12-2013

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FALL FIELD REPORT, August-November 2013

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INTRODUCTION

In most ways, this was a routine fall season. Most interesting from an ongoing point of view were quite a large number of sightings of passerines at rather late dates, notably Empidonax flycatchers, wood warblers, native sparrows, tanagers, towhees, grosbeaks, and buntings. A similar phenomenon was noted among a few cold-sensitive non-passerines, such as Black and Common Terns.

One of the more significant ongoing trends is the proliferation of western and southern hummingbirds and the alteration of traditional migration and summer ranges; no fewer than 6 species were found. Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds were seemingly more numerous in the east than the west, while a pair of Ruby-throateds summered in a Scotts Bluff County yard. Nebraska’s second Costa’s was seen by many, and its third Black-chinned was well-documented. Strangely, there was only one report of Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

Other range perturbations of note were a mixed bag of the worrisome and the encouraging, including an extension of breeding sites of Mississippi Kite in North Platte, reduced numbers of both cuckoos (only one Black-billed was reported), the apparent serious and continuing decline of Black-billed Magpie as ably characterized by Wayne Mollhoff, the uptick in numbers of Rusty Blackbird in the state, the essential absence of Purple Finch and Pine Siskin during the fall, and the good numbers reported of Lesser Goldfinch.

Good numbers were reported for an eclectic group of species: Pacific Loon, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Purple Martin, and Green-tailed Towhee, while an interesting group of rarities showed up (in addition to Costa’s and Black-chinned Hummingbirds): Parastic and Long-tailed Jaegers, a possible Cave Swallow, and a possible first Nebraska record of a western subspecies of Hermit Thrush. Perhaps the saddest item was the apparent demise of an abandoned juvenile Whooping Crane west of Alliance, likely the work of coyotes.
ABBREVIATIONS

ad: adult
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
fem: female
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
imm: immature
juv: juvenile
L: Lake
LM: L Mcconaughy, Keith Co
LNB: Lakes North and Babcock, Platte Co
LO: L Ogallala (includes contiguous Keystone L), Keith Co
m. ob.: many observers
NC: Nature Center
NM: National Monument
NOU: Nebraska Ornithologists’ Union
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co
Res: Reservoir
PSP: Ponca SP, Dixon Co
RWB: Rainwater Basin, including parts of Phelps, Hamilton, York, Clay, Fillmore, and Thayer Cos
SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co
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

Carter L: Omaha
Jack Sinn: Jack Sinn Memorial WMA, Lancaster and Saunders Cos
Oliver Res: SRA, Kimball Co
Sandhills: large area of sand-based prairie in north-central Nebraska
AD: Ann Duey, Scottsbluff
AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering
AR: Alice Rumery, Kearney
BFH: Bill F. Huser, South Sioux City
BWe: Bob Wells, Omaha
CD: Colin Daro, Garrison
CH: Chris Helzer, Aurora
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue
CT: Curtis Twellmann, Lincoln
D&JP: Don & Jan Paseka, Ames
DD: David Dowell, Lincoln
DH: Dave Heidt, Norfolk
DS: Dave Stage, Elkhorn
EA: Edward Allen, Lincoln
EB: Elliott Bedows, Bellevue
G&WH: Glen & Wanda Hoge, Alma
GE: Gregory Estep, Omaha
GJ: Gail Johnson, Bellevue
GR: Gary Roberts, Fremont
HKH: Helen K. Hughson, Mitchell
J&GB: Jay & Ginger Belsan, Ogallala
JA: Jan Allen, Lincoln
JC: John Carlini, Lincoln
JED: James E. Ducey, Lincoln
JG: Joe Gubanyi, Seward
JGr: Jonas Grundman, Omaha
JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Lincoln
JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield
JLL: Jeanine L. Lackey, Bellevue
JM: Jerry Mulliken, Nickerson
JO: Jim Ochsner, Ogallala
JP: Jerry Probst, Sioux City, IA
JR: Justin Rink, Omaha
JS: Janet Stander, North Platte
JT: Jerry Toll, Omaha
JW: Jake Walker, Lincoln
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell
KM: Karen Marx, La Vista
KS: Kent Skaggs, Kearney
L&BP: Loren & Babs Padelford, Bellevue
LB: Laurel Badura, Kearney
LBr: Lindsay Brown, Omaha
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln
LF: Larry Falk, Nebraska City
LR: Lanny Randolph, Kearney
SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose: Sightings of a single at LO 18 Aug-13 Sep (TJW, SJD) may have been of the same individual that was there 4 Jun (JGJ) and may have summered. First fall flyovers were 20 at Alma 11 Oct (G&WH). Overall, few were reported.
Snow Goose: The usual summer stragglers were reported, a total of 27 at 9 locations (m. ob.), mostly east and central, but including one in Deuel Co 14 Sep (SJD). First large flock reported was the 500 at HCR 7 Nov (G&WH).

Ross's Goose: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant.

Cackling Goose: One at BOL 13 Aug (MW) provided a rare summer record; there were only 8 previous records 10 Jun-30 Aug.

Canada Goose: Reports were routine for this abundant statewide fall migrant.

Trumpeter Swan: The location near Ravenna, where breeding has been successful in recent years, hosted 2 ads 14 Oct, but no young were reported (L.R, RH). Two were at a wetland in extreme western Douglas Co 10-15 Aug (CNK, LE, RS, PR), but had no young. A flight-capable single near Gretna 4 Aug had been there about 4 years (fide JGJ); about 2 years ago 2 were present (DSt).

Tundra Swan: Expected as a rare fall migrant in Nov, there were 2 at LNB 15-20 Nov (BFH, m. ob).

Wood Duck: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant and summer resident.

Gadwall: The 1478 in Lancaster Co 27 Oct (LE) was a good tally; high counts range 2030-5800.

American Wigeon: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant.

American Black Duck: Fall is the best time to look for this now-rare species. A fem appeared at a pond at FF 18 Nov (RS) and stayed until 21 Nov (m. ob.); it, or another fem, showed up 24 Nov at the Henry Doorly Zoo Lagoon (L W). The only other reports were of one at BOL 22-23 Nov (JGJ, LE), and 2 there 30 Nov (LE).

Mallard: Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

Blue-winged Teal: Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

Cinnamon Teal: None were reported; this species is inconspicuous in fall and rarely reported.

Northern Shoveler: Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

Northern Pintail: Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

Green-winged Teal: Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

Canvasback: This is a local breeder in the Sandhills; one location is Willy L, Sheridan Co, where 12 were found 4 Aug (LE). Two at LO 24 Aug (PD) and 4 there 12-13 Sep (SJD) were likely early migrants or molt migrants.

Redhead: The 29 at L Alice, Scotts Bluff Co, 13 Sep (SJD) and 15 at LO two days later (SJD) were rather early.

Ring-necked Duck: Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

Greater Scaup: Four at LM 25 Oct (PD) were rather early; there are 2 earlier reports, both in Oct.

Lesser Scaup: Summer reports away from the RWB and Sandhills are few; singles were at different Douglas Co locations 8 Aug (JR) and 16 Aug (JR). Another in Scotts Bluff Co 13 Sep (SJD) was rather early. The 1534 in Lancaster Co 4 Nov (LE) was an excellent tally; high counts are in the range 1846-3450.

Surf Scoter: This was a good fall for this species, with at least 25 reported in all, 18 of these in the east, 12 Oct-25 Nov (m. ob.). Best count was 6 at CBL 15 Nov (LE).
White-winged Scoter: This species was in average numbers, a total of 8 birds at 5 locations statewide 20 Oct-27 Nov (m. ob.).

Black Scoter: This species also was in average numbers, a total of 8 birds at 4 locations 31 Oct-29 Nov (PD, TJW, MB, BFH), including 5 at PL 31 Oct (PD).

Long-tailed Duck: Three were reported, about average for fall: singles at BOL 2-4 Nov (MW, LE), CBL 6 Nov (LE), and GPD 29 Nov (BFH, JP).

Bufflehead: A fem at LO 12-13 Sep (SJD) and a female at Oliver Res 14 Sep (SJD) were early; there is only one earlier date Aug-Sep away from the Sandhills.

