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Summer Field Report, June-July 1996

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SUMMER FIELD REPORT, JUNE-JULY 1996

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INTRODUCTION

Starting with this report, Joel Jorgensen will write the reports for sub-passerines. Hopefully this will help with timeliness, especially in getting reports to the Regional Editor for Audubon Field Notes. It is a long process writing up especially the Spring and Fall reports, given the excellent number received.

Highlights in this report are rare loons at Lake McConaughy, three reports of Clark's Grebe, King Rail in Seward Co, Sandhill Cranes in Clay Co, Mountain Plovers in Kimball Co, easterly reports of Black-necked Stilt, first breeding record for Wilson's Phalarope in the Rainwater Basin, Brown Creeper in Sarpy Co, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the panhandle and in Harlan Co, Townsend's Solitaire in the panhandle, Wood Thrush in Gage Co, Sage Thrasher in Kimball and Banner Cos, Curve-billed Thrasher in Scotts Bluff Co (pending NOU Records Committee approval), Tennessee Warbler in the panhandle, Western Tanager near Redington, Northern Cardinal breeding near Scottsbluff, Chestnut-collared Longspur in Holt Co, Eastern Meadowlark high count at Crescent Lake NWR, and Red Crossbill in Buffalo Co.

Larry Malone made an interesting observation of a small fall-out of migrant passerines at Kilpatrick L, Box Butte Co., on 2 Jun. A northwesterly wind of 15-25 mph led to several observations listed below; notable was the fact that all warblers were females, except for the Tennessee, which was impossible to determine.

An error by WRS was pointed out in the Winter Field Report. Lanny Randolph and Robin Harding did not report the 11 Eastern Meadowlarks in Kearney Co. on 16 Feb; they were reported in fact by Larry Malone. Hopefully observers will report such errors so that they do not become permanent.

ABBREVIATIONS, GAZETTEER

Initials in parentheses refer to observers; a list follows this report.

*=documented; CLNWR= Crescent Lake NWR; FF= Fontenelle Forest Nature Center; LM= L. McConaughy; NE= Nebraska; NM = National Monument; NPNWR= North Platte NWR; NWR= National Wildlife Refuge; Res= Reservoir; RWB= Rainwater Basin, SHP= State Historical Park; SL= sewage lagoons; SP= State Park; SRA= State Recreation Area; WMA= Wildlife Management Area; WPA= Waterfowl Production Area.

Arbor Day Farm, Otoe; Arbor L WMA, Lancaster; Ayr L, Adams; Basswood Ridge WMA, Dakota; Branched Oak SRA, Lancaster; Bruning Pit, Fillmore; Burchard L WMA, Pawnee; Calamus Res SRA, Loup; Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff; CLNWR, Garden; Deep Well WMA, Hamilton; DeSoto Bend NWR, Washington; Facus Springs, Morrill; FFNC, Sarpy; Fort Kearny SHP, Kearney; Fort Robinson SP, Dawes/Sioux; Freeman Lakes WPA, Seward/York; Funk Lagoon WPA, Phelps; Glenvil Basin WPA, Clay; Harvard Marsh WPA, Clay; Indian Cave SP, Nemaha/Richardson; James Ranch, Sioux; Kilpatrick L, Box Butte; Massie WPA, Clay; L. McConaughy, Keith; Medicine Creek Res SRA, Frontier; Miller's Pond, Fillmore; Monroe Canyon, Sioux; Nine Mile Prairie, Lancaster; Niobrara Valley Preserve, Brown/Keya Paha/Rock; Lake North, Platte; Oak Glen WMA, Seward; Oliver Res

SRA, Kimball; Pawnee L SRA, Lancaster; Pine Glen WMA, Brown; Rauscher Lagoon WPA, Fillmore; Rock Creek L SRA, Dundy; Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo; Rulo Bluffs Preserve, Richardson; Sacramento-Wilcox WMA, Phelps; Schramm Park SRA, Sarpy; Scotts Bluff NM, Scotts Bluff; Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux; State Line Island, Scotts Bluff; Theesen Lagoon WPA, Clay; Valentine NWR, Cherry; Wagon Train L SRA, Lancaster; Walgren L SRA, Sheridan; Wehrspann L, Sarpy; Wild Rose Ranch, Kearney; Yankee Hill WMA, Lancaster.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Red-throated Loon: The identity of two small loons at Lake Ogallala on 22 Jun was controversial and will have to be ultimately determined, if possible, by the Records Committee. A loon was identified as a Red-throated in the late morning (*LKM). Two small loons were observed together in the early afternoon, one identified as a Pacific and one as a small Common (*WRS,*JGJ). Three Common Loons, one of which was markedly smaller and presumably the small Common Loon that was observed on 22 Jun, were observed on Keystone Lake on 3 Aug (JGJ,SJD,WRS).

Pacific Loon: See Red-throated Loon.

Common Loon: See Red-throated Loon.

Pied-billed Grebe: Breeds and summers somewhat locally in the east; 3 were at North Lake Basin WMA on 10 Jun (LP,BP), and the species was found throughout the period in Otoe Co (LF,CF) and at Funk WPA (LR,RH). In the southwest was one in Chase Co on 4 Jul (IP).

Eared Grebe: Exceptional were counts of 436 on 13 Jun and 316 on 29 Jul at CLNWR (MF). Probably late migrants were 3 at Funk WPA on 3 Jun (LR,RH).

Western Grebe: Rather far east were singles at Funk WPA on 2 Jun (LR,RH) and in Antelope Co on 12-13 Jul (LP,BP,LR,RH). Otherwise, reports were restricted to the west with a high count of 77 at LM on 15 Jul (LP,BP).

Clark's Grebe: With good details provided, 2 birds observed at Lake Ogallala on 9 Jun (LP,BP), 2 off Omaha Beach, LM on 16 Jun (WRS), and a single at NPNWR 16 Jun-12 Jul (LKM,LK), add to evidence that a few individuals can be routinely found with Westerns.

American White Pelican: Good numbers were reported throughout with a high count of 76 in Otoe Co on 21 Jun (LF,CF).

