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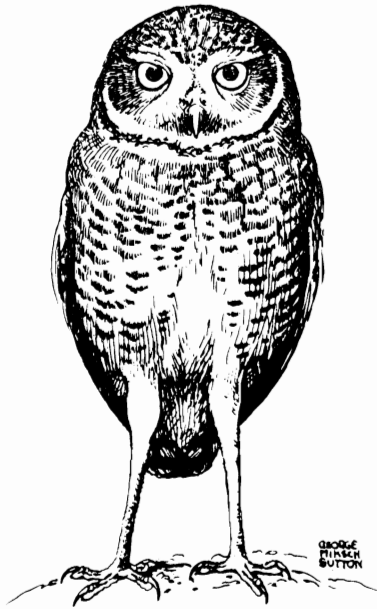
The Nebraska Bird Review

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1977 TREASURER'S REPORT

		Cash	Invest- ments	Accounts Payable	Current Account	Total Assets
Balance 1 January 1977		1,298.74	2,000.00	852.88		2,445.86
RECEIPTS						
Member- ships	103 Active	\$5.00	515.00			
	36 Family Active	7.00	252.00			
	14 Sustaining	7.00	98.00			
	7 Family Sustaining	9.00	63.00			
	1 Student	3.00	3.00			
	4 Life	75.00	300.00			1,231.00
Subscrip- tions	5 Direct	5.00	25.00			
	22 Agency	4.50	99.00			
	1 Foreign Agency	4.75	4.75			128.75
Miscel- laneous	Field Record Cards		5.00			
	Check Lists		13.05			
	Review Copies		42.44			
	Slides and Misc.		7.63			
	Interest Earned		173.00	14.79		
	Meeting (net)		43.39			299.30
	Total receipts	1,644.26	14.79		1,659.05	
EXPENSES						
Review	Printing		715.29	175.76		
	Postage (Includes Newsletter)		90.00			981.05
Officers' expen- ditures	R. G. Cortelyou		103.81			
	Dennis Holley		10.00			
	A. W. Madison		18.70			132.51
Miscel- laneous	Newsletter		76.41			
	Balance on 3-year bond		40.00			
	"Save the Platte"		25.00			141.41
	Total expenses	1,079.21		175.76	1,254.97	
	Current operations					404.08
Donations	Anonymous (2 @ 500, 1 @ 100, 4 @ 1)	1,104.00				
	In memory of Mrs. Lionberger	15.00				1,119.00
	Investments	(1,600.00)	1,600.00			
	Prepaid items used above	(603.50)		(603.50)		
	1976 Accounts payable paid	(249.38)		(249.38)		
	1978 Memberships prepaid	337.00		337.00		
	1978 Subscriptions prepaid	68.50		68.50		
Balance 31 December 1977		935.41	3,614.79	581.26		3,968.94

THE CAROLINA PARAKEET IN THE WEST: ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Daniel McKinley
Department of Biological Sciences
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New material and fresh perspectives on the Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) have come to light since my historical accounts appeared (McKinley 1960, 1964, 1965). I now have no plans to bring out any work that will accommodate such additions and it may be useful to make them available to interested ornithologists. Recent reports that have appeared cover the species in parts of its eastern range (McKinley 1976, 1977-c-e). Papers on eggs (1977-c), climatic relations and movements (1977-b), archeozoology (1977-a) and the last Parakeets in captivity (1977-f) have been published. Other accounts will follow.

No effort is made here to provide complete histories of the Parakeet for each state; and states for which I have no new information (Kansas, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin) are ignored. Reports begin with Texas, in the south, and proceed in a northerly direction. It will be noted that these reports (McKinley 1960, 1964, 1965) cover all the territory west of the Mississippi River except for Louisiana and Arkansas, whose accounts I have yet to publish in detail.

TEXAS

In addition to my previous account (1964: 68-72) and a recent commentary by Oberholser (1974: 430-431), the following items on the Carolina Parakeet in Texas are pertinent. One early report indicating that the species was to be found in Texas appeared in letters written by "R., A Citizen of Ohio" (1838-1839), an otherwise unknown traveler. He mentioned the "green paroquet" in a short list of birds but did not localize his observation. Arthur Ikin's little promotional book (1841:43) featured a considerable list of birds with the "parroquet" included without comment. M. Wiess reported to Oberholser (1974:430) "flocks of 20 to 30 often seen in fall, prior to 1970," in Jasper and Jefferson counties -- exact location not given.

There is a certain charm to a reference by Alfred Howell that bears quoting in full (manuscript, Tennessee State Dept. Archives, Nashville; courtesy of Harriet C. Owsley). Writing to his brother in Tennessee, 5 May 1852, he told of seeing "Paroquetes" near present Kamatia, Red River County. The birds, he wrote, "are very numerous -- they are beautiful -- We had a glorious little fish-fry -- on the first of May on Pine creek, about six miles from here -- We caught seventy odd perch & other little fish -- & enjoyed ourselves a good deal in cleaning & cooking them. There were seven of us in all -- no ladies of course -- we stayed all day -- the Paroquetes were making their harsh noises in the trees above us." This report from the Red River Valley has every indication of being trustworthy.

If Chris Meadows is to be credited, Parakeets were seen passing over Montague County "between 1874 and 1877." E. C. Davis also reported to Oberholser "many seen in woods, ca. 1888, and wounded bird confined in cage" 22 October 1891 at Paris, Lamar County (both Red River Valley) (Oberholser 1974: 430).

In addition to a few lost or doubtful specimens and exclusive of two Texas specimens (otherwise undocumented) cited in my account (1964:72), two specimens probably emanating from the French naturalist Auguste Trécul are pertinent. The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia contains in its Rivoli Collection (their no. 24274) an immature female Parakeet that is labeled simply "Texas". I suspect that the companion to it is in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris (they had two specimens given them in 1849; one had unaccountably disappeared by around 1867; their current specimen is no. 1849-242). The sex of the Paris specimen is unknown but it is probably newly molted (wing bend green but head nearly all yellow). What is firm is that this specimen was collected in 1849 by Trécul, whose wanderings have finally been clarified; first by McKelvey (1955: 1048-1055) and even more securely by Jovet and Willmann (1957). Trécul arrived by sea at Galveston on 10 October 1849 but he appears to

have spent most of the rest of that month in the vicinity of Port Lavaca, Matagorda Bay, and Guadalupe River. He ascended the Guadalupe and was at Seguin and New Braunfels by about 1 November. By the end of November, he had gone to San Antonio and then to points westward; he remained the rest of the winter definitely to the southwestward of Parakeet range (McKelvey 1955: frontispiece map; Jovet and Willmann 1957: 92 + map opposite page 88). He did return briefly to coastal Texas in February 1850 (via New Braunfels, Bastrop and Quintana), before his departure for France; but it appears safe to assign any Texas Parakeet specimen(s) with 1849 date to October and to the Port Lavaca-Guadalupe region. If this reconstruction is correct, with one specimen definitely an immature and the other showings signs of having recently assumed adult plumage, it strengthens my conviction that the Carolina Parakeet, contrary to textbook references, had a midsummer to autumnal breeding season.