Common Goldeneye: Reports were routine for this locally abundant fall migrant.

Barrow’s Goldeneye: None of this rare, late-arriving (late Nov) species were reported.

Hooded Merganser: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide summer resident and fall migrant.

Common Merganser: As usual, a few apparent molt migrants appeared at LM and L Alice, Scotts Bluff Co, in Aug and early Sep; best count a meager 9 at the latter location 6 Sep (PD, WRS). First fall migrant was one at PL 23 Oct (LE).

Red-breasted Merganser: Reports were routine for this uncommon statewide fall migrant.

Ruddy Duck: The 732 in Lancaster Co 27 Oct (LE) was a good count; fall highs are in the range 1000-1500.

Northern Bobwhite: There were more reports than in recent years, most from the southeast. In all there were about 12 sightings, including 16 birds at ICSP 7 Nov (SQ, LF) and 15 at PL 4 Nov (LE). Unexpected away from the Platte River Valley as far west as CLNWR was one there 21 Sep (CNK).

Gray Partridge: None of these uncommon northeastern Nebraska residents were reported.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Although many were reported across the state, only one was seen during harvest in Dodge Co, where numbers are normally 10+. (D&JP).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Reports were routine for this fairly common northern and western resident.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: The small population at SCP continues; up to 6 were present 17-26 Oct (JGJ, EB).

Wild Turkey: A hen with 3-day-old young in Lincoln Co 14 Aug was suggestive of a rather late egg laying date, possibly 7-8 Jul (TJW). This is about a month later than usual.

Pacific Loon: There were a surprising number of reports of this rare annual fall migrant, with one at BOL 11-12 Aug (LE, RSJ), another there 3-6 Nov (LE), one at Hastings 24 Oct-4 Nov (PD, m. ob.), one in Saunders Co 7 Nov (RM), and one at Sutherland Res 10 Nov (TJW).

Common Loon: Summer and early fall reports are usually of non-breeding imms; one was in Dakota Co 19 Aug (WF), two were in Scotts Bluff Co 6 Sep (PD, WRS), and one was at LO 12-13 Sep (SJD). The latter two may have been early migrants, as migration begins around 20 Sep.

Pied-billed Grebe: Earliest migrants were the 8 at Memphis Lakes WMA, Saunders Co, 1 Sep (JGJ). Best count was 308 in Lancaster Co 13 Oct (LE); high counts are in the range 475-860.

Horned Grebe: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
Red-necked Grebe: Recent years have seen more reports, especially in fall, although there are only about 50 such records in all for the state. This fall there were 3 reports: singles in Sarpy Co 25 Oct (NK), Lancaster Co 4-6 Nov (LE, RSt), and at LO 10-11 Nov (TJW, PD).

Eared Grebe: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.

Western Grebe: The 10,700 at LM 13 Sep (SJD) was below peak fall counts there of 30,000-40,000, although these usually occur a couple of weeks later. There were reports of at least 15 birds at various eastern locations (m. ob.), about as expected for recent years.

Clark’s Grebe: There were reports from 4 locations, including an excellent count of 11 at LM 12 Sep (SJD) and singles there 23-25 Sep (LE, MW). There was also one at CLNWR 21 Sep (MW, KD), one in Scotts Bluff Co 19 Oct (KD), and one at Swanson Res, Hitchcock Co, 19 Nov (CT).

Double-crested Cormorant: Reports were routine for this abundant statewide fall migrant.

American White Pelican: Reports were routine for this abundant statewide fall migrant.

American Bittern: The only report was of 2 at Harvard Marsh 29 Sep (PD); this species has been observed well into late fall.

Least Bittern: Rare after Aug, the only sighting reported was on eBird on 23 Sept in Pioneers Park, Lancaster Co, by a birder traveling through Nebraska; there are only 5 later dates.

Great Blue Heron: The 30 at BOL 13 Sep (LE) was a good concentration of likely post-breeders; high fall counts are 100+.

Great Egret: One was rather late at BOL 31 Oct (LE); there are a few Nov dates.

Westerly was one near North Platte 25 Sep (TJW). A moderate 36 were reported (m. ob.), including 13 at Oak L, Lincoln, 14 Oct (TG).

Snowy Egret: A total of 7 were reported from Garfield Co eastward (MB, m. ob.), more than usual in fall.

Little Blue Heron: Only one of this rare fall migrant was reported, that an imm at BOL 4 Oct (LE); there are only 5 later reports, through 20 Oct.

Cattle Egret: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.

Green Heron: One in Sherman Co 15 Aug (WF) was northwesterly. This species occurs regularly in summer in the Platte River Valley west to Lincoln Co; 2 were near North Platte 16 Sep (TJW). The 8 in western Douglas Co 15 Aug (PR) tied the fall high count.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Best count was 26 at Lakeside 4 Aug (LE); high count range is 37-47.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: The only report was of a northerly juv in Dodge Co 4 Aug that had been present since 25 Jul (D&JP).

Glossy Ibis: There was one report; along with 2 this spring and summer (possibly of the same bird), this was the lowest number of sightings for several years. This fall, 2 ads were at Jack Sinn 21 Aug (LE, details).

White-faced Ibis: Best count was the 119 in Sheridan Co, including 111 at Lakeside 4 Aug (LE). There are only 2 higher counts, best 245. Last were 2 rather late at Jack Sinn 13 Oct (LE); there are several late Oct-early Nov dates.

Turkey Vulture: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant.
Osprey: Two birds remained at the Summit L, Burt Co, nest site (see Summer Report) through 14 Aug (CNK), but no young were reported, despite copulation being observed in Jun and the male adding to the nest 2 Aug (JT). First migrants were 1-2 at BOL 15-17 Aug (LE, MW), rather early, and best count the 6 at LM 13 Sep (SJD). Ospreys occur into Nov, with late dates 19-21 Nov, but there were 4 previous documented later dates. This fall, a 5th later date was one well-described in Richardson Co 25 Nov (LF, SQ).

Mississippi Kite: The breeding population in North Platte is growing, with young produced at two new sites. Apparently strong winds caused 4 young to be blown out of a nest on West 2nd; the birds were taken to Raptor Recovery 31 Aug-1 Sep as the ads left around the same time (JS, TJW). Another young bird that was on the ground at West Pawnee also went to Raptor Recovery 3 Sep; a healthy sibling was in the tree above it (TJW). The original site at 4th and Carr had birds present all summer (TJW). Two ads at Imperial “looked as though they were feeding young” 17 Aug (TJW); a pair showed up there in 2011 and has summered each year since. Around 1 Sep, juvs disperse randomly; a single was in Madison Co 1 Sep (SMa).

Bald Eagle: Reports were routine for this common statewide resident and migrant.

Northern Harrier: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Reports were routine for this uncommon statewide migrant.

Cooper’s Hawk: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide migrant.

Northern Goshawk: None were reported of this rare fall migrant.

Red-shouldered Hawk: None were reported of this rare fall migrant.

Broad-winged Hawk: Western reports are increasing; a single flew over WHNC (in both Scotts Bluff and Banner Cos) 21 Sep (AK, m. ob.) and again 24 Sep (MM, m. ob.). Also, one was in Morrill Co 21 Sep (PAJ), and 2 were near North Platte 24 Sep (TJW).

Swainson’s Hawk: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant.

Red-tailed Hawk: Reports were routine for this common statewide resident and migrant.

Ferruginous Hawk: Rare eastward, one was in Keya Paha Co 18 Nov (JGJ).

Rough-legged Hawk: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.

Golden Eagle: Imm’s are the expected age-class eastward, though rare; more than usual were reported this fall, including singles at BOL 19 Oct (JGJ), in Saunders Co 20 Oct (CNK), southeast Washington Co 22 Oct (CNK), and Adams Co 1 Nov (PD).

Virginia Rail: Reports were routine for this uncommon fall migrant.

Sora: Unexpected was one in Scotts Bluff Co for two weeks through 15 Nov (AD); there are only 6 Nov records, and none documented for Dec. The 13 at Jack Sinn 13 Sep (PD) was a good fall count; highs are in the range 16-42.

