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FALL 1990 OCCURRENCE REPORT: UPDATE

The following provides an update of avian occurrences between July 1 and December 31, 1990. Sources used include additional reports from NOU members; the "Southern Great Plains Region" report in *American Birds*, Winter 1990 and Spring 1991 issues; *Iowa Bird Life* field reports (for those boundaries which the states share; and two NOU Newsletters (J/F/M 1991 and August 1990 [which was overlooked in March]).

This compilation of materials, as well as the main body of the occurrence report, is meant as a resource for all who wish to do scientific research on Nebraska avifauna. I invite all those keeping records in Nebraska to send reports to me (see address on front cover) for inclusion in the Spring Occurrence Report in the September *NBR*. Records of numbers, breeding, and commenting on regularity of occurrence are very welcome. In the following report, which follows the same

structure as the county-by-county report in the March *NBR*, full scholarly documentation is provided where appropriate. Any new addition to the occurrence report, whether a county visited or a species, is denoted by this symbol: ⋄.

In-state—Grzybowski (1991) listed one Rufous Hummingbird (⋄) sighting in the state for this period. Further information will be sought. This is the only record for the state for this period.

Dawes County—The following species were reported in *American Birds* by Richard C. and Dorothy J. Rosche of Chadron: Common Loon, July 20; immature Mississippi Kite, July 26; Marbled Godwit (⋄), "an adult rigorously defending two downy young" may be the first nesting record in the state (no date given); Caspian Tern, July 18; immature, male Broad-tailed Hummingbird, September 18; Evening Grosbeak, oversummered in county, apparently still present in November (Grzybowski, 1990; Grzybowski, 1991).

Box Butte County (⋄)—The Rosches found Cassin's Sparrow on June 29, and singing Savannah Sparrows in late June (Grzybowski, 1990). Though not in the specific time frame, these sightings are noted because of their rarity.

Morrill County (⋄)—The Rosches reported a Cinnamon Teal with 4 young on July 26 (Grzybowski, 1990).

Sheridan County (⋄)—In late June, the Rosches reported singing Savannah Sparrows (Grzybowski, 1990). On October 27, they noted a Surf Scoter (Grzybowski, 1991).

Garden County (⋄)—The following species were reported in *American Birds*: Richard and Dorothy Rosche reported two downy young Western Grebe on July 7; many Eared Grebe nests found in early July; and a Canvasback with eight downy young on July 6 (Grzybowski, 1990). Graham Chisholm reported a Snowy Egret on August 22 (Grzybowski, 1991).

Cherry County—The Rosches reported many Eared Grebe nests in early July and identified a Clark's Grebe (⋄) "at close range" on July 12 (Grzybowski, 1990).

Keith County—The Rosches reported the following sightings: JULY 27—1 Snowy Egret, 1 Greater White-fronted Goose, 1 or 2 Snow Geese, 2600 Baird's Sandpipers (at Lake McConaughy), Red-eyed Vireo; JULY 28—16 California Gulls; SEPTEMBER 13—Great Egret; OCTOBER 12—Fox Sparrow; NOVEMBER 9—9 California Gulls and a late Gray Catbird; NOVEMBER 24—50 Greater Scaup at Keystone Lake in a larger flock of Lessers, a Black Scoter (⋄), and a late Virginia Rail (Grzybowski, 1990; Grzybowski, 1991).

Hooker County (⋄)—A male Ring-necked Duck was spotted by the Rosches on August 10 (Grzybowski, 1990).

MacPherson County (♠)—The Rosches reported 18 Trumpeter Swans on October 12 (Grzybowski, 1991).

Lincoln County—The Rosches reported two Bohemian Waxwings (♠) on November 9 (Grzybowski, 1991).

Logan County (♠)—A Winter Wren was reported on October 13 by the Rosches (Grzybowski, 1991).

Harlan County (♠)—Mr. and Mrs. Russell Smith reported an Inca Dove (♠) frequenting their yard in Orleans starting in early December 1990. Further details will be forthcoming (Johnson-Mueller, 1991).

Howard County (♠)—Bill Lemburg sighted an American Woodcock (♠). The bird was seen on his farm, near the pen where geese are kept. He saw the bird seven times between July 6 and July 18. This was Lemburg's first sighting of Woodcock in Howard County.

