



THE BLUEBIRD

The voice of MBS since 1934

**March 2022
Volume 89, No. 1**



***The Missouri Birding Society
Missouri's Ornithological Society Since 1901***

THE MISSOURI BIRDING SOCIETY

Officers

Dana Ripper*+, President (2021);
PO Box 16, Arrow Rock, MO 65320
(660) 837-3888
dana.ripper@hotmail.com

Edge Wade*+, Vice President (2021)
3105 Blackberry Lane., Columbia, MO
65201, (573)268-3714
edgew@mchsi.com

Phil Wire*+, Secretary (2020)
1245 Boone St., Troy, MO 63379-2471
(314) 960-0370
phw222@gmail.com

Tommy Goodwin*+, Treasurer
(2020); 321 Blanche Dr., St. Charles,
MO 63303; (417) 241-9189
tjgbp7@mst.edu

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Springfield (573) 776-0901

Chairs

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3906 Grace Ellen Dr.
Columbia, MO 65202
(573) 474-4510

Greg Leonard, Membership
2101 W. Broadway, PMB 122
Columbia, MO 65203-1261
egreg2@yahoo.com

+ Board Position

* Executive Committee Member

**Deceased

THE BLUEBIRD

The Bluebird Editor:

Allen Gathman*+, PO Box 1, Pocahontas, MO 63779, (573)
579-5464, agathman@gmail.com

Christmas Bird Count Compiler:

Kendell Loyd, 1730 E Valley Watermill, Apt D 108, Springfield, MO 65803,
(573) 776-0901, kloyd892@gmail.com

Communication Services:

Kevin Wehner, eNews editor

Susan Hazelwood and David Scheu, Co-owners Listserve,
mobirds-l-request@po.missouri.edu

MBS Scholarship Committee:

Sue Gustafson, Chair, 429 Bellevue Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119
(314) 882-8006, smgustafson@juno.com

MO Bird Records Committee:

Mary Nemecek+—**Chair**, 7807 N Merrimac Ct, Kansas City, MO 64151
(816) 210-5148, msnemecek@aol.com

Bill Rowe—**Secretary**, 7414 Kenrick Valley Drive, St Louis, MO 63119-
5726 (314) 962-0544, rowemb45@gmail.com

Seasonal Survey Editors:

Spring: Lisa Berger, 1947 South Kings Avenue, Springfield, MO 65807-
2733, (417) 860-9108, goshawk@att.net

Summer: Allen Gathman, PO Box 1, Pocahontas, MO 63779, (573) 579-
5464; agathman@gmail.com

Fall: Mary Nemecek, 7807 N. Merimac Ct, Kansas City MO 64151, (816)
210-5148; msnemecek@aol.com

Winter: Pete Monacell, 2324 West Main Street, Jefferson City MO 65109,
(573) 289-8116; plmonacell@ccis.edu

*** Executive Committee Member**

+ Board Position

Deadlines for submission of material for publication in *The Bluebird*

Manuscripts for *The Bluebird*—to the editor by:

Feb. 1 for March issue; May 1 for June issue;

Aug. 1 for Sept. issue; Nov. 1 for Dec. issue

Manuscripts submitted for peer review may be published in a subsequent issue.

Deadlines for submissions to the Seasonal Survey Editors

Winter (Dec. 1-Feb. 28)—to Pete Monacell by Mar. 10

Spring (Mar. 1-May 31)—to Lisa Berger by June 10

Summer (June 1-July. 31)—to Allen Gathman by Aug 10

Fall (Aug. 1-Nov. 30)—to Mary Nemecek by Dec. 10

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Front Cover— Grasshopper Sparrow, Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area,
Boone Co. 18 Jan 2022. Photo Paul McKenzie

Peer-reviewed articles in The Bluebird are noted by a header.
Species mentioned in articles not so designated may not have been subject to review.

THE BLUEBIRD is published quarterly by The Missouri Birding Society. The submission of articles, photographs, and artwork is welcomed and encouraged. The views and opinions expressed in this journal are those of each contributing writer and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of The Missouri Birding Society or its officers, Board of Directors, or editors. Send address corrections to MBS, 2101 W. Broadway, PMB 122, Columbia, MO 65203-1261.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER—DANA RIPPER



Dear MBS members,

I am very pleased to announce that in the past several weeks, the Missouri Birding Society has received extraordinarily generous donations from the Hecker Family Foundation of St. Louis and Mr. David Becher, also of St. Louis. MBS also received a bequest from the

estate of Mr. Howard John, which will disperse \$1000.00 each year to the organization beginning in 2023. Mr. John's passing was extremely unfortunate, and he will be missed by many Missouri birders and MBS members. These gifts to MBS were all unrestricted and will support the organization's mission of bird conservation, education, and enjoyment.

As spring draws near, there are a few changes coming to MBS – including our first in-person meeting in two years! Though I'll see you all at the Spring Meeting, I will be stepping away as MBS President; Vice President Edge Wade will be serving as interim President until such time as suitable candidates can be found (please see Edge's note below). It has been a delight to serve with the MBS leadership, particularly Edge herself, and to get to know more about the inner workings of this excellent organization. At this time, it has become necessary that I devote full attention to the organization that I co-founded (the Missouri River Bird Observatory, a.k.a. MRBO). MRBO and MBS will continue partnering on birding events and conservation efforts on behalf of Missouri's birds and the organizations' members. Please consider serving, or nominating someone to serve, on the MBS Board or in the capacity of President or Vice President. MBS is a strong entity with a long history in Missouri and exceptional people serving in leadership roles. As with most organizations, though, we can always use more dedicated folks willing to serve!

Dana Ripper

As Dana steps away from her active role as president, we should note that MBS continues its 120 years of involving, serving, and

representing Missouri birders as a multifaceted, all-volunteer organization.

What's in the works:

The conservation partnership program, with CACHE/ SPARKS as the base, has made four funding agreements possible recently. See <https://mobirds.org/Conservation/> for brief descriptions of our participation in projects with U.S. Fish and Wildlife, a MOTUS tower fund challenge, the Green Leadership Academy (GLADE) and the Missouri River Relief summer program.

Zoom-based workshops are being scheduled. Watch for announcements on the Mobirds listserv and in MBS eNews.

Due to the work of Steve Paes, we will be getting together for the MBS Spring Meeting at Bunker Hill Retreat, Shannon County, on the banks of the Jacks Fork River. Registration is open as of March 1. See the MBS website for details.

Board members Cindy Bridges, Michael O'Keefe, Mike Grant, and Tommy Goodwin are serving as a nominating committee to determine the slate for President and Vice President for the September 2022 election. Contact any one of them to volunteer for one of the offices or suggest someone to serve.

Edge Wade

MBS POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR NON-RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

The by-laws specify that notices of delinquency shall be sent within sixty (60) days after the start of the membership year (that is, on or before March 1). Everyone delinquent in membership renewal, i.e., hasn't paid dues for this membership year, will have received two delinquency notices by now.

You can help by reminding fellow MBS members to send in their dues. **Those who have not paid their dues will be removed from membership the first week of April.**

To renew online, go to MBS's website, www.mobirds.org/ASM/Membership.aspx or use the membership renewal form at the back of any recent *Bluebird*.

Your membership is important. Membership dues support MBS's mission of conservation and education, and the services to enhance your birding experience in Missouri.

If you have any questions or problems with the renewal process, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Greg Leonard
Membership Chair
Missouri Birding Society
2101 W. Broadway, PMB 122
Columbia, MO 65203-1261
egreg2@yahoo.com
(573) 443-8263

Subscribe to the MOBIRDS Listserv!

If you are curious about what birds are being seen around Missouri, have a question about a bird, enjoy sharing your birding experiences, want to know what field trips are coming up, want to meet other birders online, the MBS sponsored MOBIRDS listserv is for you.

Join the active Missouri birding community by subscribing.

Subscribe here:

<https://po.missouri.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=MOBIRDS-L&A=1>

Please note that MBS members are NOT automatically subscribed to the listserv. You must subscribe yourself by going to the link above.

Also, all listserv posts are retained in a searchable archive:

<https://po.missouri.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=MOBIRDS-L>

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MBS MEMBERS!

Greg Leonard

Remember, new members are our future. If a new member lives near you, say, “Howdy and welcome to MBS.” In addition, recruit another new member. **Welcome to these 15 new MBS members in the 1st quarter of 2022!**

**Tim Kahmann
Kathleen Smith
Earl Morris
Chad Gardner
Frank Thompson
Paz G
LaDonna Sears
Cory Gregory
Pat & Rich Glessner
Raymond Dake
Kathy Gaskill
Ron Mayberry
Jack Corrigan
Frank Grady
Denise Laughlin**

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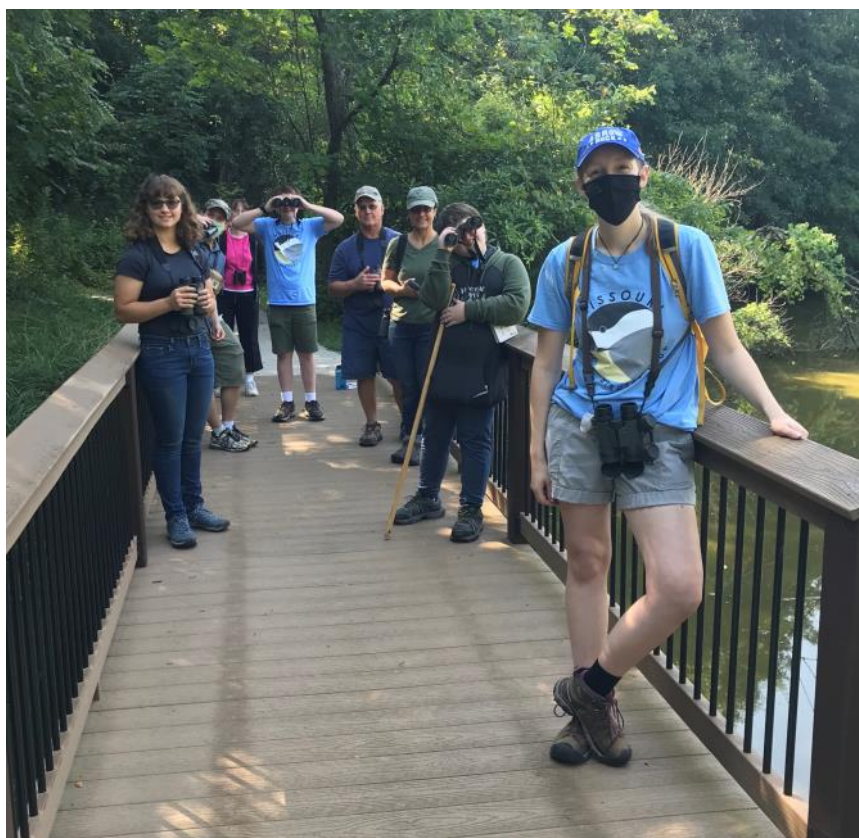
Missouri Young Birders Club Update

Paige Witek, MYBC State Coordinator

This past year has marked tremendous growth for the Missouri Young Birders Club (MYBC) and its mission to bring together young people to enjoy, experience, and conserve Missouri's birds and other wildlife. At the start of the pandemic, back in spring of 2020, the club could no longer meet in person. We started to get together virtually for what we called "Monday Meet -Ups". These meetings started as a way to stay connected during the pandemic but grew into a way for members to connect from all over the state. This didn't happen before when we mostly held in-person field trips. Our members can hear from each other what birds are being seen across Missouri and connect even though they are far away.

During our monthly meetings we discuss a variety of topics related to birds and play games to get to know one another. Recently our meetings have included a quick bird identification challenge using blurry photos of birds that I have taken. Some photos are more challenging than others. In 2021, we had some great guest presenters join us virtually. Erik Ost, the Field Project Leader for the Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO), joined to answer questions about being a field biologist. Kelly Koch with Roaring River State Park joined to teach us about bird nests and lead an activity. Evelyn Kirtley, a previous MRBO education intern, presented "All About Parrots". In other meetings we discussed birding gear, bird songs, warblers and vireos, What is MRBO?, bird calls, bird migration, owls, and fun bird facts. We also hosted a webinar about the Great Backyard Bird Count and how to get involved. The recording of the webinar is available on the website. Our most successful meetings were the ones in which members got to share what they already know with each other. In total, we held 14 virtual events in 2021.

In July, in addition to our virtual meet ups, we started meeting for outdoor field trips again. Before the end of the year, we were able to hold two field trips in each chapter region. In the Greater St. Louis Chapter region, we visited Peers Prairie in partnership with



Magnificent Missouri, and Forest Park in partnership with Forest Park Forever. At Peers Prairie we learned about the importance of the prairie ecosystem, heard a lot of Dickcissels, and saw a flock of Cliff Swallows, as well as a Warbling Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, and Purple Martins flying overhead. At Forest Park, one member dressed up like a hummingbird, which was a lot of fun. Species highlights included Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Wood Duck, Belted Kingfisher, and LOTS of blackbirds. In the Greater Kansas City Chapter region, we visited Burr Oak Woods Nature Center and Conservation Area and Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, both in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation. At Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area, we saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher, rarely seen in mid-August when we visited. Other species highlights included a Mississippi Kite, many vocalizations, and a sighting of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. At the Discovery Center, we had a bit of trouble identifying warblers, but still saw quite a few. Highlights included a Canada

Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Brown Thrashers, lots of Northern Flickers, and a funky looking Northern Mockingbird. In the Central Chapter region, we visited Knob Noster State Park and Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, both in partnership with Missouri State Parks. At Knob Noster State Park, we had a troop of Girl Scouts join us and the main highlight of the trip was seeing three beavers in the lake. At Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, we got to learn about some of the park's history through a presentation by Park Interpreter, Roxie Campbell. Everyone also got great looks at some of our winter favorites including the Brown Creeper. Overall, the field trips were a great way for kids with similar interests to socialize in a safe environment. We had a new member sign up at almost every event!



Currently, the Missouri Young Birders Club has about 24 active members that participate regularly in events. In 2021, we gained 10 new members, about a 42% increase. This year, we had over 64 youth individuals (ages 8-17) participate in events. We also had the support of over 25 adults and mentors. The club growth this year would not have been possible without the help of our adult chapter

leaders Sara Scheil, Tammy Maples, and Kelly Smith. I also want to thank the MDC staff, the state park staff, Forest Park Forever, Magnificent Missouri, and my fellow MRBO staff who helped make the events possible. Lastly, I would like to extend a thanks to all the parents, grandparents, and guardians who help our young birders attend our events. Thank you! You can always learn more about what the Missouri Young Birders Club is up to and how to get involved by visiting our website, moyoungbirders.org.

How to Get Involved

Become a Regional Chapter Leader to assist in planning of events. We are particularly looking for people in the Central Missouri and Springfield area.

Join a virtual meeting as a guest presenter! You can do a short presentation on any topic related to birds or host a discussion.

Assist with leading field trips as a bird guide.

To get involved in any of the above activities, please email Paige Witek at paige.witek@mrbo.org. You can also donate to the MYBC through the Missouri River Bird Observatory [online store](#).



Dove in Winter Storm

Edge Wade

Ashes of roses, mauve:
Mourning dove breast.
She stood feathers fluffed
Beneath the feeder
In the deepening snow,
The freeze-attached feather
Trailing her tail
An added burden.
Blowing snow vexed her eyes.
She blinked, then held them closed.
The powder blue lids and the mauve
Her subtle additions to
The gray and black against
The relentless, enveloping white.
She slept, enduring.

Motus Update for Missouri, the Midwest, and Neotropics

Sarah Kendrick and Amanda Heltzel

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System (Motus) is a collaborative research network that uses arrays of automated radio telemetry receivers to study movements of small animals like birds, bats, and even large insects. When a Motus-tagged animal passes within range of any of the nearly 1,300 Motus receivers in the world, the signal of the tag is detected and transmitted to the Motus database via the cell network or internet connection. This collaborative array of receivers across the hemisphere allows researchers to learn more about migration timing, stop-over sites, and wintering locations faster and over broader scales to target conservation efforts and habitat management for some of our most rapidly declining bird species that need targeted conservation through their full annual cycle.



