



THE BLUEBIRD

The voice of MBS since 1934

**March 2023
Volume 90, No. 1**



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

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THE BLUEBIRD

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*** 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 Kendell Loyd by Mar. 10

Spring (Mar. 1-May 31)—to Josh Uffman 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— Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Common Grackle, Smithville Dam, Clay Co 21 Jun 2022. Photo Mike Niles

Erratum: Citations of the article published in The Bluebird 2020. Vol. 87 (4):210-213 should read:

Second Record of the American Avocet Nesting in Missouri by David A. Easterla, Tom H. Nagel, Darrin M. Welchert, and Mark B. Robbins.

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—EDGE WADE



***Ecosystem:* a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.**

The Missouri Birding Society, though sporting a new name since September 2019, is a 122-year old ecosystem—a community composed of people who share an interest in birds. Our mission statement, “dedicated to the preservation and protection of birds and other wildlife; to education and appreciation of the natural world; and to effective

wildlife and habitat conservation practices” illustrates the diversity of interests and activities of the community’s members.

There are those whose interest, commitments, resources, or physical abilities limit their bird related actions to the pleasures of observing backyard feeders. Others may be out trying to see or photograph every species that appears in the state in a year or pursuing a golden fleece in the tantalizing quest to see every bird in the world. Many place a high priority on conservation of birds in the form of habitat preservation or resource usage and strive to educate and improve our decisions and actions to favor bird survival. And some work to improve our understanding of species identification, bird occurrence and behavior through promoting careful observation techniques, record keeping and documentation.

We are a diverse community! Our “physical environment” is the structure and operations of this venerable, evolving all-volunteer society.

Evolving? Yes. Changes include the 2021 launching of the monthly

eNews sent to all members and two Facebook groups with activity announcements, bits of bird lore, and other items of interest to bird nerds to add dimensions and timeliness not possible within a quarterly journal.

Webinars such as the current series co-sponsored with the Missouri River Bird Observatory, bird identification workshops and other presentations, even MBS Board meetings conducted online have become means to improve our communications and services to members and the birding public.

Ann Johnson, our web designer, is working on the finishing touches to update www.mobirds.org to make it more compatible with mobile devices and to facilitate researching scientific-based items appearing in *The Bluebird*.

We are strengthening our support of the Missouri Young Birders Club, following co-sponsoring a flycatcher identification online workshop with offering a full campership to the American Birding Association's Camp Colorado for 13-17 year-olds. The Board is exploring the feasibility of supporting an annually awarded young birder campership.

The Board has approved some bylaws revisions to bring before the membership that modernize some of our procedures. These proposed revisions appear in this issue of *The Bluebird* and will be voted on at the September annual general meeting at Bunker Hill Resort.

And, speaking of your Board, when you come across one of these committed volunteers, be sure to thank them for the time they give (often at the expense of time out birding) to make your state birding organization a vibrant, resilient home for Missouri's birding community.

Bill Eddleman and Michael O'Keefe have just about completed all arrangements for the 2023 Spring Meeting in Cape Girardeau April 28-30. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Cape!

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.

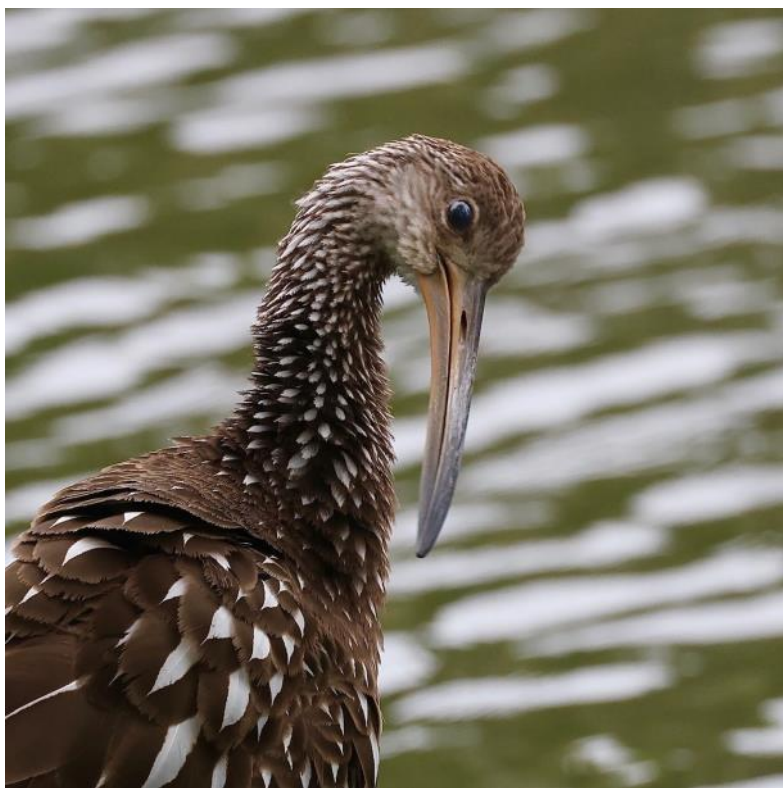
Join the active Missouri birding community by subscribing here:

<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>



Limpkin, 5 Sep 2022, St Louis City. Photo Julie Morgan

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 19 new MBS members in the 1st quarter of 2023!**

Gerald Early	Easton, MO
Sheila Yoder	Warsaw, MO
Doug Lindeman	Independence, MO
Joyce Suedmeyer	Lee’s Summit, MO
Kay Duffield	Foster, MO
Mary Howard	Arnold, MO
Anita Otal	Wildwood, MO
Lauren Lanning	Springfield, MO
Jody Gelbach	Maplewood, MO
Lynn Martin	Centralia, MO
Stephen Mahfood	Wildwood, MO
Brenda Wright	Liberty, MO
John Marty	Ballwin, MO
Jeremiah Nichols	Carl Junction, MO
Logan Wilson	Lamoni, IA
Carly Walton	Springfield, MO
Kelly Ormesher	Greenfield, MO
Dave Gamet	Kansas City, MO
Ayden Warren	Independence, MO

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., who 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 on the back cover 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.

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In Memoriam Charlene Malone

Jim Malone and Josh Uffman

In the early 1990s, Charlene Malone and her husband, Jim, moved to a Chesterfield, Missouri townhouse. It was there Charlene purchased a bird feeder, which provided entertainment for their cat, Sybil, and where Charlene noticed a small brown bird wearing an old-time black-and-white prisoner cap. Those who mentioned a rare bird sighting to Charlene probably heard her say, “Horses before zebras” ... Horses being the common or more expected bird species, while the zebra was an unusual or rare bird. After studying the field guides, this adult White-crowned Sparrow was certainly Charlene’s first “zebra.” This was the one, the “Spark Bird” as they say, the bird that caused Charlene to become obsessed with these feathered creatures.

Charlene was born October 27, 1955, in Mattoon, IL, a mere 7 months after the untimely death of her father, and grew up in the tiny central IL town of Janesville with her mother and two older brothers. Years later she met Jim, her lab partner in a college microbiology class. Both enjoyed nature, which led to them spending much time in the southern Illinois woods. In 1977, while Jim was still in graduate school and Charlene was working at the local hospital as a histotechnician, they were married.

In the early 1980s, Jim was hired as the first employee of a start-up company. There, Jim helped set up a lab in Urbana, IL, and would commute home on weekends to see Charlene. As the company grew, it necessitated a move to Phoenix, Arizona, leaving southern Illinois behind. At the new lab, which now employed a dozen employees, Charlene became the principal lab technician and was responsible for running 2-dimensional protein gels. Outside of work, Charlene and Jim spent considerable time driving through the desert to see the natural wonders of Arizona and surrounding states.

Unfortunately, in 1989, all lab employees were laid off. The good news is that a new job was waiting for Jim at Monsanto starting in August 1990, putting them in Chesterfield, Missouri, at the

townhouse where Charlene observed that brown, prisoner-capped bird.

It was a good time for Charlene and Jim to become birders. After all, they already owned a pair of Tasco binoculars, purchased in 1986 for the passing of Halley's Comet, and the flood of '93 had brought many large, easy to ID slow-moving waders to the area. It did not take long for them to realize they were not going to ID everything they saw, primarily due to distance. These became known as \$400 birds—the price of a spotting scope Jim and Charlene had been looking to purchase. With their newfound interest, they started getting to know local birders in the St. Louis area and Midwest, joined the Webster Groves Nature Study Society (WGNSS), participated in the Saturday WGNSS bird walks, and joined the local bird hotline phone tree to learn of rarities in the St. Louis area.

Charlene quickly became a sponge for bird sighting information, soaking up little snippets of birding data from the region. She monitored burgeoning birding listservs for nearby states. She studied bird songs and a wide range of field guides. It was during these years that Charlene's love for Riverlands Environmental Demonstration area (now Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary) developed into a nearly all-consuming passion. Charlene spent hour after hour in the evenings studying (and wearing out) the Advanced Birding Series Large and Small Gull video tapes to prepare for gull viewing at Riverlands.

For many years she would visit Riverlands at least once every day, and she and Jim would often return in the afternoon or evenings once Jim was home from work. At Riverlands, she would search the thousands of birds gathering on the water for their nighttime roost, looking to pick out something different. And find something different she did: a few of those "zooties" (another term Charlene used for rare birds) included an alternate-plumaged Red Phalarope at Riverlands 11-12 June 1997; a Purple Gallinule at Riverlands 27 June 1999 (still the sole Riverlands report); and who can forget the Swallow-tailed Kite that provided excellent views for so many of us at Busch CA/Weldon Spring CA 6-27 August 2006.

In addition to her love of Riverlands, Charlene spent much time birding Carlyle Lake in Illinois. In 1998, based on her online readings about the resounding success of an inland "pelagic" outing

at Lake McConaughy in western Nebraska, Charlene suggested that St. Louis Audubon attempt something similar at Carlyle Lake. With that, the first Carlyle Pelagic was set for that September, and in years since it has been an annual venture that has given hundreds of people the chance to view such difficult finds as Sabine's Gulls, Long-tailed and Parasitic Jaegers, Red and Red-necked Phalaropes, and a wide variety of other gulls, terns, and aquatic species up close and personal from pontoon boats.

As a birder, Charlene was a consummate communicator. She would email others with her sightings and gather information from them. For some time, she managed a telephone birding hotline recording a summary of the weeks sightings that people could call for updates. In time, this led to being the point person for collecting information statewide and posting sightings on the MOBIRDS listserve, which distributed information across the state. To cap it off, Charlene was also the Spring seasonal report compiler for some time in the 2000s. After a long illness, Charlene passed away peacefully on July 27, 2022. Her MOBIRDS posts, updates on what Dan K. found over the weekend at Carlyle Lake, phone calls of a rarity, and friendly first of year competition emails will be missed. Next time you visit her favorite Missouri birding locale, Riverlands, let her know about the zooties you find, as I suspect she is close by.

Condolences on MOBIRDS

Mo Birders,

Jim Malone informed me that his wife, Charlene Malone died last night. "She went peacefully," Jim said. But that's not how Charlene lived. She was a force of nature in the St. Louis birding community. For two decades Charlene birded the area from Busch CA to the west to Carlyle Lake to the east from Two Rivers NWR to the north to Baldwin Lake to the south, Charlene was there and often in several places in a day's time.

Few birders could match her keen eye, nor her knowledge of bird song. And in those two decades no one found more "Hot-Line" birds than Charlene did. I remember a day in early April, 2000, when she called in a Black Scoter at Riverlands and within a couple of hours, she called again to report a Ruff on Collinsville Road in nearby

Illinois.

Physical infirmities finally caught up with Charlene. She has been inactive for a few years, but there was a time.....

Connie Alwood

St. Louis County

For many years Charlene was my "go-to" person when I needed help with identifying a bird vocalization that had me perplexed. She was always ready to be helpful. She will be missed.

Bob Bailey

St. Louis, MO

So very sorry to hear of the passing of Charlene Malone.

When I started birding in the late 80's there was no ebird, I got my birding information from the WGNSS bird hotline and then I found MOBIRDS, and Charlene was a prolific poster on the site and I was very appreciative of that fact.

I clearly remember one of her post about Shaw Arboretum (now Shaw Nature Preserve) and she mentioned a Rufous-sided Towhee (now called Eastern Towhee). Being a new birder I had never heard of this bird, looked it up in my Petersons and remember thinking "wow, what a cool bird!" I was soon out at Shaw's and found a couple Towhees in short order. A seemingly minor posting about a common bird but it made my day!

I eventually met Charlene out in the field and got her phone number in order to follow up on her posts for more details. She may have regretted giving me that number as I did not hesitate to call when I had question about a sighting or birds in general.

Charlene, thanks for the patience you showed me in answering all my questions over the years and helping me to appreciate the birds and the world of birding, which has become so much a part of my life now. I hope I was not too much of a pest.

Rest in Peace.

Dave Haenni

Des Peres, MO

I am saddened to hear of any birder's passing in Missouri, though the passing of Charlene sounds like an extra-special one. I wish Jim peace and comfort.