American Coot: The 4500 at L Bennington, Douglas Co, 30 Oct (JR) was impressive, but record fall count is 17,359!

Sandhill Crane: Four flyovers were noted 9 Nov in Lancaster Co (JC, SSe); this species is rare in the east.
Whooping Crane: A sad story unfolded 20 miles west of Alliance, where a lone juv with a damaged wing was found and photographed 21 Oct (ME, fide JGJ). An extensive search the next day failed to find the bird, but there were 4 coyotes in the area (JGJ). It is unusual for juvs to be separated from their parents during fall migration.

Black-bellied Plover: Ads are scarce in fall; none were reported. Juvs arrive in mid-Sep, such as one photographed in Scotts Bluff Co 19 Sep (RW) and the 20 at LM 25 Sep (MW).

American Golden-Plover: As with Black-bellied, most fall records are of juvs, but an ad was at Jack Sinn 15 Aug-4 Sep (LE, JGJ, RSt, KM). Western records are few; up to 17 were at LM 7-13 Sep (PD, WRS, SJD) and 2 were at Scottsbluff SL 20 Sep (PD). Best count was a moderate 29 in Seward Co 26 Sep (JGJ).

Semipalmated Plover: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.

Piping Plover: Migrants appear away from breeding areas in late Aug; one was at Jack Sinn 24 Aug (LE). Only 2-3 were found at LM 24 Aug-13 Sep, the 2 on 13 Sep both juvs (PD, SJD); most of the summering birds associated with the 86 nests there obviously had departed.

Killdeer: Reports were routine for this common statewide summer resident and fall migrant.

Black-necked Stilt: Most have gone by mid-Aug, thus noteworthy were the 12 in Sheridan Co 4 Aug (LE).

American Avocet: The 645 at Lakeside 23 Sep (LE) was 2nd-highest single location count after 654 at the same location in 2012. The 156 at BOL 13 Oct (LE) was an excellent count for the east. The 20 in Sheridan Co 13 Nov (WF) were 2nd-latest on record.

Spotted Sandpiper: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.

Solitary Sandpiper: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.

Greater Yellowlegs: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant.

Willet: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.

Lesser Yellowlegs: The 353 at LM 13 Sep (SJD) was a good count; high counts are in the range 500-641.

Upland Sandpiper: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant.

Long-billed Curlew: The 3 reports, involving a total of 5 birds, were from the Panhandle 4-7 Aug (EA, LE); most depart by mid-Aug.

Marbled Godwit: In fall, this species is essentially restricted to Keith Co and the Panhandle, where it is rare. There were a few reports, however: 7 were in Sheridan Co 4 Aug (LE), 1-3 at L Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co, 6-13 Sep (PD, WRS, SJD), and 1-6 at LM 13-23 Sep (PD, SJD).

Ruddy Turnstone: This species is not reported every year in fall; this fall’s 2 reports are only the 29th and 30th in all. The reports were of ads, which move through in late Jul and early Aug; one was at LM 1 Aug (EA fide MW), and two were at LNB 4 Aug (LR, RH).

Sanderling: The 76 at LM 23 Sep (PD) was a good count, although high counts are in the range 108-179.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: Last dates tend to be in early Oct, and so noteworthy were 1-3 at Jack Sinn 8-13 Oct (LE). Extraordinary was one with an eclectic mix of tardy shorebirds at PL 6 Nov (LE, details), the first documented for Nov.

Western Sandpiper: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.

Least Sandpiper: By far a record fall count was the 1518 at LM 13 Sep (SJD). Previous high was 899 at LM also.

Baird’s Sandpiper: This species lingers late in fall on occasion; 1-3 were at PL 4-6 Nov (LE, RSt). There are several additional later Nov records.

Pectoral Sandpiper: As with Baird’s, this species lingers into Nov on occasion, with several later Nov records; 3 were at PL 6 Nov (RSt).

Dunlin: None were reported for this uncommon statewide fall migrant; most pass through Sep-Oct.

Stilt Sandpiper: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Best count was the 65 in Clay Co 3 Aug (JGJ); good numbers were reported generally, including 7-12 juvs westerly at LM 7-12 Sep (PD, WRS, SJD).

This molting juvenile Red Phalarope, Nebraska’s 19th, frequented Lakes North and Babcock, Platte Co, 11-24 Nov; it was discovered by Scott Buss and photographed (here) 17 Nov by Roger Dietrich.

Short-billed Dowitcher: There were 2 reports of this uncommon statewide fall migrant: singles were at Jack Sinn 2 Aug (LE) and in Sheridan Co 4 Aug (LE). Arrival is earlier than for Long-billed Dowitcher.

Long-billed Dowitcher: BOL hosted at least one through 7 Nov (JGJ, m. ob.), rather late, but departure dates are in mid-Nov for this often tardy migrant.
Wilson’s Snipe: One in Nuckolls Co 11 Aug (LR, RH) was an early migrant; this species is not known to breed there. Early fall dates are 9-13 Aug.

American Woodcock: One at Wood Duck WMA, Stanton Co, 31 Aug (SMa) was likely a local breeder, while one in Dodge Co 27 Oct (D&JP) was likely a migrant. No others were reported.

Wilson’s Phalarope: Reports were routine for this locally abundant statewide fall migrant.

Red-necked Phalarope: One was easterly, where uncommon, in Lincoln 15 Sep (CNK).

Red Phalarope: Causing much excitement and a flow of tourism dollars (hopefully) was a well-visited juv almost completely molted into first basic plumage at LNB 11-24 Nov (SB, m. ob., RD photo). This is Nebraska’s 19th record, 16th for fall, and latest by 17 days.

Parasitic Jaeger: A strange find was one in a yard near Chadron, Dawes Co, 2 Sep (SV photo fide RW; MB). This is Nebraska’s 8th documented record and 2nd-earliest date.

This Parasitic Jaeger, Nebraska’s 8th documented record, was discovered and photographed in a yard in Dawes Co 2 Sep 2013 by Susan Vastine.

Long-tailed Jaeger: About as exciting as the sightings of the previous two species were two records of Long-tailed Jaeger, Nebraska’s 7th and 8th records. A juv appeared at CBL 11 Sep and was seen by many through 17 Sep (MW, SJD, m. ob., MW, PR photos), and an ad was at LM 12-14 Sep (SJD).
Black-legged Kittiwake: None of this rare statewide fall migrant were reported.

Sabine's Gull: This was a good fall for this species with at least 12 individuals reported, including a surprising 4 ads, only the 7th -10th records of ads for Nebraska. At least one bird was at BOL throughout the period 11 Sep-20 Oct, the latter date rather late (LE, m. ob.;) 2 ads and a juv 29 Sep (JGJ, ad photo), and 2 juvs on both 6 Oct (JGJ) and 14-15 Oct (JC, SSc). An ad and 2 juvs were at L Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co, 5 Sep (PD, WRS) and a juv was there 13 Sep (SJD). As many as 4 juvs were at LM 12-14 Sep (TJW, SJD). An ad was near North Platte 19 Sep (TJW).

Bonaparte's Gull: The 367 at BOL 12 Nov (JGJ) is 2nd-highest fall count on record; high is 675 at LM.

Laughing Gull: A first winter bird was at BOL 7-16 Sep (SMa, RM, MW, LE, photo). This is Nebraska's 20th record, all but two in the period Apr-Oct.

Franklin's Gull: Best counts of this abundant fall migrant were 31,910 in Lancaster Co 13 Oct (LE), of which some 30,000 were at CBL (MW, LE). High counts, however, are in the range 85,000 to 300,000.

Ring-billed Gull: Reports were routine for this abundant statewide fall migrant.

California Gull: Numbers are highest in fall, although the peak counts of 68 on 12 Sep (SJD) and 53 on 24 Aug (PD) were below the high counts in the range 148-151. Away from LM, this species is rare, with most reports from reservoirs fairly close to LM. One was at L Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co, 13 Sep (SJD), and up to 4 ads were at L Maloney, Lincoln Co, 24 Oct-through the period (TJW).

