

Iowa & Missouri

In June, temperatures and rainfall were somewhat below average in Iowa; Missouri was also cooler than normal and about average in rainfall. July in Iowa was cool and wet, with temperatures below average and rainfall above average. In Missouri, it was the twelfth coolest July on record, whereas rainfall was slightly above normal. Both states had little flooding or other severe weather, and nesting conditions seemed good for most species.

A Baird's Sparrow in early June was a first for Iowa. Two other accidental species were reported in Iowa, Swallow-tailed Kite and White-winged Dove. Among nesting species, Iowa's first report of Pine Warbler nesting and the first documented report of nesting by Clay-colored Sparrow were highlights. A Cinnamon Teal and Laughing Gull were highlights in Missouri. Nesting Piping Plovers and Least Terns, continued increases in nesting populations of Bald Eagles in both states, and the continued success of several grassland species were also good news.

Abbreviations: C.C.N.W.R. (Clarence Cannon N.W.R., Pike, MO); Colo (Colo Ponds, Story, IA); Coralville (Coralville Res., Johnson, IA); C.W.T.U. (Columbia Wetland Treatment Units, Boone, MO); E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone, MO); F.G.C.A. (Fountain Grove C.A., Livingston, MO); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles, MO); S.C.N.W.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO); S.L.N.W.R. (Swan Lake N.W.R., Livingston, MO).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

One or 2 Common Loons summered at Spirit L., IA (LS, AB), and one was at Binder L., Cole, MO in early Jun (m.ob.). Pied-billed Grebes nested at S.C.N.W.R. (DE), where they have been found previously. Red-necked Grebes continued their pattern of summer appearances, but no nesting was noted; one or 2 were at Eagle L. Hancock, IA 1 Jun–5 Jul (RG, PH, m.ob.), one was seen 12 Jun at Union Slough N.W.R., Kossuth, IA (MK), 2 were present 9–10 Jun at Cheever L., Emmet, IA (SP, KP), 2 were at East Twin L., Hancock, IA 5 Jul (AB), and one was seen 31 Jul at C.C.N.W.R., MO (EW). Two Eared Grebes were noted 3–10 Jun at Colo (HZ, JD, MD), and single Western Grebes made brief appearances 1 Jun at Ventura M., Cerro Gordo, IA (RG, PH) and 5 & 8 Jun at East Twin L., Hancock, IA (AB, SP). American White Pelicans summering in n. Iowa included 444 in Dickinson 20 Jun (LS). Migrants appeared in Jul, with 2300 on 14 Jul on the Mississippi R., Allamakee (DA) and 2500 on 30 Jul at Coralville (MD). In Missouri, a peak of 300 was at R.E.D.A. 12 Jun (JM, CM), and up to 200 were near S.L.N.W.R., F.G.C.A., and in Bates (KM). Besides the usual summering Double-crested Cormorants, 38 nests were at Coralville (MD).



Two American Bittern nests at S.C.N.W.R. 9 Jun (DE) were the first documented for Missouri since 1986. Cattle Egrets were observed at several Iowa sites in Jun, with 24 on 19 Jun in Polk (BE) the most reported. Some 18–30 Little Blue Herons were in Thompson, MO in Jun (SK), and 100+ were in Clay, MO 3 & 6 Jun (KM). Black-crowned Night-Herons were found in several Iowa counties, but no contributor mentioned nesting of the species. Eleven Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were in Bates and St. Clair, MO 25 Jun (KM); the only Iowa reports were of one in Polk 6 & 8 Jun (BE, m.ob.) and 2 in Wayne 13 Jun (AB). A White-faced Ibis 9 Jun at Colo (HZ, JD) was late.

Lingering waterfowl in Iowa, all single individuals, were few: an American Black Duck 4 Jun in Allamakee (DC), a Bufflehead 6 Jun in Audubon (RA, PA), and Common Mergansers 17 Jun–24 Jul in Woodbury (BH) and 19 Jun in Emmet (LS). Late waterfowl in Missouri, all at R.E.D.A., included Cinnamon Teal 5 Jul (m.ob.), 2 summering Canvasbacks (m.ob.), and Common Goldeneye in Jun (m.ob.). Nesting waterfowl included broods of Green-winged Teal at Colo (HZ) and Canvasback in Hancock, IA (MP, PH,

James J. Dinsmore

4024 Arkansas Drive

Ames, Iowa 50014

(oldcoot@iastate.edu)

AB). As in 2003, Ruddy Ducks were common in both states, with 40 on 6 Jun in Kossuth, IA (MK), 30 summering at Colo (HZ), and 12 on 16 Jun in Nodaway, MO (DE). Broods were found as far s. as Polk, IA (BE).