A few of you have chimed in to say that you wished you had birded with Charlene more. I take this opportunity to encourage us all to do that very thing. Let us all be inspired to reach out and make those personal connections and spend more time reveling in nature with one another. To this day, already 2 years after his passing, I wish I'd birded more with my good friend Brad Jacobs. I try not to live with regret, and our son was born and toddling at the time and that was most important. But we should try to hang out with each other more, humbly and gently passing on knowledge (as it sounds like Charlene did, and as our friend Brad did too), making birding mistakes and discoveries together; try to stand next to one another pointing out nature's finer details, closing our eyes into the sunshine on a chilly morning, breathing in the smell of the spring breeze and feeling it on our cheeks, and hearing the birds sing and call and chip. What else is life about, after all?

Happy Friday to all and rest in peace, Charlene.

Sarah

Hello Connie: Thank you for letting the Mobirders know about Charlene's death. I'm saddened by the news. She and Jim were always very kind and helpful to me, and I learned a lot from them. Jim and her loved ones are in my thoughts tonight. Thanks and RGDS--Steve Whitworth, Glen Carbon, Illinois

I am so sad to hear of Charlene's passing. I rarely was able to go birdwatching with her but really enjoyed her posts here on MOBIRDS over the years. I did get to bird with Jim many times and I extend my sincerest condolences to Jim and family.
Dorcas Wanner

Connie, thanks for sharing this news ... sad though it is.

I disagreed with Charlene twice on bird ID's. Never again was I so

foolish! She generously shared what I had missed on both ID's and when I checked reference books later I found that she was correct. I learned that it was no surprise that was the case. Charlene's knowledge base (and Jim's too) of birds, their behavior and habitats was endless. If we had not lived 125 miles apart and I hadn't had a demanding job I would have wanted to have birded with her often. Back in the day of my chasing rare birds we often ended up in the same locations at the same time and would at least get in a quick chat. I've missed that over the last several years.

Jim, and others lucky enough to call Charlene a friend, you have my sympathy. Charlene's passing is a loss that reaches far beyond what she would have expected. Sad news indeed.

Susan Hazelwood
Columbia, MO

Thank you for letting us all know. It's sad news to hear and our deepest sympathies go out to Jim and their family. Charlene was indeed "all about birds." I took a Birding by Ear class given by her many moons ago, maybe 1998? I learned so much from her and through the years we shared our deep concerns about the pressure on birds from over-zealous birders and photographers. The birds came first for her, and we connected on that point and the ethics surrounding their needs. She was a friend to many birders, but I saw her as a spokesperson for the birds. May you rest In Peace, Charlene, surrounded by winged spirits.

Margy (& Dan) Terpstra
Kirkwood, St. Louis County, MO

So sad to hear. Her posts out here were so informative. Really missed her posts when not here.

When I lived in the St Louis area we crossed paths a few times but did not know each other by sight or name. I do remember a morning in Castlewood with Jim just past the railroad bridge where we introduced ourselves.

With Charlene my funniest story is I went to see a very rare gull at Saylorville Lake just north of Des Moines. I noted on the parking lot

another car with Missouri plates. I found a small group of birders and stood with them, and not long after the gull made its appearance. Upon returning home I posted the sighting of the gull here on the Listserve and not long after got an Email from Charlene "Steve was that you next to us?".

With her knowledge wish I would have birded with her more. My greatest sympathy to Jim and their family.

Steve Griffaw
Jefferson City MO



Red Phalarope, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co 20 Oct 2018
Photo Paul McKenzie

Proposed Changes to Bylaws of the Missouri Birding Society

The Board of Directors of the Missouri Birding Society met via Zoom on January 24, 2023 and approved the following set of changes in the MBS Bylaws to be submitted to the membership for approval. These will be voted on at the next General Meeting, at our annual fall meeting this September at Bunker Hill Resort.

The affected sections of the bylaws are below, with the proposed changes in *italics*. The full text of the current bylaws is available online at <https://mobirds.org/MBS/>.

Article II. Officers

Current:

2. Vice President. The Vice President shall serve as President-Elect and perform the duties of the President during the latter's absence, inability, or refusal to act. The Vice President shall be responsible for arranging programs for the annual fall meeting.

Proposed Change:

2. Vice President. The Vice President shall serve as President-Elect and perform the duties of the President during the latter's absence, inability, or refusal to act. The Vice President shall be responsible for arranging programs for the annual fall meeting *and serve as the coordinator for spring meeting arrangements and activities. The Vice President is responsible for placing fall and spring meeting details and registration-related items on the MBS website and for managing the registration process.*

Article III. Board of Directors

Current:

B. Members. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the five (5) members of the Executive Committee, nine (9) Regional Board Members chosen to represent the geographic diversity of the state, the Conservation Editor, and the Chair of the Bird Records Committee.

Three (3) Regional Board Members shall be nominated by the Executive Committee, qualified and approved by the Board of Directors, and elected by the membership at each fall general meeting to serve a term of three (3) years, or until a successor shall be appointed, qualified, and elected.

The Bluebird Editor and Conservation Editor shall be appointed at each fall meeting by the Executive Committee, subject to qualification and approval by the Board of Directors, and shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until a successor shall be appointed, qualified and approved. Any member of the Board of Directors shall be eligible for re-election or reappointment for an unlimited number of terms, consecutive or otherwise.

B. Members. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the five (5) members of the Executive Committee, nine (9) Regional Board Members chosen to represent the geographic diversity of the state, the Webmaster, and the Chair of the Bird Records Committee.

Three (3) Regional Board Members shall be nominated by the Executive Committee, qualified and approved by the Board of Directors, and elected by the membership at each fall general meeting to serve a term of three (3) years, or until a successor shall be appointed, qualified, and elected.

The Bluebird Editor and Webmaster shall be appointed at

each fall meeting by the Executive Committee, subject to qualification and approval by the Board of Directors, and shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until a successor shall be appointed, qualified and approved. The Bluebird Editor and Webmaster are voting members of the Board of Directors.

Any member of the Board of Directors shall be eligible for re-election or reappointment for an unlimited number of terms, consecutive or otherwise.

Current:

ARTICLE V. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The proceedings of the Society shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Proposed Change:

ARTICLE V. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE

In procedural matters not covered by these bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern.

Proposed Change (an addition):

Article VII: Indemnification

The Society shall indemnify any member of the Board, including Board Committee chairpersons, while in the conduct of Society business who was or is a party to any threatened, pending, or pleaded action, suit, or proceeding, as provided by Missouri Law.

Proposed Change (an addition):

Article VIII: Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Missouri Birding Society, assets of this Society remaining after payment of or provisions for all debts and liabilities of the Society shall be disposed of to such public institution; government entity; or corporation, association, fund, or foundation organized and operated exclusively for those purposes set forth in section 501©(3) of the internal revenue code which are

consistent with the mission and or purpose of this Society, as the Board of Directors of this Society may designate.

Proposed Change (an addition):

Article IX. Construction

The bylaws as set forth herein shall be construed under the laws of the state of Missouri.

Proposed Change (an addition):

Article X. Effective Date

These bylaws shall take effect September 24, 2023.



Common Nighthawk, Sand Prairie CA, Scott Co 18 Jun 2021
Photo Mark Haas

Join Us for the Spring Meeting in Cape Girardeau! April 28-30

Southeast Missouri and southernmost Illinois are well-known for premier birding during spring migration. There are diverse habitats ranging from sand prairies to bottomland hardwood forests and bald cypress swamps. Spring migrants are often abundant along the Mississippi River corridor and in wetlands. MBS will be having its Spring Meeting in Cape Girardeau, and you will have a choice of well-known and productive birding sites and interesting programming.

The meeting will begin Friday afternoon with trips to Apple Creek CA, Trail of Tears SP, and General Watkins CA, led by local birders. Registration will open at 3 at the MDC Conservation Nature Center in Cape Girardeau County Park North. You can often find abundant spring migrants along trails in this park, and you can bird there at your own pace. The formal program will begin at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at the nature center, when Dr. Mike Taylor will enlighten us on recording bird sounds. Be sure and bring your smart phone if you use one.

Saturday will feature a full schedule of field trips. You can choose to spend all day at either Ten Mile Pond CA, Otter Slough CA, or Duck Creek CA in the Missouri Bootheel, or select from among seven half-day trips to local sites. One of these is a continuation of Mike's recording program, and you can learn to use recording gear from as simple as your phone to shot-gun or parabola microphones.

Saturday evening features a banquet at the Drury Plaza Hotel. Our featured speaker will be familiar to many seasoned Missouri birders: Andy Forbes, formerly ornithologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation and currently Deputy Assistant Regional Director for the Midwest Migratory Bird Program with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Andy's talk will be "Migratory Bird Conservation in the Midwest." He will provide an overview and also tell us how MBS can collaborate in some of these programs.

Sunday morning will offer a choice of five field trips, so you can check a site you may have missed on Saturday. We will gather for lunch and the ever-popular checklist tally at Shelter #3 at the Cape Girardeau County Park North to end the weekend.

We've reserved a block of rooms at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Cape Girardeau. You can make reservations by visiting <https://www.druryhotels.com/bookandstay/newreservation/?groupno=10043277> or by calling 1-800-325-0720. Refer to group number 10043277. Our rate is \$135 per night, with rooms having either one king, two queen deluxe, or two queen deluxe upper beds. The rate is valid only if you make your reservation by **Monday, April 3.**

In addition, there are multiple other motels in Cape Girardeau: https://www.cityofcapegirardeau.org/departments/parks_recreation/SportsPlex/ourfacility/travel_attractions

Camping is available at several local RV parks: <https://campgrounds.rvlife.com/regions/missouri/cape-girardeau> or at Trail of Tears State Park: <https://mostateparks.com/campgrounds/trail-tears-state-park>

Additional details and registration will be posted on the MBS website soon, as will costs and field trip sign-ups. We will see you in Cape Girardeau!

Birding Year-Round in Northeast Missouri

Zita Robertson

Zita Robertson of Canton, MO was named the 2022 ABA Young Birder of the Year in the 10-13 age group. Her writing entry for the award is being published here in installments. -ag.

April

All the birding destinations I enjoy going to in the first three months of the year don't have much to show for birds any more. Most of the Bald Eagles, gulls, and pelicans have moved from the riverfront, each to their own breeding areas. The non-resident raptors from along the highways have left.

The ponds and lakes are also disappointing. Spring migration used to bring thousands of shorebirds through here, but many years of work by the Corps of Engineers and others resulted in larger areas for corn and soybean — and habitat loss for shorebirds. Before the drainage systems, there were mudflats all along the floodplain, but they are mostly gone. In all the years I have been looking for good places to find shorebirds around here, I was only able to spot a few species, like the Short-billed Dowitchers I saw once. I wouldn't be surprised if they have chosen a different route for their migration, just like many others.

Luckily, the five acres of mostly oak and hickory forest in my backyard is full of bird life at this time of the year. The resident birds are becoming more active. Most of them leave their winter groups and develop their own territories for raising young ones. I find it amazing how these birds have adapted to the different seasons, being able to survive the changing conditions. Some, like the House Sparrow and the Rock Pigeon, even found ways to take

advantage of humans — they use our buildings for their nests.

No less fascinating are the migratory birds. They start to arrive in our woods at the end of April, and as I am learning more and more about them, I have come to appreciate their ability to make such huge trips in so little time. There are so many things that could go wrong!

They have to be able to predict the weather to some extent (better than I can), in order to avoid flying into a big storm. They have to stop and rest, and for that, they have to find safe locations with enough food. As for their destination, many warblers that come through here will have to find very specific habitats to breed. Young, thick jack pine forests of considerable size, or large openings containing clumps of shrubs, brushy lakeside communities. What if their forests or brushes disappear like the mudflats around here?

When I first started learning about birds, I focused on colors, size, field marks, flying patterns, essentially with one goal in mind: to stick a name to the bird. However, when I started to pay more attention to migrating birds, I have realized that I need to have at least a general idea of so much else to really understand birds. I would need to know more about meteorology, botany, entomology, geography — an endless list of things to discover!

May

May is a very exiting month around my house. Winter birds are moving out, summer residents are arriving, and some birds I see one morning might be far away by the next — these are the migrating birds that only stay a few days.

The big, soaring birds travel during the day. I was able to watch the pelicans arrive and leave on the riverfront or flying over my house

on their way up north. The Turkey Vultures also arrive here during the day. “Flappy flyers,” on the other hand, fly at night here in the Mississippi flyway. If I go out in the early morning, just when the first rays of sunlight shine onto the leaves of the trees, I can find many birds that arrived overnight. It has taken me several springs of birding to know when to go and exactly where. I learned that one of my favorite groups of birds, the wood warblers, are very abundant here, I just have to be at the right place at the right time.

The best place to be in May is right behind the old, unused barn near my house. If I quietly walk through the barn, open the back door, and step out into the woods, it is like stepping into a new world. Among last year’s leaf litter, the mayapples are already blooming. The oak and hickory trees also have flowers and leaves. Lots of leaves.

I remember stepping out into the forest one morning. In the few days prior, it was very warm to the south of us, so I expected huge flocks of migrants to head north, right to our area. At first, I saw nothing but an immense mass of green plants around me and as far as I could see above. As I got used to my surroundings, so different from the mowed grass on the other side of the barn, I noticed some Wild Turkeys I had startled. The turkeys are here year round, but that doesn’t make it less exciting when I see them.

