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Summer Field Report, June-July 1997

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SUMMER FIELD REPORT, JUNE-JULY 1997

Compiled by

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INTRODUCTION

A couple of preliminary notes: in the accounts below we have noted for several species "Reports were routine." This means that these species, mostly common in occurrence, were indeed present and reported, but the reports did not include unusual arrival or departure dates or high counts. For this Summer Report, observers are encouraged to report high counts on their BBS routes, as well as nesting data such as egg and fledging dates. Finally, this report includes a few observations from 1996.

In general, this was a rather routine summer period. The only real rarity was, however, a good one, a 1st state record Curlew Sandpiper. Other unusual reports were an easterly Pacific Loon, a flock of 42 Clark's Nutcrackers, a lost Prairie Warbler in the Sandhills, and a reported but undocumented Scott's Oriole. Species at the edges of their ranges were Chuck-will's-widow near Kearney, Purple Martin at Bassett, and Brown Creeper in Cass Co. Significant late dates were recorded for several species: 5 shorebird species, Olive-sided Flycatcher, 5 warbler species, and Savannah Sparrow (without details). The only significant early fall date was recorded by Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF = Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City; **BBS** = Breeding Bird Survey; **BOL** = Branched Oak L, SRA, Lancaster Co; **BSC** = Boy Scout Camp; **Cem** = Cemetery; **CLNWR** = Crescent L NWR, Garden Co; **Co(s)** = county(ies); **CRP** = Conservation Reserve Program (US Dept. Agriculture); **FF** = Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co; **FL** = Funk Lagoon, WPA, Phelps Co; **ICSP** = Indian Cave SP, Richardson-Nemaha Cos; **imm(s)** = immatures; **L** = Lake; **LM** = L McConaughy, Keith Co; **mi** = miles; **NC** = Nature Center; **NE** = Nebraska; **NPNWR** = North Platte NWR, Scotts Bluff Co; **NWR** = National Wildlife Refuge; **R** = River; **Res** = Reservoir; **RWB** = Rainwater Basin, sc NE; **SHP** = State Historical Park; **SL** = Sewage Lagoons; **SP** = State Park; **SRA** = State Recreation Area; **WMA** = Wildlife Management Area; **WPA** = Waterfowl Production Area.

GAZETTEER

Arbor L, WMA, Lancaster Co; Ashford BSC, Thurston Co; Burchard L WMA, Pawnee Co; Calamus Res, SRA, Loup-Garfield Cos; Champion Mill SHP, Chase Co; Clear Creek Marshes, extreme se Garden-Keith Cos; County Line Marsh, WPA, Fillmore-Polk Cos; Crescent L, private, Garden Co; Crystal Cove L, South Sioux City; East Harvard Basin, private, Clay Co; Gifford Farm, adjacent to FF, Sarpy Co; Hansen Lagoon, WPA, Clay Co; Harvard Marsh, WPA, Clay Co; Hultine North Basin (formerly Sandpiper), WPA, Clay Co; Jack Sinn Marsh, WMA, Lancaster-Saunders Cos; Johnson Lagoon, WPA, Phelps Co; Keystone L, contiguous with L Ogallala, Keith Co; Kilpatrick L, private, Box Butte Co; Kingsley Dam, between LM and L Ogallala, Keith Co; Kiowa Springs, WMA, Scotts Bluff Co; Kissinger Basin, WMA, Clay Co; L Babcock, Platte Co; L Ogallala, Keith Co; Monroe Canyon, Sioux Co; Mormon Island SRA, Hall Co; Neale Woods, Douglas Co; Pawnee L, SRA, Lancaster Co; Pine Ridge, Sioux-Dawes-Sheridan Cos; Pintail Marsh, WMA, Hamilton Co; Platte River SP, Cass Co; Real Basin, WPA, Fillmore Co; Rock Creek L, SRA, Dundy Co; Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo

Co; Schilling Refuge, Cass Co; Schramm Park, SRA, Sarpy Co; Sinninger Lagoon, WPA, York Co; Smiley Canyon, Fort Robinson SP, Sioux Co; Smith L, WMA, Sheridan Co; Soldier Creek Wilderness, Sioux Co; Stagecoach L, SRA, Lancaster Co; Sutherland Res, SRA, Lincoln Co; Tamora Basin, private, Seward Co; Theesen Lagoon, WPA, Clay Co; Twin Lakes Basin, WMA, Seward Co; Wagontrain L, SRA, Lancaster Co; Wildcat Hills, Scotts Bluff-Banner Cos; Willet Basin, private, Fillmore Co; Wolf L, private, along Platte R in n Saunders Co.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Pacific Loon: One at Offutt Base L, Sarpy Co, was almost in full alternate plumage 1 and 4 Jul (*BP,LP). This is the 5th summer record for the state, but the 1st from the east.

Common Loon: The 2 imms at L Ogallala in late May (see Spring) were joined by an adult 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ). An immature was at North Platte SL 15 Jun (WRS,JS).

Pied-billed Grebe: Reports were routine.

Eared Grebe: Late in the east was a single at a pond in nw Lancaster Co 4 Jun (LE). A few summer in the RWB, although breeding there is rare, such as 3 at Johnson Basin 6 Jul (LR,RH). All other reports were from the Panhandle, primarily CLNWR, where counts of 597 on 10 Jun (MF) and 932 on 10 Jul (MF) were made.

Western Grebe: A single with a Clark's Grebe at BOL 29 Jul was a significant find (JS). Also unexpected was a lone bird at FL 1 Jun (JGJ,GJ). No individual attempted the daunting task of estimating the numbers at LM during the period, although 45 were found at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF).

Clark's Grebe: A well-described single with a Western at BOL 29 Jul (JS) was even more significant than the preceding species. This species is only accidental in Iowa (Kent and Dinsmore; Birds in Iowa). Another was described from North Platte SL 15 Jun (WRS,JS).

American White Pelican: This species does not breed in NE but summers at favored locales such as CLNWR, where 38 were noted 8 Jul (MF). The 18 at BOL 4 Jun (LE) were late migrants and the single at Schilling Refuge 28 Jun may have been an early migrant, as were 50 at FL 19 Jul (LR,RH).

