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## Fall Field Report, August–November 2023

W. Ross Silcock

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## FALL FIELD REPORT, August–November 2023

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### INTRODUCTION

I should point out that unusual or unexpected records mentioned in this Introduction are significant in that they are judged so by comparison to the data included in BONO ([Birds of Nebraska – Online \(outdoornebraska.gov\)](http://Birds of Nebraska – Online (outdoornebraska.gov))).

As in the last few fall seasons, late departure dates continue to increase in number. This is often attributed to a warming climate but may also result from increased observer activity and usage of eBird. Late dates are probably the most important aspect of this report, most prominent the record late fall dates for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Sanderling, Bank Swallow, and Cassin's Sparrow. Although these species are taxonomically diverse, there were species group concentrations of late dates, notably among shorebirds. Examples were Marbled Godwit for which the four latest reports this fall were four of the latest six fall dates on record, and Stilt Sandpiper, whose four latest dates this fall were four of the latest five on record. Furthermore, no fewer than 11 species recorded 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> latest dates on record, including 2<sup>nd</sup> latest Least Flycatcher and Northern Parula, along with Brown Thrasher and Hermit Thrush for the Panhandle.

A discouraging issue regarding latest dates was the early departure of Louisiana Waterthrushes; none were reported after Jul, likely reflecting the drying of streams in eastern Nebraska due to severe drought and presumed associated reduction in food supply. This species is well known as an indicator of stream quality.

Another noteworthy category of interest is high and low numbers. In general, high numbers do not reach the very high numbers reported in previous years, possibly attributable to a general decline in bird numbers overall, as pointed out in some recent popular nationally distributed articles. Although not spectacular, record or near-record high single observer-single location fall counts were reported for Sora at 130, Smith's Longspur at 65-75, Lark Sparrow at 150, White-crowned Sparrow at 295, Brown-headed Cowbird at 10,000, and Canada Warbler at 17. Perhaps more indicative of current trends in numbers are reports for Western Grebe and Franklin's Gull. The highest count reported this fall for Western Grebe was 1300, miniscule by comparison to previous high tallies of 30,000+ during the same fall staging period. Although the highest count reported this fall for Franklin's Gull was 64,000, this is only the 4<sup>th</sup> highest fall count on record for the state.

Fall season often contains reports relating to nesting and breeding range expansion. In the last few years two species, Red-shouldered Hawk and Pileated

Woodpecker, have been prominent in northwestward increases in reports although not associated with documented nesting. Both, along with Broad-winged Hawk, have presumably followed maturation of riparian forests along westerly waterway corridors and are discussed in more detail in their respective accounts below. Notable in the Panhandle are continuing reports of Common Raven, recently new in modern times for the state, and Western Flycatcher, new for the Wildcat Hills. A new location for documented nesting of Mississippi Kite is Hastings, Adams Co, where photographs were provided of a newly fledged juvenile. Another expansion of range, although likely previously present but overlooked, are reports in Scotts Bluff Co of Hairy Woodpecker's western subspecies *Leuconotopicus villosus monticola*. And the 4<sup>th</sup> Grant Co record of Northern Cardinal suggested continuing westward range consolidation there.

Prominent this fall were east-west displacements. Whether these displacements result from unexpected weather events possibly related to climate change is conjectural. Among eastern species west in fall, there was a first Panhandle record Yellow-throated Warbler (see article on page 155), and in the west and west central the 5<sup>th</sup> Sedge Wren, 8<sup>th</sup> Bay-breasted Warbler, 12<sup>th</sup> Northern Parula, and 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Philadelphia Vireos. Not as remarkable, but also farther west than expected were American Woodcock, Blue-headed Vireo, and Fox Sparrow. Western species eastward were highlighted by a far out of range Cassin's Kingbird in Phelps Co, and a Clark's Nutcracker in Gosper Co, the latter seen by many at the NOU meeting in the area. Almost as surprising was the third Sage Thrasher east of the Panhandle, and lastly and less surprising, easterly Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler and Rock Wren.

This was not a great fall for state level rarities, although prominent was the 4<sup>th</sup> Groove-billed Ani, photographed in Cherry Co but not relocated subsequently. Seemingly old hat, despite being only the 2<sup>nd</sup> state record, was a Limpkin in Dakota Co. Pacific Wrens provided the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> state records, and a Parasitic Jaeger the 7<sup>th</sup>, the latter also an NOU meeting discovery. Additional noteworthy rarities were the 9<sup>th</sup> fall Hooded Warbler, a Black-throated Blue Warbler, and fall rarities Ruddy Turnstone, Red-throated Loon, and Blackpoll Warbler. Interesting finches were a widespread influx of Red Crossbills, mostly expected Type 2, but also Type 4 and Type 3, the latter for only the second time. There were three reports of Evening Grosbeak, two of which were recorded as Type 1, indicative of an easterly movement of this west Coast call type.

Finally, thanks to the almost 200 people who contributed to eBird, Facebook, and/or NEBIRDS and the Nebraska eBird reviewing team, whose decisions in large part determine what is included in these Seasonal Reports.

#### ABBREVIATIONS

**BOL:** Branched Oak Lake SRA, Lancaster Co; **CC:** Crystal Cove, Dakota Co; **CCSB:** Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co; **CLNWR:** Crescent L NWR, Garden Co; **Co:** County; **FF:** Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co; **GCEM:** Gering Cemetery, Scotts Bluff Co; **GPD:**

Gavins Point Dam, Cedar and Knox Cos; **GWTP**: Gering WTP, Scotts Bluff Co; **HCR**: Harlan County Reservoir, Harlan Co; **LALI**: Lake Alice, Scotts Bluff Co; **LM**: Lake McConaughy, Keith Co; **LMIN**: Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co; **LNB**: Lakes North and Babcock, Platte Co; **LO**: Lake Ogallala, Keith Co; **LSWNP**: Lincoln Saline Wetlands Nature Park, Lincoln, Lancaster Co; **m.ob.**: many observers; **MWCW**: Marsh Wren Community Wetlands, Lincoln, Lancaster Co; **NM**: National Monument; **NNF**: Nebraska National Forest; **NOU**: Nebraska Ornithologists' Union; **NWR**: National Wildlife Refuge; **OR**: Oliver Reservoir SRA, Kimball Co; **PSP**: Ponca SP, Dixon Co; **RA**: Recreation Area; **RWB**: Rainwater Basin, including several south-central and southeastern playa basins; **SCP**: Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co; **SHP**: State Historical Park; **SL**: Sewage Lagoon(s); **SP**: State Park; **SR**: Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co; **SRA**: State Recreation Area; **WA**: Wildlife Area; **WHNC**: Wildcat Hills NC, Scotts Bluff Co; **WMA**: (State) Wildlife Management Area; **WP**: Wilderness Park, Lancaster Co, **WPA**: (Federal) Waterfowl Production Area; **WTP**: Water Treatment Plant.

#### **OBSERVERS:**

Initials are used for frequent contributors (10+ records); names of other contributors are included in full in the accounts.

