



THE BLUEBIRD

The voice of MBS since 1934

**March 2024
Volume 91, No. 1**



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

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THE BLUEBIRD

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+ **Board Position**

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

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

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

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

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

Deadlines for submissions to the Seasonal Survey Editors

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

Spring (Mar. 1-May 31)—to 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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

March 2024

Volume 91, No. 1

- 1 President's Corner — Edge Wade
3 We welcome our new MBS members — Greg Leonard
3 Subscribe to the MOBIRDS Listserv
4 MBS policies and procedures for non-renewed members
5 Glacier National Park, Montana: A bucket list destination for any birder or naturalist — Paul McKenzie
12 Book Review: How to Know the Birds, by Ted Floyd — Edge Wade
15 Birders' Guide: Magnolia Hollow Conservation Area — Allen Gathman
18 Thirty-sixth annual report of the Missouri Bird Records Committee — William C. Rowe
31 Summer Seasonal Report, June—July 2023 — Allen Gathman

Front Cover — Indigo Bunting, St. Louis Co 19 Jul 23. Photo Julie Morgan

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



Whew! What a winter. Enough! Let's think spring. The ancients began the new year in March, when the 2 minute a day more sunshine since the winter solstice begins to bring results in warmer temperatures and harbinger plants begin to stir.

We birders note the indicators of the incipient spring all around us. *The Bluebird* appropriately changes volumes with the March issue, American Woodcocks are peenting, Eastern Phoebes are winging north looking for early emerging insects. Northern Cardinals sing to announce their

cold months survival and will soon be competing with newly arrived members of the avian chorus as Red-winged Blackbirds announce their claims to patches of reedbeds.

A recommendation: As we clean our optics and begin reacquainting ourselves with plumages and vocalizations in anticipation of dazzling dancing warblers, easier to follow vireos, candy-colored orioles and tanagers, I draw your attention to a book to augment the learning process and add depth to the understanding of life cycles and appreciation of the birds we'll be observing. Whether you'll be experiencing your first spring as a bona fide birder or if you have a dozen or more years of spring birding memories to relish and recount, *How to Know the Birds* by Ted Floyd (see the review on page12) is likely to become a valuable companion to your field guide, apps, and other birding aids.

News of the MBS Board: Greg Swick of Ozark, MO has assumed a seat on the MBS Board representing the southwest region. His record of leadership in bird and conservation-related programs brings solid experience and perspective to MBS.

We thank Jeff Cantrell for his many years of service on the MBS Board and multiple contributions to our services as he has assumed

new responsibilities within the Missouri Department of Conservation, continuing to bring natural systems awareness and education to the people of Missouri. Dan Getman of Kirksville, MO, has decided not to stand for re-election. We thank Dan for his service and look forward to his posts of news and photos of the denizens in his bird-friendly yard and beyond.

At the MBS General Meeting in September, MBS members will vote to fill officer and Board positions. Michael O'Keefe, current Vice-President, will stand for election as President. Greg Swick's appointment to the Board will be on the ballot for approval of completion of this term of service. Cindy Bridges and Kendell Loyd will be continuing as Board members. Phil Wire will continue serving as secretary, Tommy Goodwin as treasurer, Allen Gathman as Bluebird editor, and Kevin Wehner as webmaster.

As Michael O'Keefe becomes President, the Vice-Presidency becomes open. The MBS nominating committee, chaired by Michael, is charged with filling that position to help guide our all-volunteer organization.

Please consider joining the committed officers and board members who make things happen in bringing MBS services and programming to all Missourians.

Spring Meeting: The MBS Spring Meeting, planned by Vice-President Michael O'Keefe and Board Member Jennifer Pederson, is May 2-5, based at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, St. Joseph, with an excellent array of field trips scheduled and featuring special activities for young birders.

Friday evening will feature a light dessert served at the Remington Nature Center on the Missouri River as we welcome attendees and learn about nature activities in the St. Joseph area. The Saturday banquet keynote speaker will be filmmaker Ann Johnson Prum, producer of PBS aired programs "Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air", "An Original DUCKumentary", and "Woodpecker: The Hole Story".

The opening of registration for the Spring Meeting will be announced via email to MBS members and be posted on the listserv Mobirds-l.

May your spring birding adventures be bodacious, bringing all the rewards you dream of in this chilly pre-spring.

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 13 new MBS members in the 1st quarter of 2024 !**

Harley Winfrey

Lisa Morin

Bea Porter

Carol Yonkman

Sarah Abery

Katie Ligon

Jennifer Fruend

Laura McCaskill

Sean Marbarger

Tom Goetten

Leon Cluck

Karen Mitchell

Kyle Scott

Wheatland, MO

Lamar, MO

Camdenton, MO

Columbia, MO

O'Fallon, MO

St. Louis, MO

Ashland, MO

Springfield, MO

Olivette, MO

Jerseyville, IL

Ellisville, MO

Kansas City, MO

La Grange, MO

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/SCRIPTS/wa.exe?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/SCRIPTS/wa.exe?A0=MOBIRDS-L>

MBS Policy and Procedures for Non-Renewed Members

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

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

To renew online, go to MBS's website, www.mobirds.org/MBS/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.

Sincerely,

Greg Leonard
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Glacier National Park, Montana: A Bucket List Destination for Any Birder or Naturalist

Paul McKenzie



Logan Pass, Glacier National Park 9 Jul 23
Photo Paul McKenzie

If you were to ask any birder who has been birding for more than a week what birding destinations they dreamed of going to in North America, a number of locations would be identified on their bucket list. Birding hot spots such as SE Arizona, southern Florida, coastal areas in Maine and California, Kearney, Nebraska, Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, Yosemite National Park, pelagic trips, or Glacier National Park would be on many birders' bucket lists.

On 7-14 July 2023, my wife Becky and niece River Schmidt made a trip to Glacier National Park (GNP) in NW Montana. While it was an unforgettable trip, there were pluses and minuses that we learned during our visit that would benefit anyone wanting to make future plans.

There are two main entrances to GNP, one on the west end of Logan

Pass at West Glacier and one on the east end of Logan Pass at St. Mary's. As with many other national parks, interest in visitation has greatly increased since the peak of COVID, such that most parks now require a vehicle reservation along with a park pass. Because reservation requirements are subject to change, birders are encouraged to visit National Park websites well in advance of any trip. In 2023, 3-5 day vehicle registrations were required at GNP if you planned to drive from West Glacier to Logan Pass along the Going to the Sun Road. Because we only had a 3-day pass for a specific time period, entrance through the West Glacier entrance was not possible on other days unless we arrived before 6 am or after 3 pm. One downside to entering on the west side is that there is a 9-mile stretch of dirt road from just north of the Apgar Visitor Center to McDonald Lodge. This stretch can be dusty or muddy and put significant wear and tear on your vehicle if you drive up the Going to the Sun road rather than taking a park shuttle.

For our stay, we choose to enter from the west entrance at West Glacier and lodged at the Greenwood Village Inn in Kalispell. This was an exceptionally clean, quiet and relatively inexpensive resort in Kalispell, about 45 minutes west of West Glacier. One advantage of lodging in Kalispell is that it is the location of the nearest airport to GNP and only a few miles from Lone Pine State Park (Lone Pine SP), which provided some birding opportunities. One major disadvantage of staying in Kalispell is that it required a very early rise to arrive at the west entrance prior to 6 am (if you did not have a vehicle pass for that day or wanted to be first in line for the park shuttles). Because my wife and niece did not want to get up every morning at 4:30 am in order to get to the west entrance before 6 am, I had the opportunity to bird at the nearby Lone Pine SP.

