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Published quarterly in January, April, July, and October by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union as its official journal and sent free to all members who are not in arrears for dues. Subscriptions at $3.50 per volume in the United States and $3.75 in all countries, payable in advance. Single numbers, $1.00 each. All dues and subscriptions should be remitted to the Treasurer, R. G. Cortelyou, 5109 Underwood Ave., Omaha 32, Nebraska. Orders for back numbers should be sent to the Custodian, Miss Bertha Winter, University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, Nebraska. All manuscripts for publication should be sent to the Editor, Nebraska State Teachers College, Chadron, Nebraska.
Dr. R. Allyn Moser's Contribution to Ornithology

The members of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union wish to pay tribute to a fellow member whose efforts in behalf of the organization have had great influence on its growth and continuation. Our deepest thanks go to Dr. R. Allyn Moser, who gave so much of himself, his time and material possessions to the N. O. U. at a period when it seemed that the club could not continue.

The N. O. U., founded in 1899, flourished under the leadership of such men as Lawrence Bruner, Robert H. Wolcott and Myron H. Swenk, but with the death of Professor Swenk in 1941 the future of the N. O. U. looked discouraging. It was in 1935 that Dr. Moser became a member. He accepted the office of treasurer in 1944, and threw himself into the task of making the N. O. U. a strong organization again. His deep and sincere interest in ornithology, together with his magnetic personality, influenced many people, and brought a new and lasting interest into the lives of these people. New members were added to the N. O. U. list, and more money began coming in, much of this through Dr. Moser's generosity. His contagious spirit and enthusiasm spread to the other officers, and bird clubs and organizations throughout the state grew stronger. More interest was shown in the annual meetings and there was a better attendance.

In 1940 an Audubon Screen Tour lecture was brought to Omaha for the first time, entirely through the efforts of Allyn Moser and Fred W. Haecker. There was but one lecture that year and Dr. Moser paid all of the expenses involved in bringing the program to Omaha. In 1941 there were two Audubon lectures in Omaha, all details being handled by Dr. Moser, and in all the succeeding years the regular Audubon series of lectures has appeared in Omaha. Dr. Moser founded the Omaha Audubon Club, which helped to pay for the lectures. Later, the Omaha Concord Club took over the sponsorship of the series.

Dr. Moser is a life member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and served as its treasurer from 1948 through 1953. He has been a member of the Wilson Ornithological Society, and was instrumental in bringing the annual meeting of that club to Omaha in 1946. The meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union took place in Omaha in 1948, due to Dr. Moser's efforts.

The papers of Dr. Moser, on the Belted Piping Plover, the Genus Junco and the Glaucous Gull in Nebraska, were definite contributions to the ornithology of our state. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment was the compilation, together with Fred Haecker and Jane B. Swenk, of the Checklist of the Birds of Nebraska. This was published in May, 1945, and revised in November, 1945. Later, in 1958, a new checklist was published — that of Rapp, Baumgarten and Moser.

Allyn Moser was president of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union from 1946 through 1948. It is because of the work of such men as he that our organization is one of the best of its kind in the country. May his leadership and spirit be a sustaining influence to the members of N. O. U.

—Mary L. Perkins, Omaha
1958 Nesting Report
Compiled by M. L. and C. G. Pritchard

This is the third nesting report. We continue to summarize the information, but the original reports are kept in the files and may be reviewed later for more specific data. Areas one through five are the same areas established three years ago when we began the nesting report project. This year only twelve reports were submitted to the Editor. Eleven of Nebraska's 93 counties were represented: four from Area 1, three from Area 5, two each from areas 3 and 4. No reports were submitted from Area 2. Reporters were as follows:

Area 1. Mrs. Jack Brashear, Scottsbluff; Miss Doris Gates (aided by Mrs. Arthur Carroll, Dennis Carter, and L. E. Walters), Chadron; Mr. and Mrs. J. Mathisen, Alliance; Mrs. Roy J. Witschey, Scottsbluff.

Area 3. Mrs. Kate L. Armstrong, Columbus; Mrs. Lloyd Seabury, Plainview.

Area 4. Mrs. Morris A. Cox, Hershey; Mrs. Glenn Viehmeyer, North Platte.