Stephen Brenner (SB)  
 Olivia DaRugna (OD)  
 Boni Edwards (BE)  
 Larry Einemann (LE)  
 Bill Huser (BFH)  
 Sam Manning (SMa)  
 Steven Mlodinow (SM)  
 Mike Nelson (MN)  
 Jerry Probst (JP)  
 TJ Walker (TJW)  
 Michael Willison (MW)

#### **SPECIES ACCOUNTS**

**Snow Goose**: The 40,000 at Sutherland, Lincoln Co, 10 Nov (David Cunningham) was an excellent westerly number.

**Snow Goose x Cackling Goose (hybrid)**: Two were reported in Scotts Bluff Co; one at GWTP 31 Oct and 17 Nov (SM), the other at LMIN 17 Nov (SM).

**Ross's Goose**: Best tally was the 500 at LMIN 10 Nov (SM).

**Graylag Goose (Domestic type)**: Up to 17 were reported during the period at Heartland of America Park, Douglas Co (m. ob.).

**Swan Goose (Domestic type)**: An apparent long stayer was at Valentine, Cherry Co, 25 Aug (Jim Ducey), and a male at Kramper Lake, Dakota Co, summer-17 Nov was the survivor of an apparently flightless "dumped pair" (BFH, Tommy Childers).

- Swan Goose x Graylag Goose hybrid:** Up to seven were at Heartland of America Park, Douglas Co, 25 Sep-25 Nov (SMA).
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** Westerly early migrants were four at LMIN 30 Sep (Andrew Fix, Diane Thomas). Early in the east were 22 over Cedar Co 30 Sep (Bill Flack) and 45 over Lancaster Co 5 Oct (Jason St. Sauver).
- Cackling Goose:** The 20,000 at LMIN 17 Nov (SM) was a good number.
- Canada Goose:** In Dakota Co, 60 "smaller bodied, smaller billed" Canadas arrived 13 Nov, increasing within a mixed sized flock of 400 by 30 Nov (BFH); in eastern Nebraska, these are probably subspecies *Branta canadensis interior*. A flock of 2020 at Flanagan Lake, Douglas Co, 26 Nov consisted of about "half migrators" (Eric Bents).
- Mute Swan:** All reports during the fall period were of domesticated birds from the Kearney, Buffalo, Co area, where up to five were at Yanney Heritage Park and one at Cottonmill Park; one was at North Park, Phelps Co (m. ob.).
- Trumpeter Swan:** Early migrants were five at Hansen Reservoir, Lincoln Co, 31 Oct (BE). Second highest fall count on record was the 130 ("conservative") at Long Lake, Lincoln Co, 28 Nov (BE).
- Tundra Swan:** There were reports 4-30 Nov from five eastern locations of 12 individuals in all (m. ob.). Best count was four at LNB 4-17 Nov (Lynette Keeshan, m. ob.).
- Egyptian Goose:** Singles were reported at two Omaha, Douglas Co, locations 14 Aug (Nick Mitzlaff fide Kristin Carder) and 11 Sep (Megan Neve).
- Muscovy Duck (Domestic type):** Two were at American Heroes Park, Douglas Co, 17 Nov (Allen Reyer); these are commonly seen at ponds in local parks.
- Wood Duck:** A near record 228 flew over Milford, Seward Co, 2 Nov; this was part of a nightly west to east flyover for a few days, the 228 a single night's count (TJW). Flocks form in Aug as juveniles mature, such as the 67 at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co, 2 Aug (SMA), and 60 at North Platte WTP, Lincoln Co, 1 Aug (Steve and Anne Bielamowicz).
- Blue-winged Teal:** One at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co, 30 Nov (Brian Seger) was late.
- Cinnamon Teal:** Rarely reported in fall, the only reports were of up to six at GWTP 11-15 Sep (SM) and one along Highway 26, Scotts Bluff Co, 8 Sep (SM).
- Northern Shoveler:** Best tally reported was the 1010 at North Platte WTP, Lincoln Co, 3 Nov (SM).
- Gadwall:** Routine reports.
- Gadwall x Mallard (hybrid):** A male was at Heartland of America Park, Douglas Co, 27 Sep-19 Nov (SMA).
- American Wigeon:** Routine reports.
- Mallard:** Routine reports.
- Mallard x Northern Pintail (hybrid):** The 3<sup>rd</sup> record for the state was one at GWTP 17 Nov (SM).
- Northern Pintail:** Routine reports.
- Green-winged Teal:** A good tally of early migrants was the 65 at MWCW 26 Aug (Jason St. Sauver).
- Canvasback:** One at LALI 15 Sep (SM) was an early migrant. Isolated breeding has occurred in Rock Co, and so one there 15 Aug was of interest (David Gale).

A male-plumaged single in Furnas Co 4 Sep (Robin Harding, Bill Flack) may have been a failed or non-breeder.

**Redhead:** Early migrants were at LMIN, one on 8 Sep followed by an influx of 70 on 11 Sep (SM). Also early was one at GWTP 11 Sep (SM).

**Ring-necked Duck:** The 16 south of Hyannis, Grant Co, 3 Sep (David George) was a good late summer tally for this species which is not known to breed in the state. A molting male at Pibel Lake RA, Wheeler Co, 11 Aug (Bill Flack) was an early fall wanderer.

**Ring-necked Duck x scaup sp. (hybrid):** One was reported at GWTP 31 Oct (SM).

**Greater Scaup:** Routine reports.

**Lesser Scaup:** Routine reports.

**Surf Scoter:** Routine reports.

**White-winged Scoter:** Routine reports.

**Black Scoter:** The eight at BOL 12 Nov (MW, MN) was a good count.

**Long-tailed Duck:** Three were reported, one at Smith Lake WMA, Sheridan Co, 18 Nov (Randy Skaggs) and two at Lewis and Clark Lake, Knox Co, 29 Nov (Gene Glover).

**Bufflehead:** Routine reports.

**Common Goldeneye:** Routine reports.

**Hooded Merganser:** Routine reports.

**Common Merganser:** Three at LMIN 29 Sep (SB) were early.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Two at LMIN 23 Oct (SM) were early. One at Offutt Base Lake, Sarpy Co, 14 Aug was probably injured; it was likely the same bird seen there 17 Aug (David Cunningham).

**Ruddy Duck:** One in Lancaster Co 9 Aug (LE) was probably an immature non-breeder. The 25 at LALI 11 Sep (SM) were early migrants.

**Northern Bobwhite:** Singles in edge-of-range places were at Purdum, Blaine Co, 15 Aug (David Gale) and Buffalo Creek WMA, Scotts Bluff Co, 23 Aug (Joe Manning). Bobwhites are expected west in the North Platte River Valley to Scotts Bluff Co, although the latter record is only the second for the upland Wildcat Hills.

**Wild Turkey:** Routine reports.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Routine reports.

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Possible westward expansion in the north was suggested by the three about halfway between Merriman and Gordon along Irwin Road in extreme northwestern Cherry Co 16 Oct (John Cougher).

**Gray Partridge:** There were two reports, both from continuing locations in Cedar Co: six were along 886<sup>th</sup> Road near Fordyce 21 Aug (Jeffrey Jones) and 11 along 872<sup>nd</sup> Road near Randolph 8 Sep (MB).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Routine reports.