Herring Gull: Ads usually arrive in Oct, but this fall there was an influx of early-arriving ads. First were 11 at LM 13 Sep (SJD) and 3 at L Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co, the same day (SJD), one at CLNWR 21 Sep (KD), and one at BOL 29 Sep (MW). There are only 4 records for Aug of ads. Also rather early was a first year bird at BOL 7 Sep (SMa).

Thayer's Gull: First to arrive for the fall were at GPD: an ad and a first winter 29 Nov (JP, BFH). In this species, ads arrive as early as imms.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Three were reported of this now-regular migrant: a 3rd-cycle bird was at LM 5 Sep-23 Nov (PD, WRS, m. ob), an ad was at L Maloney, Lincoln Co, 29 Oct-4 Nov (TJW), and a 2nd winter was there 25 Nov (TJW).

Glaucous Gull: Only 2 were reported: an ad at L Maloney, Lincoln Co, 25 Oct (TJW) and a juv at PL 22 Nov through the period (JGJ, m. ob.).

Great Black-backed Gull: An ad at LM 20-25 Sep (PD, GR, LE, MW) was the 14th fall record overall.

Least Tern: Rare in the west during migration, 3 were near North Platte 1 Aug (TJW).

Caspian Tern: The 17 at BOL 16 Sep (LE) was a record high count for fall; previous high was 14, also at BOL.

Black Tern: This species usually departs the state in the first few days of Oct, with only one date after 5 Oct. This fall, there were reports from 4 locations 4-14 Oct: one at Jack Sinn 4 Oct (LE), one in Douglas Co 6 Oct (JR), 2 at PL 13 Oct (JGJ), and one at BOL 14 Oct (TG). High fall counts are in the range 403-460, thus the 366 at LM 12 Sep (SJD) was within range.

Common Tern: Three at BOL 17 Oct (JGJ) were rather late; there are only 3 later dates.
Forster’s Tern: The 123 at BOL 2 Aug (LE) was second-highest fall count on record; high is 175, also at BOL.

Rock Pigeon: Reports were routine for this common statewide resident.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Reports were routine for this common statewide resident.

White-winged Dove: Reports came from 7 westerly locations, east to Ogallala, where a single present for several weeks was joined by another bird 3 Sep and a third 24 Oct (JO). No evidence of breeding was noted at Ogallala, however, or at any of the other locations.

Mourning Dove: One in York Co 9 Nov was considered “late” there (LR, RH).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide summer resident and fall migrant.

Black-billed Cuckoo: This cuckoo continues to be very scarce, with only a report of one in Custer Co 22 Aug (TH).

Barn Owl: The usual few scattered reports were received; of most interest was a report of 4 on a farm in Dodge Co 25 Aug (JM), likely a family group. Other reports were of singles at LM 5 Sep (PD, WRS) and at Clear Creek Marshes, Garden Co, 13 Sep (SJD).

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

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

Burrowing Owl: The 8 at CLNWR 8 Sep included young still in burrows, somewhat tardy (KD).

Barred Owl: This species continues to push west in the Little Blue River drainage; singles were at Nelson, Nuckolls Co, 11 Aug (WF) and Deweese, Clay Co, the same day (WF). In this part of the state there are isolated records as far west as Franklin and Adams Cos.

Long-eared Owl: The 2 that appeared in Lancaster Co 29 Oct (LE) were rather early. Earlier dates (Sep, early Oct) are suggestive of breeding.

Short-eared Owl: A typical fall saw 3 reports, all singles: Dodge Co 17 Nov (D&JP), Knox Co 23 Nov (MB), and Saunders Co 28 Nov (RM).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: None of this uncommon fall migrant and winter visitor were reported; most arrive in late Oct.

Common Nighthawk: The 1422 over Omaha 11 Sep (JED, http://wildbirdsbroadcasting.blogspot.com/2013/10/last-nighthawks-of-missouri-valley.html) was a fall record count.

Common Poorwill: A road-killed bird in Phelps Co 18 Sep (LB) was at the eastern edge of the summer range, but was more likely a migrant. One in Lincoln Co 1 Oct (TJW) was tardy, although there are several Oct records.

Chuck-will’s-widow: None were reported; although this species likely departs in late Aug or early Sep, there are only 4 records for Aug and none later.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: The only report of this difficult-to-detect eastern fall migrant was of 2 a bit late at ICSP 8 Sep (EA). Most depart by mid-Sep.

Chimney Swift: The 529 in Omaha 20 Sep (JED, http://wildbirdsbroadcasting.blogspot.com/2013/10/seasons-finale-for-chimney-swifts-in.html) was 3 birds short of a record fall count.

White-throated Swift: Reports were routine for this locally common Panhandle summer resident.
This Black-chinned Hummingbird, Nebraska’s third, was at a Shelton feeder 13-16 Sep (R&MM, LR, RH, PR photos, PD photos), and photographed here by Paul Dunbar 14 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The recent phenomenon of summering birds in and near the Panhandle continued; a pair was in a Lincoln Co yard all summer (VC, photos), and an ad fem was in a Scotts Bluff Co yard all summer (KD). There were several westerly reports of birds not reported during summer: 7 were at feeders at Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo Co, 29 Aug (KS), a fem was at an Ogallala feeder 3-20 Sep (JO, MW), 2 were in a Scotts Bluff Co yard 14 Sep (AD), and one was in Kearney 25 Sep (KS).

Black-chinned Hummingbird: Nebraska’s third was at a Shelton feeder 13-16 Sep (R&MM, LR, RH, PR photo, PD photo). The other two records were 7-8 May 2012 near Scotts Bluff and 28 Jul 2013 near Ogallala.

Costa’s Hummingbird: Nebraska’s 2nd was a juv male at the Jay and Ginger Belsan feeder at LM 5 Sep-23 Oct (J&GB, KD photo, PD video and pies, MB taped vocalizations, m.ob.). There was considerable discussion as to whether it was a Costa’s or an Anna’s, but vocalizations (MB), tail length relative to wing tips, gorget color, and gorget shape were features favoring Costa’s.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: There have been fewer reports in the last couple of years; only one was reported this fall, in a Scotts Bluff Co yard 18 Aug (KD).

Rufous Hummingbird: As with Calliope Hummingbird, there were more reports eastward than in the west, and such easterly records were generally later. A
This Black-chinned Hummingbird, Nebraska’s third, was at a Shelton feeder 13-16 Sep (R&MM, LR, RH, PR photos, PD photos), and here photographed by Paul Roisen 16 Sep.
certain Lincoln yard has an attraction for this species; an adult male was there 24 Aug (JGJ, video), an immature 20-21 Nov (JGJ; this bird was taken to the Henry Doorly Zoo, but died and became Nebraska's 2nd specimen of the species at University of Nebraska State Museum), and another male 21-22 Nov (JGJ; also taken to the zoo). There is only one later date for the state. Easterly were one in Omaha during the 2nd week in Aug (fide JR), and one in the famous Daro yard in Garrison 16 Aug (CD). Elsewhere, there were 7 reports involving about 7 birds 2 Aug-6 Sep (m. ob.).

**Calliope Hummingbird:** Two reports from the east appear to be the first in fall from there: a female/imm immature was in Dodge Co 2 Sep (D&JP, details) and one was at an Omaha feeder 2 Sep (JT). Singles are unexpected even in central Nebraska, but one was at Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo Co, 29 Aug-1 Sep (KS, photo) and one was in Kurney 22 Sep (AR fide KS). In addition, there were 4 western sightings 2-31 Aug (m. ob.); easterly sightings tend to be later than those in the expected western Nebraska migration corridor.

![Costa's Hummingbird](https://example.com/costa-hummingbird.jpg)

This Costa's Hummingbird, Nebraska's second, was at the Jay and Ginger Belsan feeder at L McConaughy 5 Sep-23 Oct, photographed here by Paul Roisen 18 Sep.

