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  Feb. 1 for March issue; May 1 for June issue;
  Aug. 1 for Sept. issue; Nov. 1 for Dec. issue

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  Winter (Dec. 1-Feb. 28)—to Tommie Rogers by Mar. 10
  Spring (Mar. 1-May 31)—to Jim & Charlene Malone by June 10
  Summer (June 1-July. 31)—to Andy Forbes by Aug 10
  Fall (Aug. 1-Nov. 30)—to Bill Eddleman by Dec. 10

* Executive Committee Member
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**Blue Insert—Fall Meeting 2005**

*Brian Hartwig*

*The Bluebird* is published quarterly by The Audubon Society of Missouri. Postage is paid at Jefferson City, Missouri, nonprofit organization status. Postmaster: send address changes to The Audubon Society of Missouri, 2101 W. Broadway, #122, Columbia, MO 65203-1261. The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of each contributing writer and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of The Audubon Society of Missouri or its officers, Board of Directors, or editors. The submission of articles, photographs, and artwork is welcome and encouraged.
Just when it seems that the birding is becoming a bit slow in the dog days of summer, Mother Nature produces some earlier than normal hurricanes that send vagrants our way. What a treat to read about these finds on MOBirds, ASM's birding list serve for our state. What did we ever do before e-mail and MOBirds? Sure, we had the Bird Alert phone line which provided the species alerts, but it couldn't provide the "feedback" and "forays" of birding that only MOBirds does so well. It produces such camaraderie (usually!) that links us together to share in our mutual passion for birding. I wish to express immense ongoing gratitude to Susan Hazelwood, the MOBirds list serve administrator, and Kristi Mayo, our MOBirds Bird Alert Compiler, for the superb job they are doing in helping to bring us up-to-the-minute bird sightings (and sometimes dismaying non-sightings!), queries, ponderings, and lively discussion in this age of technology.

A lot of folks utilize the "services" of ASM, such as MOBirds, but are not members. If you're reading this, you're most likely a member, and I challenge you to encourage your non-member birding friends to show their support of our state's ornithological society by becoming a member. We'll kick off new membership development efforts with the "roll out" of a color tri-fold informational brochure about our organization at our annual Fall Meeting September 23-25. Special thanks to our brochure team of Patrick Harrison and Jim Zellmer. Brochures will be made available to local Audubon chapters, birding clubs, visitor centers and other creative outlets in efforts to spread the word about the numerous reasons to become a member of ASM.

ASM participated in the 3rd annual conference of the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI) held August 26-27 in Columbia, MO. MoBCI is an "organization of organizations", and ASM is one of 32 organizational members who
have united for the purpose of conserving Missouri’s birds. Presentations included using land type association modeling for landscape level planning, how the state comprehensive wildlife strategy will be used to guide the future of wildlife management in Missouri, and how the future of successful conservation will depend on the collective effort of all member organizations and their wide ranging philosophies. All three of our partnership conservation projects were presented (Forest Hills River Ruffed Grouse Habitat Project, Northwest Missouri Prairie Project, and Truman Lake Wetlands Restoration). We had a good turnout of ASM members, many of who are also very involved in the bird conservation efforts of their local Audubon chapter. Jerry Wade continues to be the ASM representative to MoBCI. Jerry has been instrumental on the Steering Committee that launched MoBCI from its inception several years ago. Many thanks to Jerry for his ongoing enthusiastic participation.

The ASM Vice President is responsible for the planning of our annual fall meeting, and I’m quite delighted with what Mike Doyen has in store for us this year! Highlights include the Friday evening program by bird artist David Plank and the Saturday evening program featuring Clint Trammel of Pioneer Forest who will discuss our state’s premiere sustainable forestry practices that benefit birds and other wildlife. And don’t forget to bring your lawn chair to sit around the evening bonfire with fellow birders. See the blue insert pages in this issue for more details and registration info.

And if you just can’t make it to the Fall Meeting at Lake of the Ozarks, join us for the next ASM State Birding Day on Sunday, October 9, at Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge with local host Grand River Audubon Chapter and “The Swan Sitters” as we participate in the Big Sit Bird Count. Come on out and put some faces to those names you’ve been reading about, hook up with old friends, or both! I hope to see you at an upcoming ASM event!
Join us for any or all of the 24-hour Big Sit circle bird count at Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Chariton County in north central Missouri. The local hosts are the Grand River Audubon Chapter and The Swan Sitters. The event runs from 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, October 9.

Come at any time, but we'll be firing up the barbeque grills around 11:00 a.m. Location: Park at the Visitor Center at the Refuge and walk to the east end of the nature trail that starts behind the Visitor Center (about ¼ mile walk).

Bring your own lawn chair, binoculars, beverages, and a side dish to share with others. We'll provide the grills, meat and plates/utensils. Please bring $3.00 per person to cover the cost of the meat and supplies. RSVP to Steve Kinder at dmkinder@yahoo.com or at 660-646-6516 by October 5.

For those who may tire of sitting, we may also visit nearby Pershing State Park or Fountain Grove Conservation Area in the afternoon. Depending on local swallow activity, we may try to view the "Big Swallow Show" over the fields in the bottoms east of Locust Creek at dusk.

Directions: From Hwy 36, take Hwy 130 south through Pershing State Park. Continue south on YY when 130 turns east. Turn right and go west on Hwy 139 into Sumner. Turn left on RA and go south of Sumner to the main refuge entrance. Those coming from the east may want to go south on Hwy 139 off Hwy 36 just east of Brookfield. There are signs posted that way. (There are also maps in ASM's A Guide to Birding in Missouri).

For those who may want overnight lodging in the area: Brookfield, MO - Martin House Motel and restaurant - 660-258-7257 or Best Western - 660-258-4900 and Chillicothe, MO - Super Eight - 660-646-7888 or Grand River Inn Restaurant and bar 660-646-6590.