Double-crested Cormorant: At least 1 nest and 30 individuals were at Harlan Co. Res. on 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). A few can be found during summer at favored locales, but 60 were at CLNWR on 13 Jun (MF) and 125 were there on 16 Jun (MF). Possible early migrants, 88 were in Rock Co on 20 Jul (LR,RH).

American Bittern: All but 1 were at CLNWR, where 8 were found on 24 Jul (MF). The other was 1 at Funk WPA on 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ).

Least Bittern: With several reported from the Rainwater Basin, breeding is suspected. Observations were at North Lake Basin WMA on 10-15 Jun (LP,BP,JGJ), Funk WPA on 1-2 Jun (LR,RH) and 19 Jul (LP,BP), and Deep Well WMA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Great Blue Heron: Numbers begin building at favored locales during July. High count was 20 at Hansen WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Great Egret: A few were noted in Otoe Co (LF,CF) and the RWB (LR,RH,LP,BP) during June, but 2 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM) were mildly unexpected. "Post breeders" appear and numbers build during July; high count was 17 at Kissinger Basin WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Snowy Egret: Increasing over the last two decades, up to 10 individuals were found at five locales. The most westerly were 1-3 at CLNWR on 23-31 Jul (MF,LKM).

Little Blue Heron: Excellent were counts of 14 on 4 Jun and 13 on 24 Jul in Otoe Co (LF,CF). Two immatures were at Funk WPA on 11

Jun (LR,RH), singles were at Sandpiper WPA and a private marsh in Clay Co. on 23 Jun (WRS, JGJ), and a single was at Miller's Pond on 28 Jul (JGJ).

Cattle Egret: Possible late migrants were 5 at Waco WPA (LP,BP), 20 at North Lake Basin on 1 Jun (LP, BP), 1 at Sacramento-Wilcox WMA on 2 Jun (LR,RH). Possible early migrants were 40 at the Shelton I-80 exit on 19 Jul (LR,RH) and 60 in Otoe Co on 24 Jul (LF,CF).

Green Heron: Four reports received, most westerly in Buffalo Co on 8 Jun (LR,RH) and Kearney Co on 11 Jun (LR,RH). High count of 4 at Hansen WPA on 28 Jul (JGJ).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Most of the few reports received, including a high count of 6 on 31 Jul, were from CLNWR. In the RWB, the species was observed at Funk WPA on 11 & 30 Jul (LR,RH).

White-faced Ibis: Up to 9 were at CLNWR during Jul (LKM,MF) and 16 were at Funk WPA on 11 Jul (LR,RH). Four easterly reports were all from the eastern portion of the RWB and include a high count of 8 at North Lake Basin WMA on 10 Jun (LP, BP).

Trumpeter Swan: Only reports were 2 at CLNWR on 13 Jun-16 Jul (MF) and 2 near Hyannis on 23 Jul (LKM).

Snow Goose: A single was at Jack Sinn WMA on 25 Jun (LP,BP) and 3 were at Wagon Train L. on 1 Jun.

Canada Goose: Becoming a nuisance in some areas, the season's high count was 330 at NPNWR on 12 Jul (LK).

Wood Duck: Most westerly were 2 at NPNWR on 7 Jun (LKM), 2 at the Gering SL on 4 Jun (AK), and 2 at Crawford on 27 Jun (LEi).

Green-winged Teal: A few were found in the RWB this summer, but a good count of 130 was predictably from CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM).

Mallard: Underscoring a good breeding season this summer in the RWB and likely elsewhere were 7 hens with broods at the rather small Theesen WPA on 14 Jul (JGJ).

Northern Pintail: Small numbers were reported in the panhandle and RWB, with high count of 30 at CLNWR on 31 Jul (LKM).

Blue-winged Teal: High count was 117 on 27 Jun at CLNWR (MF). The species also enjoyed a good breeding season in the RWB, with several broods noted during July (JGJ).

Cinnamon Teal: Besides two reports from the western Panhandle, one was slightly east at Clear Creek WMA on 10-22 Jun (LP,BP,WRS,JGJ). Two were further east at Funk WPA on 30 Jun (LR,RH), but a single was even further east at Theesen WPA on 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). Finally, a male (the winner?) was the furthest east at Freeman Lakes WPA on 14 Jul (JGJ).

Northern Shoveler: All reports were from the panhandle and RWB, with the highest count being 40 on 5 Jun at CLNWR (LKM).

Gadwall: All reports were from the panhandle and RWB, with the highest count being 78 on 16 Jul at CLNWR (MF).

American Wigeon: A few reports from the panhandle and even fewer from the RWB, no more than 2 were noted at a single locale per visit.

Canvasback: Reports from CLNWR include 13 on 13 Jul (MF) and 15 on 29 Jul (MF). The species was also observed in Sheridan Co on 21 Jun (LEi).

Redhead: Probably in response to abundant water were several at wetlands in the RWB, with the best count being 35 at Funk WPA on 22 Jun (LR,RH). Regular during summer in the Sandhills, 52 were at CLNWR on 13 Jun (MF).

Lesser Scaup: Most reports were from the panhandle, including a high count of 48 at CLNWR on 16 Jul (MF). A few were noted in the RWB (LP,BP) and Lancaster Co (LEi) during the first week of June and may have been late migrants. Origin and intent of a single at Funk WPA on 22 Jun (LR,RH) and 4 at Harvard WPA on 21 & 28 Jul (JGJ) are debatable.

Ring-necked Duck: A good find was a single at CLNWR on 31 Jul (LKM).

Bufflehead: Possible late migrants were 3 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM).

Hooded Merganser: Breeding activity would be predicted to occur in an eastern river drainage, so six reports of female/first-year birds in the RWB and 3 at CLNWR on 31 Jul (LKM) were likely wandering non-breeders.

Common Merganser: As many as 90 were at NPNWR on 22 Jul where only a single was seen 10 Jun (LK). In addition, 10 at Lake Ogallala on 9 Jun grew to 18 on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ,LKM), and all were still present on 15 Jul (LP,BP).

Ruddy Duck: Like most of the other ducks, highest numbers were at CLNWR. High count there was 99 on 16 Jul (MF). Seven reports were from the RWB, including 4 birds, one of which was a displaying male, at North Lake Basin WMA on 23 Jun (WRS, JGJ).

