

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

This report summarizes records reviewed by the Committee from 1 January to 31 December 2021. It is divided into two sections, Accepted and Not Accepted, with birds listed in phylogenetic order under each of these two categories. Taxonomy and nomenclature follow the latest American Ornithological Society (AOS) Checklist of North and Middle American birds, which is available online at <http://checklist.americanornithology.org/taxa>.

Accepted records in this report include the names of observers who submitted documentation and/or photographs, or were present with those who documented, along with comments to indicate the record's significance. For Not Accepted records, observers' names are omitted, and a brief explanation is provided as to why the record was not accepted. Status and distribution statements for each species are based primarily on Robbins, *The Status and Distribution of Birds in Missouri, Second Edition* (2020) (<https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/handle/1808/30959>).

Online documentation of records is easy. The observer posts documentation to a secure website, where the secretary prepares it for review. To get started, go to [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org) and click on Documentation Form in the "MBRC" pull-down menu. Photographs in .jpg format, audio recordings in .wav format, and written notes in .pdf format, with a size limit of 4 MB, can be uploaded to accompany documentations. Observers are strongly urged to use the online system for both the report and accompanying media, but if this proves unworkable, any part of the documentation can be mailed or emailed to the secretary. All recent records have been electronically archived. The Committee once again thanks Ann Johnson for creating and improving this system. In addition, the Missouri eBird team (Lisa Berger, Diane Bricmont, Ryan Douglas, Pete Monacell, Marky Mutchler, Mary Nemecek, and Joshua Uffman) deserves great thanks for the long hours they put in as reviewers for our state and for their careful coordination with this Committee, both in requesting documentation from observers when needed and in initiating discussion on various points of bird distribution and identification.

Of the 88 records reviewed during this period, 72 were accepted and 16 were not accepted, for an acceptance rate of 82%. Members participating in these decisions were Lisa Berger, Kristi Mayo, Paul McKenzie (Chair), Pete Monacell, Mary Nemecek, Mark Robbins, and Joshua Uffman. Bill Rowe served as non-voting Secretary. Two records received comments from outside reviewers; see the accounts for Mottled Duck, 2021-39, and Townsend's Warbler, 2021-62.

There was one record of a new species for Missouri this year (Broad-billed Hummingbird), leaving Missouri with 427 fully accepted species as of December 2021; these include three formerly occurring species that have been extirpated from the state and five extinct species. There are an additional 11 Provisional species on the list, for a total of 438 species. The Annotated Checklist of Missouri Birds, which receives regular updates to reflect changes in Missouri status and distribution as well as the latest taxonomic and nomenclatural changes by the AOS, can be viewed at [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org) under either the "Birds" or the "MBRC" menu.

The Committee reviews records of species that are considered "casual" (5-14 records) or "accidental" (1-4 records) statewide. It also reviews records of species that are casual or accidental for the season when reported (example: Lincoln's Sparrow in summer); records of species that are casual or accidental in the part of Missouri where reported (example: Swainson's Warbler outside the extreme south); and other records of unusual

interest, including first nesting records and extreme arrival and departure dates. The Review List, also maintained at [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org) ("MBRC" menu), lists all species that require review due to their year-round casual or accidental status in all or part of the state, plus a few for which the Committee still wishes to receive documentation despite their status as only "rare" (example: California Gull). The Review List does not cover out-of-season status; for summarized information on seasonal status, consult the Annotated Checklist, and for specific earliest and latest dates and other data, consult Robbins (2020).

Note on photographic and audio documentation: Photographs, and in some cases audio recordings, are extremely helpful, and all observers are encouraged to carry a camera and/or a smart phone in the field; using smart phones, both images and audio can often be obtained with relative ease. In some cases (as noted in a few entries below) the absence of a photograph or an audio recording can be a problem for acceptance of a record. On the other hand, photographs can sometimes be misleading as to colors and patterns, and they may or may not show all of a bird's key characters. For this reason, it remains important for the observer to describe what he or she saw and heard as accurately as possible.

Note on organizations: In December 2016, the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) completed a merger with the Cooper Ornithological Society to form the American Ornithological Society (AOS). The AOU's North American Classification Committee, its Birds of North and Middle America Checklist, its journal *The Auk* (new name as of 2021: *Ornithology*), and all of its other activities and resources are now those of the AOS, along with the journal *The Condor* (new name as of 2021: *Ornithological Applications*) and other functions of the Cooper Ornithological Society. The society's website is at [www.americanornithology.org](http://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](mailto:rowemb45@gmail.com). The next report will appear in the March 2023 issue of *The Bluebird*.