**Indian Peafowl:** The reports were from the established population at Cody Lark, Lincoln Co, and nearby: at Cody Park, eight on 10 Aug (Anonymous), an adult and four juveniles 21 Sep (BE), an adult with three small young 26 Sep (BE), and four along E 12<sup>th</sup> St 5 Nov (Alexander Feinberg).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Routine reports.

**Horned Grebe:** One at GWTP 11 Sep (SM) was early.

- Red-necked Grebe:** There were four reports, each of a single bird: one at LNB 15 Oct (Dennis Kruse) was early; one was at Lewis and Clark Lake, Knox Co, 30 Oct-11 Nov (MB, m. ob.); 2 juveniles, likely siblings (MN), were at Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co, 31 Oct-2 Nov (Tom Gannon, m. ob.); and a juvenile (John Carlini, Shari Schwartz photos) was at BOL 4-30 Nov (Tobin Brown, m. ob.), likely one of the Pawnee Lake birds. Photos taken of the BOL bird 10 and 30 Nov showed it was the same individual (John Carlini).
- Western Grebe:** One at Holmes Lake, Lancaster Co, 16 Aug-30 Sep (Jenny Jo Johnson, m. ob.) was unexpected in the east at those dates, and even more so the 2-3 there 25-26 Nov (Debbie Thurber). Counts at LM were low; best tally reported was 1300 on 17 Oct (SM), but peak counts, usually in late Sep, are 30,000+.
- Western Grebe x Clark's Grebe (hybrid):** The two at LM 17 Oct (SM) and single at LMIN 23 Oct (SM) were somewhat tardy.
- Clark's Grebe:** An early migrant, possibly a molt migrant, was at LMIN 11 Sep (SB).
- Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon):** Routine reports.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** A late juvenile was at Columbus, Platte Co, 10 Oct (TJW). This species may lay eggs throughout the warmer months.
- White-winged Dove:** There were eight reports of up to seven at seven southerly locations; the seven were frequenting a North Platte, Lincoln Co, yard through early Oct, declining to 2-3 by 29 Nov (BE).
- Mourning Dove:** Numerous lingering birds were reported in the north and west; latest in the north was one near Eli, Cherry Co, 17 Nov (Terry Pflugrad) and in the west away from the North Platte River Valley one in Deuel Co 25 Nov (Kaden Katanic).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Routine reports.
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** None were documented of this rare but annual fall migrant; last expected dates are Sep 1-2.
- Groove-billed Ani:** Nebraska's 4<sup>th</sup> record was of one photographed at Valentine NWR Headquarters, Cherry Co, 10 Oct (Juancarlos Giese, Kayla Sconyers photo).
- Common Nighthawk:** Two at Kearney, Buffalo Co, 28 Sep (Jacob Cooper) were tardy for the central, as was one for the east in Nebraska City, Otoe Co, 11 Oct (Susan Quinn).
- Common Poorwill:** The seven along Old Stage Road, Scotts Bluff Co, 4 Aug (Tommy Childers, Colleen Childers, BE) was a good count.
- Chuck-will's-widow:** None were reported; departure dates are few as the birds cease singing.
- Whip-poor-will:** Routine reports.
- Chimney Swift:** Routine reports.
- White-throated Swift:** One at LALI 29 Sep (Andrew Fix, Diane Thomas) was 4<sup>th</sup> latest on record.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** One in an Ashland, Saunders Co, yard 21 Oct (fide Wayne Mollhoff) was record late by four days. Reports in the west continue to increase, presumably as observers learn to differentiate Ruby-throateds from the recently arrived Black-chinned Hummingbird; this is still a tough identification, however, for age and sex classes other than adult male. Without good photos accompanied by written descriptions, as noted by

Stephen Brenner, "it may be best to just leave these ambiguous ones as RTHU/BCHU". There were three reports with photos from Scotts Bluff Co, two birds in Scottsbluff 28 Aug (Elizabeth Winter), one there 23-24 Sep (OD, SB), and one on Turkey Drive, Wildcat Hills, 2 Sep (David Cunningham).

**Black-chinned Hummingbird:** As mentioned above, separation of immatures and females from Ruby-throated Hummingbird is difficult and most should probably be reported as "RTHU/BCHU". Documented with photos was one of two immatures at the Smith feeders, Scotts Bluff Co, 4 Aug; 1-2 were reported there without photos 28 Aug and 3 Sep (BE, m. ob.). Another, described as "continuing female", was photographed at the Croft feeders, Scotts Bluff Co, 4 Aug (BE, Tommy Childers, Colleen Childers). This female, however, was likely different from the only previously reported Black-chinned there, a juvenile on 13 Jul (SM).

**Calliope Hummingbird:** One at the Smith feeders 28 Aug-1 Sep (Marie Smith, David Cunningham) was tardy. Four individuals were reported, all in the Panhandle 4 Aug-1 Sep (m. ob.).

**Rufous Hummingbird:** Rather late was an immature male at the Smith feeders, Scotts Bluff Co, 7 Oct (Marie Smith). A bit easterly was a female at North Platte, Lincoln Co, 19-21 Aug (Christine Nelson, BE).

**Virginia Rail:** Tardy was one at Standing Bear Lake, Douglas Co, 20 Oct (MB). Wintering is likely in the North Platte River Valley, although none were reported this fall after 27 Oct (BE).

**Sora:** By far a record fall tally was the 130 at Funk WPA 27 Aug, including 58 in view at one time (Jacob Cooper, m. ob.).

**American Coot:** An impressive 4900 were tallied at Dewey Lake, Valentine NWR, Cherry Co, 28 Sep (Shane Sater).

**Limpkin:** Nebraska's second record was one at CC 7 Oct (BFH, m. ob.). Steve Dinsmore, in discussing the "Limpkin craze" in Iowa, found six along the Des Moines River near Des Moines, including five in view at once and wondered how many remain undiscovered.

**Sandhill Crane:** Reports of threes, presumably two adults and young, were from three known breeding locations, Hutton Sanctuary, Rock Co, Lake Wanahoo, Saunders Co, and near North Platte, Lincoln Co, (m. ob.). High fall counts are lower and less frequent than in spring, but 25,000 were estimated at Alda, Hall Co, 15 Nov (m. ob.).

**Whooping Crane:** Routine reports.

**Black-necked Stilt:** Third latest on record was one about a mile east of Lane Lake, Sheridan Co, 3 Oct (OD); 19 were there 9 Aug (Joel Jorgensen). The only record away from the Sandhills was of five at MWCW 26 Aug (Jason St. Sauver, m. ob.).

**American Avocet:** Tardy were four in Buffalo Co 11 Nov (MW, MN) and one in Harlan Co the same day (MW, MN).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Late singles were in Hall Co 11 Nov (Tommy Childers, Colleen Childers) and Harlan Co the same day (MW, MN).

**American Golden-Plover:** Routine reports.

**Killdeer:** Routine reports.

**Semipalmated Plover:** One at LNB was late 10-17 Oct (Lynette Keeshan, m. ob.), as was another in Saline Co 11 Oct (Nancy Drilling).

**Piping Plover:** Routine reports.

**Mountain Plover:** All reports were from Kimball Co. There was a “large scattering” of Mountain Plovers in the area of Roads 8 and 41 on 22 Aug (Larry Snyder fide Kathy DeLara), and 17 were reported (Kathy DeLara).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Late were singles in Clay Co 22 Sep (Gary Roberts) and Harlan Co 22 Sep (MB, Ed Brogie).