Turkey Vulture: Often seen soaring in summer, the species was well reported this year. A good concentration was 22 "sitting on a pipeline over the Missouri River" at Ponca SP on 17 Jun (LP,BP).

Osprey: A late migrant was in Otoe Co on 4 Jun (LF,CF). An early migrant was at Branched Oak SRA on 20 Jul (JM). Possible summer wanderers were a single at LM on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ,LKM) and at Scottsbluff 28 Jun (LEi).

Mississippi Kite: Hopefully an indicator that the established colony in Ogallala is doing well is an observation of 4 on 9 Jun (LP,BP).

Bald Eagle: Only report was 3 at NPNWR, a known nesting site, from 10 Jun-8 Jul (LK).

Northern Harrier: Few were reported, most easterly were 2 in Knox Co on 18 Jun (LP,BP) and a single male in Dixon Co on 3 Jun (JJo). As many as 4 were at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM) & 31 Jul (MF).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A June observation in Scottsbluff Co (AK) is the only report.

Cooper's Hawk: Only reports were a single at Ft. Robinson SP on 13 Jul (LKM) and Pants Butte on 16 Jun (WRS).

Swainson's Hawk: Possibly indicating the eastern fringe of the summer (breeding?) range in the south were observations in Kearney Co on 2, 22, 23 Jun and 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Red-tailed Hawk: Reports were routine.

Ferruginous Hawk: This high-plains species was reported only from the western panhandle, with 4 being found near Harrison on 8 Jun (LKM).

Golden Eagle: Singles were noted near Kilpatrick Lake on 2 Jun (LKM), south of Morrill on 13 Jun (AK), and at CLNWR on 17 Jul (LKM). The latter was east of the breeding range, but likely was a non-breeder or failed breeder.

American Kestrel: As expected, reported throughout Nebraska.

Prairie Falcon: The only report was at Scottsbluff NM on 28 Jun (LEi).

Gray Partridge: A single found in Dixon Co. on 1 Jun (JJo) is the only report of this species, which has almost vanished from the state.

Ring-necked Pheasant: A BBS route done on 13 Jun in Box Butte Co. yielded a good count of 55 (LKM).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Reports from the south-central continue to document the isolated population. Nine birds were found on 9 Jun in Kearney Co southeast of Lowell (LR,RH). Out of habitat was 1 at Funk WPA on 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Reported only from CLNWR, where 3 were observed on 5 Jun (LKM).

Wild Turkey: Reported from the Broadwater area on 27 Jun (LKM), Wheeler Co on 14 Jul (LR,RH), Custer Co on 20 Jul (LR,RH), and

young were noted in Banner Co on 29 Jun (AK).

Northern Bobwhite: Possibly in response to adequate rainfall in recent years, the species is doing well. As many as 6 were found in Dundy Co on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ), it was present in Chase Co on 4 Jul (IP), and 1 was rather far west at Scottsbluff NM on 27 Jun (LKM).

King Rail: A good find was 1 at North Lake Basin WMA on 1-2 Jun (LP,BP,WRS,JGJ).

Virginia Rail: Only reports were 2 at Funk WPA on 30 Jun (LR,RH) and 1-3 at CLNWR during Jun (MF).

Sora: Up to 8 were found at CLNWR on 13 Jun (MF). Others were noted at Funk WPA on 1 Jun (LR,RH) and in Kearney Co. on 30 Jun and 27 Jul (LR,RH).

American Coot: Good counts include 414 at CLNWR on 13 Jun (MF) and 350 at Funk WPA on 1 Jun (LR,RH). An adult with downy young was noted at North Lake Basin WMA on 28 Jul (JGJ).

Sandhill Crane: A single was heard at the Rowe Sanctuary on 27 Jun (LR,RH). A pair of "greaters" were found at Harvard WPA on 14, 21, & 28 Jul (JGJ). No breeding activity was noted (JGJ), but the sighting alone is interesting since a family group was noted two years ago at a small basin in the same county on 20 Aug (NBR 62:133), and since the species is increasing and breeding in Iowa and Minnesota.

Black-bellied Plover: A late migrant was one at NPNWR on 10 Jun (LK).

Semipalmated Plover: The first and only southbound migrant was a single adult at Bruning Pit on 28 Jul (JGJ).

Piping Plover: Reported where expected, 7 were on the Niobrara River in Knox Co. on 13 Jul (BP,LP,MBr,WRS,JGJ), 4 were at LM on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ), and a single was at the Wild Rose Ranch on 1 Jun (BP,LP).

Killdeer: Post-breeders begin flocking in July, such as 200 at Funk WPA on 4 Jul (LR,RH) and 145 at Theesen WPA on 28 Jul (JGJ).

Mountain Plover: Acting territorially, but interestingly found in a newly disced wheat field, were 2 birds 9 mi. s and 2 mi. w of Kimball on 15 Jun (WRS). Although no young were seen, it is likely that they were present. Although nesting usually requires native short-grass prairie with up to 30% bare ground, chicks move up to 800 meters as soon as they hatch (Knopf and Rupert 1996 - Wilson Bulletin 108:28).

Black-necked Stilt: Only 1 was found at the traditional Lakeside-Antioch breeding locale on 4 Jun (LKM), and 4 were at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM). Away from the panhandle and quite unexpected were 1 at Funk WPA on 11 Jun (BF fide LR,RH), and 2 on 2 Jun (WRS,JGJ) and 1 on 10 Jun (LP,BP) at North Lake Basin WMA.

American Avocet: Superb was a count of up to 270 at CLNWR on 16 Jul (MF, LKM). With no other June observations from the locale, a single at Funk WPA on 30 Jun was likely an early migrant. Easterly was 1 in Otoe Co on 24 Jul (LF,CF).

Greater Yellowlegs: Earliest were 3 at CLNWR on 24 Jun (MF), followed by 1 in Antelope Co on 12 Jul (LR,RH). High count, from CLNWR, was 20 on 16 Jul (MF).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Late was a single at CLNWR on 5 Jun. Earliest arrivals were 4 at Funk WPA (LR,RH) and 4 at Clear Creek WMA (WRS,JGJ), both on 22 Jun. High count was 35 at CLNWR on 17 Jul (LKM).

