



THE BLUEBIRD

The voice of MBS since 1934

**September 2026
Volume 93, No. 3**



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

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THE BLUEBIRD

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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 Joseph Mosley by Aug 10

Fall (Aug. 1-Nov. 30)—to Allen Gathman by Dec. 10

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Front Cover — Bullock's Oriole, Chesterfield, St Louis Co 3 Dec 2025.
Photo David Davis.

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—MICHAEL O'KEEFE



Anytime the mornings and evenings are not blazing hot, I enjoy sipping coffee on the patio while hummingbirds drain the feeders. In late summer goldfinches visit the small patch of echinacea, and sometimes young bluebird families splash about in the concrete bath.

Near the end of summer in the last two years I noticed a Mississippi Kite or two at the top of nearby oak trees. This was a delight after years of only hearing about occasional sightings of this species in the Kansas City metro area. So this year I made a more

concerted effort to watch for them, and was rewarded with the daily presence of two or more kites. They never stayed very long, but did spend time diving and hunting above our backyards. More than once they veered close and captured a cicada or other insect just above my head!

They all appeared to be adults, and only once did I see one carrying a small branch, but I'm convinced that there must be a nest somewhere in the neighborhood. As of late August they still show up each morning, but I know that one day soon the treetops will be empty. Nevertheless my coffee cup will be full and my binos by my side.

I thank everyone who contributed to *The Bluebird*, and Allen Gathman for pulling it all together in fine fashion. In this issue Edge Wade remembers the late Jim Rathert, talented nature photographer and friend to all; Zita Robertson shares memories inspired by her experience at a Cornell University event; Jonah Eckels-Galbreath recounts a birding adventure to the land of ice and fire; you can enjoy poetry from Betsy Garrett; and learn from informative Birders' Guides from Allen Gathman and Cindy

Bridges. Take a look back at the birds of last winter in the seasonal report compiled and written by Kendell Loyd. Without these and our other faithful contributors, we would not be so well informed.

I encourage you to contact Allen if you would like to serve the society by sharing your bird-related adventures or creative endeavors with your MBS friends.

Another way to serve the Missouri Birding Society is to consider joining the MBS board of directors to assist guiding the work of the society through partnerships with other agencies, distribution of scholarships and funding conservation-related educational ventures.

Please consider adding your name, or that of someone you respect (and who would be willing to serve) by contacting Vice President Mike Grant. Any of the current board members would be willing to answer questions you might have regarding this service.

Thank you,

Michael O'Keefe, President

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 12 new MBS members in the 3rd quarter of 2026!**

Robert Muller
Jayde Homer
Polly Hidalgo
Dennis Smarr
Kelsey Runge
Ashley Seay
Todd Connery
Elna Hepner
Sylvie Purkis
Susie Purkis
Charles Woodall
Ezra White

Nixa, MO
Saint Louis, MO
Festus, MO
Columbia, MO
Kansas City, MO
Saint Charles, MO
Kearney, MO
Saint Louis, MO
Saint Louis, MO
Saint Louis, MO
Springfield, MO
Saint Louis, 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://lists.umsystem.edu/scripts/wa-UMS.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.

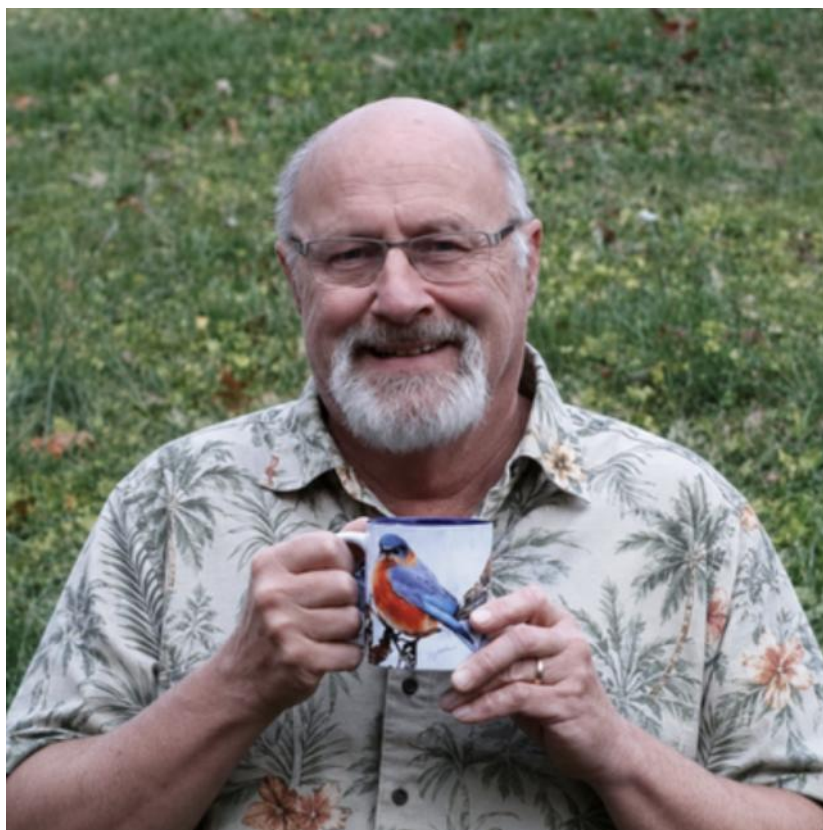
Also, all listserv posts are retained in a searchable archive:

<https://lists.umsystem.edu/scripts/wa-UMS.exe?A0=MOBIRDS-L>

Missouri Birding Society Mission Statement

The society is 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.

In Memoriam
Jim Rathert
By Edge Wade



Jim Rathert, a native Missourian who brought delightful images of our state's natural treasures (especially of birds) to readers of MDC's *Missouri Conservationist* from 1984 to 2006, died in Columbia July 2, 2026, a week short of his 78th birthday.

Jim was a friend to all he met, especially if that encounter was outdoors, where he was always ready to share the lore he'd gleaned in many long hours of observation waiting for those perfect camera portrayals.

Jim was a founding member of the Missouri Bluebird Society and a frequent attendee of ASM/MBS meetings, where after retirement from MDC, he often displayed his wares—coffee mugs, mouse pads, coasters, hot pads and more—featuring his bird photos. If a vote were taken, the “angry” bluebird would be a hands-down most popular. That image and many more grace the homes of many MBS members.



Young Birders' Event 2026

Zita Robertson

Each year, Cornell University and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology hosts a three-day event for a selected group of passionate young birders from around the world. This Young Birders Event (YBE) is held in Ithaca, New York, where the Lab serves as a home to eBird, Merlin and so many other online resources that have been a part of my birding journey. This June, I was awarded the opportunity to attend the event and spend time with other young birders



Purple Martins, Montezuma NWR. Photo Zita Robertson

and the amazing staff at the Lab and the university. We explored some of the beautiful birding spots in New York's Finger Lakes region and took part in many wonderful programs in Ithaca.

Dewy spiderwebs hung heavily between the stems of tall grasses at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Above the grass, dozens of Purple Martins darted through the air catching insects, then taking them back to the nest. I was excited to get out of the van at the visitor center, so I could finally hear the warbling calls of the mar-

tins. They always remind me of European Bee-eaters, birds I often encounter in Hungary.