**Long-billed Curlew:** Routine reports.

**Marbled Godwit:** Rather incredibly, the reports of 7 individuals from four locations in Keith, Lincoln, Phelps, and Harlan Cos 23 Sep-7 Nov were all later than all but two previous late dates. The reports were of up to four at HCR 23 Sep (Barbara Straus, m. ob.), one at Cottonwood WPA, Phelps Co, 23 Sep (Nancy Drilling, LE, Ruthie Stearns), a juvenile at the LO Diversion Dam, 5-22 Oct (Paul Dunbar, SM, m. ob.), and one at SR 4-7 Nov (Bruce White, m. ob.). There is some evidence ([www.BirdsofNebraska.org](http://www.BirdsofNebraska.org)) that later fall migrants through Nebraska are from the James Bay breeding population, which winters in southern California; perhaps there was a weather-related late departure this fall from James Bay. In contrast, the northern Great Plains population, including Nebraska breeders, apparently left early or simply overflowed the state on their way to the Atlantic Coast since there were no Nebraska records this fall during Aug or early Sep. This latter lack of records may have been a consequence of severe drought in southeastern Nebraska resulting in absence of suitable stopover habitat.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Less than annual in fall, a juvenile was at MWCW 21 Aug and 1 Sep (Linda Sullivan, LE).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Similar to Marbled Godwit, this fall’s records provided four of the five all time latest records for fall, including record latest 6 Nov at Valentine, Cherry Co, (Terry Pflugrad). The other three were 29 Oct Saunders Co (Joel Jorgensen), 1 Nov Lancaster Co (Thane Dinsdale, Gabriel Rivera), and 3 Nov Lincoln Co (SM).

**Sanderling:** Tying latest on record were 1-4 at LNB 24-31 Oct (MB, Dennis Kruse).

**Dunlin:** Early were one at BOL 22 Sep (Thane Dinsdale) and three in Hall Co 24 Sep (Debra Hann). A bit tardy were 1-2 at Bluestem SRA, Lancaster Co, 7-10 Nov (Steve Kruse, LE). A good tally was the 17 at BOL 2 Nov (Joan Junkin).

**Baird’s Sandpiper:** The five at Swan Creek WMA, Saline Co, 7 Nov (Nancy Drilling) were tardy.

**Least Sandpiper:** Routine reports.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Routine reports.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Tardy was one at Swan Creek WA, Saline Co, 7 Nov (Nancy Drilling).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Three were late at LO 14 Oct (Tom Gannon).

**Western Sandpiper:** The only reports were of one at Scottsbluff WTP, Scotts Bluff Co, 26-29 Sep (Diane Thomas, SM).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Routine reports.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Late were one at Maloney Reservoir SRA, Lincoln Co, 14 Nov (SM) and two at North Platte WTP, Lincoln Co, 18 Nov (BE).

**American Woodcock:** At the west edge of the migration corridor was one at Medicine Creek WMA, Frontier Co, 10 Nov (Pat Molini).

**Wilson's Snipe:** At times during fall migration, large numbers concentrate at suitable habitat; at a Highway 26 Playa, Scotts Bluff Co, 115 were counted 26 Sep (SM) and 145 on 10 Oct (Richard Teller).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Singles were late at Holmes Lake, Lancaster Co, 26 Oct (Tobin Brown) and at Pawnee Lake SRA, Lancaster Co, 2 Nov (Linda Sullivan).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Tardy singles were at Swan Creek WMA, Saline Co 10 Oct (Nancy Drilling), Valentine, Cherry Co, 5 Oct (Terry Pflugrad), and Kramper Lake, Dakota Co, 4 Oct (BFH, JP)

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 1-2 at BOL 6-7 Nov (LE, Tom Gannon) and 1-3 at Bluestem SRA, Lancaster Co, 7-10 Nov (Patricia Herman, John Osterman, LE) were tardy.

**Willet:** Typical of fall, few were reported, a total of five from five locations statewide 6-26 Aug (m. ob.).



This Parasitic Jaeger, Nebraska's seventh, was photographed here by Thane Dinsdale 23 Sep 2023 at Harlan County Reservoir, Harlan Co, Nebraska.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Seven at Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo Co, 18 Nov (Ryan Fuller, m. ob.) were tardy.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Routine reports.

- Red-necked Phalarope:** Easterly and rare in the east was one at MWCW 7 Aug (Esa Jarvi). There were additional rare eastern records: 28 Aug (MB) and 13 Sep (Joe Manning) at LNB, and 30 Aug Jefferson Co (Nancy Drilling).
- Parasitic Jaeger:** A highlight of the NOU Fall Meeting was a Parasitic Jaeger at HCR 22-23 Sep (Paul Dunbar, m. ob.), Nebraska's seventh.
- Black-legged Kittiwake:** Surprisingly, two of the three reports were of adults: one each at Lewis and Clark Lake, Knox Co, 11-18 Nov (Roger Dietrich, m. ob.) and Stagecoach Lake SRA, Lancaster Co, 19 Nov (Joan Junkin). The third report was of two immatures at SR 3-17 Nov (SM, m. ob.).
- Sabine's Gull:** One at LSWNP 8 Sep (LE) was a bit early.
- Bonaparte's Gull:** Routine reports.
- Little Gull:** Only the 17<sup>th</sup> fall record for the state was one at LO 28 Sep (JP, MB, BFH).
- Laughing Gull:** A juvenile was at Capitol Beach Lake, Lancaster Co, 19-21 Aug (MW, m. ob.).
- Franklin's Gull:** The 64,000 at SR 17 Oct (SM) was impressive, but only the 4<sup>th</sup> highest fall tally on record.
- Short-billed Gull:** None were reported; expected arrival dates are in late Nov.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Routine reports.
- California Gull:** Routine reports.
- Herring Gull:** An immature, usually the only age class occurring until at least mid-Sep when the first adults arrive, was at LMIN 15 Aug (David Wade, Paul Gordy).
- Iceland (Thayer's) Gull:** Arrival was a little early, with a rare sighting away from the North Platte River Valley at Bennington Lake, Douglas Co, 2 Nov, an immature (Tommy Childers). Also early were immatures at Maloney Reservoir SRA, Lincoln Co 3 Nov (SM) and LM the same day (SM).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** One at HCR 22-23 Sep (MB, m. ob.) was one of few Sep records away from the North Platte River Valley.
- Glaucous Gull:** None were reported; expected arrival is in mid-Nov.
- Least Tern:** Routine reports.
- Caspian Tern:** Tardy were two at LNB 30 Sep-3 Oct (Lynette Keeshan, m. ob.), two in Cass Co 3 Oct (Jon Vrtiska) and two at BOL 6 Oct (Thane Dinsdale).
- Black Tern:** Three at LNB 3 Oct (TJW) were a bit late.
- Common Tern:** Routine reports.
- Forster's Tern:** Routine reports.
- Red-throated Loon:** Less than annual, one was at SR 3 Nov (SM).
- Pacific Loon:** A surprising four were reported at three locations: two at LMIN rather early 23 Oct (SM), and singles at SR 3-6 Nov (SM, Anonymous) and HCR 11 Nov (MN, MW).
- Common Loon:** Early were two at LALI 11-19 Sep (SM, Richard Teller).
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Routine reports.
- Neotropic Cormorant:** Three were reported, singles at Conestoga Lake, Lancaster Co 15 Sep (MW, MN) and tardy at BOL 1 Oct (John Carlini, Shari Schwartz). Another was at HCR 24 Sep (Robin Harding).
- American White Pelican:** Routine reports.