Area 5. Audubon Naturalists' Club, Lincoln; Mrs. Maxine Brewer, Sherman County; Mrs. Chris Hansen and her Bird Study Class, Kearney.

State-wide records accumulated by the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission for game species.

1958 Nesting Report: One hundred nine species were reported nesting in Nebraska. After each species is listed the area (or areas) from which it was reported. Eared Grebe (1), Pied-billed Grebe (2), Double-crested Cormorant (1), Great Blue Heron (1, 4), Black-crowned Night Heron (3, 4), American Bittern (3), Mallard (all), Pintail (all), Green-winged Teal (2), Blue-winged Teal (1, 3, 4, 5), Gadwall (1, 2), American Widgeon (1), Shoveller (1, 2, 5), Redhead (1, 2), Lesser Scaup (1, 2), Ruddy Duck (1), Red-tailed Hawk (5), Swainson's Hawk (1, 4, 5), Golden Eagle (1), Marsh Hawk (1), Prairie Falcon (1), Sparrow Hawk (1, 4, 5), Greater Prairie Chicken (2, 3, 4, 5), Sharp-tailed Grouse (1, 2, 3), Gray Partridge (2), Bobwhite (all), Ring-necked Pheasant (all), American Coot (1, 2, 3, 5), Killdeer (1, 3, 4, 5), Long-billed Curlew (1), Upland Plover (3, 4, 5), Spotted Sandpiper (5), Wilson's Phalarope (1), Mourning Dove (1, 3, 4, 5), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (4, 5), Black-billed Cuckoo (1, 4, 5), Screech Owl (1, 3), Great Horned Owl (1, 4, 5), Poor-will (1), Chimney Swift (3, 5), Flicker (1, 3, 4, 5), Red-bellied Woodpecker (4, 5), Red-headed Woodpecker (4, 5), Hairy Woodpecker (3, 5), Downy Woodpecker (1, 3, 4, 5), Eastern Kingbird (1, 4, 5), Western Kingbird (1, 3, 4, 5), Great Crested Flycatcher (4, 5), Eastern Phoebe (1, 3, 5), Say's Phoebe (1, 3, 5), Eastern Wood Pewee (1), Horned Lark (1, 5), Violet-green Swallow (1), Bank Swallow (3), Rough-winged Swallow (1), Barn Swallow (1, 3, 4, 5), Cliff Swallow (1), Purple Martin (3, 5), Blue Jay (1, 3, 4, 5), Black-billed Magpie (1, 4, 5), Common Crow (1, 3, 5), Pinion Jay (1), Black-capped Chickadee (1, 4, 5), Tufted Titmouse (5), White-breasted Nuthatch (5), House Wren (1, 3, 4, 5), Rock Wren (1), Mockingbird (1, 4), Catbird (3, 5), Brown Thrasher (1, 3, 4, 5), Robin (1, 3, 4, 5), Wood Thrush (5), Mountain Bluebird (1), Loggerhead Shrike (1, 3, 4, 5), Starling (1, 3, 4, 5), Bell's Vireo (5), Red-eyed Vireo (1, 3), Warbling Vireo (5), Yellow

*As reported by Mary Lou Pritchard at the Nebr. Academy of Science. April 17, 1959.
Warbler (1, 3, 4, 5), Yellowthroat (1, 4), American Redstart (1), House Sparrow (1, 4, 5), Bobolink (4), Western Meadowlark (1, 3, 4, 5), Red-winged Blackbird (1, 3, 4, 5), Orchard Oriole (1, 3, 4, 5), Baltimore Oriole (3, 4, 5), Bullock's Oriole (1), Brewer's Blackbird (1), Common Grackle (1, 4, 5), Brown-headed Cowbird (4, 5), Western Tanager (1), Cardinal (4, 5), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (3, 5), Black-headed Grosbeak (1, 4), Blue Grosbeak (1, 5), Indigo Bunting (3), Lazuli Bunting (1), Dickcissel (1, 4, 5), House Finch (1), Pine Siskin (1), Goldfinch (5), Rufous-sided Towhee (1, 4), Lark Bunting (1, 4), Grasshopper Sparrow (5), Lark Sparrow (1, 4, 5), Chipping Sparrow (1), Song Sparrow (5).

Note: Since all the Flickers in Nebraska are considered hybrids, we have not listed the two flickers separately.