Solitary Sandpiper: First arrivals were 4 at Funk WPA on 4 Jul (LR,RH). A good single-locale high count was 7 at Theesen WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Willet: Reports were from the panhandle, with the best count of 11 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM), and 1 was in Sheridan Co. on 21 June (LEi).

Spotted Sandpiper: Breeds locally, but a good count of 11 at Funk WPA on 30 Jun (LR,RH) were possibly migrants.

Upland Sandpiper: Good counts included 60 in Rock Co on 20 Jul (LR,RH), 40 in Holt Co on 14 Jul, and 35 at Mormon Island Crane Meadows 29 Jun (LR,RH). Uncommon in the most intensely cultivated areas, 6 were in Dixon Co on 27 Jun (JJo).

Long-billed Curlew: Reports from the panhandle included 11 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM). Furthest east and likely migrants were 9 in Cherry Co on 31 Jul (JJo).

Marbled Godwit: Earliest and a good count was 28 at Clear Creek WMA on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ). The only other reports were from NPNWR, where 1 was found on 8 Jul (LK) and 3 were present on 22 Jul (LK).

Sanderling: Very early, in fact, the second earliest on record, were 2 at Funk WPA on 4 Jul (LR,RH). The only other reports include 3 at Lake North (JGJ) and 6 at Branched Oak Lake (JMo), both on 21 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Late spring migrants were 4 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM). The earliest fall migrants were 10 at Funk WPA on 4 Jul (LR,RH), followed by 2 in Knox Co (LP,BP), 1 in Antelope Co (LR,RH), and 1 in Lancaster Co (LEi), all on 13 Jul.

Western Sandpiper: Late were 9 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM). Earliest were 6 at Funk WPA on 4 Jul (LR,RH). The only other report was of 2 at CLNWR on 31 Jul (LKM).

Least Sandpiper: Earliest was 1 at Massie WPA (JGJ) and 3 at Theesen WPA (JGJ) on 7 Jul. High count was 24 at Theesen WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Migration lasts into middle June, but 126 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM) was a good count. Latest were 48 at Clear Creek WMA on 10 Jun (LP,BP).

Baird's Sandpiper: Most pass through during April, so 49 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM) were unusual. Earliest was 1 in Antelope Co on 12-13 Jul (LR,RH) and 20 in Knox Co on 13 Jul (LP,BP). High counts were 77 at Theesen WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ) and 76 at CLNWR on 31 Jul (LKM).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Uncommon during fall in the panhandle, 6 were found at CLNWR on 17 Jul (LKM). Earliest were 11 in Antelope Co on 12-13 Jul (LR,RH) and 12 in Knox Co on 13 Jul (LP,BP). Eastern high count was 87 at Theesen WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Stilt Sandpiper: Latest in the spring were 3 at Funk WPA on 1 Jun (LR,RH) and 24 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM). Earliest were 3 in Phelps Co on 6 Jul (LR,RH), 1 at Theesen WPA on 7 Jul (JGJ), and 7 near Mead on 7 Jul (JGJ). High count was 22 at Theesen WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Four reports from 28 Jul (all JGJ) are the second earliest on record; 9 were at Lake North, 4 were in a flooded field in Platte Co, 3 were at Theesen WPA, and 6 were at a private marsh in Fillmore Co.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Only report was 3 at CLNWR on 31 Jul (LKM). Any report of this species should be accompanied with details on field marks or method of identification.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Unexpected were several July reports of the species, which does not usually arrive until the beginning of August. Reports include 1 in Antelope Co on 12 Jul (LR,RH), 3 in Adams Co on 17 Jul (LP,BP), 48 on 17 Jul (LKM) and 51 on 29 Jul (MF) at CLNWR, and 5, identified by call, in the RWB on 28 Jul (JGJ). The reason for the numerous reports is open to conjecture, but it may indicate a poor breeding year. Even though it is somewhat rare, Short-billed would have been the expected dowitcher in July. Therefore, any dowitcher observed during July should be thoroughly scrutinized and ideally identified by call, because both species can appear identical in fall due to wear and fading of plumage.

Common Snipe: Breeding status in the state is not well known. Only reports were 1-2 during Jul at CLNWR (LKM), 1 south of Morrill on 13 Jun (AK), and 5 in Holt Co on 14 Jun (JGJ,GeJ).

American Woodcock: No reports were received.

Wilson's Phalarope: Likely breeding were up to 4 males vigorously circling and "whonking" at an intruder (JGJ) at Harvard WPA on 7 & 14 Jul. A juvenile with remnant down on the head was observed on 21 Jul (JGJ). This is the first reported breeding in the RWB. Several were noted at CLNWR during June, but excellent counts of 588 on 29 Jul (MF) and 1,338 on 31 Jul (LKM) were certainly migrants.

Franklin's Gull: This year several lingered into June, but counts of 200 in Clay Co (LP,BP), 250 at Harvard WPA (LP,BP), and 600 at Funk WPA (LR,RH) were still good counts for 1 Jun. Another good count, likely early migrants, were 235 at NPNWR on 12 Jul (LKM).

Ring-billed Gull: Found locally in summer, especially at large reservoirs. No counts exceeded 21, with the exception of 284 at NPNWR on 12 Jul (LK).

Herring Gull: Despite good numbers of other gull species, none were reported.

California Gull: Least common during summer, a single was at LM on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ,LKM). Most unexpected were a mixed-age flock of 23 at the Harrison SL on 16 Jun (WRS).

Caspian Tern: The species is primarily an uncommon eastern migrant, so 6 at LM on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ) and 2 at Harlan Co Res. on 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ) were a surprise; one can only speculate why they were present. A single at Branched Oak SRA on 21 Jul (JGJ) was likely an early migrant.

Common Tern: Identified by "dark outer tail feathers" were 3 in Otoe Co on 29 Jun (LF,CF). Reported without details, 2 were at Gavin's Point Dam on 18 Jun (LP,BP). Very few Nebraska records are documented (five to date) and identification is very difficult, especially in fall, so observers are encouraged to provide identification details when reported.

Forster's Tern: CLNWR had 34 on 13 Jun (MF), and 15 were in Sheridan Co. on 21 Jun (LEi). Few were reported elsewhere, but 30 were at Branched Oak L. on 31 Jul (LP,BP).

