

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSOURI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

William C. Rowe, Secretary

This report summarizes records evaluated by the Committee between 16 December 2014 and 30 December 2015. 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.

Online documentation and review of records is the norm, and submission is now easier than ever thanks to improvements by Ann Johnson. Documentation is posted by the observer to a secure web site, where the secretary prepares it for review; to get started, go to www.mobirds.org and click on Documentation Form in the "MBRC" pull-down menu. Photographs in .jpg format and written notes in .pdf format, with a size limit of 4 MB, can be uploaded to accompany documentations. Observers are strongly urged to use the online system for both the report and any accompanying photographs, but if this proves unworkable for some reason, any part of the documentation can be mailed or emailed to the secretary. All recent records have been electronically archived. The Committee once again thanks Patrick Harrison for maintaining this system, Ann Johnson for creating it, and Joshua Uffman for assembling data on the occurrence of Missouri birds at www.showme-birds.com.

Of the 103 records that were reviewed during this period, 90 were accepted and 13 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 87%. Members participating in these decisions were Joe Eades, Brad Jacobs (Chair), Kristi Mayo, Paul McKenzie, Mark Robbins, Bill Rowe (Secretary), and Josh Uffman. Three records (Townsend's Warbler, 2015-81; Black-throated Green Warbler 2015-98; Hoary Redpoll, 2015-26) were sent to outside reviewers; see details in those accounts.

Three new species—Ivory Gull, Crested Caracara, and Townsend's Warbler—were added to the state list, and one species (Eskimo Curlew) was reclassified from extirpated to extinct; thus Missouri's total as of December 2015 was 423 fully accepted species; these include three formerly occurring species that have been extirpated from the state and five 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: Ruby-throated Hummingbird in winter); records of species that are casual or accidental in the part of Missouri where reported (example: Neotropic Cormorant in eastern or central Missouri); and other records of unusual interest, including first nesting records and extreme arrival and departure dates. 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.

Note on photographic documentation: Photographs can be extremely helpful, and in some cases (as will be noted in a few entries below) their absence can be a problem for acceptance of a record. On the other hand, they can sometimes be misleading as to colors and patterns, and they may or may not show all of a bird's key characters. For this reason, it remains important for the observer to describe what he or she saw and heard as accurately as possible, even for photographic records.

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 2017 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.
CBC = Christmas Bird Count
CA = Conservation Area
SP = State Park
NWR = National Wildlife Refuge
AOU = American Ornithologists' Union

RECORDS ACCEPTED

MOTTLED DUCK (*Anas fulvigula*), 2015-55: Female, 9-10 May 2015, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Casual transient and summer visitant; eighth record. Photographs showed sufficient detail to eliminate a Mallard × Mottled Duck hybrid, and the very dark body with subdued pale chevrons suggested the expected subspecies *maculosa* of coastal Louisiana and Texas.

NORTHERN PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*), 2015-5: Male, 4 July 2014, RMBS. Jim and Charlene Malone (documentation with photographs). At the time, listed as a casual summer visitant. Since then, the species' summer status has been changed to "rare," and documentation is no longer required.

CANVASBACK (*Aythya valisineria*), 2015-25: Male, 24 June 2014, RMBS. Mary Anne Marjamaa (documentation), David Marjamaa (photographs). Casual in summer.

CANVASBACK, 2015-66: Female, 12-13 June 2015, Eagle Bluffs CA. Karen Wosilait. Casual in summer.

BUFFLEHEAD (*Bucephala albeola*), 2015-3: Male, 7-26 June 2014, RMBS. Bill Rowe (documentation), m.ob. Accidental summer visitant.

COMMON GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*), 2015-4: Female, 26 June 2014, Lake Remembrance, Blue Springs, Jackson Co. Mike Beck. Casual summer visitant.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*), 2015-73: Female, 19 July 2015, Fellows Lake, Greene Co. Joshua Russell (documentation with photographs), Jill Hays. Casual summer visitant; seventh record.