The "species present" (but not nesting) list is omitted this year. The evidence of nesting listed by the reporters was sufficient to include the bird in the nesting report, or the reports overlapped to such a degree that a bird listed as "present" by one reporter was confirmed by another with more conclusive evidence. The 1958 Report added 14 species to the list of birds nesting in Nebraska, bringing the total species to 127 reported for this project.

We should like to urge more members to participate in this project. Send to the Editor a list of the common species nesting in your backyards and neighborhoods! Two hundred such reports from across the State would fill noticeable gaps in our information. For instance, no Eastern Meadowlarks were reported at all in 1958, and the Crow and House Sparrow were reported from only three areas. Just mention the date (no need to confine your observations to the last week in June!), the name of the bird, and the evidence of nesting (nest found, eggs found, young seen, young being fed by adults, adults carrying food). We should appreciate having the longer lists in check-list order.

See p. 47, Mrs. Jack Brashear.
Meetings And Reports *

FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING.—The annual May meeting of N.O.U. was held in conjunction with the tenth anniversary meeting of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union at Yankton, South Dakota, May 16-17, 1959. The program was as follows: "Migratory Waterfowl Banding Recovery," Maurice Anderson; "The Wildlife Areas of the New Missouri River Reservoirs," Lester Berner; "Florida Birdlife," Liven A. Peterson; "Birdlife in Artificially Impounded Waters," Charles A. Hughlett; "Notes on the Nesting Behavior of a Pair of Canada Warblers," Herbert Krause; and "Bird Study of Jewel Cave National Monument, South Dakota," Dennis L. Carter. At the banquet, Oscar Alexis whistled examples of European and American bird songs. Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge, Director of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History of Minneapolis, Minnesota, showed pictures of "Some Natural History of the Central Canadian Arctic."

At the N.O.U. business meeting, the group suggested having two fall field days—one in eastern Nebraska and one in the west, and on different week ends so that those who cared to could attend both. It was also suggested that the winter meeting be dis-continued and the paper session in conjunction with the Nebraska Academy of Science be tried another year.

All of the incumbent officers were held over with the exception of the secretary and treasurer. Bill Huntley, former secretary, and Mrs. O. W. Ritchey, treasurer, both felt that they could not continue in their offices. Thus, the list of officers reads as follows: president, Mrs. John Lueshen of Wisner; vice president, Burton Nelson of Hastings; secretary, Mrs. S. A. Perkins* of Omaha; treasurer, Rushton G. Cortelyou of Omaha; custodian, Bertha Winter of Lincoln; and editor, Doris Gates of Chadron. Chadron was selected as the site of the 1960 annual meeting.

Appreciation for their part in making the meetings a success was expressed to Ruth Habeger, C. W. (Bill) Huntley, Mr. and Mrs. Willis Hall, Mr. and Mrs. John Lueshen, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gurney and their staff of the Charles Gurney Hotel, the Engineers of the U. S. Army, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, and the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission.

Following the close of the Sunday meeting, a few people remained to learn more about bird banding. Carl M. Johnson of Rochester, Minnesota, demonstrated a mist net. Scott Findley banded a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Rufous-sided Towhee which had been caught in the mist net earlier in the day, and Mrs. John Lueshen demonstrated her Potter traps. This was an interesting added feature to an already interesting meeting.

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL FIELD DAY.—Members of the S.D.O.U. group held their field trip on the South Dakota side of the Lewis and Clark Lake while the N.O.U. members did their observing on the Nebraska side of the lake. All met at the picnic area east of the Gavins Point Dam on the South Dakota side.

*Mrs. Perkins has since resigned.

Birds seen by the S.D.O.U. members and not reported by the Nebraska group are as follows: Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Pin-tail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Swainson's Hawk, Gray (Hungarian) Partridge, Piping Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Upland Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Herring Gull, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Common Nighthawk, Say's Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Wood Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Black and White Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Scarlet Tanager, Vesper Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

General Notes

THE SONG OF THE WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—As far as I'm concerned, here's a bird with rare musical talent. In January and February the leafless woods are bleak and cheerless, but this plucky little fellow rolls out those merry notes and instantly the wooded place seems to take on life, color, beauty, and hope. The series of “whi, whi, whi, whi, whi, whi” notes are all on the same pitch. But in spite of the simplicity of the song, he has a peculiar way of making it pleasantly appealing, in fact, almost irresistible. Each rapid, mellow note slurs upward (literally bounces upward) and it sounds somewhat like a person whistling to call a dog. Whenever he begins a song period,
it's usually continued for quite a while—indeed a pleasant sound to hear on mid-winter days.

