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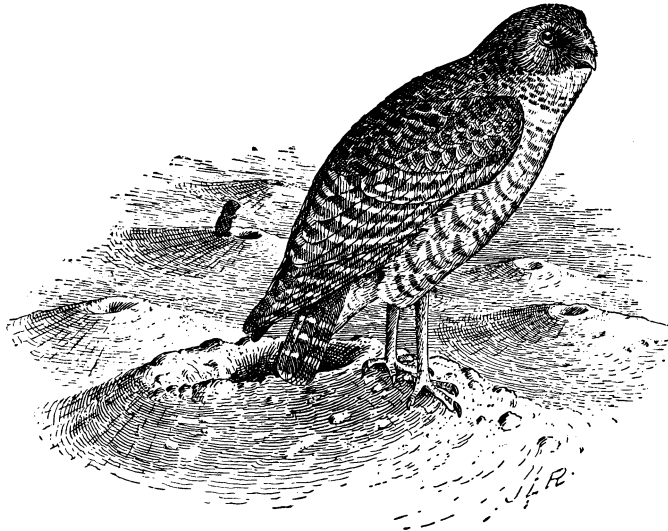
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VOLUME I

OCTOBER, 1933

NUMBER 4

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A Review of Nebraska Ornithology

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THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

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THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE WHOOPING CRANE

By MYRON H. SWENK *

Writing of the Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), Elliott Coues (1874) referred to it as having "the most imposing appearance of any bird in this country"; and to that high authority there might easily be added the testimony of several other ornithologists, also fully competent to judge, who have expressed substantially the same opinion. For this reason, if for no other, it seems a national ornithological misfortune that this striking bird has disappeared from so much of its original range, or has become so rare in those sections where it still persists that only a few of the more favorably situated bird students of the present generation have ever been privileged to see a living specimen of it. But most have had the opportunity of seeing mounted specimens of the species, and of noting its magnificent proportions — standing nearly five feet tall and with a wing spread of over seven feet — and its handsome coloring when adult — snowy white, relieved by the black primaries and legs, the bare and roughened reddish skin of the crown and cheeks and the yellowish bill and eyes. Viewing such specimens, it is not difficult to picture in the imagination the wild, living birds, stalking with stately tread over the open fields as they feed, or flying, either in a long, irregular single file, with slow heavy flappings of the great wings and long necks and legs outstretched, or else circling around and around in great curves overhead, in either case making a most beautiful display of their white and black colors.

The breeding range of the Whooping Crane originally involved a vast area in the interior of North America, probably extending from west-central and southern Mackenzie south over eastern Alberta, all of Saskatchewan and most or all of Manitoba, to northern Montana, southern North Dakota, western and southern Minnesota and northern Iowa, and less commonly southeastwardly at least to central Illinois, if not farther. The statement, however, in the last (fourth; 1931) edition of the *A. O. U. Check-List* (p. 93) that the species formerly bred "south to Nebraska" seems without a definite valid basis. The winter was spent on the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States and in northeastern and central Mexico. Twice annually during migrations—northward in March and April and southward in October and November—the crane hosts passed over the intervening area, occasionally extending their migration flights eastward to Ontario and New York, and probably rarely even to New England, and regularly to the Atlantic Coast from New Jersey southward. Westwardly the

*This paper is a revision, so as to include the years 1931, 1932 and 1933, of a paper read by the author at the Wednesday morning session of the Forty-ninth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, on October 20, 1931. Being based largely upon Nebraska data, it is herewith published in the *Nebraska Bird Review*.—Ed.

migration also extended, in small proportions, to the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico. But the route of the bulk of these cranes was the aerial bird highway up and down the great interior Missouri-Mississippi River system. In the early part of the nineteenth century these cranes traversed this path in numerous flocks of large size.

The earliest Nebraska reference to the Whooping Crane is that of Thomas Say, who noted that it arrived at Engineer Cantonment (= Fort Calhoun, Washington County) on March 19, 1820, and refers to heavy migrations of cranes up the Missouri River at that time in his statement under date of March 20, 1820, that "great flights of geese, swans, ducks, brant and cranes have been passing up the river." That he does not refer to the Sandhill Crane in this statement is shown by his record of the arrival of that species on April 13, 1820. Samuel Aughey referred to the Whooping Crane as only "occasional" in Nebraska, but subsequent observers have indicated a greater abundance for it in the state. L. Bruner reports records from Omaha, Douglas County (Bruner; L. Skow); Craig, Burt County (Bruner); West Point, Cuming County (Bruner); Wolf Creek (D. H. Talbot); Holt County (Bruner); Cherry County (J. M. Bates); Grand Island, Hall County (F. J. Brezee); and Gage County (F. A. Colby) during the 1880's and early 1890's. I. S. Trostler's records show that it was still "a common migrant" up the Missouri River each spring during March (19 to 23) from 1881 to 1896. M. Cary (*Proc. N. O. U.*, i, p. 22) considered it still a "rather common migrant" in the spring (March 20 to April 1) and fall (October 15 to 30) at Neligh, Antelope County, from 1898 to 1900. By the end of the century it was "rare" at Lincoln, according to J. S. Hunter (*Proc. N. O. U.*, i, p. 20), and no doubt by that time it was becoming quite infrequent in all of the eastern counties of the state; yet the writer recalls Prof. Bruner pointing out to him a flock of these great white and black birds flying to the northwest high over the University of Nebraska campus at Lincoln, about the spring of 1903. A mounted specimen now belonging to Mr. C. A. Black of Kearney, was shot near that place in 1904 by a Mr. Barger of Kearney, while another in the Brooking collection at Hastings was shot near Harvard, Clay County, on March 12, 1908, by Mr. George Schupan of Hastings. One of two birds shot at Atkinson, Holt County, on April 22, 1909, was sent to Lincoln for mounting, the other one going to Curtis to be mounted by Rees Heaton. Probably the most rapid decrease of the species took place in Nebraska during the twenty years from 1890 to 1910.

The history of the Whooping Crane in North America as a whole has been in essence a steady reduction in its numbers and a constant retreat by it before the advance of civilization, ever farther to the west and to the north. By the arrival of the nineteenth century it had ceased visiting New England and the Atlantic Coast region. The end of that century saw its virtual disappearance from the entire region east of the Mississippi River, with an accompanying reduction in its numbers west of that river to such a mere remnant of its once considerable population that the early extermination of the species was soon being predicted by informed ornithologists.

For examples, E. H. Forbush in 1912 flatly stated that "the Whooping Crane is doomed to extinction." W. T. Hornaday in 1913 predicted that this "will almost certainly be the next North American species to be totally exterminated." In a popular article in the *Saturday Evening Post*, Hal G. Everts in 1923 actually declared that a Whooping Crane killed in Kansas in the fall of 1922 was "the last of its line." While most ornithologists recognized that this obituary of the species was somewhat premature, from the ominous infrequency of the observations of living

Whooping Cranes, the belief has continued to be general that the continued existence of the species is in great jeopardy. The last published record of the species for Oklahoma was for 1912; for South Dakota about 1913; for Minnesota in 1917; for Kansas in 1922, and for North Dakota in 1930.* A. C. Bent in 1926 stated that the Whooping Crane was "supposed to be on the verge of extinction." H. W. Williams in the same year (1926) stated that it looked as if the Whooping Crane was to follow the Passenger Pigeon. E. W. Nelson in 1929 stated it was "doomed to an early extinction," and that the small group of these birds wintering on the coast of western Louisiana had decreased from fifteen or twenty to two during the preceding fifteen or twenty years. And during the year 1931 Mrs. Margaret M. Nice listed it as "almost extinct," and A. M. Bailey and E. G. Wright predicted "its early extinction."

An examination of the literature shows ample justification for these gloomy opinions. An actual count of the records or reports, at minimum figures when the number is indefinite, shows that outside of Nebraska only about 147 Whooping Cranes were recorded as seen during the entire twenty-two year period, 1912 to 1933, inclusive. These records may briefly be summarized as follows:

- April 12, 1912. One killed at Hamilton, North Dakota, by D. D. Warren (Wood, 1923A and Williams, 1926).
 Autumn of 1912. One seen at Gate, Oklahoma, by W. E. Lewis (Lewis, 1930, and Nice, 1931).
 About 1913. One shot north of Sioux Falls, South Dakota (Larson, 1925).
 March 27, 1913. One seen near Kansas City, Missouri, by Chas. Dankers (Harris, 1919).
 Summer of 1913. One photographed at Ker-Robert, Saskatchewan, by Miss E. Margaret Estlin (*Bird-Lore*, 1922).
 October 11, 1913. Reported seen at Chase Lake, North Dakota (Bent, 1926).
 April 22, 1914. Reported seen at Corning, Arkansas (Bent, 1926).
 August 4, 1914. Five seen in Yellowstone Park by M. P. Skinner (Bent, 1926).
 Summer of 1914. At least one pair bred in west part of Buffalo Park, Wainwright, Alberta (Bent, 1926).
 November, 1916. Three seen at Chenier au Tigre, southern Louisiana (Bailey, 1928, and Bailey and Wright, 1931).
 April 23, 1917. A pair seen near Badger, Minnesota, one being shot (Roberts, 1919 and 1932).
 Spring of 1917. Some seen around Quill Lake, Saskatchewan (Bent, 1926).
 Autumn of 1917. Seen at Chenier au Tigre, southern Louisiana (Bailey, 1928, and Bailey and Wright, 1931).
 In 1919. One taken at Lakota, Nelson Co., North Dakota, now in the Williams collection (Wood, 1923A).
 In 1919. Sixteen at Laguna Larga, Kleberg Co., Texas, reported by R. M. Kleberg (Bent, 1926).

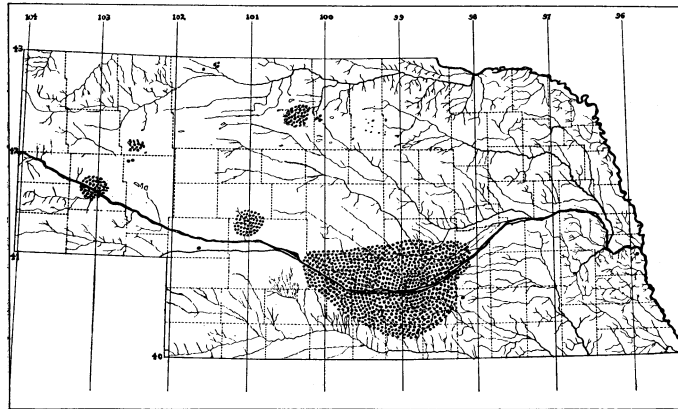
*Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson has kindly informed me (litt. February 10, 16 and 23, 1932) that Mr. Burnie Maurek, North Dakota Game Commissioner, had told him that Whooping Cranes had been seen in North Dakota in 1930, and later had telegraphed him, on September 29, 1931, that one adult Whooping Crane had been found with 200 Sandhill Cranes north of Dawson, North Dakota. The 1930 North Dakota record reported by Mr. Maurek is probably the same as that published by Dr. T. S. Roberts (1932).

- Autumn of 1919. One shot near Leroy, North Dakota; reported by Russel Reid (Wood, 1923A).
- In 1920. Seven seen near Medina, North Dakota (Wood, 1923B).
- April 15, 1920. Fifteen seen flying at Indian Head, Saskatchewan, by George Lang (Bent, 1926).
- September 16, 1920. Small flock near Bismark, North Dakota; reported by Russel Reid (Wood, 1923A).
- June 24, 1921. Seven seen near Medina, North Dakota (Wood, 1923A).
- Autumn of 1921. Two seen in northern Saskatchewan by Miss E. Margaret Estlin (Pearson, 1922).
- Autumn of 1921. Six approached within 50 yards near Indian Head, Saskatchewan, by J. R. Garden (Bent, 1926).
- December 23, 1921. Four seen near Laguna Larga, Kleberg Co., Texas, by T. G. Pearson (Pearson, 1922).
- April 8, 1922. Small flock near Bismark, North Dakota; reported by Russel Reid (Wood, 1923A).
- May 19 and 28, 1922. Pair found nesting in western Saskatchewan, by Neil Gilmore and Fred Bradshaw (Bent, 1926).
- End of August, 1922. Pair seen about 10 miles west of Birch Lake, Alberta, by C. E. Mills (Bent, 1926).
- Autumn of 1922. One killed in Kansas (Everts, 1923).
- January 12, 1923. Four seen on the Laureles Ranch north of Brownsville, Texas, and 5 about 20 miles south reported by R. M. Kleberg (Griscom and Crosby, 1925).
- Winter of 1923. Birds still present at Laguna Larga, Kleberg Co., Texas (Bent, 1926).
- Spring of 1923. Flock of 8 seen near Edinburg, Walsh Co., North Dakota, and flock of 12 seen in a slough farther west by H. V. Williams (Wood, 1923B).
- Spring of 1923. Some seen at Qu'Appelle and Tynan, Saskatchewan (Bent, 1926).
- April, 1923. Five seen near Grafton, North Dakota (Williams, 1926).
- September 20 to October 1, 1923. Flock of 5 adults and one immature seen near Long Lake, south of Steele, North Dakota (Bent, 1926).
- May 3, 1924. Nine seen passing over Findlater, Saskatchewan, by Harry L. Felt (Bent, 1926).
- September 13, 1925. One seen in flock of Sandhill Cranes at Shoal Lake, 40 miles north of Winnipeg, Manitoba, by Chas. L. Bodley (Bent, 1926).
- Winter of 1925. Reported wintering at Chenier au Tigre, southern Louisiana, by A. Broussard, the warden there (Bailey, 1928).
- October 3, 1927. One seen 10 miles north of Dundern, Saskatchewan (Mershon, 1928).
- October 29, 1927. One killed by a farmer out of a flock of geese near Estavan, Saskatchewan, reported by Fred Bradshaw (Mershon, 1928).
- March 11, 1928. Pair seen on coastal marshes of Louisiana near Pecan Island (Nelson, 1929).
- December, 1928, and January, 1929. Pair again seen in above-mentioned locality (Nelson, 1929).
- Summer of 1929. Two immature birds seen in the Bechlar River region in southwestern Yellowstone Park by T. G. Pearson, and adults seen later in the same region by Mr. Bicknell, the ranger (Kemsies, 1930).
- Winters of 1929, 1930, 1931. Two were seen at Chenier au Tigre, southern Louisiana (Bailey and Wright, 1931).
- Spring of 1930. Some reported as seen along coastal marshes of Louisiana, in same general region as reported by Nelson (1929), by F. L. Jaques in a letter to T. S. Roberts (Roberts, 1932).

October 14, 1930. Four, two adults and two immatures, reported to North Dakota Game and Fish Commission from near Mercer, McLean County, North Dakota, according to newspaper item from Bismark (Roberts, 1932).