**Belted Kingfisher:** Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide summer resident, rare in winter.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** A group of 35 migrants was at Neale Woods, northeastern Douglas Co, 2 Oct (JR), and excellent for migrants. One was rather late at PSP 8 Oct (RD).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Apparently a first breeding record for the Panhandle was a male feeding a fledged young bird 18 Aug; a pair had frequented the DeLara yard all summer (KD). Still rare in the Panhandle, additional reports were of
singles in Garden Co 9 Nov (WF), Deuel Co 10 Nov (WF), and Morrill Co 12 Nov (WF).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Reports were routine for this uncommon eastern fall migrant and winter visitor.

**Red-naped Sapsucker:** There were 2 reports on the same day, 21 Sep, from different locations in Banner Co, one an ad male (PD, RSt, TJW, m. ob.), the other an ad fem some 1-2 miles distant (JG).

**Downy Woodpecker:** The eastern subspecies *Picoides pubescens medianus* breeds over most of Nebraska; one was identified at Gotte Park, Kimball, 21 Sep (RW). The Rocky Mountains subspecies *P. p. leucurus*, with unspotted “shoulders”, may occur in the extreme west.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** As with Downy, most if not all Nebraska Hairy Woodpeckers are of the eastern subspecies *Picoides villosus villosus*. However, a fem of the Rocky Mountains subspecies *P. v. monticola*, which appeared in a Scotts Bluff Co yard in Feb 2013, was still present 20 Oct (KD).

**Northern Flicker:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant and winter visitor.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Singles were at two Missouri River Valley locations where establishment of breeding pairs may be limited by a paucity of suitable habitat: Riverside Park, Nebraska City, 29 Sep (LF) and Dodge Park, Omaha, 29 Nov (JED).

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

**Merlin:** Two subspecies occur in Nebraska: *Falco columbarius columbarius* is a migrant late Sep-Nov and *F. c. richardsonii* is the wintering form. A fem *F. c. columbarius* was rather early at LM 12 Sep (SJD) and an *F. c. richardsonii* was in York Co 9 Nov (LR, RH). Merlins arrive in eastern NE around mid-Sep.

**Peregrine Falcon:** An excellent count was the 5 at LM 12 Sep (SJD), a record fall tally.

**Prairie Falcon:** This species is rare in the east, tending to be nomadic, but one spent 3 weeks through 25 Nov around the Lincoln Airport (JW). Other easterly birds were in Saunders Co 20 Oct (CNK) and southeastern Washington Co 8 Nov (GE).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Reports were routine for this uncommon eastern, rare western, fall migrant.

**Western Wood-Pewee:** WSR is a favored staging trap for this species: 14 were there 7 Sep (KD); all-time high fall count of 50 occurred there also.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** An ad with 2 “baby-gaped” juvs was in Nuckolls Co 11 Aug (LR, RH), somewhat tardy. The 12 in Otoe Co 2 Sep (JGJ) was a good count; highs are 13-25.

**Alder Flycatcher:** Documented records indicate that last dates for Nebraska are around 10 Sep, thus reports 10 Sep in Dixon Co (JJ, details) and 12 Sep in Lancaster Co (LE, details) are noteworthy.

**Willow Flycatcher:** Tardy were singles (same bird?) at WP 14 and 19 Sep (MW, LE). Last dates are 11-12 Sep; there were only 4 later Sep dates.

**Least Flycatcher:** Banding data from Chadron SP show captures 24 Aug-3 Oct (MN), and another was at FF 6 Oct (TS, details). These reports extend slightly
the last dates for this species into the first few days of Oct. There is only one
later record, on the amazing date 3 Nov.

Hammond’s Flycatcher: There were 3 reports of this uncommon Panhandle fall
migrant: singles were at Oliver Res 6 Sep (PD photo, WRS), in southwest
Kimball Co 21 Sep (MW, details), and in Sioux Co 23 Sep (MW). The Sioux
Co sighting is a new last date by one day; there are no later dates.

Gray Flycatcher: This species is a casual fall migrant in the Panhandle, with 3
previous records, now 5 with the addition of 2 this fall: one was well-studied at
WSR 6-7 Sep (PD, WRS, KD) and another on East Ash Creek, Dawes Co, 18
Sep (RW). The 5 records are in the period 24 Aug-5 Oct. There is a single
spring record.

Dusky Flycatcher: This species is a regular fall migrant in similar numbers to
Hammond’s Flycatcher (31 fall records versus 30 for Hammond’s), although
more difficult to identify in the field. Singles were at Oliver Res 14 Sep (SJD),
Banner Co the same day (SJD), WSR 20 Sep (PD), and LM 20 Sep (LE). One
was banded, measured, and photographed at Chadron SP 24 Sep (MN).

Cordilleran Flycatcher: The only report was of 1-2 at WSR 6-7 Sep (PD, WRS,
KD). Migrants are rarely reported, and may leave Nebraska and fly southwest
to the Rocky Mountain foothills before moving south.

Eastern Phoebe: Reports were routine for this common summer resident and fall
migrant.

Say’s Phoebe: Unexpected eastward, one was in Adams Co 3 Aug (WF).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Reports were routine for this common statewide summer
resident and fall migrant.

Cassin’s Kingbird: One in Keith Co 25 Sep (MW) was a bit tardy, and only the 4th
fall record east of the Panhandle. There are no records after 27 Sep.

Western Kingbird: Reports were routine for this common statewide summer
resident and fall migrant.

Eastern Kingbird: One in Stanton Co 11 Oct (JGJ) was late; there are only 4 later
records, all in Oct.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: None were reported after the few summer reports.

Loggerhead Shrike: This species winters in small numbers in the southeast most
years; last reported this fall was in Richardson Co 25 Nov (LF, SQ).

Northern Shrike: The 3 singles reported all arrived on the same flight 23 Oct: one
in Frontier Co (JGJ) and 2 in Lancaster Co (LE). Early arrival dates are in late
Sep.

White-eyed Vireo: A surprise was one at Standing Bear L, Douglas Co, 4-7 Oct
(SMa, JR, JGJ, BWe). This is the first Oct record in the east; the 2 previous Oct
records were, surprisingly, from Chase and Keith Cos.

Bell’s Vireo: Panhandle reports in fall are few: one was at Oliver Res 14 Sep (SJD).
Close to the Panhandle were rather late sightings of 4 near North Platte 16 Sep
(TJW), one there 20 Sep (TJW), and one in Custer Co 19 Sep (TH). There are
several Oct dates for the state.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Reports were routine for this fairly common eastern
summer resident and fall migrant.

Plumbeous Vireo: One in Sioux Co 21 Sep (fide DH) was tardy; last dates are 17-24
Sep.
Cassin’s Vireo: There were 6 reports 5-21 Sep, east to LM (m. ob.), a few more than usual. One in Morrill Co 21 Sep (fide DH) was tardy; last dates are 20-21 Sep with two later dates in Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: Westernmost was one in Cherry Co 13 Sep (MSS, JJ), where the species is a rare migrant.

Warbling Vireo: Departure is earlier in the west, likely because of a different subspecies summering there; last dates are in early Sep, whereas in the east last dates are in early Oct. Thus tardy in the west were 2 in Scotts Bluff Co 14 Sep (AD), one banded at Wildcat Hills NC 16 Sep (MM), and one in Banner Co 21 Sep (fide DH).

Philadelphia Vireo: The usual few were reported, singles in Banner Co 21 Sep (fide DH) and in Lancaster Co 12 and 19 Sep and 4 Oct (LE), the latter tardy, as last dates are 4-5 Oct with only 3 later Oct dates.

Red-eyed Vireo: Reports were routine for this common statewide summer resident and fall migrant.

Pinyon Jay: The only reports were from the Panhandle at expected locations; at least one was in Morrill Co 21 Sep (fide DH) and 8 were in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 22 Sep (PD).

Blue Jay: Reports were routine for this common statewide summer resident and fall migrant.

Clark’s Nutcracker: The only place in the state where one might look for this species with a chance of finding it is on the western Pine Ridge; one flew over Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 22 Sep (PD). Such sightings are rare, however, in non-invasion years.