A final alleged Texas specimen is housed in the U.S. National Museum (their no. 175801). Museum records indicate vaguely that it was brought alive from Texas -- and that is laid three eggs in captivity before dying in February 1879. No evidence confirming its Texas origin has been found; since it presumably had been alive in custody of Robert Ridgway, it may be thought strange that he did not use it in documenting the species in Texas in his minutely detailed account (1916).

One more Texas claim to the Parakeet has come to my attention. Although perhaps more myth than reality, it demonstrates the hold of the species upon the pioneer imagination. Gregory Perino has described to me a handsome painting by George Catlin in the Gilcrease Institute in Tulsa. It is said to show Catlin shooting deer and Parakeets in Texas, and depicts a riverine scene with Parakeets swarming into a tree. I am unable to date or otherwise document this painting, for Catlin left little literary information on his Texas coastal visits; it may be contemporaneous with another Catlin painting, "Elks and buffaloes on the Texas prairie along the Brazos River" (1834) (Haberly, 1948: 113).

OKLAHOMA

Beyond a few clarifications, little need be added to my previous account (1964: 72-81). The general status of the species has recently been competently reviewed by Sutton (1967: 238-239). A more conservative count of specimens collected by D. H. Talbot in 1882 (my page 76) leads me to think the total is 28*, and my reference to a possible Indian fan made of Parakeet feathers (page 80) was incorrect -- they are probably features from exotic trade parrots (letter from G. M. Sutton).

While it concerns the Parakeet rather marginally, a thorough study of S. W. Woodhouse's ornithological work in Oklahoma provides excellent background for historical accounts (Tomer 1974). In that important work, it is made clear that Woodhouse did see Parakeets in Oklahoma. Furthermore, the place and date are somewhat clarified over what I was able to deduce. It was "along the Arkansas and Cimarron rivers in what is now western Tulsa, southern Osage, southeastern Pawnee and northwestern Creek counties"; and the date was September or October 1849 (*ibid.*, page 34). I ought (my page 72), incidentally, to have said that Woodhouse was in Oklahoma in 1850 with Woodruff (not Sitgreaves) (Tomer, letter 1976). I still have no proof that specimens of the Parakeet were actually collected and preserved by Woodhouse.

My statement (page 76) that one of Goss's specimens from Oklahoma had disappeared can now be amended. Orville W. Rice (letters 1964, 1972) discovered the missing male specimen at Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, where it was later lost in a tornado. The time of their capture was evidently several months before the date of 21 October 1875, which appears to be date of preparation as specimens -- a time, notably, when they were in molt, as Goss's records indicate (letter from R. L. Strickland, 1972).

MISSOURI

Several minor items on the Parakeet in Missouri supplement my earlier report (McKinley 1960). It seems best to arrange these chronologically, not by regions, as was done originally.

William Clark's journal (1964: 62) documents his sighting of "Parrot queets" at the mouth of the Blue River in June 1804, as has been recounted in reports of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

At what must have been the extreme southeastern corner of Missouri, or just south of it, S. P. Hildreth (1842: 131) noted Parakeets on the Mississippi in April 1805.

Supplementing various observations recorded by journalists associated with the Long expedition (McKinley 1960: 278), another member, presumably surgeon John Gale (1969: 25), recorded seeing numerous "Parroquets" on 11 October 1818, just below the mouth of the "Blue Water River" (Blue River), which enters the Missouri at what is now Independence. At that point, the prairies "approach the river on both sides," indicating a narrow ribbon of river-bottom forest. That was his only reference to Parakeets the entire distance across the state from St. Louis.

W. H. Blane (1824: 144) appears to have seen Parakeets near St. Louis, in the winter of 1822.

C. J. Latrobe, a participant in the Washington Irving grand tour, pointedly noted that the first Parakeets he had seen on the route riding westward from St. Louis in September 1832 were on the approaches to Columbia, Boone County: "As we proceeded, we began to observe many things which were new to us, such as the large flights of parroquets, frequent salt springs, and a sensible change in the productions of the forest. Among these were the papaw tree, with its heavy luscious fruit, was the greatest curiosity" (1835, 1: 10). The date, if we follow the Count de Pourtales, was 19 September (1968: 30, 31) -- again, we have it from the latter that that was their first sighting of them, and his description is convincing: "Their body is bright green, their head is golden yellow, and their eyes and beak are encircled with orange."

Another testimony to the winter-hardiness of the species was reported by Louis Koch; in commenting on the Parakeet in the St. Louis area, Koch accounted it "abundant . . . and resident here, although the thermometer not seldom registers 20 below. It lives in companies of 8 to 12" (translated by Walter N. Koelz). Koch's exact whereabouts are not clear from this manuscript account but his travel account (1841) indicates a protracted hunting trip from St. Louis to the area around Washington, Franklin County, probably the source, too, of his adult male specimen taken "100 English miles" up-river from St. Louis on the Missouri in the winter of 1834-35 (Stresemann 1954; Zool. Mus. Univ. Berlin No. 10173).

P. R. Hoy (1865: 433) claimed to have killed a Parakeet in the bottomland forest near Boonville, Cooper County, 21 April 1854; but, if so, the specimen seems not to have survived.

Otto Widmann (1907: 115), I failed to note in my original account, had probably reliable 'last' sightings of Parakeets in Warren County for November 1867 and for Franklin County for 1865. Among Widmann's unpublished papers (which I examined through the courtesy of James F. Comfort and the Audubon Society of Missouri), there is a manuscript note from Mrs. Margaret Musick that Widmann unintentionally left out of his 1907 book. Mrs. Musick, a reliable ornithologist, reported in 1884 (doubtless to the U.S. Biological Survey, as a contribution to its migration study that was then being compiled by W. W. Cooke) that she saw large flocks of Parakeets 25 miles southeast of Mt. Carmel, in a hilly district of Montgomery County, "some years since." That this may be a quite valid record is further suggested by an adults male specimen in the Field Museum of Natural History (their no. 124031) that is said to be from the "State of Missouri June 1881."

The Remsburg and Bush claims of sightings in 1904 and 1912 for the Kansas City region (McKinley 1960: 281) are, exasperatingly, almost validated. A specimen without data, in the bird collection of Benedictine College, Atchinson, Kansas, exists, having allegedly been taken in Platte County, 'around the turn of the century,' according to the Rev. Eugene W. Dehner (letters, 1960, 1973).

