

**TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSOURI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE**  
**William C. Rowe, Secretary**

This report summarizes records evaluated by the Committee between 1 January and 31 December 2016. 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 Ornithological Society's *Check-list of North American Birds*, Seventh Edition (1998), and subsequent supplements (see Note on Organizations, below). The latest AOS list of North and Middle American birds is available on line at <http://checklist.aou.org>.

Accepted records in this report include the names of observers who submitted documentation and/or photographs, or were present with those who documented; 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. 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](http://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 and improving it, and Joshua Uffman for assembling data on the occurrence of Missouri birds at [www.showme-birds.com](http://www.showme-birds.com).

Of the 79 records that were reviewed during this period, 59 were accepted and 20 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 74%. Members participating in these decisions were Lisa Berger, Joe Eades, Brad Jacobs (Chair), Kristi Mayo, Paul McKenzie, Mark Robbins, Bill Rowe (Secretary), and Josh Uffman. Four records (Garganey, 2016-60; Swainson's Hawk, 2016-2; Vermilion Flycatcher, 2016-37; Yellow-throated Vireo, 2016-7) received comments from outside reviewers; see details in those accounts.

One new species, Hooded Oriole, was added to the state list, giving Missouri 424 fully accepted species as of December 2016; 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, for a total of 435 species. The Annotated Checklist of Missouri Birds, with its latest updates to reflect changes in Missouri status as well as taxonomic and nomenclatural changes by the AOS, can be viewed at [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org) in either the "Birds" or the "MBRC" menus.

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: Lesser Black-backed Gull in summer); 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](http://www.mobirds.org) ("MBRC" menu) 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 very important for the observer to describe what he or she saw and heard as accurately as possible, even for photographic records.

Note on organizations: In December 2016, the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) completed a merger with the Cooper Ornithological Society to form the American Ornithological Society (AOS). The AOU's North American Classification Committee, its Birds of North and Middle America Checklist, its journal *The Auk*, and all of its other activities and resources are now those of the AOS, along with the journal *The Condor* and other functions of the Cooper Ornithological Society. The new society's web site is at [www.americanornithology.org](http://www.americanornithology.org).

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 2018 issue of *The Bluebird*.

RMBS = Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles Co.  
LBNWR = Loess Bluffs (formerly 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

## **RECORDS ACCEPTED**

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** (*Anser albifrons*), 2016-41: Three birds 10-24 June, and at least one on 22 July, 2016, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Mark Haas (documentation with photographs). Casual in summer. At the time, documentation was still requested, as usual for casual species. Since then, the MBRC has decided not to request documentation of summer geese, owing to the increasing occurrence of injured birds following the hunting season.

**EURASIAN WIGEON** (*Anas penelope*), 2016-23: Adult male, 20 February to 2 March 2016, Clarence Cannon NWR, Pike Co. David Becher (documentation with photographs), m.ob. Casual transient; tenth record.

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** (*Anas crecca*), 2016-42: Two, 30 June 2016, RMBS. Tom Parmeter (documentation with photographs). Casual in summer.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** (*Mergus serrator*), 2016-39: Female, 5-25 June 2016, RMBS. Bill Rowe (documentation), Tom Parmeter and Peter Dunwiddie (photographs), m.ob. Casual in summer.

**WESTERN GREBE** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), 2016-12: One, 17 January 2016, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs), Marky Mutchler (photographs), Lisa Owens. Casual in winter; ten records.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), 2016-64: Immature, 29 October 2016, Ritter Springs Park, Springfield, Greene Co. Charles Burwick, Steve Martin (documentations), Debbie Martin, Marilyn Owens, Klee Bruce. Latest fall record.

