

Volume 12 No. 1, Spring 2022  
Special Photography Contest Edition

# The Rectrix

A Newsletter of the Missouri River Bird Observatory







**MISSION**

The Missouri River Bird Observatory is a 501(c)3 non-profit entity dedicated to the conservation of Missouri's migratory and resident birds through scientific research, community outreach, K-12 education and conservation policy advocacy.

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Welcome to the photo contest issue of *The Rectrix*

In this newsletter, we present to you all of the photographs entered in MRBO's annual *Hope Is The Thing With Feathers* contest. The contest features wild birds photographed in the state of Missouri. This year we had two categories - Conservation and General. Photos were judged on originality, artistic and technical merit, composition and, in the Conservation category, the photos' descriptions. Please note that the photos, photo titles and descriptions are published as received from the photographer; MRBO staff make only minor edits in the interest of space and layout.

In 2021, we received **185 photos from 68 photographers!** Of these, 69 were entered in the Conservation category, while 116 were submitted to the General category. We're very excited that the contest was even more popular this year than ever before! Previously, the highest rate of submission occurred in 2018, with 136 photos from 48 photographers.

Sometimes we are asked what we do with all these photos. The answer is, a lot! Photos from the contest are used in presentations, reports, social media posts, and other educational venues regularly. On each of these occasions, MRBO uses the photographs to inspire and engage people in the appreciation of our Missouri birds. We hope that this engagement leads folks to consider conservation - both in their daily lives and in a big picture way.

We are very thankful to Wood and Huston Bank of Marshall, which has sponsored the contest every year since its origins in 2016. The Bank provides all the prize money, which allows 100% of the proceeds from contest entries to be earmarked entirely for MRBO's education and outreach programs.



*Hope is The Thing With Feathers*

The Missouri River Bird Observatory's  
Sixth Annual Missouri Bird Photography Contest  
November 1st - December 31st, 2021



2016-2021  
Sponsored by



# Conservation Grand Prize Winner



Wood duck at Sunrise by Ronald Gaddis, with a score of 96.6 by the contest judges.

Wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) are unique among ducks in that they are perching birds that nest in tree cavities, especially in woodlands near water. The male species of these ducks are extremely colorful. In the past, the wood duck was on the verge of extinction, due to over hunting and loss of critical habitat. However, their numbers have recovered and appear to be stable thanks to conservation efforts by individual States, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Ducks Unlimited and by the implementation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. While the number of Wood Ducks have stabilized, they continue face threats to their existence due to climate change, continued loss of hardwood bottom lands and changing governmental regulations protecting wooded wetlands. It is imperative that we strengthen the efforts to protect these beautiful and unique birds for generations to come.



# Contest Winners



First Place Winner  
Bugs for Dinner?  
by Amy Watts



Second Place Winner  
My Place or Yours!  
by David Carron



Third Place Winner  
Always Choose to Embrace the Rain.  
by Nancy Boyd Schanda

The Yellow-rumped Warbler is the most wide-spread of warblers, and the most likely to be seen and loved by people. They move quickly, and their bright colors bring attention to them. People who love these little warblers tend to love all birds and will work to support habitat and other conservation efforts.

# Youth Contest Winners



Youth First Place Winner  
Buff-Breasted Sandpiper  
by Oliver Gorski



Youth Second Place Winner  
Golden Morning  
by Carson Lee



# Conservation Entries



American Bald Eagle, Majestic in Flight  
by Rob Chance

The conservation efforts surrounding the American Bald Eagle is perhaps one of the most notable efforts in my lifetime. In 1970, there were an estimated 400 breeding pairs of Bald Eagles in the United States. Today, through education and continued conservation efforts across the country, there are now an estimated 317,000 Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states and their numbers are steadily increasing.



Barred Owl at Fleming Park Blue Springs Lake and Lake Jacomo  
by Josh Sonsiadek

Habitat preservation is a must for the continued thriving of this species. Apex predator important in rodent population control.



Black Vulture  
by Cathy Wilhelmi

Vultures have always been interesting to me. As a young person I found a book about Turkey Vultures. I was intrigued with their look and their job cleaning up the environment. I imagine their gift is being able to soar so high in the sky. It was exciting to find this black vulture.

Arctic Visitor  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld



Be the One Who Stands Out  
by Carla Cullor

The Value of Fencerows for Birds: As depicted in this photo, you can see the variety of birds that are attracted to this fencerow area. This is due to the natural ground cover and abundant food supply provided by a diverse group of native plants. The wire provides the perfect perch for a nice photo set. I'm thankful for fencerows like these that help me enjoy the wild birds in their natural habitat.





Bluebird in Flight  
by Kathleen Henrikson

Though the population of Eastern Bluebirds, Missouri's State Bird, was once considered to be declining, placement of bluebird boxes in conservation areas such as Burr Oak Woods has contributed to a rebounding of the population. Many people still do not see bluebirds often, but are more likely to do so when visiting areas set aside for protection and conservation of wildlife.

Bluebird Protecting House  
by Cathleen Cackler-Veazey

In order to perpetuate bluebirds, a bird house was located in our yard. Over the past two years at least 12 bluebirds have fledged from this box. The young continue to revisit the house throughout the year. Sometimes there are four or more of them visiting home at a time.



Calling From the Heart  
by Jerlyn Jones

The bright blue sky grew dark as the storm clouds moved in. I was along a childhood favorite creek when I saw some beautiful eagles. An immature eagle caught my eye first which was interesting because it blended in so well with its surroundings. How beautiful it was! As I moved quietly along the creek I saw the adult eagles. I watched with true appreciation and didn't want to take my eyes off of them! Everything was quiet and I was captivated as I listened to them call to each other. This eagle's mouth was shaped like a heart as it was beautifully calling and that's why I named the photo, "Calling from the Heart". I used a long telephoto lens for the photo. The settings on my camera for this picture were 1/125 sec. f/6.5 642.6 mm. I was on a high road across the creek looking down over the river. I used my truck as a blind and was quite a distance from them. By doing so, I was able to watch them preen their feathers and be eagles, doing eagle things, without disturbing them. I don't take for granted the opportunity to watch eagles here in Missouri. To think they were in danger of extinction should be harrowing to everyone. For decades the bald eagle was on the endangered species list due to shooting, the destruction of their habitats, and the contamination of food sources by the use of pesticides. People, and their actions, caused the decline in the bald eagle population. Something had to be done. Through conservation actions by the American public and the federal government's ban of DDT, the bald eagle is now protected and, overall, growing in healthy populations. The Bald and Golden Eagle Act of 1940 prohibits anyone from taking their parts, nests, or eggs. But, bald eagles are still a species of conservation concern in Missouri. One way citizens of Missouri are helping in the continuing growth and protection of bald eagles is by the monitoring of eagle nests. That, along with the many rivers and lakes within the state, makes Missouri one of the leading states in the lower 48 for bald eagle watching. With more than 2,000 bald eagles seen during the winter months, Missouri's conservation efforts are a beautiful success story! I will continue to look for, photograph and share the beautiful bald eagles of Missouri for everyone to enjoy and learn from.



