



Bill Eddleman

In general, it was a mild season in both states. Iowa saw near-normal temperature and precipitation in August, except for severe drought in the southeast, while Missouri was mostly dry and warmer than normal. Welcome rains in southeastern Iowa provided some relief from the drought in late August. In September, warm temperatures prevailed throughout. Precipitation averaged near normal in Iowa and mostly below normal in Missouri, but rainfall distribution was not even. In Iowa, the southwest was dry, while the north and northeast were wet, flooding shorebird habitat in that part of the state and in both states along the Mississippi River. Rainfall was patchy in Missouri, with some areas receiving near-normal rainfall but most being dry through fall. The Region's first freeze occurred 29 September in western Iowa and northwestern Missouri, but temperatures moderated thereafter, becoming seasonably cold only at the end of November. The mild conditions, wet in northern Iowa and dry in most of the rest of the Region, resulted in delayed waterfowl migration, very few shorebird concentrations, and few notable movements of migrants. Remnants of two major hurricanes passed through the Region, Hurricane Katrina in late August and Hurricane Rita 25 September, but few notable sightings were tied to these storms. Food production was very good this season, especially the hard mast crop. Three first state record birds were in Iowa: Royal Tern, Green Violet-ear, and Acorn Woodpecker. Missouri highlights included Yellow-billed Loon, Black Rail, and Common Chaffinch; the latter would be a first state record if accepted.

Abbreviations: C.A. (Conservation Area); Grammar (Grammar Grove, Marshall, IA);

Hitchcock (Hitchcock W.M.A. hawkwatch, Pottawattamie, IA); M.S.L. (Maryville Sewage Lagoons, Nodaway, MO); M.W.C. (Missouri Western College campus, St. Joseph, Buchanan, MO); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles, MO); Saylorville (Saylorville Res., Polk, IA); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO); S.R. (Smithville Res., Clay & Clinton, MO), T.G.P. (Tower Grove Park, St. Louis, MO); T.R.W. (Thompson River Wetlands, Livingston, MO).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

At least one Black-bellied Whistling-Duck found in Cass, IA in Jul stayed until 11 Sep (†JD). Mild, semi-wet weather in Iowa and mild, dry weather in Missouri resulted in a slow, widely scattered waterfowl migration. Most geese stayed n. until the end of the period. Timing of migration for Cackling Goose is still far from clear, with most birders unfortunately reporting any small white-cheeked geese as Cackling. The earliest reliable reports of Cackling were from Polk, IA (SD) and Cerro Gordo, IA (RG), both 9 Oct. The largest concentrations were 700+ in a mixed flock 8 Nov in Cerro Gordo, IA (PH) and 103 at M.S.L. 6 Nov (DE). Others were 24 at S.C.R. 18 Nov (TR) and 50 at Green Hills Golf Course L., Chillicothe, Livingston, MO 30 Nov (SK). A pair of Trumpeter Swans (acc.) at Swan Lake N.W.R., Chariton, MO fledged 3 young in early Oct, making these the first produced in Missouri in modern times (†SK).

A particularly large movement of waterfowl 11-12 Nov included 150,000 Canvasbacks, 10,000 Ring-necked Ducks, and 5000 Ruddy Ducks along the Mississippi R. in Allamakee, IA (DA, CE) and 10,000+ Lesser Scaup on reservoirs in s.-cen. Iowa (RC, JG, AB, SD). Numbers of sea ducks were better than average, with birders finding 18 Surf Scoters (16 in Iowa, 2 in Missouri), 12 Black Scoters (8 in Iowa, 4 in Missouri), 9 White-winged Scoters (4 in Iowa, 5 in Missouri), and 12 Long-tailed Ducks (11 in Iowa, one in Missouri), primarily at large reservoirs and along the Mississippi R. in Nov (DP, ET, JG, R&PA, LS, SF, JR, SD, MJ, L&BP, SP, KP, LL, JE, KM, DW, EW, CM).

