

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSOURI BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
William C. Rowe, Secretary

This report summarizes records submitted to the Committee between 1 January and 31 December 2018. 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 American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-list of North American Birds*, Seventh Edition (1998), and subsequent supplements. The latest American Ornithological Society list of North and Middle American birds is available on line at <http://checklist.aou.org/taxa>. See "Note on organizations" below, for the change from AOU to AOS.

Accepted records in this report include the names of observers who submitted documentation and/or photographs, or were present with those who documented; comments are added 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. Statements on the status and distribution within Missouri for each species are based on Robbins, *The Status and Distribution of Birds in Missouri* (2018, University of Kansas Libraries), a free, downloadable reference (<https://doi.org/10.17161/1808.26287>).

Online documentation and review of records is the norm, and submission is now easier than ever. Documentation is posted by the observer to a secure web site, where the secretary prepares it for review. To get started, go to www.mobirds.org and click on Documentation Form in the "MBRC" pull-down menu. Photographs in .jpg format 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 any accompanying photographs, but if this proves unworkable for some reason, 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 Patrick Harrison for maintaining this system, and Ann Johnson for creating and improving it. In addition, the Missouri eBird team (Lisa Berger, Ryan Douglas, Mary Nemecek, and Josh Uffman) deserves great thanks for the long hours they put in as reviewers for our state and for their careful coordination with this Committee, both in requesting documentation from observers when needed and in initiating discussion on various points of bird distribution and identification.

Of the 93 records reviewed during this period, 71 were accepted and 22 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 76%. Members participating in these decisions were Lisa Berger, Joe Eades, Brad Jacobs (Chair), Paul McKenzie, Mark Robbins, Bill Rowe (Secretary), and Josh Uffman. Six records (Cave Swallow, 2018-45; "Pink-sided" Junco, 2018-2; Chestnut-collared Longspur, 2018-83; Bullock's Oriole, 2018-11; Golden-winged Warbler, 2018-74; and Painted Bunting, 2018-38) received comments from outside reviewers; see details in those accounts.

There were no observations of new species for Missouri this year, but the Committee added Lesser Prairie-Chicken to the state list as a Provisional species, based on credible reports from the nineteenth century. For the details, see the account in Robbins (2018). This leaves Missouri with 423 fully accepted species as of December 2018; these include three formerly-occurring species that have been extirpated from the state and five extinct species. There are an additional 12 Provisional species on the list, for a total of 435 species. The Annotated Checklist of Missouri Birds, with its latest updates to reflect changes in Missouri status and distribution as well as taxonomic and nomenclatural changes by the AOS, can be viewed at www.mobirds.org in either the "Birds" or the "MBRC" menu.

The Committee reviews records of species that are considered “casual” (5-15 records) or “accidental” (1-4 records) statewide. It also reviews records of species that are casual or accidental for the season when reported (example: Red Crossbill in summer); records of species that are casual or accidental in the part of Missouri where reported (example: Painted Bunting in eastern Missouri); and other records of unusual interest, including first nesting records and extreme arrival and departure dates. The Review List, also maintained at www.mobirds.org (“MBRC” menu), lists all species that require review due to their year-round casual or accidental status in all or part of the state, plus a few for which the Committee still wishes to receive documentation despite their status as only “rare” (example: Little Gull). The Review List does not cover out-of-season status; for general information on seasonal occurrence, consult the Annotated Checklist, and for specific earliest and latest dates and other data, consult Robbins (2018).

Note on photographic and audio documentation: Photographs, and in many 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*, and all of its other activities and resources are now those of the AOS, along with the journal *The Condor* and other functions of the Cooper Ornithological Society. The new society's web site is at www.americanornithology.org.

The Committee extends thanks to the many birders throughout Missouri who submitted their observations, and to the Audubon Society of Missouri for its continued support and funding 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 2020 issue of *The Bluebird*.

RMBS = Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles Co.
LBNWR = Loess Bluffs (formerly Squaw Creek) National Wildlife Refuge, Holt Co.
MNWR = Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Bollinger/Stoddard/Wayne cos.
CBC = Christmas Bird Count
CA = Conservation Area
SP = State Park
NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

RECORDS ACCEPTED

TUNDRA SWAN (*Cygnus columbianus*), 2018-75: Adult, 23 October 2018, RMBS. Mike Thelen (documentation with photographs). Earliest fall record.

