



Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative Newsletter

Working together to conserve bird populations and their habitats

Note from the Chair

by Allison Vaughn

Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative Chair

The Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative was established on August 16, 2003 following a series of meetings to build a collaborative organization to support all wild birds in Missouri. With an incredible array of partners joining MoBCI as a step-down organization of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), twenty-one years later we continue fulfilling the original mission to help birds by protecting and restoring habitat. 2024 marks the 20th Anniversary of the MoBCI Conference, our annual gathering to bring our partners and friends together for information sharing, camaraderie, and to learn about bird conservation accomplishments and threats to bird populations.

Among the first MoBCI grant awards in 2003 were two grants earmarked for various properties in the Confluence Focus Area, located at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Through the years, MoBCI has funded many grants for confluence restoration projects, with the most recent at the Audubon Center at Riverlands. Roughly 200 years ago, the confluence was rich with bottomland forests, wet prairies, wetlands and woodlands. At the time of the purchase of Edward “Ted” and Pat Jones Confluence

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State Park in 2002, the land had been farmed for many years, much as the rest of the region. Over 20 years later, this focus area has proven to be a great success story of how creative and targeted restoration projects can accomplish conservation. To date, 245 bird species have been documented from the state park, with Eastern Kingbirds and Eastern Meadowlarks among the most common. A major success story for the Confluence Focus Area is the wintering populations of Trumpeter Swans that feed in the prairies and rest in the wetlands. In a visit to Confluence State Park and Riverlands, one would be hard pressed to imagine these areas as level cropfields.

The 2024 MoBCI Conference will celebrate what our partner-driven organization has accomplished to help birds through the years, and continue the tradition of a gathering of partners, bird enthusiasts, birders from across the state, with great talks about the rich history of MoBCI. MoBCI-sponsored bird habitat grants have totaled over two million dollars since 2003. Realizing that all MoBCI grants must have a 1:1 match, the impact on the ground is truly remarkable, and Missouri's landscapes (and birds) have undoubtedly benefited. At our conference, we'll hear from some of our longtime grant recipients to learn about their successful MoBCI-funded projects. Within the next few months, we will be moving forward promoting a capital campaign to raise money through our foundation to help fund even more grant applications.

Following up on the 2023 participation as a sponsor of the Missouri Wetlands Summit (archived sessions available on the [Conservation Federation of Missouri website](https://www.confedmo.org/wetlands)¹), MoBCI

1. <https://www.confedmo.org/wetlands>

was proud to be among the sponsors of the April 2024 Missouri Grasslands Summit which brought together botanists, birders, ranchers, and anyone and everyone wanting to see grasslands in Missouri thrive. The MoBCI Steering Committee authorized the expenditure of \$1,000 of Reserve Funds to support the Summit provided these funds were matched by other MoBCI partners and individuals. Participating in the match effort were 11 individual donors, St. Louis Audubon and Columbia Audubon societies who collectively brought MoBCI's total sponsorship support to \$2,500. Read on in the newsletter for a summary of the Grasslands Summit, and join us at the conference for a lunchtime talk about the upcoming plan to conserve grasslands in Missouri.

MoBCI is proud to have hosted all of our partners and friends at our conferences through the years. Here's to another 20 years of convening all of you in a lovely setting in the heart of Missouri! Happy Birding! 🐦

Trumpeter Swans commonly winter in the Confluence Focus Area and take advantage of the wetlands and riverine habitat.

