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"Notes- *Nebraska Bird Review* March 1991" (1991). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 408.
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NOTES

Swainson's Hawks. On Saturday, 29 September 1990, I witnessed a mass migration of Swainson's Hawks. The weather was clear, with large cumulus clouds, approximately 75°F. At about 3:30 pm, I noticed several Swainson's traveling south over the Carpenter Ranch (20 miles north of Henry in Sioux County). For the next 45 minutes, I counted 176 Swainson's. One thermal contained 62 birds, soaring to an estimated 3800 feet (National Weather Service data on base of clouds). Once near the clouds, the birds would "peel off" and head south, with wings folded and at speeds clocked via auto at 55 mph. How long before 3:30 this was occurring was unknown. Three accipiters were also observed. It was very exciting—a first for me.

---Stephen Kerr, Box 327, Gering, NE 69341

Holt County Sightings. As it was his first time turning in an occurrence report, Loren Blake was good enough to provide some of the first spring dates for his area in Holt County. Any of the following which were not recorded in the fall are listed in capital letters:

Pied-billed Grebe Mr 21; HORNED GREBE Mr 21; EARED GREBE Ap 20; American White Pelican Ap 29; Double-crested Cormorant Ap 4; AMERICAN BITTERN My 18; Great Blue Heron Mr 16; GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE Ap 15; Canada Goose Fe 21; Wood Duck Mr 11; Blue-winged Teal Mr 12; Mallard Fe 12; Northern Pintail Mr 4; Northern Shoveler Mr 19; Gadwall Mr 4; Killdeer Mr 4; Upland Sandpiper Ap 27; Common Snipe Ap 2; Mourning Dove Ap 12; BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO Je 20; Yellow-billed Cuckoo Je 12; Common Nighthawk My 21; Chimney Swift Ap 26; Red-headed Woodpecker Ap 30; GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER My 17; Western Kingbird Ap 22; Eastern Kingbird My 2; TREE SWALLOW My 3; Barn Swallow Ap 15; House Wren Ap 24; Marsh Wren My 27; Eastern Bluebird Mr 11; Gray Catbird My 17; NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD Ap 27 (only sighting of year); Brown Thrasher Ap 23; Loggerhead Shrike Ap 16; Warbling Vireo My 12; Yellow Warbler My 12; Common Yellowthroat My 5; Dickcissel Je 9; Lark Sparrow Ap 27; Grasshopper Sparrow My 17; Song Sparrow Mr 20; Swamp Sparrow My 14; Bobolink My 5; Western Meadowlark Mr 4; Yellow-headed Blackbird Ap 18; Common Grackle Mr 12; Brown-headed Cowbird Ap 17; Orchard Oriole My 12; Northern Oriole My 10.

---Loren Blake, HC 63, Box 18, Chambers, NE 68725

Mississippi Kite. In the late afternoon of 7 September 1990, there was a severe hailstorm in parts of Lincoln. A Mississippi Kite was picked up at 3710 Prescott Street, apparently stunned. After being held overnight to make sure that there were no injuries, it was released the following day.

---Mabel B. Ott, 2718 S. 33rd St., Lincoln, NE 68506

Bat Netting. Ruth Green's Nature column in a recent *A Bird's Eye View* included this about a 3 July 1990 bat-netting try along Stream Trail in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy County, by Russ Benedict, Naturalist at Fontenelle Forest (The items in parentheses are additional information provided by Benedict). "I caught 21 bats of four different species in my mist nets. Fifteen were big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*, abundant statewide), which I decorated with numbered plastic wing bands and then released; most were nursing females. Other captures included a Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*, fairly common statewide) as well as two nursing Silver-haired Bats (*Lasiurus noctivigans*, fairly common statewide), both beautifully colored species. I also caught three Northern Myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*, common statewide), which were the

earliest young of the year recorded over a four-year study. During the last four years, seven species of bats have been captured in Fontenelle Forest. This number includes these four, Eastern Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*, uncommon in extreme southeastern corner), Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*, uncommon statewide), and Evening Bat (*Nyctecius humeralis*, fairly common in the southeastern corner). Another species, the Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*, uncommon in the eastern third), has been found in local caves although it has not been caught in the Forest to date."

In response to questions as to why the bats' echolocation didn't keep them out of nets, Benedict said that echolocation takes energy, and the bats don't use it unnecessarily. If nets are placed in areas where the bats don't feel it is necessary to use echolocation, particularly areas they commonly use, they won't use it and so won't be warned off. There are five other bats which may be found in Nebraska: Fringe-tailed Myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*), uncommon in the far west; Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), found in the western third; Long-legged Myotis (*Myotis volans*), found in the Pine Ridge; Big-eared Bat (*Plecotus townsendii*), which has one record from the Pine Ridge; and Mexican Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), which has six records from the central part of the state. Professor Ken Geluso of UNO, Frank Koch, and Benedict mark only the Big Brown Bats because they are not sure if the other, smaller bats would be able to operate with a marker on them. These bats are retained in small cups until the netting is over. If they were released earlier, they wouldn't be able to be sure a subsequent capture was a different bat. The three take measurements and other information on the bats before they are released. They have marked 100 Big Brown Bats but have had no returns on them.

---Additional information gathered by R.G. Cortelyou,
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Correction. "The Third Report of the NOU Records Committee"
acknowledgements section (*NBR* 58:96) should include R. T. Korpi.

---Alan Grenon, NOURC Chair, 1111 Bellevue Blvd. N.,
Bellevue, NE 68005