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1981 Nebraska Nesting Survey

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1981 NEBRASKA NESTING SURVEY

Compiled by Dr. Esther V. Bennett

Data on the 1981 nesting season in Nebraska were received from 14 observers, reporting on 62 species from 25 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; Y represents young observed; C represents Cowbird eggs found in other nests; N represents nests observed for which no Nest Record Card was submitted; and E represents eggs or egg fragments observed.

Fifty-five species were reported on North American Nest Record Cards. The counties, with column numbers on the tabulation shown in parentheses, and the contributors were: Antelope (18) Marvyl Lockwood; Banner (3) Ross Lock, G.A. Wingfield; Box Butte (5) G.A. Wingfield; Cass (24) Jim Ducey; Dawes (4) G.A. Wingfield; Douglas (22) Tanya Bray, R.G. Cortelyou, Jim Ducey, C.E. Johnston, E.D. Johnson, Gladys Johnson; Franklin (15) Harold Turner; Frontier (13) G.A. Wingfield; Gage (21) Jim Ducey; Grant (8) Ross Lock; Hall (17) R.G. Cortelyou; Howard (16) R.G. Cortelyou; Johnson (25) Jim Ducey; Keith (9) G.A. Wingfield; Lancaster (20) Jim Ducey, Norma G. Johnson; Lincoln (12) G.A. Wingfield; McPherson (11) Oona Bassett; Morrill (6) Alice Kenitz, G.A. Wingfield; Perkins (10) G.A. Wingfield; Red Willow (14) G.A. Wingfield; Sarpy (23) R.G. Cortelyou, Jim Ducey; Saunders (19) Jim Ducey, Father Hoffman, Gladys Johnson; Scottsbluff (2) Alice Kenitz, Ross Lock; Sheridan (7) Ross Lock; Sioux (1) Ross Lock, G.A. Wingfield.

Persons contributing over 20 cards were: Jim Ducey-222, Norma G. Johnson-40, G.A. Wingfield-37, Ross Lock-28, Alice M. Kenitz-28, Gladys Johnson-23.

The following 28 Nebraska species which were reported in 1981 were not reported in the 1980 Nesting Survey (*NBR* 49:8): Mallard, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora, Killdeer, Screech Owl, Long-eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Bank Swallow, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, Wood Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

Twenty-four species reported in the 1980 survey were not reported in 1981: Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Trumpeter Swan, Blue-winged Teal, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin, American Kestrel, Gray Partridge, American Coot, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Rock Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Burrowing Owl, Common Nighthawk, Western Wood Pewee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Rock Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo and Summer Tanager.

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 rather than numbers.

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

The North American Nest Record Card Program Newsletter No. 29, Spring 1981, states: "Since May, 1980 the North American Nest Record Card Program has received almost 9900 nest-record cards from more than 639 contributors. Both the number of contributors and cards has risen significantly from the period May 1979-May 1980, and the quality of information has increased as well. While all cards submitted to the Nest Record Card Program contain some usable information, those describing nest contents for two or more visits during the course of the breeding season are those ultimately of most value. This year our contributors did an excellent job of returning nest cards both correctly completed and containing information for more than one visit.

The North American Nest Record Card Program greatly appreciates the effort and hard work of both Regional Centers and individuals, whether your contribution was large or small. We send a hearty "thank-you" to everyone who submitted cards."

--text continued on page 42

	Sioux	Scots Bluff	Banner	Laves	Box Butte	Morrill	Sheridan	Grant	Kelth	Perkins	Mohrson	Lincoln	Frontier	Red Willow	Franklin	Howard	Hall	Antelope	Saunders	Lancaster	Gage	Douglas	Saxpy	Cass	Johnson	Total	Cards
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
Mallard	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	N	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	7
Swainson's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Ferruginous Hawk	3	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Golden Eagle	4	2	4	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Prairie Falcon	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	1	1	Y	-	-	-	4
Sora	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	1	-	-	5
Killdeer	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Least Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	5
Mourning Dove	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	19	N	3	-	-	17	-	68
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Barn Owl	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	13	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Screech Owl	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	Y	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Belted Kingfisher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-
Common Flicker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Y	-	-	-	1	-	3
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Y	-	2	-	-	-	4