Any questions, please contact Steve Kinder at above contact info, or Sue Gustafson at smgustafson@juno.com or (314) 968-8128. Also, please consider carpooling if a group from your area is coming!
Twenty-five Christmas Bird Counts were completed in Missouri during the 2004–2005 count period (Table 1). This number is a bit lower than in recent years because the Big Spring and Ted Shanks Wildlife Area counts were not done this year. A significant “hole” in the coverage is that there is no CBC done in the northeastern corner of the state (Figure 1).

December weather has a big influence on CBC results. Precipitation was normal over most of the state but below normal (<1") in the northwest during December. A major storm dropped 5–14" of snow on the southeastern part of the state on December 22. Across the state temperatures averaged 1.5–3 degrees above normal in December, except that they were slightly below normal in the southeast after the snowstorm. A cold snap on December 25 resulted in below zero temperatures in portions of the southeast.

Hardy migrant species included American White Pelican (reported on 5 counts), Turkey Vulture (7), American Coot (13), Wilson’s Snipe (7), Belted Kingfisher (20), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (22), Eastern Phoebe (8), Marsh Wren (3), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (16), Hermit Thrush (13), Brown Thrasher (12), Yellow-rumped Warbler (17), and Field Sparrow (15). Twenty-seven species of waterfall were recorded, including 570,000 Snow Geese on 17 counts, 37 Ross’s Geese on 6 counts, and 234 Cackling Geese on 10 counts. This is the first year for data on Cackling Goose, a species which has recently been split from Canada Goose.

The most unusual reports were 1 Long-tailed Duck (Squaw Creek), 1 Rufous Hummingbird (Joplin), 1 Blue-headed Vireo and 1 Mountain Bluebird (Big Oak Tree), and 1 Nashville Warbler (Montrose Lake). All of these reports represent documented sightings under evaluation by the Missouri Bird Records Committee. Winter irruptive species were scarce. For example, only 2 Common Redpolls were observed (St. Joseph), Pine Siskins appeared on only 7 counts, and only 211 Lapland Longspurs were reported (8 counts). Numbers of
some species for which the 40-year trend has been negative were about normal compared to the past 10 years (e.g. 341 Northern Bobwhite on 17 counts and 69 Loggerhead Shrike on 16 counts). Numbers of both diurnal and nocturnal raptors were normal. House Finch numbers were about the same as for the past 6 years (1515 birds on 16 counts). Range-expanding Great-tailed Grackles were observed on 4 counts and Eurasian Collared-Doves on 8 counts.

Missouri CBC observers found 146 species of birds, a bit greater than normal. Horton-Four Rivers had the highest species total (101) with Mingo (100) and Columbia (96) coming in second and third. A total of 335 persons participated, many of whom did several counts for a total of 393 person-counts.

As a space-saving measure, we are not including a full tabulation of the data in this report. The data for individual counts can be obtained on the Audubon Society of Missouri website at this address:


Figure 1. Locations of Missouri Christmas Bird Counts (see Table 1 for key). Unfilled circles represent counts that have been done in recent years but were not done this past year (Big Springs, Sullivan, Ted Shanks).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>map</th>
<th>count name</th>
<th>compiler</th>
<th>date</th>
<th>no. of field observers</th>
<th>no. of species</th>
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<td>HF</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dec. 31</td>
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<td>JO</td>
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<td>9</td>
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Spring of 2005 went into the record books as the 6th driest since 1895 (the driest since 1971) in Missouri. March was cooler and drier than usual throughout much of the state, with few days of sustained winds from the south. Many regions of Missouri began the spring migration with a 1-3 inch rain deficit, and lost ground on that number as the month went on. Only the southwestern and northeastern corners of the state were relatively free from drought conditions throughout March. Northwesternly winds kept temperatures down throughout the first half of March, but a handful of warm southern fronts worked their way through Missouri in the last two weeks. April temperatures continued well above normal at the beginning of the month, possibly encouraging the early appearance of some migrants throughout the state. Many flowering trees burst into bloom up to two weeks early. A dramatic drop in temperatures for the last two weeks of April seemed to slow the most active portion of passerine migration. Rainfall was well below average in all areas except the northwest, northern counties and the southeastern corner of the bootheel. May's weather did not provide much relief from the rainfall deficits of earlier months. Once again, the center of the state was bypassed by much of the late spring rain, and (so it appears) by much of the normal passerine migration.

This spring migration was a study in contrasts. Birders in the central counties complained about low numbers of warblers, reporting individuals of each species seen, instead of the groups of birds to which we are normally accustomed. Bill Goode noted that while most of the local nesting species seemed to arrive on time, those destined for more northern nesting locations were much harder to find. By contrast, Jack Hilsabeck felt that 2005 was the best warbler migration in northwestern Missouri.
that he had experienced in years. The dry conditions in central counties also appeared to impact Missouri waders during this period. Bill Goodge reported that other than Great Blue Herons, and a few Great Egrets, there were very few herons seen. High numbers of Black-Crowned Night Herons in the northwest corner of the state was probably not circumstantial. Eurasian Collared Dove, Black Vulture, Western Kingbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Prairie Warblers, Mississippi Kite and Fish Crow continued to expand their range in Missouri this year, and Bewick’s Wren, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Connecticut Warbler were also seen in increasing numbers and locations this spring.

ABBREVIATIONS:
BCA (August A. Busch Conservation Area, St. Charles co.)
CCNWR (Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Area, Pike co.)
EBCA (Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Boone co.)
LCCL (Little Creve Coeur Lake/Marsh, St. Louis co.)
REDA (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles co.)
SCNWR (Squaw Creek National Wildlife Area, Holt co.)
TRW (Thompson River Wetlands, Livingston co.)
WSCA (Weldon Springs Conservation Area, St. Charles co.)
NAMC (North American Migration Count)
MBRC (Missouri Bird Records Committee)
* Documentation needed for MBRC review
† Documentation received by MBRC for review
DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS

Any day when you see a Whistling Duck in Missouri is a good day. David Blevins must have been having a great day on May 11 when he found a group of 6 Black-Bellied Whistling Ducks (†) at Close Park in Springfield. Although not all waterfowl sightings were as unusual this spring, there were several representing high numbers of individual species. March 6, Joe Eades counted 500 Greater White-Fronted Geese in Pike County. Although this number would not be outstanding in western Missouri, it is a very high number for the eastern side of the state. As Snow Goose populations steadily increase, there are more opportunities to look for Ross’s Geese mixed into their flocks. Larry Lade reported 500 Ross’s Geese on March 4 at Sugar Lake in Buchanan County, which represents the highest count for spring migration. Other notable reports of high counts for ducks this spring were 3417 Northern Shovelers and 4100 Ring-necked Ducks at SCNWR on April 1 (TR), and 15 Redheads at Smithville Lake on March 4 (KM).