Because space would not allow a summary of every location we visited during our trip, a complete list of birds with photographs is found on the following trip report:

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/145270>

Some highlights, however, are worth repeating here. I must confess up front that simply bird watching was not an easy task for me because, as a naturalist, I easily got distracted by plants, butterflies, odonates, and mammals. Additionally, my desire to photograph everything I observed prevented me from covering as much territory as I would have liked. One thing I was not prepared for, however,



Cassin's Finch, Lone Pine Tree State Park, Montana 7 Jul 23
Photo Paul McKenzie

was the overall low bird density in many areas that was surely due to the time of year.

My first birding trip was to Lone Pine SP on the evening of 7 July. While it was good to see species such as Vaux's Swift, Western Bluebird, Western Tanager, and Calliope Hummingbird again, the

highlight was photographing a life bird, Cassin's Finch, which had eluded me in the western U.S. for years, and my first ever Boreal Bluet damselfly.

On 8 July, I took my wife and niece to the Whitefish Mountain Resort on Big Mountain at Whitefish, MT. I was able to take a few short walks while they enjoyed the rides at the resort. Birds observed included Cassin's Vireo and two male Western Tanagers



Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), Glacier NP, MT 9 Jul 23
Photo Paul McKenzie

that were having a territorial dispute. Another highlight was my first observations ever of Vivid Dancer damselflies.



Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Glacier National Park, MT 9 Jul 23
Photo Paul McKenzie

Our first visit to GNP was on 9 July, but because we did not have a vehicle pass for the day, we had to hike the three miles from West Glacier to the Apgar Visitor Center. Highlights along the hike included Red-naped Sapsucker, Dusky Flycatcher, Mountain Chickadee, a nesting Audubon's Warbler of the Yellow-rumped Warbler complex, and a stunning mule deer buck in velvet. Later we took a park shuttle to the Trail of the Cedar, which is a gorgeous nature trail through old growth cedars where Varied Thrushes are easy to hear but extremely difficult to see. Later we took a shuttle up the Going to the Sun Road to the summit at Logan Pass that was above tree level. While birds were scarce, views from the summit were spectacular, and we were able to get amazingly close to Rocky Mt. Bighorn sheep, the abundant Columbian Ground Squirrel, and the Oregon Gem Moth.

On 10 July we took a boat trip on McDonald Lake in GNP. It was sad to hear how introduced rainbow, brook, and lake trout have nearly eliminated the native west slope cutthroat trout and the federally listed bull trout due to competition. While birding was

slow, there was an abundance of Violet-green Swallows with Tree Swallows around the lodge. More impressive was the array of new butterflies, especially Mormon Fritillaries and Variable Checkspots that frequented the flowers at the lodge.

On 12 July, we had the opportunity to visit the east side of Logan Pass where we hiked to St. Mary's and Virginia Falls. The scenery on the east side was so spectacular and different from the west side that we regretted we had not spent more time in this area of the park. A cold front had briefly brought snow on 11 July, but clearing on the next day provided some of the most spectacular views of the trip. Birding along the trail was slow, but we did see Dusky Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird, and Rufous Hummingbird, and I was able to get a life photo of a Pacific Wren. Butterflies were abundant along the trail with such species as Field Crescent, Mormon Fritillaries, Mariposa Coopers, and my favorite, Lorquin's Admiral. The hike to Virginia Falls was well worth the walk, where the temperature was at least 10 degrees cooler than further downslope.



Lorquin's Admiral, Glacier National Park, MT 12 Jul 23
Photo Paul McKenzie



Mule Deer, Glacier National Park, Montana 9 Jul 23
Photo Paul McKenzie

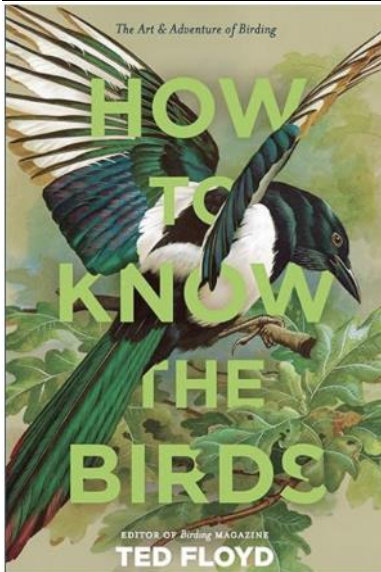
The trip was punctuated on 13 July when I took a hike along McDonald Creek while my wife and niece slept in for the morning. I was able to find and photograph two life birds: an adult female Harlequin Duck with four ducklings, and a family of American Dippers. Interestingly, McDonald Creek in GNP probably has the largest density of breeding Harlequin Ducks in North America.

Although we did not see any bear on our trip, we were able to see white-tailed deer, mule deer, Rocky Mt. Bighorn sheep, moose, mountain goat, and the noisy and abundant Columbian ground squirrel.

Overall, the trip to GNP was a trip of a lifetime, despite not getting as many life birds or life photos as I had wished. The combination of good company, stunning scenery, and many life species made the trip a very rewarding one and one I hope to do again in the near future. One book recommended is “Glacier is for the birds- a trail guide to Glacier National Park” by David Benson (2016). Beware, however, that you may only see a fraction of the birds discussed depending on the time of year you visit.

Book Review: How to Know the Birds by Ted Floyd

Edge Wade



How to Know the Birds: The Art and Adventure of Birding by Ted Floyd, National Geographic Partners, LLC, 2019. 303 pages, hardcover.

Ted Floyd and I think a lot alike. We both think “spaghetti” when looking at Texas highways-in-the-sky interchange complexes (p.202). Although I lack Ted’s degree of bird and birding knowledge and high publishing productivity, our shared thinking goes well beyond Texas road design to a shared perspective on what is important/useful/interesting in the world of birding.

And I like his style. *How to Know the Birds* is a masterful rendering of expertise delivered in an entertaining, highly informative manner punctuated by a generous sprinkling of wry humor along a wide spectrum of cultural references. Had he just watched an episode of *The Big Bang Theory* when he employed Schrödinger’s cat/hawk in the discussion of Red-shouldered Hawk (p. 247) as an example of “birds in taxonomic limbo” to guide us into contemplating speciation and our efforts to understand the process and pigeonhole disparate examples?

Whoa! That sounds pretty esoteric—perhaps not what the average birder is looking for to further his/her knowledge of birds and birding. To the contrary, *How to Know the Birds* is an easy read with much to offer the enthusiastic novice birder, as well as one whose eBird records stretch back well into the previous century, and even to the photographer whose interest in his/her avian images is beginning to go beyond the product of the camera.

Starting with *Spark Bird!* (Cedar Waxwing) he uses 200 species, a page devoted to each, divided into six seasonal sections to deliver 200 observation-based lessons that range from understanding birders, birding and birder jargon through thought-provoking topics as varied as nesting strategies, range and distribution, the necessities of molt, tools of the trade, and human influences on bird populations. He slips technical terms into the discussion almost as an aside, but in a manner that may just trigger recall and understanding when viewing a bird displaying that physical feature or behavior.

