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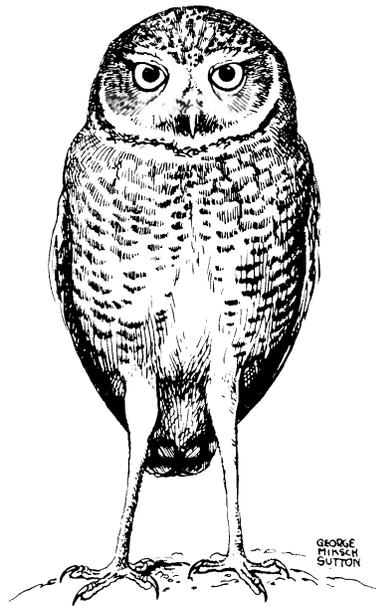
# The Nebraska Bird Review

*A Magazine of Ornithology of the Nebraska Region*

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JUNE, 1975

NUMBER 2



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### THE SEVENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Seventy-fourth Annual Meeting was held in North Platte on 17 and 18 May 1975. Ninety-two registered for the meeting, and slightly more attended the banquet. The formal program consisted of:

Welcome, Robert Phares, Mayor, North Platte.

W. H. Cunningham, President, Tout Bird Club.

Response, George W. Brown, President, NOU.

Comments on the Results of the Zoological Resource Study in the Mid-State Project Area, Stanley Longfellow, Biology Department, Kearney State College.

Wildlife and the Platte River Basin Study, Gene Miller, Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, USDI, Grand Island.

Duck Identification Using Wings Only, Jim Hurt, Bioenforcement Specialist, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Kearney.

History and Functions of Natural Resources Districts in Nebraska, Wayne Heathers, Manager, Middle Republican NRD, Curtis.

Feeding Responses of Common Grackles to Colored Bread, Gail Deyle, Student, Kearney State College.

Doris Gates, Chadron, presented Gail Shickley's suggestion that one of the Christmas stamps this year recognize the 75th Anniversary of the Christmas Count.

NOU, Way Back When (excerpts from the Letters of Information of 1925 to 1928). R. G. Cortelyou, Omaha.

It Began With Birds, a film produced by the National Audubon Society, part of which was on the Sandhill Cranes in the Platte valley.

At the Business Meeting it was voted to raise the subscription cost for Canada and Mexico to that of other foreign countries - \$5.25. The invitation of the Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, Bellevue, to hold the 1976 Annual Meeting there was accepted. The following officers were elected: Dr. Rosalind Morris, Lincoln, president; Mr. Ross Lock, Lincoln, vice president; Mrs. Emma Johnson, Omaha, secretary; Mr. John Ott, Lincoln, treasurer; Dr. Neva Pruess, Lincoln, librarian; and Mr. R. G. Cortelyou, Omaha, editor.

After the banquet Mrs. Earle Lionberger, Superior was presented with a certificate in honor of her fifty years of continuous membership (she joined at the 1925 Annual Meeting in Superior) and Charles Frith, Supervisor, Natural Resource Specialist, Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha, spoke on "Sandhill Cranes and the Platte River".

A severe storm during the night caused a power outage of an hour and a half, which bothered those dependent on electric alarm clocks and delayed the preparation of coffee for the breakfast a little but otherwise caused no problems. The day was bright and clear. Five parties reported 120 species plus *Empidonax* sp., and three (marked \*) were seen the day before in the area, but not on Sunday: Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebes; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue, Green, and Black-crowned Night Herons; American Bittern, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed, Swainson's, Rough-legged, and Marsh Hawks; American Kestrel, Greater Prairie Chicken, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot,

Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Common Snipe, Long-billed Curlew; Upland, Spotted, and Semipalmated Sandpipers; \*Dowitcher sp., Wilson's Phalarope.

Herring, Ring-billed, and Franklin's Gulls; Rock and Mourning Doves; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Great Horned and Burrowing Owls; Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker; Red-headed and Downy Woodpeckers; Eastern and Western Kingbirds; Eastern and Say's Phoebes; Least Flycatcher, Empidonax sp., Horned Lark; Bank, Rough-winged, Barn, and Cliff Swallows; Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch; House and Long-billed Marsh Wrens; Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling; Bell's Yellow-throated, Red-eyed, Philadelphia, and Warbling Vireos.

Black-and-white, Yellow, and Blackpoll Warblers; Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes; Connecticut Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink; Eastern and Western Meadowlarks; Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds; Orchard and Northern Orioles; Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cardinal; Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks; Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, \*House Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Lark Bunting, \*Savannah, Grasshopper, Lark, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, White-crowned, Swamp, and Song Sparrows.

#### BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER BREEDING IN LANCASTER COUNTY

Although the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila caerulea*, is regarded as "a fairly common breeder in the forests along the larger streams in the eastern quarter of the state" by Rapp et al. (Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds, 1958) and Fiala (*NBR* 38:57, 1970) notes that the species is a local summer resident in Gage County, there appear to be no recent records for Lancaster County.

On 16 June 1972, while birding along a stretch of woods on Oak Creek north of Raymond, I was attracted to the food-begging cries of a young bird. It was sitting on low branch of a small Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) in deep shade. The bird was very small, almost kinglet size, nearly fully feathered out except for a few areas on the head and was light gray in color with buffy colored bill and legs. While I was watching and trying to decide what it could be, an adult Blue-gray Gnatcatcher appeared nearby and gave a long series of excited calls, as if it were agitated by my presence. After I moved off some distance and sat down behind some shrubs the adult finally did come to the young with food. From my vantage point I couldn't determine what the food item was or the sex of the adult bird. The adult then disappeared and the fledging sat quietly. I watched for another 10 to 15 minutes in hopes of a return visit by the parent but when it didn't return I left the area.

In three summers of field work in Lancaster County this was the only time I had ever seen a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and to find it breeding came as a surprise. The species must be quite rare in the county and very local in its occurrence.