**WHOOPING CRANE** (*Grus americana*), 2016-33: Four birds, 19 May 2016, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co.; 20 May 2016, Plowboy Bend CA, Moniteau Co. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Kathleen Anderson, Brad Jacobs (photographs), Carl Gerhardt, Tim James, Susan Hazelwood, m.ob. These birds also appeared elsewhere in Missouri and Illinois at times (e.g., Kaskaskia Island). They were raised in captivity as part of an experimental population in Wisconsin, then released into the wild; all bore transmitters and colored leg bands that identified them individually. Thus their status is different from that of the wild Whooping Cranes that occur as casual transients in Missouri. Nonetheless, their presence was considered remarkable enough to merit documentation and inclusion in this report.

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW** (*Numenius americanus*), 2016-30: One, 6 May 2016, LBNWR. Norm Lewis. Casual transient in western Missouri.

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW**, 2016-56: Two, 9 May 2016, RMBS. Chrissy McClarren (documentation), Andy Reago (photographs). Accidental transient in eastern Missouri; second modern record.

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** (*Calidris fuscicollis*), 2016-53: Three, 6 September 2016, RMBS. Doug Hommert (documentation with photographs), David Dean. Now only rare in fall, with more than 15 records, but documentation still requested in order to track all records and learn this species' patterns.

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER**, 2016-62: One, 8 October 2016, RMBS. Chrissy McClarren (documentation), Andy Reago (photographs). See comment on 2016-53, above.

**PARASITIC JAEGER** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), 2016-55: Juvenile, 16-22 September 2016, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Mary Nemecek, Eric Hough (documentations with photographs), Marky Mutchler, Karen Davis (photographs), m.ob. Accidental transient; fourth record. A second jaeger, possibly also Parasitic based on impressions of size, was present at the same time but remained unidentified.

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), 2016-47: Adult, 13 August 2016, Stockton Lake, Polk Co. David Blevins (documentation with photographs), Barbara Blevins. Was listed as an accidental transient; this is the fifth record, moving it to "casual," and the earliest fall record.

**LAUGHING GULL** (*Leucophaeus atricilla*), 2016-38: First-cycle bird, 26-29 May 2016, Table Rock Lake, Barry Co. Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs). Casual transient away from the Mississippi River.

**LAUGHING GULL**, 2016-48: Juvenile, 18 August 2016, Stockton Lake, Polk Co. Greg Swick (documentation with photographs), Lisa Berger. Casual transient away from the Mississippi River.

**LAUGHING GULL**, 2016-57: Three (juvenile, adult, and an adult or second-cycle bird), 29-31 August 2016, Stoutsville Recreation Area, Mark Twain Lake, Monroe Co. Ashley Casey (documentation), Cory Gregory (photographs). Casual transient away from the Mississippi River. This was the highest count of this species away from the Mississippi.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*Larus fuscus*), 2016-45: Adult, 31 July 2016, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation with photographs). Accidental in summer; second record.

**FORSTER'S TERN** (*Sterna forsteri*), 2016-40: Two, 15 March 2016, RMBS. Charlene Malone. Earliest spring record.

**RED-THROATED LOON** (*Gavia stellata*), 2016-25: Two adults, 25-26 March 2016, Stockton Lake, Dade Co. Steve Martin, Jill Hays, Andrew Kinslow (documentations with photographs), Debbie Martin, Charley Burwick, Dawn Huber, m.ob. Casual in spring; seventh record.

**PACIFIC LOON** (*Gavia pacifica*), 2016-11: Adult, 16 January 2016, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Mary Nemecek (documentation), Lisa Owens (photographs), Marky Mutchler. Was accidental in winter; this record, the fifth, moves it to casual.

**NEOTROPIC CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), 2016-28: Immature, 28 April to 19 May 2016, Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Chris Barrigar, Mark Haas (documentations with photographs). Accidental in eastern and central Missouri; third record.

**NEOTROPIC CORMORANT**, 2016-29: Immature, 29 April to 1 May 2016, Duck Creek CA, Stoddard Co. Chris Barrigar, Allen Gathman (documentations with photographs). Accidental in eastern and central Missouri; fourth record.

**NEOTROPIC CORMORANT**, 2016-51: Immature, 2-9 September 2016, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation with photographs), Paul McKenzie. Fifth record for eastern and central Missouri, moving the species to casual in that area.