June 20, 1931. A single one seen at Fort Collins, Colorado, by Mrs. Clara Gordon and husband (Bergtold, 1931).

To this total of 147 published records should be added those of 217 Whooping Cranes seen in Nebraska in the years 1912, 1915, 1917-1921 and 1932-1933 that are not included in the above summary. These are given separately in detail beyond, in the special summary of Nebraska records. Without wishing in the least to minimize the exceedingly grave situation surrounding the hopes for the survival of the Whooping Crane, the writer believes that this small total of published records of this species from outside of Nebraska does not accurately reflect its actual recent and present status. His chief reason for so believing is that these birds have been seen in Nebraska with greater regularity, and in larger numbers, than in any of the other states included in the above summary. During the same period as is covered in the literature summary above given (1912-1933, inclusive), no fewer than 998 migrant Whooping Cranes have been seen in the state of Nebraska alone, 986 of them during the twenty-year period 1914-1933, inclusive.* Of course some of these are undoubtedly annually repeated observations of the same individuals, but that is probably true to some extent also in the case of the birds seen elsewhere than in Nebraska.



Map of Nebraska showing the distribution of 986 Whooping Crane migrant records, and especially their concentration in the Great Bend region of the Platte River, between longitudes 98° and 100°. Records during a twenty year period, 1914 to 1933, inclusive.

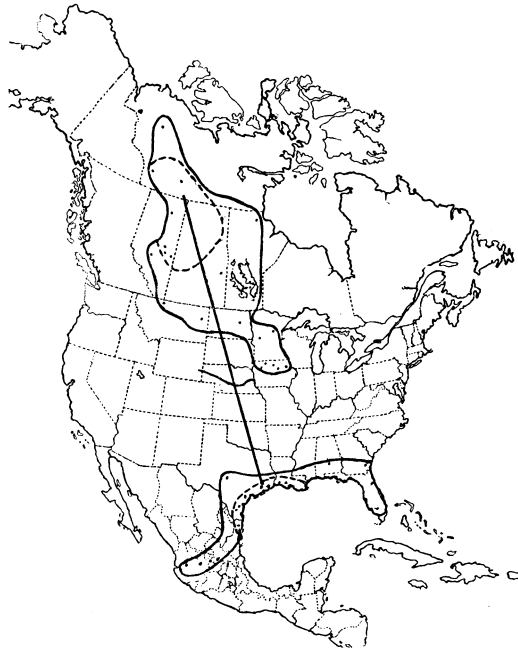
*These 986 records are geographically distributed as follows: Cass County—Plattsmouth, 1; Clay County—Inland, 1; Hall County—Grand Island, 50; north of Prosser, 2; Buffalo County—Gibbon, 30; Kearney, 335; Odessa, 185; Elm Creek, 63; Amherst, 8; Kearney County—Lowell, 21; Newark, 25; Minden, 1; Axtell, 19; Wilcox, 35; Dawson County—Overton, 8; Lexington, 40; Lincoln County—Diamond Bar Lake, 59; Keith County—Ogallala, 1; Garden County—Sand Beach Lake, 2; Morrill County—Bridgeport, 40; Sheridan County—Antioch, 15; Cherry County—Merriman, 1; Eli, 3; Marsh Lake, 35; Red Deer Lake, 3; Brown County—Post Lake, 3.

For the past two decades, or since its numbers became markedly diminished and justifiable fears became freely expressed as to its ability long to survive the inroads of civilization, the writer has been especially interested in the Whooping Crane. He has succeeded in interesting a number of competent observers in central Nebraska, not only in promptly reporting to him any of these birds observed by themselves, but in investigating reports of their having been observed by others and reporting these observations also, wherever the investigation showed beyond any reasonable doubt that the observer had actually seen the Whooping Crane. The combination of characters of coloration, size, form and voice of the Whooping Crane is so unique, that following a little discussion with an observer one can readily determine whether or not this species has been seen. Old-time hunters, who knew the bird intimately in the days when it was numerous, have furnished most of the reliable records. In this cooperation, acknowledgment should be made by the writer especially to Mr. C. A. Black of Kearney, who secured most of the records; to Mr. A. M. Brooking of Hastings, who also furnished several records; to Mr. F. R. Kingsley of Minden for a number of records; and to Mr. August Eiche of Lincoln and Mr. William Youngworth of Sioux City, Iowa, for the records supplied by them.

The preceding map of Nebraska shows the approximate distribution in the state of these 986 migrant Whooping Crane records of the past two decades. A great concentration of the records in the "Great Bend" Region of the Platte River, between longitudes 98° and 100°, is to be noted. This may partially be explained by a greater number of observers on the lookout for Whooping Cranes in that section of the state; but the writer believes it is even more importantly due to the migration habits of the species. The Platte River in Nebraska lies approximately midway between the centers of the present wintering and breeding ranges of the Whooping Crane. The ancestral habit of the western segment of these birds has always been to make a mid-migration stop in this locality, especially on their northward flight, in order to feed and rest. In an earlier period they commonly visited the Platte River region in large flocks each spring and autumn, as many old-time hunters still living can testify. The present remnant of the more western birds do this still. The opposite map of North America shows what is probably the principal line of migration of these present survivors of the Whooping Crane, and the location of the chief feeding and resting stop on the Platte River, at about longitude 99°.

In both the vernal and autumnal migrations through Nebraska, during the past twenty years, Whooping Cranes usually have been observed in small flocks of four to eight birds, rarely up to ten or twelve, or as lone birds, pairs or trios. But in the springs of a number of years single flocks of large size have been observed, viz.—40 or 50 in late April of 1914; 56 on April 14, 1920; 50 or more on April 9, 1925; about 50 on March 29, 1928; between 50 and 60 on April 12, 1929; 40 or more on March 29 and 59 on April 2, 1930; 75 on April 8, 1931; 43 on April 4, 1932; and about 50 around April 6, 1933. The birds are much less noticeable during the autumn migration, only 146 records being for that period as compared to 839 for the spring migration. The largest flocks noted in the autumn were one of 40 or 41 birds on September 14, 1931, and one of 22 birds on October 28, 1922. The following graph shows the number of the total of 983 Whooping Cranes that were observed each spring and autumn during the past twenty-year period. The largest totals naturally occurred in the above-mentioned years when the "big flock" was observed in the spring; but in 1926 the largest total (107) for any one of the twenty springs except 1930 was made up of a flock of 23, two of 18, one of 15, one of 6, two of 5, two pairs and one lone bird. The 123 birds recorded for the spring of 1930, in addition to the 59

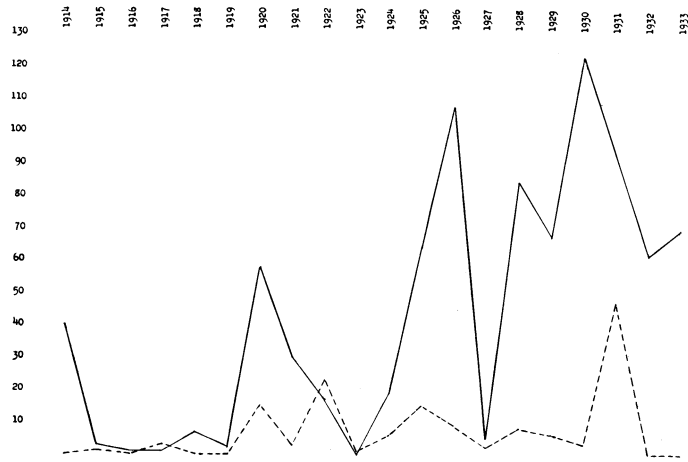
seen on April 20, and the 40 on March 29, included flocks of 8, 6, 5, 3 and 2 birds, respectively. It would indeed be interesting to know where the 50 to 75 birds composing the "big flock" nest and winter. But the particularly significant point in connection with these data is that there has been no permanent diminution in numbers of the species observed in Nebraska, during the past two decades; in fact only a superficial glance at the graph indicates that there has been a distinct recovery of the species since 1916, when the ratification of the Migratory Bird Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, which permanently closed the season on this bird over the United States and Canada, took place.



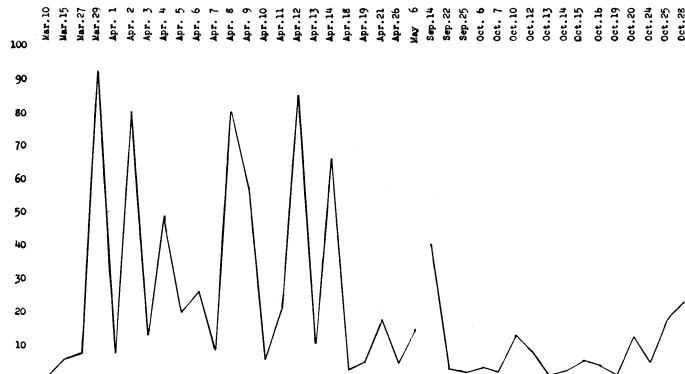
Map showing approximately the original and probable present breeding and wintering areas of the Whooping Crane, and its principal present line of migration, with its midway feeding stop on the Platte River at about longitude 99°.

The spring migration takes place through Nebraska between March 10 and May 6. The second following graph shows the dates of occurrence in this state of 684 spring migrant Whooping Cranes, for which exact dates are available, over the twenty-year period from 1914 to 1933, inclusive. The high points of this migration have fallen in the median part of this eight weeks' period, on March 29 and April 2, 8, 12 and 14. Only 142 exactly dated migrants relate to the autumnal migration period. The reported autumnal migration has taken place during the twenty-year period here covered between September 14 and October 28, with the high points on September 14 and October 10, 15, 20, 25 and 28. I have a note that there are or were specimens taken about 1884 at Elm Creek,

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Graph showing the number of Whooping Cranes observed in Nebraska each spring and autumn over a twenty year period, from 1914 to 1933, inclusive. Note the years when the "big flock" was observed, and also that the number seen in the spring usually exceeds the number seen in the autumn, the ratio of totals being 839:146. Solid line = spring migration. Dotted line = autumn migration.



Graph showing the dates of occurrence of 684 spring and 142 autumn Whooping Crane migrants in Nebraska over a twenty year period, from 1914 to 1933, inclusive.

Buffalo County, in October and "November" in the D. H. Talbot collection, now at the University of Iowa.

In Nebraska the general direction of flight of migrating flocks of Whooping Cranes in the spring is toward the northwest or west. In the autumnal migration the general direction of flight is usually toward the south, but sometimes toward the southeast or east. Those that are not observed to stop are usually seen flying over at a considerable height, and, in both spring and autumn, attention is usually directed to them by their loud, characteristic, whooping calls. The flight is usually direct in a straight line, but at other times the birds move on in great spirals or circles. The large vernal flocks are composed exclusively of Whooping Cranes, but the lone birds, pairs or smaller groups in both spring and autumn frequently migrate in association with much larger flocks of the Sandhill Cranes that pass through at the same time. Commonly a small group of the large white cranes becomes associated with a flock of 200 or 300 of the smaller species. Where there are only a few Sandhill Cranes with the Whoopers, the latter usually lead in the flight.

When they are observed to stop, they are most commonly found on the larger sandbars or flat islands of the Platte River, or are seen flying up or down the river. Sometimes on these sandbars in the river in the spring they are observed indulging in their characteristic dance, or "pow-wow" as the old-time hunters call the performance. They are also to be seen feeding in the lagoons on aquatic plants and animals, in the hay meadows or fields on insects, and, in the autumn, on the waste grains and insects in the wheat stubble fields, all usually in the immediate vicinity of the river. Small groups or flocks may sometimes linger in a favorable locality for from two to five days before departing onward.

No one can be more cognizant of the fact that such records as are here presented must inherently carry a certain amount of uncertainty than is the writer; nevertheless, they are the best evidence at present obtainable, and there is no doubt in his mind that the great majority, if not all, of these records represent correct identifications. Some definite reports have been excluded as probably referring to flocks of the White Pelican. As a good example, the Norfolk *Daily News* for March 31, 1932, contained an account telling how on the previous day the people at O'Neill, Holt County, had been entertained by watching "a flock of several hundred Whooping Cranes leisurely circling over town for half a day at an altitude of about a mile. This sight, once common, has not been enjoyed in several years" (*L. O. I.* No. 66, p. 6). There can be no reasonable doubt of the honesty of the reports here accepted, for there could be no motive for deception on the part of the accepted reporters, who are all believed to be persons of intelligence and integrity.

The following table gives in detail the records of the Whooping Crane in Nebraska during the past twenty-two years:

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DATE	LOCALITY	OBSERVER OR REPORTER	NUMBER AND REMARKS
		— 1912 —	
October 16	Wood Lake, Cherry Co. (at)	H. T. Clarke, Jr. (o)* (Lincoln)	4 shot out of a flock of 5; 3 adults (2 males and a female and 1 immature female). (Swenk, 1913)
October (? 20)	Grand Island, Hall Co. (near)	H. N. Miller (r)** (Lincoln)	2 shot by hunters. (Swenk, 1913)
		— 1913 —	
March 29	Greenwood, Cass Co. (3 miles north of)	John Armstrong (o)	5 in flock with 3 Sandhill Cranes. Reported to August Eiche.
		— 1914 —	
April (late)	Bridgeport, Morrill Co. (3 miles east of)	Roy Birdsell (o) (Minden)	40 or 50 seen on a sandbar in the North Platte River; watched for an hour as they were dancing and having a "pow-wow" on the sandbar. Reported by F. R. Kingsley.
		— 1915 —	
March 10	Ogallala, Keith Co. (near)	John Koehr (o) (Ogallala)	1 shot and mounted. (Swenk, 1921) Reported by A. M. Brooking
Spring	Platte River, Hall Co. (date lost) (north of Prosser)	L. Picarthley (o) (Kearney)	2 adults shot and mounted; destroyed by fire in 1917. Erroneously recorded (Swenk, 1921) as shot in the fall of 1915. Reported by C. A. Black and A. M. Brooking.
October 10	Post Lake, Brown Co.	H. C. Oberholser (o)	3 seen flying over lake late in the afternoon. (Oberholser, 1920)

* = observer; ** = reporter.—Ed.