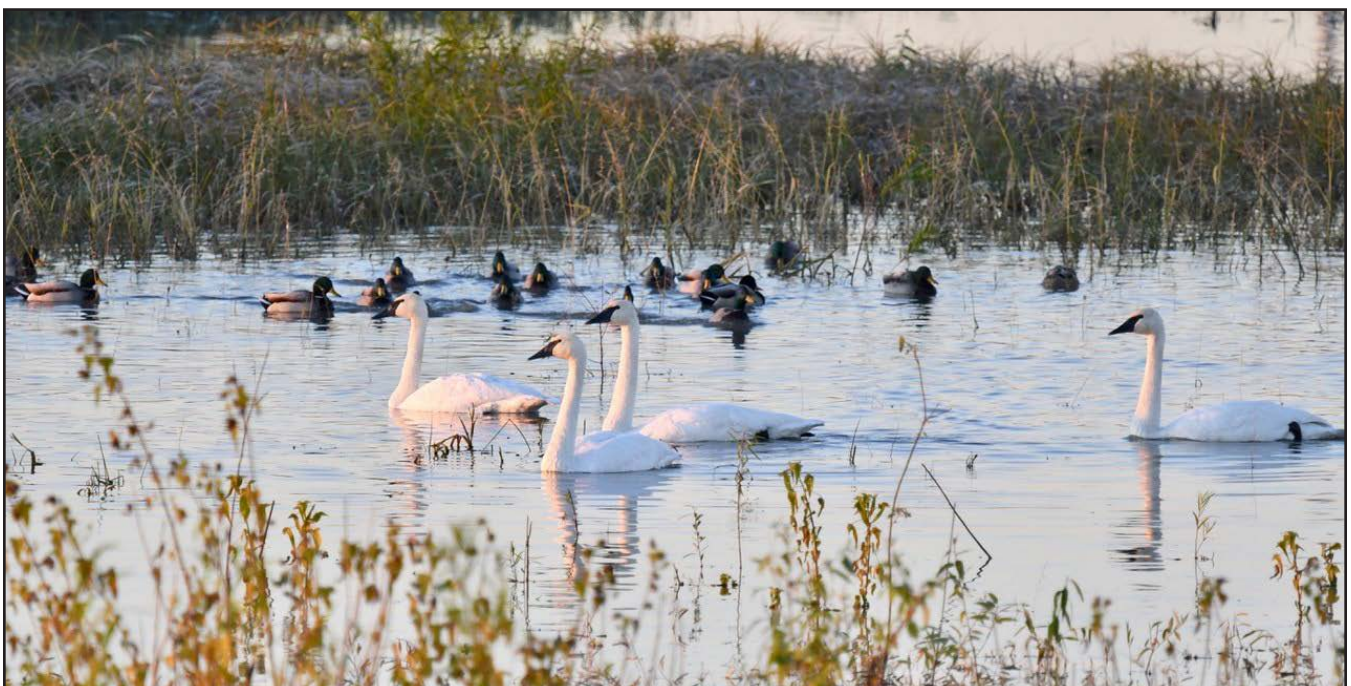


Photo by Paul Moffett

Conservation Leadership Crew Planting a Love of the Outdoors in St. Louis' Next Generation

Jonah Eckels-Galbreath

Education Coordinator, The Audubon Center at Riverlands

Ashley Lockwood

Educator, The Audubon Center at Riverlands



This year, the Audubon Center at Riverlands in Alton hosted two sessions of their annual Conservation Leadership Crew (CLC) internship. These week-long sessions ran during the Ferguson-Florissant and Hazelwood School Districts' spring breaks, which allowed twenty high school students to participate and earn \$15/hr. for their work as interns. Each week reached capacity in interest with ten Ferguson-Florissant students participating in March, and ten Hazelwood students participating in April. During this internship, students engaged in conservation work, networked with various "green-career" professionals, and learned about environmental justice issues in the St. Louis area.

In the beginning of the spring sessions, interns participated in group building activities and name games in order to build a strong sense of community and belonging. They also learned about different conservation efforts at Audubon Riverlands and how to get their hands dirty! Some of the conservation projects they participated in include Eastern Bluebird nest box monitoring, invasive species removal with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), and they assisted with cleaning animal enclosures with Treehouse Wildlife Center. The students did not only work at Audubon Riverlands, but also took field trips to various sites such as the Danforth Plant Science Center, the Nature Institute in Illinois, the USACE Lock and Dam, Boeing Aerospace, and Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge. At all of these sites, interns learned about

different career paths while engaging with many professionals in the fields of biology, engineering, and education. Finally, interns learned about different environmental justice issues including representation, environmental racism, and climate justice, while also participating in a mock town hall meeting.

The CLC leaders are looking to holistically offer a stepwise program that allows students of North County Saint Louis the opportunity to engage with the outdoors in a way that is both new and exciting. The CLC internship is an excellent gauge to highlight the impact

Hazelwood Interns hike through The Nature Institute in Illinois.