I knew not to wander too far into the forest, because most warblers prefer the edge of the woods, with bushes and lots of undergrowth. For example, I always find the few Ovenbirds that stop at our woods each year in one little patch of dense bramble just west of the barn. I checked the area, but the Ovenbirds were not there. I found a dry stump nearby, and settled in to watch the canopy.

I tried to make sense of the mass of green above. In a few minutes, I noticed movement here and there, but it was difficult to follow. The binoculars don’t help if I don’t know where to look. Finally, I spotted a small bird for a few seconds before it disappeared behind the

leaves after the next caterpillar.

It was a Chestnut-sided Warbler, and I was very excited to see it for the first time. I knew it had to come through here. I had been studying their habitat preferences, their behavior, and I felt our woods could be the perfect place for them. I thought their bright head and contrasting colors would make it, if not easy, at least possible to spot them in the trees. But it took me years to find one. Once I saw this one, however, I could find many of them high up in the canopy, about twenty feet up, and as I expected, in the trees near the edge of the forest.

I like the variety of species I get to discover in May, and the challenge of finding them. By next month, however, these migrants will be gone, and for me, it's time to start looking for breeding birds and young ones.

June

While May was all about finding birds by sight and movement, June forces me to use my ears. The birds around here are busy raising chicks, and it is in the parents' best interest to move quickly, without being seen, in order to not reveal where their nest is. I'm not very good at identifying birds by sound, but over the years I've been paying more attention to the calls and songs around my house.

The males of some species sing throughout the summer. Some of the more common ones, like the Chipping Sparrows, Brown Thrashers, and Northern Bobwhites sing very often and can be heard all day. I know that there are quails on our property, and I also hear them at the apple orchard/conservation area where we help out with gardening. When I notice their song, I can whistle back to them, and they seem to respond. We can do this back and forth for several minutes, but I have never been able to actually see them, not when singing. Sometimes I do see quails fly off from the bushes when I

walk around, but those are quiet before they take off — I wish I could find the ones who respond to my whistle.

On nice mornings in June, I often wake up when the Summer Tanager starts singing in the backyard. There is always one pair that nests near our house, and the male sings all summer from a dead ash tree on the edge of the woods. I was even able to take pictures of him, but I always find him by sound. Sometimes I catch a glimpse of the female, too, often in the young hickory behind the barn, but so far, I have never found their nest.

If I want to hear the Wood Thrush, I have to be outside at sunrise or near dusk, because they don't sing all day. I like their song because it is very complex, and each individual has his own variation. Sometimes, if I pay close attention, I can hear three or four birds singing simultaneously.

I am excited to know some of these birds by sound, and I hope to learn more every summer. My goal is to be able to identify more birds, not only around my house, but in different places in the tristate area. It would be great to know more of them by call, too, not just by song.



Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bonnie View Sanctuary, Boone Co 19 Sep 2021. Photo Paul McKenzie

Birding Northwest Missouri Oxbow Lakes During Migration

Tom Nagel

Lake Dynamics

The oxbow lake habitats along the Missouri River are dynamic. They are unpredictable from year to year, season to season, and sometimes even day to day. Their water levels rise and subside in response to drought, local rain events, the influence of the Missouri River level on the local ground water table, and other factors. In turn, these changing water levels influence the amount, depth, and/or extent of open water, associated mudflats, and marshes. Six such lakes ranging from roughly fifty to four hundred acres in size are located in the Missouri River bottoms in northwest Missouri between St. Joseph and Weston, a small town in the bluffs north of Kansas City.

One extreme of these dynamics was evident during the 2019 flood year when water about a foot deep remained on the county road adjacent to Muskrat Lake for several weeks in late summer, Lake Contrary nearly over-topped the county road at its western edge, and the Missouri River nearly over-topped the levee paralleling this lake's north shore. Lewis and Clark Lake and Bean Lake were inundated when a levee breach near Atchison, Kansas allowed the Missouri River to roam across the adjacent flood plain.

The other dynamic extreme was evident during the late 2021 to late 2022 drought. The lakes became shallow enough that thousands of large fish died in Lake Contrary, Lewis & Clark Lake, and Bean Lake due to low oxygen levels. Eventually, by the end of the summer, Lake Contrary (typically about 250 acres in size) and Lewis and Clark Lake (typically about 300 acres in size) only had a few small, shallow pools and mudflats remaining. Bean Lake, Horseshoe Lake, and Muskrat Lake were all greatly reduced in size. Due to the extensive mudflats around the lake edges, shorebird use of all five lakes was exceptional in both the spring and fall.

Though not always productive, on the right day under the right conditions during migration, these lakes can have a fantastic variety

of birds using them and adjacent habitats. Viewing distances will vary depending on the lake levels. At times, knockout views of close birds, especially larger species, can be had with binoculars, but a spotting scope will be a great aid in viewing more distant birds.

Lake Formation and History

Contrary, Horseshoe, Muskrat, Old Mud, Lewis and Clark, and Bean Lakes formed when loops of ancient Missouri River channels, side chutes, and tributary creeks were cut off and isolated from the main channel during floods at various times in the past. The two lakes most distant from each other, Lake Contrary & Bean Lake, are less than 20 miles apart as the shorebird flies (40 minutes driving time). All six lakes are viewable from either nearby county roads or from adjoining public areas. All, except for Old Mud Lake, are within two miles of either U.S. Highway 59 south of Saint Joseph or State Highways 45 and 273 north of Weston, Missouri.

Lake Contrary, Lewis & Clark Lake, and Bean Lake are considered waters of the state. They have no private parcel boundaries crossing the lake basins and are surrounded by private property and some public property along their shores. Each has a public (though not always usable) boat ramp. In contrast, Horseshoe, Muskrat, and Old Mud Lakes are privately owned with parcel boundaries that do cross their lake basins and no public shoreline access. However, the latter three are viewable from nearby county roads. The reasons for these ownership differences are complicated, often go back to court cases in the late 19th or early 20th centuries, and are beyond the scope of this article.

Notable Species

These lakes and their associated habitats provide opportunities to find several species that are more expected in western or northwestern Missouri than in the eastern part of the state (though some are still uncommon to rare, even here). Examples are American Avocet, Willet, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Eared Grebe, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Great-tailed Grackle. When traveling back roads from one lake to another watch for Swainson's Hawk, Lazuli Bunting, Spotted Towhee, Harris's Sparrow, and Western Meadowlark.



White-faced Ibis, Lake Contrary 17 Apr 2020
Photo Tom Nagel

Additional uncommon to rare migrants are sometimes overlooked in mixed flocks, which should be checked carefully. Watch for Tundra Swan among Trumpeter Swans, Cackling Geese among Canada Geese, Cinnamon Teal among Blue-winged Teal, Marbled Godwit

among Hudsonian Godwit, Glossy Ibis among White-faced Ibis, Piping Plover among Semipalmated Plover, Baird's and Western Sandpiper with flocks of Least and Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Buff-breasted Sandpipers associating with other shorebirds, but typically on the higher, drier parts of mudflats near or in the edges of vegetation around the mudflat perimeter.

Occasional rarities from the south wander into the area, including Black-necked Stilt, Little Blue Heron and Snowy Egret along with the much rarer Neotropic Cormorant, Tricolored Heron, and Swallow-tailed Kite. Rarities that more frequently migrate along the U.S. coasts and occasionally show up here include the Red-necked Phalarope and Red Phalarope. The single state record for the Fork-tailed Flycatcher occurred near Muskrat Lake.

The quality of emergent marshes on oxbow lakes is unpredictable year to year. Left high & dry during drier cycles, they are not nearly as productive as they are during wetter cycles when standing water beneath cattails and other marsh vegetation may attract American and Least Bitterns, Soras, Virginia Rails, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Marsh Wrens, Common Gallinules, and others.

Large flocks of migrating birds that suddenly erupt into the air or start flying erratically signal to look for Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, Merlins, Cooper's Hawks, or other predators that may be in the area looking for a meal.

Habitats

When lake levels are relatively high, marsh habitat with standing water occurs in the higher elevations of the basins of individual lakes. This is especially true on the west end of Lake Contrary and the north end of Bean Lake in Little Bean Marsh Conservation Area.

The larger open and deeper parts of any of these lakes attract geese, diving ducks, grebes, terns and American White Pelicans, while the shallower areas attract dabbling ducks, herons and some of the shorebirds that prefer to feed in the shallows or on the adjoining mudflats. Herons and egrets may be seen feeding in shallow water a

hundred yards or more out from the bank, so distance from shore is not necessarily a good indicator of water depth.

Extensive mudflats may be found in spring after vegetation that grew the previous season has had time to break down over the winter. During late summer in drier years the lake levels will slowly decline exposing mudflats where long, gradual slopes in the lake bed occur near the shore. Such sites can attract a great variety of shorebirds. Available mudflats can change rapidly when storms that dump several inches of rain raise the lake levels and inundate what was previously ideal shorebird habitat.

Timing Oxbow Lake Birding Trips

At any time during spring or fall migration, overcast days with light intermittent rains can ground migrant birds. Waves lapping mudflat edges on windy days increase invertebrate activity and can make oxbow lake mudflats shorebird magnets. This is especially true on days with strong north to northwest winds in the spring and south to southwest winds in the fall. At these times, winds are blowing counter to birds preferred direction of travel. They will often stop to rest, feed, and preen during these periods.

Times around wind shifts that occur just before, during and just after frontal passages can be especially productive. Extended periods of westerly winds may push migrating species whose primary range is west of Missouri in this direction – this is a notable time to watch for them. A useful app to track current and forecast winds on a map is Windy. The basic app is available for free through Apple or Google.

Additional Information

Site guides for Lake Contrary and Lewis and Clark State Park can be found at the Missouri Birding Society website by clicking on Buchanan County and selecting one of these two sites at: <https://mobirds.org/Birding/CountyGuide.aspx>

Recent eBird sightings for these sites can be found at <https://ebird.org/hotspots> . Type in “Lake Contrary” or “Lewis and Clark

SP" (Buchanan, MO) in the eBird Hotspot Name box. Hold your cursor over the "pin" nearest the center of the page to see the label, click on the pin on the map when the name you're looking for appears and then click the blue "View Details" button for a list of the most recent bird sightings for that site. Site guides for other areas mentioned in this article are planned in the future.

Acknowledgements: I moved from the Lake of the Ozarks to northwest Missouri in 1996. A special thanks to Mark Robbins, Dr. David Easterla, Mary Nemecek, Jack Hilsabeck, Dr. John Rushin, and Larry Lade for their guidance and patience in helping me learn the birds found in this part of the state along with their habits and habitats. Any errors or omissions in this article are strictly the responsibility of the author.



Great Egrets, Lake Contrary 10 Apr 2020. Photo Tom Nagel

The Last Big Year: Summary of the Big Year of 2022

Tim Barksdale

To the next Missouri Big Year Champion:

There is a decent chance I am still alive, but there is also a very real chance that I am gone. This is because the last Missouri Big Year record that I set took 27 years to pass. In either case I hope you appreciate that I have made this difficult for you. The many wonderful friends who called, texted, and emailed also helped raise this bar to 338.

Speaking of them, you also will need friends to achieve your goal. There is NO WAY I would have accomplished this without Kendell Loyd, Alex Marine, Dave Haenni, Lyndon Hostetler, Zane Hostetler, Bruce Bossler, Chris Barrigar, Ricky Hostetler, Kent Freeman, Timothy Jones, Mike Kahle, Tim Kavan, Lisa Owens, Doug Willis, Steve and Debby Martin, Doug Hommert, Robert Brundage, Connie Alwood, Pete Monacell, Andy Reago and Chrissy, Paul McKenzie and so many others! Birding with Bruce Schuette and meeting Sylvie, Klee & Issac, the Gorski brothers, Theo Bockhorst, Christian and Conway Hawn, because the sharing and the friendships formed during birding last forever.

You will also need to be a better birder than I am -- at least, what I am currently. In my prime maybe, but especially after this year, I am tired. Birding with younger outstanding birders has taught me that although my eyesight is still very good, it is down a notch from where it used to be. Hearing. Ah. Still very, very good, but it is more clearly down a notch or two from my peak. I have trouble with things like Clay-colored Sparrow at 300 or more yards. The ringing, which sometimes goes away, at others, can be loud. This is distracting and directly interfering with overall hearing. I intend to get tested soon. Reactions and peripheral vision are still very good; this combined with my reflexes still being able to catch in midair - things rolling off the dashboard suddenly- tell me I'm in pretty darn good physical shape. So you'll need to do things to keep yourself in physical readiness for the entire year.

You'll need a travel strategy. In my first Missouri Big year in 1991, I birded over 180 days for at least 6 hours. In 2022, I spent far more days and hours in the field, but it seems to me too many of those days were in the seat of a car, putting in 69,742 birding miles. How will you make a decision to go in a specific direction on a certain day: do I go to Loess Bluffs NWR or Canton Dam today? Why? How much time do I need to spend in the Bootheel? Or Stockton Lake? eBird is insufficient to rely on 100%. Not only for the quality of information, but also for the simple reason the state is 69,000 sq miles. It is 5 hours to the southeast corner of the Bootheel from the centrally located city of Columbia, and even longer to Noel or Southwest City in the extreme southwest. Without a thorough understanding of many of the species you have found, including migration timing, the birds' ability to survive, key requirements of food supply, extensive understanding of continental influences and more, you will have a very difficult time, forcing you to rely on sheer financial ability to sustain your effort.