Double-crested Cormorant: A "half dozen" nests were found along BBS route 54027 in Rock Co 10 Jun (NR), and 33 nests were at the recently-established colony near Alma 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

American Bittern: If 19 could be found and counted at CLNWR 8 Jun (MF), who knows how many others were present but well concealed? This species is common at CLNWR.

Least Bittern: Of interest was a report from an unexpectedly westerly location, Island L at CLNWR, where one was heard calling and then flushed 13 Jun (WRS,JS). Two were noted at FL 24 Jul (LR,RH). This species probably occurs wherever suitable cattail habitat exists, although most reports are from e NE.

Great Blue Heron: High count was a modest 36 at CLNWR 8 Jun (MF). The newly-established colony at Alma had 9 nests 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Great Egret: Wandering post-breeders were moving into the flooded areas near Nebraska City by 25 Jun, when 2 were found (LF,CF); by 29 Jul about 35 were present (LF,CF). The only other reports were of singles at Stagecoach L 18 Jul (LF,CF) and at FL 20 Jul (BP,LP).

Snowy Egret: The only reports were of singles at CLNWR 6 Jun (MF) and at L Babcock 27 Jul (JS).

Little Blue Heron: Only 2 were reported, singles near Nebraska City 15 Jul (LF,CF) and at FL 24 Jul (LR,RH).

Cattle Egret: The few reported were 2 at Willet Basin 1 Jun (GJ,JGJ), 1 at Harvard Marsh 13 Jul (LR,RH), 5 near Nebraska City 15 Jul (LF,CF), 20 at FL 19 Jul (LR,RH), and one at Alma 19 Jul

(JGJ,WRS).

Green Heron: One at North Platte SL 19 Jul was somewhat westerly (WRS,JGJ).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: A pair of adults at Crystal Cove L 19 Jun (BFH) was intriguing and suggests the possibility of breeding somewhat e of the usual range. High count was a modest 6 at CLNWR 8 Jun (MF).

White-faced Ibis: The only reports were from CLNWR, where 3 were counted 8 Jul (MF) and 18 on 31 Jul (MF), and FL, where 2 were present 1 Jun (LR,RH) and one on 27 Jul (LR,RH). Jul birds are probably postbreeding dispersers.

Turkey Vulture: Reports were routine.

Trumpeter Swan: Few are noted in summer, possibly as many breeding sites are secluded and of poor access. Two were 2 at CLNWR 10 Jun-8 Jul (MF), and a pair with 2 downy cygnets was at Center L, Valentine NWR 5 Jul (JGJ).

Mute Swan: Although this species is not accepted on the state list as none are established and breeding in the state, observers should report observations so that its presence can be monitored. Three adults were on a lake at the I-80 Odessa exit 5-8 Jun (LR,RH).

Greater White-fronted Goose: A lingering pair, possibly injured, was found at Harvard Marsh 5-13 Jul (JGJ,LR,RH). Two were at FL 6 Jul (LR,RH) and another, with an orange neck band, was there 19 Jul (LR,RH).

Snow Goose: In recent summers, a few have been found in the RWB, but 42 at County Line Marsh 1 Jun (JGJ,GJ) is likely a symptom of current high population levels in this species. Also, 9 apparently summered at East Harvard Basin, as they were observed in late May and again 5-13 Jul (JGJ,LR,RH).

Canada Goose: Counts of 619 at NPNWR 25 Jun (LK) and 210 at BOL 18 Jun (LE) indicate healthy populations at those locations.

Wood Duck: High counts were from the w, where birds tend to be concentrated in limited habitat, and included 90 at NPNWR 25 Jun (LK) and 18 at Twentyone L, Valentine NWR 5 Jul (JGJ). A good count elsewhere was 30 at FL 8 Jun (LR,RH).

Green-winged Teal: Reports were routine.

Mallard: Reports were routine.

Northern Pintail: The few reports included 2 at FL1 Jun (JGJ,GJ), a report from CLNWR 8 Jun (JH,EH), a single at Harvard Marsh 5 Jul (JGJ), and a single at FL 6 and 19 Jul (LR,RH).

Blue-winged Teal: Reports were routine.

Cinnamon Teal: Rare in summer, the only reports were of singles at CLNWR 8 Jun (JH,EH) and at Kiowa Springs 12 and 14 Jun (AK,WRS,JS). The latter place is probably the most reliable in summer in NE for this species.

Northern Shoveler: Last reported at a nonbreeding location s of the Platte R was a single at BOL 4 Jun (LE).

Gadwall: High count was 42 at CLNWR 8 Jul (MF), and the only report from nonbreeding locations s of the Platte R was of a single at BOL 4 Jun (LE).

American Wigeon: Uncommon in summer, none were reported other than pairs at Real Basin and Sinninger Lagoon, both on 1 Jun (JGJ,GJ), 10 at FL 1 Jun (LR,RH) and 2 there 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Canvasback: Although fairly common in the Sandhills in summer, the only Sandhills reports were from CLNWR, 13 on 8 Jun (MF) and 22 on 8 Jul (MF). There were, however, 2 at FL 6 Jul (LR,RH). Summer reports away from the Sandhills are rare.

Redhead: Summering birds are most often reported from the Sandhills and RWB, but best count was only 15 on 8 Jul at CLNWR (MF), disappointing compared to previous summer counts. However, 23 were at Pony L, Valentine NWR, 5 Jul (JGJ), and 11-16 were at FL on 1

Jun (JGJ,GJ,LR,RH).

Lesser Scaup: Single birds were at FL and Sinninger Lagoon on 1 Jun (JGJ,GJ), at FL 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ), at LM on 5 Jun (JH,EH), at North Platte SL 15 Jun (WRS,JS) and 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ), at NPNWR on 10 Jun (LK), and at BOL on 18 Jun (LE). Although breeding is rare, summering individuals are (obviously!) not unusual.

Bufflehead: Rare anywhere during summer, a single was at NPNWR on 25 Jun (LK).

Hooded Merganser: In contrast to last summer when several immature/female-plumaged birds were reported, none were reported this summer.

