

Missouri Motus Network

August 2026 Update

Kristen Heath-Acre, State Ornithologist



Missouri Department of Conservation
mdc.mo.gov

BY THE NUMBERS

44

Missouri Motus stations

70

species detected

906

animals detected

2,435

active receivers worldwide

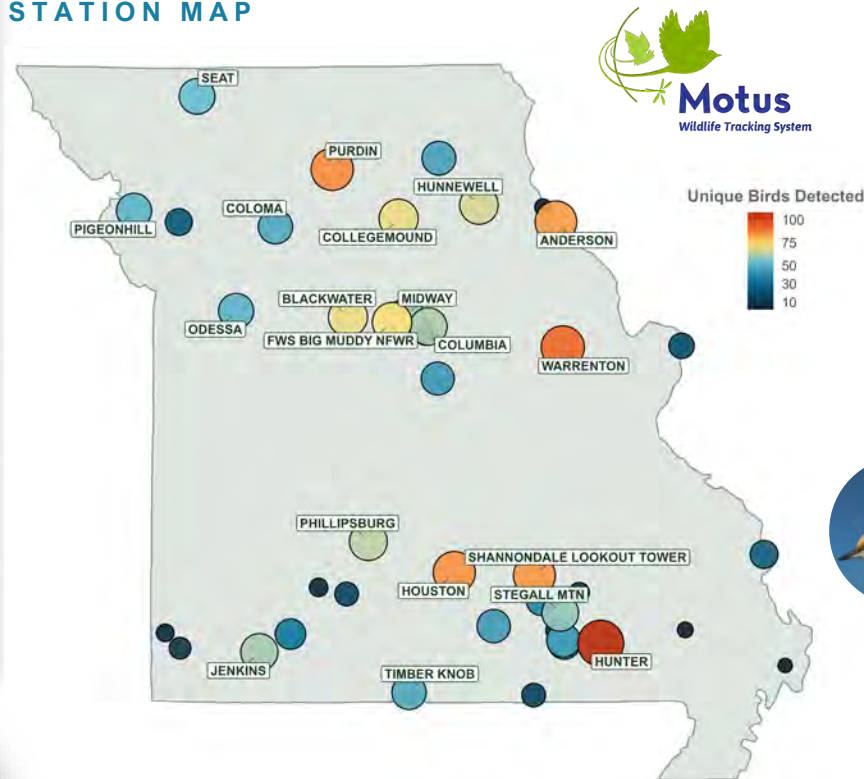
34

countries in global network

497

species tagged globally

STATION MAP



Missouri Motus Network

Unique individuals detected per station

· 1,889 unique birds ·

· 44 stations ·

Data: Motus Wildlife Tracking System, Project 210 ·
Updated June 25, 2026 · Top 20 stations labeled

WHAT'S NEW

Wood Thrush Study

Missouri stations detected over 200 tagged Wood Thrush this season, part of the largest coordinated Motus study ever undertaken, spanning 60+ partners across the full breeding and wintering range. 1,300 tags deployed range-wide since 2024 have generated 120 million detections, helping identify migratory connections and survival bottlenecks across the species' annual cycle. [More info here.](#)

Brown-headed Nuthatch Project

The 5th and final year of reintroduction of the Brown-headed Nuthatch to Mark Twain National Forest is underway. Motus and other resight data show tagged birds exploring up to 27 miles from the original release site. Using Motus, we are learning more about Brown-headed Nuthatch survival, behavior, and movements in Missouri. [More info here.](#)



Network Growth

The global Motus network has grown more than 500% since 2016 — from 325 stations to over 2,300 in 34 countries. [Explore Motus here.](#)

In Missouri, the network has grown from 36 in 2023 to 44 stations in 2026. Notable stations added include Shannondale Lookout Tower near Echo Bluffs State Park; Hannibal water tower, and Mingo National Wildlife Refuge.



Wood Thrush (left) and Motus Tag (right),
Photo credits: Lauren Brunk, Sarah Kendrick

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WHY MOTUS?

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is a collaborative network that helps researchers in Missouri and beyond better understand bird movements, migration, habitat use, and survival by connecting local conservation efforts to a continental-scale picture of wildlife movement. Our Motus Network helps:

- Identify migration routes, stopover areas, and habitats used throughout the year
- Support conservation decisions for species hard to monitor with traditional methods
- Inform [Southern Wings](#) work by pinpointing full annual-cycle habitat needs for species wintering in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Connect Missouri's monitoring efforts with a continent-wide Motus network
- Evaluate conservation actions, habitat management, and species recovery efforts