The only early waterfowl appearance reported this season was a March 15 Blue-winged Teal at the St. Joseph Oxbows (LL), but there were a number of late waterfowl sightings. Larry Herbert found a late Tundra Swan in Newton County on April 4, adding to the handful of April sightings for this species. Four Ross’s Geese were spotted on the Holt County NAMC on May 14 (DAE, Kirby Goslee, Amanda Griffin, Brian Lomas). A group of 5 Gadwall (rare in May) was reported from LCCL in St. Louis County (JWE, JPU), and a single bird lingered at REDA until May 29 (JWE). Other lingering dabbling ducks included a May 30 Northern Pintail at REDA (CM, JM, JWE), a May 16 American Wigeon at St. Charles County’s REDA (CM, JM). American Black ducks were difficult to find this spring, but two notably late birds were reported on May 14 from Boone County.
(PM,BJ,BG,AF*) documentation needed for NAMC) and a very late bird at REDA (JWE,CM,JM*) on May 30. Not to be outdone by the puddle ducks, a late Canvasback at REDA was observed by Kent Lannert on April 27 and May 2, and a female Ring-necked Duck was reported in Holt County (DAE) on May 13. Greater Scaup are usually gone from Missouri by early May, but David Easterla saw a female on May 13 (possibly the latest date for Missouri) in Holt County while scouting. A May 28 male Long-tailed duck seen at Rosecrans airport (LL et al) in Buchanan County represents a new late date for this species as well. Two very late male Common Goldeneyes were seen at REDA (St. Charles Co.) on May 27 (CM). This would be very late indeed for this species, except for the fact that summering goldeneyes have been documented here on occasion. An eclipsed male Red-breasted Merganser was identified on May 29 at REDA in St. Charles co (JWE). This is the second latest record for this species. Finally, this spring there were two reports of late Ruddy Ducks. A pair of breeding at SCNWR in Holt County on May 30 (Ron Bell communicated to TR) is the second for the state, and Joe Eades reported a single bird on May 21 at LCCL in St. Louis Co. — the way this is structured it implies that Ruddy Ducks bred in St. Louis Co.

Other spring waterfowl sightings of note included Chris Corben’s May 2 male Cinnamon Teal at EBCA in Boone co. This bird was unusual because of both the date it was observed (which is usually March or April) and the location (this bird is rare to casual in central Missouri). It was also unusual that there were no spring sightings of any scoter species.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS THROUGH IBIS

The 2005 NAMC yielded high-number totals for sev-
eral species. The new NAMC count records included 17 Ring-necked Pheasants in Holt County (DAE), 47 Wild Turkeys in Knox County, and 59 Northern Bobwhite Quail in Livingston County (SK). It appears that Greater Prairie Chicken numbers shifted a bit this year with slight increases at Dunn Ranch (Mar 19 - 32 birds [Terry Miller] vs 20 birds in 2004 and 2003) and Taberville Prairie CA (March 12 - 8 males, several females, and others booming nearby [KM] vs 7 males in 2004), but slight to notable decreases at Hi Lonesome Prairie (Mar 27 - 11 birds [JWE] vs 15 in 2004, vs 20 in 2003), and Prairie State Park (April 4 - 12-15 birds [J.Pat.Valentik] vs 13 males in 2004).

Grebe sightings appeared to be down this spring, possibly lulled into an early migration by the unseasonably warm weather near the end of February. Horned Grebes were difficult to find throughout much of the state with the highest single count being 11 birds on March 26 at the Farmington sewage lagoon (Bob Lewis) in St. Francis County. Eared Grebes were likewise difficult to find with only three observations of 1-3 birds in Northwestern counties (TR, Doris Fitchett, LL et al).

On April 10, Mike Thelen counted more than 1000 Double-Crested Cormorants at REDA in St. Charles co. which represents the highest spring count for Missouri. St. Louis County’s LCCL has become a good nesting location for American and Least Bittern. Mike Brady saw 7 Least Bitterns at this location on May 8, and there were sporadic reports of booming American Bitterns as well.

Lower numbers of Herons and Egrets were reported throughout the state this spring, especially in the drier areas of central and eastern Missouri. Sightings of note include a Tricolored Heron at Ten Mile Pond on April 30 (JPU, KM), an April 6 Little Blue Heron at SCNWR (Doug Willis) and a whopping 65 Black Crowned Herons from the same location on May 2 (TR). Although Cattle
Egrets have their Missouri strongholds in the Mississippi lowlands, this spring there were sightings in the north and northwest portions of the state. These encounters include April 18 and May 14 (10 birds) in Buchanan Co. (LL), early May at EBCA (BG), May 14 in Holt Co. (DAE et al), and May 22 at REDA in St. Charles Co.