Motus receiver antenna
Photo Mike Wells, USFWS

In 2017, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) began working to broaden the Motus network across the state and later, the Midwest. Since then, MDC and partners have deployed 19 receivers across the state of Missouri. Missouri's approach to Motus receiver station placement has been to build two east-west latitudinal arrays ("digital fences") of stations with detection diameters as close as possible to maximize detection of Motus-tagged animals as they migrate north-south through the state. The two Missouri arrays have been placed in separate ecoregions of the state in grassland and hardwood forest systems. The northern array lies across the eastern Tallgrass Prairie Bird Conservation Region of the state (generally along U.S. Hwy 36) and the southern array through the Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation Region (generally along U.S. Hwy 60). The next statewide goal for station placement is along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

Missouri's first Motus station was placed in October 2018 at MDC Headquarters. This station was intended to test the functionality of Motus technology as a pilot before expanding Missouri's Motus network more broadly. In 2019, MDC and partners were awarded a USFWS Region 3 Migratory Birds grant, which funded 14 new stations in Missouri, Illinois, and Guatemala: 4 stations in the



Locations of active Motus receivers worldwide
Motus.org

southern Missouri “digital fence,” 4 stations across Illinois placed by Illinois Natural History Survey, and 4 stations in Guatemala placed in Guatemala by American Bird Conservancy, FUNDAECO, and Proyecto Cerulea. Meanwhile, MDC had budgeted for over 10 more stations and Burroughs Audubon Society, Greater Ozarks Audubon Society, Missouri Birding Society, and generous individuals were donating funds to a Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF) Motus account for placement of even more stations! By January 2020, we had deployed 8 additional Motus stations in Missouri’s southern “digital fence” and by October, 7 more in the northern fence.

During this whirlwind of Motus activity in 2020, MDC and 9 other agency and organization partners were awarded a USFWS Competitive State Wildlife Grant (CSWG). This CSWG has funded the purchase and placement of 59 Motus stations across 8 Midwest states (IA, IN, IL, OH, MI, MN, MO, WI) and 3 countries in the Neotropics (Mexico, Costa Rica, and Colombia), and the grant supports 3 Motus-tagging research projects. The Motus-tagging research projects funded by the grant include a kestrel-tagging



Cerulean Warbler with Motus tag
Photo: Proyecto Cerulea/ Cerulea.org

project by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Golden-winged Warbler female tracking in Wisconsin by the University of Maine, and Motus-tracking of Golden-winged Warblers and Wood Thrush during this coming spring 2022 migration by MDC and Colombian partner SELVA.

The CSWG funds the addition of 6 Motus stations to the Missouri landscape in 2022. With the addition of these 6 CSWG-funded stations, 4 additional MDC-funded stations, and 2 more from MCHF donations, Missouri will have 32 total active Motus stations by the end of 2022. One of the MCHF stations was placed at the Audubon Center at Riverlands and funded by a Cathleen Creley Memorial Fund Conservation Grant; the second was placed in Columbia at the Waters-Moss Memorial Wildlife Area and was funded by Columbia Audubon Society in memory of Brad Jacobs.

Current locations of Missouri Motus stations include Jefferson City, East Prairie, Hunter, Eminence, Springfield, Neosho, Joplin, Jenkins, Highlandville, St. Joseph, Plattsburg, Coloma, Purdin, College Mound, Hunnewell, Saverton, Columbia, St. Louis (managed by St. Louis Zoo), and West Alton (managed by Audubon Center at Riverlands).

Since 2018, Missouri Motus stations have logged 101 total detections, representing 16 species of bird and 1 species of bat. Animals detected by Missouri Motus stations were deployed by 19 different research projects across the western hemisphere from Canada to Argentina.

Several notable detections have been recorded by Missouri Motus stations. Many bird species detected by Missouri Motus stations were included on the Continental Watchlist (Partners in Flight) and listed as either common birds in steep decline or “D” Yellow Watch List (declining populations). These species included American Tree Sparrow, Black Tern, Common Nighthawk, Common Tern, Rusty Blackbird, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Semipalmated Sandpiper. Also noteworthy is that 38% of birds detected by Missouri Motus stations were detected at more than one station. One especially interesting multi-detection was a Swainson’s Thrush tagged by Intermountain West Collaborative/University of Montana. This bird has been detected twice in Missouri with detections over a year apart and at 2 separate stations. Finally, it is worth mentioning that 4 Motus research projects have over 10 detections of tags at Missouri Motus stations. These projects include American Kestrel Research by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (a project

supported by our 2020 CSWG grant), Black Tern Dispersal in Saskatchewan, Intermountain West Collaborative /University of Montana birds, and British Columbia Interior Thrushes.

The growth of the Motus network in Missouri over the past 5 years has been tremendous and exciting! To learn more about Motus and explore projects, tags, and receiver data, check out [Motus.org](https://www.motus.org). To keep up to data with the latest Motus news in the Midwest, check out MidwestMigrationNetwork.org. Also check out *Motus: Primer and Progress in Missouri, the Midwest, and Neotropics* – a recorded webinar by Sarah Kendrick: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-EaQOCCP5w>. A PDF of the full Motus report is online: <https://bit.ly/3rwEZ2J>.

Authors:

Sarah Kendrick is the MDC State Ornithologist, and Amanda Heltzel is the MDC Assistant Natural History Biologist.



Golden-winged Warbler, Route 66 State Park, St. Louis Co., 9 Sep 2021
Photo Josh Uffman

Did bird feeders contribute to localized Carolina Wren survival during the February 2021 extreme winter-weather event in Missouri?

Joanna and Eric Reuter

Carolina Wrens are well-known to be susceptible to mortality from extreme winter weather (Brooks, 1936; Robbins, 2018; Haggerty and Morton, 2020). From February 6–19, 2021, a polar-vortex event across Missouri produced temperatures 18–26° F below average for the two-week period (the coldest such period in over 30 years), with record-breaking minimum temperatures on February 16th reaching negative double digits across much of the state (Guinan, 2021). This extraordinary deep freeze had a clear effect on the state's Carolina Wren population (Gathman, 2021). The vast amount of eBird data collected in recent years provides an opportunity to explore the geography of wren survival in more detail.

Discussion on the MOBIRDS-L listserv anecdotally suggested a more extreme loss of Carolina Wrens in rural areas compared to those in denser residential areas, with some suburban wren survivors reported to be feeder visitors. Although Carolina Wrens are primarily insectivorous, Davis (1991) hypothesized that a dietary shift toward winter seed consumption in Massachusetts (particularly from feeder sources) played a role in the regional expansion and winter survival of Carolina Wrens. A more recent report from Michigan bolstered the suggestion that feeders contribute to Carolina Wren survival through harsh winters by showing that prevalence of feeders, rather than the urban heat-island effect, better explained observed survival patterns in varied transects at the northern fringe of their range (Job and Bednekoff, 2011).

To see if data patterns matched the narrative that urban areas in general—and perhaps feeders in particular—contribute to Carolina Wren survival in harsh winter conditions, we decided to investigate Missouri eBird data in a geographic context. We defined urban/suburban areas (hereafter referred to as “urban” for convenience) by

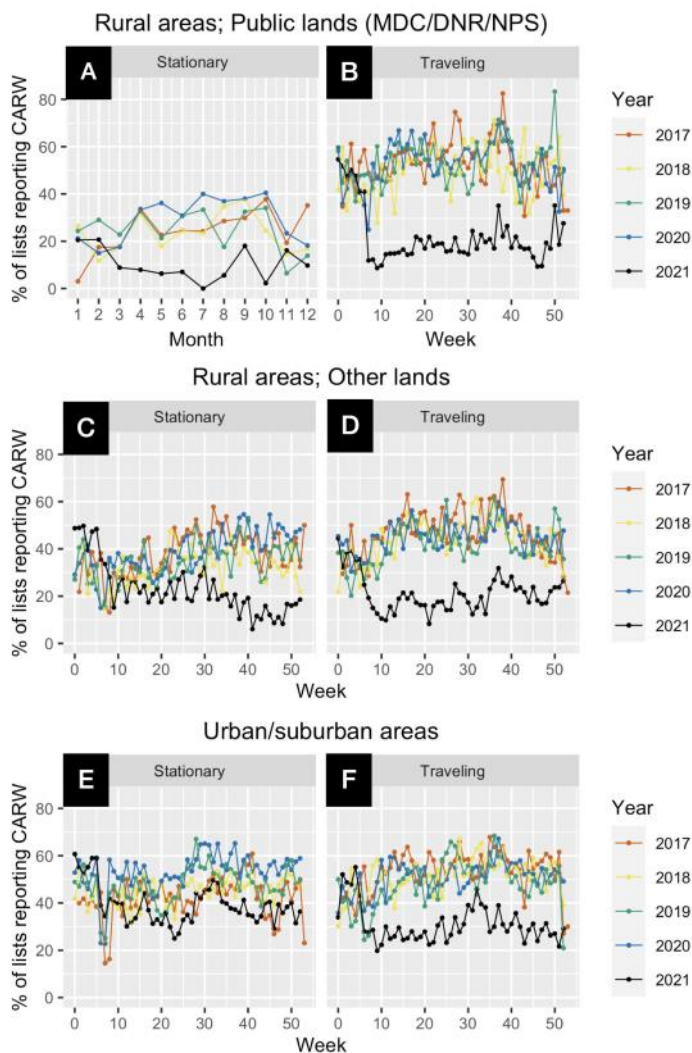


Figure 1. Carolina Wren (CARW) frequency in Missouri by list type and location. We postulate that traveling lists on rural public lands (**B**) are least-influenced by urbanization and bird feeders, while stationary lists in urban/suburban areas (**E**) are most likely to be feeder influenced. Accordingly, (**B**) shows a dramatic drop in CARW frequency in 2021 cold spell, while (**E**) shows a more subtle decline relative to preceding years. The total number of stationary lists on public lands (**A**) was relatively low, so this subplot shows monthly (rather than weekly) data aggregation. The apparent multi-year drop in CARW frequency in two specific weeks in mid-to-late February, especially visible in (**E**), should not be taken at face value, as the occurrence of the annual Great Backyard Bird Count during this time period comes with a large temporary uptick in the number of lists (especially urban, stationary ones), and these may differ from background reporting patterns in several ways.

proximity to city streets (as defined by MODOT geospatial data), then classified each list's point as urban or rural. For rural areas, we additionally determined whether or not each list's point was associated with public lands (owned by MDC, DNR, or NPS). This is not a comprehensive inventory of public and/or park lands, but it creates a data subset for which we postulate minimal feeder influence.

The graphs shown here distinguish results from lists using eBird's traveling protocol from those using its stationary protocol. Stationary lists come from rural and urban areas, but relatively few are from public lands, leading us to infer that many are likely backyard or property lists, often associated with residences. Although not all such lists involve dedicated feeder watching, those that do would be submitted under the stationary protocol. As such, it seems likely that stationary list data would be most likely to be influenced by feeder observations. On the other hand, traveling lists are very common in rural public lands, and these are especially unlikely to be feeder influenced.

Carolina Wren frequency from traveling lists on rural public lands did indeed show a dramatic and substantial drop coinciding with the February 2021 cold weather event (Figure 1B). In contrast, results from urban stationary lists show that Carolina Wren frequencies dropped to the low end of the previous five years' range and remained that way through the year, but the decrease was comparatively subtle (Figure 1E).

The eBird dataset contains a variety of biases in collection methods, and the opportunistic citizen-science approach means that certain factors can be difficult to control for or interpret. While this analysis is insufficient to prove cause and effect, the data patterns do appear to be logically consistent with the idea that urban areas in general, and feeders in particular, contribute to the survival of Carolina Wrens in harsh winters. Furthermore, data from Project Feeder Watch show an overall increasing trend of feeder visitation by Carolina Wrens in Missouri over recent decades. Assuming the outlines of this story are accurate, one may view these feeder effects as good (saving individuals), bad (exerting evolutionary pressure for greater dependence on humans), or neutral (that's just how it is). Regardless, this may well be yet another example of human

influence becoming ever more tangled up with species and ecosystems.

Anecdotal observations from our own rural homestead showed a complete wipe-out of our local population of multiple Carolina Wren pairs, including those that fed on the insect smorgasbord contained in firewood piles sheltered at the house and in outbuildings, and despite available shelter in a home-attached greenhouse. We have insufficient observations to assess the relative roles of starvation, predation, or cold exposure in the ultimate demise of these individuals. Our meager and occasional bird-seed offerings did not include the suet and peanuts that we've seen reported as wren-favored feeder foods. Post-cold spell, the absence of wren sound became obvious. Despite some re-appearance of Carolina Wrens during the summer, recolonization has not yet succeeded: our winter morning routine still involves a tea kettle, but no song to go with it. We look forward to monitoring future eBird data and MOBIRDS reports that could provide further insights into Carolina Wren population dynamics as they recolonize the state.

See our video based on this work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0U9yLxZ0x64>

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Book Review: One More Warbler: A life with birds, by Victor Emanuel with S. Kirk Walsh

Edge Wade

If you've ever awakened realizing you've just dreamt about a bird, worked on an itinerary to maximize the number of species you might see on a trip, or just sat mesmerized by birds outside your window, you'll find yourself nodding in agreement with Emanuel's comments in this book many times.

It's an autobiographical account of the founder of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT) and his lifelong infatuation with birds. Overlook the occasional bit of stilted prose and the sometimes jerky time flow to become immersed in the depth of the feelings Emanuel is expressing as he narrates his own version of obsession with birds.

There are the expected recountings of birds seen, the difficulties encountered in the process, and the elation of seeing a long-sought after species. But woven throughout are other themes. Mentoring is among them. Emanuel explores the origins of the word "mentor" and through several examples expresses the pleasure and gratitude from both sides of the relationship as it is conducted in the sharing of birding appreciation, field skills, and opportunities.

As he tells of experiences with several of the iconic birders he's known, Roger Tory Peterson, Ted Parker, and Peter Matthiesson among them, he shares insights into their personalities and the gifts they brought to the community of birders. The poignancy of his sense of personal and communal loss at their deaths says as much about him as the friends he eulogizes. As he speaks of them, the traits in common evoke understanding of what binds us as birders with others who, in his words, "When I see a bird—any bird—I am in the moment. When I am dealing with difficulties in my life, walking in nature and seeing birds helps me put these problems in perspective."

At times a chapter may seem like a travelogue as it features a birding adventure to far destinations most of us can only dream of seeing once, if ever. The realities of the size of our purse or

conditions beyond our control may keep us from visiting Anahuac, Aransas, Arizona, the Amazon, Attu, the Acropolis, Antarctica, Asia, or on to the rest of the alphabet, but that doesn't diminish the tale when we envision the birds he describes through the eyes of a quintessential birder who built a company that trailblazed and set the bar for quality birding eco-travel.

One more theme recurs with underlying stress—both in the sense of urgent emphasis and of urgent disquietude. The ever-growing evidence of diminishing bird numbers, the loss of habitat, and the need for conservation actions underlie nearly every scenario he describes, from the places he traveled as a very young man through his current cottage on the Bolivar peninsula. His plea is subtle, and that makes it all the more compelling as it comes from one who's lifetime has been one of showing birds to others, sharing the joys of the finds and the act of sharing, itself.

One More Warbler is a double entendre title. It conveys the desire Emanuel has, as all birders, to see just that one more bird... in any trip, any day, any hour..., but "Warbler" is also his birding name, given as a practice to Texas birders. You'll have to read the book to learn more about that.

My thanks to birding companion, Barb Duncan, for sharing her copy of **One More Warbler**. I'd be pleased to share it with you. (Take a number, I expect the line to be long.)



Edge Wade and Victor Emanuel, January 2019, Estero Llano SP
Photo Wendy Williams

Fall Migration of Nelson's Sparrows at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Boone County, Missouri

Paul McKenzie

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammospiza nelsoni*) is a rather secretive, localized sparrow that consists of three separate subspecies: *Ammospiza nelsoni nelsoni* that breeds from north Alberta, central Saskatchewan, and south Manitoba to northeast South Dakota; *A. n. altera* that breeds along the southern coasts of the Hudson and James Bay in Canada; and *A. n. subvirgata* that breeds along the Atlantic Coast from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to northeastern Massachusetts (Shriver et al. 2020). The nominate subspecies *A. n. nelsoni* is the subspecies that migrates through Missouri, where it is rare in spring and uncommon in the fall (Robbins 2020).