Black-billed Magpie: This species continues to be in trouble over most of Nebraska and is disappearing from the central and east. In most of the state the species now occurs only in pockets; as stated by Wayne Mollhoff: “My impression is that these little pockets will start ‘winking out’ statewide, due to the range of causes (pesticides, bad luck, disease, inbreeding, etc.) that drives low density species to extinction. Unless something changes soon, they will likely be extirpated ...”. An easterly pocket exists near Gilead, Thayer Co, where “I’ve seen several pairs there over the last four years, usually over the winter” (NW). A North Platte biologist found no magpies in the Lincoln Co cedar canyons on 453 point counts during the summer (TJW), and only one was found on a western Nebraska trip in early Aug (LE). Two were in Naponee, Franklin Co, 25 Aug (PD), and, encouragingly, a group of 8 was at LM 16 Aug (TJW).

American Crow: Reports were routine for this common summer resident and abundant fall migrant.

Horned Lark: Reports were routine for this common summer resident and abundant fall migrant.

Purple Martin: The Omaha roost just south of 44th and Farnam began to form around 14 Aug, when 20,000 were present, peaked at 70-75,000 birds 1 Sep, and declined to only 25 birds by 25 Sep (JR). Rare in the west, a juv was at L Minatare 13 Sep (SJD), and 2 were at LO the same day (SJD). Last dates are in early Oct, thus one in Omaha 12 Oct (JR) was of note; a male was record late in southeastern Washington Co 25 Oct (EB, details).
**Tree Swallow:** Best count was 2nd-highest on record: 750 at CLNWR 8 Sep (KD). High is 1000.

**Violet-green Swallow:** Reports were routine for this locally common western summer resident.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Reports were routine for this common statewide summer resident and fall migrant.

**Bank Swallow:** Reports were routine for this locally common statewide summer resident and fall migrant.

**Cliff Swallow:** Two were tardy in southeastern Washington Co 13 Oct (WJ); last dates are 4-7 Oct, and there are 4 later dates in Oct, through 31 Oct.

**Cave Swallow:** Details were provided for a sighting of an ad at LO 24 Aug (PD); if accepted by the Records Committee, this will be Nebraska’s 6th record.

**Barn Swallow:** Three at Carter L, Omaha, 1 Nov (JGr) were rather late; last dates are 4-6 Nov.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** Reports were routine for this common statewide resident.

**Mountain Chickadee:** The only report was of 2 in Scotts Bluff Co 23-25 Oct (MS, KD).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Reports were routine for this common eastern resident.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Reports were routine for this fairly common western summer resident and uncommon statewide winter visitor.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** Birds breeding on the Pine Ridge and Wildcat Hills are of the Rocky Mountains subspecies *Sitta carolinensis nelsoni.* At least some move short distances from the summer range in fall; one was at Oliver Res 14 Sep (SJD).

**Pygmy Nuthatch:** Reports were routine for this locally fairly common western resident.

**Brown Creeper:** Reports were routine for this uncommon statewide winter visitor.

**Rock Wren:** Reports were routine for this fairly common western summer resident.

**House Wren:** Reports were routine for this common statewide summer resident and fall migrant.

**Winter Wren:** One singing at WP 12-17 Sep (MW, EA) was rather early; there are two earlier dates on record for Sep.

**Sedge Wren:** First returnee reported was in southeastern Washington Co 15 Aug (JT), a bit later than expected; “lots” had arrived by 18 Aug at Jack Sinn (TEL). Two in Douglas Co 24 Oct (JR) and one in Sarpy Co 26 Oct (GJ) were rather late; last dates are 26-30 Oct.

**Marsh Wren:** Reports were routine for this common northern summer resident and statewide fall migrant.

**Carolina Wren:** One was westerly near North Platte 23 Aug (PD, TJW); there are very few records west of there. A good count was the 8 in Otoe Co 2 Sep (JGJ).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** This species is now well-established in at least the southern Panhandle; reports there were numerous, including the 14 banded at Wildcat Hills NC 19 Aug-2 Oct (MM).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: One in Hooker Co 13 Nov (WF) was rather late for the north; last dates are 5-7 Nov in counties not bordering the Platte River Valley and west of Knox Co.

Eastern Bluebird: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide summer resident and common fall migrant.

Mountain Bluebird: Reports were routine for this fairly common western summer resident and fall migrant.

Townsend’s Solitaire: Reports were routine for this common westerly winter visitor.

Veery: Eastern and western subspecies both occurred at LO this fall; a rusty eastern *Catharus fuscens fuscens*, possibly the westernmost on record, was there 5 Sep (PD, WRS), while a brownish western *C. f. salicicola* was there 13 Sep (SJD), and another of the latter was banded at Chadron SP 12 Sep (MN).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: A rarity anywhere in the state in fall, and especially westerly, one at LO 13 Sep (SJD) was only the 6th in fall away from the Missouri Valley.

Swainson’s Thrush: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant.

Hermit Thrush: Western migrants pass through almost a month ahead of those in the east; there were 5 reports from the Panhandle 5-26 Sep (m. ob.) and 2 from the east 24 and 28 Oct (L&BP, LB), normal fall arrival in the east. It has been assumed that the early-migrating Rocky Mountains subspecies *Catharus guttatus auduboni* accounts for the western migrants, but this fall Michael Novak, banding at Chadron SP, provided convincing documentation for the occurrence of either *C. g. oromelus* or *C. g. sequoensis*: photos and measurements of a Hermit Thrush banded 26 Sep 2013 indicate a smaller bird than *C. g. auduboni* with grayish rather than brownish flanks and suggest female *C. g. sequoensis* or male or female *C. g. oromelus*. *C. g. sequoensis* breeds in northeast California and winters in southeast Arizona. *C. g. oromelus* breeds from southern British Columbia to northeast California and winters in southern New Mexico and southern Texas. Based on its breeding and wintering ranges, *C. g. oromelus* may be more likely to appear in Nebraska as a migrant than *C. g. sequoensis*; *C. g. oromelus* would fit the group of western Nebraska migrants that includes Cassin’s Vireo and Townsend’s Warbler, all of which breed in the same general area.

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

American Robin: Reports were routine for this common statewide summer resident and abundant statewide fall migrant.

Gray Catbird: Nov reports for this species in or near the Missouri River Valley are not unusual, but elsewhere they are unexpected. One in southeastern Garden Co 9 Nov (WF) was only the 8th such record. Westerly for the date was one in Hall Co 15 Nov (PD), and one was in southeastern Washington Co 17 Nov (WJ, LB).

Northern Mockingbird: A few linger in the southeast until late Dec, but one in Pawnee Co 25 Nov (LF, SQ) may have been a potential winterer.

Sage Thrasher: The 3 reports of this rare Panhandle fall migrant were in Kimball Co: 2 on 6 Aug (LE), one on 7 Aug (LE), and one 14 Aug (SJD).
Brown Thrasher: Several lingered into Oct, but the only Nov report was of one in a Lincoln yard through 24 Nov (NP). There are numerous Dec reports in the southeast.

European Starling: Reports were routine for this common statewide summer resident and abundant statewide fall migrant.

American Pipit: One at BOL 23 Nov (MW) was rather late; last dates are all 18 Nov, and there are only a few Dec reports, mostly from CBCs.

Sprague's Pipit: There were a good number of reports, presumably as observers get better at finding and identifying this uncommon migrant. The 13 reports were in the period 20 Sep-26 Oct (m. ob.), including good counts from favored locations: 8-10 at Prairie Dog WMA, Kearney Co, 23-25 Sep (PD, MW) and 5-6 at Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co, 26 Oct (EB).

Bohemian Waxwing: Surprisingly, the only reports were of singles away from the Pine Ridge; one was at Sutherland Res 10-11 Nov (TJW, PD) and another in Cheyenne Co 10 Nov (WF). Both are rather early; early dates are 6-7 Nov.

Cedar Waxwing: This species is a late nester, but an ad with a very young juv 27 Sep in Keya Paha Co (JGJ) was risking some cool air. An ad was feeding 4 juvs at BOL 2 Aug (LE).

Lapland Longspur: First reported was a single in Box Butte Co 22 Oct (JGJ); early dates are 9 Oct.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Reports were routine for this locally fairly common northern and western summer resident and fall migrant.

