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NOTES

GREATER SCAUP IN BOONE COUNTY. On 27 and 28 March 1986 I observed a male Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) 2.5 miles west, 1.5 miles south of Petersburg. I first noted the bird in the company of a male Canvasback and noted the green gloss on its rounded head. Its body was virtually the same size as the Canvasback it was with, and the two of them stayed together during the 45 minutes I observed them on the 27th. It did not associate at all with a small flock of Lesser Scaup elsewhere on the lake. I studied the bird closely and noted that the head appeared smoothly rounded, with no hint of a hump. I could also clearly see that the black nail on the bill was as wide as the tip of the bill.

The following morning I returned at sunrise and again found the bird with the Canvasback. In addition to noting the marks seen previously, I noted the very pale gray unmarked sides, which were as pale as the Canvasback's sides, and the gray, finely vermiculated back. After moving up and down the lakeshore for an hour, "herding" the bird ahead of me, I finally managed to get it maneuvered into a small bay at the other end of the lake and alongside a male Lesser Scaup. With the birds side by side, the size difference was obvious. The Lesser Scaup had a hump on the back of its head, its head had a purplish sheen, it had darker gray, marked sides, a darker back, and a narrower black nail on the bill. I finally flushed them by charging at them, yelling, and finally could see the much more extensive white wing stripe of the Greater Scaup.

The Greater Scaup is recorded in Nebraska fairly frequently, although not every year. This is my first record of the species in Boone Co. I suspect that they are here more often than I've seen them, and that I've overlooked them in the past.

--- Wayne J. Mollhoff, 736 S. Third, Albion, Neb. 68620

PRAIRIE-CHICKENS. On 20 April 1986 I saw a couple of Prairie-Chickens 2 miles north of Eppley Airfield, on Abbott Drive and Crown Point Avenue, Omaha. I walked around the corner of a building, and the birds didn't see me at first. They were both feeding in a short grass lawn, about 50

feet from me. When they saw me they flew about 75 yards into an alfalfa field. The first thing I noticed was their size, smaller than a hen Pheasant's. Although the head and beak seemed smaller, the neck seemed longer. I noticed the barring on the bird facing me. When they flew I noticed the short, slightly rounded, tails. At least one bird had a dark tail, indicating a male. I didn't notice the other bird's tail color. As they flew they made a non-pheasant-like call. These observations were made without binoculars or scope. I checked the area the evening of the 22nd, the morning of the 23rd, and the morning and evening of the 26th, but didn't see or hear the birds again.

--- Douglas Fritz, 1541 W St., Omaha, Neb., 68107

GLAUCOUS GULL. At about 6 PM on 4 April 1986 Tom Headley, Babs Baldinger, Nancy Thoenes, and I were at Lake North, north of Columbus. Tom saw a large white gull. We put the Questar on it and found that it was slightly larger than a Herring Gull that passed by. The Glaucous Gull had a white head, with black eyes; a white back; its wings were white (it stretched them and all was white); and breast mostly white, with some tan or beige on its chest, very slight coloring. The bill was flesh colored, with the front 1/3 black on top and bottom, and the feet were pink colored. We decided it was a first winter Glaucous Gull.

--- Hank Thoenes, c/o Tom Headley, 37236 Great Oaks Court,
Mt. Clemens, Mich. 48043

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPURS. The spring blizzard which struck this area 14/15 April 1986 was hard on local birdlife. While birding on the morning of the 15th I found a Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) feeding in a cornfield. I was surprised when it let me approach within 40 ft. without showing alarm. When it turned sidewise to the 30-40 mph wind, it was literally blown over several times. It was in such a condition that I almost caught it by hand, and could easily have done so with a butterfly net. The next day I was given three Chestnut-collareds by people who had found them dead. All had depleted fat reserves and were markedly underweight, evidently from fighting the 40-70 mph winds the previous 24 hours. They were preserved as study skins and placed in the collection at Wayne State College.

--- Wayne J. Mollhoff, 736 S. Third, Albion, Neb. 68620