Osprey nesting attempts at four Iowa sites were all unsuccessful, a setback after last year's success. This year, 23 young were released (PS). In Missouri, Ospreys continue to expand their range (AF). Iowa's bird of the summer was a Swallow-tailed Kite near Iowa City 3–5 Jun (†JS, †JE, †CE, †AB, †MD, m.ob.), furnishing the 3rd modern Iowa record and the first since 2000. Mississippi Kites continued to expand their range in Missouri, with several found near St. Louis (m.ob.) and a nest in Boone (SHE). In Iowa, up to 3 were seen in Des Moines, but no one noted nesting (JG, AB, MP). Bald Eagles



The first to be found in Iowa since 2000, this Swallow-tailed Kite near Iowa City, Iowa was photographed 4 June 2004—only the third Iowa record of the species in modern times. Photograph by Jay Gilliam.

continued to expand their nesting range in both states; nests are now known from 67 of Iowa's 99 counties, for a total of at least 175 nests (BEh). A nesting Northern Harrier in Jun at Dunn Ranch, Harrison, MO (JZ, EZ) and singles in Jasper, MO (LH) and St. Charles (JU) indicate a bit of a comeback. Swainson's Hawks continued to nest near Springfield, MO (DT, RM). Iowa's only Swainson's Hawk was one 18 Jul in Clay (AB). A Golden Eagle entangled in a fence in late Jun in Woodbury represented Iowa's 2nd summer record (ph. KK). A female Merlin of the nominate race at Algona, Kossuth 11 Jul (MK) provided a rare Iowa summer record. With nine occupied territories, Peregrine Falcons had a fairly good year in Iowa. Three urban pairs plus one in Louisa fledged 13 young. Three other pairs did not lay eggs and, most disappointingly, two pairs on natural cliffs in Allamakee both produced eggs but fledged no young (PS).

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS

Scattered reports of Gray Partridge indicated its continuing presence in n. Iowa. Outside of its ne. Iowa stronghold, one Ruffed Grouse was found in Monroe in s. Iowa, where it has been reintroduced (AB). Reintroduced prairie grouse in Iowa did well, with five broods of Greater Prairie-Chickens in Ringgold (Mel Moe, *vide* BEh) and three broods of Sharp-tailed Grouse in Woodbury (EWe). King Rails were reported at C.C.N.W.R. in Jul (m.ob.). Virginia Rails and Soras were found

at several sites mainly in n. Iowa, within their traditional ranges, as well as C.W.T.U. (BG). Common Moorhens were found in seven Iowa counties; broods were reported in Hancock (MP, PH) and Story (WO). In Missouri, moorhens were found at S.C.N.W.R., C.W.T.U., and St. Charles (DE, BG, KM, JU). Sandhill Cranes in Iowa continued to increase, with 16 pairs reported (PS).

A Black-bellied Plover 1 Jun in Polk, IA (RT) and 2 American Golden-Plovers 20 Jun in Kossuth, IA (MK) were late. Nesting Piping Plovers had a good year in Iowa, with some 10–12 birds near Council Bluffs (BS) and 9 fledglings in Woodbury (BH). Singles 29 Jul in Story, IA (SP, KP) and 30–31 Jul at Coralville (MD, KN, m.ob.) were far from their usual Missouri R. migration route. Two Piping Plovers 31 Jul at E.B.C.A. (BG) provided the only Missouri report. A Black-necked Stilt 5–10 Jun at Colo (HZ, JD, MP) continued this spring's invasion. In se. Missouri, good numbers of stilts were found at several locations (m.ob.). An American Avocet 22–24 Jun at R.E.D.A. (TB, m.ob.) constituted Missouri's 2nd Jun record. Possibly summering were a Lesser Yellowlegs 17 Jun and 2 on 27 Jun at Colo (HZ, MP); the same was possibly true of single Pectoral Sandpipers 17 Jun at Colo (HZ), 20 Jun in Clay, IA (LS), and 27 Jun in Polk, IA (BE). A Willet 11 Jul in Boone (MP, BP) and one Marbled Godwit 26–27 Jun at Colo (HZ, MP) were the only Iowa reports. Upland Sandpipers were found in 22 counties covering all except