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*), 2015-44: Adult, 31 March to 1 April 2015, RMBS. Brent Schindewolf, Lane Richter, Chrissy McClarren, Jim Malone (documentation), Andrew Reago (photographs). Casual spring transient; seventh record.

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*), 2015-47: One, 6 April 2015, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Doug Willis. Casual spring transient; sixth record.

HORNED GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*), 2015-57: One, partially in alternate plumage, 22 May 2015, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Chase Darr (documentation with photographs). Record-late date for spring.

EARED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*), 2015-8: One, 3 December 2014 to 18 January 2015, Table Rock Dam, Taney Co. Greg Swick (documentation with photographs), Steve and Debbie Martin (photographs). Casual in winter.

EARED GREBE, 2015-10: One, 14-15 December 2014, Binder Lake, Jefferson City, Cole Co. Chris Barrigar and Kathleen Anderson (documentation with photographs), Sandy Elbert (photographs). Casual in winter.

EARED GREBE, 2015-12: Two, 20 December 2014, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Mary Nemecek (documentation with photographs), Kristi Mayo, Eric Viera, Paula Noble. Casual in winter. CBC record.

WESTERN GREBE (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), 2015-9: One, 12-19 December 2014, RMBS. Allen Smith (documentation with photographs), m.ob. (including other photos). Casual in winter.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), 2015-75: Adult, 20 August 2015, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation with photographs). Accidental in eastern and central Missouri.

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), 2015-79: Immature, 10 to at least 22 September 2015, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co. Steve Kinder (documentation with photographs), June Newman (documentation). Casual transient.

AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), 2015-36: One, 18-20 December 2014, County road 730, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter; sixth record.

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*), 2015-103: One, 19 December 2015, Kendzora CA, Platte Co. Sherry Leonardo (documentation), Ashley Hunt. Accidental in winter.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), 2015-35: Immature, 18 December 2014, County road 730, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter in southern Missouri.

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*), 2015-56: Adult, 21 May 2015, SCNWR. Steve and Debbie Martin (documentation with photographs). Casual transient in western Missouri, where White-faced is the default dark ibis. Photographs of this bird clearly showed the facial border, with pattern and color diagnostic of this species.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 2015-52: Adult, 19 April 2015, Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co. Mark Haas. Fourth-earliest spring arrival record, and earliest with written documentation. The Committee will appreciate photographic evidence of any spring arrivals of this species earlier than this date.

SWAINSON'S HAWK (*Buteo swainsoni*), 2015-68: Adult, 22 June 2015, Boeuf Creek, Franklin Co. Jack Foreman (documentation with photographs), Shirley Foreman, Peyton Foreman. First summer record for eastern Missouri.

SORA (*Porzana carolina*), 2015-59: One heard, 11 June 2015, Amarugia Highlands CA, Cass Co. Annette Talbot. At the time of this record, Sora was listed as a casual summer resident and visitant; its status has since been upgraded to "rare" in summer, and documentation is no longer required.

SORA, 2015-69: Approximately ten heard, with some recorded, 11-12 July 2015, Columbia Bottom CA, St. Louis Co. Jim and Charlene Malone. See comment under 2015-59, above.

SORA, 2015-70: Two heard, one of them seen, 15 July 2015, County Road 726, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones. See comment under 2015-59, above.

SORA, 2015-72: Five birds, three of them seen, 19-20 July 2015, County Road 729, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones. See comment under 2015-59, above.

SNOWY PLOVER (*Charadrius nivosus*), 2015-53: One, 30 April 2015, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Andrew Kinslow, Allen Smith, Karen Wosilait, Chase Darr (documentation with photographs), Edge Wade (documentation), Josh Russell (photographs). Casual spring transient outside northwestern Missouri (where rare but regular).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Tringa solitaria*), 2015-42: One, 18 March 2015, County Road 513, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs). Record-early spring arrival date.