PRESENT STATUS OF THE WHOOPING CRANE

DATE	LOCALITY	OBSERVER OR REPORTER	NUMBER AND REMARKS
		— 1916 —	
Spring (date lost)	Overton, Dawson Co. (near)	Link Milburn (o) (Overton)	1 shot and mounted. Reported by A. M. Brooking.
		— 1917 —	
Spring (date lost)	Minden, Kearney Co. (near)	F. R. Kingsley (r) (Minden)	1 shot and mounted; now in collection at Minden. (Swenk, 1921)
Autumn (date lost)	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	C. A. Black (r) (Kearney)	3 shot near Kearney by a hunter who buried the birds through fear of the law. (Swenk, 1921)
(?)	Red Deer Lake, Cherry Co. (?)	F. G. Caldwell (r)	1 shot. (Fuertes, 1923)
		— 1918 —	
March (date lost)	Platte River (near mouth of)	Max Geisler (r) (Omaha)	1 shot by unknown hunter and mounted by L. Skow of Omaha, where it was exhibited in Geisler Bird Store. Erroneously recorded (Swenk, 1921) as shot in the fall of 1917.
March 15	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	C. A. Black (r) (Kearney)	6 seen on Platte River by a very reliable hunter, who refrained from shooting at them. (Swenk, 1921)
		— 1919 —	
March 29	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	Harry Connor (o) (formerly Kearney, now St. Paul, Minn.)	Small flock seen on an island in the Platte River in a large flock of Sandhill Cranes. Observers personally interviewed by me same day birds were seen and am satisfied as to the reliability of the report. (Swenk, 1921)

DATE	LOCALITY	OBSERVER OR REPORTER	NUMBER AND REMARKS
— 1920 —			
April 2	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (at)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	2 seen flying northward at a considerable height in flock of Sandhill Cranes. (Swenk, 1921)
April 14	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (at)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	Flock of 56 seen. (Swenk, 1921)
October 7	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	2 seen on the Platte River.
October 10	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	10 seen on the Platte River.
October 15	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	3 seen on the Platte River.
— 1921 —			
April 1	Odessa, Buffalo Co. (at)	Jack Chapman (o) (Kearney)	6 seen flying north and reported to C. A. Black.
April 2	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	2 seen.
April 5 (?)	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	1 seen.
April 11	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	A. R. Goley (o) (Kearney)	21 seen on the Platte River and reported to C. A. Black.
October 14	Red Deer Lake, Cherry Co.	H. B. Conover (r)	2 seen on shore of lake and one killed by a farmer boy in the vicinity. (Conover, 1922)
October 20	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	1 seen.
— 1922 —			
April 14	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (ten miles east of)	Guy Smith's son (o) (Kearney)	3 seen. Reported to C. A. Black. Smith, Sr. is an experienced bird observer and hunter.
April 14	Gibbon, Buffalo Co. (near)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	7 seen.
May 1-5	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	A. R. Goley (o) (Kearney)	7 seen near Goley farm on the Platte River each day for 5 days. Reported through C. A. Black.
October 20	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	1 seen.
October 28	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	22 seen as they sat on a sandbar in the Platte River. They remained there most of the afternoon, when they flew to the island in the Platte where they were noted on March 29, 1919.

DATE	LOCALITY	OBSERVER OR REPORTER	NUMBER AND REMARKS
September.....	Inland, Clay Co. (near)	— 1923 — Alfred Nooka (o) (Inland)	1 seen at lagoon near Inland and reported to A. M. Brooking.
April 2.....	Amherst, Buffalo Co. (north of)	— 1924 — C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	Flock of 8 seen.
April 13.....	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (just west of)	C. A. Black (o)	Flock of 11 seen flying from the Platte River at close range and starting northwest.
September 25..	Sand Beach Lake, Garden Co. (at)	(Kearney) Miles Maryott (o) (Oshkosh)	Flock of an undetermined number seen, flying very high and traveling south, whooping as they flew; reported through C. A. Black.
October 16.....	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (just east of bridge at)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	4 seen on the Platte River.
April 5.....	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (at bridge south of)	— 1925 — L. Pitcarthey (o) (Kearney)	4 seen and reported to C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I.</i> No. 7, p. 2)
April 7.....	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	3 seen alighting on bar in Platte River south of A. R. Golley home. They stayed there a few minutes and then flew on up the river. (<i>L. O. I.</i> No. 7, p. 2)
April 7.....	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	Guy Smith (o) (Kearney)	1 seen on the Platte River and reported to C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I.</i> No. 7, p. 2)
April 9.....	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (a few miles west of)	Mr. Cleland, an old-time Kearney hunter. (o)	Large flock on the Platte River. Reported to C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I.</i> No. 7, p. 2)
April 9.....	Fort Kearney, Kearney Co. (5 miles south of)	Mr. Huntsinger (o) (near Kearney)	Flock of 50 or more flushed by observer (a hunter along the Platte for last 30 years, and well acquainted with this bird) from his wheat field. They flew over him at a height of not over 20 yards, all whooping loudly, going northwest. Probably the same flock as the preceding. Reported to C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I.</i> No. 7, p. 2)
April 10.....	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (about)	Guy Smith (o) (Kearney)	4 seen on the Platte River and reported to C. A. Black.
October 12.....	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (12 miles west of)	Ray Swanson and Wm. Hicks (o) (Kearney)	3 flying over high toward the southwest, whooping several times. Reported to C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I.</i> No. 9, p. 2)

DATE	LOCALITY	OBSERVER OR REPORTER	NUMBER AND REMARKS
October (?)	Axtell, Kearney Co. (near)	Two hunters (Kearney)	1 seen in a flock of Sandhill Cranes and reported to C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No. 12, p. 1</i>)
October 19	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (just east of bridge at)	Geo. Tracy and Oscar Blevens (o) (Kearney)	1 seen flying high and circling toward the east. Reported to C. A. Black. Possibly the same bird to which the preceding report refers. (<i>L. O. I. No. 9, p. 2</i>)
October 25	Odessa, Buffalo Co. (a few miles west of)	William Hicks (o) (Kearney)	5 seen flying west along the Platte River; reported to C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No. 11, p. 2</i>)
October 25	Overton, Dawson Co. (west of bridge at)	J. O. Holmes (o) (Federal Game Warden)	5 seen on a sandbar in the Platte River; 3 in adult white plumage, 2 in brown immature plumage; birds studied at length through a field glass. Probably the same birds as the preceding. (<i>L. O. I. No. 10, p. 2</i>)
April 4	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (5 miles west of)	A. R. Golay (o) (Kearney)	2 seen along Platte River. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No. 15, p. 2</i>)
April 4	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (just south of)	Harris Lilga (o) (Kearney)	2 seen and heard calling in close company in a large flock of Sandhill Cranes flying west from Platte River bridge. Likely were the same birds as the preceding. Lilga is an able bird student. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No. 15, p. 2</i>)
April 5	Lowell, Kearney Co. (2 miles south of)	J. C. Chapman (o) (Kearney)	15 in flock of about 300 Sandhill Cranes feeding in a grain field. Watched at distance of 150 yards for some time. Chapman is an old-time hunter of Kearney. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No. 15, p. 2</i>)
April 7	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (4 miles west of)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	6 seen resting on a sandbar in the Platte River among a large flock of Sandhill Cranes. 2 showed traces of the reddish brown immature plumage. (<i>L. O. I. No. 15, p. 2</i>)
April 8	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (just west of bridge at)	Mrs. Frances Garvin (o) (near Kearney)	5 seen feeding in meadow near her house. After feeding for a time they flew to the Platte River. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No. 15, p. 2</i>)

DATE	LOCALITY	OBSERVER OR REPORTER	NUMBER AND REMARKS
April 8-18	Wilcox, Kearney Co. (near)	(?)	Flock (of about 18) seen and reported to C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No. 15, p. 2</i>)
April 8-18	Axtell, Kearney Co. (near)	(?)	18 seen feeding in a field and reported to C. A. Black. About same day as preceding and may have been same flock, as locations are but 6 miles apart. (<i>L. O. I. No. 15, p. 6</i>)
April 12	Marsh Lake, Cherry Co. (at)	Roy Birdsell (o) (Minden)	About 35 birds in 3 flocks; one flock was of 12 or 13 birds with about 20 Sandhill Cranes, another one larger and of Whooping Cranes only. They circled over the buildings at no great height for some time. Reported by F. R. Kingsley of Minden. (<i>L. O. I. No. 15, p. 6</i>)
April 18	Odessa, Buffalo Co. (near)	Arnold Weibert (o) (Kearney)	1 lone bird on the Platte River. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No. 15, p. 6</i>)
April 26	Odessa, Buffalo Co. (near)	Roy Knapp (o) (near Odessa)	5 alighted on the Knapp farm to feed and remained about an hour. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No. 15, p. 6</i>)
October 20	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (10 miles west of)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	9 seen flying overhead toward the south. (<i>L. O. I. No. 21, p. 2</i>)
— 1927 —			
April 1	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	A. R. Goley (o) (Kearney)	2 seen, calling loudly, flying low toward the northwest. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No. 22, p. 3</i>)
April 2	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	A. R. Goley (o) (Kearney)	3 seen also calling loudly and flying low toward the northwest. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No. 22, p. 3</i>)
October 15	Newark, Kearney Co. (near)	A farmer (o) (near Newark)	2 seen alighting beside a Sandhill Crane that was feeding in his wheat field about 80 rods from house. They finally flew away in a line, the Whooping Cranes leading. Reported by F. R. Kingsley of Minden. (<i>L. O. I. No. 26, p. 2</i>)

DATE	LOCALITY	OBSERVER OR REPORTER	NUMBER AND REMARKS
		— 1928 —	
March 29	Odessa, Buffalo Co. (near)	Mr. Henderson (o) (Cozad)	Flock of about 50 seen flying over while observer was plowing in the field. Reported by C. A. Black.
April 6	Wilcox, Kearney Co. (near)	A. R. Marsteller (o) (Wilcox)	11 seen on a wheat field. Reported by C. A. Black.
April 9	Gibbon, Buffalo Co. (near)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	5 seen.
April 21	Gibbon, Buffalo Co. (south of)	An old hunter (o) (Kearney)	18 seen. Reported by C. A. Black.
September 22	Newark, Kearney Co. (near)	Lucius and Hallie Brown (o) (farmers of near Minden)	3 seen flying up the Platte River. Reported by F. R. Kingsley of Minden. (<i>L. O. I. No.</i> 34, p. 3)
October 24	Newark, Kearney Co. (near)	F. R. Kingsley (o) (Minden)	5 seen flying up the south bank of the Platte River, calling, and later 3 flew directly over him. (<i>L. O. I. No.</i> 35, p. 2)
		— 1929 —	
March (?)	Merriman, Cherry Co. (near)	Phillip Mensinger (o) (Merriman)	1 seen. Reported by A. M. Brooking.
March 27	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (10 miles west of)	Benjamin Armitage (o) (Kearney)	8 seen in a field, alone. Former druggist of Kearney and very reliable. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No.</i> 42, p. 4)
April 10	Lowell, Kearney Co. (near)	Charles Radborn (o) (Kearney)	Flock of 6 seen. Radborn is owner of large ranch near Lowell. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No.</i> 42, p. 4)
April 12	Grand Island, Hall Co. (at)	Mr. Chambers <i>et al</i> (o) (Hastings)	Flock of between 50 and 60 seen by four observers flying over city and calling loudly, Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No.</i> 42, p. 4)
April 18	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (4 miles west of)	A. R. Gokay (o) (Kearney)	2 seen in company with 9 Sandhill Cranes. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. I. No.</i> 42, p. 4)
October 12	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (just west of)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	5 seen migrating south and flying high in company with large flocks of Sandhill Cranes. (<i>L. O. I. No.</i> 47, p. 4)
October 13	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (just west of)	C. A. Black (o) (Kearney)	1 lone bird seen standing on a sandbar in the Platte River. Examined with binoculars and finally flew down the river. (<i>L. O. I. No.</i> 47, p. 4)

DATE	LOCALITY	OBSERVER OR REPORTER	NUMBER AND REMARKS
March 29	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (6 miles west of)	— 1930 — C. A. Black (o)	Large flock of 40 or more seen.
April 2	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (near)	A. R. Goley and Benjamin Arm- itage (o) (Kearney)	6 seen in company with Sandhill Cranes. Re- ported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. J.</i> No. 50, p. 3)
April 2	Diamond Bar Lake, Lincoln Co. (at)	Roy Coon (o) (Mgr. of lake)	Flock of 59 seen flying over very high and circling toward the northwest, calling loudly. Watched with binoculars and thoroughly identified. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O.</i> <i>J.</i> No. 50, p. 3 and p. 6)
April 3	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (2 miles west of)	Donald Goley (o) (Kearney)	2 in company with large flock of Sandhill Cranes. Donald Goley is son of A. R. Goley. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. J.</i> No. 50, p. 3)
April 3	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (1 mile west of)	C. A. Black and Harris Lilga (o) (Kearney)	3 seen standing on a sandbar in the Platte River in company with a large flock of Sand- hill Cranes. (<i>L. O. J.</i> No. 50, p. 3)
April 3	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (2 miles east of)	Antony Easterling (o) (Kearney)	8 in a flock on river, alone. Easterling is an aviator, son of a ranchman living near Platte River bridge. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L. O. J.</i> No. 50, p. 3)
April 19	Wilcox, Kearney Co. (half mile east of)	A. R. Marsteller (o) (Wilcox)	5 seen resting on a lagoon near his home; flock of some 70 White Pelicans on lagoon at same time. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>L.</i> <i>O. J.</i> No. 52, p. 1)
October 6	Eli, Cherry Co. (near)	Philip Mensinger (r) (Merriman)	3 seen (one of which was killed by hunters). Reported through Wm. Youngworth of Sioux City, Iowa.
April 8	Odessa, Buffalo Co. (near)	— 1931 — Ray Knapp and Myla Facer (o) (Kearney)	Large flock of about 75 seen flying high over- head, calling loudly and going northwest. Knapp and Facer are well-informed farmers living near Odessa. (<i>L. O. J.</i> No. 59, p. 3)
April 12 (about)	Kearney, Buffalo Co. (1½ miles north of, and west of Kearney Lake)	John Wilson (o) (Kearney)	6 seen in a field. Reported by C. A. Black.

