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Notes-Nebraska Bird Review March 1988

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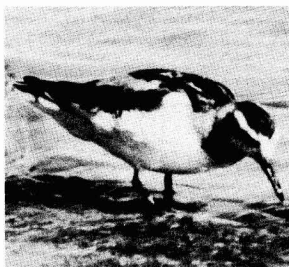
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NOTES

RED PHALAROPE. On 29 September 1985 Mark A. and Ed M. Brogie reported the occurrence of a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) at Willow Creek Recreation Area, Pierce Co., Neb. This bird was the first recorded sighting for the county and the second documented record for Nebraska (*NBR* 52:72-73). On 26 September 1987 the authors observed and photographed a Red Phalarope

along the beach near the group camping area on the south side of Willow Creek Recreation Area. The bird was quite unwary, and at one instance we were able to approach it within two yards distance



as the bird swam and foraged near the water's edge. The bird was intermediate between immature and fall plumage, as the neck, breast, and crown were brownish buff, while the upper wing feathers were quite gray. A brownish-black eye stripe, starting just in front of the eye, ran horizontally through the orbit to the rear of the cheek. The forehead, throat, lower face, and underparts were whitish in color, while the bird's upper back and primaries were a mottled brown. In flight the white wing stripes were clearly evident. The bill was dark and noticeably heavier in appearance than that of a Red-necked Phalarope - a species seen in the same location two days prior. When first found, the Phalarope was actively foraging among the plants on the water's edge and continued to do so throughout our presence. At times it would get up and fly to another feeding area, although the distances covered by these flights were never more than 20 yards. We watched the bird for approximately 45 minutes and when we left around 6:00 PM it was still busily feeding.

--- Mark A. and Ellen L. Brogie
Box 316, Creighton, Neb. 68729

WHOOPING CRANE REPORT. The Fish and Wildlife Service office in Grand Island has released its report of Whooping Crane sightings of the Aransas flock, which reports eight sightings in Nebraska:

Two adults 4 October in Lincoln Co., 2 mi. E. and 13 mi. N. of Sutherland, T16N, R33W, Sec. 15, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Two adults 21-22 October, Buffalo Co., 1.25 mi. E of Gibbon Bridge, on Platte River.

Two adults and a juvenile 31 October-3 November in Loup Co, North Loup River, 23 mi. NW of Taylor, T22N, R20W, Sec. 25, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Four adults and one juvenile 31 October-3 November in Cherry Co., 5 mi. W and 1.5 mi. N. of Valentine NWR headquarters, T30N, R30W, Sec. 14, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 11 NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Five adults 3 November in Custer Co., flying 5 mi. E. of Callaway.

One adult 7 November in Lincoln Co., 3 mi. S. and 4 mi. W. of Maxwell, T12N, R29W, Sec. 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

One juvenile 8 November in Scotts Bluff Co., flying 4 mi. E. of Scottsbluff.

Two adults and one juvenile 9 November-3 December in Phelps Co., Johnson Basin, 7 mi. N. and 3 mi. E. of Holdrege, T7N, R18W, Sec. 23 and 24.

The release noted that there was apparently no oversummer mortality, a circumstance which has not occurred since 1976. However, two adults disappeared after arriving at Aransas and are presumed dead. A chick is wintering alone, near Amarillo, Texas, and

a subadult is wintering north of Aransas with Sandhill Cranes. This subadult is the 1986 chick which spent last winter with Sandhill Cranes in Oklahoma. (It did spend the summer at Wood Buffalo National Park.) In *Grus Americana*, 27:1:4 Mr. L. S. Smith notes that these two had the same parents, who have "a mis-understanding as to when they are to separate from the young birds".

NATIONAL WILDLIFE MIDWINTER EAGLE SURVEY Greg Wingfield, Regional Coordinator for the Survey commented: "Generally, winter weather conditions were much more severe than the mild, open conditions recorded during the 1987 survey. A total of 650 Bald Eagles were observed, including 150 on the Missouri River and 500 for the rest of the state. The total of 650 Eagles this year is still noticeably greater than the 1980-1986 average of 476 Bald Eagles." There were changes

in locations of some counts between 1987 and 1988, so the following tabulation can not be compared with 1987 for some lines. (River sites are stretches of the river.) Mr. Wingfield also warns that there were changes in reporting procedures on the Missouri River count, and any one interested in that comparison should check with him (Game and Parks Commission) for details.

Site	Bald Ad	Bald Im	Golden Ad	Golden Im	Total	Site	Bald Ad	Bald Im	Golden Ad	Golden Im	Total	
North Platte R.	6	33	35	3	-	71	N. Cherry	3	3	1	-	4
Platte River	9	130	72	-	-	202	Valentine NWR	1	-	-	2	2
South Platte R.	1	3	-	-	-	3	Thos.-N Linc.	3	1	-	1	2
Republican R.	3	34	33	-	-	67	Buffalo	1	3	-	-	3
Middle Loup R.	2	8	2	-	-	10	Sherman Res.	1	2	-	-	2
North Loup R.	1	4	1	-	-	5	Loup Co.	1	4	1	-	1
Loup River	1	9	3	-	-	12	Wheeler/Boone	2	6	1	3	10
Snake River	1	1	-	-	-	1	Lanc./Thayer	2	1	1	-	2
Niobrara River	5	33	5	-	2	40	S. Central	4	5	3	-	8
Missouri River	4	122	28	1	-	151	Chase	2	3	6	1	10
Dawes/Sioux	4	-	-	2	2	4	S. Lincoln	2	37	14	3	54
Sheridan	3	2	-	2	1	5						
Box B/Morrill	4	-	-	7	-	7						
Garden	2	-	-	5	1	6	Total	68	444	206	30	9 689

SPRING 1987. Eight Pectoral Sandpipers, coming into alternate plumage, were feeding in a roadside pool near Lowell, Kerney Co., on 4 April 1987.

A Northern Shrike was 4 miles S. of Mullen, Hooker Co. It had a thin black mask terminating at the base of the bill, eye protruding on the upper side of the mask, a pale bird over all, large bill distinctly hooked, faint barring visible on ventral side, strong flight with less wing motion than a Loggerhead Shrike. It was viewed under good conditions from 50-120 ft. along the road edge. I had the opportunity to compare this bird with a nearby Loggerhead. I think this is a rather late record.

--- Graham Chisholm, 2605 Haste St. #3 B, Berkley, Cal. 94704