Common Merganser: An apparent late migrant was a female at BOL 4 Jun (LE). Possible molt migrants were 2 on 25 Jun and 3 on 10 Jul at NPNWR (LK). Up to 11 were at LM 3-5 Jun (JH,EH) and 4 were at Sutherland Res 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Ruddy Duck: The 7 at Pawnee L 4 Jun (LE) may have been late migrants, and the 5 at Nebraska City 4 Jul (LF,CF) may have been wanderers, although summering has occurred on occasion at nearby Forney L, Iowa. High count from a breeding locale was 46 at CLNWR on 8 Jul (MF).

Mississippi Kite: At least 2 were at Ogallala on 1 Jun (JS) and 2 were there 13 Jun (WRS,JS).

Bald Eagle: Summer reports are now routine as NE now has several active nests. Reports included 4 at NPNWR 10 Jun-24 Jul (LK) and 4 at CLNWR 5 Jun (MF).

Northern Harrier: One was at Hultine North Basin 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ); nesting is possible although rarely reported in the RWB.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A single at Pintail Marsh 12 Jun (LF,CF) was probably a lingering migrant, as breeding is very rare in NE.

Cooper's Hawk: The only report was of one at Niobrara Valley Preserve, in Brown Co, 28 Jun (LR,RH).

Swainson's Hawk: Most reports were from the w and n of the Platte R, the exceptions a few reports from the w RWB in Phelps Co (JGJ,GJ,LR,RH) and 1 easterly at Theesen Lagoon 13 Jul (LR,RH). High count was 7 at CLNWR on 8 Jun (MF).

Red-tailed Hawk: Reports were routine.

Ferruginous Hawk: Only one was reported, a single 9 mi e of Chadron on 26 Jul (LF,CF).

Rough-legged Hawk: A report, without details, was received of a single at NPNWR 10 Jun-10 Jul. This species is not expected in summer, although such reports are not unprecedented in NE.

Golden Eagle: Reports were routine.

American Kestrel: Reports were routine.

Gray Partridge: A single 6 mi w of Herman, Washington Co, 18-20 Jun (JGJ) was rather far s considering the species' current range retraction.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Reports were routine.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Reports were routine.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Reports were routine.

Wild Turkey: Reports were routine.

Northern Bobwhite: A single at the Gering Cem 12 Jul (AK) is evidence that the population (we assume there really are more than 1) in the Scottsbluff area remains stable.

Virginia Rail: Observers apparently spent little time railing this summer. Reports were routine.

Sora: One was at Tamora Basin 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ), probably a summering bird.

American Coot: Reports were routine.

Sandhill Crane: Recent years have found a few at Harvard Marsh in summer, raising hopes that breeding may occur. This year a "healthy adult," apparently unaccompanied, was there 13 Jul (LR,RH).

American Golden-Plover: Apparently only the 2nd ever record for Jun, one in alternate plumage was at Crescent L 13 Jun (WRS,JS), presumably a late migrant or non-breeder.

Semipalmated Plover: Earliest was a single at FL 19 Jul (JGJ,WRS,LR,RH) and 3 were at Schilling Refuge 28 Jul (BP,LP).

Piping Plover: Earliest away from breeding areas were 1-2 at FL19-20 Jul (WRS,JGJ,BP,LP).

Killdeer: Flocks form in Jul, as exemplified by 80 in 2 groups in n Clay Co 13 Jul (LR,RH).

Mountain Plover: About 3 mi sw of the Kimball Airport, one was apparently sitting on a nest 12 Jun (*BP,LP). Two were noted 15 Jun just s of the Kimball Airport in stony wheat fallow (WRS,JS).

Black-necked Stilt: At CLWNR, 3 were found on 8 Jul (MF). Unusual was the presence of one at FL 5 and 10 Jun (fide LR,RH).

American Avocet: Pairs at Kissinger Basin and Sinninger Lagoon on 1 Jun may have been late migrants, as they were not found on subsequent visits (JGJ). Breeding occurs on occasion in the RWB, and 2 at FL 8 Jun and also 6 Jul (LR,RH) may have been summering. Reports of migrants include up to 30 at FL 19-20 Jun (BP,LP,WRS,JGJ) and 30 there 27 Jul (LR,RH), and 56 at CLNWR on 8 Jul (MF).

Greater Yellowlegs: Earliest southbound migrants and high count were 15 at CLNWR on 8 Jul (MF).

Lesser Yellowlegs: The 12 at Pintail Marsh 5 Jul were both the earliest and the season's high count (JGJ).

Solitary Sandpiper: Earliest was a single at Harvard Marsh 5 Jul (JGJ). High count was 8 at Stagecoach L 18 Jul (LE).

Willet: Most reports were from CLNWR, where it breeds, best count 16 on 18 Jun (MF), but one 2 mi n of Harvard Marsh 13 Jul (LR,RH) was presumably a migrant.

Spotted Sandpiper: As expected, small numbers were found throughout.

Upland Sandpiper: High counts included 35 at Calamus Res 27 Jun (LR,RH), 15 at CLNWR 10 Jun (MF), and 9 in se Dixon Co 21 Jul (JJ), the latter a good non-migrant count for ne NE.

Long-billed Curlew: This species arrives and breeds relatively early, so excellent counts of 30 at CLNWR on 10 Jun (MF) and 67 at NPNWR on 24 Jul (LK) were likely post-breeding (pre migratory) flocks.

Marbled Godwit: One was at FL 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ) and 2 were there 27 Jul (LR,RH), and another was near Sutherland Res 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Ruddy Turnstone: Rare in fall, a single was at FL19-20 Jul (JGJ, mob).

Sanderling: Late spring migrants were 3 at BOL on 4 Jun (LE).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: A single at BOL 18 Jun (LE) may have discontinued its migration; the previous latest spring date was 10 Jun. Also rather late were 2 at FL 8 Jun (LR,RH). Earliest for fall were 6 at Kissinger Basin 5 Jul (JGJ), followed by 6 at BOL on 8 Jul (LE). High count was 150 at FL 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Western Sandpiper: Adults' stopovers in the state are apparently brief. Earliest were 25 at FL on 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ), but, while only 4 were there the following day (LP,BP), an excellent tally of 100 was reported there (without details) 24 Jul (LR,RH). Also, a single was 3 mi s of Geneva 19 Jul (JGJ,WRS).