DATE	LOCALITY	OBSERVER OR REPORTER	NUMBER AND REMARKS
September 14	Lexington, Dawson Co. (5 miles east of)	Albert R. Goley (o) (Kearney)	Large flock of 40 or 41 (counted) circling over head and whooping loudly, seen while on road and alighted in a field a few hundred yards north of the road. Some brown (immature) ones in the flock. Reported by C. A. Black.
October 25	Elm Creek, Buffalo Co. (near)	Anthony Roeser (o) through A. R. Marsteller (r)	7 white adults and 2 brown immature birds, on Platte River just east of Elm Creek. Roeser is a well-informed farmer living near Wilcox. Reported by C. A. Black.
— 1932 —			
April 4	Odessa, Buffalo Co. (one mile east of)	Neal Patterson (o) (Odessa)	43 in a flock in his alfalfa field. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>antea</i> , p. 61, and <i>L. O. I.</i> No. 66, p. 10)
April 4	Elm Creek, Buffalo Co. (near)	George Stryker (o)	Large flock (possibly same one as preceding) seen on two different occasions. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>antea</i> , p. 61, and <i>L. O. I.</i> No. 66, p. 10)
April 5	Wilcox, Kearney Co.	A. R. Marsteller (o) (Wilcox)	1 in a flock with 9 Sandhill Cranes. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>antea</i> , p. 61, and <i>L. O. I.</i> No. 66, p. 10)
May 6	Antioch, Sheridan Co.	F. J. Keller (o)	15 adults flying over, going northwest, circling and gliding, so close that black legs and red skin of head could be seen. (<i>L. O. I.</i> No. 66, p. 12)
— 1933 —			
April 4	Overton, Dawson Co. (near)	Benjamin Armitage (o) (Kearney)	2 seen along with about 1,000 Sandhill Cranes. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>antea</i> , pp. 61-62)
April 6	Newark, Kearney Co. (near)	Bert Proctor (o) (Newark)	15 seen quite close by and calling loudly. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>antea</i> , p. 62)
April 6	Elm Creek, Buffalo Co. (about) (across river from)	Herbert Richardson (o)	2 seen. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>antea</i> , p. 62)
April 6	Elm Creek, Buffalo Co. (near)	Boys on Richardson ranch (o)	About 50 seen in a group. Reported by C. A. Black. (<i>antea</i> , p. 62)

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GENERAL NOTES

The Clarke Nutcracker at Superior, Nuckolls County.—On October 10, 1933, as my husband was watering a tree on the north parking at our home in Superior, a Clarke Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) flew down to the ground, less than five feet from him, and drank from the running water there. My husband came into the house for me at once, and we both stood watching the bird for several minutes before it flew. It then flew into the tree, and down again once or twice, as if for an insect, before it flew across the street into a tree, from which it again flew down once or twice before flying north into a pine tree in the next block. I called Miss Lucy Mitchell, and she also had a very leisurely look at it. This is the first time that the Clarke Nutcracker has ever been reported as seen in the Superior vicinity.—Mrs. H. C. JOHNSTON, *Superior, Nebr.*

The Laughing Gull and the Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Inland, Clay County.—On April 2, 1915, Mr. Fenton Van Arsdale shot a female Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*), out of a flock of gulls, at Inland, Clay County, Nebraska. This specimen was mounted by me, and is now No. 2631 in the Brooking collection at the Hastings Museum. Its wing is 325 mm. long, the outer primary is entirely black and the bill is red. Although there are several records of this Gulf Coast species of gull rarely straggling up the Mississippi Valley in the summer, two of them from Nebraska (Alda, Hall County, July, 1880, F. W. Powell; Omaha, Douglas County, L. Skow), this is the only Nebraska record known to be based upon a specimen preserved.

Also, on July 19, 1918, Mr. J. E. Wallace and I collected an immature male Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) at the lagoon near Inland. This is another straggler from the South, rare in Nebraska, there being four previous records (Valley, Douglas County, L. Bruner; Omaha, Douglas County, May 1, 1892 and August 23, 1903, I. S. Trostler; and Beatrice, Gage County, July 19, 1901, M. H. Swenk). Since the two Omaha specimens have now been lost track of, and the Beatrice specimen was accidentally destroyed by fire in 1909, this Inland specimen is the only Nebraska record now based upon a specimen preserved. My identification of both of these birds has been corroborated by Prof. M. H. Swenk.—A. M. BROOKING, *Hastings Museum, Hastings, Nebr.*

The Eastern Carolina Wren again Nests at Superior.—In the July number of the *Review* (*antea*, p. 101) is given an account of the finding of a nest of the Eastern Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus l. ludovicianus*) in a shed south of the dam on the Republican River near here on June 10, 1928, by Mrs. Charles Groves of Superior. I now wish to record a second nesting of this species in this locality. On August 21, 1933, Mrs. Groves called me to say that one of the men at the cement plant had told her that a wren that he was sure was not the Western House Wren was nesting in the warehouse at the plant. Mrs. Groves, Mrs. John Aldrich and I visited the warehouse that same morning, and we found that a pair of Eastern Carolina Wrens had built a nest in the second pigeon-hole of the top row inside the warehouse, about ten feet from the inside office door and about twenty feet from the north entrance to the warehouse. The nest was about seven feet from the floor. While we were there, the birds flew in and out of the south outside door, which was the full length of the warehouse from their nest. We found nesting material in three of the boxes, but the nest proper was in the middle box, which, like all of the other boxes, was partly filled with bolts and rivets. None of the men had gone near the nest after one of them discovered it by one of the birds flying out when he went to get a rivet out of the box. The wrens were not at all shy nor afraid, and the men were all much interested in them. Two young birds were hatched in this nest, which they had left on August 20, the day preceding our visit. While we were

there we heard the male bird sing as it sat on a wire outside of the warehouse. It was not the song of the bird that Mrs. Aldrich and I saw and heard on March 30, 1933, and subsequently, and its plumage was more reddish and its tail relatively shorter than the spring bird, which I am now as sure as I dare to be was a Bewick Wren, and not the Eastern Carolina Wren.—MRS. H. C. JOHNSTON, *Superior, Nebr.*

An Early Gyrfalcon Record for Nebraska.—On September 6, 1933, Mr. Philip A. DuMont, of Des Moines, Iowa, wrote me as follows: "While sorting through some old papers of mine today, I came across the memo 'Gyrfalcon, near Omaha, Museum collection.' As I recall, it referred to a specimen from Nebraska in the general collection of the American Museum of Natural History at New York. I think I made the note of it because of its proximity to Iowa, meaning to get to it another time. Why not write to have the specimen looked up?" Acting on this excellent suggestion, on September 8 I wrote Mr. John T. Zimmer, our honorary member, located at the American Museum of Natural History, requesting that he secure the data concerning this specimen and send it to me for a note of record in the *Review*. On September 27, Mr. Zimmer acknowledged my letter, he having just returned from his vacation, and stated that in a hurried search for the Gyrfalcon he had not been able to find it, but that he would continue the hunt. In a subsequent letter, dated October 6, he reports finally as follows: "We have been making a detailed search for the Gyrfalcon, but have not been able to find it. There is no doubt that there was such a bird here a good many years ago. It was at that time identified as *Falco rusticolus gyrfalco*, and was numbered 2771, having come to this Museum in the D. G. Elliot collection, about 1870. The label which accompanied it on exhibition is still here, 'Adult, near Omaha, Nebraska,' but the original label has disappeared with the bird itself. The Museum catalogue contains the same data as are on the printed label. Elliot had no catalogue of his collection, so further information is lacking. Probably the specimen was discarded many years ago because of poor condition, though this is only a surmise, since no record is at hand as to what happened to it." From the above the evidence is conclusive that the earliest Nebraska record of the Gyrfalcon was this old specimen in the D. G. Elliot collection, taken prior to 1870.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

Nebraska Horned Larks in the Talbot Collection.—The Museum of Natural History of the University of Iowa contains thirty-four Nebraska specimens of horned larks secured by D. H. Talbot and his collectors. With one exception, all were secured during October, November and December, 1884. All of the specimens were recently identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser.

Of the six specimens of the Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*), five were secured at Wood River, Hall County, as follows: 14101 (Mus. Nat. Hist. Univ. Iowa number), male, October 14; 14145, female, October 16; 14112, female, October 22; 14103, female, October 24; and 14107, female, October 25. The sixth specimen of Prairie Horned Lark, 14133, a male, was taken at Hartington, Cedar County, August 28, 1884.

Two specimens of the Hoyt Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris hoyti*), collected at Platte Center, Platte County, are as follows: 14122, male, December 10; 14120, female, December 15.

A single specimen of the Desert Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris leucolaema*), is 14131, a male, taken at Wood River, October 14.

The remaining twenty-five specimens, all from Wood River, were identified as the Saskatchewan Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris entymia*). Fifteen of these specimens are males, secured on the following dates: 14111, October 18; 14119, October 21; 14106, October 22; 14110, October 22; 14114, October 22; 14115, October 22; 14116, October 22; 14135,

October 24; 14144, October 25; 14130, October 27; 14136, October 31; 14149, November 1; 14134, November 13; 14137, November 13; and 14118, November 14. The three females were taken as follows: 14105, October 18; 14147, October 22; and 14102, November 14. The sex of seven of the specimens was not indicated on the field label. However, the plumage of the following six specimens would indicate that they probably were males. These are: 14146, October 22; 14151, October 24; 14142, November 4; 14154, November 4; 14132, November 13; and 14152, November 14. No. 14148, November 1, was, from the plumage, probably a female.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

The Loss and Recovery of the First Nebraska Record Specimen of the Swainson Warbler.—There is one little bird specimen in the collections at the Hastings Museum that, aside from its importance as a unique state record, has an interesting story connected with it. It is a mounted specimen of a male Swainson Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), and the only record for Nebraska that is based upon a specimen preserved. On April 9, 1905, Mr. C. A. Black of Kearney noticed near his home a warbler that he was unable to identify, so he collected it. After securing the specimen he was still at a loss to name it; so after mounting the specimen he sent it to his friend, Mr. C. K. Worthen of Warsaw, Illinois, asking him to identify and return it.* Not long thereafter Mr. Worthen fell dead in his yard, and Mr. Black was unable subsequently to secure the return of his specimen. Mr. Worthen had a large private collection and was interested in buying and selling mounted birds and skins. His accumulations were placed upon the market and sold to various collectors, with the rare Nebraska warbler among them.

Ten years later Mr. Black and I became acquainted, and when he found that I was endeavoring to make a complete collection of Nebraska birds, he told me of the taking of this warbler and deplored the fact that it was not in a Nebraska collection. He stated that if I could find the bird he would relinquish all claim to it. When one views an extensive collection of mounted birds like the present Brooking collection, he can readily see that it has taken much hard work and persistent effort to assemble it. In this case I lost no time in beginning the search. Letter after letter of inquiry was written to every known collector who might have bought birds from the Worthen heirs, with no result, until almost a year later a reply was received from the late William Brewster, stating that he had such a bird, but without data, that might have come from this source, and that he would be pleased to send it for examination. The bird came and was taken to Kearney, where it was carefully examined by Mr. Black, who promptly pronounced it without doubt the long lost bird. In his early career as a bird taxidermist, Mr. Black had used a peculiar twisted wire as a tail support and also a tow filling for the bodies different from that which others were using. This bird had both. The pose and every small detail were exactly like the birds mounted by Mr. Black, so there can be no doubt of its being the identical bird that he collected and sent to Mr. Worthen in 1905.—A. M. BROOKING, *Hastings Museum, Hastings, Nebr.*

The Desert Sparrow Hawk in Eastern Nebraska.—Two subspecies of the Sparrow Hawk are known to occur in Nebraska, viz., the Eastern Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius sparverius*), which breeds occasionally in the eastern one-half or more of the state, and the Desert Sparrow Hawk (*F. s. phalaena*), which in recent years has generally been regarded

*This specimen was reported as the first Nebraska record by Mr. Worthen in the *Auk*, xxiii, p. 227 (April, 1906), as "among a lot of bird skins sent to me for identification" a short time previously by Mr. Black, and as bearing the label "male, Kearney, Neb., Apr., 9, 1905. C. A. Black."—Ed.

as the form breeding in the northwestern part of the state. The Eastern Sparrow Hawk is known to occur abundantly during migrations over the entire state; but nothing has been published as to the Nebraska migration range of the Desert Sparrow Hawk. This subspecies was first definitely recorded for Nebraska in 1904 (*Preliminary Review Birds of Nebraska*, p. 53), on the basis of a male specimen collected at Jim Creek Canyon, Sioux County, May 26, 1901, by M. A. Carriker, and shortly thereafter identified by Dr. Witmer Stone as "nearly typical *phalaena*". On June 15, 1902, the writer collected a female specimen along the Niobrara River, near Springview, Keyapaha County, that on careful study was found referable also to the Desert Sparrow Hawk, thus establishing the breeding range of that form half way across the northern edge of the state, from west to east. Pale-colored Sparrow Hawks seen during the breeding season in extreme western Nebraska have also been assumed to represent *phalaena*. On May 14, 1906, August Eiche collected a pale female Sparrow Hawk near Greenwood, Cass County, that was thought to represent a late migrant of *phalaena*, and at the same time in the Eiche collection there was an unlabeled skin of a male Sparrow Hawk, unquestionably *phalaena*, which Mr. Eiche stated had been collected near Florence, Douglas County, by J. E. Wallace. More recent records are of a mounted pair collected at Oshkosh, Garden County, by Miles Maryott, the male of which is unquestionably and the female probably *phalaena*; a skin of a typical male of *phalaena* collected at Kearney, Buffalo County, April 16, 1908, by C. A. Black; and a pair of *phalaena* collected near Omaha, Douglas County, April 11, 1933, by R. L. Warner of 2594 Crown Point Avenue, and mounted by Karl Schwarz. These records altogether prove that both subspecies of the Sparrow Hawk migrate through all sections of Nebraska, though of course *phalaena* is not nearly so common as is the eastern subspecies.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Lincoln, Nebr.*

An Early Nebraska Bird Collection.—Undoubtedly one of the first collections of mounted birds made in Nebraska was that of Mr. William Townsley, who settled on the Little Blue River in Hamilton County in 1871. Mr. Townsley was born in Yorkshire, England, on May 1, 1841. He came to America with his parents when he was seven years old. They settled in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, where they resided until after the Civil War. Mr. Townsley enlisted in Company A, 101st Pennsylvania Volunteers, with whom he served until captured by the Confederates. He was confined for almost a year in the famous Andersonville and Libby Prisons. Like all Civil War veterans who really saw fighting he was reluctant to discuss the War, but from the few things that he told me I am sure there were few who had more exciting experiences.

After the War, Mr. Townsley returned to Pennsylvania and became much interested in bird study. Learning the art of taxidermy, he began to build up a collection of mounted specimens. It is evident that he had a good teacher, or else was an unusually apt pupil, for only a short time before his death, which occurred on September 16, 1920, he showed me a Pileated Woodpecker which he said was the first bird that he had "set up." It was well mounted and posed, and a very nice specimen even after forty years of rather rough usage.

When Mr. Townsley came to Nebraska in 1871, he homesteaded in Hamilton County, ten miles north of the present town of Harvard, Clay County. There he not only established a well kept home and farm, but found time to secure and prepare so many birds that when I first became acquainted with him, six years before his death, he had two large rooms completely filled with mounted bird specimens. I was certainly surprised at the extent of his collections, for I had not dreamed of finding such an accumulation of material outside of a museum. His collection contained

not only almost every common North American bird with which I was familiar, but many exotic species as well, among which I recall specimens of the Lyre-bird of Australia, Bell-birds and mot-mots from South America, birds of paradise, a large variety of trogons, and many other unusual birds. I asked him how he had obtained so many of these foreign birds, and he told me that it was through exchanges.