CINNAMON TEAL (*Spatula cyanoptera*), 2018-9: Two adult males, 28 February to 3 March 2018, near Springfield, Greene Co. Greg Swick, Kendell Loyd, Klee Bruce

(documentation with photographs), Steve and Debbie Martin, Ruth Grant, Scott and Kade Bruce. Earliest spring record.

MOTTLED DUCK (*Anas fulvigula*), 2018-41: Adult, apparently male, at least 20-31 May 2018, LBNWR. Mark Robbins, Steve and Debbie Martin, Kendell Loyd (documentation with photographs). Casual transient and summer visitant; eighth record.

SURF SCOTER (*Melanitta perspicillata*), 2018-64: Two, female/immature type, 4 October 2018, Macon Lake, Macon Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation with photographs), Paul McKenzie, Pete Monacell. Earliest fall record.

SURF SCOTER, 2018-65: Adult male, 4 October 2018, Long Branch Lake, Macon Co. Paul McKenzie. Ties with birds in 2018-64 for earliest fall record.

COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*), 2018-1: Male, 3 June to 28 July 2017, Mark Twain Lake, Ralls Co. Ashley Casey (documentation with photographs), Cory Gregory (photographs). Casual in summer; seventh summer record.

WESTERN/CLARK'S GREBE (*Aechmophorus*, sp.), 2018-93: One, 15 December 2018, Fellows Lake, Greene Co. Bo Brown (documentation), David Catlin. This bird was clearly either a Western Grebe (*A. occidentalis*), a Clark's Grebe (*A. clarkii*), or a hybrid, but the details noted, at considerable distance, made it impossible to distinguish among these. Western is casual in Missouri in winter, Clark's accidental; their identification can be more difficult in basic (non-breeding) plumage, and hybrids are not rare. For more about this problem, see Mlodinow and Leukering, "Hybridization Among *Aechmophorus* Grebes and Implications for Identification," *Colorado Birds* 52 (3): 132-140.

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*), 2018-27: One found dead (KU 133475), 15 January 2018, Chilhowee, Henry Co. Tony Elliott for the Missouri Department of Conservation (documentation with photographs of specimen). Casual transient and winter visitant; this is the sixth winter record.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*), 2018-13: One, 23 January 2018, near Senath, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones. Casual winter visitant; about the eighth record.

VIRGINIA RAIL (*Rallus limicola*), 2018-89: One, 22 November 2018, Redford, Reynolds Co. Kendell Loyd (documentation with photographs). Latest fall record outside the known wintering site in Boone County.

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*), 2018-14: One, 4-6 March 2018, County Road 726, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs), Karin Pelton. Earliest spring record.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*), 2018-6: Two, 17 February 2018, Clarence Cannon NWR, Pike Co. Robert Mustell (documentation with photographs). Accidental in winter (up to 20 February) outside southeastern Missouri; also the northernmost record for February.

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), 2018-60: One, 19 September 2018, Mark Twain Lake, Monroe Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation with sketches), Paul McKenzie, Pete Monacell). Rare fall transient, but documentation still requested for all observations.

RED PHALAROPE, 2018-72: Immature, 19-20 October 2018, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co. Steve and Debbie Martin, Paul McKenzie, Kendell Loyd (documentation with photographs). See status under 2018-60, above.

RED PHALAROPE, 2018-82: Immature, 3 November 2018, RMBS. Jim Malone (documentation with photographs), Matt Rowe, Bill Rowe, Chrissy McClarren, Andy Reago, m.ob. See status under 2018-60, above.

POMARINE JAEGER (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), 2018-70: Immature, 14-15 October 2018, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co. Brad Jacobs, Terry McNeely (documentation with sketches and photographs, respectively), Edge Wade (documentation), Doris Fitchett, Brent Galliard, Dan McCann. Casual transient and summer visitant; fourteenth record.