“They sound nothing like the bee-eaters!” said Yonatan. He came to the YBE from Israel, and was adamant that their bee-eaters sound very different from the martins we were listening to. We quickly searched for recordings through eBird from the two regions, and it turned out we were both right. How come they sound different in Hungary and Israel? Questions like these have always intrigued me – but sometimes people around me were not equally fascinated.

I remember my sixth grade science textbook had a photo of a white domestic goose. The teacher dutifully read the caption that said, “Graylag Goose.” When I raised my hand to point out the difference, she brushed my concerns aside.

“A goose is a goose, let’s move on,” she said. No amount of arguing could convince her that this detail mattered, that we shouldn’t be content with *good enough*.

I was happy to see that the 2026 Young Birders Event brought together an extraordinary group of like-minded people. I’m sure everyone there would have winced hearing “a goose is a goose.”

We had hundreds of questions, hundreds of ideas, and not one of them was dismissed without consideration. Was the bird we found really a Blue-winged Warbler? It sounded like one, but wasn’t the plumage suggesting some Golden-winged Warbler cross? Are they even different species? Could we add more languages to Merlin and eBird? Could there be more information about habitat, elevation, and other factors that effect bird population density? When we were brainstorming ideas about the Cornell Lab’s apps, we filled a whiteboard in the auditorium with sticky notes!

This shared attitude of curiosity and caring set the tone for the days we spent together – Alli, Ian, their amazing colleagues at the Lab, and the 16 of us from 9 different countries. We were asked to think about how we are going to combine our passion for birds with our other talents, skills, interests as we choose our majors and careers. What is our “Birds and ...”?

Chatting with the others on field trips and in the dorms, I thought birds are like a rope for each of us. Some of us will use this rope to climb trees – sometimes literally, doing field research. The rope for others will anchor boats – they will be the ones building communities around bird-related issues. But a rope can also be used to ring a bell, and some of us will surely end up working in public outreach positions.

I'm not sure what paths I will take, but I'm excited to stay in touch with everyone I met at the 2026 YBE as I am searching for my own "Birds and ...".



Young Birders' Event, Montezuma NWR
Photo Chris Wood

An Icelandic Adventure

Jonah Eckels-Galbreath

"I'm going on an adventure!" That oft repeated quote of one Bilbo Baggins of Bag End may very well be my birding mantra, but it took on a new meaning this past June when I undertook a journey to the land of ice and fire, to a place that I dreamed of long ago. It's a land of dramatic scenery, of glaciers and lava, waterfalls and stone—a land forged by volcanoes and ridden with magic. My summer adventure took me to the stomping ground of vikings and the doorstep to the Arctic, all the way to Iceland.

Only a six hour flight away, one can depart on a random summer evening from Chicago and awake the next day in the land of the Sagas. My merry band on this summer trip consisted not of vikings, dwarves, or wizards, but of my partner and my in-laws. Two of this number considered themselves birders, the other two, spouses with good humor and patience. We arrived travel-weary, but not seeking to waste precious light, we set forth under the watch of the midnight sun, ready for a grand adventure.

Our journey truly began on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula in a tiny cottage overlooking a small fjörd and an arrow-shaped peak. It was here we became acquainted with the spirit of Iceland (and its birds). Arctic Terns welcomed us with their raucous calls and aerial antics. Our neighbors were a pair of Rock Ptarmigans, who croaked at our arrival, hidden though they were amongst the rocky scenery. We took our morning coffee with Common Redshanks, while a neighborhood watch of whimbrels and godwits escorted a bewildered Short-eared Owl off the premises. There at Dís Cottages, our alarm clocks were snipe, and Redwings sang us lullabies.

Like all good adventures, we of course set forth from our hobbit hole, for there was much to see and do. While on the Peninsula, we beheld Sperm Whales before they dove to great depths; we became entangled in a German tour group while looking at oreo-colored Razorbills



Common Snipe
Photo Jonah Eckels

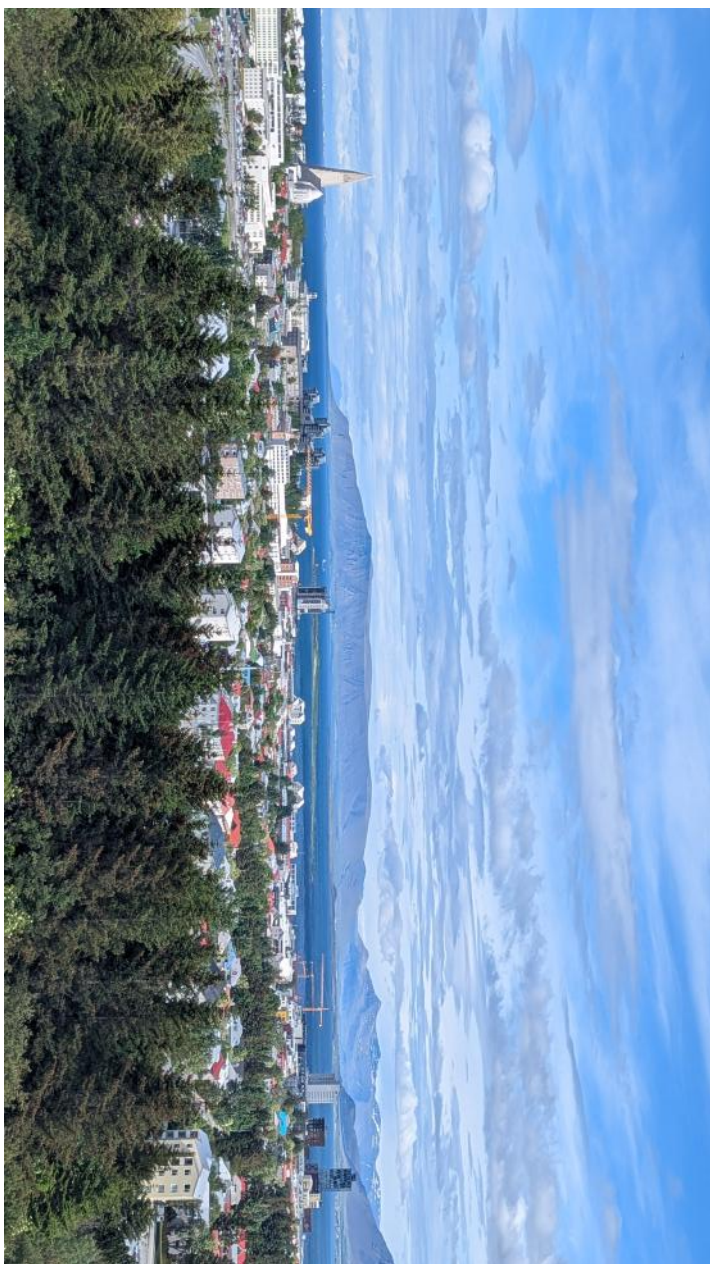
and a trio of Thick-billed Murres; and we traversed this spit of land with pitstops at gargantuan craters, basalt arches, and black sand beaches. Over a supper of loaded baked potatoes (compliments of our very own traveling chef, Jeannie), we soaked in this little corner of Iceland, a place that captured a piece of our hearts all too quickly.

