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## "Notes on Bird Sightings," from *Nebraska Bird Review* (December 1992)

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**NOTES ON BIRD SIGHTINGS**

Notes from contributions to "A Bird's Eye View" (Audubon Society of Omaha) by Ruth C. Green, 506 W. 31 Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN. Flocks of this species were seen in unusually early 1992 fall migration by Julie Schroeder on Curtis Lake in western Douglas County on July 22, and by Ruth Green at Offut Base Lake in Bellevue, Sarpy County on July 29.

CATTLE EGRET. In mid-July, 1992, Ruth identified a male Cattle Egret in full breeding plumage as it was chasing insects in the yard of Bob and Elaine Sabin, Bellevue.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD. On August 8, 1992, Sharlene Wozniak, Omaha, reported to Ruth Green that she had a Rufous Hummingbird at her feeders on 102nd Ave. Ruth went to the site and saw it come once and feed heavily for about five minutes, then it left. Ruth wrote, "Both Sharlene and I were awed by the brilliance of this male Rufous Hummingbird; its plumage was more spectacular than any I have ever seen even in Arizona or California."

LEAST TERNS. During the summer of 1992, Ruth observed from 7 to 12 birds at the Capehart Golf Course in Bellevue, and 2 adults and 2 young at a sandpit lake south of Bellevue.

EASTERN SCREECH OWL. Bill Littrell, So. 49th St., Omaha, found an Eastern Screech Owl floating in his horse trough in the summer of 1992. It had been banded by Mabel Ott in 1991 for the Raptor Recovery Program. Ruth suspected that the little owl came for water, and was mobbed by scores of BANK SWALLOWS there.

ROCK WREN. Ruth wrote the following account:

I was banding birds on Gifford Road [during the Fall Fest at Fontanelle Forest] to give people a close-up view of common species as well as migrants. ...during a lull I noticed a small bird hopping along the railroad tracks and even walking on the rails.... As I walked within 20 feet of it, I knew this bird was far east of its home range. Its size, shape, behavior, [and] gray head and back could only be one species - a Rock Wren! Even though Rock Wrens are relatively common in Nebraska's Pine Ridge or at Toadstool Park near Crawford, this western species rarely ever gets east of the Great Plains. It surely was my lucky day because it flew across the road and right into my net.... I think this is the second one ever banded in the state, but I'm sure there are fewer than five records.

FALL 1992 SMALL PASSERINE MIGRATION. Ruth reported an erratic and,

for some species, surprisingly late migration, with few thrushes, and warbler migration often represented by only one member of a species instead of waves. An exception was the COMMON YELLOWTHROAT because she found that the migration of this species at the Offutt Base Lake and at Fontenelle Forest was the best she had seen. A BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER was sighted by Jim Ault at Fontenelle Forest on September 25. At Offutt Base Lake, Ruth re-netted three BELL'S VIREOS that she had banded there in 1991. She saw more EASTERN WOOD-PEWEES on October 5 than all summer or fall, and banded a YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER in Fontenelle Forest on October 9, the latest date on record. She banded 40 or more RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS with one net in her yard, and noticed several GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS in the flock. BROWN CREEPERS were frequent visitors to her yard.

#### Other Notes on Bird Sightings

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE. Six red neck-banded individuals were observed on February 27, 1992, near Hershey in Lincoln County, Nebraska. According to personnel of the Canadian Wildlife Service, these birds had been banded on the Arctic Ocean coast of Alaska, and/or the Northwest territories.

---Richard C. Rosche, 501 Shelton St., Chadron, NE 69337

FERRUGINOUS HAWK. we saw a large bird in a tree in our yard at dusk on January 17, 1992. Early the next morning, it was still in the same place as the night before. We saw a whitish breast and belly with fine, light-brownish streaks on the belly, and a light rufous color on the chest. The wing tips reached the tip of the tail like a falcon, but the face had no mustache or malar stripe, and was finely streaked with brown and white. The bill was yellow at the base and dark at the tip. As it flew to a fence post, we saw whitish patches on the upper side of the wings at the base of the primaries. The tail was whitish at the base and dark at the tip, and the back was brownish. The shoulders had a rufous tinge, and there was a little rufous color on the legs. There was no dark belly-band like a Rough-legged Hawk. We concluded that it was a Ferruginous Hawk. We saw two more Ferruginous Hawks, both in Phelps County: one on February 1, 1992, five miles west and three miles north of Atlanta, and the other on February 16, 1992, five to six miles west of Highway 183 and one mile south of the Platte River.

---Robin Harding & Lanny Randolph, Rt.1, Box 143, Kearney, NE 68847

BROWN CREEPER. I have had two little Brown Creepers coming to my oak tree [written January 4, 1993]. My cat caught one the other day and brought it up on the porch. I rescued it and brought it into the house. I left it in a box for a while, then I took it outside to another oak tree. It must have recovered because it flew away. Later, I again saw two Brown Creepers, so I hope one of them is the one I rescued.

---Emma Waterbury, 613 9th St., Scribner, NE 68057

WINTER WREN. At 7:45 a.m. on November 10, 1992, I heard and saw a Winter Wren in the shrubbery on the northeast side of Hamilton Hall on the city campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

--- Larry Einemann, 2917 S. 53rd St., Lincoln, NE 68506