Pacific Loon reports included 2 in Linn, IA 30 Oct (BSc), one at Saylorville 15-21 Nov (AB, m.ob.), 2 in Marion, IA 18 Nov (JR), and one at Little Creve Coeur L., St. Louis, MO 17-29 Nov (CM, m.ob.). A highlight in Missouri was a juv. Yellow-billed Loon at T.H.R., Macon, MO 24-26 Nov (ph., †JU, m.ob.). Horned Grebes were widespread this fall, the earliest report being 3 at S.R. 14 Sep (KM). There were also more Eared Grebes in Missouri, including singles at R.M.B.S. 17 Nov (JE) and Creve Coeur L., St. Louis 29-30 Nov

(JE, JU). Western Grebes were in abundance in Iowa, with 10 reports of from one to 4 birds. Casual in e. Missouri, this species had a banner day 23 Oct, with singles at R.M.B.S. (J&CM, †JE) and T.H.R., Randolph, MO (†JE). A single Clark's Grebe was at Spirit L. in Dickinson, IA 28 Nov (LS, ET). An imm. Brown Pelican first found in Jul in Dickinson, IA (ET) reappeared 1 Aug at Saylorville and stayed through the fall (SD, JD). Following Hurricane Katrina, Iowa's 3rd Magnificent Frigatebird was an ad. female photographed at L. McBride, Johnson, IA 4-5 Sep (CE, KL, JSc DA, AB); a report of a juv. is still in records committee review.

A late Least Bittern was at R.M.B.S. 29 Nov (DR). Great Egrets lingering past mid-Nov were 2 at S.C.R. 21 Nov (TR) and 2-7 at Winfield Dam, Lincoln, MO and Winfield Slough, Lincoln, MO 24-30 Nov (CM, JE). A juv. Tricolored Heron occurred at Bean L., Platte, MO 6-14 Aug (DW, LL, KM). Two late Cattle Egrets were on Hwy. C near St. Peters, St. Charles, MO 7 Nov (CM). An ad. Green Heron lingered on the Current R. above Van Buren, Carter, MO 8 Oct (MR). Reports of imm. White Ibis included 2 at Sikeston, Scott, MO 3 Aug (WG) and 2 at Sandy Slough, Winfield Dam, Lincoln, MO 15 Aug (†SS). A single Glossy Ibis was at Bean L., Platte Co. 14 Aug (ph., †KM, DW), and a late Plegadis ibis was at R.M.B.S. 13 Nov (Sue & Tom Fuller).

A Black Vulture in Iowa passed Hitchcock 20 Aug (MO); another was taken to a rehabilitator in Buchanan, IA 21 Nov. Record numbers of Turkey Vultures were at Grammer (MP) and Hitchcock (MO). A pair of Mississippi Kites fledged one young in Des Moines, Polk, IA in early Sep (JG, m.ob.). Five Sep migrants were followed by a nearly record-late bird at Hitchcock 5 Oct (MO). Record numbers of Broad-winged Hawks were in w. Iowa. At the Loess Hills hawkwatch in far w. Iowa, an amazing 1878 Swainson's Hawks were counted 5 Oct (MO), nearly half the season's record total 3648 birds. Record-early calurus Red-tailed Hawks were seen 29 Sep: a dark morph at Bob Brown C.A., Holt, MO and a light morph at S.C.R. (MR). Two early Krider's Red-taileds were at Poosey C.A., Livingston, MO 18 Oct (SK) and at M.S.L. 22 Oct (DE). A Harlan's Hawk was noted at S.C.R. 29 Sep (MR); and an ad. was at Cuivre I. C.A., s. Lincoln, MO 5 Nov (BR). Single Ferruginous Hawks at Hitchcock 17 Oct and 23 Nov (MO) made this the 7th consecutive year for this species in Iowa. Twelve reports of 23 Merlins in Missouri included the earliest at a Missouri Department of Transportation mitigation site, Ray, MO 26 Sep (SK). Nine total Prairie Falcons in Iowa included 7 at Hitchcock starting 24 Oct and one

each in *Johnson*, IA 26 Oct (JF) and *Polk*, IA 29 Nov (JG). Record counts of Peregrine Falcons came from Iowa hawkwatches, 14 at Grammer (MP) and 44 at Hitchcock (MO).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