Least Tern: Most reports were from expected locales and included the best count, 6, at LM on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ,LKM). Away from known breeding areas were 1 in Adams Co on 1 Jun (LP,BP) and 4 in Otoe Co on 21 Jun (LF,CF).

Black Tern: Several migrants were detected during the first week of June, including 80 at Funk WPA on 1 Jun (LR,RH). Also at Funk, only 10 were present on 2 Jun (LR,RH), but 100 were tallied on 11 Jun (LR,RH). One was also at Holmes L. in Lincoln on 12 Jun (LEi). Elsewhere, 56 were at CLNWR on 16 Jul (MF).

Rock Dove: Away from major urban areas were 1 at CLNWR on 4 Jun (LKM) and 14 at LM on 22 Jun (LKM).

Mourning Dove: Common throughout, 126 were counted on a BBS route in Cheyenne and Morrill Cos on 11 Jun (LKM). Another good count was 200 at Springer WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Supposedly more common in the north, 1 was south at Arbor Day Farm 11 Jun-1 Jul (LF,CF). The only other report was 1 at CLNWR 12 Jun-10 Jul (MF). Observers are encouraged to report all sightings of this species.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Of several reports, furthest west was 1 in Chase Co on 4 June (IP).

Barn Owl: Most common in the west, but still an impressive count were 14 at CLNWR on 27 Jun (MF). The only other reports were 2 adults and 2 young south of Gering on 31 Jul (AK) and 1 in Sioux Co on 2 Jul (LKM).

Eastern Screech-owl: Hopefully not an indicator of a tragic

decline, no reports were received.

Great-horned Owl: Reports were routine, with 4 in Sioux Co on 20 Jul (LKM) being the best count.

Burrowing Owl: Best count was 6 in the Lyman area on 12 Jul (LKM). Eastern reports include 2 near Funk WPA on 1 Jun (LR,RH), 1 in Holt Co on 14 Jul (LR,RH), and 1 south of Geneva on 14 Jul (JGJ).

Barred Owl: Only reports were in Otoe Co on 8 Jun (LF,CF) and 2 Jul (LCF).

Short-eared Owl: Interesting was 1 near Holbrook, Gosper Co, on 16 Jun (LR,RH). Acting territorially and even harassing a nearby Swainson's Hawk, were 2 in CRP land 12 mi. s. and 3 mi w of Kimball on 15 Jun (WRS).

Common Nighthawk: Reports were routine.

Chuck-will's-widow: A single was at Indian Cave SP on 8 Jul (LP,BP).

Whip-poor-will: A good count and the only report was 14 at Schramm SP on 23 Jun (WRS).

Chimney Swift: Reports from the far west were singles in Scottsbluff on 9 Jul (LKM) and at Ft. Robinson on 13 Jul (LKM). This species is now regular in these locations.

White-throated Swift: Up to 60 were tallied at Scottsbluff NM on 27 Jun (LKM), but only 12 could be found on 12 Jul (LKM). Elsewhere, 1 was in Sowbelly Canyon on 8 Jun (LKM), 1 was seen in the Wildcat Hills on an occasion during June (AK), 3 were at Red Cloud Buttes, Dawes Co on 22 Jun (JJo), 10 were seen on Pants Butte Road, Sioux Co on 27 June (Lei), and 4 were at the Timber Reserve, Sioux Co on 24 June (LEi).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: A male was at Ponca on 23 Jun (JJo). No other reports were received.

Hummingbird sp.: A hummer, likely western in origin, was noted in Gering on 17 Jul (fide AK). No other details were provided.

Belted Kingfisher: Reports routine.

Lewis' Woodpecker: Only report was 1 in Smiley Canyon on 23 Jun (LEi).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Reports were routine.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Observed throughout the period in Kearney Co (LR,RH), a regular location.

Downy Woodpecker: Reports were routine.

Hairy Woodpecker: Out in the boonies, by woodpecker standards, was a single at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM).

Northern Flicker: Likely not "pure" birds, but Yellow-shafted were noted from several locales in the panhandle. Red-shafteds were restricted to the panhandle, but most summer birds are likely not "pure" either.

Western Wood-Pewee: Reports were from regular summer locations in the western panhandle, although 6 at Rock Creek L SRA 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ) were at a location with few summer reports. Six at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM) may have been migrants, although breeding would be expected there. Best count was 14 in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Most westerly were 2 at Orleans (WRS,JGJ) 23 Jun; it is rare west of there in the Republican valley.

Acadian Flycatcher: The small population at Indian Cave SP continued this summer; singing birds were heard 4 Jun and 9 Jul (BP,LP).

Willow Flycatcher: Reports of up to 3 birds were received from locations statewide, as expected. Best count was 3 in Kearney Co 8 Jun (LR,RH).

Least Flycatcher: The last of this statewide migrant were singles in Dixon Co 1 Jun (JJo) and 2 in Box Butte Co 2 Jun (LKM).

Cordilleran Flycatcher: Rarely reported and undocumented (including

this report) away from the w Pine Ridge, a migrant was at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM). In all, at least 6 were reported: up to 3 were in Sowbelly Canyon 3-8 Jun (JGJ,GeJ,WRS,LKM), and 1 was in Monroe Canyon 8 Jun (JGJ,GeJ). A new location was the Wood Reserve, Sioux Co, where 2 were found on 24 June.

Eastern Phoebe: Reports were routine.

Say's Phoebe: Most easterly was 1 in sw Phelps Co 6 Jul (LR,RH); this is probably the e edge of the regular summer range s of the Platte River.

Great Crested Flycatcher: In recent years it appears to have become regular in summer on the Pine Ridge; 2 were reported in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (JGJ,GeJ,LKM) and 6 were there on 16 Jun (WRS). Of interest was 1 along the Niobrara River s of Gordon 9 Jun (JGJ,GeJ); there are few reports w of the Valentine area other than from the Pine Ridge. Uncommon w of Harlan Co, 1 was at Stratton 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ).

Cassin's Kingbird: Reports from the e edge of the range were 1 in Dawes Co 7 miles w of Hay Springs 8 Jun (JGJ, GeJ), and 6 in a favored canyon s of Redington 29 Jun (LKM,AK).

Western Kingbird: Reports were routine.