LITTLE GULL (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*), 2018-66: Juvenile, 5 October 2018, RMBS. Mike Thelen (documentation with photographs). Rare transient, but documentation still requested for all observations.

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*), 2018-19: One, 24 March 2018, RMBS. Jim and Charlene Malone. Earliest spring record.

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*), 2018-3: Two immatures, 3 February 2018, and one on 18 February, Table Rock Lake, Taney Co. Brad Jacobs, Kendell Loyd (documentation), Paul McKenzie, Tim Barksdale. Accidental winter visitant; fourth winter record.

RED-THROATED LOON, 2018-24: Adult and immature, 1 April 2018, Longview Lake, Jackson Co. Karen Davis (documentation with photographs), Eric Walters (documentation). Casual spring transient; ninth spring record.

RED-THROATED LOON, 2018-31: Immature, at least 11-24 April 2018, RMBS. Bill Rowe, Mike Thelen (documentation with photographs). Casual spring transient; tenth spring record.

RED-THROATED LOON, 2018-88: Adult, 27 April 2018, Fellows Lake, Greene Co. Kendell Loyd (documentation with photographs), Tim Barksdale. Casual spring transient; eleventh spring record.

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*), 2018-17: Two adults, 22 March 2018, Fellows Lake, Greene Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation), Paul McKenzie. Casual spring transient; sixth spring record.

PACIFIC LOON, 2018-29: One, at least 10-14 April 2018, Fellows Lake, Greene Co. Greg Swick (documentation with photographs), Kendell Loyd (documentation). Casual spring transient; seventh spring record.

WOOD STORK (*Mycteria americana*), 2018-49: Immature, 26-30 July 2018, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co. Paul McKenzie (documentation with photographs), Ron Conner (documentation), Steve Whitson, Brad Jacobs, Pete Monacell. Casual summer visitant; ninth record in the past 25 years.

AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), 2018-5: One, 15 February 2018, Clarence Cannon NWR, Pike Co. Ashley Casey, Cory Gregory (documentation by Casey with photograph by Gregory). Casual in winter; ninth record.

WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*), 2018-25: One, 2-3 and 18 April 2018, at locations not very far apart in Cedar and Dade Cos. Brad Jacobs, David Blevins (documentation with photographs), Lisa Berger (documentation), Derek Kempf, Paul McKenzie, Charlie Burwick, Kendell Loyd, Steve and Debbie Martin. Accidental transient

and summer visitant; as the fifth record, this moves the species' status to "casual." While the observations were two weeks apart, the fairly close proximity of the locations and the photographs by Jacobs on 3 April and Blevins on 18 April support the presumption that the same individual was observed.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*), 2018-50: One, 4 August 2018, Eureka, St. Louis Co. Sharee Foerster. Casual transient and summer visitant; as the fifteenth modern record, this moves the species' status to "rare," and thus it will no longer require documentation except in the case of an extreme date (as below, 2018-58).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE, 2018-58: One, 9 September 2018, LBNWR. Greg Scott (documentation with photographs), Janet Rebant, Tammy Shoemaker. Latest fall record.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*), 2018-77: Adult, 24 October 2018, Bradford Farm, Boone Co. Paul McKenzie (documentation with photographs). Ties the latest fall record and supports it with a photograph.

EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), 2018-18: One, 23 March 2018, Highways 123 and W, Polk Co. Grace Jordan (documentation), Lee Jordan. Earliest spring record.

EASTERN KINGBIRD, 2018-22: One, 27 March 2018, near Neosho, Newton Co. Jeff Cantrell. Second-earliest spring record (and earlier than any prior to 2018).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax virescens*), 2018-63: One, 2 October 2018, Tywappity Community Lake, Scott Co. Mark Haas. Latest fall record. Identification based on well-described song in an area where the species is a common breeding bird.

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*), 2018-56: One, 8 July 2018, Cuivre River SP, Lincoln Co. Bruce Schuette. Accidental in summer. Identification based on song as well as clear views.

LEAST FLYCATCHER, 2018-73: One, 21 October 2018, Ben Cash Memorial CA, Dunklin Co. Kent Freeman (documentation with photograph). Latest fall record. Photograph eliminated other species of *Empidonax*.