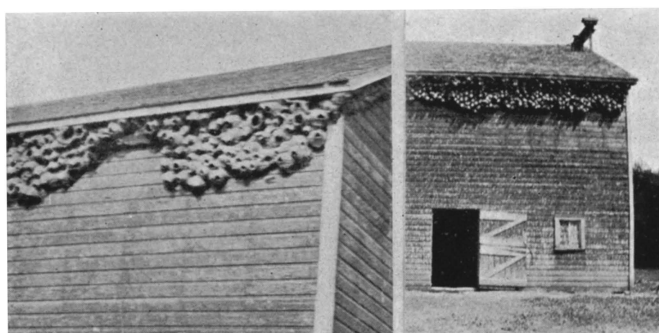
While his collection contained most of the common birds of North America, among them I saw also many that were not so common. A pair of Eskimo Curlews I was told were taken when he first came to Nebraska, and he said he could have secured dozens of them if he had wished, but was content with the two that he had mounted. Probably the rarest bird, from a Nebraska standpoint, was a Wood Ibis which he had killed on his own farm in the early 1880's. I think it still stands as the only Nebraska record of a specimen taken. This Wood Ibis and the Eskimo Curlews are now in the Hastings Museum, for I persuaded Mr. Townsley to let me have them in exchange for other birds that he did not possess. Many local collections made less than fifty years ago are poorly mounted, and in most cases are only "junk," but this does not apply to the Townsley collection, as he was above the average in the quality of his taxidermy work, and prided himself upon the smoothness of his mounted specimens.

Upon Mr. Townsley's death, his beloved birds were evenly divided among his four children, who are J. E. and David Townsley of Powell, Wyoming, Mrs. Hattie Salmon of Stockham, Nebraska, and Mrs. Annie Osborn of Harvard, Nebraska. I asked how they managed to divide them, and was told that cuts were drawn as to who got the first choice, and then each heir selected what he wished as his turn came. Mrs. Osborn's share is now on display in the Hastings Museum. I am glad that I knew William Townsley, for he was not only an ardent lover of nature, but a fine gentleman of the old school, kindly and courteous. Living as he did among a great abundance of game birds, he took only what he might preserve for science. Would that we had more of his sort today.—A. M. BROOKING, *Hastings Museum, Hastings, Nebr.*

A Large Nesting Colony of the Eastern Cliff Swallow in Kearney County.—As is well known, the Eastern Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon albifrons albifrons*), otherwise known as the Eaves Swallow or Mud Swallow, nests in colonies, the nests being built of mud pellets arranged to form a cone-shaped structure with its inner cavity lined with feathers, wool or vegetable matter. These nests are attached not only to the perpendicular sides of cliffs or other embankments, but also beneath the eaves and on the sides of barns or other buildings. Such nesting colonies are local, and for many years the largest, if not the only, such colony in south-central Nebraska was located on the farm of the late Rasmus Christensen, along the Fort Kearny Road and within the Reserve, near Newark, Kearney County, Nebraska, on the south bank of the Platte River opposite Kearney, Buffalo County.

Mr. Christensen's love for birds went back to his youthful days in Denmark, where he made friends with the European Starlings. Before removing to his farm home near Newark, in 1901, Mr. Christensen had lived for twenty-five years on a homestead farm near Minden. Birds of all kinds were always welcome on his premises. At the Newark farm, in 1925, there were not only the huge nesting colonies of Eastern Cliff Swallows, but also numerous nesting Barn Swallows, the latter building their nests on small squares of wood nailed by Mr. Christensen against the rafters in a hog shed several rods away from the large Cliff Swallow colony on the barn. Although Mr. Christensen had previously been successful in inducing sixty pairs of the Northern Purple Martin to live in the houses that he had built for them at the homestead farm near Minden, one many-roomed house there at one time harboring eighteen pairs in harmony, he was not able to induce these birds to establish

colonies in the similar martin boxes that he had provided at the Newark farm. There were also Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadees nesting in boxes in the apple trees, a pair of Eastern Common Bluebirds nesting in a house set away among some trees at the back of the farm yard, Western House Wrens nesting in dipper gourd nests at various places on the premises, and Western Mourning Doves, Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Mockingbirds, Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, Eastern Robins, Wood Thrushes, Migrant Loggerhead Shrikes, Eastern Yellow Warblers, Western Meadowlarks, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Eastern American Goldfinches and numerous other species breeding in nests of their own construction on various parts of the farm. One spring Mr. Christensen broke his leg when he tripped and fell while putting up a new martin house. He died on July 12, 1929, at the age of 74 years, Mrs. Christensen having passed away seven years previously.



Close-up and general views of the colony of the Eastern Cliff Swallow on the farm of the late Rasmus Christensen, one mile west of Newark, Kearney County, Nebraska. Photographed by A. M. Brooking, October 24, 1926.

Mr. Christensen attributed his success in attracting birds to his home to the fact that no cats or English House Sparrows were ever tolerated on his farm. Shotguns and sparrow traps took care of these "vermin." He has told how these Eastern Cliff Swallow colonies came to locate on the large red barn, granary and machine shed of his farm. About 1911 he built some nests of cement, as nearly as he could like the natural mud nests of the Cliff Swallow, and fastened them under the eaves of his machine shed and other farm buildings by means of a little wooden frame. One day he was delighted to find a pair of Cliff Swallows flying in and out of one of these cement nests. After plastering daubs of mud all over the inside and outside of the cement, and building their own entrance around the original opening, they used it for rearing a brood of young. From that original pair the colony gradually grew, until by 1925 it numbered more than 400 pairs of Cliff Swallows. Each year nest-building began with the arrival of the earliest Cliff Swallows, about April 12, and was not completed for the slowest ones until about July 4. The birds would fly to the Platte River in dry weather for the mud with which to build their nests. They would come and go from the buildings in large numbers during the height of the nest-building season, as they deposited their mouthfuls of mud and darted away again. The first daub of mud was always placed at the lowest point of the foundation of the nest-to-be, then mud balls were built on each side of it to form a semicircle before the nest wall was developed outward and upward.

MRS. A. H. JONES, *Hastings, Nebr.*

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EDITORIAL PAGE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Nebraska bird students are of course always interested in the progress of ornithology in adjacent states, and our attention is drawn at this time to two notable new bird lists, relating to our sister states of Iowa and Missouri. The last bird lists for these two neighboring states—R. M. Anderson's "The Birds of Iowa," published in the *Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Sciences*, xii, pp. 125-417, and O. Widmann's "A Preliminary Catalogue of the Birds of Missouri," published in the *Transactions of the Academy of Science of St. Louis*, xvii, pp. 1-288—were both published in 1907, and excellent works as they are, during the subsequent more than a quarter of a century they have come no longer adequately to reflect the existing knowledge of the avifaunas of these two states. One of these two new publications is "A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa," by Philip A. DuMont, which is due to appear from the press this month. This book of about 200 pages contains a statement on the present status and distribution of all of the 364 birds now known to occur, or to have occurred, within the state limits of Iowa. This compares with the 329 birds included in Anderson's list. Eighteen additional forms are included in a hypothetical list, and eliminations from the list are given in an appendix. Mr. DuMont has reviewed the literature of Iowa ornithology, examined all of the principal collections containing Iowa specimens of birds, and consulted the active bird observers throughout that state, in gathering the data for his new list. The book contains an historical introduction to the development of ornithology in Iowa, and a discussion of the changes in status of the breeding species during the past twenty-five years. There is also a map and a bibliography. Mr. DuMont informs your Editor that the edition of his list is only one thousand copies of which six hundred copies go to the University's exchange list, including forty-four foreign countries. Obviously, the supply generally available in this country is likely soon to be exhausted, and those wishing copies should order them at once.

The other publication above referred to is by Dr. Rudolf Bennitt, Associate Professor of Zoology at the University of Missouri, and is entitled "Check-List of the Birds of Missouri." It was published recently in the *University of Missouri Studies*, vii, No. 3, pp. 1-81. It lists all of the 396 species and subspecies of Missouri birds, giving a brief statement of the frequency of occurrence, seasonal status and geographic distribution in Missouri of each, while fifty-seven forms that may be expected to occur in that state are interpolated in brackets at the proper places in the list, with a statement of the exact basis for such hypothetical inclusion. There is a map, a summary, a bibliography and an index. Both the Iowa and the Missouri lists follow the sequences and nomenclature of the fourth edition of the *A. O. U. Check-List* (1931). The new Iowa list can be obtained by sending one dollar to the Department of Publications of the State University of Iowa, at Iowa City, while the new Missouri list is securable from the Librarian of the University of Missouri, at Columbia, at a cost of one dollar and twenty-five cents.

THE 1933 MIGRATION SEASON

Mr. George E. Hudson reports that on August 9 he saw five female Dickcissels, all of which were carrying food, in a wet prairie draw six miles west of Lincoln. No males were seen. On search he found a nest with one young bird several days old in a thistle in tall weeds about thirty inches above the ground, and another nest with one egg and one very small young bird in the grass of the meadow, about six inches above the ground.

On a collecting trip to Cherry County, from August 25 to September 3, Mr. George E. Hudson of the Department of Zoology and Anatomy of the University of Nebraska found the Common Pied-billed Grebe fairly plentiful on Hackberry Lake, Cherry County, and on August 28 collected a male in the winter plumage. Great Blue Herons, probably of the eastern subspecies, were fairly common on Hackberry Lake, as were also adults of the American Black-crowned Night Heron, though only two immature birds of this latter species were seen, the immatures apparently having already migrated. American Bitterns were common on Hackberry Lake, but only two of the Eastern Least Bitterns were seen, one of which, a male, was collected on August 29. Among the ducks, the Common Mallard was fairly common on Hackberry Lake, where there were also present several American Pintails and Blue-winged Teals. On August 25, near Atkinson, Holt County, Mr. Hudson collected an immature Red-tailed Hawk which smelled strongly of a skunk that apparently had been its recent prey. Several Marsh Hawks were seen about Hackberry Lake, and dozens of Sparrow Hawks were seen migrating during this period. A Florida Gallinule was noted on Hackberry Lake, and Northern American Coots were common there. No Southern Long-billed Curlews, Upland Plover or Western Willets were seen on the trip. Ring-billed Gulls, mostly immatures, were fairly common on Hackberry Lake, while the Forster Tern and American Black Tern were sparingly present there, where they had been abundant the past June. An immature American Black Tern was collected on August 27. Near Spencer, Boyd County, between fifty and seventy-five Western Burrowing Owls were seen at a prairie dog town on August 31, two of which were collected and were found to be heavily molting their contour-feathers. About twenty of them were found in a hog shed. An immature female Red-headed Woodpecker was collected near Chambers, Holt County, on September 1. At Spencer, a female Eastern Olive-sided Flycatcher in fresh immature plumage was collected on September 1, and another of this species was noted near Chambers on September 2. Prairie Long-billed Marsh Wrens were abundant at Hackberry Lake. An immature female Migrant Loggerhead Shrike was collected at Chambers on September 3. An Eastern Warbling Vireo was collected at Chambers on September 3, while in Butte, Boyd County, on September 1, several were heard singing. A male Black and White Warbler was collected at Spencer on September 1, at which place on the same date several Ovenbirds were seen. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were common around Hackberry Lake, and were mostly through molting, except for a few pin-feathers about the face. A female was collected on August 29. The Baltimore Oriole was common around Chambers on September 2 and 3. A male Dickcissel was seen in Cherry County on August 30. Lark Buntings in the immature plumage were fairly common in Cherry County, and an immature male was collected near Wood Lake on August 25. Several immature Lark Buntings were noted in Holt County on September 2. The Western Lark Sparrow was common in Cherry County on August 30, when several were seen.

In the fall migration of water and shore birds at Lincoln, Mr. G. E. Hudson reports that he collected a Pectoral Sandpiper on August 5. He

saw about a dozen female and immature Blue-winged Teals on a pond north of University Place on September 7. Of shore birds he saw at the same pond that day about eight Northern Killdeers, several Spotted Sandpipers in the fall plumage, about fifteen Lesser Yellow-legs, several Pectoral Sandpipers, several Least Sandpipers, one Stilt Sandpiper, one Western Sandpiper (a female, which was collected) and one Northern Phalarope in the fall plumage. On the following day at the same place Mr. Hudson noted several Baird Sandpipers and a Northern Phalarope, possibly the same bird as seen the preceding day, which was collected and found to be a female. At the same pond on September 11 another Western Sandpiper was seen and taken, a female. Spotted Sandpipers were common on both September 8 and 11. On September 17, Mr. Hudson saw about fifteen Northern Phalaropes at Capitol Beach, and ten or twelve of them at a pond north of University Place. He saw a few Sanderlings at each place also. There were quite a few Stilt Sandpipers, and Lesser Yellow-legs were common. Among the ducks, there were many Blue-winged Teals, quite a few Shovellers, a few Common Mallards and one Lesser Scaup.

At the pond in Oak Creek Park, on September 24, Mr. Hudson noted five Common Pied-billed Grebes, one Northern American Coot and one American Black Tern. A pair of Spotted Sandpipers were also present. On the same day, in the Salt Creek woods south of the Penitentiary, he noted two Eastern Phoebes, a Western House Wren and several Eastern Common Bluebirds. On October 4, along the Big Blue River near Crete, Saline County, Mr. Hudson noted several Eastern Great Blue Herons, about twenty-five Franklin Gulls, a Barn Swallow, and one each of the Arctic Spotted Towhee (female), Eastern Slate-colored Junco (male), and Common Lincoln Sparrow. He saw a Western Burrowing Owl near Waverly, Lancaster County, on October 7. On October 8, again near Crete, he found a Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk and several Eastern Slate-colored Juncos, while near Sprague, in southern Lancaster County, on the same day, he noted a Red-bellied Woodpecker, an Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Robins and Eastern Common Bluebirds and two Eastern Myrtle Warblers. During October M. H. Swenk noted that Eastern Slate-colored Juncos, Tree Sparrows and Harris Sparrows were common October 18, 19 and 22, while on the latter date a Song Sparrow was seen. Migrating Red-tailed Hawks were still common on October 22, on which date a few Eastern Common Bluebirds were still to be noted along the roadsides. There were also flocks of Northern Killdeers (one of about forty birds seen) and numerous Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers and Western Meadowlarks. Western Mourning Doves, especially birds of the year, were still common about Lincoln on October 21 and 22. On the latter date Horned Larks were commonly to be observed in flocks in the fields. On October 22, R. H. Wolcott noted about sixty Sandhill Cranes on the Platte River near Central City, Merrick County, and about eight American Magpies near Stromsburg, Polk County. Mr. John Morrison also noted a Magpie on October 22, near Western, Saline County. There seems to be an eastward movement of Corvidae this fall. G. E. Hudson collected a Long-eared Owl near Ord, Valley County, on October 22. The first Eastern Brown Creeper was noted by M. H. Swenk on October 23, on which date and October 24 the evening song of the Eastern Robin was still to be heard on the College of Agriculture campus. On October 28, Dr. Wolcott noted six Magpies near Palmer, Merrick County, and Mr. Hudson noted a Wilson Snipe at Lincoln.