Least Sandpiper: Earliest were 2 at Sinninger Lagoon and 10 at Pintail Marsh on 5 Jul (JGJ). High count was 60 at FL 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Late were 13 at BOL on 18 Jun (LE), 2nd latest ever. As many as 110 were at FL 8 Jun (LR,RH).

Baird's Sandpiper: Earliest were 100 at FL19 Jul (LR,RH). High count was 200 there 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Late was a single at Pintail Marsh 12 Jun (LF,CF), the 3rd latest on record. Earliest southbound migrant was a single near Nathan's L, Washington Co, 13 Jul (JGJ) and high count 34 at Schilling Refuge 28 Jul (LP,BP).

Curlew Sandpiper: Perhaps ending the summer doldrums and no doubt the bird of the season was an alternate-plumaged bird just beginning to molt at FL 19-21 Jul (JGJ*,WRS*, BP*,LP*, LR*,RH*, mob). If accepted by the NOURC, this would be a 1st state record of this species. Records from neighboring states are in early fall also, usually adults, and suggest that juveniles may be overlooked due to their similarity to Stilt Sandpipers, especially in water.

Stilt Sandpiper: Earliest were 12 at Pintail Marsh 5 Jul (JGJ). An excellent high count was 245 at FL 20 Jul (WRS).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: A single bird returned before the end of the period at Jack Sinn Marsh 26 Jul (JGJ), 2nd earliest on record.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Earliest and the only report for the period was of 4 at Jack Sinn Marsh 20 Jul (JGJ,WRS). Details were provided.

Long-billed Dowitcher: This year 2 arrived at Willet Basin on 19 Jul (JGJ,WRS) and 4 were at CLNWR on 20 Jul (WRS,JGJ). Identification for both sightings was based on call and, together with the Short-billed sighting above, suggests that either species of dowitcher may be found in Jul. Because many are molting into winter plumage, identification other than by call can be tricky. A dowitcher unidentified to species was at FL 6 Jul (LR,RH), a very early record. There are few Jul records of dowitchers identified to species.

Common Snipe: A single at Kiowa Springs 12 Jun (AK) suggests the possibility of breeding at that locale. Also suggestive of breeding, 2 were found on BBS route 54027, Rock Co, 10 Jun (NR).

American Woodcock: Presumably a bird feigning an injury at BOL on 4 Jun (LE) was the parent of 2 others (newly-fledged birds?) nearby.

Wilson's Phalarope: One in basic plumage was at North Platte SL 15 Jun (WRS,JS), the latest ever spring date away from a breeding location. The 2 at Pintail Marsh 5 Jul were likely the first fall migrants away from breeding areas. Migration was well underway by the end of the period, however, as evidenced by counts of 1321 at CLNWR on 8 Jul (MF) and 280 at Gering SL 29 Jul (AK).

Franklin's Gull: Last for spring were 25 at BOL 4 Jun (LE), a report from CLNWR on 8 Jun (JH,EH), and a single at Pintail Marsh 12 Jun (LF,CF). A single at FL 20 Jul (BP,LP) was probably an early migrant as were 25 at Sutherland Res 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Ring-billed Gull: Best count from the w, where summer concentrations are highest, was 245 on 24 Jul (LK). Best count from the e was only 3, on 29 Jul (LE).

California Gull: The only report was of 2 adults on 19 Jul at Sutherland Res, not LM, where the species is to be expected by the end of the period. Water levels at LM were very high this summer and may account for the lack of birds and/or observations.

Caspian Tern: A rather high count of 16 was recorded at BOL 4 Jun (LE), probably late migrants. Rare in the w, but becoming more regular in recent years, 2 were at Keystone L 20 Jun (JS).

Common Tern: At Crescent L, 6 adults were noted (details provided) 13 Jun (WRS,JS), a rather late date.

Forster's Tern: At BOL, 4 remained until 18 Jun (LE) and 5 showed up on 29 Jul (LE). Only 2 were found at CLNWR on 6 Jun (MF), however 60 were at a nesting site at Goose L, CLNWR, 13 Jun (WRS,JS), and 40 were at CLNWR 8 Jul (MF). Late or lingering were 2 at Wolf L 7 Jun (TH).

Least Tern: At least 2 active nests were observed at the parking

lot/nesting area at the n end of Kingsley Dam 19 Jul (JGJ,WRS). In the east, 2 were along the Papio Trail, Sarpy Co, 8 Jun (BP,LP), 2 were at Schilling Refuge 28 Jul (BP,LP), and 4 were near Wolf L 26 Jul (TH). One-two were at Rowe Sanctuary 5 and 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Black Tern: Migrants were 40 at FL 1 Jun (LR,RH), and returning were 30 there 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ). Breeding is not recorded in the RWB.

Rock Dove: Reports were routine.

Mourning Dove: No young had been produced in the Wolf L area by 26 Jul (TH), rather unusual for this productive species.

Black-billed Cuckoo: The only westerly reports were from CLNWR, where first birds were seen 15 Jun (MF). All other reports were from the east, totalling only about a dozen birds.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Varying reports were received; "no cuckoos" were found in Lancaster Co during the period (LE); a total of about a dozen birds were reported, including nestlings as far west as s Sioux Co 14 Jun (HKH), and a nest with 4 nestlings at Ashford BSC 11 Jul (BFH).

Barn Owl: None were reported east of the traditional Clear Creek Marshes site 11 Jun (BP,LP).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Reports were routine.

Great Horned Owl: Reports were routine.

Burrowing Owl: Good counts were 8 s of Lyman 14 Jun (AK) and 5 in Dundy Co 13 Jun (WRS,JS). Furthest e was a lonely bird 1 mi w of Funk Lagoon 19 (WRS,JGJ), 24 and 27 Jul (LR,RH); it appears that the prairie dogs at this site are no longer present.

Barred Owl: Westerly was 1 ne of Ames 14 Jul (B); no information on the location was given.

