



MoBCI NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative

AN UPDATE FROM THE MoBCI STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



First and foremost, thanks so much to all members of the MoBCI Steering Committee for their service, dedication and commitment for advancing the goals of all-bird conservation in Missouri. We've had four meetings since the last conference and if attendance is any indication of organizational health, MoBCI is as fit as a robin on a worm farm!! The following is a quick snap shot of major steering committee actions and progress but before you read on please go to your calendar and set aside **August 26-27 and make plans to attend the 3rd annual MoBCI Annual Meeting and Conference to be held at the Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia, Missouri** - -OK read on:

Establishment of the MoBCI Foundation In order to avoid potential "conflict of interest" issues that could possibly affect steering committee participation by Federal and State members, it became apparent MoBCI needed an affiliate "establishment" to carry out MoBCI's financial business. This action allows all MoBCI steering committee members to be active while establishing an "incorporated 501 c3 not for profit" to receive grant funds, donations and carry out financial business at the direction of the steering committee. The steering committee designated the following individuals as officers of the MoBCI Foundation: Wayne Morton (Missouri Prairie Foundation, President), Ted Cooper (Ruffed Grouse Society, Vice-President), Jerry Wade (Audubon Society of Missouri, Secretary-Treasurer), Linda Tossing, (St. Louis Audubon Society) and Steve Heying (Missouri Falconers Association)(Board Members). Special thanks to

Ted Cooper for his generous donation of a computer and software (Quickbooks) to get the MoBCI Foundation, Inc. up and running and to Wayne Morton who has volunteered his time and talent in getting the foundation established as incorporated "not for profit".

MoBCI Web Site/ Member/Project Directory

One of the most vital roles of MoBCI is to share bird conservation information and partnership opportunities. The information subcommittee has been hard at work under the leadership of Mike Currier (Missouri Department of Natural Resources) to help MoBCI realize this important goal with the development of a web site (*MoBCI.org*) and membership directory. To date over 11 member organizations have contributed over \$5,000.00 to support development and design of the MoBCI web site - special thanks to John Burk (National Wild Turkey Federation) for spearheading the donation campaign. The subcommittee was authorized by the steering committee to solicit bids and select a web site contractor. At the time of this writing bid specifications have been prepared and sent to three web site development vendors with the goal of having the web site up and running by the annual conference. Desktop Studio, a Columbia-based web development company was awarded the bid.

Linda Tossing accepted the challenge of developing the MoBCI Member Directory, a goal put forth by MoBCI membership at the first conference. The membership database is complete and the initial Directory designs are being reviewed. A special thanks to Amy Richards (MDNR) for her help in "sweet-talking" member organizations into submitting directory information - Plans are to have the directory available for the up-coming annual conference.

MoBCI Grants -

We all owe a special word of gratitude to Dave Erickson on behalf of the Missouri Department of Conservation and Kelly Srigley Werner on behalf of the USFWS for their strong leadership in securing funds which when combined with matching funds from sponsoring partners will generate over \$220,000.00 worth of bird conservation effort in 2005!!!. It just goes to show you the power of partnerships and strong leadership - thanks Dave and Kelly!! You can hear more about the grants program and get special updates of the 2004 projects by attending the annual conference **August 26-27, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, Missouri!!**

We all know that any organization is only as strong as its leaders and members. In three short years MoBCI has come a long way in advancing the cause of all-bird conservation. I've come to appreciate that MoBCI is more than just a group of people passionate about birds - although it's a great tie that binds- it's a group of people willing to set aside their special bird interests for the greater good - it's about people who care about conservation, water quality, prairies, forest, wetlands and the health of our environment. If MoBCI is to grow and continue developing into a relevant organization for advancing the cause of all-bird conservation we will continue to need passionate and energetic leadership. Please consider this a heartfelt invitation to throw your name in the hat to serve on the steering committee. If you have an interest just drop anyone on the steering committee a line or feel free to contact me at seekg@grm.net. Oh by the way, if I haven't mentioned it, I would love to see you at this year's annual meeting and conference scheduled for **August 26-27, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, Missouri.**

--George Seek (Ducks Unlimited) MoBCI Steering Committee Chair

2005 MOBCI CONFERENCE AUGUST 26/27, 2005

The Third MoBCI Conference will be held on Friday, August 26 and Saturday, August 27 at the Holiday Inn Select on Hwy. 70 and Stadium in Columbia Missouri. This year's theme will be "Planning for the Future" and will include presentations on the Missouri

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan and GIS land type modeling.

