

9-1990

## First Nebraska Kittiwake Specimen

Paul A. Johnsgard

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*, [pajohnsgard@gmail.com](mailto:pajohnsgard@gmail.com)

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev>



Part of the [Poultry or Avian Science Commons](#), and the [Zoology Commons](#)

---

Johnsgard, Paul A., "First Nebraska Kittiwake Specimen" (1990). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 555.  
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev/555>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nebraska Bird Review by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

---

#### **FIRST NEBRASKA KITTIWAKE SPECIMEN**

The Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) has previously been known from Nebraska only from a few sight records. Dr. George Hudson observed one at Oak Creek Park, Lincoln, in March, 1939 (*NBR* 5:57). Another individual was seen at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster County, during April of 1976. Thirdly, an immature was seen and photographed at Oak Lake Park, Lincoln, on April 20-21, 1981 (*NBR* 49:41). Lastly, during the fall occurrence report for 1988 (*NBR* 57:16, 53) Kittiwakes were reported from Cedar and Douglas-northern Sarpy counties, the Cedar County sightings involving up to three first-winter birds and being accompanied by photographs.

In May of 1990, an adult Kittiwake was washed ashore along Lake Ogallala, Keith County, and found by Dr. Daniel Brooks, a parasitologist of the University of Toronto. Not knowing its identity nor realizing its rarity, he nevertheless decided to freeze it for possible later use by ornithologists at Cedar Point Biological Station, rather than to examine it for possible parasites. I subsequently found it in the freezer of the biological station and recognized its rarity. Dr. Brooks was unsure by that time if it had been found on the 20th or 21st of May. The bird, an adult male in full breeding plumage, but with small testes, has been prepared as a skin-skeletal specimen (#16143) of the University of Nebraska State Museum. Mr. Tom Labeledz, who prepared the specimen, noted that it apparently died from choking on the bones of a catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*).

--- Paul A. Johnsgard,  
School of Biological Sciences,  
U. of Nebraska-Lincoln,  
Lincoln, NE 68588