A single **Black Rail** was calling at Swan Lake N W.R., *Chariton*, MO on 9 Oct (†Terry & Dena McNeely). A pair of **King Rails** in *Warren*, IA was seen with young into mid-Aug (ph, †JG). Frequent and heavy rains in n. Iowa obliterated inland habitat for shorebirds and flooded riverine habitat, while most of Missouri was too dry for ideal shorebird habitat except where water management was possible (BG, DR, SK). A single **Snowy Plover** was at Rathbun L., *Appanoose*, IA 22 Aug (SP). Already in the state in Jul, American Avocets were at 10 sites in s. Iowa and had an extended migration, ending with a record-late bird in *Jasper*, IA 19 Nov (BV). In keeping with recent trends, Greater Yellowlegs lingered late, the last being 4 at S.C.R. 25 Nov (TR). A Solitary Sandpiper in *Warren*, IA 15 Oct constituted the 2nd latest record (JS). A rare Hudsonian Godwit was at Runnells W.A., *Polk*, IA 9–16 Oct (SD, JG). The single Marbled Godwit at Caruthersville Catfish Ponds, *Pemiscot*, MO 26 Sep was record late (JE). There were at least 3 juv. **Red Knots** in Iowa: one at Jester Park, *Polk*, IA 14 Aug (CE, m ob) and 2 at Red Rock Res., *Marion*, IA 28 Aug–4 Sep (AB, m.ob.). Late Sanderlings included the 2nd latest for the state in *Polk*, IA 13 Nov (SD) and 3 imms. at Truman L., s. of Clinton, *Henry*, MO 7 Oct (MR). Only one of two reports of White-rumped Sandpipers in Iowa had good details: 2 juvs. in *Buena Vista* 26 Aug (LS). The earliest Long-billed Dowitchers, and highest number, were 118 at S C R 10 Oct (TR); the latest were 7 at Montrose L., *Henry*, MO 13 Nov (JE). Red-necked Phalaropes were at 11 scattered locations and totaled at least 40 individuals (m.ob.). A 3rd latest for Iowa was at L. Manawa, *Pottawattamie*, IA 8 Oct (JB, JG).

A **Pomarine Jaeger** was at Red Rock Res., *Marion*, IA 26–31 Oct (MP, ph. by JG, RA). Three single **Laughing Gulls** in Missouri included a juv. at T.H.R. 18 Sep (†JE). Two late Franklin's Gulls were at Creve Coeur L., *St. Louis*, MO 19–20 Nov (JU, BR). An ad. **Little Gull** was in *Dickinson*, IA 3 Sep and stayed a week (LS). Two were at T.H.R.: a first-winter bird 23 Oct–6 Nov (JU, †JE, EW) and a second-winter bird (with no details) 30 Oct–12 Nov (JE, EW). The annual occurrence of a **Black-headed Gull** at Spirit L., *Dickinson*, IA was enjoyed by many through 13 Nov. Sabine's Gull reports included 4 birds at L. Manawa, *Pottawattamie*, IA 5 Oct (L&BP, AB,

R&PA) and one at T.H.R., *Randolph*, MO 10–14 Sep (EW, JE). A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was along the Mississippi R., *Allamakee*, IA 11 Nov (†CE). A first state record **Royal Tern** was at Rathbun L., *Appanoose*, IA 20 Aug–mid-Sep (SD, ph. JG). Late Missouri terns included Caspian Tern at R.M.B.S. 3–5 Nov (CM, JE), a first-year Common Tern at R.M.B.S. 24–25 Oct (JU, JE; *), and 6 Black Terns at Caruthersville Catfish Ponds, *Pemiscot* 26 Sep (JE).