Shriver et al. (2020) discussed habitat use and food habits of Nelson's Sparrow on the summer and winter grounds, but limited information is available for individuals observed during migration. Habitat used during migration was listed as "a variety of habitats ranging from grassy marshes to agricultural fields" by Greenlaw and Rising (1994) and Shriver et al. (2020).

Between 24 Sep. 2018 and 14 Oct. 2021, I monitored numbers and habitat use of Nelson's Sparrow at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area (hereafter EBCA) in Boone County south of Columbia. Dates, number observed, and accompanying observers are recorded in Table 1. The majority of observations were in Pool 10, with limited observations in Pool 5. The species was observed 16 of 20 trips (Table 1) (all surveys entered as eBird checklists). The highest counts were 6 on 25 Sep. 2018, 30 Sep. 2020, 1 Oct. 2020, and 30 Sep. 2021; 7 on 19 Sep. 2020; 8 on 7 Oct. 2020 and 27 Sep. 2021; 10 on 26 Sep. 2021; and 11 on 28 Sep. 2021 (Table 1). The dates and numbers for high counts mirror those provided by Robbins (2020).

Sparrows were searched by walking through dry and partially flooded stands of wetland vegetation that consisted primarily of pale or curly top smartweed (*Persicaria lapathifolia*) (Fig. 1), Pennsylvania smartweed (*Persicaria pennsylvanica*), barnyard-

Table 1. Observations of Nelson's Sparrows at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Boone Co. Missouri- 2018, 2020, and 2021

Date	Other Observers*	Number Observed
24 Sep. 2018	BJ, PMcK	1
25 Sep. 2018	BJ, PMcK	6
28 Sep. 2018	BJ, PMcK, PMO	2
29 Sep. 2018	BJ, PMcK, PMO	3
19 Sep. 2020	PMcK, PMO	7
30 Sep. 2020	PMcK	6
1 Oct. 2020	PMcK	6
3 Oct. 2020	PMcK	2
4 Oct. 2020	PMcK, PMO	0
7 Oct. 2020	PMcK, PMO	8
11 Oct. 2020	PMcK	1
12 Oct. 2020	PMcK	1
13 Oct. 2020	PMcK	0
14 Sep. 2021	PMcK	0
26 Sep. 2021	PMcK, PMO	10
27 Sep. 2021	PMcK	8
28 Sep. 2021	PMcK	11
29 Sep. 2021	CG, PMcK	4
30 Sep. 2021	PMcK	6

*Observers included others who accompanied author during observations

CG- Cory Gregory

BJ= Brad Jacobs

PMcK= Paul McKenzie

PMO= Pete Monacell



Fig 1: Nelson's Sparrow perched in *Persicaria lapathifolia* — Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. MO. 28 Sep 2021.
Photo Paul McKenzie

cockspur grass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*), cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), and fall panicum (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*). Nelson's Sparrows were mostly commonly flushed from dense stands of barnyard grass with ~5.08-15.24 cm (2-6") of water where they would fly to thick stands of pale smartweed (Fig. 1). It was often difficult to get good looks of Nelson's Sparrows when they flushed but good views were usually available with patience and persistence.

Greenlaw and Rising (1994) and Shriver et al. (2020) noted that plant seeds were an important part of the diet of Nelson's Sparrows in the fall. On two occasions on 29 Sep. 2021, I observed the species eating the mature caryopses of barnyard grass. The birds perched on the leaning stems of *Echinochloa crus-galli* and consumed seeds from mature inflorescences.

Between 2018 and 2021, I searched pools at EBCA other than Pools 5 and 10, but was unsuccessful in locating any sparrows. A possible explanation is that these pools lacked the density and structure of *Persicaria* spp. and *Echinochloa crus-galli* that is prevalent in Pools 5 and 10. Dense stands of smartweed are likely important to this sparrow for hiding when flushed.

These observations underscores EBCA as one of most consistent areas in central Missouri to observe this species during fall migration. Year-to-year variation in numbers and dates seen are likely dependent upon changes in weather, water level, and vegetation between mid-Sep. and mid-Oct. It should be emphasized that my observations between 2018 and 2021 were not the sole sightings of Nelson's Sparrows at EBCA. Observations of other birders are viewable on eBird.

Acknowledgments: I thank Mark Robbins and an anonymous reviewer for their comments on an earlier draft of this manuscript.

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Thirty-Fourth Annual Report of the Missouri Bird Records Committee

William C. Rowe, Secretary

This report summarizes records reviewed by the Committee from 1 January to 31 December 2021. 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 latest American Ornithological Society (AOS) Checklist of North and Middle American birds, which is available online at <http://checklist.americanornithology.org/taxa>.

Accepted records in this report include the names of observers who submitted documentation and/or photographs, or were present with those who documented, along with comments 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. Status and distribution statements for each species are based primarily on Robbins, *The Status and Distribution of Birds in Missouri, Second Edition* (2020) (<https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/handle/1808/30959>).

Online documentation of records is easy. The observer posts documentation to a secure website, 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, audio recordings in .wav 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 accompanying media, but if this proves unworkable, 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 Ann Johnson for creating and improving this system. In addition, the Missouri eBird team (Lisa Berger, Diane Bricmont, Ryan Douglas, Pete Monacell, Marky Mutchler, Mary Nemecek, and Joshua Uffman) deserves great thanks for the long hours they put in as reviewers for our state and for their careful coordination with this Committee, both in requesting documentation from observers when needed and in initiating discussion on various points of bird distribution and identification.

Of the 88 records reviewed during this period, 72 were accepted and 16 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 82%. Members participating in these decisions were Lisa Berger, Kristi Mayo, Paul McKenzie (Chair), Pete Monacell, Mary Nemecek, Mark Robbins, and Joshua Uffman. Bill Rowe served as non-voting Secretary. Two records received comments from

outside reviewers; see the accounts for Mottled Duck, 2021-39, and Townsend's Warbler, 2021-62.

There was one record of a new species for Missouri this year (Broad-billed Hummingbird), leaving Missouri with 427 fully accepted species as of December 2021; 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 438 species. The Annotated Checklist of Missouri Birds, which receives regular updates to reflect changes in Missouri status and distribution as well as the latest taxonomic and nomenclatural changes by the AOS, can be viewed at www.mobirds.org under either the "Birds" or the "MBRC" menu.

The Committee reviews records of species that are considered "casual" (5-14 records) or "accidental" (1-4 records) statewide. It also reviews records of species that are casual or accidental for the season when reported (example: Lincoln's Sparrow in summer); records of species that are casual or accidental in the part of Missouri where reported (example: Swainson's Warbler outside the extreme south); 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 ("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" (example: California Gull). The Review List does not cover out-of-season status; for summarized information on seasonal status, consult the Annotated Checklist, and for specific earliest and latest dates and other data, consult Robbins (2020).

Note on photographic and audio documentation: Photographs, and in some cases audio recordings, are extremely helpful, and all observers are encouraged to carry a camera and/or a smart phone in the field; using smart phones, both images and audio can often be obtained with relative ease. In some cases (as noted in a few entries below) the absence of a photograph or an audio recording can be a problem for acceptance of a record. On the other hand, photographs 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.

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* (new name as of 2021: *Ornithology*), and all of its other activities and resources are now those of the AOS, along with the

journal *The Condor* (new name as of 2021: *Ornithological Applications*) and other functions of the Cooper Ornithological Society. The society's website is at www.americanornithology.org.

The Committee extends thanks to the many birders throughout Missouri who submitted their observations, and to the Missouri Birding Society for its continued support 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 2023 issue of *The Bluebird*.

RMBS = Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles Co.

LBNWR = Loess Bluffs 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

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), 2021-60: 3 adults and 4 fledglings, 17 August 2021, Jefferson Barracks Park, St. Louis Co. Glen Hawley (documentation with photographs). Casual summer resident (breeding); third successive year of nesting at this site.

CACKLING GOOSE (*Branta hutchinsii*), 2021-44: One, 28 May 2021, Duck Creek CA, Bollinger Co. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). Latest spring record.

CINNAMON TEAL (*Spatula cyanoptera*), 2021-73: Male, 30 September 2021, Duck Creek CA, Wayne Co. Michael Taylor (documentation with photographs). Casual in fall; eleventh record.

MOTTLED DUCK (*Anas fulvigula*), 2021-30: One, 4 April–31 May 2021, Clarence Cannon NWR, Pike Co. David Haenni, Henry and Oliver Gorski (documentation with photographs). Casual transient and summer visitant; twelfth record. May have been the same individual found at this site in spring 2020.

MOTTLED DUCK, 2021-39: One, 25 May 2021, Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Tim Kavan (documentation with photographs). Casual transient and summer visitant; thirteenth record. The record was reviewed by Tony Leukering, who thought this bird was unlikely to be anything other than a pure Mottled Duck; he provided detailed reasons why he saw no evidence of hybridization with other members of the Mallard complex.

MOTTLED DUCK, 2021-54: One, 14–26 July 2021, Creve Coeur Lake County Park (Little Creve Coeur), St. Louis Co. Found by Ken Smith; documented by David Becher, Diane Bricmont, and Joshua Uffman (with photographs) and by Cornelius Alwood. Casual transient and summer visitor; fourteenth record.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*), 2021-37: Present at least 10 May–3 June 2021; pair observed copulating and nest-building, 10 May, Darby residence, Hallsville, Boone Co. Paul McKenzie, Pete Monacell (documentation with photographs). First record of attempted nesting outside the extreme southeast, where accidental as a breeding bird.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus alexandri*), 2021-81: Immature male, 4–18 November 2021, Driver residence, Kimberling City, Stone Co. Kendell Loyd, Paul McKenzie, Lisa Owens (documentation with photographs), Sarah Driver, Austin Hess, Kearby Bridges, Steve and Debbie Martin, Pete Monacell, Lisa Berger, Charlie Burwick. Accidental transient; second record.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD (*Cynanthus latirostris*), 2021-42: Adult male, 28–29 May 2021, Reis residence, Holden, Johnson Co. Ronda Reis (documentation with photographs), Jerry Reis. Definitive, and first, Missouri record of this Mexican species, which nests in southern Arizona and has been found as a vagrant in many parts of the United States.

VIRGINIA RAIL (*Rallus limicola*), 2021-17: Two, 24 January–1 February 2021, Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery, Taney Co. Jan Hansen (documentation with audio). Accidental in winter away from known Boone Co. location; second record.

SORA (*Porzana carolina*), 2021-16: One, 24 January–1 February 2021, Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery, Taney Co. Jan Hansen (documentation with photographs). Only the third record away from the regular wintering site in Boone Co.

SANDHILL CRANE (*Antigone canadensis*), 2021-53: One, 7 July 2021, Corteva power plant, New Madrid Co. Tim Kavan (documentation with photographs), Nathan Bengston. Accidental summer visitor in southern Missouri.

AMERICAN AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*), 2021-51: Pair with juvenile, 22 June 2021, LBNWR. Alex Marine (documentation with photographs), Davis Balser. Accidental summer resident; third record. Presumably this was the pair from a nest initially located on 29 May 2021 (M. Robbins). The first two nesting records for the state occurred in 2020 (see article by D. Easterla and a second by Easterla, T. Nagel, and D. Welchert in *The Bluebird*, vol. 87, no. 4, December 2020). Those produced nests with eggs, but no young were ever reported. This year's nesting appears to be the first to produce young successfully.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius americanus*), 2021-84: One, 16 November–1 December 2021, Steele Municipal Airport, Pemiscot Co. Tim Kavan (documentation), Paul McKenzie, Pete Monacell (documentation with photographs). Accidental in eastern Missouri; third record.

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*), 2021-33: One, 24 April 2021, LBNWR. Carol Cobb (documentation with photographs), Eli Weber (documentation), John Cobb, Silas Weber, Andi Weber, Bobby Walz, Kadynn Hatfield. Earliest spring record.

RED KNOT (*Calidris canutus*), 2021-63: Juvenile, 21 August, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Pete Monacell, Paul McKenzie (documentation with photographs), Randy Schiller, Jean Leonatti. Earliest fall record.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*), 2021-29: One in nonbreeding plumage, 3 April 2021, City of Columbia Wetland Cells, Boone Co. Paul McKenzie, Pete Monacell (documentation with photographs). Accidental transient; third record.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), 2021-65: Juvenile, 1–5 September 2021, Schell-Osage CA, St. Clair and Vernon cos. Malcolm Gold (documentation with photographs), Mary and Alex Marine, Debbie and Steve Martin, Pete Monacell, Erik Ost, Kendell Loyd. Casual transient; sixth record.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER, 2021-67: Juvenile, 5–12 September 2021, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Marquette Mutchler (documentation with photographs), Mary Nemecek, Kristi Mayo. Casual transient; seventh record. Photographs showed this to be a different bird than the one in 2021-65.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*), 2021-79: Juvenile, 30 October–3 November 2021, Stockton Lake, Polk and Dade cos. Alex Marine (documentation with photographs), Lisa Berger (documentation), Charley

Burwick, Mike Headings, Paul Hostetler. Latest fall record.

LITTLE GULL (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*), 2021-68: Juvenile, 6 September 2021, RMBS. Allen Smith (documentation with photographs). Earliest fall record. This bird was associating with a flock of Black Terns.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*), 2021-55: Subadult, probably third-cycle, 17–20 July 2021, RMBS. Bill Rowe (documentation with photographs), Joshua Uffman (photographs). Accidental in summer; fourth record.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*), 2021-8: First- or second-cycle bird, 4–13 January 2021, Blue Spring Lake, Jackson Co. Joseph Mosley (documentation with photographs). Casual away from Mississippi River; eighth record.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL, 2021-11: First-cycle bird, 19 January–2 February 2021, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Doug Willis (documentation), Bill Blackledge (documentation with photographs). Casual away from Mississippi River; ninth record.

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*), 2021-15: Five, 26 January 2021, Table Rock Dam, Stone Co. Jan Hansen. Accidental in winter; second record.

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*), 2021-7: Adult, 4 January 2021, Stockton Lake, Dade Co. Kendell Loyd (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter; sixth record.

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*), 2021-22: Two, 18–23 February 2021, Stockton Lake SP, Cedar Co. Kendell Loyd (documentation with photographs), Erik Ost (documentation), Paige Witek, Grace and Lee Jordan, Christian and Conway Hawn. Casual in winter; ninth record.

PACIFIC LOON, 2021-32: One, 22–31 March 2021, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Mary Nemecek (documentation with photographs). Casual in spring; twelfth record.

WOOD STORK (*Mycteria americana*), 2021-59: Immature, 15–16 August, Schell-Osage CA, St. Clair Co., and Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Bob Estes (documentation with photographs, Schell-Osage), Alex Marine (documentation, Four Rivers). Although these records occurred within a two-day interval on two different CAs some 12 or more miles apart, they were conservatively presumed to represent the same bird.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Nannopterum brasilianum*), 2021-4: Adult, 28 December 2020, Butler City Lake, Bates Co. Dan Cowell (documentation with photographs). While this species is now considered only rare throughout Missouri during migration and summer, this is the first winter record, making it accidental at that season.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, 2021-27: One, 22 March 2021, RMBS. Bill Rowe (documentation with photographs), Tom Parmeter, Matt Rowe. At the time, considered a casual transient and summer resident in eastern Missouri; now listed as rare statewide for those seasons, and MBRC documentation no longer required.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, 2021-28: Adult, 26 March 2021, Delaney Lake CA, Mississippi Co. Mark Haas (documentation with photographs). See comments on 2021-27.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, 2021-34: Adult, 26 April 2021, Nash and Port Authority Roads, Scott Co. Mark Haas (documentation with photographs). See comments on 2021-27.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, 2021-48: Adult, 17 June 2021, Busch CA, St. Charles Co. Julie Morgan (documentation with photographs), Randy Morgan. See comments on 2021-27.