Cerulean Grace  
by Margy Terpstra

Spring migration is always a time filled with anticipation, one never knows what birds may have dropped in overnight to rest and refuel. Last year, May ninth was Big Day, and the morning had been busy with a diversity of beauties, including Bay-breasted, Mourning and Golden-winged Warblers. Yet, the bird that made me catch my breath came in a tiny, timid package- a female Cerulean Warbler. Amazingly, this was the second female Cerulean Warbler I had seen at our bubbler that spring! The first bird had come in on April 26, 2020. My initial encounter with this species had been a male, thirteen years earlier, on May 5, 2007. So, this was truly an unexpected sighting. Formerly abundant in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys,

Ceruleans are now among the rarest of Neotropical migrant songbirds. Habitat degradation in its breeding, migrating and wintering ranges is suspected of having caused a population decline of 72% since the 1970s. In The State of the Birds 2016 Report, this warbler was given a high species concern score of 15 out of 20, putting it on the Watch List. While this bird is not likely to nest in our yards, we can help to improve the survival rates of Cerulean Warblers during migration. What do they need? Cover, food and water are all essential! The birds favor native keystone plants like white oaks, sugar maples, hickories, elms and even poison ivy. Ceruleans forage on the bark and along branches, gleaning caterpillars, aphids, whiteflies and other tiny insects from the crevices, twigs and leaves. In our half-acre sanctuary, 80% is planted with natives, providing safe refuge and foraging habitat along with a variety of fresh water sources. On May 3, 2021, I recorded a singing male Cerulean Warbler in one of our sugar maples, documenting our fourth sighting in 25 years. I cannot help but wonder if it was the offspring of one of those females. My hope is that by sharing this image, others will be inspired to plant natives and restore habitat in their own yards. That way, we can make a real difference together, to support all our native birds, and especially, the vulnerable Cerulean Warbler.





Cerulean Warbler  
by David Seidensticker

Cerulean Warblers are a Missouri breeding bird of high conservation concern, scoring 15 out of 20 according to the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (1). They are one of a number of birds classified as neotropical migrants, spending their winters in Latin America, and are under threat from habitat loss in their winter and summer ranges, as well as new dangers such as wind turbines along the Gulf Coast, where they migrate. These pressures have resulted in a large reduction in numbers over the last 50 years, estimated at 72 between 1970 and 2014 according to Partners in Flight (2). Here in Missouri, their breeding habits require high-quality forests, generally along relatively

undisturbed bottomland forests with a high canopy for foraging. This individual was photographed at Greer Crossing Recreational Area in Oregon County, and since banded is likely part of a study to monitor the local population. We can take some pride that our state still provides Cerulean Warblers with suitable locations for breeding, but we must also carefully protect what we have and expand habitat opportunities for them. (1) <https://www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/resources/species-assessments>. (2) <https://pif.birdconservancy.org/ACAD/Database.aspx>

Cold Morning At The Wetland  
by Debby Fantz

It was a cold, early morning walk to one of the small managed wetlands on our local conservation area. I was anxious to see the river otters that a friend scouting for ducks saw earlier in the week. Much to my delight, I not only saw a gorgeous yellow-orange early winter sunrise but also three otters and several bird species. This Great Blue Heron, undisturbed by the human presence, slowly walked the edge of the wetland and was joined by two hunting Bald Eagles, a Northern Flicker, and a Belted Kingfisher with its wild rattling call. While enjoying the nature around me, I reflected not just on the beauty of the wetland but also the importance of wetlands, including our smaller local wetlands, to our planet.

Wetlands are highly productive and biologically diverse ecosystems with many important environmental functions, including habitat for thousands of aquatic and terrestrial plant and animal species. Unfortunately, agriculture and urban development have resulted in an enormous loss of large and small wetlands, and they now are threatened ecosystems. We must continue to encourage private landowners, non-governmental organizations and government agencies to support wetland habitat enhancement and conservation for current and future generations, and the health of our planet.

Exciting outdoor opportunities, like a peaceful walk to a small, local wetland, will help us maintain our connection to the natural world.



Early Arriver - Eastern Phoebe  
by Aaron Jungbluth

Trying to find insects to eat, even before the leaves bud out on the trees, is a challenging task! Since Paw Paws bloom so early in the spring, they are actually pollinated by flies rather than bees. Looks like this Eastern Phoebe found the perfect spot to meet the early-spring food- finding challenge in our backyard Paw Paw grove! As spring and summer amps up, we welcome this Phoebe to stick around to keep our insect pests in check.



Cuteness Overload!  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld



Early Warbler Gets The Worm  
by Jian Xu

If you asked anyone ‘are native plants better for the ecosystem or non-native plants?’ odds are good that they’ll choose the native option without batting an eye. Yet, odds are also good that their own backyard will be filled with ‘pest-free’ alien plants. However, birds like this Warbler rely on the insects that feed on native plants as a staple to their diet. However, the shift to ‘pest-free’ non-native plants have ironically made backyards less appealing to these birds. Without the proper native plants to feed on, insect populations have plummeted. Good for us maybe, but a starving landscape for insect hunting songbirds. I think the caterpillar this Yellow Warbler has caught serves as a charming reminder that what may look to us as pests, are to these songbirds a delicacy that we should seek to maintain.





Friends  
by Cathy Wilhelmi

These two owls were communicating in a strange whistling sound in the late afternoon. They finally landed together on a branch. Their penetrating stare looked as if they understood something about this world. The neighbors stop and pay attention to the owls that frequent the back yards. We exchange stories of the owl antics. In these stories we talk of our hope they stay and what we can do to make that happen. We look up information on habitat and feeding. On a neighborhood level the conservation of these amazing birds resonates and joins this little community. I like to think these two owls represent conservation and community.

Grassland Promise  
by Diane Bricmont

Grassland sparrows are hidden gems waiting to be discovered. They aren't found in flocks, like winter's White-throated or White-crowned Sparrows, but if you find a pocket of habitat that's just right, you may be rewarded for your efforts! As these pockets have disappeared, they have become harder to find in eastern Missouri. The time spent with this little bird was pure joy!



Great Blue Heron, the largest of the herons in North America  
by Rob Chance

Very distinguished in flight, Great Blue Herons are stealthy hunters, standing motionless in or around still, shallow water patiently waiting for their next meal. The diet of a Great Blue Heron varies from fish to amphibians and invertebrates. Small mammals and other birds are also potential prey. Conservation Areas throughout the state are home to Great Blue Herons due to the healthy and viable ecosystems that support them.

Greater Prairie Chicken  
by David Seidensticker

Dunn Ranch Prairie is a 3000+ acre plot of protected tallgrass prairie in northwestern Missouri where Greater Prairie Chickens have been reintroduced. It is owned by the Nature Conservancy and operated in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Conservation, and includes a trailer that can be reserved for viewing and photographing the birds as the males display on their lek in competition for mating opportunities. In colonial days these birds were widespread across the continent's central prairies. However, this is one of only a few sites remaining in Missouri that provide suitable habitat for these birds, which require large treeless expanses that do not provide perches for threatening raptors.



Harrier hunting the prairie  
by Ben Caruthers

Northern Harriers live almost exclusively on the prairies when they are in Missouri. This isn't a bird typically seen in urban areas or perched on power lines. They stand on the ground or low fenceposts. They cruise low to the ground when hunting instead of soaring high in the sky like some other raptors. Therefore most casual observers don't get to see them. We must preserve our native prairies in order to help conserve the species.