**BROWN PELICAN** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), 2016-31: Adult, 22 April to 15 May 2016, RMBS. Jim Malone, Chris Barrigar (documentations with photographs), Peter Richardson, Charlene Malone, Connie Alwood, m. ob. Casual transient and summer visitor; fourteenth record.

**AMERICAN BITTERN** (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), 2016-35: One, 12-16 March 2016, RMBS. Chrissy McClarren (documentation) and Andy Reago (photographs). Earliest spring record.

**AMERICAN BITTERN**, 2016-73: One, 12 December 2016 to at least 5 February 2017, Pershing SP, Linn Co. Steve Kinder. Casual in winter; sixth record.

**AMERICAN BITTERN**, 2016-79: One, 30 December 2016 to 1 January 2017, RMBS. Janet Hoyne, Pat Lueders, Stephanie Schuppan (documentations). Casual in winter; seventh record, and CBC record.

**CATTLE EGRET** (*Bubulcus ibis*), 2016-10: One, 16 January 2016, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Daniel Swofford (documentation with photographs), Dayna Swofford. Accidental in winter; this is the sole record for that season.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), 2016-78: Juvenile, 23 December 2016, B.K. Leach CA, Lincoln Co. Scott Schuette (documentation), Eric Schuette (video). Casual in winter. CBC record.

**GLOSSY IBIS** (*Plegadis falcinellus*), 2016-32: Adult, 14-18 May 2016, Bob Brown CA, Holt Co. Josh Uffman (documentation with photographs), Lisa Owens (photographs). At the time, listed as casual in western Missouri; now listed as rare transient and summer visitor statewide, with documentation requested only in fall.

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL** (*Platalea ajaja*), 2016-50: Immature, 28 August to 1 September 2016, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Mark Haas (documentation with photographs) Kathy Haas. Casual transient and summer visitor.

**BLACK VULTURE** (*Coragyps atratus*), 2016-52: One, 3 September 2016, Fountain Grove CA, Livingston Co. Kevin Mortensen. Accidental in northern third of Missouri.

**SWAINSON'S HAWK** (*Buteo swainsoni*), 2016-2: Juvenile, at least 1-12 December 2015, Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge, Pike Co. Robert Mustell (documentation with photographs), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel (additional observations, with photograph by Cory Alger). By far the latest record for Missouri. While Swainson's Hawk has become a regular winter visitor/resident in central California and coastal areas of the southern United States, it remains very rare by December in most of North America. Comments by outside reviewer Tony Leukering supported the identification.

**FERRUGINOUS HAWK** (*Buteo regalis*), 2016-18): Juvenile, 6 February 2016, Shawnee Trails CA, Barton Co. Mark Robbins (documentation with photographs), John Bollin. Casual transient and winter visitor in western Missouri; twelfth record for that area.

**SAY'S PHOEBE** (*Sayornis saya*), 2016-14: One, 24 January to 6 February 2016, near county road 946, Perry Co. Joe Eades (documentation), Rob Francis (documentation with photographs). Accidental in eastern Missouri; fourth record for that area.

**SAY'S PHOEBE**, 2016-22: One, 20 February to 15 March 2016, White residence, Willow Springs, Howell Co. Donald White (documentation with photographs), Sharon White. Accidental in eastern and casual in western Missouri.

**SAY'S PHOEBE**, 2016-59: One, 12 September 2016, Little Bean Marsh CA, Platte Co. Nic Allen. Casual in western Missouri.

**WHITE-EYED VIREO** (*Vireo griseus*), 2016-69: One, 7 November 2016, St. Francis River levee road, Dunklin Co. Tim Jones (documentation with photographs). Latest fall record.

**BELL'S VIREO** (*Vireo belli*), 2016-61: One, 2 October 2016, Valley Water Mill Park, Springfield, Greene Co. Jill Hays, Lisa Berger, Debbie Martin (documentations). Latest fall record; identification by song.