- American Bittern:** Third latest on record was one in Garfield Co 6 Nov (Jason Thiele).
- Least Bittern:** None were reported; last expected dates are in early Aug.
- Great Blue Heron:** Routine reports.
- Great Egret:** Rare in the west in fall, singles were at CLNWR 9 Sep (Dylan Dell-Haro) and LMIN 28 Sep-5 Oct (Brandon Percival, SB, Diane Thomas).
- Snowy Egret:** Routine reports.
- Little Blue Heron:** The only report was of an immature at Father Hupp WMA, Thayer Co, 2-3 Aug (Joel Jorgensen, Tommy Childers).
- Western Cattle Egret:** Rare in the west, four were about two miles west of Bingham, Sheridan Co, 29 Sep (Matthew and Cynthia Van Den Broeke). One about 20 miles south of Merritt Reservoir on Highway 97, Cherry Co 24 Oct (Greg Hesse) was tardy.
- Green Heron:** Late singles were at Holmes Lake, Lancaster Co, 24 Oct (MB) and in Buffalo Co 20 Oct (Melissa Wuellner). Good counts were five in Lancaster Co at each of Stagecoach Lake SRA 27 Aug (Jason St. Sauver) and a pond on 34<sup>th</sup> St, Lincoln, 6 Aug (Ruthie Stearns).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Late were a juvenile at Heron Haven, Douglas Co 26 Nov (Brian Seger, Sma, Paul Pearson) and an adult at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co, 19 Nov (Sma).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** The only report was of an immature in Phelps Co 13 Aug (Robert Riggs, Elaine Sharpe).
- Glossy Ibis:** The only documented reports were of one photographed within the summer range near Lakeside, Sheridan Co, 6 Aug (Tommy Childers), and one at Funk WPA, Phelps Co, 8 Sep (Paul Dunbar).
- White-faced Ibis:** Late singles were at Kramper Lake, Dakota Co, 13 Nov (BFH) and Maloney Reservoir SRA, Lincoln Co, 3 Nov (SM). Excellent counts were 200 at Funk WPA, Phelps Co, 11 Aug (David Cunningham) and 160 at Johnson WPA, Phelps Co, 8 Sep (Paul Dunbar).
- Turkey Vulture:** One was tardy at SCP 4 Nov (MW), only the 12<sup>th</sup> record for the state in Nov.
- Osprey:** One lingered at CC through at least 30 Nov, apparently feeding on fish stocked there despite the mostly frozen lake (BFH, JP). The 13 at HCR 23 Sep (Paul Pearson, BE, Thane Dinsdale) was a good count.
- Golden Eagle:** Easterly were separate immatures in Buffalo Co 11 Nov (Jacob Cooper, Nathen Eidem) and 24 Nov (Megan Hill).
- Northern Harrier:** Routine reports.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Early, possibly non-breeding immatures, were singles at NNF McKelvie, Cherry Co, 10 Aug (Elaine Sharpe, Robert Riggs) and Hansen Ranch, Knox Co, 20 Aug (Deb Hansen).
- Cooper's Hawk:** Routine reports.
- American Goshawk:** The two reports were of an early juvenile at LSWNP 16 Oct (Linda Sullivan, Steve Kruse) and an adult near Elsmere, Cherry Co, 11 Nov (Greg Hesse).
- Bald Eagle:** Routine reports.
- Mississippi Kite:** Nesting was documented in Hastings, Adams Co, for the first time this summer; a juvenile was photographed in the nest tree 26 Aug (Kelly

Ruxton). Reports of multiple birds (5+) were only from known nest locations in North Platte, Lincoln Co, and Scotts Bluff, Scotts Bluff Co (m. ob.).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** There was a notable number of reports from the central, suggesting a westward push in the Platte River Valley, or possibly a northward move from Kansas; six reports were from Merrick to Buffalo Cos 7 Aug-5 Nov (m. ob.), and one was as far west as Dundy Co 31 Aug (SM). Northerly sightings were at CC 19 Aug-30 Nov, including two birds interacting on 21 Aug (BFH, m. ob.).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Reports from the west central and west are becoming routine; at least seven were reported, north to northeastern Cherry Co 20 and 29 Sep, and west to the Wildcat Hills, Scotts Bluff Co, where there were sightings of singles 15-22 Sep (m. ob.). There are now about 33 Panhandle reports in all Sep-Oct.

**Swainson's Hawk:** One in Polk Co 22 Oct (TJW) was tardy.

**Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis borealis*):** Routine reports.

**Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. borealis*, Krider's morph):** None were reported, migrants are expected rarely beginning in mid-Oct.

**Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. abieticola*):** Four singles were reported at four locations west to Sherman Co 8-29 Oct (SMa). Of about 80 records to date, only six are in the central and west.

**Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. calurus*):** Presumably the majority of dark Red-tailed Hawks wintering in Nebraska are *B. j. calurus*, but because of difficulty identifying dark morphs to subspecies in the field, reports to eBird lump these with dark morph *B. j. alascensis* or *B. j. abieticola*, the former more likely westward in Nebraska, the latter eastward. Six *B. j. calurus/alascensis* were reported, all from Buffalo Co westward, beginning quite early with one at LALI 11 Sep (SM), and nine *B. j. calurus/abieticola*, seven from Dawson Co eastward, and singles in Garden Co 23 Oct (Walt Lutz) and Scotts Bluff Co 23 Oct (SM).

**Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. harlani*):** Routine reports.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Routine reports.

**Ferruginous Hawk:** As expected, reports were in the west and central although more than usual were reported in Buffalo, Hall, and Kearney Cos, probably due to the active prairie dog towns there. Four were at Lindau WPA, Kearney Co, 11 Nov, three at once (Jacob Cooper) and three at Prairie Dog WPA, Kearney Co, 21-23 Oct (Jason St. Sauver, Rene Wendell). Easterly was one in Hall Co 11 Nov (Tommy Childers, Colleen Childers).

**Barn Owl:** The encouraging five reports were from the west and southwest, north to Dawes Co, where one was along Box Butte SRA Road 13 Sep (Steve Betchkal). Interesting locations were CLNWR, where one was using one of the 40-year-old nest boxes 6 Aug (BE, Tommy Childers, Colleen Childers), and Carhenge, Box Butte Co, 22 Aug (April Casey); maybe a Cadillac beats a wooden nest box! The other reports were of one at Rock Creek SRA, Dundy Co, 31 Aug (SM) and one at Centennial Park, Lincoln Co, 15 Aug (David Gale).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Routine reports.