Rock Wren, near Bolivar, Polk Co 21 Nov 2022. Photo Tim Barksdale

If you do not live in Columbia, or close by, because of the central location, know that you are already at a severe disadvantage. I was working on a camper to sleep in so I would not have to drive so many miles, but it did not happen in time. I wanted to be able to

camp near targeted locations like Rosecrans Field or Stockton Lake. I think you should strongly consider a strategy like this.

There is also a perseverance factor. Optimistically, in the early stages you forget what the fall and early winter grind is like, especially the number of road miles or the hours you have to put in. I had to make 4 or 5 trips to get Snow Bunting before photographing it. Simple misses turn into serious effort. So do not take anything for granted. Risking that anything will stay overnight is perilous; that's how I missed the Red-necked Grebes at Creve Coeur Lake.

Technology will be important. Your phone now follows you wherever you go. Hands free, I was able to field a few very important calls, like the Lark Bunting. I did not run off the road badly. Text messages, though, literally almost killed me more than once. eBird is great in most respects, but setting up every rare bird in Missouri on an hourly alert email, as I did, can be overwhelming. By the time you make this attempt, there will likely be new challenges to add to the mix. Will you be in an all-electric vehicle? Will cell phones finally be able to get signals in places where today there are none? Will other technological changes make things easier or harder for you?

Understanding what kind of momentum is required is only part of the necessary planning and strategy to pull off a successful Big Year. Free time, financing, miles, and networking are a few of the other boxes which have to be checked in advance. There are too many others which aren't able to be officially calculated here as a 'strategy'. They fall somewhere in the intuition/luck/grace spectrum and simply cannot be planned for.

But the biggest question I have is: how many species of birds will even be left in your time? The declines I have seen in my life are real.

339 is the new goal. 338 will tie, but as someone once said, "that's like kissing your sister."

A little bit about who I am:

In a setting of farms and orchards in what was then- rural St. Louis County, I had begun birding with WGNSS and St. Louis Audubon by 1962 after early “lightning bolts.” My first bird in the summer of 1956 is still quite vivid in my memory: Northern Bobwhite. The next couple were in 1960 while our family was on vacation, and I had the sincere pleasure of birding with a group led by Edward L. Chalif, who became a most remarkable mentor. The image of a Hudsonian Curlew stalking very near an Upland Plover in a grass field — both seeming to pursue and capture the same prey items, confused — astonished and delighted me.

So I have been birding for a long, long time. Birding had been a major focus of my life, but for years I earned my living doing other things, supplemented with tour leading for VENT after a few years working as a field biologist for both MDC and USFWS. In 1992, birding became my life. Effectively, I have documented and filmed birds with a television camera for the past 30 years. During that time, in this hemisphere, I’ve worked on islands of the Hawaiian chain to Tatoosh off the Olympic peninsula, to Tierra del Fuego’s Harberton Island and north to Resolute Bay on Cornwallis in the Canadian Arctic. New Zealand, Italy and Great Britain were other favorite locations among many.

But now, let’s get into my 2022 birding year.

For me, what began with a quack ended with a rising scream, but that is the difference between the calls of a Mallard (#1) and a Saw-whet Owl (#338). My 2022 began in St. Charles County, and the last new bird was on the opposite side of the state in Barton County; both were “heard birds”. Between the first bird and the last, the sandwich contained another 336 species. Still, that little Saw-whet and the fierceness of the scream, so very close, were so stunning that I’m still getting chills.

I didn’t begin planning for a Big Year until the Jefferson City Christmas bird count in December 2021. On that day, first I found a cooperative Say’s Phoebe; shortly thereafter, I heard about a Varied

Thrush near Foristell in western St. Charles Co.; then suddenly my old friend Nic Allen located a Townsend's Solitaire at Weston Bend. The trio seemed to provide the kind of momentum needed to set a new record. I had found two species for Brad in 2017 (He got one), then carefully watched Brad Jacobs and Kendell Loyd go toe to toe in 2018 and then Dave Haenni in 2020. These last three successful efforts had blown past my 1991 record, which had previously stood for so long. So I set out to see if I could set a new record in 2022.



Say's Phoebe, Cole Co 20 Dec 2021
Photo Paul McKenzie

Of course, the moments in a Big Year are what have the value, but the numbers serve as milestones. The numbers spark memories of moments like finding the 300th bird, a Mississippi Kite over Tower Grove Park. The 314th species (which tied my old record from 1991) was a Limpkin in Lawrence Co., the third state record. The moments include making new friends during hours in a canoe in Monopoly Marsh, or on a platform overlooking the same area months later.

Now that I've had a bit of time away from the pressure, I think I can summarize my top 15 personal highlights.

#1 was the Purple Gallinule at Mingo. I've worked so hard for so long in and around marshlands that that bird was the most fulfilling. Two first state records were next: the Limpkin and the Tundra Bean Goose. Mark Robbins and I used to dream about finding a Sage Thrasher, but the Mennonites actually did. Because I had Long-billed Curlews nesting across the gravel road at my home in Montana, they will always be special.



Sabine's Gull, Truman Lake Causeway, Henry Co 13 Sep 2022.
Photo Tim Barksdale

The Snowy Plover I found at 4 Rivers, the cooperative Say's Phoebe near Jeff City, the determination which it took to sleuth out the Brown Booby (which Alex helped a ton with too) – there were many great birds. Lark Bunting, Connecticut Warbler, Burrowing Owl, Golden Eagle, Anhinga, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Northern Goshawk, and my first daylight Yellow Rail are just a few.

N. Saw-whet Owl, Red Knot, and Red Phalarope were each special moments too, but over the past 60 years, I've found quite a few of each of these, so even though they felt great, they also were more on the expected side of things. Another like this was the Sabine's Gull at the old Hwy 13 causeway south of Clinton; a species that I knew was one I "should" get for the year, but I have never had before in

Missouri. And there it was one swimming 45 feet away from me, resulting in crushing photos. A few days later, the Martins and I watched a Peregrine Falcon nearly kill it in an aerial 'dogfight'!

I love this state, from the marshes to the prairies, from the rivers springs and fens to the pine forests and mountain top glades, Missouri has given so much to me. Now is the time of my life when I begin to pay it back, and I hope with dividends. Birds have given me a very full life, so help me not only give back to you all, but also through helping conserve the birds and their habitats.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Truman Lake Causeway, Henry Co 29 Aug 2022.
Photo Tim Barksdale

Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers and Their Hybrids

Allen Gathman

In September 2022, an eBird alert showed up in my mailbox, saying that a Lawrence's Warbler had been sighted in the St. Louis area. I vaguely remembered having read about this as a Blue-winged Warbler x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid, but I didn't really know anything else about it. So, out of curiosity, I looked it up.

Readers of *The Bluebird* are no doubt familiar with the parent species: Blue-winged Warblers have gray wings with two white wing bars, a black line through the eye, and bright yellow forehead, throat, breast, and belly. Golden-winged Warblers are largely pale gray, with a single thick, bright yellow wing bar, yellow crown, and a black mask on the face and black throat on the males. Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers are both in the genus *Vermivora*; the only other member of the genus is Bachman's Warbler, which is probably extinct. Sibley (2017) says that first-generation hybrids between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers are called Brewster's Warblers, and have a black eye line, white throat, and yellow wing bars. The hybrids, according to Sibley, can backcross with either of the parent species, and one of the possible outcomes is a bird with yellow underparts like a Blue-winged Warbler, but the black throat and mask of a Golden-winged Warbler – known as a Lawrence's Warbler.

Sibley says there can be a variety of hybrids. What are they like, I wondered, and what do we know about the inheritance of the various color patterns? I started looking for more information, and as it turns out, I was about to fall down a rabbit hole. These four color patterns (the two species and two hybrids) have been known since the 1870s; Brewster's Warbler was first described as a separate species in 1876 by the ornithologist William Brewster, for instance. To his credit, Brewster (1881) soon published a paper proposing that both Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers were not true species, but hybrids between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers.

Kenneth Parkes (1951) came up with a model for the genetics of



Blue-winged Warbler, Rocky Forks CA, Boone Co. 2 Jun 2022.
Photo Paul McKenzie

the color patterns. According to Parkes, one gene, P/p , controls the black throat patch and mask, and it shows complete dominance: PP and Pp birds lack the throat patch, and recessive pp birds have it. The other gene, W/w , controls yellow pigmentation on the underparts, and it shows incomplete dominance. That is, WW birds have lots of yellow, Ww birds are less yellow, and ww birds have white throat/breast/belly.

So, a Blue-winged Warbler would have the genotype WW (lots of yellow) PP (no throat patch). A Golden-winged Warbler is $wwpp$ – white underneath, with a black throat and mask. The hybrid between the two would be $Wwpp$, and have an intermediate amount of yellow underneath, without a black throat or mask – a Brewster's Warbler. If this bird then mates with a Golden-winged Warbler, various outcomes are possible, but at least some would be $Wwpp$. That means that they would have intermediate yellowish underparts (Ww), with a black throat and mask (pp) – what Sibley describes as a Lawrence's Warbler.

When I saw this, I was kicking myself for being unaware of it back when I used to teach genetics. It's such a great example of inheritance patterns involving two genes, along with two kinds of domi-

nance. Just imagine the diabolical test questions I could have written, complete with pretty pictures of brightly colored birds and everything. Simple, elegant, attractive to look at. But then I read some more papers.

Recently, ornithologists at Penn State and Cornell looked at the entire genomes of Blue-winged Warblers, Golden-winged Warblers, and their hybrids (Toews et al. 2016, Baiz et al. 2020). The new genomic work shows that Golden-winged Warblers and Blue-winged Warblers differ in only 0.03% of their nuclear DNA. The differences are concentrated in just six small areas, each apparently corresponding to a single gene. Five of these are known from other bird species to be genes affecting feather color and structure, and the sixth is likely to be such a gene also.

The recent work supports Parkes' model, at least when it comes to the black mask and throat. It appears that a single gene called ASIP, which is known to affect production of the dark pigment melanin, controls the mask and throat pattern – much like the “P/p” gene Parkes proposed. Golden-winged Warblers have two copies of one form of the ASIP gene (“pp”), and have the black mask and throat. Blue-winged Warblers have at least one copy of a different form of the ASIP gene (“P_”). Birds with PP or Pp lack the dark patterns, and those with pp have them.

So far, so good. But rather than a single gene controlling the yellow pigmentation, it seems that it's influenced by the other five genes in a complex way. To make matters worse, a single “Brewster's” bird



Golden-winged Warbler, St. Louis Co 22 May 2020. Photo Margy Terpstra

showed bright yellow underparts when it was caught and banded in 2015, but when it was recaptured in 2016, was mostly white underneath. That is, the yellow color isn't even permanent throughout the lifetime of a bird.

By now, you may have the same question I had. If these two species differ in only a tiny bit of their genomes, and if they interbreed regularly, producing a variety of intermediates – are they really separate species at all? Well, it's not the first time this question has been asked. In 1835, John James Audubon wrote a letter to John Bachman (the one he'd named Bachman's Warbler after), talking about how very similar the two species were in structure and behavior. He suggested they might just be two color patterns in a single species (cited in Faxon, 1913). Could this be the case?

Now we're down yet a deeper rabbit hole. What is a species, anyway? There are a lot of views on this, but I think the best definition is that species are "lineages of organisms that are evolving separately" (de Queiroz 2007). We think of species forming when populations become separated, usually by some geographic barrier. Populations that can't find each other to interbreed will change over time independently, and they may acquire different adaptations to different environmental conditions, or develop different ways of "making a living" even in similar environments. They may develop different feeding preferences, different behaviors, different plumage colors and patterns, and so on. If they never meet again, at some point we will recognize them as different enough that we'll call them different species.

But what if the populations do meet again? A shallow sea that separated them dries up, or their populations grow so much they spread out to meet each other again, or the kind of habitat they like shifts in location due to climate change – and members of the two groups start running into each other in mating season. If they've changed enough, they may not be able to produce offspring when they mate; then we'd certainly call them separate species. Or maybe they look different, and the females of group 1 aren't interested in males of group 2. Again, this would make them separate species – they're evolving separately because they aren't intermixing their genetic material. On the other hand, if they haven't been separated that long, or changed that much, maybe they will interbreed. Depending on how much interbreeding there is, and how successful the hybrids are, the two groups might merge again, and just be one species with



Lawrence's Warbler, St. Louis Co 4 Sep 2019. Photo Margy Terpstra

some extra variation.

But there's a gray area in between those two alternatives. Maybe they'll interbreed sometimes, and maybe the hybrids will do okay, and yet we'll still continue to have mostly separate groups. This is the situation where taxonomists are going to disagree about whether there are two species or just one. And that seems to be where Golden-winged Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler are right now.

All of our New World warblers (family Parulidae), are a young group in evolutionary terms (Oliveros et al. 2019), having originated around 5 million years ago. The two *Vermivora* species appear to have separated quite recently, even among the warblers (Lovette et al. 2010), and it looks like they're still in the early stages of speciation. Analysis of the DNA of hundreds of individuals indicates that it's most likely that there has been significant hybridization between the two groups for a long time, perhaps as long as they've existed (Toews 2016). So by some standards of species definition, they don't seem to be really separate. Still, the two groups are easy to tell apart, and although there are hybrids, most of the individuals we see are clearly appear to be either Golden-winged or Blue-winged Warblers.