The book progresses from basic concepts and practices through taxonomy to evolution theory nuances, with references to previous lessons/topics as reminders of the connections and application. Ethics, morality, and change (whether it is in naming the birds or how we go about simply enjoying the presence of birds) top off the lessons.

Hit a topic not of interest, skim or skip it. The 200 topics are free-standing. Well, mostly. Often one segues into the next or connects with something a dozen or more topics later, and you could find yourself back-tracking, guided by a reference, to review a topic or read it with new appreciation.

Our knowledge of birds is increasing daily by careful scientific study and cumulative birdwatchers' observations. What was "known fact" twenty years ago may have been debunked last week. We now recognize birds as having cognitive awareness far beyond what was assumed as instinct not so long ago.

And we keep changing our minds as we exercise our own cognitive powers. A good example is Floyd's use of "Western" Flycatcher to illustrate his discussion of "What We Don't Know" (p. 238). At the time of his writing what had long been known as Western Flycatcher had been split into Cordilleran and Pacific-slope Flycatcher for reasons he notes as he describes the problems presented by *Empidonax difficilis*. Fast forward: Just this past year Cordilleran and Pacific-slope were re-lumped. Western Flycatcher again plies the skies and birders adjust life lists.

The Western Flycatcher/What We Don't Know entry is an example of why *How to Know the Birds* deserves a place in every birder's

library. It introduces or reminds us of the fast-paced expansion of our knowledge of birds and birding. It suggests we should accept flux (change) as a desirable aspect of this fascinating field of study. And it provides the basic understanding of principles and practices for us to enjoy the process as we enjoy the birds around us.

Note: Ted Floyd is editor of American Birding Associations (ABA) magazine, *Birding*. He was the keynote speaker at the 2017 MBS (then ASM) Spring Meeting in Springfield, hosted by the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society.



Ted Floyd; Photo ABA

Birders' Guide Magnolia Hollow Conservation Area Allen Gathman

1751.3 acres, Ste. Genevieve Co. DeLorme 49, F9

GPS 38.0267504, -90.1400488

Missouri Department of Conservation. For more information, call (573) 290-5730

Directions:

From Bloomsdale, take Highway 61 south, then Route V east 1 mile, then Magnolia Hollow Drive north to the area. When the Chester river gauge reaches 35, the area is difficult to access.

Note: if approaching from the south, DO NOT follow Google Maps instructions routing via Industrial River Road and White Sands Road; there is no access to the area from this direction. Instead take I-55 north to exit 154, then highway 61 north to Route V. From there, proceed as described above.

ADA Information: Accessible pit toilets and paved trail.

When to Visit/Species to Expect:

With a total of 47 eBird checklists to date, this area is under-birded. Still, during migration, over 25 species of warblers have been reported. The combination of woodland, riparian, grassland, and lake habitats make this a promising area for birding. A good birding strategy here is to drive in and stop at the shooting range; if it is not in use, the open grasslands surrounding it will be worth exploring, and have yielded a number of sparrow species. Next, proceed to the trailhead parking lot, a good place for "edge" species by the woods, and walk up the paved trail. The overlook is a good spot to view raptors. Driving back out, turn left (north) onto a gravel road to get to the parking area for the lake. A fishing trail gives access to some of the lake shore. A few dabbling duck species have occurred here, and there may be more to find.

Features of interest to birders:

The area is primarily mixed hardwood forest on steep slopes, with

some cleared areas maintained with native prairie vegetation. A wheelchair-accessible trail goes from a parking area up a gentle slope about 1/10 mile to an overlook atop the bluff, from which both the Mississippi and Establishment Creek (named for the French for “settlement”) can be viewed. This trail is part of a loop through the woods that is rather vaguely marked (and the portion beyond the overlook is not wheelchair accessible).

There is a small lake (about 0.2 mile long) with a short trail from a nearby parking lot (the map shows this lot on a trail, but it is in fact a good quality gravel road to that point). Extensive trails through the wooded areas are shown on the accompanying map.

Picnic Areas: Two

Toilets: Two handicapped accessible pit toilets, at the shooting range and the trailhead parking lot.

Camping: One primitive campsite.

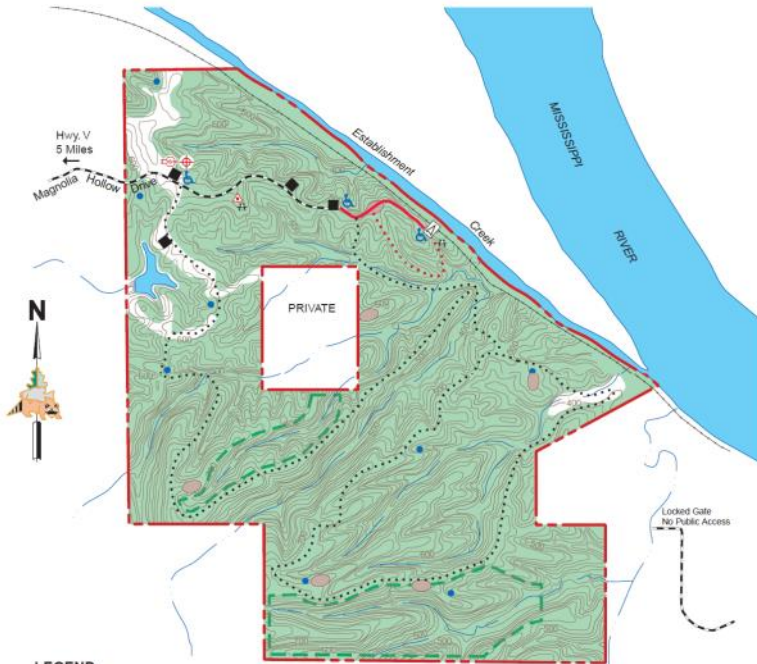
Hazards/Limitations: Be aware of hunting seasons; deer hunting (archery and muzzleloader only) and turkey hunting (all methods) are popular. Ticks, chiggers, poison ivy, and all the other usual hazards of southeast Missouri are present.

Nearby Birding Sites:

Horton Farm CA, Hawn State Park, Kaskaskia Island, St Mary Access, Ste. Genevieve Levee Wildlife Refuge

MAGNOLIA HOLLOW CONSERVATION AREA

STE. GENEVIEVE COUNTY
1,751 ACRES



LEGEND

- Boundary
- Gravel Road
- Drainage
- Hiking Trail
- Disabled Accessible Trail
- Area Access Trail
- Parking Lot
- Wildlife Water Hole
- Archery Range
- Clay Pigeon Range
- Woodland Food Plot
- Viewing Platform
- Primitive Camping Area
- Picnic Area
- Disabled Accessible
- Forest
- Topography
- Brickey Hills Natural Area

VICINITY MAP



SCALE



Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri © 01/16

Thirty-sixth 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 2023. 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>).

To submit documentation online, go to www.mobirds.org, log in (important!), 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). At the end of the process, 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 63 records reviewed during this period, 51 were accepted and 12 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 81%. One record, Snowy Owl 2023-56, was archived but not included in this report, as it turned out to have been from Kansas. Members participating in these decisions were Cory Gregory, Kendell Loyd, Kristi Mayo, Pete Monacell, Mary Nemecek (Chair), Mark Robbins, and Marky Mutchler. Bill Rowe served as non-voting Secretary. One record received comments from an outside reviewer; see the account for Black-chinned Hummingbird 2023-57.