Long-eared Owl: Interesting were reports of likely summering birds: 2 at Smith L 1 Jun (WM) and another heard at ICSP 12 Jul (B); the latter was near site 37 at the campground. Nesting occurs statewide, but summering birds are rarely noted.

Short-eared Owl: None were reported.

Northern Saw-Whet Owl: A report from 1996 was of one singing at 4.30 am on 23 Jun at Champion Mill SHP, Chase Co (MB). There are occasional reports statewide away from the Pine Ridge in summer, but nesting at any of these locations has not been confirmed.

Common Nighthawk: Reports were routine.

Common Poorwill: Reports were routine.

Chuck-will's-widow: Apparently establishing itself along the Platte River westward in recent years, westward limits were consolidated by birds heard by Lingle and the Tebbels during the summer between the Minden and Kearney bridges (fide LR,RH). Curiously, there is a report of one on the south bank of the Platte 9 mi se of Kearney 19-29 Jun 1983 (NBR), generally the same area as the above reports, suggesting that Chuck-will's-widows may have been in the area for some time. Other than these reports, furthest w in the Platte Valley is the population near Morse Bluff; one was heard at Wolf L throughout the period (TH). Surprisingly, there are no reports from the se other than near the Missouri R; the only such report this year was of one heard near the main RV campground 22 Jun (JS). In recent years there have been reports in the Missouri Valley as far n as Dakota Co.

Whip-poor-will: Reports were routine.

Chimney Swift: Reports were routine.

White-throated Swift: The 3 reports were from expected locations: s of Gering in the Wildcat Hills 1 Jun (AK), in the Pine Ridge at Fort Robinson SP with Violet-green Swallows 7 Jun (JS), and 6 at Soldier Creek WMA 1 Jun (JS).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: None were reported.

Belted Kingfisher: A good count was 8 at Crystal Cove L 30

Jul (BFH).

Lewis' Woodpecker: None were reported.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Two observers (LE,TH) noted numbers fewer than in recent years.

Downy Woodpecker: Reports were routine.

Hairy Woodpecker: Not a species given to "high" counts, a total of 4 were at ADF 5 Jul (CF,LF); in the absence of details, they may have been a family group.

Northern Flicker: Reports were routine.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Last migrants in the e were 2 at FF 1 Jun (B), and rather late in the w was one at Ogallala 12 Jun (LF,CF), 2nd latest ever in spring. Westerly departure dates in Jun are not unexpected.

Western Wood-Pewee: Reports were routine.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Furthest w was near Gibbon 1 Jun (LR,RH), well within its expected range.

Acadian Flycatcher: Rather rare in Nebraska in summer, 2-3 were reported, most northerly one (possibly 2) at Neale Woods 6 Jun (BP,LP) and 4 Jul (B), the other at a regular location in recent years, Trail 9 at ICSP, 7 Jun (JS). There are only about 5 reports in recent years n of ICSP.

Alder Flycatcher: Last was one reported without details but at an expected time and location at Schramm SP 1 Jun (B).

Willow Flycatcher: Small numbers, about 10 birds, were reported statewide, as expected. It would be of interest for observers to note the characteristics of eyerings in summering Nebraska Willow Flycatchers; in general, this empid has the weakest eyering in the group. Is there variation across the state?

Least Flycatcher: Last were singles in sw Dixon Co (JJ) and at Bellevue (BP,LP) the same day.

Cordilleran Flycatcher: At an unexpected location was one in Smiley Canyon 1 Jun (JS); it may have been a migrant. It is being found with some regularity in Monroe Canyon these days; 2 were there 14 Jun (JS,WRS).

Eastern Phoebe: A nest with 3 chicks was found at Ashford BSC 12 Jul (BFH); this is towards the end of the breeding period for this species. Uncommon westerly was 1 at Ogallala 3 Jun (LF,CF).

Say's Phoebe: Probably the easternmost regular summer location is in Dixon Co, where 3 were present 5 Jun (JJ). Birds were noted there 2-11 Jun, one found dead on the latter date (JJ).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Reports were routine, as can be said in recent years of the westernmost summering population for the species, persisting in the Pine Ridge, where 2 were noted in Monroe Canyon 14 Jun (WRS).

Cassin's Kingbird: Reports were routine.

Western Kingbird: Reports were routine.

Eastern Kingbird: Reports were routine.

Horned Lark: Trying not to be routine, a count of 33 in sw Dixon Co 30 Jul (JJ) was noteworthy.

Purple Martin: Of interest were 10 in Bassett 27 Jun (LR,RH), not far east of Ainsworth, beyond which there are few if any summer reports. Observations from northcentral Nebraska in summer are of definite interest.

Tree Swallow: A few scattered nesting locations have been reported in northcentral Nebraska in recent years, but densities are low. Nesting was noted at Smith L 1 Jun (WM), and a first county nesting was in Boone Co the same day (WM). It was noted also at Calamus Res 27 Jun (LR,RH). More expected was a count of 26 at Wagontrain L 18 Jul (LE), indicative of the start post-breeding flocking.

Violet-green Swallow: The usual few birds were reported from the northwest, including "some" at Fort Robinson SP 7 Jun (JH) and 2 at

Soldier Creek campground 1 Jun (JS).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Reports were routine.

Bank Swallow: A good count was 50 at BOL 8 Jul (LE) and an excellent count 800 at Funk Lagoon 24 Jul (LR,RH), obviously migrants, although somewhat earlier than previous high counts, which have been in early Aug.

Cliff Swallow: A good count was 1000 at Funk Lagoon 24 Jul (LR,RH). Peak movement is in early Aug.

Barn Swallow: Reports were routine.

Blue Jay: Reports were routine.

Pinyon Jay: None were reported, not really surprisingly, as these birds can be tough to find during the nesting season. Perhaps this is not the correct assumption to make; are they numerous in summer on the Pine Ridge?

Clark's Nutcracker: Continuing the invasion of last winter, an amazing 42 were at the lower end of Monroe Canyon 1 Jun (JS). The breeding adults at Morrill had departed before 1 Jun, but their single offspring remained until 4 Jun (ECT,AK).