The next day we set our course north to Akureyri, Húsavík and a lake of flies. To reach our destination, we drove through a postcard of dramatic cliffs, braided rivers, and misty highlands. From our base near Akureyri (rhymes with actuary), we enjoyed a dip in geothermal baths and a visit from a tiny sprite of a bird called a Goldcrest. North of Húsavík, we firmly planted ourselves on a cliff's precipice, standing nearly eye to eye with nesting fulmars. All the while, puffins waddled into rocky burrows like clownish dwarves. A trip to Lake Mývatn brought clouds of the promised flies, but also

rapids of Harlequin Ducks and an elven grove of birch, in which a mischievous Icelandic Wren entranced us with its song. If the Peninsula was our hobbit hole, the north felt like our unexpected journey—a place of trolls and elves, bubbling mud pots and lava field labyrinthes—a place of magic.

All too soon, we found ourselves heading south, and slowly but surely to the end of our journey. With our backs to legends we arrived in Reykjavík. We squeezed more adventure out of our long road home with a tourist tramp down to the capital city's rainbow road and a delectable food tour with an Icelandic actor named Mímir. With full bellies and hearts, we reminisced, we spoke fondly, and we slowly came to terms with the end. So one last time under the midnight sun, we traded tales, swapping memories of a week spent in fellowship with each other and the spirits of Iceland. And like Bilbo, we arrived home changed—quite content but a tad queer. For our Icelandic adventure served as a reminder of just how wide the world is after all.

Note: A more complete trip report can be found here: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/539153>. Feel free to reach out to the author (contact information in their eBird profile) if you too seek an adventure in Iceland.



Rekjavik—Photo Greg Galbreath

Slow Feast

Betsy Garrett

It would be a fair race for a snail or a sloth
Birders taking 4 hours to walk 1.2 miles
Stopping frequently, listening always
Searching for movement, scanning the sky
Enthusiastically welcoming the sighting
Of each returning species of the season

There are treasures to be found
For those who search
The nest hole for Red-headed Woodpeckers
A Canada Goose once again claiming
The stump for her own
Joy at the eagle pair with young
Wonder at the architecture of the
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher's tiny nest

The changes in the trees, grasses
Shrubs and flowers
The way the light varies
Throughout the year
The beavers' transformation of
An entire area into wetlands
Courageous airborne attacks by small birds
To chase away predators from their young

And the sounds, such richness
A constantly evolving score
Of pitches, melodies, calls, chirps, and hoots,
Croaks and peeps from frogs and toads
You are invited in to this feast of nature
Visual and audible delights await
Sit quietly, walk slowly without headsets
Open your ears, eyes and your heart
The magic is all around you.

Birders' Guide:

**Amidon Memorial
Conservation Area
(Bollinger County)**

Allen Gathman, 2026

1877.8 acres including Madison and Bollinger County portions,
DeLorme 57, C9
GPS: 37.568, -90.155
MDC owned; for more information call 573-290-5730

Directions: There are three disjunct plots in the Bollinger County portion of Amidon CA. Two have dedicated parking areas, on State Highway HH and on Bollinger County Road 928. For either, take the Perryville exit from I-55 (129) and go southwest on MO 51-S for 7.7 miles. Turn right on State Highway J and continue southwest for 10.7 miles. Turn left on State Highway HH; in two miles, a sign on the left says “Pine Dr”, and a gravel road lined with pine trees leads to the parking lot.

To reach the BCR 928 parking lot, continue on HH less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from Pine Dr. to BCR 928. Turn right and follow the gravel road 1.5 miles to a parking lot on the right. Use caution; there is an unimproved stream crossing on BCR 928 that may be impassible depending on recent rainfall.

ADA Information: No accessible paths or facilities; some birding may be possible from roads and parking lots.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: The area reached from highway HH is an old farm, where MDC maintains some grassland areas and some mixed hardwood/pine forest. The grassland right next to the parking lot has been a good place to find Henslow's Sparrow in the summer. Pine Warbler can be found most of the year in the pines nearby as well, and Red-breasted Nuthatch is likely in irruption winters. A few of the resident warbler species have been reported, particularly Prairie Warbler. The area needs more attention during migration seasons.

Features of interest to birders: A service road leads about 1/3 mile northeast from the HH parking lot through a small area of pinewoods and some open fields to the former site of farm buildings. There is a small stock pond by the pinewoods which attracts some passerines, and this part of the road is often birdy. Downhill to the east of the old farm site there is a pond that never seems to hold any water. If conditions permit, it is possible to follow the powerline cut from the farm site down to the northwest toward a good-sized pond. Raptors often roost around the pond, and it seems possible that waterfowl may drop in occasionally.

The parking area on BCR 928 adjoins a service road that climbs a fairly steep ridge into mixed pine/hardwood forest. In spring migration this has been a good place to find warblers.

All of the Bollinger County portion of Amidon CA is in need of more birding, as the eBird bar chart reveals. There are many weeks that have no checklists, and it is likely that quite a few species may be added to the area's list.

Picnic Areas: None

Toilets: None

Camping: None

Hazards/Limitations: As mentioned, BCR 928 is not always passable. Furthermore, Google Maps will suggest that it is possible to cross the Castor River between the Madison County and Bollinger County portions of Amidon CA by taking Madison County Road 208 (which becomes BCR 928). This requires driving through the riverbed via an unimproved crossing, and is not recommended unless you have both high clearance and an adventurous temperament.

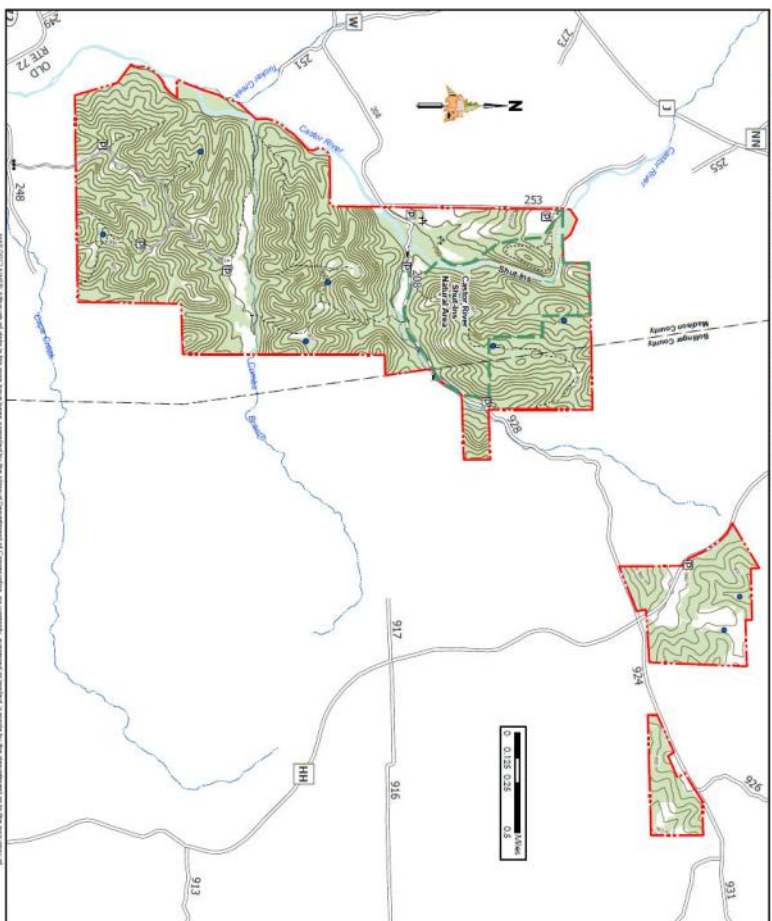
The usual arthropod hazards – mosquitoes, ticks, and chiggers – apply, and there is hunting on the area.