Eastern Kingbird: A good westerly count was 11 in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM).

Horned Lark: Reports were routine.

Purple Martin: Westerly were reports from Antelope Co 12 Jul (LR,RH), flyovers in Chase Co on 4 July (IP) that were possible migrants, and 4 at Stratton 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). The range extends westward in major river valleys, but it is uncommon west of the 100th meridian in the south and the 98th meridian in the north.

Tree Swallow: Reports were routine.

Violet-green swallow: Reports were from breeding locations: up to 10 were in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM), and 1-2 were s of Gering 29 Jul (AK) and at Scotts Bluff NM 28 Jun (LEi) and 12 Jul (LKM).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: An outstanding count of migrants was 781 at CLNWR 29 Jul; 108 were there 23 Jul (MF).

Bank Swallow: Another outstanding count of migrants was 2400 at CLNWR 31 Jul (LKM). A colony at Peru had at least 100 adults (LF,CF).

Cliff Swallow: Numbers had started to decline by 4 Jul at a large colony on the highway 2 Missouri River bridge at Nebraska City (LF,CF). At LM 510 were counted 22 Jun (LKM).

Barn Swallow: Reports were routine.

Blue Jay: Now occurring statewide, furthest w was 1 at Stateline Marsh WMA 12 Jul (LKM).

Pinyon Jay: Not obvious in early summer, best count was 8 in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM). Probable post-breeders were a few at feeders at James Ranch in Jul (SLe).

Black-billed Magpie: At the southeast edge of the range, a flock of 10 was near Gibbon 14 Jun (LR,RH). Fledglings appeared at James Ranch mid-Jun and mid-Jul (SLe).

American Crow: Reports were routine.

Black-capped Chickadee: Reports were routine.

Tufted Titmouse: Reports were routine.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Reports were from expected breeding locations; of most interest were a few at Pine Glen WMA in Brown Co 20-21 Jul (LR,RH). Six were in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM).

White-breasted Nuthatch: Numbers decline rapidly westward from Harlan Co in the Republican valley; 6 were at Orleans 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). Regular on the Pine Ridge, 3 were in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM).

Pygmy Nuthatch: Reports were routine.

Brown Creeper: Summering currently is regular only at Fontenelle

Forest, where at least 1 singing bird was heard on 3 occasions 3-26 Jun along North Stream Trail (BP,LP).

Rock Wren: Easternmost was 1 at a rocky escarpment in se Hitchcock Co 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ).

Carolina Wren: None were reported.

House Wren: Reports were routine.

Sedge Wren: As is typical of this species, reports were essentially in two groups, early and late summer; the only report between 8 Jun and 12 Jul was of 1-2 at Arbor L. WMA until 17 Jul, but not reported again until 27 June (LEi). There was no evidence of nesting, which usually does not occur until Jul and Aug in NE.

Early reports were of 1 heard near Gibbon 1-10 Jun (LR,RH) and 1 at Arbor Day Farm 4 Jun (LF,CF). Later reports were from Rowe Sanctuary 12-28 Jul (LR,RH), ne of Rose, Rock Co, 20-21 Jul (LR,RH), and 1 at Harvard Marsh WPA 21 Jul (JGJ).

Marsh Wren: Generally not numerous s of the Platte River, Funk Lagoon WPA is a regular location; at least 5 were there 30 Jun (LR,RH). A report of several at Goose L in se Holt Co is of interest; this location is near the dividing line between eastern and western song types, which may be separate species (Kroodsmas, NBR 56:40). The line, about 100 km in width with little suitable Marsh Wren habitat, passes se through O'Neill, approximately following the Elkhorn valley. Reports from this general area, especially recordings, would be of interest.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: The third panhandle record was 1 at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM); there are 2 prior Jun records for Kimball Co (WRS), as well as Jun records for Keith and Lincoln Cos. This species is regular but rare in the South Platte valley of northeast Colorado during migration (Colorado Birds, Andrews and Righter 1992). Of interest also was the presence of 2-3 territorial birds 2 miles s of Orleans 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ); this area of outstanding riparian woodland appears to support a breeding population, as territorial birds were noted 5 miles s and 1 mile e of Orleans in 1990 (WRS).

Eastern Bluebird: Reports were routine.

Mountain Bluebird: Reports were from the breeding range, e to Morrill Co, where 2 were noted 29 Jun (AK). Young fledged at James Ranch 25 Jul (SLe).

Townsend's Solitaire: Generally rare in summer, there were more reports than usual of this species. Singles were in Box Butte Co 4 Jun (LMa), and at Fort Robinson SP 13 Jul (LKM).

Swainson's Thrush: Last of the migrants were reported in the northwest, where Jun records are not unusual; 1 was near Gering in early Jun (AK) and 2 were at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM).

Wood Thrush: Reports were received for Jun in Otoe (LF,CF) and Cass Cos (BP,LP), and also n to Thurston Co, where 1 was singing at Ashford Camp 12 Jul (BFH), and w to Gage Co, where another was singing at Homestead NM 29 Jun (LF,CF). The Gage Co report is rather far westward for recent years; it is unusual even in Lancaster Co.

American Robin: Reports were routine.

Gray Catbird: Rare in the w Republican valley, and not known to breed in the Colorado section (Andrews and Righter op. cit), none were noted w of the 4 seen just sw of McCook 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). However, it was reported 4 Jul in Chase Co (IP). Also westerly were 2 at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM), rather early for the panhandle, where it is uncommon.

Northern Mockingbird: This species is now being reported statewide with regularity. About 15 were found, with 3 the best count, both in the Dalton area 11 Jun (LKM) and sw of Cotesfield 14 Jul (LR,RH).

Sage Thrasher: Early enough to indicate breeding was a group of 4 in Kimball Co 18 Jul (photo, BP,LP); the earliest fall reports are 31 Jul, 3 Aug, and 5 Aug. Also unexpected was 1 w of Harrison on 27 Jun (LEi).

Brown Thrasher: Reports were routine.

Curve-billed Thrasher: Perhaps the rarest bird reported this summer is one at a feeder s of Gering at the base of the Wildcat Hills 2 Jul (*LKe). This bird was seen closely for about 5 minutes. If accepted by the NOU Records Committee, this would be the 4th documented record; the others were for 24 Mar, 2 May, and 18 Nov from McCook, North Platte, and s Sioux Co, respectively. It was reported but unconfirmed as breeding in the Lawrence Fork area of Morrill Co in 1965.