— Calvin L. Cink, Lincoln

### 1974 (SEVENTEENTH) FALL OCCURRENCE REPORT

Two hundred seventy-seven species, plus two apparently released or escaped species, one species for which the identification was not positive, and the possibility that some of the birds reported just as "Peep" were not specifically reported as others, are shown in this report. Reports were received for 13 localities, although two covered just one day each and were included because they were from areas (Burt and Knox counties) not usually covered. These figures compare with 281 from 12 localities in 1973, 253 from 10 in 1972, and 251 from 9 in 1971 (after adjustment for the name changes).

The information is presented in a rough west (left) to east (right) order, with locations of about the same longitude listed with the northernmost first (left). Two dates indicate the first and last records during the period. The symbols used are:

Jl, Au, Sp, Oc, No, and De for the months.

S - to indicate a species which arrived before 1 July.

- W to indicate a species which remained after 31 December.

P to indicate a species which is present all the year, although the same individuals may not be present during the whole year, and the numbers may vary greatly between periods. (S - W also indicates much the same thing, but is used in cases which are considered special circumstances, rather than a normal pattern.)

x where the exact date in a month was not given.

A in the Keith County (LM) column indicates 18 August, B 27 October. H in the Burt County (BT) column indicates 31 July, and in the Knox County (KX) column indicates 10 October.

The reporting locations, contributors, and special comments are:

Adams (and Clay), Hastings and Sutton, 102 species (and the possibility that the "Cuckoo species" reported might have been a Black-billed Cuckoo), Mrs. O. W. Ritchey, Mrs. Edith Hurlburt, and Elden and Ruth Percival (reporters), Mrs. Wm. Helzer, Mrs. Clifford Kennedy, Mrs. Elsie Rose, and Miss Bernice Welch. The Roses saw two Whooping Cranes up on the Platte northwest, outside of Adams county.

Burt (BT), 23 species, Dr. Norma Johnson (reporter). Birds reported by Dr. Johnson from a 31 July visit. She notes that these are all nesting species.

Cherry, Valentine, 27 species, Douglas Ballard (reporter). Mr. Ballard didn't start to keep detailed records for use on the report until mid-fall.

Clay, see Adams.

Dawes, Chadron, 21 species, Doris Gates (reporter). In the most part these are last dates.

Douglas (and Sarpy) Omaha and Bellevue, 198 species, plus 2 apparently escaped or released species, one probable, and the possibility that some of the "Empidonax species" were Willow or Alder Flycatchers, and that the Meadowlark species" included some Eastern Meadowlarks. Ruth Green, Melba Wigg, Carl Swanson, R. G. Cortelyou (reporters), Tanya Bray, Evelyn Conrad, Hazel Diggs, Jim Delehant, Bill Fiske, Mary Harberg, Clyde Johnson, Teta Kain, Marian Meier, Andy Saunders, Minta Schurr. A couple of Black Ducks were seen on the marsh lake in Fontenelle Forest from 18 July to 2 August. It was assumed that they were released birds - probably

—text continued on p. 38



	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cher- ry	L M	Per- kins	McPh.	Lin- coln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lan- cstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Gadwall	Oc 5	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 1 No 22	-	-	-	Jl 28 De 12	-	Oc 8 De 14
Pintail	Oc 5	-	No 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 8 De 12	-	Sp 13 Oc 12
Green-winged Teal	Sp 28 De 14	-	-	-	Au 21	-	-	-	No 1	-	Sp 8 De 12	-	Sp 2 Oc 23
Blue-winged Teal	S - Oc 5	-	-	-	Au 15	-	Oc 12	-	Sp 17 Oc 23	-	S - Oc 27	-	Au 4 Oc 24
American Wigeon	Sp 11 De 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 8 No 16	-	Sp 13 No 15
Northern Shoveler	-	-	No 1	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 4 No 16	-	Sp 29 De 14
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - De 31	-	S - Oc 24
Redhead	Oc 5 No 10	-	-	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 28 No 24	-	Sp 29 No 9
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 25 De 12	-	Oc 12
Canvasback	-	-	No 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 12 No 16	-	De 17
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 27	-	-
Lesser Scaup	Oc 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 15	-	Au 17 De 12	-	Sp 29 De 5
Common Goldeneye	De 2 De 14	-	De 29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 24 De 12	-	No 22 De 6
Bufflehead	-	-	No 1 No 6	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 12 De 12	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 26	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	S - Sp 30	Oc 16	-	Oc 15	-	Oc 6 De 12	-	Oc 8 No 10
Hooded Merganser	-	-	No 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	De 7 De 12	-	Oc 27
Common Merganser	Sp 27 Oc 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 16 De 12	-	-
Turkey Vulture	S - Jl 3	Sp 18	-	A	-	-	No 28	-	-	-	Sp 10	-	Oc 18
Mississippi Kite	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 19	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 23	-	-	-	Oc 7 De 29	-	No 25
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	-	Sp 7 Sp 13	-	Oc 4	-	Sp 3	-	Sp 4 De 26	-	Sp 16 Sp 21