Nearby Birding Sites: Amidon Conservation Area (Madison County), Whitewater Conservation Area, Fredericktown City Lake, Perry County Community Lake, Maintz Conservation Area, Old Plantation Access.

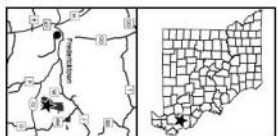


Amidon Memorial Conservation Area

Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri ©
1878 Acres - Bollinger/Madison Counties- Last Updated - 8/5/2024



Map of the Amidon Memorial Conservation Area and State of Missouri was compiled by the Missouri Department of Conservation, not warrant, expressed or implied, is made by the department as to the accuracy of the data and the information contained therein. The user of this information shall be responsible for its use and for any liability resulting therefrom.



- Legend**
- Camery
 - Wildlife Water Hole
 - Deep Ford
 - Parking Lot
 - Pavement Campground
 - Trail/MDC Road
 - MDC Improved Road
 - MDC Service Road
 - Stream
 - Hiking Trail
 - Boundary Contour, 20'
 - Water
 - Forest
 - Natural Area
 - MDC Land

Birders' Guide:
Grand Gulf State Park
Cindy Bridges, 2026

322 Acres, Oregon County. DeLorme 65, I-6.

<https://mostateparks.com/park/grand-gulf-state-park/map>

GPS 36.544153, -91.644992

Copy Plus Code : G9V4+H6 Koshkonong, Missouri

Grand Gulf State Park is managed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources as part of the Missouri State Park System. The park includes 159 acres leased to the state by the L-A-D Foundation and an additional 150 acres owned by MoDNR. Grand Gulf was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1971 and became a Missouri state park in 1984 through the lease agreement between the L-A-D Foundation and the state. Within the park, 60 acres are also designated as the Grand Gulf Natural Area by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

For more information, call the Park Office: [417-264-7600](tel:417-264-7600)

Directions: From Thayer on Hwy 63, take Highway W 5.8 miles west to the park entrance on the right. Park gates open at 8:00 a.m. and close at dusk daily.

ADA Information: The picnic area at the top of the gulf includes one accessible picnic site with a paved pathway and an extended end table. An accessible parking space with a packed pea gravel and asphalt surface is also available.

Near the information kiosk, a packed pea gravel path leads to an overlook. The path has a maximum slope of 13 percent. An accessible vault toilet is located a short distance uphill. There is no designated parking space at the overlook path, but visitors who need closer access may park near the pathway entrance.

The parking area is paved. Once out of the parking area, trails are not paved, and boardwalks have multiple levels and steps.

When to Visit/Species to Expect: Spring and early summer offer

the greatest bird activity. Along the Natural Bridge Trail and wooded slopes, listen for Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, and Scarlet Tanager. Along the wooded slopes above Bussell Branch, near the wet-weather waterfall, and in other damp areas of the gulf, watch and listen for Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Northern Parula. Eighteen species of warblers have been recorded in the park, with additional warblers, vireos, thrushes, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks expected during migration.

The overlooks and parking-area edges are good places to look for Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, and soaring Turkey and Black Vultures. The large trees around the parking area can be especially productive for Summer Tanagers, and a Belted Kingfisher may surprise you as it appears from deep within the canyon.

All seasons offer resident birds typical of south-central Missouri oak woodlands. Late fall and winter provide clearer views into the gulf after the leaves have fallen, while autumn combines good visibility with colorful foliage. Because the park is small and rarely crowded, birders can move slowly, stop often, and spend time both listening and watching without much distraction.

Features of Interest to birders:

Grand Gulf State Park is a small, lightly visited woodland birding destination with 112 species recorded. Its combination of mature oak forest, shaded slopes, canyon overlooks, and wet areas provides a surprising variety of habitats within a compact area. Birding is usually best early in the morning, especially when the woods are quiet and before visitors arrive.

The park has two main trails. The 0.1-mile Interpretive Loop Trail follows the rim of the gulf and includes four overlooks, interpretive panels, and a 119-step stairway toward the canyon floor and wet-weather waterfall. Resting areas and viewing platforms provide excellent places to pause, listen, and watch birds moving through the trees and across the canyon. The 0.75-mile Natural Bridge Trail is a moderate loop through mature forest dominated by Southern Red Oak. It follows the canyon's edge and crosses one of Missouri's largest natural bridges, the only remaining section of the collapsed cave roof.

Picnic Areas: Tables are located along the tree-shaded rim of the gulf at three sites. The park has no running water. There is an

interpretive kiosk near the parking area.

Toilets: Vault toilet

Camping: No; day use only.

Hazards/Limitations: Visitors should use caution near the canyon rim and overlooks, where steep slopes and sudden drop-offs can be hazardous. Children should be closely supervised at all times, and pets should remain leashed and under control. Stairs, rocks, and lower areas of the gulf may become slippery and hazardous after rain.

Nearby Birding Sites:

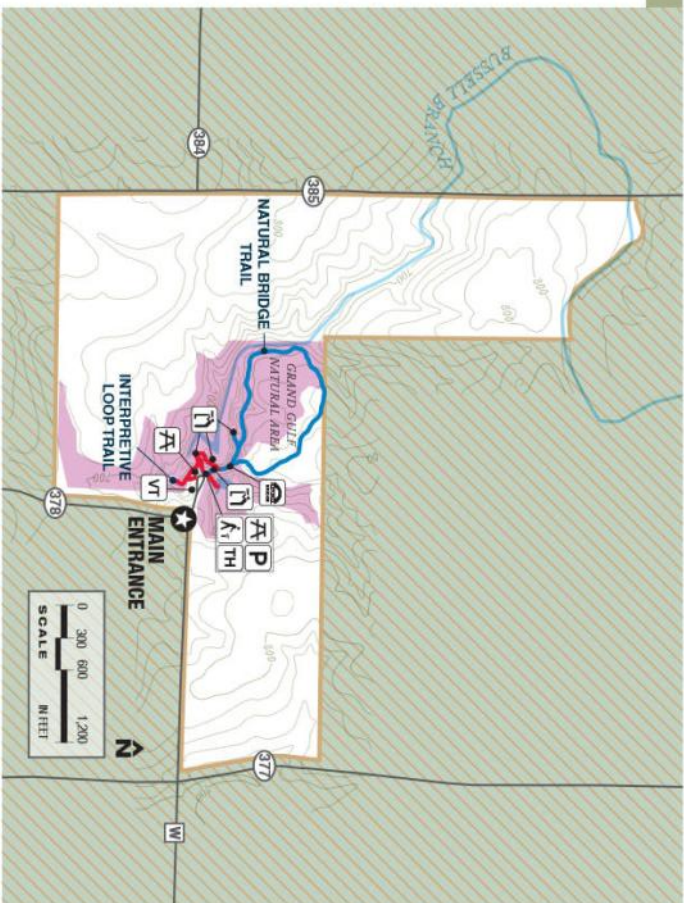
Cover Prairie Conservation Area, Koshkonong, Missouri; Tingler Prairie Conservation Area, West Plains, Missouri; Greer Spring, Mark Twain National Forest, Alton, Missouri

GRAND GULF STATE PARK MAP



LEGEND

- Main entrance
- State route
- Land contour
- Natural area
- Not state park property
- Park boundary
- Stream or creek
- Trail blazed in red
- Trail blazed in blue
- Trail (overlapping)
- Water
- Hiking trail
- Natural bridge
- Overlook
- Picnicking
- Parking
- Trailhead
- Vegetation



DISCLAIMER: This map is not a legal survey. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy of the data or related materials and is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from its use.