Two Ibis species were reported this spring in Missouri. Single Glossy Ibis were located at SCNWR on April 30 (TR†, m.ob.), and on May 12 at Cooley lake CA in Clay Co. (Kyle Driggers). Three White-faced Ibis were reported at REDA on April 30 (CM) and later 4 were found in the same location (DR), while a single bird was located in Holt Co. on the NAMC (DAE et al). Tommie Rogers' 20 White-faced Ibis at Mound City, Holt Co. on May 23 was a high count this spring. (there are reports of >30 birds).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES

Black Vultures have long frequented Table Rock Lake in Taney County, and this spring 88 birds were counted at that location. Additional, more northern sightings for this species occurred in St. Genevieve Co. (2 birds on March 4 - JWE) and St. Louis Co. (May 4 at World Bird Sanctuary – Linda Tossing*). Osprey were known to be uncommon nesters in Missouri at the beginning of the 20th century, but had long since been extirpated as a nesting species. Their nesting status appears to be changing, and this spring Osprey nests were observed on April 10 near Jacksonville in Randolph Co, (Jenny Webb), on May 11 near the Harry S. Truman Reservoir (SK, LL), and at Stockton Lake in Dade Co. (Charley Burwick). Mississippi Kites also continue to expand their range away from the Missouri River as evidenced by sightings in Boone Co. (Chris Corben, PM), at Four Rivers CA in Vernon Co. on April 7 (Robert Fisher), in
ASM FALL MEETING 2005
CAMP CLOVER POINT
(AT THE BEAUTIFUL LAKE OF THE OZARKS)
SEPTEMBER 23-25

REGISTRATION
- $55.00 per-person: Includes registration, Camp Lodging for Friday and Saturday nights and all meals.
- $43.00 per-person: Includes registration, Camp Lodging for Friday and Saturday nights and four meals beginning noon Saturday.
- Meals only. $7.00 per meal plus $10.00 registration fee.
- Students: $25.00 per person, includes registration, camp lodging for Friday and Saturday nights and all meals.
- Children under age of 12 are free.
ACCOMMODATIONS

- Camp Clover Point cabins include: Bunk, Mattress, Shower, and Rest Rooms.
- You are responsible for your bedding, towels and toiletries.
- Motels, Hotels, and Resorts are available throughout the area. You are responsible for making your reservations, however; we are working with a number of motels in the area for special ASM discounts. These will be posted on Mobirds.

AGENDA

Friday, September 23
3:00 p.m. Registration begins
7:00 p.m. Dinner
7:45 p.m. Evening Program – David Plank renowned Missouri artist and life long friend of ASM will give a presentation entitled Field Notes: Bird Sketching and Documentation.

Saturday, September 24
7:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Gather in groups for field trips
11:00 a.m. Missouri Bird Records Committee meeting
(Location will be posted in registration area.)
12:00 p.m. Noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Bill Rowe Workshop—Bird ID and Vocalization
(Location will be posted in registration area.)
2:30 p.m. Afternoon field trips
2:30 p.m. ASM Board Meeting
(Location will be posted in registration area.)
6:00 p.m. Dinner

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING TO FOLLOW PROGRAM
Following the business meeting, there will be a large bonfire where we can all sit around and enjoy our favorite beverage and get to know one another as we talk about birds and birding.

Sunday, September 25
6:30 a.m. Reflection and Worship
7:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Sunday field trips. (What's your target bird for the day?)
12:00 p.m. Lunch followed by compiling of weekend birds.
WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Friday
Learn from the master at Friday evening's program as David Plank walks us through the process of sketching what you see followed by good field notes and documentation. Who better to help us understand the critical aspect of field sketches and documentation than one of Missouri's renown bird artists. This will be a program you will not want to miss.

Saturday
Start the weekend off by birding some of the Lake-of-the-Ozarks old favorites as well as new birding locations. State Park Savannah area, Bagnal Dam and surrounding area and wetland, Brumley Hollow, Ha Ha Tonka State Park (steep incline and many steps), Airport, camp grounds, Ozark Caverns, the Wheeler homestead, and other areas in the Park. Groups will organize at 8 am according to field trip interest, no sign up will be necessary.

After lunch Bill Rowe's presentation will complement his always entertaining and informative bird identification workshop with a corresponding vocalization workshop. Don't forget to get together with friends and fellow birders after the workshop and look for new and interesting places to bird.

The Saturday evening program is something special for all birders and conservationists. Clint Trammel, Managing Director for Pioneer Forest will give us an in-depth look into Leo A Drey and his vision of conservation as it applies to a sustainable forest business. Clint's presentation will center around a number of Missouri's premier tourist locations and excellent birding spots, including Pioneer Forest, Dillard Mill, Grand Gulf State Park, Clifty Creek Natural Bridge, Piney River Narrows, and Cave Springs. These are just a few of the properties owned by the LAD foundation and leased to the State of Missouri. This will be a multimedia presentation filled with beautiful pictures, maps, and graphs.

Following this presentation will be the annual ASM Business Meeting. **One point of discussion will be rotating the location of the annual fall meeting.

When we adjourn the business meeting we will all go outside (weather permitting) and sit around the large fire pit and enjoy the company of friends and fellow birders. (Don't forget to bring a camp chair and your favorite beverage as we hang out with other birders and enjoy a fun filled autumn evening.)
Sunday

- Activities begin with a worship service at 6:30 a.m.
- Breakfast will begin at 7:00 a.m.
- Field trips will begin at 8:00 a.m.
- Lunch will be at 12:00 p.m. After lunch, the birds seen over the weekend will be compiled.
- Have your cabins cleaned and be ready to go home by 2:30 p.m. PLEASE do your part in the clean-up activities!

RESERVATIONS

- Deadline for registration is Friday, September 16, 2005.
- Send registration form with check or money order to:
  The Audubon Society of Missouri, 2101 W. Broadway, Box 122, Columbia, MO 65203
- Make checks payable to The Audubon Society of Missouri.
- Questions? Please contact Mike Doyen, Vice-President-ASM at (573) 364-0020 or send email to: mdoyen@yahoo.com.

REFUND POLICY

- Full refund with cancellation before September 15.
- Refund requests must be made in writing by October 15, 2005 to Joyce Bathke, ASM Treasurer at the above address.
- After September 15, 2005 a partial refund will be given on a pro-rated basis from any excess funds left after all of our expenses have been paid.

