



St. Charles County Government

Department of Parks and Recreation
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Rare Bird Sighting at Broemmelsiek Park

St. Charles County, Missouri — A Northern Shrike, which is an unusual species of bird found in Missouri, was recently spotted by an avid birder at Broemmelsiek Park, situated on Schwede Road, off Highway DD, just south of O’Fallon. Shawn Clubb, of St. Charles, made the discovery while visiting the park to birdwatch. The find is so rare the Audubon Society of Missouri Records Committee suggested the bird be submitted as an unusual species for Missouri.

The Northern Shrike is a large predatory songbird that breeds in taiga and tundra and winters in southern Canada and the northern United States. The bird has a gray back, whitish throat and chest, black wings, and a black tail edged in white. It has a black mask across the eyes and a hooked black beak. It feeds on small birds, mammals, and insects, sometimes impaling them on spines or barbed wire fences.

It is anticipated that birdwatchers from across the state may visit Broemmelsiek Park to try to get a glimpse of the Northern Shrike, also known as “butcher birds.” There have apparently been only three Northern Shrike sightings reported in the greater St. Louis area, over the last several years.

For more information about the St. Charles County Bird List, visit www.stccparks.org and view a list of birds found in the parks. To add birds to the list, please send an email to parks@sccmo.org that notes the species name and park location.

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