There were two new species for Missouri this year (Cassin's Kingbird and Painted Redstart), and one other species (American Flamingo) was moved from Provisional to fully accepted, leaving Missouri with 431 fully-accepted species as of December 2023; these include three formerly occurring species that have been extirpated from the state and five extinct species. There are also 10 Provisional species on the list, for a total of 441 species. One possible additional species (Red-footed Booby) occurred in Missouri in 2023 but has not yet been reviewed by the Committee. 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 "accidental" (1-4 records) or "casual" (5-14 records) statewide. It also reviews records of species that are casual or accidental for the season when reported (example: Neotropic Cormorant 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 2025 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, Bol-
linger/Stoddard/Wayne cos.

CBC = Christmas Bird Count

CA = Conservation Area

SP = State Park

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

RECORDS ACCEPTED

TRUMPETER SWAN (*Cygnus buccinator*), 2023-35: Two adults, 9 June 2023, marsh on private land, Jackson Township, Sullivan Co. Steven Romo (documentation with photographs), Jeff Folkerts. A pair, presumably the same birds, nested in this marsh for the previous five years, and this documentation included a photo of the adults with three cygnets taken this year by the landowner. The species is casual as a summer resident.

TRUMPETER SWAN, 2023-40: One, 11 July 2023, LBNWR. Terry McNeely (documentation with photographs), Steve Kinder. Casual as a summer visitor.

GARGANEY (*Spatula querquedula*), 2023-26: Male, 2–7 April 2023, LBNWR. Kendell Loyd, Pete Monacell, Mary Nemecek, Paul McKenzie (documentation with photographs), m. ob.; found by D. Anderson. Accidental transient; third record.

COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*), 2023-39: Female with brood of eleven, seen on the Current River in Shannon Co., 11 July 2023, by Lyndon and Ricky Hostetler and reported for them with documentation by Kendell Loyd; then a female with eleven young was recorded about 20 river miles away on the Current River, still in Shannon Co., on 1 August 2023 by Dayna Williams (documentation with photographs) and Nick Williams. It is uncertain whether these two family groups were the same; thus they constituted either the second or the second and third breeding records for Missouri, following the record of a female with young on the Current River in 2022.

AMERICAN FLAMINGO (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), 2023-54: One, 26

September 2023, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. The only observer, Marissa Greene, obtained video, and Mary Nemecek provided stills from it along with evidence that it was the same bird seen previously in Ohio and subsequently in Kansas, using photo comparisons by J. Miller. This was one of many American Flamingos displaced northward from the Yucatan by Hurricane Idalia, some of them into the United States. The committee was unanimous in accepting this bird as one of wild origin; thus, this becomes a Definitive record, and the species is no longer Provisional on the Missouri list. This decision does not, however, automatically provide full acceptance of prior American Flamingo records; these would need to be reconsidered individually.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*), 2023-11: One, 28 January–20 February 2023, Winfield, Lincoln Co. Doug Hommert (documentation with photographs), Dave Haenni. Casual in winter.

COMMON GALLINULE (*Gallinula galeata*), 2023-63: Juvenile, 19 November 2023, City of Columbia Wetland Unit #1, Boone Co. Joseph Bieksza (documentation with photographs). Latest fall record.

PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyrio martinicus*), 2023-44: Juvenile, 14–30 August 2023, Webb City Waste Water Treatment Plant, Jasper Co. Kendell Loyd (documentation, with photographs available in eBird), Sheila Burns, Pete Monacell, Paul McKenzie (documentation with photographs), Krista Smith, Kelly Ormesher, m.ob. Casual outside southeastern Missouri.

YELLOW RAIL (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), 2023-61: One, 7 November 2023, Columbia Bottom CA, St. Louis Co. Jake Friebohle. Latest fall record.

LIMPKIN (*Aramus guarauna*), 2023-27: One, 15 April 2023, Duck Creek CA, Bollinger Co. Michael Taylor (documentation with audio), Frank Irovic (photographs), Grace Purcell, Nate Reed, Mayowa Adebowale, Alexis Sturgeon, Kaitlyn Schuh. At the time, casual transient and summer visitor; thirteenth record reviewed. Now rare statewide.

LIMPKIN, 2023-32: One, 3 April–9 July 2023, MNWR. Brad

Pendley (documentation with photographs in eBird). At the time, casual transient and summer visitor; fourteenth record reviewed. Now rare statewide.

SANDHILL CRANE (*Antigone canadensis*), 2023-36: One, 2 July 2023, Duck Creek CA, Wayne Co. Jacob Tsikoyak (documentation with photographs), Zach Haring. Accidental summer visitor in southern Missouri.

SNOWY PLOVER (*Charadrius nivosus*), 2023-29: One, 4–5 May 2023, RMBS. Dave Haenni, Pete Monacell (documentation with photographs), Therese Haenni, Connie Alwood, Keith Brink, Diane Bricmont, David Dean. Casual spring transient outside northwest Missouri.

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*), 2023-28: One, 23 April 2023, Fountain Grove CA, Livingston Co. Steven Romo, Jacob Tsikoyak (documentation with photographs). Earliest spring record.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*), 2023-3: One, 19–22 December 2022, Winfield, Lincoln Co. Bruce Schuette and Carol Thompson (documentation with photographs), Eric Schuette. Casual in winter outside extreme southeastern Missouri; sixth such record.

DUNLIN, 2023-21: Two, 9 March 2023, RMBS. Jonah Eckels (documentation with photographs). Earliest spring record.

DUNLIN, 2023-34: One, 5–8 February 2023, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Doug Willis (documentation with photographs); found by S. Bingham. Casual in winter outside extreme southeastern Missouri; seventh such record.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*), 2023-53: Four, 1–4 September 2023, Truman Reservoir, Henry Co. Kristie Nelson (documentation with photographs). Listed as rare in fall but retained on Review List for all fall observations.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*), 2023-6: One, 14 December 2023, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Paul McKenzie

(documentation with photographs), Linda Williams. Accidental in winter; third record.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*), 2023-2: One, 17 December 2022, Winfield, Lincoln Co. Bruce Schuette (documentation with photographs), Eric Schuette, Jerry Hemmersmeyer. Casual in winter outside extreme southeastern Missouri; seventh such record.

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), 2023-50: One, 11–12 September 2023, Smithville Lake, Clinton Co. Doug Willis (documentation with photographs). Listed as rare in fall but retained on Review List for all records owing to identification difficulties.

RED PHALAROPE, 2023-60: One, 5 November 2023, Fellows Lake, Greene Co. Kendell Loyd (documentation with photographs available in eBird). See comment on 2023-50, above. Second latest fall record.

POMARINE JAEGER (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), 2023-58: Juvenile, 5-15 October 2023, Smithville Lake, Clay Co. Doug Willis, Jacob Tsikoyak (documentation with photographs, or with link to photographs on eBird), Kendell Loyd (documentation), Lisa Owens, Zach Haring, m.ob. Casual transient; accidental in summer and winter. Fourteenth record as transient.