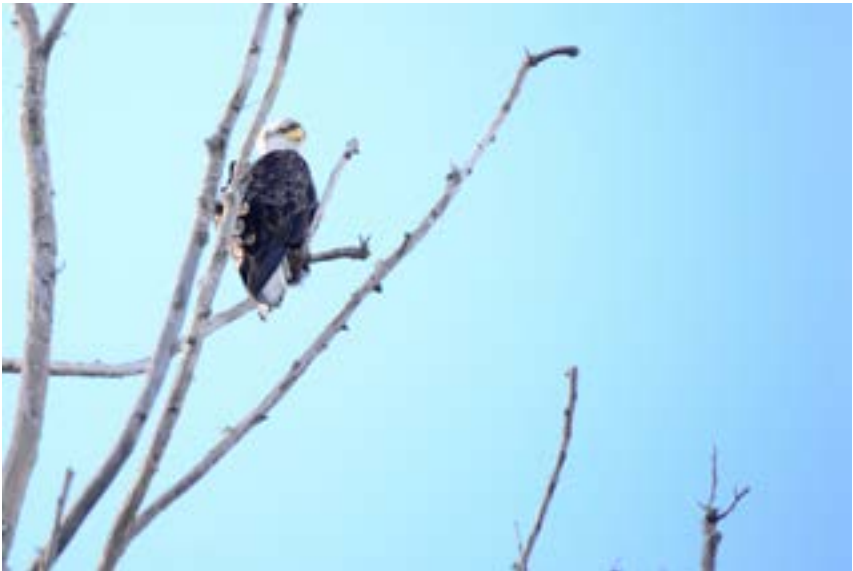
Hard Day at Work  
by David Carron  
This image portrays our national symbol, the Bald Eagle, which has been a great conservation success story. The image is a metaphor for the continuing struggle on a daily basis for the survival of all wildlife and especially those that are endangered. It also reminds me that successful conservation requires more than just a hard day at the office. It requires getting out in the field into the mire and a little dirty. It is also symbolic to the Native Americans as a messenger and carries their prayers to the heavens. The message here would be, 'that we are never out of the woods and continually need to remain vigilant in promoting and protecting our wildlife and their environment'.



Hummingbird Feeding on Native Blue Lobelia  
by Ben Caruthers



Ruby-throated hummingbirds are a common sight in Missouri in the summer. We love to watch their antics at our nectar feeders. Before there were nectar feeders the birds relied on the native flowers to survive. The more we can convert urban and suburban lawns to native landscapes the better these birds, and the entire ecological system, can survive and thrive.



Immature Eagle in Tree  
by Kathleen Henrikson

What a gift we have been given with the establishment and oversight of conservation areas such as Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge in Northwestern Missouri. Eagles can often be seen in trees around the water as winter begins.



I'm Hungry  
by Makayla Finch

This photo to me is valuable in a conservation context because it shows the way of life. With photo, it helped teach respect the nest because I was able to see the adult bird fly back to their nest.

Is that Trash in the Nest?  
by Amy Watts

Trashy Nest -Pack it in, Pack it Out, Leave No Trace, Take Only Pictures, Leave Only Footprints...we've all heard these conservation slogans for years. Following these principles is so important for the conservation of our planet and all of its inhabitants. These are practices that we can easily teach and involve our children in from an early age. It's so fun for children to get out and be engaged with nature and turning it into a learning activity, such as, picking up litter to keep it from hurting or hindering the normal lives of animals is a great way to get our children interested in conservation. The trash in this nest didn't seem to negatively affect this Eastern Kingbird and the babies, as they all three fledged, but that certainly does not mean that it could not have endangered them or other birds in the area. Our feathered friends face enough hardships without us adding to their perils. As I watched this nest and the amount of time and energy the parent birds put into caring for these babies it reminded me that I should continue to do my part and step up my efforts in helping to protect our wildlife and helping more in conservation education programs in our area.



I'm Back!  
by Aaron Jungbluth



These energetic birds that repeatedly sing their names, or so the field guides say, are truly amazing even after a long flight from the northern parts of South America. With that little black bib that almost looks pasted on the males, Dickcissels are the poster children (or poster birds!) of restored prairies and grasslands. We need to continue to reverse the trend of this quickly fading habitat to keep these feathered treasures coming back to Missouri!



Kildeer feigning injury  
by Paul Winn

This photo demonstrates how Kildeer, and some other ground nesting birds, protect their nest by feigning injury to distract predators and lead them away from the nest.



Lucky Mallard  
by Cathy Wilhelmi

Waterfowl conservation comes from two different paths in our house. One morning I went on a Christmas Bird Count as my husband headed out to his duck hunting blind. I have come to understand that duck hunters care deeply about conservation. I am not a hunter so this took time and education. I investigated the Migratory Bird Stamp Act otherwise known as the Federal Duck Stamp. Franklin Roosevelt in 1934 signed this law to require all hunters to purchase one yearly. The revenue is used to purchase or lease wetlands and wildlife habitats. The stamp has protected more than 5.7 million acres of habitat. The organization Ducks Unlimited also works to preserve wetlands. Delta Waterfowl has a mission to protect waterfowl from predators. The work of the duck hunters helps the birds and bird watchers. Ok this is still a work in process for me. Together we will work to enjoy waterfowl from our different points of view and activity.



LeConte’s Sparrow  
by Carl Gerhardt

Grassland birds are all at risk because of loss of habitat. We are lucky to be able to find LeConte’s sparrows regularly at Bradford farm, but it takes more effort every year and it has disappeared from other places in Boone County where I used to see them regularly.



Mother Hummingbird Patiently Awaiting New Arrivals  
by Howard Helgenberg

I heard this female hummingbird before I ever saw her. She built this tiny nest in a pin oak tree near my home. I was able to take many pictures (at a safe distance) as she constructed the nest and then raised two tiny chicks.

I can spend hours in the wild with the camera. I felt fortunate to have been a part of this springtime experience. It’s this type of experience that keeps me coming back. I’d hate to think I might be missing something.



Majestic  
by Carol Gamm-Smith

This Bald Eagle was relaxing in an area near its nest. The return of nesting bald eagles in MO is a true avian conservation success story (and one that I have closely followed since the early 1980s). The nest is not only adjacent to our pasture, where our grass-fed cattle roam, but also on the edge of woods located near Bowling Green’s city reservoir. In this location, the eagles are near an abundant source of quality water that also provides plenty of fish, which is their preferred food. Additionally, we have a private, protected from cattle, stocked pond in the area where the couple perches in a nearby tree from time to time. These

surprise visits encourage time outdoors for my family members, who love to admire them, and also gives the eagles a chance to catch additional fish.



Mr. Trumpeter  
by Paul Moffett

Hello my name is Trumpeter. I am taking my family for a flight to stretch our wings. We were close to extinction and were brought back by folks concerned with wildlife conservation. The most important part for our survival is wetlands or as some of you call them marshland. These ecosystems allow for ducks, geese, waterbirds and of coarse swans to raise our young and find the food were need. The wetlands are also important in controlling floods so homes and farmland will not be destroyed. Thank you and have a good flight or walk.



Mallard Beauty by Pam Murphy

The beauty and gracefulness of the mallard is an awesome example of the awe in nature.





