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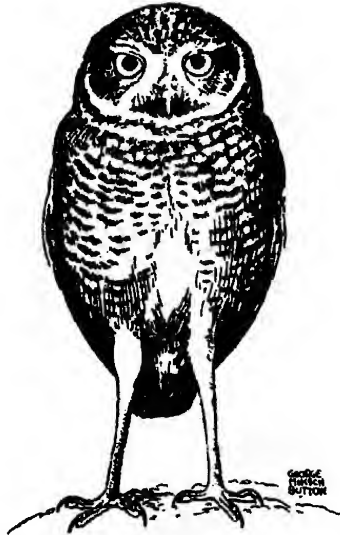
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The Nebraska Bird Review

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Stephen J. Dinsmore, Co-editor

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NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION TREASURER'S REPORT December 31, 2009

	General Funds	Breeding Bird Atlas	Scholarship Fund	Endowment Fund	Total
CHECKING					
Jan. 1, 2009 Balance - Checking	\$1892.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$2002.17
RECEIPTS					
Donations	614.00				614.00
Memberships	2740.00			500.00	3240.00
Subscriptions	240.00				240.00
Spring Meet-York-2009	4131.20				4131.20
Fall Meet-Valentine-2009	1764.00				1764.00
NG&P Atlas Grant		12923.59			12923.59
Transfer from Savings		500.00			500.00
Sub-total Receipts	\$9,489.20	\$13,423.59	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$22,912.79
DISBURSEMENTS					
Spring Meet-Chadron-2010	50.00				50.00
Spring Meet-York-2009	3922.49		125.00		4047.49
Fall Meet-Valentine-2009	1505.00		306.28		1811.28
NBR-Printing-V76 #3,4-V77 #1,2	2686.38				2686.38
NBR Software	60.00				60.00
Newsletter - Printing	744.88				744.88
Postage	727.49				727.49
Secy of State	20.00				20.00
Bank of the West-checks	22.00				22.00
Website	125.29				125.29
Insurance	300.00				300.00
Reimb Mollhoff-Atlas #2		12834.02			12834.02
Contract-Rehme-Atlas #2		360.00			360.00
Transfer to CD				110.00	110.00
Sub-total Disbursements	\$10,163.53	\$13,194.02	\$431.28	\$110.00	\$23,898.83
Dec. 31, 2009 Balance-Checking	\$1,217.84	\$229.57	-\$431.28	\$500.00	\$1,016.13
SAVINGS					
Jan. 1, 2009 Balance - Savings	\$6,243.85	\$304.72	\$1,375.20	\$-	\$7,923.77
Interest	27.91				27.91
Transfer to checking		-500.00			-500.00
Transfer from CDs	1073.15	315.71			1388.86
Transfer to CD	-943.23				-943.23
Dec. 31, 2009 Balance - Savings	\$6,401.68	\$120.43	\$1,375.20	\$-	\$7,897.31
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT					
Jan. 1, 2009 Balance - CDs	\$5,507.67	\$6,964.90		\$34,673.97	\$47,146.54
Principal Additions				110.00	110.00
Transfer to/from Savings	943.23	-315.71		-1073.15	-445.63
Transfer to Checking					0.00
Interest Received	105.73	112.36		849.44	1067.53
Dec. 31, 2009 Balance - CDs	\$6,556.63	\$6,761.55		\$34,580.26	\$47,878.44
Maturity	4/20/10	2/20/10		6/27/10	
CD Annual Rates	1.75%	1.30%		2.05%	
Endowment Principal				34152	
Grand Total					\$56,791.88

WINTER FIELD REPORT, December 2009 to February 2010

Compiled by W. Ross Silcock
P.O. Box 57, Tabor, IA 51653
silcock@rosssilcock.com

INTRODUCTION

This was a long, cold winter, but effects on birds were not particularly noticeable. Perhaps the relative blandness of the reports reflected the "normal" behavior of most birds when confronted with a cold winter and the seriousness of survival: birds were in places they should have been. Carolina Wrens may have been hit (more on that in the Spring Report), but a few species were present in higher numbers than might have been expected. Rusty and Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbird were notable for higher winter numbers, as were Snow Buntings. Even more so, there were lots of Fox Sparrows, including several wintering birds, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were widespread in eastern Nebraska. Winter Wrens stayed into December in force, with few reported in January. At the opposite end of the spectrum, Townsend's Solitaires and Red Crossbills were in low numbers, as were Common Redpolls, which adhered to their apparent alternating-year appearance schedule.

Encouraging was the slow but definite increase in reports of Red-shouldered Hawks in southeast Nebraska; this spring will add to the story.

Rarities were unremarkable: a Bewick's Wren was a belated 2008-2009 report. There was a single Varied Thrush and a dangerously-late Yellow-throated Warbler, Nebraska's third for December.

ABBREVIATIONS

BOL: Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co
BOL-S: Branched Oak Lake-Seward
CBC: Christmas Bird Count
Cem: Cemetery
HCR: Harlan Co Reservoir, Harlan Co
LM: Lake McConaughy, Keith Co
LO: Lake Ogallala, Keith Co
m.ob.: many observers
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
PL: Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co
Res: Reservoir
RWB: Rainwater Basin: wetland complex in several counties of south-central and southeast Nebraska
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)
SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, Denton
SP: State Park
SR: Sutherland Res, Lincoln Co

Continued on page 6



Trumpeter Swan family, 3/4 mile south of Stapleton, Logan Co., 8 June 2010. Photo by Bob Gerten.

Louisiana Waterthrush (right) and
adult on nest (lower right), Platte
River S. P., Cass Co., 20 May 2010.
Photo by Edward Tickle.



Lewis's Woodpecker, Fort Robinson S.P., Dawes
Co., 13 May 2010. Photo by Tim Hajda.





Great Blue Herons on one of at least six nests at the rookery in Wilderness Park, Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 8 Apr 2010.



Sandhill and Common Crane, west of North Platte, Lincoln Co., 18 March 2010. Photo by Virginia Clark.

Great Egret with Gizzard Shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*) at Crystal Springs Park, Fairbury, Jefferson Co., 15 Sept 2009. Photo by Edward Tickle.



OBSERVERS

AD: Ann Duey, Scottsbluff
AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering
ARy: Al Reyer, Bellevue
AS: Audrey Sterkel, Sidney
BFH: Bill F. Huser, South Sioux City
BG: Betty Grenon, Bellevue
BM: Brad McKinney, Scottsbluff
B&DW: Bruce & Donna Walgren, Casper, WY
CH: Candace Havelly, McCook
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue
CR: Carolyn Rieke, Lincoln
DC: Derb Carter, Raleigh, NC
DE: Dave Ely, Salem, MA
DH: Dale Haverty, Nebraska City
DHe: Dave Heidt, Norfolk
DJ: Dee Jordan, Danbury
DK: Dan Klammer, Hastings
DL: Dan Leger, Lincoln
D&CN: Don and Colleen Noecker, Albion
DW: Duane Wolff, Norfolk
EB: Eric Bents, Omaha
EBr: Ed Brogie, Laurel
GR: Gary Roberts, Fremont
GW: Gordon Warrick, Lincoln
G&WH: Glen & Wanda Hoge, Alma
HKH: Helen K. Hughson, Mitchell
JC: John Carlini, Lincoln
JG: Joe Gubanyi, Seward
JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Lincoln
JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield
JLL: Jeanine L. Lackey, Doniphan
JM: Jim Mountjoy, Lincoln
JMe: Jim Meyer, Elkhorn
JR: Justin Rink, Omaha
JRi: Juanita Rice, Fairmont
JT: Jerry Toll, Omaha
KB: Kelli Bacon, Lincoln
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell
KP: Kevin Poague, Lincoln
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln
LF: Laurence Falk, Nebraska City
LJH: Luke J. Hamilton, Oshkosh
LO: Linda Ollinger, Wilsonville
LR: Lanny Randolph, Minden
LRB: Linda R. Brown, Lincoln
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings

PS: Phil Swanson, Omaha
RB: Rusty Blitz, Omaha
RH: Robin Harding, Minden
RJ: Rita Jensen, Hooper
RSi: Ruben Siegfried, Gering
RSt: Ruth Stearns, Lincoln
SJD: Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA
SM: Steve Morris, Grand Island
SMc: Scott McConnell, Camden, WY
SQ: Susan Quinn, Nebraska City
SS: Shari Schwartz, Lincoln
S&GM: Sandy and George McDonald, Omaha
TEL: Thomas E. Labeledz, Lincoln
TH: Tim Hajda, Broken Bow
TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady
TP: Theresa Pester, Walton
VC: Virginia Clark, North Platte
WF: William Flack, Kearney
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose: Rare in midwinter, but most likely in the central Platte Valley, 11 were with the many Canada Geese at Grandpa's Steakhouse Pond, Kearney, 27 Jan (TH). Migrants appeared in mid-Feb, but no large groups were reported; earliest were 13 in Lancaster Co 13 Feb (LE).

Snow Goose: A few linger in winter, but westerly reports are unexpected; 6 were at SR and 21 in Dawson Co 3 Jan (SJD), and 3 were at HCR 18 Jan (G&WH). Large numbers piled in towards the end of Feb; "flock after flock as far as the binoculars can see" were in Cheyenne Co 18 Feb (AS).

Ross's Goose: Routine reports.

Cackling Goose: Although usually an uncommon winter visitor westward, surprising numbers were reported. Some 20,000 were in the Jeffrey Res, Lincoln Co, area 30 Jan (LRB) and 6500 were at SR with only 36 Canada Geese 3 Jan (SJD). Another 1500 were at Grandpa's Steakhouse Pond, Kearney 27-30 Jan (LRB, TH). Unexpected was one as far n. as Garfield Co 1 Jan (WF).

Canada Goose: Best count was an impressive 15,268 on the Scotts Bluff CBC 19 Dec (fide AK).

Trumpeter Swan: The usual scattered birds were reported, but none later than 2 in Cass Co 4 Jan (JT).

Wood Duck: Winter sightings are unusual, especially westward; late was one on the Scottsbluff CBC 19 Dec (fide AK), and "earliest ever" there was one at HCR 25 Feb (G&WH). Salt Creek, Lincoln, hosted 2-3 through the winter (LE).

Gadwall: Routine reports.

American Wigeon: Routine reports.



Willet, Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co.,
4 May 2010. Photo by Edward Tickle.

Grasshopper Sparrow, Whooping Crane
Trust, Hall Co., 6 June 2009.
Photo by Tim Hajda.



Lazuli Bunting, NW of Wakefield, Dixon
Co., 19 May 2009. Photo by Jan Johnson.



Common Grackle in nest in Japanese
yew, Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 26 May
2010. Photo by Michelle Johnson.



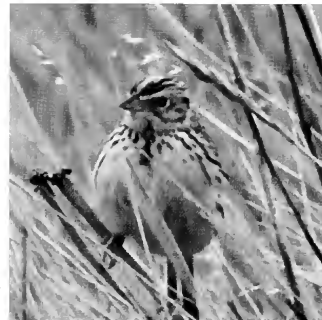
Cooper's Hawk chasing
American Crow, Holmes
Lake, Lincoln, Lancaster
Co., 16 Oct 2009.
Photo by Edward Tickle.



Bobolink, Harvard WPA, Clay Co., 9 June
2007. Photo by Paul Dunbar.



Hermit Warbler, Crescent Lake
N.W.R., Garden Co., 21 May
2010. Photo by Cory Gregory.



Baird's Sparrow, Sioux Co.,
16 May 2010. Photo by
Phil Swanson.

- American Black Duck:** Rarely reported in recent years, one was in Sarpy Co 3 Jan (SJD).
- Mallard:** Best count was a good tally of 35,000 at SR 3 Jan (SJD).
- Northern Shoveler:** One on Salt Creek, Lincoln, 12 Jan (LE) was one of few midwinter records away from the Platte Valley.
- Northern Pintail:** Routine reports.
- Green-winged Teal:** Routine reports.
- Canvasback:** Routine reports.
- Redhead:** Routine reports.
- Ring-necked Duck:** Unusual in midwinter away from a few locations such as LM, the 12 at Grandpa's Steakhouse, Kearney, 30 Jan (LRB) were unexpected.
- Greater Scaup:** Two at North Platte SL 18 Feb (TJW) were rather early, and the only ones reported.
- Lesser Scaup:** Routine reports.
- Long-tailed Duck:** The only report of this rare winter visitor was of a female in Greeley Co 5 Dec (LR,RH).
- Bufflehead:** Rather early were 2 at HCR 13 Feb (G&WH).
- Common Goldeneye:** A good count was the 380 at SR 1 Jan (SJD). Photos of a Common Goldeneye/Hooded Merganser hybrid in Scotts Bluff Co 13 Feb were received (KD). Surprisingly, the latter is the 9th Nebraska report of this hybrid, apparently involving only 3-4 birds.
- Barrow's Goldeneye:** A male near North Platte 21-22 Jan (TJW, TH, photo) may have been the same bird seen in the same general area 23 Jan 2008. This species is regular but rare in winter in the North Platte Valley, with most records at LM.
- Hooded Merganser:** Rather late for the location was one at Calamus Res, Garfield Co, 2 Jan (WF).
- Common Merganser:** Best count was a moderate 8500 at SR 3 Jan (SJD).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** Three were at SR 1-3 Jan (SJD); these birds probably winter here if open water persists.
- Ruddy Duck:** Routine reports.
- Gray Partridge:** None were reported.
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Noteworthy CBC tallies were the 386 at DeSoto NWR 30 Dec (fide JT) and the 73 at Crawford 2 Jan (fide B&DW).
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Rather early for displaying birds were the 13 near Broken Bow 13 Feb (TH).
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Also rather early were 12 on a booming ground near Winnetoon 13 Feb (MB). The 100 near Broken Bow 10 Feb (TH) was a good count, as was the 60 at Davis Creek Res, Valley and Sherman Cos, 7 Dec (TH). Encouraging at a RWB location were the 25 at Harvard Marsh, Clay Co, 27 Feb (LR, RH).
- Wild Turkey:** This species is ubiquitous these days, as shown by CBC counts of 403 at Omaha 19 Dec (fide BG), 271 at Crawford 2 Jan (B&DW), and 256 at DeSoto NWR 30 Dec (JT).
- Northern Bobwhite:** Three coveys totaling 50 birds were near Broken Bow 12 Dec (TH); this species is uncommon north and west of central Nebraska and away from the Platte Valley.
- Pied-billed Grebe:** Routine reports.

- Horned Grebe:** The only report was of 2 at BOL 4 Dec (LE); late dates are around 20 Dec.
- Eared Grebe:** None were reported; late dates are in early Dec.
- Western Grebe:** A few linger into Dec on occasion at LM, and overwintering has occurred there on about 5 occasions, mostly in the late 1990s; one was there 1-2 Jan (SJD). One at BOL 5-6 Dec (JGJ, LE) was the latest on record for the east.
- American White Pelican:** At least a few usually try to winter at the cooling pond at SR, but 33 ghostly shapes in the fog there 1 Jan (SJD) were unexpected. Another at LO 1-2 Jan (SJD), also a regular location, may have survived until 28 Feb, when one was present there (JM).
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Two at PL 6 Dec (LE) were rather late.
- Great Blue Heron:** Routine reports.
- Osprey:** One was reported on the Scottsbluff CBC 19 Dec at an open water area by experienced observers (HKH, AD); Dec reports are few and not well-documented except for an injured bird near Grand Island 18 Dec 2004.
- Bald Eagle:** Routine reports.
- Northern Harrier:** Routine reports.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** The 7 on the BOL-S CBC 17 Dec (fide JG) was a good count; this count circle has the 3 highest CBC tallies for this species, including 11 in 2005.
- Cooper's Hawk:** Routine reports.
- Northern Goshawk:** The only reports were of a "possible" in Bellevue 3 Dec (ARY; a large Cooper's could not be ruled out) and one near Norfolk 19 Dec (fide DW).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** An apparent increase in sightings from the PL and BOL areas and elsewhere indicate a likely increase in numbers in se. Nebraska, though possibly relating to only 1-2 pairs. There were 2 at PL 5 Feb (LE); singles were seen at PL 29 Jan, 5 and 22 Feb (LE) and at BOL 29 Dec (LE) and 27 Feb (RSt). Another was in Nemaha Co 28 Jan (LF, SQ).
- Red-tailed Hawk:** One was carrying nest material at Alma 5 Feb (G&WH), a rather early date to initiate nesting.
- Ferruginous Hawk:** An immature was reported at SCP 16 Dec (fide KP); identification of this age class is difficult and documented records from the east are few.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** Numbers were greater than usual; it was "more numerous than in recent years" in Harlan Co (G&WH), 12 were at Jack Sinn WMA, Lancaster Co, 16 Feb (LE), and the Crawford CBC had a count high of 15 on 2 Jan (fide B&DW).
- Golden Eagle:** Routine reports.
- American Kestrel:** Routine reports.
- Merlin:** Most wintering Merlins are the prairie-breeding subspecies *Falco columbarius richardsoni*, but a male *F. c. columbarius*, usually only a migrant in the state, was near Gothenburg 8 Jan (TH).
- Peregrine Falcon:** Single presumed resident birds were in Lincoln 18-19 Dec and 18 Feb (JC, LRB, TEL).
- Prairie Falcon:** Easterly was one in Howard Co 15 Feb (JLL), and there were 4 sightings of singles (same bird?) in Thayer and Nuckolls Cos during the period (DE).

- Virginia Rail:** The usual token bird was found on the LM CBC, this one on 2 Jan (SJD).
- American Coot:** Most depart before Jan, especially in the north, but one was at Calamus Res, Loup Co, 2 Jan (WF). A good count for the date was the 555 in Lincoln 5 Dec (LE).
- Sandhill Crane:** The first birds reported were 300-400 in Hall Co 18 Feb (PD), rather late for this species, but understandable given the weather on the Southern Great Plains.
- American Golden-Plover:** An apparent juvenile, seen and heard calling, was near Tekamah 7 Dec (EB); this is Nebraska's latest by 17 days.
- Killdeer:** A few birds linger below Keystone Dam at LM at least until CBC time each year; this year 2 were there for the CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD).
- Wilson's Snipe:** The usual stragglers into Dec were reported; last were on CBCs: 3 at LM 2 Jan (fide SJD) and 4 at Calamus-Loup the same day (fide DHe).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** None were reported; late dates are in mid-Dec.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Routine reports.
- California Gull:** None were reported; usually a few linger into early winter at LM.
- Herring Gull:** The 313 at SR 3 Jan (SJD) was a good count; high counts are in the 400-500 range.
- Thayer's Gull:** There were 2 reports involving 6 birds: an adult was at SR 1 Jan (SJD) with 2 juveniles there 3 Jan (SJD), and 3 individuals were at LM 28 Feb (JM).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** The only report was of an adult at SR 3 Jan (SJD), 2nd-latest for fall. There are only 4 records between 3 Jan and 12 Feb.
- Glaucous Gull:** The only reports were of a juvenile at SR 1-3 Jan (SJD) and a 3rd-year at HCR 13 Feb (G&WH).
- Rock Pigeon:** For anyone needing this species on their state list, the Scottsbluff CBC had 1046, a count high (fide AK).
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** This species is far more numerous in the west, as indicated by CBC counts in Omaha of 28, a count high (fide BG), and 129 in Scottsbluff (fide AK). The 120 in Bridgeport 13 Dec (LJH) was an excellent count. Highest count to date is 200.
- White-winged Dove:** One of the birds that summered in Hastings was still there 2 Jan (DK fide PD). A Scottsbluff yard hosted a surprising 1-3 during the period; all 3 were there together 21 Feb (RSi).
- Mourning Dove:** Reports were from the south and east as expected, west to Red Willow Co (DJ) and north to Dixon Co (JJ). The 169 on the Lincoln CBC 19 Dec (fide LRB) was a good count.
- Eastern Screech-Owl:** Routine reports.
- Great Horned Owl:** Routine reports.
- Snowy Owl:** None were reported; at least one is reported most years.
- Barred Owl:** Numbers are good west to Seward Co; a count high 6 were on the BOL-S CBC 17 Dec (fide JG).
- Long-eared Owl:** Ten were found on CBCs: 8 at BOL-S 17 Dec (fide JG), one at Norfolk 19 Dec (DW), and one at LM 2 Jan (fide SJD).
- Short-eared Owl:** Seven were reported, including 4 in Lancaster Co 2 Feb (JC, SS); others were there 29 Dec (LE) and 5 Jan (LE), and one was on the LM CBC 2 Jan (SJD).

- Northern Saw-whet Owl:** A small owl without ear tufts carrying a "rat" near Fairmont 4 Dec (JRi) was likely this species. Main diet is small mammals, although an item as large as a rat would be unusual.
- Belted Kingfisher:** Routine reports.
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** Most winter birds are in the southeast, but one was a surprise as far west as the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD). There is only one winter report for the Panhandle. One lingered in Dixon Co 5 Jan (JJ), where wintering occurs on occasion.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Common in the east, 70 were found on the BOL-S CBC, a count high, 17 Dec (fide JG). Rare in the west, however, were one on the Scottsbluff CBC 19 Dec (fide AK) and another in Morrill Co 10 Dec (LJH).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** There were more reports than usual, most, as expected, in the se, with 7 reported. Farther north and west than usual, an immature was in Custer Co 30 Jan (TH), 2 were in se. Lincoln Co 9 Feb (TJW), and an immature male was at Sidney 18 Feb (AS).
- Downy Woodpecker:** The 7 at a Lancaster Co feeder 19 Feb (TP) must have been a sight to see. Very unusual, but not unprecedented, was a Downy near Scottsbluff 19 Feb with yellow instead of red on its nape (AD, photo).
- Hairy Woodpecker:** Routine reports.
- Northern Flicker:** Routine reports.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** Routine reports within its limited range along the Missouri River in the se.
- Northern Shrike:** The 10 on the Calamus-Loup CBC 17 Dec (fide DHe) was a good tally; CBC high is 11.
- Blue Jay:** Routine reports.
- Pinyon Jay:** None were reported; this is usually a fairly common winter visitor in the Pine Ridge.
- Black-billed Magpie:** Routine post-West Nile reports. Magpies were seen in 9 of 10 years in the first 10 years of the BOL-S CBC, and the average number per count was 6. From 2003- 2009, only 3 magpies were seen, and they were found on only 2 of those 7 counts.
- American Crow:** The 1274 at Brady 13 Feb (TJW) were likely early migrants; peak spring migration is in Mar.
- Black-capped Chickadee:** Numbers are increasing in areas of east-central Nebraska that were hard-hit in recent years; the BOL-S CBC averaged 169 chickadees in its first 10 years, but only 23.5 from 2003 through 2008 (JG). This year, there were 66 counted (fide JG).
- Tufted Titmouse:** Routine reports.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Most feeders reported at least 1-2; numbers were about at baseline levels statewide.
- White-breasted Nuthatch:** Routine reports.
- Pygmy Nuthatch:** Routine reports.
- Brown Creeper:** The 5 at Dannebrog 23 Jan (LR, RH) was a record count.
- Carolina Wren:** This species' range is restricted by the severity of winter weather; evidence of this was provided by one at a Dodge Co feeder from 10 Dec found dead in 10-foot snowdrifts in 28 Dec (RJ). Another was surviving at an Albion feeder through 25 Dec (D&CN), but no others were reported Jan-Feb away from the Omaha-Lincoln area. The last die-off was during the winter of 1977-78, after which none were reported on CBCs for 5 years.

- Bewick's Wren:** The only report is from winter 2008-2009; one in Scotts Bluff Co, photographed 27 Jan 2009 (BM, photo), was only the 4th winter record for the state.
- Winter Wren:** CBCs in the southeast all reported at least one, with 4 on the Omaha CBC 19 Dec (fide BG). However, the only Jan-Feb reports were of singles at FF 29 Jan (CNK) and Hormel Park, Dodge Co, 25 Feb (GR). Overwintering is uncommon, even in the southeast.
- Marsh Wren:** A single Marsh Wren was located, as is the norm, on the LM CBC 2 Jan (SJD); another on the Calamus-Loup CBC 2 Jan (fide DHe) was more surprising.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** This species is rare in midwinter away from the southeast; lingerers were 7 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) and 2 in Custer Co 9 Jan (TH).
- Eastern Bluebird:** Routine reports.
- Mountain Bluebird:** Wintering occurs along the North Platte and Platte Valleys east to sw. Dawson Co; 35 were there 15 Feb (TJW).
- Townsend's Solitaire:** Numbers were low this winter; surprisingly, none were found on the Crawford CBC (although one was there during count week; fide B&DW), and only 6 were on the LM CBC (fide SJD), where usually 50+ are found.
- Hermit Thrush:** Of 5 reported, 3 were on the Lincoln CBC 19 Dec (fide LRB). The others were on the BOL-S CBC 17 Dec fide (JG) and at Oak Glen WMA, Seward Co, 16 Dec (LE).
- American Robin:** Routine reports.
- Varied Thrush:** One appeared at the McDonald yard between Omaha and Blair in Washington Co around 10 Dec (S&GM, fide DC, fide SJD, photo PS) and was still present 10 Jan (CNK).
- Gray Catbird:** One in a North Platte yard was late and westerly for the date 7-19 Dec (VC photo, fide TJW).
- Northern Mockingbird:** Scarce in winter, the only report was of one in Brady 13 Feb (TJW).
- Brown Thrasher:** Four lingering birds were reported, the last on the Ponca SP CBC 2 Jan (fide BFH). The others were in Buffalo Co 7 Dec (LR, RH), Nebraska City 12 Dec (LF), and on the Lincoln CBC 19 Dec (fide LRB).
- European Starling:** The 11,062 on the North Platte CBC (of which 10,222 were individually counted by TH) was impressive but moderate by starling standards.
- American Pipit:** One at BOL 4 Dec (CR, details) was one of a handful of Dec records; there are none for Jan-Feb.
- Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** The 15 on the BOL-S CBC 17 Dec (fide JG) was a good total. Several lingered into Jan, notably one in Custer Co 30 Jan (TH), and apparently wintering were 3-5 at BOL 5-26 Jan (LE) and 3-4 at PL 29 Jan-22 Feb (LE). Singles in Nebraska City 28 Feb (CNK) and at SCP 21 Feb (KP) likely wintered also.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** Yet another surprising Dec record, Nebraska's 3rd, was photographed at a Walton feeder 4-5 Dec (TP).
- Spotted Towhee:** Most are in the southeast by late Dec, and so singles at Bridgeport through 14 Dec (LJH) and on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) were good finds. Three others were in the south and east during Jan-Feb (LO, KB, LE), where a few winter most years.

Eastern Towhee: Routine reports of a few individuals in the se.

American Tree Sparrow: Best count was the impressive but historically moderate 720 on the BOL-S CBC 17 Dec (fide JG).

Fox Sparrow: This species was much in evidence in the south and east, with a surprising 6-7 wintering at PL alone (LE). Wintering occurs on occasion, but is rare, and even more surprising given the hard winter. In addition to the PL birds, singles were present the entire winter at feeders in Elkhorn (JMe) and Hooper (RJ), and one was in Lincoln 18 Jan (DL). At least 35 were reported in all, including an amazing 17 on the BOL-S CBC 17 Dec (fide JG). Northerly were singles on the Ponca SP CBC 2 Jan (fide BFH) and a grayish bird, possibly *Passerella iliaca zaboria*, was on the Norfolk CBC 19 Dec (MB, EBr).

Song Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lincoln's Sparrow: The only report was of one on the Omaha CBC 19 Dec (fide BG); although rare in Dec, there are about 32 such reports, most on CBCs.

Swamp Sparrow: The only reports were of singles on the North Platte CBC 19 Dec (fide TJW) and the Omaha CBC the same day (fide BG).

White-throated Sparrow: Routine reports.

Harris's Sparrow: Numbers were rather poor; the only bright spot was 100+ in Dixon Co 12 Dec (JJ). Three on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) were westerly.

White-crowned Sparrow: Numbers dropped to zero by 13 Feb in a Scotts Bluff Co yard where usually several winter (KD); wintering in the east and south is unusual, and so singles at Naponee 10 Jan (G&WH), Nebraska City 26 Jan-26 Feb (SQ), and in Dodge Co 26 Feb (GR) were good finds.

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored and Oregon) Junco: The 1322 (all Slate-colored) on the Omaha CBC 19 Dec (fide BG) was an excellent CBC tally; BOL-S CBC had 904, and included an excellent 14 "Oregon" Juncos (fide JG).

Lapland Longspur: Large numbers were in Banner Co 2 Feb; 5000 in several flocks were estimated (SMc).

Snow Bunting: Reports were widespread and numerous; best counts were 30 in Knox Co 16 Feb (WF) and 18 in Cuming Co 12 Feb (JJ). At least 74 were reported.

Northern Cardinal: Westerly reports continue, suggesting consolidation in the North Platte Valley; 2 were found on the Scottsbluff CBC 19 Dec (fide AK), up to 4 were at Bridgeport 10-15 Dec (LJH), with another there 4 Feb (LJH), and 2 were near Oshkosh 14 Dec (LJH).

Red-winged Blackbird: Midwinter flocks are unusual, but this year 620 were at BOL 5 Jan (LE) and 951 in Nuckolls Co 18 Jan (DE). The flock of 600 males at Kiowa WMA, Scotts Bluff Co, 13 Feb (KD) consisted of early migrants; flocks of males are usually the first migrants to appear in spring.

Eastern Meadowlark: Routine reports. Over-wintering of this species is as yet unproven; observations should include identification details.

Western Meadowlark: Earliest singers were 6 near Tamora 26 Feb (LE); first songs have been heard as early as late Jan.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: The only record was one with Red-winged Blackbirds in Hitchcock Co 14 Feb (CH).

Rusty Blackbird: Reports have increased recently; an impressive 52 were reported (m. ob.) in Dec, and 34 were found in Jan, including 30 at Grand Island 1 Jan (SM), one at Ponca SP 2 Jan (BFH), and 3 in Washington Co 14 Feb (RB).

- Brewer's Blackbird:** The only report was of one at BOL 11 Dec (LE); winter reports are rare.
- Common Grackle:** Midwinter sightings are usually of single males; more than usual were reported this year, including a CBC count week bird at Harrison 1 Jan (B&DW), one on the Ponca SP CBC 2 Jan (BFH), a female with an asymmetric white collar in a Nebraska City yard 16 and 29 Jan (LF), one in Dixon Co 24 Jan (JJ), 4 in Otoe Co 8 Feb (DH), and 3 in Dodge Co 23 Feb (GR).
- Great-tailed Grackle:** Unexpected in midwinter was a flock of 60 in Grand Island 6 Jan (SM). The 154 on the North Platte CBC 19 Dec (fide TJW) was a good CBC tally.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** More than usual lingered for CBCs, including excellent counts of 181 on the DeSoto CBC 30 Dec (fide JT) and 41 on the BOL-S CBC 17 Dec (fide JG). Usually rare in midwinter, surprising were singles in Madison Co 2 Jan (JJ), at SCP 16 Jan (KP), 9 each at PL and BOL 29 Jan (LE), and 2 in Fairmont 9 Feb (JRi).
- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch:** The only reports were from Scottsbluff NM, where 50-75 were seen 19 Jan (GW) and 23 Jan (KD).
- Purple Finch:** Rather low numbers were reported, mostly in the southeast as expected, although one in a Scottsbluff yard 21 Jan (RSi) was a Panhandle rarity. Best count was the 59 on the BOL-S CBC 17 Dec (fide JG).
- Cassin's Finch:** None were reported; this species is rare but regular in the northwest.
- House Finch:** Best CBC count was 195 at Scottsbluff 19 Dec (fide AK).
- Red Crossbill:** Only 2 were reported away from the Panhandle; a male was at Alma 18 Jan (G&WH) and a single was found on the Lincoln CBC 19 Dec (fide LRB).
- Common Redpoll:** This is clearly a low year for this species. The only report was of one on the Lincoln CBC 19 Dec (fide LRB), following the single report of 4 birds during the fall.
- Pine Siskin:** Numbers were about average, with reports statewide. Best counts were in the west, including 89 in a Scotts Bluff Co yard 17 Jan (KD); best in the east was the 22 at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 28 Feb (JR).
- American Goldfinch:** The 622 on the BOL-S CBC 17 Dec (fide JG) was an excellent total.
- House Sparrow:** Routine reports.

Correction: In the 2009 Fall Field Report (*NBR* Vol. 77, No. 4, page 155) the sightings reported as Pine Siskins were in fact of Lesser Goldfinches.

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

Fourteen Christmas Bird Counts were held in Nebraska in the 2009-2010 season. The Ames count was cancelled due to weather, the Beaver Valley count returned after a year's absence, and the North Platte count was reinstated after not being officially run since the 1985-86 season. Although the average high and low temperatures were not exceptional, heavy snow cover affected most, if not all, of the counts. Roads were closed due to snow drifts, open water was limited, and at least three counts had to be rescheduled. The total number of species (116) was the lowest since 103 in 1997.

Interesting results included a record number of Trumpeter Swans (43), low duck numbers including no Canvasbacks (first miss since 1997), and an increase in numbers of all five Galliformes. Loons and grebes were absent except for one Western Grebe at Lake McConaughy. Raptor totals were generally down; a highlight was a Northern Goshawk at Norfolk. The nine American Coots was the lowest total since 1996.

Gulls were down in both numbers and diversity. Eight species and 1298 individuals were recorded on Nebraska CBCs in 2008 (most at Lake McConaughy), while this year only two species (Ring-billed and Herring) and 29 individuals were found.

Numbers of Columbiformes increased this year, possibly due to the birds being more concentrated and easier to find. A count-week White-winged Dove was found at Scottsbluff, the first one since 2005, which was also in Scottsbluff.

Overall Black-capped Chickadee numbers were down from 942 in 2008 to 814 this year, despite gains in some circles (from 31 in 2008 to 66 in 2009 at Branched Oak-Seward and from 3 in 2008 to 23 in '09 at Calamus-Loup). The Omaha tally went from 354 in 2008 to 262 this year. Nine Winter Wrens were recorded, which was an all-time high. Eighteen Carolina Wrens were tallied, a decade high, although those numbers will likely be lower next year, after this year's hard winter. Fox Sparrow rebounded to 28 after a low of 2 last year, and 142 Song Sparrows were found, a decade high count.

Icterid numbers were generally high. An impressive 37,570 Red-winged Blackbirds were counted at North Platte, although that number is dwarfed by the 255,806 found in Omaha in 1984. The 668 Common Grackles was the highest total since 1984, when 6097 were found. The 664 Great-tailed Grackles recorded (all from Grand Island and North Platte) was a new all-time high, and the 243 Brown-headed Cowbirds (181 at DeSoto) was the highest since 299 in 1984.

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Count Participants

Beaver Valley Belle Esau, William Flack, Mitzi Fox, Robin Harding, Colleen Noecker, Don Noecker (compiler), Lanny Randolph (7)

Branched Oak- Seward John Carlini, Alisha Clubb, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Kathleen French, Zane Grabau, Joseph Gubanyi (compiler), Thomas Labeledz, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, John Quinn, Sarah Rehme, Jessica Ripke, Shari Schwartz, Jerry Toll, Shane Tucker (16)

Continued on page 26

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca	Scottsbluff	Total
Greater White-fronted Goose		8	2				10
Snow Goose	3	4	1	2			10
Ross's Goose			CW				CW
Cackling Goose		3	1	26		17	56
Canada Goose	4,973	2,116	1,299	2,813		15,268	33,886
Trumpeter Swan				1			43
Wood Duck	6	1				1	16
Gadwall		1	CW			9	24
American Wigeon			12			14	45
Mallard	1,301	176	811	411	6	3,358	8,379
Northern Shoveler			2	8		8	24
Northern Pintail			5			1	7
Green-winged Teal	3		6			6	44
Redhead				1		4	5
Ring-necked Duck			8			9	17
Lesser Scaup				2			3
Bufflehead				1			21
Common Goldeneye			60	81	21	117	402
Hooded Merganser	1		6			1	17
Common Merganser	2			65	1		363
Red-breasted Merganser							1
Ruddy Duck				1			1
Duck sp.							30
Ring-necked Pheasant	74	36	14	12	122	11	855
Sharp-tailed Grouse							34
Greater Prairie-Chicken			40				469
Wild Turkey	72	1	100	403	112	50	1,709
Northern Bobwhite	17	15		7			121
Western Grebe							1
American White Pelican							1
Great Blue Heron	4		3			1	14
Osprey						1	1

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca	Scottsbluff	Total
Bald Eagle	1	4	8	36	4	4	199
adult			6			3	38
immature			2			1	12
unspecified age	1	4		36	4		149
Northern Harrier			1	5	1	2	31
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	4	2	1	1	cw	33
Cooper's Hawk	3			2	1		17
Northern Goshawk		1					1
Red-tailed Hawk	39	22	14	86	28	29	422
Rough-legged Hawk	1	4		1	5	3	47
Buteo sp.	3	1				1	8
Golden Eagle							2
American Kestrel	13	12	11	12		17	116
Merlin		1	2				7
Peregrine Falcon	1						1
Prairie Falcon			2				5
Hawk sp.	1						1
Virginia Rail							1
American Coot	2	1				1	9
Killdeer							2
Wilson's Snipe		1	1	1			10
Ring-billed Gull			3				17
Herring Gull							12
Rock Pigeon	1,039	396	229	279	35	1,046	4,227
Eurasian Collared-Dove		113	86	28	1	129	856
White-winged Dove						cw	cw
Mourning Dove	169	2		63	13		288
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	1					22
Great Horned Owl	9	3	2	1		3	43
Barred Owl	4	1		2	1		17
Long-eared Owl		1					10
Short-eared Owl							1
Owl sp.	1			1			2

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak - Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Belted Kingfisher		1	2			4		3
Red-headed Woodpecker								1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	70	3		39	11		6
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1						
Downy Woodpecker		73	7	5	61	27	1	33
Hairy Woodpecker	5	11	5	1	8	2	1	3
Northern Flicker	12	115	19	10	39	56	1	70
Loggerhead Shrike	1					1		
Northern Shrike		8	10	4	cw	5	1	2
Shrike sp.								
Blue Jay	7	214	8	10	75	25	1	28
Black-billed Magpie	3							31
American Crow	26	372	587	30	350	34	6	3
Horned Lark	1	141	145	144	32	125	216	933
Black-capped Chickadee	2	66	23	33	185	4	9	18
Tufted Titmouse					12			
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	2	1	1	1		3	9
White-breasted Nuthatch	17	86	11	4	58	11	1	12
Pygmy Nuthatch				1				
Brown Creeper	2	4	1		1			2
Carolina Wren		2				2		
Winter Wren		2			1			
Marsh Wren			1					1
Golden-crowned Kinglet		11						7
Eastern Bluebird		147	7		10			28
Mountain Bluebird								2
Townsend's Solitaire				cw			2	6
Hermit Thrush		1						
American Robin	340	1,233	2,445	43	2	184	1	687
Gray Catbird								
Brown Thrasher								
European Starling	274	1,447	1,945	495	899	2,962	67	1,048
Cedar Waxwing	30	239	13		101	260		13

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca	Scottsbluff	Total
Belted Kingfisher	10	1	2			2	25
Red-headed Woodpecker	10			1	1		13
Red-bellied Woodpecker	44	13	5	122	16	1	331
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker							1
Downy Woodpecker	147	21	10	147	11	5	548
Hairy Woodpecker	19	8	3	17	2	1	86
Northern Flicker	58	14	11	26	8	22	461
Loggerhead Shrike							2
Northern Shrike	3	1	1		1	1	37
Shrike sp.				1			1
Blue Jay	256	29	14	98	39	104	908
Black-billed Magpie						10	44
American Crow	62	40	82	79	28	13	1,712
Horned Lark	160	163	30	125	417	151	2,783
Black-capped Chickadee	99	47	2	262	52	12	814
Tufted Titmouse				55			67
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18	3	3	2		5	51
White-breasted Nuthatch	95	41	9	184	15	cw	544
Pygmy Nuthatch							1
Brown Creeper	20	3		17			50
Carolina Wren	3			6			13
Winter Wren	2			4			9
Marsh Wren							2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16	3					37
Eastern Bluebird	82	3	2	45			324
Mountain Bluebird							2
Townsend's Solitaire						5	13
Hermit Thrush	3						4
American Robin	686	18	90	28		437	6,194
Gray Catbird			1				1
Brown Thrasher	cw				1		1
European Starling	2,235	1,932	11,062	2,002	60	1,498	27,926
Cedar Waxwing	56	1	7	143			863

2009-2010 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Branched Oak - Seward	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Yellow-rumped Warbler		15						
Spotted Towhee		1			1			1
Eastern Towhee								
American Tree Sparrow	88	720	634	337	204	408		120
Fox Sparrow		17			3	3		
Song Sparrow		21	2		26	4		4
Lincoln's Sparrow								
Swamp Sparrow								
White-throated Sparrow		7			11			
Harris's Sparrow		56	8		28	22		3
White-crowned Sparrow						5		5
Dark-eyed Junco	26	904	251	115	681	749	14	672
Slate-colored		122	55	43	330		7	206
Oregon		14	3	18			3	87
Pink-sided				3	1			37
unspecified subspecies	26	768	193	51	350	749	4	342
Lapland Longspur		92			cw			759
Snow Bunting								5
Northern Cardinal	7	199	7		148	50		17
Red-winged Blackbird	7	482	1		219	44		41
Western Meadowlark						125		
Meadowlark sp.		41			47			6
Rusty Blackbird		24	1		1			
Common Grackle		1				615	cw	
Great-tailed Grackle						510		
Brown-headed Cowbird		41			181	4		
Purple Finch		59						
House Finch	18	129	103	16	5	10	3	146
Red Crossbill							2	
Common Redpoll								
Pine Siskin		2	2	84				153
American Goldfinch	29	622	303	163	26	73	38	179
House Sparrow	45	550	171	139	477	312	72	248
TOTAL SPECIES	36	61	59	32	51	55	24	78
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	1,424	9,117	8,274	2,203	4,984	13,566	528	8,542

CBC Participants, continued

Calamus-Loup Mark Brogie, William Flack, Kathi Gerten, Robin Harding, David Heidt (compiler), Brian Nelson, Lanny Randolph, Duane Wolff (8)

Crawford Kathy DeLara, Phyllis Drawbaugh, Bruce Walgren (compiler), Donna Walgren (4)

DeSoto Jonas Grundman, Chris Harman, Jim Hartman, Clem Klaphake, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Sue Mattix, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Jerry Toll, Steve Van Riper, Gary Vequist (12)

Grand Island Tom Blanchard, Tony Curtis, Dan Glomski, Karen Hamburger, Bob Hausmann, Michele Kock, Ron Kruse, Ann Kruse, Connie McCartney (compiler), Mary McCartney, Jim Meyer, Steve Morris, Patricia Smith, Enrique Weir, Erika Wilson, Chuck Witter (16)

Harrison Bruce Walgren (compiler), Donna Walgren (2)

Lake McConaughy Mary Cay Burger, Stephen Dinsmore (compiler), Keith Dyché, Luke Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Helen Hughson, Bill Huntley, Alice Kenitz, Bette Klaphake, Clem Klaphake, Kay Niyo, Mary Sue Shoemaker, Ross Silcock (13)

Lincoln Irene Alexander, Colleen Babcock, Bob Boyce, Anita Breckbill, Karen Brown, Linda R. Brown (compiler), Barbara J. DiBernard, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Mike Foster, Joe Gubanyi, Sue Guild, Mike Hootman, Julie Huddle, Michelle Johnson, Tim Knott, Josef Kren, Thomas E. Labedz, Daniel Leger, Dwain Leonhardt, Linda Maslowski, Pete Maslowski, Bruce Mellberg, Kevin Poague, John Quinn, Ken Reitan, Terry Sims, April Stevenson, Ned Stringham, Chris Thody, Muffy Vrana, Jake Walker (32)

Norfolk Ben Brogie, Ed Brogie, Mark Brogie, Donna Christiansen, Robin Harding, David Heidt, Lanny Randolph, Paul Timm, Duane Wolff (compiler) (9)

North Platte Scott Allison, Monte Brown, Virginia Clark, Richard Darling, Sue Darling, Tim Hajda, Gregg Hoover, Roger Lawson, Lynn Dee Nielson, Jim Petersen, Marcia Petersen, Mary Sue Shoemaker, Matthew Walker, T.J. Walker (compiler) (14)

Omaha Elliott Bedows, Ruth Bentzinger, Laurine Blankenau, Nelli Falzgraf, Bob Fuchs, Betty Grenon (compiler), Jonas Grundman, Joe Hack, Mace Hack, Clem Klaphake, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Catherine Kuper, Steve Lamphere, Terry Lassek, Sue Mattix, Arthur Morse, Jerry Mulliken, Greg Nelson, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Sandy Reinken, Neal Ratzlaff, Al Reyer, Mary Jo Rome, Kathleen Rose, Rick Schmid, Steve Schmitt, Eric Scholar, Jerry Toll, Penny Zahuronos (31)

Ponca Pat Dunn, Jeff Fields, Bill Huser (compiler), Bill Morris, Jennifer Wolff (5)

Scottsbluff Bob DeLara, Kathy DeLara, Phyllis Drawbaugh, Ann Duey, Luke Hamilton, Vonie Hatch, Charlotte Herrell, Michelle Hoff, Helen Hughson, Alice Kenitz (compiler), Brad McKinney, Connie McKinney, Bonnie Schoen, Ruben Siegfried (14)

2009-10 CBC Site Data

	Date	Species	Individuals	Observers	Low Temp (° F)	High Temp (° F)	Sky	Precipitation
Beaver Valley	18 Dec	36	1,424	7	32	45	cloudy	none
Branched Oak/Seward	17 Dec	61	9,117	16	16	31	pt cloudy	none
Calamus-Loup	2 Jan	59	8,274	8	-10	-4	cloudy	none
Crawford	2 Jan	32	2,203	4	17	31	pt cloudy	none
DeSoto-Boyer	30 Dec	51	4,984	12	27	28	cloudy	lt snow am
Grand Island	19 Dec	55	13,566	16	26	30	N/A	none
Harrison	1 Jan	24	528	2	1	22	cloudy	none
Lake McConaughy	2 Jan	78	8,542	13	10	21	cloudy	lt snow
Lincoln	19 Dec	64	14,996	32	23	26	cloudy	none
Norfolk	19 Dec	59	7,286	9	17	30	fog/cloudy	none
North Platte	19 Dec	59	52,197	14	13	38	clear	none
Omaha	19 Dec	68	10,652	31	19	23	cloudy	none
Ponca S.P.	2 Jan	40	1,941	5	-22	-1	cloudy	none
Scottsbluff	19 Dec	51	23,340	14	18	41	cloudy	none
Total		116	159,050	183	13	26		



Whip-poor-will eggs
(top), adult on nest
(bottom), Ponca S. P.,
Dixon Co.,
16 May 2009.
Photos by
Josh Samuelson.



