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NOTES

CORRECTION TO *NBR* 51:86 (CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW'S NEST) The upper picture in "A New Nesting Species for Nebraska" is inverted, and the picture captions were omitted. The upper picture shows the "nest", with a hatchling in front and to the right of the egg; the lower picture shows the adult.

AND TO *NBR* 51:96 (HOUSE FINCH NEST). The first date should be 24 April, not 24 May.

CUMING COUNTY. The following records are from Cuming Township, southeast of West Point. On 1 October 1983 I saw a flock of migrating White Pelicans fly over. This was the first sighting of these birds for this area, at least by me. I also saw an immature Cooper's Hawk, 22 Long-billed Dowitchers on a temporary farm pond, and a Philadelphia Vireo in the thick growth of vegetation along a small stream. On 24 November I saw a small group of Lapland Longspurs, about 20 birds, feeding in the stubble of a corn field.

— *Larry L. Einemann, 3010 Sewell Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68502*

SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA. On 6 May 1983 we saw a Great Egret in northern Thayer Co., 9 May a Barred Owl in the Fairbury City Park, 10 May a bright male Prothonotary Warbler near Fairbury, and 12 May two Pine Warblers at Indian Cave State Park and one at Homestead National Monument.

— *Glen and Wanda Hoge, 3325 Delphi Road SW, Olympia, Washington 98502*

ROSS' GEESE. Dave Menke reported seeing four Ross' Geese on the edge of a flock of Snow Geese on DeSoto NWR in early November 1983.

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

EAGLES AS PREDATORS. On 12 November 1983 I observed an unforgettable sight from the visitors' center at DeSoto NWR. It was a cold, gray, misty day and birding had not been too productive. A few flocks of Snow and Blue Geese were flying in the distance, but only one lone Blue Goose was on the water about 100 yards out. Suddenly an immature Bald Eagle flew in and circled above the goose. It took numerous dives at the goose, who in turn would duck beneath the water. After many futile attempts the eagle finally grasped the goose in its talons, but seemingly could not carry it off. This behavior repeated itself many times until the eagle landed on the goose, who was still very much alive, and held it under water. This drowning method seemed to work, for after about 45 minutes the goose floated lifeless in the water. Then the eagle flew to a nearby piling and waited for the current to carry it toward the piling. As the goose drifted

closer, the eagle landed on it and flapped its wings in a manner to propel both across the water, eventually maneuvering it on the piling. It began to pluck the larger primary feathers and to fling them in various directions before plucking the smaller feathers. Another eagle arrived and watched intently from a nearby piling, hoping I am sure for some leftovers. This whole hour-long event was viewed through a 40-power spotting scope, and luckily a life-long friend and fellow-birder, Paul Thomas, witnessed this dramatic presentation with me.

— *Duane Bright, 1304 Potter Road, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005*

On 8 December 1983 Roger Bourland noticed a Mallard frozen in the ice on Ginger Cove Lake (Douglas Co.). A Bald Eagle landed beside it and began plucking its feathers. When he stepped outside to take a picture the Eagle flew, but returned to finish the plucking. The duck died in about 5 minutes, whether from fright, weather, or injury, he could not tell. Shortly afterwards the Eagle returned with its mate and they ate from the duck.

— *Alice Rushton, 5617 Parker, Omaha, Nebraska 68104*

EAGLE COUNT. On the 7 January 1984 Eagle Count, from Kearney to Lexington, we counted 74 Bald Eagles. This is a high count, compared to past years. However, the count at Harlan Reservoir, at Alma, was very low, a total of only 17 birds.

Also we saw 12 Great Blue Herons along the Platte, 10 of them near the Canady steam plant, where the water remains open. We have seen 2 Herons on several trips along a sand pit south of the Kearney Bridge, where there is always open water.

— *George W. Brown, 2018 12th Avenue, Kearney, Nebraska 68847*

RAPTOR MIGRATION. For the past several years, birders in the Omaha area have been holding informal hawk watches along the loess hills bordering the Missouri River. This fall (1983) we had our best results, seeing 13 species between 4 September and 16 October 1983, most of them from Fontenelle Forest: Turkey Vulture, number unknown; Osprey 1, Mississippi Kite 1, Northern Harrier 10, Sharp-shinned Hawk 30, Cooper's Hawk 7, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Broad-winged Hawk 407, Swainson's Hawk 2, Red-tailed Hawk 311, Buteo sp. 80, American Kestrel 12, Merlin 1, Prairie Falcon 1.