Neighborhood bully  
by Ben Caruthers

This Ruby-throated hummingbird was the local bully for several days. He used this strategic perch in a maple tree to guard the nectar feeders and chase off rivals. He eventually gave up on this strategy. It's amazing how much energy they use fighting for resources.

Ping-Pong Ball with a Tail - Winter Wren  
by Aaron Jungbluth

To discover a Winter Wren is a pure joy during Missouri's cold season! This secretive creature is more mouse-like than bird due to its shy behavior, quietly scurrying away to blend in with the fallen leaves or hide under decaying logs. Knowing that you are in its preferred habitat of a dense woods with a clean water source adds to the excitement of the find! With fifty-two birds listed on the Missouri Species of Conservation Concern Checklist, it is comforting to know that this deep forest ambassador from the north is still going strong.



New Hope  
by Cathy Wilhelmi

The first time the eagle flew over the lake we all stopped and watched in awe. The nest was built and we watched with anticipation. The eaglets came and it was a joyous event. This led to registering the nest with Missouri Department of Conservation Nest Watch. Sending in the data of new eaglets is a thrill and sign of hope. Nest watch has led us to have the eagle conservation agent come to talk about these amazing birds. The bad behavior of a few bird watchers and photographers has led us to post notes on ethical watching and photography of birds. I feel this is conservation in action in our community.



Owl Lookout  
By Kathleen Henrikson

Though owls can be heard off and on at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area, looking up to see one watching you as you pass a tree along the trail is unusual. We are thankful to have MDC protected areas of natural habitat for owls and other wildlife throughout the state.



Post-Migration Nap Time - Common Nighthawk  
by Aaron Jungbluth

It was so comforting to see this Common Nighthawk relaxing in the springtime sun after a long migration from South America! Nighthawks are in serious decline due to a variety of factors, especially the overuse of pesticides affecting the insects that they solely feed on. In years past, we would see Nighthawks circling the night lights on parking lots and at baseball/soccer fields swooping to catch the moths and other insects attracted to those lights. Recently, we have not witnessed this phenomenon at all, which has left summers feeling a bit empty. However in 2021, we happily observed more Nighthawks, and we hope that trend continues with more people reducing their use of pesticides and appreciating the beauty and dynamics of this bird.

Red tailed Hawk vs American Bald Eagle battle  
for the tree top Independence, MO  
by Josh Sonsiadek

The Bald eagle and Red tailed Hawk are apex predators who help keep water fowl and rodent populations in check. Both rely on clean ecosystems and habitat to survive. Fertilizer run offs can affect both species and their food supplies.







Riverlands Resident  
by Jacob Walter

For the past couple years, a regular birding location for me has been the Audubon Center at Riverlands. The center is a hub for bird activity, year round. One of the reasons that I love this place is that it allows me to see and appreciate the migration that many of these birds undergo. During the winter, I enjoy seeing Trumpeter Swans, Dark-Eyed Juncos, Canada Geese and many more. During the springtime, nothing is more exciting than seeing Orioles, such as the Baltimore and Orchard, Buntings, Waxwings, and even many kinds of Warblers, like this beautiful Yellow Warbler. It was during one of these

springtime adventures that I was fortunate enough to see and capture this amazing bird. Many of these birds find this place on their migratory journey because the land that has been set aside. The Audubon Center at Riverlands gives these wild birds safe places to stop along the river. This heavily points to the need for conservation. These safe havens for birds need to be protected to make sure that the species we love will be able to thrive. This place is special for that reason. Conservation of wild areas is the most important thing that we can do to protect the amazing creatures on this planet.

Reflecting  
By Carol Gamm-Smith



On a warmer day in December 2018, I elected to spend time outdoors in nature walking on one of the wonderful, paved trails at Runge Nature Center. While crossing a bridge, I noticed, and then enjoyed watching, the various breeds of birds who were happily drinking and bathing that day in an unfrozen section of the creek. It was delightful to watch them having such a splendid time! As a person with mobility concerns, I greatly appreciate that Runge Nature Center's

large, bird and wildlife friendly woods are easily accessible for all. The abundant wildlife supported with adequate food, water, shelter, and safe passages encourages people of all ages and demographics to spend lots of time outdoors.



Reflecting on the Great Blue Heron  
by Scott Villmer

The great blue heron was resting between meals.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird Nest  
by Bill Duncan

As I look at this photograph and remember the summer when it was taken, I realize it does a great job in telling a story of backyard conservation. My backyard, in the inner suburbs of St. Louis, is where this Ruby-throated Hummingbird built her nest and allowed me to watch as she raised her brood. There are important links between native plant species and native wildlife and we, as backyard land stewards, can help sustain biodiversity within our local food web by choosing native plants for our landscaping. In this case, nectar from native plants, along with hummingbird feeders, provided the food energy that drives the high metabolism of the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Similarly, native plants, along with my compost bin, provided the source of small flies and other arthropods that are necessary for feeding the developing brood. The keystone Oak provides the base of the food web that is critical for the survival of forest songbirds. Oaks not only provide food for birds via the caterpillars that feast on their leaves, but they are also a structural framework that is used by many bird species. The female hummingbird builds the nest and feeds the young, requiring no parental investment from the male. In this case, she chose a sturdy and low-hanging branch of a mighty white oak - the perfect substrate to hold and hide the weeks-long investment of building a nest and fledging her young. I hope this photograph influences the viewer to think of the important choices they can make to bring conservation home to their own backyard. These are relatively easy choices to make. Plant native plants that can be of benefit to our wildlife instead of the comparatively sterile choices of exotic plants that provide so little and can potentially be a detriment to our backyard ecosystem.



Second Chance Eddie  
by Carol Gamm-Smith



While visiting the outdoors at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area on February 26, 2021, I had the good fortune to be in the right place at the right time. From a distance, I saw some people carrying a pet carrier and wondered if they might be there to release a bird back into the wild. Upon arrival at their location, my hunch was confirmed. The University of Missouri's Raptor Rehabilitation Project volunteers were there that day to release Eddie, a mature barred owl. RRP's goal is to heal injured raptors and release them back into the wild. But before they can be released, they must be able to hunt for themselves. According to the RRP's 3/8/21 Facebook post, Eddie was brought to the RRP in January 2021 after he was found down on the side of the road. He had suffered a corneal edema from a suspected car strike. After Eddie's eye fully healed, he was cleared for release. I witnessed Eddie be successfully released at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area that day and was able to document the moment with my camera. Eagle Bluffs is a public, bird-friendly, quality habitat area that provides food, water, shelter, safe passage, and places to raise young. The abundance of wildlife, especially birds, that can be easily viewed there encourages time outdoors and fosters enjoyment of the natural world. It should be a wonderful new home for Eddie!





Saving of the Semi-Palmated Plovers  
by Paul Moffett

The conservation of wetlands is vital to the survival of water/shore birds, many animal species and human life. Wetlands are areas where the land is saturated with water. These areas are often at danger of surviving due to flooding, droughts and man's intrusion. When the wetlands become compromised many of our most beautiful waterbirds are put in danger. People need to understand the importance of the wetland ecosystems and the role they play.

The beautiful little semi-palmated plover is just one of the birds that requires these areas for survival.. Of my bird photographs a large percentage rely on wetlands during migration and raising their families. Wetlands prevent flooding and destruction of land and lives by absorbing excess rain and snowfalls. I see this little bird as a symbol of protecting the wetlands.