**TREE SWALLOW** (*Tachycineta bicolor*), 2016-1: One, 11 December 2015, Stewartville WTP, Clinton Co. Sean Fitzgerald (with photographs). Latest record for the fall period, although there are a few for early winter (after 14 December).

**ROCK WREN** (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), 2016-13: One, 23 January to at least 20 February 2016, RMBS. Nick Carson, Josh Uffman (documentations with photographs), m.ob. Accidental winter visitor; fourth record at that season (and fourteenth total).

**HOUSE WREN** (*Troglodytes aedon*), 2016-9: One, 1 January 2016, Busch CA, St. Charles Co. Bill Rowe (documentation), Tom Parmeter (photographs). Casual in winter outside of southeastern Missouri.

**SEDGE WREN** (*Cistothorus platensis*), 2016-21: One, 14 February 2016, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Andrew Kinslow (documentation), Dawn Huber. Casual in winter outside of southwestern Missouri.

**SEDGE WREN**, 2016-77: Four, 22 December 2016, SCNWR. Mark Robbins. Casual in winter outside of southwestern Missouri. CBC record.

**GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET** (*Regulus satrapa*), 2016-58: Two, 10 September 2016, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Chrissy McClarren (documentation), Andy Reago (photographs). Earliest fall record.

**SWAINSON'S THRUSH** (*Catharus ustulatus*), 2016-49: One, 21 August 2016, Sodalis Nature Preserve, Marion Co. Ashley Casey (documentation with photographs). Earliest fall record.

**AMERICAN PIPIT** (*Anthus rubescens*), 2016-20: Three, 9 February 2016, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Steve Martin (documentation with photographs), Debbie Martin. Casual in winter in northern and central Missouri.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** (*Parkesia noveboracensis*), 2016-26: One, 4 April 2016, Graham Cave SP, Montgomery Co. Paul McKenzie (documentation), Chris Newbold, Alan Brant. Earliest spring record.

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH**, 2016-67: One, 22 October 2016, St. Francis River levee road, Dunklin Co. Tim Jones (documentation with photographs). Latest fall record.

**CAPE MAY WARBLER** (*Setophaga tigrina*), 2016-36: Male, 5-6 April 2016, Carondelet Park, St. Louis City. Chrissy McClarren (documentation with photographs). Earliest spring record.

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** (*Icteria virens*), 2016-6: One, 19 December 2015, Little Prairie CA, Phelps Co. Daniel Hatch (documentation), Josephine Hatch, Melissa Lewis, Vicki Nelson. Accidental in winter; this is the sole record for that season. CBC record.

**CHIPPING SPARROW** (*Spizella passerina*), 2016-8: Adult, 31 December 2015, Busch CA, St. Charles Co. David Rudder (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter in northern and central Missouri.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** (*Spizella pallida*), 2016-54: One, 7 September 2016, Mosley residence, Raytown, Jackson Co. Joseph Mosley. Second-earliest fall record.

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), 2016-44: One, 27 July 2016, Trail of Tears SP, Cape Girardeau Co. Mark Haas (documentation). Casual in summer in southern Missouri. Identification by distinctive call note.

**LAZULI BUNTING** (*Passerina amoena*), 2016-16: Adult male, 31 January to 1 February 2016, Haas residence, Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co. Mark Haas (documentation with photographs), Bill Eddleman, Allen Gathman. Accidental in winter; this is the sole record for that season.

**INDIGO BUNTING** (*Passerina cerulea*), 2016-3: Female, 15 December 2015, Haas residence, Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co. Mark Haas (documentation with photographs), Kathy Haas. At the time, Indigo Bunting was listed as casual in winter in southern and central Missouri. That status has been changed to rare for the southern one-third of the state; thus records from that area will no longer require documentation. The species remains casual in winter in northern and central Missouri.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), 2016-17: Seven (one adult male, at least six females/immature males), 30 January to 1 February 2016, Weldon Spring CA, St. Charles Co. Bill Rowe, with input from Andy Reago and Chrissy McClarren. Casual in winter outside the northwest corner of Missouri, where more frequent. Rowe observed the adult male and one female/immature type on 1 February, among a large (10,000+) flock of blackbirds, then subsequently discussed with Reago and McClarren their observation of six females/immatures on 30 January. Details of both observations were included in the documentation.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 2016-4: 6 males, 17 December 2015, Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman (documentation), Wes Mueller (photographs). While Brewer's Blackbird is listed as only rare in winter, documentation is required for Christmas Bird Counts due to frequent confusion with Rusty Blackbird and Common Grackle.