Cedar Waxwing: This species breeds uncommonly in woodlands in the Missouri and Niobrara valleys, the Pine Ridge and Wildcat Hills, and westward at least to Buffalo Co in the Platte valley, where it was noted throughout the period in the Gibbon area (LR,RH). The only nesting evidence was of a pair carrying food to a nest 15 feet up in a Scotch Pine at Branched Oak SRA 25 Jun (BP,LP). One at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM) may have been a migrant.

Loggerhead Shrike: Reports were routine.

European Starling: Reports were routine.

Bell's Vireo: This species is common at Rock Creek L SRA, where at least 10 were noted 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ).

Solitary Vireo: The only reports were of 2 summering birds of the plumbeus race in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM) and 27 Jun (LEi).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Reports were as expected from the Missouri valley, n to Thurston Co, where 4 were singing at Ashford Camp 12 Jul (BFH).

Warbling Vireo: Reports were routine.

Red-eyed Vireo: None were reported prior to the end of the period in the panhandle, but 3 were singing in Sowbelly Canyon 3 Aug (WRS,JGJ,SJD), where it is an uncommon summer resident.

Tennessee Warbler: Rare in the panhandle in spring, 1 was part of the Kilpatrick L fallout 2 Jun (LKM) for the only report.

Northern Parula: The only report was from Fontenelle Forest, where 1-2 were present at least through 26 Jun (BP,LP).

Yellow Warbler: About 60 were counted in the Gibbon area and around the I-80 Gibbon exit 17 Jun (LR,RH), indicating how numerous these birds can be in suitable breeding habitat.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Reports were of the race auduboni; 1 at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM), a rather late date for a migrant, while 1-2 were in Sowbelly Canyon, a breeding location, 8 Jun (LKM) and 27 Jun (LEi).

Yellow-throated Warbler: None were reported.

Cerulean Warbler: Reported only from Fontenelle Forest, a female and a singing male were in the North Stream Trail area 3 Jun and 14 Jun, respectively (BP,LP).

Black-and-White Warbler: Summering is regular on the Pine Ridge, where 3 were counted in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LMa).

American Redstart: Also regular in summer on the Pine Ridge, as many as 11 were in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM). It also breeds regularly in the Missouri valley; 5 were singing at Ashford Camp in Thurston Co 12 Jul (BFH). Part of the Kilpatrick L fallout 2 Jun were 11 redstarts (LKM), presumably migrants, although this is a rather late spring date away from known breeding locations.

Prothonotary Warbler: Despite an increase in habitat at Fontenelle Forest, only 1 male was heard, on 26 Jun (BP,LP).

Ovenbird: Reports were routine.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Following a good spring influx, only 2 were noted in Jun: singles were at Platte River SP 6 Jun (BP,LP) and in

Mill Hollow at Fontenelle Forest 14 Jun (BP,LP). No breeding evidence was noted.

Kentucky Warbler: None were reported.

Common Yellowthroat: A count of 100 at Funk Lagoon WPA 30 Jun (LR,RH) indicates the abundance of this species in summer in the Rainwater Basin.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Furthest e reported were 3 sw of McCook 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ) and 6 at Rock Creek L SRA 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ). As many as 10 were in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM).

Summer Tanager: None were reported.

Scarlet Tanager: Best count was 3, singing at Ashford Camp, Thurston Co, 12 Jul (BFH).

Western Tanager: It was numerous in Sowbelly Canyon this summer, where 11 were counted 8 Jun (LKM). It was reported e to the Redington area, where 1 was noted s of "town" 29 Jun (LKM); this appears to be the 2nd mid-summer report of this species this far e (it was reported in Brown Co 27 Jun 1967), although habitat in the area seems suitable for breeding.

Northern Cardinal: The westernmost breeding population persists just e of Scottsbluff; 2 were fledged late Jul-early Aug (AK). The presence of 6 near Benkelman 22-23 Jun (WRS,JGJ) indicate its occurrence throughout the Republican valley, a fairly recent phenomenon, as it first bred in the Wray, Colorado, area around 1980 (Andrews and Righter op. cit.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Individuals appearing "pure" were noted w to the Orleans area 23 Jun, and hybrids were common there and westward to the Oxford area (WRS,JGJ).

Black-headed Grosbeak: "Pure"-appearing individuals were noted e to the Orleans area 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). Thus, between Orleans and Oxford both Rose-breasted and Black-headed types, as well as hybrids, were noted.

Blue Grosbeak: Best count was 7 in the Redington area 29 Jun (LKM) and furthest e were 3 in the Wakefield area 1 Jun (JJo); 6 were in Dixon Co 24 Jul (JJo).

Lazuli Bunting: The only report e of Morrill Co, where 3 were counted 29 Jun (LKM), was in Chase Co on 4 Jul (IP). Best count was 6 s of Gering 1 Jun (AK).

Indigo Bunting: Furthest w, where it summers regularly in the northwest, were up to 3 at the James Ranch feeders until mid-Jun (SLe). It was not noted in the Republican valley w of Oxford on 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ), although it apparently breeds throughout the area, and at least rarely in extreme e Colorado (Andrews and Righter op. cit.).

Dickcissel: First for the year in the w were 2 at CLNWR on 13 Jun (MF); numbers increased to 22 there on 28 Jun (MF), but were dwarfed by the estimated 1000 on 6 Jul in the four-corners area where Gosper, Frontier, Furnas, and Harlan Cos meet (LR,RH). It was numerous on the alfalfa fields at Clear Creek Marsh WMA 22 Jun (WRS); alfalfa is a favored habitat for westerly populations.

Eastern Towhee: One was noted near Gibbon 1 Jun, where Spotted Towhee is the usual summering species (LR,RH). "Pure" Easterns were noted west to the Orleans area of the Republican valley 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ); hybrids and Spotted Towhees were present also in that area.

Spotted Towhee: Hybrids and "pure" birds were noted e to the Harlan Co Res area in the Republican valley 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). This species is the regular summer species in the Buffalo and Kearney Co area (LR,RH).