—Carl H. Swanson, Omaha

HUMMINGBIRDS AT ELDORA, COLORADO.—The following comments are taken from the paper given by Mrs. Gail Shickley at the Mid-winter Meeting in North Platte, January 11, 1959. For eight summers the Shickleys have fed hummingbirds from small vials painted bright red with nail polish and tied up with red yarn and wire. After trying several mixtures of water and honey, they found five parts of water to one part honey the best. The birds seem to have to learn to feed from these vials.

Large numbers of “hummers” come every day during the summer. Most of them are the Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, but during migration they have had the Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds. Once they had the Black-chinned. The “hummers” are very pugnacious, not only fighting among themselves but even fighting off other species. One was seen chasing a bat.

The “hummers” are among the first birds to be about in the morning and one of the last to be active at night. The territorial U-shaped display has been observed.

By the middle of August the males are all gone, and a few stragglers of the females and immatures may stay until about mid-September.

DEAD BIRDS IN ABANDONED BUILDINGS.—From 1946 through 1951, this writer had the pleasure of accompanying Albert Lehmann, of the Lehmann Wrecking Company of Sioux City, on numerous inspection trips to the various abandoned or partly abandoned United States Army Air Bases, Prisoner of War Camps and sundry training camps. Portions or complete camps were for sale as war surplus and since Mr. Lehmann's business is salvage, we
would travel to the camps. I was inside all these empty buildings at least twice and often I went back a third time. All this explanation is to point out that my visits to these buildings were not just one shot affairs and that we often spent several days in a camp just looking over buildings.

Inspection trips were made to camps in Iowa, South Dakota, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. The bulk of the work was done in Nebraska. Of course, my interest was more in birds than buildings and every dead and/or mumified bird or animal was inspected. The most common dead bird was the House Sparrow and it was found both in the prairie camps and the camps of the wooded areas. In some buildings I could find several dozen dead sparrows, many of them torn up by hungry rodents, but usually enough feathers were left to identify them. The prize find of House Sparrows was in the Ordnance Building at Kearney, Nebraska. One large supporting post in this structure had been encased with one inch boards which made a deadly sparrow trap. These birds apparently flew down into this enclosed area and then probably didn't have wing clearance to fly up and out.

In wind swept camps like the ones at McCook, Atlanta, and Ainsworth, all in Nebraska, the common dead birds aside from the House Sparrows were Horned Larks. Occasionally Meadowlarks were found and in one camp at Kearney a few Starlings. At Atlanta where during the month of March, 1947, I had ample time to watch for both dead and live birds, I found a few dead Horned Larks in the barracks, but not a single Chestnut-collared Longspur and yet this bird was found feeding about the buildings nearly every day. During April and May of the same year at Ainsworth I found numerous House Sparrows and a few Horned Larks and Meadowlarks and two Say's Phoebes.

It was not until mid-December, 1948, when we made a trip to Camp Crowder near Neosho, Newton County, Missouri, that I really realized the great loss of bird life that took place around these empty army camps. The camp site is in the well timbered foothills of the Ozarks. There were hundreds of buildings and while we didn't get inside all of them, we did look over scores of them. In most it was the same sad story—dead Flickers and Bluebirds and many House Sparrows. While we never found more than two or three Flickers, and one or two Bluebirds to a building, we usually found some in every building. In one barracks I was able to open a window and chase one frantic Flicker to his freedom.

How were so many birds imprisoned? If I am not mistaken, on the prairies the reason might have been food. Crested wheat grass was planted between all the buildings. Since most door-openings were about flush with the ground and had a small concrete walk in front of them, if the door was open, the wind would whisk any kind of seed into the building. Birds might venture in and the next gust of wind would blow the door shut, or maybe the caretaker would shut the banging door.

At Camp Crowder the situation was different in that it was a wooded area and most of the barracks were built higher above the ground. Although some birds might have gone into a building via an open door, in most cases I found a small window pane broken out. In this case it would seem that the Flickers and Bluebirds might have entered through these
broken windows out of “curiosity,” possibly for shelter, but probably not for food. Most of these birds probably wore themselves out beating against closed windows. This is my story of the trapped victims of the deserted army camps.