LEAST BITTERN (*Ixobrychus exilis*), 2021-86: One, 6 December 2021, Winfield, Lincoln Co. Henry and Oliver Gorski (documentation with photographs). Latest fall record. The diagnostic photo was taken on a cell phone with flash, in near-darkness and knee-deep water, while the observers were returning from duck hunting.

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*), 2021-69: One, 7 September 2021, Muskrat Lake, Buchanan Co. Tom Nagel (documentation with photographs). First documented record for fall. This bird, associating with 13 White-faced Ibises, showed the classic facial pattern of Glossy and no signs of hybridity.

WHITE-FACED IBIS (*Plegadis chihi*), 2021-50: Three, 22 June 2021, LBNWR. Alex Marine (documentation with photographs), Davis Balser. At the time, considered a casual summer visitor; now listed as rare in summer, and MBRC documentation no longer required.

WHITE-FACED IBIS, 2021-57: One, 21 July 2021, RMBS. Mike Thelen (documentation with photographs). See comments on 2021-50.

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*), 2021-75: One, 3 October 2021, Mark Twain Lake, Ralls Co. Lisa McClendon. Accidental in northern Missouri.

SWAINSON'S HAWK (*Buteo swainsoni*), 2021-58: Two adults, 26 July–18 August 2021, SelectTurf sod farm and nearby areas, Callaway Co. Pete Monacell, Paul McKenzie, Betsy Garrett (documentation with photographs), Robert Brundage, Chris Barrigar, Cheryl Rosenfeld, Jean Leonatti, Cathy Harris. All observations were of one bird except for 30 July, when two were photographed together. This is only the second summer record of the species away from the extreme western part of the state. Attention was paid to the possibility of a nesting attempt, but none was discovered.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (*Buteo regalis*), 2021-21: Adult, 18 February–2 March 2021, South Farm, Boone Co. Paul McKenzie, Pete Monacell, Doug Hommert (documentation with photographs), Edge Wade (documentation), Jean Leonatti, Betsy Garrett, Carl Gerhardt, John Besser, David Dean. Casual in eastern half of Missouri.

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*), 2021-12: One, 18–21 January 2021, Black Island CA—Gayoso Bend Unit, Pemiscot Co. Kendall Loyd, Paul McKenzie (documentation with photographs), Tim Kavan, Tim Barksdale. First winter record. The two series of good photographs by the documenters established this bird as a Least Flycatcher, with support from vocalizations heard by Loyd and Barksdale.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), 2021-13: Immature male, 1 December 2020–9 February 2021, Little River CA, Dunklin/Pemiscot cos. Found by Kent Freeman; documented by Paul McKenzie (with photographs). Accidental in winter; second record.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER, 2021-31: Female, 10 April 2021, Bellerive Park, City of St. Louis. Justin Baldwin (documentation with photographs), Marwa Mikati. Casual transient; fourteenth record.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER, 2021-80: Subadult male, 30 October 2021, County Road 604, New Madrid Co. Tim Kavan (documentation with photographs). Casual transient; fifteenth record, moving it from casual to rare.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*), 2021-72: One, 17 March 2019, Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co. Lisa McClendon (documentation with photographs), Britt McClendon. Earliest spring record.

NORTHERN SHRIKE (*Lanius borealis*), 2021-24: Adult, 6 March 2021, MNWR. Ryan Thies (documentation with photographs), Richard Thies. This species was listed as accidental in the Ozarks and southeastern Missouri based on four prior records; this is the fifth, moving its status to casual for that area.

BANK SWALLOW (*Riparia riparia*), 2021-25: One, 13–17 March 2021, Little River CA, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs). Earliest spring record.

WINTER WREN (*Troglodytes hiemalis*), 2021-41: One, 9–18 May 2021, Tower Grove Park, City of St. Louis. Doug Hommert, Keith Brink, Randy Schiller (documentation with photographs), Anne McCormack, Diane Brimont (documentation), David Dean, Ginny Bartenstein. Latest spring record.

SAGE THRASHER (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), 2021-78: One, 30–31 October 2021, Wah-kon-tah Prairie, St. Clair Co. Bob Estes (documentation with photographs), Isaac Goes (documentation). Accidental transient and winter visitor; third record.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*), 2021-9: 11 birds, 5–9 January 2021, near Kirksville, Adair Co. Nathan Hubbard (documentation), Greg Gremaud. At the time, considered casual in that area; has now been moved to rare in northeastern Missouri.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW, 2021-20: One, 15–17 February 2021, near St. James, Phelps Co. Scott Alford (documentation with photographs). Outside areas of regular occurrence.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW, 2021-71: One, 4 September 2021, Myers residence, Arcadia, Iron Co. Russell Myers (documentation with photographs). Outside areas of regular occurrence.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW, 2021-85: 44 birds, 26 November 2021, farm near Clarence, Shelby Co. Chris Barrigar (documentation with photographs). At the time, considered casual in that area; has now been moved to rare in northeastern Missouri. The observer commented that this count was a minimum, with many more probably present.

PURPLE FINCH (*Haemorhous purpureus*), 2021-47: Female, 6–21 June 2021, Headrick residence, Columbia, Boone Co. Linda Headrick (documentation with photographs). Accidental summer visitor; third record.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR (*Calcarius ornatus*), 2021-74:

One, 30 September–5 October 2021, Rockport, Atchison Co. Dakota Swisher (documentation with photographs). Earliest fall record.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius pictus*), 2021-1: 10-21 birds, 10

December 2020–16 February 2021, County Road 286, Pemiscot Co. Andrew Lydeard, Daniel Redwine, Michael Todd (documentation with photographs). First winter record outside of southwestern Missouri.

LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*), 2021-5: One, 28 December

2020–3 January 2021, Little River CA, Dunklin Co. Tommy Goodwin (documentation with photographs). Accidental in winter; second record.

LARK BUNTING (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 2021-40: Male, 30 May

2021, Golden Prairie, Barton Co. Erik Ost (documentation with photographs). Casual transient.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*), 2021-43: One, 23 May

2021, Cole residence, Gladstone, Clay Co. Jared Cole (documentation with photographs), Michele Cole. Latest spring record.

DARK-EYED JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis*), 2021-52: Male, 23 June 2021,

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center, Cape Girardeau Co. Leon Book (documentation with photographs). Casual in summer. As of the previous Annual Report (the 33rd), there were five summer records, but since then two additional earlier records have come to light (*vide* M. Robbins); thus this record is the eighth.

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), 2021-56: One, 3

July 2021, Darst Bottom, St. Charles Co. David Rogles (documentation), Tom Bormann. Casual summer visitor.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW (*Melospiza lincolni*), 2021-46: One, 27 May–29

July 2021, Uffman residence, Eureka, St. Louis Co. Joshua Uffman (documentation with photographs and audio). First record of a summering bird, although there is one record of a late migrant on 6 June.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), 2021-38: One, 12

May–7 July 2021, Weldon Spring CA, St. Charles Co. Robert Bailey, Joseph Bieksza, Joshua Uffman, Brian Steger (documentation with photographs or audio), Pat Lueders (documentation). Casual transient and summer visitor outside extreme southern Missouri. Although some reports were of two birds, the Committee believed that the presence of two was never

conclusively proven.

NORTHERN PARULA (*Setophaga americana*), 2021-87: One, 14 December 2021, Duck Creek CA, Wayne Co. Allen Gathman. Accidental winter visitor; second record. CBC record.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Setophaga striata*), 2021-66: One, 5 September 2021, downtown City of St. Louis. Colleen Crank (documentation with photographs), Maureen Thomas-Murphy. This species is common in spring but follows a much more easterly migration route in fall, when it is only casual in Missouri; this is the seventh documented record. The bird was picked up alive as part of St. Louis Audubon's BirdSafeSTL, a survey of birds striking windows of buildings downtown.

PALM WARBLER (*Setophaga palmarum*), 2021-14: One, 24 January 2021, Columbia Bottom CA, St. Louis Co. David Haenni. Rare in winter in southern Missouri; this record is at the northern edge of known occurrence.

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Setophaga discolor*), 2021-82: One, 10 October 2021, Taylor property, Bollinger Co. Michael Taylor. Latest fall record.

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*), 2021-10: Female-type, 7–23 January 2021, Pilkington residence, St. Louis Co. Kathy Pilkington (documentation with photographs), Jim Pilkington. Casual in winter; seventh record.

LAZULI BUNTING (*Passerina amoena*), 2021-36: Adult male, 9 May 2021, Hobbs residence, Seneca, Newton Co. Jaden Hobbs. Casual spring transient outside northwestern Missouri.

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*), 2021-6: Female-type, 2 January 2021, Confluence Point SP, St. Charles Co. Tommy Goodwin (documentation), Jessie Goodwin. At the time, considered a casual winter visitor in the central tier of states; now listed as rare there, and MBRC documentation no longer required. CBC record.

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*), 2021-19: Adult male, 12–14 February 2021, Piech residence, St. Peters, St. Charles Co. Lindsey Piech (documentation with photographs). First winter record.

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 possible species. The Committee is unable to accept any record if the description is too sketchy or vague, or if it fails to mention enough critical field marks to eliminate all other species. 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. All records that the Committee reviews, whether accepted or not, are permanently archived so that future investigators may examine them.

CINNAMON TEAL, 2021-61: Male, 17 August 2021, Lake Mead, Stoddard Co. The description and photograph did not rule out other ducks with reddish color on the breast, including a possible Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal hybrid.

CINNAMON TEAL, 2021-88: Two, 29 November 2021, Hedeman Lake, Dade Co. From the photographs provided, the identification was uncertain, but the most likely species seemed to be Gadwall.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*), 2021-49: Two females, 19 June 2021, Shawnee Trail, Barton Co. No photograph for this summer rarity, and the details provided seemed inaccurate in some respects for this species. The Committee was left uncertain as to what species the observer saw.

BLACK RAIL (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), 2021-70: One, 10–11 October 2020, near Kirksville, Adair Co. The observers flushed a small black bird, possibly a rail, but beyond that it was not clear what they saw. The observation was without binoculars, there was no photograph, and no details were cited that were unique to Black Rail, which is an extremely rare species in Missouri.

RED-THROATED LOON, 2021-3: Adult, 25 December 2020, Table Rock Lake, Taney Co. No photograph, and the details reported were not thorough enough to eliminate other loon species.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, 2021-35: One, 8 May 2021, Creve Coeur Lake Park (Little Creve Coeur). While this bird did appear to be quite small and was seen at a site where the species had been found the previous year, it was observed only briefly at long distance, so that actual field marks

(proportions, face pattern) were not noted.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 2021-76: One, 4 October 2021, Kennett, Dunklin Co. The observer was familiar with this species, but there was no photograph, and the details provided were few and did not entirely rule out other raptors.

MISSISSIPPI KITE, 2021-77: One, 21 October 2021, Busch CA, St. Charles Co. The photographs provided showed this bird to have been a Northern Harrier.

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*), 2021-23: One, 21 February 2021, Kirkwood, St. Louis Co. The series of photographs provided showed that this bird did exhibit some traits of Red-naped Sapsucker, but also some that suggested a hybrid with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. For more information on this difficult problem, see Robbins, Seibel, and Cicero, "Probable Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) X Red-breasted Sapsucker (*S. ruber*) hybrid from eastern Kansas, with comments on the field identification of adult sapsuckers," *North American Birds*, vol. 59, no. 2 (2005).

GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*), 2021-26: One, 30 October 2021, Marais Temps Clair CA, St. Charles Co. The description did not explain why the bird was a falcon, and some of the details provided were puzzling; others (like the bird's length and wingspan) were stated more precisely than an observer could determine in the field. It was not clear what species the observer saw.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes townsendi*), 2021-83: One, 5 November 2021, Peculiar, Cass Co. The details provided did not rule out other species; it was unclear what species the observer saw.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT (*Anthus spragueii*), 2021-2: One, 10 December 2021, County Road 286, Pemiscot Co. This unseen bird was identified solely on the basis of a few seconds of flight calls overhead; no recording was made. While the call description did suggest Sprague's Pipit, this by itself was considered insufficient evidence for a species that is accidental in eastern Missouri.

DARK-EYED ("PINK-SIDED") JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*), 2021-18: One, 5 February 2021, Independence, Jackson Co. This subspecies, accidental in Missouri, can be difficult to separate from other junco subspecies, especially some of the "Oregon" group, or various intergrades. The description suggested the possibility of this form, but without a photograph the record could not be accepted.

NASHVILLE WARBLER (*Leiothlypis ruficapilla*), 2021-45: One, 2 June 2021, Grindstone Nature Area, Boone Co. This was possibly a late Nashville Warbler, but there was no photograph, and the Committee believed that the description did not provide enough detail to be certain and did not address the issue of potentially similar species.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (*Setophaga townsendi*), 2021-62: One, 18–20 August 2021, Rock Bridge SP, Boone Co. This record proved extremely difficult for the Committee to assess, given that the photographs were not especially close or sharp, the observations were brief, and the opinions of three outside reviewers (Paul Lehman, Tony Leukering, and David Toews) were inconsistent. Ultimately, a majority believed that the evidence available did not rule out a hybrid Townsend's x Black-throated Green Warbler.

LAZULI BUNTING, 2021-64: Female-type, 24 August 2021, Jerry Smith Park, Jackson Co. The photograph provided showed a bit of streaking on the underparts, a lack of cinnamon or “peachy” color on the breast, and wingbars that can be matched by some fall Indigo Buntings. Thus the bird seemed likely to be an Indigo.

Spring Seasonal Report

March 1 — May 31, 2021

Lisa Berger

Preliminary data for the season indicated above-average temperatures and precipitation over much of the state. Following a trend, warmer March weather has offset colder April and May departures. Only five cooler than average springs have been recorded since 1997. **March:** Spring arrived with mild weather and above average temperatures and precipitation for most of the state. Highest rainfall, up to ten inches, was noted in the southwest and west central sections. Just a handful of counties in the north central and northeastern part of the state reported average precipitation. **April:** Temperatures were below long-term averages for the month. A wintry event, with two mornings setting record lows in seven Missouri counties, was accompanied by 1-5 inches of snow which damaged vegetation and crops. Precipitation was just above average across the state, with the exception of two counties. **May:** Maximum and daily temperatures were below average, while precipitation was above normal for the state. Following a long-term trend since 1990, four out of five of the wettest Mays on record have occurred. The highest precipitation totals, with 10-plus inches, were a replay of March's rainfall patterns across the southwest and west central regions.

There is no doubt the polar vortex event in February 2021 affected **Eastern Bluebird** and **Carolina Wren** populations, as shown in an analysis using eBird rolling weekly average data (Gathman, 2021) [See also Joanna and Eric Reuter's article on p. 16 of this issue — ed.]. On the bright side—all but 2 of 36 nest boxes were occupied (with multiple clutches) on a Lake Springfield Park bluebird trail, while Rick Hostetler believed Eastern Bluebird numbers rebounded from spring's lows. Paul McKenzie and Pete Monacell expressed the shocking lack of common winter sparrows in expected habitat continued into spring. Paul also noted he had not seen or heard a single **Hermit Thrush** or **Winter Wren** after the extreme cold. Lyndon Hostetler mentioned he was concerned for **Bewick's Wren**—his farm has hosted multiple breeding pairs over the last decade. When more data is available going forward, there will hopefully be more clarity about last winter's effects. Ending on a high note, reports of **Loggerhead Shrike** pairs and fledglings were

a welcome sign this season.

COVID-19 was still part of our lives during Spring 2021, causing some organizations to suspend field trips.

Highlights: Missouri's first definitive record of **Broad-billed Hummingbird** was the season's standout. It was fortunate a homeowner took images to learn why the hummer stood out! A **Curlew Sandpiper** established the second record for the City of Columbia Wetland Cells and EBCA and is Missouri's third record for the species. The twelfth and thirteenth state records for **Mottled Duck** were set at CCNWR and Ten Mile Pond, respectively. The twelfth state record for Pacific Loon was established at SL *Clay*. The state's first adult **Ferruginous Hawk** visiting this winter lingered into spring, and a **White-Winged Dove** nesting attempt was well documented; the first outside the extreme southeast. I'm indebted to Josh Uffman and Bill Rowe for their help to peer-review the Spring Seasonal Report since 2016, and to Allen Gathman for allowing a few time travels past deadlines. Many thanks, friends.