Serving Dinner  
by Scott Villmer

I have been photographing these Eagles for years. This nest is on my Brother-in-law and Sisters Farm it has been there for 23 years. The pair of Eagles raise two Eaglets each year. These Eagles are my favorite thing to photograph. Sometimes I will photograph one Eaglet for a week or two before I see the other one pop up. I am so happy when I see the other Eaglet pop its head up. Some of Nature's finest work is the Bald Eagle.



Short-eared Owl  
by Bill Duncan

Short-eared Owls have a circumglobal distribution, nesting in temperate regions of North and South America, Europe and Asia. These ecologically important birds nest and overwinter in areas of open sky and short vegetation. Literally following rodents, these majestic owls can be found in prairies, meadows, marshes and agricultural areas in Missouri winters. This photo was taken at B.K. Leach Memorial Conservation Area. This location provides the wet prairies and marshlands that these owls must have in order to survive winter. These types of habitat are in short supply and we are still in danger of losing these places to encroaching human development activities. Our conservation areas remain critical for the continued existence of this and other grassland bird species.



Short-eared Owl  
by Carl Gerhardt

Grassland birds are decreasing in abundance because of loss of habitat. Fortunately, short-eared owls are regularly seen at Bradford Farm and other areas in Boone and Cole Counties and other locations in Missouri.



Singing  
by Carol Weston

The Grasshopper Sparrow is in a dramatic decline as are so many grassland birds. This small sparrow has a mighty voice but it's no longer being heard in so many of its previous places. Habitat destruction, pesticides, herbicides, mowing are all sources of its precipitous decline as it struggles to survive in areas where it once was populous. I found this little guy for a couple of years straight, in the same general area singing its songs. But in 2021, I searched and searched and never found a single Grasshopper sparrow in the vicinity. In fact the three areas, where I had successfully found them in previous years, were void of them in 2021. What I hope is, by looking at this photo, people, farmers,



landowners, will take more notice of the birds sitting on the fences, the lines and realize that they are beneficial. They eat the insects and are the natural 'pesticides'. Maybe they won't mow until after these grassland birds have migrated and will be aware of the partnership we all can play with the birds and wildlife, using less pesticides and herbicides, destroying less habitat.

Sleepy Head  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld





Snowy Turkeys  
by Mark Ramsey

We manage our 120 acre farm for wildlife. On a snowy bone chilling day like this day, we like to feel we are making a difference in wildlife survival with the foodplots and cover we provide for the wildlife. Here a few turkey and deer are leaving the food plot heading back into the timber. Conservation efforts are more important as ever for not only the turkey but all ground nesting birds as numbers are declining, the turkey population on our farm has dropped dramatically in the last several years in spite of our efforts. We have reseeded our CRP ground this past year to more wildlife-friendly cover and currently have 3 acres of pollinator plantings. We plant approximately 10 acres or food plots and have 80 acres of timber mainly oaks that provide cover and acorns. Hopefully with the help of MDC and other conservation groups we can bring the numbers back for these beautiful birds.

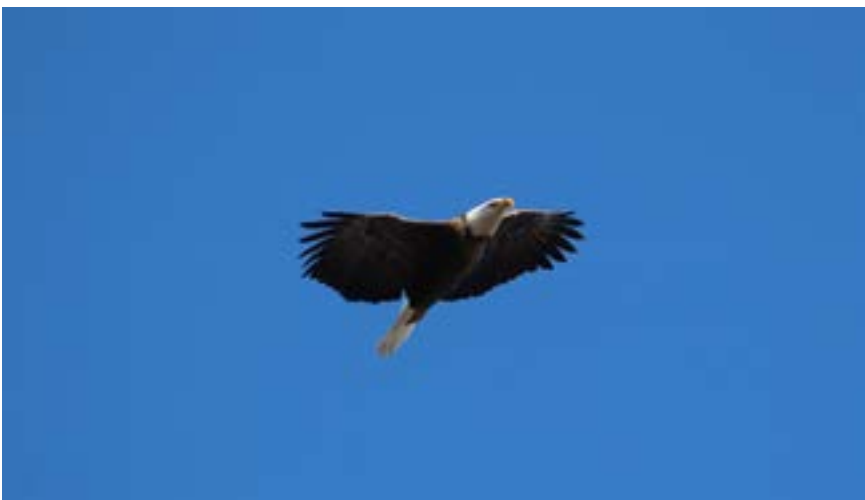


Soaring through the grey  
by Katie Holloway

Bald Eagles being the national bird are protected all over the country, making it illegal to kill them. However, we hear more and more often of bald eagles being killed by hunters or especially wind turbines. These beautiful birds deserve to be protected in every way, and my hope is that the more people that see how majestic they are, the more bald eagles we can save.

Soaring Eagle  
by Logan Hutchison

In this picture, a bald eagle is circling over a field searching for a field mouse or some other rodent. With eagles eating these creatures it helps preserve the croplands because those rodents create erosion in the land.



Survival in the Sanctuary  
by Amy Petersen

Red-Headed Woodpeckers have been making a come back over the last 10 years at the Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary in Liberty, Missouri because of the availability of food and shelter in the natural forest. These resources will sustain the population of Red-Headed Woodpeckers as long as we can maintain this environment. Conservation of such environments will ensure that these species and many more will be around for generations of nature enthusiasts to observe, learn from, and enjoy.

Swainson's Warbler  
by Bill Duncan

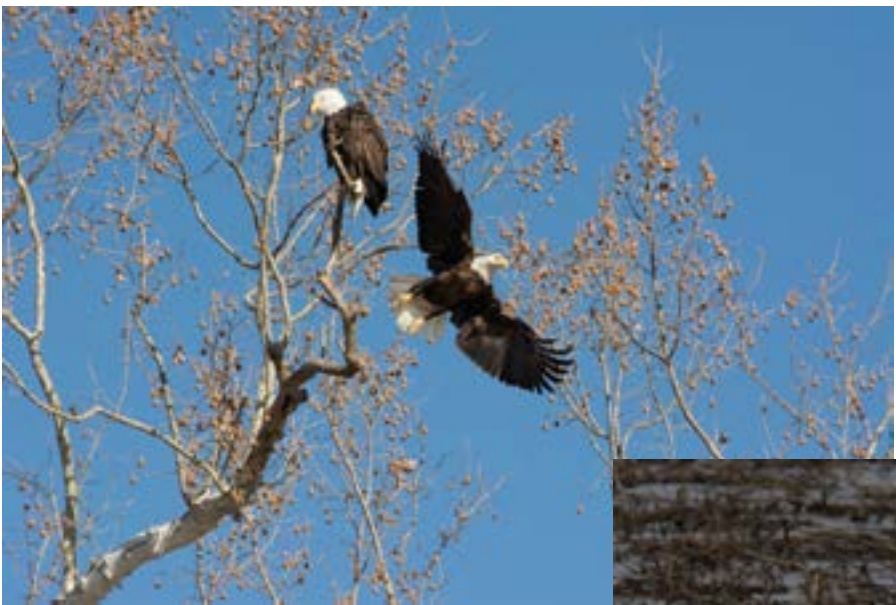
Typically, a bird found in southern forests, the Swainson's Warbler prefers to nest in areas with a thick, well-developed understory. They are also notoriously difficult to get a look at, much less getting a good photograph of due to their rather drab coloration, skulking behavior and preference for foraging on the ground. The Swainson's Warbler is ranked as S2 (imperiled) in the state of Missouri due to its restricted range. There are well-known populations of these birds in extreme southern Missouri and many a birder, including me, has made the trek to these locations in order to see and photograph this intriguing warbler. What makes this image special to me is that the bird was not found in one of these southern locations. For several years, this species has been found and has even been recorded as nesting in more northern locations in the state, including areas near the Missouri River. In the spring of 2021, this bird was found in Weldon Spring Conservation Area, a mere 20 minute drive from my house. Being so close, I was able to try multiple times and was eventually able to spot it out in the open on a couple of occasions. I am still thrilled this species was found in such close proximity to where I live, especially in such a high-quality forest as found at Weldon Spring C.A. This male apparently did not have luck in attracting a mate as there were no reports of nesting activity in 2021 at this location. It is my hope that this northward trend continues, and we may one day find Swainson's Warblers nesting in forests outside of the St. Louis metropolitan area.