The keynote speaker will be the Director of Agency Programs for the National Wild Turkey Federation, Robert Abernethy. Robert will address the crowd on Friday night during the social with a presentation addressing all-bird conservation from an ecosystem and landscape level approach. Emphasis will also be placed on the value of partnerships. The future of successful conservation will depend on the collective effort of all member organizations and their wide-ranging philosophies. Our commonalties and the strength that our collective effort represents will be emphasized as opposed to struggling individually to pursue narrow and often times diametrically opposed positions that stifle and stall good conservation work.

There will also be concurrent sessions where 2004 MoBCI project originators will give brief presentations on the progress of their MoBCI funded projects with the opportunity for group discussion. It is the goal of this format to enhance partner awareness of what is currently being accomplished and provide a catalyst for the development of existing projects and the formulation of innovative new ones.

The conference will conclude Saturday afternoon with breakout sessions designed to formulate future tasks to be undertaken during the following year by MoBCI and it's member organizations. If you have any questions concerning the conference please contact John Burk (573)592-7865, jburknwtf@sbcglobal.net or Jerry Wade at WadeJ@missouri.edu.

*--John Burk, (National Wild Turkey Federation)
MoBCI Conference Subcommittee Chair*

2005 BIRD HABITAT RESTORATION GRANTS

On January 19, 2005, the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative's Grants Sub-Committee met to discuss the second annual Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative's 2005 Grant proposals. The Missouri Department of Conservation provided \$100,000 dollars to fund projects in 2005.

This year, more flexibility was added into the program by allowing any MoBCI organization or individual to provide a one to one match of [local, state, or federal] funds that did not originate from

2005 Bird Habitat Restoration Grants		
	MDC	USFWS
River Hills Forest Habitat Project	\$13,000	\$7,000
Kansas City Wildlands – Bridging the Gap	\$18,000	\$2,000
Wet Prairie Restoration Confluence Focus	\$10,000	
Mo. Prairie Foundation Summer Sericea Team	\$16,000	\$4,000
NWTF Native Grasslands Restoration	\$20,000	
Cane at Drury-Mincy Conservation Area	\$4,000	
Mo. Prairie Foundation-Prairie Restoration.	\$19,000	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$100,000	\$14,000

the Department of Conservation to project activities which focused on protecting, enhancing or restoring bird habitats and/or monitored the results of habitat restoration programs on *any* lands in Missouri.

Funded projects included those with multiple partners, targeted suites of priority bird species, and projects which addressed the objectives listed in one or more of the major national bird conservation initiatives (i.e., the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative).

The recommendations of the Grants sub-Committee were presented to the full Steering Committee on January 25, 2005, and were then submitted to the Department of Conservation for their consideration. Eleven proposals totaling \$166,000 in request amounts were received in response to the grant announcement. The Subcommittee recommended the 7 top ranked projects to be fully funded but the sum total exceeded the available funding by \$14,000.00. The Grants Committee recommended that the shortfall be provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The following projects were approved by the Steering Committee and recommended for full funding with a match for selected projects to be provided by the Service:

The Ruffed Grouse Society: The River Hills Forest Habitat Project is an initiative to maintain 10-15% of a 300,000 acre area in east-central Missouri in a regenerating oak-hickory forest condition. The project is located in a globally significant conservation site and dense young forest and edge habitat would be expected to benefit local birds such as ruffed grouse

and Northern bobwhite as well as migratory songbirds, including American woodcock, Bell’s vireo, Bewick’s wren, Brown Thrasher, Blue-Winged Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, Great-Crested Flycatcher, Prairie Warbler, White-Eyed Vireo and Yellow-Breasted Chat. Partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Audubon Society, Missouri Department of Conservation, and most importantly, private landowners. Nearly 40 new landowners have signed up since last year.

Kansas City Wildlands – Bridging the Gap

Organization: This project is focused on restoring native habitat for birds and other wildlife in an urban bottomland forest along the Blue River in Kansas City. Primary restoration is being accomplished through a large-scale elimination of invasive shrub honeysuckle from a section of bottomland forest along the Blue River Parkway. This will be followed by planting native soft and hard mast-producing trees and shrubs, thus improving the habitat, enhancing and protecting biological diversity and improving the aesthetic and recreational value to the public. Over 32 separate partners are assisting with this restoration and enhancement project. Species expected to benefit include: Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee and Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher. The broader goal of this project to benefit neotropical migrants is compatible with Partners in Flight goals.

Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service: This Wet Prairie Restoration Project is focused on the Confluence Area, defined as the floodplain of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers within Pike, Lincoln, St. Charles and St. Louis Counties, and is at the heart of one of the most

important migration corridors for the suites of wetland dependent birds in North America. Historically annual flooding from these large and diverse river systems created a complex and shifting mosaic of bottomland forest, marshes, wet prairies and sandbars. It is estimated that more than half of the “bottomlands” were formerly wet and wet-mesic prairies. Through educational workshops, demonstrations and restoration on private lands, the partners involved in this project will work to enhance wetland diversity by restoring prairie cord grass on private land located in the Confluence Focus Area. The project is supportive and adds value to desired outcomes identified in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, and the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan. Other partners include the Missouri Department of Conservation and private landowners.

Missouri Prairie Foundation: The Summer Sericea team will help the Missouri Prairie Foundation (MPF) continue its efforts to treat native prairies throughout the state for *Sericea lespedeza*, an invasive exotic species, which threatens floral diversity and habitat quality. More than 14 properties primarily in Southwest Missouri, most of which occur in critical Grassland Coalition Focus Areas, will be treated. Property to be treated by the team is owned by the Missouri Prairie Foundation (MPF), the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), the Missouri Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Kansas City Parks Department and private landowners adjacent to these public tracts. Notable species that will benefit from control of sericea, increased floristic diversity and improved habitat structure include: Greater Prairie-Chicken, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Loggerhead shrike, Henslow’s Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, Indian Pea, Ground Plum, Prairie Grass Pink Orchid, Prairie Hyacinth, Little Geo, Pale False Foxglove, Hairy Parsley, Harvey's Beak Rush, Horned Beak Rush, Buffalo Clover, and Yellow-Eyed Grass. In addition to these grassland birds and native prairie plants, the loss of open habitat has had a dramatic effect on more common species such as the eastern meadowlark, bobolink, dickcissel and horned lark. Several species of katydid, the regal fritillary butterfly, prairie mole crickets, and other rare insects utilize the land included in this proposal and control of sericea will benefit all of these and other native prairie species. Partners include private donors, private landowners, the National Fish and Wildlife

Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

National Wild Turkey Federation: The Native Grasslands Restoration project will begin a conversion process of existing fields and former pastures from fescue, brome, and sericea lespedeza at the Smithville Lake and Rocky Hollow Parks to Missouri native grasslands with high forb density to provide improved habitat for ground nesting birds. High priority grassland birds that persist in some areas include the Greater Prairie Chicken and Henslow's Sparrow, Dickcissel and Eastern Meadowlark. In addition, the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie Region where this project will occur has experienced Northern Bobwhite declines. This project will aid in providing high quality habitat for these species. The project will chemically treat approximately 278 acres of cool season grasses and other exotic weeds as part of the site preparation and maintenance for restoring approximately 1,000 acres (800 acres tall grass and 200 acres little bluestem type) to native Missouri grasslands. Partners include the Clay County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites, Missouri Prairie Foundation, and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Audubon Missouri: The Drury-Mincy Conservation Area will begin implementing a program to restore native canebrake habitat on the area along Bee Creek and other tributaries of the White River in Taney County. The grant will be used to purchase a backhoe attachment that would fit an existing tractor owned and operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation, a key partner in this proposed project. The backhoe would accelerate existing cane restoration efforts in the Drury-Mincy Conservation Area and will implement cane restoration on 50-100 acres. While a variety of species would benefit from this project, the state endangered Swainson’s Warbler is the primary target. Other birds such as Hooded Warblers, Indigo Buntings, Northern Cardinals, Louisiana Waterthrushes and other songbirds use canebrake habitats for nesting and for shelter from predators. Additionally, at least five species of butterflies - yehl skipper, creole pearly-eye, southern pearly-eye, lace winged roadside skipper and Carolina roadside skipper - need cane for their caterpillar stage. The cane they eat helps fuel their metamorphosis into

butterflies. Five newly identified species of moths are known to feed exclusively on cane. Other Partners include Greater Ozarks Audubon Society. Once sites are restored the habitat will be monitored for bird use.

