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NOTES

SANDHILL CRANE TRIP. About 30 or so went out to the blind on the Mormon Island Crane Meadows before dawn on 2 April. But not enough before dawn to allow the last of the party to see the Sandhill Cranes before they took off from their roost in the river. But all could see in the sky the huge flocks that took off from other sections of the river. Some went back to the blind before the Cranes came in to roost that night and got to see them settle in for the night. Many other birds were seen from the blind and in trips over the surrounding country, but there was no effort to compile a list of what was seen.

BIRD BANDING RETURNS. On 28 February 1981 I banded 225 Purple Finches at the home of Melba Wigg, in western Sarpy Co. One of these birds, number 950/50269, was recovered on 20 April 1981 in Yorktown, Saskatchewan, Canada. In May of 1982 (15 months later) number 950/50271 was recovered in Rosewater, Minnesota. I banded an American Goldfinch, number 1580/25459, in my yard on 13 December 1981. On 3 July, 1982 this bird was recovered in Oak River, Manitoba, Canada.

—Ruth Green, 506 W. 31st Avenue, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005

WHOOPING CRANES. The Pierre, S.D., office of the Fish and Wildlife Service monitors Whooping Cranes in their migration. It reported 9 sightings (only one of a single bird) in Nebraska in the fall of 1982. The report includes: "On August 15, 1982, radio transmitters were placed on the legs of six chicks. Two radioed chicks were subsequently lost to wolves, leaving four chicks with transmitters to begin the migration. In addition, the transmitters were still functioning on two yearlings radio-tagged in 1981, for a total of six radio-tagged birds. One of the yearlings died during migration after apparently striking a power line in Texas. Two family groups with radioed young were successfully monitored all the way to Arkansas NWR." One of these two families was 10 miles south of Colume, S.D., 29-30 October; 45 miles north of Burwell, near Dora Lake, Holt Col, 30 October; and 2 miles north of Eureka, Greenwood Co., Kansas 1-2 November. The other was on the south side of Swan Lake, Walworth Co., S.D., 31 October - 1 November; 12 miles south of Ainsworth, Brown Co., 1-2 November; and at Ft. Cobb Reservoir, Caddo Co., Oklahoma, 2-3 November. A marked bird without radio was at Buffer Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada, 20-24 September; 2 miles upstream from Norden Bridge on the Niobrara River, Brown Co., 29-30 October; and near Watonga, Blaine Co., Oklahoma 1 November. Sightings of unmarked birds were: 12 October one in the air 5 miles west of Hastings; and the following, all on 29 October: 3.5 miles east of Bassett; Niobrara River 3 miles west of Carns (the last two in Rock Co.); and 1 mile northeast of Fairfield, Clay Co., Hessinger Lagoon. Two probable, but unconfirmed, sightings, on 31 October, were four birds 7 miles south and 5.5 miles west of Oconto, Dawson Co., and four birds 12 miles south and 4 miles east of Lexington, Gasper Co., over Elwood Reservoir. These may have been the same birds.