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*), 2023-64: Two adults, 12 November 2023, Stockton Lake, Polk Co. Kristie Nelson (documentation with photographs). Listed as rare but retained on Review List owing to identification difficulties.

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*), 2023-19: One, 27 February 2023, Webb City Waste Water Treatment Plant, Jasper Co. Daniel Wild (documentation), Amera Wild (photographs), Darrel Wild. Earliest spring record.

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*), 2023-5: Juvenile, 20–21 December 2022, RMBS. Andy Reago and Chrissy McClarren (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter; ninth record.

RED-THROATED LOON, 2023-15: One, 20–23 February 2023, Stockton Lake, Cedar Co. Steve Martin (documentation), Debbie Martin. Casual in winter; tenth record.

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*), 2023-14: One, 14 January–22 February 2023, Stockton Lake, Cedar Co. David Blevins, Jacob Tsikoyak (documentation with photographs), Isaac Goes, Steve Martin, Kelly Ormesher, Patricia Ayres (documentation), Debbie Martin, Larry Hostetler, Sherry Leonardo, et al. Casual in winter; eleventh record.

WOOD STORK (*Mycteria americana*), 2023-37: Juvenile, 3 July 2023, Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co. Jacob Tsikoyak (documentation with photographs), Zach Haring. A juvenile recorded near this CA on 25 July by Tim Kavan (documentation with photographs) was presumably the same individual. Casual summer visitor; thirteenth record since 1975.

BROWN BOOBY (*Sula leucogaster*), 2023-20: Apparent adult, 3–5 August 2022, Truman Reservoir, Benton Co. Jacob Tsikoyak (documentation with photographs). Casual transient and summer visitor; sixth record reviewed, but fifth chronologically.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Nannopterum brasilianum*), 2023-10: Adult, 20 January 2023, Carthage, Jasper Co. Jeremiah Nichols (documentation with photographs). Accidental in winter; third record.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (*Buteo regalis*), 2023-25: Juvenile, 21 February 2023, LBNWR. Thomas Swartz (documentation with photographs). Listed as rare in western Missouri, but documentation requested for all records statewide. Possibly the same individual first located at this site 25 November 2022; reviewed and accepted as 2022-86.

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes lewis*), 2023-23: One, 20 March–30 April 2023, Current River Pinery, Carter Co. Sarah Kendrick, Pete Monacell, Diane Bricmont, Paul McKenzie, Kendall Loyd (documentation with photographs), m.ob. Accidental; fourth record.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus vociferans*), 2023-30: One, 13 May 2023, Pleasant Home Baptist Church, Springfield, Greene Co. Jeff Gardner (documentation with photographs). Definitive, and first, state record.

FISH CROW (*Corvus ossifragus*), 2023-13: Three, 9 February 2023, Cooper Creek Park, Truman Lake, Henry Co. Dan Cowell (documentation with audio). Casual in winter outside the southeast.

BEWICK'S WREN (*Thryomanes bewickii*), 2023-12: One, 30 January 2023, Lambert residence, Jefferson City, Cole Co. Austin Lambert (documentation with photographs). Virtually unrecorded in winter in recent decades north of the southern third of the state.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Corthylio calendula*), 2023-24: One, 2 June 2023, Spratt-Kaminsky residence, St. Louis City. Elisabeth Spratt (documentation with photographs). Latest spring record and first with date in summer period.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (*Catharus minimus*), 2023-47: One, 29 August 2023, Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City, Cole Co. Paul McKenzie (documentation with photographs), Paul Winn. Earliest fall record.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*), 2023-8: Two, 29 December 2022–26 January 2023, private residence near Cosby, Andrew Co. Tom Nagel (documentation with photographs), Jake Phillips, Larry and Cathy Bunse. Casual outside normal range.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW, 2023-62: Two, 3 December 2023, South Farm R-1 Lake, Boone Co. Kathleen Anderson (documentation with photographs). Casual outside normal range.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius pictus*), 2023-17: Two, 9 February 2023, Bradford Farm, Boone Co. John Besser. Accidental in winter outside southwestern Missouri.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*), 2023-7: One, 30 December 2022, found dead at Tanger Outlet Mall, Taney

Co. Landon Neumann (documentation with photographs), Avery Neumann. Accidental in winter; third record.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*), 2023-48: Two, 29 August 2023, Ferguson residence, Kansas City, Platte Co. Margot Ferguson (documentation with photographs). Earliest fall record.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, 2023-49: Three, 31 August 2023, Tucker Prairie, Callaway Co. Brian Genge (documentation with photographs available in eBird). Earliest fall record except for 2023-48, above.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), 2023-9: Male, 16 January 2023, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Joseph Mosley (documentation with photographs). Casual in winter outside northwestern Missouri.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), 2023-45: Adult male, 15 August 2023, Forest Park, St. Louis City. Lisa Saffell. Earliest fall record.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (*Setophaga castanea*), 2023-46: Immature, 25 August 2023, Terpstra residence, Kirkwood, St. Louis Co. Margy Terpstra (documentation with photographs). Earliest fall record.

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Cardellina pusilla*), 2023-16: Adult male, 24 December 2022, killed in window strike at Shoal Creek Conservation Education Center, Newton Co. Jeff Cantrell (documentation with photographs), Chelsea Cook, Kevin Badgley, Joyce Hardcastle. First winter record.

PAINTED REDSTART (*Myioborus pictus*), 2023-51: Adult, 16–17 September 2023, private residence, Columbia, Boone Co. Karen Truckey, Pete Monacell, Paul McKenzie (documentation with photographs), Sarah Kendrick. Definitive, and first, state record.

SUMMER/SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga rubra/olivacea*), 2023-52: One, 26 December 2022–5 January 2023, private residence,

Creve Coeur, St. Louis Co. Anne McCormack (documentation with photographs by herself and Bob Bartenstein), Ginny Bartenstein, Peggy Oates. The Committee was divided on the identification of this bird; its rather dark wings seemed to favor Scarlet Tanager, while aspects of its face pattern and bill favored Summer. Either way, this occurrence required documentation, as Summer is casual in winter and Scarlet accidental.

WESTERN TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*), 2023-31: Male, 22 May 2023, Little Creve Coeur, St. Louis Co. Karen Meyer, Alex Pyles (documentation), Terri Pyles. Photographs by Samuel Belley available in eBird. Casual transient in spring; fourteenth 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.

TUNDRA BEAN-GOOSE (*Anser serrirostris*), 2023-1: A bird identified as this species was seen and photographed by many observers in southern Iowa, close to the Missouri border. Documentations were submitted of the bird's presence in Harrison Co., Missouri, 1 and 12 December 2022, but there were no adequate photographs (just one distant one, which the observer himself acknowledged was not clear enough to be sure), and the narratives were difficult to follow and did not add up to a definitive record of the bird on the ground in our state. It may have been seen within

our airspace, but there was no photograph. In sum, the evidence for adding any form of bean-geese to the Missouri list was insufficient.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus alexandri*), 2023-57: One, 2–6 October 2023, residential yard, Dunklin Co. This bird showed some characteristics that are typically associated with Black-chinned Hummingbird, such as a long bill and a grayish crown; however, these are variable and not firm diagnostic distinctions between Black-chinned and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, two species that are exceedingly similar in all plumages except adult males. The structural features of this bird, potentially better guides to identification, were hard to interpret from the photographs available, leaving some ambiguity. Hence the Committee felt that the bird could not be confirmed as Black-chinned. Outside comments were contributed by Lanny Chambers.