DOVES THROUGH WRENS

Eurasian Collared-Doves were found in *Jasper*, *Jones*, *Ringgold*, and *Woodbury*, IA (SD, BSC, JD, BH, respectively); they now have been found in 52 counties in Iowa. Numbers in Missouri exploded this year, topped by 150+ at St. Joseph stockyards, *Buchanan*, MO 1 Oct (JH). A **White-winged Dove** was in a *Warren*, IA backyard (ph. JG), and 2 ads. and 3 imms. were at East Prairie, *Mississippi*, MO 21–31 Aug (JE). A Greater Roadrunner nest fledged one young s. of Neosho, *Newton*, MO 14 Sep (Jeff Cantrell). Eight Whip-poor-wills were calling along the Glade Top Trail, *Ozark*, MO 20 Aug (JE). A first state record **Green Violet-ear** appeared at Lyle and Marlene Neher's *Grundy*, IA feeder 27 Sep–4 Oct (m.ob.). A juv. female Ruby-throated Hummingbird persisted at *Story*, IA 16 Nov (SD), more than a month later than the next latest. Single Rufous Hummingbirds were s. of Lebanon, *Laclede*, MO 7 Sep (LP), and an imm. female was at Farmington, *St. Francois*, MO 30 Nov (b., *fide* Bob Lewis). An excellent mast crop coincided with Red-headed Woodpeckers being "quite common" in the Van Buren/Big Spring area, *Carter*, MO 8 Oct (MR). Another incredible first state record for Iowa was an **Acorn Woodpecker** at Brookside Park, *Story* 1 Sep (ph. by KZ). Single Pileated Woodpeckers were at Fishing R., *Kearney*, *Clay*, MO 1 Nov (KM) and L. Contrary, *Buchanan*, MO 11 Nov (LL).

A record 11 Alder Flycatchers were at Bob Brown C.A., *Holt*, MO 11 Aug (MR), and one was at Katy Trail Access, Weldon Spring, *St. Charles*, MO 6 Sep (DR). Willow Flycatchers reported at Aldrich, *Polk*, MO included one on 18 Aug and 2 on 27 Aug (DB, Barb Blevins). Iowa's 4th record of **Vermilion Flycatcher** came from Whiterock C.A., *Guthrie*; it stayed until 10 Sep (JD). A record-late Eastern Kingbird was at Lambert Airport, *St. Louis*, MO 26 Oct (MT). Single Northern Shrikes were near Muskrat L., *Buchanan*, MO 6 Nov (Laura Gilchrist); Bilby Ranch C.A., *Nodaway*, MO 12 Nov (JE); and Hwy. D, just w. of Skidmore, *Nodaway*, MO 12–27 Nov (JE, KM). A late Blue-headed Vireo was at T.G.P. 16–17 Oct (BR, JE). Two late Philadelphia Vireos were at

Big Spring, *Carter*, MO 9 Oct (MR). A report of **Common Raven** was referred to the Iowa records committee. An ad. **Cave Swallow** was at Weston Bend S.P., *Platte*, MO 7 Sep (†Mark Land); this would be a new addition to Missouri's hypothetical list. This was an irruption year for Red-breasted Nuthatch, with numerous reports received in both states. A Brown Creeper at B. K. Leach C.A.–Norton Woods, *Lincoln*, MO 28 Aug was record early (JU, JE). Increasing reports of Carolina Wrens from n. Iowa included *Kossuth* (MK), *Cerro Gordo* (RG), and *Allamakee* (FL). A record-early Winter Wren was at Burr Oak Woods, *Jackson*, MO 7 Sep (†Jim Zellmer).