Note: A dagger (†) denotes the Missouri Bird Records Committee (MBRC) has received documentation. Those marked (acc.) have been accepted by the MBRC. Records marked with a single asterisk (*) indicate that documentation has not yet been received by the Missouri Bird Records Committee (MBRC).

WHISTLING DUCKS–GREBES

Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were observed in eight counties. The maximum was 16 at CCLMP 30 Apr–15 May (Tommy Goodwin, ph. Kelly Smith, m. ob.). Paul McKenzie reported a "Massive movement [with] streams of birds flying north throughout the day". Using photographs and timed counts, he estimated 28800 **Snow Goose**, 3822 **Ross's Goose**, and 7200 **Greater White-fronted Goose** at EBCA 3 Mar. A lone **Cackling Goose** (acc.) with a flock of Canada Geese is spring's latest record at DCCA *Bollinger* 28 May (ph. †CBa). Single **Cinnamon Teal** were reported in eight counties, with the exception of 3 at LBNWR 22 Mar (ph. TM, m. ob.). Similarly, **American Black Ducks** occurred in eight counties with a high of 3 at EBCA 15–18 Mar (ph. PM, et al.). A **Mottled Duck** (acc.) found at CCNWR Apr 4 continued until 31 May (†DHa, ph. †HG, m. ob.). A second (acc.) was discovered at Ten Mile Pond 25 May (†ph. TK). These represent the sixth and seventh spring records, respectively. Four **Greater Scaup**



Mottled Duck, CCNWR 1 May 2021. Photo Doug Hommert

was the season's high at RMBS 25 Mar (DBr) with 3 at the same location 6 Mar (BR). There were 2 at DCCA *Bollinger* 2–8 Apr (AM, Trey McCuen). An ad. male and female were noted at a residential pond 5 Mar, then 2 at nearby EBCA 7 Mar (possibly the same ducks) were present through 21 Apr (Edge Wade, m. ob.). A single ad. female **Black Scoter** was located at WLD 8–11 Mar (BR, Tom Parmeter, m. ob.). Lone female **Long-tailed Ducks** made a good showing at Four Rivers CA *Bates* 3 Mar (Sherry Leonardo), at Lewis and Clark SP *Buchanan* 4–15 Apr (WBLC Hartley, ph. Thomas Jones, m. ob.), and at EBCA 11–18 Apr (ph. Kathleen Horn, ph. Roger Horn, m. ob.). **Bufflehead** peaked with 100 at three locations: WLD 8 Mar (HG, OG), LBNWR 20 Mar (Rod Lentz, Josiah Redfearn), and DCCA *Stoddard* (ph. Allen Gathman, MH). **Red-breasted Merganser** was logged in 26 counties with season highs of 78 at SL *Clay* 18 Mar (DW), and 50 at RMBS 22 Mar (BR, et al.). Native prairies hosted **Greater Prairie-Chickens** with single birds at Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie *Cedar* heard on 12 Mar (Jacob Decker) and Taberville Prairie *St. Clair* 27 Mar–7 May (ph. Cindy Cunningham, ph. Gene Cunningham, m. ob.). Nine were observed at Dunn Ranch 10 Apr (ph. TM) with fewer seen through 16 May (m. ob.). **Horned Grebe** high tallies reached 33 at RMBS 22 Mar (BR, m. ob.) while single **Eared Grebes** appeared in 10 counties with highs of 2 at Horseshoe Lake *Buchanan* 17–18 Apr (ph. Tom Nagel, ph. Thomas Jones) and at SL *Clay* 12 Apr–14 May (Terry Miller). A one-day wonder **Western Grebe** was found at Fellows Lake *Greene* 15 Apr (ph. KL, ph. Dillon Freiburger, Kate McKalip, ph. Isaac Goes, Klee Bruce).



Broad-billed Hummingbird, Holden, Johnson Co., 28 May 2021
Photo Ronda Reis

DOVES–CRANES

The first **White-winged Dove** (acc.) breeding record outside southeast Missouri was established in Hallsville *Boone* 9 May–3 June (ph. †PMo, ph. †PM, m. ob.). The species was present this period in *Dunklin, Greene, Jackson, Lincoln, Mississippi, New Madrid*, and a first in *Ste. Genevieve* 4 May (ph. Stephen Price). The season's northern-most was at a residential feeder in Maryville *Nodaway* 29–31 May (DE). A lone **Greater Roadrunner** was observed at Cedar creek *Taney* 15 May (ph. Ted Drozdowski). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** arrived the last three days of April with numbers peaking the last ten days of May when 12 were noted at Thousand Hills SP *Adair* 19 May (Danion Doman). Single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported in 25 counties, with the exception of 2 at Prairie Garden Trust *Callaway* 5 May (Henry Domke). Highest spring counts for

Common Nighthawks bumped second and third places with 65 at Eddleman Farm *Cape Girardeau* 16 May (Bill Eddleman), 43 McNeely home *Daviess* 18 May (TM), and 40 at a residence *Clay* 23 May (Kristi Mayo). The first definitive Missouri record of **Broad-billed Hummingbird** (acc.) was established when a single bird was photographed at a feeder in Holden *Johnson* 28–29 May (†Ronda Reis and ph. Jerry Reis). Up to two **King Rails** were detected at BKLCA 15–29 May (Jerry Hemmersmeyer, BS, HG, ph. OG, m. ob.), while singles were along Levee Road *Dunklin* 16 May (ph. TJ), and LBNWR 26 May (DW). A count of 31 **Common Gallinule** at Mingo *Wayne* 28 May (ph. CBa) set the season's second-highest record. Four or less were reported in *Bollinger, Holt, Lincoln, Pike, St. Louis, and Stoddard*. No reports came from the City of Columbia Wetlands at McBaine or EBCA *Boone* where the species was once present in small numbers 1998–2019. Nine **Sandhill Cranes** were photographed in flight at Marais Temps Clair *CA St. Charles* 7 Mar (ph. Natalie Rekitke). A total of 6 (two ad., two colts, and 2 sub-ad.) were at LBNWR 4 May (ph. TN, DE); and 5 were at the Highway 116 Wetlands *Buchanan* 10 May (ph. Terry Miller).

AVOCETS–ANHINGAS

A total 104 **American Avocets** at LBNWR 14 Apr assumes the season's second-highest count (ph. TN and DE). Mark Robbins noted an ad. female Avocet was on a nest 13 May at this location. A huge **Killdeer** movement with continuous flocks flying over all day, was estimated at 915, setting the spring's highest record at Bradford Farm 19 Mar (ph. PM, PMo, Cheryl Rosenfeld). A single **Piping Plover** was reported at LBNWR 12 May (ph. DW). Three **Whimbrels** reported by Lyndon Hostetler were located south of Penn-Sylvania Prairie *Dade* 4 May (ph. Debbie Martin, Steve Martin, ph. Charley Burwick, ph. KL). Two were observed at LBNWR 14 and 17 May



White-winged Dove, Hallsville, Boone Co,
10 May 2021. Photo Paul McKenzie

(MR) (ph. Teresa Noel), respectively. In *Buchanan*, singles were present at Muskrat Lake 28 Apr (ph. TN) and the Highway 116 Wetlands 23 May (Terry Miller). A season's highest count of 28 **Marbled Godwits** was established at LBNWR 15 Apr (ph. TM). A **Ruddy Turnstone** (acc.) becomes the season's earliest record at LBNWR 24 Apr–15 May. (†Eli Weber, ph. †Carol Cobb, ph. Silas Weber, Andi Weber, KH, ph. Bobby Walz, m. ob.). A second record for EBCA—

an impressive achievement—and Missouri's third was established when a basic-plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** (acc.) was identified 3 Apr (ph. †PMo, ph. †PM). During a spectacular shorebird fallout, high counts were 600 **Least Sandpipers**, and 850 **White-rumped Sandpipers** at EBCA 15 May, (ph. PMo, ph. Gail Gagnon, ph. Jeff Parres, m. ob.) and are peak spring numbers for this site. Aggregations of White-rumped Sandpipers reached 650 at LBNWR 15 May (KH, Caleb Strand), while 140 were high estimates at RMBS 17 May (ph, DH). Thirty-two **American Woodcock** acquired the spring's highest count along Rockbridge State Park's upper trail *Boone* 7 March (aud. PMo). Up to 3 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were spotted at the Highway 116 Wetlands *Buchanan* 17–18 May (ph. Mary Nemecek, ph. JD, LO, Nathan Woodland, DW). Loners were reported 7 and 18 May at LBNWR (Robert Brundage, DW); at EBCA (ph. PMo), and OSCA *Stoddard* (ph. Ethan Hoggard), both on 17 May. A single **Laughing Gull** was found at WLD 20 May (ph. OG, HG). Each side of the state enjoyed lone **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**; at SL *Clay* 3 Mar (ph. Mary Nemecek, ph. LO) and a late one at RMBS 15 May (David Becher, Brian Steger). **Glaucous Gulls** were present at two sites. One was at Longview in the morning 2 Mar (EWa), while another appeared late in the afternoon at SL *Clay* 2 Mar (ph. Mary Nemecek). Each observer described these as second cycle gulls, noting similar field marks; possibly a single gull? A **Least Tern** occurred at SL *Clay* 11 May (DW). Peak counts came from along the Mississippi River with 15 at Black Island CA *Pemiscot* 16 May (JM), 11 at Ten Mile Pond CA *Mississippi* (MH), and 8 at RMBS 27 May (DHa). Each side of Missouri hosted **Common Terns**. One at RMBS 17 May (BR, JN, ph. Pam Bruns, Ken Smith), and another at SL *Clay* 19 May (DW). A sub-ad. **Red-throated Loon** was present at Fellows Lake *Greene* 15–23 Mar (ph. KL, ph. Dillon Freiburger, Kate McKalip, ph. Isaac Goes, Klee Bruce), and another at Table Rock Lake *Taney* 20 Mar (KL, Abigail Loyd). A **Pacific Loon** (acc.) established the twelfth spring record at SL *Clay* 22–31 Mar (ph. † Mary Nemecek, m. ob.). The Mississippi Lowlands hosted two groups of **Anhinga**; 5 at OSCA *Stoddard* 2 May (ph. Jason Lott, ph. Bruce Beck, Reva Dow), and 8 in flight along Levee Road 15 May (ph. Tj).

CORMORANTS–FALCONS

Three single **Neotropic Cormorant** (acc.) were noted on the eastern side of the state, spotlighting the species' expansion. An imm. was photographed in flight with Double-crested Cormorants at RMBS-Lincoln Shields 22 Mar (ph. †BR, Tom Parmeter, Matt Rowe), an ad. was at Delaney Lake *Mississippi* (ph. †MH), and another was along Nash Road *Scott* 26 Apr (ph. †MH). A new highest season count for **Great Egret** was 235 at DCCA *Bollinger* 28 May (ph. CBa). One hundred were nesting on 4 Apr at O'Fallon Park *St. Louis City* (RW). Peaks of 99 and 102 **Cattle Egrets** were observed in Cape Girardeau *Cape Girardeau* 15 May (ph. Bill Eddleman) and at a location 2.8 miles away on 20 May (ph. Michael Taylor), respectively.

Similarities in numbers within one week may indicate one flock's movements. Thirty-five was the high at O'Fallon Park Rookery 28 May (ph. RW). Spring ibis made a splash across the state. A **Glossy Ibis** appeared at LBNWR 10 Apr (ph. DW, m. ob.) and was viewed until 17 May (ph. TM, DE, et al.) Two each were at CCNWR 24 Apr (ph. DR, et al.) and in *St. Charles* 22 May (ph. DBr, m. ob.). A single at BKLCA 15 May (BS, m. ob.) continued until 20 May. Last for this season was 1 at DCCA *Bollinger* 28 May (ph. CBr). **White-faced Ibis** high counts were 100 at LBNWR 17 May (ph. TN, DE), while 98 were at Bean Lake *Platte* 3 May (ph. LO). Thirty-seven at EBCA 24 Apr (KB) established spring's second-highest count for the east side of the state. A flyover of 25 was noted in *Greene* (Klee Bruce, ph. Isaac GOES), 16 at CCNWR 24 Apr (ph. DR), and 14 at Schell-Osage CA 9 May (AM). Three **Black Vultures** highlight the season's northern-most and first report for *Elsberry Lincoln* 10 Mar (ph. Mike Thelen). Counts continue to increase in the north part of the state. A kettle of 28 set a new high for Truman Reservoir *Benton* 6 Apr (ph. PMo), while 25 were present at Klondike Park *St. Charles* (ph. Trevor Leitz). After reintroduction in 2000-2001 (Robbins, 2020), the first confirmed **Osprey** breeding attempt at Truman Reservoir *Benton* was photographed as 2 adults were building a nest 6 Apr (ph. PMo), continuing until 12 May. Stockton Lake hosted active nests: Four ad. (two nests) *Cedar* 16 Mar; 4 ad. (two nests) *Bona Dade* 13 Mar (ph. Charley Burwick); 2 ad. (one nest) on the Aldrich Arm *Polk* 20 Mar (ph. DBI, BBI), and 2 were spotted at Tiemann Pt., Ruark Bluff Road *Dade* 18 Mar (Ryan Steffens). An imm. **Northern Goshawk** was observed perched and in flight at SL *Clay* 13 Mar (DW). The maximum **Swainson's Hawk** count in the west was 36 near Jameson *Daviess* 10 April (ph. TM), while 22 were feeding in a recently burned field at Dunn Ranch 12 Apr (ph. LO, ph. Anette Talbot). Three **Rough-legged Hawks** were this period's high count at Poosey CA *Livingston* 7 Mar (TM). By the end of the third week of March, most rough-legs have departed the state (Mark Robbins, 2020). Noteworthy were singles in *Boone* 27 Mar –3 Apr (ph. PMo), *Schuyler* 3 Apr (JU), and *Putnam* 12–13 Mar, 2–3 Apr (ph. JU). Single **Ferruginous Hawks** (acc.) from winter lingered into spring. At Bradford Farm an ad. was observed until 2 Mar (PM), while the second* in *Dunklin* continued until 3 Mar (TJ). Observations of two **Barn Owl** nest boxes yielded 2 ad. with 4 chicks near fledging; in the second were 2 ad. with 5 chicks present during this season *Greene*. Both clutches were presumed to have fledged before 29 June when last monitored. (R. Rimer, pers. comm. Lisa Berger). An ad. and at least 3 fledglings were viewed in a nest box at Four Rivers CA *Vernon* 15 May (DW). A lone **Long-eared Owl** was detected roosting in cedars at Hungry Mother CA *Howard* 29 Mar (Shane Patterson), while another pair observed 2–3 Apr in *Putnam* might have been on nesting territory (JU). Seasonal highs were 7 **Short-eared Owls** in Jameson *Daviess* 6 Mar (TM), 6 at LBNWR 11 Apr (ph. LO), 4 at the Rice Fields *Dunklin* 4 Mar (TJ), 3 at BKLCA 17 Apr (ph. OG, HG), and 1 at CCNWR 17 Apr (ph. JU). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** peak concentration of 45 established spring's highest count at Cuivre River SP *Lincoln* 27 Mar (ph. OG, HG), while a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** high tally was 8 at TGP 16

Apr (Matt Rowe, BR). Three **Merlin** occurred at Little Bean Marsh CA *Platte* 19 Mar (LO), and 2 were relocated there 21 Mar (ph. John Talbot, Anette Talbot). Counts of 3 **Peregrine Falcon** were this season's highs at LBNWR 6–7 and 15 May (DW, Robert Brundage) (KH, Bobby Walz) respectively, at EBCA 8 May (ph. PM, PMo), and Watkins Mill SP *Clay* 1 Apr (Austin Johnson).