ne. Iowa (m.ob.). The 16 Sanderlings 1 Jun in Cerro Gordo, IA (PH, RG) made a high count for so late. A Semipalmated Sandpiper 25 Jun in Woodbury, IA (BH), a Least Sandpiper 16 Jun at Colo (HZ), and 2 Least in Pottawattamie, IA 24 Jun (MP) defied easy categorization. In Iowa, 11 White-rumped Sandpipers in Clay 20 Jun (LS) and 2 in Woodbury 25 Jun (BH) were late, while one in Story 29 Jul (†SP & KP) was early. A Dunlin 17 Jun in Woodbury, IA (BH) was late, and a Short-billed Dowitcher 28 Jun at R.E.D.A. (CM, JM) was early. A Wilson's Snipe 5 Jun at Colo (JD) was s. of its usual nesting range. A juv. Wilson's Phalarope 18 Jul at Colo (HZ) was suggestive of local nesting.

A Laughing Gull at R.E.D.A. 12–13 Jun (DR, m.ob.) was rare for summer. Late migrant Franklin's Gulls included 400 in Cerro Gordo, IA 2 Jun (MK) and 12 at R.E.D.A. 4–6 Jun (JU). A few summered in Iowa, such as 235 on 19 Jun at Spirit L. (LS); 800 on 16 Jun in Dickinson, IA (LS) were the first south-bound migrants noted. Iowa's only Ring-billed Gull colony in Dickinson had 175+ ads. and several juvs. 2 Jun (JD). As usual, a few summered, but an amazing 4500 on 14 Jun on Pool 19, Allamakee (DA) was unprecedented for Iowa in summer. Several Herring Gulls in Iowa were all along the Mississippi R. (PVN, DA). Small groups of Forster's Terns were found in Iowa throughout the summer, but no one mentioned nesting. Least Terns nested near Council Bluffs, IA, with 26 ads. and 5 young on 20 Jun (AB), the

most in several years. In Missouri, their numbers were up on the Mississippi R., and a nest at R.E.D.A. was flooded (m.ob.). After several years with little evidence of nesting, Black Tern eggs or young were found at three sites in *Hancock* and *Winnebago*, IA (AB).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to expand their range in both states (m.ob.). They have been found in almost half of Iowa's 99 counties. Single White-winged Doves in late Jun in *Humboldt* and *Marshall*, IA (†JN, †MP, BP) attest to the continuing spread of this species. Both cuckoos were reported from numerous Iowa counties, suggesting greater abundance than generally thought. Black-billed Cuckoos were found in *Harrison* and *Saline*, MO (KM, EW), where expected. Several Greater Roadrunners were found in the w. Ozarks, MO (m.ob.), where they are regular. Iowa's only reported Barn Owl nest in *Tama* was successful (BEh). A Short-eared Owl in *Kossuth* was Iowa's first summer report in several years (Ryan Harr, *vide* JD). One or 2 Chuck-will's-widows were at the usual *Fremont*, IA site (AB, MP, m.ob.). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in the several of the n. Iowa counties in which they are established (m.ob.).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in *Taney*, MO 5 Jul (BB) was summering or very early. Typically late migrant flycatchers in Iowa included an Olive-sided 4 Jun in *Bremer* (DM), a Yellow-bellied 2 Jun in *Marshall* (MP), and an Alder 12 Jun in *Dickinson* (KP). Least Flycatchers in Jun in *Clayton*, *Hancock*, and *Worth*, IA (DA, JD, CF) were all likely nesting. Away from w. Iowa, where regular, Western Kingbirds were at two cen. Iowa sites in *Polk* (m.ob.); pairs were found near Jefferson City and in *Boone* (JR, SHa) in cen. Missouri. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in *Andrew*, *Buchanan*, *St. Louis*, and *Scott*, MO (DE, LL, CM, JM, JU, CB) were out of the usual sw. Missouri range. Loggerhead Shrikes were found in 13 mostly s. Iowa counties (m.ob.). A few White-eyed Vireos were found in six Iowa counties (m.ob.), the most in recent years. Bell's Vireos were reported from 24 counties covering all except ne. Iowa (m.ob.). A few Black-billed Magpies were seen in Jun in *Plymouth*, IA, where they have nested in recent years (Scott Moats, *vide* JD). Sedge Wrens were common in grasslands statewide in both states (m.ob.). A few Veeries were found in seven counties in e. Iowa (m.ob.). Wood Thrushes were found statewide in Iowa, even reaching the nw. corner (m.ob.).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Tennessee Warbler was in *Hancock*, IA 2 Jul (RG), a puzzling date. A singing Yellow Warbler 8–10 Jun in *Shannon*, MO (KM)