NORTHERN SHRIKE (*Lanius borealis*), 2018-78: Adult, 24 October 2018, Worth County Community Lake. Thomas Jones (documentation with photographs). Ties the earliest fall record and supports it with a photograph.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*), 2018-12: One, 24 January 2017, St. Francis River Levee Road, Dunklin Co. Timothy Jones (documentation with photographs). Accidental winter visitant; fourth winter record.

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*), 2018-90: Two, 14-15 December 2018, Browning Lake, Buchanan Co. Brent Galliard (documentation with photographs), Annie Hartley, Judy Devore, Patrick Jean. Accidental winter visitant; fifth record, moving the species' winter status to casual.

TREE SWALLOW, 2018-91: Nine, 14 December 2018, B.K. Leach CA, Lincoln Co. Bruce Schuette (documentation with photographs). Sixth winter record; the species' status had just been moved to casual by record 2018-90 on the same date.

BANK SWALLOW (*Riparia riparia*), 2018-20: One, 25 March 2018, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. Brad Jacobs (documentation with photographs). Ties the earliest spring record and supports it with a photograph.

CAVE SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon fulva*), 2018-45: Immature, 14-19 July 2018, rural Bates Co. Brad Jacobs, Pete Monacell, Kendell Loyd (documentation with photographs), Paul McKenzie, Steve and Debbie Martin (documentation), Ricky Hostetler. Accidental transient and summer visitant; second record. Photographs of this bird were sent to Tony Leukering for outside review, and he endorsed it as a Cave Swallow.

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*), 2018-42: One, 3 June 2018, Big Buffalo Creek CA, Benton Co. Marge Lumpe (documentation), Susan Schreck, Jane Neale, Missy Zimmerschied. Casual in summer; eighth modern record.

ROCK WREN (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), 2018-81: One, 31 October to 2 November 2018, near Buffalo, Dallas Co. Pete Monacell, Kendell Loyd (documentation with photographs), Cheston Hostetler, Charley Burwick, Steve and Debbie Martin, Greg Swick, Brad Jacobs, Paul McKenzie. Casual transient; eleventh record during spring and fall.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia currucoides*), 2018-23: Male, 31 March 2018, LBNWR. Robert Brundage (documentation with photographs), Denise Welch. Rare transient and winter visitant; sixteenth record. Documentation still requested for all observations.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD, 2018-84: Male, 28 November 2018 to at least 10 January 2019, in and near Wah-Kon-Tah Prairie, St. Clair Co. Paige Witek, Paul McKenzie, Kendell Loyd (documentation with photographs), Erik Ost, Brad Jacobs, Pete Monacell, Steve and Debbie Martin, Zach Haring, Jill Hays, Klee Bruce. Seventeenth record; see status notes on 2018-23, above.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes townsendi*), 2018-80: One, 6 May 2018, Bluffwoods CA, Buchanan Co. Brent Gallart (documentation with photographs). Accidental transient in spring; latest spring record.

AMERICAN PIPIT (*Anthus rubescens*), 2018-4: One, 12 February 2018, Winfield, Lincoln Co. Ashley Casey (documentation), Cory Gregory (photographs). Documented because previously listed as casual in winter across central Missouri; now listed as rare there, with documentation not necessary. Remains casual (documentation needed) only in the northernmost counties.

AMERICAN PIPIT, 2018-8: Eight, 19 February 2018, Ted Shanks CA, Pike Co. Bill Rowe (documentation with photographs), Tom Parmeter. See status comment on 2018-4, above.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT (*Anthus spragueii*), 2018-39: Three, 9 March 2018, Lake Viking, Daviess Co. Terry McNeely. Earliest spring record.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT, 2018-15: One, 22 March 2018, Swan Lake NWR, Chariton Co. Frankie Cuculich (documentation with photographs). The species is uncommon in the west and accidental in the east; since Chariton County is central, documentation was requested.

PURPLE FINCH (*Haemorhous purpureus*), 2018-48: Adult male with conjunctivitis, 14 May to 2 July 2018, Lloyd residence, Florence, Morgan Co. Linda Lloyd (documentation with photographs), Robert Snook. Accidental summer visitant; second record.