Photos by Ashley Lockwood



Hazelwood Interns work as a team to design, budget for, and beta test plane designs via paper airplanes at Boeing

that a short period of time — with the concentrated goal of green career exposure, skill-building, and team-building — can provide for these young adults. Perhaps even more exciting than the CLC internship program is the collaboration of Cradle-to-Career efforts between Audubon Riverlands and our community partners, which includes Little Creek Nature Area, USACE, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Danforth Plant Science Center, Boeing, and other partners. Cradle-to-Career is a program designed to deliver precisely what the name says: a thoughtfully constructed series of age-related programming, events, and paid opportunities for youth, with the goal of developing the next generation of environmental stewards with an investment and understanding of place-based conservation and regional heritage.

It is thrilling to witness the moment a teenager overcomes a lifelong aversion to insects while realizing how much she loves gardening, or the look of pride on a young boy’s face when he recognizes the familiar call of a Northern Cardinal. These are the

moments educators cherish, but more than that, we are able to see the connections that Cradle-to-Career (C2C) is making for communities that are historically underserved and underrepresented — particularly in framing the outdoors as a welcoming space for all racial, ethnic, religious, sexual, and economic backgrounds. With programming like the CLC offers, we are providing young adults of color—often living in areas without access to the natural world — with the opportunity to develop autonomy over their interests and to develop curiosity and skills to form questions and theories about the world around them. This outreach program strives to help participants gain confidence and kindness to build community, while acknowledging and recognizing their positive and integral role in the world around them.

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Note from the Editor: On May 4, the Audubon Center at Riverlands was awarded the Outstanding Community Partner Award of the Year from the Ferguson-Florissant School District (FFSD) during their annual awards gala.

State-sponsored Bird Initiatives in the United States?

Dave Erickson

Treasurer, MoBCI Foundation




An often asked question is “are there organizations similar to MoBCI operating in other states as all-bird initiatives?” The short answer is “Yes,” but there are not many, and they’re all different. Much like a state-sponsored Natural Areas Program which can be statutory, programmatic or voluntary, the variety in state bird conservation initiatives follows suit. This makes perfect sense given the organic, homegrown nature of how state bird initiatives like MoBCI have formed since the establishment of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative in 1999. Several all-bird partnerships are rolled into the operations of the National Audubon Society or other organizations, and some operate as independent inter-organizational efforts like MoBCI.

In preparing for our conference’s 20th anniversary, I scanned the internet and made some phone calls and e-mail contacts to assess what other state programs are doing. We may not have reached all of the active organizations, but here’s what I learned:

- Most state initiatives seem to be in the Midwest. We’re not certain why this is true, but it seems to be the pattern.
- In addition to Missouri, the list of active NABCI state chapters includes Wisconsin, Ohio, Nebraska and Michigan. Montana also has an initiative operating under Montana Audubon. Other state initiatives may exist, so the search continues.
- All the state initiatives have “affiliates” or formal partners just as MoBCI does, and most are led by some form of steering committee or executive group drawn from ranks of the affiliates.
- All state chapters maintain loose ties to the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), and cite other bird conservation efforts such as Partners in Flight and the American Bird Conservancy. All-bird conservation is a frequently cited objective.

- Some states have (or had) a paid coordinator while others, like MoBCI, are strictly all-volunteer organizations. A paid staffer would be a great asset, but brings its own set of challenges such as fundraising for the position, and this is a challenge some states face.
- State initiatives vary greatly in their chosen focus areas. In Missouri, the emphasis has always been on bird habitats. Habitats serve as a binding agent for our varied organizational interests—our common ground and common interest. Other states include promoting bird habitats as a focal point of the mission, but may also focus on much more including public outreach, education, bird research, monitoring and legislative and policy questions.

As we learn more, MoBCI seeks to develop a communication linkage between the other NABCI state initiatives so that we can learn from one another—both what works and what doesn’t. MoBCI’s grant programs (including the self-funded Youth Habitat and Education Program), annual conference and information sharing outlets have all, together, hopefully made a difference in Missouri, hopefully helped all of our citizens see, hear and appreciate our diverse bird populations. 

The Eastern Bluebird, Missouri’s state bird, is a great ambassador of successful conservation practices through the years including nest box installation and habitat improvement.



Photo by Betsy Garrett, Columbia Audubon Society



Over 335 professional and citizen native grassland enthusiasts attended the 2024 Native Grasslands Summit in Jefferson City, Missouri on April 9–11.

