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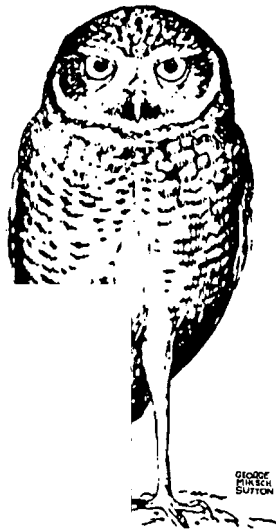
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Manuscripts for publication, semi-annual occurrence reports, Christmas count reports, and notes and field lists of bird sightings should be sent to Rosalind Morris, Editor, 3018 O St., Lincoln, NE 68510.

Other officers are: President, George Brown, 2018 12th Ave., Kearney, NE 68847; Vice President, Scott Purdy, 2222 Bellwood #104, Grand Island, NE 68801; Secretary, Todd Jensen, 3111 W. College #98, Grand Island, NE 68803. The Records Committee Chair is Joseph Gubanyi, 210 Hillcrest, Seward, NE 68434.

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CORRECTIONS IN VOL. 60 NO. 3, P. 78, 1992

Richard C. Rosche detected two errors in the bird list for the fall field trips in Dawes and Sioux Counties. The Chuck-will's-widow reported for Sioux County was not seen and should be deleted from the list. The Yellow-bellied Woodpecker reported in Dawes and Sioux Counties should be Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Please inform me about any questionable items, and the corrections will be published in the following issue of the NBR. Rosalind Morris, Editor

WHOOPIING CRANE SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA, FALL 1992

Steven Anschutz, Nebraska State Supervisor at the Nebraska/Kansas Field Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Dept. of Interior, Grand Island, NE, has supplied Whooping Crane migration data for the fall season, 1992. Some general aspects of the migration will be given, but specific sightings will be limited to Nebraska. Further information can be obtained from Mr. Wally Jobman at the office given above, 203 West Second Street, Grand Island, NE 68801.

Based on the breeding-ground surveys during the summer of 1992, about 148 birds were expected to arrive at Aransas Wildlife Refuge during the fall. A total of 135 (81 adult, 39 subadult, and 15 juvenile) had arrived by December 30, 1992, with the first arrivals on October 18. The other 13 birds, presumed dead, included 2 young, 3 nesting pairs, and 5 others. Confirmed observations of migrating Whooping Cranes were first reported on July 29 in Canada, and on October 8 in the United States; the last confirmed sighting date was November 17 in Saskatchewan, Canada. A total of 50 confirmed sightings were reported in Canada and the U. S. distributed as follows: Saskatchewan (24); North Dakota (3); South Dakota (2); Nebraska (5); Kansas (9); Oklahoma (5); and Texas (2).

The Whooping Crane sightings for Nebraska are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>No. Cranes</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Confirmed Sightings</u>		
10/17	6	Garfield Co. 1.5 mi. N, .5 W of Burwell, North Loup River. T21N, R16W, S10.
10/19-31	2 ad, 1 yg	Holt Co. 7 mi. S, 1 W, .5 S of Stuart. T29N, R16 W, S14, S.5; S23, NW.25.
10/24-25	7 ad, 1 yg	Gosper Co. 1 mi. W, 1.5 S of Smithfield. T7N, R22W, S24, NE.25, SW.25; S23, NE.25, SE.25.
10/26-11/1	2 ad, 1 yg	Custer Co. 12 mi. W, 1 S, .75 W of Merna. T17N, R23W, S6, SE.25; T18N, R23W, S31, SE.25.

<u>Date</u>	<u>No. Cranes</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Confirmed Sightings (continued)</u>		
10/30-11/2	2 ad, 1 yg	Loup Co. 13 mi. NW of Burwell, Calamus Reservoir. T22N, R17W, S5, NE.25; T23N, R17W, S32, SE.25.

<u>Probable Sightings</u>		
10/17	2	Rock Co. 4 mi. S, 1 E of Newport. Flying.
10/18	2	Brown Co. 30 mi. SW of Ainsworth. Flying.
10/18	6	Buffalo Co. 2 mi. E, 8 N of Gibbon. Flying.
10/18	6	Loup Co. 6.5-7 mi. W of Burwell, North Loup River.
10/19	2	Rock Co. 6 mi. E, 3 S of Bassett. Flying.
10/20	8	Kearney Co. 4 mi. W of Kearney. Flying.

<u>Unconfirmed Sightings</u>		
10/8	2	Hall Co. about 400 yds W of Hwy 281 bridge over S. Channel of Platte River. Flying.
10/19	2	Cherry Co. flying over Valentine.

Abbreviations: E=east, W=west, N=north, S=south, ad=adult, yg=young

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY, MAY 8, 1993

The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, in cooperation with the Information and Education Working Group of Partners in Flight, is coordinating this first annual event. Individuals and organizations throughout the Western Hemisphere will focus on the conservation of birds that migrate across the Americas. Citizens will participate in bird counts, develop educational displays and other activities, and band together to restore and protect fragile habitats.

NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 14-16, 1993

The NOU Annual Meeting will be held at the Marina Inn, South Sioux City, NE, with field trips scheduled for nearby areas. For further information, contact George Brown, President, 2018 12th Ave., Kearney, NE (308/237-3864), or Scott Purdy, Vice Pres., 2222 Bellwood Drive, Apt. 104, Grand island, NE 68801 (308/384-8903).

Article redacted at the author's request (April 2013).

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SIGHTING OF A CANYON WREN IN KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Mark A. Brogie, Box 316, Creighton, NE 68729

The Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*) is found in all states west of the Rocky Mountains; however, east of the Rockies it resides only in western Oklahoma, and in western and central Texas, with a separate population in the Black Hills of Wyoming and South Dakota. It has never been recorded in North Dakota or Kansas, or in any state whose entire boundaries lie east of the 100th meridian (DeSante and Pyle 1986). This species is almost entirely resident over its range, although a few most northerly populations depart in winter, and there are some altitudinal migrations to escape winter weather (Webster 1983).

Nebraska appears to be the only state outside the Canyon Wren breeding range with a record of the species. Johnsgard (1980) lists the species as accidental in Nebraska, with individuals having been

seen on two occasions in Dawes County in recent years. Johnsgard states that Canyon Wren vagrants in Nebraska are to be expected, as the species is a permanent resident in the Black Hills. In bordering South Dakota, the species is an uncommon, but local, permanent resident in the Black Hills; however, there are no records of Canyon Wrens in other areas of this state (SDOU 1991).

Bray et al. (1986) also list this species as accidental in Nebraska, citing a single, documented record of a Canyon Wren seen January 20, 1974 by Richard C. and Dorothy Rosche in Dawes County. This bird was studied carefully as it fed in Smiley Canyon at Fort Robinson (Rosche 1982). Two other Canyon Wren sight records from northwestern Nebraska have been published, but both lack any description. One was seen by L. Bruner on August 12, 1903 in Sioux County (Bruner et al. 1904), and the other was observed by Doris Gates on April 11, 1972 in King's Canyon, Dawes County (Gates 1974). This paper provides the first photo-documentation for the Canyon Wren in Nebraska, and extends the dispersal range of this normally sedentary species an unprecedented 350 miles east of the nearest known breeding locale.

On the morning of May 17, 1992, Dave Heidt and I found a Canyon Wren in the Walker's Valley View Development Area, on the south shore of Lewis and Clark Lake, Knox County, Nebraska. This locale consists of a small housing development in a steep, wooded north-south canyon adjacent to Lewis and Clark Lake, approximately three miles south and eight miles west of Yankton, South Dakota. The bird was heard vocalizing, and was first observed singing from a deck rail of one of the area's homes. The following characteristics were noted:

The bird had the chunky body appearance of a wren, and was noticeably larger than a House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). The most apparent field marks included the reddish lower breast, wings, and back, contrasting with white throat and upper breast. The crown was a lighter grayish coloration than that of the back. The long, slightly decurved bill was very apparent. Upon inspection, one could see that the upper mandible was black and the lower, a paler, flesh coloration. The reddish tail was barred with black, and the underbelly and back were spotted with black feathers.



Photo by
Mark Brogie

This Canyon Wren often perched on the rooftops of the homes in the area, and was easily located by voice. We had a National Geographic tape with the vocalizations of this species, and the

calls given by the Knox County bird were identical to those on the tape: a loud, descending series of "tews". The wren readily responded to the tape, and at one point came within five feet of the observers. It was constantly moving, and did not seem to stay in one area for more than approximately 15 minutes. It would move from one rooftop to another, although it was observed several times foraging on the ground.

The Canyon Wren was observed or heard by numerous people for more than three weeks in the same general locale where it was first sighted -- an approximate quarter-mile stretch of canyon, starting near the large cliffs bordering the Missouri River, and extending south up the valley. My last sighting took place on June 9, 1992. I have photographs of the bird, and others have been sent to the Nebraska Records Committee, and to the publication *American Birds*.

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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

BOOK REVIEW

Black, Gladys. 1992. Iowa Birdlife. Published for the Nature Conservancy by the University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA. \$34.95 hard cover, \$15.95 paper.

This book is a compilation of 100 of the articles that were published in the Des Moines Register from 1982 to 1992. The profits from the sale of the book will support Conservancy projects to protect and preserve the Iowa bird habitats described in the book.

The author's locale is Pleasantville, a small town southeast of Des Moines in the area around Lake Red Rock, which is between Pella and Knoxville. She has made bird observations every day for 35 years. Through her articles, talks, and field trips, she has done more than anyone else in Iowa to bring the science of ornithology to lay persons. In 1956 she became active in the Iowa Ornithological Union. She is a licensed bird bander.

Every birder will find interesting facts in the book, and some may gain new knowledge. The charm lies in the way she tells how and where she saw a bird and found its nest. She includes the type of habitat, food preferences, the height of the nest above the ground, its composition, the number and appearance of the eggs, and length of incubation. She also relates incidents surrounding some of her bird sightings. One time, she nursed a starving Snowy Owl back to health.

--- Hazel Scheiber, 913 F Street # 2, Lincoln, NE 68508

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