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*), 2015-71: One, 19 July 2015, Highway N near Winfield, Lincoln Co. Michael Taylor (documentation), LaVern Taylor. Previously listed as accidental in fall migration; this is the fifth record and thus moves the species' status to "casual."

RUFF (*Calidris pugnax*), 2015-62: Male, 23 March 2015, County Road 723, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs). Earliest spring record.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*), 2015-82: Three, 10-12 October 2015, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation with photographs). This species, a common late-spring migrant in Missouri, is rare in fall, as most of the population takes a different migration route, moving east to the Atlantic coast before turning south. In the fall of 2015, however, there was an

unprecedented movement of White-rumps south through the Midwest, especially Illinois, producing dozens of records including large numbers and late dates. This record, the second-latest for Missouri, was undoubtedly part of that pattern.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, 2015-89: One, apparent basic-plumaged adult, 31 October 2015, Winfield Lock and Dam, Lincoln Co. Bill Rowe. Record-late date for fall migrant. See comments under 2015-82.

WESTERN SANDPIPER (*Calidris mauri*), 2015-31: One, 19 November 2015, County Road 287, Pemiscot Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs). Latest fall record with photographic documentation.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus griseus*), 2015-64: One, 20 April 2015, SCNWR. Doug Willis (documentation with photographs). Earliest documented spring arrival date. This bird was with a flock of Long-billed Dowitchers, a species that begins arriving much earlier. Diagnostic calls were heard, and several important visual characters were noted and captured in photographs. Any report of Short-billed prior to the last week of April should be supported by this kind of detail, including calls.

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), 2015-92: Juvenile, 22 November 2015, Montrose power plant dam, Henry Co. Mark Robbins (documentation with photographs), Chris Hobbs. Record-late date for fall.

IVORY GULL (*Pagophila eburnea*), 2015-18: Adult, 2-9 January 2015, Marion Co., across Mississippi River from Quincy, Illinois. Brad Jacobs and Peter Kondrashov (documentation with photographs), Pat Lueders, Jean Leonatti, and Steve and Debbie Martin (documentation), and Allen Smith and Christian Hagenlocher (photographs). Definitive (and first) State Record. This bird, found by an Illinois birder, was observed by hundreds during its stay as it moved around from one side of the river to the other.

LITTLE GULL (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*), 2015-43: Adult, 28 March to 3 April, and first-cycle bird, 29 March 2015, Stockton Reservoir, Polk Co. Greg Samuel, Greg Swick (documentation with photographs), m.ob. Listed as a rare transient, but documentation still requested.

LAUGHING GULL (*Leucophaeus atricilla*), 2015-65: Adult or near-adult, 27 April 20-15, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Doug Willis (documentation with photographs). Casual transient away from Mississippi River.

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*), 2015-37: Adult, 30 January 2015, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Doug Willis (documentation with photographs). Listed as a rare transient and winter visitant, but documentation still requested because of identification difficulties.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucoides*), 2015-30: Adult, 9-21 February 2015, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Doug Willis, Mary Nemecek, Marky Mutchler, Lisa Owens (documentation with photographs). Casual away from Mississippi River. This individual clearly came from the expected eastern North American population designated *kumlieni* ("Kumlien's Gull"), which is currently treated as a subspecies of Iceland Gull by the AOU. The bird had a moderate amount of dark gray in the primaries, but much less in extent

and blackness than a Thayer's Gull would show. It is worth noting that the taxonomy of these forms remains unsettled; one recent hypothesis is that *kumlieni* is simply a population of hybrids between Thayer's and Iceland.

ICELAND GULL, 2015-38: Adult, 18 February 2015, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Doug Willis (documentation with photographs). Casual away from Mississippi River. Owing to differences in bill and head structure and wingtip pattern, this was considered to be a different bird from the individual in 2015-30. See comments under that record, above.