So we have something of a puzzle. If they are hybridizing, how are the two different groups maintained? Do females prefer males of their own group, limiting hybridization? Researchers differ about

this (Confer et al. 2020; Toews et al. 2021). Are there other mechanisms keeping them separate? New genetic tools may allow us to solve this problem, but at present it's difficult to decide where the two *Vermivora* species are in the process of speciation. In the absence of a clearer answer, my guess is that the American Ornithological Society is going to leave them as two species, at least for now. But every year I'm going to be checking my life list.

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Birders' Guide
Horseshoe, Muskrat, and
Old Mud Lakes
Buchanan County
Tom Nagel, 2023

All three lakes are privately owned and can only be viewed from nearby public roads.

Directions:

Approximately two and a half miles southwest of Saint Joseph on U.S. Highway 59, take Pettet Road to the west to 41st Road (Crockett Road) to a left at the 4 way intersection on to 54th County Road. This route will go past Horseshoe Lake (GPS 39.678229, -94.923562), Muskrat Lake (GPS 39.676203, -94.929406) and Old Mud Lake (GPS 39.669395, -94.949588) in that order. Those names are used to designate them as eBird Hotspots at: <https://ebird.org/explore>

These lakes are within two and a half miles of each other. Each has a slightly different character. None were inundated by the historic Missouri River floods of 1993, 2011, or 2019. The size of the individual lakes can vary depending on whether the area is in drought or a wetter cycle. Listed sizes are during more “normal” conditions.

Features of Interest to Birders:

Horseshoe Lake, approximately 125 acres, is best viewed during spring migration from gaps in the tree line along its north shore or at the west end. Viewing is to the south so, for the best light, it should be checked early or late in the day. On the west end, the water depth deepens gradually from west to east and normally provides at least some shorebird habitat. Large expanses of open water are usually visible from here as well. Most of the west part of this lake is surrounded by cropland and is less easily seen from the road in late summer and fall as crops obscure much of the view until after harvest.

West of Horseshoe Lake is Muskrat Lake a favorite of many birders. Approximately 40 acres, it is unique among these lakes because its east end is completely surrounded by a 90 acre private cattle pasture. Grazing of pastures of this size in the Missouri River bottoms in this part of the state is unusual. Combined with adjacent crop fields, this maintain the open vistas around the east end of the lake. Like Horseshoe Lake, the bottom of this end of the lake deepens very gradually but from east to west. As at Horseshoe Lake, it often provides at least some shorebird habitat and, under the right conditions, provides expansive mudflats and shallow water habitat. The deeper parts of both of these lakes attract an interesting variety of diving ducks and other waterfowl during migration as well.

Muskrat Lake is within one quarter mile of Horseshoe Lake. This proximity provides an advantage to birders. Muskrat is easily viewed from the road paralleling its south shore. North, northwest and west winds will lap the shoreline here. (Care should be taken here not to park too close and out of view of oncoming vehicles below the low hill and to watch for two culverts at the edge of the road.)

The west end of Horseshoe Lake is easily viewed from the road paralleling its north shore. South, southeast and east winds will lap the shoreline here. (Watch for a culvert under Pettet Road that flows into the western end of the lake.) These varied exposures increase the chances that shorebirds will be utilizing one or the other of the lakes while feeding, resting and preening. At times, both sites can provide unusually close shorebird views when using the vehicle as a blind. 32 species of shorebirds along with 28 species of waterfowl, 16 species of sparrows, 13 species of raptors, eight species of herons and egrets, seven species of blackbirds and grackles, four species of terns and three species of grebes have been seen on and around these two lakes over the past 5 years.

When there is a lot of activity, peregrine falcons will frequently perch on the high voltage utility poles that run between the two lakes. Merlins & Swainson's hawks will perch on posts in the fence line around the pasture at Muskrat Lake. Western Meadowlarks, Grasshopper & Savanna Sparrows and Bobolinks will also perch on

these fence lines and feed in the adjoining pasture. Watch for yellow-headed and Brewer's blackbirds mingling with red-winged blackbirds, brown-headed cowbirds and starlings feeding around the cattle in the pasture. On and around both lakes, watch for American Pipits and Great-tailed Grackles feeding along the muddy shoreline edges. Glossy ibis may mix with white-faced ibis and marbled godwits with Hudsonian godwits as they wade in the nearby shallows. Tundra Swans can sometimes be found mixed with flocks of Trumpeter Swans, Cackling Geese with Canada Geese and Ross's Geese with Snow Geese.

Southwest of Muskrat Lake, Old Mud Lake can only be viewed from its northeastern corner along 54th County Road. Mono filament line and corks wrapped around a utility line above the ditch that flows through a large culvert into the lake attest to this site being a popular local fishing hole. There is a small area for parking on the county right of way immediately south of this culvert.

This is the deeper part of this approximate 130 acre lake. It attracts diving ducks and other birds preferring open, deeper water. It can produce Tundra Swans and Cackling Geese during migration. The field immediately north of Old Mud Lake can produce a good variety of sparrows. If it has been burned, Swainson's hawks will use it when they move through the area.

Birding Etiquette, Guidelines & Precautions

All the land around these three lakes is privately owned. **Please remain on the road shoulders and do not trespass.** Keep in mind the following:

- Do not stop on private driveways, other private roads or lanes, entries to fields (gated or otherwise) or homes. Do not park on mowed lawns near houses.
- Watch for following vehicles. Don't stop abruptly & do allow them to pass if you are driving slowly.
- When stopping to view birds, pull as far to the edge of the gravel road as possible but watch for roadside culverts that may be hidden in higher vegetation in low spots.
- Pull over for passing farm machinery, especially during the

spring planting and fall harvest seasons.

- Use your vehicle as a “blind”. Stay in your car or right next to it when setting up tripods for spotting scopes or cameras. This is also allows you to quickly move your vehicle out of the way if wide machinery such as combines, planters and sprayers come by, though this happens infrequently.
- Avoid parking near houses to reduce landowner concerns. Many landowners keep sometimes unfriendly dogs on their property for security. This minimizes your chances of encountering one.
- Avoid parking in blind spots below hills and on curves. For the most part, the roads in this area have good line of sight for oncoming vehicles.
- In late summer & fall, approach intersections with standing crops, especially corn, cautiously. At a few intersections, line of site is sometimes limited until you are nearly into the intersection.

Toilets: None

Camping: There are two primitive camping areas at Bluffwoods Conservation Area about five to seven miles (driving distance) to the south of these lakes.

Nearby birding sites: Lake Contrary, Jentell Brees Access (Missouri River Access), Bluffwoods Conservation Area, Wilfrid B. & Anna C. Kneib Memorial Conservation Area.

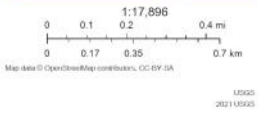
Northern Bobwhite, Muskrat Lake
15 Apr 2020
Photo Tom Nagel



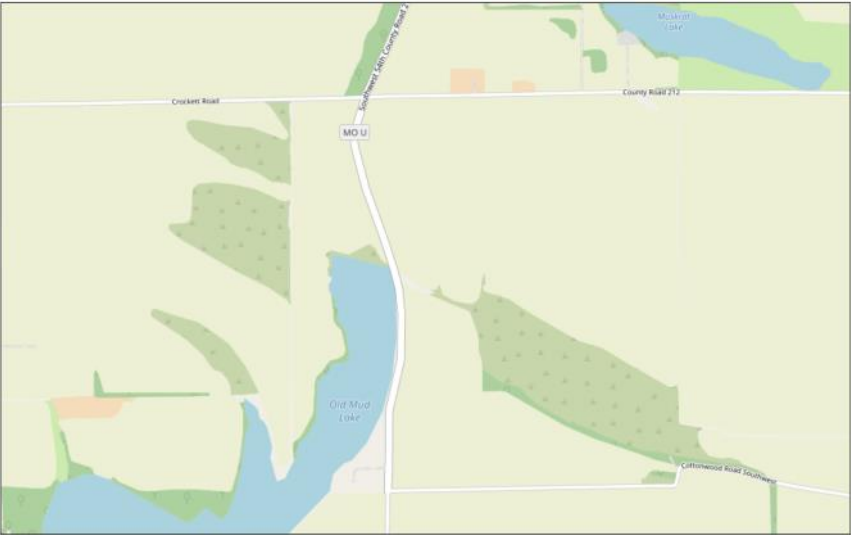
MUSKRAT LAKE & HORSESHOE LAKE



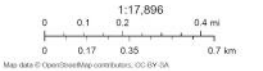
12/25/2022, 3:35:04 PM



OLD MUD LAKE



12/25/2022, 3:27:33 PM



Birders' Guide

Duck Creek Conservation Area

Mark Haas, 2023

6,318 acres, Bollinger, Stoddard, and Wayne Counties,
DeLorme 67, A9.

GPS: 37.0466, -90.0744

MDC owned. For information, call 573-222-3337

Directions: From Puxico, take Highway 51 north 8.5 miles to the area headquarters.

This guide is for the main unit of Duck Creek CA, which includes three eBird hotspots—one for each of the three counties within the area. The Wayne County hotspot is west of Pool 1 and includes Unit A and Unit B, the Luken Farm, and the Pine Grove. The Bollinger County hotspot includes the north half of Pool 1, the area headquarters, and the north quarter of Pool 2. As a reference, hunting blind E2 (in Pool 2) sits right on the east-west boundary line between Bollinger County and Stoddard County. The remainder of the area south of this county line is the Stoddard County hotspot. This includes Pool 3, most of Pool 2, and the south half of Pool 1. Over 200 species have been recorded at each of the three hotspots. A detailed map of the area is highly advisable when birding here, and is available on the MDC website.

ADA Information: There is excellent birding by vehicle throughout the area. Roads that encircle Pools 1, 2, and 3 and into the interior of Units A and B should provide views of waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, woodland birds, and raptors. Accessible fishing docks on the west and east sides of Pool 1 provide good views of the water. There are accessible vault toilets at the campground and area HQ.

When to visit/species to expect: Nearly all of our migratory waterfowl have been seen here, especially in spring migration. You could see thousands of Ring-necked Ducks then. Common Loon and Horned Grebe are also possible at this time. Depending on the timing of seasonal flooding, the area can be very good for migrant shorebirds in some years. Expect all of the resident woodpeckers year-round and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in winter. Also in winter,

look for Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, kinglets, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Orange-crowned Warbler is also possible. Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Field Sparrow are among the winter sparrows you might see. Of the 30 warblers seen here, most have been reported during spring migration.

In summer, expect Mississippi Kite and all of the common waders, including night-herons. Plus Wood Thrush, Summer Tanager, and all of our woodland vireos and flycatchers. Also, you'll have a good chance for Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Yellow-throated Warbler. Other summer possibilities are Common Gallinule and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Among the year-round residents are Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Towhee, Black Vulture, and Bald Eagle.

Features of interest to birders: Man-made Pool 1, with 1,800 acres of water visible from the perimeter road, is the crown jewel of this conservation area. This is the best spot for diving ducks and other water birds. With its many standing snags, it swarms with Tree Swallows in summer. Bald Eagles have nested here for many years, and last year Ospreys did too.

Pools 2 and 3 contain nearly 1,500 acres of the bottomland hardwoods that once covered the Bootheel. They are flooded during waterfowl season and are a magnet for Mallards and Wood Ducks. And of course, always prime for woodland birds. Both have perimeter roads and Pool 2 has short spur roads into the interior.

Units A and B are seasonally-flooded herbaceous wetlands. They are your best bet for dabbling ducks, waders, and shorebirds. Waders spotted here since 2020 include White-faced Ibis, Glossy Ibis, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, and Hudsonian Godwit. Units A and B also contain the best winter sparrow habitat on the area. Don't overlook Fish Ponds and Kinder Pool, which on a smaller scale are good for dabblers, shorebirds, and sparrows.

The Pine Grove and the pines around the HQ can be good in season for Pine Warbler and Red-breasted Nuthatch. And it seems that on every birding trip, the campground will produce a species or two that you haven't found elsewhere on the area—especially winter woodland birds.

To access the Bollinger County hotspot, enter at the area HQ on

Hwy 51. For Wayne County, you can enter Unit A from the north via Hwy Z and unit B from the west on CR 513. From the east, enter Unit A at a ditch crossing on the west side of Pool 1. A good strategy for the Stoddard County hotspot is to bird Fish Ponds and Kinder Pool and then enter the main part of the area at the southeast corner of Pool 3 along Hwy 51. Again, a good map will be quite useful at Duck Creek CA.

Picnic Areas: Picnic tables at area HQ and campground

Toilets: Accessible vault toilets at HQ and near campground.