Missouri Native Grasslands Summit: A Great Success towards Grassland Conservation

William White

Grassland Conservation Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service



The 2024 Missouri Native Grasslands Summit was held April 9–11, 2024, at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri and co-hosted by the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM), the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Approximately 335 people from 14 states and a variety of state/federal agencies, non-governmental agencies along with landowners and citizen prairie enthusiasts attended the Summit. They all heard presentations and discussions from a wide variety of experts, professionals, and other interested parties on the state of native grassland conservation in Missouri and the challenges that lie ahead.

The 2024 Missouri Native Grasslands Summit was designed to facilitate partners working in unison to bring native grassland conservation to the next level through the

protection of remnants and expansion of plantings. The end result was to take recommendations from the summit to agency/ NGO leadership to secure commitments for moving forward.

Participants were able to provide their thoughts, ideas, and opinions for the future of native grasslands in Missouri. Many of the participants provided ideas and opinions in a pre-summit survey and during the summit participants ask questions and provide comments using a QR code. All questions were answered by the topic expert, and two public input opportunities were well received on the last day. A post-summit evaluation was sent to all participants to provide their thoughts.

Approximately 43% of participants responded to the post-summit survey. Sharing that they were most interested in listening to presentations and liked the topics, followed closely by speakers and networking


opportunities. Over 73% of respondents felt their voice was heard with 23% not sure. The top 3 most useful things participants said they learned include: learning about warm season grass forage; native prairies and creating new partnerships.

All in all, this event was well received by the participants demonstrating a key interest in advancing native grassland conservation and expansion. This event serves as the catalyst for a coalition of partners with a vested interest in Missouri's grasslands to place increased emphasis and collaboration to protect remaining prairie remnants and expand plantings on both working and recreational lands.

A meeting of the leadership of partner organizations that have a vested interest in Missouri's native grasslands will be held during the last half of 2024. The recommendations that come from this Summit will be shared and an action plan developed to continue to move grassland conservation in Missouri to the next level.

The January 2025 issue of the CFM Magazine will continue the focus on native grassland conservation. Some of the articles will overlap with messages that were shared at the Summit. There are other features and highlights within this issue that provide additional perspectives and areas of grassland work that weren't touched on by the Summit's agenda. We hope these articles are viewed as a continuation of the conversation that began with the Summit earlier this year.

Other ideas and discussions have likely taken place and are influencing action but fall outside of this report. We would like for this Summit synopsis to provide further traction for ideas that were stimulated at the Summit to be shared and put into action. Thank you for playing a part and advancing native grassland conservation in Missouri.

The agenda, all presentations given and a summary participant input report can be found on the Conservation Federation of Missouri website at confedmo.org/grasslands. 

A healthy steer on greener pastures in the heart of a major drought (July 2023) on a diverse native forage mix in Dade County.

