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Nebraska Ornithologists' Union (NOU) 1995 Annual Meeting

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NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION (NOU) 1995 ANNUAL MEETING

Selected items (from NOU Newsletter, May/June 1995, Editor: Neal Ratzlaff):

Election of Officers and Appointments to the Records Committee.

At the NOU annual meeting on May 20, 1995, all the incumbent officers were reelected for 1995-96 and are listed on the back cover of The Nebraska Bird Review. Thomas Labeledz, Lincoln, was elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term to succeed Roger Sharpe, Omaha, who completed his term.

On the Records Committee, the Board approved three-year terms for Robin Harding, Gibbon; Joel Jorgensen, Blair; and Thomas Labeledz, Lincoln. They replaced the expired terms of Alan Grenon and Rick Wright, and the resignation of William Scharf, who moved away from Nebraska. The Board approved the reappointment of Mark Brogie, Creighton, to a second three-year term. The other members of the Records Committee are Bill Huser, South Sioux City; Loren Padelford, Bellevue; Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA; and Joe Gubanyi, Chairperson, Seward. [Ed.: The Records Committee was formed in 1985. Its purposes are to review and document unusual reports of birds seen in Nebraska; to keep current an official list of the birds occurring in Nebraska, with documented evidence that is maintained for use by researchers; and to provide guidance in methods of improving identification and documentation. This is a very important committee, and the commitment of its members is recognized and appreciated.]

Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative.

At the annual meeting, both the Board of Directors and the NOU membership approved the endorsement of the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative, which requires passage of a law by Congress to provide funding for non-game fish and wildlife. The funds would be obtained from a surcharge on outdoor recreational equipment such as binoculars, cameras, etc, and would be used for a national Wildlife Diversity Program, including conservation, education, and recreation projects. The proposed initiative would be similar to the Wildlife Restoration Act, which provides funds for the conservation of game species from surcharges on guns and ammunition, and the Sport Fish Restoration Act, where funding comes from surcharges on rods, reels, and other fishing gear. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is developing a coalition of supporting organizations and individuals, because there needs to be evidence of support from those who buy and use the equipment.