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cher- ry	L M	Per- kins	McPh.	Lin- coln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lan- cstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 22	-	-	-	Jl 6 De 22	-	Au 29 Sp 8
Red-tailed Hawk	P	-	De 8 De 13	A	Sp 21	-	Oc 26 Oc 31	P	P	H	P	-	P
Broad-winged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 8 Oc 5
Swainson's Hawk	-	-	-	-	Au 13	S - Sp 30	S - Oc 11	-	-	-	Oc 8	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk	No 9 - W	Sp 3	-	-	-	-	No 2 De 3	No 10 De 3	-	-	De 8	-	Sp 17 De 31
Ferruginous Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	H	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	P	-	-	-	Late Dec.	-	Oc 27	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 28
Eagle sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 31	-	-
Bald Eagle	De 2 - W	-	De 8	-	-	-	No 9 - W	De 21 De 24	-	H	-	-	No 2 - W
Marsh Hawk	P	-	P	A	P	-	P	Oc 3 De 12	Oc 4 De 30	-	Au 23 - W	-	Au 31 Oc 12
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 22 Sp 29	-	-
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 24 De 28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 24	-	-	-	No 10	-	Sp 2
Merlin	Oc 5 De 20	-	-	-	Oc 22	-	-	-	Sp 18	-	Jl 4 Sp 29	-	De 14
American Kestrel	P	-	-	-	P	S - Sp 27	P	P	P	-	P	-	P
Greater Prairie Chicken	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-tailed Grouse	-	-	P	-	-	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bobwhite	P	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	P	H	P
Ring-necked Pheasant	P	-	P	A B	P	Jl 1 Sp 30	P	P	P	H	P	H	P
Turkey	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	H	-	-	-
Sandhill Crane	Oc 7 Oc 24	Oc 13	-	-	No 13 No 14	-	Sp 6 No 9	-	Sp 14 No 11	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 13 Oc 12	-	De 14
Sora	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 28 Oc 6	-	-

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cher- ry	L Per- M kins	McPh.	Lin- coln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K Lan- X cstr	B Doug. T Sarpy
American Coot	S - Oc 5	-	-	B Au 21	S - Sp 27	Oc 6	-	No 1 No 2	H S - De 12	- Au 29 No 18
Semipalmated Plover	Sp 10 Sp 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Au 17 Sp 25	- Au 24
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Sp 2 Sp 5	-
Killdeer	S - De 14	-	-	A S - B Sp 30	S - Sp 27	S - Oc 6	S - Sp 16	S - De 21	H S - No 17	- S - No 24
Am. Golden Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Sp 28	- Sp 13
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	- Au 13	-	-	-	-	- Au 28 Sp 28	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- J1 4
Common Snipe	S - De 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Au 4 No 16	- Sp 2 Oc 26
Long-billed Curlew	S - Sp 8	-	-	-	S - Au 26	J1 1	-	-	-	-
Upland Sandpiper	-	-	-	- S - Au 17	S - Au x	S - Au 20	-	-	- J1 8	- S - Au 10
Spotted Sandpiper	S - Sp 14	-	-	- Au 15	-	-	-	-	H S - Sp 25	- J1 6 Au 30
Solitary Sandpiper	Sp 8 Sp 14	-	-	A Au 15	-	Au 5	-	-	- J1 17 Sp 29	- J1 6 Au 15
Greater Yellowlegs	Sp 28 Oc 5	-	-	A Au 15	Sp 4	-	-	-	- Au 4 Oc 22	- Au 7 Oc 12
Yellowlegs sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- J1 17 Sp 25	-
Lesser Yellowlegs	Oc 5	-	-	A Au 13 Au 21	-	-	-	-	- J1 28 Oc 2	- J1 18 Oc 12
Red Knot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Au 11	-
Willet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Au 17 Au 20	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	-	- Au 13	Au 28	-	-	-	- J1 15 Oc 27	- J1 8 Sp 29
White-rumped Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Au 4	- Sp 13
Baird's Sandpiper	-	-	-	- Au 13	-	-	-	-	- J1 20 Oc 6	- J1 18 Oc 12
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- J1 20 Oc 12	- J1 18 Sp 3
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Sp 8 Oc 2	-

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cher- ry	L M	Per- kins	McPh.	Lin- coln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lan- cstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 20 Sp 28	-	Jl 18 Au 13
Western Sandpiper	Sp 11	-	-	-	Au 15	-	-	-	Au 19	-	Au 24 Sp 7	-	-
Peep	-	-	-	-	Au 13 Au 21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 5 Oc 6	-	Oc 2
Short-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 29	-	Sp 2 No 2
Dowitcher sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 2 Oc 2	-	-
Long-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	Au 15 Au 21	-	-	-	-	-	Au 11 Oc 6	-	-
Stilt Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 11	-	-
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Sp 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 1 Sp 26	-	-
American Avocet	Oc 18	-	-	-	Au 16 Au 29	Au 20 Au 28	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 14 Oc 15
Wilson's Phalarope	-	-	-	-	Au 13 Au 21	Au 20 Sp 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Phalarope	-	-	-	-	Au 13	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 27	-	-
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 26 Sp 26	-	-	-	-	No 16 De 7	-	Oc 2 No 18
Herring/ Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	Sp 11 De 2	-	No 10	-	-	-	P	-	Oc 15	-	Jl 28 De 4	-	Sp 26 No 28
Franklin's Gull	Sp 10	-	-	-	Au 13	-	Jl 1 Sp 23	-	-	-	Au 17 No 3	-	Sp 21 Oc 24
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 28 Oc 2	-	Au 22
Common Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 22
Least Tern	-	-	-	-	Au 15	-	-	-	-	-	Au 11 Sp 5	-	-
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 30	-	Sp 17 Sp 19
Black Tern	-	-	-	-	Au 15 Au 21	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 20 Sp 14	-	Au 23
Rock Dove	P	-	-	A	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	H	P