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

### ***RECORDS ACCEPTED***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**AMERICAN AVOCET** (*Recurvirostra americana*), 2021-51: Pair with juvenile, 22 June 2021, LBNWR. Alex Marine (documentation with photographs), Davis Balser. Accidental summer resident; third record. Presumably this was the pair from a nest initially located on 29 May 2021 (M. Robbins). The first two nesting records for the state occurred in 2020 (see article by D. Easterla and a second by Easterla, T. Nagel, and D. Welchert in

*The Bluebird*, vol. 87, no. 4, December 2020). Those produced nests with eggs, but no young were ever reported. This year's nesting appears to be the first to produce young successfully.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SABINE'S GULL** (*Xema sabini*), 2021-79: Juvenile, 30 October-3 November 2021, Stockton Lake, Polk and Dade cos. Alex Marine (documentation with photographs), Lisa Berger (documentation), Charley Burwick, Mike Headings, Paul Hostetler. Latest fall record.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR** (*Calcarius ornatus*), 2021-74: One, 30 September–5 October 2021, Rockport, Atchison Co. Dakota Swisher (documentation with photographs). Earliest fall record.

**SMITH'S LONGSPUR** (*Calcarius pictus*), 2021-1: 10–21 birds, 10 December 2020–16 February 2021, County Road 286, Pemiscot Co. Andrew Lydeard, Daniel Redwine, Michael Todd (documentation with photographs). First winter record outside of southwestern Missouri.

**LARK SPARROW** (*Chondestes grammacus*), 2021-5: One, 28 December 2020–3 January 2021, Little River CA, Dunklin Co. Tommy Goodwin (documentation with photographs). Accidental in winter; second record.

**LARK BUNTING** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), 2021-40: Male, 30 May 2021, Golden Prairie, Barton Co. Erik Ost (documentation with photographs). Casual transient.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** (*Spizella pallida*), 2021-43: One, 23 May 2021, Cole residence, Gladstone, Clay Co. Jared Cole (documentation with photographs), Michele Cole. Latest spring record.

**DARK-EYED JUNCO** (*Junco hyemalis*), 2021-52: Male, 23 June 2021, Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center, Cape Girardeau Co. Leon Book (documentation with photographs). Casual in summer. As of the previous Annual Report (the 33<sup>rd</sup>), there were five summer records, but since then two additional earlier records have come to light (*vide* M. Robbins); thus this record is the eighth.

**SAVANNAH SPARROW** (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), 2021-56: One, 3 July 2021, Darst Bottom, St. Charles Co. David Rogles (documentation), Tom Bormann. Casual summer visitor.

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW** (*Melospiza lincolnii*), 2021-46: One, 27 May–29 July 2021, Uffman residence, Eureka, St. Louis Co. Joshua Uffman (documentation with photographs and audio). First record of a summering bird, although there is one record of a late migrant on 6 June.

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER** (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), 2021-38: One, 12 May–7 July 2021, Weldon Spring CA, St. Charles Co. Robert Bailey, Joseph Bieksza, Joshua Uffman, Brian Steger (documentation with photographs or audio), Pat Lueders (documentation). Casual transient and summer visitor outside extreme southern Missouri. Although some reports were of two birds, the Committee believed that the presence of two was never conclusively proven.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED**

“Not accepted” does not necessarily mean that the identification was incorrect. In some cases the Committee may indeed believe that the bird was misidentified; in other cases it may seem possible or even likely that the identification was correct, but the information provided is simply insufficient to rule out other possible species. The



Committee is unable to accept any record if the description is too sketchy or vague, or if it fails to mention enough critical field marks to eliminate all other species. It is also true that the more extraordinary the report, the stronger the evidence required, and there are some reports that can be accepted only with diagnostic photographs or other physical evidence. Our belief is that a report should go into the permanent scientific record only if it is free of reasonable doubt. This is the standard approach of bird record committees everywhere. All records that the Committee reviews, whether accepted or not, are permanently archived so that future investigators may examine them.

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

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

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

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

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

**NEOTROPIC CORMORANT**, 2021-35: One, 8 May 2021, Creve Coeur Lake Park (Little Creve Coeur). While this bird did appear to be quite small and was seen at a site where the species had been found the previous year, it was observed only briefly at long distance, so that actual field marks (proportions, face pattern) were not noted.

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

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

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

**GYRFALCON** (*Falco rusticolus*), 2021-26: One, 30 October 2021, Marais Temps Clair CA, St. Charles Co. The description did not explain why the bird was a falcon, and some of

the details provided were puzzling; others (like the bird's length and wingspan) were stated more precisely than an observer could determine in the field. It was not clear what species the observer saw.

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

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

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

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

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

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