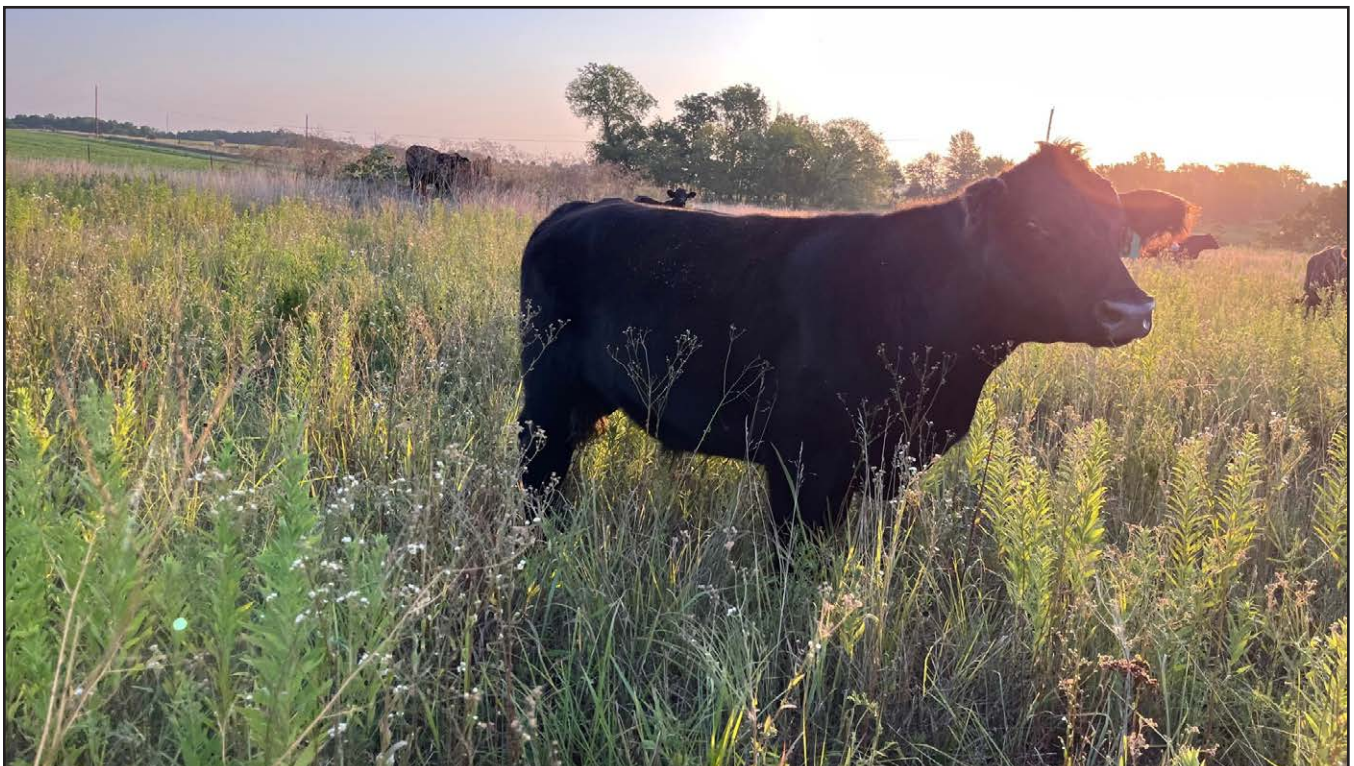


Photo courtesy of NRCS

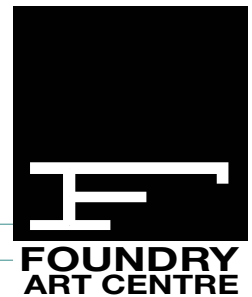


The Foundry's native garden was installed in 2021 by youth in a summer camp orchestrated by Jenny Kettler. The plants have matured and various pollinators are attracted to the flowers each growing season.

The Maturation of the YHEP Pollinator Garden at the Foundry Art Centre

Hilda Andres

Executive Director, Foundry Art Centre




The Foundry Art Centre is located at the end of the St. Charles Historic Main Street. Is it adjacent to the KATY Trail and the Missouri River. In the summer of 2021 the Foundry's Education coordinator, Jenny Kettler, planned a week-long summer camp class, June 14–18. With the partnership and support from a Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative YHEP Grant, Home Depot, City of Saint Charles, MO Department of Conservation, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Missouri Wildflowers Nursery, and Missouri master naturalists, the campers planted 16 native plant species. In addition, the classes made decorative stones that still outline the garden to this day.

The project also inspired another summer camp week in June of 2022 “Pollinator Prints” with artist Jessica Witte. This time students worked in another space located on the back of the Foundry. Camp teachers embraced the theme and created pottery embedded with seeds made out of mud from the Mo River banks. Campers made handmade paper with seeds to take home and spread the pollinator garden to the region.

Throughout the years, the garden suffered from some well-meaning helpers who helped us clear some “weeds” and took out a couple of the plants. Since then, we have been cautious in using an app to identify the pollinating plants. There are some challenges to a pollinator

garden — one was the unkempt nature of the garden with the front entrance. The Foundry relies on weddings and events for income and wedding parties like to take photos in front of the building. I am not sure if the area in the back was considered as an option in 2021, as water is not easily accessible there.

Jenny was very passionate about the project and she was able to enrich the lives of the campers and the community with the Native Garden and benefit pollinators and birds who feed on the seeds. After she parted ways with the Foundry, we lacked the expertise and the manpower to sustain the garden. If we embark on a similar project in the future, we will have to consider a sustainability plan to help it continue to flourish.

The garden is blooming now, from gray-headed coneflower to the St. John's wort which the bees love. This spring, two young American Kestrels availed themselves of the abundant cover in the garden for a day. One of my favorite plants is the American beautyberry which carries berries in the late summer/fall. I am not the only fan of this plant, our botanical resident artist upstairs was inspired to draw it and paint it. See the article of a special event surrounding this project in the 2021 MoBCI Newsletter here: 



Photos by Hilda Andres

Slender mountain mint grows prolifically in the garden.