Female Wilson's
Phalarope in
breeding plumage,
SE of Broken Bow,
Custer Co.,
26 April 2009.
Photo by
Tim Hajda.



Virginia Rail, Tamora Basin WPA, Seward Co., 26 Sept 2008. Photo by Joe Gubanyi.

Snow Bunting, Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co., 7 Oct 2009. Photo by Paul Dunbar.



Adult and fledged Woodcock, Walnut Creek Lake, Sarpy Co., 8 May 2010. Photo by Clem Klaphake.



First year male Summer Tanager on niger seed feeder at Fairmont, Fillmore Co., 2 April 2009. Photo by Juanita Rice.



Observations of Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) Color Banded in Nebraska and Re-sighted on the United States Gulf Coast

Mary Bomberger Brown¹ and Joel G. Jorgensen²

¹Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership, 3310 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE 68583 mbrown9@unl.edu

²Nongame Bird Program, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2200 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503 joel.jorgensen@nebraska.gov

INTRODUCTION

Threatened and endangered migratory birds present a challenge to conservation efforts because they use different habitats during different times of the year. As a result, successful efforts in one part of their range may be nullified by negative events taking place in other parts of their range. In many cases, information that links individual birds or populations to specific breeding, non-breeding and migratory areas across the species' range is not available. Without these links, it can be difficult to coordinate conservation efforts across the species' range and species recovery efforts may be less effective. The observation of uniquely marked individuals can be useful in linking different regions and habitats used throughout a species' annual cycle. As part of our efforts to monitor and protect Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) in Nebraska, we initiated a research and banding program in 2008. Here we describe the color banding scheme we are using along the lower Platte River and report re-sightings of color banded plovers from non-breeding areas along the United States Gulf Coast.

Piping Plovers are small (17 - 18 cm long) migratory shorebirds that nest along the North American Atlantic Coast and in the Great Lakes and Great Plains regions; they over-winter along the Atlantic, Gulf and Mexican coasts and in the Caribbean (Haig and Oring 1988, Elliott-Smith and Haig 2004, <http://www.natureserve.org>). There are two putative subspecies based on genetic differentiation and geographic location. *C.m. melodus* is found along the Atlantic Coast and *C.m. circumcinctus* is found in the Great Plains and Great Lakes. The two differ in appearance based on the completeness of the black neckband; the neckband may not be complete in *C. m. melodus*, while in *C. m. circumcinctus* the neckband usually is complete (Moser 1942, AOU 1945, 1957, Wilcox 1959, Haig and Oring 1988, Elliott-Smith and Haig 2004, Miller et al. 2010).

In the United States, the Great Plains population of Piping Plovers is federally listed as threatened. In Nebraska, the Piping Plover is listed as a state threatened species. The authority for this listing status is provided by the Nebraska Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act (Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 37: 801 - 811). Historically, Piping Plover numbers declined as a result of unregulated hunting (Bent 1927), but the principal reason for the current decline is the continuing loss of breeding habitat due to human activity (USFWS 1988, 2009, Elliott-Smith and Haig 2004, <http://www.natureserve.org>). In addition to the loss of breeding habitat, Piping Plovers in the Great Plains are threatened by wild, feral

and pet animal predation, water pollution, hydro-peaking, shoreline stabilization and bank armoring, loss of river sandbars, and the consequences of water management decisions (Elliott-Smith and Haig 2004, <http://www.natureserve.org>, <http://www.iucnredlist.org>). Efforts by state and federal agencies and NGOs are underway to help plover populations recover across their range.

METHODS

In 2008 and 2009, 37 adult and 32 hatch year Piping Plovers were individually color-banded near the lower Platte River in Nebraska. We define the lower Platte River as the 103 river miles (166 kilometers) between the Loup River confluence (near Columbus, Platte County; river mile 103) and the Missouri River confluence (near Plattsmouth, Cass County; river mile 0). Adults were captured using a simple box trap placed over their nests during incubation. Hatch year plovers were captured by picking them up off the sand before they were capable of flight (for details see Brown and Jorgensen 2008, 2009). All plovers re-sighted as part of this study were originally captured and color banded at human-created, off-river nesting sites: sand and gravel mines or lakeshore housing developments (Brown and Jorgensen 2008, 2009).

Each plover was given a light blue colored leg flag, indicating its Platte River origin, on its upper leg (upper right in 2008, upper left in 2009 and in the future), a metal USGS individually numbered metal band on the opposite upper leg and various color band combinations on its lower legs for individual identification (orange, yellow, red, green, gray, and black). See Figures 1 and 2 for details. Leg flag and color band combinations are coordinated by the Piping Plover band coordinator (G. Pavelka, USACE) and the United States Bird Banding Laboratory at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl>). Color banded plovers were re-sighted as part of ongoing monitoring and research programs. Re-sightings in Nebraska were made by the authors; re-sightings along the United States Gulf Coast were made by various observers and reported to the plover band coordinator and the programs that originally color banded the plovers (G. Pavelka, pers. comm.).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To date, eight light blue flagged plovers have been re-sighted along the United States Gulf Coast during the non-breeding period. All birds were observed while they were foraging near the water's edge on open sandy beaches. Five of these birds were color banded in 2008 and re-sighted during the winter of 2008 - 2009; three were color banded in 2009 and re-sighted during the winter of 2009 - 2010. Three of these birds were color banded near Ashland, two near North Bend, one near Waterloo, one near Fremont and one near Schuyler. All eight birds were originally captured and color banded as adults. One of the 2008 - 2009 birds was seen on a beach sandbar complex near New Orleans, Louisiana (Raccoon Island). The remaining four 2008 - 2009 birds were seen on a series of beach sandbar complexes located between Corpus Christi and Aransas, Texas (North Pass/Redfish Bay, Mollie Beattie, Mustang Island/Bayside Flats, and South Padre Island/Bayside). One of the plovers color banded in 2009 was seen at St. Joseph State Park, Florida, one was

seen on Matagorda Island, Texas, and one was seen on Galveston Island, Texas. See Figure 3 for details of these re-sightings.

A previous color banding study of Piping Plovers on the Platte River did not report sightings of plovers during the non-breeding season (Lingle 1993); ours is the first study that has identified non-breeding season locations of Nebraska's Platte River plovers.

While the observations presented here are limited, they do provide an anecdotal basis for understanding the issues that might affect plovers during the non-breeding season. For instance, the 2010 oil spill off the

Figure 1. Schematic diagram illustrating the color banding scheme used with Piping Plovers found along the lower Platte River in Nebraska. The light blue flag may be on either the upper right or left leg; the metal numbered USGS band is placed on the opposite upper leg. The combination of color bands on the lower legs are unique to each plover and are used to identify individuals.

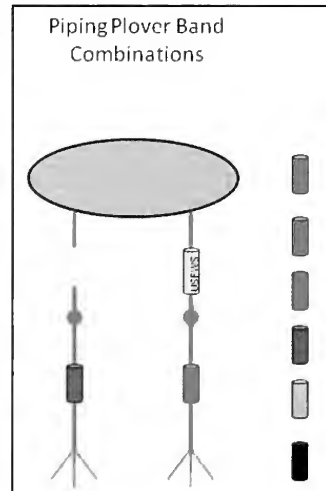


Figure 2. Piping Plover wearing colored leg bands. Photo courtesy of Joel Sartore/joelsartore.com.

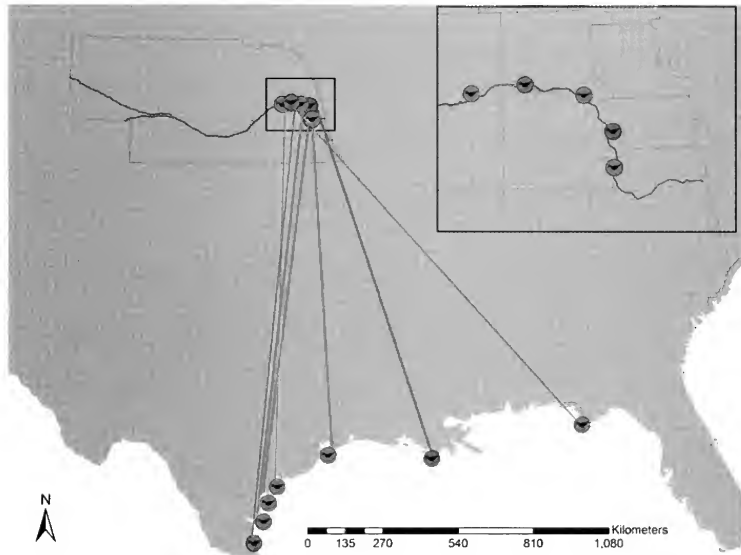


Figure 3. Locations where eight Piping Plovers were originally color banded on the lower Platte River in Nebraska (the southernmost yellow symbol represents two individual birds) and where they were re-sighted along the United States Gulf Coast.

Louisiana coast may negatively impact Piping Plovers that spend the non-breeding season on beaches in the area. Continued monitoring of Piping Plovers in their non-breeding habitat is crucial for the long-term conservation and recovery of the species. We encourage anyone who sees a Piping Plover with colored leg bands to make note of the color combination and the exact location of the bird and pass the information on to us or United States Bird Banding Laboratory at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl>).

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Steve Lamphere, 3101 Washington St., Apt. 98, Bellevue, NE 68005; kingfisher65@aol.com (2012)

Records Committee Chairman: Mark Brogie, Box 316, Creighton, NE 68729; mbrogie@esu1.org

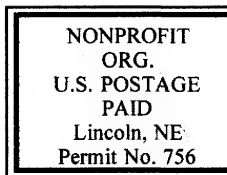
Editor of *The Nebraska Bird Review*: Janis Paseka, 1585 Co. Rd. 14 Blvd., Ames, NE 68621; paseka76@gmail.com

Occurrence Report Compiler: Ross Silcock, P.O. Box 57, Tabor, IA 51653; silcock@rosssilcock.com

Breeding Bird Atlas Project and Nest Records Coordinator: Wayne Mollhoff, 2354 Euclid St., Ashland, NE 68003; wmollhoff@netscape.net

NOU Website: <http://noubirds.org/>

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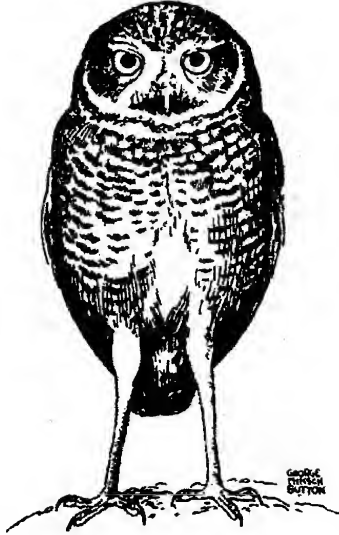
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CORRECTION: The name of the photographer of the Great Blue Heron nest on page 5 of the March 2010 issue of the *Nebraska Bird Review* was inadvertently omitted. The photo was taken by Edward Tickle.

SPRING FIELD REPORT, Mar 2010 to May 2010

Compiled by W. Ross Silcock
P.O. Box 57, Tabor, IA 51653
silcock@rosssilcock.com

INTRODUCTION

There was much of interest this spring. Early and late dates, early breeding, even a few rarities, are scattered through the species accounts. A few highlights are mentioned here. Mark Brogie found 6 species of Gallinaceous birds in one hour in Knox Co - quite a feat. Glossy Ibis reports continue to increase, and Mississippi Kites were found in new areas. Cranes made news: a leucistic Sandhill, another Common, and good numbers of Whoopings. Piping Plovers may be spreading out a bit, given the disappearance of the expanses of sand at L McConaughy, and amazing finds are being made by the team studying Mountain Plovers in Kimball County. Several shorebird species made a huge push 30 Apr: check out the accounts, beginning with American Avocet. The shorebird star had to be Bailey, the transmitter-wearing Long-billed Curlew, who made a rapid transit from wintering to summering grounds. Not far behind was XN, a banded Hudsonian Godwit seen on Chiloe Island, Chile, and next in Dakota Co, Nebraska. Black-billed Magpies have been hit hard in recent years and their progress is mixed, but Carolina Wrens took a beating last winter. A few survived, however, and we will watch their progress. A Bewick's Wren was a rarity in the southwest, but there was no doubt that the top rarity for the season was the Hermit Warbler photographed at Crescent L NWR; it was Nebraska's second. Additional rare Parulids found were Pine and Hooded Warblers. An amazing find, for the second year in a row, was singing Baird's Sparrows, seemingly acting territorially, in extreme northeast Sioux County. It will be interesting to see if they remain into summer.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City
BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co
Calamus Res: Calamus Reservoir WMA/SRA, Loup and Garfield Cos
CLNWR: Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Garden Co.
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co

Cem: Cemetery
Harvard Marsh: Harvard WPA, Clay Co
HCR: Harlan Co Res, Harlan Co
ICSP: Indian Cave SP, Nemaha and Richardson Cos
Jack Sinn: Jack Sinn Memorial WMA, Saunders and Lancaster Co
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co
LNB: L North and Babcock, Platte Co
LO: L Ogallala, Keith Co
LPB: La Platte Bottoms, Sarpy Co
m.ob.: many observers
NLB: North Lake Basin WMA, Seward Co
NOU: Nebraska Ornithologists' Union
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co
PP: Pioneers Park, Lincoln
PRSP: Platte River SP, Cass Co
Res: Reservoir
RWB: wetland complex in several counties of south central and southeast Nebraska
Schramm: Schramm Park SRA, Sarpy Co
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)
SCP: Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Lancaster Co
SP: State Park
Swanson Res: Swanson Reservoir WMA and SRA, Hitchcock Co
WGP: Walnut Grove Park, Omaha
Whitehead Marsh: Whitehead Saline Wetlands, Lincoln
WP: Wilderness Park, Lincoln

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SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose: Routine reports.

Snow Goose: Impressive were the 400,000 in Antelope Co 14 Mar (MB). As many as 14 were late and easterly in Nemaha Co 29 May (CNK).

Ross's Goose: Best counts were 400 in Antelope Co 14 Mar (MB) and 120 at Jack Sinn 10 Mar (LE).

Cackling Goose: Spring aggregations are not as large as those in fall; the 2000 in Buffalo Co 17 Mar (WF) was a near-record count.

Canada Goose: First brood noted was in North Platte: "fluffies" were seen 26 Apr (TJW).

Mute Swan: Reports continue from the Omaha region; 2 adults were at Venice 13 Mar (fide JaG, DL photos) and a juvenile molting to adult plumage was at Zorinsky L, Omaha, 21 Mar (JR).

Trumpeter Swan: An adult was out of place in Boone Co as late as 31 May (DH). Some 25 were reported in all, most migrants; best count was 12 on a Custer Co playa 31 Mar (BWh).

Tundra Swan: The only report of this rare migrant was of one at Calamus Res 24 Mar (JSe).

Wood Duck: One at Norfolk 3 Mar (WF) was early that far north.

Gadwall: Routine reports.

American Wigeon: Routine reports.

Mallard: Routine reports.

Blue-winged Teal: Routine reports.

Cinnamon Teal: Reports were more widespread than usual, especially eastward, including a rare report of 1-2 as far east as Lincoln 7-9 Apr (LE). Also easterly was a hybrid in Sarpy Co 8-13 Apr (JR, L&BP, EB). Another hybrid was in the e RWB 24 Apr (JGJ), along with 5 Cinnamons at various e RWB locations 9-30 Apr (PD, JGJ, WF).

Northern Shoveler: Routine reports.

Northern Pintail: "Quite a few pairs" on playas in Perkins Co 26 May (TJW) suggested breeding. As yet breeding has not been confirmed in the southwest, although Mollhoff considered it "probable" in Perkins Co during 1984-89 (Breeding Bird Atlas I).

Green-winged Teal: As with Northern Pintail, this species has only bred a few times south of the Platte Valley. Thus "quite a few pairs" on Perkins Co playas 26 May (TJW) were of interest.

Canvasback: A male lingered in North Platte through 14 May (TJW), which was late away from the nw Sandhills summer range.

Redhead: Three at Alma SL 31 May (G&WH) were tardy; breeding is unknown in that part of the state.

Ring-necked Duck: The 560 in Hamilton Co 20 Mar (CW) was a good count; a single lingered to 29 May in the same county (JGJ).

Greater Scaup: At least 60 were reported statewide 7 Mar (JGJ) through 17 Apr (WRS), a good showing; later stragglers were 3 in Hamilton Co 3 May (JGJ) and one at Alma SL 8 May (TH).

Lesser Scaup: Best count was a moderate 1549 at BOL 30 Mar (LE); last was one in Sarpy Co 21 May (WRS et al.).

- Surf Scoter:** Single immature males were found at LO 12 May (TH) and in Sarpy Co 21 May (LRu, WRS, SG, PS). These are only the 6th and 7th documented spring records.
- Black Scoter:** A surprise was an adult male at Oak L, Lincoln, 7 Apr (LE, JMo, JC, SS), only the 3rd documented spring record.
- Bufflehead:** A pair in sw Cherry Co 23 May (WM) may have been potential breeders, although there is only one documented record of breeding for the state.
- Common Goldeneye:** A probable hybrid with Barrow's Goldeneye was in Lincoln Co 21 Mar (TH, TJW).
- Hooded Merganser:** Adult males in May are suggestive of local breeding; one was near Peru 8 May (WRS). This is only the 8th report of an adult male in the period mid-Apr through May; there are only 3 confirmed breeding records for the state.
- Common Merganser:** The 4000-5000 at BOL 14 Mar (JR) was an excellent count, second only to the estimated 200,000 at HCR on the same day in 2003.
- Red-breasted Merganser:** Good numbers were reported, topped by 50+ at BOL 27 Mar (EB) and 48 at L Yankton, Cedar Co, 3 Apr (BFH).
- Ruddy Duck:** Routine reports.
- Gray Partridge:** The range of this species in Nebraska has contracted, with most reports in recent years from Knox, Cedar, and n Antelope Cos; at least 2 pairs were s of Creighton in n Antelope Co 14-19 May (MB).
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Southwest counties have high populations at present; two census routes (20 x 2-minute stops) in Hitchcock Co 17 Apr found 893 and 659 roosters (TJW). The first egg was found 28 Apr in Lincoln Co (TJW), rather early.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** A male was at a Greater Prairie-Chicken lek near Winnetoon all spring, 20 Mar-19 May (MB); hybridization has occurred between these species.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Reports from the east edge of the range were encouraging: 5 were at Buckskin Hills WMA, Dixon Co, 27 Mar (BFH) with a female there 27 May (JJ), and one flushed from a Dodge Co cornfield 2 Apr was the observer's first for the county (D&JP). Two leks with a total of 15+ birds were found in Butler Co 10 Apr (SR), and 2 were at Kirkpatrick Basin South WMA, York Co, 8 May (JGJ). Other reports of interest were 2 leks in the cedar canyons of se Lincoln Co 27 Apr (TJW), and 3 in Harlan Co 31 Mar (PDo).
- Wild Turkey:** An amazing 800+ were tallied in Knox Co 20 Mar (MB).
- Northern Bobwhite:** Winter may have affected populations in Dodge Co; first for the year for the observer were 2 found 10 May (D&JP). Apparently a small population exists on the FF flood plain; 2 were seen there 21 May (EB).
- Pacific Loon:** A basic-plumaged bird at BOL 30 Mar (LE) was only the 4th spring record for the state.
- Common Loon:** Most reports were from the east, where alternate-plumaged birds were found 25 Mar (JR), rather early, through 14 Apr (JR) as expected. Later reports tend to be westerly and of sub-adult birds; one in basic plumage was in Hall Co 27 Apr (D&JP), 2 near-adults in North Platte 26 Apr (fide TJW, photos VC), and two (un-aged) were at LM 13 May (TJW).
- Pied-billed Grebe:** The 85 in Lancaster Co 7 Apr (LE) was an excellent count for spring; the record is 100.
- Horned Grebe:** Two at Bridgeport 13 Mar (LJH) were rather early.

- Red-necked Grebe:** A surprise was an adult in n Antelope Co 8 May (BFH, WF, PR, MB); apparently it is the first for Antelope Co and only the third documented spring record for the state.
- Eared Grebe:** Routine reports.
- Western Grebe:** Routine reports.
- Clark's Grebe:** The only reports were of 2 on Swanson Res 25 Apr (CH) and one at Mother L, Cherry Co, 25 May (WM).
- American White Pelican:** Routine reports.
- Neotropic Cormorant:** Nebraska's 11th record was of 2 at BOL 15-16 May (JR, JC, SS, ET photo). This species is increasing in numbers northward on the Great Plains.
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Flocks flying over Sarpy Co 11 Apr contained 2300 birds (L&BP), an excellent tally. Several were on nests at a private Interstate 80 lake in Lincoln Co 26 May (TJW).
- American Bittern:** The 5 at NLB 16 May (JC, SS) was a good count; habitat appeared to be suitable for breeding this spring.
- Least Bittern:** Reports from locations to the nw of the expected se Nebraska range seem to be increasing in recent years. Far-flung singles were near the North Platte airport 14 Apr (TJW), second-earliest on record, and at CLNWR 21 May (CG).
- Great Blue Heron:** Birds were reported back on rookeries in 3 locations across the state on the same day, 22 Mar in Sarpy Co (CNK), in Lincoln (ET), and in Lincoln Co (TJW).
- Great Egret:** Reports were widespread but in low numbers, best count was the 6 at Whitehead Marsh 7-8 Apr (LE, RSt). Uncommon in the Panhandle, with fewer than 30 spring records, one was in Scotts Bluff Co 22-23 May (AK).
- Snowy Egret:** Second-highest spring count on record was the 15 at LPB 30 Apr (CNK). Only about 20 were reported in all, however. This species is a statewide migrant, unlike Great Egret; a Snowy was in Scotts Bluff Co 5 May (RSi).
- Little Blue Heron:** This species is rare in spring; an adult with plumes was at PP 27 Apr (DL).
- Cattle Egret:** Three along the Middle Loup River in Custer Co 31 Mar (BWh) were the 4th-earliest on record. Reports were widespread but in low numbers, best count was only 11, in the e RWB 30 Apr (JGJ).
- Green Heron:** Only the 5th Panhandle spring report, one was in Scotts Bluff Co 22-23 May (AK).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Few were reported; one at Jack Sinn 9 Apr (LE) was on the early side.
- Glossy Ibis:** The influx of this species in recent years is nothing short of phenomenal. Of about 44 records, all but 3 have occurred 2005-2010, with records each of those years of 3, 10, 2, 6, 8, and 12 birds respectively. This spring, about 12 were reported statewide 24 Apr-29 May (m. ob.). Only one hybrid was suspected, that at Harvard Marsh 8 May (JGJ). Reports have been most numerous in the e RWB and this year was no exception, with about 8 birds: one was in York Co 24 Apr (JGJ); 2 were in Clay Co on 30 Apr and one on 2 May (JGJ); one was in Nuckolls Co 30 Apr (JGJ); singles in Seward Co at Straightwater WMA 3 May (JGJ) and at NLB 6-8 May (LE, L&BP) were possibly the same bird; and 3 were in Hamilton Co 29 May (JGJ). The remaining reports, probably of 4 birds, were westerly: one was in n Garden Co

29 Apr and possibly the same bird 9.5 miles farther north 6 May (CG); one was in Scotts Bluff Co 2 May (CG photo, KD, RSi); and 2 were in Sheridan Co 17 May (LE).

White-faced Ibis: This species has also become much more common in recent years; more than 450 were reported, including counts of 117 in the e RWB 30 Apr (JGJ), 102 in Garden Co 28 May (JGJ), and 80 at North Platte 7 May (TJW). A flock of 50 in McPherson Co 25 May contained 20-25% immatures (WF).

Turkey Vulture: Rather early was one at SCP 7 Mar (ZC); most show up beginning in late Mar. Best counts were a record-tying 80 in a kettle over BOL 4 Apr (JR) and an excellent 50 apparently circling a Lincoln roost site 31 Mar (LE).

Osprey: One at BOL 22 Mar (GR) was rather early; the 5-6 there 30 Apr (ET) was a good count. One in Scotts Bluff Co 22-23 May (AK) may have been one of the pair that has attempted breeding there the past 2 years without success.

Mississippi Kite: This spring brought signs that this species might be freeing itself from the confines of Ogallala, as reports were received from several other locations; one observer (TJW) suggested, though, that the influx might have been merely a result of strong southerly winds, an idea supported by the occurrence of all reports away from Ogallala in the short period 23-28 May. Two appeared rather early in Ogallala 26 Apr (JO), and 3 were there 27 May (KDy). Elsewhere, singles were in Lincoln 23 May (DL) and 24 May (TEL), Norfolk 23 May (MB - only the second ne Nebraska record for this observer), Hooker Co 25 May (WF), w Douglas Co 26 May (DSt), and Culbertson 28 May (JSt - this observer's first for Hitchcock Co).

Bald Eagle: The 800 at Calamus Res 24 Mar (JSe) was by far the highest spring count on record.

Northern Harrier: Routine reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: One in Dakota Co 15 May (BFH) was tardy.

Cooper's Hawk: This species has become a common breeder statewide, even in cities. Details of nesting in an Omaha neighborhood for the last 6 years were received; this year was the first time the previous year's nest was reused (ME). Several nests were reported from Adams and Lancaster Cos (PD, LE); birds were incubating in Lancaster Co 9 Apr (LE).

Northern Goshawk: Singles in Lincoln 5 Mar (JMo) and near Giltner 18 Mar (JaG) were not unexpected, but one identified as an adult in Nebraska City 15 May (LF, SQ) was one of very few May reports away from the northwest.

Red-shouldered Hawk: There were a few more reports than usual. Singles were seen at BOL 7 Mar (RSt, JMo) and 30 Apr (ET), over Offutt Base L, Sarpy Co, 21 Mar (JR), at PL 1 Apr (LE), and at FF 1 May (JR). No evidence of breeding was reported.

Broad-winged Hawk: About 20 were reported from York Co eastward 7 Apr-29 May (m. ob.); the 29 May report was of 2 birds over FF (JR), a site where breeding is suspected to occur on occasion.

Swainson's Hawk: The 107 or so birds were reported statewide 2 Apr-11 May (m. ob.), with best count 60 in Lincoln Co 26 Apr during a "huge push" (TJW). A dark morph bird was in sw Kimball Co 27 May (KDy).



Leucistic Sandhill Crane near Hershey 9 Mar 2010. Photo by Virginia Clark.

Red-tailed Hawk: Unusual was a white bird paired with a normally-plumaged bird in cen. Nebraska 31 Mar (BWh). Such white birds are noted on occasion, but mostly in migration.

Ferruginous Hawk: One was on a nest in se Grant Co 25 May (WM).

Rough-legged Hawk: The 8 in Knox Co 1 Mar (MB) was an excellent count. Last reported was in Seward Co 6 May (LE), rather late. Latest dates are in mid-May.

Golden Eagle: Easterly were two on the Platte-Buffalo Co line 6 Mar (MM) and one in Hall Co 6 Mar (TK); an adult in Hooker Co 17 May (TH) was easterly for the date.

American Kestrel: Routine reports.

Merlin: Routine reports.

Prairie Falcon: Easternmost were singles (same bird?) near Harvard 14 Mar (JGJ) and Verona 18 Mar (JGJ); another was seen on a trip from Hordville to Valparaiso 5 Mar (JLL).

Peregrine Falcon: The usual migrants were reported, a total of 12, mostly eastward, 6 Apr-17 May (m. ob).

Virginia Rail: Rather early were singles at McCook 16 Apr (RBo) and Fremont 17 Apr, the latter caught in a fish net and photographed (fide RM). A family group with juveniles was in Sioux Co 30 May (TJW), a rather early date.

Sora: Rather early were singles in Dakota Co 16 Apr (BFH) and at Jack Sinn 17-19 Apr (BH, JC, SS). A good count was the 14 in Seward Co 8 May (JG).

Common Moorhen: Despite some enticing-looking habitat in the east, the only report was of one at NLB 20 May (MK fide JGJ).

American Coot: One at Lewellen 1 Mar (LJH) was rather early. Best count was an excellent 1790 at Whitehead Marsh 30 Mar (LE).

Sandhill Crane: A strikingly leucistic bird near Hershey 8-15 Mar (JH, VC, RL) was photographed 8 Mar (JH, VC); it is easy to see how such a bird could be misidentified as a Whooping Crane, except for its size and extent of red on its crown. Best count of Sandhills was 250,000 in Buffalo Co 22 Mar (SQ). The breeding pair in Morrill Co returned to its territory 24 Mar (KD), and a pair had returned by 7 Apr to a field next to Kiowa WMA, Scotts Bluff Co, for the second year; no breeding was detected last year (KD).

Common Crane: Becoming an annual occurrence was the presence of one near Hershey 18-24 Mar (VC photos; TJW). (See photo March *NBR*, page 5.) There have been 6 separate reports of Common Crane 2007-2010 in the area between Buffalo and Garden Cos; it is possible that all are of the same bird. A photo was provided belatedly of one near North Platte 12 Mar 2009 (JF); there was a previous 2009 report of one near Lewellen 19 Mar (fide MB); as mentioned above, these may have been of the same bird.

Whooping Crane: An adult in Hall Co 5 Mar-3 Apr (JLL) was early, followed by 2 adults in Kearney Co 20 Mar-5 Apr (fide JLL); these early migrants lingered for some time, in contrast to the remaining 48 birds which passed through 23 Mar-21 Apr, with no groups staying longer than 6 days (fide JLL). Biggest group was the 11 in Custer Co 11 Apr (fide JLL). An overlooked area for this species is the Central Table playa wetlands in the Arnold area of w. Custer Co (BWh photo).

Black-bellied Plover: Routine reports.

American Golden-Plover: Routine reports.

Snowy Plover: Reports are fewer as LM refills; reports reflected the species' status pre-LM sand-flats, with only 3, all from the e RWB: singles were in Adams Co 30 Apr (JGJ), Fillmore Co 2 May (JGJ), and Clay Co 18 May (PD).

Semipalmated Plover: The 104 in the e RWB 2 May (JGJ) was a good count; highest counts are in the 200-300 range.

Piping Plover: The once-extensive sandy habitat at LM is being inundated as the reservoir level rises; only 12 were found there 28 May (JGJ). At least one was at CLNWR 14 May (CG), continuing the rather recent breeding presence there, and a nesting pair was near Milburn Dam, Blaine Co, 27 May (WF), the first time since 1987 that nesting has occurred there (fide WM). One of 3 in the e

RWB 2 May was color-banded at L Sakakawea, North Dakota (JGJ). The Platte River continues to provide good albeit ephemeral habitat; 12 were counted in Sarpy and Cass Cos 14 May (JGJ) and 10 were in the Rowe Sanctuary area 17 May (BN). Most other reports were from the east, some 26 birds in all (m. ob.).



Common Crane northwest of North Platte 12 Mar 2009. Photo by Jay Favinger.

Killdeer: Routine reports.

Mountain Plover: The only observer reports were of 2 in Kimball Co 28 May (JGJ) and 3 in sw. Kimball Co 27 May (KDy), but extensive data are being gathered by the continuing efforts of a partnership between Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and Nebraska Environmental Trust, and updated regularly on Facebook (OK, I'm not as old as you think!) under "Nebraska Mountain Plover Chick Survival Study". First nest was reported 30 Apr and 16 nests had been marked by May 12, when an 8-inch snowfall and freezing temperatures arrived. Amazingly, several nests survived. More in the Summer Report!

Black-necked Stilt: Only one was reported away from the w Sandhills, in Clay Co 14 May (PD). About 10 were found in Sheridan Co 16-31 May (LE, LJH).

American Avocet: A major influx occurred 30 Apr, when a record 354 were counted in the e RWB, including a record single-location tally of 106 in Seward Co (JGJ). An amazing 303 were found at LPB and Offutt Base L, Sarpy Co, (L&BP), 103 were at Whitehead Marsh (LE), and 70 were at BOL (ET). Strangely, the 4 highest spring counts on record for this species are from the e RWB eastward. Breeding occurs on occasion in the e RWB; a pair was mating at the Trumbull wetland complex, Clay Co, 3 May (PD).

Spotted Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Solitary Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Greater Yellowlegs: Routine reports.

Willet: As with American Avocets, there was a big push of Willets 30 Apr; best count was the 74 in the e RWB 30 Apr (JGJ), and 5 were as far east as Sarpy Co (L&BP).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Routine reports.

Upland Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Whimbrel: The only report of this rare but regular spring migrant was of one at CLNWR 14 May (CG).

Long-billed Curlew: First reported were 17 in Garden Co and 5 in Keith Co 6 Apr (TH), moving north at about the same time as the transmitter-wearing bird "Bailey", which left its nw Mexico winter location 8 Apr and arrived in Garden Co 9 Apr- just a short hop! (CG, JGJ, SJD). Bailey settled in at a location 11 miles ne of last year's nesting site (CG, JGJ, SJD).

Hudsonian Godwit: Numbers were low; best count was only 15 in Dakota Co, and in the e RWB a surprisingly low 14 (JGJ). Arrival was early; previous early dates were 6, 7, and 11 Apr, but this spring there were 3 locations reporting birds 9-11 Apr. Nine were in the e RWB 9 Apr, increasing to 14 the next day (JGJ), one was easterly in Sarpy Co 10 Apr, increasing to 5 on 11 Apr (L&BP), and 15 had arrived in Dakota Co 10 Apr (BFH). One of the Dakota Co birds was color-banded; "XN" was banded as an adult in sc Alaska in summer 2009, was seen wintering on Chiloe Island in southern Chile, and again, of course, in Dakota Co this spring (NS fide BFH).

Marbled Godwit: A recently-discovered breeder in the state, two were "giving the observer hell" in Sheridan Co 23 May (WM).

Ruddy Turnstone: Only 4 were reported, in Clay and Fillmore Cos 15-18 May (JGJ, PD).

Sanderling: Routine reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Best count was an excellent 1440 in the e RWB 8 May (JGJ); highest counts are 3000+.

Western Sandpiper: There were more reports than usual of this rare spring migrant. One in Dakota Co 10 Apr (BFH, details) was record early by 2 days. Two were at Trumbull wetland complex, Adams Co, 30 Apr (PD), one was at Ayr L, Adams Co, 1 May (PD), 2 were in the e RWB 2 May (JGJ), and 3 were at Hultine WMA, Clay Co, 3 May (PD).

Least Sandpiper: One in the e RWB 18 Mar (JGJ) was rather early, and a record spring count was the 500+ at LPB 5 May (CNK). The 321 in the e RWB 2 May (JGJ) was also an excellent count.

White-rumped Sandpiper: One in the e RWB 26 Apr (LR, RH) was on the early side; earliest dates are 19, 23, and 24 Apr. Best count was 1600 in the e RWB 8 May (JGJ); record count is 7000.

Baird's Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: The 200-300 in Sarpy Co 5 May (CNK) was an excellent tally; highest counts are 500+.

Dunlin: Routine reports.

Stilt Sandpiper: Three in Seward Co 14 Apr (LE) were rather early; earliest dates are 9, 10, and 10 Apr.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Routine reports.

- Short-billed Dowitcher:** Spring migrants occur almost exclusively in May; this spring there were 11 reports of about 40 birds 3-21 May (m. ob.). The best count was 15 in Colfax Co 14 May (JJ) and the westernmost sighting was in Lincoln Co 4 May (TJW).
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Numbers were low until the major push 30 Apr (see American Avocet and Willet), when 1230 appeared in the e RWB (JGJ), dwarfing the total before then of 32; numbers increased to 1995 there by 2 May (JGJ). Record spring count is 4750.
- Wilson's Snipe:** Best count was a moderate 47 in Dakota Co 4 Apr (BFH). Two were winnowing at Jack Sinn 19 Apr and another was there 16 May (JC, SS); breeding has occurred there previously.
- American Woodcock:** This species was widely reported in the e half of the state (m. ob.), nw to n Antelope Co 8 Apr (2, WF) and 20 Apr (6, MB). Earliest were singles at BOL 7 Mar (RSt, JMo).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** The huge influx of shorebirds 30 Apr involved this species also; 7520 were in the e RWB 2 May (JGJ), 3rd-highest on record, with 3035 arriving 30 Apr (JGJ) and 3000 in Clay Co 3 May (PD). A preferred staging location for this species is the North Platte SL, where "thousands" were still present 14 Jun (TJW), an unprecedented number at that location and date.
- Red-necked Phalarope:** Rare in the east, one was at Whitehead Marsh 12 May (LE).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** One in basic plumage was rather early at Jack Sinn 31 Mar (LE); the 180 in Sarpy Co 10 Apr (JR) was a good count.
- Franklin's Gull:** Routine reports.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Routine reports.
- California Gull:** The only report was of 2 at BOL 27 Mar (EB); this species occurs more often eastward in spring than in fall, though still rare.
- Herring Gull:** Routine reports.
- Thayer's Gull:** Two or three were reported, a typical spring for this regular migrant: 3 were at LO 28 Feb (JMo), an immature was at Oak L, Lincoln, 9-12 Mar (JGJ, m. ob.), and a similar or the same bird was at BOL 16-21 Mar (LE, JGJ).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** This species also is a regular migrant in low numbers, although the only report this spring was of an adult at BOL 26-30 Mar (DL, m. ob.).
- Glaucous Gull:** At least 4 were reported, a typical spring. Single immatures were at BOL and Oak L, Lincoln, 7 Mar (JMo) through 25 Mar (m. ob.); these sightings were likely of the same bird. Elsewhere, one was at Calamus Res 14 Mar (MB), an immature was at HCR 19 Mar (JRi, CW), and an immature was at LM 25 Apr (JMo), which was one of only 4 reports later than 12 Apr.
- Least Tern:** Routine reports.
- Caspian Tern:** The only report of this regular migrant was of one in Adams Co 17 May (PD).
- Black Tern:** Routine reports.
- Common Tern:** The only report of this uncommon migrant was of one in Colfax Co 14 May (JJ).
- Forster's Tern:** The 50-100 at Swanson Res 18 May (WM) was a good tally. High counts for spring are 100+.
- Rock Pigeon:** Routine reports.

- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** A small population in Papillion appears to be mostly feral cage-raised birds (WRS); there have been a few instances of such birds mixing with wild birds to date in Nebraska.
- White-winged Dove:** Now a regular species in small numbers statewide, 5 singles were reported: one easterly in Waterloo 12-15 Apr (JaG, photo), one in Milford 18 Apr (DR fide JGJ), one in Kearney 14 May (ARu), one in North Platte 20 May (JP), and one in Lincoln 27 May (RGS fide JGJ).
- Mourning Dove:** One in a Scottsbluff yard 8 Mar (P&DD) was rather early; winter records are very few there.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Routine reports.
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** None were reported; this is an uncommon summer resident.
- Barn Owl:** The only reports were westerly, as expected: singles were s of Gering 27 Mar (AK) and at Brady 29 Apr (TJW).
- Eastern Screech-Owl:** Routine reports.
- Great Horned Owl:** Routine reports.
- Burrowing Owl:** In recent years the number of reports from the e RWB has increased. This spring there were reports from a prairie dog town at Hultine WPA, Clay Co, 11 Apr (JMo) and 8 May (JGJ), as well as unspecified locations in the e RWB 25 Apr (JLL, KS) and Clay Co 16 Apr (PD). All of these sightings may have been from Hultine WPA.
- Barred Owl:** A pair using an Elkhorn nest box had 2 eggs 13 Mar and 2 small chicks 4 Apr (DSt), similar dates as in the previous two years (DSt). A nest in Lincoln had a downy chick 8 May (LE). Reports along the Republican River are few; 2 were 4 miles from Webster Co in Nuckolls Co 18 Mar (WF). Other westerly reports were of one at Wood Duck WMA, Stanton Co, 15 Apr (WF) and one at George Syas WMA, sw Platte Co, 10 Apr (WF).
- Long-eared Owl:** Reports in late Apr and May might indicate breeding birds; singles were in Knox Co 15 May (MB), at a location near Bennington 11 Apr and 21 May (EBe), and in Oak Glen WMA, Seward Co, 26 May (RSt).
- Short-eared Owl:** The only report of breeding was of one at a nest site in ne Sioux Co 14-16 May (TH); 5 were counted in the same general area 30 May (KDy). There were reports of singles from Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 7 Mar (JR), Broken Bow 25 Mar (TH), and LNB 13 May (LE). The LNB bird may have been breeding nearby at that date.
- Northern Saw-Whet Owl:** None were reported; this is a scarce winter visitor, generally departing by mid-Apr.
- Common Nighthawk:** Routine reports.
- Common Poorwill:** One in the cedar canyons of se Lincoln Co 22 Apr (LD) was 2nd-earliest on record.
- Chuck-will's-widow:** One at Bohemia Prairie, Knox Co, 15 May (MB) continues the species' presence at this northerly outpost. The only other report was of 1-2 at Oak Glen WMA, Seward Co, 17-26 May (LE, JG).
- Whip-poor-will:** Three singles arrived very early in the northeast: one in nw Antelope Co 20 Apr (MB), another the same date near Center, Knox Co, (SW), and one at Niobrara SP, Knox Co, 21 Apr (SW). Record early dates for the state are 15, 18, 18 Apr. One was near Bohemia Prairie WMA, Knox Co, 7 May (WF), a previously-known location, and another was westerly at Redbird WMA, Holt Co, 8 May (WF). An excellent count was the 17 at Oak Glen WMA, Seward Co, 26 May (JG).

Chimney Swift: One at Brady 13 Apr (TJW) was rather early that far west.