PASSERINES Flycatchers–Thrushes

The bootheel hosted 4 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** along Levee Road 15 May (TJ) which ties the second-highest record for the state. On the west side of the state where **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** is rare, the spring's high was 3 at Longview 19 May, and 2 at Mapleview Park 20 May, both *Jackson* (EWa), while loners were at SL *Clinton* 19 May (DW) and Weston Bend SP *Platte* 22 May (Chris Hobbs). Two, the high count in the east occurred at Forest Park *St. Louis City* 20 May (RW, ph. Lisa Saffell, Larry Wells), and at a residence in *St. Charles* (ph. aud. Trevor Leitz). Top counts for **Acadian Flycatchers** reached 38 at Mingo *Stoddard* 28 May (CBa), while 27 were logged at WS-LVT 10 May (KH). **Alder Flycatcher** high tallies were 21 at Longview Lake *Jackson* (EWa), and on the east side of Missouri, 5 occurred at Levee Road 13 May (TJ). The season's high **Willow Flycatcher** count was 7 at RMBS 31 May (BR, DBr, JN). As empids surged through the state, an easily overlooked ad. female **Vermilion Flycatcher** (acc.) became spring's sixth record and Missouri's fourteenth. The bird was discovered at Bellerive Park *St. Louis City* 10 April (ph. †Justin Baldwin, Marwa Mikati). Surveys for **Bell's Vireo** on separate line transects produced 33 and 63 at Taberville Prairie *St. Clair* 19 May (Erik Ost); 18 at both Shawnee Trail CA *Barton* and Diamond Grove Prairie *Newton*, both 18 May (AM) and (DBa) respectively; and 18 at Settle's Ford CA *Cass* 23 May (ph. Dan Cowell). Outside the west-central region were 6 at WS-BGT (David Becher) and 4 at White Memorial WA *Lincoln* 15 May (ph. JU, ph. Brian Stamper, Nick Wells). **Yellow-throated Vireos** peaked with 15 along Sugar Camp 7 May (aud. MR, JBo), and 12 on Red Bridge Road *Christian* 25 Apr (DBI, BBl). Ten were banded at the World Bird Sanctuary *St. Louis City* 26 Apr (Kelly Smith). An ad. male **Blue-headed Vireo** (acc.) was observed at OSCA *Stoddard* 17 Mar 2019 (documented 2021), setting an earliest spring record (ph. †Lisa McClendon, Brit McClendon). Ten occurred along Line Creek Greenway *Platte* 10



Loggerhead Shrike nest, Wah'Kon-Tah
Prairie, Cedar Co. 1 Apr 2021.

Photo Chris Barrigar

May (LO, Annette Talbot), while 6 were found at Forest Park *St. Louis City* 10 May (RD). A **Philadelphia Vireo** fallout set spring's highest count with 13 at Lake Springfield Park *Greene* 15 May (DBI, BBI). The highest **Warbling Vireo** tallies were 31 at LBNWR 29 May (MR), and 30 at RMBS 31 May (BR, DBr, JN). **Loggerhead Shrike** pairs were reported in ten counties. Additionally, were 4 at Hi Lonesome Prairie CA *Benton* 24 Apr (ph. PM, PMo); 2 ad. feeding a chick near Mtn. View *Shannon* 30 May (ph. Reva Dow); 3 in *Jasper* 15 Mar (ph. Kim Banner), 3 at Urich CA *Henry* 3 Mar (Dan Cowell, Varick Cowell), 3 at Dunn Ranch 12 Apr (ph. Annette Talbot, ph. LO), and 3 at Niawathe Prairie *Dade* 27 Mar (ph. DBI, BBI). Lingering from the winter season, a **Northern Shrike** made its last appearance at BKLCA 1 Mar (ph. BS). A second (acc.) and notable for the Mississippi Lowland region, was observed at Mingo *Stoddard* 6 Mar (ph. †Ryan Thies, Richard Thies). A third viewed in Nov, continued until 25 Mar at Bradford Farm (Joseph Bieksza). A **Bank Swallow** (acc.) in the bootheel set the earliest spring record at Little River CA *Dunklin* 13-17 Mar (ph. †TJ). Tying the season's latest record, a single **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was noted near Boonville *Cooper* 28 May (Art Reisman). Two counts of 15 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were made at Chert Hollow Farm *Boone* 27 Mar, and at Busch CA 3 Apr (Joanna Reuter, Eric Reuter) and (ph. Oliver Gorski, Henri Gorski), respectively. Two late season counts of 100 **Cedar Waxwings**, both 22 May, came from Dexter *Stoddard* (Josh DeLay), and at Columbia Bottom CA *St. Louis* (Mike Thelen). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** peaked with 6 each at Busch CA 13 Mar and 2 Apr (ph. HG, OG, and Jonah Eckles), with 5 detected in *Carter* 4 and 20 Apr (Sarah Kendrick, Shelby Timm), and 3 remaining at Pea Ridge CA *Washington* 26 Apr (JU). The top tally for the population of introduced **Brown-headed Nuthatch** was 6 (all color-banded offspring) in Mark Twain National Forest *Carter* 9 April (Kristen Heath). A photogenic **Winter Wren** (acc.) found at Tower Grove Park *St. Louis City* 9–18 May established spring's latest record (ph. †DH, †Ann McCormack, ph. †KB, ph. †Randy Schiller, ph. †DBr, m. ob.). Season high **Marsh Wren** tallies were 17 at EBCA 8 May (PMo) and 15 at BKLCA 10 May (HG, OG). High **Carolina Wren** counts were produced along driving routes, at conservation areas, acreages, and homes. The majority of reports arose along the Ozark Border to the Arkansas border. Counties with 5 or greater counts coming from multiple locations were: 7 sites in *St. Louis*, 6 in *Boone* and two sites each in *Barry*, *Bollinger*, *Christian*, *Dunklin*, *Greene*, *Johnson*, *Lincoln*, *Newton*, *St. Charles*, *Stoddard*, and *Texas*. Fifty counties logged between 1-4 wrens, the northern-most included *Adair*, *Andrew*, *Audrain*, *Caldwell*, *Clark*, *Daviess*, *Holt*, *Knox*, *Livingston*, *Randolph*, *Shelby*, and *Wright*. To determine long- and short-term trends and outcomes, statistical analysis is needed using ten or more years of data spanning pre-2021's winter and subsequent years. A pair of **Bewick's Wrens** was seen carrying nesting material at a residence *Osage* 14 and 28 Apr (ph. Paul Nelson). Up to 2 were heard near a residence in *Pulaski* 5 Apr–31 May (aud. Brian Nelson). Three, 2 ad. carrying food, and another singing in a separate area were spotted at Talbot CA *Lawrence* 23 May (ph. AM). Singles were reported in *Boone*, *Cole*, *Dade*, *Greene*, *Newton*, *Phelps*,

and *St. Clair*. **Gray Catbird** counts reached 37 at Fountain Grove CA *Linn* 3 May (TM), 30 at Forest Park *St. Louis City* 9 May (Brian Steger), and 17 (the most ever logged at this location) at Columbia Audubon/Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary *Boone* 12 May (PM). Many **Eastern Bluebird** reports were from residential feeding stations with heated water, and along permanently open streams, most in the extreme south. Two or more bluebirds were reported in 90 counties, with singles logged in 14. Counts of five or greater from single sites occurred in 30 counties. Higher counts made in early March probably indicate these were migrants. As with Carolina Wren, to determine long- and short-term trends and outcomes, statistical analysis is needed using ten or more years of data spanning pre-2021's winter and subsequent years. On the west side of the state where the species is rare, 2 **Veery** were observed at Mapleview Park *Jackson* 16 May (EWa). In the east, a high of 4 was at Tower Grove Park *St. Louis City* 8, 10, and 14 May (Emma Hodges, KH).

PASSERINES Finches–Grackles

Evening Grosbeaks visited three locations with 7 at Sam A. Baker SP *Wayne* 3 Apr (Christopher Brown), 2 *Henry* 14 Apr (ph. AM), and one at a residence *Iron* 23 Apr (Matt Jones, ph. KB). All **Purple Finch** peaks were from residential feeders with 48 at Sugar Creek *Adair* 10 Apr (PK), 42 *Rolla Phelps* 3 Apr (Gary Muller), and 34 (all females) in *Daviess* (TM). A solo **White-winged Crossbill** (first year male) was reported 28 Feb–1 Mar at a residential feeder *Cole*. (ph. PMo, ph. PM, ph. DH, m. ob.). A **Pine Siskin** irruption created a good showing with 33 counties reporting double-digit counts, including 120 at feeders in *Cole* 10 May (Austin Lambert), 109 in *Boone* 9 May (ph. Betsy Garrett), and 50 logged on an MBS field trip at Ritter Springs Park *Greene* (KL, m. ob.). A maximum 200 **American Goldfinch** were at feeders in *Boone* 18 Mar (ph. PM), and 130 *Adair* 10 Apr (PK). Thirteen **Smith's Longspur** was the period's top tally at Bradford Farm 19 Mar (ph. PM, ph. PMo, ph. Cheryl Rosenfeld). With reference to a record high 39 **Grasshopper Sparrows** at Rosecrans Memorial Airport *Buchanan* 28 Apr, Mark Robbins commented that, he had seen a lot here before, but nothing like today; 37 singing males (aud., ph. MR). The high **Lark Sparrow** counts in western counties were 15 at EBCA 8 May (ph. PMo, Carl Gerhardt, ph. Reed Gerdes), and 14 at Urich CA *Henry* (ph. Dan Cowell). In the east, Tim Kavan reported highs of 6 each at residences in *Scott* 10 May, and *New Madrid* 11 May. Four were present in *Putnam* 27 Apr (Anna Kaufmann, Megan Kruse), and 4 in the North Warren Ag area *Warren* 5 May (Carol Thompson). A single ad. male **Lark Bunting** (acc.) was a notable find at Golden Prairie *Barton* 30 May (ph. †Erik Ost), setting the fourth spring record outside the Northwest Corner of Missouri. On the east side of the state peak counts were 65 **Chipping Sparrows** at TGP 16 Apr (Matt Rowe, BR), and in the west were 40 at LBNWR 18 May (LO). A new latest spring record was established with a single **Clay-colored**

Sparrow (acc.) at a residence in Gladstone *Clay* 23 May (ph. Jared Cole, Michelle Cole). Thirty set spring's second-highest count at LBNWR 6 May (TM). **White-crowned Sparrow** peaked the third week of March with 57 at RMBS 22 Mar (ph. BR Matt Rowe, TP), and 55 at Bradford Farm 15 Mar (PM), while 18 **Harris's Sparrows** were noted in Peculiar *Cass* 27 Mar (Ginny Culver). Twelve **Vesper Sparrows** occurred along Mokane Road *Callaway* 10 Apr (CBa). Single **LeConte's Sparrows** were present in two locations; at Stockton Lake *Polk* 6 Mar (DBI, BBI) and at Hazel Hill Lake *Johnson* 6 Apr (Larry Olpin). Lone **Nelson's Sparrows** made brief visits at BKLCA 15 May (Brian Steger), Black Island CA *Pemiscot* 16 May (aud. JM), and RMBS 15–17 May (ph. BR, JN, et al.). Four **Henslow's Sparrow** occurred at WS-BGT (DBr, Tom Caraway). In the Osage Plains prairies, top counts were reached applying line transect and scouting counts: 31 *St. Clair*, 25 *Dade*, 23 *Cedar*, 12 *Newton*, 9 *Barton* (EO, AM, DBa, Dillon Freiburger, Ryan Steffens).

Mid-state, highs were 62 **Savannah Sparrows** along Mokane Road *Callaway* 20 Apr (ph. CBa), and 45 at Rosecrans Memorial Airport *Buchanan* on 28 Apr (MR). A lingering **Lincoln's Sparrow** (acc.) tied spring's second-latest record at a residential feeder in Eureka *St. Louis* 27–30 May (ph. †JU), continuing into mid-summer. A striking male **Spotted Towhee** rang in spring at EBCA 11 Mar–25 May, establishing the season's second-latest date (Jean Leonatti, Edge Wade, ph. PM, m. ob.). **Yellow-breasted Chat** top counts reached 18 at Diamond Grove Prairie CA *Newton* on 18 May (DBa), with tallies of 16 in *Boone*, and 15 in *Callaway*, *Benton*, *S. Clair*, and *Taney*. Out-pacing **Yellow-headed Blackbird** observations across the state, 85 was the peak at Rosecrans Memorial Airport *Buchanan* 24 April (ph. MR). **Bobolink** highlights were 115 along Mokane Road *Callaway* 7 May (ph. CBa, Brenda Morris), 110 on Old #7 Road Area *Boone* 8 May (Glen Pickett), and 95 at the Palmetto Area *Greene* 29 Apr (ph. DBI, BBI). Twelve **Western Meadowlarks** were present at Cooley Lake *Clay* 6 Mar (ph. Thomas Swartz), while a flock of 10 was noted at Columbia Bottom CA *St. Louis* 13 Mar (ph. BR, Matt Rowe). Dave Gibson's notes include, "Insane numbers", when a maximum of 600 **Rusty Blackbirds** was reached at Tower Grove Park 21–26 May (ph. Dave Gibson, ph. BR, Matt Rowe). An unprecedented 7100 **Brewer's Blackbirds**, which crushed the existing high count of 2000, were estimated in the Mississippi Lowlands *Cape Girardeau* 26 Mar (ph. Bill Eddleman, ph., aud. Michael Taylor, et al.).

Daniel Ferguson and Celia Llopis-Jepsen commented that 6800 **Common Grackle**, at Johnston Lake *Cass* 18 Mar were, "Estimated in hundreds. Several "ropes" of grackles passed over us in waves. We no doubt underestimate how many there were." A high for this hotspot, 2520 were estimated at RMBS 26 Mar (DHa, DH).