COLORADO

After gradually falling into disrepute as a Colorado species (McKinley 1964: 86-87), the Parakeet has been somewhat restored to favor (Bailey and Niedrach 1965:403). For my part, I am somewhat uncertain. The Pike "parakeet," as I explained in painful detail, is quite unacceptable. I am inclined to place the remaining reports of Colorado Parakeets of E. L. Berthoud in the same category, although for a different reason. No one seems to doubt Berthoud's personal integrity nor his broad interest in natural history observation (Ewan 1950: 162-163; Bailey and

Niedrach 1965). My own guess is that Berthoud, because of faulty eyesight or just plain greenhornness, confused some other species with Parakeets.

NORTH DAKOTA

The skimpiness of documentation on the Parakeet in North Dakota (McKinley 1965: 216-217) must be reemphasized. The Thwaites 1906 version of the Prince of Wied's alleged record for Fort Union is made doubly suspect from my examination of the German edition of Prince Max's *Travels* (1839-1841, 2:654-657). The mysterious list of Fort Union birds in the form quoted by Thwaites seems to appear only in the somewhat rewritten English version. The original list, in a "Bird calendar for the region of the Mandan Village in the winter of 1833 and 1834," evidently was both ineptly summarized and added to, for neither parrot nor hummingbird is mentioned in the original. After all, one must remember that Prince Max himself (1857: 104) later wrote of Parakeets that "On the upper Missouri River they occur no more and they do not occur further west, as far as we know, than to l'Eau qui court [Niobrara River, northern Nebraska] and to Ponka Creek [just to the north of the Niobrara]."

NEBRASKA

There is little to add to my previous account (1965: 217-221), it being but an elaboration of what Prof. Swenk had published in 1934. One recently published allusion supplements evidence stemming from Stephen H. Long's western expeditions. Surgeon John Gale (1969: 72) remarked on 22 September 1819 that his party encountered "some grouse ducks and paraquets" about four miles below the mouth of Weeping Water Creek in Otoe County. This is perhaps not surprising, since Long's party saw them during severely cold weather the following winter at "Engineer Cantonment," just to the northward in what is now southeastern Washington County, as I have previously recounted.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I am grateful for brief periods of support from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund (American Museum of Natural History) and two summer fellowships from the Research Foundation of the State University of New York. Many people, over the years, have patiently answered my questions and done odd jobs of checking specimens and records at the various museums mentioned in my present account. I owe particular thanks to them.

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1977 CHRISTMAS COUNT

Ninety-eight species (one less than last year) were reported in the 1977 Christmas Count, and three (one more than last year) were reported as present during the count period but not recorded on the count itself. The count might have been higher if any of the birds reported just as "species" had been identified as ones not reported. Species reported this year but not last year are: American Bittern*, Black Duck*, Gadwall, Red-breasted Merganser, Swainson's Hawk, Osprey, Greater Prairie Chicken, Herring Gull; Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds; Savannah* and Field Sparrows; and Snow Bunting. Those reported last year but not this year are: Blue-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Sandhill Crane, Snowy Owl, Mountain Chickadee, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet*, Bohemian Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler; and Clay-colored, Fox, and Lincoln's Sparrows. Species marked with an asterisk were reported only from DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, which is a new location this year, or from Grand Island, which did not report this year.

The individual count is way up this year primarily because of the large Red-winged Blackbird count at North Platte, and also because of the Mallard count at DeSoto NWR. Compared to those changes others are small, but Starlings went up about 20,000 and Tree Sparrows up about 5,000 at Lincoln, and DeSoto reported about 2,000 Horned Larks and 1,000 Lapland Longspurs.

The columns are arranged in an approximate west (left) to east (right) order, with the northernmost location of those of about equal longitude given first. The symbol "H" is used to indicate a species present during the count period but not recorded on the count day.

Crawford, 27 December. A 15-mile diameter circle with its center in the southeast corner of Crawford, to include parts of White River valley and the pine ridge at Fort Robinson State Park, Cochran State Wayside Area, Ponderosa Wildlife Management Area, and Crow Butte; riparian woodland 38%, open prairie 19%, coniferous woodland 17%, cropland 13%, and residential 13%. 6 A.M. to 5 P.M.; partly cloudy all day; 10° to 34° F; wind variable, 0-5 mph; little snow cover; fresh water partly open; wild food crop poor. Six observers in 4 parties; total party-hours 42 (14 on foot, 28 by car); total party-miles, 335 (18 on foot, 317 by car). Doris Gates, reporter

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, 22 December. A 15-mile diameter circle, centered on Refuge headquarters building, west to Blair, and east to Missouri Valley, Iowa, including all of DeSoto Refuge, Wilson Island, and Fort Calhoun; cultivated fields 50%, woodland 35%, streams, rivers and lakes 10%, residential 5%. 7 A.M. to 5 P.M.; morning partly cloudy, afternoon overcast; 16° to 38° F; wind NW, 5-10 mph; no snow cover; fresh water partly open; wild food crop good. Seventeen observers in 6 parties; total party-hours 42 (14 on foot, 28 by car); total party-miles 230 (30 on foot, 200 by car). K. C. Batchelder, Tim Blount, Tanya Bray, Hal Chase, Thomas Hoffman, George Gage, Ruth Gochenour, Ruth Green, Janet Greer, Ed McCrea (reporter), Evie McCrea, Marion Meier, Steve Moorman, Cathy Nelson, Margaret Perry, Ross Silcock, Barb Wilson. The Savanna Sparrows were seen at a distance of about 20 feet, sitting beside a female Red-wing; the dark phase Swainson's Hawk was seen at a distance of about 200 yards; both observations in good light, but overcast, by Meier, Nelson, Batchelder, and Bray. The Bittern was seen by the Refuge Manager, George Gage, late in the afternoon. It flew over the vehicle at about 30 yards and perched in a tree about 150 yards away. It (or a similar bird) was seen two additional times by Mr. Gage after count week.

Hastings, 17 December. A 15-mile diameter circle with its center south of town, 1.5 miles south of Highway 6 and .5 miles east of Highway 281, which includes the city parks, Parkview Cemetery, Crystal Lake Recreation Grounds, fields and pastures, woodlands along the Little Blue River, and lagoons west of Glenvil. Time not given; partly cloudy; 36° to 40° F; wind 25-40 mph; no snow cover; fresh water partly open. Eleven observers, 9 in 4 parties, 2 at feeders; total party-hours 17 (5.25 on foot, 11.75 by car); total party-miles 171 (10.5 on foot, 160.5 by car). Mrs. A. A. Alberts, Jim Fobben, Mrs. Wm. Helzer, Mrs. Clifford Kennedy, Mrs. Robert Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Ritchey, Mrs. R. V. Shutt, Carl Throckmorton, Mitch Weiss, Bernice Welch (reporter).