White-throated Swift: Reports are few as far east as Sheridan Co, where it breeds in the extreme west of the county; one was found there 16 May (CNK, B&DW).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: One was at Brady 5 May (TJW), about as far west as this species occurs in spring; one was there in 2006, and a pair summered there in 2004 without breeding evidence noted (TJW).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: One was reported near Scotts Bluff NM, Scotts Bluff Co, 25 May (VN fide KD). This and about 5 other spring reports of this species are undocumented; these are likely as it is considered a rare spring migrant. There are records for sw Kansas and the Black Hills of South Dakota in spring and a couple of intriguing Jun records for Nebraska.

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Lewis's Woodpecker: One at Fort Robinson SHP, Dawes Co, 13-16 May (TH, m.ob.) delighted the spring NOU meeting membership; this species is a rare spring migrant in the Panhandle, generally limited to areas of Ponderosa Pine. (See photo Mar *NBR*, page 4.)

Red-headed Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Still a rare bird in Scotts Bluff Co, one in the observer's yard 8-10 May was her first in a few years (KD).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker: Counts of 11 at both HCR 19 Mar (CW) and at FF 3 Apr (RW) established new highs for this low-density species.

Downy Woodpecker: The 25 at FF 2 Apr (RW) was a good count.

Northern Flicker: A red-shafted bird was rather late at North Platte 7 Apr (TJW). Last dates are in mid-Apr.

Pileated Woodpecker: There were several reports from FF (m. ob.), with best count 3 on 1 May (JR), but a surprise was one at DeSoto NWR, Washington Co, 24 Apr (JSi). None were reported from the other known breeding location, ICSP.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: This species is rare as far west as the Panhandle; one was in Dawes Co 16 May (DL, JWo).

Western Wood-Pewee: One was east of the expected range, but not unprecedented, at Santee, Knox Co, 27 May (CF). This is the 10th spring report east of the breeding range.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Routine reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: One at ADF 22 May was well-described (LF, SQ); no others were reported.

Acadian Flycatcher: Reports in recent years suggest that this species is expanding its range northwestward; one was at WP 19-23 May (LE, DL), there were 4 at FF 22 May (JR) and singles were reported there through 28 May (JR, GR), and one was in a Papillion yard 29 May (PS photo).

Alder Flycatcher: Reports were as expected from the southeast: about 6 birds 21-28 May (m. ob.).

Willow Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Least Flycatcher: One was reported at FF 13 Apr (EB), a very early date; reports prior to 22 Apr are undocumented.

Cordilleran Flycatcher: The 4 reports 15-23 May in Sheridan and Scotts Bluff Cos (RSi, D&JP, AK), were likely of migrants, as they were from areas where breeding is not expected. A 5th report, of one calling at Soldier Creek Wilderness, Sioux Co, Co 29 May (KDy) may have been of a breeding bird.

Eastern Phoebe: One was building a nest in Clay Co 8 Apr (PD), rather early.

Say's Phoebe: Nest-building was underway early in nw Antelope Co 20 Apr (MB).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Cassin's Kingbird: Routine reports.

Western Kingbird: One in Scotts Bluff Co 27 Apr (RSi) was rather early there, as was another at Brady 28 Apr (TJW). This species has a strange affinity for the eastern edge of Eppley Airfield in Omaha; perhaps the Missouri River is somewhat of a barrier. No fewer than 60 were there 27 May (DSt), up from the 21 there 1 May (JT). The 60 is in fact the 3rd-highest spring count on record for this species. See Eastern Kingbird.

Eastern Kingbird: Best count was only 35, at Eppley Airfield 27 May (DSt), paling in comparison to the 60 Western Kingbirds there the same day (DSt).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Four singles were reported, all in the southeast: one at BOL 2 May (RSt), one in Jefferson Co 9 May (JW), one in Pawnee Co 22 May (ST fide JGJ), and one at Eppley Airfield with the plethora of Westerns and Easterns 27 May (DSt).

Northern Shrike: Last for the winter was one at Calamus Res 24 Mar (JSe), about on time. The only other reports were of 2 in Scotts Bluff Co 13 Mar (KD) and one in Morrill Co the same day (LJH).

Loggerhead Shrike: Routine reports.

White-eyed Vireo: There were 3 reports, which is more than usual. Singles, possibly the same bird, were at FF 2 May (PS) and 20 May (JR), and one was in Johnson Co 2 May (CNK). These are the 23rd-25th reports since 1981.

Bell's Vireo: Routine reports.

Yellow-throated Vireo: One at WP 24 Apr (MUs) was a bit early; earliest dates are in mid-Apr. Pushing the edge of the range were one at Verdigre 8 May (BFH), one at Hastings 21 May (PD), and one near Broken Bow 11 May (TH). Recent years have seen more such reports away from the Missouri Valley.

Plumbeous Vireo: One at Bridgeport 13 May (LJH) was a bit east of the usual migration corridor.

Blue-headed Vireo: Routine reports.

Warbling Vireo: Routine reports.

Philadelphia Vireo: The only reports of this uncommon migrant were of singles at ICSP 1 May (RSt) and in Dodge Co 3 May (GR).

Red-eyed Vireo: Routine reports.

Blue Jay: Routine reports.

Pinyon Jay: Hard to find during the breeding season, and harder to prove nesting, 2-3 were located along Corkscrew Road in Sioux Co 16 May, at an area they occupied in 2008 (WM, m. ob.). These birds were building a nest, which may have been a second attempt at that date (WM).

Black-billed Magpie: In a situation somewhat similar to that of the Black-capped Chickadee, numbers of this species declined significantly for a few years beginning around 2004, a decline generally attributed to West Nile Virus. Recently there have been signs of a slow recovery, mostly in the northeast part of the range. First sightings for a few years were made in Dakota Co (BFH), nw Antelope Co (MB), and in Madison Co (WF, DH). However, populations in the west may still be in decline; one observer (TJW) suggests that the loss of open riparian woodland ("We either have NO trees or all trees.") has degraded the preferred habitat for magpies in the west. They are still "scarce" in Scotts

- Bluff Co (AK), and the first for the year in sw Nebraska was not seen until May (TJW), prompting the observer to comment that "they are all but gone from sw Nebraska". Two in North Platte 7 May were the observer's first there in 2-3 years (VC).
- American Crow:** The 318 in Seward Co 22 Mar (CW) was a good count.
- Horned Lark:** Fledged juveniles were with adults in Dodge Co 19 Apr (D&JP); earliest fledging dates are in late Mar.
- Purple Martin:** Routine reports.
- Tree Swallow:** The 2nd-earliest on record were 2 at Jack Sinn 10 Mar (LE); previous modal early dates were 15, 17, 18 Mar.
- Violet-green Swallow:** Routine reports.
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Three at FF 3 Apr (JR) were rather early; earliest dates are 30 Mar, 1, 2 Apr.
- Bank Swallow:** One in Lincoln 7 Apr (JMo) was 3rd-earliest on record.
- Cliff Swallow:** Routine reports.
- Barn Swallow:** Routine reports.
- Black-capped Chickadee:** The 35 at FF 3 Apr (RW) was an excellent count.
- Tufted Titmouse:** Routine reports.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Nesting occurs in the current range in the northwest, along the Niobrara Valley, in the Nebraska National Forests at Halsey, and in Cherry Co. However, a pair was nest-building at PP 25 Apr (CNK) and at least one bird was still there 24 May (LE, JR, JC, SS).
- White-breasted Nuthatch:** At the edge of the Platte River Valley range, one taking food from a feeder into trees 13-14 May (JO) may have been breeding.
- Pygmy Nuthatch:** Routine reports.
- Brown Creeper:** At least one pair continues to breed at FF; a pair was carrying food 20 May (JR), and one was singing 23 May (JR).
- Rock Wren:** Two were at Ashfall Fossil Beds SHP, Antelope Co, 29 May, where one had arrived 5 May (MB). There is a single prior breeding record there, in 1992.
- Carolina Wren:** The winter of 2009-2010 was long and cold, putting immense pressure on this cold-sensitive species. Many observers noted that individuals in their yards survived into Jan or Feb but then disappeared; a rough estimate from observer comments is that at least 50% of the previously resident birds did not survive the winter. Nevertheless, there were survivors, generally those at residential feeders, and it seems that new recruits have appeared; one wintered in a Bellevue yard and had a mate by 28 Mar (CNK), and one in another Bellevue yard 13 Apr was the first heard all winter (EB). Birds disappeared from a Lincoln yard but one had returned by 22 Mar (JMo). On the other hand, former forest haunts were still unoccupied into Apr and May: FF 3 Apr-21 May (JR, L&BP, WRS et al), PRSP 21 Apr (JGJ), and ICSP (JMo) lacked birds. There were a few surprising reports, considering the winter and location: one was at Calamus Res during Mar (JSe), one was in Gosper Co 5 Apr (WF), one was in Hayes Co 14 May (TJW), and one was in Norfolk 27 May (MB).
- Bewick's Wren:** A singing bird was in a Wilsonville yard for a few days prior to 11 Apr (LO, details); it is only the 23rd record of the species since 1969.
- House Wren:** Earliest was one in Lancaster Co 11 Apr (RSt), rather early.

Winter (Pacific?) Wren: Surprising was one in Scotts Bluff Co 9 May (JAR); in light of the recent split of Pacific Wren it would be of interest to determine identity of such western reports.

Sedge Wren: Westerly were 2 in Antelope Co 23 May (DH).

Marsh Wren: Routine reports.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Although a few winter on occasion in the se, this winter would likely have precluded that. Two at WP 2 Mar (LE) thus may have been early arrivals.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Routine reports.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Three at FF 6 Apr (L&BP) tied the record early date. Arrival is later in the west, where the species has only recently become established; 4 were at Swanson Res 3 May (TJW) and one was in Scotts Bluff Co 13 May (AK).

Eastern Bluebird: Although some winter most years, the cold winter delayed spring arrivals; "first-of-year" for the observer were 4 in Omaha 7 Mar (JR).

Mountain Bluebird: Routine reports.

Townsend's Solitaire: A few linger into May in the west, but breeding is rare. Last reported were in Sioux and Dawes Cos 15-16 May (TH, RSi).

Veery: An excellent showing of 8 was reported, including 3 in the Panhandle, where western *Catharus fuscescens salicicola* is likely; none were identified as either subspecies however. The 3 westerly birds were singles at CLNWR 14 May (CG), in Box Butte Co 14 May (RSi), and in Dawes Co 16 May (RSi). Elsewhere, singles were at WP 5 May (DL), at Schramm 6 May (DSt), in Lancaster Co 6 May (RSt), in Buffalo Co 17 May (BN), where rare, and in FF 21 May (EB).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Along with Veery, there were many more of this species than usual. About 15 were reported 8-21 May, all from the e RWB eastward, as expected (m. ob.).

Swainson's Thrush: Routine reports.

Hermit Thrush: Routine reports.

Wood Thrush: One was carrying nest material at ICSP 8 May (WRS, SG).

American Robin: This homeowner knows about bird-friendly yards: 4 nests were in the observer's yard in Scotts Bluff Co 10 May (KD).

Gray Catbird: One in Otoe Co 30 Mar (SQ) either returned early or wintered; the latter seems unlikely given the winter conditions.

Northern Mockingbird: There were 8 reports of 10 birds, earliest 11 Apr, all but two from se Nebraska (m. ob.). The exceptions were one in Custer Co 29 Apr (TH) and one far to the nw in ne Sioux Co 30 May (KDy). Wintering is rare, and arrival is in late Mar and Apr.

Brown Thrasher: Right on time for first arrivals in the east was one in Lancaster Co 6 Apr (TG); likewise one in se Lincoln Co 19 Apr (TJW) was on the early side there.

European Starling: Routine reports.

American Pipit: Routine reports.

Sprague's Pipit: The only report of this regular but hard to find migrant was of one at SCP 13 Apr (KP).

Cedar Waxwing: This species has a main spring migration peak in Apr and a minor one in late May, the latter possibly birds wintering farther south than the earlier migrants (see *Birds of Missouri*, Robbins and Easterla). This spring showed

- this difference: 3 small flocks totaling 25 birds were at FF 28 May (ARy), while in se Lincoln Co cedar canyons a remarkable record high total aggregation of "thousands" of birds (12-15 groups of 300-500) was noted 19 Apr (TJW).
- Golden-winged Warbler:** Only one was reported, fewer than usual, at FF 13 May (JR).
- Tennessee Warbler:** This species is rare in the Panhandle, where there are about 40 records in all. This spring saw two reports: one at CLNWR 14 May (CG) and one or two in Sheridan Co 15-16 May (RSi, JWo). Westerly in addition were 2 at Brady 3 May (TJW) and another in Lincoln Co 22 May (TJW). Best count was a moderate 36 at WGP 22 May (JWH).
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** Routine reports.
- Nashville Warbler:** Only the 6th Panhandle report for this easterly migrant was one in Dawes Co 16 May (CNK). Another was westerly in Custer Co 17 May (LE).
- Northern Parula:** The 15th Panhandle report was of one at CLNWR 26 May (CG, photo). Tying the 2nd-highest count on record was the 17 at FF 29 Apr (JR).
- Yellow Warbler:** Rather early for westerly locations were singles at McCook 21 Apr (RBo) and in Custer Co 23 Apr (TH). First in the southeast were not found until 1 May, singles at 3 locations (TEL, RSt, LE).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** There was a better than usual showing of this species, with about 11 reported 8-23 May, all in the east (m. ob.).
- Magnolia Warbler:** Only 3 were reported, singles at WGP 21 May (NR, ARy) and 22 May (JWH), and in Sarpy Co 21 May (GJ).
- Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler:** Easternmost was one in Custer Co 6 May (TH); there are a few records farther east.
- Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** One at WP 2 Mar (LE) and another at ADF 10 Mar (LF) probably wintered there. Best count reported was a moderate 100+ at Gering Cem 8 May (KD).
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** Four were reported, about the norm: singles were at Schramm 6 May (DSt), in Sarpy Co 8 May (fide CNK), and two were in Hormel Park, Dodge Co, 20 May (GR).
- Hermit Warbler:** The fortuitous residence of graduate student Cory Gregory at CLNWR continued to produce rarities, this time the state's second Hermit Warbler 21 May (CG, photo). (See also photo Mar *NBR*, page 9.)
- Blackburnian Warbler:** The nine or so reported were more than usual. As many as 4 were at WGP 15-21 May (JSt, NR, BF), 2 were in Lincoln 20 May (TEL), one was at Hastings 21 May (PD), and singles were at FF 21 May (EB) and 23 May (GR).
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** All reports were from the two known regular summer locations, FF and Neale Woods (Missouri River Ecology Trail), Washington Co. First at FF was 12 Apr (RS), rather early, and best count was an excellent 7 at FF on both 29 Apr and 1 May (JR). Record count is 10 at FF.
- Pine Warbler:** A surprising discovery at PP (maybe not so surprising- Pygmy Nuthatch?) was a singing male Pine Warbler 13 Apr (JMo), seen again the same day by local observers (DL, JC, SS). This bird continued singing through 23 May (DL). No evidence of breeding was reported, although 2 singing birds were reported in the period 16 Apr-1 May (KSc, LE, RE). This is only the 6th documented record for spring for this species. The occurrence brought to light a previous sighting in Nebraska City 14 Apr "several years ago" (JC, SS; no details).



Hermit Warbler at Crescent Lake NWR 21 May. Photo by Cory Gregory.

Palm Warbler: More than usual were reported, a total of about 15, most from the east as expected, 29 Apr-16 May (m. ob.). Westerly were singles in Custer Co 7 May (TH) and Dawes Co 16 May (RSi). Five were identified to subspecies: all were the western *Dendroica palmarum palmarum*, the expected taxon in Nebraska.

Bay-breasted Warbler: The only report of this rare spring migrant was of one at Hormel Park, Dodge Co, 31 May (GR), 3rd-latest on record.

Blackpoll Warbler: This statewide spring migrant was reported in normal numbers 8-22 May (m. ob.).

Cerulean Warbler: Only 2 were reported, both in FF 23 May, one at the same place as last year (JR, GR). This is a rare, edge-of-range species in Nebraska.

Black-and-white Warbler: Routine reports.

American Redstart: Routine reports.

Prothonotary Warbler: A surprise was one at SCP 21 Apr (KP), 5th-earliest on record and somewhat westerly. All other reports this spring were of the usual 1-2 singing birds at FF beginning 1 May (JR, m. ob.).

Worm-eating Warbler: There are very few recent reports of this rare casual spring overshoot; one was at WP 12 May (LE).

Ovenbird: Routine reports.

Northern Waterthrush: There were more reports than usual, a total of 24 birds statewide 29 Apr (JR) through 29 May (JR). The latter, in Omaha, was the 4th-latest spring migrant on record.

Louisiana Waterthrush: This was an excellent spring for this species; at least 17 birds were reported. Two at ICSP 4 Apr (JMo) were early, but earliest dates are

in late Mar. Most reports were from known summering locations, including FF, ICSP, and PRSP. Excellent counts of 7 at ICSP 8 May (WRS, SG) and 6 at PRSP 18 Apr (JC, SS) indicated the suitability of these two locations. A nest at PRSP was photographed (see March 2010 *NBR*, page 4) 16 and 21 May (GR, JC, ET); although there are several reports of adults feeding young, this is only the 3rd nest found since 1980, the others at FF. A little westerly was one in Johnson Co 2 May (CNK); there are few spring reports away from known summer locations.

Kentucky Warbler: None were reported, despite a search of regular locations at ICSP 8 May (WRS, SG).

Mourning Warbler: The fewer than usual reports were of singles at FF 13 May (JR) and 30 May (GR), and at WGP 19 May (JWH).

MacGillivray's Warbler: None were reported; this is a regular migrant in the west.

Common Yellowthroat: Routine reports.

Hooded Warbler: The 3 reports were encouraging for this rare casual spring migrant. Single singing males were at FF 13 May (JR) and WP 18 May (LE) and a female was at WP 20 May (JGJ).

Wilson's Warbler: Surprisingly, only 9 of this generally fairly common spring migrant were reported, all 8-28 May (m. ob.).

Canada Warbler: Only one was reported, down from recent years; it was at WGP 22 May (JWH).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Easternmost was one in Harlan Co (no date given; G&WH); there has been a small population in the area in recent years.

Summer Tanager: Numbers of this species continue to increase in its core se Nebraska range and it is appearing more often away from this range. Unexpected locations were Loup Co, where 2 were photographed 3 May (LK), CLNWR 21 May (CG photo), and another in the Panhandle in Sheridan Co 29 May (BP). These are the 8th and 9th Panhandle records. Good numbers continue at ICSP, with 4 there 8 May (WRS, SG), and reports continue at FF, where the species probably is breeding, with 1-2 reported beginning 6 May (JR, fide CNK). PRSP hosted 1-2 on 15-16 May (MUs, JC, SS, KSc) and one was at Neale Woods 23 May (CNK). There were 3 reports from WP: a first year male 6 May (ET), and singles 9 May (LE) and 20 May (JGJ).

Scarlet Tanager: The 5 at FF 28 May (JR) was an excellent count, and somewhat out of range was one in Holt Co 9 May (WF); breeding occurs in the Niobrara River Valley west to Brown and Keya Paha Cos.

Western Tanager: Routine reports.

Green-tailed Towhee: The only report of this rare migrant was of one in Scottsbluff 13 May (RSi).

Spotted Towhee: One in Gage Co 8 May (JB) was tardy; most have left the east by May.

Eastern Towhee: Only the 2nd Custer Co record for the observer was a "pure-looking" bird 29 Mar (TH); this is westerly for this species and record early away from the southeast, where a few winter on occasion. Singles in Colfax Co 5 Apr (JJ), 28 Apr (LE) and 13 May (WF) were a bit west of the usual summer range for pure birds, as were singles in Holt Co 14 May (LE) and Dawson Co 25 May (WF).

Cassin's Sparrow: A late spring arriver, this species barely makes the spring report most years; two were singing at Agate Fossil Beds NM, Sioux Co, 30 May (TJW).

American Tree Sparrow: Departure was rather early; none were reported after the 2 at FF 8 Apr (GR). Latest dates are in May.

Chipping Sparrow: Earliest dates are in late Mar, but one in Lancaster Co 1-5 Mar (CS photo) was record early.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Routine reports.

Brewer's Sparrow: The only reports were of one in Banner Co 9 May (SMc) and 3 in sw Kimball Co 27 May (KDy); this species generally has to be targeted in its extreme w Nebraska sage habitat to be found.

Field Sparrow: Routine reports.

Vesper Sparrow: The 120 in Adams and Clay Cos 6 Apr (PD) is a record high spring count; fall high counts are much higher.

Lark Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lark Bunting: Routine reports.

Savannah Sparrow: Singles in Sarpy Co 22 May (JR) and in Custer Co 26 May (TH) were rather late for migrants; the few known breeding areas are in the north and west.

Grasshopper Sparrow: One in Banner Co 20 Apr (SMc) was the earliest Panhandle date on record by a week; spring arrival dates are about a month later there than in the east.

Baird's Sparrow: Clearly the most exciting news of the spring was the discovery 15 May by Tim Hajda and Wayne Mollhoff of up to 3 singing, apparently territorial, birds in extreme ne Sioux Co, near where some were found in May 2009 along Sugar Loaf Road. Luckily for attendees at the NOU Spring Meeting at nearby Chadron, many birders saw these birds through 16 May. (See photo Mar *NBR*, page 9.) One was in the same area 30 May (KDy). It will be interesting to see if the birds are still present in Jun; the 2009 birds could not be found in Jun. Strangely, another was singing in a field occupied also by Chestnut-collared Longspurs about 9 miles s of Harrison on Highway 29 on 16 May (TH).

Henslow's Sparrow: Like Brewer's Sparrow, Henslow's has to be searched for in its restricted habitat; the only report was of one at SCP 18 May (KP).

Le Conte's Sparrow: Earliest migrants arrive at the end of Mar, but one at Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo Co, 13 Mar (IB) was one of only 3 earlier Mar records, all of which may have been of birds that wintered nearby or in n Kansas.

Nelson's Sparrow: None were reported. This is another limited-habitat species that has to be searched for; the few spring records are in late May.

Fox Sparrow: Good numbers, about 25, were reported 10 Mar (LE) through 11 Apr (NR), all in the east as expected. The several birds noted at BOL during the early winter were absent 4 Mar (LE), suggesting inability to survive the severe winter conditions.

Song Sparrow: An interesting sighting was of 40-50 at a marshy playa in Lincoln Co 3 Apr (TJW); this species occurs near water both in migration and when breeding.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Routine reports.

Swamp Sparrow: One at ADF 26 Mar (LE) was rather early; one at Schramm 6 Mar (RS) may have wintered in the area. There are only a few Mar reports prior to 20 Mar, as well as a few winter reports in the southeast.

White-throated Sparrow: Even in the south and east this is a rare bird in winter; one at a feeder in South Sioux City 3 Mar (BFH) may have been a survivor.

White-crowned Sparrow: This species is also a rare winterer in the south and west, usually at feeders; one was at the Rowe Sanctuary feeders, Buffalo Co, 7 Mar (JMo).

Harris's Sparrow: Routine reports.

Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco: Routine reports.

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: One in Dodge Co 11 May (RV) was tardy; there are a few early Jun dates but most leave in Apr.

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco: Two forms are included here, Oregon (*Junco hyemalis montanus*) and Pink-sided (*J. h. mearnsi*). An Oregon in Custer Co 22 Apr (TH) was 3rd-latest on record; there are 2 later dates in Apr. A Pink-sided in Antelope Co 8 Apr (KK) was easterly.

Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco: One hit a garage door s of Gering 12 Apr and stayed through 15 Apr (AK), the observer's first "for years". Most unexpected was one near North Platte 22 May (TJW), only the 8th record with any details. Occurrence is unpredictable, but mostly in winter in the west. These are large juncos, essentially like White-wingeds, but without wing bars and with a reddish "saddle".

McCown's Longspur: Routine reports

Lapland Longspur: Large numbers were reported in Mar: 6400 were estimated in Dixon Co 24 Mar (JJ), and "thousands" were in the e RWB 7-9 Mar (JGJ). High spring counts are in the 10,000 range. The 1200 in a "mono-specific flock" in Polk Co 8 Mar (WF) was a nice find. One in Custer Co 26 Apr (TH) was 3rd-latest on record.

Smith's Longspur: A photo taken at SCP 2 Apr (GW) was generally agreed to be of this species; see <http://www.ilbirds.com/index.php?topic=34735.0> for an interesting discussion of this difficult identification. This is only the 15th spring record of this elusive migrant.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Routine reports.

Snow Bunting: Following good numbers during the winter, only one was reported, and that was on the first day of the spring period, in Madison Co 1 Mar (RiS). Most depart in late Feb-early Mar.

Northern Cardinal: One was reported from the western outpost in Scotts Bluff Co 22 May (AK). The 40 at SCP 7 Mar (ZC) was an excellent count.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: One in Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co, 13 May (ECT) was westerly; it is rare there in spring.

Black-headed Grosbeak: Routine reports.

Blue Grosbeak: Routine reports.

Lazuli Bunting: Easterly reports in recent years are fairly numerous; this year there were 3. Singles were at Geneva Cem 30 Apr (JGJ), rather early, at Friend 16 May (JPK), and in Dodge Co 19-20 May (fide RS). A hybrid female with wing bars was at FF 13 May (JR).

Indigo Bunting: Routine reports.



Smith's Longspur at Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co, 2 Apr 2010. Photo by Gordon Warrick.

Dickcissel: Arrival was about on time in the east, early May, but one at CLNWR 14 May (CG) was early for the west, where early dates are generally mid- to late May.

Bobolink: Arrival was rather early, with 3 in Lancaster Co 1 May (RSt) and one in Dodge Co 3 May (D&JP). There are only about 8 records for Apr.

Red-winged Blackbird: Flocks usually appear in Mar, although the 10,000 in Clay Co 6 Mar (RSt) was a little early for that number. The 16,000 in Lincoln Co 21 Mar (TJW, TH, CW) was more typical, but still an excellent count. A mixed flock of about 2250 containing about 35% females in Saunders Co 7 Mar (CNK) was a bit early for that number of females.

Eastern Meadowlark: One in Lincoln 10 Mar set an early date for a singing bird (RE). One in Scotts Bluff Co 1 Apr (RK) was early that far west, as was another at North Platte 7 Apr (TJW).

Western Meadowlark: Routine reports.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Routine reports.

Rusty Blackbird: Reports were encouraging, with about 135 reported 12 Mar-11 Apr, most as expected in the east (m. ob.). Best count was an excellent 30-40 in Washington Co 17 Mar (JR). A male with a large flock of Red-winged Blackbirds in Lincoln Co 21 Mar (TJW, TH, CW) was westerly; there are only about 8 Panhandle reports.

Brewer's Blackbird: Routine reports.

Common Grackle: Best count was a spring record 11,222 in Lancaster Co 31 Mar (LE).

Great-tailed Grackle: Tying the 4th-earliest date were 4 at Fairmont 1 Mar; 17 were there 4 Mar (JRi). There are few reports from the Sandhills, thus 2 at Atkinson 9 Apr (JGJ) were of interest.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Routine reports.

Orchard Oriole: One in Lancaster Co 18 Apr (KB) was the 6th-earliest on record.

Baltimore Oriole: Routine reports.

Bullock's Oriole: Easternmost was one in Hitchcock Co 14 May (TJW); this species is rare east of the Panhandle.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch: None were reported; most depart by mid-Mar.

Purple Finch: Numbers were good for this species, with a total of at least 55 through 21 Apr (m. ob.). Westerly were 2-3 in Lincoln Co 3 and 15 Mar (TJW).

Cassin's Finch: None were reported; this species is erratic in winter.

House Finch: A pair with a single early fledgling were near North Platte 19 May (TJW).

Red Crossbill: Fledged young were being fed in Dawes Co 16 May (CNK). Strange happenings continued at PP with an apparent pair present; a female was seen 16 Apr (LE) and 17 Apr (RS, BG), and a male was observed 22 May (MUs) and 23 May (MB). There were no sightings of the two together, however. There are single old nest records for Douglas and Lancaster Cos. The male seen on 23 May was a "very large-billed bird" (MB); the breeding birds of nw Nebraska are large-billed Ponderosa Pine specialists (Groth Type 2, subspecies *Loxia curvirostra bentii*), but we have no doubt not heard the last word on Red Crossbill taxonomy.

White-winged Crossbill: A "dull male" in pines at the Fort Niobrara NWR Visitor Center, Cherry Co, 11 Apr was identified by a Colorado birder (MMi fide PD). This species is erratic and can turn up anywhere at any time.

Common Redpoll: The only report was of a flock of "well over 200" in Stanton Co 4 Mar (DW fide MB); this followed only 2 reports for fall and winter.

Pine Siskin: This species has a propensity to breed in early spring at wintering locations; one of 17 birds at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, was "singing strongly" 7 Mar. On 29 Apr 2 fledglings were seen following adults, and the male of another pair was flight singing (JR). Singing and chasing was taking place in Lincoln for a month or so prior to 21 Apr (JMo). One was still in a Dixon Co yard 29 May (JJ), rather late.

Lesser Goldfinch: That famous migrant trap, CLNWR, has hosted at least one Lesser Goldfinch each of the last 3 summers 25 May-12 Jun (2008-2010, CG); the 2010 sighting was 27 May (CG). Two were in a Scotts Bluff Co yard 31 May (KD). Reports of this species have dramatically increased beginning in 2008; prior to 2008 there were 11 records of 14 birds, and from 2008 to spring 2010 there have been 19 records of 48 birds.

American Goldfinch: Routine reports.

Evening Grosbeak: A rather amazing showing involving 28 birds at Camp Norwesca, Dawes Co, and 2 n of Hay Springs in Sheridan Co delighted NOU members 16 May (TH, D&JP, B&DW, m.ob.). This appears to be the first record of this species in Nebraska since a few apparently bred in the Crawford area in the early 1990s.

House Sparrow: Routine reports.

Annual Meeting at Chadron

Sixty-seven members and guests were in attendance at the 111th Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union held at Camp Norwesca on May 14-16, 2010. The Camp Norwesca campus, located just south of Chadron State Park, proved to be an excellent birding location, providing good views of Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills. Evening Grosbeaks were also found at Chadron State Park and at Beaver Wall in Sheridan Co.

Field trips were led by Wayne Mollhoff, Kathy DeLara, Ann Duey, Alice Kenitz, and Bruce and Donna Walgren. Rain on Saturday morning caused some last-minute changes to the trip itineraries. Among the locations visited were Gilbert-Baker WMA, Fort Robinson State Park, White River, Chadron Creek Ranch WMA, Chadron State Park, Oglalla National Grasslands, Beaver Wall, and Smith Lake WMA.

The total tally for the weekend was 166 species, with Baird's Sparrow, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Evening Grosbeak being among the most popular with the group.

On Friday evening, Todd Nordeen, a district wildlife manager for Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, spoke about the bighorn sheep management program in the Nebraska Panhandle. Bighorn sheep were native to the area, but were extirpated in the early 1900s due to disease, habitat loss and over-hunting. Over the past few years, bighorn sheep have been reintroduced, and herds can now be found at Fort Robinson State Park, Bighorn WMA, Cedar Canyon WMA, and Hubbard Gap. The total population of bighorn sheep in Nebraska is currently estimated at 250 to 300.

On Saturday evening, Bart Bly, a biologist with the Nebraska Prairie Partners, gave a presentation on bird research in western Nebraska pine forests. The Nebraska Prairie Partners, a collaboration between the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, assists landowners with habitat development on private lands and designs projects to benefit wildlife, particularly species of conservation concern. Species studied recently in the Nebraska Panhandle include Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Common Poorwill and Mountain Plover. The Nebraska Prairie Partners hopes to improve the long-term viability of native habitats and increase public awareness of the importance of conserving and maintaining habitats to keep common species common and to reverse the plight of threatened and endangered species.

Board Meeting and Election

A brief business meeting was held, and Urban Lehner (president), Nancy Leonard (vice-president), Betty Grenon (treasurer), Kevin Poague (secretary), Anita Breckbill (librarian), and Janis Paseka (editor) were reelected to additional one-year terms. Jan Johnson was elected to a three-year term as director, replacing Kathy DeLara.

NOU Annual Meeting - Chadron

	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Snow Goose			x	
Canada Goose	x	x	x	
Trumpeter Swan			x	
Wood Duck		x	x	
Gadwall	x	x	x	x
Mallard	x	x	x	x
Blue-winged Teal	x	x	x	x
Cinnamon Teal		x		
Northern Shoveler		x	x	
Northern Pintail	x		x	
Green-winged Teal		x		
Canvasback			x	
Redhead		x	x	
Lesser Scaup		x	x	
Bufflehead		x	x	
Common Merganser			x	
Ruddy Duck		x	x	
Ring-necked Pheasant	x	x	x	x
Sharp-tailed Grouse				x
Wild Turkey	x	x	x	x
Pied-billed Grebe		x	x	
Eared Grebe		x	x	
Western Grebe		x	x	
American White Pelican		x	x	
Double-crested Cormorant			x	
Great Blue Heron		x	x	x
White-faced Ibis		x	x	
Turkey Vulture		x	x	x
Osprey		x		
Northern Harrier	x	x	x	x
Cooper's Hawk		x	x	x
Swainson's Hawk	x	x	x	x
Red-tailed Hawk	x	x	x	x
Ferruginous Hawk	x	x	x	x
Golden Eagle	x	x		
American Kestrel	x	x	x	x
Prairie Falcon		x		

NOU Annual Meeting - Chadron

	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Virginia Rail			x	
Sora	x	x	x	
American Coot			x	
Black-bellied Plover	x			
Semipalmated Plover	x			
Killdeer	x	x	x	x
Black-necked Stilt			x	
American Avocet		x	x	
Lesser Yellowlegs		x	x	
Willet		x	x	
Spotted Sandpiper		x	x	x
Upland Sandpiper		x	x	x
Long-billed Curlew	x	x	x	x
Least Sandpiper	x			
Wilson's Snipe		x		
Wilson's Phalarope	x	x	x	
Franklin's Gull			x	
Ring-billed Gull		x	x	
Black Tern		x	x	x
Forster's Tern			x	
Rock Pigeon	x	x	x	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	x	x	x	x
Mourning Dove	x	x	x	x
Great Horned Owl	x	x	x	
Burrowing Owl	x	x	x	
Short-eared Owl				x
Chimney Swift	x	x	x	
White-throated Swift		x	x	
Belted Kingfisher		x	x	x
Lewis's Woodpecker		x		
Red-headed Woodpecker	x	x	x	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		x		
Downy Woodpecker	x	x	x	x
Hairy Woodpecker		x		x
Northern Flicker	x	x	x	x
Olive-sided Flycatcher		x		
Western Wood-Pewee		x		

NOU Annual Meeting - Chadron

	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Willow Flycatcher			x	
Least Flycatcher		x	x	x
Cordilleran Flycatcher			x	
Eastern Phoebe		x	x	
Say's Phoebe	x	x		x
Great Crested Flycatcher		x	x	
Western Kingbird	x	x	x	x
Eastern Kingbird	x	x	x	x
Loggerhead Shrike	x	x	x	x
Plumbeous Vireo		x		x
Warbling Vireo	x	x		
Red-eyed Vireo		x		
Blue Jay	x	x	x	
Pinyon Jay				x
Black-billed Magpie		x		x
American Crow	x	x	x	x
Horned Lark	x	x	x	x
Tree Swallow		x	x	x
Violet-green Swallow		x	x	x
N. Rough-winged Swallow		x	x	x
Bank Swallow		x		
Cliff Swallow	x	x		
Barn Swallow	x	x	x	x
Black-capped Chickadee		x	x	x
Red-breasted Nuthatch		x	x	x
White-breasted Nuthatch		x	x	
Pygmy Nuthatch		x		x
Brown Creeper		x		
Rock Wren				x
House Wren	x	x	x	x
Marsh Wren			x	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		x	x	
Eastern Bluebird		x	x	x
Mountain Bluebird		x	x	x
Townsend's Solitaire		x		x
Veery		x		
Swainson's Thrush		x	x	

NOU Annual Meeting - Chadron

	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Hermit Thrush	x			
American Robin	x	x	x	x
Gray Catbird		x	x	x
Brown Thrasher	x	x	x	
European Starling	x	x	x	x
American Pipit				x
Cedar Waxwing		x		x
Tennessee Warbler			x	
Orange-crowned Warbler		x	x	x
Nashville Warbler		x		
Yellow Warbler		x	x	x
Yellow-rumped Warbler	x	x	x	x
Palm Warbler		x		
Blackpoll Warbler		x	x	
Black-and-white Warbler		x		x
American Redstart		x	x	x
Ovenbird		x	x	x
Northern Waterthrush			x	
Common Yellowthroat		x	x	x
Wilson's Warbler		x		
Yellow-breasted Chat		x	x	x
Western Tanager		x		
Spotted Towhee	x	x	x	x
Chipping Sparrow	x	x	x	x
Clay-colored Sparrow	x	x	x	x
Field Sparrow	x			
Vesper Sparrow	x		x	x
Lark Sparrow	x	x	x	x
Lark Bunting	x	x	x	x
Grasshopper Sparrow		x		x
Baird's Sparrow				x
Lincoln's Sparrow			x	
Harris's Sparrow		x		
White-crowned Sparrow		x	x	
Dark-eyed Junco		x		
McCown's Longspur				x
Chestnut-collared Longspur				x

NOU Annual Meeting - Chadron

	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Black-headed Grosbeak		x	x	x
Bobolink			x	
Red-winged Blackbird	x	x	x	x
Western Meadowlark	x	x	x	x
Yellow-headed Blackbird	x	x	x	
Brewer's Blackbird		x		x
Common Grackle	x	x	x	x
Great-tailed Grackle			x	
Brown-headed Cowbird	x	x	x	x
Orchard Oriole			x	
Bullock's Oriole		x	x	
Baltimore Oriole		x	x	
House Finch	x	x	x	x
Red Crossbill		x		x
Pine Siskin		x	x	x
American Goldfinch	x	x	x	x
Evening Grosbeak		x	x	
House Sparrow	x	x	x	x
Total species	166	60	132	82

 An Unfortunate Name - With a Nebraska Twist

Rick Wright, Ph.D.
WINGS Birding Tours Worldwide
 1643 North Alvernon, Suite 109
 Tucson, AZ 85712

The past days have seen an amusing conversation about bird names conducted on the online discussion group NEBirds - just the sort of thing to get us through these dog-day afternoons of August. A very sharp young birder has brought

up the case of the Paltry Tyrannulet, a cute little tropical flycatcher whose English name seems determined to add insult to diminutive injury.

In a fascinating bit of serendipity, this onomastically maligned bird, resident from Mexico south through Central America to Colombia, in fact has a Nebraska connection. Described 150 years ago in the genus *Elainia*, the tyrannulet was quickly renamed *Tyranniscus vilissimus*, and it bore that name until 1977, when the late Melvin Traylor - himself memorialized in the name of the Orange-eyed Flatbill *Tolmomyias traylori* - erected a new genus for this and another almost dozen species.

Traylor named his new genus *Zimmerius*, in honor of the great and little-remembered American ornithologist John Todd Zimmer. Born in Ohio in 1889, Zimmer and his family moved to Nebraska in the early years of the twentieth century, and he graduated from the University of Nebraska one hundred years ago this year; he took the M.A. there in 1911, and was granted the D.Sc. *honoris causa* in 1943. Like others I could name, Zimmer spent much of his college time outside looking for birds and inside looking at birds, and he eventually left a large and very fine collection of skins to the University of Nebraska State Museum, where they still reside.

Zimmer left Nebraska to hold positions in the Philippines and New Guinea, then moved to the Field Museum and finally to the American Museum, where he spent nearly thirty years working on the birds of the Neotropics, particularly Peru. The naming of *Zimmerius* recognizes his contribution to the taxonomy of South American birds, cited by the Brewster Medal Committee in 1952 as "truly the foundation for the work of all other current students of the South American avifauna."

Unfortunately, when Sclater and Salvin christened the Paltry Tyrannulet in 1859, they gave it the specific epithet *vilissimus*, the superlative of the Latin adjective *vilis*, meaning (as its English descendant "vile" would suggest) "contemptible, worthless, ordinary, vulgar," a reflection of both the bird's abundance and its relatively undistinguished appearance. With Traylor's revision, though, the species' current scientific name, *Zimmerius vilissimus*, joins the epithet to a person's name - giving us a translation something like "the very contemptible Zimmer." The fact that the species is polytypic makes it even worse: the nominate subspecies, *Z. v. vilissimus*, is "the very, very contemptible Zimmer."

Surely not what Traylor wanted to say, but such things happen in the world of birds and words.

The biographical details in this note are from Murphy, R.C., and D. Amadon. 1959. "In Memoriam: John Todd Zimmer." The Auk 76: 418-423. The taxonomic history of the Paltry Tyrannulet can be reviewed in The AOU Check-list of North American Birds, 7th ed., 1998; Traylor's revision was published in Traylor, M.A. 1977. "A Classification of the Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)." Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology 148: 129-184.

English and Scientific Alpha Codes for the Birds of Nebraska

Prepared by:

Mark A. Brogie
 NOU Records Committee Chairperson
 508 Seeley Street, Box 316
 Creighton, NE 68729

Alpha codes, abbreviations of common or scientific bird names, have long been used by ornithologists. The U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory's employment of alpha codes has become an integral part of large ornithological programs across the United States and Canada. Rather than using the full English or scientific name of a bird species, alpha codes allow quicker data entry and can also help to cross-reference other data.

The following is a list of alpha codes, current through the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (1998), its following supplements: (AOU: 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010), and the most recent published "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009" (NOU Records Committee 2009).