Hall County—Tom Labeledz reported a Great Egret on August 11 (Grzybowski, 1991). Gary Lingle spotted a Common Loon and a Little Blue Heron near the Alda/I-80 interchange on August 1 (Johnson-Mueller, 1990).

Boone County (♠)—Mitzi Fox reported Rock Wren near Albion from October 16 to 23. Identification confirmation was made by Wayne Mollhoff (Johnson-Mueller, 1991).

Cedar County (♠)—Surf Scoter was spotted by B.J. Rose on October 23 at Gavin's Point Dam (Grzybowski, 1991).

Wayne County (♠)—Two reports of Gyrfalcon (♠), one by Duane Wolff on November 23, 1990, six miles north of Hoskins, and one by Doc and Isolde Cutshall about two weeks before this date and about a mile from this site (Johnson-Mueller, 1991).

Seward County—John Andersen of the Army Corps of Engineers sighted two Black-billed Magpies in the last week of December at Twin Lakes (Johnson-Mueller, 1991).

Dodge County (♠)—Tom Labeledz spotted a Red-shouldered Hawk and Great Egrets on August 11 (Johnson-Mueller, 1990)

Lancaster County—B.J. Rose sighted a flock of 150 Great-tailed Grackles on October 19 and 20 (Grzybowski, 1991). Norma Johnson-Mueller reported two Least Terns and more than 100 Black Terns at Branched Oak Lake on August 3 (Johnson-Mueller, 1990).

Washington County—210,000 Snow Geese were reported at DeSoto NWR by Erv Klaas on November 14 (Kent, Fuller, and Bendorf, 1991).

Douglas County—B.J. Rose reported a Prairie Falcon on November 18 (Grzybowski, 1991).

Sarpy County—Jim and Sandy Kovanda reported a Great Egret in Fontenelle Forest on September 3 (Grzybowski, 1991). Ione and Al Werthman had Acadian Flycatcher most of the summer in the Forest, the last one reported on September 3 (Grzybowski, 1990; Grzybowski, 1991). Ross Silcock reported a Gray Catbird on October 20, and also found a MacGillivray's Warbler in Fontenelle Forest (no date noted). This would be an outstanding record, and more information is being sought.

Rick Wright reported the following sightings, which do not include any Christmas Count data, for the last days of December: Mallard—2000+ on the 25th near Ashland; Common Goldeneye, 10-14 on the 31st in Fontenelle Forest (FF); Sharp-shinned Hawk—adult, probably male, on the 23rd; American Kestrel—up to 10 between Bellevue and Ralston in the period from the 22nd through January 2nd, Rick also noted that Kestrels "seem[ed] uncommon"; Mourning Dove—2 on the 31st near Springfield; Belted Kingfisher—one on the 31st in FF; Brown Creeper, one on the 27th; Winter Wren—one on the 31st in FF; Carolina Wren—two on the 31st in FF; American Robin—up to 50 per day in FF during last week of December; Oregon Junco—6 on the 23rd in FF [Rick noted the need for more careful recording of Oregon Juncos in Nebraska; I concur. Any notes on their occurrence are appreciated]; Swamp Sparrow—one on the 27th and two on the 31st, all in FF.

References

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- Johnson-Mueller, N. G. (Aug./Sept. 1990). Bird sightings. *The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union newsletter*, p. 3.
- Johnson-Mueller, N. G. (Jan./Fe./Mar. 1991). Bird sightings. *The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union newsletter*, p. 4.
- Kent, T. H., J. L. Fuller, and C. J. Bendorf. Field reports—Fall 1990. *Iowa Bird Life*, 61, 18.

1991 NOU ANNUAL MEETING

The 90th Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union took place in Grand Island, Nebraska, on May 17 to 19, 1991. Activities, hosted by the Grand Island Audubon Society, centered around the Holiday Inn in Grand Island where programs, meetings, and the annual banquet were held.

Friday night of the meeting the usual slide show took place, followed by a showing of the Nebraska PBS program *Last of the Rainwater Basins*, which featured NOU members Lee Morris and Paul Johnsgard. Saturday's highlight was the banquet speaker Toby Lemburg, who presented a paper on the game bird operations run by his family. Toby, 13 years old, showed slides of the birds, equipment, and operations of his father's and grandfather's farms. Tours of the farms were