KINGLETS THROUGH FINCHES

Thirty-two Ruby-crowned Kinglets were banded at M.W.C. 23 Sep–29 Oct (JH). A late Wood Thrush was at T.G.P. 16–17 Oct (BR, JE). A **Varied Thrush** briefly appeared at T.G.P. 15 Oct (†Sherry McCowan). Observers in both states found excellent variety but only moderate numbers of migrating warblers this season (PH, JE, BG, DR). Thirty-two species were reported from Iowa, and mild weather resulted in many lingering late 14 species in Oct and four in Nov (PH). Two Orange-crowned Warblers at T.H.R. 30 Oct were relatively late (JE), and 46 were banded at M.W.C. 25 Sep–24 Oct (JH). A total of 117 Nashville Warblers was banded at M.W.C. 1 Sep–24 Oct (JH). Among the record-late warblers in Iowa was a Yellow Warbler in *Polk* 6 Oct (JD, SD). Two Cape May Warblers were at Confluence S.P., *St. Charles*, MO 18 Sep (DR). Eight reports of Black-throated Blue Warbler included 5 in five different counties in Iowa (MK, RD, CE, MB, JS, SD, DA); one at Columbia Bottom C.A., *St. Louis*, MO 18 Sep (JE); 2 at R.M.B.S. 18 Sep (DR); and one at Columbia Bottom C.A., *St. Louis*, MO 8 Oct (JE). A Yellow-throated Warbler at a *Madison*, IA feeder through the end of fall was record late (E&EA, ph. RA). A Prairie Warbler, rarely reported in Iowa, was at Hancock 14 Aug (JD, SD). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was at T.G.P. 2 Oct (†JE); the species is rarely detected on fall migration here. A Northern Waterthrush on Current R. above Van Buren, *Carter*, MO 8 Oct was late (MR), and a record-late Mourning Warbler was in *Allamakee*, IA 11 Oct (CS).

A single **Western Tanager** was in *Pottawattamie*, IA 17 Aug (†MO). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in *Worth*, IA 30 Oct (PH) was record late. A Blue Grosbeak at Bois d'Arc C.A., *Greene*, MO 10 Oct was very late (DB). A Painted Bunting remained at Katy Trail Access, Weldon Spring, *St. Charles*, MO 13 Aug

(MT), and an imm. male appeared at R.M.B.S. 18 Oct (†Judy Bergmann). A record 50 Dickcissels was at Grand Pass C.A., *Saline*, MO 6 Sep (SK). Over 100 Bobolinks were at T.R.W. 24 Aug (SK), and one tied the 3rd latest record at R.M.B.S. 8 Oct (BR). A total of 200 Brewer's Blackbirds was in the St. Louis area 3 Nov (BR). If accepted, a single ad. **Common Chaffinch** at a feeder at Cedar Hill, *Jefferson*, MO 18-28 Nov would furnish a first state record (WG, m.ob.). A Pine Siskin at Iowa State University, Ames, *Story*, IA 24 Aug (SD) might have been a summering bird.

Erratum and corrigendum: Delete the Roseate Spoonbill at Ten Mile Pond C.A., *Mississippi*, MO 26 Aug–21 Sep 2004 (no documentation submitted). The report of 58 Black Vultures in *Genevieve* (Rocky Ridge) in winter 2004-2005 was in error; it should read 3 Black Vultures.

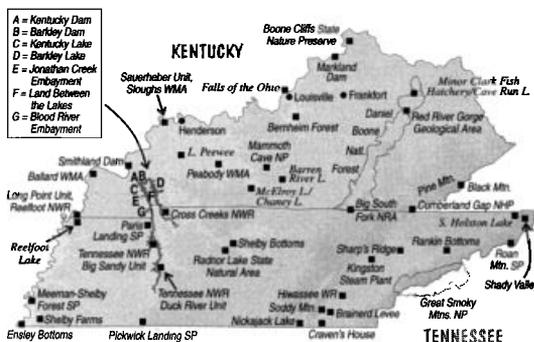
Addenda: The following sightings from TR were inadvertently omitted from the fall 2004 report, and she should be credited as the discoverer of the Sabine's Gull at S.R. 16 Sep. Two imm. Ruddy Ducks were at S.C.R. 2 Aug. Six King Rails were at S.C.R. 23 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs lingered late at S.C.R.: 11 on 17 Nov and 9 on 25 Nov. Philadelphia Vireos were first seen at S.C.R. 29 Aug and last 6 Oct. A high count of 90 Yellow-rumped Warblers was tallied at Big L. S.P., *Holt*, MO 12 Oct. A very early White-crowned Sparrow was at S.C.R. 27 Sep.