RUFF (*Calidris pugnax*), 2023-33: One, 27 May 2023, BK Leach CA, Lincoln Co. This bird, well photographed but in a rather bedraggled and confusing state of plumage, turned out to have been a Pectoral Sandpiper, based on several points of structure and pattern.

RUFF, 2023-41: One, 12 July 2023, Stockton Reservoir, Polk Co. The observer initially identified this bird as a Lesser Yellowlegs, then changed the identification to a record-early Ruff based on features that appeared later in photographs—but these were distant, poor in resolution, and hard to interpret. Ultimately the Committee could not reach a consensus on what the photographs showed, or which identification might have been correct.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK, 2023-55: Juvenile, 29 September 2023, Tabor Main Road, Jasper Co. While this may have been a Ferruginous Hawk, there were no photographs, and the description did not mention diagnostic features sufficient to separate Ferruginous from light-colored Red-tailed Hawks.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Polioptila caerulea*), 2023-22: Two, 19 March 2023, private residence in Grain Valley, Jackson Co. For an earliest spring record, the Committee thought that clearer details and (preferably) a photograph would be needed.

PURPLE FINCH (*Haemorhous purpureus*), 2023-42: Male, 22 July

2023, private residence in Marble Hill, Cape Girardeau Co. No photograph, and too little detail to be certain of a species that is accidental in summer.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW (*Spizelloides arborea*), 2023-4: One, 5 September 2023, Union Township, Crawford Co. Details provided were not sufficient to identify this species, especially considering that the date was nearly five weeks ahead of the earliest accepted record (8 October). There were no photographs, the bill color was not described, and a central breast spot was not seen.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), 2023-38: One, 6 July 2023, near RMBS. No photograph was obtained, and the written description did not definitely identify this bird as a White-crowned Sparrow, which is accidental in summer. While the bird was described as “probably immature,” White-crowned Sparrows in their first-winter (immature) plumage undergo molt in the spring and attain an adult-like plumage by summer.

VESPER SPARROW (*Pooecetes gramineus*), 2023-18: Three, 19 February 2023, Rose Pond CA, Clark Co. While these birds may have been Vesper Sparrows (casual in winter in northern Missouri), the details provided were not sufficient to rule out other more likely birds of open fields. The observation was brief and made without optics, so that no good view of face pattern and other specifics was possible.

VESPER SPARROW, 2023-43: One, 4 August 2023, Columbia Bottom CA, St. Louis Co. A possible Vesper Sparrow, but no photograph and not enough details to be sure of a Vesper far earlier than its normal migration period and in an area where it is not known to breed.

WESTERN TANAGER, 2023-59: One, 12 October 2023, Busch CA, St. Charles Co. This bird, seen by a birding group for a few minutes at some distance, was documented by two of the observers. No photographs were available. From the descriptions, it seemed clear that the bird was a tanager and that it had wingbars, but the documenters differed in their description of these, and there was no discussion of the possibility of a Summer or Scarlet Tanager showing wingbars, as can sometimes happen.

Summer Seasonal Report June-July 2023

Allen Gathman

Summer 2023 was comparatively warm in Missouri; in fact, every month of 2023 through July was marked by above-average temperatures. June was particularly warm, at 0.9 degrees F above average, continuing a two-decade trend of warm Junes in the state. Rainfall was 2.73 inches below average in June, but July ameliorated dry conditions somewhat with 0.67 inches above the average rainfall. Drought conditions continued throughout the summer, with about half of the state in severe to extreme drought. Surface and groundwater levels dropped throughout the season.

Limpkins continued their incursions into the state, with at least five different individuals observed this summer. From the first state record only last year, the species reached 15 documented records during summer 2023 to achieve “rare” status. In summer 2022, a female Common Merganser with four young on the Current River established the first breeding record for the species in Missouri. This summer, a Common Merganser (possibly the same bird) in the same location established the state’s second breeding record with 11 young!

A couple of leggy visitors attracted birders in the southeastern part of the state. First, an immature Wood Stork showed up at Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area in Mississippi County in early July. It disappeared after two days, only to show up in a nearby wetland in late July, where it persisted past the end of the month. Also in late July, a Roseate Spoonbill spent several days at Duck Creek Conservation Area in Wayne County. Some excitement also came in a smaller package, in the form of the first summer state record of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at a private home in St Louis City on June 2nd.

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.

GEESE THROUGH DUCKS

A single **Greater White-fronted Goose** spent the summer at RMBS 19 Jun–31 Jul (m. obs.), and another was at Dexter City Lake Stoddard Co 29–30 Jul (Josh Delay). The only **Cackling Goose** of the season was at Belcher Branch Lake CA Buchanan Co 6–9 Jun (ph. Clint Wiederholt, ph. Joanne Dial, Doug Willis). A pair of **Trumpeter Swans** (acc.), casual in summer, continued from spring in Sullivan Co 9 Jun (ph. Jeff Folkerts, Steven Romo†), and single birds were at LBNWR 11 Jul (acc., ph. Terry McNeely†), and Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co 20 Jul* (Lindsey Ackermann).

A pair of **Northern Shovelers** were at RMBS 6 Jun–30 Jul (m. obs), and a single bird was at Duck Creek CA, Wayne Co, 2 Jul (Jacob Tsikoyak, Zach Haring) and 29 Jul (Jim Malone). A **Gadwall** was at Blue Springs Lake, Jackson Co 9 Jun (ph. Eric Wilholt, Thomas Swartz); 2 were at Maryville Sewage Lagoons, Nodaway Co 21 Jun (ph. Jacob Tsikoyak, Kendell Loyd); 1 was at Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co 4 Jul (Tim Kavan); and one was at Duck Creek CA, Wayne Co 29–30 Jul (Reva Dow, Christian Hawn, Conway Hawn, Sally Hancock, Karin Pelton). Single **American Wigeon** were at Harrison Co 3 Jun (ph. Terry McNeely), BK Leach CA, Lincoln Co 3 Jun (ph. Gail Gagnon), and Highway 116 Wetlands, Buchanan Co 9 and 29 Jun (Doug Willis). A **Northern Pintail** was at Duck Creek CA, Wayne Co 2 Jul (Zach Haring, Jacob Tsikoyak); and 2 were at the same location 28 Jul (ph. Christian Hawn, Conway Hawn, Sally Hancock, Reva Dow).

The season's only **Canvasback** was at RMBS 5 Jun (ph. Mike Thelen). A **Ring-necked Duck** was in Pleasant View Area, Greene Co 6 Jun–31 Jul (m. obs.); 1 was at Alley Spring, Shannon Co 26 Jun (ph. Reva Dow); and two were in that location 21 Jul (ph. Robert Schweighauser). Single **Lesser Scaup** were in Moniteau Co 6 Jun (Kathleen Anderson, Edge Wade); Pike Co 8 Jun (David Haenni); BK Leach CA, Lincoln Co 12 Jun (Doug Willis, David Haenni); and at Maryville Sewage Lagoons, Nodaway Co 20–21 Jun (ph. Jacob Tsikoyak, Kendell Loyd). A female **Common Merganser** (acc.) with 11 young was found by Lyndon and Ricky Hostetler† on the Current River in Shannon County 11 Jul – 1 Aug (ph. Dayna Williams†, m.obs.), the second breeding record in the state. A **Ruddy Duck** was at Binder Lake, Cole Co 5 Jun (Rosemarie Richardson), and 2 were at Stockton Lake 20 Jul (Brian Nelson, Christina Nelson).