	Sloux	Scotts Bluff	Banner	Daves	Box Butte	Morrill	Sheridan	Grant	Kelth	Perkins	McPherson	Lincoln	Frontier	Hed Willow	Franklin	Howard	Hall	Antelope	Saunders	Lancaster	Gage	Douglas	Sarpy	Cass	Johnson	Total
Downy Woodpecker	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	1
Eastern Kingbird	-	1, Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Western Kingbird	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3, Y	4	-	-	-	6	2
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	1	1
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3, Y	-	-	N	-	-	3
Barn Swallow	-	1, Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	1, N	-	-	28	30
Blue Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2, N	-	1	-	-	-	3
Black-billed Magpie	-	1	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Black-capped Chickadee	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1, N, Y	-	1	-	-	-	3
White-breasted Nuthch.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Wren	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	-	12
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	7
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2, N	1	4	-	-	-	4
American Robin	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3, G, Y	1	2	-	-	4	10
Wood Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	1, N, Y	Y	-	-	17
Eastern Bluebird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	3	-	-	-	3
Starling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Warbling Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1, Y	-	-	-	-	-	2
House Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2

Cards, instruction sheets, and Laboratory of Ornithology Nest Survey newsletters may be obtained from Dr. Esther V. Bennett, 1641 Devoe Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska 68502.

— *Assistant Superintendent Outdoor Education/Recreation,
Parks and Recreation Department, Lincoln, Nebraska.*

The following notes from Rick Wright, 401 Kountze Memorial Drive, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005, were not available to Dr. Bennett at the time she made up the 1981 Nesting Survey. They are for the summer of 1981, and cover most of Dawes Co., and Sioux Co. south to the Niobrara. Pied-billed Grebes bred on several local ponds; Great Blue Herons first definite young 31 July; Gadwall bred; Blue-winged Teal first brood 25 June; Swainson's Hawk probably bred; Prairie Falcon bred in at least 3 places; American Kestrel 3 nests at Fort Robinson; Sharp-tailed Grouse half-grown young 20 July; Turkey first poults 19 June; American Coot bred on several ponds; Upland Sandpiper no chicks observed but almost certainly bred; Mourning Dove up to 3 nestings per female; Yellow-billed Cuckoo present, presumed nesting; Burrowing Owl a persistent pair west of Harrison probably nesting; Poor-will road-killed young 12 and 13 August; Common Nighthawk fledged young by 17 June; Red-headed Woodpecker young fledged by 1 August; Lewis' Woodpecker 3 pair probably nesting in Chadron State Park; Say's Phoebe nesting at Chadron and at Harrison; Western Pewee carrying nesting material early June; Horned Larks abundant breeding species; Tree Swallow fledged young 13 July; Rough-winged Swallow probably breeding; Barn Swallow fledged young by mid-July; Cliff Swallow nesting on cliffs of Niobrara, bridges; Blue Jay fledged by 19 July; Pygmy Nuthatch carrying food 12 June; House Wren common breeder; Marsh Wren (sic, presumably Long-billed) common breeder in Niobrara marshes; Rock Wren a family group 16 July; American Robin common breeder; Cedar Waxwing common and probably bred; Loggerhead Shrike common breeding assumed but no proofs; Red-eyed Vireo common breeder; Yellow-breasted Chat fledged young 9 July; Western Meadowlark 2 nests destroyed by tourists; Red-winged Blackbird abundant breeder Orchard Oriole common breeder; Northern Oriole very common breeder; Brewer's Blackbird nesting in windbreaks; Western Tanager local breeder; Black-headed Grosbeak abundant breeder; Pine Siskin young fledged by 4 July; Vesper Sparrow nest with eggs 29 May; Lark Sparrow nest with eggs in late May; Brewer's Sparrow young by mid-July.

And Ida May Heywood, Peru, Nebraska 68421, reports that a Canada Goose nested along a drainage ditch west of Peru.