


6-1984

Birds of Lake McConaughy and the North Platte River Valley, Oshkosh to Keystone

Richard C. Rasche
Chadron, Nebraska

Paul A. Johnsgard
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, pajohnsgard@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev>

 Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#), [Poultry or Avian Science Commons](#), and the [Zoology Commons](#)

Rasche, Richard C. and Johnsgard, Paul A., "Birds of Lake McConaughy and the North Platte River Valley, Oshkosh to Keystone" (1984). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 1199.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev/1199>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nebraska Bird Review by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

BIRDS OF LAKE MCCONAUGHY AND THE NORTH PLATTE RIVER VALLEY, OSHKOSH TO KEYSTONE

Introduction

Cedar Point Biological Station was established in 1975 at a site approximately one mile below Kingsley Dam in Keith County, Nebraska. Since that time summer ornithology classes have been periodically offered beginning in 1977 when it was taught by Dr. Stephen Fretwell. A variety of ornithologists have kept records of the summer birds of the area. Beginning in 1970, when he first visited the area, the senior author has accumulated a large amount of data covering all seasons of the year, which form the primary basis for the seasonal information in this paper. In addition, much information was contributed by C. Fred Zeilemaker from late 1977 to early 1982, when he was Manager at nearby Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Other contributors include: Charles Brown, Craig Faanes, Don Mahoney, Dorothy and Mark Rosche, and Melly Zeilemaker.

Because of the unusual diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats within the rather circumscribed area of Lake McConaughy and adjoining localities, it is of special interest to ornithologists. Furthermore, the area is essentially in the middle of the east-west faunal transition zone in the Great Plains, so that a number of closely related species-pairs (buntings, grosbeaks, tanagers, orioles, *et al.*) are represented. Finally the annual concentration of biologists at Cedar Point makes it desirable that a comprehensive bird list for the area be prepared. The following is largely limited to the North Platte River Valley from Oshkosh east to the vicinity of Keystone as indicated in Figure 1. Major birding areas include the Oshkosh sewage lagoons, the Lewellen area, Ash Hollow State Historical Park, Clear Creek State Game Management Area, Lake McConaughy, Lake Ogallala, Keystone Lake, and Cedar Point Biological Station. Except where otherwise indicated, the observations are those of the authors.

List of Species

- Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient, 12 April to 15 June and 15 October to 28 November. There are many summer records of non-breeding individuals, including immature-plumaged birds in August 1978 and 1980 on Keystone Lake.
- Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 10 September to 6 May. Also reported as a common breeder on Keystone Lake in 1977 (Fretwell), but absent ever since water levels were lowered in 1982.
- Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*). Spring and autumn transient. 28 February to 14 May and 15 October to 6 November.
- Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*). Spring and autumn transient, 12 April to 3 June and 15 September to 16 October. Reported as a rare breeder on Keystone Lake in 1977 (Fretwell).
- Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient, 12 April to 15 June and 4 August to 6 November. Some non-breeding individuals have been observed during summer, and there are a few winter records as well.
- American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). Spring and autumn transient and a non-breeding summer visitant, 24 March to 17 October.
- Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient, 28 March to 3 June and 2 September to 6 November. Formerly nested, but probably does not do so at the present time. Summering non-breeders were observed in July and August 1977 (Fretwell).
- American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). A probable spring and autumn transient and summer resident but there are only two records at present: 26 May, 1983 at Ash Hollow and 11 September, 1977 in the Clear Creek marshes.
- Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*). One record: 26 May, 1983 at Ash Hollow.
- Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). Permanent resident, nesting locally. Two colonies of 22 and 29 nests were near Keystone in 1983, with recently hatched eggs observed 24-25 May. It also nests near Lewellen. Present every winter but most individuals tend to leave during severe weather.
- Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*). One record: 16 September, 1983 in the Clear Creek marshes.
- Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*). One record: 6 November, 1976 at Martin Bay, Lake McConaughy.