Nebraska Bird Review

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	Craw- ford	Scotts- bluff	North Platte	Kear- ney	Hast- ings	Lin- coln	DeSoto NWR	Omaha	Total
Great Blue Heron	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	3
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Canada Goose	-	52	376	150	-	11	271	2	862
White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Snow Goose	-	-	4	-	-	-	550	106	660
Mallard	-	1,086	500	-	1	69	82,000	58	83,714
Black Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	7
Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	2	13	-	15
Green-winged Teal	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
American Wigeon	-	-	6	-	-	-	4	-	10
Wood Duck	-	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	H
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	53	65
Duck sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	18
Common Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	116	173
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	3
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Accipiter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	1	2	2	5	1	43	23	35	112
Swainson's Hawk	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	4
Rough-legged Hawk	4	4	7	2	1	8	3	8	37
Buteo sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Golden Eagle	5	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	8
Bald Eagle	-	2	11	-	-	-	23	14	50
Marsh Hawk	H	2	1	2	1	6	2	8	22
Osprey	-	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	H
Prairie Falcon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Merlin	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
American Kestrel	2	10	26	2	1	8	8	18	75
Greater Prairie Chicken	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
Bobwhite	-	H	-	30	-	59	78	31	198
Ring-necked Pheasant	15	2	1	4	1	57	41	12	133
Turkey	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	H
Killdeer	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Common Snipe	1	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	675	-	-	-	-	-	675
Rock Dove	42	134	65	2	133	145	139	126	786
Mourning Dove	-	-	-	-	40	98	1	34	173
Screech Owl	7	-	-	-	-	32	4	8	51
Great Horned Owl	9	-	3	2	1	15	2	5	37

	Craw- ford	Scotts- bluff	North Platte	Kear- ney	Hast- ings	Lin- coln	DeSoto NWR	Omaha	Total
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	6
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	39	2	-	41
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	1	8
Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Owl sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Belted Kingfisher	-	2	1	1	4	-	3	4	15
Common Flicker	21	36	23	28	2	54	95	213	472
Yellow-shafted						(45)	(90)	(210)	(345)
Red-shafted						(7)	(5)	(3)	(15)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	-	-	-	1	5	27	28	56	117
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	6	8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	H	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Hairy Woodpecker	27	2	1	-	5	12	9	22	78
Downy Woodpecker	29	10	3	3	12	61	105	191	414
Horned Lark	20	169	510	-	121	2	1,938	3	2,763
Blue Jay	-	25	10	3	4	330	68	80	520
Black-billed Magpie	98	43	6	7	2	-	-	-	156
Common Crow	189	8	4	330	9	364	45	220	1,169
Pinon Jay	170	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	175
Black-capped Chickadee	162	31	11	15	66	324	234	333	1,176
Tufted Titmouse	-	-	-	-	-	5	11	27	43
White-breasted Nuthatch	10	-	2	-	3	57	22	73	167
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	-	2	3	3	8	-	1	18
Pygmy Nuthatch	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Brown Creeper	2	-	-	4	1	10	3	4	24
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
American Robin	25	41	322	360	-	33	579	74	1,434
Eastern Bluebird	1	-	-	4	-	3	28	4	40
Mountain Bluebird	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	20
Townsend's Solitaire	6	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	12
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	2	7
Cedar Waxwing	-	8	12	15	-	12	-	5	52
Northern Shrike	6	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	12
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Starling	191	1,236	1,530	1,650	620	21,016	623	1,474	28,340
House Sparrow	113	1,132	427	112	276	3,677	1,367	1,619	8,723
Western Meadowlark	-	22	-	97	-	12	-	-	131
Meadowlark sp.	-	-	19	-	14	214	14	55	316
Red-winged Blackbird	-	52	500,000	-	20	899	739	576	502,286
Rusty Blackbird	1	-	-	-	3	88	-	11	103
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	12	3	-	15

	Craw- ford	Scotts- bluff	North Platte	Kear- ney	Hast- ings	Lin- coln	DeSoto NWR	Omaha	Total
Blackbird sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	702	702
Common Grackle	-	-	1	-	-	4	1	812	818
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	156	2	-	158
Cardinal	-	-	3	5	11	120	64	177	380
Evening Grosbeak	126	38	-	-	-	-	-	9	173
Purple Finch	4	-	-	-	-	45	-	33	82
House Finch	H	101	12	-	-	-	-	-	113
Common Redpoll	303	-	-	-	-	4	17	2	326
Pine Siskin	245	91	67	12	25	110	20	153	723
American Goldfinch	119	23	294	1	8	243	492	121	1,301
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	10
Rufous-sided Towhee	-	H	-	-	2	2	4	-	8
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	6
Dark-eyed Junco	221	85	48	20	53	479	571	692	2,169
White-winged	(39)	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	(40)
Slate-colored	(30)	(35)	-	-	(53)	(469)	(570)	(688)	(1,845)
Oregon	(152)	(50)	-	-	-	(9)	(1)	(4)	(216)
Gray-headed Junco	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tree Sparrow	349	77	2	4	5	5,554	704	246	6,941
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	-	20	4	-	-	24
Harris' Sparrow	4	9	2	30	48	681	90	36	900
White-crowned Sparrow	-	17	-	-	-	22	3	-	42
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	11	12	3	26
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	4
Song Sparrow	13	-	-	-	2	31	2	25	73
Lapland Longspur	30	-	-	-	8	4	1,082	1	1,125
Snow Bunting	H	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Species Reported	41	41	44	33	41	65	62	60	98
Additional Races Reported	2	1	-	-	-	3	2	2	3
Present but not seen	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Total Individuals	2,584	4,594	505,023	2,907	1,541	35,320	92,229	8,738	652,936

Kearney, 30 December. A 15-mile diameter circle centered at the bridge over the Platte River south of Kearney, including Harmon Park, Kearney Cemetery, Cottonmill Lake, Odessa bridge, Fort Kearney State Park, Lynch's woods, Kearney County Recreation Area, and connecting streets and roads; parks and cemeteries 40%, river bottomlands 40%, roadsides 20%. 8 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. and 1:30 P.M. to 5 P.M.; partly cloudy to cloudy; 23° to 37°F; wind SW 5-10 mph or more; some snow in sheltered areas; river about 20% open. Eleven observers in 1 party; total party-miles 67 (4 on foot, 63 by car). John C.W. (reporter) and Margaret Bliese, George W. and Marion Brown, Glen Haselbarth, Donald and Lola Held, Eileen and Warren Paine, and Jack and Laraine Unbelhaum. They probably could have added another 2,500 to 3,000 Starlings and about 1,500 or more Robins if they had worked certain portions of Kearney. Both species were feeding on the fruits of the hackberry trees, which bore abundantly this year. This is the first time Starlings have wintered in Kearney in such numbers, but Robins have done so in other good

hackberry years. They saw, unfortunately about 3 miles outside of the count area, at least 1,000 Canadian Geese, 100 Mallards, and a Bald Eagle.