**Great Horned Owl:** Routine reports.

**Snowy Owl:** None were reported; expected arrival dates are in mid-Nov.

- Burrowing Owl:** Recent reports from the east tend to be of fall migrants; a single was reported this fall in Saunders Co 25 Aug near Morse Bluff (fide Jerry Mulliken).
- Barred Owl:** Reports in the Little and Big Blue river valleys suggest continuing northwestward range expansion there; edge of range reports were from the Big Blue drainage at Blue River SRA, Seward Co, 4 Nov (Nancy Drilling), and, from the Little Blue drainage northward tributary Sandy Creek, singles at Lone Star RA, Fillmore Co, 28 Nov (Nancy Drilling) and Bruning Dam RA, extreme southern Fillmore Co 8 Oct (TJW). Barred Owls are expected west to Merrick Co on the Platte River; one was at Bader Park 2 Sep (Paul Roisen).
- Long-eared Owl:** Reports in the last few years have declined. The only reports this fall were of calling singles at PSP as early as 17 Sep (MB, Ed Brogie), suggestive of a local breeder, and Wildcat Hills SRA, Scotts Bluff Co, 31 Oct (SM), probably an arriving winterer.
- Short-eared Owl:** One at a restored prairie in Hall Co 26 Aug (Jojo Morelli) was of interest as an indication of summering.
- Northern Saw-whet Owl:** There were two reports, one from a known location, Wildcat Hills SRA, 31 Oct (SM), the other of singles at two of three stops near Verdigre Creek, Knox Co, 23 Oct (MB).
- Belted Kingfisher:** 10 were counted in a 20 mile stretch of the Niobrara River in northeastern Cherry Co 5 Sep (Mark and Lindsey Wiemer).
- Lewis's Woodpecker:** None were reported; last expected dates are in mid-Sep.
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** A juvenile was tardy in Scotts Bluff Co 10 Oct (SM), as was an adult in Valentine, Cherry Co, 9 Oct (Greg Hesse, Anonymous).
- Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Routine reports.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Rare in the Panhandle, a juvenile was at OR 10 Oct (SM).
- Red-naped Sapsucker:** The only report was of an adult male at OR 26 Sep (SM).
- Downy Woodpecker:** A good count was the 23 at FF 27 Sep (Bill Tweit, Lucy Winter).
- Hairy Woodpecker:** Records of the Rocky Mountains subspecies *Leuconotopicus villosus monticola* continue in Scotts Bluff Co, suggestive of a small establishing population there, especially in CCSB. Singles were in CCSB 27 Sep (MB, BFH, JP) and at GCEM 21 Nov (SB).
- Northern Flicker (salmon-shafted intergrade):** One was early as far east as Lancaster Co 18 Sep (Chelsea Casart).
- Pileated Woodpecker:** There were several edge of range reports suggesting continuing northern and westward consolidation. Most surprising was one photographed in Howard Co 5 Aug (Jeff and Tricia Buchanan via Facebook). A third Republican River Valley record was of one at Guide Rock WMA, Webster Co, 5 Nov (Bill Flack, Robin Harding). Only the 4<sup>th</sup> Lancaster Co record was one at BOL 12 Nov (Tobin Brown), and a first for Saunders Co away from the Platte River was one at Lake Wanahoo 19 Aug (MW, John Gatchet). In the northeast, reports in the Wynot, Cedar Co, area continue, with singles near 889 Road 30 Nov (Jason Thiele) and at Audubon Bend 25 Nov (Jason Thiele).
- American Kestrel:** Routine reports.

**Merlin:** One (subspecies not noted) was early in Knox Co 20 Aug (Deb Hansen). A Taiga Merlin (*Falco columbarius columbarius*) was early at LNB 9 Sep (MB).

**Peregrine Falcon:** Routine reports.

**Prairie Falcon:** The only report for the east was of one in Dakota Co 24 Nov (BFH, JP).

**Budgerigar (Domestic type):** One was at Glacier Creek Preserve, Douglas Co, 25 Sep (Brian Seger).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** One at FF 24 Sep (Eli Weber) was a few days late.

**Cassin's Kingbird:** A major surprise was one as far east as Funk WPA, Phelps Co, 8 Sep (Paul Dunbar). The only previous record this far east was a May 1974 sighting in Brown Co. Tardy were two at LALI 29 Sep (Andrew Fix, Diane Thomas). One at LO 12 Sep (Martha Gottron, John Felton) was easterly.



This Cassin's Kingbird was far east of its expected range, here photographed in Phelps County, Nebraska, 8 September 2023 by Paul Dunbar.

**Western Kingbird:** Routine reports.

**Eastern Kingbird:** Routine reports.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** The only report was one in flight in Brown Co 11 Aug (Jym Mooney).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Early were one at GCEM, Scotts Bluff Co 4 Aug (Tommy Childers, Colleen Childers, BE) and one at Jack Sinn WMA East, Saunders Co, 7 Aug (LE).

**Western Wood-Pewee:** Two at Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 23 Sep (Tommy Childers) were tardy.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** The 22 at FF 31 Aug (Joan Junkin) was a good tally

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** One at Mercer Woods, Douglas Co, 14 Sep (Justin Rink) was tardy. Five were acceptably documented from Dodge, Douglas, and Sarpy Cos 27 Aug-14 (m. ob.).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Routine reports.

**Alder Flycatcher:** The only two reports were of tardies: 26 Aug in Antelope Co (Bob Anderson), and 31 Aug at Rock Creek SRA, Dundy Co (SM).

**Willow Flycatcher:** Routine reports.

**Least Flycatcher:** Second latest on record by one day was one at Pioneer Courage Park, Douglas Co, 5 Oct (SMa). A good count was eight at MWCW 26 Aug (Joan Junkin).

**Hammond's Flycatcher:** Fewer than usual were reported; only about six from four expected locations 31 Aug-15 Sep (SM, SB).

**Dusky Flycatcher:** The lone report was of one a bit late at OR 20 Sep (SM).

**Western Flycatcher:** One at CCSB 6 Aug (MW, MN) continued recent summer occurrences in the Wildcat Hills suggestive of incipient breeding. Fall migrants were reported 8 Sep at OR (SM) and a bit late 15 Sep at WHNC (SM).

**Eastern Phoebe:** Routine reports.

**Say's Phoebe:** An apparent post-breeding aggregation was the 15 along about two miles of 811 Road in Greeley Co 18 Aug (Jason Thiele). Easterly, and 4<sup>th</sup> latest on record was one at Glacier Creek Preserve, Douglas Co, 21 Oct (MB). Another was easterly at Stagecoach Lake SRA, Lancaster Co, 6 Sep (Steve Kruse).

**Bell's Vireo:** Three at Calamus Reservoir, Loup Co, 15 Sep (Eric Konkol) were a bit late for that location.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** One of few records as far west in the Niobrara River Valley as Brown and Keya Paha Cos was a single at Niobrara Valley Preserve in Brown Co 17 Aug (Paul Roisen). Rare away from the breeding range in fall, one was westerly and tardy in Adams Co 26 Sep (Paul Dunbar, Phoebe Dunbar).

**Cassin's Vireo:** At least 12, more than usual, were reported, including seven banded at WHNC by Bird Conservancy of the Rockies bander Alicia Bachman; the reports were as expected 27 Aug-15 Sep (m. ob.).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** Early singles were in Dakota Co 21 Aug (BFH) and at Niobrara SP, Knox Co, 22 Aug (Esa Jarvi) and one in Lincoln, Lancaster Co, 18 Oct (Joel Jorgensen) was late.