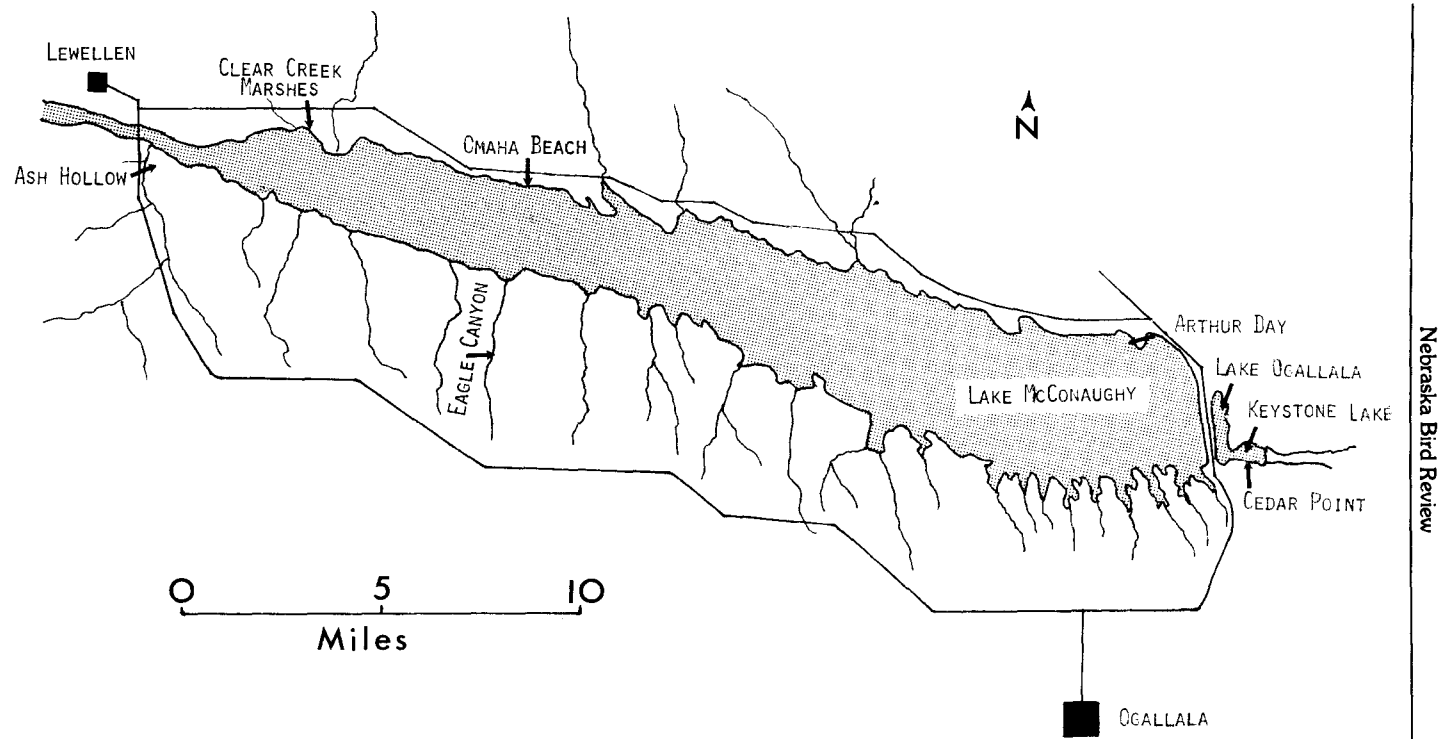


Figure 1.

- Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*). Primarily a spring transient and a late summer visitant, 6 May (Zeilemaker) to 4 June and 4 August to 25 August (Zeilemaker). Probably breeds locally.
- Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). Four spring records, 12 April to 14 May. Also called rare at Keystone Lake. 18 July to 19 August, 1977 (Fretwell).
- Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). One record: 6 January, 1978 in the Clear Creek marshes (Zeilemaker).**
- Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). Primarily a spring transient, 10 March to 23 April. Two winter records: 6 January, 1978 in the Clear Creek marshes (Zeilemaker) and 6 January, 1983 near Oshkosh.
- Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*). Two records: 21 March, 1979 in the Clear Creek marshes (Faanes) and 23 April, 1977 at the west end of Lake McConaughy.
- Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 4 August to 25 May. It was reported as uncommon at the west end of Lake McConaughy during July 1977 (Fretwell).
- Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*). Local summer resident, 29 March to 17 October. A brood was observed below the Keystone Lake diversion dam on 15 August, 1980.
- Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 20 August to 4 June.
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Permanent resident, nesting commonly throughout the area.
- Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 20 August to 4 June. May possibly have bred in 1978 near Cedar Point Biological Station.
- Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*). Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 15 March to 3 October.
- Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*). Spring transient, 28 March to 4 June. Possibly an autumn transient but there are no definite records, because of confusion with the preceding species.
- Nothorn Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*). Spring and autumn transient, 8 March (Zeilemaker) to 20 June and 15 September to 18 December.**
- Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 3 October to 16 May. It was observed during summer 1977 on Keystone Lake (Fretwell).**
- American Wigeon (*Anas americana*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 8 October (Zeilemaker) to 15 June.
- Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient, occasionally wintering and summering (as non-breeders). There are records for all months except July and September.
- Redhead (*Aythya americana*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient, 28 February to 20 June and 15 September to 8 January. It was observed during summer 1977 on Keystone Lake (Fretwell).**
- Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 3 October to 14 April.
- Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*). Winter visitant on Keystone Lake and the diversion canal, 30 December (Zeilemaker) to 24 March.
- Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 6 November to 20 June. Single males have been observed during summer on Keystone Lake.**
- Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*). Spring and autumn transient with six records, 24 March to 15 April and 7 December to 18 December. All records, except one, were at Kingsley Dam Spillway.
- Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*). One record: 6-7 November, 1978 on Lake Ogallala.
- Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*). Two records: 6 November, 1976 and 28 November, 1974, both on Lake Ogallala.
- Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 6 November to 3 June. There are also several summer records of non-breeders on Keystone Lake and Lake McConaughy.
- Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 15 October to 25 May.
- Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 6 November to 24 April. One summer record: 20 June, 1984 at Oshkosh.**

- Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 4 August to 3 June. Occasional during summer, but not known to nest. There is a mid-summer movement of molting birds into the area, thus it might be considered a permanent resident.
- Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 6 November to 16 May.**
- Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). Spring and autumn transient and summer visitant, 24 March to 25 November. Present on Lake Ogallala or Keystone Lake most summers, and Fretwell thought it bred on the latter during summer 1977.
- Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*). Spring and autumn transient and probable summer resident, 12 April to 3 October.
- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Spring and autumn transient, 18 May to 5 June and 10 September to 16 October.
- Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 17 October to 14 April.
- Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient and a winter visitant, 10 September to 16 May. Reported as uncommon at Keystone Lake during summer 1977 (Fretwell), and a nest was found in Ackley Valley during summer 1983.**
- Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 11 September to 14 April.
- Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient, 23 April to 6 May (Zeilemaker) and 8 October (Zeilemaker) to 26 November (Zeilemaker). One winter record: 7 January, 1982 at Oshkosh.
- Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). Two records: 7 January, 1983 at Cedar Vue, Lake McConaughy, and 10 May, 1984 near Keystone (Brown).**
- Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). One record: 7 May, 1978 at Oshkosh.
- Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 18 April to 16 September. An active nest was observed near Keystone on 25 May, 1983.
- Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient, 10 March to 15 April and 2 October to 7 January. One summer record: 27 July, 1981 near Cedar Point Biological Station.
- Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). Winter visitant, 14 October to 24 March.
- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Currently probably only a winter visitant, 3 October to 3 June. A nest, apparently active as recently as 1980, was observed near the west end of Lake McConaughy.
- American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). Probably a spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 23 October (Zeilemaker) to 11 March.
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). One definite record: 28 November, 1974 at Eagle Canyon. Also reported at Cedar Point Biological Station in May 1978 (Mahoney).
- Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 8 October (Zeilemaker) to 10 May. Summer records include 28 May, 1983 at Cedar Point Biological Station: 16 June, 1979 (Faanes), and summer 1977 at Keystone Lake (Fretwell).**
- Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). Introduced permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*). Permanent resident. Rather widespread all along the north shore of Lake McConaughy during June 1979 (Faanes). A dancing ground is active near the north end of Kingsley Dam.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*). Permanent resident, nesting in grassland habitats.
- Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Reintroduced permanent resident. Broods were first observed in 1977 at Cedar Point Biological Station, and birds were initially seen the same year at Ash Hollow. The species has increased since that time throughout the Platte River valley.**
- Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*). Permanent resident, nesting locally. Numbers fluctuate markedly from year to year.**