Lincoln, 18 December. A 15-mile diameter circle centered on South Coddington and West A Street, to include Pioneers Park, about 8 miles of Wilderness Park, Yankee Lake and Conestoga Lake areas, eastern half of Pawnee Lake, Lagoon Park, and Wyuka Cemetery; deciduous woods 38%, weedy draws 20%, harvested corn and milo fields 20%, coniferous woods 10%, lakes and streams 10%, mixed woods and cemeteries 2%. 3:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M.; morning clear, afternoon mostly cloudy; 22° to 41° F; wind W to NW 3-14 mph; no snow cover; running water open, lakes mostly frozen; wild food crop fair. Twenty-seven observers, 26 in 12 parties, 1 at feeders; total party-hours 91 (65 on foot, 25.5 by car, .5 by bicycle), plus 5 at feeders; total party miles 4,465 (63 on foot, 382 by car, 1.5 by bicycle). Deon Bahr, Cindy and David Cochrane, Daryl and Margaret Giblin, Everett and Mildren Gross; David Ellen, and Ralph (reporter) Harrington; Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hein, Craig Herzinger, Morelle Herzinger, Norma Johnson, Kenny Kirschenmann, Karl Maslowski, Pete Maslowski, Bob Morley, Lee Morris, Rosalind Morris, Ralph Neild, John and Mabel Ott, Hazel Scheiber, Frances Taylor, and Joe Young. Better area coverage, more participants, more open water and a delightfully mild day were instrumental in recording a record number of species for this count. Migration of blackbird Screech and Saw-whet Owls, were recorded as a result of tapes played by Daryl Giblin several hours before dawn in the wooded area around Yankee Lake. Giblin also saw the White-winged Junco well enough to note the white wing-bars.

North Platte, 17 December. 15-mile diameter circle, centered on the Court House, 8 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.; partly cloudy; 35° to 43° F; wind NW at 10-30 mph; no snow cover. Eleven observers in 5 parties all day; 1 observer until 2 P.M. Harold and Marie Cunningham, Sidney Lewis, Beryl Main, L. A. McEvoy, Edith McIntosh, Marian Miller, Margaret Morton, Ella Neilsen, Carol Somerhalder, Howard and Wilma (reporter) Wyman. The weather was not as good as last year, when fewer participants spotted more species. This is the second winter the lone (or a lone) Grackle has been around the Wyman's. On the Red-wings Margaret Morton reported; Edith McIntosh and I were coming back over the east river bridge about dusk. There are marshes and trees — a good expanse of river territory. The line of birds coming in was perhaps 100 feet wide, possibly 10 to 20 feet deep (with their up and down motion) and extended as far as we could see — possibly a mile. Feed yards and good night-time roosting territory has certainly led to a terrific increase in numbers. It is possible that Starlings were included, but the time of day didn't fit in as well for them, nor did the flight pattern. Cowbirds we don't seem to see in the winter; Brewer's are here but we didn't or couldn't distinguish them.

Omaha, 17 December. A 15-mile diameter circle centered at Offut Base Lake, to include Fontenelle Forest, Lake Manawa (Iowa) State Park, Plattsmouth Waterfowl Refuge, and portions of the Platte & Missouri Rivers. Woodlands 53%, cultivated fields 25%, grassy fields and meadows 6%, parks and cemeteries 1.75%, residential 1%, dump .25%, roadside weedy ditches 6%, rivers and lakes 7%. 4:45 A.M. to 4:45 P.M.; overcast all day, intermittent snow and rain in the morning, intermittent rain in afternoon; 33° to 37° F; wind NW 15-20 mph; no snow cover; fresh water partly open; wild food crop good. Thirty-five observers in 11 parties; total party-hours 81 (39.5 on foot, 41.5 by car), total party-miles 514.5 (44 on foot, 470.5 by car), Rose Anderson, Tim Blount, Tanya Bray, Missy Burchard, Patty Burchard, Hal Chase, Marjorie Clayson, Evelyn Conrad, James Glather, Marjorie Graf, Ruth Green, Janet Greer, Mary Harberg, Carr Heaney, Mike Heaney, Thomas Hoffman, Clyde and Emma Johnson, Gladys Johnson, Eunice Kawamoto, Jim and Sandy Kovanda, Ed and Evelyn McCrea, Marian Meier, Alan NaPier, Cathy Nelson, Inez Nuland, Babs and Loren Padelford, Margaret Perry, Mary Tremaine, Melba Wigg (reporter), Barb Wilson, Gertrude Wood. This was the first time a Great Blue Heron has been recorded on a count.

Scottsbluff, 17 December. A 15-mile diameter circle centered on the bridge across the North Platte River at South Broadway, to include Scottsbluff and Gering. 7:15 A.M. to 4:45 P.M.;

mostly clear; 25° to 46°F; wind NW 26-39 mph. Twelve observers, 10 in 4 parties, 2 at feeders; total party-hours 35 (5 on foot, 30 by car), plus 16 at feeders; total party-miles 280 (24 on foot, 256 by car). Mrs. Harry Banghart, Lydia Bolz, Mrs. J. J. Brashear, Mrs. David Hughson, Mrs. Lee Kenitz, Mrs. E. G. Lutton, Mrs. Wallace Marking, Mrs. Louis Nerud, Mr. and Mrs. (reporter) Roy Witschy, Mr. and Mrs. C. Fred Zeillenmaker.

Norfolk made a practice count 14 January 1978, looking forward to an official count this coming winter, but information on it was received too late to be included in the tabulation. The details are: A 15-mile diameter circle centered at the intersection of Highways 81 and 35. 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.; 5° F and light snow flurries in the morning, 18° high in the afternoon; wind NE; 5 inches snow cover, water frozen, wild food crop fair. Sixteen people in 4 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party and feeder hours, 81.25 (22 walking, 39.25 driving, 20 at feeders). Party miles unknown. Ed Brogie, Mark Brogie, Jane Dunlap, Jan and Tom (reporter) Gannon, Dale Hochstein, Virginia Kinkle, Frances and Harvey Kirch, John and Willetta Lueshen, Esther and Herbert Olson, Ruan Pohlman, Scott Pohlman, Bruce and Clara Reeves, Mary Rowlett, Robert Rowlett, Bev Schroeder, Jeanne Smith, Joan Tannehill, Phyllis Walker. 6 Red-tailed and 5 Rough-legged Hawks; 9 American Kestrels, 113 Bobwhites, 16 Ring-necked Pheasants, 322 Rock Doves; 1 Great Horned and 7 Long-eared Owls; 8 Common Flickers; 13 Hairy and 36 Downy Woodpeckers, 339 Horned Larks, 13 Blue Jays, 8 Black-billed Magpies, 57 Common Crows, 125 Black-capped Chickadees, 15 White-breasted Nuthatches, 956 Starlings, 2,154 House Sparrows, 5 Western Meadowlarks, 10 Red-winged Blackbirds, 2 Common Grackles, 11 Cardinals, 77 Common Redpolls, 110 American Goldfinches, 258 Dark-eyed Juncoes; 798 Tree and 152 Harris' Sparrows. 28 species, 5,626 individuals. This addition caused no change in the number of species reported for the state as a whole.