GALLIFORMES THROUGH LIMPKIN

Single **Greater Prairie-Chickens** were at Taberville Prairie CA, St Clair Co 22 Jun (Sherry Leonardo), and Dunn Ranch, Harrison Co 21 Jul (Doug Willis). Single **Greater Roadrunners** were in Taney Co 26 Jun –18 Jul (ph., m. obs.); Springfield, Greene Co 21 Jun (Dorothy Thurman); Peck Ranch CA, Carter Co 26 Jun (Jeff Gardner); on Rueter BBS, Taney Co 4 Jul (Isaac Goes); in Lawrence Co 7 Jul (Randall Scheiner); and in Ozark Co 17

Jul (Marcia Grafeman). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were at Four Rivers CA, Bates Co 2 Jun (Doug Willis); Donaldson Point CA, New Madrid Co 7 Jun (Tim Kavan); Cole Co 8 Jun (Rosemarie Richardson); Osage Beach, Camden Co 11 Jun (Lindsay Seely); and Persimmons Woods Golf Course, St Charles Co 17–18 Jun (Cole Dannull).

A **King Rail** was at Grand Pass CA, Saline Co 15 Jun (Ryan McGinty). Up to 3 **Sora** were in City of Columbia Wetland Cell #1, Boone Co 5 Jun–8 Jul (au. Carol Weston, m. obs.); one was at BK Leach CA, Lincoln Co 21 Jun (Mike Thelen); and one was in Chaffee, Cape Girardeau Co 22 Jul (Bill Eddleman). **Limpkins**

surpassed the 15 records required for “rare” status this summer, going from their first state record last May through “accidental” and “casual” status in little more than 12 months. One continued from spring at Mingo NWR, Stoddard Co 2 Jun–9 Jul (m. obs.); 1 at Ben Cash Memorial CA, Dunklin Co 16 Jun–20 Jul (ph. Timothy Jones, Kyle Bess, Kent Freeman); 1 at LBNWR 17 Jun (ph. Carol Cobb, Dan Staples); 1 at Mark Twain NF—Greer Crossing 18 Jul (Alex Patia); and 1 at Simpson Park, St Louis Co 27–31 Jul (ph., m. obs.).



Greater Roadrunner, Taney Co 18 Jul 23
Photo Barbara Blevins

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS

Three **American Avocets** were at Schell-Osage CA, St Clair Co on 2 Jun, and the area featured this season’s high count of 18 on 9 Jul (Doug Willis). One was in Stoddard Co 4 Jun (Dustin Kohler); 2 at Lewis and Clark SP, Buchanan Co 20 Jul (Doug Willis); 1 at Lake Gray Ghost, Dunklin Co 20 Jul (Timothy Jones, Kyle Bess); 1 at Montrose CA, Henry Co 22 Jul (Mark Robbins); 1-3 at RMBS 23–28 Jul (ph., m. obs.); and 1 at Smithville Lake, Clinton Co 27 Jul (Doug Willis). The season’s single **Hudsonian Godwit** was at LBNWR 9 Jun (ph. Zach Haring). A **Marbled Godwit** was at Stockton Reservoir, Polk Co 30 Jul (ph. Isaac Goes, Klee Bruce; Steve Martin, Debbie Martin, Zach Haring). Single **Sanderlings** were at Schell-Osage CA, St Clair Co, 2 Jun (Doug Willis) and Lake Gray Ghost, Dunklin Co 22 Jul (ph. Timothy Jones). Four **Baird’s Sandpipers** were at Stockton Reservoir, Polk Co 23 Jul (Isaac Goes, Klee Bruce). **White-rumped Sandpipers** were in Buchanan, Cole, Henry, Holt, Jasper, Lincoln, St

Charles and Vernon Cos; the high count for this summer was 110 at Shell-Osage CA, St Clair Co on 2 Jun (Doug Willis). Up to 3 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were at SelectTurf Sod Farm, Callaway Co 26–30 Jul (Pete Monacell, ph. Kelly Ormesher, Joseph Bieksza, Chris Barrigar, Brenda Morris); singles were at Lewis and Clark SP, Buchanan Co 29 Jul (ph. Doug Willis); Highway 116 Wetlands, Buchanan Co 29 Jul (ph. Doug Willis); and Hedeman Pond, Dade Co 29–30 Jul (Jerry Savage, Kelly Ormesher). A **Western Sandpiper** was at Lewis and Clark SP, Buchanan Co 29–30 Jul (Doug Willis, Thomas Jones). **Short-billed Dowitchers** were in Boone, Buchanan, Dade, Mississippi, Polk, Shannon, and Wayne Cos, all in July. Single **American Woodcocks** were at Busch CA, St Charles Co 1 Jun (ph. Diane Bricmont, David Dean) and Aux Arc, Texas Co 17 Jul (Philip Martin). A **Wilson's Snipe** was in Greene Co 15–18 Jun (ph. Jerry Savage), and 1 was at Webb City Waste Water Treatment Plant, Jasper Co 1 Jul (A. Wild). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at Stockton Reservoir, Polk Co 23 Jul (Klee Bruce, Isaac Goes); 1 was at Muskrat Lake, Buchanan Co 24 Jul (Doug Willis); 1 was at Lewis and Clark SP, Buchanan Co 29 Jul (Doug Willis); and 2 were at Hedeman Pond, Dade Co 29 Jul (Jerry Savage). Two **Willetts** were at Winfield Dam, Lincoln Co 5 Jul (ph. Bruce Schuette); 1 at Beaver Creek, Taney Co 6 Jul (ph. Adam Diel); 1 at Stockton Reservoir, Polk Co 13 Jul (Kendell Loyd, Zach Haring); 2 at RMBS 13 Jul (Bruce Hill); and 1–4 at Smithville Lake, Clay Co 16–24 Jul (Steve Bingham, Doug Willis).

A single **Laughing Gull** was at Smithville Lake, Clay Co 6–8 Jul (ph. Doug Willis, Zach Haring). A **Franklin's Gull** was at Montrose CA, Henry Co 16 Jun (Dan Cowell), while up to 18 were at Smithville Lake, Clay Co 6–31 Jul (Zach Haring, Doug Willis, Steve Bingham, Lisa Owens); 1 was Stockton Reservoir, Polk Co 24–25 Jul (Zach Haring, Greg Swick, Nate Swick); and 1 was at Smithville Lake, Clinton Co 31 Jul (Terry Miller).