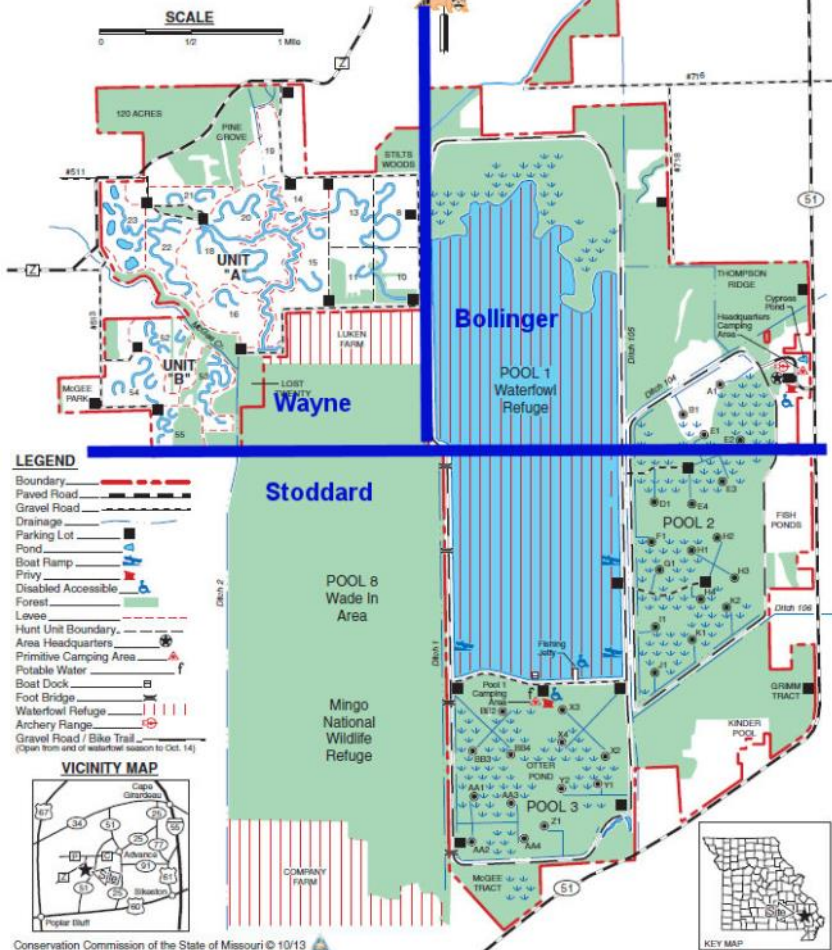
Camping: Primitive campground, with several sites, at the south end of Pool 1.

Hazards/Limitations: Most of the area is closed to the public (except for hunters) from October 15 through the end of duck season (Pools 2, 3, and south part of Pool 1) or from October 15 through the end of Canada Goose season (Units A and B, Luken Farm, and north part of Pool 1). The road around the north end of Pool 1 is one-way (clockwise) and is included in these seasonal closures.

Nearby Birding Sites: Mingo NWR, Duck Creek CA—Greenbrier Unit, Duck Creek CA—Dark Cypress Unit.

DUCK CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

BOLLINGER, STODDARD & WAYNE COUNTIES
6,318 ACRES



Thirty-fifth 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 2022. 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, log in, and click on Submit Documentation in the "SCIENCE" section menu. Then click the Get Started box at the bottom (this will not appear without logging in). 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 93 records reviewed during this period, 79 were accepted and 14 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 85%. Members participating in these decisions were Lisa Berger, Cory Gregory, Kendell Loyd, Kristi Mayo, Pete Monacell, Mary Nemecek (Chair), Mark Robbins, and Joshua Uffman. Bill Rowe served as non-voting Secretary.

Seven records received comments from outside reviewers; see the accounts for Mottled Duck (2022-31, 58, 59), Black-chinned Hummingbird (2022-87), Brown Booby (2022-33, 63), and Swainson's/Gray-cheeked Thrush (2022-66).

There was one new species for Missouri this year (Limpkin, with an unprecedented 12 records in its first year of occurrence), leaving Missouri with 428 fully-accepted species as of December 2022; 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 439 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 "BIRDS."

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: Baird's Sandpiper in winter); 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 breeding records and extreme arrival and departure dates. The Review List, also maintained at www.mobirds.org (under "SCIENCE" and the Missouri Bird Records Committee), 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 2024 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, Bolinger/ Stoddard/
Wayne cos.

CBC = Christmas Bird Count

CA = Conservation Area

SP = State Park

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

RECORDS ACCEPTED

MOTTLED DUCK (*Anas fulvigula*), 2022-31: Male, 15 April 2022, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Paul McKenzie, Pete Monacell (documentation with photographs), John Besser. Found by Chris Barrigar and Benda Morris, and species identification confirmed by Tony Leukering. Now listed as rare statewide, but remains on Review List due to identification difficulties.

MOTTLED DUCK, 2022-59: One, 14–24 May 2022, MNWR. Ethan Hoggard, Mark Hahn, David Haenni (photographs); found by Chris Barrigar; documentation produced from eBird reports. See comment on 2022-31. Species identification was confirmed by Tony Leukering.

MOTTLED DUCK, 2022-58: One, 27 July 2022, BK Leach CA, Lincoln Co. Henry Gorski (photographs); documentation produced from eBird report. See comment on 2022-31. Species identification was confirmed by Tony Leukering.

REDHEAD (*Aythya americana*), 2022-47: 14 birds, 12 June 2021, LBNWR. Bryan White (documentation with photographs). Casual in summer.

REDHEAD, 2022-61: Male, 4–19 July 2022, Lamar City Park, Barton Co. Alex Marine (documentation with photographs). Casual in summer.

COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*), 2022-50: Female with four young, 29 May–1 June 2022, Current River, Shannon Co. Daniel Drees (documentation), Susan Farrington (photographs), Brent Drees. Same family group observed 30 June (Mary and Alex Marine, photographs), still with four young. First breeding record for Missouri.

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*), 2022-92: Two, 20 December 2022, Creve Coeur Lake, St. Louis Co. Lisa Saffell (documentation with photographs), David Dean, David Becher.

Casual in winter; eighth record.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus alexandri*), 2022-87: Female, 14 October–9 December 2022, Otal residence, Wildwood, St. Louis Co. Anita Otal, Bill Rowe, Diane Bricmont (documentation with photographs). Accidental transient; third record. Early comments on the identification were provided by Paul McKenzie and Van Remsen.

LIMPKIN (*Aramus guarauna*), 2022-40: One, 9 May 2022, Schell-Osage CA, St. Clair Co. Bob Estes (documentation with photographs). Definitive (and first) state record.

LIMPKIN, 2022-46: One, 11 May 2022, MNWR, Wayne Co. Ben Lambert (photographs); documentation submitted by Tim Kavan. Accidental; second record.

LIMPKIN, 2022-44: One, 23–24 May 2022, near La Russell, Lawrence Co. Kendell Loyd (documentation with photographs). Accidental; third record.

LIMPKIN, 2022-45: One, 24 May 2022, near Clinton, Henry Co. Tanya Snedden (documentation with photographs), Timothy Snedden. Accidental; fourth record.

LIMPKIN, 2022-53: One, 8 June 2022, private property (former Girl Scout camp), Ste. Genevieve Co. Allen Gathman (documentation with photographs). Bill Eddleman, Tim Kavan. Accidental; fifth record, moving the species to casual.

LIMPKIN, 2022-60: One, 17 June and 4 August 2022, Parkville Nature Sanctuary and Riss Lake, Platte Co. Siri Shepek, 17 June, and Alek Lanter, 4 August (documentation with photographs). Casual; sixth record. Despite the gap in dates, considered likely to be the same individual due to close proximity of locations.

LIMPKIN, 2022-65: One, 11 August 2022, Springfield Nature Center, and 29 October 2022, Lake Springfield, Greene Co. Original observer was Eric McMillan; photographs in eBird report by Greg

Swick; documentation submitted by Mary Nemecek. Additional documentation by Kendell Loyd (with photographs). Documentation of October observation by Linda Sala. Casual; seventh record. Considered likely to be the same individual due to close proximity of locations.

LIMPKIN, 2022-67: One, 22–25 August 2022, Lake Jacomo, Jackson Co. Chrystal Shields, Ruth Simmons (documentation with photographs), Steve Johnson (documentation). Casual; eighth record.

LIMPKIN, 2022-68: One, 24 August 2022, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Paul Herbers (photographs in eBird report). Casual; ninth record.

LIMPKIN, 2022-69: One, 4–5 September 2022, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis City. David Becher, Bill Rowe, Paul McKenzie (documentation with photographs), Cathy Spahn, Connie Alwood, Matt Rowe. Casual; tenth record.

LIMPKIN, 2022-74: One, 6 October 2022, Country Meadows subdivision, Independence, Jackson Co. Kristi Mayo (documentation with photographs). Casual; eleventh record. This bird was found dead on 24 November; the specimen is KU 136302.

LIMPKIN, 2022-79: One, 29 October–7 November 2022, Valley Park, St. Louis Co. Doug Hommert, Diane Bricmont (documentation with photographs), David and Therese Haenni, Joe Eades. Casual; twelfth and final record for 2022.

VIRGINIA RAIL (*Rallus limicola*), 2022-7: Four, 25 December 2021–7 January 2022, Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery, Taney Co. Alex Marine (documentation with audio). Accidental in winter away from known wintering locations.

SORA (*Porzana carolina*), 2022-3: One, by diagnostic vocalization, 16 December 2021, LBNWR. Kendell Loyd. Accidental in winter away from known wintering locations.

PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyrio martinicus*), 2022-37: Adult, 3 May 2022, Washburn wetlands, Barry Co. Becky Wylie (documentation with photographs), Mike Wylie, Sheila Burns. Casual outside southeast Missouri.

PURPLE GALLINULE, 2022-48: Adult, found 24 April 2022 on bank property in Belton, Cass Co., then transferred for attempted rehabilitation to Lakeside Nature Center. Jessica Mitchell (documentation with photographs). Casual outside southeast Missouri.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*), 2022-19: One, 20 January 2022, private wetland, New Madrid Co. Tim Kavan. Accidental in winter; fourth record.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*), 2022-85: Four, 14 December 2021, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Pete Monacell (documentation with photographs), Paul McKenzie, Rick Hostetler, et al. Casual in winter outside extreme southeastern Missouri; fifth record.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*Calidris bairdii*), 2022-16: One, 6 January–21 February 2022, Winfield, Lincoln Co. Bill Rowe (documentation on 31 January, with photographs), Tom Parmeter. Accidental in winter; fourth record. One bird was reported on several occasions during the record interval, and two birds were reported on two other occasions but with no documentation submitted.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*), 2022-54: One, 20 June 2022, RMBS. Mike Thelen (documentation with photographs). Considered the earliest record for fall migration.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*), 2022-78: Two, 14 December 2021, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Pete Monacell (documentation with photographs), Paul McKenzie, Rick Hostetler, et al. Accidental in winter outside extreme southeastern Missouri; fourth record.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, 2022-90: Five, 14 December 2022, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. Kendell Loyd (documentation of four

with photographs), Mark Robbins, John Bollin. A fifth bird was included, found by Rick Hostetler et al. This is the fifth winter record outside of extreme southeastern Missouri, moving the species to casual there.

WILLET (*Tringa semipalmata*), 2022-56: Five, 26 June 2022, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Joseph Bieksza (documentation with photographs), John Besser (documentation). Earliest fall migration record.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*), 2022-83: Juvenile, 20 November 2022, Table Rock Lake, Stone Co. Greg Swick, Kendall Loyd (documentation with photographs). Latest fall record.

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*), 2022-9: Subadult, 11–14 January 2022, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Doug Willis (documentation with photographs). Listed as rare, but remains on Review List due to identification difficulties.

CALIFORNIA GULL, 2022-11: Adult, 14 June 2014, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Documentation prepared by Bill Rowe from eBird checklist by Vic Bogosian, including photograph by him. Only summer record for Missouri.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*), 2022-43: One first-cycle and one adult, 28 May 2022, RMBS. Bill Rowe (documentation of first-cycle bird on 22 May, then the latest spring record; also of both birds on 28 May, a still later spring record), Diane Bricmont (documentation on 28 May, including photograph of the adult).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*), 2022-32: Adult, 17–21 April 2022, RMBS. David Becher (documentation with photographs), Connie Alwood, David Haenni, Jonah Eckels. Latest spring record by four weeks.

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellaris*), 2022-8: Adult, 27 December 2021–3 January 2022, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Doug Willis (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter; seventh record.

RED-THROATED LOON, 2022-20: Juvenile, 19–28 February 2022, Stockton Lake, Cedar Co. Steven Romo (documentation with photographs), Kendell Loyd (documentation), Tim Barksdale. Casual in winter; eighth record.

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*), 2022-30: Adult, 20 February 2022, Stockton Lake, Cedar Co. Alex Marine (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter; tenth record.

WOOD STORK (*Mycteria americana*), 2022-62: Adult, 5 August 2022, MNWR. Henry Gorski (documentation), Oliver Gorski. Casual summer visitor; eleventh record in past 25 years.

BROWN BOOBY (*Sula leucogaster*), 2022-33: Subadult female, 23–24 April 2022, private lake, Montgomery Co. Martha Young (photographs); documentation submitted by Sarah Kendrick. Accidental transient; second record. Betty Anne Schreiber, co-author of the article on this species for *Birds of the World*, considered this bird to be female based on the pinkish bill.

BROWN BOOBY, 2022-35: Adult female, 26 April–31 May 2022, Bear Bottom Resort, Camden Co. Cory Gregory (documentation with photographs). Accidental transient; third record.

