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Annual Meeting at Chadron

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Annual Meeting at Chadron

Sixty-seven members and guests were in attendance at the 111th Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union held at Camp Norwesca on May 14-16, 2010. The Camp Norwesca campus, located just south of Chadron State Park, proved to be an excellent birding location, providing good views of Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills. Evening Grosbeaks were also found at Chadron State Park and at Beaver Wall in Sheridan Co.

Field trips were led by Wayne Mollhoff, Kathy DeLara, Ann Duey, Alice Kenitz, and Bruce and Donna Walgren. Rain on Saturday morning caused some last-minute changes to the trip itineraries. Among the locations visited were Gilbert-Baker WMA, Fort Robinson State Park, White River, Chadron Creek Ranch WMA, Chadron State Park, Oglalla National Grasslands, Beaver Wall, and Smith Lake WMA.

The total tally for the weekend was 166 species, with Baird's Sparrow, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Evening Grosbeak being among the most popular with the group.

On Friday evening, Todd Nordeen, a district wildlife manager for Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, spoke about the bighorn sheep management program in the Nebraska Panhandle. Bighorn sheep were native to the area, but were extirpated in the early 1900s due to disease, habitat loss and over-hunting. Over the past few years, bighorn sheep have been reintroduced, and herds can now be found at Fort Robinson State Park, Bighorn WMA, Cedar Canyon WMA, and Hubbard Gap. The total population of bighorn sheep in Nebraska is currently estimated at 250 to 300.

On Saturday evening, Bart Bly, a biologist with the Nebraska Prairie Partners, gave a presentation on bird research in western Nebraska pine forests. The Nebraska Prairie Partners, a collaboration between the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, assists landowners with habitat development on private lands and designs projects to benefit wildlife, particularly species of conservation concern. Species studied recently in the Nebraska Panhandle include Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Common Poorwill and Mountain Plover. The Nebraska Prairie Partners hopes to improve the long-term viability of native habitats and increase public awareness of the importance of conserving and maintaining habitats to keep common species common and to reverse the plight of threatened and endangered species.

Board Meeting and Election

A brief business meeting was held, and Urban Lehner (president), Nancy Leonard (vice-president), Betty Grenon (treasurer), Kevin Poague (secretary), Anita Breckbill (librarian), and Janis Paseka (editor) were reelected to additional one-year terms. Jan Johnson was elected to a three-year term as director, replacing Kathy DeLara.

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	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Snow Goose			x	
Canada Goose	x	x	x	
Trumpeter Swan			x	
Wood Duck		x	x	
Gadwall	x	x	x	x
Mallard	x	x	x	x
Blue-winged Teal	x	x	x	x
Cinnamon Teal		x		
Northern Shoveler		x	x	
Northern Pintail	x		x	
Green-winged Teal		x		
Canvasback			x	
Redhead		x	x	
Lesser Scaup		x	x	
Bufflehead		x	x	
Common Merganser			x	
Ruddy Duck		x	x	
Ring-necked Pheasant	x	x	x	x
Sharp-tailed Grouse				x
Wild Turkey	x	x	x	x
Pied-billed Grebe		x	x	
Eared Grebe		x	x	
Western Grebe		x	x	
American White Pelican		x	x	
Double-crested Cormorant			x	
Great Blue Heron		x	x	x
White-faced Ibis		x	x	
Turkey Vulture		x	x	x
Osprey		x		
Northern Harrier	x	x	x	x
Cooper's Hawk		x	x	x
Swainson's Hawk	x	x	x	x
Red-tailed Hawk	x	x	x	x
Ferruginous Hawk	x	x	x	x
Golden Eagle	x	x		
American Kestrel	x	x	x	x
Prairie Falcon		x		