—Wm. Youngworth, Sioux City, Iowa

Some Early Records Of The Wild Turkey In Nebraska

The wild turkey, Meleagris gallopavo, is now extinct in Nebraska. Formerly, the species was widely distributed in the eastern part of the state and ranged westward along the riparian communities of the major drainage systems to approximately 101° longitude. I have recently perused some of the historical literature dealing with Nebraska in search of early records of mammals and, while so doing, kept account of references to wild turkeys. Swenk (Nebraska Bird Review, 3:121-122, 1935, and 5:53, 56, 1937) has summarized previously records of Meleagris from the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Brackenridge, and the Astorians. Records that have come to my attention and that may be of interest to students of ornithology in Nebraska are noted below. The year of observation is given for each, if known.

The Distribution of the Western Red-bellied Woodpecker in the Missouri River Valley

by William F. Rapp, Jr.

This paper will discuss the distribution of the Red-bellied Woodpecker in the Missouri River drainage basin, the main stem of the Missouri River and the Platte River Valley.

The subspecies of Red-bellied Woodpecker which occurs in the Missouri River basin, is Melanerpes carolinus zebra. This is the subspecies which Burleigh and Lowery in 1944 restricted to the: "whole of the Missouri River Valley and the region covered by most of the tributaries of the Mississippi River." These authors made no attempt to define the range of the bird in the Missouri River Valley or its tributaries. In the fourth edition of the A.O.U. "Check-list" (1931:190) the range of the Red-bellied Woodpecker is listed: Upper and Lower Austral zones from southeastern South Dakota south to central Texas. The statement gives the impression that the bird may be generally found throughout the area. Peters (1948:161) gave the range as: "Central United States in the Mississippi drainage area from southeastern South Dakota and Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico and west to central Texas." Peters in this statement did more to limit the range that did all previous workers by stating merely "Mississippi drainage area."

We are particularly interested in the distribution of the bird in Nebraska. Hecker, Moser, and Swenk (1945:20) state that the bird is: "A fairly common resident and breeder in eastern Nebraska, rare in west." The last statement, rare in west, was probably a guess on their parts as there are no western Nebraska records for this species previous to the 1950's. In 1947 Wilson Tout published his work on the birds of Lincoln County to summarize his forty years of field work in the North Platte region, it was clear that during this period neither he nor any of his friends had seen a Red-bellied Woodpecker. Dr. T. C. Stephens in 1936 published a paper on the birds of Dakota County, Nebraska. This county, in the northeastern most part of Nebraska, lies across the river from Sioux City, Iowa, and its eastern and northern boundaries are formed by the Mississippi River. These areas support large growths of deciduous trees. Previous to 1933 the bird was reported only three times, but since that time it has been reported fairly regularly.

In South Dakota, Over and Thomas state (1946:13) "it (the Red-bellied Woodpecker) has been recorded from eastern South Dakota."

In summary we can say that before 1930 the bird was known to occur as far north as Union County, South Dakota and possibly in the Blue Valley.

We must realize that in Nebraska and South Dakota there are only limited areas with suitable habitat for woodpeckers, since most of these states are grassland. Therefore, the bird is limited to the larger river bottoms in which sizeable stands of deciduous forests have developed.

We have good evidence that the bird is now moving westward and northward. The bird has been recorded as far west as the North Platte region. This indicates that the bird has moved its range westward along the Platte River, whose valley.
contains deciduous trees. Ridgeway reported some specimens collected in Colorado near Boulder, Yuma, Greeley, and Limon. Therefore, this Platte River route may have been the way by which these birds reached Colorado, as the South Platte River rises in this general area.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker was first reported from Union County, South Dakota in 1931 and since that time has become well established in the Sioux City region. In 1951 it was observed near Vermillion and near Pierre in 1953. In addition, it has also been seen around Fort Randall dam. Thus, we also have evidence that the bird is moving northward.