**Plumbeous Vireo:** One at OR 26 Sep (SM) was late.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** About the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Panhandle records, both photographed, were singles at OR 15 Sep (SM) and WHNC 16 Sep (Alicia Bachman, banded).

**Warbling Vireo:** Three of the western subspecies *Vireo gilvus brewsteri* were tardy at LALI 11 Sep (SM). Singles of presumed eastern subspecies *V. g. gilvus* were a bit late 29 Sep in both Merrick Co (Steve Morris) and Pawnee Co (Dylan Dell-Haro).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Tardy singles were at FF 7 Oct (Tim Houghton) and in Dakota Co the same day (JP). An impressive near record 30 were feeding on dogwood berries with Warbling Vireos at CC 27 Aug and 5 Sep (BFH).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** Routine reports.

**Northern Shrike:** On the early side were two along Road 600, Saline Co, 15 Oct (SMa).

**Pinyon Jay:** Unexpected away from known territorial range was a single flyover at LMIN 31 Oct (SM). Such isolated individuals may be dispersers from the "parent" flock.

**Blue Jay:** Routine reports.

**Clark's Nutcracker:** A surprise for an NOU Field Trip was one at Johnson Lake SRA, Gosper Co, 23-24 Sep (m. ob.). An intriguing report, not well documented but in suitable habitat, was of one in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 6 Sep. Such isolated sightings occur on occasion, likely immature dispersers.

**Black-billed Magpie:** Encouraging in the east were five on a dirt section of Road 836, Madison Co, 15 Oct (Jason Thiele); magpies are persisting in the area of 547-556 Avenues and Roads 835-845. In the southwest, where there have been scattered reports mostly of singles in 2022 and 2023, singles were in Franklin Co 24 Sep (Gary Roberts), Cheyenne Co 30 Oct (Jason St. Sauver), and Furnas Co 21 Nov (Tyson Brown). Elsewhere, reports were from known western locations, although no counts were above 10.

**American Crow:** Routine reports.

**Common Raven:** Reports continued at two previously known locations in Sioux Co. Two were seen at Harrison 6 Sep (SB) and probably the same two about 14 miles east of Harrison on Highway 20 on 23 Aug (SB). In an area along Highway 29 about 7-14 miles south of Agate 1-3 two were seen 28 Aug-24 Sep (SB, Colin Croft).

**Black-capped Chickadee:** A good count was 36 at FF 27 Sep (Bill Tweit, Lucy Winter).

**Mountain Chickadee:** The only report was of one at Scotts Bluff NM 15 Oct (Terry and Marie Pflugrad).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Routine reports.

**Horned Lark:** Routine reports.

**Bank Swallow:** Latest on record was one at BOL 7 Oct (LE), and not much earlier were three at LNB 3 Oct (TJW).

**Tree Swallow:** Routine reports.

**Violet-green Swallow:** A good tally was the 20 at Chadron Creek Ranch WMA, Dawes Co, 5 Aug (BE, Tommy Childers, Colleen Childers).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Tardy were two at LNB 3 Oct (TJW)

**Purple Martin:** Reports continue at the Valentine western outpost; up to seven were in town 1-4 Aug (Terry Pflugrad), and three were at Fort Niobrara NWR 8 Aug (Terry Pflugrad). A large roost formed at Pacific and 11th in Omaha; at least 20,000 were estimated 24 Aug (Jerry Toll). There were no reports of large roosts (>10,000) as in recent years at the 42nd and Farnam area in Omaha, although 550 were estimated there 4 Aug (Jacob Cooper). Large numbers were at LSWNP during Aug, peaking at 3160 on 12 Aug (Linda Sullivan). Intriguing was a report of one distantly photographed at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co, 19 Nov (John Brenneman), record late by about two months for Nebraska. Probabilities favor a very late Purple Martin, but the very late date also brings into play the possibility of other vagrant martin species such as Brown-chested or Gray-breasted Martins.

**Barn Swallow:** Routine reports.

**Cliff Swallow:** Quite late were four at Conestoga Lake, Lancaster Co, (Barbara Straus, Monica Rose) and five at LNB 3 Oct (TJW); 100 were at LNB as late as 1 Oct (Ron and Melanie Loggins).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** One in Scotts Bluff Co 31 Oct (SM) was about two weeks late for the west.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** The 10 at FF 4 Nov (Terri Kurtz) was a good count.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Routine reports.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Routine reports.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** An easterly individual of the Pine Ridge subspecies *Sitta carolinensis nelsoni* was at LO 3 Nov (SM). The only other report of this subspecies was of one at Scottsbluff WTP, Scotts Bluff Co, 11 Sep (SM). There are now 17 reports of *S. c. nelsoni* south of the Pine Ridge, all from 25 Aug-18 Apr.

**Pygmy Nuthatch:** Routine reports.

**Brown Creeper:** Two at WP 12 Sep (Dave Sandahl) were early. Good counts were the eight at PSP 25 Oct (Brett Andersen) and seven at FF 4 Nov (Terri Kurtz).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Reports of the eastern and western subspecies were cleanly limited as expected to the far east and far west respectively (m. ob.).

**Rock Wren:** The 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> fall records for the east were of singles in Lancaster Co at Conestoga Lake 15-16 Sep (David Saling, m. ob.) and in Lincoln 6 Oct (David Peaslee). One at GWTP 23 Oct (SM) was late.

**Carolina Wren:** A few were reported outside the expected breeding range as in most years. Farthest north and west were singles in Furnas Co 9 Sep (Robin Harding, Bill Flack), Buffalo Co 5 Aug (Chris Monahan), and Knox Co 14 Sep (Ed Clark).

**House Wren:** Third latest on record was one recorded in Omaha, Douglas Co, 6 Nov (Brian Seger). Another, in Scotts Bluff Co 23 Oct (SM) was merely tardy.

**Pacific Wren:** Two reports doubled the number of Nebraska records. Both were well documented: one at OR 15 Sep (SM), and the other at GCEM, Scotts Bluff Co 12-13 Sep (SB, OD).

**Winter Wren:** One at WP 12 Sep (Dave Sandahl) was early. There were three reports for the west central and west, where rare: 23 Oct Anderson Bridge WMA, Cherry Co, (Terry Pflugrad), 3 Nov Lake Ogallala, Keith Co, (SM), and 10 Nov CCSB (SM).

**Sedge Wren:** Only the 5<sup>th</sup> record for the west and west central was one in Grant Co 3 Sep (David George). A total of seven territorial singers were at two Lancaster Co locations 7 Aug; a nest was being built at Jack Sinn WMA (John Carlini, Shari Schwartz).

**Marsh Wren:** Routine reports.

**Gray Catbird:** One in Dakota Co 17 Nov (BFH) was late, as were two in Douglas Co 13 Nov (Brian Seger).

**Brown Thrasher:** Second latest on record for the west was one at CCSB 10 Nov (SM). Another was late in the north at Anderson Bridge WMA, Cherry Co, 20 Oct (Bill Flack). LSWNP is favored by this species in fall: the 28 there 17 Sep (David Trexler) was a record fall count.