Cassin's Sparrow: At the northernmost breeding locality known for the species, 1 was at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM). Also a regular summering location, 5 were found at two locations in sage

grasslands in Dundy Co 22 Jun (JGJ,WRS); these were 3 miles w of Haigler and 2.5 miles n of Parks.

Chipping Sparrow: Reports were routine.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Although no identification details were provided, of interest was a report of at least 1 which appeared at the James Ranch feeders in mid-Jul (SLe); although possibly a rather early migrant, breeding has been suspected in northwest NE, although undocumented.

Brewer's Sparrow: The only report was from a regular location, the Kilpatrick L area, where 9 were found 2 Jun (LKM).

Field Sparrow: Only casual in the panhandle, 1 was at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM), probably a migrant. Uncommon in the southwest, 2 were in Hitchcock Co 22-23 Jun (WRS,JGJ).

Vesper Sparrow: Reports were routine.

Lark Sparrow: Best counts were 60 in ne Rock Co 21 Jul (LR,RH) and 29 at CLNWR 24 Jun (MF).

Lark Bunting: Few were noted east of the panhandle; 1 was in Furnas Co 16 Jun (LR,RH), and a male in Frontier Co 23 Jun was the only one seen in the southwest 22-23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). One was in Cherry Co 31 Jul (JJo).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Doing well in the w, 116 were at CLNWR 17 Jul, where they had a good breeding season, about 60% of the 116 seen being young birds (LKM).

Henslow's Sparrow: The birds noted at Burchard L SRA in spring remained at least until 4 Jun, when 1 was noted (BP,LP).

Song Sparrow: A good population continues at Funk Lagoon WPA, where 15 were counted 22 Jun (LR,RH). Establishment of breeding populations away from northern and eastern Nebraska is relatively recent, probably since the 1970s (Cink, NBR 43:3). Information on dates of establishment of such "outlying" summering populations is welcomed.

Swamp Sparrow: Funk Lagoon WPA is also the site of perhaps the southernmost regular breeding colony in the state; up to 3 were reported through the period, notably near the viewing kiosk (LR,RH).

Dark-eyed Junco: Only reports were 3, identified as aikenii, in Sowbelly Canyon on 16 Jun (WRS) and 1, presumably aikenii, in Monroe Canyon on 27 June (LEi).

McCown's Longspur: The only report was from a regular summer location, west-central Sioux Co, where 8 were found 8 Jun (LKM).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Encouraging were continuing reports from possibly the easternmost breeding location in the state; up to 35 were 6 miles ne of O'Neill 14-31 Jul (LR,RH,JJo). It continues rather widespread in Sioux Co (LKM,WRS).

Bobolink: Generally uncommon, or at least local, s of the Platte valley, a few were reported in the Rainwater Basin: at least 1 was at Sacramento-Wilcox WMA 2 Jun (LR,RH), 4 were at Harvard Marsh WPA 7 Jul (JGJ), and 2 were at Rauscher Lagoon WPA the same day (JGJ).

Red-winged Blackbird: Fall flocks were forming by 26 Jul, such as one of 150 birds in Dixon Co (JJo).

Eastern Meadowlark: A westerly center of abundance is CLNWR, where an amazing 173 were reported present 24 Jun (MF). It is local throughout the Sandhills, and otherwise numerous only in the southeast. None were noted on BBS routes in Buffalo, Kearney, Furnas, and Gosper Cos (LR,RH).

Western Meadowlark: Reports were routine.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Southeasterly were 18 along the Missouri River in Otoe Co 4 Jul (LF,CF) and 2 at Arbor L WMA on 2 Jun (LEi).

Brewer's Blackbird: At James Ranch, none were seen after early Jul (SLe), suggesting departure after breeding. Far out of range if correctly identified was a reported "adult" without further details

in Otoe Co 8 Jun (LF,CF). There are no documented summer records away from the panhandle.

Great-tailed Grackle: A new breeding location away from the Rainwater Basin was at Burchard L SRA, where a female was carrying nesting material 4 Jun; a male and 4 females were present (BP,LP). Several were at Burchard L SRA last year. The colony at Funk Lagoon WPA persists, with up to 14 present on 30 Jun (LR,RH). We know of no breeding locales in the eastern portion of the RWB.

Common Grackle: Fall flocking was evidenced by 100 in Dixon Co 24 Jul (JJo).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Fall flocking was evident in this species also, with 200 in Wheeler Co 14 Jul (LRa,RHa).

Orchard Oriole: A good count was 15 "behind the motel" in Ainsworth 21 Jul (LR,RH). Numbers dwindled eastward along the Republican valley, where it was numerous in Dundy Co 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ).

Baltimore Oriole: "Pure"-appearing birds of this species were noted as expected throughout the Republican valley 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). Individuals exhibiting hybrid characteristics were noted e to sw of McCook, however. Baltimore Oriole breeds statewide e of the panhandle.

Bullock's Oriole: No "pure" individuals were noted in the Republican valley 23 Jun, but hybrids were present e to the McCook area (WRS,JGJ). Bullock's Oriole is rare e of the panhandle; most easterly reports were 1 at CLNWR 3 Jul (LKM) and 2 near Ogallala 29 Jun (LEi).

House Finch: At South Sioux City, Huser suggested that aggressive defense of nesting territories by House Finches may be impacting House Wrens and Purple Martins, both of which were unsuccessful in his yard after House Finches set up nesting territories; the Purple Martins abandoned their "house". It has been suggested that cardinals as well as House Sparrows are similarly affected.

Red Crossbill: Perhaps foreshadowing an invasion this winter, a few have been in the Kearney area since early Jul, including a female at the observers' feeder 30 Jul (LR,RH), and it was reported in Chase Co. on 4 Jul (IP). Crossbills were common on the Pine Ridge during the period (LKM,WRS,JGJ,SJD),.

Pine Siskin: The long-established summer population on the UN-Kearney campus persists; a few were noted there through the period (LR,RH). One was near Gibbon also during the period (LR,RH). It was noted through the period on the Pine Ridge and in the Wildcat Hills, where it is regular (LKM,WRS,SLe).

American Goldfinch: Reports were routine.

House Sparrow: Reports were routine.

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