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The Eighty-third Annual Meeting

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THE EIGHTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

Almost perfect weather greeted the 59 who registered for the eighty-third Annual Meeting, held at Camp Norwesca, near Chadron State Park, 19 and 20 May 1984. There was a slide show (including a bird identification quiz) Friday night. Saturday there were bird trips to Sowbelly Canyon and Gilbert-Baker Wildlife Area, north of Crawford, and on over to the Wyoming border; to Soldiers Creek, near Fort Robinson; to Beaver Valley, north of Hay Springs; and a shorter, morning only, visit to the Jeanne Dueker home, south of Chadron. At the paper session and Annual Meeting, Saturday afternoon, Mrs. Joyce Brashear read a memorial to Doris Gates, written by Dr. Rosalind Morris, who was not able to be present. Lon Neth, Biology Department, Chadron State College, gave a paper "Winter Prey Remains in Great Horned Owl Pellets in Dawes Co., Nebraska"; Sue Fairbanks, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, spoke on "Habitat Use and Foraging Behavior of Semicaptive Bighorn Sheep at Fort Robinson State Park"; and Dr. Roger Sharpe, Biology Department, University of Nebraska at Omaha, spoke on "Bird Migration Problems from Unusual Patterns in Nebraska"; Wayne Mollhoff, Albion, discussed some of the problems involved in the bird atlas project. The following officers were elected for the 83-84 term: Gary Lingle, Grand Island, president; Mrs. Ruth Green, Bellevue, vice-president; Mrs. Emma Johnson, Omaha, secretary; Mrs. Lona Shafer, Wood River, treasurer; Dr. Neva Pruess, Lincoln, librarian; and Dr. R.G. Cortelyou, Omaha, editor. The 4-H camp at Halsey will be the site of the 1984 fall field day, the 4-H camp near Schramm State Park (Louisville) will be the site of the 1985 Annual Meeting, and the invitation of North Platte for the 1986 Annual Meeting was accepted. At the Saturday evening program it was announced that the winners of the Rare Bird Report were Mrs. Ruth E. Harrington of Grand Island and Dr. Dan Clark and family of Gering for reports of Painted Buntings, and an honorable mention to Bruce P. Jundt, Stanton, for a delayed report of a Dipper. Dr. Roger Sharep announced the election of Dr. Paul A. Johnsgard, UN-L, to Honorary Member for his outstanding contributions in the field of ornithology, and gave a short review of Dr. Johnsgard's career. (Dr. Sharpe was one of Dr. Johnsgard's earliest graduate students.) Eugene R. Lewis, Topeka, treasurer of Kansas Ornithological Society, brought greetings from K.O.S. Dr. Ronald Weedon, Chadron State College, spoke on "Jewels of the Plains." This was an account of the life and work of Claude A. Barr, who searched for and cultivated plants of the western plains. Many of the plants Mr. Barr worked with were shown in the slides, as well as views of his ranch and the garden. Sunday morning most attendees went to Dead Horse Burn to see the Lewis' Woodpeckers, and the rest of the morning was spent on individual projects.

The count for the meeting, covering parts of Dawes, Sheridan, and Sioux counties, was 112, plus a call, heard once, suspected of being an Eastern Meadowlark, *Empidonax* species, and a hawk suspected of being an immature Ferruginous Hawk, although some disagreed with that identification. The Lesser Goldfinch is a first for the state. It was seen near Chadron by Phil Swanson, Papillion, who took pictures, and a more complete account will appear when the pictures are available. The species reported were: Pied-billed, Eared, and Western Grebes; Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier; Sharp-shinned, Cooper's Swainson's and Red-tailed Hawks; Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Merlin, Prairie Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, American Coot, Killdeer; Spotted and Upland Sandpipers; Rock and Mourning Doves; Great Horned and Burrowing Owls; Common Poorwill, White-throated Swift, Belted Kingfisher; Lewis', Red-headed, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers; Northern Flicker, Western Wood-Pewee, Say's Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher; Western and Eastern Kingbirds; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Horned Lark; Violet-green, Northern Rough-winged, Cliff, and Barn Swallows; Blue and Pinyon Jays; Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee; Red-breasted, White-breasted, and Pygmy Nuthatches; Brown Creeper; Rock and House Wrens; Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds; Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling; Solitary, Warbling, and Red-eyed Vireos; Tennessee, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, and Black-and-White Warblers; American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Tanager, Northern Cardinal; Rose-breasted and Black-headed Grosbeaks; Lazuli and Indigo Buntings; Rufous-sided Towhee; American Tree, Chipping, Brewer's, Vesper, and Lark Sparrows; Lark Bunting, Grasshopper Sparrow, Dark-

eyed Junco; McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs; Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird; Orchard and Northern Orioles; Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin; Lesser and American Goldfinches; House Sparrow.