ICELAND GULL, 2015-40: One, apparently first cycle, 10-12 February 2015, Long Branch Lake SP, Macon Co. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Casual away from Mississippi River. See comments under 2015-30, above.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*), 2015-27: Second-cycle bird, 29 January to 17 February 2015, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Doug Willis, Mary Nemecek (documentation with photographs). Accidental away from Mississippi River; fourth record.

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*), 2015-96: Immature, 10-11 December 2015, RMBS. Peter Kondrashov (documentation with photographs). Record-late date for fall.

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*), 2015-14: One, 31 December 2014 to 22 February 2015, Cowell residence, Holden, Johnson Co. Dan Cowell, Steve and Debbie Martin (documentation with photographs), Varick Cowell, m.ob. Casual transient and winter visitant.

INCA DOVE, 2015-85: Nesting pair, October-November 2015, S. Troyer property near Metz, Vernon Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation with photographs). This was the first nesting attempt of this casual species in Missouri; one young hatched but died of exposure to cold.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus colubris*), 2015-102: Immature male, 19 December 2015 to 12 January 2016, Lowell residence, Crestwood, St. Louis Co. Lanny Chambers (documentation with photographs and banding data). Accidental in winter.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD (*Calypte anna*), 2015-88: Probable adult female, 31 October to 19 November 2015, Horan Farm, Franklin Co. Daniel Burke (documentation with photographs). Casual fall transient; sixth record. Attempts to capture and band this bird were unsuccessful; identification is based on a series of good photographs.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD, 2015-93: Adult male, 28 November 2015 to 18 January 2016, Gugliotta residence, Springfield, Greene Co. Lisa Berger, Peter Kondrashov (documentation with photographs), William Wood (documentation). Casual fall transient and accidental winter visitant; seventh record. This bird was banded on 6 December.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus rufus*), 2015-6: Adult male, 27 November 2014 to 20 January 2015, Nicholas residence, Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co. Jane Nicholas (documentation with photographs); banded by Lanny Chambers. Casual in winter.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*), 2015-78: Adult female, 10 September 2015, Rock Bridge Memorial SP, Boone Co. Edge Wade. Record-early fall arrival date.

CRESTED CARACARA (*Caracara cheriway*), 2015-100: Adult, 7 December 2015, Neosho, Newton Co. Sarah Cook, Becky Wylie (documentation with photographs), Mike Wylie. Definitive (and first) State Record. This species has recently shown a pattern of vagrancy away from its core Texas range, east and north into Louisiana, Kansas, and other states. There was no evidence that this individual might have escaped from captivity. It was first noted near a deer carcass by Jake Hughes and Terry Cook, of the Missouri Department of Conservation, but it went unidentified for two weeks or more until the above date, when it was photographed by the documenters. It could not be found thereafter despite a search by numerous birders.

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*), 2015-1: One, 21 April 2013, SCNWR. Shari Harden (documentation), Anne Leduc (photographs), Nancy Leo, Christine Kline. At the time, a casual transient and winter visitant; this was the fourteenth state record. Additional records have changed the species' status to "rare," but the Committee has left it on the Review List and would like to continue receiving documentation of all records.

SAY'S PHOEBE, 2015-63: One, 5 April 2015, Elk Chute Drainage Levee Road, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs). See notes on status under 2015-1, above.

SAY'S PHOEBE, 2015-95: One, 8-17 December 2015, near Greenfield, Dade Co. David Blevins (documentation with photographs), Barbara Blevins. See notes on status under 2015-1, above.

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*), 2015-84: One, 17 October 2015, Carondelet Park, City of St. Louis. Chrissy McClarren (documentation), Andrew Reago (photographs). Was the latest fall record until the following.

RED-EYED VIREO, 2015-87: One, 24 October 2015, Cedar Hill, Jefferson Co. Wally George (documentation with photographs). Record-late fall date.

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*), 2015-32: Two, 20 November 2014 to 5 January 2015, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Doug Willis (documentation with photographs). Listed as accidental in winter, with four records; this record is the fifth and moves it to "casual" status.