1977 NEBRASKA NESTING SURVEY

Compiled by Dr. Esther V. Bennett

Data on the 1977 nesting season in Nebraska were received from 9 observers, reporting on 57 species from 15 counties. Counties in the tabulation are listed in a west to east order, with the northernmost of approximately equal locations given first. Numbers represent Nest-Record Cards. Letters are from NOU Nesting Report forms: Y represents young observed; F represents carrying food; M represents carrying nesting material; and N represents nests observed for which no Nest-Record Card was submitted. Forty-one species were reported on 130 North American Nest-Record Cards. The counties, with the column numbers on the tabulation shown in parentheses, and the contributors are: Banner (3) Ross A. Lock; Cherry (7) Ross A. Lock; Cheyenne (6) Ross A. Lock; Dawes (4) Ross A. Lock; Dawson (9) C. E. Johnson, Ross A. Lock; Douglas (14) R. G. Cortelyou, C. E. Johnson, Ross A. Lock, B. J. Rose; Holt (11) C. E. Johnson, Ross A. Lock; Lancaster (13) Norma G. Johnson, Ross A. Lock; Lincoln (8) Bernadine Cox, Ross A. Lock; Morrill (5) Ross A. Lock; Rock (10) Ross A. Lock; Sarpy (15) R. G. Cortelyou, Ruth C. Green, C. E. Johnson; Scotts Bluff (2) Alice M. Kenitz, Ross A. Lock; Sioux (1) Ross A. Lock; York (12) Lee Morris.

The following 16 Nebraska species which were reported in 1977 were not reported in the 1976 Nebraska Nesting Survey (NBR 45:3): Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, American Coot, Piping Plover, Least Tern, Screech Owl, Long-eared Owl, Horned Lark, Brown Creeper, Mockingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Great-tailed Grackle, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Lark Bunting, and Grasshopper Sparrow.

Twenty-six species reported in the 1976 survey were not reported in 1977: Night Heron sp., Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Ferruginous Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Rough-winged Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Gray Catbird, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Warbling Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Field Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total Cards
	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Banner	Dawes	Morrill	Cheyenne	Cherry	Lincoln	Dawson	Rock	Holt	York	Lancaster	Douglas	Sarpy	
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Great Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Mallard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-
Red-tailed Hawk	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Swainson's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	1	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Prairie Falcon	2	1	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
American Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	1	Y	-	1
American Coot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,Y	-	1
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Killdeer	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	Y	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	6
Upland Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Least Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Mourning Dove	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	8	1	-	14
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Screech Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Great Horned Owl	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Common Flicker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	F	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	F	-	-	-	-	3	Y	Y	3
Downy Woodpecker	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Eastern Kingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	1	5	1	-	7
Western Kingbird	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	N,Y	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Western Wood Pewee	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Barn Swallow	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	F,Y	1	-	-	-	-	-	Y	3
Cliff Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	N,Y	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Purple Martin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	F,Y	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Black-billed Magpie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Brown Creeper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-
House Wren	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	1	-	4	-	Y	6

	Sioux	Scotts Bluff	Banner	Dawes	Morrill	Cheyenne	Cherry	Lincoln	Dawson	Rock	Holt	York	Lancaster	Douglas	Sarpy	Total Cards
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Mockingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	F	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
American Robin	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	5	2,N	Y	11
Starling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	F, Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
House Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
Meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N, Y	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Orchard Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	F	-
Northern Oriole	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	F	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	4
Common Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	2	-	Y	2
Great-tailed Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Cardinal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	F	1
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M, F	-	-
American Goldfinch	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rufous-sided Towhee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-
Lark Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Nest Cards																
Individuals	2	24	6	7	1	1	2	1	4	3	3	6	59	8	3	130
Species	1	13	3	2	1	1	2	1	4	2	3	3	22	6	3	41
No Nest Cards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	7	10	16
Total Species	1	13	3	2	1	1	2	29	4	2	3	3	22	13	13	57

Persons contributing over 15 Nest-Record Cards were Norma G. Johnson (57), Alice M. Kenitz (21), and Ross A. Lock (30).

Anyone who sees evidence of nesting - young, or adult birds carrying nesting material, food, or fecal sacs - can submit the information without the use of a special form, although it will be appreciated if the information is in such form that it can be easily separated by species and county. This information will be included in the Nebraska Nesting Survey by letters than by numbers.

Anyone who has found, or expects to find, an active nest is invited to write in for North American Nest-Record Cards to use in reporting the nest (a separate card for each nest except for colonial nesting species, which require a separate card for each visit).

Cards, instructions sheets, and Laboratory of Ornithology Nest Survey Newsletters may be obtained from Dr. Esther V. Bennett, 1641 Devoe Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506. Completed cards should be returned to Dr. Bennett by 1 October 1978 to be included in the

annual report. If persons wish to send information after that date it will be appreciated and sent to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, but it will not be possible to include it in the state survey.

*Assistant Superintendent
Athletics, Outdoor Recreation/Education Lincoln
Parks and Recreation Department, Lincoln*

After the above was in type *American Birds* (31:1155) reported "juvenile-plumaged Upland Sandpipers in Lancaster County," June-July 1977.

A SECOND GREAT GRAY OWL RECORD FROM NEBRASKA, AND OTHER RECENT OWL RECORDS

A Great Gray Owl was shot and killed, 1 January 1978, in Dixon County, 2 miles north and 2 miles east of Dixon. Fortunately, the shooting incident was observed by a deputy sheriff, who apprehended the man and preserved the specimen. The bird will be mounted by the Game and Parks Commission and will be utilized for scientific and educational purposes. The Revised Checklist of Nebraska Birds lists the occurrence of the Great Gray Owl as accidental on the basis of a specimen taken in Omaha in 1893. No other reports of the Great Gray Owl in Nebraska are known to this writer.

Reports on other species of owls which seemed somewhat unusual include:

BARRED OWL: Three reports: (1) two nestlings found at an abandoned nest in Dunbar, Otoe County, 16 May 1977; (2) one bird observed 3 miles east of the Pleasant Dale Interchange on Interstate 80, Lancaster County, 10 October 1977, by Joe Hyland, wildlife biologist with the Game and Parks Commission, and (3) one bird found dead on Highway 73, south of Auburn, Nemaha County, 19 January 1978 (specimen preserved by the Game and Parks Commission).