Black-billed Magpie: Easterly was 1 at Pintail Basin in Hamilton Co 9 Jun (NR).

American Crow: Reports were routine.

Black-capped Chickadee: Reports were routine.

Tufted Titmouse: Reports were routine.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Reports were from expected summer locations, including 2-3 at the Niobrara Valley Preserve in Keya Paha Co 28-29 Jun (LR,RH).

White-breasted Nuthatch: Reports were routine.

Pygmy Nuthatch: The summer population at Wildcat Hills continues, although only a single was reported, on 5 Jun (JH).

Brown Creeper: Single birds were reported from the traditional and only known breeding site in FF 27 Jun and 5 Jul (BP,LP), but a report from Cass Co 6 Jun, location not stated (GW), may indicate a previously unknown summer population.

Rock Wren: Easternmost was one s of Kingsley Dam 5 Jun (JH).

Carolina Wren: Reports were from the se, n to Neale Woods, where one (?) were present 6 Jun (BP,LP) and 4 Jul (B). Others were in Cass (GW) and Otoe (LF,CF) Cos.

House Wren: Reports were routine.

Sedge Wren: More than usual were reported in Jun, most singing birds; generally only a few are found then, but an influx occurs in Jul-Aug, when almost all reported nestings have occurred. At Arbor L 4 were seen 4 Jun (LE), but none were reported from there until a singing bird was noted 29 Jul (LE). Two or 3 were at each of Fricke and Schneekloth Prairies in Sarpy Co and Nine-Mile Prairie in Lancaster Co 10-20 Jun (JH), but a fall influx was indicated by the presence of 10 at Nine-Mile Prairie 25 Jul (JH). Other Jun reports were of one along Papio Trail in Sarpy Co 7-8 Jun (BP,LP) and 2 at Jack Sinn Marsh 17 Jun (JS). About as far w as it is regular, 1-2 were near Gibbon 12 and 21 Jun (LR,RH). More expected were 2 which appeared at Harvard Marsh 13 Jul (LR,RH), a single at Twin Lakes Basin 30 Jul (JH) and 2 at Stolley Prairie, Omaha, 31 Jul (JH).

Marsh Wren: Two singing birds at Crystal Cove L 19 Jun were, as expected, of the eastern song type (BFH). An outlying population at Funk Lagoon continued (LR,RH). Abundant at CLNWR, 75 were counted (!) 13 Jun (WRS) and 44 were there 18 Jun (MF).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One at Neale Woods 6 Jun (BP,LP) was near the n edge of the regular summer range, which is in central Washington Co.

Eastern Bluebird: Westerly, and uncommon there, were one near the Wildcat Hills NC 5 Jun (JH) and 2 nearby on Stage Hill RD, just n

of the NC, 27 Jul (AK).

Mountain Bluebird: Reports were routine.

Swainson's Thrush: The only ones making it into this period were 5 at CLNWR 2 Jun (MF).

Wood Thrush: Furthest w reported were at least 3 birds at different locations in the Wolf L area during the period (TH) and a single ne of Ames 9 Jun (B).

American Robin: Reports were routine.

Gray Catbird: Reports were routine.

Northern Mockingbird: Reports were routine, a total of 4 birds noted statewide (JS,GW).

Brown Thrasher: Reports were routine.

Cedar Waxwing: Somewhat like Northern Mockingbird, this species pops up in summer virtually anywhere (although in different habitats), and although seemingly noteworthy, the reports are really routine. A count of 25 in sw Dixon Co 6 Jun (JJ), however, was probably a group of late migrants. Of interest also, was the absence of waxwings from BOL between 5 Jun and 28 Jul (LE); there were, however, birds at Wolf L 22 and 26 Jun (TH).

Loggerhead Shrike: Reports were routine.

European Starling: Reports were routine.

Bell's Vireo: This species is numerous at Rock Creek SRA, where 10 were noted 13 Jun (WRS) and in sc NE, where 12 were counted on the Furnas-Gosper Co BBS (LR,RH).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Northernmost, but expected that far n, was 1 at Ashford BSC 12 Jul (BFH). This species occurs in summer throughout the Missouri Valley.

Warbling Vireo: Reports were routine.

Red-eyed Vireo: A good tally was 20 at the Niobrara Valley Preserve in Brown Co 28 Jun (LR,RH).

Tennessee Warbler: Last for the spring was 1 at FF 3 Jun (BP,LP), about a week earlier than the latest dates for the species.

Northern Parula: Presumably summering were birds at FF 5 Jul (BP,LP), Hummel Park, Douglas Co, 6 Jun (BP,LP), and at ICSP 12 Jul (B), all within the expected range.

Yellow Warbler: Reports were routine.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Rather late was 1 at Schramm SP 1 Jun (B); last dates are 3-4 Jun, which were exceeded significantly by one in the observers' yard near Gibbon 16 Jun (*LR,RH). There are no similar Nebraska reports, although it has bred near Boulder, Colorado, and has occurred in summer in the Black Hills.

Magnolia Warbler: Another very late bird, but not a record setter, was one in the observers' yard in Bellevue 10 Jun (BP,LP). There are 3 other reports, including a specimen 16 Jun, in the period 12-16 Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A rather late migrant, subspecies unspecified, was at CLNWR 6 Jun (MF). The only later report of a "Myrtle" Warbler is 15 Jun 1992 in Lincoln Co. Although there are about 10 reports away from the breeding range of "Audubon's" Warbler in the period 30 Jun-11 Aug, subspecies are unspecified.

Yellow-throated Warbler: The only reports were from the usual location, FF, although no more than single birds were reported, through 5 Jul, when one was singing near the Gifford Farm parking lot (BP,LP).

Prairie Warbler: Quite a surprise was a singing bird at Nebraska National Forest, Halsey, 5 Jul (JGJ), the only summer record for the state. In the interest of propriety, we will not mention the reason the observer was in this particular rather secluded spot.