02/24

CONTACT INFORMATION
Grand Gulf State Park
 5813 W Highway
 Kosciusko, MO 65692
Mailing Address
 345 County Road 6670
 Salem, MO 65560
 573-548-2201
mostateparks.com

Missouri Winter 2025–2026

Seasonal Report

Dec 2025 – Feb 2026

Kendell Loyd

Winter 2025–2026 was characterized by generally dry conditions and considerable temperature variability across Missouri. While December temperatures averaged fairly normal statewide, there were wide fluctuations in conditions. The season opened with a widespread snowfall event with accumulations ranging from less than one inch across southern Missouri to several inches across the northern half of the state. The greatest snowfall totals occurred in the St. Louis region and extreme northeastern Missouri, where localized amounts exceeded 5 and 10 inches, respectively. A pronounced warm spell closed out the month, resulting in portions of the state reaching temperatures of more than 70°F.

January was the coldest month of the season, with average temperatures running approximately 3–4°F below normal across much of Missouri. A prolonged cold period from 18 January into early February produced some of the most significant winter weather of the season. A large, slow-moving winter storm on 24–25 January brought widespread snowfall, with accumulations of up to 6 inches in the western half of the state, and locally up to 8 inches near St. Louis. Despite these winter storms, precipitation remained below average, particularly in southeastern Missouri.

Conditions moderated considerably during February, with temperatures averaging slightly above normal statewide. Several warm periods occurred during 16–20 February and again near the end of the month, bringing temperatures well into the 60s and 70s and resulting in numerous record high temperatures and warm minimum temperatures. Precipitation remained below average across most of Missouri, and much of the state experienced a largely snow-free February. The combination of a cold January and mild February resulted in a winter season that was near average thermally but drier than normal overall.

The winter occurred against a backdrop of continuing long-term climatic change. Nationally, 2025 ranked as the fourth-warmest year on record, while globally it was the third warmest year since modern recordkeeping began in 1850. All 10 of the warmest years in the global record have occurred since 2015. As weather patterns, migration schedules, winter distributions, and species occurrence continue to shift over time, seasonal reports such as this one provide an important record of bird populations and distributional changes that may become increasingly valuable to future researchers and birders alike.

In Missouri this winter season, 191 species were reported. No species was reported in all 115 county-level areas. The most notable statewide records for the season include the state's 1st record of **Common Gull**, 2nd record of **Brambling**, 5th record of **Bullock's Oriole**, 7th record of **Gyr Falcon**, 10th record of **Great Black-backed Gull** away from the Mississippi River, and both 12th and 13th records of **Inca Dove**. Notable seasonal records include the 2nd winter record of **Vermilion Flycatcher**, 3rd winter record of **Forster's Tern**, 6th winter record of **Blue-headed Vireo**, 6th winter record of **Spotted Sandpiper**, 10th winter record of **Red-necked Grebe**, 10th and 11th winter records of **Summer Tanager**, 12th winter record of **Western Grebe**, 14th winter record of **Red-throated Loon**, and 15th and 16th winter records of **Pacific Loon**.

Overall, healthy cone crops in parts of the western boreal forest helped keep many irruptive finch species to the north and west of Missouri, while poor seed production across portions of eastern Canada resulted in southward movements of a few species, like Purple Finch and Redpoll. Red-breasted Nuthatch showed one of the strongest responses, with birds moving south in large numbers beginning in late summer and being reported widely across Missouri throughout the winter. Many Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) reported the species, with five recording their highest numbers. According to CBC data, over the past 25 years, detection at similar levels to this season has occurred only twice (2001 and 2018).

The data used to compile this report came primarily from eBird. Any inconsistencies or exclusions from this report were unintentional. Birders are encouraged to submit their observations through eBird, though submitting personal seasonal reports directly to seasonal editors is equally encouraged, as commentary and perspective is

often difficult to ascertain from eBird checklists alone. A list of seasonal editors can be found on the Missouri Birding Society website. This report spans the winter season, which is defined as 01 Dec 2025–28 Feb 2026. In Missouri, the winter residency period, as defined by the MBRC, is 14 Dec–20 Feb, meaning some migratory movements may still be occurring outside of this range, though this varies by species and location. This technicality in date range affects whether a record is considered to have occurred in either late fall or winter.

Unique to the season, winter hosts the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). There are currently 34 active counts in the state—the highest number in history. Annually birders take part and count every bird they encounter within a single day within a designated count area. This is the largest and longest running bird population study in the state, having collected data since 1900. This report benefits from the hundreds of participants that allow for increased coverage during the winter season.

Despite the extensive coverage provided by eBird contributors and CBC participants, observer effort remains uneven across the state. Several counties received very little coverage during the season; for example, Knox Co had only a single checklist submitted within the three-month range, reporting only four species.

In this report, sightings marked with an asterisk (*) require documentation with the MBRC, but no documentation has yet been received. Observers involved with such sightings are encouraged to submit documentation for the sighting to be kept within the state's written records. Sightings marked with a dagger (†) have had documentation submitted with acceptance or rejection pending, and those marked (acc.) have been accepted by the committee.

A key for any abbreviations used in this report can be found at the end. For online readers, if a sighting is notable and diagnostic photos were submitted to eBird, the eBird checklist has been linked within the report where possible. It is acknowledged, however, that some links may not connect, as they rely on a third-party site and the maintained publication of the linked eBird checklists.

Geese through Rails

Snow Goose numbers exceeded 100,000 in several areas across the state, with estimates approaching 1 million birds at Loess Bluffs NWR, Holt Co, in late February (Bob Ortmeyer, [ph.](#); John Bollin, [ph.](#); m.ob.). A seasonal high of 147 **Ross's Goose** was recorded in the Bootheel (Daniel Redwine, [ph.](#)). A **Snow x Ross's Goose (hybrid)** was reported in Pike Co, 22 Feb (Kendell Loyd, Zach Haring, Heather Steinbach). The seasonal high for **Greater White-fronted Goose** was 10,000, Duck Creek CA, Bollinger Co, 15 Dec (Allen Gathman, Mark Haas), and the high for **Cackling Goose** was 70, Cape Girardeau Co, 07 Feb (Mark Haas, [ph.](#)). A **Snow x Greater White-fronted Goose (hybrid)** was seen at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary (Riverlands), St. Charles Co, 29 Jan–20 Feb (Jonah Eckels, Bob Ortmeyer, [ph.](#); Sylvie Purkis). **Trumpeter Swan** numbers remained impressive, with over 2000 birds reported at Loess Bluffs NWR, Holt Co during early January (Audrey Percy-Muenz, m.ob.) and at least 1000 at Riverlands, St. Charles Co (Jonah Eckels, m.ob.). The seasonal high of **Tundra Swan** was 56 at Riverlands, 29 Jan (Jonah Eckels).