Missouri Prairie Foundation: The Prairie Management and Restoration Partners Project will work to manage existing tallgrass prairie and restore areas with non-native land cover to native Missouri species. Missouri Prairie Foundation (MPF) will continue existing prairie management partnerships with the Missouri Department of Conservation and other Grasslands Coalition partners (17 organizations and many landowners) and initiate new partnership efforts with the Clay County Parks Department and the City of Nevada, Missouri. MPF will use a combination of tree and brush clearing, chemical treatment of fescue and other non-native species, prescribed fire and native seed establishment to enrich tallgrass prairie habitat throughout western Missouri. MPF will educate Missourians about our native prairie heritage, demonstrate best management and restoration practices to private landowners and motivate conservation partners to take action to save and restore native grasslands. Priority may be given to activities that will benefit the state-endangered Greater Prairie Chicken but all activities should benefit the full range of grassland birds. Fragmentation of habitat will be reduced, prairie vistas will be maintained, or expanded and exotic species will be replaced with native vegetation.

The Steering Committee congratulates those recipients of this year's MoBCI Grant program and encourages all MoBCI organizations to participate in this worthwhile program to benefit native habitats for Missouri birds.

--Kelly Srigley Werner, (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) MoBCI Grants Sub-Committee Chair

MOBCI GRANT PROGRAM

INAUGURAL EFFORT SUCCESSFUL~

In 2004 The MoBCI Grant Program funded sixteen of 20 submitted proposals in the program's inaugural year.

MoBCI grant proposals are solicited, reviewed, and ranked by a MoBCI grant team. This team and the MoBCI Steering Committee offer recommendations to the Department of Conservation, which then completes the granting process. Grants up to \$20,000 may be awarded.

Eligible projects include any that protect, enhance or restore bird habitats and/or monitor the results of habitat restoration programs on any lands in Missouri. A project must be relevant to the goals and objectives of one or more of the major national and international bird conservation initiatives, including: the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative.

Selection criteria include the number of priority bird species addressed (15 points), priority habitats conserved (15 points), bird initiative plan goals and objectives addressed (15 points), partnerships developed (20 points), usefulness of the project as a model for other projects (10 points), capacity of the organization(s)/individual to accomplish the project (10 points), and budget (15 points).

In 2004 grants included:

- \$20,000 to Audubon Missouri for its project *Missouri River Corridor Restoration* which provided an on-the-ground conservation focus in an area of the Missouri River targeted as a model Important Bird Areas (IBA) project.
- \$20,000 to Ducks Unlimited for the *Truman Lake Wetland Restoration*, a project to restore and enhance wetland habitat within the flood basin of Harry S Truman Reservoir.
- \$15,000 to the Missouri Prairie Foundation for its project, *Southwest Grassland Coalition Management*. As a result of this effort 100 acres will be cleared of encroaching woody species, a patch-burn grazing regime will be designed for Golden Prairie, and at least 150 acres will be burned to provide early successional habitat for grassland birds.
- \$5,500 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for *Wren Property Savanna Glade Restoration*, a project to assist a private landowner in creating a glade/savanna management regime to improve habitat for resident wildlife and native vegetation.

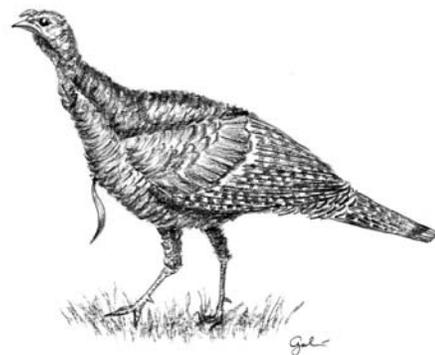
- \$20,000 to the Ruffed Grouse Society for its *River Hills Forest Habitat Project*, a project to improve oak-hickory forest conditions in Central Missouri.
- \$20,000 to The Nature Conservancy for its *Wah'Kon-Tah Fescue Conversion*.
- \$13,818 to the University of Missouri for its *Bradford Farm Prairie Restoration*.
- \$4,000 to the Benton County SWCD for its *Warm Season Grass Drill* partnership.
- \$1,470 to Quail Unlimited's "Old Drum" Chapter for *Johnson County ATV Equipment* to enhance bird habitat on private lands.
- \$20,000 to the National Wild Turkey Federation for its *Power for Wildlife* project, an effort to improve bird habitats on utility rights of way.
- \$17,500 to St. Louis Audubon Society for the *Creve Coeur Lake Park Wetland Restoration*. The project will initiate establishment of a wet mesic forest on the perimeter of Little Creve Coeur Lake wetland and the establishment of appropriate wetland shrub marsh vegetation.