Swans in Flight  
by Kathleen Henrikson

Swans, geese, ducks, and eagles can be found in and flying over the water at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, in Northwestern Missouri as winter weather approaches. This nearly 7000 acre wetland area provides habitat for many migratory birds every year.





Taking Flight  
by Ingrid Palmore

Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area is at the southwest edge of Columbia, MO near McBaine. The area wetlands have been restored thanks to the Dept. of Conservation. It's a great place for bird watching, bird photography and photographing the surrounding landscape/ wetlands.



The Epic Battle (right)  
by Dennis Smarr

Spotted this bald eagle at Eagle Bluffs trying to pull something from the ice and was taking photos of it when all of a sudden a hawk flies in and attempts to take away the food. These two sparred for 25 minutes before the eagle finally gave up and flew away . My only guess is that it was a female eagle that had been setting on a nearby nest and she didn't want to risk injury and not be able to care for her young.



The Importance of Conservation, by Lisa Saffell

For me, this photo screams "Bring back the prairies and grasslands!" There is a quote by Sir David Attenborough, "No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced". My photo does not do this tiny immature Henslow's Sparrow justice. It was a truly serendipitous moment in time. A bird that I searched and searched for on several occasions just popped up out of the grasses, four feet away from me while I was walking with some birding friends. A glorious five or six minutes spent with this beautiful and fragile creature that was very curious about the three humans who were fawning all over it. Before I became interested in birds I had no idea about the importance of habitat. Once I discovered that there were thousands of birds outside of my urban yard, and that many of them could only be found in very specific habitats I became curious. When I started to experience moments like the one I had with the Henslow's Sparrow I started to care....very much. Many of my friends and family live vicariously through my photos and stories. I share my experiences, photos, and knowledge of birds and insects and many people who have never ever heard of, much less

seen, a Henslow's Sparrow will learn some things about this bird and about its conservation status. They will learn that its numbers are declining and that it is endangered in several states because most of its preferred habitat has been converted into agricultural land. Small things add up and we can't overlook the value of constantly sharing photos and information to friends and family on Social Media. The only way we can make people care about conservation is by making them aware.



The Strength Is Within  
by Angela Sieg

I absolutely love the Bald Eagle, they have always held a special place in my heart since I was a young child. Bald Eagles are strong, fierce, majestic, and a symbol of America's Freedom. I love what the Bald Eagle symbolizes, so much strength! Eagles perch high up in the trees just watching over our beautiful, national landscape with great patience and intense piercing eyesight just waiting for the perfect moment to swoop down and snatch their prey with their fierce talons. The Prey don't stand a chance against this magnificent bird. They are powerful and strong and don't let anything get in their way. The Bald Eagle is a rarity indeed among the bird species and they will always give me such peace and solidarity to photograph them.



Two Hummingbird Chicks Peacefully  
Resting for an Active Life Ahead  
by Howard Helgenberg

Two hummingbird chicks peacefully resting for an active life ahead. In the beginning we have the luxury of being innocent and unknowing.



These Grass Seeds Are Good! - Indigo  
Bunting  
by Aaron Jungbluth

Finally arriving from Mexico or even Central America, this Indigo Bunting gets to rest and refuel. Indigos have a special place in my wife and my hearts. For several years, we so enjoyed an Indigo who would sit on top of the tallest tree, a huge Bald Cypress, in our subdivision singing like crazy! It was wonderful to know that even in a suburb, there was enough brushy ruralness for Indigo Buntings to nest. Here's to many more trips from south-to-north and north-to-south to find good breeding habitat!



Virginia Rail Portrait  
by Bill Duncan

This image was made possible by many local, conservation-minded individuals such as birder, photographer, conservationist and past president of the St. Louis Audubon Society, Paul Bauer. As part of the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, the Heron Pond Habitat Enhancement Project, completed in the early 2000s, provides for the restoration and conservation of imperiled wetland habitat for migratory birds, including waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds, like this Virginia Rail. In winter, Heron Pond hosts a variety of waterfowl. During summer drawdowns, Heron Pond then provides shallow waters and moist soils that are required habitat



for Virginia Rails that are currently ranked as S2 (imperiled) in Missouri. Never did I dream that I would be fortunate enough to take a portrait of a wild Virginia Rail. After discovering that a number of these rails were using Heron Pond habitat as a stopover on their spring migration, I along with my friend and fellow nature photographer, Miguel, setup low and at a respectable distance just off one of the trails. Staying quiet and relatively hidden, the rails quickly went about their business of filling up on aquatic invertebrates. We soon realized they were getting closer, seemingly unaware or unconcerned of our presence. On a few occasions, other birders passing by on the trail above us would cause the birds to run for cover, but they would start foraging soon after. This was an experience that Miguel and I will not forget. Hopefully the efforts of Paul Bauer, the Saint Louis Audubon Society, the US Army Corps of Engineers and other conservation-minded individuals who made the restoration and maintenance of Heron Pond possible will allow for such experiences for others in years to come.



Yellow-breasted Chat, by Ev Luecke

For me this Yellow-breasted Chat demonstrates hope for bird conservation. Getting outdoors and seeing what I can find often leads to a magical moment when I happen across a bird I'm just not expecting. What was particularly memorable about this unexpected discovery was far more than a quick click of the shutter, move on to something else. It was at least five minutes sitting beside the trail experiencing and observing him chattering and singing his heart out as he called back and forth with another chat in the distance. I was privileged not to just photograph and observe him but to really be with my thoughts with that big smile plastered across my face!



Will it fit? - House Wren  
by Aaron Jungbluth

House Wrens always bring me so much joy with their bubbly songs and how hard the males work to attract a female by building multiple stick nests for the Mrs. to select one as their final home to raise a family. Wrens also gave my grandmother, who passed away in 1977 at 89 years old, that same joy. She would always look forward to the arrival of these tiny birds on the family farm - listening and watching them intently out her window. Knowing that they are still going strong after all of these decades shows that we can make a difference!



Wood Ducks in a Tree, by Mark Ramsey

This is a pair of Wood Ducks on our pond. It was partly cloudy this day and the sun peeked through the clouds just right to make it look like there was a spot light on the male. This pond has Wood Duck boxes around it; also we have a creek that they like nesting on. We have made a small wetlands in our creek bottom that they also like to frequent. We manage our 120 acres for wildlife, planting food plots and have 3 acres of pollinator plantings in our uplands. Since we have owned the farm we have noticed the Wood Duck numbers increase.