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Tennessee & Kentucky



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The fall 2005 season was overall warmer and drier than normal. August was hot, with the temperature reaching 90° F or higher on 20 days at Louisville and 22 days at Nashville. The most remarkable weather event of the season was the passage of the remnants of Hurricane *Katrina*, which moved through the Region 30 August with copious precipitation (11 cm at Bowling Green, Kentucky, and about 6.6 cm at both Nashville and Louisville) and moderate, gusty winds. In fact, the rains provided by the storm's passage provided many areas with the only substantial precipitation over the entire period! September and October remained warmer than normal with little precipitation (e.g., Nashville received only 0.5 cm of rain during October). November remained slightly warmer than normal, but precipita-

tion began to return to normal.

Rarity highlights included the plethora of coastal and pelagic species found during the passage of the remnants of *Katrina* (see S.A.), several rare waders (Tricolored Heron, White Ibis, and Roseate Spoonbill) in the western part of the Region, a few rare shorebirds (including Marbled Godwit and Red Phalarope), two Pomarine Jaegers, first Regional records of Black-throated Sparrow and Townsend's Solitaire, second Regional records for Clapper Rail and Broad-tailed Hummingbird, and a returning Spotted Towhee. In contrast to the previous year, natural food crops, including evergreen cones, berries, acorns, and hickory nuts, all appeared to be produced in abundance, boding well for wintering species.

Abbreviations: Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, in sw. *Shelby*, TN); Pickwick (Pickwick Lake and Dam, *Hardin*, TN); Sauerheber (Sauerheber Unit Sloughs W.M.A., *Henderson*, KY).

GEESE THROUGH GREBES

The injured and summering Greater White-fronted Goose at Ballard W.M.A., *Ballard*, KY was seen several times in Aug and Sep. The first of Sauerheber's wintering flock of Tundra Swans (8) returned 18 Nov (MMr). Duck migration occurred with relatively few high-

lights, lacking sizeable fallouts or extreme dates. Dabblers appeared to arrive on time but in relatively small numbers, perhaps due in part to the overall lack of water as a result of the dry late summer and fall. Mottled Ducks are being discovered with increasing frequency, at least in part as a result of heightened observer awareness; a male and female were in *Henry*, TN 24–30 Sep (ph. MT, DMA et al.). There were fewer reports of scoters this fall, with only one report from Kentucky: 2 Surfs in *Kenton* 2 Nov (FR). Two Surfs and a Black were relatively early at Mud I., *Shelby* TN 15 Oct (JRW). Elsewhere in Tennessee, single Surfs were in *Henry* 6 Nov (MT) and *Lake* 25 Nov (MT, JRW, DMA); and a Black was at Center Hill L. 28 Oct, with 3 there 18 Nov (SJS). A Black Scoter at Boone L., *Sullivan* 22 Nov (RK) was the only ad. male scoter reported this season.

A **Yellow-billed Loon**, Tennessee's 5th and the Region's 6th, was in *Henry* 26 Nov (ph. JRW). At least 2 different Red-throated Loons were reported regularly in *Henry*, TN 13–26 Nov (JRW, MT); a Pacific Loon was there 6 Nov (MT) and another 19 & 26 Nov (MT, ph. JRW et al.). The only rare loon in Kentucky was a juv. Red-throated on the Ohio R. at Louisville 2–6 Nov (JBe, PB, E&JH). Single Red-necked Grebes, rare in the Region, were at Britton Ford, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Benton*, TN 12 Nov (ph. JRW) and *Lake*, TN 21–25 Nov (MT, JRW, DMA, NaM). Eared Grebes returned to S. Holston L., *Sulli-*