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	6-LETTER CODE
Acadian Flycatcher	ACFL	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	EMPVIR
Acorn Woodpecker	ACWO	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	MELFOR
Alder Flycatcher	ALFL	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	EMPALN
American Avocet	AMAV	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	RECAME
American Bittern	AMBI	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	BOTLEN
American Black Duck	ABDU	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	ANARUB
American Coot	AMCO	<i>Fulica americana</i>	FULAME
American Crow	AMCR	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	CORBRA
American Dipper	AMDI	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	CINMEX
American Golden-Plover	AMGP	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	PLUDOM
American Goldfinch	AMGO	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	SPITRI
American Kestrel	AMKE	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	FALSPA
American Pipit	AMPI	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	ANTRUB
American Redstart	AMRE	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	SETRUT
American Robin	AMRO	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	TURMIG
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	ATTW	<i>Picoides dorsalis</i>	PICDOR
American Tree Sparrow	ATSP	<i>Spizella arborea</i>	SPIARB
American White Pelican	AWPE	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	PELERY
American Wigeon	AMWI	<i>Anas americana</i>	ANAAME
American Woodcock	AMWO	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	SCOMIN
Ancient Murrelet	ANMU	<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>	SYNANT
Anhinga	ANHI	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	ANHANH

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	6-LETTER CODE
Ash-throated Flycatcher	ATFL	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	MYICIN
Baird's Sandpiper	BASA	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	CALBAI
Baird's Sparrow	BAIS *	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>	AMMBAI
Bald Eagle	BAEA	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	HALLEU
Baltimore Oriole	BAOR	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	ICTGAL
Band-tailed Pigeon	BTPI	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	PATFAS
Bank Swallow	BANS *	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	RIPRIP
Barn Owl	BANO *	<i>Tyto alba</i>	TYTALB
Barn Swallow	BARS *	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	HIRRUS
Barred Owl	BADO *	<i>Strix varia</i>	STRVAR
Barrow's Goldeneye	BAGO	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	BUCISL
Bay-breasted Warbler	BBWA	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	DENCAS
Bell's Vireo	BEVI	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	VIRBEL
Belted Kingfisher	BEKI	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	MEGALC
Bewick's Wren	BEWR	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	THRBEW
Black Rail	BLRA	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	LATJAM
Black Rosy-Finch	BLRF	<i>Leucosticte atrata</i>	LEUATT *
Black Scoter	BLSC	<i>Melanitta americana</i>	MELAME
Black Tern	BLTE	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	CHLNIG
Black Vulture	BLVU	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	CORATR
Black-and-white Warbler	BAWW	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	MNIVAR
Black-bellied Plover	BBPL	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	PLUSQU
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	BBWD	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	DENAUT
Black-billed Cuckoo	BBCU	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	COCERY
Black-billed Magpie	BBMA	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	PICHUD
Blackburnian Warbler	BLBW *	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	DENFUS
Black-capped Chickadee	BCCH	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	POEATR
Black-capped Vireo	BCVI	<i>Vireo atricapilla</i>	VIRATR
Black-crowned Night-Heron	BCNH	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	NYCNYC
Black-headed Grosbeak	BHGR	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	PHEMEL
Black-headed Gull	BHGU	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	CHRRID
Black-legged Kittiwake	BLKI	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	RISTRI
Black-necked Stilt	BNST	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	HIMMEX
Blackpoll Warbler	BLPW *	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	DENSTR
Black-throated Blue Warbler	BTBW	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	DENCAE
Black-throated Gray Warbler	BTYW *	<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>	DENNIG
Black-throated Green Warbler	BTNW *	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	DENVIR
Black-throated Sparrow	BTSP	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	AMPBIL
Blue Grosbeak	BLGR	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	PASCAE
Blue Jay	BLJA	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	CYACRI
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	BGGN	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	POLCAE
Blue-headed Vireo	BHVI	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	VIRSOL

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Blue-winged Teal	BWTE	<i>Anas discors</i>	ANADIS
Blue-winged Warbler	BWWA	<i>Vermivora cyanoptera</i>	VERCYA
Bobolink	BOBO	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	DOLORY
Bohemian Waxwing	BOWA	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	BOMGAR
Bonaparte's Gull	BOGU	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	CHRPHI
Boreal Owl	BOOW	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	AEGFUN
Brambling	BRAM	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	FRIMON
Brant	BRAN	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	BRABER
Brewer's Blackbird	BRBL	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	EUPCYC *
Brewer's Sparrow	BRSP	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	SPIBRE
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	BTAH *	<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>	SELPLA
Broad-winged Hawk	BWHA	<i>Buteo platyterus</i>	BUTPLA
Brown Creeper	BRCR	<i>Certhia americana</i>	CERAME
Brown Pelican	BRPE	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	PELOCC
Brown Thrasher	BRTH	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	TOXRUF
Brown-headed Cowbird	BHCO	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	MOLATE
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	BBSA	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	TRYSUB
Bufflehead	BUFF	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	BUCALB
Bullock's Oriole	BUOR	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	ICTBUL
Burrowing Owl	BUOW	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	ATHCUN
Cackling Goose	CACG *	<i>Branta hutchinsii</i>	BRAHUT
California Gull	CAGU	<i>Larus californicus</i>	LARCAL
Calliope Hummingbird	CAHU	<i>Stellula calliope</i>	STECAL
Canada Goose	CANG *	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	BRACAN
Canada Warbler	CAWA	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	WILCAN
Canvasback	CANV	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	AYTVAL
Canyon Wren	CANW *	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	CAPMEX *
Cape May Warbler	CMWA	<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>	DENTIG
Carolina Parakeet	CAPA	<i>Conuropsis carolinensis</i>	CONCAL *
Carolina Wren	CARW *	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	THRLUD
Caspian Tern	CATE	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	HYDCAS
Cassin's Finch	CAFI	<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>	CARCAS
Cassin's Kingbird	CAKI	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	TYRVOC
Cassin's Sparrow	CASP	<i>Peucaea cassinii</i>	PEUCAS
Cassin's Vireo	CAVI	<i>Vireo cassinii</i>	VIRCAS
Cattle Egret	CAEG	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	BUBIBI
Cave Swallow	CASW	<i>Petrochelidon fulva</i>	PETFUL
Cedar Waxwing	CEDW *	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	BOMCED
Cerulean Warbler	CERW *	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	DENCER
Chestnut-collared Longspur	CCLO	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	CALORN
Chestnut-sided Warbler	CSWA	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	DENPEN
Chihuahuan Raven	CHRA	<i>Corvus cryptoleucus</i>	CORCRY

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Chimney Swift	CHSW	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	CHAPEL
Chipping Sparrow	CHSP	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	SPIPAS
Chuck-will's-widow	CWWI	<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i>	CAPCAR
Cinnamon Teal	CITE	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	ANACYA
Clapper Rail	CLRA	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>	RALLON
Clark's Grebe	CLGR	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>	AECCLA
Clark's Nutcracker	CLNU	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	NUCCOL
Clay-colored Sparrow	CCSP	<i>Spizella pallida</i>	SPIPAL
Cliff Swallow	CLSW	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	PETPYR
Common Crane	COMC *	<i>Grus grus</i>	GRUGRU
Common Eider	COEI	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	SOMMOL
Common Goldeneye	COGO	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	BUCCLA
Common Grackle	COGR	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	QUIQUI
Common Ground-Dove	COGD	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	COLPAS
Common Loon	COLO	<i>Gavia immer</i>	GAVIMM
Common Merganser	COME	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	MERMER
Common Moorhen	COMO	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	GALCHL
Common Nighthawk	CONI	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	CHOMIN
Common Poorwill	COPO	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>	PHANUT
Common Raven	CORA	<i>Corvus corax</i>	CORCOR
Common Redpoll	CORE	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	ACAFLA
Common Tern	COTE	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	STEHIR
Common Yellowthroat	COYE	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	GEOTRI
Connecticut Warbler	CONW *	<i>Oporornis agilis</i>	OPOAGI
Cooper's Hawk	COHA	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	ACCCOO
Cordilleran Flycatcher	COFL	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>	EMPOCC
Costa's Hummingbird	COHU	<i>Calypte costae</i>	CALCOS
Curlew Sandpiper	CUSA	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	CALFER
Curve-billed Thrasher	CBTH	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	TOXCUR
Dark-eyed Junco	DEJU	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	JUNHYE
Dickcissel	DICK	<i>Spiza americana</i>	SPIAME
Double-crested Cormorant	DCCO	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	PHAAUT *
Downy Woodpecker	DOWO	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	PICPUB
Dunlin	DUNL	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	CALALP
Dusky Flycatcher	DUFL	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	EMPOBE
Eared Grebe	EAGR	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	PODNIG
Eastern Bluebird	EABL	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	SIASIA
Eastern Kingbird	EAKI	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	TYRTYR
Eastern Meadowlark	EAME	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	STUMAG
Eastern Phoebe	EAPH	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	SAYPHO
Eastern Screech-Owl	EASO	<i>Megascops asio</i>	MEGASI
Eastern Towhee	EATO	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	PIPERP *

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Eastern Whip-poor-will	EWPW	Caprimulgus vociferus	CAPVOC
Eastern Wood-Pewee	EAWP	Contopus virens	CONVIR
Emperor Goose	EMGO	Chen canagica	CHECAN
Eskimo Curlew	ESCU	Numenius borealis	NUMBOR
Eurasian Collared-Dove	EUCD	Streptopelia decaocto	STRDEC
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	ETSP	Passer montanus	PASMON
Eurasian Wigeon	EUWI	Anas penelope	ANAPEN
European Starling	EUST	Sturnus vulgaris	STUVUL
Evening Grosbeak	EVGR	Coccothraustes vespertinus	COCVES
Ferruginous Hawk	FEHA	Buteo regalis	BUTREG
Field Sparrow	FISP	Spizella pusilla	SPIPUS
Fish Crow	FICR	Corvus ossifragus	COROSS
Forster's Tern	FOTE	Sterna forsteri	STEFOR
Fox Sparrow	FOSP	Passerella iliaca	PASILI
Franklin's Gull	FRGU	Leucophaeus pipixcan	LEUPIP
Gadwall	GADW	Anas strepera	ANASTR
Garganey	GARG	Anas querquedula	ANAQUE
Glaucous Gull	GLGU	Larus hyperboreus	LARHYP
Glaucous-winged Gull	GWGU	Larus glaucescens	LARGLS *
Glossy Ibis	GLIB	Plegadis falcinellus	PLEFAL
Golden Eagle	GOEA	Aquila chrysaetos	AQUCHR
Golden-crowned Kinglet	GCKI	Regulus satrapa	REGSAT
Golden-crowned Sparrow	GCSP	Zonotrichia atricapilla	ZONATR
Golden-winged Warbler	GWWA	Vermivora chrysoptera	VERCHR
Grace's Warbler	GRWA	Dendroica graciae	DENGRA
Grasshopper Sparrow	GRSP	Ammodramus savannarum	AMMSAV
Gray Catbird	GRCA	Dumetella carolinensis	DUMCAR
Gray Flycatcher	GRFL	Empidonax wrightii	EMPWRI
Gray Jay	GRAJ *	Perisoreus canadensis	PERCAN
Gray Partridge	GRAP *	Perdix perdix	PERPER
Gray-cheeked Thrush	GCTH	Catharus minimus	CATMIN
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	GCRF	Leucosticte tephrocotis	LEUTEP
Great Black-backed Gull	GBBG	Larus marinus	LARMAR
Great Blue Heron	GBHE	Ardea herodias	ARDHER
Great Crested Flycatcher	GCFL	Myiarchus crinitus	MYICRI
Great Egret	GREG	Ardea alba	ARDALB
Great Gray Owl	GGOW	Strix nebulosa	STRNEB
Great Horned Owl	GHOW	Bubo virginianus	BUBVIR
Great-tailed Grackle	GTGR	Quiscalus mexicanus	QUIMEX
Greater Prairie-Chicken	GRPC	Tympanuchus cupido	TYMCUP
Greater Sage-Grouse	GRSG	Centrocercus urophasianus	CENURO
Greater Scaup	GRSC	Aythya marila	AYTMAR

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Greater White-fronted Goose	GWFG	Anser albifrons	ANSALB
Greater Yellowlegs	GRYE	Tringa melanoleuca	TRIMEL
Green Heron	GRHE	Butorides virescens	BUTVIR
Green-tailed Towhee	GTTO	Pipilo chlorurus	PIPCHL
Green-winged Teal	GWTE	Anas crecca	ANACRE
Groove-billed Ani	GBAN	Crotophaga sulcirostris	CROSUL
Gyr Falcon	GYRF	Falco rusticolus	FALRUS
Hairy Woodpecker	HAWO	Picoides villosus	PICVIL
Hammond's Flycatcher	HAFI	Empidonax hammondi	EMPHAM
Harlequin Duck	HADU	Histrionicus histrionicus	HISHIS
Harris's Hawk	HASH *	Parabuteo unicinctus	PARUNI
Harris's Sparrow	HASP	Zonotrichia querula	ZONQUE
Henslow's Sparrow	HESP	Ammodramus henslowii	AMMHEN
Hepatic Tanager	HETA	Piranga flava	PIRFLA
Hermit Thrush	HETH	Catharus guttatus	CATGUT
Hermit Warbler	HEWA	Dendroica occidentalis	DENOCC
Herring Gull	HERG *	Larus argentatus	LARARG
Hoary Redpoll	HORE	Acanthis hornemanni	ACAHOR
Hooded Merganser	HOME	Lophodytes cucullatus	LOPCUC
Hooded Warbler	HOWA	Wilsonia citrina	WILCIT
Horned Grebe	HOGR	Podiceps auritus	PODAUR
Horned Lark	HOLA	Eremophila alpestris	ERREALP
House Finch	HOFI	Carpodacus mexicanus	CARMEX
House Sparrow	HOSP	Passer domesticus	PASDOM
House Wren	HOWR	Troglodytes aedon	TROAED
Hudsonian Godwit	HUGO	Limosa haemastica	LIMHAE
Iceland Gull	ICGU	Larus glaucoides	LARGLD *
Inca Dove	INDO	Columbina inca	COLINC
Indigo Bunting	INBU	Passerina cyanea	PASCYA
Kentucky Warbler	KEWA	Oporornis formosus	OPOFOR
Killdeer	KILL	Charadrius vociferus	CHAVOC
King Eider	KIEI	Somateria spectabilis	SOMSPE
King Rail	KIRA	Rallus elegans	RALELE
Lapland Longspur	LALO	Calcarius lapponicus	CALLAP
Lark Bunting	LARB *	Calamospiza melanocorys	CALMEC *
Lark Sparrow	LASP	Chondestes grammacus	CHOGRA
Laughing Gull	LAGU	Leucophaeus atricilla	LEUATC *
Lazuli Bunting	LAZB *	Passerina amoena	PASAMO
Le Conte's Sparrow	LCSP	Ammodramus leconteii	AMMLEC
Least Bittern	LEBI	Ixobrychus exilis	IXOEXI
Least Flycatcher	LEFL	Empidonax minimus	EMPMIN
Least Sandpiper	LESA	Calidris minutilla	CALMIL *

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Least Tern	LETE	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	STEANT
Lesser Black-backed Gull	LBBG	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	LARFUS
Lesser Goldfinch	LEGO	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	SPIPSA
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	LEPC	<i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i>	TYMPAL
Lesser Scaup	LESC	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	AYTAFF
Lesser Yellowlegs	LEYE	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	TRIFLA
Lewis's Woodpecker	LEWO	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	MELLEW
Lincoln's Sparrow	LISP	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	MELLIN
Little Blue Heron	LBHE	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	EGRCAE
Little Gull	LIGU	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	HYDMIN
Loggerhead Shrike	LOSH	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	LANLUD
Long-billed Curlew	LBCU	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	NUMAME
Long-billed Dowitcher	LBDO	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	LIMSCO
Long-eared Owl	LEOW	<i>Asio otus</i>	ASIOTU
Long-tailed Duck	LTDU	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	CLAHYE
Long-tailed Jaeger	LTJA	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	STELON
Louisiana Waterthrush	LOWA	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>	PARMOT
MacGillivray's Warbler	MGWA	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>	OPOTOL
Magnificent Frigatebird	MAFR	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	FREMAG
Magnolia Warbler	MAWA	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	DENMAG
Mallard	MALL	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	ANAPLA
Marbled Godwit	MAGO	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	LIMFED
Marsh Wren	MAWR	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	CISPAL
McCown's Longspur	MCLO	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	CALMCC
Merlin	MERL	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	FALCOL
Mew Gull	MEGU	<i>Larus canus</i>	LARCAN
Mississippi Kite	MIKI	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	ICTMIS
Mottled Duck	MODU	<i>Anas fulvigula</i>	ANAFUL
Mountain Bluebird	MOBL	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	SIACUR
Mountain Chickadee	MOCH	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>	POEGAM
Mountain Plover	MOPL	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	CHAMOT *
Mourning Dove	MODO	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	ZENMAC
Mourning Warbler	MOWA	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	OPOPHI
Nashville Warbler	NAWA	<i>Oreothlypis ruficapilla</i>	ORERUF
Nelson's Sparrow	NESP	<i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i>	AMMNEL
Neotropic Cormorant	NECO	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	PHABRA
Northern Bobwhite	NOBO	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	COLVIR
Northern Cardinal	NOCA	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	CARCAI *
Northern Flicker	NOFL	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	COLAUT *
Northern Goshawk	NOGO	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	ACCGEN
Northern Harrier	NOHA	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	CIRCYA
Northern Hawk Owl	NHOW	<i>Surnia ulula</i>	SURULU

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Northern Mockingbird	NOMO	Mimus polyglottos	MIMPOL
Northern Parula	NOPA	Parula americana	PARAME
Northern Pintail	NOPI	Anas acuta	ANAACU
N. Rough-winged Swallow	NRWS	Stelgidopteryx serripennis	STESER
Northern Saw-whet Owl	NSWO	Aegolius acadicus	AEGACA
Northern Shoveler	NSHO *	Anas clypeata	ANACLY
Northern Shrike	NSHR *	Lanius excubitor	LANEXC
Northern Waterthrush	NOWA	Parkesia noveboracensis	PARNOV
Olive-sided Flycatcher	OSFL	Contopus cooperi	CONCOO
Orange-crowned Warbler	OCWA	Oreothlypis celata	ORECEL
Orchard Oriole	OROR	Icterus spurius	ICTSPU
Osprey	OSPR	Pandion haliaetus	PANHAL
Ovenbird	OVEN	Seiurus aurocapilla	SEIAUR
Pacific Loon	PALO	Gavia pacifica	GAVPAC
Painted Bunting	PABU	Passerina ciris	PASCIR
Palm Warbler	PAWA	Dendroica palmarum	DENPAL
Parasitic Jaeger	PAJA	Stercorarius parasiticus	STEPAS *
Passenger Pigeon	PAPI	Ectopistes migratorius	ECTMIG
Pectoral Sandpiper	PESA	Calidris melanotos	CALMET *
Peregrine Falcon	PEFA	Falco peregrinus	FALPER
Phainopepla	PHAI	Phainopepla nitens	PHANIT
Philadelphia Vireo	PHVI	Vireo philadelphicus	VIRPHI
Pied-billed Grebe	PBGR	Podilymbus podiceps	PODPOD
Pileated Woodpecker	PIWO	Dryocopus pileatus	DRYPIL
Pine Grosbeak	PIGR	Pinicola enucleator	PINENU
Pine Siskin	PISI	Spinus pinus	SPIPIN
Pine Warbler	PIWA	Dendroica pinus	DENPIN
Pinyon Jay	PIJA	Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus	GYMCYA
Piping Plover	PIPL	Charadrius melodus	CHAMEL
Plumbeous Vireo	PLVI	Vireo plumbeus	VIRPLU
Pomarine Jaeger	POJA	Stercorarius pomarinus	STEPOM
Prairie Falcon	PRFA	Falco mexicanus	FALMEX
Prairie Warbler	PRAW *	Dendroica discolor	DENDIS
Prothonotary Warbler	PROW *	Protonotaria citrea	PROCIT
Purple Finch	PUFI	Carpodacus purpureus	CARPUR
Purple Gallinule	PUGA	Porphyrio martinica	PORMAR
Purple Martin	PUMA	Progne subis	PROSUB
Pygmy Nuthatch	PYNU	Sitta pygmaea	SITPYG
Red Crossbill	RECR	Loxia curvirostra	LOXCUR
Red Knot	REKN	Calidris canutus	CALCAN
Red Phalarope	REPH	Phalaropus fulicarius	PHAFUC *
Red-bellied Woodpecker	RBWO	Melanerpes carolinus	MELCAR

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Red-breasted Merganser	RBME	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	MERSER
Red-breasted Nuthatch	RBNU	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	SITCAN
Red-eyed Vireo	REVI	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	VIROLI
Red-headed Woodpecker	RHWO	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	MELERY
Red-naped Sapsucker	RNSA	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>	SPHNUC
Red-necked Grebe	RNGR	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	PODGRI
Red-necked Phalarope	RNPH	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	PHALOB
Red-shouldered Hawk	RSHA	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	BUTLIN
Red-tailed Hawk	RTHA	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	BUTJAM
Red-throated Loon	RTLO	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	GAVSTE
Red-winged Blackbird	RWBL	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	AGEPHO
Reddish Egret	REEG	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	EGRRUF
Redhead	REDH	<i>Aythya americana</i>	AYTAME
Ring-billed Gull	RBGU	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	LARDEL
Ring-necked Duck	RNDU	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	AYTCOL
Ring-necked Pheasant	RNEP *	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	PHACOL
Rock Pigeon	ROPI	<i>Columba livia</i>	COLLIV
Rock Wren	ROWR	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	SALOBS
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	RBGR	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	PHELUD
Roseate Spoonbill	ROSP	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	PLAAJA
Ross's Goose	ROGO	<i>Chen rossii</i>	CHEROS
Ross's Gull	ROGU	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	RHSROS *
Rough-legged Hawk	RLHA	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	BUTLAG
Royal Tern	ROYT *	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	THAMAX
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	RCKI	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	REGCAL
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	RTHU	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	ARCCOL
Ruddy Duck	RUDU	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	OXYJAM
Ruddy Turnstone	RUTU	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	AREINT
Ruff	RUFF	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	PHIPUG
Ruffed Grouse	RUGR	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	BONUMB
Rufous Hummingbird	RUHU	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	SELRUF
Rusty Blackbird	RUBL	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	EUPCAR
Sabine's Gull	SAGU	<i>Xema sabini</i>	XEMSAB
Sage Sparrow	SAGS *	<i>Amphispiza belli</i>	AMPBEL
Sage Thrasher	SATH	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	OREMON
Sanderling	SAND	<i>Calidris alba</i>	CALALB
Sandhill Crane	SACR	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	GRUCAN
Savannah Sparrow	SAVS *	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	PASSAN
Say's Phoebe	SAPH	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	SAYSAY
Scarlet Tanager	SCTA	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	PIROLI
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	STFL	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	TYRFOR
Scott's Oriole	SCOR	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>	ICTPAR

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Sedge Wren	SEWR	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	CISPLA
Semipalmated Plover	SEPL	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	CHASEM
Semipalmated Sandpiper	SESA	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	CALPUS
Sharp-shinned Hawk	SSHA	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	ACCSTR
Sharp-tailed Grouse	STGR	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>	TYMPHA
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	SPTS *	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	CALACU
Short-billed Dowitcher	SBDO	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	LIMGRI
Short-eared Owl	SEOW	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	ASIFLA
Smith's Longspur	SMLO	<i>Calcarius pictus</i>	CALPIC
Snow Bunting	SNBU	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	PLENIV
Snow Goose	SNGO	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	CHECAE
Snowy Egret	SNEG	<i>Egretta thula</i>	EGRTHU
Snowy Owl	SNOW	<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	BUBSCA
Snowy Plover	SNPL	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	CHAALE
Solitary Sandpiper	SOSA	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	TRISOL
Song Sparrow	SOSP	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	MELMEL
Sora	SORA	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	PORCAR
Spotted Sandpiper	SPSA	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	ACTMAC
Spotted Towhee	SPTO	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	PIPMAC
Sprague's Pipit	SPPI	<i>Anthus spragueii</i>	ANTSPR
Steller's Jay	STJA	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	CYASTE
Stilt Sandpiper	STSA	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	CALHIM
Summer Tanager	SUTA	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	PIRRUB
Surf Scoter	SUSC	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	MELPER
Swainson's Hawk	SWHA	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	BUTSWA
Swainson's Thrush	SWTH	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	CATUST
Swainson's Warbler	SWWA	<i>Limnithlypis swainsonii</i>	LIMSWA
Swallow-tailed Kite	STKI	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	ELAFOR
Swamp Sparrow	SWSP	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	MELGEO
Taiga Bean-Goose	TABG	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	ANSFAB
Tennessee Warbler	TEWA	<i>Oreothlypis peregrina</i>	OREPER
Thayer's Gull	THGU	<i>Larus thayeri</i>	LARTHA
Townsend's Solitaire	TOSO	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	MYATOW
Townsend's Warbler	TOWA	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	DENTOW
Tree Swallow	TRES *	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	TACBIC
Tricolored Heron	TRHE	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	EGRTRI
Trumpeter Swan	TRUS *	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	CYGBUC
Tufted Duck	TUDU	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	AYTFUL
Tufted Titmouse	TUTI	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	BAEBIC
Tundra Swan	TUSW	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	CYGCOL
Turkey Vulture	TUVU	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	CATAUA *
Upland Sandpiper	UPSA	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	BARLON

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	6-LETTER CODE
Varied Thrush	VATH	<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	IXONAE
Veery	VEER	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	CATFUN *
Vermilion Flycatcher	VEFL	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	PYRRUB
Vesper Sparrow	VESP	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	POOGRA
Violet-green Swallow	VGSW	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	TACTHA
Virginia Rail	VIRA	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	RALLIM
Virginia's Warbler	VIWA	<i>Oreothlypis virginiae</i>	OREVIR
Warbling Vireo	WAVI	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	VIRGIL
Western Grebe	WEGR	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	AECOCC
Western Kingbird	WEKI	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	TYRVER
Western Meadowlark	WEME	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	STUNEG
Western Sandpiper	WESA	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	CALMAU
Western Tanager	WETA	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	PIRLUD
Western Wood-Pewee	WEWP	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	CONSOR
Whimbrel	WHIM	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	NUMPHA
White Ibis	WHIB	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	EUDALB
White-breasted Nuthatch	WBNU	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	SITCAR
White-crowned Sparrow	WCSP	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	ZONLEU
White-eyed Vireo	WEVI	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	VIRGRI
White-faced Ibis	WFIB	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	PLECHI
White-rumped Sandpiper	WRSA	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	CALFUS
White-tailed Kite	WTKI	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	ELALEU
White-throated Sparrow	WTSP	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	ZONALB
White-throated Swift	WTSW	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	AERSAX
White-winged Crossbill	WWCR	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	LOXLEU
White-winged Dove	WWDO	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	ZENASI
White-winged Scoter	WWSC	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	MELFUS
Whooping Crane	WHCR	<i>Grus americana</i>	GRUAME
Wild Turkey	WITU	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	MELGAL
Willet	WILL	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	TRISEM
Williamson's Sapsucker	WISA	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>	SPHTHY
Willow Flycatcher	WIFL	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	EMPTRA
Wilson's Phalarope	WIPH	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	PHATRI
Wilson's Snipe	WISN	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	GALDEL
Wilson's Warbler	WIWA	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	WILPUS
Winter Wren	WIWR	<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>	TROHIE
Wood Duck	WODU	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	AIXSPO
Wood Stork	WOST	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	MYCAME
Wood Thrush	WOTH	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	HYLMUS
Worm-eating Warbler	WEWA	<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>	HELVER
Yellow Rail	YERA	<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	COTNOV
Yellow Warbler	YWAR *	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	DENPET

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	YBFL	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	EMPFLN *
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	YBSA	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	SPHVAR
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	YBCU	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	COCAME
Yellow-billed Loon	YBLO	<i>Gavia adamsii</i>	GAVADA
Yellow-breasted Chat	YBCH	<i>Icteria virens</i>	ICTVIR
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	YCNH	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	NYCVIO
Yellow-headed Blackbird	YHBL	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	XANXAN
Yellow-rumped Warbler	YRWA	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	DENCOR
Yellow-throated Vireo	YTVI	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	VIRFLF *
Yellow-throated Warbler	YTWA	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	DENDOM
Zone-tailed Hawk	ZTHA	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>	BUTALN *

General Rules in Forming Codes:

- If the English name consists of only one word, the code is formed from the first four initial letters:
BUFF Bufflehead
MALL Mallard
- If the English name consists of two words, the code is formed from the first two letters of each word:
AMRO American Robin
WEME Western Meadowlark
- For three-word names, in which the last two words are hyphenated, the code is formed from the first two letters from the first word and one each from the last two:
AMGP American Golden-Plover
EASO Eastern Screech-Owl
- For other names with three words, the code is formed by taking one letter each from the first two words and two from the last word:
ATSP American Tree Sparrow
RTHA Red-tailed Hawk
WPWI Whip-poor-will
- For four-word names, the code is formed with one letter from each word:
BCNH Black-crowned Night-Heron
BTBW Black-throated Blue Warbler
GWFG Greater White-fronted Goose
- For Scientific names, the code is formed from the first three letters of each word:
STUNEG *Sturnella neglecta* Western Meadowlark
HALLEU *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* Bald Eagle

7. * Non-"first-order" codes:

Codes marked by an asterisk are codes which due to conflicts do not follow the above basic rules. A conflict is a situation in which two or more names would abbreviate to the same code using the above rules. See Pyle and DeSante, North American Bird Bander 28:64-79 (2003) for more information.

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President and Newsletter Editor: Urban Lehner, 15526 Pierce Circle, Omaha, NE 68144; urbanity@hotmail.com

Vice-President: Nancy Leonard, 15526 Pierce Circle, Omaha, NE 68144; neleonard@gmail.com

Secretary: Kevin Poague, 379 S. 46th St., Lincoln, NE; kpoague@neb.rr.com

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Roland Barth, 4002 Hunters Cove, Bellevue, NE 68123; rebarth@cox.net (2011)

Steve Lamphere, 3101 Washington St., Apt. 98, Bellevue, NE 68005; kingfisher65@aol.com (2012)

Jan Johnson, 86252-581 Ave., Wakefield NE 68784; bluebird47@cedarwb.net (2013)

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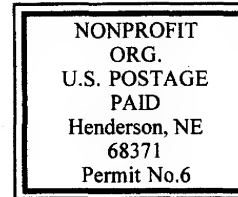
Editor of *The Nebraska Bird Review*: Janis Paseka, 1585 Co. Rd. 14 Blvd., Ames, NE 68621; paseka76@gmail.com

Occurrence Report Compiler: Ross Silcock, P.O. Box 57, Tabor, IA 51653; silcock@rosssilcock.com

Breeding Bird Atlas Project and Nest Records Coordinator: Wayne Mollhoff, 2354 Euclid St., Ashland NE 68003; wmollhoff@netscape.net

NOU Website: <http://noubirds.org/>

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.
3745 Garfield
Lincoln, NE 68506-1028



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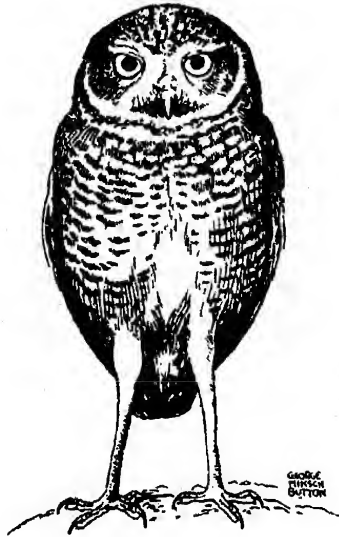
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SUMMER FIELD REPORT, June-July 2010

Compiled by W. Ross Silcock
P.O. Box 57, Tabor, IA 51653
silcock@rosssilcock.com

INTRODUCTION

This summer was marked by continuing high water tables along the Missouri River and good water levels in the eastern Rainwater Basin. As a result, American and Least Bitterns, King Rail, Common Moorhen, and several American Coot nests in Sarpy Co were reported. However, Great and Snowy Egrets were scarce, and Black-necked Stilts were absent from the eastern Rainwater Basin after several good breeding years there.

First breeding records for the state are always exciting; Lesser Goldfinch finally took the plunge this year in Banner Co. Also encouraging were increased reports of Black-billed Cuckoo (9) and both Black-billed Magpie and Black-capped Chickadee. Mountain Plovers are present in southwest Kimball Co in surprising numbers, with excellent conservation work being done there. The group responsible for the effort has an excellent Facebook site (see species account). Significant breeding records were made for Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Strangely, three species of migrant warblers were found in midsummer: Orange-crowned, Nashville, and Blackburnian, as well as a late June White-crowned Sparrow. Dickcissels again made a good showing in the west. Other eastern birds far west included Eastern Wood-Pewee and Summer Tanager. On the other hand, the earliest ever Rufous Hummingbird in the eastern part of the state was in Lincoln. True rarities were few: a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and a summer American Black Duck were probably the best.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City
BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co
Cem: Cemetery
Co(s): County(ies)
CLNWR: Crescent L NWR, Garden Co
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co
HCR: Harlan Co Res SRA, Harlan Co
ICSP: Indian Cave State Park, Richardson/Nemaha Cos
L: Lake
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co
LO: L Ogallala (includes contiguous Keystone L), Keith Co
LPB: La Platte Bottoms, Sarpy Co
m. ob.: many observers
NC: Nature Center
NLB: North Lake Basin WMA, Seward Co

NM: National Monument
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
Res: Reservoir
RWB: Rainwater Basin, including parts of Phelps, Hamilton, York, Clay, Fillmore,
and Thayer Cos
SHP: State Historical Park
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)
SP: State Park
WHNC: Wildcat Hills NC, Scotts Bluff Co
WMA: (State) Wildlife Management Area
WP: Wilderness Park, Lincoln
WPA: (Federal) Waterfowl Production Area
WSR: Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co

GAZETTEER

Harvard Marsh: WPA, Clay Co
Jack Sinn: Memorial WMA, Lancaster and Saunders Cos
Pine Ridge: escarpment in Sioux, Dawes, and Sheridan Cos
Sandhills: large area of sand-based prairie in north-central Nebraska
Wildcat Hills: escarpment in Scotts Bluff, Banner, and Morrill Cos

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JR: Justin Rink, Omaha
JRi: Juanita Rice, Fairmont
JWH: John W. Hall, Omaha
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell
KP: Kevin Poague, Lincoln
KS: Kent Skaggs, Kearney
KSc: Kathy Schwery, Plattsmouth
L&BP: Loren & Babs Padelford, Bellevue
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln
LF: Laurence Falk, Nebraska City
LJH: Luke J. Hamilton, Lewellen
LR: Lanny Randolph, Minden
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton
MM: Marty Mathieson, Shelton
NR: Neal Ratzlaff, Omaha
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings
PS: Phil Swanson, Papillion
RE: Rick Eades, Lincoln
RH: Robin Harding, Minden
RHo: Robert Hole, Omaha
S&RW: Susan & Ron Whitney, Lincoln
SG: Suzanne Gucciardo, Fort Calhoun
SS: Shari Schwartz, Lincoln
TH: Tim Hajda, Broken Bow
TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady
WF: William Flack, Kearney
WM: Wayne Mollhoff, Ashland
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** Only the 9th for Nebraska, an adult was at Harvard Marsh 6-7 Jun (JGJ, PD). Most of the records are since 2000.
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** The only summer straggler reported was at Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ).
- Snow Goose:** A surprising 50 were reported at Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ); high summer count is 92. Few others were reported; singles or small groups are not uncommon in Jun-Jul.
- Canada Goose:** Strangely, this species is not a regular breeder in the RWB, and so 2 broods at NLB 6 Jun were of interest (JGJ).
- Trumpeter Swan:** The southerly breeding pair in Hall Co was successful for the second straight year (TH); other reports of family groups were from the Sandhills as expected.
- Wood Duck:** Routine reports; statewide breeder.
- Gadwall:** Breeding is mostly in the Sandhills, but occasionally in the RWB and elsewhere; 1-2 at Jack Sinn 8 and 23 Jun (LE) were of interest.
- American Wigeon:** Routine reports; breeds uncommonly in the w. Sandhills.
- American Black Duck:** A surprise in summer was a flyover with 2 Mallards at NLB 1 Jul (WF, details). There are fewer than 15 records mid-Jun through mid-Aug.

- Mallard:** Routine reports; statewide breeder.
- Blue-winged Teal:** Routine reports; statewide breeder.
- Cinnamon Teal:** None were reported; breeds in western parts of the state.
- Northern Shoveler:** Routine reports; breeds mainly in the Sandhills.
- Northern Pintail:** Breeding in the RWB is uncommon; potential breeders were reported without breeding evidence from Phelps (WF), Colfax (D&JP) and Adams (D&JP) Cos.
- Green-winged Teal:** Breeding is rare south of the Platte Valley, with only 2 records since 1987. As many as 12 were still at Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ), likely lingerers, and singles at 5 other locations in the RWB through 14 Jul (JC, SS, WF, JGJ) may have been molt migrants.
- Canvasback:** Routine reports; breeding occurs in the w. Sandhills.
- Redhead:** Small numbers have been found routinely in the RWB in recent years, but there are few records of breeding. The 50 at Harvard Marsh 5 Jul (JGJ) were not unprecedented for the RWB, but no evidence for breeding was noted. About 30 others were found around the RWB 26 Jun-25 Jul (DH, LE, WF, JGJ). A male in Antelope Co 19 Jun was unexpected there (MB).
- Ring-necked Duck:** The only report was of one in Adams Co 7 Jun (PD), a rather late migrant.
- Lesser Scaup:** Latest reported was in the RWB 6 Jun (JGJ); latest dates are around 12 Jun.
- Hooded Merganser:** The usual widespread reports of "females/immatures" (but almost certainly one-year-old non-breeders) were received, a total of about 29 statewide (m. ob.).
- Ruddy Duck:** This species is a rare breeder in the RWB, but suggestive was the presence of a pair at NLB 2 Jun (JGJ) and 8 birds at Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ).
- Gray Partridge:** Rather surprisingly, given the difficulty of finding this species, 350 were harvested by hunters in 2008 (JL). However, peak was in 1987, when according to Nebraska Game and Parks data, a mind-boggling 11,000 were harvested!
- Chukar:** A nest with eggs was found near Grand Island 9 Jun (DC); although these are released or escaped birds, such events sometimes lead to establishment of a breeding population and should be reported.
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Routine reports; this species occurs essentially statewide.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Routine reports; this species occurs in grasslands in the nw half of the state.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Good news in two areas: 4 "almost-grown" young were at SCP 14 Jul (KP), and 8 were booming near Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ). This species continues to do well in the se.
- Wild Turkey:** A first nesting for the observers' farm in Dodge Co was indicated by the 5 adults and 20 young there 25 Jul (D&JP).
- Northern Bobwhite:** Good numbers were reported over the entire range. In se Nebraska: "tons" were in Gage Co (CNK), "lots" were in Saline Co (CNK), and it was "heard often" in Nemaha Co (CNK). Westerly the species is doing well also, with numbers "way up" in Lincoln Co (TJW), and the first in a Scotts Bluff Co yard for several years was seen 1 Jun (KD). One in Pierce Co 19 Jun was noted (MB), as were singles a little north and west in McPherson Co 28 Jul (WF) and Logan Co 29 Jul (WF).
- Common Loon:** None were reported; usually a few non-breeders occur on large western reservoirs.

- Pied-billed Grebe:** Young were reported from NLB 13 Jun (JC, SS) and 5 Jul (JGJ), and also from the ephemeral LPB, which was in good condition this year, on 2 and 16 Jul (L&BP). Breeding can occur statewide with good water conditions.
- Eared Grebe:** Young about 3-4 days old were at Lakeside with about 20 adults 24 Jun (LJH), and another was incubating in Grant Co the same day (LJH).
- Western Grebe:** Routine reports; this species nests in the w Sandhills.
- Clark's Grebe:** The only reports were of one in Scotts Bluff Co 11 Jun (JR, MB) and a pair at LM 26 Jun (KS, JLL); breeding has occurred at the latter location.
- American White Pelican:** Fall migration was underway in mid-Jul, when 40 were at HCR 11 Jul (G&WH) and 50 along the Missouri Valley in se Nebraska 25 Jul (WRS).
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Scarce in the east in midsummer, one was at BOL 23 Jun (LE), and fall movement had begun at HCR with 32 present 11 Jul (G&WH); apparently none bred this year at HCR.
- American Bittern:** Usually rather scarce in the e RWB, although it has bred there, this year about 9 were reported (JGJ, JC, SS, WF).
- Least Bittern:** Due to excellent water conditions in se Nebraska, reports were widespread, with at least 15 found. Notable at an ephemeral wetland were 1-3 at LPB (L&BP, JR), the best count of 3 was seen 21 Jul (JC, SS). Another was at Nathan's L in se Washington Co 19 and 24 Jun (NR, CNK). In the e RWB, NLB also had 1-3 on 15 Jun-21 Jul; the 3 were seen 21 Jul (JC, SS). Harvard Marsh had 3-4 17 Jul (PD), and 4 other locations had singles 5-17 Jul (m. ob.). Northernmost were 2 at Wood Duck WMA, Stanton Co, 6 Jun (WF).
- Great Blue Heron:** About 125 were counted along the Missouri River Valley from Otoe to Richardson Cos 25 Jul (WRS); most were foraging along the receding water edges where high river levels had inundated crop fields.
- Great Egret:** Numbers were far lower than usual; fewer than 30 were reported, with best counts only 9 in se Nebraska 25 Jul (WRS) and 8 at LPB 19 Jun (JR). Most surprisingly, best e RWB count was only 7 (JGJ).
- Snowy Egret:** The only two reported were in Adams Co 7 Jun (PD) and the e RWB 31 Jul (JGJ).
- Little Blue Heron:** None were reported; this is a rare but regular summer visitor.
- Cattle Egret:** Jun numbers as usual were low, with 12 reported (JGJ, WF, DH), but the expected fall influx began in Jul, with 37 at HCR 25 Jul (G&WH) the best seasonal tally.
- Green Heron:** One in Wheeler Co 28 Jul (DH) was northwesterly.
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** As with Great Egret, fewer were reported; none were found at Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ), normally a good spot. The only reports were from Adams Co 7 Jun (PD) and Grant Co 24 Jun (LJH).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** The 4 reports were about normal; single juveniles were in Cherry Co 27 Jun (KS, JLL), the only Jun through mid-Jul record away from the RWB and southeast. The observer's 2nd in the county in 28 years (JG) was in Seward Co 18 Jul. Other reports were from Hall Co 27 Jul (JLL, KS) and Hansen WPA, Clay Co, 25 and 31 Jul (JGJ).
- Glossy Ibis:** Recent years have seen multiple records, but very few in Jun. Of about 45 records in all to date, only 2 were outside the periods 19 Apr-2 Jun and 14 Jul-24 Aug; two may have been nesting with White-faced Ibis 12-14 Jun

2008 at Harvard Marsh (JGJ) and one was very late 5 Oct 2006 (JGJ photo). This summer, an adult in Fillmore Co 24 and 30 Jun (WF, details) became the 3rd Jun record.

White-faced Ibis: In recent years this species has nested almost every year either in the RWB or the Sandhills. This year, 50 adults and 12 nests were found at Harvard Marsh 7 Jun (JGJ), but on 5 Jul 42 adults and 15 nests with eggs were found, suggesting that the earlier nests were flooded (the water was about 18 inches higher) and the birds had re-nested (JGJ).

Turkey Vulture: Routine reports were statewide; non-breeding sub-adults occur in numbers statewide, and breeding may occur anywhere.

Osprey: Reports between 5 Jun and 15 Aug are few, but have increased in recent years. Two birds sitting on the ground east of Scottsbluff 12 Jun may have been the pair which has attempted to breed at Winters Creek L the past 2 years, but the nest site appeared to be unoccupied (KD). There were 4 other reports involving 5 birds: one in Pierce Co 19 Jun (MB), one between Grand Island and Chapman 19 Jun (PD), one at HCR 20 Jun, the longtime observers' first Jun sighting there (G&WH), and two at LO 26 Jun (KS, JLL).

Mississippi Kite: Up to 6 were in Ogallala, a regular summer site, and a nest was noted 4 Jun that may have been restarted by 18 Jul after bad weather (JO, KS, JLL).

Bald Eagle: Of interest were the 17 seen along 17 miles of the Platte River between Columbus and Schuyler 19 Jul (JGJ), an indication of the current ubiquity of this species in summer.

Northern Harrier: The presence of males in summer is indicative of breeding; one was in Hitchcock Co 3 Jun (TJW).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: The earliest fall arrivals are in mid-late Jul, probably failed breeders. One was in Stanton Co 15 Jul (D&JP, CNK, DH), and a male was in Merrick Co 22 Jul (DH).

Cooper's Hawk: A family group of 5 was at Walnut Grove Park, Omaha, 20 Jul (JWH). This species breeds commonly statewide, including within major cities.

Red-shouldered Hawk: The only report was of 2 seen briefly over Bellevue 26 Jul, identified by their wing crescents (ARy).

Broad-winged Hawk: One was seen in North Platte in the area where breeding occurred last year (JP, TJW), but no evidence of breeding was reported. Other sightings in areas where breeding may occur were of 2 in se Washington Co 7 Jun (D&JP), one at FF 18 Jun (L&BP), and an adult at Hummel Park, Omaha, 24 Jun (CNK). Probably early migrants were 2 immatures over Bellevue 31 Jul (L&BP).

Swainson's Hawk: Easterly were singles at Eppley Airfield, Omaha, 1 Jun (RHo) and in Lancaster Co 2 Jul (LE), the latter an unusual midsummer record there.

Red-tailed Hawk: Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.

Ferruginous Hawk: Routine reports were received for this uncommon Panhandle breeder.

Golden Eagle: Routine reports were received for this uncommon Panhandle breeder.

American Kestrel: Two nests with young near fledging were in Keith Co 15 Jun (TJW).

Prairie Falcon: Routine reports were received for this uncommon Panhandle breeder.

Peregrine Falcon: Presumably one of the local breeders was taking advantage of the large Purple Martin roost in Omaha 27 Jul (JR), although migrants are passing through at this date as well.

King Rail: Two King Rails were at LPB 24 Jul (KSc, photo), one of very few Jul-early Aug records. Such records are suggestive of breeding, but no evidence was noted.



King Rail. La Platte Bottoms, Sarpy Co, 1 Aug 2010. Photo by Duane Schwery.

Virginia Rail: Routine reports were received for this widespread breeder.