- King Rail (*Rallus elegans*). Two records: 23 April, 1977 and 6 June, 1979 (Faanes) in the Clear Creek marshes.
- Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*). **Summer resident, 23 April to 17 October. Until 1982 territorial calling was frequent at Keystone Lake. One winter record: 6 January, 1984 at Lewellen.**
- Sora (*Porzana carolina*). Summer resident, 23 April to 3 October. Until 1982 territorial calling was frequent at Keystone Lake.
- American Coot (*Fulica americana*). Permanent resident, nesting locally.
- Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). Spring and autumn transient, 16 February (Zeilemaker) to 25 April (Zeilemaker) and 14 October to 6 November.
- Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*). Spring and autumn transient, 16 May to 25 May and 11 September to 7 November.
- Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*). Hypothetical. One record: 7 August, 1977 at Lake McConaughy (Fretwell).
- Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*). Spring and autumn transient, 14 April to 20 May and 3 August to 3 October.
- Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). Summer resident, 15 April to 19 August, primarily along the northeastern shores of Lake McConaughy. A nest containing eggs was found on 12 June, 1979 at Arthur Bay, and two nests at Martin Bay and Keystone Lake in May, 1984.**
- Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). Spring and autumn transient, 12 April to 25 May and 3 August to 14 October.
- Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*). Spring and autumn transient, 29 March to 7 May and 3 August to 8 October (Zeilemaker).
- Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*). Spring and autumn transient, 12 April (Zeilemaker) to 16 May and 26 July to 3 October.**
- Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*). Spring and autumn transient, 25 April (Zeilemaker) to 20 May and 21 August to 16 September.
- Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). Spring transient, 17 April to 15 May. One autumn record: 4 August, 1979 at the west end of Lake McConaughy.
- Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 5 May to 3 October.
- Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 3 May (Zeilemaker) to 9 August. Nesting occurs in native meadow grasslands.
- Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*). Spring and autumn transient and local summer resident, 28 March to 3 August. Nesting occurs in native grasslands with eggs hatching in late May or early June.
- Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). One record: 24 April, 1977 near Kingsley Dam.
- Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*). Autumn transient, 3 August to 3 October.
- Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). One record: 16 May, 1983 at Keystone Lake.
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*). Spring and autumn transient, 6 May to 3 June and 3 August to 7 November.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*). Spring and autumn transient, 16 May to 20 May and 3 August to 22 August.**
- Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*). Autumn transient, 3 August to 11 September.
- Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*). Spring and autumn transient, 14 April to 7 May and 26 July to 6 November.
- White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*). Spring transient, 6 May to 25 May.
- Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*). Spring and autumn transient, 24 March to 24 May and 3 August to 6 November.
- Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*). Spring and autumn transient, 28 May to 30 May and 3 August to 15 October.
- Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*). Spring and autumn transient, 6 May to 25 May and 3 August to 3 October.
- Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*). Spring and autumn transient, 28 March to 25 May and 3 August to 14 October.
- Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*). Spring and autumn transient and local summer resident, 24 March to 28 November. One winter record: 17 February, 1979 (Zeilemaker). Probably breeds regularly in the Clear Creek marshes, but a nest or young have yet to be observed.

- Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*). Spring and autumn transient, 20 April to 25 May and 19 August to 20 August. It was "abundant" on Lake McConaughy during late summer 1977 (Fretwell) and 1978.
- Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). Apparently a rare transient, having been reported during May 1978 at Cedar Point Biological Station (Mahoney) and in late summer 1977 on Lake McConaughy (Fretwell). Not otherwise reported in the area.
- Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). Spring and autumn transient and summer visitant, 24 March to 7 November.
- Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). Spring and autumn transient, 18 April to 16 May and 15 October to 29 November.
- Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*). Permanent resident. Does not breed.
- Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 10 September to 3 June.
- Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). Winter visitant, two records: 24 January, 1980 and 24 March, 1978 at the west end of Lake McConaughy.
- Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*). Spring transient, 17 May to 20 May, 1983 at Keystone Lake and on the North Platte River below the diversion dam.
- Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*). Spring and autumn transient and summer visitant, 18 April to 3 October.
- Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*). Hypothetical. Reported during summer 1977 on Lake McConaughy (Fretwell).
- Black Tern (*Chilidonias niger*). Summer resident, 6 May to 10 September, probably breeding locally.
- Rock Dove (*Columba livia*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout around human habitations and occasionally on cliff ledges.
- Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*). Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 28 March to 17 October. One winter record: 7 January, 1982 near Oshkosh.
- Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*). Summer resident, 22 June (Brown) to 25 August (Zeilemaker), breeding locally.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). Summer resident, 14 May to 21 August, breeding throughout.
- Common Barn-Owl (*Tyto alba*). Summer resident, 7 April to 7 September. Nests occur in roadside cuts and exposed rock outcrops having deep recesses. Newly hatched young were found in a nest in late May 1983 at Cedar Point Biological Station.
- Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*). Permanent resident.
- Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout. Nests have been found in canyon areas near Cedar Point Biological Station and in old hawk and heron nests in the North Platte River floodplain nearly every year; newly fledged young have been observed from late April to late May.
- Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Summer resident, 24 April to 21 August. Nests locally in the abandoned holes of various mammals.
- Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*). One record: 23 February, 1980 at Cedar Vue Recreation Area, Lake McConaughy.
- Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*). Summer resident, 25 May to 11 September. A nest with incubated eggs was found near Keystone in early August 1981.
- Common Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*). Spring and autumn transient, 23 April to 25 May and 15 September to 17 October.
- Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*). Summer resident, 3 May (Zeilemaker) to 11 September.
- Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*). Permanent resident.
- Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). Summer resident, 3 May (Zeilemaker) to 14 October, nesting throughout.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*). Two records: 24 April, 1977 and 15 October, 1978 at Lake Ogallala.
- Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*). One record: 12 August, 1977 near Cedar Point Biological Station (Fretwell).

- Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*). Two records: 5 June, 1979 near Lewellen (Faanes); and 9 August, 1978 at Cedar Point Biological Station where one was mist-netted.
- Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). Two records: 5 June, 1979 in the Clear Creek marshes where four singing males were heard; and 27 July, 1978 at Cedar Point Biological Station where a juvenile was mist-netted.
- Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*). One record: 20 May, 1983 below the Keystone Lake diversion dam where a singing male was heard.
- Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*). Summer resident, 28 March to 21 August.
- Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*). Spring transient, 12 April to 23 May.
- Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*). Summer resident, 15 May to 11 September.
- Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). Summer resident, 25 April (Zeilemaker) to September, nesting throughout.
- Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Summer resident, 6 May to 16 September, nesting throughout.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). One record: 11-12 June, 1979 at Cedar Point Biological Station where it was photographed.
- Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- Purple Martin (*Progne subis*). Summer resident, 12 April (Zeilemaker) to 4 August. Nests westward to Lewellen, the westernmost regular nesting site in Nebraska.
- Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*). Spring transient, 29 March to 17 May. Also reported as uncommon at Keystone Lake in July and August 1977 (Fretwell).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*). Summer resident, 12 April to 20 August, nesting locally in road cuts and cliff crevices.
- Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*). Summer resident, 19 April to 15 September.
- Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*). Summer resident, 20 April to 25 August. Nests locally, with eggs present as early as 15 May.
- Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Summer resident, 12 April to 15 October, nesting throughout.
- Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Permanent resident.
- Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*). One record: 6 November, 1976 near Oshkosh.
- Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*). Permanent resident, probably nesting throughout.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*). A probable spring and autumn transient and winter visitant with three records: 2 September, 1979; 7 November, 1976; and 24 March, 1978.
- White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*). A probable spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, with four records, 15 October to 17 February (Zeilemaker).
- Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*). A probable spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, with three records: 27 November, 1980; 17 February, 1979; and 11 March, 1979 (Zeilemaker).**
- Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*). Summer resident, 14 April to 2 September. Active nests have been observed at Cedar Point Biological Station as late as 14 August.
- Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*). Hypothetical. Reported during May 1978 at Cedar Point Biological Station (Mahoney).
- House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 23 April to 8 October (Zeilemaker), nesting throughout.
- Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*). Summer resident, 28 March (Zeilemaker) to 6 November. Nested abundantly at Keystone Lake until 1982. One winter record: 6 January, 1983 at Lewellen.**
- Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*). A probable spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, with most records from 7 November to 30 December (Zeilemaker). There is one spring record: 28 March, 1976 at Keystone Lake.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*). A probable spring and autumn transient with three records: 14 May, 1977; 14 October, 1978; and 16 October, 1982.
- Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*). Spring and autumn transient, 14 May to 19 May and 11 September to 7 November.
- Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*). Winter visitant, 27 December to 11 March.
- Townsend's Solitaire (*Mvadestes townsendi*). Winter visitant, 16 September to 6 May.

- Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*).** Two records: 3 June, 1978 at Keystone Lake, and 25 May, 1984 at Cedar Point Biological Station.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*).** One record: 7 May, 1978 at Lewellen.
- Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*). Spring transient, 6 May to 3 June.
- Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*). Two records: reported during May 1978 at Cedar Point Biological Station; another was observed at the same place 20-23 May, 1983.
- American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*). Spring and autumn transient, 14 May to 4 June and 4 August to 16 September.
- Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*). Irregular permanent resident. Young incapable of sustained flight have been observed, indicating occasional local nesting.
- Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 6 May to 16 September, nesting throughout.
- Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*). Spring and autumn transient, 14 April to 18 April and 3 October to 14 October.
- Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*). Winter visitant, 28 December to 11 March.
- Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 11 September to 4 June.
- Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). Winter visitant, 6 November to 29 March.
- Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 28 March to 25 August. A nest with eggs was observed at Cedar Point Biological Station in late May 1983.
- European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Introduced permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*). Summer resident, 14 May to 2 September, nesting locally.
- Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*). One record: 24 May, 1983 below the Keystone Lake diversion dam.
- Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*). Summer resident, 14 May to 2 September.
- Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*). Spring transient, 18 May (Zeilemaker) to 25 May. One autumn record: 25 August (Zeilemaker).
- Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*). Spring and autumn transient, 23 April to 24 May and 11 September to 17 October.
- Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*). One record: 3 October, 1976 at Lewellen.
- Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*).** Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 16 May to 4 August, nesting throughout.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). One record: 19-20 May, 1983 at Cedar Point Biological Station.
- Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*). One record: 14 May, 1977 at Ash Hollow.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). Spring and autumn transient, 15 April to 21 May and 3 October to 6 November.
- Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*). One record: 25 May, 1978 at Oshkosh where a singing male was heard and observed.
- Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*). One record: 25 May, 1978 at Lewellen.
- Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*). Spring transient, 17 May to 25 May.
- Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). One definite record: 24 March, 1978 at Keystone Lake. It was also reported in May 1978 at Cedar Point Biological Station (Mahoney).
- American Redstart (*Steophaga ruticilla*). Spring and autumn transient, 17 May to 24 May and 12 August (Fretwell) to 2 September.
- Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). Spring and autumn transient, 7 May to 15 May and 23 July to 2 September.
- Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*). One record: 21 August, 1978 at Keystone Lake.
- MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporonis tolmiei*). One record. 2 September, 1979 at Oshkosh.
- Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Summer resident, 23 April to 3 October, nesting throughout.
- Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*).** One record: 18 May, 1983 below the Keystone Lake diversion dam.
- Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*). Spring and autumn transient, 20 May to 27 May and 2 September to 16 September.
- Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*). Summer resident, 14 May to 21 August.

- Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*). One record: 19 May, 1983 near Kingsley Dam.
- Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*). One record: 2 September, 1979 at Oshkosh.
- Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). Permanent resident, nesting locally. It has been observed most often in spring and autumn, suggesting a limited migration; there are no January or July records.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). Spring transient, 15 May to 24 May. One autumn record: 15 September, 1983 near Oshkosh. It was also reported 18 July to 19 August, 1977 at Cedar Point Biological Station (Fretwell).
- Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*). Spring and autumn transient and local summer resident, 14 May to 4 August.
- Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*). Local summer resident, 9 May to early August. Most records are from the Ash Hollow region westward; it has been occasionally noted at Cedar Point Biological Station.**
- Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*). No definite data. It was reported as uncommon at Cedar Point Biological Station in July and August 1977 (Fretwell).
- Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). Primarily a spring transient, 15 May to 3 June. It was also observed in summer 1977 (Fretwell) and 1978 near Cedar Point Biological Station, where hybrids between this and the preceding species were also seen in 1977 (Fretwell). One autumn record: 16 September, 1983 at Lewellen.
- Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). Hypothetical. One record: a male was reported on 19 May, 1982 near Kingsley Dam (Brown).
- Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). Local, but sporadic, summer resident with only one definite record: 27 June, 1970 at Oshkosh. However, they were reported near Omaha Beach and along the North Platte River near Ash Hollow in 1977 and 1978, but not in 1979 or 1983.
- Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). Spring and autumn transient and local summer resident, 23 April to 17 October.
- American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 14 October to 12 April.
- Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*). Spring and autumn transient, 6 May to 26 May and 11 September to 14 October.
- Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). Spring and autumn transient, 25 April (Zeilemaker) to 20 May and 2 September to 3 October. It was also reported as a rare migrant at Omaha Beach during July and August 1977 (Fretwell).
- Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*). No definite data. Reported as an uncommon migrant near Cedar Point Biological Station during July and August 1977 (Fretwell).
- Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). Spring and autumn transient and local summer resident, 18 April to 15 October. Breeds regularly below the Keystone Lake diversion dam. One winter record: 18 December, 1982 at Lewellen.
- Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*). Spring and autumn transient, 12 April to 6 May (Zeilemaker) and 16 September to 15 October.
- Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 25 April (Zeilemaker) to 16 September, nesting throughout.
- Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*). A full-plumaged adult male of this species was observed by the junior author and his entire ornithology class on 26 May, 1984, along Whitetail Creek, near Keystone. The bird was in full view for several minutes, at close as 20 yards distance. This sighting appears to be the third state record for this species. No singing was heard, but all the typical field marks were readily observed.**
- Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 3 May (Zeilemaker) to 2 September.
- Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). Spring and autumn transient, 14 April to 18 April and 11 September to 16 September.
- Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*). Summer resident, 20 May to 20 September nesting throughout in grassland habitats.**
- Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 11 September to 15 April.
- Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*). Spring and autumn transient, 23 April to 3 May (Zeilemaker) and 11 September to 17 October.
- Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*). Spring and autumn transient and local summer resident, 7 May to 17 October. Regular only in the Clear Creek marshes and Lewellen area.

- White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). One spring record: 7 May, 1978 near Lewellen. Autumn transient, 3 October to 14 October.
- White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 11 September to 24 May.**
- Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 3 October to 6 May.
- Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 3 October to 6 May. The "gray-headed" form was observed on 6 May, 1979 at Lewellen (Zeilemaker).
- McCown's Longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*). One record: 3 October, 1976 near Lewellen.
- Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*). Spring and autumn transient and winter visitant, 6 November to 11 March.
- Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*). Spring transient, 28 March (Faanes) to 18 April.
- Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). The only records are for 18 and 19 February, 1978 when it was abundant and widely scattered throughout.
- Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). Local summer resident, 6 May to early August.**
- Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*). Local summer resident, 28 March to mid-summer.
- Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). Spring and autumn transient and local summer resident, 29 March (Zeilemaker) to 17 October.
- Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). Autumn transient, 14 October to 7 November. One winter record: 20 January, 1979. All records are from Lewellen.
- Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient, 28 March to 21 May and 2 October to 17 October. One summer record: 28 July, 1979 near Keystone. One winter record: 27 December, 1975 at Lewellen.
- Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*). Primarily a spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 24 March to 6 November, nesting throughout. Three winter records: 27 December, 1975; 6 January, 1978 (Zeilemaker); and 23 February, 1980 — all in the Lewellen area.
- Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 14 April to 15 August. It parasitizes the nests of a variety of local species.
- Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*). Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 14 May to 21 August, nesting throughout.
- Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). Spring and autumn transient and summer resident, 14 May to 2 September, nesting throughout.
- Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). Winter visitant, 28 November to 28 March.
- House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). Permanent resident about human habitation. It was present in Oshkosh at the beginning of this study; in 1979 it first appeared in Ogallala, where it has been regular ever since; and it has been noted occasionally at Lewellen since 1980.
- Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*). Sporadic winter visitant, 27 December to 19 February.
- Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*). Winter visitant, 16 September to 16 May.**
- American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*). Permanent resident, nesting throughout.
- Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*). Two records: 18 February and 8 March, 1980 (Zeilemaker).
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). Introduced permanent resident, nesting throughout around human habitations.

— Richard C. Rosche, 501 Shelton Street, Chadron, Nebraska 69337
 — Paul A. Johnsgard, School of Life Sciences, University of
 Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588

1984 FALL FIELD DAY

6/7 October

4-H Camp, Halsey National Forest