REGISTRATION

NAME(S): ____________________________________________

STREET: __________________________________________

CITY/STATE/ZIP: ____________________________________

PHONE: ____________________________________________

EMAIL: ____________________________________________

1. Full registration $55.00 X ___ (No. of people) = $ __
2. Partial registration $43.00 X ___ (No. of people) = $ __
3. Registration and Meals Only:
   A. Meals $7.00 X ___ (No. of meals) X ___ (No. of people) = $ __
   B. Registration $10.00 X ___ (No. of people) = $ __
4. Students $25.00 X ___ (No. of people) = $ __

TOTAL = $ __

IV
Mound City on May 29 (TR), and with the May 30 sighting of 4 birds at Settle’s Ford CA in Cass Co. (KM). There were higher numbers of Bald Eagle nesting pairs in Missouri this year. Andy Forbes estimates the total number of nests to be in the range of 100-125. Northern Harriers were reported in two NAMC counties (Lincoln and Clay) this year, and nest with young (or evidence of nesting) was discovered in Livingston County near Posey (Myrna Carlton) and in Linn County (SK).

2005 has been a good year for nesting hawk species in the northwestern part of the state. Jack Hilsabeck reports that in his 40+ years of birding he has only seen one Cooper’s Hawk nest in northwestern Missouri, yet this year he found 3, including locations in Buchanan and Andrew counties. Red-shouldered hawks were also reported (with probable nesting) at Brickyard Hill State WA in Atchison County (TR, DAE). Kristi Mayo reported a Broad-winged Hawk nest on April 16 in Platte County, but the nest was abandoned by May 7. Two different Krider’s Red-tailed Hawks were reported in Missouri this spring on April 5 in Platte Co. (DW) and May 10 in a St. Louis city park (Ian Hunt), and a Harlan’s Red-tailed Hawk was seen near Bloomsdale in St. Genevieve Co on March 5 (JWE). There were a handful of Rough-legged Hawk sightings in western counties this spring, but the May 2 sighting at SCNWR (LL*) is very late and may be the latest date for this species in the spring. One rather late immature Golden Eagle was reported for this period in Lincoln Co on March 15 (SS).

Several Merlin sightings this spring were later than usual, with two early May sightings in the St. Louis area (JPU, Mick Richardson) and a record tying late bird on the Livingston Co. NAMC (SK et al).

Yellow Rails are not frequently reported in Missouri, but this spring, Tommie Rogers flushed one on April 25 at SCNWR, and then another on April 26 at SCNWR,
but in a different location far removed from the first.

Most reports of King rail and Virginia Rail were of single birds this spring, with Steve Kinder having a total of 4 to 5 Virginia Rails in Livingston Co in the first half of May. A few American Coots remained at or near the end of the season in Livingston Co. (SK) and Lincoln Co (SS), but it was unknown if breeding was attempted. Sandhill Crane sightings this spring covered both ends of the usual migration period with birds seen at SCNWR on March 9 (TR) and April 16 (LL), and at EBCA on April 14 (AF).

SHOREBIRDS

This spring, where habitat was managed and/or wet weather provided flooded fields, good variety and numbers of shorebirds were evident. Areas with dry conditions or too much water in lakes/rivers had very few areas to support migrating shorebirds.

A handful of early shorebird sightings were reported this spring in Missouri. On March 23, David Blevins found 5 Black-bellied Plovers in Greene County. Although not the earliest record for this species, it is certainly a notable sighting for which documentation is presently under review. Early non-record dates were also recorded from EBCA of a March 18 American Golden Plover (Chris Merkord) and a Spotted Sandpiper on March 17 at CCNWR (Donald Hays, Jim Jackson). A very early Dunlin visited REDA on March 26 (DB et al). This year 6 stilts were discovered in Mississippi County on April 10 at 10-mile Pond, and 2 birds were seen at Otter Slough CA in Stoddard Co. (DR). On the other end of the season, late (non-record) dates were put in for American Golden Plover on May 26 near LCCL (DR), and 3 Western Sandpipers on May 29 at TRW in Livingston Co. (SK).
Although few record high shorebird counts were observed this spring, there were several reports with sufficient numbers to be included here. Black Bellied Plover reports were all of single digit numbers, and there were no American Golden Plover sightings in excess of 80 birds (records for this species in spring exceed 2000 birds). Although less than half of the record number for the species, Larry Lade’s May 2 sighting of about 150 Semipalmated plovers was the largest gathering of these birds observed. On April 28 Paul Leeman spotted 68 Black-necked Stilts in the rice fields of Dunklin Co. Frank Durbin counted 1113 Lesser Yellowlegs at SCNWR in Holt Co. on May 3. This year’s NAMC contained several high counts for Spotted Sandpipers. The Atchison Co. NAMC saw 30 birds, and there were 23 on the Livingston Co. count, but a possible record-breaking 31 birds were recorded on the Buchanan Co. count. Ruddy Turnstones were reported in 3 sightings from central and eastern Missouri, with a high count of 30 at EBCA on May 19 by Chris Corben. Greater than 630 Short-billed Dowitchers were seen by Tommie Rogers at SCNWR in Holt Co. on May 3. Other high counts include 40 Sanderlings on May 20 at Four Rivers CA in Vernon Co. (LR), 96 Wilson’s Phalaropes on May 10 at SCNWR in Holt Co. (TR), and 260 Dunlin on April 28 in Dunklin Co. (PL).

Several rare shorebird sightings or encounters at unusual locations were reported this spring. Individual Piping Plovers (a rare transient in Missouri) were observed on April 30 near LCCL in St. Louis Co (Tom Bormann et al), and on May 1 and May 6 at SCNWR in Holt Co. (Doug Willis, TR, PL). A Black-necked Stilt (rare transient in the west) reported at TRW in Livingston Co. on May 7 (SK,Ted Rights) was the only bird of this species reported outside of southeastern Missouri. Groups of Willets (rare in east) were located at EBCA in Boone Co.
on April 27 (8 birds) and May 5 (15 birds) by Jean Leonati. A group of 12 were also seen at REDA in St. Charles Co. on April 27 (JPU). Four Whimbrels were observed at Schell-Osage CA in St. Clair Co. on May 14 (Lisa Berger), and a single bird was seen at REDA in St. Charles Co. on May 24 (JPU*). The most notable encounter with this species was Heather Clenin's on May 29 at EBCA in Boone Co. wherein she spotted a near-record 10 Whimbrels*. Both Godwit species were observed at locations across the state this season, and a photographed Western Sandpiper was located on the Boone Co. NAMC (PM, BJ, BG, AF*). On April 11, Tommie Rogers and others located a Ruff† (casual in spring) at SCNWR in Holt Co. Individual Red-necked Phalaropes were seen on May 12 in a flooded field in Holt Co. (Doug Willis), on May 14 at EBCA in Boone Co. (AF,BG,PM,BJ), and at REDA in St. Charles Co. on May 20-23 (DR, m.ob.). No reports were submitted this spring for Snowy Plover or Red Knot.