Sora: Singles at LPB 21 Jul (JED), NLB 21 Jul (JC, SS), and in Sarpy Co 26 Jul (JJ) were all likely migrants; fall movement begins in mid-Jul.

Common Moorhen: Two were at NLB 5 Jul (JC, SS) for the only sighting; no young were reported during the period.

American Coot: Seven broods were found at NLB 5 Jul (JGJ), and an adult with 2 young was at LPB 2 Jul (L&BP). This is a common breeder wherever suitable habitat exists.

Sandhill Crane: The Morrill Co breeding pair arrived in late Mar but had not been seen since Jun (KD).

Black-bellied Plover: Last for spring was in Adams Co 7 Jun (PD) and first for fall was an adult in breeding plumage in Hall Co 31 Jul (CNK). These are expected dates.

American Golden-Plover: None were reported; Jun and Jul records are rare, as most fall migrants are juveniles which arrive mostly in Sep.

Snowy Plover: No information was received from the two sites where young were fledged in 2009. Rising water levels appear to have eliminated suitable habitat for this species at LM.

Semipalmated Plover: Last for spring was rather late at CLNWR 13 Jun (CG) and first for fall was in Hall Co 27 Jul (JLL, KS).

- Piping Plover:** Although habitat at LM is limited due to rising water levels, at least one was present 26 Jun (KS, JLL). A new breeding site is Linoma Beach in sw Sarpy Co, where 2 adults and 3 young were seen 12 Jul (JC, SS); breeding at such development sites is increasing along the lower Platte River.
- Killdeer:** Excellent counts, 2nd and 4th-highest for fall, were the 750 in the e RWB 25 Jul (JGJ) and 314 in se Nebraska 25 Jul (WRS).
- Mountain Plover:** Excellent updates on the birds in the sw Panhandle are available at <http://www.facebook.com/MountainPlover>. Following a severe spring storm, it appears that many nests survived or re-nesting occurred, as the last eggs hatched as late as 19 Jul, and about 30 broods out of a total of 109 nests were being tracked as of 12 Jul. Chick survival is estimated at 54%. As of 1 Jul, adults were in 2 groups, failed breeders and those with broods. The presumed failed breeders were in small groups of 5-7 birds as early as 1 Jul, at least 3 weeks before flocks usually form. By 21 Jul these flocks had increased in size to 15-20 birds. As late as 28 Jul, 23 adults were still being tracked. Of those, 14 had young, several of which had reached juvenile stage.
- Black-necked Stilt:** After a few years of increasing breeding presence in the e RWB, this year no birds were found there (JGJ), and very few were reported overall. The only breeding reported was at a traditional Sandhills site between mile markers 106 and 107 on Highway 2, where a nest with 2 eggs was located 24 Jun (LJH)
- American Avocet:** Easterly for the date were 4 in the e RWB 4 Jul (JGJ); breeding has occurred in the e RWB, but breeding season reports are few.
- Spotted Sandpiper:** This is a fairly common summering bird statewide; 16 were counted between Grand Island and Chapman 19 Jun (PD).
- Solitary Sandpiper:** First migrant reported was in Lancaster Co 12 Jul (JC, SS), about normal.
- Greater Yellowlegs:** The only report for Jun was in Clay Co 6 Jun (JGJ); returning fall birds appear in mid-Jun, and so this may actually have been an early fall migrant! The last reported this spring was 11 May.
- Willet:** Early fall migrants were somewhat easterly at Jack Sinn 2 Jul (LE) and near Columbus 19 Jul (JGJ). Willets are rare eastward in fall. A juvenile had reached the e RWB by 25 Jul (JGJ), rather early for this age-group.
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** Rather early was one in Seward Co 29 Jun (LE); fall arrival is a bit later on average than Greater Yellowlegs.
- Upland Sandpiper:** Getting rather late for territorial birds were the 2 in Dodge Co 27 Jul (D&JP); fall movement begins in late Jul.
- Long-billed Curlew:** Breeding takes place early or not at all with this species; a juvenile not yet capable of flight was in Cherry Co 9 Jun (CNK), while the transmitter-wearing female "Bailey" departed Nebraska 12 Jun and flew a mere 360 miles to the Oklahoma Panhandle the same day (JGJ).
- Hudsonian Godwit:** Rather late was one in York Co 2-6 Jun (JGJ), the 4th-latest in spring.
- Marbled Godwit:** The only report was of one in Seward Co 22 Jul (CNK). This species is rare in fall in the east; this only about the 27th such record.
- Sanderling:** Rather late was one at CLNWR 7 Jun (JGJ, CG), only the 6th Jun record after 5 Jun.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Last in spring was one at Jack Sinn 8 Jun (LE), rather late. First for fall was one on time in the e RWB 14 Jul (JGJ).
- Western Sandpiper:** There were no reports; fall migrants usually appear in Jul.

- Least Sandpiper:** One at CLNWR 13 Jun (CG) was either the latest ever for spring by 3 days or the earliest ever for fall by 6 days.
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** This late spring migrant was still present in good numbers into Jun: 500 were in the e RWB 2 Jun and 100 were there 6 Jun (JGJ). Last were 6 at Jack Sinn 8 Jun (LE), about a week before the latest dates.
- Baird's Sandpiper:** Last for spring was at NLB 2 Jun (JGJ), and first for fall in the e RWB was on 25 Jul (JGJ), normal dates.
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** Last for spring was in the e RWB 6 Jun (JGJ) and first for fall was there 25 Jul (JGJ), routine dates.
- Dunlin:** None were reported; this species usually tarries into Jun.
- Stilt Sandpiper:** Reports were routine; fall migrants arrive in mid-Jul.
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Arrival was on the early side: 8 were at 2 locations in the e RWB 25 Jul (JGJ, JLL, KS), and was one in Cass Co the next day (CNK).
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** None were reported; one observer expressed surprise at their absence (JGJ). Adults migrate through the state almost exclusively in Jul.
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Second-earliest on record for fall were a surprising 11 at Pintail WMA, Hamilton Co, 14 Jul (JGJ); few appear before the end of the month.
- Wilson's Snipe:** Reports were routine; breeding occurs in most of the nw part of the state and occasionally elsewhere.
- American Woodcock:** None were reported; this species is difficult to find in midsummer.
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Breeding is occasional in the e RWB; 7 birds at Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ) and 2 at Pintail WMA, Hamilton Co, 14 Jul (JGJ) were suggestive. The 37 in the e RWB 25 Jul (JGJ) probably were migrants.
- Franklin's Gull:** Spring stragglers tailed off in mid-Jun, with 2 immatures at BOL 15 Jun (JC, SS) and 3 birds in Keith Co (TJW). A good count for Jun was the 450 at BOL 8 Jun (LE). First for fall were 7 at HCR 15 Jul (G&WH). Midsummer reports are not uncommon.
- Ring-billed Gull:** The usual few summer stragglers were noted, as expected, all immatures (JM, JGJ, WRS).
- California Gull:** The only reports were from CLNWR, where 2 were present 3 Jun and one on 13 Jun (CG); reports away from LM in midsummer are unusual.
- Herring Gull:** None were reported; usually a few immatures occur at larger reservoirs.
- Least Tern:** Along with Piping Plovers, 1-2 were at Linoma Beach, Sarpy Co, 2 Jun and 12 Jul (JC, SS); good numbers were along the Platte River between Columbus and Schuyler, with 40 counted by kayak 19 Jul (JGJ) and 7 were between Grand Island and Chapman 19 Jun (PD). A good tally was the 10 in Dixon Co 1 Jun (JJ).
- Caspian Tern:** This species is most often reported in early Jun; one was at Linoma Beach, Sarpy Co, 2 Jun (JC, SS). However, there are few reports from mid-Jun to mid-Jul, and so 2 in Antelope Co 19 Jun (MB) were of interest. A molting adult was in Nemaha Co 25 Jul (WRS).

- Black Tern:** Away from breeding locations, spring migrants are seen well into Jun; as many as 30 were at Jack Sinn 8 Jun (LE) and 5 were at LPB 15 Jun (JR). None were reported between 15 Jun and 21 Jul, when 14 were at LPB (JED) and 20 adults were at North Platte (TJW). Adults usually appear first in fall.
- Forster's Tern:** Reports were during the normal migration period, into early Jun and again in late Jul (JR, G&WH); no reports were received from the breeding sites in the Sandhills.
- Rock Pigeon:** Routine reports were received for this statewide resident.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Routine reports were received for this essentially statewide resident.
- White-winged Dove:** Reports continue apace; although still rare, this species has been reported several times each year for some time now, although breeding records are still few and were lacking this season. Five singles were reported: in Albion on 1 and 6 Jun (D&CN), Grand Island 2 Jun (AC), in Hitchcock Co 3 Jun (TJW), in Lincoln 5 Jul (CR), and at Benkelman 22 Jul (WF).
- Mourning Dove:** Routine reports were received for this statewide summer resident.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Discouraging was a report that only 4 birds were found in the 39 Breeding Bird Atlas blocks checked by the reporters in Jun-Jul (D&JP). Nest-building was noted in Hitchcock Co 2 Jun (TJW).
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** A surprising number of reports was received; best for several years. Nine were reported (m. ob.), mostly in the east, but one was westerly in Lincoln Co 28 Jun (TJW).
- Barn Owl:** By far most common in the southwest, most reports were from there (TJW, KD, AK). Elsewhere, one was in Sioux Co 10 Jun (JR, MB), and another was in Loup Co 26 Jun (TJW), the latter in an area where few are reported.
- Eastern Screech-Owl:** Routine reports were received for this statewide resident.
- Great Horned Owl:** Routine reports were received for this statewide resident.
- Burrowing Owl:** The presence of this species in the e RWB continued with successful breeding at Hultine WPA, Clay Co, where a half-grown fledgling was seen 5 Jul (JC, SS, JGJ). Of 8 found in Scotts Bluff Co 31 Jul, 7 were juveniles (KD).
- Barred Owl:** One near Milford on the Little Blue River 22 Jul (JG) adds to data indicating a population in the Little Blue Valley.
- Long-eared Owl:** Nests are rarely reported, although the species apparently breeds statewide. One was incubating in a cedar shelterbelt in Hitchcock Co 3 Jun; 3 young were near the empty nest 16 Jun, and none were present 26 Jun (TJW).
- Short-eared Owl:** None were reported; breeding occurs mostly in the Sandhills.
- Common Nighthawk:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Common Poorwill:** Showing no desire for sleep, the observer (TJW) ran part of his se Lincoln Co BBS route backwards on 28 Jun from 2.30-5.30 am, counting 14 Poorwills in 11 stops, then running the entire route in the right direction for the regular survey! There is clearly a good population in the cedar canyons in Lincoln Co.
- Chuck-will's-widow:** At least one was at the species' northern outpost at Bohemia Prairie WMA in Knox Co 14 Jun (WF), while a good count of 6 was made at ICSP 30 Jun (WRS, PS, SG).
- Whip-poor-will:** Also at Bohemia Prairie were 2 whips 14 Jun (WF), not unexpected at that location. An excellent count was the 30 at ICSP 30 Jun (WRS, PS, SG).

- Chimney Swift:** Routine reports were received for this essentially statewide breeder.
- White-throated Swift:** One at Wright's Gap, ne Banner Co, 19 Jun (AK) was at the east edge of its range in the Wildcat Hills.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Away from the Missouri River Valley, breeding season sightings are spotty; a male was in Gage Co 15 Jun (JGJ), and a single was at Hastings 19 Jun (LR, RH).
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird:** The first hummer for the season in the observer's yard near Mitchell was this species on 20 Jul (KD); it was the only one reported.
- Rufous Hummingbird:** One in Scotts Bluff Co 14 Jul (AK) was rather early, but expected there. A major surprise was an immature male at a Lancaster Co feeder 28-30 Jul (S&RW). This is about the 22nd record for the east, and the earliest on record there. Most eastern records tend to be later in fall.
- Belted Kingfisher:** Reports were routine for this statewide low-density breeder.
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this species, which breeds statewide except for the Panhandle, where it is scarce.
- Downy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.
- Hairy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.
- Northern Flicker:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** Reports were from the two known regular breeding sites at FF (JR, L&BP) and ICSP (L&BP); reports elsewhere are rare, but one was in extreme se Cass and ne Otoe Cos 18 Jul (CNK), an area with apparently suitable breeding habitat.
- Western Wood-Pewee:** This species appears to be undergoing a slow eastward creep; at least one was in the cedar canyons of se Lincoln Co 18 Jun (TJW), where they are present each year now, and another was in Thomas Co 12 Jun (JR, MB), where summering birds are occasionally reported.
- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** One calling in Dawes Co 10 Jun (JR, MB) was a rare find that far west.
- Acadian Flycatcher:** This species has appeared a little farther west and north recently. Singles were reported at FF 5 Jun (JR) and 16 Jun (L&BP) and were at WP 5 Jun (WRS) and 19 Jun (LE).
- Willow Flycatcher:** Ten were counted along the Platte River between Grand Island and Chapman 19 Jun (PD), and 3 were singing loudly from a power line in the Peru bottoms as late as 25 Jul (WRS).
- Cordilleran Flycatcher:** Not often reported in migration, especially east of the w Panhandle, one was at CLNWR 12 Jun (CG). One at Wright's Gap, Banner Co, 19 Jun (AK) may have been a migrant; the only breeding record for the Wildcat Hills was at the WHNC in 2008.
- Eastern Phoebe:** The 8 in Lancaster Co 8 Jun (LE) was a good tally.
- Say's Phoebe:** This species may be in one of its periodic (20 years or so) eastward moves into ne Nebraska; at least one was at Ashfall Fossil Beds SHP, Antelope Co, 6 and 12 Jun (JJ, MB, JR), and one was in Hooker Co 8 Jun (CNK).
- Great Crested Flycatcher:** One at CLNWR 3 Jun (CG) was apparently still on the move in an area lacking breeding habitat. Reports during the breeding period from urban settings such as Lincoln 11-12 Jun (JGJ) and farm groves in se Lincoln Co, where 3 pairs were found 6 Jun (TJW), suggest an increase in numbers resulting in the occupation of apparently less than optimal habitat (TJW).

- Cassin's Kingbird:** One at CLNWR 18 Jun (CG) was east of the usual range and out of its expected habitat, surprising at that date.
- Western Kingbird:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Eastern Kingbird:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** As has been the case in recent years, nesting was reported this year also, with sites in Lancaster and Kearney Cos. A single was first seen at BOL 8 Jun (LE, photos 15 Jun ET), and nest-building was underway the same day (JG), but the nest was gone 24 Jun, possibly due to storms (JG). A pair (KS, WF) at a site in Kearney Co since spring (LR, RH, KS, CR) built a nest and the female was incubating by 30 Jun (WF); the nesting apparently failed, however, as no young were present 18 Jul (WF). Two others were reported, singles in Thayer Co 8 Jun (GG) and Johnson Co 8 Jul (LE).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** Numbers appear to be at reasonable levels in Nebraska, despite concern elsewhere in its range. At least 3 pairs with at least one fledged young per pair were in a 5-mile stretch in Dodge Co 15 Jul (D&JP), and "good numbers" were noted in se Cherry Co 9 Jun (CNK).
- Bell's Vireo:** This is another species doing well in Nebraska, especially in the central part of the state, but of concern elsewhere. The "mother lode" was discovered in Nance Co 25 Jul (LR, RH), and a nest was found in Hitchcock Co 2 Jun (TJW).
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** Straggling far to the west was one at CLNWR 12 Jun (CG); this is the first Panhandle record for Jun, and one of only 3 Panhandle records in all, the other two in May.
- Plumbeous Vireo:** Routine reports were received for this species from its breeding range in the northwest.
- Warbling Vireo:** Routine reports were received for this statewide breeder.
- Red-eyed Vireo:** As with Great Crested Flycatcher, observers noted a few in towns (TJW, JR); this may indicate an increasing population, better habitat in towns, etc.
- Blue Jay:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Pinyon Jay:** None were reported. This species is secretive in summer and breeding has been only rarely documented.
- Black-billed Magpie:** The small group in Madison Co along the Cowboy Trail persists; 1-2 were seen there during the period (WF). Numbers are spotty elsewhere, although some signs of recovery include the "first for a while" near Shelton 9 Jun (MM), the observer's first in Custer Co 26 Jun (TH), and the first for this year near where 3 were seen last year in se Lincoln Co 26 Jul (TJW).
- American Crow:** Routine reports were received for this statewide breeder.
- Horned Lark:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Purple Martin:** The large Omaha roost began to reassemble in late Jun; 500 were there 26 Jun (JED) and numbers had built to 12,500 by the end of Jul (JR, JED).
- Tree Swallow:** Two nests, each with 6 eggs, were on schedule in Seward Co 9 Jun (JG).
- Violet-Green Swallow:** Routine reports were received for this uncommon Panhandle canyon breeder.

- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Numerous small flocks totaling about 200 birds were in Nemaha Co 25 Jul (WRS).
- Bank Swallow:** Routine reports were received for this locally common statewide breeder.
- Cliff Swallow:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Barn Swallow:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Black-capped Chickadee:** This species also is recovering from a period of low numbers; the observers' first for 5 years were seen on their farm 30 Jul (D&JP).
- Tufted Titmouse:** Reports received were routine for this se Nebraska resident.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Exciting was the sighting 9 Jul of 5-6 birds, including "raggedy juveniles" at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, (JR). Up to 6 birds had been seen there Jun-Jul of 2008 and 2009 (JR) as well. These sightings suggest that there is a small breeding population becoming established at the cemetery. A single in Albion 6 Jun (D&CN) was a bit late away from a known breeding area.
- White-breasted Nuthatch:** The Rocky Mountain subspecies breeds in the Pine Ridge, east at least as far as the Gordon area, where 2 were found 9 Jun (CNK).
- Pygmy Nuthatch:** Noteworthy was the presence of 7 in the Wildcat Hills canyons south of Redington 18 Jun (LJH); the eastward extent of breeding in the Wildcat Hills is uncertain.
- Brown Creeper:** None were reported; breeding occurs in very small numbers in Sarpy and perhaps Washington Cos, as well as on the Pine Ridge.
- Rock Wren:** Somewhat northeasterly were 2 reported in spring at Ashfall Fossil Beds SHP, Antelope Co, and seen again 6 Jun (MB, JJ). Another was in Hooker Co 8 Jun (CNK). The eastward extent of the breeding range is uncertain.
- Carolina Wren:** Only a few were reported, as might be expected after the tough weather last winter; none were found in Lancaster Co during the period (LE). Interestingly, reports from the edge of the range continued, with singles in Kearney 9 Jul (KS), Doniphan 14 Jul (JLL), and Hall Co, where one was singing persistently 23 Jul (CNK). One in Dodge Co 30 Jul was only the observers' second on their farm (D&JP).
- House Wren:** An indication of how abundant this species is was the count of 62 at WP 26 Jun (LE), 2nd-highest for a summer count.
- Sedge Wren:** Reports between spring migration and fall influx, that is the period 7 Jun-7 Jul, are scarce; there are a few breeding records for this period, however. A small summering group appears to have established at FF, where 1-2 were present at least through 11 Jun (L&BP). Singing birds in Wayne Co 7 Jun (WF) and Gosper Co 25 Jun (WF) were intriguing; the Wayne Co birds may have been migrants, but there are few reports as far west as Gosper Co. The usual fall influx was noted beginning in mid-Jul (m. ob.).
- Marsh Wren:** Southerly reports are few during the breeding season; single birds were reported at Jack Sinn 5-8 Jun (WRS, LE), one was at FF 12 Jun (L&BP), and one was in se Washington Co 19 Jun (NR). This species also has a fall influx; 5 were at Whitehead Saline Wetlands, Lancaster Co, 12 Jul (JC, SS).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** One at CLNWR 27 Jun (KS, JLL) was part of the northward expansion in the west. That at least some of these birds are of the western subspecies *Poliotila caerulea obscura*, as might be expected, is

- suggested by tape responses in Hitchcock Co 3 Jun, where at least one bird appeared to respond more strongly to western calls (TJW).
- Eastern Bluebird:** The 60+ in se Cass Co 18 Jul (CNK) must have been quite a sight; impressive also was the 47 fledged from boxes at ADF (LF).
- Mountain Bluebird:** A female in canyons s of Redington 18 Jun (LJH) was at the eastern edge of the Wildcat Hills range.
- Swainson's Thrush:** Last one reported was in Scotts Bluff Co 5 Jun (AK), about on time.
- Wood Thrush:** All reports were from se Nebraska, as expected; one in Butler Co 19 Jul (JGJ) was nw-most. ICSP had 1-2 singing birds as late as 25-26 Jul (WRS, L&BP).
- American Robin:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.
- Gray Catbird:** One in a yard s of Gering 10 Jul was considered a "surprise" there (AK). Summering birds are rare in the west.
- Northern Mockingbird:** There were numerous reports of this now fairly common species in the south; as many as 12 were in a single Breeding Bird Atlas block in Johnson Co 8 Jul (CNK).
- Brown Thrasher:** This species is abundant in se Nebraska; 24 were in a single Breeding Bird Atlas block in Johnson Co 8 Jul (LE).
- European Starling:** Reports were routine for this common statewide breeder.
- Cedar Waxwing:** A flock of 25 was at FF 5 Jun (JR), typical of this species; such late spring flocks are thought to be migrants from the far s part of the winter range. Two were carrying nest materials in Scotts Bluff Co 26 Jun (AK).
- Tennessee Warbler:** Migrants are not uncommon in early Jun; 4 were reported in the east, last in Washington Co 7 Jun (D&JP).
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** One became yet another spring straggler taking refuge at CLNWR; the 12 Jun sighting (CG) is the 2nd latest on record.
- Nashville Warbler:** The first Jul record for this species in Nebraska was a male in extreme se Cass Co 18 Jul (CNK); next earliest fall record is 10 Aug and latest in spring is 9 Jun.
- Northern Parula:** A surprise was the 3 at Kelley Creek Park, McCook, 6 Jun (CH), but even more surprising was one at Ash Hollow SHP, Garden Co, 26 Jun (KS, JLL), only the 2nd Jun record for the Panhandle.
- Yellow Warbler:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.
- Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler:** Significantly east of the usual range was a presumed late migrant in w. Cherry Co 10 Jun (JR, MB); breeding occurs east to Dawes Co on the Pine Ridge.
- Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** Another late spring migrant Yellow-rumped was of this subspecies at CLNWR 12 Jun (CG), 2nd-latest on record for spring.
- Blackburnian Warbler:** One in Omaha 13 Jun (JR) was only the 4th state record for Jun to mid-Aug.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** Reports were routine, all from the limited range in se Nebraska.
- Cerulean Warbler:** No reports were received; this is a rare summer visitor in the extreme east.
- Black-and-white Warbler:** No reports were received for this uncommon breeder in n Nebraska.
- American Redstart:** Reports were routine for this common breeder in e and n Nebraska.
- Prothonotary Warbler:** A singing male was at FF 5 Jun (JR), one of few known summering sites in the extreme southeast.

- Ovenbird:** Although summering birds are fairly common on the Pine Ridge, one summering at WSR was a surprise; it was the longtime observer's first for summer (HKH). However, this species does breed in "foothill riparian thickets" in Colorado (Andrews and Righter).
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** Somewhat west of the usual se Nebraska range were singles in Thayer Co 14 Jun (GG) and in s Gage Co 30 Jun (CNK, NR).
- Kentucky Warbler:** None were reported; this is an uncommon breeder in se Nebraska.
- Common Yellowthroat:** Reports were routine for this common statewide breeder.
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** Rarely reported in the east, one was in Nemaha Co 19 Jun (CNK); only the 9th eastern record since 1981. Reports from the western two thirds of the state were of good numbers: it was "abundant" in Hitchcock Co 3 Jun (TJW), and "everywhere" around HCR 27 Jun (LR, RH).
- Summer Tanager:** Good numbers continue at ICSP, where 5 were counted 26 Jun (L&BP). An adult male in Morrill Co 11 Jun (DL) was only the 10th Panhandle record.
- Scarlet Tanager:** Best count was 2-3 near the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center, Nebraska City, 12 Jul (JC, SS).
- Western Tanager:** Routine reports were received for this Panhandle pinewoods breeder.
- Spotted Towhee:** Towhees at Niobrara SP, Knox Co, 10 Jul were mostly hybrids by song, but most looked like Easterns (RE). One observer (MB) has indicated that most towhees in Knox Co are phenotypic Spotted, but there is evidence (Scharf 2005, citation available on request) that the mix can indeed change quite quickly from year to year.
- Eastern Towhee:** Singles in Antelope Co 6 Jun (JJ) and at Fullerton 25 Jul (LR, RH) were near the west edge of the summer range.
- Cassin's Sparrow:** Recent years have seen populations north and east of the generally assumed range in sand-sage prairies of the southwest. Two summered at WSR (HKH), one was at CLNWR 2 Jun, where birds have been present in sand-sage or yucca each of the last 3 years (CG), and 1-4 were s of CLNWR 19 and 27 Jun (CG, KS, JLL). In addition, the 7 in sw Kimball Co 11 Jun (JR, MB) was a good count.
- Chipping Sparrow:** Probably scarcest in summer in the sw, interesting survey data provided by TJ Walker from 21 blocks for the years 2006-2010 show a total of only 5 singing males in Dundy, Chase, Perkins, Hitchcock, Hayes, and Frontier Cos. Even in 20 blocks nearer the North Platte River in Lincoln and Keith Cos, only 12 singing males were found (TJW). A single in Perkins Co 22 Jul (WF) may have been a molt migrant, a phenomenon suggested to occur in this species and other passerines (Ted Floyd).
- Brewer's Sparrow:** Few are reported from their remote w Panhandle habitat; 2 were in w Sioux Co 11 Jun (JR, MB).
- Field Sparrow:** Not numerous in the sw, one was in Hitchcock Co 26 Jun (CH).
- Vesper Sparrow:** Good numbers were found during surveys in Dodge Co and ne Nebraska during the summer (D&JP); this species is most common in the north and northwest, but appears to be adapting to agricultural fields in the east.
- Lark Sparrow:** Reports of this common statewide breeder were routine.
- Lark Bunting:** Routine reports were received for this common western breeder.
- Savannah Sparrow:** Arriving fall migrants were rather early singles at ADF 27 Jul (LF) and in Scotts Bluff Co 31 Jul (KD).

- Grasshopper Sparrow:** This species is doing well in all types of grassland in Nebraska; about 30 were present in a 160-acre prairie in Pawnee Co 5 Jun (WRS), and “dozens” in Nance Co 25 Jul included many young (LR, RH).
- Baird’s Sparrow:** Following sightings of singing birds in May, none were found 1 Jun 2010 (B&DW) in the same area of extreme ne Sioux Co; none were found in Jun 2009 after several singing birds were found in May in the same area.
- Henslow’s Sparrow:** Checks of two prairies in Pawnee Co 5 Jun found 11 singing birds; 5 were in a 3rd year post graze area west of Burchard L WMA (WRS), and 6 were on the north ridge of Pawnee Prairie WMA, also 3rd-year post graze (WRS). At both prairies, none were found in 1st and 2nd year post graze grassland.
- Song Sparrow:** Probably least numerous in summer in the southwest and Panhandle, singles were in Gosper Co 24 and 25 Jun (WF), and at HCR 26 Jun (LR, RH).
- Swamp Sparrow:** Reports were from areas of cen. Nebraska where this species is known to occupy cattail marshes: good numbers were along the Loup River in Loup Co 26 Jun (TJW) and 3 were at Marsh Wren WMA, Howard Co, 17 Jul (LR, RH). Wet meadows are also used; 2 were in such habitat near Milburn 26 Jun (WF).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** Rather late was a black-lored adult at CLNWR 18 Jun (CG, photo); it seems most likely on geographic grounds that this was a Rocky Mountain bird of the subspecies *Zonotrichia leucophrys oriantha*.
- Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco:** No reports were received for this fairly common Pine Ridge breeder.
- McCown’s Longspur:** No reports were received for this fairly common western Panhandle breeder.
- Chestnut-collared Longspur:** No reports were received for this fairly common western and northern breeder.
- Northern Cardinal:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide (rare in the Panhandle) breeder.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Westerly for the date were 2 in Loup Co 26 Jun (TH, WM); only the 3rd mid-Jun through Jul report for the Loup River drainage.
- Black-headed Grosbeak:** An “apparent influx” of presumed late migrants involved 6 birds at Fairmont 10 Jun (JRi); this is somewhat east of the usual migration and summering ranges.
- Blue Grosbeak:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.
- Lazuli Bunting:** Easterly sightings involved a male in se Lincoln Co 19 Jul at the same place one was located in 2009 (TJW), and in Hitchcock Co a phenotypically pure-looking male and two hybrids with white abdomens, one with wing bars, were present 3 Jun with numerous Indigo Buntings (TJW). Some of the latter birds were likely migrants. Young were being fed in ne Banner Co 19 Jul (AK).
- Indigo Bunting:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.
- Dickcissel:** This species was again prominent in the west, as has been the case in the last few years. It was “another good year” in se Lincoln Co (TJW), and numbers were increased over the previous 2 years at CLNWR (CG). Westerly singing birds were in the Wildcat Hills 19 and 26 Jun (AK) and s. of Gering 20 Jun-20 Jul (AK), and 1-2 were in Grant Co 24-25 Jun (LJH). As might be expected when numbers are up in the west, the se had good numbers as well: 125 were in se Nebraska 25 Jul (WRS), 58 were in Lancaster Co 2 Jul (LE), and 55 were in Johnson Co 19 Jun (LE).

- Bobolink:** Numbers appeared to be increasing in the far se; 15 were in a Breeding Bird Atlas block in Johnson Co 8 Jul (LE) and a pair was in Pawnee Co 5 Jun (WRS). A surprising 10 were at SCP 20 Jul (KP), likely migrants. Fall flocks form early; a non-vocal flock of 7 was in sw Phelps Co 19 Jul (WF).
- Red-winged Blackbird:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** This species is distributed locally in the Sandhills; one was singing in Grant Co 29 Jul (WF).
- Western Meadowlark:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Numbers increase in the se in summers with wet conditions, as this year. LPB hosted 1-2 during the period (SS, JC, JR, L&BP), and 6 were at Jack Sinn 5 Jun (WRS).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** During the last 3 years Scotts Bluff Co has had a few sightings in summer, but this year evidence that the breeding range has extended sw of the Wildcat Hills was found on the Murray L BBS route, which had its first ever record of the species 22 Jun, involving birds at 5 stops, with adults carrying food at two of the stops (KD, AK). Another was carrying food at WHNC 19 Jun (AK).
- Common Grackle:** Reports were routine for this common to abundant statewide breeder.
- Great-tailed Grackle:** The observer's first for the Sandhills was one at Lakeside 24 Jun (LJH), while 1-2 in Perkins and Chase Cos 22 Jul (WF) were noteworthy there.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Reports were routine for this common statewide breeder.
- Orchard Oriole:** Reports were routine for this common statewide breeder.
- Baltimore Oriole:** Phenotypically pure birds occur in the w Panhandle, mostly as spring migrants; 2 were in a Scotts Bluff Co yard 1 Jun (KD) and another was in the same county 5 Jun (AK).
- Bullock's Oriole:** It has been shown recently that males leave early on molt migration for the sw United States; by 31 Jul the several birds in the observer's yard were females and juveniles (KD).
- House Finch:** No reports were received; numbers may be declining, and reports of summering birds would be welcome.
- Red Crossbill:** Reports were from the usual haunts, Wildcat Hills (LJH, AK) and the Pine Ridge (JR, MB). Only about 7 in all were reported.
- Pine Siskin:** Last to depart the observer's Scotts Bluff Co yard were later than usual on 5 Jun (KD).
- Lesser Goldfinch:** Reports continue for this species, which appears to have expanded into w Nebraska. Possibly Nebraska's first breeding record was of an adult pair at Wright's Gap, ne Banner Co, 19 Jun apparently feeding at least one young bird inside a bush; the young bird was not visible but could be heard "cheeping" (KD, AK). Two were in the observer's Mitchell yard 1 Jun (KD), and a male was in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co 11 Jun (JR, MB).
- American Goldfinch:** Reports were routine for this common statewide breeder; breeding often doesn't get underway until Jul.
- House Sparrow:** Along with House Finch, this town-dweller may also be declining in numbers, as in Nebraska City (LF).

My Life in Biology: Paul A. Johnsgard

Early Years 1931-1949

I was born in 1931 in the very small town of Christine, North Dakota, on the Red River about 20 miles south of Fargo. My granddad owned a general store there, and my father worked in that store for as long as we lived in Christine, which was until 1939. These were the Depression years, and my major memories of that time are of hot dusty streets in the summer and bitterly cold winters, when I had to walk across town to school. I recently determined that it was slightly over a half a mile from our house near the Lutheran church at the western edge of town to school, which was beyond the eastern edge of town.

We lived a few blocks from the railroad tracks. Christine was one of those little whistle-stop towns, and my earliest memories of nature are of walking out along the railroad tracks gathering wildflowers for my mother. She encouraged my bringing back wildflowers and watching local birds like Red-winged Blackbirds. In fact, when I started school, my first-grade teacher, Hazel Bilstead, had a mounted male Red-winged Blackbird in a glass Victorian bell jar, which allowed me to examine that beautiful bird up close. I can remember that as if it were yesterday, and I think that my need to see live birds in detail began at that time. I later dedicated one of my books to Miss Bilstead's memory.

The land around Christine is in the bed of glacial Lake Agassiz and is as flat as a tabletop. There was little natural habitat except along the wooded river itself. The railroad right-of-way had prairie grasses and other prairie plants, and also native prairie birds such as Dickcissels and Western Meadowlarks. I had no field identification guides and there was no library in town, so even though I now know that Roger Tory Peterson's first field guide was published in 1934, I had no knowledge of it then. Mother did have some pocket-sized, illustrated bird books, with covers of different colors and titles like *Birds of Towns*, *Birds of the Country*, *Birds of the Woods*, etc.

In 1940 we moved to Wahpeton, on the Red River about 20 miles south of Christine, where Dad took a job in the county courthouse. He initially worked as an assistant registrar of deeds and later as a state sanitarian. The move to Wahpeton was a very important event for me. Wahpeton is the county seat of Richland County, and it had a population of about 3000 and an excellent public school.

Wahpeton's public library was critically important to me. I can visualize to this day exactly where the bird books were and what was there. In fact, a couple of years ago I went back and saw with pleasure that they still had the copy of T. S. Roberts' two-volume *The Birds of Minnesota* that I used to delight in. The first time I stopped to check on it, I was heartsick when I couldn't find it and assumed it had been disposed of, but then I found it in the reference section. By then the library had some of my own titles, too.

I was very shy as a child. My idea of having fun was going off into the woods and looking for wildflowers or watching birds. I drew almost constantly, mostly

birds. I've had people who knew me back in grade school tell me that the one thing they remember about me was that I was always drawing. My older brother was probably better than I; he reminded me recently that he won quite a number of drawing awards at state fairs.

Another important thing happened shortly after we moved to Wahpeton. In 1943 my mother, who had taken a job in a department store, spent \$750 of her hard-earned money to buy a cottage on Lake Lida near Pelican Rapids. It is about 40 miles from Wahpeton, or almost as far as it was possible to go, given wartime gas rationing. The cottage gave us a wonderful place to go during summer.

Behind the cottage was a square mile of basically undisturbed maple-basswood forest, filled with everything imaginable, including showy lady's slipper, yellow lady's slipper, showy orchid, and all of the other woodland wildflowers one can imagine. The wildflower garden that I moved down out of the woods into a shady site behind our cottage was still thriving when I sold the cottage in about 2005. I was quite content just being by myself and wandering through the woods with my dog.

I was very poor at athletics. I hated baseball and was always the last person to be chosen. I didn't grow tall until late in high school, so I wasn't any good at basketball, either. I was a good student, but I wasn't compulsive about grades. I had only an adequate grade-point average, but it was good enough to get me into the National Honor Society. I saw one of my old teachers from Science School when I was home for my mother's funeral in 2000. He said, "You know, you were my favorite student of all time." I was surprised to hear that, as he must have had thousands of students in his classes.

I read a lot of natural history, especially books about animals, as well as all kinds of popular stories. I was also interested in building model airplanes and collecting rocks and wild plants. Mother encouraged all of my reading and collecting. I also had the good fortune to have what I suppose one would call a rich aunt, my mother's sister Beatrice who lived in Detroit. After she realized I was so interested in birds, she would send me wonderful bird books for Christmas. My copy of Audubon's *Birds of America* came from her in 1939. I still treasure it. In 1940 we took a family trip to Detroit to visit her. It was my first long road trip. She and her husband had a very large, old house and a big backyard and garden. While exploring there I got excited because I saw a tulip tree for the first time. I went running in to tell Mother I'd seen a tulip tree, which of course don't grow in North Dakota. She said, "How in the world did you know that?" I told her it was pictured in Audubon's *Birds of America*; where one of the plates showed some Baltimore Orioles in a tulip tree (*Liriodendron*).

Waterfowl became increasingly important to me because of my mother's cousin "Bud" Morgan, who at that time was a game warden. By the time I was 11 he had started taking me out on his spring duck counts, where he taught me how to identify waterfowl. That, I think, was especially important in directing me toward studying waterfowl. By the time I was 13, I was given a copy of F.H. Kortright's *Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America*, which I practically memorized.

Both of my parents knew the value of education. Following high school, Dad enrolled at the State School of Science (now the North Dakota State College of Science) in Wahpeton, but soon had to go to work with his father for economic reasons. Mother received a teaching diploma from a normal school at Fargo. She taught for a few years in a one-room schoolhouse in the country before she was married. In the end, my brothers, Keith and Larry, and I each earned a Ph.D. or an M.D. Dad told each of us that if we would go to college, he would pay our basic enrollment expenses until we graduated. I thought I would go to college to get a degree in wildlife management. I thought that was a way I could be out in the field and enjoy nature.

Undergraduate years and Frank Cassel 1949-1953

I attended the North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton from 1949 to 1951. It is a two-year college with a trade school and a liberal arts program, so I got a junior college diploma in liberal arts. There were only two choices for me at that point. One was North Dakota Agricultural College (now North Dakota State University) in Fargo, and the other was the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks. Fargo had a program in zoology, so I could get a bachelor's degree in biology, with a major in zoology.

When I transferred to Fargo I was still thinking of a career in wildlife. My advisor was Frank Cassel and during registration I told him that I already had a detailed plan for graduation, with every course listed that I wanted to take in the next two years. He said, "Well, I've never seen a student show up prepared like that before, knowing exactly what he wanted and needed to take over the next six quarters." I think that impressed him, and he soon started pointing me toward pure ornithology, which I hadn't known to be a possible profession. That's how I fell under Cassel's tutelage. I also completed majors in zoology and in botany, and became quite interested in plant ecology, mostly because of a great teacher named Loren Potter.

At about that time I became more concerned about doing well academically, at least in science, and maintained a straight A average in both zoology and botany. In fact, I think the faculty was afraid to give me anything other than an A because they knew it would destroy my four-point average.

While a junior at North Dakota State, I was encouraged by Dr. Cassel to apply for a small scholarship that was given every year to a student who wanted to do a special research project over the summer between his or her junior and senior year. Dr. Cassel encouraged me to do a bibliographic survey of the published and unpublished sources of information on the distribution of North Dakota waterfowl.

I received the scholarship and soon decided that as long as I was assembling the waterfowl data, I might as well include all the other North Dakota birds, too. North Dakota didn't then (and still doesn't) have a state bird book, or even a complete modern list of its avifauna. I drove to most of the state's national wildlife refuges, went through their files, and extracted massive amounts of information about North Dakota birds.

I received \$25 (and a bonus copy of A.C. Bent's *Life Histories of North American Gallinaceous Birds*) for that work. More importantly, Dr. Cassel suggested that I use the data to do a booklet on the waterfowl of North Dakota, which he said he could probably arrange to have published. After I wrote the text, he wanted me also to do drawings for it. I made four sheets of pen-and-ink drawings, showing all of North Dakota's waterfowl plus some other similar water birds such as grebes. I made the drawings in a manner similar to those in the early Peterson field guides and wrote to Roger Tory Peterson to ask if I could use his idea of arrows to point out important field marks. Recently I learned from the curator at the Peterson Institute that they still have correspondence from me dating back to the 1950s, filed under "Correspondence with famous people"! That 16-page booklet was published through a consortium of three local colleges called the Institute of Regional Studies.

That project gave me some confidence that I could write and draw well enough for publication. I'd never had any training in writing or art, and never had any English courses beyond freshman English. The experience probably gave me more confidence about writing than was warranted.

Washington State College and Charles Yocom 1953-1956

When asked for advice on graduate schools, Dr. Cassel suggested that I become an ornithologist rather than work for a game commission, so that I could teach ornithology or work for an environmental group. I applied to Washington State, Oregon State and Utah State, all of which had strong programs in waterfowl biology. I was admitted to all of them, so I was able to have my choice. I chose Washington State College (now Washington State University) in Pullman for two reasons. My older brother was there as a graduate student, and more importantly, Professor Charles Yocom was there. He had recently written a book called *Waterfowl and Their Food Plants in Washington*, and he strongly encouraged me to come and study waterfowl ecology. Regrettably, Dr. Yocom took a job at Humboldt State about a week after I arrived at Pullman, so I was left without an advisor for waterfowl research. Furthermore, Dr. Yocom had agreed that I could do a master's in waterfowl ecology, but get my degree in zoology, not wildlife management. That was an oral commitment on his part, which the university later reneged on. The department chair, Herbert Eastlick, insisted that my degree had to be in wildlife management because of its research funding, so that is how my M.S. in Wildlife Management came about.

Professor Donald Farner was at Washington State then, and I worked as an assistant for him one summer, caring for sparrows and recording Zugunruhe activity data. James West was still a student of Farner's at that time. Jared Verner, Alan Wilson and Frank Golley were also student friends. Prof. Rexford Daubenmire had a small cadre of grad students and was the most inspiring of all the teachers I encountered there. I took all of his courses, and he served with George Hudson and I. O. Buss on my graduate committee, with Professor Buss as chairman.

For my master's research I did an ecological study on an area in central Washington called the Potholes, which is an area much like Nebraska's Sandhills, with a high water table and many marshes and wet meadows at the bases of sand dunes. A large dam (O'Sullivan's) was inundating many of those sandy wetlands,

and I was to determine how the changes in water levels were affecting biological populations, especially waterfowl. I did a general study of the ecology of plants and birds relative to the water fluctuations.

While doing fieldwork I also worked on many minor projects. For example, I obtained data on duck sex ratios, which I later published in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. I was also interested in waterfowl courtship activity, and this was the first time in my life I spent hours watching ducks court, and making field sketches. As far as I could tell, some of my observations were new, so I submitted them for publication in the *Condor*. I thought the *Condor* paper was pretty good, but I later had a letter from Professor Charles Sibley, of Cornell University. He basically said, "Well, it was an interesting paper, but you obviously are not aware of the work of Konrad Lorenz, who has published a very extensive paper on courtship behavior in the dabbling ducks. You didn't cite that, and it's a major oversight, because it would allow you to rethink what you saw in a different way." That paper was in an obscure German journal, so I had to get a copy and translate it.

This news was embarrassing, but Dr. Sibley softened it by asking if I was interested in coming to Cornell. I had thought about Cornell ever since Dr. Cassel had recommended that I go there. In fact, I had almost applied to Cornell for graduate school, but I didn't think I would be accepted, and it cost \$25 just to apply.

I finished my master's degree at Washington State in 1955 and stayed a second year, partly so I could marry Lois Lampe, who finished her master's in plant ecology under Rexford Daubenmire in 1956. At that time I decided to go to Cornell and become an ornithologist. With Dr. Sibley now wanting me, I not only was accepted, but was awarded the best graduate fellowship that Cornell had. I had also been accepted to work under Alden Miller at the University of California on a graduate assistantship, so I had to choose between the two.

At some point while I was at Washington State I also became aware of the Wildfowl Trust in England. Peter Scott (later Sir Peter Scott), a famous artist, had developed the Trust after World War II as a place for breeding and conserving as many species of the world's waterfowl as possible. I wrote to Scott, expressing an interest in visiting the Wildfowl Trust to study waterfowl. That was a dream that I would keep in mind for the better part of six years.