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*), 2015-39: One, 6-7 March 2015, Willis property, Clay Co. Doug Willis. Second-earliest spring arrival date.

BARN SWALLOW, 2015-99: One, 16 November 2015, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Steve Kinder. Third-latest fall record.

ROCK WREN (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), 2015-90: One, 9 November to at least 30 January 2016, near Aldrich, Polk Co. Steve and Debbie Martin, Bryan Prather, Diane Bricmont, Peter Kondrashov (documentation with photographs). Casual transient; ninth record.

SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*), 2015-24: One, 23 January 2015, Litzinger Road Ecology Center, St. Louis Co. Colleen Crank (documentation), Danelle Haake (photographs). Casual in winter outside southwestern Missouri.

VEERY (*Catharus fuscescens*), 2015-91: One, 10-11 November 2015, Carondelet Park, City of St. Louis. Chrissy McClarren (documentation with photographs), Andrew Reago, Tom Rauch. Record-late date for fall.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus*), 2015-76: One, 29 August 2015, Gaddy Garden in Tower Grove Park, City of St. Louis. Chrissy McClarren. One of the earliest documented fall records.

AMERICAN PIPIT (*Anthus rubescens*), 2015-33: One, 14 December 2014, County road 225, Adair Co. Jason Luscier. Casual in winter in northern and central Missouri.

AMERICAN PIPIT, 2015-17: One, 2 January 2015, Thomas Hill Reservoir, Macon Co. Josh Uffman (documentation), Hannah Uffman. Casual in winter in northern and central Missouri.

OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), 2015-49: Two, 9 April 2015, Red Bridge Road, Mark Twain NF, Christian Co. David Blevins. Heard only; song well described. Second-earliest spring arrival date.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), 2015-58: One, 28-30 May 2015, Hidden Valley Natural Area, Kansas City, Clay Co. Linda Williams (documentation with photographs). Casual transient away from extreme southern Missouri.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Oreothlypis celata*), 2015-15: One, 1 January 2015, Lake Jacomo, Jackson Co. Micky Louis. Casual in winter in northern Missouri.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, 2015-28: One, 13 February 2015, Carondelet Park, St. Louis City. Chrissy McClarren (documentation), Andrew Reago (photographs). Casual in winter in northern Missouri.

AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*), 2015-86: Immature, probably male, 24 October 2015, University City, St. Louis Co. Randy Korotev. Record-late date for fall.

CAPE MAY WARBLER (*Setophaga tigrina*), 2015-16: One, apparently immature male, 1 January 2015, Ferguson, St. Louis Co. Cornelius Alwood (documentation), Jo Etta Alwood, Doug Hommert (photographs). Casual in winter; sixth record.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (*Setophaga townsendi*), 2015-81: Immature female, 9 October 2015, Missouri Western State University, Buchanan Co. Larry Lade, Daniel Robertson (documentation with photographs), Jack Hilsabeck (documentation). Definitive (and first) State Record. This bird was captured and banded during a banding operation conducted by the three documenters. An outside reviewer, Kimball Garrett, examined the photographs and found no evidence of hybridization with Hermit or Black-throated Green Warblers.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Setophaga virens*), 2015-98: Apparent immature female, 31 October 2015, Carondelet Park, City of St. Louis. Chrissy McClarren (documentation), Andrew Reago (photographs). Second-latest fall record. Outside reviewer Tony Leukering saw no evidence of hybridization with Townsend's.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*), 2015-94: One, 5 December 2015, Shaw Nature Reserve, Franklin Co. Paul and Barbara Johnson. Record-late date for fall.

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*), 2015-11: Adult, 20 December 2014, Busch CA, St. Charles Co. Pat Lueders (documentation), Dick Palmer. Casual in winter in northern and central Missouri. CBC record.

CHIPPING SPARROW, 2015-20: Two adults, 10 January 2015, Busch CA. Chrissy McClarren (documentation), Andrew Reago (photographs). Casual in winter in northern and central Missouri.

LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*), 2015-41: One, 17 March 2015, Finley Creek Farm, Webster Co. Greg Samuel. Second-earliest spring arrival date.

SWAMP SPARROW (*Melospiza georgiana*), 2015-77: Adult, 31 August 2015, RMBS. Justyn Stahl (documentation with photographs). Record-early fall arrival date.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), 2015-60: One, 2- 8 June 2015, Ballwin, St. Louis Co. Diane Bricmont (documentation with photographs). Casual summer visitant.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, 2015-75: Adult, 26 August to 11 September 2015, Gaddy Garden in Tower Grove Park, City of St. Louis. Bryan Prather (documentation with photographs), Chrissy McClarren (documentation), Andrew Reago (photographs). Record-early fall arrival date.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), 2015-2: One, 3 June 2014, County Road 2040, Miller, Lawrence Co. Greg Samuel (documentation with photographs). Accidental summer visitant.

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*), 2015-48: Two males, 9 April 2015, Columbine Road, Mark Twain NF, Christian Co. David Blevins. Second-earliest spring arrival date.

SCARLET TANAGER, 2015-50: Six males, 11 April 2015, Sugar Camp Road, Mark Twain NF, Barry Co. David Blevins. Fourth-earliest spring arrival date, and earliest with this many individuals (three seen, three more heard).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), 2015-67: Adult male, 2 July 2015, Goodwin residence, Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co. Mark Goodwin. Casual in summer in southern Missouri.

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*), 2015-54: Adult male, 5 May 2015, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co. Dan Cowell. Casual transient outside southwestern Missouri.

BOBOLINK (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), 2015-97: One, 23 October 2015, Chillicothe, Livingston Co. Steve Kinder. Second-latest fall record.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 2015-34: 20 birds, 17 December 2014, Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation with photographs). 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 regular occurrence.

HOARY REDPOLL (*Acanthis hornemanni*), 2015-26: One, probably first-cycle of undetermined sex, 23 January to 14 February 2015, Cuculich residence, Brashear, Adair Co. Frankie Cuculich, Tony Elliott, Peter Kondrashov, Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs), Paul McKenzie (documentation). Accidental winter visitant; third accepted record. Although there is ongoing uncertainty about the taxonomy of all redpolls, the AOU currently maintains Common and Hoary as separate species. This bird met the criteria for a Hoary (subspecies *exilipes*) as currently understood, a determination supported by outside review from Louis Bevier, Adam Byrne, and Edward Brinkley. See discussion under the two previous Hoary Redpoll records (both from December 2012) in the 26th Annual Report.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*), 2015-7: One, 28 November to 7 December 2014, Culver residence, Peculiar, Cass Co. Ginny Culver. Casual away from St. Louis area and Mississippi River corridor.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

“Not accepted” does not necessarily mean that the identification was incorrect. In some cases the Committee may indeed believe that the bird was misidentified, but in other cases, while it seems possible 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 reasonably likely record if the description is too sketchy or vague, or if it fails to mention enough 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.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (*Buteo regalis*), 2015-46: Adult, 4 April 2015, Bradford Farm, Boone Co. In this report, a number of key characters for Ferruginous Hawk were either missing—e.g., no description of the underwing pattern—or described ambiguously—e.g., white patches in the primaries were mentioned but not their exact location or extent, to distinguish them from those of an immature Red-tailed Hawk. Some weight was placed on a white head (equally true of some pale Red-tails) and on longer and narrower wings, a comparison that was not confirmed by seeing any other buteo immediately adjacent to this one and in any case is not entirely true of Ferruginous Hawk. A “Kridler's”-type Red-tailed Hawk, often a source of confusion, was recorded on the area close to this date by other observers.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK, 2015-101: Adult, 16 December 2015, near Maryville, Nodaway Co. The characters described did suggest a Ferruginous Hawk, but, in the absence of a photograph, too many

details were missing for an acceptable record of this very rare species. The Committee felt that “Krider’s” Red-tailed Hawk was not entirely eliminated.