BROWN BOOBY, 2022-49: Adult, 3 June 2022, Maple Leaf CA, Lafayette Co. Eric Nehlsen (photographs); documentation submitted by Mary Nemecek based on eBird report. Accidental transient; fourth record.

BROWN BOOBY, 2022-63: Subadult female, 7 August–11 November 2022, Lake Perry, Perry Co. Kris Mabie, Bill Rowe (documentation with photographs), Glen Mabie, Margaret Rowe, Matt Rowe. Fifth record, moving the species to casual. See comment about the bird's sex under 2022-33.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Nannopterum brasilianum*), 2022-26: Adult, 3–4 March 2022, Busch CA, St. Charles Co. Diane Bricmont (documentation with photographs), David Dean. Earliest spring record. This species is now listed as a rare transient and

summer visitor statewide and thus no longer requires MBRC documentation, except for earliest, latest, and winter records.

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*), 2022-71: One, 17 January 2022, LBNWR. Cheryl Vellenga. Accidental in winter in northern Missouri.

TURKEY VULTURE, 2022-18: One, 31 January 2022, near Jamesport, Daviess Co. Terry McNeely (documentation with photographs), Ivan Miller, Steve Kinder. Accidental in winter in northern Missouri.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (*Buteo regalis*), 2022-86: Adult, 25 November 2022, LBNWR. Michael Bailey (documentation with photographs), Shelli Bailey. Listed as rare in western Missouri but remains on Review List due to identification difficulties.

NORTHERN SHRIKE (*Lanius borealis*), 2022-75: Adult, 18 October 2022, Prairie SP, Barton Co. Alex Marine (documentation with photographs). Earliest fall record.

FISH CROW (*Corvus ossifragus*), 2022-13: Two, 24 January 2022, Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery, Taney Co. Marcia Balestri (documentation with audio), Bob Balestri. Casual in winter outside southeastern Missouri.

FISH CROW, 2022-24: Two, 20 February 2022, Table Rock Lake, Stone Co. Steve Martin (documentation), Debbie Martin. Casual in winter outside southeastern Missouri.

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*), 2022-22: One, 6 July 2021, Frost residence, near Columbia, Boone Co. Linda Frost. Casual in summer.

ROCK WREN (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), 2022-84: One, 21 November 2022 to at least 23 January 2023, near Louisburg, Dallas Co. Steve Martin (documentation with photographs), Debbie Martin, Zane Hostetler. Casual transient; twelfth record during spring and fall.

SWAINSON'S/GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus/minimus*), 2022-66: One, 14 August 2022, George residence, Cedar Hill, Jefferson Co. Wally George (documentation with photographs). This puzzling record was discussed at length and sent to several outside reviewers, including Alvaro Jaramillo, Dan Lane, Peter Pyle, and others, with no ultimate agreement as to the bird's identity; some features in the photographs supported Swainson's, others Gray-cheeked. The date was earlier than any previous record of either species.

SAGE THRASHER (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), 2022-15: One, 30 January–19 February 2022, private residence near Tunas, Dallas Co. Lisa Berger, Kendell Loyd, Paul McKenzie (documentation with photographs), Caleb Wenger, Zane Hostetler. Accidental transient and winter visitor; fourth record.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*), 2022-6: Two, 20 December 2021, Church Farm CA, Cole Co. Pete Monacell (documentation with photographs). Casual outside normal range.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW, 2022-17: One, 12 February 2022, Bridgeforth residence, Kansas City, Clay Co. Michele Bridgeforth (documentation with photographs). Casual outside normal range.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW, 2022-80: One, 30 October 2022 into 2023, Bridgeforth residence, Kansas City, Clay Co. Michelle Bridgeforth (documentation with photographs). Casual outside normal range. No observations of this species at this location between record 2022-17 and this record.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*), 2022-12: One, 18 January 2022, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Paul McKenzie (documentation with photographs). Accidental in winter; second record.

LARK BUNTING (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 2022-42: Adult male, 21 May 2022, private property near Buffalo, Dallas Co. Pete Monacell (documentation with photographs), Trey Hostetler, Rick Hostetler, Christian, Conrad, and Heather Hawn. Was listed as a casual transient in western Missouri; this is the fifteenth record

there, moving the species to rare.

DARK-EYED JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis*), 2022-52: One, 2 June 2022, Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis City. Justin Baldwin (documentation with photographs), Andrea Trigueros. Casual summer visitor; ninth record.

NELSON'S SPARROW (*Ammospiza nelsoni*), 2022-81: Two, 13 November 2022, RMBS. Bill Davison (documentation with photographs), Mercy Davison, Maggie Mueller. Latest fall record.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), 2022-21: Adult male, 18 February 2022, Bolte farm, Cedar Hill, Jefferson Co. Brock Waggoner. Casual in winter outside northwestern Missouri.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), 2022-5: Eight birds, 17 December 2021, near East Prairie, New Madrid Co. Rhonda Rothrock. Documentation needed for CBC observations.

OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), 2022-89: One, 3 December 2022 at least into January 2023, Omran residence, Town & Country, St. Louis Co. Madee Omran (documentation with photographs). First winter record, although there is a previous record for 13 December 2003 (last day of fall season for MBRC).

TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Leiothlypis peregrina*), 2022-57: Two, 25 July 2022, Terpstra residence, Kirkwood, St. Louis Co. Margy Terpstra (documentation with photographs). Earliest fall migration record.

CAPE MAY WARBLER (*Setophaga tigrina*), 2022-27: One, 19 March 2022, Sala residence, Springfield, Greene Co. Linda Sala (documentation with photographs). Earliest spring record.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Setophaga fusca*), 2022-64: Male, 10 August 2022, Forest Park, St. Louis City. Yunfeng Ge (documentation with photographs). Earliest fall record.

BLACKPOLL/BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (*Setophaga striata/castanea*), 2022-93: One, 18 September 2020, Rocky Ridge, Franklin Co. Jack Foreman (documentation with photograph). This record, based on a single photograph, was reviewed to determine whether it might be a Blackpoll (casual in fall) and not a Bay-breasted (fairly common). The Committee could not reach agreement as to which it was, but it was clearly one or the other of this sometimes-difficult pair.

PINE WARBLER (*Setophaga pinus*), 2022-2: Female/immature, 7 December 2021 to at least 19 February 2022, Maryville, Nodaway Co. Mark Robbins (documentation with photographs), David Easterla. Accidental in winter in northern Missouri.

PALM WARBLER (*Setophaga palmarum*), 2022-25: One, 1 March 2022, Delaney Lake CA, Mississippi Co. Mark Haas (documentation with photographs). Earliest spring record.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Setophaga coronata*), 2022-55: One, “Myrtle” subspecies (*coronata*), 24–30 June 2022, Palmer residence, Gower, Clinton Co. Jennifer Palmer (documentation with photographs). First record of a protracted summer visit.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Setophaga dominica*), 2022-10: One, 18 December 2010, Stover residence, Lee’s Summit, Jackson Co. Documentation prepared by Bill Rowe from photographs taken by David Stover and transmitted by Mark McKellar and Mary Nemecek. Accidental in winter; first record (second record December 2012).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, 2022-82: One, 20 November 2022, Forest Park, St. Louis City. Rad Widmer (documentation with photographs). Latest fall record.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, 2022-91: One, 14 December 2022, Duck Creek CA, Bollinger Co. Allen Gathman (documentation), Mark Haas. Accidental in winter; third record.

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*), 2022-14: Female/immature, 24 January–3 February 2022, Grady residence, Ladue, St. Louis Co.

Frank Grady (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter; eighth record.

WESTERN TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*), 2022-39: Adult male, 4–12 May 2022, Ogg residence, Jefferson City, Cole Co. Curtis Ogg (documentation with photographs), Nancy Ogg. Casual transient; thirteenth record, and twelfth for spring.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), 2022-4: Female/immature, 17 December 2021, Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Bill Eddleman. Casual in winter; ninth record.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, 2022-88: Female, 3–17 December 2022, Saffell residence, Overland, St. Louis Co. Lisa Saffell (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter; tenth 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.

CLARK’S GREBE (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), 2022-77: One, 29 October 2022, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. No photograph was submitted, and the verbal description lacked important details like

bill color. Additionally, there was no discussion of ruling out a possible Clark's x Western Grebe hybrid, which is not unlikely.

COMMON GALLINULE (*Gallinula galeata*), 2022-28: One, 26 March 2022, BK Leach CA, Lincoln Co. This report was based solely on vocalizations. For a spring record that would be the earliest by over two weeks, it would be important to have either a visual identification or an audio recording.

CALIFORNIA GULL, 2022-1: Adult, 25 November 2021, Long Branch Lake, Macon Co.

No photograph was submitted, and the description, while suggestive of a California Gull, was not exact enough to rule out other gulls completely.

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*), 2022-23: One, 1 January 2022, Montauk SP, Dent Co. No photograph was submitted, and the bird was seen only in flight, in poor light; the description did not distinguish it from other smaller herons.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*), 2022-38: Adult, 3 May 2022, near Caruthersville, Pemiscot Co. No photograph was submitted, and, with no mention of shape, proportions, tail pattern, or some other features, the verbal description was too minimal to identify this bird as a record-late Golden Eagle.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax traillii*), 2022-34: One, 30 April 2022, Big Spring SP, Carter Co. This report of a record-early Willow Flycatcher was based on verbal descriptions of one bird's appearance and call notes, and of possible song by the same or a different bird. Overall, the descriptions did not add up to a conclusive identification of a Willow, and there was no photograph or audio.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW (*Spizelloides arborea*), 2022-72: One, 2 October 2022, Queeny Park, St. Louis Co. No photograph was submitted, and the description of this bird lacked some key details (such as the bicolored bill) that would be important for acceptance of a record-early report such as this.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE (*Icterus parisorum*), 2022-41: Male, 13 May–4 June 2022, private residence, Kearney, Clay Co. Photographs of this yellow-and-black oriole, noted by the homeowner as something

unusual, were sent to the MBRC. It was thought at first to be a possible Scott's Oriole, but one photograph showed clearly that the tail pattern and other features did not fit that species and instead seemed to fit a Baltimore Oriole with yellow rather than orange coloration.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), 2022-36: One, 1 May 2022, Gaddy Bird Garden, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. No photograph was submitted, and, while the description was suggestive of Swainson's Warbler, the observer had no prior experience with the species, and there were no other reports of this species all spring from this small, intensively birded site.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Leiothlypis celata*), 2022-51: One, 31 May 2022, Philips Lake, Boone Co. No photograph was submitted, and the verbal description lacked some details that would have helped to separate a record-late Orange-crowned Warbler from other more expectable species.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*), 2022-29: One, 23 October 2022, Big Oak Tree SP, Mississippi Co. No photograph was submitted, and the description was minimal and did not eliminate other warblers.

MOURNING WARBLER (*Geothlypis philadelphia*), 2022-76: One, 27 October 2022, Duck Creek CA, Stoddard Co. No photograph was submitted, and the observer did not discuss how the bird was distinguished from Common Yellowthroat and possibly other warblers.

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Setophaga discolor*), 2022-73: One, 2 October 2022, Forest Park, St. Louis City. No photograph was submitted, and the verbal description left out some details that would help confirm a record-late Prairie Warbler. The observer had no prior experience with the species.

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*), 2022-70: Female/immature, 13 September 2022, private farm, Bollinger Co. A very brief view of a bird that suggested a female-type Painted Bunting, but the description did not eliminate other similarly-plumaged birds. The observer had no experience with this plumage of Painted Bunting.

Summer Seasonal Report

June 1— July 31, 2022

Allen Gathman

Summer 2022 was warm in Missouri, starting with average June temperatures 2.2 degrees above the 20th century baeline. This continues a multi-year trend of warm Junes. The warming continued in July, with average temperatures 2 degrees above the baseline, making it the hottest July in a decade, and the fourth month in 2022 with warmer-than-average temperatures.

Rainfall was 1.81 inches below average in June, and the southern part of the state was drier than the north; one station in Ripley County reported no rainfall at all in the month of June. Conditions in most of the state south of the Missouri River were “abnormally dry” to “moderate drought conditions.” While statewide July rainfall was slightly above the long-term average, it varied greatly by region. The St. Louis area experienced a historic extreme rainfall on July 26, with some stations reporting over a foot of rain in 24 hours. However, by the end of July the southern part of the state was in moderate to extreme drought, particularly in southwestern counties, and low surface water supplies were a concern in some areas.

Tom Nagel reported that Lake Contrary, normally 200-250 acres in size, was down to less than 15 acres, “the lowest level I’ve seen in the 25+ years I’ve lived here.” This is just one example; anecdotally, many birding hotspots were affected by low water levels statewide. The first four Limpkin records for the state that occurred this spring were followed with two more this summer, part of an irruption through much of the upper south and Midwest. Other seasonal highlights include the second definite summer Mottled Duck record, third state record Brown Booby, record-early Pectoral Sandpiper, Willet, and Tennessee Warblers, and a summer visitor Yellow-rumped Warbler.

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.