This nest of American Bittern with five eggs—one of two nests at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Holt County, Missouri—provided the first evidence of breeding in the state since 1986. (See the Pictorial Highlights for a photograph of the female at the second nest.) Photograph by D. A. Easterla.

was s. of the species' usual range. Chestnut-sided Warblers 12 Jun in *Winneshiek* and *Allamakee*, IA (DK) were probably nesting. A male Pine Warbler was found feeding up to 4 young at Shimek S.E., *Lee* 5–12 Jul (†RD, †MD, †CE, m.ob.), the first report of nesting and the first summer report for Iowa. Cerulean Warblers were found in 13 Iowa counties (m.ob.), all in the species' usual range. Single Black-and-white Warblers in *Louisa*, *Monroe*, and *Warren*, IA (CE, AB, MP) were all in areas where this species might nest. A Hooded Warbler 19 Jun at Castlewood S.P., *Franklin*, MO (JM, CM) was outside the usual nesting range.

Other than one in *Winneshiek* 1 Jun (EB), all Iowa reports of Summer Tanager were in the s. third of the state, where expected. Clay-colored Sparrows had a great year in Iowa, with three nests in *Dickinson* (AH); along with a previously unreported nest there in 2003, these are Iowa's first documented nests. Additional Clay-colored Sparrows were in *Clay*, *Dickinson*, *Emmet*, *Lyon*, and *Palo Alto* (m.ob.), all in nw. Iowa and likely nesters as well. A Baird's Sparrow heard and seen 4 Jun in *Cherokee* (IA) is the first for Iowa. With reports from 17 counties mostly in e. Iowa (m.ob.), Henslow's Sparrows are much more common than thought just a few years ago. Three Le Conte's Sparrows singing 5–6 Jun in *Clay*, IA (v.r. SP, KP) were likely late migrants. A Harris's Sparrow 2 Jun at Norwalk, *Warren* (AJ) constituted Iowa's 4th summer record. A Dark-eyed Junco 8 Jul in *Franklin*, MO (CB) was very late.

A pair of Painted Buntings at Katy Trail

S.P., *St. Charles*, MO (BR) and several others in sw. Missouri (DR, LH, AF) represented the Regional limits of breeding range. Both Dickcissel and Bobolink seemed common in Iowa this summer. Nesting Bobolinks were at EG.C.A. (SK) and in *Clinton*, MO (LL) at the s. edge of breeding range. A singing Western Meadowlark 10 Jun in *St. Clair*, MO (AF) was s. of typical nesting range. A Pine Siskin 15 Jul in *Winneshiek* (DC) provided Iowa's first summer report since 2000.

Cited observers (subregional coordinators in boldface): Danny Akers, Pam Allen. Reid Allen, Bob Ball, Ellen Bell, Aaron Brees, Chris Brown, Torrey Burgess, Dennis Carter, Robert Dick, **James Dinsmore** (Iowa), Michael Dooley, Dennis Easterla, Chris Edwards, Bruce Ehresman (BEh), Bery Engbretsen (BE), Carolyn Fischer, **Andrew Forbes** (Missouri), James Fuller, Jay Gilliam, Bill Goodge, Rita Goranson, Ambere Hall, Susan Hazelwood (SHa), Larry Herbert, Paul Hertzell, Steve Heying (SHe), Bill Huser, Ann Johnson, Matthew Kenne, Steve Kinder, Darwin Koenig, Kathy Koskovich, Larry Lade, Charlene Malone, Jim Malone, Rebecca Matthews, Kristi Mayo, Dan Mehner, Jacob Newton, Kent Nickell, Wolf Oesterreich, Katy Patterson, Shane Patterson, Beth Proescholdt, Mark Proescholdt, Jim Rathert, David Rogles, Bill Rowe, James Scheib, Bill Scheible, Pat Schlarbaum, Lee Schoenewe, Dorothy Thurman, Rick Trief, Josh Uffman, Paul Van Nieuwenhuysse, Edge Wade (EW), Ed Weiner (EWe), Hank Zaletel, Ellen Zellmer, Jim Zellmer. An additional 25 uncited individuals contributed to the report; all have our thanks. ☺