GULLS THROUGH OWLS

As is typical of the season, a handful of gulls was reported this spring. Those submitted included Franklin’s Gull (seen in low numbers in the east), Bonaparte’s Gull, and Herring Gull in normal numbers and range. A Lesser Black-backed Gull† was photographed and documented by Kristi Mayo at Smithville Lake in Clay Co. on March 4. This species is considered accidental away from the Mississippi River in Missouri. Although all normally occurring tern species were reported, they were reported in lower numbers in central and eastern Missouri. An early Common Tern visited SCNWR in Holt Co. on May 5 (BF), and there were two sightings of Least Terns far from the Mississippi river at Medicine Creek Wetland in Livingston Co. on May 28 (SK), and at Rosecrans Airport in Buchanan Co. on May 29 (JH).
Easterla and others tallied 1765 Black Terns on the May 14 Holt Co. NAMC.

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to expand their nesting locations in Missouri. This spring they were reported in Boone Co. (PM), Atchison Co (TR), St. Louis City, and St. Francis County in addition to those areas where they have been previously reported. A single White-winged Dove† (casual in spring) was reported by Jim Fossard on May 3 in a Springfield backyard. Documentation and a photo are under review by the MBRC.

Greater Roadrunner, a rare resident in southwest Missouri, was seen this spring in Taney/Ozark (Doug Willis and Kyle Driggers), Laclede Co. (Lester Pannell), and Pulaski Co. (Thomas Glueck and Kenton Lohraff).

Barn Owl (rare permanent resident) locations in Missouri seem to be on the rise. Possibly because these birds are beginning to recover some of their previous territories, but also possibly because of increased interest in finding them. In any event, 5 different birds were reported this spring. These sightings, representing a state-wide distribution, were in Jasper Co. (Doug Willis), Perry Co. (JWE), Stoddard Co. (KM,JPU), Greene Co. (Lisa Berger), and Holt Co. (DAE). A Burrowing Owl † (casual in the west) was spotted at SCNWR in Holt Co. by TR and others on April 18 in a burned out field using a badger hole. This bird was photographed and documented. On April 19, Larry Lade saw a Burrowing Owl (likely to be the same bird) sitting on a mound in a grassy area near the entrance to SCNWR. Non-breeding Short-eared Owls normally leave Missouri by early April, but Jim Zellmer found a pair of birds at Hi Lonesome Prairie CA in Benton Co. on April 30. It will be interesting to see if these birds are interested in nesting or were just lingering. No Long-eared or Northern Saw Whet Owls were reported during this period.
GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS, KINGFISHERS, AND WOODPECKERS

Spring of 2005 generally saw low numbers of goatsuckers in eastern and central Missouri, but more than 50 Common Nighthawks were seen swooping over Riverlands Way at REDA on May 13 (CM, JM). Although several previously reliable Chuck-Wills-Widow haunts in east Central Missouri fell prey to urban expansion but Terry McNeely reported 9 Chucks (rare in northern Missouri) on May 14 in west Livingston Co., and 14 were found on April 27 in Henry co. (Doug Willis). Whip-Poor-Wills were noticed early in a number of Missouri locations this year. Myrna Carlton had her first of the year on April 9 in Livingston Co. This was reported to be the earliest date for this species in the Chillicothe area. High numbers included 12 birds near St. Genevieve on April 17 (JWE), and 17 on April 27 in Henry County (Doug Willis).

Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds appeared in expected numbers this spring with the earliest reported sighting being that of Evelyln Ford, who's Ozark County sighting on April 4 beat her previous early date by 2 days.

There were few surprises in the timing and distribution of nesting woodpecker species in Missouri this spring. Eight Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found on the Chubb trail on March 30 in St. Louis County by Mike Brady.

FLYCATCHERS, VIREOS, JAYS AND CROWS

The spring movement of Empidonax flycatchers and peewees into Central Missouri may have been delayed by cooler than normal temperatures at the end of April into early May. Beginning about May 5 passerines responded to warmer winds from the south with a large push into the area. Early May sightings of individual Olive-sided
Flycatchers were evenly distributed across the state. Yellow-Bellied Flycatchers were well represented in Boone County with 3 birds at Grindstone park (PM) on May 28 and 5 at Rockbridge SP on May 30 (representing the high single day count in Missouri) (PM), and 3 more in St. Louis at Tower Grove Park on May 31 (JWE). Four Alder Flycatchers were found on May 14 in St. Charles County at Busch and Weldon Springs CA (Dick Coles et al, CM, JM), while 14 were tallied by a central Missouri group in only three locations (PM, BJ, BG, AF) tying the high count for a single day in Missouri. Four Willow Flycatchers were seen on May 28 at Grindstone Park in Boone Co (PM). Western Kingbirds were seen in good numbers in the west, returning to previous nesting locations. Notable among the reported sightings of this species was 6 birds near the St. Louis Riverfront on May 22 (JWE). High numbers of Eastern Kingbirds were reported with this year's NAMC data including 142 birds in Buchanan County (LL), and more than 90 in Holt County (DAE).

Two pair of nesting Bell's Vireos were discovered at REDA by Dave Rogles. These are the first known nesters at this site. Steve Kinder's report of 13 Bell's Vireos at TRW represents an area high count. Several Philadelphia Vireos were reported this year during their mid-May peak, with a late May 28 bird being seen at Grindstone Park in Boone County (PM).