Smith's Longspur: The only report was of 3 at SCP 2 Nov (JGJ). These birds are harder to find in fall; this is only the 24th fall record for the state.

McCown's Longspur: Flocks of migrants were reported in mid-Sep from the Panhandle: 171 in Kimball Co 14 Sep (SJD), 75 in Banner Co the same day (SJD), and 40 in Sioux Co 22 Sep (RW).

Snow Bunting: The only reports were from LNB at the same time as a twitchable Red Phalarope was there. Up to 8 Snow Buntings were present 13-18 Nov (m. ob.).

Ovenbird: One in a Scotts Bluff Co yard 18 Aug (AD) was likely a rather early migrant; breeding is not known in this area. Early dates are 13-16 Aug. One at SCP 23 Oct (MUs) tied the 3rd latest date on record; latest is 11 Nov.

Louisiana Waterthrush: None were reported of this rare fall migrant; most depart by early Sep.

Northern Waterthrush: Most reports in fall are from the east, but of about 35 fall records in all away from the east, more than half are from the Panhandle. Strangely, all 4 reports this fall were also from the Panhandle: singles were at Oliver Res 6 Sep (PD, WRS) and 14 Sep (SJD), Banner Co 14 Sep (SJD), and LM 20 Sep (LE).

Black-and-white Warbler: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.

Tennessee Warbler: Reports were routine for this common eastern fall migrant.

Orange-crowned Warbler: One at BOL 31 Oct (LE) was tardy; last dates are 1-2 Nov.
Nashville Warbler: Only the 12th Panhandle record was one in southeast Deuel Co 1 Oct (LR, RH); one near North Platte 16 Sep (TJW) was close to the Panhandle.

MacGillivray's Warbler: There were 5 reports of this rare fall Panhandle migrant; one was at WSR 19 Aug (HKH), another was banded and measured at Wildcat Hills NC 3 Sep (MM), one was at WSR 5 Sep (PD, WRS, KD), one was banded at Chadron SP 11 Sep (MN), and one was in Banner Co 14 Sep (SJD). The 19 Aug sighting was rather early; there are only 2 earlier dates, 15 and 17 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: The 4 at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, 12 Sep (LE) was a new high fall count.

Kentucky Warbler: None were reported; this species becomes inconspicuous after breeding and most depart by early Sep.

Common Yellowthroat: Singles in Scotts Bluff Co 12 Oct (AD) and Kimball Co 13 Oct (MB) were tardy; last dates are 16-18 Oct.

Hooded Warbler: A male was seen well in a Bellevue yard 16 Sep (EB), only the 5th documented record for fall.

American Redstart: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant.

Northern Parula: One at WP 19 Sep (LE) was a bit late; last dates are 24 Sep-2 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: Reports were routine for this uncommon eastern fall migrant.

Bay-breasted Warbler: None were reported of this uncommon eastern fall migrant.

Blackburnian Warbler: The were only 17 prior records for this species away from the east, and so a surprise was the appearance of 2 together at LO 5 Sep (PD, WRS). There were only 4 records from the east, 8-14 Sep (JJ, JC, SSc, MW).

Yellow Warbler: One at LNB 17 Nov (LE, details) was latest on record for Nebraska by 28 days.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: One banded at Chadron SP 3 Sep (MN) was only the 5th fall Panhandle record.

Blackpoll Warbler: The only report of this less-than-annual fall migrant was of one in Omaha 11 Sep (JR); most migrate south in fall over the Atlantic Ocean.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: None were reported of this rare statewide fall migrant.

Palm Warbler: Like Blackpoll Warbler, this species is also a less-than-annual fall migrant; most Nebraska reports are of the western subspecies *Setophaga palmarum palmarum*. This year there were a surprising 3 reports, 2 from the west. One was at WSR 19 Aug (HKH), earliest fall date on record, one of the subspecies *S. p. palmarum* was in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 18 Sep (RW, photo), and one was in Lancaster Co 24 Oct (DD), which is the 5th-latest on record.

Pine Warbler: There were 3 reports. One was in Omaha 7 Sep (JR, details), a “probable” was at Big Springs 1 Oct (LR, RH), and a first year male was at a LM feeder 10 Oct (J&GB photo, MB). There are now about 36 records statewide of this rare fall migrant.

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler: Reports were routine for this fairly common western fall migrant.

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant.
Yellow-throated Warbler: One at FF 13 Sep (PD) was a bit late but not unexpected; however, this species has a propensity for lingering very late on occasion; one in Omaha 30 Nov (fide RS, photo) is the 5th record for Nov-Dec.

Townsend’s Warbler: Reports were routine for this fairly common Panhandle migrant.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Reports were routine for this uncommon eastern fall migrant.

Canada Warbler: This rare eastern fall migrant was well-represented, with 7 reports of singles in Dodge, Washington, Douglas, and Sarpy Cos 24 Aug-14 Sep (m. ob.).

Wilson’s Warbler: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Reports were routine for this uncommon westerly fall migrant.

Green-tailed Towhee: There were a surprising 4 reports of this less-than-annual fall Panhandle migrant; these are only the 23rd-26th records for fall. Two were in western Banner Co 14 Sep (SJD), and singles were in southern Kimball Co 14 Sep (SJD), Morrill Co 22 Sep (RS, MW), and in Scotts Bluff Co 5 Oct (RSg). The (now) 26 fall records are in the range 26 Aug-16 Oct.

Spotted Towhee: Earliest arrival in the southeast was in Lincoln 29 Sep (LE); earliest dates in the southeast are in mid-Sep.

Eastern Towhee: A phenotypic Eastern responded to a Spotted song in Frontier Co 10 Aug (WF); most Pipilo towhees in the central 2/3 of Nebraska are of mixed heritage. Another Eastern in Knox Co was vastly outnumbered by Spotteds 19 Oct (MB); Spotteds generally outnumber Easterns in Knox Co by more than 100:1 (MB).

Cassin’s Sparrow: The only report was of 1-2 near I-80 Exit 1 in Kimball Co 6-7 Aug (LE); this species is a local breeder in sage and yucca grasslands in the southwest.

American Tree Sparrow: Reports were routine for this abundant statewide fall migrant and winter visitor.

Chipping Sparrow: The abundance of this species during fall migration was indicated by the banding of 151 individuals 19 Aug-2 Oct at Wildcat Hills NC; there were only 11 additional recaptures from previous years, one of which was first banded in 2008 (MM). One at Holmes L, Lincoln, 9 Nov (LE) was rather late; last dates are 11-13 Nov in the south, although there are several later records into winter.

Clay-colored Sparrow: A good tally was 176 in Kimball and Banner Cos 14 Sep (SJD). There is a high count (estimate) of “thousands” in Lincoln and Custer Cos in 27 Sep 2004.

Brewer’s Sparrow: Reports were routine for this fairly common local Panhandle summer resident and uncommon Panhandle fall migrant.

Field Sparrow: Reports were routine for this common east and central, rare west, summer resident and fall migrant.

Vesper Sparrow: Reports were routine for this common statewide (mostly north) summer resident and fall migrant.

Lark Sparrow: Reports were routine for this common statewide summer resident (mostly north and west) and fall migrant.
Lark Bunting: Reports were routine for this common westerly summer resident and fall migrant.

Savannah Sparrow: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant.

Grasshopper Sparrow: One found dead in Lincoln 4 Nov (TEL) was 2nd-latest on record by 2 days, depending on its actual date of demise.

Henslow’s Sparrow: One at PL 23 Oct (JA, details) was rather late, tying last dates for fall (21-23 Oct). It was the only one reported.

Le Conte’s Sparrow: Four at Cunningham L, Omaha, 31 Oct (JR) and one in Sarpy Co 1 Nov (CNK) were rather late; last dates are 5-9 Nov.

Nelson’s Sparrow: Three at Jack Sinn 13 Sep (PD) were rather early; early dates are 7-13 Sep, while one near Niobrara 20 Oct (MB) was rather late, with late dates 22-23 Oct. However, one at Wehrspann L, Sarpy Co, 1 Nov (CNK, details) was 2nd-latest on record by 6 days.