Now comes the important question: why is it spreading? Some will say that the bird has always been in the area, but was never reported because there were never bird watchers there. I think we can discount this idea, because the bird has first appeared in areas where there have been active bird students for long periods of time, for example, North Platte and Sioux City. A fact that cannot be forgotten is that river bottom forests were not common along many of the major rivers until recently. Many of the pioneers and homesteaders wrote of the absence of trees along the Platte River. Moreover, the river bottom forests of the Great Plains have a well known history of fire. It is hard, however, on this basis to explain the spread of the Red-bellied Woodpecker along the main stem of the Missouri, because there are many stands of large and older trees along the river, especially near Omaha, Sioux City, Yankton, Vermillion, and the Ft. Randall dam area.

Therefore, we must assume that man and his conservation efforts have provided suitable habitat into which the bird has spread. By planting trees in the towns and around farm dwellings, he has increased the area of habitat for the Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Lastly, it should be pointed out that Dr. Roberts in his Birds of Minnesota described the same phenomenon for the Red-bellied Woodpecker in Minnesota. The bird was first found in Minnesota in 1893 and slowly spread northward and westward throughout the state.

Conclusions
1. The Red-bellied Woodpecker is slowly spreading westward and northward in the Missouri River drainage basin.
   a. it has gone as far north as Pierre, South Dakota, and
   b. as far west as North Platte, Nebraska.
2. This spread in part may be attributed to conservation activities, control of fire, tree planting in towns and on farms, the establishment of hedge rows, etc.

—Creté

Excerpts From Letters

"Dear N.O.U. Members:

"To quote the walrus in Alice in Wonderland, 'The time has come—.' With the May N.O.U. meeting I am bowing out as your treasurer and turning the bank account and books over to the person you selected in my place.

"I have enjoyed my four years of bookkeeping and correspondence. I always did enjoy getting letters and still do even though they sometimes
come a dozen at a time and require answering as well as recording in about four different places.

"Many of you write such friendly notes. For example, I had an especially nice one recently from Leni Rauschenberg from Saudi Arabia where she has taken a job with Aramco for a couple of years. She was looking forward to a bird trip with a guide who knew Middle Eastern birds.

"Please forgive the errors I have made. With two addresses and a full time job there is an occasional slip. As the years go by, I'll hope to meet more of you with whose names I have become so familiar."

(signed) Ellen Ritchey, Hastings

"On Friday (May 15, 1959), there were 50 Golden Plovers in the field 'puddling around.'"

—Mrs. John Lueshen, Wisner

"Shic and I saw at least 31 (Bald Eagles) on the 18th (of March). Ella (Nielsen) and I couldn't be sure of more than six or seven on the 19th. Norma (Radford) watched awhile on the 20th... They saw only four, but I don't think they stayed until it was quite dark. The Viehmeyers were out on the 21st and stayed until dark. They counted nine and thought they were still coming in. A few weeks ago we were counting 15 to 18. Then Viehmeyers saw 26 and a few night later we saw 31. I have an idea that maybe some from farther south were coming through here on their way north and we were lucky enough to see them at their peak. (March 30) Margaret Morton and I saw one old one and three, possibly four youngsters. They were roosting back in the trees where it was hard to see them, and restless, moving about quite a bit; so it was difficult to be sure of our count. I think it safe to say that the eagles are on the move."

—Mrs. M. F. Shickley, North Platte

"To be constructive, I would like to suggest that members make regular field trips at intervals to the same area and record the number of each species seen during each trip. This information could be tabulated quite easily and would provide departure dates as well as arrivals. I know this isn't a new idea, but why won't it work?"

—Liven A. Peterson, Grand Island

(It WOULD work. Wish more people would do it!—Ed.)

"I have made a small 'shift' in my recording of birds. It's simply a matter of dividing the months into three parts. The first 'period' includes the 1st through the 10th; the second takes the 11th through the 20th; and the third takes what is left. Some of them (the months) end equally and some have one extra day, or 10%, which is still quite close."

—Harold Turner, Bladen

"I would be very pleased if you could review The Ring in your journal. I am interested in such publicity not only in regard of gaining new subscribers, but, first of all, in gaining new contributors. I would be only too glad to publish any interesting note and article on bird banding, its results and methods, trapping techniques, outstanding recoveries, etc."