**HOODED ORIOLE** (*Icterus cucullatus*), 2016-34: Adult male, 20 May 2016, Flenner residence, Columbia, Boone Co. Louise Flenner (documentation with photographs), George Flenner. Definitive (and first) state record. This bird was seen only briefly as it fed on an orange that was set out for orioles. From photographs, it appeared to

be from the south Texas/east Mexican subspecies group rather than the California/Arizona/west Mexican group.

### **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; in other cases it may seem possible or even likely that the identification was correct, but the information provided is simply insufficient to rule out other species. The Committee may be unable to accept any 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. It is also true that the more extraordinary the report, the stronger the evidence required, and there are some reports that can be accepted only with diagnostic photographs or other physical evidence. 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. On the other hand, all records that the Committee reviews, whether accepted or not, are permanently archived so that future students may examine them.

**GARGANEY** (*Anas querquedula*), 2016-60: Male, 27 September 2016, Longview Lake, Jackson Co. Photographs of this bird were sent to Steve Addinall, Kimball Garrett, and French waterfowl expert Sebastien Reeber, who all concluded that it was not a Garganey. The reddish color of the bird's breast, and the red eye described by the observer, indicated that it was a male Cinnamon Teal in eclipse plumage.

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK** (*Chordeiles minor*), 2016-74: One, 13 December 2016, Pleasant Hill, Cass Co. While Common Nighthawks have occasionally occurred into late November in Missouri, this date is so remarkably late that either a photograph or documentation by multiple observers would be needed for acceptance.

**YELLOW RAIL** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), 2016-70: One, 13 November 2016, Taberville Prairie CA, St. Clair Co. This bird, seen in flight for just a few seconds, may well have been a Yellow Rail, but the key mark for identification in flight (the white secondary patch) was not seen. For a record that would be the latest by two weeks, that would be a necessary part of the evidence.

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** (*Limnodromus griseus*), 2016-72: One, 3 December 2016, SCNWR. This bird was clearly a dowitcher, but no valid evidence for Short-billed was presented; bill length, as judged in field observations, is seldom useful for identification. Moreover, all dowitchers seen from October on must be presumed Long-billed unless clear photographs are obtained and/or the voice is heard. The latest verified date for a Short-billed in Missouri is 28 September.

**FORSTER'S TERN**, 2016-24: 11 birds, 19 March 2016, Clarence Cannon NWR, Pike Co. The Committee believed that the description and sketches provided did not rule out a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. For a group of this size, as the second-earliest record, photographs would be desirable.

**LITTLE BLUE HERON** (*Egretta caerulea*), 2016-68: Adult, 5 November 2016, LBNWR. For a record-late date, the description of this bird did not offer sufficient detail for acceptance. The committee felt that other dark wading birds were not fully eliminated.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 2016-27: One or two, 30 March 2016, Webster Groves, St. Louis Co. While these may have been Mississippi Kites (the observer was familiar with the species), the Committee was reluctant to accept this record without a photograph due to the extraordinarily early date. There were no March 2016 sightings of this species reported on eBird in the interior of the U.S., and only a handful of records along the Gulf. The earliest verified Missouri record is 17 April.

**GOLDEN EAGLE** (*Aquila chrysaetos*), 2016-43: Two juveniles, 29 May 2016, Humansville, Polk Co. The presence of one Golden Eagle at the end of May, let alone two, would be unprecedented. Some of the photographs attached could not be identified to species; others were of Red-shouldered Hawks.

**NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** (*Aegolius acadicus*), 2016-65: One, 25 September 2016, Lake of the Ozarks SP, Miller Co. This bird was identified by calls that were first elicited by playing an Eastern Screech-Owl recording. The description of the calls (a "high-pitched barking") could have pertained to some calls of an Eastern Screech-Owl. Thus the bird's identification remained uncertain.

**VERMILION FLYCATCHER** (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), 2016-37: Adult male, 18 May 2016, Kansas City, Jackson Co. Comments were solicited from Van Remsen at the Museum of Natural Science, LSU. This bird did sound like a possible Vermilion Flycatcher, but it was observed very briefly, without binoculars, by an observer previously unfamiliar with the species. The Committee believed that, for such a rare bird, acceptance was not warranted under these circumstances.

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** (*Vireo flavifrons*), 2016-7: One, 20 December 2015, Busch CA, St. Charles Co. Comments were solicited from Van Remsen at the Museum of Natural Science, LSU. The description did not eliminate a far more likely male Pine Warbler, given that the streaking on the underparts of that species can be hard to see at any distance; moreover, the observer noted that the bird had black feet, which would be true of the warbler but not the vireo. Since this species is an extreme rarity anywhere in the United States in winter, an acceptable record would require a photograph. CBC record.

**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** (*Myadestes townsendi*), 2016-71: One, 26 November 2016, Eleven Point River, Oregon Co. This may have been a Townsend's Solitaire, but the details were too sketchy to be certain.

**PINE GROSBEAK** (*Pinicola enucleator*), 2016-15: Adult male, 30 January 2016, Blue Spring, Shannon Co. Photographs showed a very small image of this pinkish bird; even when magnified, they were hard to interpret. Nonetheless, they did reveal a wing-bar pattern that was characteristic of White-winged Crossbill and not of Pine Grosbeak, which is extremely rare in Missouri and would require unequivocal evidence.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER** (*Helminthos vermivorum*), 2016-63: One, 23 October 2016, near Ash Grove, Greene Co. The colors and patterns described were puzzling; there was no mention of the plain brownish upperparts and the strongly buff-colored head and underparts of a Worm-eating Warbler. The committee remained uncertain what species was seen. The date would be record-late for Missouri by three weeks.

**TENNESSEE WARBLER** (*Oreothlypis peregrina*), 2016-75: One, 14 December 2016, Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co. This bird, seen only briefly from above as it fed on the ground, showed some characters that suggested Tennessee Warbler, but, with no views of the breast, belly, and undertail coverts, the much more likely Orange-crowned Warbler was not eliminated.

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** (*Oporornis agilis*), 2016-66: Immature, 2 October 2016, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. This may well have been a Connecticut Warbler, but the Committee believed that a Mourning Warbler with an eye ring was not eliminated.

**VESPER SPARROW** (*Pooecetes gramineus*), 2016-19: One, 20 December 2015, Busch CA, St. Charles Co. The identification of this bird, seen only in flight, hinged on the observation of white outer tail feathers; but the pattern of broad, extensive white described was not that of a Vesper Sparrow, which has only a single white outer rectrix on either side. The observer was unable to note any other definite details, and the general very pale impression described also seemed inconsistent with Vesper Sparrow. CBC record.

**VESPER SPARROW**, 2016-76: One, 15 December 2016, East Prairie, New Madrid Co. This may have been a Vesper Sparrow, but the details were too sketchy to be certain.

**WESTERN TANAGER** (*Piranga ludoviciana*), 2016-46: Male, 2 August 2016, Kansas City, Jackson Co. This bird was seen only in flight for a few seconds, and without binoculars; under those circumstances, it is usually not possible to accept a record of such a rare species, even from an experienced observer.

**INDIGO BUNTING**, 2016-5: One, 17 December 2015, Seven Island CA, Mississippi Co. The description of this bird was unclear; the committee could not determine with certainty whether it was a bunting, or, if so, whether it was an Indigo or a rarer species like Lazuli. CBC record.