SHORT-EARED OWL: Two reports: (1) one bird with a broken wing found at Yankee Hill State Special Use Area, east of Denton, Lancaster County, 22 December 1977 (this bird was turned over to the Wachiska Audubon Chapter Raptor Rehabilitation Center in Lincoln; and (2) eight birds observed at Branched Oak Lake, north of Malcom, Lancaster County, 11 January 1978, by Mike Cox a licensed falconer.

BARN OWL: A nest with six young was found in a grain bin, approximately 6 miles north and 3.5 miles east of Lincoln, Lancaster County, 24 June 1977. The eggs were laid on top of a pile of grain. Before the grain was removed from the bin the young were moved to a nearby garage attic by personnel from the Raptor Rehabilitation Center at Lincoln. Within a day the parents had found the young. The landowners believe that five of the young fledged successfully.

LONG-EARED OWL: One bird was found 4 miles south of Seneca, Thomas County, on 17 February 1978. A North Platte resident picked the bird up alive, but with an injured wing. It was placed with the Raptor Rehabilitation Center in Lincoln for treatment.

— *Ross A. Lock, Non-Game Specialist*
— *Nebraska Game and Parks Commission*

NOTES

BROWN PELICAN. I saw some Brown Pelicans on the Middle Loup River at a park near Milburn. This was on 28 May 1977.

— *Eva Mae Kieborz, Merna*

CATTLE EGRET. On 30 May 1977 my sister and I saw a Cattle Egret along the edge of our farm pond, near the cattle. When it saw us it flew into a field near our house and stayed there during the afternoon along a terrace which at that time was filled with water.

— *Nancy Schaffert, Curtis*

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. Jim and Sandy Kovanda had a Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Plattsmouth on 13 May 1977.

— *Loren Padelford, Bellevue*

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE. On 21 December 1977 I noticed a Goldeneye in with a small group of ducks on Lake Ogallala. I studied it carefully and concluded that it was a Barrow's because of the large white crescent in front of the eye, and also because its back was less intensely marked with white than is usual for the Common. Both of these characteristics were noticed independently by my father, who was along on the trip.

— *Ken Sejkora, Grant*

COPPER'S HAWK AT INDIAN CAVE STATE PARK. In early April 1977 we saw a female Cooper's Hawk near the windmill area of Indian Cave State Park. She was seen very clearly while she was flying low over the treetops in the early evening. She landed in a treetop about 20 feet up for a brief moment before she saw us watching her from a distance of about 50 to 60 feet. We later found her perched in a very thick patch of small saplings to the south of the windmill area, between the two major hiking trails. She was incredibly agile at removing herself from this thicket in which I traveled nearly on hands and knees due to its density of low growth.

— *Michael F. O'Connor, Omaha*

GOLDEN EAGLES. About the middle of October, 1977. I saw two immature Golden Eagles real close to here. There were very low and swinging in large circles.

— *Lee Morris, Benedict*

TURKEY. On 30 October 1977 I was driving south from McCook, and right after the road rose out of the Republican valley I saw a lone Turkey feeding in an unfenced field. I had the feeling it was a wild Turkey.

— *Gail Shickley, Eldora, Colorado*

LONG-BILLED CURLEWS. On a country road about ten miles north of Keystone, Keith County, about the first of July 1977 we saw a small group, eight or ten, of Long-billed Curlews. By their actions they were nesting, as they bombed my car. It wasn't convenient to stop.

— *Mrs. C. M. Goodall, Ogallala*

LONG-EARED OWLS. On 5 November 1977 George Gage, Manager of the De Soto National Wildlife Refuge, told me he had seen five Long-eared Owls at one time on the Nebraska side of the Refuge. I saw one near the Headquarters building.

— *Ruth Green, Bellevue*

TAILLESS WESTERN KINGBIRD. A tailless Western Kingbird returned this spring to a tree in my yard. I don't know whether it is a male or female. The pair raised a brood last year. This year I saw the tailless one for a few days. It didn't have a mate and the Robins kept chasing it from the tree. I don't know what happened to it. I was surprised it survived the fall and spring migrations.

— *Norris Alfred in the Polk Progress*

SWALLOWS. We went up to the Platte valley this past spring (1977) and turned off into one of the Wildlife areas. It was our privilege to watch dozens of Cliff Swallows at their nests at a bridge. The light was in our favor and I could clearly see the details of the birds and identify them properly. Also, I positively placed a pair of Bank Swallows south of town in the edge of Franklin

County. They perched on a dead limb imbedded in the sand along Thompson Creek. Of course, the Rough wingeds are common every summer, as are the Barns.

— *H. L. Turner, Minden*

A BELLIGERENT CROW. Norris Alfred told me that a lady living northwest of Polk had called him a couple of times to report a Crow acting very strangely, and harrassing any cars or people that came close to the farmyard by flying down and swooping over them. He asked me and my son Jim to take a look. Before we got completely to the driveway the Crow came low over my pickup, squawking loudly. We turned in and parked by the house and I then walked out to the road and here came the Crow again. It made several passes just above my head and finally lit on the crossarm of a telephone pole. Then it proceeded to jump up and down while hammering down on the wood crossarm very hard with half-opened beak, all the time uttering a terrible sound. It kept this up for a while and I just stood and watched, wondering what it would do next. It finally flew to a more distant pole but still kept up the weird noise. I looked for a nest in the immediate vicinity but didn't find one, although I am sure there must have been one not too far away. This was definitely the maddest mad Crow I have ever seen.

— *Lee Morris, Benedict*

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD. On 2 April 1977 a Mountain Bluebird was perched on a low fence on the east end of the Lilliam Annette Rowe Sanctuary near Gibbon.

— *Ruth Green, Bellevue*

NORTHERN SHRIKE. I saw two Northern Shrikes on different occasions between 23 and 25 November 1977. They were somewhat larger than the Loggerheads common in the area in the summer, and appeared to be browner and possessed definite barring on the breast and sides.

— *Ken Sejkora, Grant*

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE. We have had a Green-tailed Towhee at our feeder almost every day from about 18 February 1978 to the present (11 March). The Otts, the Harringtons, and Deon Bahr, all of Lincoln, have been down separately and all have seen it.

— *Everett and Mildred Gross, Crete*

BIRD BANDING IN CUMING COUNTY. On 14 and 15 May I banded 51 birds of 21 species at the Rudolph Herzinger farm north of Beemer. These included six of the 54 birds I banded there last year (*NBR* 44:62). The number of recaptured birds is shown in parentheses after the number of birds netted (which includes the recaptured birds). Mourning Dove 1, Common Flicker 3, Red-headed Woodpecker 2, Downy Woodpecker 2, Least Flycatcher 1, Barn Swallow 6 (2), Blue Jay 2, Black-capped Chickadee 1, House Wren 9, Brown Thrasher 3 (1), American Robin 6 (2), Swainson's Thrush 2, Warbling Vireo 1, Tennessee Warbler 1, Yellow Warbler 1, Ovenbird 2, Northern Oriole 4 (1), Brown-headed Cowbird 1, Blue Grosbeak, 1, American Goldfinch 1, and Chipping Sparrow 1.