Lake Contrary, Buchanan Co, 27 Jul, showing low water level.
Photo Tom Nagel

Waterfowl through Limpkin

A **Ross's Goose**, resident at Carondelet Park, St Louis City since Mar 2020, was reported 15–23 Jun (Tommy Goodwin, L. David Sibley, ph. Geoffrey Williamson, ph. Katherine Bell, ph. Cindy and Gene Cunningham). One possibly injured **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Eagle Bluffs 13 Jun (Kathleen Anderson). An injured **Trumpeter Swan** at Marais Temps Clair CA, St. Charles Co 4 Jun (William Mennerick) was probably the same individual found there almost continuously since Jan 2020. One or two **Gadwall** were found in seven counties. A single **Mottled Duck** (acc.) was at BK Leach 27–30 Jul (ph. †Henry Gorski). Up to 4 **Northern Pintail** were at BK Leach 4–25 Jun (Trevor Leitz, m. ob.), and one at Riverlands 26 Jun, 11 Jul, and 25 Jul (Nic Wells, m. ob.). The only **Green-winged Teal** this season was at BK Leach 6 Jun (Bill Rowe). A single **Redhead** (acc.) was at Lamar City Park, Barton Co 4 and 19 Jul (ph. †Alex Marine). A pair of **Lesser Scaup** were also at Lamar City Park, Barton Co 3–4 Jul (ph. Alex Marine), and 2 were at Lake Saint Louis, St. Charles Co 18 Jun (Thomas Johnson). A female **Common Merganser** and four young, continued from May on the Current River in Shannon Co 1 Jun (ph. Susan Farrington), 30 Jun (ph. Alex Marine). Single **Ruddy Ducks** were at Smithville Lake, Clay Co 22 Jun (Doug Willis) and Quail Valley Lake, Cole Co 10 Jul (ph. Chris Barrigar).

A **Greater Prairie-Chicken** was in Harrison Co 2 Jun (Terry McNeely), and 2 were at Pawnee Prairie NA, Harrison Co 18 Jun (Shannon Holder). Single **Greater Roadrunners** were in Taney Co 5 Jun (Adam Diel); Kimberling City, Stone Co 9 Jun (Spencer Crane); Ozark Underground Laboratory, Taney Co 9 Jun (Paul McKenzie); Bennett Spring SP, Laclede Co 22 Jun (ph. Caleb Welch); and Blue Eye, Stone Co 6 Jul (ph. Alex Marine). One to 2 **King Rails** continued from spring at BK Leach through at least 25 Jun. A **Virginia Rail** was at Eagle Bluffs 1–2 Jun (Paul McKenzie, Pete Monacell, Richard Stanton). The Year of the **Limpkin** continued into summer with the 5th state record (acc.) at the former Girl Scout Camp in Ste. Genevieve Co 8–10 Jun (Marcus Janzow, ph. †Allen Gathman, Tim Kavan, aud. ph. Mike Taylor) and the 6th state record (acc.) at Parkville Nature Sanctuary, Platte Co 17 Jun (†Siri Shepek).



Mottled Duck, BK Leach CA, Lincoln Co. 27 Jul
Photo Henry Gorski

Shorebirds

American Avocets were in seven counties, with a high count of 10 at Eagle Bluffs 12 Jul (Richard Stanton). A single **American Golden-Plover** was at Binder Lake, Cole Co 21 Jul (ph. Rosemarie Richardson). Single **Ruddy Turnstones** were at Webb City WWTP 7 Jun (Sheila Burns, Jeff Cantrell, A. Wild) and Riverlands 7 Jun (Dennis Martin, ph. Bill Rowe). Two **Sanderlings** were at Confluence Rd., St Charles Co 26 Jul (David Haenni, ph. Doug Hommert). Two **Baird's Sandpipers** were at Red School Rd, St Charles Co 22 Jul (David Haenni, Doug Hommert), and another 2 at Fountain Groves CA, Linn Co 31 Jul (Jacob Tsikoyak). **White-rumped Sandpipers** were in five counties through 16 Jun, with the high count of 86 at Eagle Bluffs 1 Jun (Paul McKenzie). One to 2 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were at Bean Lake and nearby Little Bean Marsh CA, Platte

Co 20–30 Jul (Lisa Owens, ph. Mary Nemecek, m.ob.). A record early **Pectoral Sandpiper** (acc.) was at Riverlands 19–20 Jun (†Mike Thelen, Dave Gibson). Bean Lake and Little Bean Marsh CA also held 1–2 **Western Sandpipers** 20–26 Jul (Lisa Owens, Doug Willis, Terry McNeely), and 1 was at Fountain Grove CA, Linn Co 31 Jul (Jacob Tsikoyak). **Short-billed Dowitchers** were seen in Boone, Platte, and St Charles Cos. Single **American Woodcocks** were in St. Louis Co 10 Jun (Steven Burkett); Buchanan Co 7 Jul (Jacob Phillips); and Long Branch Lake and SP, Macon Co 28 Jul (Peter Kondrashov). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were in Linn Co 15 Jul (Terry McNeely), a single bird at BK Leach 18–20 Jul (Jerry Hemmersmeyer, Tom Parmeter, Bill Rowe), and one at Bean Lake, Platte Co 25 Jul (Doug Willis). Single **Wilson's Phalarope** were in Lincoln Co 4 Jun (Keith Brink), Webb City WWTP 7 Jun (Sheila Burns, Jeff Cantrell, A. Wild), Red School Rd, St Charles Co 19–21 Jul (m. ob.), Bean Lake, Platte Co 20 Jul (Lisa Owens, Doug Willis), and 2 at Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co 27 Jul (Ethan Hoggard). Up to 5 record early **Willetts** (acc.) were at Eagle Bluffs 26 Jun (†John Besser, †Joseph Bieksza, m. ob.) One was at City of Columbia Wetlands, Boone Co 28 Jul (ph. Richard Stanton, m.ob.), and Buchanan Co 31 Jul (ph. Tom Nagel).



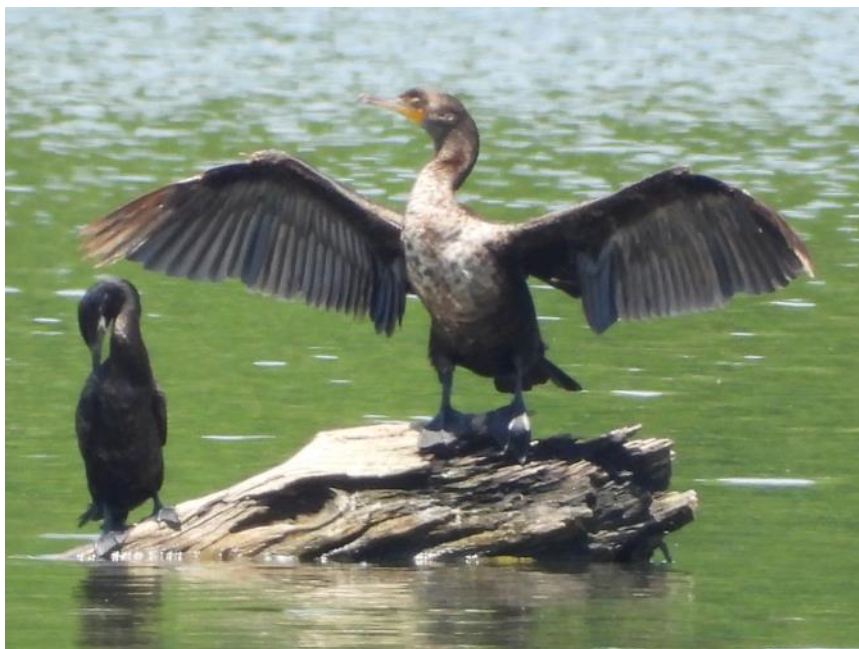
White-rumped Sandpiper, Eagle Bluffs 1 Jun. Photo P. McKenzie

Gulls through Waders

Two to 6 **Franklin's Gulls** were at Riverlands 8 and 14 Jun (Jonah Eckels, David Haenni, Brent Schindewolf). Two were at Truman Reservoir, Henry Co 11 Jul (Jacob Tsikoyak), 1–3 at Bean Lake, Platte Co 22 Jul (m. ob., ph. Mary Nemecek), and 1 at Smithville Lake, Clay Co 26 Jul (Doug Willis). The only **Herring Gulls** of the season were at Riverlands 12 Jun (Christopher Tomera) and 30 Jun (William McConkey). A single **Common Tern** was at Eagle Bluffs 8 Jun (ph. Pete Monacell). A **Common Loon** was at Lake Paho CA, Mercer Co 31 Jul (Jane Gyhra). The third state record **Brown Booby** (acc.) was at Maple Leaf Lake CA, Lafayette Co 3 Jun (†Eric

Nehlsen).

Single **Neotropic Cormorants** were in two locations in the western part of the state: in Clinton Co 12 and 26 Jul (Doug Willis) and Schell-Osage CA, Vernon Co 22 Jun (Sherry Leonardo). In St Charles Co in eastern Missouri, where they are more unusual, 1 was at Riverlands 1–4 Jun (ph. Pam Bruns, Ken Smith, Judy Bergmann, ph. Richard Stanton); 1 was at Busch CA 10 Jun (ph. Mike Thelen); and 1 was at Confluence Point SP 11 Jul (ph. Tom Parmeter, Matt Rowe). The only **American Bittern** of the season was heard at Marais Temps Clair CA, St Charles Co 2 Jun (Jake Friebohle). A **Glossy Ibis** was at Webb City WWTP 7 Jun (Sheila Burns, Jeff Cantrell, A. Wild). The second-highest summer count of **White-faced Ibis** was 28 on 1 Jun at Loess Bluffs NWR, Holt Co (Robert and Cynthia Danielson); 1 was at Muskrat Lake, Buchanan Co 3 Jun (Joanne Dial).



Neotropic Cormorant (with Double-crested Cormorant), Busch CA, St Charles Co, 10 Jun. Photo Mike Thelen

Raptors through Thrushes

Single **Northern Harriers** were in 8 counties. Single **Barn Owls** were in Jasper, Barton Co 4 Jun (Alex Marine), Mora CA, Benton Co 5 Jun (Jacob Decker), and Bruns Tract, Pettis Co 11 Jun (Tracy Lewandowski), while 2 were at Pershing SP, Linn Co 15 Jul (Terry McNeely).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at Blue Springs Lake, Jackson Co 2 Jun (Thomas Swartz), a residence in St Louis City 3 Jun (ph. Maureen Thomas-Murphy), Nodaway Co 7 Jun (Art Webster), Weston Bend SP, Platte Co 9 Jun (ph. Jerry DeBoer). A single bird at Jefferson City Memorial Park, Cole Co 12 Jun (Jane Frazier, Steve Garr, ph. Pete Monacell, Betty Richey) is the third-latest June record for this species. Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at Snowdell Rd, St Francois Co 1 Jun (Kathleen Wann); Powell Gardens, Johnson Co 2 Jun (Robert and Cynthia Danielson). Two were at Dry Fork Creek, Phelps Co 7 Jun (Jerry Decker). Single **Least Flycatchers** were in 6 counties in the first week of June. Single recently introduced **Brown-headed Nuthatches** were in Carter Co 11 Jun (Terry McNeely) and 16 Jul (Mark Haas). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at Weston Bend SP, Platte Co 2 Jun (Dale Anderson, Jennifer Pederson, David Stanway, Brian Voorhees), and another was in Benton Co 4 Jun (Jacob Decker).



Tennessee Warbler, St Louis Co 25 Jul.
Photo Margy Terpstra

Sparrows through Warblers

A **Dark-eyed Junco** (acc.), casual in summer, was at Bellefontaine Cemetery, St Louis City 2 Jun (ph. †Justin Baldwin, Andrea Trigueros). Single **Vesper Sparrows** were at two locations in Daviess Co 21 Jun and 30 Jul (Michele D, Terry McNeely). Up to 8 **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were at Loess Bluffs NWR, Holt Co 11 Jun–30 Jul (m. ob.), and 1 was at Cooley Lake CA, Clay Co 13 Jul (Doug Willis).

Swainson's Warblers were at several locations in the Ozarks: 1 in Ozark Township, Oregon Co 2 Jun (Sarah Kendrick, Shelby Timm); 1–2 at Greer Crossing Recreation Area, Oregon Co 9–14 Jun (Rachel Hendricks, Bence Kokay, Steve Martin, Debbie Martin); 1 at Blue Spring, Shannon Co 12 Jun (Hannah Glass, Alex Marine, Mary Marine) and 9 Jul (Reva Dow); 1 at Markham Spring, Wayne Co 14 Jun (Dave Z); 1 at Akers Ferry, Shannon Co 17 Jun (Brian Nelson); 2 at Powder Mill, Shannon Co 30 Jun. The earliest fall date for **Tennessee Warbler** (acc.) was set by 2 at †Margy Terpstra's (ph.) home in St Louis Co 25 Jul. An accidental summer visitor **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (acc.) was at †Jennifer Palmer's home in Clinton Co 25–30 Jun.

Abbreviations:

aud. audio recording made
ph. photographed
m. ob. multiple observations
CA Conservation Area
NWR National Wildlife Refuge

Locations:

BK Leach: BK Leach Conservation Area, Lincoln Co
Eagle Bluffs: Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co
Riverlands: Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St Charles Co
Webb City WWTP: Webb City Waste Water Treatment Plant, Jasper Co

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