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## Notes [March 1981]

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## NOTES

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.** On 1 May 1980 I had a White-winged Scoter in the yard, at most times not more than 15 to 20 feet away from me. It was here an hour or so before the neighbor's cat caused it to fly. I take it that it was very tired or sick because it would just keep moving enough that I couldn't get any closer.

— *Mrs. Don Lockwood, Rt. 1, Orchard, Nebraska 68764*

**COOPER'S HAWK.** A commotion in the top of a pine tree drew my attention. A Blue Jay was being chased by a hawk, whose wings could be heard beating against the pine boughs. When the hawk flew away, without the Jay, I could see that it was a Cooper's Hawk.

— *Doris Gates, R.R. 1, Box 25, Chadron, NE 69337.*

**OSPREY CARRYING BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.** On 24 April 1980 I was hiking along the north Stream Trail in Fontenelle Forest. Just above tree-top level I saw what at first appeared to be a big "blob of feathers". I quickly realized that I was seeing two birds in flight, not just the expected one. It was an Osprey carrying a Black-crowned Night Heron in its feet. Apparently the load was too much for the Osprey, and since it was rapidly losing altitude was forced to release the Heron. The Heron, appearing none the worse for the experience, flew to the top of a tall cottonwood and squawked for 15 to 20 minutes. Every thing I have read had led me to believe that Ospreys take only fish, so I cannot account for this strange behavior.

— *Ruth Green, 506 West 31st Avenue, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005*

**INDIAN CAVE STATE PARK.** On 4 May 1980 I heard several Whip-poor-wills calling at Indian Cave State Park, Richardson Co. They called from after sunset to just before dawn. At dawn some 10 to 15 Turkey Vultures were found roosting in a couple of trees along a foot trail in a section of the park that was burned on 28 or 29 April. A Summer Tanager was seen in the northern portion of the park on 4 May.

— *Larry L. Einemann, Rt. 3, Box 205, West Point, Nebraska 68788.*

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH NEST.** John Manning, Norfolk, found a Red-breasted Nuthatch nest at Steer Creek campground (site 6), McKelvie Division of Nebraska National Forest, Cherry Co. Mike and Bob Manning were with him at the time. About two weeks later, 2 June 1980, Bob and I saw the Nuthatches carrying green-winged insects into the nest hole, which was about 7 feet above ground, in a pine tree. The hole faced south, and was about 1" x 1¼". The female removed a fecal sac from the hole. While the female was in the hole the male landed on a branch, about 2 feet from me.

— *Rick Manning, 2909 S. 93rd Plaza #1, Omaha, Nebraska 68124*

WINTER BIRDS. On 2 February 1980 I saw Mourning Doves at Fremont, on the next day a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and 4 February Lapland Longspurs at Fremont and a Great Blue Heron in Staunton Co.; on 5 February Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds in Antelope Co.; and Red Crossbills, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Golden Eagle, and Shrike sp. at Pine Glen WMA (Brown Co.); On 6 February Red Crossbills (several hundred) Pine Siskins, 7 Evening Grosbeaks, and Golden-crowned Kinglets in Cherry Co., and Townsend's Solitaire at Hidden Paradise, Brown Co.

— Rick Manning, 2909 South 93rd Plaza, #1, Omaha, Nebraska 68124

MINDEN NOTES. On 20 April 1980 I saw a Peregrine Falcon, south of town. On 15 June I flushed a Lark Sparrow from its nest, and found it contained 4 Cowbird and 2 Lark Sparrow eggs. I don't recall finding as many Cowbird eggs in a nest before. On 17 and again on 27 September I saw a Swamp Sparrow, and on 17 September an immature Sharp-shinned Hawk.

— Harold Turner, Nichol Hotel, Minden, Nebraska 68959

PLANT WATCHING. On 26 April 1980 Sandy and Jim Kovanda and Babs Padelford found 3 trillium plants (*Trillium gradiflorum*) blooming near Cottonwood Trail in Fontenelle Forest. These were known to be in the Forest, but hadn't been seen since the mid-1950s. Dr. David Sutherland, University of Nebraska at Omaha, went to confirm the finding and discovered a large colony of 67 plants a few hundred yards south of the small one.

— Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005