Young American Kestrel enjoying the shelter of the shrubby St. John's wort this spring.

Jerry Wade Youth Habitat & Education Program

MoBCI offers grants to promote bird habitat conservation projects that provide an educational component for youth.

These grants may be awarded to private and public organizations, or to individuals who partner with organizations. Eligible activities include projects that protect, enhance or restore bird habitats on any lands in Missouri. All projects should be habitat based and include a specific educational component for youth.

For more info or to apply for a Youth Habitat and Education Program grant, please visit: mobci.net/yhep.



Recent Wetland Management and Infrastructure Projects

Frank Nelson

Wetland Systems Manager, Missouri Department of Conservation



MDC's Intensively Managed Wetlands

Wetlands in Missouri are valuable habitats that provide benefits for birds, people, and host of other flora and fauna. Unfortunately, we haven't always recognized this and modified our rivers and floodplains in a way that degraded and reduced many of the transitional areas that connected both aquatic and terrestrial environments. Over time, the recognition of the importance of wetlands has grown and an effort to restore, manage, and protect a range of wetland habitats has increased. Missouri Department of Conservation maintains and manages wetland habitats across a range of river systems. Some of the most visited public wetlands are 14 managed areas that involve a network of levees and water control structures that allow us to manipulate water levels, which provides resources for fish and wildlife and accommodates a range of public uses. These are core areas in which wetland restoration on private ground has also increased over the years, creating complexes of wetland habitats extending across public and private ground in different regions of the state.

Maintenance and Management

These engineered wetlands weather extreme flood events, along with the normal wear and tear that occurs with time and exposure to the elements. This requires maintenance, replacement of structures, and projects in locations that aren't always conducive to large equipment. Sometimes, Conservation Area staff are able to continue to manage

large blocks of habitat amid construction work. Other times, the repair or replacement activities take precedent and restrict wetland management and public access. One through-line for both management and construction is the dependence upon weather. Given the variability among locations, keeping track of progress and knowing what is in the pipeline for future work can be a challenge.

Areas with Action in 2023

We thought we'd highlight the interaction of weather, management, and construction from the past year and how things are shaping up this summer. Last year, in 2023, records for warmth and lack of precipitation were set across Missouri. Unfortunately, on our wetland areas this translated to a lack of flooded habitat through the summer. Where water was held, much of this moisture was either sucked up by the plants or evaporated as the hot and dry weather progressed. From a construction point of view, these were great conditions to get work done. At Four Rivers, a major water control structure project was completed and a pump at Grand Pass was replaced. Later in the summer and early fall, the dry conditions allowed for smaller fixes at Eagle Bluffs, Ted Shanks, and Fountain Grove that helped staff flood habitat during fall migration and through the waterfowl season. All this time and through the winter contractors continued to work on large pump stations projects at Fountain Grove and Schell-Osage.



The construction site at Fountain Grove in April as it was impacted by rain and a rising Grand River.

2023 Spotlight on Fountain Grove

Big projects focused on water delivery systems can shut an area down. This has been the case at Schell-Osage. In the past year, parts of Fountain Grove have also required closing for construction. However, last year the contractors and MDC staff were able to find some “work-arounds” and allow management. Through the spring and summer of 2023, staff manipulated water levels, set back succession with disking, and treated undesirable plants with herbicide. Corn was planted in scattered blocks across the area to provide hunter cover in the fall, “hot” food for ducks and geese later in winter, and a soil disturbance that translated to a good moist soil response this year. If we were to view the area from above, approximately 85% of Fountain Grove was moist soil and 15% was planted in corn. As fall came around and the contractors were working on the pump

station area, staff used the old pump to move the water in a different direction and lift it multiple times to flood portions of area for the 2023–2024 waterfowl season.