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cher- ry	L Per- M kins	McPh.	Lin- coln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K Lan- X cstr	B Doug. T Sarpy
Mourning Dove	S - De 14	-	Sp 21	A S - Oc 30	S - Sp 30	S - No 2	S - De 6	S - De 21	H S - - W	H S - De 7
Ringed Turtle Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Note
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	- Au 1 Au 26	-	Jl 7 Jl 17	S - Au 15	S - Sp 23	- S - Oc 9	- S - Sp 17
Cuckoo sp.	Jl 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 4 Jl 25	-	-
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	S - Jl 4	-	-	- S - Jl 4	H S - Sp 8
Screech Owl	P	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	- P	- P
Great Horned Owl	P	-	-	- P	-	P	P	P	H P	- P
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	- Late Dec.	-	De 28 - W	-	-	- No 6 De 13	- De 10
Burrowing Owl	S - Jl 20	-	-	-	-	Au x Jl 3 Au 10	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- P	- P
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- No 20 De 29	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Oc 27	-
Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Jl 15 De 22	-
Poor-will	Jl 7 Au 18	Sp 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Nighthawk	S - Sp 17	-	-	- Au 12 Sp 15	S - Sp x	S - Sp 20	-	S - Oc 11	- S - Oc 6	- S - Oc 10
Chimney Swift	S - Au 18	-	-	- S - Au 15	-	S - Jl 29	S - Au 23	S - Oc 6	- S - Oc 11	H S - Oc 17
White-throated Swift	S - Au 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 29 Sp 2	-	- S - Sp 3
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Jl 31 Au 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	- Jl 30 Au 1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	S - De 25	-	-	A Sp 6	-	S - No 10	S - De 3	Au 19 De 21	- S - De 31	- S - De 28
Common Flicker	P	-	P	A B	P	S - Sp 23	P	P	H P	- P







	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cher- ry	L Per- M kins	McPh.	Lin- coln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K Lan- X cstr	B Doug. T Sarpy
Bell's Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	S - Au 22	-	S - Sp 20	- S - Sp 8	- S - Sp 15
Yellow-throated Vireo	-	-	-	- Sp 15 Sp 16	-	-	-	-	- Sp 18	- S - Au 30
Solitary Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Sp 2 Oc 3	- Sp 14 Sp 29
Red-eyed Vireo	S - Au 8	-	-	A Au 15 Sp 2	-	Jl 10	-	Au 12 - Sp 20	- Sp 2 - Sp 22	- S - Sp 14
Philadelphia Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 14 -	- Au 11 - Sp 22	- Au 21 Sp 21
Warbling Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	S - Au x	S - Au 30	S - Sp 20	- S - Sp 19	- S - Sp 12
Black-and-white Warbler	-	-	-	- Sp 12	-	-	-	-	- Sp 1 - Sp 17	- Au 31 Sp 7
Prothonotary Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- S - Jl 13
Golden-winged Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Sp 6
Blue-winged Warb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Jl 6
Tennessee Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 23	Sp 24	- Sp 2 - Oc 9	- Sp 7 Sp 16
Orange-crowned Warbler	Au 12 Oc 5	-	-	- Sp 18 Oc 19	Sp 13 Sp 25	-	-	Sp 24	- Sp 11 - Oc 14	- Sp 7 Oc 5
Nashville Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 19	-	-	- Sp 2 - Oc 13	- Sp 4 Oc 3
Northern Parula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Sp 22	- -
Yellow Warbler	S - Sp 10	-	-	- Au 15 Au 29	Au 30	S - Sp 11	S - Au 10	Jl 1 - Oc 12	- S - Oc 14	- S - Sp 28
Magnolia Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Sp 17 - Oc 19	- Sp 6 Sp 28
Cape May Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Sp 28 Sp 29
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	-	- Oc 8 Oc 11	-	-	-	-	- Sp 19 - Sp 20	- Oc 13 Oc 15
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Sp 27 Oc 7	-	-	- Sp 22 Oc 16	-	Au 11 Sp 11	-	Oc 12 H Oc 18	Sp 8 - Oc 30	- Sp 5 De 7
Townsend's W.	Sp 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- -
Black-throated Green Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- Sp 2 - Oc 6	- Sp 15 Oc 5
Blackburnian Warbler	-	-	-	- Sp 30 Oc 1	-	-	-	-	- Sp 2 - Sp 19	- Au 31 Oc 19

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L. M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K. X	Lancaster	B. T	Doug. Sarpy
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 21	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chestnut-sided Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 19	-	-	-	Oc 14	-	-
Bay-breasted Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 16 Sp 17	-	-
Blackpoll Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 10	-	Sp 11 Oc 7	-	Sp 4 Sp 6
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 17 Sp 22	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 27	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	Au 25 Oc 11	Au 16 Au 30	-	-	-	-	Sp 6 Sp 22	-	S - Sp 11
Nor. Waterthrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 29	-	Sp 30
Kentucky Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 15 Sp 17	-	S - Jl 21
Connecticut Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 14	-	Sp 4 Sp 6
Mourning Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 4 Oc 7	-	Sp 5 Oc 24
Macgillivray's W.	-	-	-	-	Oc 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	S - Au 2	-	-	-	Jl 10 Sp 20	Note	S - Sp 24	S - Au 15	-	-	S - Oc 24	-	S - Oc 15
Yellow-breasted Chat	S - Sp 22	-	-	-	Au 21 Sp 15	Au 23 Sp 15	Au 9 Sp 3	S - Sp 3	Jl 12	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	Sp 22	-	-	-	Au 24 Oc 4	Au 29 Sp 27	Sp 2 Sp 19	-	-	-	Au 28 Sp 26	-	Au 30 Oc 5
Canada Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Au 25 Oc 9	-	Sp 2 Sp 14
American Redstart	Oc 5	-	-	-	Au 15 Sp 17	Au 26 Au 30	-	-	Jl 7 Sp 12	-	Sp 3 Sp 17	-	S - Sp 14
House Sparrow	P	-	P	A B	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	H	P
Bobolink	S - Jl 9	-	-	-	Au 21	-	S - Jl 1	S - Jl 15	-	-	S - Sp 7	-	-
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Au 15	-	-	S - De 29	H	-
Meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	B	-	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P
Western Meadowlark	P	-	-	A	P	S - Sp 30	P	P	-	H	S - De 29	H	S - Oc 26