PASSERINES Warblers– Dickcissel

The current highest **Ovenbird** count was tied with 44 along Sugar Camp 7 May (aud. MR, JBo). *St. Charles* featured 25 at WS-LVT 10 May (KH). Multiple birds were logged in the Glaciated Plains including, 11, the top count at the region's migrant trap, Sugar Creek area *Adair* 6 May (PK) and 10 were at Brickyard Hill CA *Atchison* 15 May (Bobby Walz, KH). Twelve



Swainson's Warbler, WS-LVT May 2021
Photo Bill Duncan

Worm-eating Warblers occurred at WS-LVT 10 May (KH), with 6 in *Barry*, *Christian*, *Lincoln*, and *Shannon*. During a riparian-based census, 28 **Louisiana Waterthrush** were detected on a float along 9.8 miles of the Current River, Pulltite Access to Big Spring *Shannon* 24 May (MR, Larry Rizzo). **Golden-winged Warbler** totals were similar on both sides of Missouri; 7 along WS-LVT 10 May (KH), and 6 at Weston Bend SP *Platte* 11 May (Dave Williams). A dozen **Blue-winged Warblers** were reported at three sites: WS-LVT (Jonah Eckles) and Big Buffalo Creek CA *Benton* (ph. Micky Louis, Sherry Leonardo) both 7 May. The third was a float of the Eleven Point River from Greer to Turner Access *Oregon* 16 Apr (Alison Vilag). **Brewster's Warblers**, all as singles appeared at Arnold City Park *Jefferson* 1 May (ph. James Bolte), at World Bird Sanctuary *St. Louis* 3 May (ph. Kelly Smith), and one Sugar Camp 7 May was observed singing a hybrid song (MR, JBo). One **Lawrence's Warbler** photographed by Tim Jones along Levee Road 28 Apr, prompted him to momentarily envision a Bachman's Warbler. **Prothonotary Warbler** highs were 34 at BKLCA 15 May (ph. OG, HG). In the Mississippi Lowlands were 24 on Red Mill Drive and 7 at a separate location, both in Mingo *Stoddard* 24 Apr (Sally Swanson, Susan Hazelwood, Jean Leonatti, Cathy Harris). Well north for their expected breeding range, a thoroughly photographed and recorded **Swainson's Warbler** (acc.) was present at WS-LVT (a novel location) on 12–31 May (aud. Robert Bailey, ph. aud. †JB, ph. †JU, †Pat Lueders, ph. Brian Steger, m. ob.). A male recorded at WS 30 May, continued into summer. Possibly the same bird returned to Grindstone Nature Area *Boone* 2 May continued through the season and into summer (John Besser, aud. PMo, m. ob.). In the Ozark Scenic Rivers region *Oregon* were 3 at McCormack Lake 10 May, 3 Woodside Township 7 May, and 3 at two sites in Fremont 10–11 May (Than Boves). Counts were made of 3 and 1 at Greer Crossing and Cemetery Road 5 May respectively (ph. DBI, DBI). It was a banner spring for **Connecticut Warblers**, detected in six locales. Up to 2 were present at TGP 10–19 May (David Becher, DH, m. ob.). The rest were solos at Caldwell Memorial Wildlife Area *Franklin* 13–14 May (ph. Becky

Lutz, ph. JU), Black Island CA *Pemiscot* 15 May (JM), 17–22 May Minor Park *Jackson* (David Butel, ph. Steven Seltman, m. ob.), Forest Park *St. Louis City* 19 May (RW, Jay Huila Balvin), and CCLMP 19 May (ph. Lisa Saffell, Jonah Eckles). A tally of 31 **Hooded Warblers** establishes the spring's highest count at Sugar Camp 16 May (CBa), while 27 challenges the previous high-count 7 May (ph. MR, JBo). **American Redstarts** totaled 99 on a Current River float census *Shannon* 24 May (MR, Larry Rizzo). Top counts for **Cape May Warblers** were 4 at EBCA 15–17 May (ph. PMo, m. ob.), while 3 were at TGP 2 and 10 May (Chris Rice, Janice Mansfield). There were amazingly high **Cerulean Warbler** counts this period. A new high count of 19 smashed data going back to 2013 along Sugar Camp 7–8 May, while 24 were logged on a riparian survey of the Current River *Shannon* 8 May, sparing only the highest counts set in 1997-1998 (aud. MR, JBo). A **Northern Parula** total of 53 seized spring's second-highest count during a float along the Eleven Point River, Greer to Turner Access *Oregon* 16 Apr (Alison Vilag). Spring's new highest **Magnolia Warbler** counts doubled the old records with 21 at Levee Road 5 May and 20 at Ben Cash 10 May both *Dunklin* (TJ). A maximum 14 was present at Lake Springfield Park *Greene* 15 May setting the season's second-highest count, and a hotspot high at this site (ph. DBI, BBI). Peak **Bay-breasted Warbler** was 8 at Forest Park-Kennedy Woods 16 May (Robert Bailey) and 7 at Carondelet Park 14 May (John Nash) both *St. Louis City*, set spring highest counts. Five each on 15 May at BKLCA (ph. OG, HG), Black Island CA *Pemiscot* (JM), and Carondelet Park *St. Louis City* (Eugene Huryn) tie the season's third-highest count. Three were at Lake Jacomo *Jackson* 16 May (Steven Selton). Top counts from both sides of the state were 5 **Blackburnian Warblers** each at Cuivre River SP *Lincoln* 16 May (HG, OG), Oak Knoll Park *St. Louis* 15 May (Mallory Balsat), and WS-LVT 10 May (KH), with 3 at Knob Noster SP *Johnson* 14 May (Larry Olpin, Christine Lichte, Vernon Elsberry, Chris Edmonson). A total 82 **Yellow Warblers** bumps spring's third-highest count at LBNWR 13 May (KH, Caleb Strand). Notable for the west side of the state was 18 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**. Mark Robbins noted, "All singing males; my all-time single day high in Missouri" Sugar Camp 7 May (MR, JBo). In the east were 20 at Cuivre River SP *Lincoln* (HO, OG). A lone **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was observed while vocalizing at a residence in *St. Francois* 1 May (Ida Domazlicky). Two **Prairie Warblers** set the season's second-earliest record at residence in *Bollinger* 11 Apr (aud. Michael Taylor). Fourteen occurred along Rozell Road *Taney* 30 May (aud. DBI, BBI). Two counts of 12 **Black-throated Green Warblers** tied spring's second-



Black-headed Grosbeak, Joplin, Jasper Co. 9 May 2021. Photo Cody Chaffin

highest record at Sugar Camp 7 May (aud. MR, JBo), and at WS-LVT 10 May (KH). The season's top tally was 8 **Canada Warblers** at Cuivre River SP *Lincoln* 16 May (ph. aud. HG, OG). A Big Day count yielded 46 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** at TGP 8 May, which ties spring's second-highest count (JU, BR, DBr, Matt Rowe, Tom Parmeter). A single **Black-headed Grosbeak** was present with Red-Breasted Grosbeaks at residential feeders in Joplin *Jasper* 9 May (ph. Cody Chaffin). Another western vagrant, a lone **Lazuli Bunting** (acc.) was observed and carefully sketched at a residence in *Newton*, also on 9 May and (ph. †Jaden Hobbs). Interestingly 2 appeared over the border in Kansas 9 May. Multiple **Painted Buntings** and breeding pairs returned to sites occupied in previous years: Conco Quarries *Greene*; Protom area *Taney*; the stake-outs in Jefferson City, *Cole*; and Sand Pond CA *Ripley*. Singles at novel sites included Lake of the Ozarks *Camdenton* 16 May (MH), and Longview (ph. EWa). The maximum **Dickcissel** count was 110 at Talbot CA *Lawrence* 23 May (DBa).

Observers – Multiple Citations:

Chris Barrigar (CBA), Davis Balser (DBa), David Blevins (DBI), Barbara Blevins (BBI), John Bollin (JBo), Diane Bricmont (DBr), Keith Brink (KB), David Easterla (DE), Henry Gorski (HG), Oliver Gorski (OG), (Mark Haas (MH), David Haenni (DHa), Kadyynn Hatfield (KH), Doug Hommert (DH), Timothy Jones (TJ), Tim Kavan (TK), Peter Kondrashov (PK), Kendell Loyd (KL), Alex Marine (AM), Debbie Martin (DM), Steve Martin (SM), Paul McKenzie (PM), Terry McNeely (TM), Peter Monacell (PMo), Joseph Mosley (JM), Tom Nagel (TN), John Nash (JN), Lisa Owens (LO), Mark Robbins (MR), Bill Rowe (BR), Joshua Uffman (JU), Eric Walters (EWa), Rad Widmer (RW) Doug Willis (DW).

Abbreviations:

ad.	adult
alt.	alternate
aud.	audio
CA	Conservation Area
det.	details
et al.	and others
imm.	immature
m. ob.	multiple observers
pers. comm.	personal communication
ph.	photo(s)
SP	State Park
vid.	video

Location Abbreviations:

BKLCA	BK Leach CA, Lincoln Co.
Bradford Farm	University of Missouri Bradford Research Center, Boone Co.
Busch CA	Busch Conservation Area, St. Charles Co.
Carondelet Park	Carondelet Park, St. Louis City
CBCA	Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, St. Louis Co.
CCNWR	Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge, Lincoln, Pike Co.
DCCA	Duck Creek Conservation Area, Bollinger, Stoddard, Wayne Counties
Dunn Ranch	Dunn Ranch Prairie CA, Harrison Co.
EBCA	Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Boone Co.
CCLMP	Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park-- Little Creve Coeur, St. Louis Co.
Levee Road	Levee Road, Dunklin Co.
Longview	Longview Lake, Jackson Co.
LBNWR	Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co.
Mingo	Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Wayne/Stoddard Cos.
OSCA	Otter Slough Conservation Area, Butler/Stoddard Cos.
PSP	Prairie State Park, Barton Co.
RMBS	Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles Co.
SL	Smithville Lake, Clay/Clinton Cos.
Ten Mile Pond	Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co.
TGP	Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City
WLD	Winfield Lock and Dam 25 and Sandy Chute, Lincoln Co.
WS	Weldon Spring Conservation Area, St. Charles Co.
WS-LVT	Weldon Spring Conservation Area-Lost Valley Trail, St. Charles Co.
WS-BGT	Weldon Spring Conservation Area-Blue Grosbeak Trail, St. Charles Co.

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Summer Seasonal Report

June — July 2021

Allen Gathman

Missouri temperatures were above average for the first three weeks of June; even with a cooling trend in the last week, the monthly mean temperature was still 1.6 degrees above the long-term average. Cooling continued into July, which was 1.2 degrees below average. The cooler July temperatures were offset to some degree by higher than average minimum temperatures and high humidity.

Dry conditions early in June ended with heavy rainfall in the last 12 days of the month, causing localized flooding of fields and bottomlands. The month ended with mean rainfall 1.44 inches higher than average. Heavier than average rain continued into July, giving a statewide total 1.41 inches above normal for the month. By the end of July all of the state was drought-free, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, but some southeastern Ozark counties were still unusually dry. There was little flooding of major rivers during the season.

Note: Records marked with an asterisk (*) require documentation, but no documentation has yet been received by the Missouri Bird Records Committee (MBRC). Observers involved with such sightings are encouraged to submit documentation. The MBRC has received documentation of those records marked with a dagger (†), and those marked (acc.) have been accepted.

WATERFOWL

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their range expansion, with reports in nine counties, and this summer's high of 9 individuals at CCLMP 2 Jun–29 Jul (Dave Haenni, m. ob.). A **Ross's Goose** continued at Carondelet Park, St. Louis City, 6 Jun (Jessica Joganic, Rosemary Joganic). Deon VanNostrand saw 500 **Canada Geese** 19 Jun at MNWR, Wayne Co, a record high count for summer. Invasive **Mute Swans** were in St. Louis City, St. Charles, Boone, and Stoddard Cos; up to 6 including cygnets were at Binder Lake, Cole Co, 5 Jun–21 Jul (m. ob.). A single injured **Trumpeter Swan** continued at Marais Temps Clair CA, St. Charles Co, 5–7 Jun (Angie Jungbluth and Jake Friebohle).

Blue-winged Teal were in 19 counties, with 25 at CCLMP 13 Jul (Mike Grant). Single **Northern Shovelers** were at EBCA 6 Jun (Robert Folzenlogen) and Muskrat Lake, Buchanan Co 21, 25 Jun (ph. AM, ph. TN), with 6 on 3 Jun at SLNWR (TMi). Single **Gadwall** were at RMBS 2–24 Jul (m. ob.) and Smithville Lake, Clay Co 28 Jul (DW); 3–6 individuals were at Muskrat Lake, Buchanan Co 19–21 Jun (AM, MN). Missouri's 13th A **Mottled Duck** (acc.) was at CCLMP 14-26 Jul (Ken Smith, ph. †David Becher, ph. †Diane Bricmont, ph. †JU, †Cornelius Alwood; m. ob.). Two **Northern Pintail** were at Duck Creek CA, Bollinger Co 8 Jun (ph. Michelle Randecker), and 1–3 were at LBNWR 12–22 Jun (ph. Christine Kozlosky, BS, ph. DB, ph. AM). A **Green-winged Teal** was at LBNWR 12 Jun (ph. BW). A record high summer count of 14 **Redhead** were at LBNWR 12 Jun (ph. BW), and one was at Smithville Lake, Clay Co 28 Jul



Mottled Duck (with Mallard), CCLMP 19 Jul 2021. Photo Doug Hommert

(ph. DW). 1–2 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at RMBS 7 Jun–24 Jul (m. ob.), and one was in Jefferson Co 9–11 Jul (ph. James Bolte, ph. Brock Waggoner, ph. Cullen Waggoner, JU). Single **Lesser Scaup** were at Confluence Rd, St. Charles Co 2 Jun (ph. Doug Hommert), Highway 116 Wetlands, Buchanan Co, 9 Jun (ph. TMi), and RMBS 2 Jul (ph. AM). **Hooded Mergansers** were in 17 counties outside SE Missouri, where they are locally common in summer. **Ruddy Ducks** were noted in 12 counties.

GALLIFORMES THROUGH WADERS

Ring-necked Pheasants were reported in seven counties. A **Greater Prairie-Chicken** was at Taberville Prairie CA, St. Clair Co, 3 and 12 Jun (AM), and 1–2 were at Dunn Ranch, Harrison Co 12 Jun and 29 Jun (Jane Hemmersmeyer, JH, DW).

Up to four **White-winged Doves** were at Kent Freeman's feeders in Kennett, Dunklin Co 2 Jun–28 Jul. Single birds were at Tribble Park, Hallsville, Boone Co 3 Jun (Cory Gregory); Blairstown, Henry Co 25 Jun (ph. Lisa Skidmore); Whetstone Creek CA, Callaway Co 5 Jul (ph. Phil and Lis Henry); Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co 12 Jul (ph. Karin Pelton); and up to three at Jacob L. Loose Park, Jackson Co 27 Jun–20 Jul (ph. Lisa Owens, Beth Partin, ph. Emily Larkin). Single **Greater Roadrunners** were at Rocky Barrens CA, Greene Co 12 Jun (JD), Ozark Underground Laboratory, Taney Co, 22 Jun (PMcK), and Drury-Mincy CA, Taney Co 24 Jul (KL). A well described **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at EBCA 13 Jul (PMo) and 28 Jul (PMcK).

A single **King Rail** continued from May at BKLCA 2 Jun (JE), and up to 2 at Clarence Cannon NWR, Pike Co in Jul (ph. JH, ph. Jennie Townsend). **Soras** were in Boone, Buchanan, Clay, Holt, Lincoln, St. Charles, and Vernon Cos. A pair of **Common Gallinules** were at CCLMP 2 Jun-13 Jul (m. ob.); three were at Duck Creek, Bollinger Co 2 Jun (ph. Mark Hahn), 7 in Carroll Co 8 Jun (TMcC), and single birds at City of Columbia Wetland Cell #1, Boone Co 1 Jul (AM) and FRCA, Vernon Co 28 Jul (AM). Up to 5 were at LBNWR 12 Jun-30 Jul (m. ob.), including a sighting of two adults with three fledglings 11 Jul (ph. MN). **American Coot** was in 15 counties.

Sandhill Cranes had a good showing, with 2 at CCLMP 6 Jun (Tony Forsythe), 2–4 at LBNWR 9 Jun–30 Jul (m. ob.), one at SLNWR 19 Jun (TMcN), 1–2 at BKLCA 21 Jun–23 Jul (Joseph Mosley, DR, Carol Thompson, ph. JH), and the most unexpected (acc.) was in New Madrid, New Madrid Co, 7–27 Jul, where listed as an accidental summer visitor (ph. †Tim Kavan, ph. Kyle Bess, Dave Nussbaum, ph. Kent Freeman).

SHOREBIRDS

Up to 4 **Black-necked Stilts** at LBNWR 2–22 Jun were the most northern (m. ob.); elsewhere, there were 1–2 at EBCA 4 Jun



Sandhill Crane, New Madrid Co. 7 Jul 2021
Photo Tim Kavan

and 17 Jun (RS), one 4 Jun at RMBS (Kelly Ormesher, Clare Ormesher), one 9 Jun at Clarence Cannon NWR, Pike Co (Cory Gregory), and 3–4 at BKLCA 19–27 Jun (DR, HG, OG). Missouri's 3rd nesting record for **American Avocet** (acc.) came from LBNWR, where a pair produced up to three fledglings 12 Jun–24 Jul (ph. †AM, DB, Mark Robbins). Elsewhere, five early migrants were in Buchanan Co 10 Jul (ThJ) and 8 at FRCA, Vernon Co 24 Jul (DB).

Four **American Golden-Plovers** were at FRCA, Bates Co 29 Jul (AM), and one was at SelecTurf Sod Farm, Callaway Co 29–31 Jul (m. ob.).