Mallard x American Black Duck (hybrid)
Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co 12 Dec 25
Photo Paul McKenzie

Low numbers of **Blue-winged Teal** persisted around the state into December, with three CBCs reporting the species. Records in January mostly involved single birds: City of Columbia Wetlands, Boone Co, 01 Jan (Joseph Bieksza, [ph.](#)); Binder Lake, Cole Co, 11 Jan (Chris Barrigar, [ph.](#); Brenda Morris; Rosemarie Richardson); and Lake Springfield, Greene Co, 16 Jan (Jordanya Raos). In addition to singletons, six birds were reported at Eagle

Bluffs CA, Boone Co, 16–22 Jan (Edge Wade; Chris Barrigar, Brenda Morris, [ph.](#); m.ob.). **American Black Duck** was reported in 14 counties with a seasonal high of 8 at both Riverlands, St. Charles Co 31 Dec (Alex Pyles) and Ted Shanks CA, Pike Co, 27 Feb (CS Keen). Individual **Mallard x American Black Duck (hybrid)** were reported at Riverlands off and on, 06–12 Dec (Mollee Brown, Raymond VanBuskirk, m.ob.) and 27 Feb (William VanDyke, Arya Mavath), as well as Eagle Bluffs CA, 12 Dec (Paul McKenzie, [ph.](#)) and the nearby City of Columbia Wetlands, Boone Co, 20 Dec (John Besser, Catherine Richter). Two male **Mallard x Northern Pintail (hybrid)** were reported at Loess Bluffs NWR, Holt Co (John



Inca Dove, Cole Camp 10 Nov 25
Photo Karen Wienberg

Garrett, Holly Coates, [ph.](#)). One **White-winged Scoter** was seen at Riverlands 08 Dec (Bill Rowe, [ph.](#)), 21 Jan (Mike Thelen, [ph.](#)), and 17 Feb (Mike Thelen, [ph.](#); m.ob.). The latter bird continued and was joined by a second individual from 21 Feb–01 Mar (Anne McCormack, [ph.](#); m.ob.). **Black Scoter** was reported at Longview Lake, Jackson Co, 28 Dec (Eric Walters, [ph.](#)). **Long-tailed Duck** was present throughout much of the season in the St. Louis area, with birds reported repeatedly from Riverlands, Confluence Point SP, and Columbia Bottoms CA (David Seidensticker, [ph.](#); Bill Rowe; David Becher, [ph.](#); Billy McCaslin, [ph.](#); m.ob.). Whether these reports involved the same individuals moving among sites is unknown.

Additional female-type birds were reported at Lake Springfield, Greene Co, 08 Dec (Eric Bosch, [ph.](#); m.ob.); Coffman Bend, Morgan Co, 05 Jan (Greg Stoner, [ph.](#)); and Smithville Lake, Clay Co, 10–22 Jan (Bruce Blosser; Doug Willis, [ph.](#); m.ob.). A **Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser (hybrid)** was seen at Holden City Lake, Johnson Co, 30 Dec (Dan Cowell, [ph.](#)).

An **Inca Dove** was reported from an Amish farm in Vernon Co, 11–20 Jan (Timothy Brubacker, John David Brubaker; Kendell Loyd, Zach Haring, Nathan Steinbach, [ph.](#); Peter Monacell; m.ob.; acc. as the 13th state record). Shortly thereafter, it was discovered that a second individual had been photographed at a private residence on two separate days in Cole Benton Co, 10 Nov and 31 Dec (Karen Wienberg, [ph.](#); acc. as the 12th state record). Up to ten **White-winged Doves** were seen throughout this season in their usual area in Kennett, Dunklin Co (Kent Freeman; Kendell Loyd, Zach Haring, [ph.](#)). Elsewhere, a single bird was seen at Shannon Ranch CA, Douglas Co, 17 Jan (Joshua Uffman, Samuel Belley). **Greater Roadrunners** were seen in three counties—Greene, Ozark, and Stone.

The City of Columbia Wetlands, Boone Co, hosted up to seven **Virginia Rails** throughout the season. This is a known and consistent overwintering site. Up to five birds were reported from Shawnee Trail CA, Barton Co, 30 Dec–02 Jan (Alex Marine, [aud.](#); m.ob.). **Sora** was reported from two locations during the season, with up to three birds at the City of Columbia

Wetlands, Boone Co, 15 Dec (Pete Monacell et al.) and a single bird at Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery, Taney Co, 09 Jan (Dorothy Thurman, Kathleen Cowens). **Sandhill Cranes** were reported in 11 counties with highest numbers being 30 at BK Leach CA, Lincoln Co (Lisa Saffell, [ph.](#)).

Shorebirds through Waders

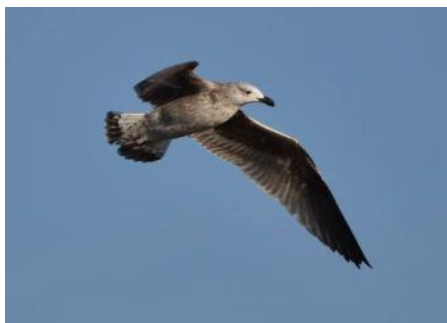
Spotted Sandpiper was reported from two locations during the season: one at Little Dixie Lake CA, Callaway Co, 06 Dec (Vicki Park, Jean Leonetti, Lesa Beamer, [ph.](#); acc.), and one in St. Genevieve Co, 19–22 Dec (Stephen Price†, [ph.](#)). **Greater Yellowlegs** was reported from multiple locations, with a high count of 20 at Lake Gray Ghost, Dunklin Co, 03 Dec (Kent Freeman). Outside of the Bootheel, where the species is expected in winter, individual birds were reported at Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co, 16 Dec (Rick Hostetler et al.); Webb City WWTP, Jasper Co, 18 Dec–20 Jan (Sheila Burns, Jessie Ballard); and Winfield Dam, Lincoln Co, 22 Jan, where up to four birds were present (Diane Bricmont, David Dean, Jim Malone; acc.).

Dunlin was reported from two locations, including a high count of 50 at South Dunklin Rice Fields, Dunklin Co, 05 Jan (Timothy Jones) and one at Hulston Mill CA Access, Dade Co, 31 Dec–06 Jan (Rick Hostetler et al.; Kendell Loyd, [ph.](#); m.ob.; acc.). **Least Sandpiper** was reported in five counties with a seasonal high of 16 from Hulston Mill CA Access, Dade Co, 31 Dec–06 Jan (Rick Hostetler et al.; Kendell Loyd; m.ob.).

Franklin's Gull was reported from two locations during the season: one at Long Branch SP, Macon Co, 04 Dec (Jacob Tsikoyak, [ph.](#)) and one at Smithville Lake, Clay Co, 22 Feb (Doug Willis, [ph.](#)). Missouri's 1st record of **Common Gull** was discovered at Riverlands, St. Charles Co, 07 Dec



Common Gull, Riverlands, St Charles Co 7 Dec 26
Photo Josh Uffman



Great Black-backed Gull,
Truman Reservoir 19 Feb 26.
Photo Kendell Loyd

(Joshua Uffman, [ph.](#); acc.). The bird was subsequently relocated at Creve Coeur Lake, St. Louis Co, 08–10 Dec (Tommy Goodwin, [ph.](#); Jim Malone et al., [ph.](#); m.ob.; acc.). Missouri's 10th record of **Great Black-backed Gull** away from the Mississippi River was documented at Truman Reservoir, Benton Co, 17 Dec–14 Mar (Sheila Yoder, [ph.](#); Kendell Loyd et al., [ph.](#); Pete Monacell; David Blevins; Kelly Ormesher; m.ob.; acc.). A **Glaucous Gull** was reported at Creve Coeur Lake, St. Charles Co, 09 Dec (Mike Thelen, [ph.](#); m.ob.). Away from the