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cher- ry	L M Per- kins	McPh.	Lin- coln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lan- cstr	B Doug. T Sarpy	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	S - Oc 4	-	-	A -	Sp 3	-	-	S - Oc 12	-	S - Oc 2	- S - Sp 16	
Red-winged Blackbird	S - De 14	Sp 28	-	A -	S - Sp 30	S - De 31	S - Au 19	S - No 12	-	S - De 31	- S - - W	
Orchard Oriole	-	-	-	A S - Au 16	S - Au 25	S - Au 31	S - Au 24	-	-	S - Sp 1	- S - Sp 4	
Northern Oriole	S - Sp 4	-	-	A S - Sp 12	-	S - Au 31	S - Sp 3	S - Sp 8	-	S - Sp 11	- S - Sp 2	
Rusty Blackbird	Sp 23 Oc 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	De 21	-	Sp 5 Oc 27	- Oc 21 - W	
Brewer's Blackbird	Sp 19 Oc 7	-	-	-	-	Oc 27	-	-	-	Sp 9 De 28	- Au 29 Sp 2	
Common Grackle	S - Oc 27	Oc 3	-	A S - Oc 9	S - Sp 30	S - No 10	S - No 1	S - - W	H	S - De 31	- S - De 14	
Brown-headed Cowbird	S - Oc 5	Sp 28	-	-	-	S - No x	S - Au 31	S - Oc 16	-	S - De 31	- S - De 28	
Western Tanager	-	-	-	- Oc 3 Oc 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scarlet Tanager	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 1	-	-	-	Sp 20 Oc 3	- S - Jl 21	
Cardinal	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	P H	P	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jl 5 Au 2	S - Sp 23	-	S - Sp 20	- S - No 22	
Black-headed Grosbeak	Sp 4 Sp 9	-	-	- Au 22	Sp 14	-	-	-	-	Sp 8	-	
Blue Grosbeak	S - Au 24	-	-	- Au 6	S - Jl 18	-	-	-	-	-	- S - Au 22	
Indigo Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Au 10	-	S - Sp 2	H S - Sp 5	
Lazuli Bunting	Jl 2 Au 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	S - Sp 1	S - Jl 29	S - Sp 16	S - Au 3	-	S - Sp 27	- S - Au 22
Purple Finch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 23 - W	- Oc 9 No 12	
House Finch	P	-	-	- Oc 17	-	P	-	-	-	-	-	
Pine Siskin	P	-	-	-	-	Oc 16	-	De 21	-	-	- De 14	
Am. Goldfinch	P	-	-	A P	-	P	P	P	H	P	- P	
Rufous-sided Towhee	S - Oc 5	Sp 27	-	A Sp 15 Oc 22	Sp 1 Sp 30	S - Au 16	S - Au 3	Oc 11 De 25	-	Sp 22 Oc 13	- S - Oc 27	

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cherry	L. M	Perkins	McPh.	Lincoln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K. X	Lan- cstr	B. Doug. T	Sarpy
Lark Bunting	S - Sp 14 Sp 14	Sp 14	-	A	Sp 13	S - Sp 8	S - J1 22	S - Au 10	S - Sp 10	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	Oc 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	J1 28 Oc 27	-	Sp 17 Oc 26
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	S - Au 13	Au 20	-	S - Oc 6	-	S - Oc 26
Henslow's Sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 6	-	-
Le Conte's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 22 Oc 28	-	Sp 5
Sharp-tailed Sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 12	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	Sp 9 Oc 5	Oc 12	-	-	-	Sp 4 Sp 21	-	-	-	-	Oc 11 Oc 26	-	Sp 5 Sp 13
Lark Sparrow	S - Sp 14 Sp 14	Sp 3	-	A	-	S - Sp 4	J1 25 Au 6	J1 15 Au 23	-	-	-	-	Sp 17
Cassin's Sparrow	-	-	-	A	S - Au 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	Oc 5 - W	-	No 2 - W	B	Sp 25 - W	-	Sp 29 - W	Oc 3 - W	Oc 14 - W	H	Sp 26 - W	-	Sp 28 - W
Gray-headed Junco	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 28 Sp 30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tree Sparrow	Oc 10 - W	Oc 8	-	B	Oc 22 - W	-	Oc 23 - W	Oc 23 - W	Oc 12 - W	-	Oc 6 - W	-	Sp 28 - W
Chipping Sparrow	S - Oc 5 Oc 5	-	-	-	Sp 4	-	J1 1 Sp 21	S - Au 28	Oc 18	-	S - Oc 20	-	S - Sp 18
Clay-colored Sparrow	Sp 11 Oc 5	-	-	-	Au 27 Sp 18	Sp 7 Sp 23	-	-	Oc 18	-	Sp 18 Sp 28	-	Sp 17
Brewer's Sparrow	Sp 4 Oc 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	De 14	-	-	-	-	S - Sp 30	Oc 11	J1 3 Au 20	S - Oc 6	-	S - Oc 30	H	S - Oc 19
Harris' Sparrow	Oc 24 - W	Oc 30	-	-	Sp 30 - W	Sp 29	Oc 19 No 4	Oc 23 No 3	Oc 24 - W	H	Sp 16 - W	-	Oc 5 - W
White-crowned Sparrow	Sp 23 De 27	-	Oc 12	-	Sp 17 Oc 9	Sp 23 Oc 30	Oc 19	No 4	Oc 16	-	Sp 22 Oc 15	-	Sp 28 De 14
White-throated Sparrow	Sp 24 Sp 30	-	Oc 12	-	Oc 9 Oc 12	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 18 De 31	-	Sp 23 No 2
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oc 6 De 6	-	-	-	Oc 8 De 22	-	Sp 28 No 17
Lincoln's Sparrow	Sp 2 Oc 5	-	-	-	Sp 16 Oc 19	Sp 25	-	-	-	-	Sp 11 Oc 27	-	Sp 15 Oc 26
Swamp Sparrow	Oc 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp 24 Oc 27	-	Sp 28 Oc 12