Fox Sparrow: Reports were routine for this uncommon eastern fall migrant, rare in the west.

Song Sparrow: Reports were routine for this fairly common northern and eastern summer resident and common statewide fall migrant, uncommon west.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: This species is somewhat less common in the west than in the east, and so the 8 at Oliver Res 14 Sep (SJD) and the 17, plus 8 recaptures, banded at Chadron SP 10-30 Sep (MN) were noteworthy.

Swamp Sparrow: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant, uncommon west.

White-throated Sparrow: Reports were routine for this common eastern and central fall migrant, rare west.

Harris’s Sparrow: Reports were routine for this common eastern and central, rare west, winter visitor.

White-crowned Sparrow: One at Oliver Res 6 Sep (WRS, PD) was rather early; early dates are 25 Aug-2 Sep. One of the two rarely-reported black-lobed subspecies was in a Scotts Bluff yard 25 Oct (KD), likely the Rocky Mountains form *Zonotrichia leucophrys oriantha*. This subspecies is probably a fall migrant in the Panhandle, although the northern subspecies *Z. l. leucophrys* occurs in the west and south during winter and may be a fall migrant in the west also. The two black-lobed subspecies cannot be separated in the field.

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

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: Reports were routine for this common statewide fall migrant and winter visitor.

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco: Reports were routine for this common western winter visitor, uncommon eastward.

Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco: Reports were routine for this fairly common western winter visitor, rare eastward.

Dark-eyed (Cassiar) Junco: Observers are reporting this form more often as its occurrence in Nebraska is better understood. The only report this fall was of 1-2 in Scotts Bluff Co 21-25 Oct (KD). The data so far suggest this form is an uncommon winter visitor statewide.
Summer Tanager: Fifth-latest on record were the 2 males at Neale Woods, Douglas Co, 2 Oct (JR). There are 3 later Oct records as well as an extraordinary feeder visitor in Bellevue 20 Nov-27 Dec.

Scarlet Tanager: Previous last dates were 6-10 Oct, so 3 reports of late sightings were noteworthy: a basic-plumaged male was at FF 1 Oct (JLL), a fem was there 6 Oct (TS), and a first fall male was in Omaha 11 Oct (JR). There are only 2 later records, both in Nov.

Western Tanager: A fem was east of the usual fall migration corridor in northwest Blaine Co 24-28 Aug (MSS).

Northern Cardinal: Reports were routine for this common eastern and central resident, rare in the North Platte River Valley in the Panhandle.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: A first-fall male in Omaha 16 Oct (fide JR, photo) was rather late; most depart by early Oct but there are several later records into Dec. An ad male was westerly in Lincoln Co 12 Aug (VC, photo); fall records westward are far fewer than in spring.

Black-headed Grosbeak: A fem/imm at WSR 22 Sep (WF, RW) was tardy; last dates are 25-27 Sep.

Blue Grosbeak: One near Plattsmouth 1 Oct (CNK) was rather late; last dates are 3-5 Oct.

Lazuli Bunting: There were 3 tardy singles: at LM 13 Sep (SJD), at Oliver Res 14 Sep (SJD), and in Sioux Co 21 Sep (NOU). There are only 7 later dates.

Indigo Bunting: Two birds in Richardson Co 11 Oct (LF, SQ) were rather late; last dates are 12 and 13 (twice) Oct in the Missouri River Valley.

Dickcissel: One at Oliver Res 14 Sep (SJD) was a rare westerly find and also rather late. In the east, 16 at BOL 15 Sep (LE) was a good tally for the date, and 2 in Otoe Co 27 Oct (LF) were rather late. Last dates are 27-30 Oct, although there are a few winter dates.

Bobolink: This species becomes inconspicuous in fall, with last dates 26-27 Sep; thus a bit late were one at BOL 15 Sep (LE) and 2 at Oliver Res 14 Sep (SJD).

Red-winged Blackbird: Reports were routine for this common statewide summer resident and abundant fall migrant.

Eastern Meadowlark: Reports were routine for this locally common central and eastern summer resident and fairly common statewide fall migrant.

Western Meadowlark: A late fledgling was in Hall Co 19 Sep (CH); last egg dates are at the end of Jul.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Numbers of migrants peak in mid-Sep; 1500 were at LM 12 and 13 Sep (SJD). High fall count is 2000-3000.

Rusty Blackbird: For a species in apparent decline, there were a large number of reports, many involving good numbers. They were “everywhere we looked” in Lancaster Co 10 Nov (JS, SSC). Best counts were the 58 at BOL 13 Nov (LE), 45 in Richardson Co 25 Nov (SQ, LF), 35-40 at BOL 4-6 Nov (LE), 35 in southeastern Washington Co 17 Nov (LBr), and 30 somewhat westerly in Boyd Co 18 Nov (JGJ). High fall counts are in the range 85-200. The only report farther west, where unexpected, was of 2 at LM 11 Nov (PD).

Brewer’s Blackbird: Small numbers pass through the east most falls; a male was at SCP 16 Oct (EB), 20 were in Lancaster Co 27 Oct (LE), and one was there 31 Oct (LE).
Common Grackle: Reports were routine for this abundant statewide summer resident and fall migrant.

Great-tailed Grackle: The 59 near Whitehead Saline Wetlands in Lincoln Aug 11 is a regular summering group (SSc); on 25 Nov 85 were counted in Lincoln (LE).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Reports were routine for this common statewide summer visitor and abundant fall migrant.

Orchard Oriole: A fem near Broken Bow 20 Sep (TH) and a single in eastern Cherry Co 27 Sep (JGJ) were tardy; last dates are 26-27 Sep. There are only 5 later dates, 4 of these in the period 1-9 Oct, plus a late record 29 Oct. Thus a fem at BOL 27 Oct (LE, details) is 2nd-latest on record.

Bullock’s Oriole: A hybrid type with Baltimore Oriole was at a LM feeder 19 Sep (JJ); this is a little east of the main hybrid zone, which is generally restricted to the Panhandle.

Baltimore Oriole: Only the 8th fall record for the Panhandle was one banded at WHNC 30 Aug (MM).

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch: None were reported of this locally uncommon Panhandle winter visitor; arrival is generally in early Nov.

Purple Finch: Reports were almost non-existent, with only 3, all of single birds: a fem/imm at FF 6 Oct (TS), a fem at Nebraska City 10 Nov (LF), and one at LO 11 Nov (PD).

Cassin’s Finch: Two were in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co, 6 Aug (LE); breeding is not known there. This and 7 previous late Jul and Aug records may be of failed breeders or dispersing post-breeders.

House Finch: The 60 at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, 15 Sep (LE) indicated that winter flocks were being formed by that date.

Red Crossbill: The only report east of the summer range was of 2 in Brown Co 18 Nov (JGJ). A total of 46 birds were banded at Wildcat Hills NC 19 Aug-2 Oct (MM).

Pine Siskin: Far fewer than usual were reported; the 6 reports of only 11 birds were from the west except for 3 in Lincoln 5 Sep (MW) and one in Otoe Co 24 Oct (JA). Neither of the banding stations at Chadron SP and WHNC banded any from late Aug to early Oct, a situation considered “kind of spooky” (AK).

Lesser Goldfinch: This species continues to be a fairly common summer visitor to the Wildcat Hills in particular. At least 12 were reported from WHNC through 18 Sep, 6 banded (MM, m. ob.), and up to 6 were in Carter Canyon through 24 Sep (RSt, m. ob.). Elsewhere, the road south of I-80 Exit 1 is a favored spot; 1-2 were there through 21 Sep (m. ob.) and 2 were north of Exit 1 on 21 Sep (TJW). The only other reports were of one in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 3 Aug (EA), a male in Morrill Co 22 Sep (KD) and 2 at Agate Fossil Beds, Sioux Co, 24 Sep (RST). Both black-backed and green-backed males were reported.

American Goldfinch: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide summer resident and common winter visitor.

House Sparrow: Reports were routine for this common statewide resident.