott Schuette, Director, St. Paul Island Tours, pers. comm.). Thus this record would be extraordinarily early, continent-wide, and would therefore require diagnostic photographs.

GREEN VIOLETEAR (*Colibri thalassinus*), 2013-52: One, 12 August, Kansas City, Jackson Co. The observation was made without binoculars, and the brief description failed to eliminate other large hummingbird species. Green Violetear has occurred once in Missouri, but because it is an accidental vagrant from Mexico, any record must include copious details, and photographs if at all possible.

EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), 2013-19: One, 9 March 2013, Phelps Co. While this may have been an Eastern Kingbird, the date was so remarkably early (almost three weeks earlier than the previous record) that a photograph would be almost a necessity.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, 2013-72: One, 16 October 2013, near Pickering, Nodaway Co. The documentation did not include any details that would clearly distinguish Northern from Loggerhead Shrike.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE (*Pica hudsonia*), 2013-60: One, 14 October 2013, St. Louis City. The description of this bird did not make it clear that it was in fact a magpie; and if it was, its origin would be an issue, as some out-of-range magpies are escapees from captivity.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), 2013-58: One, 27 September 2013, Johnson's Shut-Ins SP, Reynolds Co. The observation lasted only a few seconds, and the description did not unequivocally eliminate other species. Given the very late date (about ten days later than the previous record for Missouri) and the location (north of known breeding areas), the Committee felt that a more extended study and more details would have been needed for acceptance.

LARK BUNTING (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 2013-23: Winter-plumaged male, 8 January 2013, Highway 279, Stoddard Co. The details noted were consistent with a Lark Bunting, but the Committee was unable to accept this as a definite record owing to the very brief and partial glimpse obtained (only a few seconds, and only in flight).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), 2013-47: One, 20 June 2013, Perry County Community Lake, Perry Co. Heard singing twice. The description of the song was unclear; it apparently had fewer notes than a typical White-throated Sparrow song. More important, it is often difficult for the committee to accept a record of any rare or out-of-season bird that is documented solely by a voice description, given

(among other things) the possibility of similar vocalizations, or imitation, by other species. Visual confirmation or audio recording are usually needed.

DARK-EYED (“PINK-SIDED”) JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*), 2013-26: One, 26 March 2013, Peculiar, Cass Co. The photograph supplied with this report suggested a female Oregon-type or intergrade rather than a true “Pink-sided” Junco, of which there is as yet no accepted record for Missouri, although they have probably occurred.

BREWER’S BLACKBIRD, 2013-41: 10 birds, 19 May 2013, 3M wetlands, Boone Co. More details, and preferably photographs, would be needed for acceptance of this extraordinarily late report, three weeks beyond the latest accepted record of the species.

LESSER GOLDFINCH, 2013-24: One, 6 April 2013, Peculiar, Cass Co. In the absence of a photograph, the Committee was unable to accept this record of a very rare western vagrant species.

Literature Cited

Bevier, L., E. Brinkley, P. Buckley, and A. Byrne. 2011. Photo Essay: Redpolls from Nunavut and Greenland visit Ontario. *North American Birds* 65:206-215. Can be accessed at <http://www.aba.org/nab/v65n2redpolls.pdf>.