Mr. A. M. Brooking reports, under date of September 4, that while motoring eastward through Garden County a couple of days previously, he and Mrs. Brooking noted a great many ducks on the lakes there. These were mostly Blue-winged Teals, but on one small pond there was an unusually large flock of Gadwalls, which seemed an early date for that species. Mr. Brooking noted the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and

Olive-backed Swainson Thrush* at Hastings on September 3. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird seems to have been unusually common in south-central Nebraska during its migration this fall, for it was noted also at Hastings in her yard by Mrs. F. S. Youngblood on September 4, and later in the same week in Hastings by Mrs. A. H. Staley and others, and at Lincoln also on September 3 by Mrs. George O. Smith, who noted it there again later, while on September 17 it was reported seen at two different places in Lincoln by Prof. Raymond Roberts and Mrs. M. H. Swenk. During the second week in September large numbers of Night-hawks were migrating over Lincoln. On September 11, Mr. G. E. Hudson reported that he had noted loosely scattered flocks of these birds every evening for the preceding week, all flying southward over the city. M. H. Swenk noted some on September 19 that seemed certainly to be the Sennett Nighthawk. On October 14, Mr. and Mrs. Swenk noted a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and heard it calling, in the pine tree in their back yard. Press accounts tell of a White Pelican shot near Beatrice, Gage County, on October 14. On October 15, Arctic Spotted Towhees were migrating commonly in the Lincoln vicinity, and during the day and the following night, the latter being rainy, south-bound geese were migrating in flocks of considerable size, one of about 200 having been noted by Professor Roberts on the afternoon of the 15th. Geese were reported as being shot commonly on the Missouri River east of Falls City, Richardson County, on October 18. In the vicinity of Lincoln Red-tailed Hawks were migrating commonly on October 17 and 18, and Eastern Common Bluebirds were migrating commonly from October 15 to 18. Birds noted October 18 included the Northern Killdeer (common), Western Mourning Dove, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Western Meadowlark (common), and large flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds with a few Brewer Blackbirds among them. A few Marsh Hawks and Eastern Sparrow Hawks were also noted.

Under date of September 26, the Misses Agness and Susie Callaway of Fairbury write that they saw an Eastern Great Blue Heron on September 17, and five of them a few days previously, while on September 24 they saw two Northern Turkey Vultures. Under date of October 12, they further report that a migrating Red-tailed Hawk was noted on October 3, that the first Harris Sparrow was seen on October 6, and that an Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen on October 9. They, with Mrs. Richardson, spent much time afield on October 12. Mrs. Richardson noted on that date three Arctic Spotted Towhees, many Harris Sparrows, four White-crowned Sparrows, three adult and three immature White-throated Sparrows, a Common Lincoln Sparrow and a Song Sparrow (subsp. ?). The Misses Callaway also noted many Harris Sparrows and a Song Sparrow on this date, and in addition saw an Eastern Sparrow Hawk, four Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglets, five Eastern Slate-colored Juncos, three Clay-colored Sparrows and many Western (?) Field Sparrows. Other summer residents present on October 12, aside from the Field Sparrows, were Western Mourning Doves, Eastern (?) Nighthawks, Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers, Eastern Phoebe, Saskatchewan Horned Larks, Barn Swallows, Eastern Robins, Eastern Common Bluebirds, Eastern Red-winged Blackbirds, Bronzed Grackles and Eastern Cowbirds. Resident birds noted were the Cooper Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Cardinal and Eastern American Goldfinch.

*Through an odd inadvertence, in twelve different instances in the July *Review* (*antea*, pp. 60, 68, 71, 72, 74, 77, 81, 82, 86 and 104) the name of this bird was consistently given as the "Olive-backed Wilson Thrush." These cannot now, of course, be corrected, but attention is drawn to the error.—Ed.

Under date of September 30, Mrs. A. H. Jones of Hastings reports that on September 3, Mrs. F. S. Youngblood of Hastings saw thirteen species of birds in her yard in that city, as follows: Western Mourning Dove, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Northern Blue Jay, Long-tailed Black-capped Chickadee, Western House Wren, Catbird, Eastern Robin, Eastern Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler and a pair of Baltimore Orioles. On September 6, Mrs. C. A. Heartwell observed a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird poised above a live-forever plant. The plant had just been watered and the flower corollas were filled with water. The bird first drank of this water in the blossoms, and then proceeded to take a good bath in them, after which he flew to a near-by wire and preened and dried his plumage. Mrs. A. M. Brooking reports that an Olive-backed Swainson Thrush was present at her pool from September 8 to 12, and that the Western House Wren was singing in her yard September 10 to 13. The last wrens were seen by Mrs. Brooking in her yard on September 16 and 22. Other birds noted by her in her yard during September were the Eastern Nashville Warbler on September 13, the Ovenbird on September 14, the Catbird on September 14 and 15, the Brown Thrasher on September 15 and the White-throated Sparrow on September 22. Mrs. A. H. Jones noted the Eastern Common Bluebird on September 24. On the night of September 28, a migrating flock of Arctic Spotted Towhees passed over Hastings. A female bird was injured by striking a wire, and was brought to Mrs. Dwight Thomas, who made the identification, which was corroborated by Mr. A. M. Brooking. Mr. Brooking reported the Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler as seen on September 29, and again on October 3. A wave of migrating Eastern Common Bluebirds was noted by Mr. and Mrs. Brooking along the road between Grand Island, Hall County, and Ravenna, Buffalo County, on October 2, probably a dozen in all being seen. On October 8, in a meadow along the Platte River, Mrs. A. M. Jones saw twenty-four of these birds in a single group, and at the same place she saw a Wilson Snipe. Mrs. A. M. Brooking noted the arrival of the Eastern Slate-colored Junco at Hastings on October 4.

Under date of September 11, Mrs. H. C. Johnston of Superior, Nebraska, reports that she and Mrs. John Aldrich saw one, and possibly two, American Red-starts in the plumage of the female or young male, in their back yards on August 24. They saw only one bird at a time and only on the one day. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen on various dates between August 24 and September 11 by Mrs. Aldrich and Mrs. Johnston. Under date of October 12 she further reports that she saw the first Eastern Slate-colored Juncos at Superior this fall on October 11, and that on October 12 two High School boys brought a Golden Eagle for her to see, that had been shot at Cadams, Nuckolls County, a few miles northeast of Superior, by a man who said that he thought the bird was a "chicken hawk." Under date of October 16, she reports that another Golden Eagle had been brought to her for identification, that had been shot by a young man living at Superior, as it was sitting in a tree, while he was out duck hunting. He, also, excused the deed by stating that he thought the bird was a "hawk," and therefore vermin that needed to be exterminated. So the persecution of our birds of prey goes on. On the morning of October 16, Mrs. Johnston saw a flock of about twenty Piñon Jays in the yard north of her home, and she followed them for a couple of blocks.

Under date of September 29, Mr. Harold Turner of Bladen, Webster County, reports two birds new to him for his locality. On the morning of August 22 he saw a fine male Ruby-throated Hummingbird gathering nectar from the zinnias in his garden, and giving a splendid view of the red gorget. On the evening of September 10 another of this species was

flying in his garden from one petunia blossom to another for several minutes, this one in the plumage of the female or immature bird. Also on September 10, Mr. Turner saw about fifteen American Black-crowned Night Herons fly out of the trees along Sand Creek, with harsh squawks, and alight in the tops of some trees farther down the creek.

HERE AND THERE WITH THE N. O. U. MEMBERS

Mrs. H. F. Hole of Crete, our only honorary member residing in Nebraska, spent part of her vacation at Lakeside, Michigan, where she renewed acquaintanceship with the birds of that region. A sandbar had formed in front of the place where she was staying, that proved very attractive to water birds, more of which were observed than usual, and also observed to better advantage. Mrs. Hole states that she hoped all summer to see an European Starling, but did not.

Mrs. George A. Loveland of Wellesley, Massachusetts, one of our honorary members, who will be remembered by many Nebraska bird lovers for her years of activity in bird study in this state, writes under date of September 21 that she has been banding birds ever since she removed from Lincoln to Wellesley. Her best record to date, she states, is that of a female Eastern Purple Finch bearing band number 43030 which she trapped on May 8, 1929. Upon reporting this record to the Bureau of Biological Survey at Washington, she learned that the bird had been banded by Mrs. J. E. Carth at Overbrook (a part of Wellesley) on April 24, 1924, five years before. Mrs. Loveland also has records of Eastern White-breasted Nuthatches and Eastern Black-capped Chickadees that she had herself banded, returning occasionally during a five year period. She was particularly interested in Miss Susie Callaway's article on "Local Bird-Banding" in the July *Review*. This fall Dr. Loveland is retiring from the service of the United States Weather Bureau, and after a visit to Nebraska the Lovelands will move to their "Love-Land Farm" on the Connecticut River at Norwich, Vermont, to reside.

In the magazine section of the Omaha *World Herald* for Sunday, September 17, 1933, our member Mr. Miles Greenleaf, who is on the staff of that newspaper, has an attractively illustrated feature article entitled "Autumn is Bird Time in Nebraska." This article first discusses Nebraska as a state for birds and then takes an imaginary trip through the Fontenelle Forest, making observations on the Eastern Fox Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Clarke Nutcracker and several species of thrushes found in Nebraska, mentioning especially the Townsend Solitaire. N. O. U. members who have access to this paper are recommended to read Mr. Greenleaf's interesting article.

The Nature Study Department of the Fairbury Women's Club held its first meeting of the 1933-34 season at the Y. W. C. A. room in Fairbury on September 19, with twenty-one members present. It had been planned to hold this meeting in the woods on Rose Creek, but rain prevented holding the meeting out of doors. The program consisted of a study of the autumn birds, flowers, vines and grasses. Miss Bertha Holly dealt with the autumn migratory birds, and also somewhat with the subject of bird migration in general. Mrs. C. B. Callaway presented a discussion of the autumn flowers, illustrated with specimens of thirty-three species. Miss Agness Callaway discussed the native wild vines, especially the bittersweet, wild grape, Virginia creeper, green-briar or smilax, moonseed and wild raspberry. Miss Margaret Chambers concluded the program with a talk on the common grasses, illustrated by specimens of eighteen species. Miss Susie Callaway is the leader for

this season, and has planned an outline of study that will bring forth the relation of a knowledge of nature to our daily life.

Dr. Robert Gilder addressed the members of the Omaha Nature Study Club on the afternoon of Sunday, October 29, in the Omaha Public Library Museum, on the prehistoric archaeological collection that has been unearthed by him within the present site of the Fontenelle Forest Reserve. This meeting was open to the public. After Dr. Gilder's talk, a visit was planned to the Fontenelle Reserve, to mark some of the prehistoric house sites from which this archaeological material had been excavated, and to Dr. Gilder's home "Wake Robin", to view his recent paintings.

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA*

II. GREBES (COLYMBIDAE)

4. HOLBOELL RED-NECKED GREBE.—*Colymbus griseigena holbölli* (Reinhardt).

This, the rarest of our five Nebraska species of grebes, occurs in both North America and eastern Asia, breeding on the former continent from northwestern Alaska, northern Mackenzie and northern Ungava south to northern Washington, northern Montana, North Dakota and southwestern Minnesota, and wintering, chiefly coastwise, to the southward and eastward of its breeding range, from southern British Columbia, southern Wisconsin, southern Ontario and Maine irregularly south to southern California, southern Colorado, Nebraska, the Ohio River Valley and North Carolina, casually to Georgia. It is casual in Greenland.

This northern grebe reaches Nebraska only very rarely during the migratory or winter season, and does not nest within our borders. In fact, the only definite records of its occurrence in Nebraska at all are those of W. W. Cooke, who reported that it was taken as a "rare visitant" at Alda, Hall County, (southwest of Grand Island, and a little north of the Platte River), by F. W. Powell, about 1884 or 1885 (*Bulletin 2, Division of Economic Ornithology*, p. 53), and a specimen in winter plumage shot October 24, 1917, by the late Professor R. Thomson, in northeastern Nebraska, somewhere between the west bank of the Missouri River, opposite Sioux City, Iowa, and the town of Plainview, Pierce County, and mounted by him. This specimen was later obtained by A. M. Brookings for his collection, where the writer has measured and repeatedly examined it. The specimen recorded at *holboelli* from Curtis in the Rees Heaton collection (*Preliminary Review Birds of Nebraska*, p. 16), the writer found upon examination in 1915 to be the following species. One was also reported as seen near Omaha, Douglas County, April 7, 1927, by Dr. C. A. Mitchell (*L. O. I.* No. 23, p. 6). This is a grebe chiefly of large, open bodies of water. It is most common in winter coastwise, being uncommon anywhere in the interior. If noted, its large size, and, in the

*In the account of the Common Loons in the first article of this series (*antea*, pp. 87-89), records for Plattsmouth, Cass County, October 26, 1919 (L. R. Snipes), and Lincoln, Lancaster County, October 27, 1919 (August Eiche), reported by C. E. Mickel and R. W. Dawson in the *Wilson Bulletin*, xxxii, pp. 73-74, were unintentionally omitted.—Ed.

spring, its black crown, whitish throat and red neck, or in the fall its dull white cheeks, should enable its recognition. It might occur very rarely in Nebraska on open water at any time from late October to early April.

5. HORNED GREBE.—*Colymbus auritus* Linnaeus.

This grebe is also northerly in its breeding range, which covers the northern part of the Northern Hemisphere, extending in North America from central Alaska, Yukon, northern Mackenzie, central Keewatin, southwestern Ungava, eastern Quebec and southwestern New Brunswick, south to southern British Columbia, northern Nebraska, central Minnesota, southern Wisconsin, southern Ontario and northeastern Maine. It winters mainly in the United States, and principally coastwise, from about the southern limits of its breeding range south to southern California, the Gulf Coast and Florida. Like the preceding species, it is casual in Greenland.

The Horned Grebe breeds in the alkali sandhill lakes of northern Cherry County, apparently formerly rather commonly, but in recent years rarely. J. M. Bates, during his bird observations in Cherry County covering the late 1880's and 1890's (1888-1902), when he lived at Valentine, found this species to be a breeder there; and I. S. Trostler found it breeding commonly on these lakes from June 20 to 30, 1895 (see Bruner, *Some Notes on Nebraska Birds*, p. 58, 1896). At Trout Lake, Cherry County, on June 3 and 4, 1900, J. S. Hunter saw several pairs, but was not able to find a nest (*Proc. N. O. U.*, ii, p. 83, 1900). On June 6, 1903, R. H. Wolcott found a pair with a newly made nest at Little Alkali Lake, in the same region (*Preliminary Review Birds of Nebraska*, p. 16). In 1915, H. C. Oberholser found it very rare during the summer in the sandhill lake region of Nebraska, noting but a single individual during the entire month of June—that being on a small pond close to Corneil Lake, north of Big Alkali Lake, on June 9 (*Bull. 794, U. S. Department of Agriculture*, p. 31). Bent gives two Nebraska dates for eggs collected—June 29 and August 12—the latter apparently of a second brood (*Life Histories of North American Diving Birds*, p. 27).