Mississippi River, **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was also recorded at Smithville Lake Clay Co, 31 Dec–01 Jan and 22–25 Feb (Doug Willis, [ph.](#); m.ob.); Long Branch SP, Macon Co, 04 Dec–07 Feb (Jacob Tsikoyak, [ph.](#); Joshua Uffman; m.ob.); Thomas Hill Reservoir, Macon Co, 04 Jan (Jacob Tsikoyak, [ph.](#)); Truman Reservoir, Benton Co, 26 Jan (Jacob Tsikoyak; Sheila Yoder, [ph.](#)); and Stockton Lake, Cedar & Dade Co, 31 Dec–12 Feb (Alex Marine, [ph.](#); Kelly Ormesher, [ph.](#); Kendell Loyd, [ph.](#); m.ob.). Likewise, **Iceland Gull** was found at Smithville Lake, 12–19 Jan (Doug Willis, [ph.](#); Jacob Tsikoyak; Kendell Loyd) and Thomas Hill Reservoir, 04 Jan (Jacob Tsikoyak, [ph.](#)), in addition to the multiple reports in the St. Louis area. The 3rd winter record of **Forster's Tern** was reported at Webb City WWTP, Jasper Co, 18 Dec (Sheila Burns; acc.).

Red-necked Grebe was reported from Stockton Lake, with one at Hawker Point, Dade Co, 31 Dec (Zane Hostetler) and likely the same bird later seen at Orleans Trail, Cedar Co, 07–12 Feb (Zach Haring, Nathan Steinbach, Heather Steinbach, [ph.](#); Kendell Loyd; David Blevins; Kelly Ormesher; Darby Nugent; m.ob.; acc. as the 10th winter record). A **Western Grebe** was reported at Smithville Lake, Clay Co, 04 Dec–06 Jan (Skyler Lessenden, [ph.](#); Keaton Schneeflock; Doug Willis; m.ob.; acc. as the 12th winter record).

Red-throated Loon was reported from five locations during the season: Smithville Lake, Clay Co, 02 Dec (Doug Willis, [ph.](#)); Riverlands, St. Charles Co, 04–10 Dec (Diane Bricmont, David Dean, [ph.](#); m.ob.); Fellows Lake, Greene Co, 12–14 Dec (Greg Swick, [ph.](#); m.ob.); Ruark Bluff Park, Dade Co, 31 Dec and 13 Jan (Kendell Loyd, Dave Haenni; acc. as the 14th winter record); and Stockton Lake, Cedar Co, 03–08 Feb (Kendell Loyd, [ph.](#); Christian Hawn; Nathan Steinbach, Heather Steinbach). **Pacific Loon** was reported from four locations, including two at Cedar Ridge Campground, Cedar Co, 01 Jan (Kendell Loyd†, Zach Haring, Jacob Tsikoyak, Alex Marine), with additional singles at Ruark Bluff Park, Dade Co, 31 Dec (Rick

Hostetler, Kendell
Loyd; acc. as the 15th
winter record);
Smithville Lake, Clay
Co, 03 Dec (Doug
Willis, [ph.](#)).

A **Neotropic Cormo-
rant** was reported at
Aldrich, Polk Co, 09
Dec (Kelly Ormesher,
[ph.](#)). **Dark ibis**
(*Plegadis sp.*) was
reported in two

locations: one at Four
Rivers CA, Vernon
Co, 16 Dec (Kendell

Loyd, Nathan Steinbach, [ph.](#)) and four on CR 723, Dunklin Co, 05 Jan & 17
Jan (Timothy Jones, [ph.](#); Kendell Loyd, Zach Haring, [ph.](#)). **Great Egret**
persisted in small numbers during the winter season. Three were seen at
Schell-Osage CA, St. Clair Co, 15–16 Dec (Christian Hawn, Kayla Ackland,
[ph.](#)) and two at Mingo NWR, Stoddard Co, 01 Jan (Ethan Hoggard). Addi-
tional wintering individuals were reported from Otter Slough CA, Stoddard
Co, 15 Dec–17 Jan (Maria Moore, [ph.](#); m.ob.), Tecumseh Park, Ozark Co, 07
Jan (Owen Krout), Duck Creek CA, Stoddard Co, 08 Jan (Daniel Fisher,
[ph.](#)). A single bird in Greene Co was reported at various locations around
Springfield, 17 Dec–18 Jan (Kyla Townsend, [ph.](#); m.ob.).



Red-throated Loon

Riverlands, St Charles Co 10 Dec 25

Photo Diane Bricmont

Raptors through Sparrows

A **Swainson's Hawk** at Shawnee Trail CA, Barton Co, 09 Dec (Krista
Smith) represents only the 2nd December record for Missouri. A **Ferrugi-
nous Hawk** was reported from a private residence in Clinton Co, 08 Dec
(Carol Bowlin†, [ph.](#)). **Prairie Falcon** was reported from four locations:
Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co, 16 Dec (Rick Hostetler et al.); Liberal, Barton
Co, 23 Dec (Christian Hawn); Shawnee Trail CA, Barton Co, 01 Jan
(Kendell Loyd, Zach Haring, Jacob Tsikoyak, Alex Marine); and Forest City,
Holt Co, 03 Jan, where two birds were present (Rick Wilhoit, [ph.](#)). Mis-
souri's 7th record of **Gyr Falcon** was documented at Riverlands, St. Charles
Co, 30 Dec (Joseph Burkes, [ph.](#); acc.).

Say's Phoebe was reported at Boundary Rd, Dallas/Polk Co, 03–12 Jan
(Chesten Hostetler; Alex Marine, [ph.](#); m.ob.). A **Vermilion Flycatcher** at
Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co, 26–28 Dec (Chris Barrigar, Brenda Morris,

[ph.](#); Alex Bryant, [ph.](#); acc. as 2nd winter record). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was reported at Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co, 16 Dec (Chris Barriger, [ph.](#)). **Northern Shrike**, while reasonably expected in the northernmost portion of the state, had other records at Clarence Cannon NWR, Pike Co, 03 Jan–14 Feb (Bill Rowe, Diane Bricmont, David Dean, [ph.](#); m.ob.) and Bushwhacker Lake CA, Vernon Co, 16–25 Feb (Darby Nugent, Asher Nugent, [ph.](#); m.ob.). The first **Tree Swallow** of the spring was reported 26 Feb, Perry Co (Allen Gathman), and the first **Purple Martin** was reported 28 Feb, Cole Co (Betty Richey).



Vermilion Flycatcher
Otter Slough Stoddard Co 26 Dec 25
Photo Chris Barrigar

Poor cone crops in the eastern Canadian boreal forest during fall 2025 resulted in a notable irruption of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** into Missouri. In contrast to years when the species was scarce or nearly absent, Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported from 82 counties during the season. The highest count was 27 at Lester R. Davis State Forest, Barton Co, 01 Jan (Kendell Loyd, Zach Haring, Jacob Tsikoyak, Alex Marine).

