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Notes on Bird Sightings

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NOTES ON BIRD SIGHTINGS

Brown Pelican in Nebraska. A BROWN PELICAN arrived at DeSoto Wildlife Refuge sometime during the last week of April, 1992, and was still there on May 8 with a flock of WHITE PELICANS. Brown Pelicans are extremely rare in Nebraska, so to have sightings in two consecutive years is very surprising.
--Ruth C. Green, 506 W.31 Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005

Editor's Note: NBR Vol. 59 (3), 1991, p.93, had reports of two Brown Pelicans in May, 1991, one in Dodge Co. and the other in Dakota Co.



Photo by B. J. Rose at
DeSoto WR, May 6, 1992

Longspurs, Black Scoters, and Cormorants. Just after the snowstorm on April 20-21, 1992, I saw LAPLAND LONGSPURS south of Bellevue, feeding on a wind-swept patch of ground. In their midst were two CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPURS, which rarely migrate through eastern Nebraska.

On April 28, 1992, I saw two BLACK SCOTERS swimming on the Missouri River by Child's Hollow in Fontenelle Forest. I also saw DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS swimming on the Missouri, the first time for me to see them on a deep, swift-flowing river.

Banding Notes. I banded a WHITE-EYED VIREO in my yard on April 6, 1992. I believe this is the earliest record for Nebraska. I banded a female LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH in Fontenelle Forest on June 6, 1992. It had an active brood patch, and gave every indication of nesting. Another bird of this species was singing on territory in the area.

---Ruth C. Green, 506 W.31 Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005

Albino Birds. Several sightings of albino or partially albino birds have been reported during the past year. An albino AMERICAN ROBIN was discovered by Mark Brohman in the Maxwell Arboretum on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Campus July 6, 1991. He caught it so that Mabel Ott could band it, then released it at the same site. It was later found dead in the area.

Albino Birds (cont'd from p. 69)

George Brown reported that a partially albino RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD had returned during the second week in March, 1992, to the area at the junction of state routes 10 and 50A south of Kearney. He also said that an albino SANDHILL CRANE was seen in the area between Elm Creek and the Gibbon bridge during March and early April.

Ruth Green saw a partially albino AMERICAN ROBIN among a flock of 5000 south of Offut Base Lake just after the April 20-21, 1992 snowstorm. She said that the mutant robin looked as if it had been dipped in bleach, because it had large, white spots all over it.

Scott Purdy reported that an albino RED-TAILED HAWK was seen on I - 80 west of Lincoln in early spring. It was identified by Gail Foreman, Director of the Heritage Zoo, Grand Island, Nebraska.