State of the Region

James J. Dinsmore • 4024 Arkansas Drive • Ames, Iowa 50014 • (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Iowa and Missouri contain three major habitat types that are reflected in the NABCI Bird Conservation Region (BCR) designations. In north-central Iowa, the Prairie Pothole country (BCR 11) provides habitat for diverse waterfowl and other species tied to freshwater ponds and marshes. Much of the rest of Iowa, along with most of northern Missouri, is categorized as Eastern Tallgrass Prairie (BCR 22), though less than 1% of native prairie still exists in this Region. Most of southern Missouri is wooded, classed with the Central Hardwoods (BCR 24) of western Tennessee and Kentucky, northern Arkansas, and southern Illinois.

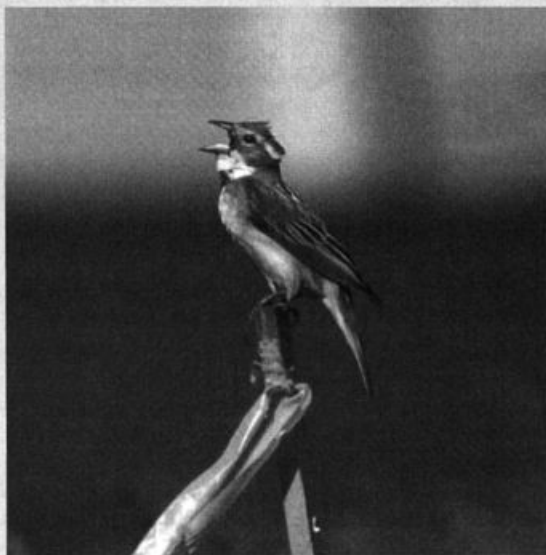
Birds in the Iowa & Missouri Region face numerous conservation threats in each of these BCRs, starting with continuing habitat loss and including the typical list of habitat fragmentation, use of various pesticides, and the general encroachment of humans into previously productive habitats. The various large towers for television and cellular communications, as well as wind turbines, that are popping up like mini-forests across both states, pose a new set of concerns for bird mortality. The usual response to these threats has been to attempt to mitigate the losses, to protect more habitat for birds and other wildlife, usually by purchasing key areas. Various federal, state, and local governmental agencies along with private conservation organizations are able to purchase some land, but typically those purchases total only a few thousand acres yearly, a tiny proportion of what might be hoped for. Most of the land in these two states is privately owned, including more than 60 million acres in farmland, and it is easy to feel discouraged. However, here, as in other states with large acreages of farmland, several programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provide opportunities to manage land in a way that is beneficial for birds and other wildlife without the expense of purchasing the land. All of the USDA programs relate to agricultural land in Iowa and northern Missouri, in BCRs 22 and 11.

One of the most important USDA programs in this region is the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). In 2004, 1,899,000 acres in Iowa and 1,558,000 acres in Missouri were enrolled in CRP. This is about 5.3% of the area of Iowa and 3.5% of Missouri. For Iowa, more land was enrolled in CRP than was available in all publicly owned land in the state. Missouri has more public land than Iowa, but much of that is in southern Missouri, whereas much of the CRP land is in the northern half of the state. Most land enrolled in CRP is planted to grassland cover, and with more than three million acres in CRP in these states, that program provides an appreciable portion of the grassland cover available. One of the best features of CRP is that land is taken out of agriculture production for 10 years, allowing the landowner to establish a good stand of grasses and other plants on the land. Prior to CRP, most set-aside programs lasted only one or a few years, and good stands of cover were seldom established. Land enrolled in CRP, if properly managed, has the potential to provide tremendous amounts of habitat suitable for a variety of grassland species of conservation concern, including Dickcissel, Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Sedge Wren. Henslow's Sparrow, by contrast, does not make extensive use of CRP land.