Cornell University and Charles Sibley 1956-1969

Choosing Cornell was a decision that affected the rest of my life. I was thinking by that time that I would become a teacher or researcher, rather than a wildlife biologist, and Dr. Sibley encouraged me to work on waterfowl behavior. He was then interested in waterfowl as examples of the results of selection against hybridization, and in their associated behavioral isolating mechanisms. I spent three years at Cornell (1956-1959) working on the North American mallard-like ducks, including Mallards, American Black Ducks, Mexican Ducks, Mottled Ducks, and Florida Ducks (a south Florida subspecies of Mottled Duck). I studied their comparative pair-forming behavior and morphology, as well as some protein electrophoresis of blood serum, trying to estimate their relationships and evolutionary history.

Dr. Sibley proved to be the most intellectually stimulating teacher I've ever known, and also one of the most demanding and, at times, tyrannical. His famous temper made all of his students quake in his presence and regard him as a godlike figure to be disobeyed only at one's utter peril. Yet he could also be charmingly funny, and also endlessly interesting. He attracted overflow crowds to his introductory ornithology classes, captivating them with his great lecturing ability and complete command of his subject.



Postdoctoral passport photo, 1961.

My three years at Cornell were spent on full fellowship, so I never had to act as one of Dr. Sibley's often-suffering graduate assistants; however, I did work for him as a lab technician during the summer of 1958. That summer was a

critical one in Dr. Sibley's transformation from species-level taxonomy using whole specimen data to a much more molecular taxonomic approach. He had obtained a one-year National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for a pilot study on the feasibility of evaluating avian blood proteins as a taxonomic tool, using paper electrophoresis. He assigned me the job of running the electrophoretic separations, as well as obtaining a variety of domestic birds from the poultry department and various game birds from the state-operated game farm near Ithaca. I shuttled these birds back and forth, obtaining blood samples and running their serum analyses. These efforts, however, produced extremely disheartening results, owing to great individual variability in the serum profiles. Nevertheless, Dr. Sibley and I co-authored two papers on our blood studies.

While reviewing the waterfowl literature, I encountered a paper written by Robert McCabe and H. F. Deutsch and published in the *Wilson Bulletin* about a decade previously. The study indicated that significant interspecies differences exist in the electrophoretic profiles of egg white proteins from various game birds, and I decided to confirm and extend their findings, using eggs that the birds happened to lay while in our aviary, or that I otherwise could obtain. I had to do this experiment surreptitiously, because I would be dealt with harshly should Dr. Sibley discover my departure from his strict protocol. Near summer's end, Dr. Sibley proclaimed our efforts on blood protein to be a failure and announced that he would not ask for more

NSF money to continue the study. Gathering my courage, I then showed him the results of the egg white samples I had done. Within minutes he grasped their potential, and immediately laid plans for a new grant to undertake a massive survey of North American birds.

Soon after that I began to feel like the sorcerer's apprentice, for the event marked the start of his wholesale egg collecting activities, first in the U.S., and eventually worldwide. He was quite relentless in this, and eventually had serious legal trouble for using egg whites from some endangered species, such as the Peregrine Falcon. However, his work was the first to exploit molecular biology for higher level taxonomy of the world's birds. This led directly to his later studies on DNA-DNA hybridization, which shook the avian taxonomic tree to its very roots.

By going to Cornell, I was fully exposed to Dr. Sibley's interests in evolution, taxonomy, comparative behavior and pure ornithology. Lamont Cole, a famous animal population ecologist, Ari van Tienhoven, a poultry science professor, and Bill Dilger, an ethologist working on thrushes and parrots, rounded out my committee and were all important to me. I also met Ernst Mayr while I was there. He was already a biological icon, but I evidently impressed him enough so that when the first volume of the 2nd edition of Peters' *Check-list of the Birds of the World* was being prepared, he asked me to revise the families Anatidae and Anhimidae (*Anseriformes*, in *Check-list of the Birds of the World*, 1979).

During my last year at Cornell I approached Dr. Sibley and said, "What I want to do now, rather than find a job, is to try to get a post-doctoral grant and spend a year in England at the Wildfowl Trust." Dr. Sibley said, "Well, why don't you let me apply for it as principal investigator, and you can go over as my assistant." I replied, "No, if I can't do it myself, I don't want to do it." So I applied for two post-doctoral fellowships, one from the National Science Foundation, and one from the U.S. Public Health Department, thinking that with great luck I might get one. To my surprise, I got both of them and was thus able to spend two years at the Trust, one after the other, which was absolutely the single most important event of my professional life.

The Wildfowl Trust and Peter Scott 1959-1961

The Wildfowl Trust (now the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust) is in part a zoo, getting much of its income visitors, but it is also a major research organization. At the time I was there it was at the peak of its development, having the largest collection, both in species and numbers, of waterfowl that had ever been assembled. Peter Scott was internationally famous and was actively bringing back rare birds from everywhere in the world. They then had about 120 of the 145 living species of ducks, geese and swans, or more than 80 percent of the entire family Anatidae. So I was lucky to get there just when the Trust was at its very best.

The Trust had a resident staff that was mostly concerned with avicultural problems, such as nutrition and disease. Most of the staff were doing applied research, relative to either the waterfowl collection or to the conservation of waterfowl in Great Britain. However, G.V.T. Mathews was there as science director, Hugh Boyd was their waterfowl expert, and Janet Kear arrived my second year, as assistant director of research.

Only a few weeks after I arrived at the Trust in 1959, there was an Ethological Congress held at Oxford University. I went over on the first day by bus, arriving late in the afternoon. After registering, I was directed to the hall where everybody was already gathered for dinner. The hall was quite crowded, but at its far end I could see Dr. Sibley, sitting at a large table slightly elevated from the rest. With him were Konrad Lorenz, Niko Tinbergen, and a few other people I didn't recognize. There was an empty seat right beside Dr. Sibley, so I walked up and sat down beside him. He stared at me incredulously, and said, "Don't you know this is High Table, and you have to be invited to sit here?" I was greatly embarrassed and quickly got up to leave, but the others laughed and motioned for me to sit. As a result of my ignorance I was able to become acquainted with Lorenz, the author of the duck behavior paper I had overlooked, and Tinbergen, already famous for his work on gull and fish behavior. Both later shared the Nobel Prize, and Lorenz wrote a letter endorsing me for a Guggenheim Fellowship.

I was able to study pure comparative behavioral research and its taxonomic implications full time while at the Trust. Within a year I had about six papers in press, was well into the writing of one book, and had started a second. The first book was an attempt to summarize all the observations I made on the behavior of the birds there, aimed toward developing a world survey of comparative waterfowl behavior. That effort became the *Handbook of Waterfowl Behavior* and was the first comparative behavioral survey of any family of birds. I also began to write a book that was directed to the general public, trying to describe what I thought was most interesting about waterfowl.

By then Lois and I had one child, Jay, and another, Scott, was born during our first year there. Scott was named after Peter Scott, who was not only a great painter but also a national hero for his exploits in World War II. He also is a great hero to me, because of the way he facilitated my life's work. If it had not been for him and the Wildfowl Trust, I'd probably have ended up teaching biology in some obscure school.

Nebraska and the University of Nebraska 1961 - present

From the autumn of 1959 until the summer of 1961 I was busily engaged in postdoctoral fellowship research at the Wildfowl Trust. The Trust was a grand place for doing research, but very a poor one from which to look for jobs in America. One day in the spring of 1961 I received a letter from Dr. Sibley saying, "I just learned through my Nebraska contacts that there is a job opening at the University of Nebraska for an ornithologist." He had spent several summers in the Platte Valley during the 1950s collecting hundreds of birds, mainly hybridizing species-pairs such as flickers, buntings, orioles and grosbeaks. Dr. Sibley also noted, "Nebraska is not a bad place to look for another job from."

I didn't know anything about the University of Nebraska or very much about the state. However, I remembered that Al Hochbaum, who was the Director of Delta Research Station at Delta Marsh, Manitoba, had told me that in his opinion Nebraska was second only to North Dakota as a duck production area and as prime waterfowl habitat. I decided that Nebraska might be a good place to study waterfowl ecology.

I was offered the job sight-unseen. They didn't bring me over to interview, so I came without ever having seen the campus, Lincoln or the state. I was to teach general zoology as my major responsibility, and to develop a course in ornithology, plus any other courses I might want to develop. So in 1961 I came to UN-L as an instructor. Dr. Harold Manter, the Zoology Department chair, once told me, "Well, we figured we could probably get you on the cheap, so we thought we might just as well offer you an instructorship rather than an assistant professorship." However, I not only was promoted to assistant professor at the end of my first year, but more importantly received tenure at that time. To my knowledge I am the only person at the University of Nebraska ever to advance from instructor to assistant professor with tenure by the second year.



Photographing a Lesser Golden-Plover at Churchill, Manitoba, 1980.
Photo by Ed and Jean Schulenberg.

Our department was called the Zoology Department at that time. It was small but growing, and Dr. Manter was a national figure for his parasitology work. Besides Dr. Manter, the department then consisted of about seven people. The physiology department was separate, with two people. We soon merged with physiology. The Botany Department shared Bessey Hall and had a long tradition of excellence with John Weaver, Charles Bessey, and others, but it was by then beyond its prime and also quite small. Eventually we also merged with botany to form a Department of Life Sciences, and later became a separate School of Biological Sciences.

During the first fall I was at UN-L, a student by the name of Roger Sharpe arrived who wanted to work on a master's degree. He was an avid birder and knew many good birding places in Nebraska. It was he who first told me about the Sandhill Cranes of the Platte Valley, so I went out with my ornithology class the

following March. At that time there weren't many cranes near Grand Island, so we drove to Elm Creek before turning off the highway and crossing the bridge over the Platte River. I was astounded by the sight of so many cranes in the adjacent meadows. After that trip I became intensely interested in Sandhill Cranes and the Platte Valley. My first book on cranes was published in 1981 (*Those of the Gray Wind*), and in 1983 *Cranes of the World* appeared. *Crane Music* was published in 1991. My book on the Platte Valley (*Channels in Time*) appeared in 1984.

Roger Sharpe also knew about a Greater Prairie-Chicken lek at Burchard Lake Wildlife Management Area in southeastern Nebraska about 80 miles from Lincoln, and I took my classes there, too. Galliform species soon became very important to me: my first book on grouse appeared in 1973 (*Grouse and Quails of North America*). The second, *Grouse of the World*, followed in 1981, and *Grassland Grouse and their Conservation* appeared in 2001.

I fell in love with Nebraska from the very beginning. I very soon decided I wanted to stay at the University of Nebraska as long as they would have me. With the help of NSF grants I went Alaska in 1963 and studied Spectacled Eider behavior. I went to Australia in 1964 to observe some aberrant Australian ducks such as the Musk Duck and Freckled Duck. Some of those observations were included in my *Handbook of Waterfowl Behavior*. I went to South America in 1965, studying as many populations of the Andean Torrent Duck as possible, to try to establish just how many species exist. When I started working on grouse and quails in the 1970s I went to Mexico on another NSF grant to study some of the rare New World quails relative to my *Grouse and Quails of North America*. I also later observed Rock Ptarmigan in Newfoundland, and both Black Grouse and Capercaillies in Scotland, while preparing my *Grouse of the World*.

A long series of world or continental monographs on bird groups followed, such as on shorebirds, pheasants, quails, raptors, hummingbirds, trogons, pelecaniform birds, and others. There were also books on subjects such as diving birds (*Diving Birds of North America*), desert-adapted birds (*Birds of Dry Places*), the avian social parasites (*Deception at the Nest*) and lek-forming birds and associated aspects of sexual selection (*Arena Birds*).

Over the years, I began studies that led to books on the biodiversity of the state (*The Nature of Nebraska*), the Sandhills (*This Fragile Land*), the Platte River (*Channels in Time*) and the Niobrara River (*A River Running Through Time*). The Great Plains also served as a subject for several books (*Birds of the Great Plains*, *Great Wildlife of the Great Plains*, *Faces of the Great Plains*), as did Plains history (*Lewis & Clark on the Great Plains*, *Wind Through the Buffalo Grass*). Interests in the grassland ecosystems of the Great Plains lead me to write both *Prairie Birds* and *Prairie Dog Empire*.

Popular Writing

During the 1960s we had a small faculty club in an old converted sorority house. I often ate there, and one of the many people with whom I enjoyed sitting was Bruce Nicoll, who was then director of University of Nebraska Press. He would regale us with all kinds of stories about the University, and I would just sit there and listen, never contributing much to the conversation.

One day in late 1965 after the *Handbook of Waterfowl Behavior* had been published, I was eating there quietly. Then Bruce Nicoll stormed in, waving a copy of the Sunday edition of the *New York Times* which contained a very favorable review of my book, and said, "Damn it, Johnsgard! What's the big idea? What's the idea of publishing a book with Cornell Press, when we've got a perfectly good university press here?" He then added, "What book are you writing now?" I replied that I had a book manuscript in my office files but doubted that it was publishable. Nevertheless, he followed me back to my office, and I dug out the manuscript. He took it with him, and only a day later called back and said, "This is great! We've got to publish this!" He let me include two 16-page signatures of color plates, and it was published in 1968 (*Waterfowl: Their Biology and Natural History*). Almost immediately it won an award from the Chicago Book Clinic. It was chosen by the Association of the English Speaking Peoples to be placed in libraries around the world. It was also named one of the hundred best science books of the year. After that book appeared, I began to think it would be fun to see if I could write a bird book that was popular, but that included a good deal of information on natural history.

Another of the unexpected circumstances that affected my life soon occurred. One day, while signing some copies of *Waterfowl: the Biology and Natural History* at a local bookstore, I learned that John Neihardt had recently signed some copies of *Black Elk Speaks*. I bought a copy and read it that afternoon. I think of all the books that I have read, I was never as mesmerized by any other as I was by it. I stayed awake for hours that night, wondering how I could respond in some real way to that book, in which Snow Geese appeared in several of Black Elk's visions.

I had already been thinking about doing a book on the Snow Goose, and wondered if I could somehow counterpoint what I know about the biology of Snow Geese with the Native American view of Snow Geese. Finally, when it was about 2:30 a.m., I decided that I couldn't sleep, so I might just as well get up and start writing. I wrote more or less secretly for about five weeks, at which time the writing was nearly finished, except for a section dealing with the arctic breeding grounds, which I hadn't previously visited.

With the manuscript essentially finished, I thought I ought to have someone read it critically. I gave it to Vicki Peterson, one of our departmental secretaries, who had done some technical retyping for me, and asked her if she would read it. She brought it back the next day, and said, "This is by far the best writing you've ever done; you've got to publish it." I then decided I would send it to three publishers. Two of them rejected it fairly rapidly, but Doubleday indicated an interest. I replied that I would need a few more months to write the remaining part and would have it done by fall.

In early June of 1973 I went to Churchill, Manitoba, with the aid of a small American Philosophical Society grant. From Churchill I was able to fly to a large Snow Goose nesting colony, which I visited for a few days. While at Churchill, Robert Montgomerie, a biologist whom I met there, showed me some of his friend Paul Geraghty's drawings. I thought that they were the kind of images that I wanted to use to somehow capture the mysticism of the geese in Neihardt's book. So I wrote to Geraghty, sent him a copy of the manuscript, and asked him if he would be interested in illustrating it. He replied that it was exactly the sort of thing he would love to illustrate. It was amazing to see Paul Geraghty sketch; he drew the pen-and-

ink illustrations for *Song of the North Wind*. He could look through binoculars for three or four hours, and then go back to camp and draw for two or three hours, just like he had a videotape playing back images. I could never do anything like that. I think that his illustrations were a critically important part of that book.

My early papers probably helped me get my first NSF research grants during the 1960s. A Guggenheim Fellowship in 1972 gave me most of a year off for writing. After my Snow Goose book appeared in 1974, I decided that I could write popular, but accurate, books and that not only increased my annual income, but also increased my confidence and personal pleasure in writing.

With the appearance of *Song of the North Wind*, my writing life shifted to a somewhat new direction. I decided to write technical books intended for a fairly restricted ornithological audience, but also to write for a much broader audience on general, environmental, and conservation topics. The ultimate in my popular writing was the dragon and unicorn book (*Dragons & Unicorns: A Natural History*), which I wrote with our daughter Karin when she was in high school. I thought that if I was ever going to be fired for writing something frivolous, it probably would be for that, which was mostly a whimsical metaphor on conservation ethics, with some political and religious satire thrown in.

Writing Influences

I have often been asked why I am such a prolific writer. Annie Dillard wrote in *The Writing Life* that there are maybe 20 people on the planet who can average writing a book each year. During the 44 years between my first book in 1965 and 2009, I published 51 books. I have at least put myself in rare company.

I would confess that my writing is a total compulsion, but there is another rationalization for my writing, and I've thought about it often. There are few people who can write, draw and photograph well enough to put together a book on some major subject by themselves. When growing up I thought it would be a wonderful thing to have a book about loons, for example, or a book about pheasants. By and large, they weren't available, but now I'm in a position to write those books. It may be that the world as a whole isn't waiting for them, but there might be somebody out there who is.

I write three kinds of books: the first is about birds, which represents most of the titles, and the second is about places, such as the Platte, the Tetons, the Sandhills or the Niobrara. The third type is about ideas, like *Dragons and Unicorns: A Natural History*. Most of my books are in the first category, which is

very straightforward writing, just putting the facts together as clearly and as accurately as I can. Almost always I kept at least three book projects going simultaneously because, when working on two or three, they are almost always at different stages.

When writing a reference book on birds, or any of my geographically oriented books, I feel I can write in short blocks of time with a fair number of disturbances without affecting the flow of writing. When I'm trying to write a chapter in something like *Song of the North Wind*, then I'm bothered greatly by interference.

On a Saturday or Sunday, there is usually no disturbance on campus and I can count on having many hours without even having the phone ring. I used to come to campus every Saturday to write, and one year I got over \$120 in fines for parking on campus on football Saturdays. I finally decided that was too expensive, especially after my car was towed away one day. I sometimes came to campus on Sundays, too, and that didn't leave much time for anything else. I didn't make a lot of time to play when our kids were growing up; however, I spent enough time with each of them to encourage their interest in nature.

I always thought that one secret of good speaking was to be able to compose in your mind about as rapidly as you can talk, and I think the secret of good writing is to be able to compose in your mind about as rapidly as you can type. My writing is probably better than it was in my early years of writing simply because it is much easier to modify text on a computer and I work it over more now, but I'm not embarrassed about my early writing.



In the Niobrara River Valley, 2004. Photo by Linda Brown.

Reading and Literary Models

When I was 18 my parents gave me a copy of Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* for Christmas, and it became a kind of bible to me, exemplifying clean, poetic writing about nature. I identified with Leopold because of his background as a wildlife biologist, and I wanted to emulate his writing style. I admire his use of wild creatures and wild events as parables and his ability to see greater lessons in small events, the total being greater than the sum of its parts. He was able to tell a simple story, like cutting down an oak tree, for example, and to describe the history of Wisconsin as represented by the rings of the oak.

Generating large stories from simple events is the same thing that appeals to me so much about Annie Dillard's writing. She will see a frog in a pond, or a shed snakeskin, and somehow make that into a cosmic event, something far greater than just simple observations. I'm just still in awe over her capacity for description. I corresponded with her for a time after two of our books (*Song of the North Wind* and *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*) were reviewed in the same column of a New York newspaper. She even let me critique a story she was writing for *Harpers* on a trip to the Galápagos Islands.

There were times when I purposefully was anthropomorphic in my writing, even though in my animal behavior class I would rail against anthropomorphism. I don't use it in writing reference books, but I do use it fairly often in popular writing. Aldo Leopold was rather anthropomorphic in some of his writing, and I felt that if he could do it, so could I. I must confess that the longer I live and the more I watch birds, the more I believe that maybe a little bit of anthropomorphism is warranted. I'm absolutely convinced that there is a lot more to what they know and perceive than what humans observe. I honestly think that we are underestimating birds, and certainly other mammals, when we avoid anthropomorphism too rigorously.

Drawing and Wood Sculpture

Essentially all my artwork for publication has been done by pen-and-ink. By the time I got to graduate school, we were told we had to do everything for publication with Rapidograph technical pens, using India ink. I used that technique for quite a number of years, simply because I was under the assumption that that was what was needed for reproduction.

Then, maybe by chance, I realized I could start using non-India ink and nylon-tipped pens with very fine points as they became available. I could get fairly dark, if not black, colors that were acceptable to publishers, it was less messy, and I could get graded widths and intensities of line. I also learned how to use scratchboard. The drawings in *Waterfowl, Their Biology and Natural History* were nearly all scratchboard drawings. Most of the hundreds of drawings in the *Handbook of Waterfowl Behavior* came from 16 mm movie film, by taking individual frames and enlarging them. I then made ink drawings based on those frame enlargements, so they weren't based on field sketching.

My woodcarving goes back to Boy Scout days, when I decided to make a neckerchief slide and carved a flying duck. I was probably about 13 years old. I continued to do carvings right up through high school, but then abandoned it in college. My carving didn't start again until the later 1960s and early 1970s when I encountered other carvers and joined with them to form the Central Flyway Decoy Carvers and Collectors Club.

From then until the early 1980s I continued to do decoy and decorative carving, until I had done about 60 and basically filled all the available spaces at home and at my office. My carving was a wintertime activity, almost entirely done when I couldn't get down to the campus to write and felt I needed something physical to do. I also rationalized that I was learning a little about bird anatomy as a result of carving them.

In 1975 the club put on a major exhibit of classic antique decoys at the Sheldon Art Gallery of UN-L, and I produced the catalog of the exhibit that was published in 1976 by the University of Nebraska Press (*The Bird Decoy: an American Art Form*). As the result of a later folk-art exhibit, a large preening trumpeter swan carving of mine was purchased for the gallery's permanent collection.



In a frigatebird and Blue-footed Booby colony, Galápagos Islands, 2005.
Photo by Josef Kren.

Some of the other art exhibits that I have curated include three at the Great Plains Art Museum in Lincoln. The first was an exhibit that I did in 2002 with Mike Forsberg, using his photos and my drawings and carvings. It was called "Migrations of the Imagination." In 2004 I did a major show of drawings and photos (and wrote an associated book, *Lewis and Clark on the Great Plains: a Natural History*) celebrating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. In 2009 I assembled (with three other photographers) an exhibit celebrating Charles Darwin's 200th birthday and the 150th anniversary of his *Origin of Species* (*Celebrating Darwin's Legacy: Evolution in the Galápagos Islands and the Great Plains*).

Teaching

For the first 10 or 15 years I enjoyed teaching enormously, even though I taught large class sessions of general zoology, year after year, and two sessions per semester. That was time consuming, but it was still rewarding; I thought I was influencing at least some students and it was important to me to be a good teacher.

I think eventually that attitude did wear down, as I began to get more enjoyment out of my writing. Over the years, I began to realize that I wasn't influencing that many out of the vast numbers who went through my classes. I was more involved in writing, and so the responsibility of teaching became intrusive.

I've had 12 people finish Ph.D.s, and 13 finished master's degrees. Roger Sharpe, my first graduate student, taught biology at University of Nebraska-Omaha. Mary Bomberger Brown went on from a master's degree with me in 1982 to marry and work with Charles R. Brown on Cliff Swallows. In 2009 she shared the A.O.U.'s Coues Award with him for that work. My last graduate student, Josef Kren, was probably the best of all my teaching assistants. He is now the Chairman of the Biology Department of Bryan Hospital's teaching program. James Tate wrote for *American Birds* for many years, and later was Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior during the George W. Bush administration.

Although he never finished a master's degree, the appearance of Tom Mangelsen in 1969 was eventful. He had just graduated from Doane College, and in spite of his having only an average undergraduate record, I accepted him as a graduate student, mostly because he said his dad had a hunting cabin on the Platte River near Wood River. When he enrolled in my ornithology course in 1970 we began spending time in duck blinds on the Platte, photographing any waterfowl or cranes that strayed within range of our cameras. Tom later went with me on trips to the Pacific Northwest and New Mexico, and eventually became one of the foremost wildlife photographers in the world.



Caricature by former Johnsgard student Bob Hall, 2010.

Cedar Point Biological Station 1958-1993; 2008

Cedar Point Biological Station in Keith County, Nebraska, has been one of the best educational opportunities that ever happened to the School of Biological Sciences, and also to me personally. At the time we established the station in 1976 I was deeply involved in several books and didn't want to devote even part of a summer to teaching classes at Lake McConaughy, which I had never seen. Brent Nickol, our first director there, kept after me about it, and by 1978 he convinced me that I should go out and teach ornithology there.

Thus, quite reluctantly, I packed my car and drove out. While driving through Ogallala I was depressed about what a miserable summer this was going to be. Then I drove down the long hill leading to Kingsley Dam and at the bottom of the hill I was suddenly in a deep canyon of junipers and cottonwoods and could hear singing Rock Wrens and screaming Black-billed Magpies. A Great Horned Owl took off from a rocky promontory. It was much like Dorothy landing in Oz. I thought I had suddenly been transported to a magical place. I fell in love with the area that instant and went back every summer for 16 of the 17 next summers. I returned to teach there in the summer of 2008, to see how the bird life and general environment had changed.

Cedar Point became, from the late 1970s to the early 1990s, an integral part of my summer activities. I did as much as writing as I could in that environment and I spent more time looking at birds during those few weeks than I did at any other time of the year.

Hunting and Photography

I started hunting when I was about 12 years old and was a duck hunter until I was about 16. I eventually decided I would much rather try to photograph birds than shoot them, and it increasingly bothered me to kill things that I spent hours watching. So I sold my shotgun to obtain a camera. At first I had an Argus C-3, but my mother borrowed it and it was stolen from her. She offered to replace it, and that allowed me to buy my first camera with interchangeable lenses.

My "new" camera was a used Exakta 1 single-lens reflex from the late 1930s in which I had to look down from above to focus (the image was reversed and upside-down). I was lucky just to find something in the frame when trying to photograph birds in flight. As soon as I found the subject I snapped the shutter. My average success rate was about one or two frames out of a 36-exposure roll of black-and-white film that were not simply sky.

If it weren't for hunting, I wouldn't have spent nearly so much time in marshes and wouldn't have become nearly so close to either my older brother or my father. But it's a continuing problem for me to rationalize the social values of hunting against the pain that hunting causes, for no real reason other than entertainment. For some species hunting clearly doesn't affect the populations, but I have real problems with hunting cranes and hunting swans, which are long-lived species that have long pair bonds and limited capacities for reproduction

Conservation

I don't want to depress my readers by writing about environmental crises, so much of what I have to say about the environment is done on a positive note. Biodiversity is important, and species of any kind are valuable and worth saving. That's a fairly easy message to give.

The passage of the Endangered Species Act in the early 1970s was a decisive stage in the development of the conservation movement. It meant the government was finally moving, and that was encouraging. But it's been pretty much downhill since 1980, and I don't know if there's going to be any turnaround in the near term.

Religious Beliefs

I still get chills up and down my spine in situations such as watching flocks of geese or cranes at sunset. It still affects me just as much as it ever did. I think watching birds is the most spiritually rewarding thing I do. I'm attracted to the mystical, the unknown. I don't like to give the unknown a name, but I like the sense of mystery. Embracing mystery is counter to science, in fact it's absolutely counter to science, and I guess that's an anomaly in my thinking. Perhaps it goes back to the Native American concept of an overall natural spirit, even though one may not give that spirit a name.

I think science can be an adequate substitute for religion, in that it can satisfy a pervasive human need for some sort of belief system. Science is fallible, we know that, and so I'm sure that science will never provide us with all the answers. Yet, I would strongly recommend it over religion.

Although now officially retired for a decade, I am still writing. My newest book, *The Sandhill and Whooping Cranes: Ancient Voices over America's Wetlands*, should appear by March, 2011, and two other book manuscripts are under consideration by a publisher. One is a natural history of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (to be photographically illustrated by Tom Mangelsen), and the other reviews the birds of, and birding opportunities in, the northern Rocky Mountains. I am also in early phases of writing a book on the wetlands of Nebraska, and I intend to collaborate with Dr. Jackie Canterbury on a review of the birds of Wyoming's Bighorn Mountains. And there are always more things to learn and write about cranes...

The Comprehensive Vita and Bibliography for Dr. Johnsgard may be found at the Digital Commons University of Nebraska - Lincoln website:

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/biosciornithology/25/>

A Review of Modern Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Nesting Records and Breeding Status in Nebraska

Joel G. Jorgensen^{1,3}, Stephen K. Wilson², John J. Dinan^{1,4}, Sarah E. Rehme¹,
Sonya E. Steckler¹, and Melissa J. Panella¹

¹ Nongame Bird Program, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE,
68503

² National Park Service, Northern Great Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network,
Rapid City, SD 57701

³ Corresponding author: joel.jorgensen@nebraska.gov

⁴ Deceased

The recovery of the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in North America during the 20th century is a conservation success story. Once threatened with extinction, the species now is common throughout much of its range (Buehler 2000). Federal and state laws such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531-1544) that were used to protect Bald Eagles and important habitats used by eagles are considered key actions that fostered the species' recovery. In 2007, the Bald Eagle was formally removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species (50 CFR Part 17). The following year, the Bald Eagle was removed from the Nebraska state list of threatened and endangered species.

Bald Eagles have been a species of high conservation concern, and therefore a substantial amount of attention and resources has been directed toward monitoring Bald Eagle numbers over the past 50 years. Of particular interest were initial breeding records and subsequent increases in states where the species bred historically, but was extirpated. Nebraska is one such state in which Bald Eagle breeding records have increased since protection.

Prior to 1900, the Bald Eagle was a regular, albeit low-density, breeding species in Nebraska (Ducey 1988). Breeding records from this period occurred in present-day Dixon, Gage, Cherry, and Garden Counties and near the Douglas-Washington County line (Rapp et al. 1958, Ducey 1988, 2000). John James Audubon also observed a nest in southeast Nebraska along the Missouri River in 1843 (Ducey 2000). By the late 1800s, Bald Eagles had become scarce. In the Omaha vicinity, White (1893) commented, "Of late years [Bald Eagles] have become very rare". Bruner et al. (1904) concluded that Bald Eagles "probably formerly bred" in Nebraska and "it is likely that a few still do so." As there were no additional breeding records after this time (Rapp et al. 1958, Ducey 1988, Sharpe et al. 2001), it appears that the Bald Eagle had been extirpated as a breeding species by around 1900. Unregulated shooting of Bald Eagles was likely a primary source of early declines (Buehler 2000). Bald Eagles were rare to uncommon migrants and winter visitors in Nebraska throughout most of the 1900s (Rapp et al. 1958, Johnsgard 1980).

By the end of the 20th century, Bald Eagles were again breeding in Nebraska. Relevant state agencies, such as the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (Commission), and federal agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(USFWS) and National Park Service (NPS), collected nesting and breeding activity data. The Commission's Nongame Bird Program coordinated statewide surveys and compiled and maintained a database of all known nesting and breeding observations. Breeding records from the early and mid-1990s were previously summarized by Lackey (1997). In this note, we use all collected information to 1) summarize modern nesting and breeding records during the period 1950-2009, 2) summarize the pattern of increase observed in Nebraska, and 3) provide information about nest site use and distribution in Nebraska.

METHODS

Bald Eagle breeding information was compiled from formal surveys conducted by the Commission, NPS, USFWS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nebraska Public Power District, and trained volunteers. This information was supplemented with information from 1) reports from public forums (e.g., NEBirds internet discussion group), 2) incidental reports, and 3) a literature review. Data from all sources were entered into an electronic Microsoft Access database and were then summarized according to nest activity level and associated variables.

For formal surveys, nest sites were generally visited at least twice during the breeding season. The first visit usually occurred in March or April to determine if a nest was active. Active was defined as a nesting pair engaged in breeding activity (i.e., incubation of eggs, tending of young). The definition of active used here does not include pairs constructing dummy or practice nests. Active nests were then determined to be productive (fledging of young) or unproductive (no fledged young produced). Personnel approached nests by vehicle, on foot or by boat, and observed nests with binoculars or spotting scopes from a distance that would not disturb nesting birds. Observers recorded date, time, nest status, number of adults, number of young and relevant comments during each visit. When possible, nest locations were recorded with a GPS unit during initial visits. Surveys were generally concluded by the end of June, corresponding with the period in which young eagles leave the nest.

RESULTS

The first modern report of Bald Eagle breeding activity in Nebraska was in 1973, when a pair built a nest in Cedar County (Lock and Schuckman 1973). The pair was observed copulating but eventually deserted the nest (Lock and Schuckman 1973). Similar situations occurred along the North Platte River near Lewellen, Garden County, from 1987-1993 (see also Rosche 1994) and along the Platte River near Maxwell, Lincoln County, in 1989. Eagle pairs were observed either building or in proximity to previously constructed nests, but nests were deserted each year with no evidence that eggs were ever laid. Additional nests near Woodcliff, Saunders County, and Paxton, Lincoln County, were located after they were constructed and deserted; no eagles were observed at these nests.

The first active modern nest was near Valley, Douglas County, in 1991 (Farrar 1991). This was the first successful nesting attempt in the state; an eaglet nearly fledged or did fledge, but was later found dead. The following year the number of

active nests increased to 5. One of these nests, located along the Middle Loup River in Sherman County, fledged two young capable of sustained flight (Lackey 1997). The number of active nests slowly increased in subsequent years (Figure 1), reaching 10 in 1996, 20 in 2000, and 55 in 2007. The number of active nests dropped to 48 in 2009.

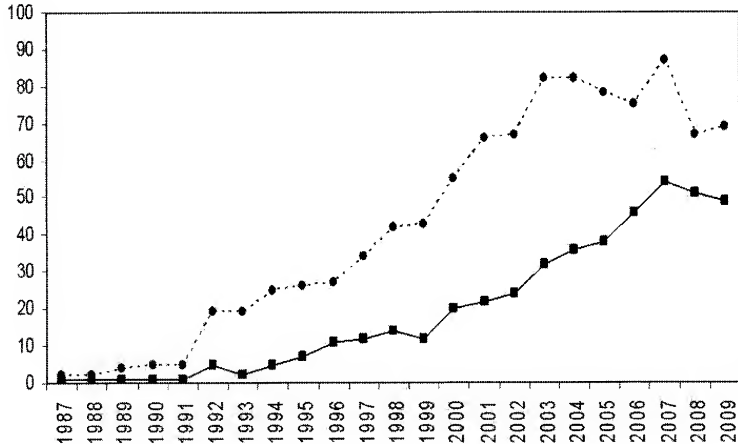


Figure 1. Number of Bald Eagle nests surveyed (dashed line) and number of active nests (solid line) in Nebraska 1987-2009.

Bald Eagle nests have been recorded statewide (Figure 2). Nests were recorded in 62 of 93 counties. Most nests have been located in the north and east. More than 80% of active nests in 2009 (n=49) were found along or north of the Platte River and east of Lincoln and Cherry Counties. Only a single nest, located at Medicine Creek Reservoir, Frontier County, has been found south of the Platte River and west of Harlan County. Bald Eagles were recorded at this nest from 2001-2005, but the nest was never observed to be active. Most Bald Eagle nest sites in Nebraska have been associated with riparian corridors. Of 221 nests observed during the years 1973-2009, 85% occurred along rivers. Of these nests, large numbers were observed along the Platte (n=42), Missouri (n=37), and Elkhorn (n=15) Rivers. Approximately 11% of nests have occurred beside lakes or reservoirs.

Active Bald Eagle nests in Nebraska have been very productive; 649 young have fledged from 440 active nests with known outcomes (1.48 fledges/active nest) from 1991-2009. A primary cause of nest failure is nests being blown down during storms or periods of strong winds. A minimum of twenty-four active nests have been blown down.

DISCUSSION

Within the past two decades, increases in the number of Bald Eagle breeding pairs in Nebraska have been remarkable. Nebraska, as part of the Northern States Recovery Plan (USFWS 1983), originally had a recovery goal of ten active breeding pairs. This goal was met in 1996 and surpassed in years thereafter. In addition, the 1.48 fledges per nest recorded in Nebraska is greater than the 1.0 fledgling/nest objective outlined in the Northern States Recovery Plan (USFWS 1983). There are annual instances of Bald Eagle mortality caused by gunshot wounds, lead poisoning, electrocution, and power line strikes (Jorgensen 2008). These sources of mortality and other threats do not appear to be inhibiting increases in breeding Bald Eagle numbers.

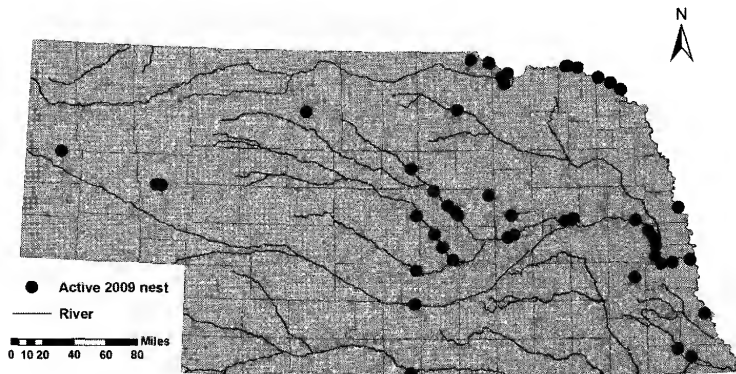


Figure 2. Spatial distribution of active Bald Eagle nests (eagle icon) in Nebraska in 2009.

The number of Bald Eagle breeding pairs is expected to continue to increase in Nebraska in the foreseeable future. The decline in the number of active nests in the last two years of the study period is attributed to decreases in survey effort rather than an actual decline in nesting pairs. Therefore, an obvious question is how many breeding pairs may ultimately exist within the state. While it is difficult to know what may be the proximate limiting factor(s) on Nebraska's breeding population, it does not appear that general habitat requirements is one of them. Most Bald Eagles in Nebraska nest along rivers, and large portions of Nebraska's extensive network of rivers remain uncolonized by Bald Eagles. It seems possible that Nebraska may ultimately have a few hundred Bald Eagle nesting pairs.

As recently as 2001, the Bald Eagle was described as a "locally rare regular breeder (resident?) statewide" and a "Rare casual summer visitor statewide" (Sharpe et al. 2001). Based on the information provided here, we recommend that the species status be revised to "uncommon breeder and summer visitor statewide".

Past declines and low numbers raise concerns about the long-term security of Bald Eagle populations. However, the persistence of an overall increase in nesting numbers as observed in recent records will make comprehensive annual nest monitoring more challenging due to resource limitations. Some level of monitoring of breeding numbers remains important in order to determine whether increases over the past two decades will be sustained. At this time, it appears that the Bald Eagle will be a fixture of Nebraska's avian breeding community.

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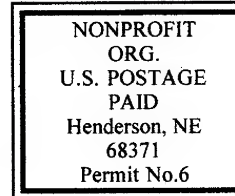
Editor of *The Nebraska Bird Review*: Janis Paseka, 1585 Co. Rd. 14 Blvd., Ames, NE 68621; paseka76@gmail.com

Occurrence Report Compiler: Ross Silcock, P.O. Box 57, Tabor, IA 51653; silcock@rosssilcock.com

Breeding Bird Atlas Project and Nest Records Coordinator: Wayne Mollhoff, 2354 Euclid St., Ashland NE 68003; wmollhoff@netscape.net

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3745 Garfield
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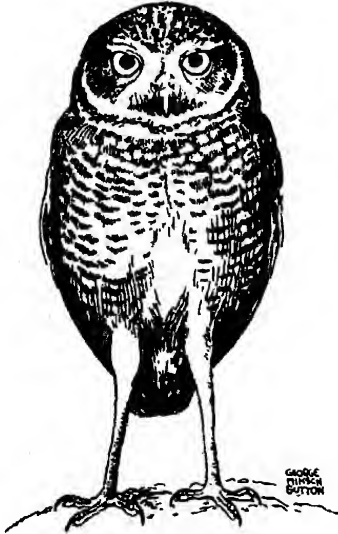
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FALL FIELD REPORT, August-November 2010

Compiled by W. Ross Silcock
P.O. Box 57, Tabor, IA 51653
silcock@rosssilcock.com

INTRODUCTION

This was a pretty routine fall for the most part, although there were scattered early and late dates and high counts as in most seasons. Decidedly non-routine, though, was the appearance of two rarities, Ross's Gull and Brown-headed Nuthatch, both enjoyed by many. A surprising 15 gull species were reported, this without much help from L McConaughy! Also notable were the sea-ducks, scoters and Long-tailed Duck, which were in good numbers.

Tom Labeledz, collections manager at the University of Nebraska State Museum, is an excellent source; he contributed greatly to discussions herein on Greater Prairie-Chicken and Fox Sparrow.

A clarification: in the Spring Report I misleadingly implied that Eurasian Collared-Doves in Papillion were mostly feral, but I was referring only to a specific small group near Phil Swanson's house. As pointed out by Loren and Babs Padelford, there are increasing numbers of "wild" birds in Papillion. Generally, though, their presence in larger cities is lagging behind their rural small town ubiquity, especially in the west.

I have expanded the "Routine Reports" statement to indicate what indeed is the routine status for such species. Generally, "routine" implies no early or late dates or high counts were reported for the particular season. I list all regularly-occurring species for each season, the vast majority of which do indeed have reports of interest. Of the remainder, some have "Routine Reports", while the few remaining have "None were reported"; for these latter species I generally include a brief comment on their status as well.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City
BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co
CBL: Capitol Beach L, Lincoln
Cem: Cemetery
Co(s): County(ies)
CLNWR: Crescent L NWR, Garden Co
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co
GPD: Gavins Point Dam, Knox/Cedar Cos
HCR: Harlan Co Res SRA, Harlan Co
ICSP: Indian Cave State Park, Richardson/Nemaha Cos
L: Lake
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co
LNB: Lakes North and Babcock, Platte Co
LO: L Ogallala (includes contiguous Keystone L), Keith Co
LPB: LaPlatte Bottoms, Sarpy Co
m. ob.: many observers
NC: Nature Center

NLB: North Lake Basin WMA, Seward Co
NM: National Monument
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co
Res: Reservoir
PRSP: Platte River SP, Cass Co
PSP: Ponca SP, Dixon Co
RWB: Rainwater Basin, including parts of Phelps, Hamilton, York, Clay,
Fillmore, and Thayer Cos
SHP: State Historical Park
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)
SP: State Park
SRA: State Recreation Area
WHNC: Wildcat Hills NC, Scotts Bluff Co
WMA: (State) Wildlife Management Area
WP: Wilderness Park, Lincoln
WPA: (Federal) Waterfowl Production Area
WSR: Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co

GAZETTEER

Chadron SP: Dawes Co
Harvard Marsh: WPA, Clay Co
Jack Sinn: Jack Sinn Memorial WMA, Lancaster and Saunders Cos
Sandhills: large area of sand-based prairie in north-central Nebraska
Wehrspann L: Chalco Hills Recreation Area, Sarpy Co

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SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** One appeared at a pond behind an Omaha restaurant in mid-Aug (fide MB) and was still present at the end of the period (WF); this is the 2nd-latest of 11 records for the state.
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** Rather early were 4 in Otoe Co 4 Oct (LF).
- Snow Goose:** No large numbers had been reported by period's end; best count was only 200, flyovers at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Douglas Co, 28 Oct (JR).
- Ross's Goose:** As with Snow Goose, small numbers, fewer than 10 in all, were reported (LR, RH, LE).
- Cackling Goose:** Two larger flocks were reported: 300 at Cunningham L, Omaha, 20 Nov (JR) and 250 at Broken Bow SL 23 Nov (TH).
- Canada Goose:** Reports were routine; large numbers of migrants and resident birds occur during fall.
- Mute Swan:** Currently "untickable", but tantalizing for state twitchers, one was at Wehrspann L 24 and 27 Nov (CNK, NR). Movements and age classes reported in the Omaha area are suggestive of an incipient feral population.
- Trumpeter Swan:** An adult in Kearney 21 Aug (KS) was possibly a failed breeder; expected fall movement began with 2 in Morrill Co 30 Oct (AK). There was an influx 20 Nov, with 2-3 at Cunningham L, Omaha, (JR, L&BP) and 7 at BOL (DL, DA). The latter birds were a family group; one of the adults reportedly had an orange neck collar (DL), suggesting an origin in British Columbia, but it seems more likely it was a faded red collar, indicating Iowa provenance.
- Tundra Swan:** None were reported; this species is a rare but regular fall migrant, but there are few recent reports.
- Wood Duck:** One at BOL 22 Nov (LE) was tardy. The 51 at Jack Sinn 20 Aug (LE) was a good count; high counts are 100+.
- Gadwall:** Also a good count was the 1450 at BOL 28 Oct (LE); high counts are over 2000.
- American Wigeon:** Reports were routine; no large counts were noted for this common migrant.
- American Black Duck:** Rather rare in recent years, but findable among Mallard flocks in e Nebraska with patience, one was at GPD 26 Nov (MB).
- Mallard:** Reports were routine except for that of a pair mating at Wehrspann L 6 Oct (ARY); this may be a hormonal phenomenon along the lines of fall singing in some species.
- Blue-winged Teal:** Reports were routine for this common breeder; most leave by early Nov.
- Cinnamon Teal:** None were reported; fall reports are fewer, in large part because males are in eclipse plumage, are easily overlooked, and leave the state as soon as flight is regained.
- Northern Shoveler:** Reports were routine for this common breeder and fall migrant.
- Northern Pintail:** The 500-600 at LPB 2 Nov (CNK) was an excellent fall tally. Arrivals in Aug are likely molt migrants; 10 were in Hamilton Co 22 Aug (LE), 4 at BOL 24 Aug (LE), and 6 in Harlan Co 26 Aug (G&WH).
- Green-winged Teal:** As with Northern Pintail, presumed molt migrants or failed breeders appear in late Aug; 2 were in Washington Co 21 Aug (JR, JED) and 2 in Hamilton Co 22 Aug (LE).
- Canvasback:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.