—Dr. W. Rydzewski, Croydon, Surrey, England

"The Ring is an international quarterly bulletin devoted entirely to bird banding and bird migration studies. Its main aim is to bring news and information on all the aspects of bird banding everywhere, whether theoretical or practical. Since its first issue in October, 1954, The Ring has published articles and notes by 134 authors from 47 countries, listed 1093 papers and studies in its bibliographical section, and reviewed 77 books of special selection. Besides the articles the permanent sections:
Various Problems,' 'How They Work,' 'Notes and News,' 'Recoveries,' etc., supply a mass of interesting information referring to important banding problems, banding and trapping techniques, achievements and results obtained by all the banding schemes, events and news from all the parts of the world and most interesting and important recoveries of banded birds."

Dr. W. Rydzewski, 1 Alythe Road, Croydon, Surrey, England

"Upon receiving the bulletin this morning (May 9, 1959) I realized that I had not informed you of Mrs. George O. Smith's death. She passed away on March 22nd at the age of 87. She is greatly missed by me as well as others. As a naturalist, she was tops. She knew everything anyone asked about." — Bertha Krohn, Lincoln

Mrs. George Smith became a member of N.O.U. in 1932 and has been a member since. As Miss Krohn says, "she knew everything anyone asked about." I remember when I was a Camp Fire Girl in Lincoln that it was Mrs. Smith who took us to Antelope Park and told us the names of the plants there. No doubt she talked about the birds, too. Many children as well as adults learned much in the way of Nature Study from Mrs. Smith. She was a grand lady. — Doris Gates, Chadron

"Mary Lou (Pritchard) saw a large flock (about 75) of Waxings—both Cedar and Bohemian—across the street from their house. During the Christmas count period we saw a Bald Eagle (adult) fly over our house (Dec. 28). A flock of at least seven Common Snipes seemingly are spending the winter in the open water by the Isaac Walton Cabin. We have seen a number of Townsend's Solitaires. Our most surprising sight record is that of a Red-headed Woodpecker on December 28, and again on January 1, 1959. Our group saw one a few years ago (1955 or 1956) in the Saltillo Area south of Lincoln. We also saw two Killdeers several times during the week of Dec. 25 to Jan. 1, (1959) and a huge flock of Redwings.

"Red-breasted Nuthatches are scarce this year, and so are Robins. We have hundreds of Meadowlarks, but so far have heard only the Western's song. We saw an unusual number of Sparrow Hawks (32) on Dec. 28. They were usually two, three, four, or more together. We haven't seen many since that day.

"A few Red Crossbills are here. Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers seemingly are wintering here again. So far, Pine Siskins are scarce."

— Glayds Whitmus, Lincoln

"Today I mounted a crow that has dirty, gray plumage, and I have another skin much like it. It was shot at Fremont. I mounted a perfect albino Coot with pink eyes, bill and feet. I have a male hybird Mallard-Gadwall (I think) shot at Blair. I got a Mallard drake but the breast and underparts are typically female. It is from Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska."

— Ralph Velich, Omaha

"On Christmas morning (1958) I saw a tiny wren in the Vibernum tree. It flew to a perch on an iron railing about 12 feet away and I realized it was a Winter Wren. Since our home is on Wyman Heights on the opposite side of the city (from Fontenelle Forest) I thought this observation would be worth recording." — Lyle J. Roberts, Omaha

"As it has been our custom for years, we have taken only the bird census of this area. Hairy Woodpecker, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, Cardinal, Junco, Blue Jay, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bobwhite, Harris' Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Turkey Vulture, Goldfinch,
—Mrs. Rose Junker and Miss Susie Callaway, Fairbury

“I was rather surprised to see a Common Snipe about a half mile north of Burwell, January 22. The single bird was standing in running water in the big irrigation ditch just north of the Loup River. The temperature the night before was about -10°F. and at the time of observation it was only about 10°F.”
—Marvin Schwilling, Burwell

“We have another nesting report—discovered only in October. Two pairs of Cardinals nested this summer (1958) just south of Henry, Nebr.”
—Mrs. Jack Brashear, Scottsbluff

“December 10 (1958) I noticed quite a chirping of birds and coming in from across the river (Snake River) was a great flock of Cedar Waxwings—three or four hundred, I’m certain.”—Mrs. Donald Held, Elsmere

“Ella Nielsen saw a big flock of Evening Grosbeaks (in Cody Park in North Platte, Jan. 1959). We watched a flock of Eastern Bluebirds. So pretty and bright and gay. Townsend’s Solitaires are still about in the Park. I haven’t heard such extensive singing as a couple of weeks ago, but they usually announce their presence with a few warbles or call notes.