- \$9,000 to Ozark Rivers Audubon for the *Rolla Area Habitat Restoration*, an effort to restore a 57-acre grassland/savanna complex within the Rolla city limits.
- \$20,000 to Kansas City Wildlands for the *Blue River Parkway Restoration*. This project will remove invasive shrub honeysuckle and plant native soft and hard mast-producing trees and shrubs.
- \$20,000 for the Missouri Department of Conservation/Girl Scouts of Missouri and others for their *Otahki Woodland Restoration*. The project will complete 1,200 acres of prescribed fire management for glade woodland restoration.
- \$1,226 for B.K. Leach CA levee construction in conjunction with Missouri Waterfowl Association to enrich a wetland for marsh birds, and
- \$20,000 to the Missouri Prairie Foundation for *Northeast Missouri Prairie Land Acquisition*.

--Dave Erickson (Missouri Dept. of Conservation),
Secretary of the MoBCI Steering Committee



Barred Owl
Wild Turkey
Graphics by Tony Galvin



Melampus gallopavo
Wild Turkey

**THE STROKE OF AN ARTIST’S HAND
BRUSHES HABITAT FOR BIRDS
ACROSS THE LAND**



J.Ding Darling. The first “Duck Stamp” in 1934

How YOU can purchase habitat for birds in Missouri

In today’s fast paced world, it is difficult to know how you can directly affect bird conservation. Here’s an idea. On your next visit to the U.S. Postal Service Office in your community, invest \$15 and purchase a Migratory bird hunting and Conservation Stamp.

Commonly known as the Federal “Duck Stamp”, this is one of the simplest ways that conservationists and *all* bird enthusiasts can contribute to bird conservation.

Any one of your Missouri National Wildlife Refuges was funded in part by Federal “Duck Stamp” sales in order to provide important habitat for all migratory birds.

ANYONE can purchase a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. Your purchase will reap many benefits for Missouri birds straight from the artist’s hand to bird habitat on the ground.

**FACTS ABOUT “DUCK STAMPS”:
DID YOU KNOW...**

...since the first year of Federal “Duck Stamp” sales in 1934, 5.2 million acres of migratory bird

habitat has been leased, purchased and/or restored nationwide?

...since 1934, the sales of the Federal “Duck Stamp” have generated more than \$670 million nationwide?

... since the first year of Federal “Duck Stamp” sales in 1934 the government still continues to use 98% of the funds raised *solely* for the purpose of protecting and restoring migratory bird habitat?

... wetland and associated habitat which is restored helps species like waterbirds (e.g., Western Grebe, Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, and Black Tern), shorebirds (e.g., Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Whimbrel, Red Knot, and Wilson's Phalarope), raptors (e.g., Swallow-tailed Kite, Swainson's Hawk, and Bald Eagle), and wetland-associated songbirds (e.g., Vermilion Flycatcher, Sedge Wren, Prothonotary Warbler, LeConte's Sparrow, marsh wren, and yellow-headed Blackbird)?

...in addition to waterfowl and other water-loving birds, numerous fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal species dependent on wetland habitats have benefited? Furthermore, an estimated one-third of Endangered and Threatened species in the nation find food or shelter on the refuges established through the use of Federal “Duck Stamp” dollars?

...there is also a Federal Junior Duck Stamp and the 2004-2005 winner of the Junior Duck Stamp Contest is Missouri’s own Adam Nisbett, a 17 year-old artist who used acrylic to paint “Morning Watch”, a pair of fulvous whistling ducks in morning light. Adam believes that "It is our responsibility to protect and



Adam Nisbett, winner 2004-2005 Junior Duck Stamp Contest

preserve God's creation." Adam's stamp can also be purchased at the U.S. Postal Service for \$5?