- Redhead:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Ring-necked Duck:** The 591 at BOL 28 Oct (LE) was a good count.
- Greater Scaup:** Only 5 were reported, singles at CBL 30 Oct (JGJ) and 21 Nov (LE), and 3 at Wehrspann L 23 Nov (JR).
- Lesser Scaup:** The 1846 at BOL and PL 19 Nov (LE) was 2nd-highest fall count on record. Good numbers were at CBL also, with 800-850 there 13-15 Nov (WRS, PS, LE). Singles in Scotts Bluff Co 19 Sep (KD) and at BOL 27 Sep (JGJ) were rather early.
- Surf Scoter:** Numbers of scoters in general appear to be increasing, including a few spring records in recent years; scoters have been very rare in spring. There were 5 reports involving 6 Surf Scoters this fall: a female/immature was at BOL 23 Oct (LE), a similar bird was at LO 1-2 Nov (MR), a single was at Pierce SL 13 Nov (MB), 1-2 were at CBL 5-23 Nov (LE, JGJ), and a female was at Wehrspann L 21 Nov (CNK).
- White-winged Scoter:** There were 6 reports involving at least 10 birds: 4 female/immature birds at LO 1-2 Nov (MR), a female at Red Willow Res, Hitchcock Co, 5 Nov (TJW), 2-3 at CBL 12-24 Nov (LE, JGJ), one at Pierce SL 13 Nov (MB), one at BOL 20 Nov (JGJ), and one at GPD 26-29 Nov (MB, JJ).
- Black Scoter:** Of the 6 reports received, the most surprising was the near-record 18 birds, all female/immatures, at Conestoga L, Lincoln, 21 Nov (JGJ); 5 were still present there 23 Nov (JR). The record count is 20. The other 5 reports were of one at Wayne SL 24 Oct (D&JP), a female/immature at LO 1-2 Nov (MR), 1-2 birds at BOL 2-19 Nov (JGJ, LE), 3 at Summit L, Burt Co, 14 Nov (CNK), and 2 at PL 21 Nov (JGJ).
- Long-tailed Duck:** Along with scoters, there were unusually good numbers of this species, too. The 3 reports involved at least 4 birds: 1-2 at CBL 20-29 Nov (JGJ, NR), 2 at Cunningham L, Omaha, 20-27 Nov (CNK, L&BP, JT, NR), and one at GPD 26-27 Nov (MB, JR).
- Bufflehead:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.
- Common Goldeneye:** Reports were routine for this common to abundant winter visitor.
- Hooded Merganser:** There were several good counts reported, the best was the 76 at BOL 28 Oct (LE). Record count is 321.
- Common Merganser:** Few had arrived by the end of the period. Three at Sutherland Res, Lincoln Co, 31 Aug (TJW) were likely molt migrants; one in Hitchcock Co 26 Sep (TEL) was rather early, possibly having undergone molt.
- Red-breasted Merganser:** A female at BOL 23 Oct (LE) was rather early, as were 7 at BOL 30 Oct (JGJ).
- Ruddy Duck:** Only a rare breeder in the RWB, a hen with 3 young at Deep Well WMA, Hamilton Co, 17 Aug (JGJ) was a good find. A single was at NLB 22 Aug (LE). The 970 at BOL 28 Oct (LE) was an excellent count.
- Gray Partridge:** For the last few years, this species has been reported only from the northeast, mostly Knox and Cedar Cos, and there is also a small population in Sioux Co. Encouragingly, several broods were noted: 2 with at least 10 young each during the summer in the Wausa area (SWe), a pair with 7 young near Laurel 6 Aug (DSt), and an adult with 9 young near Creighton 9 Aug, the observer's first breeding record for more than 10 years in Knox Co (MB). The western branch was represented by a single at WSR 25 Aug (HKH).

- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Reports were routine for this locally common resident.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** The observer's largest flock to date in his area was the 44 near Broken Bow 2 Oct; a total of 51 was observed that day (TH).
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** The sighting of 2 juveniles/females in se Washington Co 26 Aug (JED, JR) raised questions and caused some discussion concerning their provenance on the NEBirds list serve. Although this species is known to make southeastward dispersal movements in winter, a long-time aficionado of this species (TEL) suggested that the general increase in Prairie-Chicken range and numbers in e. Nebraska in recent years may have led to this and similar late summer sightings. The increase was suggested to be a consequence of the increasingly mosaic nature of agricultural areas in e. Nebraska as CRP fields and smaller farms such as "hobby" farms become more widespread, in effect mimicking the mid-to-late 19th century era of westward expansion of small grain-growing farms into prairie areas (TEL). Apropos of the above was the single in se Butler Co 2 Aug (TEL). The 22 on a lek site near Winnetoon 25 Aug was a "large number" to be on a lek in fall (MB), and a good count was the 39 near Broken Bow 18 Oct (TH).
- Wild Turkey:** Reports were routine for this common statewide resident.
- Northern Bobwhite:** Reports were routine for this fairly common resident of southern and eastern Nebraska.
- Common Loon:** Good numbers were reported 17 Oct-22 Nov (m. ob.), including counts of 16 at GPD 29 Oct (MB, EB) and 12 at BOL 20 Nov (DA).
- Pied-billed Grebe:** Best counts were only moderate: 36 at BOL 23 Oct (LE) and 35 at Winters Creek L, Scotts Bluff Co, 16 Oct (KD).
- Horned Grebe:** A juvenile at Harvard Marsh 16 Sep (WRS, PS) was rather early. Best count was an excellent 109 at BOL 15 Nov (JGJ). Record count is 266.
- Red-necked Grebe:** The 3 reports were more than usual: first winter birds were at GPD 21 Sep (MB) and BOL 16-20 Nov (1-2; DL, RSt, DA), and one molting into winter plumage was at Cunningham L, Omaha, 2-25 Nov (NR, m. ob.).
- Eared Grebe:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Western Grebe:** An exciting discovery was a family group including 3 half-grown unfledged young on the south pond at North Platte SL 16 Sep (WRS, PS); this is likely an isolated extralimital breeding record. Best count was 8000 at LM 17 Sep (WRS, PS); peak counts are in late Sep and are over 30,000. Uncommon in the east, there were more reports there than usual, with 1-6 at BOL 5-23 Oct (PD, LE, JGJ), one at PL 16-30 Oct (CG, LE, JGJ), one at Holmes L, Lincoln, 30 Oct (JGJ), and one at LNB 31 Oct (JJ).
- Clark's Grebe:** The only report was of one in Hitchcock Co 26 Sep (LR, RH); reports south of the North Platte River valley are few.
- American White Pelican:** The 1200 at HCR 19 Sep (G&WH) is 4th-best on record; high count is 2100. The first large group of migrants was the 200 at Sutherland Res, Lincoln Co, 31 Aug (TJW), about as expected. The 525 in Otoe Co 21 Oct (LF) was a good easterly tally.
- Neotropic Cormorant:** Nebraska's 13th was at BOL 26 Nov (JC, SS, details); it was also the latest by nearly 2 months.
- Double-crested Cormorant:** The 5,000 at HCR 10 Oct (G&WH) was an excellent count; the 4 highest counts on record range from 5,000-12,000 and are all from HCR 5-16 Oct.
- American Bittern:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.

- Least Bittern:** All reports but one were from LPB, where 1-4 were found through 23 Sep, rather late (L&BP, ARy, m. ob.). Elsewhere, one was at NLB 22 Aug (LE).
- Great Blue Heron:** Reports were routine for this common breeder and fall migrant.
- Great Egret:** Reports were widespread, but numbers were generally low; best count was only 35 in Otoe Co 13 Oct (CNK). Highest counts are 130+. Fifth-latest on record was one in se. Washington Co 16 Nov; 3 were there 7 Nov (JT).
- Snowy Egret:** Only 4 were reported: singles in Sarpy Co 13 Aug (JR, JED), in Cass Co 8 Sep (CNK), at LM 23 Sep (KDy), and at HCR 17 Oct (KS), which was rather late.
- Little Blue Heron:** The 2 reported were about usual for late summer; a juvenile was at BOL 20 Aug (LE), and an adult was at HCR 2 Sep (G&WH).
- Cattle Egret:** The 300 in Washington Co 23 Aug (JGr) was a good count. The 4 at Wehrspann L 15 Nov (CNK) provided the 2nd-latest date on record.
- Green Heron:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and fall migrant.
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** One at Niobrara SP, Knox Co, 20 Oct (TJW) was rather late.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** The only report of this uncommon late summer visitor was of one at Bittern's Call WMA, Dawson Co, 4 Sep (CNK).
- White-faced Ibis:** Best count was 76 at Harvard Marsh 16 Sep (WRS, PS); most were immatures, presumably the group that summered there. A single *Plegadis* ibis with a reddish eye was rather late in Saunders Co 31 Oct (CNK).
- Turkey Vulture:** The 300 at Red Willow Res, Frontier Co, 23 Sep (TJW) was a record count.
- Osprey:** Reports were widespread, with best count 8 in Lancaster Co 17 Sep (JGJ). Three in Dixon Co 15 Aug (JJ) were rather early, and one at GPD 29 Nov (JJ) was 5th-latest on record.
- Mississippi Kite:** A previously-unreported likely summering location is Benkelman, where up to 7 were present 3-23 Aug (TJW, WM); local residents said the birds had been present "a few years" (fide WM). The well-known Ogallala "colony" had a "very productive year" with 5 nests producing young; 4 nearby nests with juveniles were being watched 29 Aug (JO).
- Bald Eagle:** Reports were routine for this now statewide low-density breeder.
- Northern Harrier:** Reports were routine for this statewide low-density breeder.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Cooper's Hawk:** This species is now a common though inconspicuous breeder statewide, including in wooded areas in large cities. Numbers are highest in fall as migrants arrive: 7 were seen over a weekend 16-18 Sep in w NE (WRS, PS).
- Northern Goshawk:** The only report was of a juvenile shot near Valley 17 Oct (DLe, photos), a rather early date; juveniles begin migration early on occasion.
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** All reports were of a single, likely the same bird, at BOL 28 Oct-15 Nov (LE).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** An adult and an immature at Bellevue 28 Aug (L&BP) may indicate not unexpected local breeding. Westerly reports were of a group of 9 over Ogallala 24 Sep (KDy) and an adult in Kearney 22 Sep at the same location where one had been seen the 2 previous years (TH).

Swainson's Hawk: Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.

Red-tailed Hawk: A rather early "Harlan's" Red-tail was in Dixon Co 10-11 Oct (JJ) and a "Kridler's" type was in Sarpy Co 15 Nov (CNK).

Ferruginous Hawk: There were more reports than usual, including rather early easterly reports of 2 in Clay Co 11 Oct (JLL, KS), one in Fillmore Co 13 Oct (JGJ), one in Loup Co 18 Nov (WF), and 2 at Prairie Dog WPA, Kearney Co, 16 Nov (WF).

Rough-legged Hawk: One in Hitchcock Co 16 Sep (LR, RH) was early; early arrival dates are not well-documented.

Golden Eagle: Reports were routine for this Panhandle resident and uncommon migrant elsewhere.

American Kestrel: Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.

Merlin: The long-distance migrant subspecies *Falco columbarius columbarius* was reported 13 Sep-20 Nov (TH, JR, MB); the only report of *F. c. richardsoni*, the usual wintering subspecies, was from Broken Bow 18 Oct (TH).

Prairie Falcon: Rather early eastward birds were in Fillmore Co 13 Oct (JRi) and 17 Oct in Buffalo Co (KS).

Peregrine Falcon: A "very dark" juvenile near Broken Bow 15 Aug (TH) was rather early.

King Rail: The bird(s?) reported in summer were seen through 16 Aug at LPB (KSc photo, JC, SS).

Virginia Rail: Reports were routine for this common summer resident and migrant.

Sora: Breeding likely occurred at LPB, where single birds were noted 5 and 12 Aug (KSc, MC). Migration was peaking around 22 Sep, when 12 were counted in "a small area" of Gadwall WMA, Hall Co, (SM). One in Custer Co 2 Nov (TJW) was only the 5th Nov record; there are none in Dec.

American Coot: The 3770 in Lancaster Co 13 Oct (LE) was a good count; highest are 5000+.

Sandhill Crane: Two adults and an immature were at County Line WPA, Clay Co, 31 Aug (JD); this appears to be a new RWB breeding location. Migrants were first seen near Mitchell 25 Sep (KD) and last were 8 at BOL 21 Nov (L&BP).

Whooping Crane: The only report was of 2 adults in Knox Co 29 Oct (MB).

Black-bellied Plover: Four at Cottonwood WPA, Phelps Co, 7 Nov (PD) were tardy. Molt is underway as these birds pass through Nebraska; an adult in alternate plumage was in Hamilton Co 1 Aug (JC, SS), another in Washington Co was in transition to basic by 2 Sep (JR), and an adult in basic was in Perkins Co 9 Sep (TJW).

American Golden-Plover: Good numbers were reported, including an excellent tally of 263 in Seward Co 15 Oct (JGJ). Most migrants in fall are juveniles, but a single presumed adult was in Hamilton Co 18 Aug (PD), one of only about 20 such records.

Semipalmated Plover: Reports were routine for this common migrant.

Killdeer: Best count reported was 300 in Seward Co 15 Oct (JGJ); record count is 700.

Mountain Plover: A group of 9 was found in Kimball Co 28 Aug (<http://www.facebook.com/MountainPlover>).

Black-necked Stilt: None were reported, as might be expected following a summer season with reports only from traditional Sandhills locations.

American Avocet: The 6 at BOL 10 Nov (LE) provided the 3rd-latest record.

- Spotted Sandpiper:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and migrant.
- Solitary Sandpiper:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.
- Greater Yellowlegs:** The 37 in Phelps Co 6 Oct (JGJ) was a good fall count. Best counts are 50+.
- Willet:** A "raucous" juvenile was in Hamilton Co by 5 Aug (PD), rather early even for this early fall migrant; most are gone before Sep. Rather late was one at Jack Sinn 27 Aug (LE); another was easterly in Washington Co 13 Aug (JR, JED). Fall migrants are rare in the east.
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Upland Sandpiper:** The 72 in one field in Pierce Co 4 Aug (MB) must have indicated peak migration; most are gone by Sep. Record fall counts are 175+.
- Long-billed Curlew:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident; most depart by Sep.
- Marbled Godwit:** The 4 in Keith Co 3 Oct (MB) were tardy for this generally early migrant.
- Ruddy Turnstone:** The only report of this rare fall migrant was of one in Hamilton Co 4-6 Aug (PD, L&BP).
- Sanderling:** Reports were routine for this fairly common migrant.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Two fresh juveniles were with about 30 adults in Hamilton Co 2 Aug (PD); juveniles generally begin to outnumber adults by mid- to late Aug. Three in Phelps Co 6 Oct (JGJ) were rather late.
- Western Sandpiper:** Six were reported, fewer than expected in fall. All were singles 9 Aug-1 Oct (LE, WRS, JGJ, CNK, MB), including juveniles 25 Aug at LNB (JGJ) and at L Wanahoo, Seward Co, 16 Sep (WRS, PS).
- Least Sandpiper:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.
- Baird's Sandpiper:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** Nebraska's 4th was a juvenile at Cottonwood WPA, Phelps Co, 6 Oct (JGJ). All 4 records are of juveniles in the period 8 Sep-12 Oct.
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.
- Dunlin:** Reports were routine for this uncommon fall migrant.
- Stilt Sandpiper:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Reports were widespread in the east in low numbers through 1 Sep, when 2 were in Hamilton Co (PD). Best count was only 23, in Sarpy Co 7 Aug (ARy).
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** The reports were in the expected early fall period 13 Aug-5 Sep (LE, PD, CNK).
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.
- Wilson's Snipe:** Breeding occurs in se Nebraska on occasion; 3 birds were "flying in circles" at Jack Sinn 15 Aug (WRS), and 2 were seen there 20 Aug (LE). One was in Washington Co 21 Aug (JR, JED). All of these may have been migrants, however, as young birds gather into small flocks ("wisps") to migrate as early as late Jul.
- American Woodcock:** The only report of this elusive fall migrant was of one flushed from long grass at L Wanahoo, Saunders Co, 8 Oct (CNK).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Red-necked Phalarope:** This is an uncommon fall migrant eastward; 1-3 were in Washington Co 21 Aug-2 Sep (JR, JED). Singles were in Lancaster Co 15 Sep (CNK) and 7-10 Oct (LE), the latter rather late.

- Red Phalarope:** Only the 14th fall record was one at BOL 5 Oct (PD).
- Long-tailed Jaeger:** Nebraska's 6th for fall (8th overall) was a juvenile intermediate phase bird, photographed at Winters Creek L, Scotts Bluff Co, 18-19 Sep (PS, WRS, KD et al).
- Black-legged Kittiwake:** A juvenile which appeared at BOL 19 Nov (LE) was seen by many through 27 Nov (m. ob.; photo JGJ). This is only the 19th fall record for the state.
- Sabine's Gull:** The 3 reports were about as expected: single juveniles were at BOL 16-18 Sep (WRS, PS, LE), GPD 20 Sep (MB), and at Medicine Creek Res, Frontier Co, 27 Sep (LE).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** Good numbers passed through 1 Oct- 29 Nov (m. ob.); best count was an excellent 179, one of which was still in alternate plumage, at CBL 24 Nov (JGJ).
- Ross's Gull:** Apparently part of a Northern Great Plains influx involving about 5 birds, one very pink-breasted bird thrilled many observers at GPD after being discovered 26 Nov; it was still present 30 Nov (MB, m. ob.).
- Laughing Gull:** One at BOL 11 Nov (DL) was about the 20th overall for Nebraska, 6th for fall.
- Franklin's Gull:** Although not near a record, the 22,020 in Lancaster Co 1 Oct (LE) was a good tally for this abundant migrant. There are 3 counts (estimates?) of 85,000+.
- Mew Gull:** As is often the case, one rarity begets another; the many observers of the GPD Ross's Gull were treated to a Mew Gull there at the same time, 26-29 Nov (MB, m. ob.). This is the 13th fall record, 24th overall.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.
- California Gull:** Three of the 4 reports were as expected from LM; these were a single adult 17 Sep (WRS, PS), 17 on 23 Sep (KDy), and 2 on 17 Oct (CG). An adult photographed in difficult bright light at Oak L, Lincoln, 13 Nov (WRS, PS) had features of this species (dark eye, long straight bill, a fading red spot on the lower mandible) and was thought to be of the prairie-breeding subspecies *Larus californicus albertainensis* (WRS, PS). Easterly records of this species have been of the same subspecies, whereas those at LM may be either this or the nominate *L. c. californicus*.
- Herring Gull:** Surprisingly early for adults were the 10 seen at LM and in the Panhandle 18-19 Sep 2010 (WRS, PS). There is one earlier record of an adult, that of 3 at LM 27 Aug 2006.
- Thayer's Gull:** There were 4 reports during the period; 2 adults and a first winter were rather early at LO 1 Nov (MR) and an adult and a first winter were there 23 Nov (CG), 2 birds were at GPD 26 Nov (MB), and a first winter was in Lincoln Co 29 Nov (TJW).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** There were 5 reports involving at least 6 birds; this species is now a regular migrant in low numbers. An un-aged bird was at LM 17 Oct (CG), an adult and a 3rd-year bird were there 1-2 Nov (MR), a second year bird was in Scotts Bluff Co 1-2 Nov (MR), a second year bird was at Oak L, Lincoln, 8-26 Nov (JC, SS, m. ob.), and an adult was there 29 Nov (JGJ).
- Glaucous Gull:** The only bird arriving in time to make the Fall Report was one at GPD 26 Nov (MB).
- Great Black-backed Gull:** Surprisingly, there were two reports of this rare gull: an adult was photographed at LM 23 Sep (KDy) and a first winter was at GPD

26 Nov (MB), the latter adding to the gull bonanza there in late Nov. There are now 10 records for fall: the earliest 5 are all adults, and 4 of the records are from LM.

Least Tern: Reports from non-breeding locations involved about 10 birds in the period 13 Aug (JR, JED) through 25 Aug (WRS, LE, JGJ), about as expected.

Caspian Tern: Reports were of 8 birds at 3 locations 11 Sep-1 Oct (LE, MB, TJW), also about normal for fall.

Black Tern: Two at BOL 27 Sep (JGJ) were tardy; latest dates are 2 and 5 Oct.

Common Tern: Reports were routine for this uncommon fall migrant.

Forster's Tern: Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.

Rock Pigeon: Reports were routine for this common resident.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Far less common in cities than rural areas, numbers of this species are, however, increasing in cities: the 14 in Lincoln 14 Aug was the observer's best count yet (RE).

White-winged Dove: The only report was of one in Ogallala 14-15 Aug (CWH, JO), fewer than have been reported in recent falls.

Mourning Dove: Reports were routine for this common summer resident and abundant migrant.

Rosy-faced Lovebird: An obvious escapee or released bird was hanging out at the Omaha Purple Martin roost 4-17 Sep (JR). This species is established in a few much warmer locations in the US.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: One at WP 18 Sep (RSt) was a bit tardy, although there are a few records for early Oct.

Black-billed Cuckoo: There were only 3 reports: singles were in Dixon Co 8 Aug (JJ), at LM 17 Sep (WRS, PS), and in Otoe Co 10 Oct (KDy), which is 2nd-latest on record by 5 days.

Barn Owl: This species is uncommon in the ne. half of Nebraska. A nest in a grain bin near Creighton had 6 young 9 Aug and 5 fully-feathered young 24 Aug, with one apparently having fledged (MB, DSt).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Reports were routine for this common resident.

Great Horned Owl: Reports were routine for this common resident.

Burrowing Owl: A pair of juveniles were beside a burrow at WSR 18 Sep (WRS, PS).

Barred Owl: Reports of this species along the slowly-expanding west edge of its Nebraska range are increasing; singles were near Palmer 12 Oct (CL) and at Niobrara SP, Knox Co, 20 Oct (TJW).

Long-eared Owl: Likely breeding in the area was one in n. Knox Co 24 Aug (MB, DSt); the only other report was of one at Holmes L, Lincoln, 8 Nov (LE).

Short-eared Owl: The only report was of one in Dodge Co 4 Nov (D&JP); fall movement is irregular and probably mostly nomadic rather than migration in the usual sense.

Common Nighthawk: Migration peaks around 1 Sep; "hundreds" were over Bellevue 31 Aug (RS). Nine flying over Bellevue 9 Oct (L&BP) were tardy. Last dates are around 20 Oct.

Common Poorwill: Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

Whip-poor-will: This species is common at Bohemia Prairie WMA, Knox Co; 12 were there 24 Aug (MB, DH). Rarely reported in fall, one at PRSP 20 Sep (MB) was 4th-latest on record; latest is 2 Oct.

Chimney Swift: Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

- White-throated Swift:** Reports were routine for this fairly common local summer resident in the Panhandle.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Reports were numerous, peaking during Sep, when a record 25 were at ICSP 4 Sep (KDy) and 8 were in each of two yards in Lancaster Co 16 Sep (S&RW) and Douglas Co 28 Sep (DSt). Earliest migrant was a male in a Lincoln yard 24 Jul (S&RW); also early were one in Dixon Co 1 Aug (JJ) and a male in Lincoln 8 Aug (JGJ). There are now several late Jul records where summering was not noted that suggest migration does indeed begin in late Jul with males arriving first. The bulk of migration begins around 10 Aug, however, when females and immatures arrive. Last was a female in a Lincoln yard 17 Oct (S&RW); there is only one later date on record, 23 Oct. Westerly reports are increasing; a juvenile was in a Scotts Bluff Co yard 21 Aug (KD), the 11th fall Panhandle record, and female/immature singles were in a Brady yard 19 and 26 Aug (TJW).
- Calliope Hummingbird:** The only report of this rare migrant was of one in a Mitchell yard 17-18 Aug (KD).
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird:** Single birds were noted on 3 dates in a Mitchell yard: 21, 27, and 28 Aug (KD), and 2 were in a Sidney yard 28 Aug (AS), typical dates and locations.
- Rufous Hummingbird:** There were only 2 reports: an immature male and a female were in a Mitchell yard 28 Aug (KD), and one was easterly at Creighton 15 Sep (MB). The latter was rather late, although typical of easterly fall records.
- Belted Kingfisher:** Reports were routine for this fairly common resident.
- Lewis's Woodpecker:** An exciting discovery was a pair with a juvenile in lower Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 16-19 Aug (MB, EB, JR). Whether they bred nearby is unknown; this species becomes more noticeable during Aug when fledged birds become mobile. Reports away from the Pine Ridge are few; a juvenile at LM 18 Sep (CB et al., details) provided only the 3rd such record.
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** Rather late for dependent young, adults were feeding a begging fledgling near Omaha 3 Oct (JGr). A rather late juvenile for the location was near North Platte 3 Oct (TJW).
- Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Westernmost was one visiting a Mitchell yard 30 Sep-31 Oct (KD); it had not been seen during the summer. Somewhat less surprising but significant was a male at Bridgeport 16 Sep-25 Oct (LJH). There appear to be only about 5 reports, likely of only 3 individuals, west of LM.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** About 14 were reported; earliest was in Bellevue 3 Oct (KCR). Westerly were one in Lincoln Co 23 Nov (VC, photo), 2 in Lincoln Co 6 Nov (TJW), and an immature in Cherry Co 11 Oct (WF). There are more reports westward in fall than in spring.
- Red-naped Sapsucker:** The two reports were at expected locations and dates for this rare fall migrant in the Panhandle: singles were at Oliver Res, Kimball Co, 17 Sep (WRS) and in Scotts Bluff Co 29 Sep (AK).
- Downy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this common resident.
- Hairy Woodpecker:** The 4 at Wehrspann L, Sarpy Co, 6 Nov (NR) was a good count for this low-density species; they may have been a family group.
- Northern Flicker:** Reports were routine for this common resident and migrant.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** Reports were received from the traditional locations at ISCP and FF (m. ob.); less consistent is the Steamboat Trace Trail in e. Otoe Co, where there have been a few recent sightings, including singles this fall 12 Sep and 17 Oct (LF).

- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The 5 sightings were from the east in the period 22 Aug-13 Sep (LE, RS, L&BP, JR), as expected.
- Western Wood-Pewee:** Reports were routine for this common western summer resident.
- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Last reported was at ADF 30 Sep (LF), a bit tardy. A "very dark" bird reminiscent of Western Wood-Pewee was at FF 22 Sep (JR); identification as such was not confirmed, however.
- Alder Flycatcher:** At least one of 3 birds at FF 3 Sep was calling (JR), and another in a Lincoln yard 22 Sep was identified as this species from a photo (S&RW, WRS). The latter is the latest on record.
- Willow Flycatcher:** One at WSR 11 Sep (AK) was rather late.
- Least Flycatcher:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.
- Hammond's Flycatcher:** The only report of this rare fall migrant was of one at Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS).
- Cordilleran Flycatcher:** The 3 reported were from well-known Panhandle migrant traps: singles at WSR 25 Aug (HKH) and 11 Sep (AK), and Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS). Migrants (away from breeding areas) are still not often reported.
- Eastern Phoebe:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident.
- Say's Phoebe:** Reports were routine for this fairly common westerly summer resident.
- Great Crested Flycatcher:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Cassin's Kingbird:** The 2 at Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS) were the only ones found away from breeding areas, indicating fall migrants.
- Western Kingbird:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Eastern Kingbird:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** The only report, following the 2 unsuccessful nesting attempts this summer, was of one in se. Lincoln Co 13 Aug (TJW).
- Northern Shrike:** The winter started well for this species; first reported was in Custer Co 18 Oct (TH), and by the end of the period 10 more were found (TJW, LE, JJ), including 3 juveniles and an adult in Lincoln Co 9 Nov (TJW).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and rare winter resident in the southeast.
- White-eyed Vireo:** An adult in Imperial 3 Oct (MB) was only the 3rd fall record away from the east, and also provided a rather late date.
- Bell's Vireo:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** Reports were routine for this fairly common eastern summer resident.
- Plumbeous Vireo:** There were no reports of this rarely-noted fall migrant.
- Cassin's Vireo:** There was a good showing by this species, with about 9 reported, including an after-hatch-year bird banded at WHNC 1 Sep (CW) and somewhat easterly reports of 3 at Lisco 28 Aug (KD) and 2 at LO 17 Sep (WRS, PS). Others were singles at Oliver Res, Kimball Co, 17 Sep (WRS, PS) and in Scotts Bluff Co 17 and 18 Sep (KD).
- Blue-headed Vireo:** One in Douglas Co 21 Oct (RS) was rather late.
- Warbling Vireo:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Philadelphina Vireo:** None were reported; this is an uncommon fall migrant.
- Red-eyed Vireo:** Uncommon in the west, one was in Scotts Bluff Co 19 Sep (KD); one at WP 2 Oct (LE) was tardy.

- Blue Jay:** Migrants were in evidence and on time in early Oct, although counts were only moderate: 32 over Friend 2 Oct (JK) and 29 in Dixon Co 5 Oct (JJ).
- Pinyon Jay:** None were reported; this is a somewhat enigmatic and unpredictable resident.
- Black-billed Magpie:** Interesting reports from areas where the species is rare included the observer's 2nd for Custer Co near Broken Bow 18 Oct (TH) and one in Nuckolls Co 19 Oct (WF).
- American Crow:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident and fall migrant.
- Horned Lark:** Reports were routine for this common resident.
- Purple Martin:** The Omaha roost reached 20,000 by 7 Aug (JR) and peaked at 30,000 on 4-14 Sep (JR). Numbers had dropped to 250 by 20 Sep and none were present 27 Sep after the passage of a cold front (JR).
- Tree Swallow:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and common fall migrant.
- Violet-green Swallow:** Reports were routine for this fairly common western summer resident.
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and common fall migrant.
- Bank Swallow:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident.
- Cliff Swallow:** A few were still in nests in Wheeler Co 1 Aug (TJW); most colonies depart in early Aug.
- Barn Swallow:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Black-capped Chickadee:** This species appears to be making a slow recovery in areas where numbers had declined markedly, such as Lancaster Co (LE).
- Tufted Titmouse:** Reports were routine for this common resident.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Numbers were about average for this fairly common winter visitor.
- White-breasted Nuthatch:** Reports were routine for this common resident.
- Brown-headed Nuthatch:** One of the more stunning finds in Nebraska ornithology was a single bird of this species in mature pines at Holmes L, Lincoln, 8 Nov (LE). Two were thought to be present based on spacing of calls and sightings 10 Nov (RSt, CNK) and 2 were actually seen together 12 Nov (RE). The birds remained through the period and were seen by many observers. It is remarkable that Holmes L, Lincoln, is almost certainly the only place that has hosted all 4 North American nuthatch species! A paper by Frank Renfrow (<http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/NAB/v057n03/p00422-p00428.pdf>) suggests that while this species is generally sedentary, irruptions have occurred as a result of major habitat destruction, such as fire or clear felling.
- Pygmy Nuthatch:** Reports were routine for this common resident of northern Panhandle pine woodlands.
- Brown Creeper:** Reports were routine for this fairly common winter resident.
- Rock Wren:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Carolina Wren:** Survivors of the severe winter 2009-2010 remain, mostly in the southeast, but there were several reports of birds appearing late in summer where none had been present earlier, suggesting that shuffling of territories and movement into areas of unoccupied habitat is ongoing. Such reports included one calling at FF 18 Aug at a location where none were present in spring and summer (RS), one that appeared in an Omaha yard 19 Sep (RM), and the "first since 1 Aug" in a Bellevue yard 12 Oct (L&BP). A few were reported

away from the se.; singles were in Red Willow Co 26 Sep (JG), at HCR 15 Oct (KS), at Grand Island 17 Oct (SM), and in Fairmont 17 Oct (JRI).

House Wren: Two in Dixon Co 8 Nov (JJ) were the 8th-latest on record.

Winter Wren: As far as is known, there are no proven records of the newly-split Pacific Wren in Nebraska, although the NOU Records Committee is studying the matter. The only reports identifying birds as Eastern or Pacific Wrens indicated Easterns by calls in Buffalo Co 17 Oct (WF) and at LO 2 Nov (MR). The latter, as well as one in Mullen 12 Oct (WF) and singles in Hitchcock Co 27 Nov (LR, RH) and at McCook 28 Nov (LR, RH), were westerly. An early arrival at Wehrspann L 4 Sep (JWH) was 2nd-earliest on record; another in Dixon Co 19 Sep (JJ) was rather early also.

Sedge Wren: One in Douglas Co 22 Oct (NR) was rather late.

Marsh Wren: Reports were routine for this common summer resident and migrant.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: The 50 at PSP 18 Sep (MB) was an excellent count; high is 51.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Reports were from all parts of the state except the Sandhills (m. ob.); the expansion over the last few years has been rather rapid.

Eastern Bluebird: A record fall count of 300 was made at BOL 2 Nov (ET). One in Scotts Bluff Co 2 Nov (KD) was rather late there. A productive nest-box near Bennington produced 3 broods, each of 3 young, over the summer (JM).

Mountain Bluebird: Good numbers had arrived in the wintering range in se. Lincoln Co by mid-Oct; 40 were there 17 Oct (LR, RH).

Townsend's Solitaire: A remarkably early eastern report was of one in Otoe Co 27 Aug (LF, SQ, details); there are late Aug arrival dates for the Panhandle, and one for Lincoln Co.

Veery: None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant, mostly in the east.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant, mostly in the east.

Swainson's Thrush: Numbers are lower in fall, and so a record-tying count was the 4 at WSR 18 Sep (WRS, PS).

Hermit Thrush: The 3 in Knox Co 17 Oct (MB) was a good count; high is 8. Westerly, and likely of the Rocky Mountains subspecies *Catharus guttatus auduboni*, an earlier migrant than eastern *C. g. faxoni*, were one banded 21 Sep at Chadron SP (BC) and one at Bridgeport 14 Oct (LJH). A few linger into the winter, such as one in a Bellevue yard 19-24 Nov (L&BP) and another at FF 24 Nov (RS).

Wood Thrush: Reports were routine for this fairly common eastern summer resident.

American Robin: A careful estimate of the number involved in a 20 minute fly-by in Knox Co 20 Oct yielded at least 150,000 birds (MB); flocks of "thousands" have been reported several times, notably in cedar areas in north-central Nebraska, but this is the first estimate of over 10,000 birds.

Gray Catbird: Scarce in the Panhandle in summer, migration yielded good numbers there, with 12 counted 18 Sep (WRS, PS); another 12 were in one bush at Aurora 22 Sep (SM).

Northern Mockingbird: Most leave the state in winter; a bit tardy was one in Pawnee Co 8 Nov (WF).

- Sage Thrasher:** None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant in the w. Panhandle.
- Brown Thrasher:** Reports were routine for this common statewide summer resident.
- European Starling:** Reports were routine for this abundant resident.
- American Pipit:** One at Pierce SL 13 Nov (MB) was a bit tardy.
- Sprague's Pipit:** There were 3 reports, all within the expected migration period: singles were at CLNWR 26 Sep (WW), at SCP 16 Oct (JR) and in Kearney Co 17 Oct (KS).
- Cedar Waxwing:** An adult was feeding a fledgling at FF 19 Sep (JR), rather late. The 130 at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 20 Nov (JR) was a good fall count.
- Golden-winged Warbler:** This species is very rare in fall, with only about 28 records in all. One of only 3 fall records away from the Missouri Valley was one at Enders Res, Chase Co, 2 and 3 Oct (MB).
- Tennessee Warbler:** Reports were routine for this fairly common eastern fall migrant.
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** One at ADF 25 Aug (LF) was rather early. The 50+ "everywhere" at North Platte 4 Oct (TJW) tied the record high count.
- Nashville Warbler:** Good numbers were reported in the east, including 50+ at PSP 18 Sep (MB), 2nd-highest on record, and another excellent count of 25 at FF 22 Sep (JR). One in Dixon Co 19 Aug (JJ) was rather early. Westerly, where uncommon, were singles at North Platte 3 Oct (MB) and in Hitchcock Co 26 Sep (GR).
- Northern Parula:** Latest on record by 7 days was one in a Bellevue yard 9 Oct (L&BP).
- Yellow Warbler:** Last reported was in Chase Co 2 Oct (MB); there are few Oct records.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Only one was reported, which is fewer than usual: a single was at FF 22 Sep (JR).
- Magnolia Warbler:** The only reports were of singles at ICSP 4 Sep (KDy) and at PSP 18 Sep (MB).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Surprisingly, the 3 reports of this rare migrant tied the total for the previous two species, with singles at WSR 22 Aug (HKH) and in Bellevue 16 Sep (ARy), and a female at PSP 18 Sep (MB). The WSR bird is earliest on record by 9 days.
- Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler:** The only report was of 4 migrants at Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS).
- Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** The 100+ at BOL 10 Oct (LE) was an excellent count; record is 129.
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** This species was reported more than usual; the total of 12 birds, including 5 at ICSP 13 Sep (JC), ties the high count for fall. A first fall bird was in Buffalo Co 20 Oct (TH), tardy and a little westerly.
- Townsend's Warbler:** The only reports of this fairly common Panhandle fall migrant were of 2 at WSR 19 Aug (HKH), rather early, and 5 at Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** Only two were reported, singles at ICSP 4 Sep (KDy) and PSP 18 Sep (MB).
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** None were reported; most depart the state by early Sep.

- Palm Warbler:** This species is less than annual in fall, with only 42 records in all, and so the 3 reported were unexpected. Singles were in Dixon Co 23-25 Sep (JJ), near Broken Bow 2 Oct (TH), and at BOL 7 Oct (LE).
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** Only one was found, in a Bellevue yard 9 Sep (L&BP). This species is generally more often reported in fall than in spring.
- Blackpoll Warbler:** Rare in fall, one was in Lincoln Co 10 Sep (TJW).
- Cerulean Warbler:** One of few fall reports of this species was one in an Omaha yard 19 Sep (RM, no details), the latest date for this species.
- Black-and-white Warbler:** One in Clay Co 15 Aug (JGJ) was rather early.
- American Redstart:** One of only about 10 reports in Oct for this species was of a female at Brady 5 Oct (TJW).
- Ovenbird:** Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
- Northern Waterthrush:** Surprisingly, there was only one report, a single at FF 7 Sep (JC, SS).
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** This species leaves early in fall, but 3 at PRSP 30 Aug may have been a little late due to re-nesting after the large floods earlier in the summer (JC, SS).
- Kentucky Warbler:** More than usual were reported for fall; this species leaves early in general. Singles were at ICSP 4 and 13 Sep (KDy, JC, SS), 1-3 were at FF 7-11 Sep (JC, SS, JR details), and westerly was a female in Lincoln Co 10 Sep (TJW, details). This species is very rare as far west as the Panhandle.
- Mourning Warbler:** One was westerly in Red Willow Co 7 Sep (WF, details). The only other report was of one at ICSP 4 Sep (KDy). This species is also very rare as far west as the Panhandle.
- MacGillivray's Warbler:** There were 4 Panhandle reports 11-19 Sep (AK, PS, WRS, KD), including one banded at Chadron SP 13 Sep (BC).
- Common Yellowthroat:** One in York Co 24 Oct (SM) was 6th-latest on record. The 8 in Otoe Co 10 Oct (KDy) was a good count.
- Wilson's Warbler:** Numbers were lower than usual, but reports were widespread 19 Aug-28 Sep (m. ob.).
- Canada Warbler:** A typical fall had 5 reports from the east 26 Aug-19 Sep (LF, JR, KDy), but a surprise was one in Hitchcock Co 26 Sep (D&JP). This is only the 11th away from the east.
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** Reports were routine for this common western summer resident.
- Summer Tanager:** ICSP has good numbers in summer; 5 were there 4 Sep (KDy) and 5 on 13 Sep (JR). Reports continued from other locations where this species has increased: PRSP 30 Aug (JC, SS) and FF 18 Aug (RS).
- Scarlet Tanager:** A big surprise was a female at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 20 Nov (JR, details), the latest ever by 10 days; there is only one other Nov record.
- Western Tanager:** Reports were routine for this fairly common Panhandle summer resident and uncommon migrant.
- Spotted Towhee:** Most appear in the south and east in mid-Oct, and so one in Lancaster Co 1 Oct (LE) was a bit early.
- Eastern Towhee:** Westward range in the Republican Valley is unclear, probably variable year-to-year, and confused by hybridization. Nevertheless, of interest were phenotypic Easterns in Frontier Co 26 Sep (KD) and Red Willow Co the same day (WF).
- Cassin's Sparrow:** None were reported; departure is early, usually in Aug.
- American Tree Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common winter visitor.

- Chipping Sparrow:** Large migrating flocks can be found in the west in fall, but are less often seen in the east. There were 80 at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, both 16 and 29 Sep, the latter flock mostly first year birds (JR).
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** About 90 were estimated in w. Nebraska 16 Sep, where they were "all over" (WRS, PS). Fall migration is extended; reports were in the period 29 Aug-23 Oct (m. ob.). Juvenile plumage is quickly lost, usually before migration, but one still in this plumage was in Custer Co 2 Oct (TH).
- Brewer's Sparrow:** The two reports were from expected w. Panhandle locations for migrants: one was at WSR 11 Sep (AK) and 4 were in w. Kimball Co 22 Sep (WRS, PS).
- Field Sparrow:** This species is uncommon westward, where the western subspecies occurs; one with a "very bland face" was at Oliver Res, Kimball Co, 17 Sep (WRS, PS). Other westerly reports were of 1-2 in Morrill Co 28-30 Sep (LJH), 3 at North Platte 4 Oct (TJW), and 2 in Hitchcock Co 27 Nov (LR, RH, details). The Hitchcock birds were rather late, although Dec records are fairly numerous in the south.
- Vesper Sparrow:** Breeding is as yet unknown in the e. RWB, although it may be occurring as this species adapts to row crop fields; 2 birds there 15 Aug were tagged "migrants or breeders?" (JGJ). As with Chipping and Clay-colored Sparrows, large numbers of this species are often seen in the west during fall migration. An estimated 220 were noted in w. Nebraska 16-18 Sep (WRS, PS), and 38 were in Frontier Co 27 Sep (LE).
- Lark Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident and migrant.
- Lark Bunting:** The east edge of the summer range is variable, depending presumably on weather conditions. Four near Broken Bow made only the 2nd sighting in the county by the observer (TH); "more than ever before" were seen there 13 Sep (TH).
- Savannah Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** Two in Custer Co 18 Oct (TH) were rather late, as was another as far n. as Antelope Co 10 Oct (MB).
- Henslow's Sparrow:** As expected, the only ones found at a prairie in Pawnee Co 15 Aug were the 5-6 using 3-year-old grassland on one of the ridges there (WRS). Rarely found during migration, one was at BOL 13 Oct (LE).
- LeConte's Sparrow:** Rather late was one in Omaha 7 Nov (JR). The 35 in Lancaster Co 16 Oct (CG) was a good tally; record count is 158.
- Nelson's Sparrow:** Reports are more frequent as observers understand where and when to look for these birds. There were 9 reports 1-22 Oct involving about 23 birds (m. ob.), including good counts of 7 at Little Salt Fork Marsh, Lincoln, 9 Oct (JGJ) and 6 at Jack Sinn 7 Oct (RSt). Most reports are from the east; one in Antelope Co 10 Oct was unusual there (MB).
- Fox Sparrow:** Numbers of this species continue to impress; over 40 were reported, including a count of 17 in Wayne Co 24 Oct (D&JP). Two were westerly, including one identified as a Slate-colored Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca schistacea*) at LO 1- Nov (MR). There are several other reports of grayish Fox Sparrows in Nebraska, but so far there are no documented reports of *P. s. schistacea* since its type specimen was collected in Nebraska. Fox Sparrows in Nebraska that appear to be grayer may be of the western race of Red Fox Sparrow, *P. s. zaboria*, or the more southerly western form *P. s. altivagans* (fide TEL), which name may actually refer to birds in a hybrid zone between

P. s. zaboria, *P. s. schistacea*, and the western Sooty Fox Sparrow (*P. s. unalascensis*). Bottom line: there are a few reports of grayish Fox Sparrows in Nebraska, but they are likely representatives of the greyer western races of Red Fox Sparrow, rather than true Slate-colored Fox Sparrow (*P. s. schistacea*). Also westerly this fall was one quite early at WSR 11 Sep (AK).