Semipalmated Plovers were in 8 counties, with the season high of 12 in FRCA, Vernon Co 28 Jul (AM). **Upland Sandpipers** were in 12 counties; one was in Hornersville, Dunklin Co 26 Jul (Mack McShane), an unusual Mississippi Lowlands sighting. A single **Ruddy Turnstone** continued at EBCA 1 Jun (m. ob.). A **Ruff** was at FRCA, Bates Co 29 Jul (ph. AM). **Stilt Sandpipers** were in 8 counties, with a flock estimated at 100 in FRCA, Bates Co 31 Jul (Klee Bruce, Isaac Goes, Austin Hess, Debbie Martin, Steve Martin). Single **Sanderlings** were at FRCA Vernon Co 28 Jul (AM) and FRCA Bates Co 29–31 Jul (m. ob.), and another at Bushwhacker Lake CA, Vernon Co (A. Wild). A **Dunlin** was at EBCA 1–2 Jun (ph. Linda Frost, CH, ph. Woody Jeffrey, JL, CW). Two **Baird's Sandpipers** were at FRCA, Bates Co 19 Jul (AM), one in Portland, Callaway Co 25 Jul (ph. PMo), 1–2 at EBCA 27–31 Jul (PMo, PMcK, CW, JE), one at Diana Bend CA, Howard Co 30 Jul (ph. William Baldridge), one at RMBS 30 Jul (Tina Pryor), and 2 at FRCA, Vernon Co 31 Jul (SL, Debbie Martin, Steve Martin). Up to 9 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at EBCA 1–9 Jun (JL, CH, CW, RS), 6 at RMBS 7 Jun (ph. BR, ph. Tom Parmeter), one at Confluence Rd, St. Charles Co 7 Jun (ph. BR, ph. Tom Parmeter), and 2 at Highway 116 Wetlands, Buchanan Co 11 Jun (MN). Up to 7 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were at SelecTurf Sod Farm, Callaway Co 28–31 Jul (ph. PMo, m. ob.); 2 were at FRCA, Bates Co 28–31 Jul (AM, KL, Conway Hawn, Christian Hawn). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were in 10 counties, with a flock of 85 at Winfield Lock & Dam 25, Lincoln Co, 29 Jul (Gail Gagnon). One to 2 **Western Sandpipers** were at FRCA, Vernon Co 11–31 Jul (m. ob.), and singles were at Mokane Road, Callaway Co 20 Jul (ph. PMo), EBCA 28–31 Jul (m. ob.), and FRCA, Bates Co 28–31 Jul (AM, SL).

Six **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at FRCA, Bates Co on 11 Jul (AM), and 2 on 29 Jul (KL); 2–4 were at FRCA, Vernon Co 11–28 Jul (ph. AM, DB), one at EBCA 15 Jul (PMo), 2 on Saxton Easton Rd, Buchanan Co 16 Jul (ph. ThJ), and one at Highway 116 Wetlands, Buchanan Co 31 Jul (MN). A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was at FRCA, Vernon Co 28 Jul (AM), and 2–4 at FRCA, Bates Co 29 Jul (KL, AM). Single **American Woodcocks** were at Saint James, Phelps Co 5 Jun (Scott Alford), Elsberry, Lincoln Co 15 Jun (OG), Bollinger Co 26 Jun (Mike Taylor), Schell City, St. Clair Co 9 Jul (AM), and Wah'kon-tah Prairie, St. Clair Co 9 Jul (AM). Up to 3 **Wilson's Snipe** were at FRCA, Bates Co 19–29 Jul (AM), 1 at FRCA, Vernon Co 12–28 Jul (AM, ph. Eric Wilhoit, ph. Thomas Swartz), and 1 at LBNWR 25–30 Jul (DS, NB, Greg Scott). Single **Wilson's Phalaropes** were at LBNWR 22

Jun (ph. DB, ph. AM). EBCA 29–31 Jul (ph. PMo, ph. JE, m. ob.), and FRCA, Bates Co 29 Jul (KL, AM). **Greater Yellowlegs** were in 12 counties, with a flock of 50 at FRCA, Vernon Co 24 Jul (DB). A flock of 60 **Willetts** at FRCA, Bates Co (ph. AM) on 11 Jul is a new record high count for fall; there were also 2 at Table Rock Lake—Moonshine Beach, Taney Co 21 Jun (ph. DF), 2–8 at FRCA, Vernon Co 11–12 Jul (ph. AM), and 1 at EBCA 29 Jul (ph. PMo). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were in 11 counties, with 115 at FRCA, Bates Co 19 Jul (AM).

GULLS THROUGH RAPTORS

A **Laughing Gull** was at BKLCA 27 Jun (ph. OG, ph. HG), and another 3 Jul at RMBS (ph. Leona Mukai). Two **Franklin's Gulls** were at Thousand Hills SP, Adair Co 18 Jun (ph. PK), and one at LBNWR 21 Jun (Kevin Cameron). The fourth summer record of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (acc.) was at RMBS 17–20 Jul (ph. †BR, ph. JU, ph. PK). **Least Terns** were reported frequently along the Mississippi River from Lincoln Co southward; in addition, 2 were on the Missouri River in Atchison Co 9 Jun (Sam Manning), 2 at EBCA 19 Jun (OG, HG), one 28–29 Jul at EBCA (ph. PMcK, ph. PMo), and another 28 Jul at FRCA, Vernon Co (AM). Tyler Goble, Wildlife Biologist for the US Corps of Engineers, reported over 30 adults and 48 chicks at RMBS this season; 39 chicks were banded on the nesting barge. **Caspian Terns** were reported in Clay, Mercer, Pike, St. Charles, and Vernon Cos. **Black Terns** were in 15 counties, with a flock of 250 at FRCA, Vernon Co 16 Jul (ph. AM, ph. DB). **Forster's Terns** were in 11 counties.

Two **Common Loons** were at Stockton Lake, Cedar Co 13 Jun and 21 Jul (ph. AM). A **Neotropic Cormorant** (acc.), casual in the east, was at Busch CA, St. Charles Co 17 Jun (ph. †Randy Morgan, ph. †Julie Morgan). An **American Bittern** was at Sarcoux Prairie, Newton Co 3 Jul (JC). **Least Bitterns** were in 11 counties. A **Glossy Ibis** was at Muskrat Lake, Buchanan Co 19 Jun (ph. MN). **White-faced Ibis**, casual in summer, were reported in multiple counties: 21 at FRCA, Vernon Co 1 Jun (ph. AM, TMcC, Joseph Mosley) and another on 14 Jun (ph. AM); 27 at SLNWR 3 Jun (TMi), one 3–4 Jun at Diana Bend CA, Howard Co (ph. William Baldrige), 3 at EBCA 4 Jun, 21 Jun (John Besser); 15 at LBNWR 9 Jun (Ren Burke, Jeremy Alcorn), 5 at LBNWR 18 Jun (BS), 3 (acc.) at LBNWR 22 Jun (ph. †AM, DB); and another (acc.) at RMBS 21 Jul (ph. †Mike Thelen). Since this season ended, their status has been moved to summer visitor rare.

A summer high count of 10 **Osprey** were at Arcola, Dade Co 3 Jul (Erik Hansen). A kettle of 51 **Mississippi Kites**, record high summer count, was at CCLMP 3 Jul (Lisa Saffell, ph. Natalie Rekittke, Diane Bricmont, Randy Schiller). Single **Northern Harriers** were in 7 counties. A single **Swainson's Hawk** (acc.), accidental outside the west in summer, was at SelecTurf Sod Farm, Callaway Co 26–31 Jul (ph. †PMo, ph. †PMcK; m. ob.); two (acc.) were at the same location 30 Jul (ph. †JL, Betsy Garrett, Cathy

Harris). **Barn Owls** were in Benton, Greene, Jefferson, Mississippi, and Vernon Cos, with a record high count of 12 individuals including at least 6 adults at Mora CA, Benton Co 16 Jun (ph. AM). **Eastern Screech-Owls** were in 13 counties, and **Peregrine Falcons** in 10 counties.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MEADOWLARK

Olive-sided Flycatcher, a late migrant, was seen at seven locations statewide 1–3 Jun. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at King City, Gentry Co 5 Jun (TMcN), and another at Longview Lake, Jackson Co 6 Jun (Allison Godek). Single **Alder Flycatchers** were at EBCA 1 Jun (Cheryl Rosenfeld), Jerry Smith Park, Jackson Co 1 Jun (SL, BW), Little Blue Trace Park, Jackson Co 2 Jun (BW), Hoot Owl Hollow Farm, Cass Co 2 Jun (Ginny Culver), and LBNWR 5 Jun (ph. Nic Allen); two individuals were in Vernon Co 3 Jun (TMcC). **Willow Flycatchers** were in 28 counties. Single **Least Flycatchers** were at Burr Oak Woods CA, Jackson Co 2 Jun (Skyler Lessenden), a private farm in Wright Co 2–3 Jun (Charles Shields), and Westside North, Jackson Co 31 Jul (John Anderson). Up to 12 **Western Kingbirds** were on Mokane Road, Callaway Co 18 Jul (PMo, m. ob.). **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** were in Butler, Carter, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Perry, Ripley, and Scott Cos in the southeast where they are rare. **Loggerhead Shrikes** are rare outside the west and southeast; one was on Kimble Rd., Texas Co 2 Jun, 13 Jun (Daniel Hatch, Christian Hawn, Conway Hawn); 4 in Moniteau Co 6 Jun (ph. RS), two in Moniteau Co 6 Jul (CB); one at Katy Trail SP, Rocheport to McBaine, Boone Co 23 Jun (Jim Gast); one on Cypress St., Mercer Co 23 Jul; 2 on State Rd M, Mercer Co 25 Jul (JU); and 2–5 on County Rd. 4000, Phelps Co 17–28 Jul (Mary Dale, ph. Gary Mueller)

Brown-headed Nuthatches were recently introduced to the state, and 2 from this population were in Mark Twain NF, Carter Co 8 Jun (Grace Jordan) and 21 Jul (KL). A well-described **Brown Creeper**, accidental in summer, was at Sunrise Estates, Boone Co 6 Jul (*Linda Frost). Single **Marsh Wrens** were at Confluence Rd., St. Charles Co, 4 Jun (Brent Schindewolf); Rocky Fork Lakes CA, Boone Co, 15 Jun (PMo, PMcK); Nodaway Valley CA, Holt Co, 26 Jun (AM), and Clarence Cannon NWR, Pike Co 26 Jul (JH); 2–5 were at Lake Contrary, Buchanan Co 4–29 Jul (ph. TN), and 1–2 at LBNWR 20–30 Jul (Don Merz, Greg Scott). The most northern **Bewick's Wren** this summer was one at Sugar Creek School Rd., Adair Co 7–11 Jun (ph. PK). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City 2 Jun (Jamie McGuire).

A single female **Purple Finch** (acc.), appearing to have conjunctivitis, was Missouri's 3rd summer record in Boone Co 6–21 Jun (ph. †Linda Headrick). Single **Pine Siskins** were in Boone, Crawford, Franklin, Greene, Pike, and St. Louis Cos. Two **Grasshopper Sparrows**, rare in the southeast, were at Sand Prairie CA, Scott Co 18 Jun and 12 Jul (Mark Haas, Allen Gathman); another was in Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co 25 Jun (Bill Eddleman). The 6th summer record of **Dark-eyed Junco** (acc.) was a single bird at the Cape

Girardeau Conservation Nature Center, Cape Girardeau Co, 23 Jun, 21 Jul (ph. †Leon Book). Single **White-throated Sparrows** were at Pecan Creek Woods, Lincoln Co 11–13 Jun (ph. OG, HG) and Missouri Blvd., Cole Co 19 Jun (OG, HG). A **Vesper Sparrow** was at Bilby Ranch Lake CA, Nodaway Co 22–26 Jun (ph. AM). A **Savannah Sparrow** (acc.) was at Darst Bottom Rd., St. Charles Co, 3 Jul (†DR, Tom Bormann). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** (acc.) in Eureka, St. Louis Co became Missouri's first summer resident record 1 Jun–29 Jul (ph. †JU). **Bobolinks**, rare outside the north, were in Benton, Clay, Holt, and Moniteau Cos.

Western Meadowlarks were noted on their breeding grounds in Atchison, Daviess, Harrison, Jasper, Mercer, Putnam, and Nodaway Cos.



Lincoln's Sparrow, Eureka, St. Louis Co. 11 Jun 2021. Photo Josh Uffman

WARBLERS THROUGH BUNTING

Single **Worm-eating Warblers**, rare in the north, were in Sugar Creek Subdivision, Adair Co, 4–5 Jun and 3 Jul (PK), and Thousand Hills SP, Adair Co, 4 Jul (PK). **Blue-winged Warbler** is also rare in summer in the north; 2 were at Big Creek CA, Adair Co 1 Jun (ph. Meredith Hoggatt, Clarissa Starbuck), one at Runge Prairie, Adair Co 5 Jun (Zeb Yoko), 4 on Sugar Creek School Rd., Adair Co 11 Jun (aud. PK), one at Battle of Athens SHS, Clark Co 26 Jun (aud. Michael Miller), and 2 at Sugar Creek CA, Adair Co 24 Jul (TMcN). Well north of their expected Missouri breeding range, a **Swainson's Warbler**, continued from spring 7–10 Jun at Grindstone Nature Area, Boone Co (Lottie Bushmann, Jay Johnston), and another (acc.) continued at Weldon Spring CA, St. Charles Co 1 Jun–7 Jul (†Joseph Bieksze, †Bob Bailey, ph. †JU, †Pat Lueders, †BS, m. ob.). A late **Tennessee Warbler** was at Forest Park, St. Louis City 5 Jun (Clare Ormesher, Kelly Ormesher). A **Magnolia Warbler** was on Levee Rd, Dunklin Co 3 Jun (ph. Timothy Jones). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Rock Bridge SP, Boone Co 1 Jun (RG). One to two **Prairie Warblers**, accidental in summer in the north, were at Battle of Athens SHS, Clark Co 19-20 Jun (ph., aud. Michael Miller). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at Weldon Spring CA, St. Charles Co 1 Jun (Dennis Martin). A single **Canada Warbler** was at Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City 3 Jun (Joseph Ford).

Single late **Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks** were in Pocahontas, Cape Girardeau Co 1–3 Jun (ph. Allen Gathman) and a private residence, Cape Girardeau Co 7 Jun (Dave Nussbaum). Well north of their expected breeding grounds, a pair of **Painted Buntings** returned to Missouri Blvd., Cole Co through at least 29 Jul (m. ob.), and east of their breeding range two were near Sand Pond CA, Ripley Co 7 Jun (Reva Dow, ph. Ethan Hoggard, ph. Karin Pelton).



Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Pocahontas, Cape Girardeau Co. 1 Jun 2021.
Photo Allen Gathman

My thanks to Bill Rowe, Pete Monacell, Mary Nemecek, and Josh Uffman for extensive helpful review of this report.

Observers:

Alex Marine (AM), Becky Lutz (BL), Bill Rowe (BR), Brian Steger (BS), Bryan White (BW), Chris Barrigar (CB), Cathy Harris (CH), Carol Weston (CW), Davis Balser (DB), Dillon Freiburger (DF), David Rogles (DR), Dakota Swisher (DS), Doug Willis (DW), Erik Ost (EO), Henry Gorski (HG), Jeff Cantrell (JC), Jacob Decker (JD), Jonah Eckels (JE), Jerry Hemmersmeyer (JH), Jean Leonatti (JL), Josh Uffman (JU), Kendell Loyd (KL), Mary Nemecek (MN), Nikki Berry (NB), Oliver Gorski (OG), Pete Kondrashov (PK), Paul McKenzie (PMcK), Pete Monacell (PMo), Reed Gerdes (RG), Richard Stanton (RS), Sherry Leonardo (SL), Thomas Jones (ThJ), Trey McCuen (TMcC), Terry McNeely (TMcN), Terry Miller (TMi), Tom Nagel (TN)

Locations:

BK Leach Conservation Area, Lincoln Co (BKLCA), Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park – Little Creve Coeur, St. Louis Co (CCLMP), Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, Boone Co (EBCA), Four Rivers Conservation Area, Bates and Vernon Cos (FRCA), Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co (LBNWR), Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Wayne and Stoddard Cos (MNWR), Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles Co (RMBS), Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Chariton Co (SLNWR)

Abbreviations:

aud. audio recording made

ph. photographed

m. ob. multiple observations

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(573) 443-8263

egreg2@yahoo.com

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Short-eared Owl  
B.K. Leach Conservation Area, Lincoln Co. 7 Feb 2022  
Photo Andy Reago and Chrissy McClarren