Despite the ongoing construction project, the ability to manage habitat through the growing season into the fall translated to good bird use and high hunter harvest. During teal season in September of 2023, hunters harvested over 1,000 Blue-wing and Green-winged teal. As fall migration progressed in October, a significant migration event occurred the day prior to opening day in late October which was tied to a harsh cold snap bringing snow across northern states. This push of birds was the only significant migration throughout the entire 2023–2024 waterfowl season. However, hunters were able to harvest roughly 12,700 ducks through the North Zone season, which was a record harvest from 1962 to the present. As Missouri felt its first significant winter weather

in January, 175,000 mallards descended on Fountain Grove. These new ducks had the entire area to forage freely due to the North Zone duck season closing a few days earlier on December 26, 2023. Extreme freezing temperatures during mid to late January 2024 locked up the shallow water habitat and forced all waterfowl to move to other locations. Through February and March, spring waterfowl migration progressed as staff managed water levels and contractors continued to make progress on the pump station.

Recent Rains

Wet weather in April and May caused rivers to rise and send water across Missouri's landscape. This much needed moisture coincided with later spring migrants that were

flying through and provided foraging habitat across private and public land. The periodic flooding from various bouts of rain also allowed fish temporary access to the flood-plain. On the flipside, construction efforts had to be scaled back or stopped completely until the water levels dropped back into the banks. This see-saw of conditions is what makes wetlands so productive, but also challenging for construction.

The picture above shows the construction site at Fountain Grove in April as it was impacted by rain and a rising Grand River.

Despite this spring's wet weather construction on the pump station at Fountain Grove continues to progress

Progress is also being made on the pump station at Schell-Osage.

Despite this spring's wet weather construction on the pump station at Fountain Grove continues to progress



2024 Summer Projects

As water levels have receded, both management staff and construction crews are focused on their priorities. Here's a look at the current status and prospective deadlines for infrastructure projects:

- Fountain Grove: The pump station work is in the home stretch and completion is anticipated later this summer.
- Schell-Osage: This pump station project is also rounding the last leg and will also be completed later this summer. Engineering plans for the lake and wetland restoration projects are being prepared and will be presented to the Commission later this year.
- Eagle Bluffs: The design for the levee repair and pump station electrical is complete. This project is in queue for bidding.
- Ten Mile Pond: Well pump conversion from diesel to electric project was started in April and the contractors were given 275 days to complete the conversion.

- Bob Brown: The pump station is still operational but is past its lifespan. New pumps are ordered and should arrive for installation later this year.

Modifications like ditches and channelization have caused our waters to rise and fall much quicker than they did historically. Pumps, levees, and water control structures allow us to extend the hydrology and manage water for a range of wetland-dependent species and public uses. Maintaining this infrastructure isn't always in the front of mind. However, it is a critical piece to provide these habitats. Hopefully this update provides a little more insight on the ongoing process and priorities for the Missouri Department of Conservation. 🙌

Progress is also being made on the pump station at Schell-Osage.




MoBCI Member Organizations

As of July 2024, the following 79 organizations have signed a Memorandum of Agreement to participate in the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative:

Academy of Science of St. Louis
American Bird Conservancy/
Central Hardwoods Joint Venture
Audubon Center at Riverlands
Audubon Society:
• Chariton Valley Chapter
• Columbia Chapter
• Grand River Chapter
• Greater Kansas City Chapter,
Burroughs Audubon Society
• Greater Ozarks Chapter
• Midland Empire Chapter
• River Bluffs Chapter
• St. Louis Chapter
Avian Conservation Alliance
Bellefontaine Cemetery & Arboretum
City of Des Peres Parks & Recreation Department
Clay County Dept. of Parks,
Recreation & Historic Sites
Coldwater Outing and Game Preserve
Conservation Federation of Missouri
Ducks Unlimited
Eleven Point River Conservancy
Forest Park Forever
Forrest Keeling Nursery
Great Rivers Habitat Alliance
Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri
Kansas City Wildlands/Bridging The Gap
L-A-D Foundation
LaBarque Watershed Stream Team Association
Litzsinger Road Ecology Center
Mark Twain National Forest, USDA Forest Service
Massasauga Flats, LLC
Missouri Army National Guard
Missouri Bird Conservation Foundation
Missouri Birding Society
Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources,
Division of State Parks