“Ella should write you about this one, but—Dec. 8 she heard a racket in her back yard and looked out to see a Flicker and a Mockingbird fighting. She said the fight lasted a long time. The Flicker won out and the Mockingbird finally left. She hasn’t seen it since.”—Mrs. Gail Shickley, North Platte

“I made up a little more than seven five-pound sacks of yellow cornmeal into cornbread for the birds this summer. I think there were young Robins, Brown Thrashers and Catbirds that never tasted anything but cornbread until after they were on their own. Even the orioles fed it to their young but not such a steady diet.

“We have four Martin houses. One house has 34 compartments, one has 30, another has 44, and one has 28. We got our first house in 1923—and it is still in use, but we have had some repair bills on it. We have a struggle with House Sparrows and Starlings. The House Sparrows will drag the little Martins out by the fuzz on their heads.

“We have done everything we knew how to attract birds. We have put out oodles of evergreen trees and shrubs. I have six bird baths, two we heat in the winter. We have several feeders and four suet logs. It is surprising how much suet they eat in a year. We have one table on which we put nothing but egg-shells. You would surely be surprised at the amount of egg shells the Martins eat, and they take them to their young. It is wonderful to see them at the table. It seems to be a visiting center. Sometimes there is a ring of them around the table.

“I put out hens’ eggs for the Redheaded Woodpecker.

“Pheasants and little animals were coming to the lily pool for water, so we decided to build one in the ground for rabbits and other little thirsty fellows. I think it is about 15 feet long. And that is the favorite of all the birds.

“I have a Mockingbird that seems to have a chip on each shoulder. I never saw such a bully. Sometimes there would be ten or more Robins at the feeding table and he would swoop down and never stop until he had the last one off the place.
I haven't seen him chase a Flicker yet. He eats cornbread, too, and he likes walnuts. The Chickadees are lucky if they get in to get any. The Mockingbird came last fall and stayed all winter. This is the first one I have seen here in the 59 years we have lived here.

"I had a Black-throated Blue Warbler at my bath this fall. We had eight or ten Chimney Swifts roosting in our chimney this summer."
—Mrs. Nellie E. Campbell, Geneva (letter dated November 11, 1958)

"This morning (July 30, 1958) I heard the sweet, plaintive whistle of the Wood Pewee and so have added another bird to my checklist for Hamilton County.

"On July 5 while Mr. Swanson and I were fishing we came upon a Piping Plover. July 11 we returned to the same sandpit and saw two adults. We could find no young but from the actions of the adults I could surmise that they could have been nearby in the grass. July 13 we stopped again at this sandpit which is near the Platte River. We did not see the Plovers, but could hear them calling on the river to the west a short distance away. The Piping Plover is new on my Hamilton County list.

"A sizeable colony of Least Terns are again nesting on the banks of one of our sandpits."—Mrs. Kermit Swanson, Aurora

"We found several Mockingbirds (July 30, 1958), a bird we have rarely seen here for the last 10 years. Another rather unusual one for our list is the Upland Plover."
—Mary Sturmer, Beatrice

"This is a Dickcissel year! There is a greater intensity of them than ever before. There are many below Enders Dam where they sing in peace (no mowers) and where there is a large area of yellow sweet clover. I found one nest with eggs—two Cowbird and one Dickcissel."
—Mrs. Iola Pennington, Wauneta

"Have had warblers (Pileolated) and female Redstarts this fall. Saw a female Broad-tailed Hummingbird about August 14 and Lesser Yellowlegs August 15."
—Mrs. Jack Brashear, Scottsbluff

"Here is a new record for me. I saw an American Egret on the Missouri River September 7, 1958. It worked on the sand bars near us all afternoon. I have hunted on the Missouri for the past 50 years and have never seen one before. The same day I saw about 400 White Pelicans."
—Roy Wilcox, Omaha

"A Common Loon female in winter plumage was shot near Blair November 16, 1958. It was mistaken for a goose. An adult Bald Eagle with white head and tail was found along the Missouri River near Falls City about October 4, 1958. It was still alive. Someone shot it and both wings were broken. I identified it from a photograph."—Ralph Velich, Omaha