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## Mountain Plover Nest in Kimball County

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MOUNTAIN PLOVER NEST IN KIMBALL COUNTY  
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On 18 May 1995 I observed two adult Mountain Plovers 5 mi west and 1.25 mi north of Bushnell in southwest Kimball County. The birds were in an area of short-grass prairie interspersed with clumps of prickly pear and bare ground. I observed both birds almost continuously from 1-2 p.m. MDT. The first bird was along the road south of the fenceline, just after the road climbs north of the plateau. The second bird was about 0.1 mi to the north on the west side of the road. Both birds were medium-sized, plain shorebirds, similar in shape and posture to a Killdeer. The crown, nape, mantle, and upperwings were pale brown. The forehead and lores were white with a narrow black band separating them from the brown crown. The underparts were white with some buffy wash on the flanks. The legs were long and pale-colored. The posture was very upright, unlike other plovers. At approximately 1:45 p.m. I located the nest of the first bird. It contained three eggs and was 15 m east of the road on top of the plateau. The nest was a shallow depression in the ground, lined with small pebbles. As I examined the nest, the bird remained close by, giving several loud, whistled, "whit" notes in an attempt to distract me away. I photographed both the nest and the adult bird, then left to avoid further disturbance.

Mountain Plovers are rare breeders in Nebraska. There are four previous nesting records as follows: a nest on 8 July 1859 near North Platte (Ducey 1988), a half-grown fledgling on 7 June 1975 7 mi west of Bushnell (Lock 1975, Bennett 1976), an adult with three half-grown young on 18 July 1983 3-4 mi north of Highway 30 and 1 mi east of the Wyoming border (Cox 1983), and a nest with three eggs from 21-23 May 1990 at this same location found by Fritz L. Knopf (Clausen 1990). Small numbers of Mountain Plovers probably occur most years in Kimball County. There, they could nest in small patches of short-grass prairie or on fallow fields. I thank Ross Silcock for providing information on previous nesting records of this species in Nebraska.

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