Outside of the breeding season, the Horned Grebe now occurs very uncommonly as a migrant over at least the eastern part of Nebraska, in the spring from April 12 to May 20, being most frequently seen from April 20 to May 5, and in the fall from October 4 to 28. It seems to be rather more common in the fall than in the spring. Apparently formerly it occurred more commonly, for although W. Edgar Taylor (*Catalogue of Nebraska Birds*, p. 111) reported it as "migratory, rare" in 1887, Bruner (*loc. cit.*) in 1896 reported it as "common" at West Point, Cuming County, W. W. Cooke (*op. cit.*, p. 53) in 1888 reported it as seen migrating in Nebraska in 1884-1885, and J. S. Hunter (*Proc. N. O. U.*, i, p. 19) in 1900 reported it as "frequent" at Lincoln, Lancaster County. Hunter found it near Lincoln on October 5, 1899, and R. H. Wolcott found it there again on October 21, 1899.

The first Nebraska record of the species is that by Thomas Say, who reports the "Horned Grebe, *Colymbus cornutus*" from Engineer Cantonment (= Fort Calhoun, Washington County) and states that it arrived there on May 5, 1820 (*Long's Exp.*, i, pp. 266 and 270, 1823). *Colymbus cornutus* Gmelin (1788) is a synonym of *Colymbus auritus* L. (1758), now used as the name for the Horned Grebe. It seems strange that Say should have recorded the uncommon Horned Grebe at Engineer Cantonment, and not the much more common American Eared Grebe; but the two species were clearly differentiated by Latham (1790) and Temminck

(1815), undoubtedly to the knowledge of Alexander Wilson, whom Say largely followed in his identifications and nomenclature, and his observations covered spring birds, when the specific differences were conspicuous, so his identification should best be allowed to stand as the first Nebraska record of the Horned Grebe. More recent records from the Omaha vicinity are a specimen shot at Cut-off (= Carter) Lake, April 21, 1905 (R. W. Limbert), and one seen on April 12, 1927, by Dr. C. A. Mitchell (*L. O. I.* No. 23, p. 6). Other Nebraska migration records are from Utica, Seward County, 1900, by Wilson Tout (*Proc. N. O. U.*, ii, p. 32); Inland, Clay County, April 6, 1916, male and female shot and now in the A. M. Brooking collection at Hastings (No. 2489) and the B. J. Olson collection at Kearney; Hastings, Adams County, April 19, 1928, by Miss M. Caryle Sylla (*L. O. I.* No. 31, p. 4); Ravenna, Buffalo County, October 28, 1899 (R. H. Wolcott); Curtis, Frontier County, one shot in the 1890's and now in the Rees Heaton collection; Arthur County sandhill lakes, October 4 and 5, 1928, by Mrs. A. H. Jones (*L. O. I.* No. 34, p. 5); Alliance, Box Butte County; and Clear Lake, eastern Cherry County, October 9, 1915, by H. C. Oberholser (*loc. cit.*).

6. AMERICAN EARED GREBE.—*Colymbus nigricollis californicus* (Heerman).

The American Eared Grebe occurs over a wide area in western North America, breeding from southern British Columbia, southern Mackenzie and southern Manitoba south to southern California, Arizona, southern Texas and northern Iowa. It winters south of Nebraska, from southern Washington to western Mexico and Guatemala. The record of this species from Hastings, Adams County, January 20, 1929 (*L. O. I.* No. 39, p. 2), is probably an error, as there are no other records for the state between November 3 and April 11.

This grebe is now a common migrant, as it formerly was an abundant one, throughout the state, and may still breed in suitable locations anywhere in Nebraska, but more especially in the sandhill lake regions of Brown, Cherry, Garden and Morrill Counties. The first definite Nebraska record for the species is by Samuel Aughey (*First Report of the United States Entomological Commission*, Appendix, ii, p. 62), who in 1878 stated that it was "rather abundant in Nebraska, especially on the Platte and the Missouri", and mentioned examining specimens from Bellevue, Sarpy County, and Columbus, Platte County, the latter one collected in September, 1874. W. Edgar Taylor (*loc. cit.*) in 1887 reported it as "migratory, abundant, arrive in May and September". Bruner (*loc. cit.*) in 1896 reported it as occurring "throughout the state, especially along the larger streams and lakes". J. S. Hunter reported it as "frequent" near Lincoln in 1900 (*Proc. N. O. U.*, i, p. 18).

As a migrant at Omaha, I. S. Trostler has given the spring dates of this species as April 20 to May 25 (Bruner, *loc. cit.*, p. 59). More recently, Robert Overing has reported it as migrating at Omaha in the spring as early as April 11, 1929 (*L. O. I.* No. 42, p. 2) and April 12, 1930 (*L. O. I.* No. 50, p. 2), while he gives as fall dates, in 1928, September 8 and 22, October 6 and 13, and November 3 (*L. O. I.* Nos. 34, pp. 4-5, and 36, p. 1). It occurs commonly at Lincoln, but as a migrant only, and the dates are April 11 (Mrs. Fred Tyler, 1929) to June 10 (C. E. Mickel, 1917) or 15 (R. W. Dawson, 1919), with the greatest number from about April 16 (Dawson, 1916) to May 25 (Dawson, 1919), in the spring, and July 25 (Dawson, 1915) to October 26 (August Eiche, 1896) and 27 (Dawson, 1917), with the greatest number from about August 27 (J. T.

Zimmer, 1908) to October 20 (Dawson, 1917), in the fall. It reached the Sioux City, Iowa, vicinity, April 22 and remained until May 21, according to T. C. Stephens. At Neligh, Antelope County, M. Cary reports it as "not common, and seen only during the spring migration, in the latter part of April" (*Proc. N. O. U.*, i, p. 21, 1900). At Long Pine, Brown County, William Smith shot two on May 18, 1899 (*Proc. N. O. U.*, i, p. 15), and again took a specimen on May 24, 1912. It is a common migrant at Kearney, Buffalo County, according to C. A. Black. In the Hastings, Adams County, vicinity, where it is chiefly a common migrant, it was recorded repeatedly in the springs of 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930, between April 4 (Mesdames A. H. and A. M. Jones, 1929) and May 18 (Brooking Bird Club, 1929), but only once in the autumn, on September 18, two birds (Miss M. Caryle Sylla, 1930) (*L. O. I.* Nos. 42, p. 3, 43, p. 8 and 54, p. 1). There are two adult specimens in the spring plumage, taken at Curtis, Frontier County, in the 1890's, in the Rees Heaton collection. Elliot Coues (*Birds of the Northwest*, p. 733, 1878), reports a specimen (No. 60863, U. S. National Museum) from "North Platte"; and Wilson Tout reports from the town of North Platte, Lincoln County, that he has seen specimens May 15, 1915, June 10, 1911, September 2, 1924, and September 12, 1918, and that the species is said to nest in sloughs near that town.

In the Nebraska sandhill lakes this grebe is a common to abundant breeder about June 1 to July 15, and is much more common as a nesting species there than is the Common Pied-billed Grebe. It was found nesting commonly on the Cherry County lakes by J. S. Hunter, June 3 to 10, 1900, and a set of seven eggs collected by him at Trout Lake on June 4 is in the University collection (*Proc. N. O. U.*, ii, p. 82, 1901). Nests were found at these lakes and photographed by R. H. Wolcott and F. H. Shoemaker in June, 1902, and an adult was collected on Trout Lake by J. E. Wallace on June 14, 1902. The writer found it common on the eastern Cherry County lakes in the fall of 1910 from September 30 to October 3. During the early part of August, 1927, J. M. Bates noted only a few on Kennedy's Lake at the head of Gordon Creek, eastern Cherry County, which in former years had been full of them (*L. O. I.* No. 24, p. 3).

In 1915, H. C. Oberholser (*loc. cit.*) found this grebe "rather generally distributed throughout the lakes of Garden, Morrill and Brown Counties, but somewhat more irregularly in the other localities". He stated also that it was "one of the most abundant summer water birds of the region, and breeds on many of the lakes". In Cherry County, in the eastern group of lakes, he found it abundantly on Johnson, Trout, Willow, Dewey, Dads, West Twin and Pearson Lakes, and at Wendler Swamp, between June 3 and 18; especially on Dads Lake, where he "counted 349 on June 7, 305 of them in a single company". In the western Cherry County group of lakes, he found it likewise abundant, on June 16, on Silver, White Willow and Speckelmire Lakes; especially on White Willow Lake, where he noted 186 on that day. It was found commonly also on Rat and West Chain Lakes, in the southwestern Brown County group, on June 14, and in the Garden-Morrill County group at the Hague Lakes, Morrill County, on June 21, and at Peterson Lakes and Bean Lake, Garden County, on June 21 and 22. In the fall of 1915, single birds or pairs were noted by Oberholser on Red Deer Lake, eastern Cherry County, on October 6; on Moon Lake, southwestern Brown County, on October 10; and on Goose Lake, north-central Garden County, on October 14.

C. A. Black found it breeding by the hundreds on Island Lake, north-central Garden County, in June of both 1916 and 1917. At Goose Lake,

also in the north-central part of Garden County, a little north of Island Lake, on July 12, 1930, F. J. Keller saw about fifty small grebes, probably mostly this species with possibly a few of the Pied-billed Grebe (*L. O. I.* No. 52, p. 2). At this same lake on June 7, 1931, Mr. Keller and W. W. Bennett, of Sioux City, Iowa, found about fifty American Eared Grebes and found ten of their nests (*L. O. I.* No. 61, p. 4). At small ponds south of Alliance about ten miles, in Morrill County, on June 16, 1930, Mrs. A. H. Jones noted this species (*L. O. I.* No. 53, p. 3), while at these same small lakes, on June 8, 1933, G. E. Hudson collected a female which contained a developed egg in the uterus (*antea*, p. 84). It has been noted occasionally in summer about the seepage ponds of Scotts Bluff County, e. g., July 14, 1915 (L. M. Gates), and probably breeds on them, but no nests have as yet actually been found there.

Formerly it bred commonly in eastern Nebraska, where in recent years it seems to be mainly, if not wholly, a migrant only. Thus, in the spring of 1876, L. Sessions noted it nesting at sandhill lakes near Norfolk, Madison County (*Proc. N. O. U.*, ii, p. 71), where by 1905 it had become only a common migrant. Bruner noted it in the 1880's and 1890's as a breeder near West Point (*Preliminary Review Birds of Nebraska*, p. 17), and L. Skow and I. S. Trostler report it as formerly a breeder in the Omaha vicinity (Bruner, *op. cit.*, p. 59). Trostler wrote that he noted a few breeding at Cut-off (= Carter) and Florence Lakes, near Omaha, each year in latter June, from 1881 to 1894. However, at the lagoon near Inland, Clay County, A. M. Brooking reports that in recent years it has still been a fairly common summer resident and breeder, and at that place he collected a specimen on July 28, 1914, several sets of eggs on July 4, 1915, and four young birds on July 28, 1915, in which latter year it bred abundantly on the lagoon.

Concerning the habits of this grebe, at the Inland lagoon, A. M. Brooking says that it "nests in about three feet of water and always covers its eggs". H. C. Oberholser says that on the Cherry County lakes it stays "principally in the open water, though of course at times among the rushes, and apparently is fond of swimming about and diving far out in the middle of the lake. Its habit of holding the neck and crest erect makes it easy to distinguish even at a distance." C. A. Black writes of it, as it occurs during the nesting season on Island Lake in Garden County, as follows: "They are found here by the hundreds. They build their nests on the water, in clusters of forty or fifty, in sheltered places inside the breakwater. The nests are built of various kinds of water plants which they pile up into a sort of floating bog. There on top of a very moist surface they lay from one to a dozen white eggs. The bird never sits on the eggs in the daytime, at least that has been my observation, but covers them with wet, mossy roots, and the sun steams them. A strange thing about these birds is that, while they often lay so many eggs, I never saw the parent bird with more than two young ones, and often with only one."

7. WESTERN GREBE.—*Aechmophorus occidentalis* (Lawrence).

The Western Grebe, as the name suggests, occurs in western North America. It breeds from Washington, southern Saskatchewan and southern Manitoba south to southern California, Utah, North Dakota and western Nebraska, and winters south to central Mexico. Occasionally or casually during migrations it occurs east to Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio.

This striking bird, the largest of our grebes, breeds during June in

the lakes of Garden County, and possibly elsewhere in western Nebraska, and during its migrations in the late fall and spring straggles southward and eastward over the entire state, having been seen occasionally on most of the larger lakes and ponds of this region. Such eastward occurrences are much more common in the autumn than in the spring; in fact the only spring records for the eastern part of the state are two (March 4 and April 16) from Omaha, Douglas County, and one (June 5), from Superior, Nuckolls County. The fall migration dates are from October 3 to November 18. It does not winter with us at all.

The first Nebraska record of the Western Grebe is that of L. Skow, who recorded it in 1896 (Bruner, *op. cit.*, p. 58) from Cut-off Lake (= Carter Lake), near Omaha. There seems, however, now to be no surviving specimen to substantiate this record. At the same time, M. K. Barnum, then of North Platte, Lincoln County, recorded the species as a "common migrant" at that place, both in the spring and the autumn, and this record, transmitted to L. Bruner through I. S. Trostler, was also published (*loc. cit.*) in 1896. The first Nebraska record based upon a specimen taken and preserved, is that of one shot at Curtis, Frontier County, on the lake near that place, about the fall of 1900, and now in the Rees Heaton collection at Curtis. This specimen has been examined by the author, and has been previously placed on record (*Preliminary Review Birds of Nebraska*, p. 16).

Since these three records were made and published numerous additional occurrences of the Western Grebe in Nebraska have been reported by various observers. A specimen was shot at Florence Lake, in Douglas County, near Omaha, April 16, 1905, and mounted for the owner at the J. E. Wallace taxidermy shop, then operating in Omaha, according to R. W. Limbert, then of Omaha, in a letter sent to the writer at the time. This specimen also has since been lost trace of. On November 10, 1908, A. L. Wilson, a ranchman living near Horseshoe Lake, in Lincoln County, killed one of these grebes and sent it to August Eiche of Lincoln, who mounted it for his collection, where it now is preserved at the University of Nebraska (Wolcott, *Proc. N. O. U.*, v. p. 38). J. T. Zimmer noted a pair of Western Grebes at Capitol Beach, near Lincoln, October 23, 1909, having them under clear observation with his binoculars for some time (*Proc. N. O. U.*, v, p. 34). In the fall of 1911, a female Western Grebe was killed at Swan Lake, near O'Neill, in southwestern Holt County, by Norman Whinnery, and this bird was mounted by L. Skow for the J. C. Whinnery collection, now owned by the Northwestern School of Taxidermy at Omaha. A. M. Brooking reports that his brother shot one of these grebes at Funk, Phelps County, in 1912, and that he mounted it for his collection, where it is now No. 2404. A male killed at Kearney Lake, near that place in Buffalo County, on October 26, 1913, by W. Fountain was mounted by C. A. Black and is now in the B. J. Olson collection at the Kearney Junior High School. A fine female specimen (No. 2657) in the A. M. Brooking collection at Hastings was shot on the lagoon near Inland, Clay County, on November 18, 1915, while another female in the same collection was also shot on the Inland lagoon, on October 12, 1917.