Blackpoll Warbler: Rather late was one in the observers' yard 1 Jun (BP,LP). Latest dates are 4-7 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: Singles were reported at FF, an expected

location, 1 and 28 Jun (BP,LP), and another was at Hummel Park, Douglas Co, 6 Jun (BP,LP), where it is not regularly noted.

Black-and-white Warbler: There are few summer reports in recent years from the lower Missouri Valley, where 1 was at ICSP 6 Jun 1996 (MB). Breeding does occur regularly at the Niobrara Valley Preserve, where one was noted 29 Jul in Keya Paha Co (LR,RH).

American Redstart: The few reports were from the Missouri Valley, including 4 singing birds at FF 5 Jul (BP,LP) and 3 singing at Ashford BSC (BFH), both locations where breeding is apparently regular, but few birds seem to be present.

Prothonotary Warbler: None were reported during the period; the population along North Stream Trail in FF may no longer be present.

Ovenbird: A count of 40 in the Niobrara Valley Preserve, in Brown Co, on 28 Jun (LR,RH) shows how numerous this species can be in n Nebraska in summer. More usual were 3 at Neale Woods 6 Jun (BP,LP). Numbers of Ovenbirds present may be a good indicator of a woodland with a complete succession of vegetation; it is rare or absent in the Platte Valley west of Schramm SP.

Northern Waterthrush: Another record-late warbler was one of this species at the Rock Creek Fish Hatchery, Dundy Co, 13 Jun (WRS,JS). The few Jun reports include a specimen collected in Adams Co 8 Jun 1953, and the purported presence of birds at FF 18 Jun and in Jul 1982, and a female with a brood patch banded there 18 Jun 1983, although no details have been published on the FF reports.

Louisiana Waterthrush: None were reported for the period, despite a flurry of rather widespread spring reports.

Kentucky Warbler: Reports were from se NE locations: singles were at Neale Woods 6 Jun (BP,LP) and 5 Jul (B), at ADF 17 Jul (LF,CF), and at Platte River SP 1 Jun (B). No evidence of breeding was noted.

Connecticut Warbler: Only the 3rd spring report, and possibly the same bird reported at FF 31 May (Spring Report), was one singing at FF 1 Jun (B). No details were provided for what would be the 2nd latest ever.

Mourning Warbler: Expected in early Jun, last were 2 at Schramm SP 1 Jun (B). Latest dates for this species are 11-15 Jun.

Common Yellowthroat: Reports were routine.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Reports were as expected from c NE westward; it is common at Rock Creek SRA, Dundy Co, where 12 were noted 13 Jun (WRS,JS). Unexpected, however, was a report from Platte River SP 14 Jun, where another, likely the same, was noted in the Spring Report (GW). This species is now only casual in e NE.

Summer Tanager: The only report was from the usual location, Schramm SP, on 1 Jun (B). Of interest is a belated report of one at ICSP 5 Jun 1996 (MB); this species is rarely reported away from Schramm SP.

Scarlet Tanager: There were reports away from the Missouri Valley, where it is regular in summer, as far n and w as Oak Glen WMA, Seward Co, 2 pairs 28 Jun (B), and the Niobrara Valley Preserve, in Brown Co, 28 Jun (LR,RH). The latter location is about the westward extent of regular breeding in the Niobrara Valley, although nesting is reported w to the Valentine area.

Western Tanager: Reports were routine.

Northern Cardinal: Reports were received from westerly outposts of the range, most interestingly from 12 mi e of Chadron, where 1 was noted 26 Jul (LF,CF); there are few Pine Ridge reports. It occurs throughout the Republican Valley, where 2 were noted at Rock Creek SRA 13 Jun (WRS,JS). The small group survives in Scotts Bluff Co, where 3 were the most seen at one time, 2 males and a female (AK).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Near the w edge of the range of "pure" birds of this species, up to 4 (3 females, 1 male) were in the

observers' yard near Gibbon throughout the summer (LR,RH).

Black-headed Grosbeak: Reports were routine.

Blue Grosbeak: Reports were routine.

Lazuli Bunting: Reports included a good count of 6 s of Gering 1 Jun (AK), and a hybrid in the Sue Amiotte yard s of Chadron 3 Jul (fide AK).

Indigo Bunting: Rather rare, although now regular, in the w Republican Valley, 1 was noted on the Benkelman BBS 13 Jun (JS,WRS).

Dickcissel: Rather sporadic westerly, especially in Jun, 3 were at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF), and 1 was noted on the Agate BBS, Sioux Co, 14 Jun (WRS,JS). Richard Rosche has suggested that there is a regular, low-density breeding population in the west, and a later-arriving (Jul) population consisting of single males generally associated with alfalfa fields.

Eastern Towhee: At the w edge of the range were 3 singing "drink your teedle tee" (!!) at Ashford BSC 12 Jul (BFH), and another heard at Wolf L 6 Jun (TH), possibly a late migrant, as most summer birds there are Spotteds (see below).

Spotted Towhee: A phenotypic Spotted sang the Eastern song (see above for an accurate rendition) at Ashford BSC 12 Jul; most birds in that woodland near the w edge of the range of Eastern Towhee appear to be hybrids. At Wolf L, Spotted is a summer resident; 2-3 pairs were there (TH) at the e edge of the range. Also at the e edge of the range was one which summered near Gibbon (LR,RH).

Cassin's Sparrow: Despite an extensive search of known and other locations in Dundey Co, none were found (JS,WRS). A significant part of the best habitat along the ridges on the n side of the Republican R was burned in grass fires in 1996. A location where birds were found 23 Jun 1996 (MB) was also searched without success; this was on the s side of Highway 34 just w of its junction with Highway 161.

Chipping Sparrow: Least common in sw NE, the furthest sw report was of 5 on the campus of University of Nebraska-Kearney 26 Jun (LR,RH). Reports s of the Platte R and w of Grand Island are of interest.

Brewer's Sparrow: Reports were received from traditional locations, 7 birds s of Kilpatrick L 14 Jun (WRS,JS), and along the Wyoming border in Sioux Co (B), but of interest were 2 singing birds acting territorially in atypical habitat in Kimball Co 15 Jun (JS,WRS). One was in a planted shelterbelt of shrubs about 8 ft tall, and the other was singing from a dense clump of brome grass on CRP pasture. At least 8 others were found in Kimball and Banner Cos the same day, all in typical sage grassland habitat (WRS,JS).