— *Mabel Ott, Lincoln*

COVENANT CEDARS REVISITED. On 1 and 2 October 1977 Ruth Green, Bellevue, attended a meeting at Covenant Cedars Conference Grounds, which was the site of the 1976 Fall Field Day on 3 October 1976. It is interesting to compare the birds she saw this year in her spare time with those seen the year before. In the following list "a" indicates a species seen only on 1 October, "b" one seen only on 2 October, and the absence of either indicates a bird seen both days. To assist in the comparison species seen last year but not this year are listed in parentheses, and ones seen this year but not last year are marked "N". She reported 45 species, which compares with the 50 reported last year.

Pied-billed Grebe, (Double-crested Cormorant); Great Blue N, Green a N, and (Black-crowned Night) Herons; (Snow Goose), Mallard N, (Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal), Lesser Scaup b N; (Sharp-shinned), Red-tailed, and (Marsh) Hawks; (Osprey), American

Kestrel, (Bob-white), (Ringed-necked Pheasant), American Coot, Killdeer a, Greater Yellow-legs b N, Ring-billed Gull a N; Rock a and Mourning Doves; (Screech) and Great Horned a Owls; Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker; Red-bellied, Red-Headed N, (Hairy), and Downy Woodpeckers; Olive-sided Flycatcher b N, (Horned Lark), Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch N, House Wren, Gray Catbird a, Brown Thrasher a, American Robin, Eastern Bluebird b, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Starling; Orange-crowned N, (Nashville), (Yellow-rumped), and (Blackpoll) Warblers; House Sparrow; Eastern N and (Western) Meadowlarks; Red-winged Blackbird N, Common Grackle, Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee; Chipping a N, Field N, (White-crowned), Fox b N, (Lincoln's) and (Song) Sparrows.

They counted 31 Kestrels in a drive around the section in which the camp is located, and one of the Red-tails they saw was a Harlan's Hawk in perfect plumage.

SANDHILLS TRIP. Mrs. Oona Bassett reported the following 43 (possibly 44) species seen on a trip 15 July 1977 from her ranch in McPherson County through Arthur, Grant, Sheridan and Garden counties, taking with her her birding friends Bernard and Frances Weideman of Tucson, Arizona.

Eared, Western (some half-grown young), and Pied-billed Grebes; White Pelican; Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons; American Bittern, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, American Coot, Upland Sandpiper; Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs; Willet, Baird's Sandpiper, Sanderling, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope; Common (and some possible Forster's) and Black Terns; Mourning Dove, Common Nighthawk, Red-headed Woodpecker; Eastern and Western Kingbirds; Barn Swallow, Long-billed Marsh Wren, American Robin, Shrike sp., Common Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark; Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds; Brown-headed Cowbird, Lark Bunting; and Grasshopper and Lark Sparrows.

ADDED SPRING 1977 RECORDS. The September 1977 issue of *American Birds* gave some records which would change the 1977 Spring Migration Report (NBR 45:34-50): two Whooping Cranes near Gibbon, Buffalo County, 1 April and Hudsonian Godwits in Lancaster County (undated), both p. 1017; Whip-poor-wills in Saunders County 29 May and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in Sarpy County 18-27 April, both p. 1018; and the late date of 19 May for two Red Crossbills in Omaha, p. 1019. There were also two reports of Mississippi Kites in Colorado close to the Nebraska line: Bonny Reservoir (some thirty miles SSW of Haigler) 11 May to 3 June, and Ovid (some fifteen miles SSE of Chappell) 29 May, both p. 1028.

MINDEN NOTES. On 4 December 1976 I saw a hawk fly into a shelterbelt about 10 miles northwest of town, but didn't see it come out. Sometime later, from another position, I saw the bird again just before it dove into the trees again. The light was in my favor, and the size, action, color, and appearance convinced me it was an accipiter. I am very familiar with the two smaller forms, and I feel sure that this was a Goshawk. On 23 January 1977 I saw 3 Common Redpolls in town. The 1977 Spring Migration Report gave early dates for Martins and Swifts in Hastings (NBR 45:35). This reminded me that I saw what seemed to be Purple Martins at an unbelievably early date — I think about 15 to 18 March. It seems to me that the Swifts were early, too. Sprague's Pipits usually appear about 20 April, but in 1977 I heard one and then flushed a few on a balmy 9 April. I saw a Brown Creeper in town on 22 November, and found a dead one a few days later. On 22 December, in the shelterbelt northwest of town, I flushed a Barn Owl three times.

— Harold Turner, Minden

BACK IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS. The *Junction City (Kansas) Republic*, quoting from its issue of 29 March 1877: Some of our enterprising citizens have ordered an invoice of Ferrets from Harland, Wis., to clean out the rats. Now if we had some English sparrows to use up the insects, we should be happy. Topeka got a couple dozen English sparrows a year or so ago, and

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now their progeny are all over the city, eating every worm and egg of insect to be found in trees.

The *Omaha World-Herald*, quoting the *Omaha Herald* of 31 March 1877: An effort was made last winter to secure an appropriation by the Nebraska Legislature of \$10,000 to bring English sparrows to Nebraska, but the effort was unsuccessful. The *Lincoln Journal* now says: "Gov. Garber has a letter from the prominent New York citizen suggesting importation of 50,000 English sparrows from the parks of that city. He says ten years ago some of these birds were imported to that city to destroy the measuring worm pest. These worms have long since disappeared and the sparrows have become so numerous that they have become a nuisance."

BOOK REVIEW

Fifty Common Birds of Oklahoma and the Southern Great Plains. George Miksch Sutton, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma. 10 + 113 pp., 5 x 8 3/4 inches, hardbound, No index. \$7.95.

In the main part of this book the right-hand page shows a painting of the particular bird, and the left-hand page gives comments on the species, usually including some interesting experience Dr. Sutton had with this (and sometimes similar) species. In addition there is in the back a list of the common and scientific names of all species which have been recorded from Oklahoma, with those for which no specimen or satisfactory photograph is available marked. The comments are directed at Oklahoma, and the species are from Oklahoma, but to a large extent they are also applicable to Nebraska. Of the species pictured only the Roadrunner has not been recorded in Nebraska, although some of the others selected — Painted Bunting, Mississippi Kite, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, — are not at all common in Nebraska. If you like good pictures of birds and interesting short discussions of particular species this book should interest you.