...the proceeds from Junior Duck Stamp sales are used to design programs to teach wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The programs incorporate scientific and wildlife management principles into a visual arts curriculum.

...Federal "Duck Stamp" artists come from all walks of life and anyone can submit their waterfowl painting to be judged in the Federal Duck Stamp Contest and for students, the Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

... 3.06 million Federal "Duck Stamps" have been purchased in Missouri since 1934.

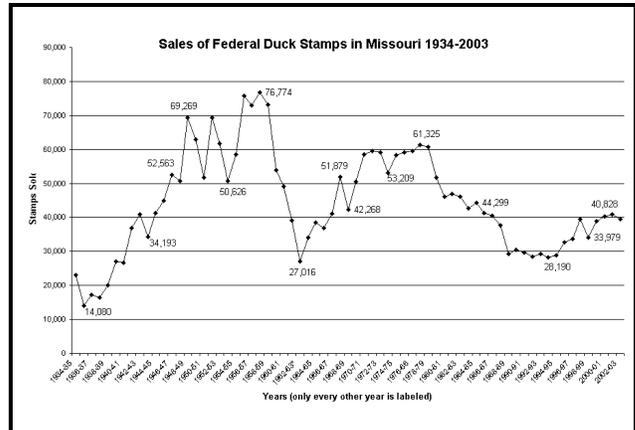
..."Duck Stamps" are works of art, collector's items, and often times gain value over the years. You can purchase numerous items with the current year's "Duck Stamp" including limited edition prints from the artist, commemorative cards, first day of sale Ceremony Cards and similar items.

...if you have a Federal "Duck Stamp" you can visit any National Wildlife Refuge FREE of charge for those that require an admission fee.

MISSOURI BIRDS NEED YOUR HELP
Federal "Duck Stamp" sales are falling in Missouri (see graph). **Every member of all MoBCI chartered organization's should purchase a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and Jr. Duck Stamp.**



It's easy, and to do so means habitat conservation on the ground for any bird that depends on wetland and associated habitats including forests and grasslands—and it provides dollars for wildlife conservation education for our youth. Invest \$20.00 in birds today! Please promote the purchase of "Duck Stamps" in your bird organization.



98% of the dollars from 'Duck Stamps' goes directly towards the purchase, restoration, and protection of wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

For more information visit:
www.fws.gov/duckstamps/

--Kelly Srigley Werner/USFWS

Kelly is Vice-Chair of the MoBCI Steering Committee and Supervisor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Missouri Private Lands Office in Columbia.



Lesser Yellow legs
Graphics by Casey Galvin

Office of the Governor State of Missouri Proclamation



(Front Row: Glenn Chambers (Missouri Conservation Federation), Ted Cooper (Ruffed Grouse Society), Denny Donnell, (Columbia Chapter of the Audubon Society), Governor Blunt (Backyard Birder), Kelly Shrigley Werner (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), Jerry Wade (Audubon Society of Missouri), John Burk (Wild Turkey Federation), Linda Tossing (St. Louis Chapter of the Audubon Society); Back Row: George Seek (Ducks Unlimited), Mike Carrier (Missouri Department of Natural Resources), Steve Heying (Missouri Falconry Association), Andy Forbes (Missouri Department of Conservation), Roger Still (Audubon Missouri), Dave Erickson (Missouri Department of Conservation).

WHEREAS, Missouri's citizens believe conserving our state's natural environment is one of the most important concerns for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, according to the Audubon Society of Missouri, 406 species of birds have been recorded in Missouri; and 167 species are listed in the Missouri Breeding Bird Atlas as confirmed or likely to breed in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, bird watching is one of the fastest growing recreational activities in the United States; and nearly 1.4 million Missouri residents participate in bird watching; and 8 out of 10 Missourians feed birds and wildlife at their homes; and

WHEREAS, within Missouri, wildlife-watchers spend \$448.8 million, generate \$937.8 million in total business-generated activity, support 7,850 jobs and create \$22.1 million in sales tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, more than 30 organizations, representing a diverse array of Missouri's governmental, business, industry, and nonprofit interests, and representing all facets of the bird conservation community, have established a partnership called the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative in order to deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation; and

WHEREAS, the second Saturday in May has been established as an international celebration of birds and bird conservation:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATT BLUNT, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim the second Saturday in May to be:

BIRD CONSERVATION DAY

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, on this 11th day of May, 2005.



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