— *Tanya Bray, 9708 Grover, Omaha, Nebraska 68124*

(On 2 October Bill and Becky Otto saw at least 250 Swainson's Hawks at Cunningham Lake, Douglas County, which is not along the Missouri.)

GYRFALCON. On 4 November 1983 B.J. Rose saw a Gyrfalcon west of Schuyler. On 7 January 1984 Tanya Bray saw one near Two Rivers State Park, Babs and Loren Padelford saw one 8 January near Mead, and 9 January B.J. Rose saw one near Greenwood. One was seen near Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., from 3 to 9 January 1984 by (on different days) Russell Benedict and Ray Korpi, Father Thomas Hoffman, and Joe Gubangyi.

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

YORK CO. This is the winter of the Greater Prairie-Chicken around here. I guess the severe weather brought them down this way. In mid-December (1983) I saw two right by the road, and I have seen a few on many occasions since. On 7 January 1984 I saw at least 100 in one flock just 3 miles from here on the York-Polk county line. It was the largest flock of Greater Prairie-Chickens I have ever seen. The next day our son Jim saw them again in the same place. On 9 January Norris Alfred and I saw a flock of 15. I saw a Prairie Falcon 20 December, the first I had seen since November, but I haven't seen any lately (10 January). We don't have the large numbers of Robins and Cedar Waxwings in the Platte valley that we usually do in the winter. We do have more Purple Finches than usual, though.

— *Lee Morris, R.R. 1, Box 14, Benedict, Nebraska 68316*

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE. On 13 October 1983 Mike Erikson and I saw a Red-necked Phalarope in Cedar Co., 1 mi. west and 2.5 mi. north of the junction of highways 20 and 116, on a small farm pond. We noticed that the black on the head came only partway down the forehead, and the streaks on the back when it flew.

— *Allen George, R.R. 1, Box 50, Dixon, Nebraska 68732*

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER. A Clark's Nutcracker was sighted in Kearney in the third week of November, 1983.

— *George W. Brown, 2018 12th Avenue, Kearney, Nebraska 68847*

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW. About 9:45 PM 19 June 1983 we first heard Chuck-will's-widows calling from our front and back yards. We are in a wooded area of Buffalo Co., 9 mi. southeast of Kearney, on the south bank of the Platte River. The Blieses listened to the calls over the telephone and made the identification, and several days later we got a good recording of the calls. The calls were heard on 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 June.

— *Bev Kimball, Rt. 4, Fawn Woods Lake, Kearney, Nebraska 68847*

WHIP-POOR-WILLS. On 3 September 1983 Evelyn Conrad and I went to Platte River State Park, Cass Co., and heard scores of Whip-poor-wills singing as if it were their last song of summer. I had heard Chuck-will's-widows there 8 August, but not the Whip-poor-wills, so I am assuming they were migrants.

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

BOHEMIAN WAXWING. A fellow birder in town had a Bohemian Waxwing come to his feeder in the first week of 1984. It stayed just a short time.

— *Alice G. Newbold, 225 No. Hull, Minden, Nebraska 68959*

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. On 3 June, 1983 I saw a Black-throated Blue Warbler near the roadside, in the low foilage of a Chinese elm tree.

— *Galen Wittrock, R.R. 2, Lodgepole, Nebraska 69149*

PAINTED BUNTING. On 12 November 1983 a male Painted Bunting showed up at the feeder of Ruth E. Harrington, Grand Island, and was there 13 and 14 November. She described the bird as having a bright blue head, coral red underparts and rump, and a green back, which is essentially the same description given by others who saw the bird. The feeder is about 12 feet from the window, the weather was clear, and observations were made both with and without binoculars. The bird flitted around the feeder so that it was seen from all angles. Other observers included her son, John, her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Fitzpatrick, and Harry A. Rinder. On the last day Mrs. Harrington saw what she took to be a female.