Despite the value of CRP for birds, sometimes the program does not work as well as it might. In the early years, many large blocks of land were enrolled in CRP in northern Iowa. Since then, the rules have changed somewhat, leading to a shift of much of the CRP land to southern Iowa and to somewhat smaller blocks of habitat. Also, CRP rules allow for grazing or haying on these lands in times of emergency. Unfortunately, such "emergencies" seem to occur fairly often, and the value of these lands to wildlife is sometimes compromised by those activities. Much existing CRP seeded to one or a few species of grass becomes senescent after 4 or 5 years and has diminished wildlife value. New provisions

requiring mid-contract management for some recently enrolled CRP lands should help reduce this concern.

CRP faces another major threat in the coming years. At the end of the standard 10-year CRP contract, the landowner can leave the program and return the land to row crops or other uses. Shifts in enrollment tend to follow crop prices, so that in years when prices are high, many landowners do not re-enroll their land. Such a rapid change in enrollment may occur in Iowa and Missouri soon. In the years 2007–2009, 60% of the CRP land in Iowa and 71% of the CRP land in Missouri are up for contract renewal. Just in 2007 alone, the two states could lose a combined 1.3 million acres of land that is now in CRP. And nationally, more than 50% of the 34.8 million acres in CRP are up for re-enrollment by 2008. Re-enrollment also depends upon availability of federal funding. With rising federal deficits, there has been concern that the program faces future cuts. Recently Washington has given some assurances that landowners will be able to renew their CRP contracts. Despite those assurances, renewal will depend upon funding being available as well as landowners wanting to commit their lands to the program for another 10 years. The loss of CRP would be a major loss for grassland birds in the Iowa & Missouri region.



In a Region with more than 60 million acres of farmland, one of the most important conservation projects currently in place is the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). About 5.3% of the area of Iowa and 3.5% of Missouri is currently enrolled in CRP, most of it grassland habitats suitable for generalists such as Dickcissel, here photographed in southwestern Minnesota just north of the Iowa border. Photograph by Brad Bolduan.

CRP is not the only USDA program that is important in these two states. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) provides protection for low-lying land, especially in riparian areas. In this case, the land has been protected through long-term easements rather than the 10-year contracts of CRP. Another fairly new USDA initiative provides protection for strips of vegetation (buffers) along the edge of waterways. The buffer-strip initiative has the potential to protect considerable natural vegetation, but, unfortunately, much of the land is in long narrow strips, which somewhat reduces its value as wildlife habitat. In Iowa, both of these programs provide habitat for Dickcissels, Sedge Wrens, Common Yellowthroats, and other species.

Opportunities for protection and restoration of wetland and woodland habitat continue to be a challenge in both states. Many drained wetland basins in the Prairie Pothole portion of Iowa (BCR 11), some of them on CRP land, have been restored to wetland conditions and now provide nesting habitat for Least and American Bitterns, Sora, Virginia Rail, and other marsh species. Maintenance of large blocks of forests suitable for nesting Cerulean, Hooded, and Kentucky Warblers and other woodland species continues to be

an issue in both the Prairie Hardwood Transition of northeastern Iowa (BCR 23) and the Central Hardwoods of southern Missouri (BCR 24). In southern Missouri, large blocks of such habitat persist in the Ozarks but continue to face loss from timber harvest and rural home development. Creative partnering of governmental agencies and private conservation groups is needed to prevent those losses and to begin restoration programs.

Efforts in Missouri aimed at suites of riparian/bottomland species and oak-hickory forest birds are heartening. Typical bottomland and moist-slope forest species, such as Red-shouldered Hawk and Cerulean and Yellow-throated Warblers, can benefit. Parallel and characteristic species of oak-hickory habitat (e.g., Broad-winged Hawk, Worm-eating Warbler, and Ovenbird) are potential beneficiaries of those restoration and management efforts. Also, an innovative restoration effort is taking place in Missouri to bring back the pineries that once covered many ridges and dry slopes in the Ozarks. The Missouri Department of Conservation, the Department of Natural Resources, the U. S. Forest Service, and The Nature Conservancy are all cooperating on coordinated pine savanna and woodland restoration. It will take many decades to restore adequate acreage to support Red-cockaded Woodpeckers again (last reported in appropriate pine habitat in the late 1940s), but the long-term effort is admirable.

There are many encouraging on-the-ground activities occurring in both states—from the creative IBA program in Iowa (with an integral stewardship vision) to the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI) effort, which embraces dozens of organizations across the state. Moreover, both states benefit from a tradition of state-supported, if not state-driven, conservation.