Northern House Wren was reported from three locations: Prairie SP, Barton Co, 06 Dec (Andrew George); Four Rivers CA, 16 Dec (Rick Hostetler et al.); and Mingo NWR, Stoddard Co, 26 Dec (Jim Landrum). A Bewick's Wren was present in Warsaw, Benton Co, 14 Jan–21 Feb (Sheila Yoder, [ph.](#)). **Gray Catbird** was reported from six locations during the season: Frisco Greenway, Jasper Co, 02 Jan (Sheila Burns); a private residence, Greene Co, 16 Dec (Becky Swearingen); Lee's Summit, Jackson Co, 27 Jan (Aaron Mitchell, Shawna Mitchell); Shaw Nature Reserve, Franklin Co, 26 Dec (Zach Haring); Busch CA, St. Charles Co, 14 Dec (Randy Schiller, Lisa Saffell); and Spanish Lake, St. Louis Co, 09 Feb (Mark Paradise). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was reported at Weston Bend SP, Platte Co, 31 Dec (Doug Willis, [aud.](#)). A **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** was reported well outside its introduced range in the St. Louis area with a record from Metz, Vernon Co, 16 Dec (Steve Martin, Debbie Martin, Lisa Berger, Charles Burwick, [ph.](#); acc.). This record represents one of the southwestern-most records in North America.

Missouri's 2nd record of **Brambling** was reported from Pasadena Park, St. Louis Co, 01 Dec (Matt Schamberger, [ph.](#); Jennifer Gauble; acc.). **Redpoll** was reported from seven locations during the season: Harrisonville, Cass Co, 20 Dec–29 Jan (Richard Glessner, Pat Glassner, [ph.](#); m.ob.); Lake

Annette, Cass Co, 22 Dec (Ginny Culver, [ph.](#)); Fulton, Callaway Co, 16 Feb (Joseph Bieksza, [ph.](#)); Springfield, Greene Co, 23 Jan–24 Feb (David Blevins, Barbara Blevins, [ph.](#); m.ob.); Eureka, Jefferson Co, 20 Feb (Sean Dulle); Arnold, St. Louis Co, 30 Jan (Susan Corbett); and Ballwin, St. Louis Co, 05–19 Feb (Diane Bricmont, [ph.](#); m.ob.). **Red Crossbill** was reported as two flyovers at St. Peters, St. Charles Co, 21 Feb (Rich Kostecke, [ch.](#)).

Smith's Longspur was much less numerous than in recent winters, with reports from Coyne Prairie, Dade Co, 16 Feb (Kelly Ormesher); Dunn Ranch, Harrison Co, 27 Feb (Nicole Martin, [ph.](#)); and Pawnee Prairie, 28 Feb, where three birds were present (Keaton Schneeflock, [ph.](#)). **Snow Bunting** was reported from two locations in St. Charles Co: Riverlands, St. Charles Co, 05 Dec (Jonah Eckels, [ch.](#)) and Tower Line Rd, 06 Dec (Seth Winkleman, [ph.](#); m.ob.).

Harris's Sparrow was reported outside its expected range in western Missouri at Columbia Bottoms CA, St. Louis Co, 04–22 Jan (Billy McCaslin, [ph.](#); m.ob.). **Vesper Sparrow** was reported from Mokane Rd, Callaway Co, 06 Dec (Pete Monacell, [ph.](#)) and Busch CA, St. Charles Co, 15 Dec (Jeff Johnson, [ph.](#); acc.). **Spotted Towhee**, expected primarily along the western edge of the state, was reported from three locations outside that area: Columbia Bottoms CA, St. Louis Co, 18 Jan (Kyle Hawley); Maryland Heights, St. Charles Co, 24 Jan (Aaron Jungbluth, [ph.](#)); and River's Edge Park, St. Louis Co, 09 Feb (Leslie Jenkins).

Orioles through Dickcissel

A **Bullock's Oriole** was present at a private residence in Chesterfield, St. Louis Co, 01 Dec–15 Apr (Dale Dietz, Kathie Thomas, [ph.](#); Dave Haenni, Doug Hommert, [ph.](#); m.ob.; acc. as the 5th state record). The subadult male remained for approximately three and a half months, regularly visiting a feeder and being reported to eBird over 230 times. **Baltimore Oriole** was reported from three private residences in St. Louis Co during the season: 03–08 Dec (Stacey Mertz, [ph.](#)); 01 Jan (Mazie Dalton); and 07–10 Jan (Mary Dueren, [ph.](#)). **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found at Riverlands, St. Charles Co, 25 Dec (Brad Goodner, [ph.](#)) and at Cooley Lake CA, Clay Co, 31 Jan (Doug Willis). The seasonal high count of **Great-tailed Grackle** was 260 in Clay Co, 03 Jan (Terry Miller, [ch.](#)).

Common Yellowthroat was reported from five locations: Shawnee Trail CA, Barton Co, 30 Dec–02 Jan (Alex Marine, [ph.](#); m.ob.); Loess Bluffs NWR, Holt Co, 18 Dec (Joseph Mosely, [ph.](#)); Otter Slough CA, Stoddard Co, 27 Dec (Jim Landrum, [ph.](#); Chris Barrigar; Brenda Morris); Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co, 16 Dec (Kendell Loyd, Nathan Steinbach, [ph.](#)); and Webb City WWTP, Jasper Co, 04–15 Jan (Sheila Burns, [ph.](#)).

Summer Tanager was recorded in Independence, Jackson Co, 12 Dec (Mark Mahaffey, [ph.](#)). Interestingly, there were at least two records from just across the border in Kansas. A similar aggregate of records was seen in the St. Louis area as well. Individual birds were seen in Ballwin, 01 Dec–08 Mar (Michelle Horner, [ph.](#); acc. as 10th winter record), Grantwood Village, 02–23 Feb (Laura Yates, [ph.](#)), and Des Peres, 04 Feb–05 Mar (Lori Rose, [ph.](#)). Notably, the location of the bird in Des Peres is less than a mile from a bird in Kirkwood 26–28 Nov (Margy Terpstra, [ch.](#)), suggesting this bird could have been in that area all winter undetected. An additional bird was documented in Cole Co (Erika Woehlk; acc. as the 11th winter record).

Indigo Bunting was reported from three locations: Busch CA, St. Charles Co, 27 Dec (Rich Kostecke, [ph.](#)); Chesterfield, St. Louis Co, 24–25 Jan and 05 Feb (David Dean, [ph.](#)); and Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co, 16 Dec (Lyndon Hostetler). **Dickcissel** was reported from Caruthersville, Pemiscot Co, 30 Dec (Joshua Uffman, [ph.](#)) and a private residence in Cape Girardeau Co, 25–26 Jan (Mark Haas, [ph.](#)).

The compilation of this report would not be possible without the many birders across Missouri who take the time to document and share their observations. The continued growth of eBird usage has greatly increased the amount of information available for understanding seasonal bird distribution, movements, and population trends within the state. However, the value of these records extends beyond the data alone; photographs, descriptions, and notes from observers provide important context that cannot always be captured in a checklist. Birders are encouraged to continue submitting their observations, especially of unusual species or noteworthy movements, and to include documentation whenever possible. Thanks are extended to everyone who contributed records, photographs, comments, and expertise that helped make this report possible. The dedication of Missouri's birding community continues to improve our understanding and preserve valuable records for future generations.

Abbreviations

aud. = audio link
CA = conservation area
CBC = Christmas Bird Count
ch. = checklist link
CR = county road
MBRC = Missouri Bird Records Committee
m.ob. = multiple observers
NWR = National Wildlife Refuge
ph. = photograph link
SP = state park
WWTP = Waste Water Treatment Plant

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Spring and Fall Birding Weekends
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