MISSOURI MOTUS NETWORK PARTNERS

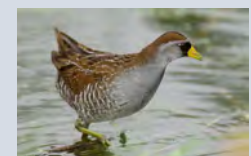
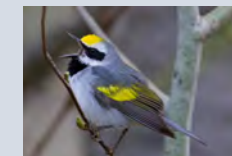
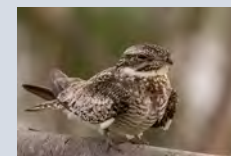
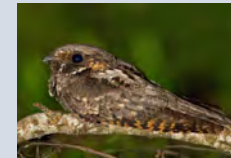
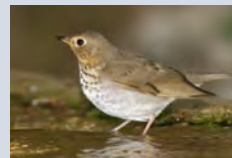
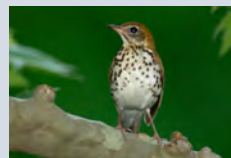
Birds Canada
SELVA
USFWS
Missouri Birding Society
Columbia Audubon
Society
Missouri Conservation
Heritage Foundation
Missouri DNR
Andrew Kinslow

City of Hannibal
Kathleen Anderson
Southern Wings

Special thanks to:
Sarah Kendrick, *USFWS*
Joe Davis, *MDC*
Shawn Hawks, *MDC*
Trevor Lindsay, *MU*

TOP SPECIES DETECTED 2026

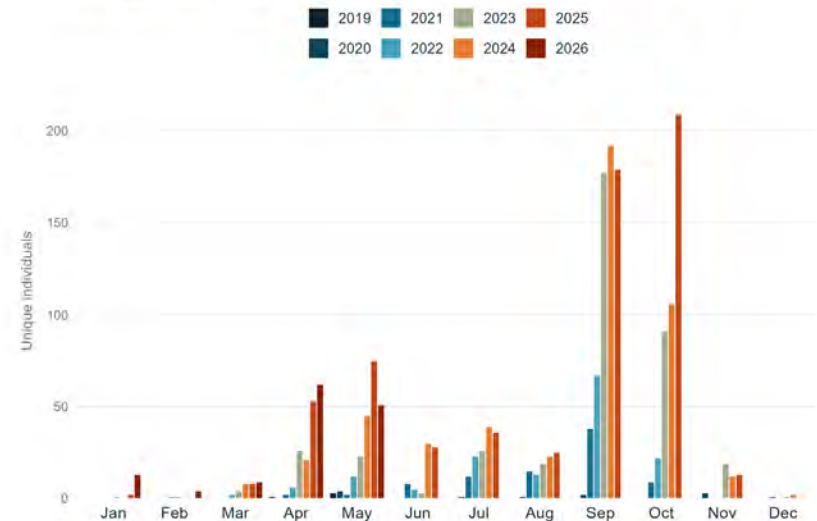
1. Wood Thrush.....213 ind.
2. Swainson's Thrush203 ind.
3. Eastern Whip-poor-will42 ind.
4. Black Tern.....37 ind.
5. Veery.....33 ind.
6. American Kestrel.....29 ind.
7. Franklin's Gull.....28 ind.
8. Common Nighthawk.....27 ind.
9. Golden-winged Warbler19 ind.
10. Sora.....17 ind.



Top Left to Bottom Right: Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Whip-poor-will (©Paul Cools), Black Tern (©Addy Long), Veery, American Kestrel, Franklin's Gull (©Millie Basden), Common Nighthawk (©Mike Stewart), Golden-winged Warbler (©Casey Weissburg), Sora

