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1991

Pileated Woodpecker Responds to Owl Tape [Notes]

Rick Wright

Nebraska Ornithological Union

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Wright, Rick, "Pileated Woodpecker Responds to Owl Tape [Notes]" (1991). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 17.
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NOTES

Pileated Woodpecker Responds to Owl Tape. Suspecting the Pileated Woodpecker (*Drycopos pileatus*) first reported in fall 1990 might still be present, I spent much of a late March visit to Nebraska in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy County, looking and listening for the bird without success. Late on the morning of March 26, 1991, Tanya Bray, Babs Padelford, and I were at the mouth of Handsome Hollow in Fontenelle Forest, the site of the most recent observations. Seeing and hearing nothing we played the recorded song of Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*), hoping to attract passerines. Within seconds, a female Pileated Woodpecker flew silently from the floodplain forest and landed on the trunk of a small tree very near us; for nearly twenty minutes the bird remained in sight, sunning and preening.

Although I have often seen Pileated Woodpeckers in the east brought to view by recordings of their own call, I had never seen one react to Screech-Owl song. While I urge caution in the use of tapes of any kind, our unexpected success with

this technique may be of use to other birders in search of Nebraska's most elusive woodpecker.

Full details of this sighting have been submitted to the NOU Records Committee for evaluation.

--Rick Wright, 808 A Hartwell Dr., Savoy, IL 61874