ICELAND GULL, 2015-29: Immature, presumed first cycle, 7 February 2015, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. This observation was supported by photographs and a good description. The problem was that the bird’s plumage characters could be interpreted as those of either a rather dark “Kumlien’s” Iceland Gull or a somewhat faded Thayer’s Gull—at least according to currently accepted criteria. In a case like this, the Committee preferred not to attempt to name it as either one. See comments under 2015-30 in the Accepted section.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL (*Aegolius acadicus*), 2015-19: One, 10 January 2015, Mark Twain NF, Texas Co. This small owl, observed without binoculars, may have been a Saw-whet but was not described clearly enough to eliminate an Eastern Screech-Owl.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, 2015-45: Adult male, 31 March 2015, Dunklin Co. This report was submitted with neither a photograph nor a description of the bird, so that no conclusions were possible.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax virescens*), 2015-51: One, 16 April 2015, South Farm, Boone Co. The song, as described in one word, could have been that of an Acadian Flycatcher, but the habitat was wrong for this species and there were no photographs or audio recordings. All reports of early, late, or otherwise unusual *Empidonax* should be accompanied by as much concrete evidence as possible.

FISH CROW (*Corvus ossifragus*), 2015-21: Four birds, 11 January 2015, Lewis Co. Despite a lengthy description of these birds and their calls, there were no audio recordings to substantiate the observation. The Committee would prefer to have this kind of hard evidence for a first winter record of Fish Crow in northern Missouri, especially in the absence of additional documentation (or even eBird listings) from any of the scores of observers who went to this location to view the Ivory Gull.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Parkesia noveboracensis*), 2015-22: One, 21 January 2015, Onondaga Cave SP, Crawford Co. The sparse details provided (yellowish breast and sides, rust-colored streaks, bobbing its tail while feeding along tree branches) suggested the more likely Palm Warbler rather than a waterthrush.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, 2015-23: One, 21 January 2015, Fleming Park, Jackson Co. The only specific details mentioned were a “pale yellow-green” color and a “bright orange crown,” seen clearly for several seconds. Since neither of these describes an Orange-crowned Warbler as normally perceived (in particular, the crown patch is small, dull, and usually invisible), the Committee was left to speculate that the bird might have been a male Golden-crowned Kinglet.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*), 2015-80: One, 21-23 September 2015, St. Louis County. This report did not consider the alternative of a fall Mourning Warbler, which is the most similar species and one that fit the description perhaps better than Connecticut.

NELSON’S SPARROW (*Ammodramus nelsoni*), 2014-33: One, 11 April 2014, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. This report, previously accepted, was reconsidered upon further discussion of (a) such an

early date for this rare spring migrant, normally seen only in May, (b) the difficulties of identification of *Ammodramus* sparrows, and (c) the absence of a photograph, which the Committee would prefer to have for confirmation of any such report.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, 2015-13: Three males, 22 December 2014, near Warrensburg, Johnson Co. These may have been Brewer's Blackbirds, but the descriptive details were insufficient. The Committee believed that Common Grackle, which has a shorter and less keel-shaped tail in the winter and thus bears more resemblance to male Brewer's, was not eliminated.

ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*), 2015-83: Adult male, 27 March 1988, Ted Shanks CA, Pike Co. This would be the earliest Missouri record of an Orchard Oriole, and it may have been correct. However, it was not documented until twenty-seven years later, with sketchy details that did not fully eliminate other bird species. The observer was apparently writing from memory and had had only limited experience with this species.

CORRIGENDA

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), 2013-40: This entry in the 26th Annual Report stated that "Photographs showed...the bicolored bill, with dark mandible and pale maxilla." Actually the opposite was true: photographs showed a dark maxilla (upper bill) and pale mandible (lower bill), as expected with this species.