RED CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*), 2018-44: Female, 19 June 2018, Simmons residence, Lee's Summit, Jackson Co. Ruth Simmons (documentation with photographs). Casual summer visitant; at least the thirteenth record. Although no audio recordings were obtained, photos indicate that this was a large-billed bird, almost certainly referable to

Type 2. To date, all summer records of Red Crossbill have been of Type 2 (Robbins 2018).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE (*Pipilo chlorurus*), 2018-33: One, 21-28 April 2018, near Bolivar, Dallas Co. Lisa Berger, Kendell Loyd (documentation with photographs), Micah Swartzentruber, Charley Burwick, Becky Swearingen, Brad Jacobs, Paul McKenzie. Casual transient and winter visitant; ninth record.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), 2018-43: One, 8 June 2018, Castlewood SP, St. Louis Co. John Nash. Casual in summer; at least the twelfth record.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*), 2018-10: Immature, 3-16 March 2018, Bunch Hollow CA, Carroll Co. Josh Uffman, Kendell Loyd (documentation with photographs), Tim Barksdale. Accidental transient and winter visitant; as the fifth record, this moves the species' status to "casual."

DARK-EYED ("PINK-SIDED") JUNCO (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*), 2018-2: One, 14 January to 28 February 2018, Culver residence, Peculiar, Cass Co. Ginny Culver (documentation with photographs). This is the first documented and accepted record for Missouri of this subspecies, which breeds in Montana, eastern Idaho, and northwestern Wyoming. The close, well-lit photographs clearly showed the characters of *mearnsi* and ruled out intergrades with other subspecies, as confirmed by Van Remsen of Louisiana State University and Kimberly Smith of the University of Arkansas. For more details about this record, see McKenzie and Culver, "First Documented Record for Pink-sided Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*) in Missouri," *The Bluebird*, 85 (2): 55-59.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*), 2018-30: One, 11 April 2018, Meramec River near Unger Park, St. Louis Co. Beth Hill. Earliest spring record. Note that this bird, no longer considered a wood-warbler, is now placed in its own single-species family, Icteriidae (not to be confused with the blackbird family Icteridae).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (*Icterus bullockii*), 2018-55: First-year male, 6 May 2017, Joplin, Newton Co. Amy Watts (documentation with photographs). Accidental transient and winter visitant; second record.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus carolinus*), 2018-46: 19 birds, 29 April 2018, Willmore Park, St. Louis City. Chrissy McClarren (documentation with photographs), Andy Reago. Latest spring record; the observers' final sighting of a larger group numbering (e.g.) 138 on 4 April.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorum*), 2018-69: One, 12 October 2018, near Kennett, Dunklin Co. Kent Freeman. Latest fall record.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*), 2018-87: Female, 13-15 December 2018, Carondelet Park, St. Louis City. Chrissy McClarren (documentation with photographs). Second December record, the latest for fall and the first for winter (defined as 14 December to 20 February).

NASHVILLE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*), 2018-92: One, 15 December 2018, Springfield, Greene Co. Natalie Rekittke (documentation), Dorothy Thurman. Accidental in winter; third winter record.

CAPE MAY WARBLER (*Setophaga tigrina*), 2018-54: Female, 22 August 2018, Claire Davidson Memorial CA, St. Louis Co. Mike Thelen. Earliest fall record.

YELLOW-RUMPED ("AUDUBON'S") WARBLER (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*), 2018-35: Adult male, 22 April 2018, Carondelet Park, St. Louis City. Chrissy McClarren (documentation), Andy Reago (photographs). Casual transient; at least the thirteenth record. This subspecies breeds from British Columbia south through the mountains of the West; it was formerly considered a separate species and may be returned to that status at some point. Most individuals can be recognized readily by the yellow throat and other features, but photographs are still desirable.

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Setophaga discolor*), 2018-61: Immature, 27 September 2018, Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City. Chrissy McClarren (documentation with photographs), Andy Reago (photographs). Latest fall record until the next (2018-62).