Additional records for the Omaha vicinity, to the two already cited, consist of two birds seen on Carter Lake on October 9 and 10, 1926, by Miss Mary Ellsworth (*L. O. I.* No. 19, p. 3); one seen October 6, 1928, and the same or another on October 13, 1928, at the same place by Robert Overing (*L. O. I.* No. 34, p. 5); two seen at the same place on November 6, 1929, by Robert Overing (*L. O. I.* No. 45, p. 2); and one seen there on March 4, 1932, by Miss Mary Ellsworth (*L. O. I.* No. 66, p. 14). Mrs. A. H. Jones noted this species at lakes in northwestern Garden County, thirty miles southeast of Alliance, on October 3 and 4, 1927 (*L. O. I.* No. 25, p. 2), and again about the lakes in the sandhills of

Arthur County, October 4 and 5, 1928 (*L. O. I.* No. 34, p. 5). An apparently immature bird was found, seemingly unable to fly, but evidently not injured in any way, in a corn field ten miles south of Hastings, Adams County, on October 22, 1930, and was brought to A. M. Brooking and mounted by him for his collection (*L. O. I.* No. 54, p. 1). In a somewhat similar instance, on June 5, 1931, a couple of boys found one in an alfalfa field in the country northwest of Superior, Nuckolls County, and brought it to Thomas D. Griffin of Hardy, who, with the collaboration of Mrs. H. C. Johnston of Superior, identified it. The wings of this bird had been clipped when it was found by the two boys, and it could not fly. Mr. Griffin liberated it on a pond south of Hardy, where it stayed for two days before he lost track of it (*L. O. I.* No. 61, p. 2).

The including of the Western Grebe among the breeders within the state rests chiefly upon the finding of numerous nests of this species in 1916 and 1917, at Island Lake, north of Oshkosh, in north-central Garden County, by C. A. Black of Kearney. Island Lake is a shallow lake, grown with rushes around the edges, and is about a mile and a half long by a half mile wide. On June 3, 1916, Mr. Black found three nests of the Western Grebe on this lake, these forming part of a little colony of the birds. The nests were on bogs near deeper clear water, and only a few inches above the water. The eggs were not covered up as with the smaller



A Western Grebe (male), with nest containing four eggs and a downy young bird, all taken at Island Lake, Garden County, Nebraska, June 3, 1916, and mounted by C. A. Black.

grebes. One of these three nests contained three fresh eggs, another four nearly fresh eggs, and the third five eggs nearly ready to hatch, in fact in process of hatching, with some young birds just out of the shell and a newly hatched bird near by. The male parent grebe was collected and the newly hatched young grebe was also caught (the other four hatching eggs being left for the surviving parent to care for), and these, taken together with the nest with four nearly fresh eggs, were mounted in a group by Mr. Black. The accompanying illustration of the Western Grebe is taken from this group. Mr. Black found this to be a very shy bird, and on the open water he could not get within a half mile of it. The male bird that he collected was secured only after hours of patient waiting in the blistering sun, concealed in a small bunch of rushes. On June 18 and 19, 1917, Mr. Black, accompanied by A. M. Brooking, returned to Island Lake and collected five nests with five sets of fresh eggs of the Western Grebe from this same colony. Along with these nests and eggs was collected an adult female Western Grebe, which, with one of the five sets of eggs collected, a set of three, is now in the A. M. Brooking collection at Hastings. The other four sets of eggs taken on that day are in the collection of Mr. Black (*Cf., Wilson Bulletin*, xxx, p. 112). On June 7, 1931, twenty Western

Grebes were seen in the rushes near the shore of Goose Lake, a little north of Island Lake in north-central Garden County, by F. J. Keller and W. W. Bennett, and when these observers looked over the lake with glasses many more were seen out on the water, probably to a total of fifty birds. No nests were found, as the party had no way of getting out on the water (*L. O. I.* No. 61, p. 4).

The last (fourth, 1931) edition of the *A. O. U. Check-List* gives the Western Grebe as only "casual in Nebraska", the several published records mentioned above of its occurrence as a migrant and the published records of its breeding at Island Lake, Garden County, in 1916 and 1917 (*loc. cit.*) having apparently been quite overlooked.

8. COMMON PIED-BILLED GREBE.—*Podilymbus podiceps podiceps* (Linnaeus).

The Common Pied-billed Grebe occurs widely over North America, breeding, often rarely or locally, from central British Columbia, southern Mackenzie, Saskatchewan, central Manitoba, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, south to Florida and parts of Mexico, and wintering from southern British Columbia, Arizona, Texas, Mississippi and the Potomac River Valley southward.

This grebe, the ordinary little "hell-diver" or "dabduck" of our ponds and streams, and our commonest species of the family, occurs abundantly during migrations over the entire state. Apparently no little spot of water is so small that it fails to attract these birds at such times; but, as nesting time approaches, they mostly leave to locate in the larger swamps and in the reedy margins of lakes, while apparently there is no part of the state in which they may not breed, if suitable nesting localities are present, probably more commonly than is generally supposed, because of their secretive habits at this time. The first definite Nebraska record for this species is by W. Edgar Taylor (*loc. cit.*), who, in 1887, stated that it was "migratory, rare" in the state. Bruner (*loc. cit.*), in 1896, reported it more correctly as "common over most of the state", and on the authority of I. S. Trostler and L. Skow recorded it as a breeder in the vicinity of Omaha, Douglas County, and from Gage County on the authority of F. A. Colby. J. S. Hunter (*loc. cit.*) in 1900 recorded it as "common" at Capitol Beach, near Lincoln.

The wintering range of this grebe does not extend quite as far north as Nebraska, but the first ones arrive from the south in March or early April. The height of the migration is on from about April 20 to May 5. They do not begin concentrating in their breeding places until latter May. Nests with eggs or young may be found from June 1 to July 27, but chiefly from about June 20 to July 10. In the fall they begin wandering about by August or September, with the migration on most commonly from about September 15 to October 15, and do not all leave until late in November. At Omaha, I. S. Trostler reported it as an abundant migrant and common breeder at Cut-off (= Carter) and Florence Lakes, June 20 to July 27. Today it is not so common a breeder in that region as it was in the 1880's and 1890's, when Trostler made his observations. R. Mullen collected a set of three eggs at Big Lake, near Council Bluffs, on the Iowa side, July 15, 1900, this set being in the University collection. As a migrant at Omaha, the earliest dates in recent years are March 4, 1932 (Miss Mary Ellsworth), March 25, 1929 (Robert Overing), March 25, 1933 (Miss Ellsworth), April 6, 1927 (Dr. C. A. Mitchell), April 6, 1930 (Overing), April 11, 1925 (Miss Ellsworth), April 14, 1928 (Overing), and May 8, 1931 (Overing). There are numerous May records, up to about May 26, after which there are no recent June or July records, which would be during the breeding

season, except that in 1930 Mr. Overing saw one on June 7 and 21, and two on June 28. In the fall migration at Omaha, the species was first observed August 10, 1929, August 13, 1930, August 30, 1928, and September 2, 1931, all by Mr. Overing. During September, and October up to the 20th, the bird is a common migrant, and the latest recorded dates are November 10, 1928 (Miss Ellsworth) and November 20, 1931 (Overing).

The migration dates for Lincoln, from which vicinity there are no breeding records, and only one record for the entire June-July period (July 15, 1917, R. W. Dawson), give the earliest arrival dates as March 28 and April 1, 1925 (Leonard Worley), April 5, 1931 (Harold Jones), April 11, 1933 (G. E. Hudson), April 13, 1900 (M. A. Carriker), April 18, 1926 (Leighton Williams), April 19, 1916 (Dawson), April 20, 1920 (C. E. Mickel), April 25, 1899 (G. E. Condra), April 29, 1913 (J. T. Zimmer), and April 30, 1909 (Zimmer). There are many May records, the last one being May 30, 1910 (Zimmer). The fall migration rarely is in evidence by the middle of August (August 13 and 16, 1900; M. A. Carriker), or early September (September 2, 1917; Dawson), but the birds are not common until after the middle of September, for which early dates are September 20, 1914 (Dawson), September 21, 1912 (Zimmer), September 23, 1916 (M. H. Swenk), September 24, 1923 (Hudson), and September 26, 1898 (August Eiche). The birds are common from September 25 to October 10, after which they rapidly become less common, the latest October dates being October 18, 1913 (Dawson), October 23, 1909 (Zimmer), and October 31, 1915 (Dawson). At Beatrice, Gage County, on the Big Blue River, the writer found this species migrating commonly in 1899 and 1900 from April 8 to 29, and from September 17 on to late October. At Nebraska City, Otoe County, M. A. Carriker noted this species at the late date of November 6, 1900.

At Neligh, Antelope County, M. Cary reported it arriving commonly early in April and leaving in November, a few seen in summer and doubtless breeding (*Proc. N. O. U.*, i, p. 21, 1900). It is also apparently chiefly migratory at Long Pine, Brown County, according to William Smith of that place, who took a specimen there in May, 1912. At Sioux City, Iowa, it arrived April 19, according to T. C. Stephens of that place. R. H. Wolcott noted it at Ravenna, Buffalo County, on October 28, 1899. It is a common migrant at Kearney, Buffalo County, according to C. A. Black. At Hastings, Adams County, the earliest arrival dates are April 3, 1932 (Miss Margaret Diemer), April 4, 1925 (Mrs. A. H. Jones), April 4, 1929 (Mesdames A. H. and A. M. Jones), April 6, 1933 (Miss M. Caryle Sylla), April 18, 1926 (Mrs. A. H. Jones), April 19, 1928 (Miss Sylla), May 12, 1931 (Brooking Bird Club), and May 24, 1927 (N. O. U. party). Fall migrants were observed by Miss Diemer on August 9, 1931, and August 24, 1930, by Miss Sylla on September 18, 1930, and by A. M. Brooking on October 20, 1924. The species has been observed at Superior, Nuckolls County, on April 18, 1926, and May 9, 1925, and at Fairbury, Jefferson County, on April 27, 1933, and May 12, 1923.

Pied-billed Grebes nest in the reed-grown marshy tracts, which may be found here and there along the Missouri River. In addition to the Omaha vicinity, at Crystal Lake, opposite Sioux City, Iowa, I. N. Gabrielson found this species nesting abundantly, June 26 to July 7, 1913, finding nests with eggs and young of all sizes during this period (*Wilson Bulletin*, xxvi, p. 53). Occasionally it breeds commonly at sand-hill sloughs or ponds near Norfolk, Madison County, or at least did so formerly (in 1876), according to L. Sessions (*Proc. N. O. U.*, ii, p. 71). It is also a common breeder on the lagoon near Inland, Clay County, each year, according to A. M. Brooking, who found nests with eggs there

on July 4, 1915. Miss Margaret Diemer noted it near Hastings, Adams County, on July 31, 1932.

In the eastern Cherry County lakes it breeds abundantly, J. S. Hunter finding many nests and a newly hatched young bird at Trout Lake, June 3 to 10, 1900 (*Proc. N. O. U.*, ii, p. 82). In June, 1902, R. H. Wolcott and F. H. Shoemaker found it breeding commonly on Hackberry Lake, and J. E. Wallace collected three newly hatched young there on June 14 of that year. The writer found it common at Hackberry and near-by lakes, September 30 to October 3, 1910. During the early part of August, 1927, J. M. Bates found a few of these grebes on Kennedy's Lake, at the head of Gordon Creek in Cherry County, but not nearly as many as in former years (*L. O. I.* No. 24, p. 3). G. E. Hudson collected a male Common Pied-billed Grebe at Hackberry Lake on August 28, 1933 (*antea*, p. 137).

In 1915, H. C. Oberholser (*loc. cit.*) found this grebe to be a "bird of retiring habits and apparently not very common" at the lakes in northern and eastern Cherry County, and in Brown County. He found it at South Cody Lake, in northern Cherry County, on June 1; at Johnson, Red Deer, Willow, Welker, West Twin, Watts and Hackberry Lakes, and at Wendler Swamp, in eastern Cherry County, between June 4 and 11; and at Marsh Lake, in southwestern Brown County, on June 13. In October, he found it at Clear, Dewey, Whitewater and Middle Lakes, eastern Cherry County, between the 8th and 12th, and at Moon, Filbrick and Enders Lakes, in Brown County, on the 10th and 11th. He writes of it that, unlike the American Eared Grebe, "this grebe did not frequent much the open water, but kept for the most part within the protection of the reeds and rushes bordering the lakes. At the eastern end of Dewey Lake on June 4, a nest in the rushes near the shore, from which a female was seen to depart, was found to contain eight eggs. It finally came to grief in a heavy windstorm which a few days later swept the lake." He did not find it at any of the lakes in western Cherry County, about the source of the North Loup River, or at the lakes in Morrill and Garden Counties, in June, but on October 14 noted it at Goose and Roundup Lakes, in Garden County.

The writer noted several of these birds at the lake near Curtis, Frontier County, June 29, 1911, and they probably nest in that vicinity. Wilson Tout reports it as a common summer resident and breeder in the ponds and gravel pit lakes near North Platte, Lincoln County, and he has a specimen taken there on the late date of November 5, 1928. In the seepage lakes of Scotts Bluff County, it is also a very common breeder, C. E. Mickel noting it there continually in 1916, from June 16 to September 10, and finding four newly hatched young on June 19.

C. A. Black found this species nesting commonly at Island Lake, Garden County, in 1916 and 1917, though not nearly as plentifully as the American Eared Grebe. Miles Maryott, formerly of Oshkosh, also has reported it from Island Lake and has specimens of it in his collection. At Goose Lake, in Garden County, southeast of Alliance, on July 12, 1930, F. J. Keller saw about fifty small grebes, probably partly of this species, and on the same lake on June 6, 1931, he and W. W. Bennett of Sioux City found a nest of the Common Pied-billed Grebe with six eggs and another nest with the eggs just hatching (*L. O. I.* Nos. 52, p. 2 and 61, p. 4). Mrs. A. H. Jones noted this species at small ponds thirty miles south of Alliance, in Morrill County, on October 3 and 4, 1927 (*L. O. I.* No. 25, p. 2).

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