	Scotts Bluff	Dawes	Cher- ry	L M	Per- kins	McPh.	Lin- coln	Howard Hall	Adams Clay	K X	Lan- cstr	B T	Doug. Sarpy
Song Sparrow	Sp 1 - W	-	-	-	-	-	Jl x No 12	Au 13	Oc 15	H	P	-	P
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 10 - W	-	Oc 26 De 30	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No 12

grown-up Easter ducklings. A Ringed Turtle Dove was seen from 7 August 1974 to early January of 1975 (*NBR* 42:62 and 43:13). It had a private band on it. On the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Bill Fiske wrote: "As near as I can recall it was on 10 September, late in the day, that my wife and I observed a flycatcher in our back yard at 1717 Bowie Drive, Omaha. The bird's tail clearly exceeded the body length of the bird. In the very limited time that we could observe the bird through our glasses it appeared to be darker than the immature picture in *Birds of North America*, but it was at dusk on a cloudy day. The length of the tail and the separation of the tail into two separate "scissor blades" when the bird left its perch after insects lead us to believe it was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher." Two Grebes-either Horned or Eared - were seen 18 November, too far away on too dark a day to be sure. Ruth Green had a Northern Oriole on her feeder 1 December. Mockingbirds appeared at the year's end in at least two widely separated areas.

Hall, Grand Island, 72 species, William Schleicher (reporter).

Howard, see Hall.

Keith (L.M. for Lake McConaughy area), 52 species and the possibility that the "Meadowlark species" included Eastern Meadowlarks, Mrs. Jerry Sejkora (reporter). This covers two visits (18 August, A, and 27 October, B) to the area. Records of other visits were misplaced.

Knox (KX), 29 species, Dr. Norma Johnson (reporter). Birds reported by Dr. Johnson from a 10 October visit. She reports that one of the Yellow-rumped Warblers was a perfect specimen of the Audubon's Warbler.

Lancaster, Lincoln, 221 species and the possibility that the "Empidonax species" included a Willow Flycatcher. Daryl Giblin, Shirley Doole, Dr. Norma Johnson, and Dr. Esther Bennett (reporters), Bryce Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Margaret Giblin, Theodore Kirk, Mr. and Mrs. John Ott, Don Mullison, and Hazel Scheiber. The Greater Scaup was seen at Twin Lakes, and recognized by the white in the wing, which extended to near the wingtips. The Surf Scoter was seen at Stagecoach Lake. Its wings were all dark, and it had two lighter round spots on the side of the head, one near the bill, the other below and behind the eye. The Red Knot was seen at Branched Oak Lake, still mostly in spring plumage: a large sandpiper with reddish-pink breast and underparts, with color extending up neck to cheeks, mottled white and brown on back, wing, and tail, buffy wing stripe and greenish legs. The Peregrine Falcon was seen near Palmyra (Otoe county). It was a little larger than a crow, with long pointed wings and long narrow tail. Seen from below and the head not seen, but the lack of black wingpits distinguished it from a Prairie Falcon. The Pine Warbler was at Chet Ager Nature Center. It was a large warbler, solid unmarked olive from cap to tail, yellowish eye line and ring, dark olive wings with two large white wingbars, dirty-yellow on chin and part-way down breast turning dirty-white to coverts, light gray streaking along side, triangular tail spots, dark

legs. It was a sluggish bird with deliberate habits like a nuthatch as it searched for food along the major branches. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen at Stagecoach Lake. It was a small, dark, sparrow with short pointed tail, solid dark crown, dark back with lighter streaking, light streaking along sides and breast against a grayish-orange background, dark ear patch in orange triangle on side of head. The foregoing were reported by Daryl Giblin, and the Scoter, Red Knot, Pine Warbler, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow were also seen by Mrs. Giblin, an experienced birder. Bryce Anderson, Shirley Doole, and Mabel Ott also saw the Pine Warbler. Dr. Bennett (Chet Ager Nature Center) reported: "The Canada Geese dates may or may not be our birds. I know some were attracted in and they circled but didn't land one morning. Our pair raised four young successfully. Three birds from Pioneers Park joined them, as did a Snow Goose. All are over-wintering on our pond, as is one Wood Duck (male) and two Mallards. A large flock of Mallards (probably 100 or more birds) is staying at the first pond in Pioneers Park." A Great Egret was seen 11 to 14 July on Herkimer Lake, 4 miles north of Hickman, by Theodore Kirk. The observations were made between 4:00 and 7:30PM, and the entire time was occupied in feeding. Another one was reported from 6 to 11 September by Dr. Bennett and Daryl Giblin.

Lincoln, North Platte and Hershey, 118 species and the possibility that one of the "Herring/Ring-billed Gulls" was a Herring Gull, and that one of the "Meadowlark species" was an Eastern Meadowlark. Mrs. M. A. Cox and Mrs. E. C. Logan for the Tout Bird Club (reporters). The Mountain Bluebirds were seen in Cottonwood Canyon by Margaret Morton. This is the third year that a Mockingbird has come to Catherine Viehmeyer's for the winter. At least five Snowy Owls were in the area. The Kites - nine of them - were seen by Bill Niehus, a falconer, near Bignell, which once had a store and post office but now exists only as a place name. It is on the south river road, south of Interstate 80 and of the Platte, between North Platte and Maxwell. He is the one who saw the Kites in the spring of 1974 (*NBR* 42:74) and the details of that record are now available - two seen 19 May.

McPherson, Tryon, 69 species. Mrs. Oona Bassett (reporter). She saw a pair of Yellowthroats (not included in the 69 count) but didn't make a note of the date. She left the ranch for the winter 30 September so the winter birds are not included, and the last dates are too early for those birds that stayed after that time.

Perkins, Grant, 105 species and the certainty that the "Empidonax species" were at least one more, and the possibility that some of the "Peep" were not the kind that were identified as to species. Mrs. Jerry Sejkora (reporter). The Yellow-throated Vireo was a first. It was identified by the bright yellow throat, yellow spectacles, and heavy bill. Chickadees may be permanent residents in the area, but not on their farm. They wonder if it is the same Townsend's Solitaire that has returned for the third winter to the area of their shelterbelt.