Wood Ducks on Shimmering Gold  
by Jerlyn Jones

What a sight this was! The most colorful wood duck drakes were sharing a mud- covered log island with eleven turtles! The water reflected the autumn colors of the leaves and made the water a shimmering gold! Those muddy turtles blended in with the mud at first. It was all a stunning sight! While wood ducks are the most common waterfowl species that nest in Missouri, this was the first time I remember seeing them! They were along a small creek called Buck Branch. I felt very lucky to watch them. Sometimes, the only evidence of their presence is by hearing their call through the woods or wetlands. The female has a haunting rising whistle call while in-flight. The male's call is a softer, high whistle. Some interesting information on the woods ducks include: their scientific name is *Aix sponsa*. The genus title, *Aix*, is Greek for water bird; the species name, *sponsa*, is Latin for a bride. The breeding plumage is said to be as gorgeous as a wedding gown. Male's plumage is chestnut, tan, green, red, and white. The head is a gorgeous, iridescent that may appear green to blue to black. The crest is laid back, making it look like a mane. The wedding gown white color is on the chin strap, throat and chin. They have a ring of orange around a black eye. The female is not as brilliantly colored as the male, but they have a distinctive white ring around their brown eyes. Although most wood ducks migrate south for the winter, some can be found year-round, mainly in southern Missouri. The biggest population statewide is in March and April when those that migrated return to join the birds that stayed through the winter. Then, male and female pairs begin to nest. They are one of the few duck species equipped with strong claws that can grip bark and perch on branches. They prefer hollow tree cavities for nests. Water is important to the wood duck and their nests are often found in woodlands near creeks, ponds, and marshy areas or sloughs. One way landowners can help wood ducks is by putting up nest boxes on their property. In the late 1800s, there were severe declines in the wood duck's population due to their habitats shrinking and humans overhunting for their meat and plumage. The wood duck's beautiful feathers were sought after. Popular with duck hunters and with just about anyone able to see their stunning plumage, wood ducks declined because of human actions. They also rebounded because humans made the decision to enact laws to protect this and many other species, and their habitats. The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 protected wood ducks and many other species. Restricting hunting from 1918 through 1941 helped to increase the population of the wood ducks. Biologists and landowners increased management efforts by developing and placing artificial nest boxes. Landowners increased the nesting success by understanding the bird's biology and habitat needs and implementing habitat management on their property. Planting agriculture crops such as corn, buckwheat, sorghum, pearl millet, and soybeans increased the nutritious food resources for wood ducks. Thanks to conservation efforts, the wood duck population has rebounded from its severe decline. I will continue to look for, photograph, and share the beauty of wood ducks in the wild.

# General Entries



A Glimpse of Red  
by Michele Bell



A Decisive Moment  
by Mary Moore



American Bald Eagle  
by Ev Luecke



A Pair of Vultures  
by Dan Zarlenga



Bald and Beautiful  
by Lisa Martin



Black-bellied Whistling Ducks  
by Mark Ramsey



Berry Sweet  
by Lisa Martin

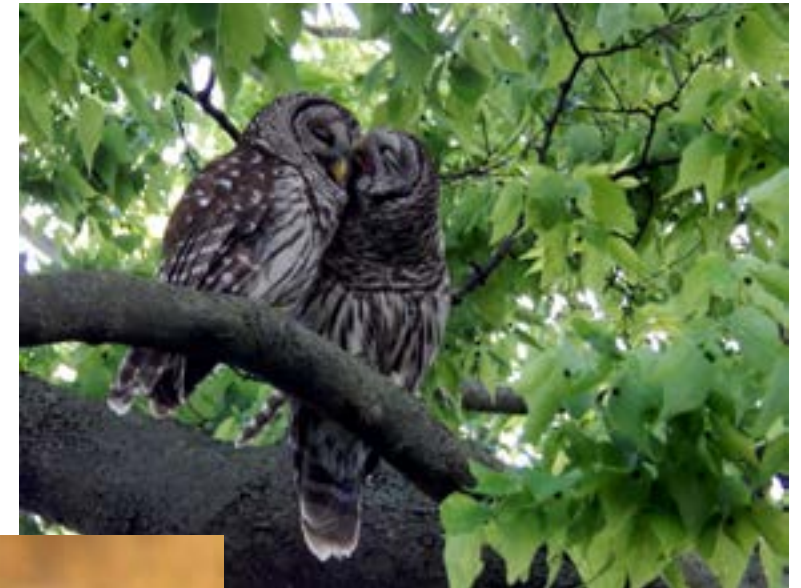


American Robin  
by James Glenn



Are you a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher?  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld

Blue Jay in Green Grass  
by Michele Bell



Barred Owl Love Song  
by Joseph Parish



Autumn Light  
by Michele Bell



Barn Swallow  
by Paul Winn



Basking in the Sun  
by Karen Wienberg



Busy Barn Swallows  
by Alexis Miano



Brown Thrasher in Redbud Tree  
by LeeAnn Ball

Bright red *Cardinalis cardinalis* in a  
blooming white redbud  
by Tessa Wasserman



Buzzing Gnatcatcher (above)  
by Jacob Walter

Camouflage (right)  
by Amy Petersen



City Living  
by Michele Bell



Cheeky  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld

Circle of Life  
by David Carron



Cerulean Warbler  
by Marvin De Jong

Caught on the Fly  
by Carol Weston





Contemplative Cuckoo  
by Jamie McGuire



Double Dipping  
by David Carron



Decisions, Decisions  
by Steven Rinne



Dickcissel on Fencepost  
by Marvin De Jong



Eastern Meadowlark  
by Ev Luecke



Eastern Kingbird  
by Justin Krafft

Eastern Bluebirds Nesting  
by Ronald Gaddis



Ducks Resting  
by Kay Adams



Egret Bathing  
by Kay Adams



Female Belted Kingfisher, perched above  
creek looking for fish  
by Daniel Getman