Song Sparrow: Reports were routine for this common resident.

Lincoln's Sparrow: The 40 in Webster Co 9 Oct (LR, RH) was a good count; record high is 100.

Swamp Sparrow: Reports were routine for this fairly common resident and fall migrant.

White-throated Sparrow: A tan-striped bird was rather early at FF 19 Sep (JR); this form occurs occasionally among adult White-throated Sparrows in Nebraska (all immatures are tan-striped).

Harris's Sparrow: The 275 in Wayne Co 24 Oct (D&JP) was an excellent count, exceeded only by the record count of 1000.

White-crowned Sparrow: One banded at Chadron SP 13 Sep was of the most commonly-occurring subspecies in Nebraska, grey-lore'd *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* (BC).

Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco: Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and uncommon fall migrant.

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: The 250 at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 28 Oct (JR) was a record fall tally.

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco: Arrival was very early, including an adult banded at WHNC 13 Sep (CW) and another adult at Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS). These are the 3rd and 4th-earliest arrivals on record.

Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco: The 2nd-earliest arrival on record was one at Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS).

McCown's Longspur: None were reported; this is an uncommon summer resident in the western Panhandle.

Lapland Longspur: Reports were routine for this common winter visitor.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Reports were routine for this uncommon western summer resident.

Snow Bunting: This may be a good winter for this species; usually few arrive before Dec, but this fall there were 6 reports involving some 34 birds. Most reports were from the sandy berms at LNB: 3 were rather early there 31 Oct (JJ), 12 were there 25 Nov (TJW), and 11 were there on 30 Nov (LE). Other reports were of 5-6 at BOL 13-15 Nov (UL, LE) and 2 at PL 24 Nov (JGJ).

Northern Cardinal: The small westerly populations e. of Scottsbluff in Scotts Bluff Co (AK) and at Bridgeport SRA, Morrill Co, (LJH) continue.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Reports were routine for this common western summer resident.

Black-headed Grosbeak: Reports were routine for this common western summer resident.

Blue Grosbeak: Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident.

Lazuli Bunting: Reports were routine for this fairly common Panhandle summer resident.

Indigo Bunting: The observer's Dixon Co yard tends to host the last Indigo Buntings to leave in fall; a female and a juvenile male were there 8 Oct (JJ). Last dates are in mid-Oct.

- Dickcissel:** Singles in Garden and Cheyenne Cos 1 Aug (WF) were the westernmost reported. Some locations were abandoned early; none were near McCook 8 Aug (LR, RH), and Lincoln Co birds had departed by 9 Aug (TJW). However, there were still good numbers reported around Omaha 7 Aug (ARy) and in Saunders Co 9 Sep (CNK). Departure from breeding locations generally occurs by late Sep, but there are several records of lingering birds. One was in Harlan Co 16 Nov (WF, details).
- Bobolink:** Flocks form in Aug, when molting occurs in marshes; 30 were at Sinninger WPA, York Co, 15 Aug (JGJ) and 18 were at Hultine WPA, Clay Co, 22 Aug (LE).
- Red-winged Blackbird:** Reports were routine for this common resident and abundant migrant.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Western Meadowlark:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident and uncommon winter visitor.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Rusty Blackbird:** Few were reported, although numbers are often higher later into winter. In Dixon Co, there were the "fewest in years", however (JJ). Only 26 were reported, 19 of these in Lancaster Co 22 Nov (LE).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** Easterly were 30 in Thayer Co 31 Oct (LR, RH) and 11 in Polk Co 21 Nov (LR, RH). Fall migrants are fairly common eastward.
- Common Grackle:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident and abundant fall migrant.
- Great-tailed Grackle:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and fall migrant.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Departure from the north and west usually occurs in Oct; two at CLNWR 6 Nov (KL) were tardy.
- Orchard Oriole:** A female/immature at ADF 26 Sep (LF) was rather late; there are only 5 Oct records.
- Baltimore Oriole:** A phenotypically pure male at West Lawn Cem, Gering, 18 Sep (WRS, PS) was only the 5th fall record for the Panhandle, and the latest record there.
- Bullock's Oriole:** Adult males generally leave early on molt migration, thus a major surprise was one near Mitchell 18 Sep, the observer's latest by 3 weeks (KD).
- Purple Finch:** Numbers were about normal, with 14 reported, all in the east. Earliest were one in Dixon Co 22 Oct and 3 there the next day (JJ).
- Cassin's Finch:** At least 2 were at WHNC: a hatch year bird and an adult were banded 13 Sep (CW, details), and one was at the feeders there 19 Sep (KD). These are only the 5th and 6th Sep records for this species; fall reports are erratic.
- House Finch:** There is some indication that after their rapid spread westward and consolidation of numbers, there may be a decline underway. Best counts reported were 20+ in Lincoln Co 4 Oct (TJW) and 10 in Nebraska City 2 Aug (LF).
- Red Crossbill:** Occurrence of this species is highly erratic; despite a good cone crop, "few" were noted by one observer (AK), but 323 were banded at WHNC 1 Sep-6 Oct as compared to only 18 in 2009 (CW). The few available data suggest that numbers are highest in Sep most years.

- Common Redpoll:** None were reported; in "off" years, the few reports tend to be in mid-winter.
- Pine Siskin:** As with Red Crossbill, numbers banded during Sep (1 Sep-6 Oct) at WHNC were up: 155 compared to only 11 in 2009 (CW). These two species are erratic in occurrence, but these Sep numbers suggest that fall influxes may most likely be detected in Sep. Elsewhere, reports were widespread but numbers were low; best count was 25-30 in a Doniphan yard 20 Nov (JLL).
- Lesser Goldfinch:** All reports were from WHNC, where 6 were banded 1 Sep-4 Oct (CW) and 1-2 were reported 17 Sep (WRS, PS, AK).
- American Goldfinch:** Usually a late nester, an adult was feeding begging young at Wehrspann L 14 Oct (L&BP); the first half of Oct is about the limit for fledging young.
- Evening Grosbeak:** After the surprising appearance of several birds in the Panhandle this spring, the only report since is of 2 photographed in a Lincoln Co yard 5 Nov, the observer's first there in 25 years (VC, photo).
- House Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common resident.
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McCook Fall Field Days

The 2010 NOU Fall Field Days were held in McCook on September 24-26, and 57 members and friends were in attendance.

Field trip destinations included Medicine Creek Reservoir and points east, led by William Flack, Red Willow State Recreation Area and other Frontier County locations, led by T. J. Walker, and Swanson Reservoir State Recreation Area and the Benkelman sewage lagoons, led by Robin Harding and Lanny Randolph. A final tally of 131 species was recorded.

Gerhard Assenmacher, wildlife photographer and conservationist, spoke on Saturday night about his Medicine Creek Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is comprised of more than 550 acres of native prairie and rich bottomland in Frontier County. It surrounds Medicine Creek, a principal tributary of the Republican River, and is one of the few protected properties in the Mixed Grass Prairie Ecoregion, which has been designated as a Natural Legacy Area by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission.

Fall NOU Meeting - McCook

	Chase	Dundy	Frontier	Furnas	Gosper	Hayes	Hitchcock	Lincoln	Red Willow
Ferruginous Hawk							x		
Rough-legged Hawk							x		
American Kestrel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
American Coot		x	x		x		x	x	
Killdeer		x	x	x			x	x	x
Greater Yellowlegs						x			
Lesser Yellowlegs		x							
Solitary Sandpiper		x	x						
Spotted Sandpiper		x	x				x		
Western Sandpiper			x						
Least Sandpiper			x						
Baird's Sandpiper		x	x						x
Pectoral Sandpiper			x						x
Stilt Sandpiper			x						
Short-billed Dowitcher			x						
Long-billed Dowitcher			x						
Franklin's Gull			x	x	x		x	x	
Ring-billed Gull	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
Herring Gull			x						
Common Tern							x		
Forster's Tern			x				x		
Black Tern							x		
Rock Pigeon		x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Eurasian Collared-Dove	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mourning Dove	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Eastern Screech-Owl			x	x					x
Great Horned Owl			x						x
Burrowing Owl		x				x	x		
Common Nighthawk									x
Chimney Swift							x		x
Belted Kingfisher	x		x	x	x		x	x	x
Red-headed Woodpecker			x				x		
Red-bellied Woodpecker		x	x	x	x		x		x
Downy Woodpecker		x	x	x	x		x	x	x

Fall NOU Meeting - McCook

	Chase	Dundy	Frontier	Furnas	Gosper	Hayes	Hitchcock	Lincoln	Red Willow
Hairy Woodpecker			x				x		x
Northern Flicker	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Empidonax sp.			x						
Eastern Phoebe			x	x			x		x
Say's Phoebe			x	x		x	x		
Loggerhead Shrike						x			
Blue Jay			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Black-billed Magpie	x			x					
American Crow			x	x	x		x	x	x
Horned Lark	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Tree Swallow						x			
Bank Swallow			x						
Barn Swallow		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Black-capped Chickadee			x		x		x		x
Red-breasted Nuthatch							x	x	x
White-breasted Nuthatch			x	x	x			x	x
Rock Wren		x		x			x		
Carolina Wren									x
House Wren		x	x		x		x	x	x
Marsh Wren			x						
Ruby-crowned Kinglet							x		
Eastern Bluebird	x		x				x		x
Townsend's Solitaire			x			x			
American Robin	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Gray Catbird			x						x
Brown Thrasher			x				x		x
European Starling		x	x	x	x		x	x	x
American Pipit		x	x	x			x		x
Cedar Waxwing			x	x		x	x		x
Orange-crowned Warbler	x	x	x	x			x		x
Nashville Warbler							x		
Yellow Warbler							x		x
Yellow-rumped Warbler	x		x				x	x	x
Common Yellowthroat		x		x			x		x

Fall NOU Meeting - McCook

	Chase	Dundy	Frontier	Furnas	Gosper	Hayes	Hitchcock	Lincoln	Red Willow
Wilson's Warbler							x		x
Canada Warbler							x		
Spotted Towhee			x			x	x		x
Eastern Towhee			x						x
Chipping Sparrow			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Clay-colored Sparrow		x	x	x	x		x		x
Field Sparrow			x	x	x		x		x
Vesper Sparrow		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Lark Sparrow			x	x		x	x		
Lark Bunting		x	x			x			
Savannah Sparrow		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Grasshopper Sparrow		x	x	x					x
Le Conte's Sparrow									x
Song Sparrow	x		x	x			x	x	x
Lincoln's Sparrow			x	x			x	x	x
White-throated Sparrow									x
White-crowned Sparrow		x	x	x			x	x	x
Dark-eyed Junco	x						x		x
Northern Cardinal			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Blue Grosbeak			x						
Indigo Bunting			x				x		
Red-winged Blackbird			x					x	x
Western Meadowlark		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Yellow-headed Blackbird							x		x
Common Grackle			x	x	x		x	x	x
Brown-headed Cowbird									x
House Finch			x	x	x		x	x	x
Pine Siskin							x		
American Goldfinch	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
House Sparrow		x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Total species 131	17	46	98	53	35	36	92	51	75

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee:
A Review of the First 25 Years (1985-2009)

Mark A. Brogie
508 Seeley, Box 316
Creighton, NE 68729

The year 2009 marked the 25th year of existence of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (NOURC). Its beginning can be traced to one person - Wayne Mollhoff. Wayne raised the need for a records committee in the spring of 1985 at the NOU Annual Meeting in Gretna, Nebraska. At the general membership meeting, then-president Gary Lingle appointed Wayne to form a committee to establish a Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee. Using procedures from several other states' records committees, Wayne developed a set of operating guidelines or by-laws specific to Nebraska. Further discussion of a records committee continued at the 1985 NOU Fall Meeting at Halsey. At this meeting, by-laws and nominees to serve on the NOU Records Committee were presented and approved by the NOU Board of Directors, thus establishing the NOURC. Wayne was selected to serve as its first chairperson.

The functions and methods of the NOURC are described in its by-laws, which are printed in this issue and can also be found on the NOU website: www.noubirds.org. The Committee's purpose is to provide a procedure for documenting unusual bird sightings and to establish a list of all documented birds found in Nebraska. The "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" was first published in 1988 (NOU Records Committee 1988) and has been updated three times (NOU Records Committee 1997, 2004, 2009) and appended nineteen times (Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Jorgensen 2001, 2002, 2003; Mollhoff 1989). A chronological listing of all NOURC reports published in *The Nebraska Bird Review* (NBR) is listed below (Appendix 1). Included in this listing are all NOURC accession numbers and NOURC members involved in the particular year of the NOURC Report.

The documentation of many species over the years has helped to clarify their status and distribution in Nebraska. As a result, the NOURC annually determines the frequency of occurrence for all species in Nebraska, categorizing them as regular (reported 9 or more of last 10 years), casual (reported 4-7 years of last 10 years), or accidental (reported less than 2 of last 10 years). The NOURC actively seeks documentation for birds listed as casual and accidental, and for any species not currently on the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska". These records are voted on by the Committee. This listing and a "rare birds" documentation form can be found on the NOU website (<http://www.noubirds.org/Birds/Birds.aspx>). The Committee also seeks documentation for any species out of normal date/range distribution. These records are filed without votes.

Since its inception, and through 2009, the NOURC has filed 1266 records of 263 species that are on the current "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009", and an additional 34 records of species/genera not currently on the "Official List" (hybrids, exotics, etc.) have also been accessioned (Appendix 2). In order for a record to be accepted, a minimum of six votes in favor is required with no more than one dissenting vote (NOU Records Committee 1986). Each account of an accepted

record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and initial(s) of observers. Reviews of documentations over the past 25 years have led to 51 species added and 3 species deleted from the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" as shown in Appendix 1.

Occasionally, as shown in Appendix 2, some documentations for a species will be voted on while others will be filed without voting. This reflects the Committee's continuing advances in understanding of the abundance of a certain species. There may have been few records for a species submitted and therefore the Committee requested documentations for that species. When enough sightings were reported, it became clear the species was common enough that the Committee no longer requested documentation for that species, hence continued documentations were filed without votes. This illustrates the important role people who submit records have in our understanding of the distribution and abundance of Nebraska birds.

All records of the NOURC are available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM), Lincoln, NE. Interested parties should contact the current NOU Librarian or NOURC Chair, whose addresses can be found in the latest issue of *The Nebraska Bird Review* and on the NOU website (<http://www.noubirds.org>).

CURRENT NOURC MEMBERS:

Mark A. Brogie (MAB), chair, Paul Dunbar (PD), Joseph A. Gubanyi (JAG), Bill Huser (BH), Joel G. Jorgensen (JGJ), Loren Padelford (LP), W. Ross Silcock (WRS), T.J. Walker (TJW)

PAST NOURC MEMBERS:

Tanya Bray (TB), R.G. Cortelyou (RGC), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ruth Green (RG), Alan G. Grenon (AGG), Robin Harding (RH), Alice Kenitz (AK), Thomas E. Labeledz (TEL), Gary Lingle (GL), Wayne J. Mollhoff (WJM), Babs Padelford (BP), Bill Sharf (BS), John Sullivan (JS), Jerry Toll (JT), Rick Wright (RW).

Appendix 1

Chronological Listing of NOURC Articles Published in *The Nebraska Bird Review* Showing Additions and Deletions to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" (1986-2009)

NOU Records Committee. 1986. By-laws of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 54(4):72-74.

Mollhoff WJ. 1987. First report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 55(4):79-85.

(Accessions #1-65) NOURC: WJM-Chair, TB, RGC, RG, AK, TEL, GL, BP.

- NOU Records Committee. 1988. The official list of the birds of Nebraska.
(406 species) Mollhoff WJ, compiler. NBR 56(4):86-96.
- Mollhoff WJ. 1989. Second report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 57(2):42-47.
(Accessions #66-150) NOURC: WJM-Chair, TB, RG, AK, TEL, GL, BP.
Additions:
1. Great Black-backed Gull
2. Inca Dove
3. Ash-throated Flycatcher
4. Evening Grosbeak (inadvertently left off "Official List" - 1988).
- Grenon AG. 1990. Third report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 58(4):90-97.
(Accessions #151-245) NOURC: AGG-Chair,
TB, MAB, JAG, AK, TEL, WJM, BP.
Additions:
1. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
2. Greater Sage-Grouse
3. Sage Sparrow
- Grenon AG. 1991. Fourth report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 59(4):150-155.
(Accessions #246-294) NOURC: AGG-Chair,
TB, MAB, JAG, TEL, WJM, LP, RW.
Additions:
1. Vermilion Flycatcher
Deletions:
1. Carolina Chickadee
2. Brown Towhee
- NOU Records Committee. 1995. List of species for which the Records Committee
seeks documentation. Gubanyi JA, compiler. NBR 63(1):12-13.
- Gubanyi JA. 1996a. 1992, 1993 (fifth) report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 64(1):30-35.
(Accessions #295-358) NOURC: JAG-Chair,
MAB, RH, BH, JGJ, TEL, LP, BS, WRS.
- , 1996b. 1994 (sixth) report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 64(2):38-42.
(Accessions #359-360; 362; 364-366; 368-395) NOURC: JAG-Chair,
MAB, RH, BH, JGJ, TEL, LP, WRS.
- , 1996c. 1995 (seventh) report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 64(4):132-138.
(Accessions #396-450; 480-490) NOURC: JAG-Chair,
MAB, RH, BH, JGJ, AK, TEL, LP, WRS.
Additions:
1. Ruff
2. Little Gull

3. Ross's Gull
4. Lesser Black-backed Gull
5. Glaucous-winged Gull
6. White-winged Dove
7. Mountain Chickadee
8. Virginia's Warbler

NOU Records Committee. 1997. The official list of the birds of Nebraska.
(427 species) Gubanyi JA, compiler. NBR 65(1):3-16.

Brogie MA. 1997. 1996 (eighth) report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 65(3):115-126.

(Accessions #451-479; 491-614) NOURC: MAB-Chair,
RH,BH,JGJ,AK,TEL,LP,WRS.

Additions:

1. Yellow-billed Loon
2. Mew Gull
3. Band-tailed Pigeon
4. Acorn Woodpecker
5. Cave Swallow
6. Split of Northern Oriole into Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole

Brogie MA. 1998. 1997 (ninth) report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 66(4):147-159.

(Accessions #615-760; 361; 363; 367) NOURC: MAB-Chair,
SJD,RH,BH,JGJ,AK,TEL,WRS.

Additions:

1. Emperor Goose
2. Garganey
3. Curlew Sandpiper
4. Eurasian Collared-Dove
5. Split of Solitary Vireo into Blue-headed Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, and Plumbeous Vireo
6. (Above vireo split resulted in adding two species)
7. Scott's Oriole

Brogie MA. 1999. 1998 (tenth) report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 67(4):141-152.

(Accessions #761-810, 812-868) NOURC: MAB-Chair,
SJD,RH,BH,JGJ,AK,TEL,WRS.

Jorgensen JG. 2001. 1999 (11th) report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 69(2):85-91.

(Accessions #869-872 Deleted, 875, 877-888, 890-891,893-905, 907-909,
911-913, 915-924, 926-929, 931-932, 934-935, 945, 981). NOURC:
JGJ-Chair,SJD,RH,AK,TEL,BP,LP,JS.

Additions:

1. Glossy Ibis
2. White Ibis
3. Tufted Duck

4. Gray Flycatcher
5. Black-throated Gray Warbler
6. Hepatic Tanager
7. Brambling

Jorgensen JG. 2002. 2002 [sic] (12th) report of the NOU Records Committee. (mistitled 2000 report) NBR 70(2):84-90.
(Accessions #930, 933, 936-944, 946-967, 969-976, 978-980, 982-987, 994-996). NOURC: JGJ-Chair,SJD,RH,AK,TEL,BP,LP,JS.
Additions:
1. Reddish Egret
2. Arctic Tern
3. Dusky Flycatcher
4. Black Rosy-Finch

Jorgensen JG. 2003. 2001 (13th) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 71(2):97-102.
(Accessions #874, 892, 906, 910, 914, 925, 968, 977, 988-993, 997-1010).
NOURC: JGJ-Chair,SJD,AK,BP,LP,JS,WRS,JT.

Brogie MA. 2003. 2002 (14th) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 71(3):136-142.
(Accessions #811, 1011-1048). NOURC: MAB-Chair,
SJD,JAG,BP,LP,WRS,JT.
Additions:
1. Costa's Hummingbird
2. Hermit Warbler

Brogie MA. 2004a. 2003 (15th) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 72(2): 59-65.
(Accessions #1049-1084). NOURC: MAB-Chair,
JAG,JGJ,BP,LP,WRS,JT.

NOU Records Committee. 2004a. The official list of the birds of Nebraska: 2003. (447 species) Brogie MA, compiler. NBR 72(3):108-126.

NOU Records Committee. 2004b. Changes to the bylaws of the NOU Records Committee. Brogie MA, compiler. NBR 72(2):65.

----- 2004c. Correction to the 2001 (13th) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 72(2):65.

----- 2004d. Species for which the NOU Records Committee seeks documentation. Brogie MA, compiler. NBR 72(2):66-68.

Brogie MA. 2005. 2004 (16th) report of the NOU Records Committee. NBR 73(2):78-84.
(Accessions #1085-1109). NOURC: MAB-Chair,
JAG,JGJ,BP,LP,WRS,JT.
Additions:
1. Cackling Goose (split of Canada Goose complex)

- NOU Records Committee. 2005a. Correction to the 2002 NOURC report.
NBR 73(2):84.
- , 2005b. Correction to the official list of the birds of Nebraska: 2003.
NBR 73(2):84.
- Brogie MA. 2006. 2005 (17th) report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 74(2):69-74.
(Accessions #1110-1130). NOURC: MAB-Chair,
JAG,JGJ,BP,LP,WRS,JT.
- Brogie MA. 2007. 2006 (18th) report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 75(3):86-94.
(Accessions #1131-1175). NOURC: MAB-Chair,
PD,JAG,JGJ,WRS,JT,TJW.
- Brogie MA. 2008. 2007 (19th) report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 76(3):111-119.
(Accessions #1176-1205). NOURC: MAB-Chair,
PD,JAG,BH,JGJ,LP,TJW.
Additions:
1. Frigatebird species
2. Zone-tailed Hawk
3. Royal Tern
4. Eurasian Tree Sparrow
- Brogie MA. 2009a. 2008 (20th) report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 77(2):80-90.
(Accessions #1206-1270 & 873). NOURC: MAB-Chair,
PD,BH,JGJ,LP,WRS,TJW.
- NOU Records Committee. 2009a. The official list of the birds of Nebraska: 2009.
(454 species) Brogie MA, compiler. NBR 77(3):112-131.
- NOU Records Committee. 2009b. Accidental and casual species for which the
Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee seeks documentation.
Brogie MA, compiler. NBR 77(3):131-132.
- Brogie MA. 2009b. 2009 (21st) report of the NOU Records Committee.
NBR 77(4):160-168.
(Accessions #1271-1318). NOURC: MAB-Chair,
PD,JAG,BH,LP,WRS,TJW.
Additions:
1. Magnificent Frigatebird (replaces Frigatebird species - 2008)
2. Fish Crow
3. Grace's Warbler
Deletions:
1. Frigatebird species

Appendix 2. A list of all species, genera and hybrids for which documented sightings were submitted from 1986-2009, showing NOURC action taken for each submission including whether or not it was accepted or filed without votes. Entries in bold are species that are not on the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska". Class designations are defined in the NOURC bylaws which can be found on pages 167-170 in this issue and on the NOU website: www.noubirds.org.

	Records Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	7	1	4			2		
Taiga Bean-Goose	1					1		
Pink-footed Goose	1						1	
Greater White-fronted Goose	1					1		
Emperor Goose	1		1					
Ross's Goose	4					2		2
Brant	7		1			5	1	
Barnacle Goose	2						2	
Mute Swan	2						2	
Trumpeter Swan	1					1		
Tundra Swan	12	2	2			8		
Egyptian Goose	1						1	
Eurasian Wigeon	17		11			4	2	
American Black Duck	1					1		
Mallard	1							1
Blue-winged/Cinnamon Teal hybrid	1							1
Northern Pintail	7		2			3	2	
Tufted Duck	4		2			2		
Greater Scaup	2					1		1
King Eider	1		1					
Harlequin Duck	4		3			1		
Surf Scoter	3		3					
White-winged Scoter	6		2			3	1	
Black Scoter	11		3			8		
Bufflehead	4		1			3		
Barrow's Goldeneye	14		3			10	1	
Hooded Merganser	1							1
Red-breasted Merganser	1							1
Chukar	1						1	
Gray Partridge	1		1					
Greater Sage-Grouse	1					1		
Sharp-tailed Grouse	2						1	1
Greater Prairie-Chicken	1					1		
Red-throated Loon	20		7			12	1	
Pacific Loon	25		6			16	2	1
Common Loon	1							1
Yellow-billed Loon	10		4			6		
Red-necked Grebe	16		2			12	1	1

Appendix 2	Records Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Eared Grebe	1					1		
Clark's Grebe	16	1	1			13	1	
Brown Pelican	7		5			2		
Neotropic Cormorant	12		6			5	1	
Anhinga	5		1			4		
Magnificent Frigatebird	1					1		
<i>Fregata</i> species	2		1			1		
American Bittern	1						1	
Least Bittern	2		1					1
Great Egret	3					2		1
Snowy Egret	4		1			3		
Tricolored Heron	2		1			1		
Reddish Egret	2		1			1		
Cattle Egret	1		1					
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1					1		
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	10	1	1			4		4
White Ibis	6		3			3		
Glossy Ibis	13		3			8	2	
White-faced Ibis	1						1	
<i>Plegadis</i> species	1					1		
Roseate Spoonbill	2					2		
Wood Stork	3		1				2	
Turkey Vulture	1						1	
Osprey	1							1
Swallow-tailed Kite	2						2	
White-tailed Kite	5		2			3		
Mississippi Kite	10	1	3			3	1	2
Harris's Hawk	1					1		
Broad-winged Hawk	2						1	1
Zone-tailed Hawk	1					1		
Red-tailed Hawk	1							1
Ferruginous Hawk	1					1		
Rough-legged Hawk	1						1	
Golden Eagle	1							1
Merlin	2							2
Gyr Falcon	5	2				1	2	
Peregrine Falcon	2						1	1
Yellow Rail	5		1			2	2	
Black Rail	6			1			5	
King Rail	11		3	2		3	3	
Common Moorhen	6		3			3		
Sandhill Crane	2		1					1
Common Crane	13		9			4		
Whooping Crane	3		2					1
American Golden-Plover	1						1	
Snowy Plover	12		3			9		
Mountain Plover	6		2			3	1	

Appendix 2	Records Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Black-necked Stilt	8		5			3		
Greater Yellowlegs	1					1		
Eskimo Curlew	1						1	
Whimbrel	8		1			6	1	
Hudsonian Godwit	2					2		
Ruddy Turnstone	1					1		
Red Knot	12		4			4	1	3
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1					1		
Western Sandpiper	1					1		
Least Sandpiper	1					1		
Baird's Sandpiper	2					2		
Pectoral Sandpiper	1					1		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	4					4		
Curlew Sandpiper	3		1			2		
<i>Caladris</i> species	1					1		
Ruff	7		2			5		
Short-billed Dowitcher	6		4			2		
Long-billed Dowitcher	2					1		1
American Woodcock	1					1		
Red-necked Phalarope	1						1	
Red Phalarope	12		6			5	1	
Black-legged Kittiwake	15	1	6			8		
Ivory Gull	1						1	
Sabine's Gull	32		6			24		2
Black-headed Gull	2					1	1	
Little Gull	18		3			15		
Ross's Gull	6		4			2		
Laughing Gull	14		3			9	2	
Mew Gull	21		8			12		1
California Gull	6		3			3		
Thayer's Gull	24		3			11	6	4
Iceland Gull	22		5			14	3	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	30		4			25	1	
Slaty-backed Gull	2						2	
Glaucous-winged Gull	3		1			1	1	
Glaucous Gull	16		3			9	3	1
Glaucous/Herring Gull hybrid	1							1
Great Black-backed Gull	14		5			7	1	1
Gull species (unknown genus)	1							1
Caspian Tern	1					1		
Common Tern	3		1			2		
Arctic Tern	6		1		3	1	1	
Forster's Tern	1					1		
Royal Tern	2		1				1	
Black Skimmer	1						1	
Pomarine Jaeger	13		4		4	5		
Parasitic Jaeger	3					2	1	

Appendix 2	Records Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Long-tailed Jaeger	2		1			1		
<i>Stercorarius</i> species	3					3		
Band-tailed Pigeon	7		5			2		
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5		1			4		
Ringed Turtle-Dove	1						1	
White-winged Dove	19		11			6	1	1
Inca Dove	12		8			4		
Common Ground-Dove	3					2	1	
Monk Parakeet	1						1	
Greater Roadrunner	1						1	
Groove-billed Ani	1		1					
Barn Owl	1							1
Flammulated Owl	1						1	
Whiskered Screech-Owl	1							1
Great Horned Owl	1							1
Snowy Owl	4							4
Burrowing Owl	1							1
Barred Owl	1		1					
Long-eared Owl	2							2
Short-eared Owl	1							1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	1						1
Common Poorwill	1							1
Whip-poor-will	1					1		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2					1	1	
<i>Archilochus</i> species	1							1
Costa's Hummingbird	2		1			1		
Calliope Hummingbird	6		3			3		
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	12		3			8	1	
Rufous Hummingbird	11		4			4	2	1
Lewis's Woodpecker	7		2			2	1	2
Acom Woodpecker	2		2					
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2		1					1
Williamson's Sapsucker	1	1						
Red-naped Sapsucker	4		3			1		
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	1					1		
Pileated Woodpecker	5		2			2	1	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1					1		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2					1	1	
Acadian Flycatcher	1					1		
Alder Flycatcher	2			1			1	
Hammond's Flycatcher	13		2			9	2	
Gray Flycatcher	4					4		
Dusky Flycatcher	9					5	4	
Cordilleran Flycatcher	1			1				
Say's Phoebe	1					1		
Vermilion Flycatcher	1		1					
Ash-throated Flycatcher	2		2					

Appendix 2	Records Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Western Kingbird	1		1					
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	9		6			2		1
Loggerhead Shrike	1					1		
White-eyed Vireo	4		1			3		
Plumbeous Vireo	2					1		1
Cassin's Vireo	9	1				8		
Blue-headed Vireo	2		1			1		
Philadelphia Vireo	3					3		
Steller's Jay	6		3			3		
Pinyon Jay	3		2			1		
Clark's Nutcracker	8		2			6		
Fish Crow	2					2		
Chihuahuan Raven	1					1		
Common Raven	4					1	3	
Corvus (raven) species	1					1		
Cave Swallow	2		2					
Carolina Chickadee	1						1	
Mountain Chickadee	13	1	3			7	2	
Tufted Titmouse	1							1
Pygmy Nuthatch	1							1
Rock Wren	3		1			1		1
Canyon Wren	5		1	1		3		
Carolina Wren	1		1					
Bewick's Wren	7		2			4	1	
Winter Wren	2			1		1		
Marsh Wren	2					2		
American Dipper	1						1	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2						1	1
Western Bluebird	1						1	
Mountain Bluebird	1		1					
Townsend's Solitaire	2							2
Hermit Thrush	3		1			1	1	
American Robin	1							1
Varied Thrush	15		11			4		
Sage Thrasher	9		6			3		
Curve-billed Thrasher	7		5			2		
American Pipit	1					1		
Sprague's Pipit	7		2			5		
Bohemian Waxwing	3		2			1		
Phainopepla	1		1					
Blue-winged Warbler	7			1		5	1	
Golden-winged Warbler	4	1				2		1
Nashville Warbler	1					1		
Virginia's Warbler	5					5		
Northern Parula	2					2		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2					2		
Cape May Warbler	3	2	1					

Appendix 2	Records Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Black-throated Blue Warbler	4	1	1			2		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1					1		
Black-throated Gray Warbler	5		1			3	1	
Townsend's Warbler	8					6	2	
Hermit Warbler	1					1		
Blackburnian Warbler	4		1			2		1
Yellow-throated Warbler	2		1					1
Grace's Warbler	1		1					
Pine Warbler	13		5			4	4	
Prairie Warbler	7		2			5		
Palm Warbler	3					2		1
Bay-breasted Warbler	1					1		
Prothonotary Warbler	3					2		1
Worm-eating Warbler	8		1	2		4	1	
Ovenbird	1					1		
Connecticut Warbler	5		2			3		
Mourning Warbler	2					2		
MacGillivray's Warbler	7	1	2			1	2	1
Common Yellowthroat	1					1		
Hooded Warbler	7		1			3	2	1
Canada Warbler	1					1		
Green-tailed Towhee	2		1			1		
Spotted Towhee	1							1
Canyon Towhee	2						2	
Cassin's Sparrow	5		1			4		
Chipping Sparrow	2						1	1
Brewer's Sparrow	1							1
Vesper Sparrow	1					1		
Black-throated Sparrow	6		5			1		
Sage Sparrow	2					1	1	
Savannah Sparrow	3					2	1	
Baird's Sparrow	8		1			3	4	
Henslow's Sparrow	10		2	3		2	2	1
Nelson's Sparrow	5		1	1		2		1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1							1
Golden-crowned Sparrow	6		4			2		
Dark-eyed Junco	3		1			1		1
McCown's Longspur	2		2					
Smith's Longspur	7					5	2	
Chestnut-collared Longspur	1		1					
Hepatic Tanager	2		2					
Summer Tanager	3		2				1	
Western Tanager	2							2
Northern Cardinal	1							1
Rose-breasted/Black-headed Grosbeak hybrid	1					1		
Indigo Bunting	1						1	
Painted Bunting	8		4			3	1	

Appendix 2	Records Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Red-winged Blackbird	1							1
Brewer's Blackbird	1					1		
Common Grackle	1							1
Great-tailed Grackle	1						1	
Audubon's Oriole	1						1	
Scott's Oriole	4					2	2	
Brambling	4		1			2	1	
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	7		1			2	1	3
Black Rosy-Finch	5		1			4		
Pine Grosbeak	5		2			3		
Purple Finch	1							1
Cassin's Finch	3	1				2		
Red Crossbill	4		2			1		1
White-winged Crossbill	9		4			4		1
Common Redpoll	2					1		1
Lesser Goldfinch	15		9			3	3	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	1		1					
Totals	1300	19	375	14	7	641	147	97

The following procedural guidelines, or "by-laws", were revised and approved by the NOURC and the NOU Board of Directors (2010).

BY-LAWS OF THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION (N.O.U.) RECORDS COMMITTEE

I. NAME.

The name of the committee is the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (N.O.U.R.C.), hereafter referred to as "the committee".

II. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY.

This committee exists to serve the ornithological community of Nebraska, not vice versa. It exists to promote and help maintain a high degree of quality and integrity in Nebraska ornithology. All Nebraska ornithologists should understand this and realize that for the committee to achieve these goals, it needs the support of all interested persons. The committee should be regarded as a logical, convenient clearinghouse in regards to records of Nebraska birds. All ornithologists, professional and amateur, are invited

and encouraged to use it as such. The committee should not necessarily regard itself, nor be regarded by others, as infallible, and committee decisions should not be seen as reflecting in any way upon the competency of individual observers. Any of its decisions are subject to review upon submission of new evidence. Both individual observers and the committee should feel free to engage in an ongoing dialogue in the open literature. Individuals are also free to independently publish their findings and the committee should welcome this as an alternate way of contributing to Nebraska ornithology.

III. PURPOSES.

- A. To provide a standardized systematic procedure for routinely reviewing and documenting unusual reports of birds in Nebraska in a fair and impartial manner.
- B. To compile and keep current an official list of the birds of documented occurrence in Nebraska and to assemble and maintain a file of the documentary evidence, to be available for use by researchers in the future.
- C. To provide guidance and assistance in methods of improving identification and documentation, with the goal of improving both the quality and quantity of our knowledge of the birds of Nebraska.

IV. DUTIES.

- A. The committee shall publish an "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska".
- B. The official list will include all those species whose occurrence has been reported in Nebraska, the species categorized as specified in paragraph VII, D.
- C. The committee shall keep the official list current.
- D. The committee shall publish a list of species for which details are requested with every sighting reported.
- E. The committee shall publish a summary of reports submitted and actions taken on those reports at least annually.
- F. The committee shall establish and maintain a file of substantiating evidence documenting the occurrence and identification of the birds reported.

V. MEMBERSHIP.

- A. The committee shall be composed of at least seven members.
- B. If possible, members shall be chosen from across the state, to help avoid a regional bias.
- C. Members shall be persons familiar with the birds of Nebraska and experienced in field identification.
- D. New members shall be appointed by the committee with the approval of the N.O.U. Board of Directors.
- E. The committee shall select its own officers, to include at least a chairperson.

- F. Members shall serve 3-year terms, with one-third of the members' terms expiring each year so that continuity of membership is maintained. A member may serve no more than two consecutive terms, followed by a year off before being re-elected to the committee.
- G. The chairperson will not be subject to term limits, but may be removed from the committee by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- H. The chairperson shall be allowed to vote on records.
- I. The chairperson shall be a member of the Board of Directors.
- J. Two-thirds of the members shall constitute a quorum for voting on procedural matters.
- K. Since the business of the committee must be conducted in a timely fashion, if a member is consistently unable to work within the schedule, that member may be replaced.
- L. By a two-thirds vote, the committee may remove a member for failure to review records or other just cause.
- M. The committee may make and amend its rules as necessary, so long as they do not conflict with the rules and by-laws of the N.O.U.

VI. PROCEDURES.

- A. All reports submitted shall be referred to the chairperson.
- B. The committee prefers that reports be submitted on committee forms, although this is not absolutely necessary.
- C. The chairperson will review the report and assign it accession and file numbers.
- D. The chairperson may request additional information from the reporter, but if submitted it will be identified as such to keep it separable from the original report.
- E. The chairperson will submit copies to the committee members to review. The original material will be retained in the file.
- F. The members will individually review the material, make comments on it and return it to the chairperson. Members may indicate their vote on a written ballot sheet or vote electronically, returning their votes and comments to the chairperson promptly.
- G. If the vote is inconclusive, or if new evidence is submitted, the report may be recirculated for another vote or discussed at a meeting.
- H. When voting has been completed and a decision reached, the chairperson shall notify the reporter and the committee members of the decision reached and of the reasons for the decision.
- I. Decision on reports submitted will be published in the Nebraska Bird Review at least annually.
- J. A permanent file shall be maintained by the committee, which shall include all reports submitted, actions taken by the committee, comments, documentary evidence, photos, etc. The original material will be placed in a file in the N.O.U. library archives and maintained for use by anyone with a legitimate research interest. The chairperson should keep and maintain a notebook of record information for his/her own use.
- K. Any record, present or past, may be submitted to the committee for review. Reports already acted upon by the committee may be re-submitted if new evidence becomes available.

- L. The committee may send material to an outside authority for an opinion or evaluation.
- M. The committee may meet as necessary. A meeting may be called by the chairperson or by two-thirds of the members.
- N. The committee recommends as strongly as possible that specimens of rare birds taken in Nebraska be prepared and retained as voucher specimens in a public college or university museum collection in the state, where they will be assured proper curation and be available for study by researchers. The committee recommends the State Museum of Natural History at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln as the logical repository for such specimens.

VII. VOTING.

- A. All records need a minimum of six votes to be categorized.
- B. To be placed in a Class I, II, or III, a record must be voted 6-0, 6-1, 7-0, 7-1, 8-0, 8-1, etc., in that category.
- C. Only those species classified as I, II, or III will be recognized as accepted records on the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska".
- D. In compiling the official list, as well as voting on individual reports, the following categories will be used:

- Class I: A record for which there is an adequately labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for study.
- Class II: A sight record for which there is acceptable documentation provided independently by three or more observers.
- Class III: A sight record for which there is acceptable documentation provided independently by one or two observers.
- Class IV: A record which is probably correct, but not beyond doubt.
- Class V: A record with insufficient evidence submitted to support the stated identification.
- Class VI: Probably a released or escaped bird, probably mistaken identification, or otherwise unacceptable record.

- E. Records will be assigned to the highest category agreed upon by the committee with no more than one dissenting vote. If a record is circulated among 8 committee members and receives 2 votes as Class III, and 6 votes as Class IV, it will be categorized as a Class IV record. Similarly, if a record receives 3 Class III, 4 Class IV, and 1 Class V vote, it will also be categorized as a Class IV record. If it receives 3 Class III, 2 Class IV, and 2 Class V votes, it will be categorized as a Class V record.
- F. Members of the committee may vote upon their own records.

Mark A. Brogie - NOURC Chair
508 Seelcy, Box 316
Creighton, NE 68729

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President and Newsletter Editor: Urban Lehner, 15526 Pierce Circle, Omaha, NE 68144; urbanity@hotmail.com

Vice-President: Nancy Leonard, 15526 Pierce Circle, Omaha, NE 68144; neleonard@gmail.com

Secretary: Kevin Poague, 379 S. 46th St., Lincoln, NE; kpoague@neb.rr.com

Treasurer: Betty Grenon, 1409 Childs Road East, Bellevue, NE 68005; grenon925@aol.com

Librarian: Anita Breckbill, 3237 R Street, Lincoln, NE 68503; abreckbill1@unl.edu

Directors:

Roland Barth, 4002 Hunters Cove, Bellevue, NE 68123; rebarth@cox.net (2011)

Steve Lamphere, 3101 Washington St., Apt. 98, Bellevue, NE 68005; kingfisher65@aol.com (2012)

Jan Johnson, 86252-581 Ave., Wakefield NE 68784; bluebird47@cedarwb.net (2013)

Records Committee Chairman: Mark Brogie, Box 316, Creighton, NE 68729; mbrogie@esul.org

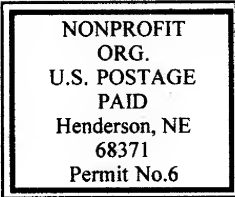
Editor of *The Nebraska Bird Review*: Janis Paseka, 1585 Co. Rd. 14 Blvd., Ames, NE 68621; paseka76@gmail.com

Occurrence Report Compiler: Ross Silcock, P.O. Box 57, Tabor, IA 51653; silcock@rosssilcock.com

Breeding Bird Atlas Project and Nest Records Coordinator: Wayne Mollhoff, 2354 Euclid St., Ashland NE 68003; wmollhoff@netscape.net

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Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.
3745 Garfield
Lincoln, NE 68506-1028



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