Sarpy, see Douglas.

Scotts Bluff, Scottsbluff, 136 species, Mrs. Roy J. Witschy (reporter) Mrs. M. A. Banghart, Lydia Bolz, Mrs. J. J. Brashear, Mrs. LeRoy Kenitz. The Poorwill was at the Brashear ranch, and the Broad-tailed Hummingbird and Townsend's Warbler were at the Bashear farm. The Field and the Brewer's Sparrows were seen by Mrs. Banghart, Mrs. Brasher, and Mrs. Bolz. The Rosches, of Crawford, were with the Nature Club on its Fall Count Day, when the Swamp Sparrow was found. They are very familiar with it.

## SOME WATERFOWL BREEDING RECORDS FOR LANCASTER COUNTY

During the summers of 1970-72 I censused the reservoirs of the Salt Creek watershed (primarily located in Lancaster County) for breeding pairs, nests, and broods of waterfowl (Cink, unpublished data). These censuses revealed evidence for the breeding of several species of ducks for which I could find no published accounts. This note documents my observations of these species for future consideration of their distribution in eastern Nebraska. The age given to broods follows the criteria set forth in Gollop and Marshall (1954).

### Species Accounts

- Gadwall** - *Anas strepera* In addition to the brood found during the summer of 1970 (Cink, 1971), I observed a brood of seven young (28-38 days old) and a female Gadwall on Branched Oak Lake on 15 July 1972. Broods of Mallard and Blue-winged Teal occupied the same cove on the west side of the reservoir where human disturbance was minimal.
- Pintail** - *Anas acuta* An adult female of this species flushed from the grassy bank on the inlet to Conestoga Lake on 18 June 1972. It fluttered and thrashed about on the water in the injury-feigning behavior characteristic of a hen with a nest or young hidden nearby. I could find no nest but after searching the shoreline for some time I did flush two young (19-23 days old) which fluttered into the water and disappeared in a patch of emergent vegetation. In 1971 (8 June) I observed a female Pintail and her brood of six young (13-18 days old) on Twin Lakes in Seward County, just five and a half miles northwest of Conestoga. Pairs of Pintails and lone individuals were observed on several reservoirs in the Salt Creek watershed during the course of my study but these two broods were the only evidence of the Pintail actually breeding. Although Rapp et al. (1958) note that this species breeds in the "Sandhill Region", I can find no reference to breeding birds occurring in southeastern Nebraska. Baxter and Wolfe (1971) note that the Pintail is one of the three primary nesting species of ducks in the rainwater basin region of south-central Nebraska. In a five year period Evans and Wolfe (1967) found 37 nests and observed 30 broods of this species on their study areas in Clay County. This is approximately 60 miles west of the Salt Creek watershed.
- Northern Shoveler** - *Anas clypeata* A female Shoveler and brood of eight young (7-13 days old) were observed on the north end of Bluestem Lake on 18 June 1972. A brood of six young was observed in the same vicinity on this reservoir on 1 July. The age of these individuals (18-27 days old) indicates that they were probably the same family observed in June. On 24 July 1971 I observed a brood of five young (45-50 days old) and a female Shoveler on Branched Oak Lake. Although these young were nearly as large as the adult female they still couldn't fly. The Shoveler is regarded as "a common breeder in suitable localities throughout the state" by Rapp et al. (1958) but there appear to be no recent published breeding records for southeastern Nebraska. Wolcott (1901) reports seeing a male "Spoonbill" on Salt Lake (now Capital Beach) on 29 June 1900 and notes that species had been known

to breed there. Evans and Wolfe (1967) found 13 broods and five nests during the five year study in the rainwater basin area.

**Ruddy Duck - *Oxyura jamaicensis*** A female Ruddy Duck and her brood of three young (approximately 15-25 days old, though Gollop and Marshall don't treat this species in their paper) were discovered on the marshy inlet to a small farm impoundment (60 acres) southwest of Sprague (Section 7, T-7N, R-6E) on the evening of 25 June 1972. During my three year study several pairs of Ruddy Ducks were seen during the early breeding season but no lone individuals or nests were ever observed during the summer. On the basis of this single brood the species appears to be quite rare and local as a breeding bird in Lancaster County. Rapp et al. (1958) note that this species is a common breeder on the "Sandhill Lakes of Garden, Morrill and Cherry Counties" but make no mention of its status in southeastern Nebraska. Evans and Wolfe (1967) found five broods of Ruddy Ducks on their study area near Clay Center.

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#### ANHINGA SEEN IN NEBRASKA AGAIN

On 27 April 1975, at approximately 10:30 in the morning, I found an Anhinga on a marsh area about .75 miles north of Wolbach. It was a cold, cloudy, windy day. When I first sighted it I thought it might be a cormorant, but when I was closer I saw white on its wings and the top of its tail. It also had a much longer tail than a cormorant.

It was sitting in a dead tree to the west of the marsh, and remained there for the whole hour I watched it. Its only activity was to constantly be stretching its neck up and down or rubbing its head over its back feathers. It also would stretch out its wings several times. I returned to the marsh on 28 April and never saw it. It was late in the afternoon, though, when I was there so it may have been there earlier.

On 30 April Vera Coons and Verneil Griffin of Grand Island came up

to go out to the marsh with me. We arrived about 10:30 that morning and the Anhinga was in a dead tree to the west of the marsh. Vera had a telescope which we put up. We watched the bird for about an hour. The telescope let us see even more detail, and showed the long, sharply-pointed bill. They both agreed that it definitely was an Anhinga, and since Vera had seen many of them on trips to the South I definitely feel that is what it was. This time it did not stay in the tree all the time but made three short flights over the marsh. We noticed it would soar for short distances while flying. Each time it would return to the dead tree and sit there for a while before taking off again. The last time it circled the marsh in several widening circles and then flew off to the south. We remained at the marsh until 3:30 that afternoon but never saw it again. I went out to the marsh along with Vera again 1 May and we didn't see it from 10 to 12.