Missouri Motus Network — Unique Individuals Detected by Month

Each tagged individual counted once per station · Brown-headed Nuthatch excluded



Data: Motus Wildlife Tracking System, Project 210 · Updated 2026-07-27

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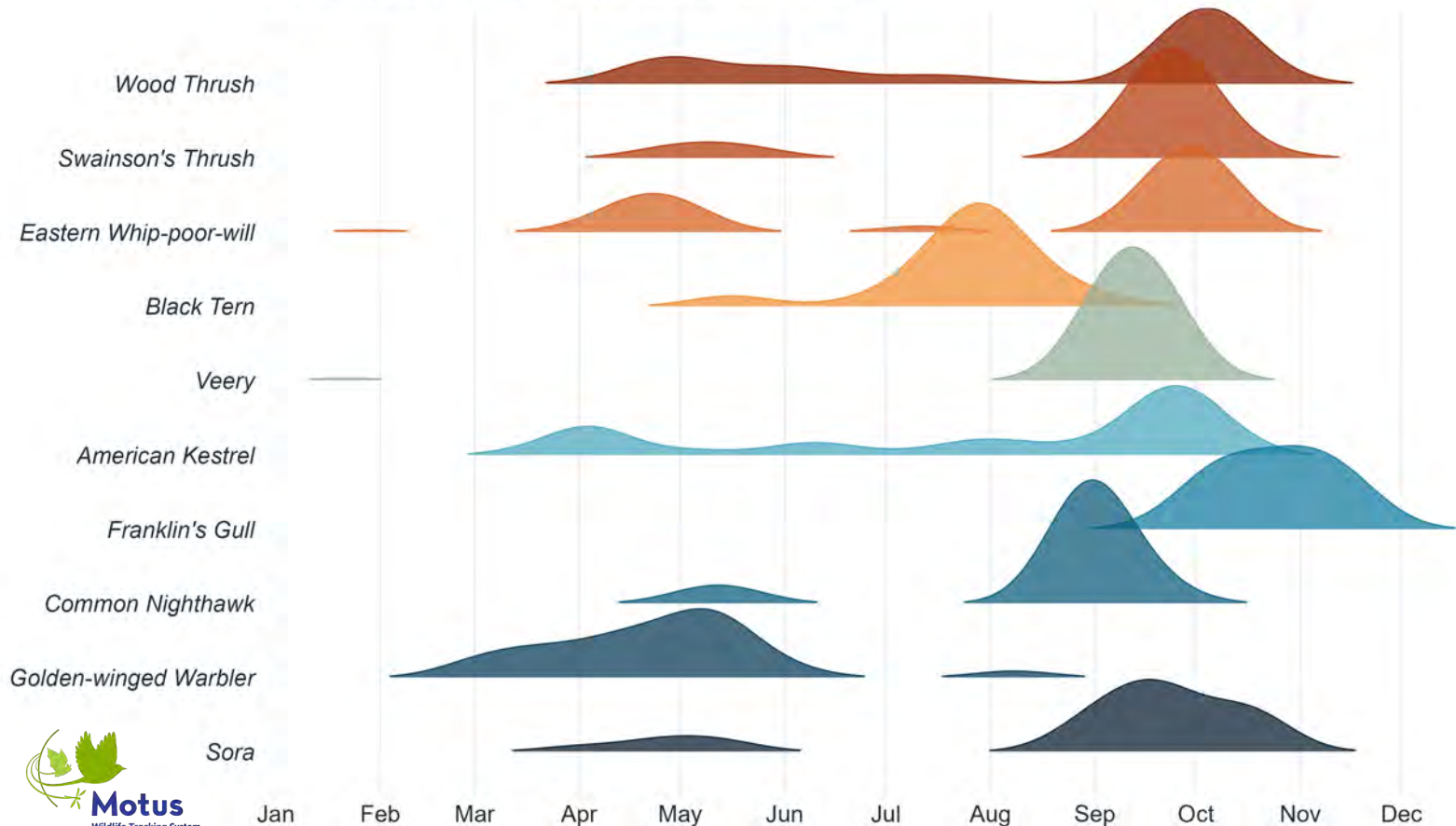


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Migration Timing at Missouri Motus Stations

Detection density by day of year · all years pooled · top 10 species



Data: Motus Wildlife Tracking System, Project 210 · Each individual counted once per station · Updated 2026-07-27

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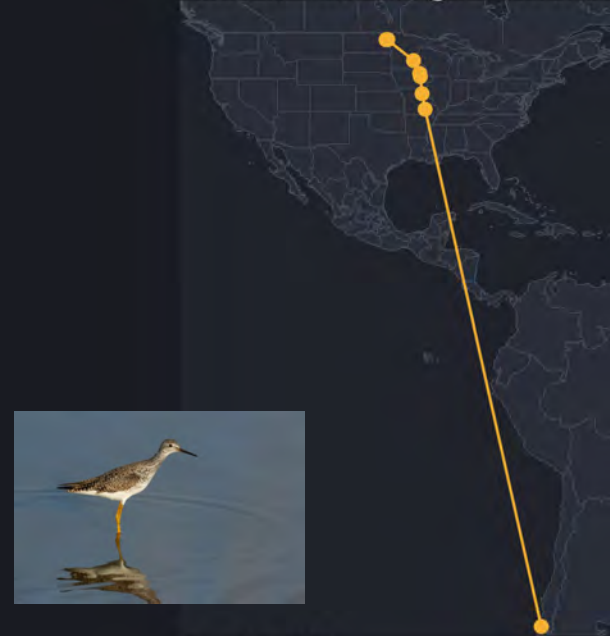
NOTABLE DETECTIONS

Swainson's Thrush · 18 station(s)



Tag 98470

Lesser Yellowlegs · 9 station(s)



Tag 101212



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NOTABLE DETECTIONS

Eastern Whip-poor-will · 16 station(s)



Tag 94260

Black-billed Cuckoo · 11 station(s)



Tag 87506



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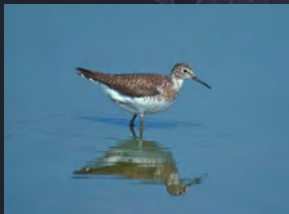
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NOTABLE DETECTIONS

Solitary Sandpiper · 7 station(s)



Tag 98033

Wood Thrush · 20 station(s)



Tag 95497