Several St. Louis birders have noted an increase in Fish Crow sightings this spring. Westward range expansion of this species is apparent with sightings of 2 at Wah-Sha-She Prairie in Jasper co (3/28—JWE) and one at Schell-Osage CA (BF) in St. Clair co.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Early arrivals of Tree Swallows in Missouri occurred
in late February this year, and a high count of 1252 birds was reported in Holt co. on May 14 (DAE). All Missouri swallow species arrived at usual times this spring and were well established by NAMC day as evidenced by counts of 2000+ Bank Swallows, 195 Cliff swallows, and 399 Barn Swallows on the Holt County count (DAE).

There was an increase in Bewick’s Wren sightings in east central [St. Louis March 12 (MB) and April 7 (JPU)], northwest [April 15, Lake Contrary (LL)] and north central [April 10 at Thomas Hill reservoir (Patrick Harrison) and April 12 at EBCA (Shawn Pruett)] Missouri this spring. Although multiple birders reported lower numbers of Winter Wrens and Marsh Wrens this spring, Mark Robbins still managed to find a record high 11 Winter Wrens at Roaring River SP in Barry co on March 24.

Thrush numbers played an interesting role in the spring migration through Missouri in 2005. Several birders thought they heard greater numbers of Veery this spring in eastern Missouri, but their numbers were nothing like those reported for Swainson’s thrush this year. Unusually high numbers for this species included 25+ birds on May 8 in Creve Coeur (JPU, Chris Brown), 35+ on April 30 at Big Oak Tree SP (JPU, KM), and more than 110 birds (state high record) on May 13 in Holt County in preparation for NAMC day (DAE). Notable late migrating thrush sightings (both at St. Louis’ Tower Grove Park) included 1 Veery on May 22 (JWE), and a Hermit thrush on May 7 (BR). Steve Kinder’s May 14 group of 57 Gray Catbirds at Fountain Grove CA in Linn and Livingston counties is a high count for this species in spring.

Notable flocks of American Pipits were reported this spring at Four Rivers CA (50 birds on April 30 – BF), and Wah-Sha-She Prairie (125 birds = high seasonal
A late American Pipet (possibly state late record) was seen on May 14 on the Boone County NMBC (PM, BJ, BG, AF) – documentation in review. Steve Kinder saw three Sprague’s Pipits in Livingston County on May 7. Although this species is rarely found during spring migration in western Missouri, the May 3 Sprague’s Pipit found by Steve Mitten along the Jones-Confluence Point road (St. Charles County) is only the 2nd record for eastern Missouri.

**WARBLERS AND TANAGERS**

There were a number of early returns this year, with a few record dates and many non-records that were still early. Following the February return of Pine warblers to the St. Louis area, they were located in a number of “new” locations this year. Four Pine warblers were seen at Roaring River SP on March 24, and a group of 40 more at Mill Creek Valley (near Cape Girardeau) on April 9 (Mike Doyen). Jim Ziebol saw an Orange-crowned Warbler on March 28 at St. Louis’ Tower Grove Park (an early migrant date). An early Northern Parula was also reported along St. Louis County’s Chubb trail (Ian Hunt) on March 31. Two additional early sightings reported from the St. Louis area included Mike Zeloski’s April 2 Black-throated Green Warbler seen at Tyson Research Center near Eureka, and a March 19 Louisiana Waterthrush at Tower Grove Park (DB). On April 2, a float down the Current river (Shannon/Dent counties) netted 36 Louisiana Warblers along the way for Edge Wade and Susan Hazelwood. An early Scarlet Tanager was located at St. Louis’ Tower Grove Park (DB) on April 10 making it a full week earlier than the early date shown in “Birds of Missouri”.

High numbers of warbler species were reported on several of the May 14 North American Migratory Counts.
this spring. Many observers commented about high Tennessee Warbler numbers including 132 birds on the count in Lincoln County (Bruce Schuette, et al) and a whopping 258 Tennessee’s on the count in Livingston County (SK). David Easterla reported a record 24 American Redstarts on the NAMC count in Holt County. Common Yellowthroats were certainly common this year with 61 birds in Lincoln co. (Bruce Schuette, et al), and 105 birds seen on the Livingston County count. Additional notable NAMC numbers include 33 Yellow-rumped Warblers in Buchanan County, and several high number counts for Yellow Warblers (Holt co.-52, Livingston co.-79, Buchanan co.-61, and Clay co.-52).

Several late migration (non-record) warbler sightings were also made this spring. Sightings of Tennessee Warbler at Settle’s Ford CA (Cass co) on May 30 (KM), Blackburnian Warbler in St. Louis on May 25 (Margy Terpstra), Palm Warblers on May 14 in Holt co (DAE) and Livingston County (SK), Mourning Warblers in Holt co. on May 26 (TR) Boone Co on May 28 (PM) and St. Louis co on May 30 (JWE), and a May 29 Canada Warbler in Boone Co. (PM) were all a bit late but within the normal migration range.

Other warbler sightings of note this spring include Black-throated Blue Warblers in St. Louis (Margy Terpstra, SD, Connie Allwood) and Jackson (Doug Willis) counties, and a Clay County Prairie Warbler (KM) (accidental in northwest MO). A May 27 Prothonotary Warbler was a somewhat unusual find in Agency, Missouri in Buchanan Co. (JH), as was a May 10 Hooded Warbler at Watkins Mill SP in Clay Co. (Steve Dillinger). This spring there were several reports of individual Connecticut Warblers, most of which appeared to be about 1-2 weeks earlier than usual. Sightings of this species included April 30 Greer Springs Campground, Oregon Co. (JPU, KM), May 12 at Shaw Nature Reserve, Franklin
Co. (Wally George) and in Kansas City, Jackson Co. (Mick McHugh), May 14 sightings at Cuivre River SP in Lincoln Co (Stephen Mitten†) and south of Easley in Boone Co. (Chris Corben), May 15 at Watkins Mill SP in Clay Co. (Steve Dillinger), May 18 Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City (DR), May 21 Castlewood SP, St. Louis Co. (Mike Brady, Rad Widmer), May 22 Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City (JWE), and May 29 at Emmenegger Park in St. Louis Co. (BR).