Field Sparrow: Westerly was 1 on the Furnas-Gosper Cos BBS 22 Jun (LR,RH). Numbers decline markedly to the w.

Vesper Sparrow: This species is probably most numerous in the Sandhills, as reflected by a good count of 26 at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF).

Lark Sparrow: Rather common statewide, but especially in the Sandhills, best counts were 25 at the Niobrara Valley Preserve, in Brown Co, 28 Jun (LR,RH), and 20 s of Gering 27 Jul (AK).

Lark Bunting: Although none were reported e of the Panhandle, numbers there were good, with totals of over 400 in Kimball Co 15 Jun (WRS,JS) and over 350 in Sioux Co 14 Jun (WRS,JS).

Savannah Sparrow: The few nesting records are from the northwest, and so 2 birds, reported without details, 3 mi s of Nebraska City 1 Jun (LF,CF) were probably late migrants; the previous late dates were 24-25 May, although there are undocumented reports 29 May 1992 from Lancaster Co an 31 May 1975 from Douglas-Sarpy Cos.

Grasshopper Sparrow: This species is doing very well in w NE. Over 100 were noted both 13 Jun in Dundey Co and 15 Jun in Kimball Co

(WRS,JS) and 118 were counted at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF). These counts are in line with others in these areas in recent years.

Henslow's Sparrow: One was singing at the traditional location just s of the prairie-chicken blinds at Burchard L SRA 22 Jun (JS), but of interest were reports from additional locations: 3 were at Meadowlark L SRA in Seward Co 14 Jul (B), and one was at Nine-Mile Prairie in Lancaster Co 12 Jun (B). Recent years have seen increasing reports of this species, especially in prairies which are regenerating or managed by burning.

Song Sparrow: Traditionally, this species bred only along the e and n edges of the state, but since the 1960s it has been noted in other areas, generally in the Loup drainage and along the Platte Valley w to about Buffalo Co, and including at least Funk Lagoon in Phelps Co. Reports this summer suggest that it is consolidating its range in the Rainwater Basin, with reports from Pintail WMA 12 Jun (LF,CF), Hansen Lagoon 5 Jul (JGJ), Southeast Marsh at Hastings 13 Jul (LR,RH), and at Harvard and Harvard Northeast Marsh 13 Jul (LR,RH) and 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ). Thus Song Sparrow probably now occupies wetland areas of most of e and c NE, as well as an isolated, small population at Oliver Res in Kimball Co. Possibly a new habitat was the Earl May Garden Center in Bellevue, where one was carrying food 8 Jun after having been noted singing there earlier in the spring (BP,LP).

Swamp Sparrow: The small Funk Lagoon population continues, with reports 24 and 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Dark-eyed Junco: None were reported.

McCown's Longspur: Reports were from traditional locations along the Wyoming border road in Sioux Co (B) and in sw Kimball Co, where 11 were noted at "Stop 52" of the Kimball BBS route (WRS,JS).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Reports were received from several locations in the Panhandle, best count 13 along the Agate BBS route w in Sioux Co 14 Jun (WRS,JS).

Bobolink: Generally a bird of wet meadows, it has also adapted to alfalfa fields, and occurs throughout most of the state, although still most common in Sandhills meadows. It is least numerous in s NE, where this summer there were more reports than usual from the se: 2-4 were at Gifford Farm in Sarpy Co through 8 Jul (BP,LP), 1 was in Otoe Co 1 Jun (LF,CF), and it was reported from Cass Co (no location) 12 Jun (GW). It is numerous in certain Platte Valley locations, as indicated by 45 at Rowe Sanctuary 5 Jul (LR,RH). It also is utilizing managed prairies in se NE such as Madigan Prairie in Lancaster Co, where at least 10 were present 1 Jul (JH).

Red-winged Blackbird: Large flocks of "several thousand" were in evidence in Buffalo Co as early as 19 Jul (LR,RH). The breeding population, about 35 birds, at Arbor L had departed by 29 Jul (LE), which agrees with the timing of the flocks noted above.

Eastern Meadowlark: Continuing the excellent counts of recent years at CLNWR was the report of 26 there 18 Jun (MF).

Western Meadowlark: Numerous in the w, at least 300 were noted in Kimball Co 15 Jun (WRS,JS) and 207 were counted at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Reports were routine.

Brewer's Blackbird: Reports were routine.

Great-tailed Grackle: The first confirmed breeding record for Boone Co was of 3 recently-fledged young seen 1 Jun (WM). At least 6 were found in Lancaster Co 4 Jun and 1 was at Arbor L 8 Jul (LE); summer reports are few away from the Rainwater Basin. Northerly, albeit belated, reports of note were from Antelope and Rock Cos 2 Jun 1996 (MB).

Common Grackle: Flocks of juveniles were noted in c NE by 19 Jul (WRS).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Reports were routine.

Orchard Oriole: Common in sw NE, at least 30 were found in Dundy Co 13 Jun (WRS,JS).

Baltimore Oriole: Reports were routine.

Bullock's Oriole: Reports were routine.

Scott's Oriole: One was reported at Mormon Island SP "across from the campground and creek" 2 Jul (B), but no details have been provided. There are 4 other reports of this species in NE, none well-documented.

House Finch: Reports were routine.

Red Crossbill: All reports were from the Wildcat Hills, where there are several summer reports but no evidence of breeding. Best count this summer was 25 at the feeders of Wildcat Hills NC 15 Jun (WRS,JS). At least 2 remained through the period at a feeder s of Gering (AK).

Pine Siskin: There were several reports, most of birds at feeders, through mid-Jun in the Panhandle, best count about 50 at Wildcat Hills NC 15 Jun (WRS,JS). The last seen at the James Ranch feeders were on 16 Jun (SL). A late bird was at Nebraska City 1 Jun (LF,CF). Belated was a report of nesting at Wayne State College 18 Jun 1996 (MB).

American Goldfinch: Reports were routine.

House Sparrow: Reports were routine.

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