PRAIRIE WARBLER, 2018-62: Adult male, 29 September 2018, Freeman residence, Kennett, Dunklin Co. Kent Freeman. Latest fall record.

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*), 2018-28: Male, 5 April 2018, Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau Co. Jordanya Raos (documentation with photographs). Ties the earliest spring record and supports it with a photograph.

WESTERN TANAGER (*Piranga ludoviciana*), 2018-34: Adult male, 22-23 April 2018, Keeler residence, Belton, Cass Co. Ron Keeler (photographs); documentation conveyed by Mary Nemecek. Casual spring transient; ninth record.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), 2018-7: Female, 19 February 2018, Covington/Foxboro subdivisions, St. Charles Co. David Larson (documentation with photographs). Casual winter visitant; sixth winter record.

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*), 2018-32: Adult male, 16-24 April 2018, Willis residence, Lake Sherwood, Warren Co. Joe Willis (documentation with photographs). Casual transient outside its breeding range in southwestern Missouri. This is also the earliest spring record.

PAINTED BUNTING, 2018-37: Adult male, 29 April 2018, Ben Cash Memorial CA, Dunklin Co. Kent Freeman. Casual transient outside its breeding range in southwestern Missouri.

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 species. The Committee may be 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.

GARGANEY (*Spatula querquedula*), 2018-36: Female, 23 April 2018, Longview Lake, Jackson Co. The observer was unsure what this duck was; it was submitted as a

Garganey at the suggestion of Committee members. It turned out, however, to be a female domestic Mallard of an unusual variant type that appears to have some of the characters of Garganey, though actually different in a number of respects. French waterfowl expert Sebastien Reeber examined the photographs and provided an analysis. Exotic waterfowl have been recorded at Longview Lake for at least the past decade.

GREATER SCAUP (*Aythya marila*), 2018-47: Male, 7 July 2018, RMBS. The Committee discussed the photographs of this bird at length and concluded that it could not be identified with certainty (including the possibility of a hybrid Greater x Lesser Scaup) without a view of the upperwing pattern. There is no prior record of a Greater Scaup in midsummer.

YELLOW RAIL (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), 2018-40: One, 19 May 2018, RMBS. The description was suggestive of a possible Yellow Rail, flushed by the observer, but the observation was lacking one essential point: a clear view of a white secondary patch. This is the one character that any observation of a Yellow Rail in flight requires.

WILLET (*Tringa semipalmata*), 2018-26: One, 3 April 2018, Eagle Lake, Phelps Co. The description and date of this bird suggest a Greater Yellowlegs except for "black legs," which a yellowlegs may appear to have if they are badly lit or covered with mud. Willets do not have black legs, and no other details were provided that would narrow the identification down to a Willet.

PACIFIC LOON, 2018-16: One, 10 and 22 March, 2018, Stockton Lake, Cedar Co. The Committee determined that the two observations, by different observers and nearly two weeks apart, probably represented the same bird, but the details and photographs left some uncertainty as to its identification.

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*), 2018-71: One, 17 October 2018, Town and Country, St. Louis Co. The description did not eliminate an immature Double-crested Cormorant, which would be far more likely. Both the location (soaring over suburban St. Louis) and the date (record-late by a month) are highly improbable for an Anhinga. A photograph would be needed as evidence.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), 2018-67: One, 6 October 2018, Kirkwood, St. Louis Co. The documentation provided no clear description of this bird, with no details that would confirm a record-late Mississippi Kite.

LEAST FLYCATCHER, 2018-79: One, 28 October 2018, Rockspan Farm, Greene Co. The description did sound like an *Empidonax* flycatcher, perhaps a Least, but did not eliminate other *Empidonax* species. Photographs and/or audio recordings are needed to verify unusual records of all *Empidonax*.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*), 2018-51: One, 13 August 2018, Eagle Bluffs CA, Boone Co. There was no photograph of this bird, and the description did not mention any diagnostic characters of Philadelphia Vireo (e.g., loreal color, extent and location of yellow below). The very similar Warbling Vireo, which can have a strong yellowish suffusion below, seemed more likely.