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILL

Common Loons were in Putnam, St Charles, Cedar, Clay, and Holt Cos. An immature **Wood Stork** (acc.), casual in summer, was found by Zach Haring and Jacob Tsikoyak† (ph.) at Ten Mile Pond CA, Mississippi Co 3 Jul. It was seen again 4 Jul by Tim Kavan† (ph.), and then the bird was refound at a nearby private wetland 25 Jul (ph. Tim Kavan), where it remained till 31 Jul (m. obs.). Single **Neotropic Cormorants** were at RMBS 3 Jun, 19 Jun, 29–30 Jul (Tom Parmeter, ph. Bill Rowe, Dennis Martin, ph. Mike Thelen); Lake Springfield, Greene Co 1 Jul (ph. Jacob Tsikoyak, Zach Haring); Bilby Ranch Lake CA, Nodaway Co 9–15 Jul (ph. Zach Haring, ph. Clint Wiederholt, Mark Robbins, Lisa Owens, Ben Meredyk); and Smithville Lake, Clinton Co 27 Jul (ph. Doug Willis). Two **Least Bitterns** were at BK Leach CA, Lincoln Co 12 Jun and 16 Jul (David Haenni, Doug Willis, Andy Reago, Chrissy McClarren); 2 were at Cooley Lake CA, Clay Co 16 Jun (Doug Willis); one at RMBS 12 Jun (Nick Wells); 1 at LBNWR 18 Jun (Bryan White, Abby Darrah); 1 in Wayne Co 28 Jun



Roseate Spoonbill, Duck Creek CA Wayne Co 27 Jul 23
Photo Doug Hommert

(Dianne Droney); and 2 in Nodaway Valley CA, Holt Co 13 Jul (ph. Doug Willis). Single **White-faced Ibises** were at Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co 2 Jun (Doug Willis) and LBNWR 18 Jun (ph. Abby Darrah, Bryan White). This summer's only **Roseate Spoonbill** was at Duck Creek CA, Wayne Co (23–28 Jul (Ethan Hoggard, ph., m. obs.).

RAPTORS THROUGH WRENS

Single **Northern Harriers** were in Vernon Co 7 Jun (Jacob Tsikoyak), 4 Jul (Matthew Rathgeber), 6 Jul (Ryan Steffens); in Benton Co 16 Jun (Jacob Decker); in Clay Co 20 Jun (Annette and John Talbot); in Livingston Co 1 Jul (Andrew Merz); in Jasper Co 9 Jul (Aaron Keller); in Boone Co 16 Jul (Joseph Bieksza), 29 Jul (Kelly Ormsher); and Stoddard Co 23 Jul (Sally Hancock). Single **Barn Owls** were at Mora CA, Benton Co 14 Jun (Jacob Tsikoyak); in Greene Co 14 Jun (Zach Haring); in Paint Brush Prairie CA, Pettis Co 2 Jul (Jacob Decker); in Johnson Co 7 Jul (Dan Cowell); and in Pemiscot Co 26 Jul (ph. Kent Freeman). A **Short-eared Owl** was in Prairie SP, Barton Co 24 Jul (ph. Mel and Geneva Green, Angela Scannell).

Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at Myron and Sonya Glassberg Family CA, Jefferson Co 2 Jun (James Bolte); Odessa Lake, Lafayette Co 4 Jun (Dan Cowell); Pulaski Co 4 Jun (Brian Nelson); and Tower Grove Park, St Louis City 4–6 Jun (Joel Allen, David Sibley, Scott Campbell, David Bode). **Alder Flycatcher** singles were in Boone, Callaway, Cass, Christian, Mississippi, St Clair, and Vernon Cos during the first week of June. Single **Least Flycatchers** were in Sugar Camp NF, Barry Co (Kendall Watkins); Forest Park, St Louis City 3 Jun (Nicholas Slimmon); Springfield Conservation Nature Center 3 Jun (Paul Pedersen); 3M Wetlands, Boone Co 5 Jun (Kathleen Anderson, Nancy Bedan, Lottie Bushmann); and Rocky Fork Lakes CA, Boone Co 29 Jul (ph. Pete Monacell). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (acc.) in St. Louis City 2 Jun (ph. Robert Kaminsky, Elisabeth Spratt†) established the only summer record of the species in the state. A **Brown-headed Nuthatch** was in Carter Co 22



Wood Stork, Mississippi Co 29 Jul 23
Photo Jim Malone

Jun (Doug Willis). Up to 6 **Marsh Wrens** were in BK Leach CA, Lincoln Co 1 Jun–24 Jul (Doug Hommert, David Haenni, au. Doug Willis, Mike Thelen, Henry Gorski, Bill Rowe); one was at Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co 19 Jun–16 Jul (Sandra Elbert, Joseph Bieksza, Jim Gast, Donna Brunet); up to a remarkable 14 individuals were in LBNWR 4–16 Jul (au. Doug Willis, James Bynum, Marybeth Lima); one was at Lake Contrary, Buchanan Co 20 Jul (Joanne Dial); one was at Highway 116 Wetlands, Buchanan Co 20 Jul (Doug Willis); and one was at Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co 22 Jul (Tom Goodwin).

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

Single **Swainson's Thrushes** were at Tower Grove Park, St Louis City 1 Jun (Jake Friebohle); Katy Trail, Callaway Co (Chris Barrigar, Brenda Morris); in Vernon Co 2 Jun (Doug Willis); Saeger Woods Ca, Jackson Co 3 Jun (Tracy Lewandowski); and in St Louis City 8 Jun (Robert Kaminsky, Elisabeth Spratt). A single **Red Crossbill** was in Camden Co 26 Jul (ph. Karen Sullivan). Single **White-throated Sparrows** were at Forest 44 CA, St Louis Co 3 Jun (ph. Randy Schiller); and Shaw Nature Reserve, Franklin Co 7 Jun (m. obs.). A **Vesper Sparrow** was in Clark Co 17 Jun (Richard DeCoster), and one was at Bilby Ranch Lake CA, Nodaway Co 9 Jul (Clint Wiederholt). Two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were in Bob Brown CA,



Swainson's Warbler, Greer Spring, Oregon Co.
Photo Paul McKenzie

Holt Co 16 Jun (Phil Boyer) and up to 6 were in LBNWR 18 Jun–11 Jul (m. obs.).

A **Swainson's Warbler**, continuing from spring and apparently returning for the third consecutive year, was at Weldon Spring CA, St Charles Co 1–12 Jun (m. obs). Single birds were also at Wayne Co 1 Jun (Sarah Kendrick, Shelby Timm); Donaldson Point CA, New Madrid Co 7 Jun (Tim Kavan); Blue Spring, Shannon Co 11 Jun (Reva Dow); and Turner Mill Spring, Oregon Co 12 Jun (Jacob Miranda); and McCormack Lake, Oregon Co 23 Jun, 6 Jul (Jacob Miranda). The high count of two occurred at Greer Crossing, Oregon Co 3 Jun–18 Jul (Jacob Miranda, ph. Paul McKenzie, Rachel Hendricks, Alex Patia). Single **Tennessee Warblers** were in Newton Co 8 Jun (ph. Becky Wylie) and Buchanan Co 9 Jun (ph. Thomas Jones). Single **Magnolia Warblers** were at Weldon Spring CA, St. Charles Co 3 Jun (Joanne Dial, Darcy Pinotti) and Forest Park, St Louis City 3 Jun (Rad Widmer). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was at Apple Creek CA, Cape Girardeau Co 2 Jun (Allen Gathman).

Abbreviations:

au. — Audio recording

CA — Conservation Area

Co — County

m. obs. — Multiple observers

NWR — National Wildlife Refuge

ph. — Photo

SP — State Park

RMBS— Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St Charles Co

LBNWR—Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co

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