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**"Notes on Bird Sightings in Nebraska," from *Nebraska Bird Review*  
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NOTES ON BIRD SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA

**Trumpeter Swans and Lewis' Woodpeckers:** While birding in western Nebraska August 1, 1994, Shirley and I observed a pair of Trumpeter Swans with five nearly grown cygnets. They were in a sandhills lake west of Whitman near the road. We also saw two Lewis' Woodpeckers in the burned-out area at Chadron State Park, but could not find them at Soldier Creek near Fort Robinson where we saw so many last year.

---- Lee Morris, RR1, Box 14, Benedict, NE 68316

**More Trumpeter Swans:** I was driving along Highway 2 on October 8, 1994 near Whitman, NE on one of those days when everything in nature seemed to be putting on a final show before winter. Rounding a curve and looking across Collins Lake, I saw what I thought might be late White Pelicans gliding across the water. A split second later, I knew these were not pelicans, so I stopped; a scan through my binoculars and a study through my spotting scope identified Trumpeter Swans - five adults and four subadults. Two adults flew across the lake giving their distinctive trumpeting call.

Fascinated with this sighting, I drove on towards the Black Hills, speculating about their presence at Collins Lake.

Where were they headed? LaCreek Wildlife Refuge at Martin, South Dakota, came to mind, so I stopped there on the way back. Mr. Rolf Kraft, Refuge Manager, kindly dragged out the big serial survey maps to show me all the nest area sites for Trumpeters. Aerial surveys on five days from August 20 through September 2, 1994, showed birds nesting in Cherry, Grant, Arthur, Sheridan, McPherson, and Garden Counties in Nebraska, 10 counties in South Dakota, and Crook County in Wyoming. A total of 249 swans in 9 flocks were observed: 47 non-breeders and 54 pairs with 32 broods consisting of 85 cygnets (much higher than the 1993 total of 122 adults and 42 cygnets). All of these birds have migrated or will migrate for the winter into LaCreek, where the water is kept open and food is provided. It seems that this population has somewhat stabilized at about 225 birds, which means that some are 'pioneering' into other areas. Only one has been located, and that was in Wisconsin. Most of the birds have been neck-collared, so if you see swans with neck collars, either call me (I have cards and information) or inform Mr. Kraft at the Refuge.

----Ruth C. Green, 506 W. 31 Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005

**Rufous Hummingbird:** On November 20, 1994, Mary Culbertson had a hummingbird at the feeders of her southwest Omaha home. She gave me such a good description that I was sure that it was a Rufous Hummingbird. I encouraged her to continue feeding until the rainy and very overcast weather cleared, then I'm sure it would be on its way. This is the third record for this species that I know of since 1985. From November 10-17, 1985, a female (or a hatching-year male) spent a week at the Bellevue home of Dr. Art Douglas. Snow was almost a foot deep at that time and the weather was very overcast. On the morning of the 17th, I watched the bird feed for a few minutes and, just as the sun broke through the clouds, it headed straight south and was gone. On August 8, 1992, I saw and photographed a beautiful male Rufous just south of West Maple Street in Omaha. There were plenty of flowers in bloom, so it was not stressed for food, but it stopped for just a few hours.

----Ruth C. Green, 506 W. 31 Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005

**Baird's Sparrow and Other Species in Custer County, Nebraska:**

Raymond C. and Raymond T. Korpi (father and son) identified a Baird's Sparrow in a ravine as they were travelling on the road north of Arnold and close to the northwestern boundary of the county on September 9, 1994. They said that the bird had a flat head like the Grasshopper Sparrow, but a longer tail. It had the distinctive ochre crown stripe and lacked the orange markings of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow and LeConte's Sparrow. Information will be sent to the Records Committee.

They also recorded the following 26 species in Custer Co. on the same day: Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, European Starling, Field Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Common Grackle.

--- Information supplied by Raymond C. Korpi, 1106 Bea Circle, Bellevue, NE 68005, and Raymond T. Korpi, 1975 N.W. Everett, # 508, Portland, OR 97209