Frozen Dinner  
by Carol Weston



Golden  
by Chelsea Mosteller

Fly Catcher  
by James Glenn

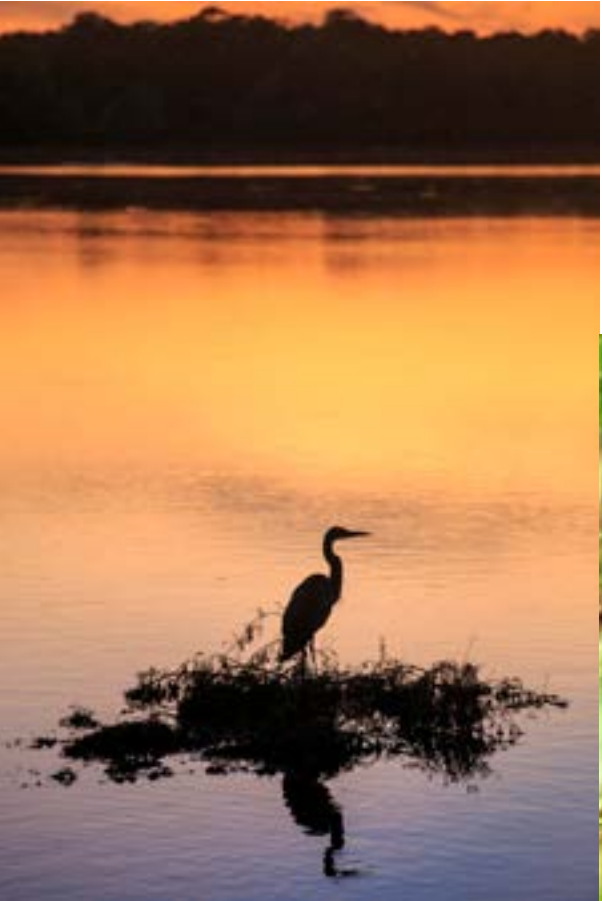


Hold Tight To Your Dreams  
by Angela Sieg



Here you go, sweetie!  
by Natasha Jarus

Great Blue Heron Reflections  
by Dan Zarlenga



Great Egret  
by David Seidensticker

Green Heron Hunting  
by Denise Roesler-Cunningham



Finches against orange leaves background  
by Paul Moffett







Hooded Merganser  
by Michael O'Keefe



In Flight  
by Ronald Gaddis



Landing  
by Carol Weston



Kentucky Derby  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld



Just Hanging Around  
by Amy Petersen



Kentucky Warbler in Arrow Rock  
by Ben Caruthers

Hummingbird on Purple Coneflower  
by Marvin De Jong



Hooded Merganser Pair  
by Marvin De Jong



Juvie  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld

Lady Gaga  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld





Lining the nest  
by Lisa Saffell



Lunch on the fly (right)  
by David Carron



Mug shot  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld



Mockingbird with Berry  
by Marvin De Jong



Lunch time (above)  
by Carol Weston

Male American Kestrel Eating Rodent (below)  
by Daniel Getman



Lunch lookout (below)  
by Karen Wienberg



Loafin' (below)  
by Natasha Jarus



Male Eastern Bluebird bringing  
caterpillar to nest box  
by Daniel Getman



Mallards at Sunset  
by Michael O'Keefe

My what a long and scissory tail you have  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld



Mom and Ducklings  
by Kay Adams





Northern Flicker on a mission!  
by Amy Petersen



Party Up In Here  
by Lisa Martin



Not sure what I am eating, but it sure  
is sticky.  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld



Nuthatch on Bark  
by Michele Bell



Olly Olly Oxen Free  
by Steven Rinne

Resting Tanager (below)  
by Jacob Walter



Peek A Boo (above)  
by Amy Watts



Pied-billed Grebe (above)  
by Ev Luecke



Preening to look "owl-some" (below)  
by Karen Wienberg



Perched (left)  
by Steven Gordon



Sign From Heaven (below)  
by Lisa Martin



Sharp-Shinned Hawk at feeder in snow (below)  
by Daniel Getman



Sparrow Buddies  
by Michael O'Keefe



Snagged  
by Jamie McGuire



Roadside Barred Owl (left)  
by Amy Watts

Scissortails golden hour (below)  
by David Carron



Song Sparrow  
by Michael O'Keefe



Snack Time  
by Amy Watts

Rudy (below)  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld



Shake Your Tail Feather (below)  
by Michele Bell



Sora  
by David Seidensticker



Snow Geese at Sunset  
by Kelly Eastwood







Tadpole lunch (left)  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld



Survived The Storm (below)  
by Debby Fantz



Sunrise Flycatcher - Least Flycatcher (above)  
by Lisa Saffell



Summer Tanager (below)  
by Kathleen Stewart



Special Visitor at the Greer House (left)  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld



The Mobbing - Immature Coopers Hawk weary  
from being Mobbed by birds (above)  
by Lisa Saffell



The Gathering (above)  
by Michele Bell



Van Meter Owl (above)  
by Lisa Martin



Two of a kind (above)  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld

The Grasshopper and The Grackle: An  
Alternative Aesop Fable (below)  
by Cheryl Rosenfeld



Tinted Titmouse (below)  
by Rachel Schuette





Vole Watch  
by Kathleen Henrikson



What's Black and White and Read all over?  
by Steven Rinne



Whooo's going to win the staring contest? (left)  
by Karen Wienberg



Yellow-throated Warbler (above)  
by Marvin De Jong



Watchful Wren  
by Michele Bell



Warbler Bathtime  
by Jamie McGuire

White-Eyed Vireo (below)  
by Henry Gorski



Wood Duck and Frog (below)  
by Mark Ramsey



White Throat  
by Michael O'Keefe



White-breasted Nuthatch, the  
upside down bird  
by Paul Winn

You talkin' to me? (below)  
by Steven Rinne





# Youth Photograph Entries



Morning Gossip Between Birds  
by Ella Heitman



White-breasted Nuthatch on Walnut Tree  
by Ella Heitman



Golden Morning  
by Carson Lee

Buff-Breasted Sandpiper  
by Oliver Gorski



Take Off  
by Ella Heitman







I'm Hungry  
by Makayla Finch

This photo to me is valuable in a conservation context because it shows the way of life. With photo, it helped teach respect the nest because I was able to see the adult bird fly back to their nest.

# Thank you, contest photographers and judges!

## New Photographers

- Angela Sieg
- Ben Caruthers
- Carl Gerhardt
- Carla Cullor
- Carol Gamm-Smith
- Cathleen Cackler-Veazey
- Cheryl Rosenfeld
- Dan Zarlenga
- Daniel Getman
- David Carron
- Denise Roesler-Cunningham
- Dennis Smarr
- Diane Bricmont
- Ev Luecke
- Henry Gorski
- Howard Helgenberg
- Ingrid Palmore
- James Glenn
- Jian Xu
- Joseph Parish
- Josh Sonsiadek
- Justin Krafft
- Kathleen Stewart
- Katie Holloway
- Kay Adams
- Kelly Eastwood
- LeeAnn Ball
- Lisa Martin
- Michele Bell
- Natasha Jarus
- Pam Murphy
- Rachel Schuette
- Robert Chance
- Ronald Gaddis
- Steven Gordon
- Tessa Wasserman

## Returning Photographers

- Aaron Jungbluth
- Alexis Miano
- Amy Petersen
- Amy Watts
- Bill Duncan
- Carol Weston
- Cathy Wilhelmi
- Chelsea Mosteller
- David Seidensticker
- Debby Fantz
- Jacob Walter
- Jamie McGuire
- Jerlyn Jones

- Karen Wienberg
- Kathleen Henrikson
- Lisa Saffell
- Logan Hutchison
- Margy Terpstra
- Mark Ramsey
- Marvin De Jong
- Mary Moore
- Michael O'Keefe
- Nancy Boyd Schanda
- Paul Moffett
- Paul Winn
- Scott Villmer
- Steven Rinne

## Youth Photographers

- Carson Lee
- Ella Heitman
- Makayla Finch
- Oliver Gorski

## Contest Judges

- David Stonner, Missouri Department of Conservation staff photographer
- Noppadol Paothong, Missouri Department of Conservation staff photographer
- Tina Casagrande, The New Territory founder and publisher
- Steve Garr, Birds-I-View store owner and Missouri Bluebird Society Founder
- Ethan Duke, MRBO Director



Curiosity, by Mary Moore  
2020 MRBO photo contest





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