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NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION FALL FIELD DAYS, SEPT. 9-11, 1994
Condensed from Notes by Neal Ratzlaff, NOU President

A total of 118 species were seen by 60 Nebraska birders and a few from other states, in the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey, Thomas County where the Forest is located, and three other nearby counties, Blaine, Cherry, and Brown (see Table 1). There was a nice variety of forest, lake, riparian, wetland, and sandhill habitats. Notable sightings were a subadult Mississippi Kite in the camp area of the Forest and along the Middle Loup River west of the bridge, and a White-faced Ibis. Ruth Green banded House Wrens, 1 Gray Catbird, 1 Yellow-breasted Chat, 2 Rufous-sided Towhees, 64 Chipping Sparrows, 2 Clay-colored Sparrows, and 20 Field Sparrows.

Table 1. Species observed in Nebraska National Forest near Halsey, and four counties during Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Fall Field Days, September 9 - 11, 1994. Sightings in Thomas and Blaine Cos. are shown in the same column, T = Thomas, B = Blaine.

Species	NE Nat. Forest	Thomas/Blaine	Cherry	Brown
Pied-billed Grebe			✓	✓
Eared Grebe				✓
American White Pelican			✓	✓
Double-crested Cormorant			✓	✓
Great Blue Heron	✓	T	✓	✓
Great Egret			✓	
Green Heron	✓	T		
White-faced Ibis				✓
Trumpeter Swan			✓	
Canada Goose			✓	✓
Wood Duck	✓	T	✓	
Green-winged Teal			✓	✓
Mallard	✓	T, B	✓	✓
Northern Pintail			✓	✓
Blue-winged Teal		T	✓	✓
Northern Shoveler			✓	✓
Gadwall			✓	✓
American Wigeon				✓
Canvasback			✓	
Redhead			✓	
Ruddy Duck			✓	
Turkey Vulture	✓	T		✓
Osprey	✓	B	✓	
Mississippi Kite	✓			
Northern Harrier	✓	T		✓
Sharp-shinned Hawk	✓			
Cooper's Hawk	✓		✓	✓
Swainson's Hawk	✓	T	✓	✓
Red-tailed Hawk	✓	T	✓	✓
Ferruginous Hawk		T		
Golden Eagle	✓		✓	

Species	NE Nat. Forest	Thomas/Blaine	Cherry	Brown
American Kestrel	✓	T	✓	✓
Merlin	✓			
Peregrine Falcon		T		
Ring-necked Pheasant		T	✓	✓
Greater Prairie-Chicken	✓			
Sharp-tailed Grouse	✓			✓
Wild Turkey	✓	T	✓	
American Coot			✓	✓
Killdeer	✓	T	✓	✓
Greater Yellowlegs		T		
Lesser Yellowlegs	✓			
Solitary Sandpiper		T		
Spotted Sandpiper		T		
Semipalmated Sandpiper		T		
Common Snipe	✓	T	✓	
Wilson's Phalarope				✓
Franklin's Gull			✓	
Ring-billed Gull		T	✓	✓
Rock Dove	✓	T, B		
Mourning Dove	✓	T, B	✓	✓
Eastern Screech Owl	✓			
Great Horned Owl	✓			
Common Nighthawk	✓	B		
Common Poorwill	✓			
Chimney Swift	✓			
Belted Kingfisher	✓	T	✓	✓
Red-headed Woodpecker	✓	T	✓	
Red-bellied Woodpecker			✓	
Downy Woodpecker	✓			
Hairy Woodpecker	✓			
Northern Flicker	✓	T	✓	✓
Eastern Phoebe	✓			
Say's Phoebe	✓			
Great Crested Flycatcher	✓			
Western Kingbird	✓		✓	

Species	NE Nat. Forest	Thomas/ Blaine	Cherry	Brown
Eastern Kingbird	✓	T	✓	
Horned Lark	✓	T, B	✓	✓
Cliff Swallow	✓		✓	
Barn Swallow	✓	T	✓	✓
Blue Jay	✓	T		✓
Black-billed Magpie	✓			
American Crow	✓	T, B	✓	✓
Black-capped Chickadee	✓		✓	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	✓			
White-breasted Nuthatch	✓			
Rock Wren	✓			
House Wren	✓			
Eastern Bluebird	✓			
Swainson's Thrush	✓			
American Robin	✓	T		✓
Gray Catbird	✓			
Brown Thrasher	✓	T	✓	✓
Cedar Waxwing	✓	T		
Loggerhead Shrike		T, B	✓	
European Starling		T	✓	
Nashville Warbler	✓			
Common Yellowthroat	✓	T		
Wilson's Warbler	✓			
Yellow-breasted Chat	✓			
Northern Cardinal	✓	T		
Blue Grosbeak		T		
Indigo Bunting		T		
Dickcissel	✓			
Rufous-sided Towhee	✓	T		
Chipping Sparrow	✓	T	✓	✓
Clay-colored Sparrow	✓		✓	✓
Field Sparrow	✓		✓	
Vesper Sparrow	✓			✓
Lark Sparrow	✓	T		✓
Lark Bunting	✓	T, B	✓	✓

Species	NE Nat. Forest	Thomas/ Blaine	Cherry	Brown
Savannah Sparrow	✓	T	✓	✓
Grasshopper Sparrow	✓		✓	✓
Song Sparrow	✓	T	✓	✓
Harris' Sparrow	✓			
Dark-eyed Junco	✓			
Bobolink			✓	
Red-winged Blackbird	✓	T	✓	✓
Western Meadowlark	✓	T, B	✓	✓
Meadowlark sp.		T	✓	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	✓		✓	✓
Brewer's Blackbird				✓
Common Grackle	✓	T	✓	✓
Brown-headed Cowbird			✓	
House Finch	✓			
Red Crossbill	✓			
Pine Siskin	✓		✓	
American Goldfinch	✓	T	✓	✓
House Sparrow		B		
Totals	81	50	60	49

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.