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	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Virginia Rail			x	
Sora	x	x	x	
American Coot			x	
Black-bellied Plover	x			
Semipalmated Plover	x			
Killdeer	x	x	x	x
Black-necked Stilt			x	
American Avocet		x	x	
Lesser Yellowlegs		x	x	
Willet		x	x	
Spotted Sandpiper		x	x	x
Upland Sandpiper		x	x	x
Long-billed Curlew	x	x	x	x
Least Sandpiper	x			
Wilson's Snipe		x		
Wilson's Phalarope	x	x	x	
Franklin's Gull			x	
Ring-billed Gull		x	x	
Black Tern		x	x	x
Forster's Tern			x	
Rock Pigeon	x	x	x	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	x	x	x	x
Mourning Dove	x	x	x	x
Great Horned Owl	x	x	x	
Burrowing Owl	x	x	x	
Short-eared Owl				x
Chimney Swift	x	x	x	
White-throated Swift		x	x	
Belted Kingfisher		x	x	x
Lewis's Woodpecker		x		
Red-headed Woodpecker	x	x	x	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		x		
Downy Woodpecker	x	x	x	x
Hairy Woodpecker		x		x
Northern Flicker	x	x	x	x
Olive-sided Flycatcher		x		
Western Wood-Pewee		x		

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	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Willow Flycatcher			x	
Least Flycatcher		x	x	x
Cordilleran Flycatcher			x	
Eastern Phoebe		x	x	
Say's Phoebe	x	x		x
Great Crested Flycatcher		x	x	
Western Kingbird	x	x	x	x
Eastern Kingbird	x	x	x	x
Loggerhead Shrike	x	x	x	x
Plumbeous Vireo		x		x
Warbling Vireo	x	x		
Red-eyed Vireo		x		
Blue Jay	x	x	x	
Pinyon Jay				x
Black-billed Magpie		x		x
American Crow	x	x	x	x
Horned Lark	x	x	x	x
Tree Swallow		x	x	x
Violet-green Swallow		x	x	x
N. Rough-winged Swallow		x	x	x
Bank Swallow		x		
Cliff Swallow	x	x		
Barn Swallow	x	x	x	x
Black-capped Chickadee		x	x	x
Red-breasted Nuthatch		x	x	x
White-breasted Nuthatch		x	x	
Pygmy Nuthatch		x		x
Brown Creeper		x		
Rock Wren				x
House Wren	x	x	x	x
Marsh Wren			x	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		x	x	
Eastern Bluebird		x	x	x
Mountain Bluebird		x	x	x
Townsend's Solitaire		x		x
Veery		x		
Swainson's Thrush		x	x	

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	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Hermit Thrush	x			
American Robin	x	x	x	x
Gray Catbird		x	x	x
Brown Thrasher	x	x	x	
European Starling	x	x	x	x
American Pipit				x
Cedar Waxwing		x		x
Tennessee Warbler			x	
Orange-crowned Warbler		x	x	x
Nashville Warbler		x		
Yellow Warbler		x	x	x
Yellow-rumped Warbler	x	x	x	x
Palm Warbler		x		
Blackpoll Warbler		x	x	
Black-and-white Warbler		x		x
American Redstart		x	x	x
Ovenbird		x	x	x
Northern Waterthrush			x	
Common Yellowthroat		x	x	x
Wilson's Warbler		x		
Yellow-breasted Chat		x	x	x
Western Tanager		x		
Spotted Towhee	x	x	x	x
Chipping Sparrow	x	x	x	x
Clay-colored Sparrow	x	x	x	x
Field Sparrow	x			
Vesper Sparrow	x		x	x
Lark Sparrow	x	x	x	x
Lark Bunting	x	x	x	x
Grasshopper Sparrow		x		x
Baird's Sparrow				x
Lincoln's Sparrow			x	
Harris's Sparrow		x		
White-crowned Sparrow		x	x	
Dark-eyed Junco		x		
McCown's Longspur				x
Chestnut-collared Longspur				x

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	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Black-headed Grosbeak		x	x	x
Bobolink			x	
Red-winged Blackbird	x	x	x	x
Western Meadowlark	x	x	x	x
Yellow-headed Blackbird	x	x	x	
Brewer's Blackbird		x		x
Common Grackle	x	x	x	x
Great-tailed Grackle			x	
Brown-headed Cowbird	x	x	x	x
Orchard Oriole			x	
Bullock's Oriole		x	x	
Baltimore Oriole		x	x	
House Finch	x	x	x	x
Red Crossbill		x		x
Pine Siskin		x	x	x
American Goldfinch	x	x	x	x
Evening Grosbeak		x	x	
House Sparrow	x	x	x	x
Total species	166	60	120	82