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## NOTES

LATE WOOD DUCK BROODS. I don't know if weather affected the nesting of some Wood Ducks or not, but 8 August (1982) seems a little late for baby woodies. At the Iowa Settling Pond, there were two hens with new families; one hen had two ducklings that were about 5 to 6 days old, and another hen had a brood that was only a few hours out of the nest. The Wood Duck raises but one brood in a season in any part of its wide range, according to Bent, and has always been considered an early nester. I searched several waterfowl books for late nesting records and could find nothing later than the end of July - no mention of August records at all. It takes 60 days for young Wood Ducks to be able to fly, so October will catch these birds unprepared to migrate as early as they should.

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

**CATTLE EGRETS.** On 20 September 1982 I saw 7 Cattle Egrets and on 5 October 3, both times on Highway 34, about 1.4 miles east of spur 93 to I-80.

—Harvey L. Gunderson, 1200 Superior, Lincoln, Nebraska 68521

**PEREGRINE FALCON HARASSING GREAT HORNED OWL.** The Peregrine Falcon is a rare fall migrant at Mormon Island Crane Meadows (Lingle and Hay, *NBR* 50:31). At 8:45 A.M. on 12 October 1982 I was driving along the Platte River on Mormon Island Crane Meadows when I heard a series of gull-like calls which I did not recognize. As I approached an open view of the river I saw a Peregrine Falcon scolding and dive-bombing an object on a herbaceous island. I was within 60 m of the Falcon, and its black helmet and large size clearly identified it as a Peregrine. After seeing me, the Falcon flew downriver. As I got out of the vehicle a Great Horned Owl flew from the island area which the Peregrine was harassing. Mobbing behavior of many species of birds on Great Horned Owls is well known, but records of migrant Peregrine Falcons harassing Great Horned Owls are few, although Great Horned Owls are the major predators of Peregrine Falcon eyasses at reintroduction sites.

—Gary Lingle, *Platte River Trust, 2550 N. Diers Ave., Suite H, Grand Island, Nebraska 68801*

**WHOOPIING CRANE.** The spring 1983 report of Whooping Crane sightings, released by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Pierre, S.D. has three for Nebraska: On 14 April two adults and a radio-tagged young left Sheridan Co., Kansas (12 miles north and .5 mile east of Hoxie), where they had been for a couple of days, and flew to Furnas Co., a mile north of Hendley, where they spent the night of 14-15 April. They spent 15-18 April in Custer Co., 3 miles NNE of Callaway, and then went to Perkins Co., S.D. (5 miles SSW of Prairie City) for the night of 18-19 April. Two adults, not marked, spent the night of 15-16 April in Franklin Co., 5 miles south and 2 miles east of Hildreth. A third group — two adults and a young, and radio-marked spent 17-18 April in Mitchell Co., Kansas, 5 miles SE of Beloit, and the night of 18-19 April in Mellette Co., S.D., 12 miles NW of White River, with no known stop in Nebraska.

**BLACK-NECKED STILT.** In mid-morning of 11 May 1983 I saw a Black-necked Stilt from I-80, east of Gothenburg, Dawson Co.

—Ray Korpi, 2002 Dogwood Circle, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005

**FISH-EATING GREAT HORNED OWL.** On 15 June 1982, while working near Buck Creek, approximately 4.5 miles west of Peru, agricultural workers Randy Rohrs, Jim Whisler, and Ross Adams observed a young Great Horned Owl consuming a fish. When it was approached the young raptor clacked a warning and continued feeding. The observers stated that the fish appeared to be 8 to 9 inches long. The following day we collected fish scales at the site and sent a sample to Dr. Clayton True, Kearney State College, for identification. Dr. True stated that positive identification using scales is not an exact science. However, the size and coloration of the scales and the reported size indicate that the fish was a carp (*Cyprinus*). Due to the excessive rainfall this spring many of the ponds in the area overflowed, washing many fish out. Great Horned Owls do not usually prey on fish, but they are opportunistic feeders, and this appears to be the case in this situation.

—Steve Shupe, Box 151, Peru State College, Peru, Nebraska 68421

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.** At 5 A.M. 12 May 1982 I heard a Chuck-will's-widow calling in the woods behind our house. It called for about 10 minutes, and I recorded it on tape. This is the only time I have heard this bird in Nebraska.

—Harvey L. Gunderson, 1200 Superior, Lincoln, Nebraska 68521

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.** A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher netted in Garden Co. was said to be the first record west of Lincoln (*NBR* 50:7). I reported one from Bladen, but I can't say when, for I can't find some of my records. But Rapp *et al's* *Revised Checklist* cites Tout's *Lincoln County Birds* as saying the Gnatcatcher gets as far west as North Platte.

—Harold Turner, Box 333, Minden, Nebraska 68959

(The claim may have been based on a reading of the bird's current status in Johnsgard's *A Preliminary List etc.* A check of the *Review* for Mr. Turner's record was stopped when Earl Glandon's 1957 record from Stapleton, Logan Co., was found (*NBR* 25:52). — Ed.)

SCOTT'S ORIOLE. On 17 June 1983 we (Vonna Jo Moody, Sharon Alford, and I) saw a bird in an isolated grove of trees on a hill top by Enders Dam, and on 25 June we saw a similar one in trees along the Stinking Water at Moody's, about five miles from Wauneta. We noted the black head, lemon yellow body, and distinct tail marks. The song, as the books say, reminded us of the Western Meadowlark's. Each sighting was a deliberate one, with reference books handy, and we used every possible means to check our accuracy.

— *L. Lola Pennington, 561 S. Tecumseh Avenue, Wauneta, Nebraska 69045*

In May of 1975 George W. Stoppkotte reported a Scott's Oriole on his farm just east of Grand Island. He saw it on about eight different occasions, and Bill Schleicher and Vera Coons were able to study it, too. (*NBR* 43:64).

MINDEN NOTES. On 20 July 1982 I heard what I feel sure was a Great Crested Flycatcher, and on 22 July out in the country, I heard a Blue Grosbeak and stirred up some Grasshopper Sparrows. On 1 August near the same area I saw 3 Great Blue Herons, more Grasshopper Sparrows, and what I took for a Savannah Sparrow. On 23 August I saw only 1 Great Blue, but several Killdeer and what I took for a Solitary Sandpiper. On 25 August I saw about 40 Purple Martins over town. My brother who lives southwest of Holstein a few miles, saw a lone American Bittern about 1 August, and had watched a pair of Burrowing Owls on the old home place (in Adams Co.) this past summer. As well as he could determine they raised 4 young. On 6 September another brother and I saw a Swainson's Hawk. On 19 September I saw a lone Black-crowned Night-Heron, apparently an immature. This was near hwere I had seen the Great Blues. The same day I flushed some Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows, saw a Lincoln's and a Brown Thrasher and a Ferruginous Hawk.

—*Harold Turner, Box 333, Minden, Nebraska 68959*

CORRECTION TO 1982 CHRISTMAS COUNT. "Species reported" for DeSoto Bend NWR, *NBR* 51:17, should be 60 instead of 50.