SPARROWS THROUGH LONGSPURS

This spring, sightings of Spotted Towhee were infrequent and of individual birds. A single Bachman's Sparrow was reported on May 24 (PM) on the Ozark underground lab property in Taney Co. Tommie Rogers and Evonne Wright found record numbers of 133 Chipping sparrows and 21 Clay-colored sparrows on the May 12 Atchison co NAMC. Lark sparrows were not to be excluded from record numbers on NAMC count day as Steve Kinder found 60 in Livingston co. There were few reports of LeConte's Sparrows this season, but Tommie Rogers observed a late singing LeConte's on May 3 at SCNWR in Holt Co. There were only two reports of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows (a rare transient) and both are from BK Leach CA in Lincoln Co.

Scott Schuette found one bird on May 25 and another on May 29 in a completely different part of the sprawling conservation area. Both dates are later than the May 24 date listed in Birds of Missouri. Late non-record dates were reported for Swamp Sparrow (May 14 at Fountain Grove CA – SK), 3 White-throated Sparrows on the Atchison Co. NAMC, and White-crowned Sparrow (May 20 - REDA - DR; May 27 – Boone Co – BJ). Harris Sparrow (common in west, rare in east) sightings appear to be in the increase in the eastern portions of Missouri. This
spring, there were sightings on March 12 and May 7 from WS in St. Charles Co. (JPU), 2 birds on March 26 and April 17 at LCCL in St. Louis Co. (DB, Mike Brady respectively), March 31 in St. Genevieve Co. (JWE), and April 16 and May 1 at Tower Grove Park in St. Louis City (NB). An “Oregon” sub-species Dark-eyed Junco was reported on March 19 at Greensfelder County Park in St. Louis Co. (Jim Ziebol, Yvonne Homeyer).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES

Good numbers of Blue Grosbeaks were found in most reporting areas this spring. This spring a pair of Lazuli Bunting† (casual in western Missouri) repeatedly visited the feeders at a Fairfax residence in Atchison Co. from May 9 through May 21. One or both of these birds were seen by many and documentation for this sighting is presently circulating through the MBRC. Although Painted Buntings are listed as casual for spring in eastern Missouri, at least one bird has been seen for the past 4 years at the Katy trail access in WSCA (St. Charles Co.). This year, in addition to this bird, a female Painted Bunting was observed on May 7 (JWE*) at Marais Temps Clair at the other end of St. Charles Co. Five Painted Buntings were observed on the “Bray Property” of the Ozark underground Lab on May 24 (PM, John Besser, Tom Aley, Ron Desch). There were two Western Meadowlark sightings in eastern Missouri: March 15 at Prairie Slough CA in Lincoln Co. (SS), and March 26 in a farmyard in St. Charles Co. (BR).

Yellow-headed Blackbird is listed as a rare transient outside of the northwestern corner of Missouri. This year there were sightings of up to 2 at the Jones-Confluence SP in St. Charles Co (Connie Alwood, JWE, JM) from April 27 through April 30. Patrick Harrison observed three birds in Shelby County on April 28, and 12 were
located in Barry Co. (NR) on April 27-28. One additional sighting of Yellow-headed Blackbirds was a group of 6 birds at EBCA in Boone Co. on May 3. (Chris Corben). Two groups of greater than 20 Rusty Blackbirds were observed by JPU on March 24 at Ten-mile pond CA in Mississippi Co. and at Otter Slough in Stoddard Co. on the same day.

Great-tailed Grackles were noted in several locations this spring. On April 3, 4 birds were reported in St. Charles Co. (JPU) where greater than 100 birds were found on Jan 1. There were many reports of Great-tailed Grackles from EBCA in Boone Co. this year while there were few seen in the last few summers (BG). Chris Brown had 5 birds on April 7 in Clinton Co. On May 12 Tommie Rogers counted 48 Baltimore Orioles in Atchison Co. which may be a record number for this season.

The winter invasion of Pine Siskins extended somewhat into spring in eastern and northwestern Missouri with reports of birds remaining at feeders and in stands of pines to near the end of the season. Two reports of somewhat late birds are from May 24 in Jefferson Co. (Wally George), and May 29 in Holt County (TR).

The editors also received the following undocumented reports. If documentation is submitted and accepted by the MBRC, that fact will be noted in a subsequent report. Three Black-bellied Whistling Ducks*, May 7, Nevada, Vernon Co.; Ruffed Grouse*, May 11, Big Creek CA, Adair Co.; Anhinga*, April 24, Binder Lake, Jefferson Co.; Swainson's Hawk*, March 3, SCNWR, Holt Co. Ten Brown Creepers*, May 30, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City; Twelve Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers*, March 30, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City
Cited Contributors:
AF – Andrew Forbes
BF – Bob Fisher
BG – Bill Goodge
BJ – Brad Jacobs
BR – Bill Rowe
CM – Charlene Malone
DAE – David A Easterla
DB – David Becher
DR – David Rogles
ES – Eric Schuette
JH – Jack Hilsabeck
JM – Jim Malone
JPU – Joshua P. Uffman
JWE – Joseph W. Eades
KM – Kristi Mayo
LH – Lawrence Herbert
LL – Larry Lade
LR – Larry Rizzo
MR – Mark Robbins
NB – Nick Barber
NR - Nancy Rochovansky
PH - Patrick Harrison
PL – Paul Lehman
PM – Paul McKenzie
SK – Steve Kinder
SS – Scott Schuette
TR - Tommie Rogers
Awards Committee:
The ASM Executive Committee

Brochure Committee:
Patrick Harrison and Jim Zellmer, Co-Chair

Conservation Partnership Projects:
Forest Hills Ruffed Grouse Habitat Project: Edge Wade, representative
Northeast Mo Prairie Restoration Project: Anne Downing, representative
Truman Lake Wetlands Restoration Project: Jerry Wade, representative

Executive Committee:
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