BANK SWALLOW, 2018-68: One, 11 October 2018, Four Rivers CA, Vernon Co. This swallow was seen very briefly (three seconds), and the description did not eliminate an immature Tree Swallow, which is brownish and can have a dark breast band.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus satrapa*), 2018-52: One, 17 August 2018, Arnold, Jefferson Co. There was no photograph, and the description did not include any

characters that would suggest a record-early Golden-crowned Kinglet. The observer acknowledged some uncertainty.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR (*Calcarius ornatus*), 2018-83: One, 17 November 2018, near RMBS. The single photograph was obscure, and outside reviewers Steve Cardiff and Donna Dittman (Louisiana State University) deemed this bird unlikely to be a Chestnut-collared. At the least, the evidence was not strong enough for a species that is accidental in eastern Missouri.

DARK-EYED ("PINK-SIDED") JUNCO, 2018-85: One, 16 December 2017, Maryville, Nodaway Co. Photographs supplied with this record were too distant and too poorly lit and focused to separate a pure "Pink-sided" Junco (*mearnsi*) from some "Oregon"-group forms or various intergrades.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE, 2018-11: Female, 3 September 2016, Weston Bend SP, Platte Co. Long after the observation, photographs of this bird were submitted to the MBRC at the suggestion of eBird reviewers. The Committee sent the images to outside reviewers (Tony Leukering, Steven Mlodinow, and Alvaro Jaramillo) for their opinions. There was no clear consensus among them, and it appeared that some features favored Bullock's Oriole while others favored Baltimore or perhaps a hybrid. Thus no firm identification could be made.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), 2018-74: Male, 23 October 2018, Big Oak Tree SP, Mississippi Co. By mid-October, this species is considered very rare even as far south as interior Louisiana (*fide* Van Remsen, Louisiana State University); in view of this, a photograph would be needed to verify this record.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Oreothlypis celata*), 2018-57: One, 5 September 2018, Perry Memorial CA, Pettis Co. This bird may have been a record-early Orange-crowned Warbler, but the description did not include some key characters of that species, and there was no photograph; thus the Committee was left with some uncertainty.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*), 2018-76: One, 23 October 2018, Big Oak Tree SP, Mississippi Co. The description did not eliminate a female Mourning Warbler, which can have an eyering, as this bird did. Connecticut Warbler in fall can be quite a difficult identification; ideally it should be supported by photographs.

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Cardellina pusilla*), 2018-21: One, 27 March 2018, near Theodosia, Ozark Co. No distinguishing marks of Wilson's Warbler, such as a dark cap, were mentioned.

WILSON'S WARBLER, 2018-86: One, 21 November 2018, RMBS. Possibly a record-late Wilson's Warbler, but the details provided did not distinguish it with certainty from some other yellow species. Moreover, two and a half weeks had elapsed between the observation and the write-up, which was based solely on memory.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), 2018-59: Male, 13 September 2018, Shawnee Trail CA, Barton Co. The documentation described the color of this bird's underparts and eyebrow but nothing more, including nothing about body size and shape, bill size and color, etc. Thus the Committee could not be certain what was observed.

LAZULI BUNTING (*Passerina amoena*), 2018-53: Male, 21 August 2018, LBNWR. This bird, observed for about a minute, was positioned so that the observer did not get a

complete view, and the description left some doubt as to the identification. In particular, a hybrid Lazuli x Indigo Bunting was not eliminated.

PAINTED BUNTING, 2018-38: Female-type, 13 May 2018, Big Muddy NFWR (Cora Island Unit), St. Charles Co. This puzzling bird appeared to be a small bunting or finch, based on two photographs that showed a pinkish bill with curved culmen, a rich yellow ground color on the head and underparts, a slight degree of vague streaking below, and a thin dark lateral throat stripe. The latter two characters argued against Painted Bunting and in favor of Indigo Bunting except for the yellow color. Other possible birds ranging from tanagers to Old-World finches were considered, but none seemed to fit. Four experienced outside reviewers (Van Remsen, Donna Dittman, Steve Cardiff, and Tony Leukering) were unable to come to any more definite conclusions than the Committee itself. Thus this bird remains of unknown identity.