—Jan Faeh, Wolback

The *Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds* says of the Anhinga: "Accidental. One record from Buffalo County (Swenk, 1918:113) 11. The Swenk reference is to Revisory Notes on the List of Nebraska Birds, *Wilson Bulletin* 30:112. This appears to be the only previous record of the Anhinga in Nebraska.

#### A MONK PARAKEET IN THE KEARNEY AREA

My ornithology class and I saw a Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) on 6 May 1975. It was midafternoon, and we were at the Cottonmill Lake city-county park, a mile or so west of Kearney. The first indication of the bird's presence was an unfamiliar rather loud call. This was given only a few times, but helped us locate the bird in an American elm tree about 150 feet away. We studied it with binoculars and telescope for several minutes, then proceeded slowly toward the perch tree. The bird did not become alarmed, but permitted us to come within about 25 feet of it. We observed it for several minutes at this close range, specifically noting its salient features.

The bird was about the size of a Mourning Dove. It had a fairly long tail, a gray, scaly-looking throat, yellow belly, and greenish back. Its primary feathers seemed quite dark. It ate the young fruits or buds of the tree in which it sat, facing us most of the time, then flew away while we were momentarily distracted elsewhere. It was not seen again.

—John C. W. Bliese, Kearney

The only known previous record of the Monk Parakeet in Nebraska is that of a pair that were seen in the Omaha area the winter of 1972-1973 (*NBR* 41:15).

#### BOOK REVIEWS

Minnesota Birds Where, When, and How Many. Janet C. Green and Robert B. Jansen. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, xviii & 217 p. One color plate, 20 black-and-white photographs, 106 maps. 1975 \$9.75.

The subtitle on the cover of this hard-cover book- A field guide to the distribution of 374 species in Minnesota - just about sums up the book. The birds themselves are not described. The locations at times may be by townships, but no more specific than that. Two short sections - Notes on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Maps, and Geography and Ecology of Minnesota's Birdlife - precede the individual species accounts. There is a selected bibliography and an index. The book will be useful for those who want to know the general area in which a particular species probably can be found and

when, and so would be of interest to those birders who vacation in Minnesota or are interested enough in increasing their life list to make a special trip to Minnesota. Ed.

Ocean Wanderers. R. M. Lockley. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg. Nine color plates, 29 black-and-white photographs, 22 maps, incidental drawings by Robert Gillmor, 168 p. \$15.00.

This discussion of the migratory seabirds of the world has six introductory chapters - Origin and evolution, Adaptations to ocean-going, Behavior, Ocean feeding grounds, Expert navigators, and Man and sea birds - before seven chapters, each covering a group of related seabirds. The information on an individual species is generally less in quantity than that given (for those species which might be found in it) in Audubon Water Bird Guide for example, and is less comprehensive in that it covers primarily those ways in which the species has adapted to the particular problems it faces. Consequently this is a book for those who are curious about those birds which live mostly on the open seas - their evolution, their adaptations, their problems - in general, rather than about a particular species, though the first six chapters probably would be useful even in that case. Ed.

## NOTES

WHOOPING CRANES. Nebraska State Game officials reported that there were sixteen Whooping Cranes sighted in Nebraska during the first week in November 1974. Two were sighted near the new Audubon Reserve southwest of Gibbon and two at the Funk Basin north of Funk.

—George W. Brown, Kearney

In late November 1974 the U. S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife reported that its personnel had seen and photographed two adult Whooping Cranes in the main channel of the Platte River, near Kearney. The birds were observed for two days. It is not clear whether these were the birds mentioned above as seen near the new Audubon Reserve or whether these were an additional sighting.

SNOWY PLOVERS. It is always enjoyable to add a new bird to one's life list, and when it concerns a bird unusual enough to be listed as "accidental" for Nebraska (*Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds*, Rapp et al, 1958), it even becomes a bit exciting.

My wife and I saw a single Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) on two occasions: 20 June and again on 29 June 1974. In each case the bird was on a muddy shore or in the nearby shallow water of a marsh located 3.5 miles northeast of Funk, Nebraska. In addition, I saw two of the Plovers in the same locality on 25 June while on a field trip with my ornithology class.

In all three instances the birds were observed with binoculars and telescope, under bright sky, and all the field marks listed in several bird guides were seen clearly. The Plovers were never more than 300 feet from us, and one was even as close as an estimated 100 feet. They were actively engaged in searching for food, and gave us ample opportunity to observe them. We heard no calls at any time. Although we visited this marsh several times after 29 June we did not see the birds again.

— John C. W. Bliese, Kearney

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SNOWY OWL. On 6 March 1974, while heading out to Grand Island to see the Sandhill Cranes, I spotted a Snowy Owl sitting on a post by the Interstate, just before the turnoff to Hampton (Hamilton County). It took off and landed in the field. We noted the place and spotted the Owl again on our way back, though it was so far off we certainly wouldn't have seen it if we hadn't been looking for it.

—*Shirley Doole, Lincoln*

Reports of a large white owl sighted around the UNL city campus had been filtering in to me for about a week. No positive identification had been made and I suspected that it was no more than a Barn Owl. As I drove to campus on the morning of 7 March 1974 I spotted a large white bird perched on the west edge of the roof of the stage area of the UNL coliseum. Even without binoculars it was obviously a Snowy Owl. Others seeing the bird that morning included: James T. Billings, Harvey Gunderson, Thomas Thorson, Carl Gugler, and Paul Johnsgard. It was not seen on campus after this sighting.

—*Raymond S. Goldstein, Lincoln*

OWLS, HAWK. On 1 December 1974 I was riding a horse in our stock fields and was able to approach very close to a Snowy Owl. Later I flushed a Barn Owl out of the stock. A Marsh Hawk was sailing over the fields.

—*Sam Antholz, Cook*