Missouri Department of Transportation
Missouri Falconers Association
Missouri Master Naturalists:
• Boone's Lick Chapter
• Great Rivers Chapter
• Hi Lonesome Chapter
• Loess Bluffs Chapter
• Osage Plains Chapter
• Osage Trails Chapter
• Springfield Plateau Chapter
Missouri Native Plant Society:
• Hawthorn Chapter
• Osage Plains Chapter
Missouri Native Seed Association
Missouri Park and Recreation Association
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Missouri Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation
• Grouse Chapter
Missouri River Bird Observatory
Mussel Fork Legacy Marsh LLC
National Wild Turkey Federation, MO Chapter
North American Grouse Partnership, MO Chapter
Ozark Land Trust
Ozark National Scenic Riverways
Pheasants Forever
Platte Land Trust
Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation Inc.
Quail Forever
Sierra Club, Ozark Chapter
The Nature Conservancy, Missouri Field Office
Truman State University
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:
• Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge
• Ecological Services
• Great River/Clarence Cannon National
Fish & Wildlife Refuge
• Loess Bluffs National Fish & Wildlife Refuge
• Mingo National Fish & Wildlife Refuge
• Missouri Private Lands Office
• Swan Lake National Fish & Wildlife Refuge
University of Missouri-Columbia
Watershed Institute, Inc
and The Watershed Land Trust
Webster Groves Nature Study Society
Wild Birds for the 21st Century
Wild Bird Rehabilitation Inc.
Wildcat Glades Conservation & Nature Center
Wings Over Weston
World Bird Sanctuary

To find out more about the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative and how you can participate as a member organization, visit our website: www.mobci.net 



Annual Conference • August 22–23, 2024
 Columbia Country Club, 2210 Country Club Dr., Columbia, Missouri
 Online registration and schedule at <http://www.Mobci.Net/registration>

CONFERENCE THEME

**“20 Years of the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative
 Conference: Gathering to Help Birds and Their Habitats”**

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SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22	
5:00 pm	Registration
6:00 pm–7:30 pm	Social time, with heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar available
7:30 pm–8:00 pm	Welcoming remarks/housekeeping (John Burk, MoBCI Steering Committee) Open Silent Auction.
8:00 pm–9:00 pm	Keynote speaker Dave Erickson (MoBCI Treasurer). <i>An overview of the inception and history of the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative.</i>
9:00 pm–10:00 pm	Continue social time

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

7:15 am	Coffee and tea for conference registrants
8:00 am–9:00 am	<p>Welcome and highlights of the year Allison Vaughn (Chair, MoBCI Steering Committee)</p> <p>General Assembly Meeting</p>
9:00 am–10:15 am	<p>3, 20-minute project history presentations from community-conservation based affiliates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Restoration Efforts in the Big Rivers Confluence: USACE and Riverlands Audubon Center ecosystem restoration.</i> Tyler Goble, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • <i>Beyond Birding: Columbia Audubon Society's efforts in landscape restoration and education.</i> Lottie Bushmann, Columbia Audubon Society • <i>Greater Ozarks Audubon Society's contributions to Southwest Missouri and the GLADE Project.</i> Myra Scroggs, Greater Ozarks Audubon Society
10:15 am–10:30 am	Project poster session and break
10:30 am–11:30 am	<p>3, 20-minute project history presentations from longtime MoBCI grant recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Glade, Woodland, Wetland and Prairie Restoration Projects in Missouri State Parks.</i> Jacob Bryant, Missouri Department of Natural Resources • <i>Missouri Prairie Foundation and MoBCI Partnership Over the Decade.</i> Jerod Huebner, Missouri Prairie Foundation • <i>National Wild Turkey Federation's Mission Delivery and the role of MoBCI Grants.</i> John Burk, National Wild Turkey Federation
11:30 am–12:30 pm	<p>Lunch with Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Overview and highlights from the Grasslands Summit.</i> Andrew White, Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever
12:30 pm–1:30 pm	<p>New faces and Initiatives: Where do we go in the next 20 years? 3, 20-minute presentations from individuals and projects relatively new in the field of bird conservation in Missouri:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>USFWS Bird Initiatives: Beyond the Bird.</i> Erin Holmes & Sarah Kendrick, US Fish & Wildlife Service • <i>Bottomland Forest Birds of the Upper Mississippi River.</i> Tara Hohman, Audubon Center at Riverlands • <i>The Past, Present, and Future of the Brown-headed Nuthatch in Missouri.</i> Kristen Heath-Acre, Missouri Department of Conservation
1:30 pm–3:00 pm	Open discussion to brainstorm on calls to action where attendees will have the opportunity to help mold the future of MoBCI
3:00 pm–3:30 pm	<p>Wrap-up and closing comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Summarize ways we can make a difference for birds.</i> Allison Vaughn (MoBCI Chair)