**Sage Thrasher:** A major surprise was one along Shoemaker Island Road, Hall Co, 16 Oct (Tommy Childers, Colleen Childers, Steve Morris), only the third record east of the Panhandle.

**Northern Mockingbird:** Routine reports.

**European Starling:** The 5000 at a Kearney, Buffalo Co, location 13 Oct (Jacob and Caroline Cooper) was indicative of early fall migration.

**Eastern Bluebird:** Routine reports.

**Mountain Bluebird:** Easterly were 1-3 in Buffalo Co 29-31 Oct (Robin Harding). A good count was the 22 along Miriam Road, Lincoln Co, 1 Nov (BE).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** One at OR 11 Sep (SM) was early.

**Veery:** Rare in fall, the only report was of one in Dakota Co 5 Sep (BFH).

**Swainson's Thrush:** Singles at Papillion, Sarpy Co, 3-4 Oct (Phil Swanson) and in Dakota Co 3 Oct (BFH) were tardy. The 12 at OR 15 Sep (SM) was a good fall tally.

**Hermit Thrush:** In the Panhandle, one at OR 11 Sep (SM) was early and one at CCSB 10 Nov was 2<sup>nd</sup> latest. Rare in the central, one was at SR 17 Oct (SM). In the northeast, one in Dakota Co 30 Oct (JP) was tardy.

**Wood Thrush:** Three at FF 1 Oct (Eli Weber) were tardy.

**American Robin:** Migration becomes evident by late Oct; "large numbers" arrived at Valentine, Cherry Co, 24 Oct (Jim Ducey).

**House Sparrow:** Routine reports.

**American Pipit:** Early was one at Kiowa WMA, Scotts Bluff Co, 24 Aug (SB) and late one at BOL 29 Nov (LE).

**Sprague's Pipit:** Routine reports.

**Evening Grosbeak:** There were reports from three locations, the two identified to song type from recordings as Type 1, a northwestern breeder, suggesting an eastward move this fall of this type. One Type 1 was at OR 10 Oct (SM), the other among 1-4 birds in the area of Borman Bridge WMA, Cherry Co, 28-29 Sep (Shane Sater). The third location was WHNC, where a female was seen 11 Nov (Gabriel Rivera, David Cunningham).

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch:** The only report with tangible evidence was of two photographed at Smiley Canyon, Sioux Co, 6 Nov (SB). One in flight was described by an experienced observer at the south extent of the Nebraska range in Banner Co 11 Nov, but no photo was obtained.

**House Finch:** Routine reports.

**Purple Finch:** Routine reports.

**Cassin's Finch:** There were about 14 reports at WHNC and nearby Turkey Drive beginning 1 Sep (Alicia Bachman); best count was six on 7 Nov (OD). Reports elsewhere were of one at OR 26 Sep (SM), and two at LMIN 29 Sep (SB).

**Common Redpoll:** The only reports were from Scotts Bluff Co; two at LMIN 10 Nov (SM) and one at GCEM 21 Nov (SB).

**Red Crossbill:** Reports were numerous statewide as early as Aug-Sep, with concentrations on the Pine Ridge, Wildcat Hills, and Niobrara River Valley in eastern Cherry, Brown, and Rock Cos. An approximate total count attempting to avoid duplication was 990 statewide Aug-Nov. Numerous recordings showed this early fall influx consisted mostly of the expected Ponderosa Pine Type 2 crossbill, including all but three of the reports east of the Panhandle. Interestingly, however, there were 10 records of Douglas Fir Type 4 crossbill, which reaches the Great Plains on occasion from the Pacific Northwest; eight of the records were in Scotts Bluff Co 7 Sep-17 Nov, with best count a flock of 10 at WHNC 19 Nov (SM). The only Type 4 records elsewhere were of one in Douglas Co 28 Oct (SMa), and two near Fort Niobrara NWR, Cherry Co, 29 Sep (Shane Sater). More surprising were two recordings of Western Hemlock Type 3 crossbill, both east of the Panhandle: singles 12 Sep at Fort Niobrara NWR, Cherry Co, (Dylan Dell-Haro) and 14

Nov at North Platte Cemetery, Lincoln Co, (SM). Type 3 was recorded in the state previously only in the 2015 crossbill invasion.

**White-winged Crossbill:** The only report was of one picked up on a recording among several crossbills at North Platte Cemetery, Lincoln Co, 14 Nov (SM, confirmed by Tim Spahr).

**Pine Siskin:** Good numbers were reported across the state this fall, peaking in Oct, rather early. Winter data will show whether this was a fall or beginning-of-winter influx. An early fall arrival in the east was one in Lincoln, Lancaster Co, 24 Aug (Cynthia Van Den Broeke), followed by a peak count in the east of 52 at Fontenelle Park, Douglas Co, 30 Oct (David Peterson), and, reflecting early arrival of numbers in the state, 110 were at GCEM, Scotts Bluff Co, 13 Oct (OD, SB). At an Omaha, Douglas Co, feeder, 20 were counted 26 Nov whereas only one was there all winter 2022-2023 (Mary Clausen).

**Lesser Goldfinch:** One at WHNC 8 Oct (OD, SB) was tardy.

**American Goldfinch:** Routine reports.

**Lapland Longspur:** Best count reported was 1542 over Lindau WPA, Kearney Co, 11 Nov where groups of 50-100 were flying southward, including one group estimated at 650 (Jacob Cooper).

**Chestnut-collared Longspur:** Two near Kilgore, Cherry Co, 25 Oct (Greg Hesse) were late. Uncommon in fall in the central, the three reports were of the Cherry Co birds above, three at Prairie Dog WPA, Kearney Co, 8 Oct (SMa), and at least one at Valentine NWR, Cherry Co, 12 Oct (MB, Ed Brogie, JP).

**Smith's Longspur:** Record high fall counts were 65-75 at SCP 4 Nov (MN, MW) and 63 along I Avenue, Dakota Co, 24 Oct (BFH, JP). Late was one at Kramper Lake, Dakota Co, 13 Nov (Ed Brogie).

**Thick-billed Longspur:** Routine reports.

**Snow Bunting:** Two at GPD in Knox Co 2 Nov (MB) were a little early.

**Cassin's Sparrow:** The only report was of one along County Road X, Scotts Bluff Co, 8 Sep (SM), latest on record.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Routine reports.

**Lark Sparrow:** A record tally for late summer was the 150 at CCSB 6 Aug, including "many young birds" (MW, MN). One caught by a cat in a Valentine area, Cherry Co, yard near record-late 29 Nov had a deformed lower mandible (Gordon Warrick).

**Lark Bunting:** Routine reports.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Routine reports.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** An impressive count was the 210 at GWTP 15 Sep (SM).

**Field Sparrow:** Early in the Panhandle was one at CCSB 29 Aug (Elizabeth Winter), where known breeding is less than annual. There were several sightings of late birds in Scotts Bluff Co: 21 Oct and 1 Nov at Scotts Bluff NM (SB, OD), and 23 Oct between Minatare and LALI (SM).

**Brewer's Sparrow:** One was late at GWTP 10 Oct (SM).

**Fox Sparrow:** Less than annual in the west central and west, one was at Anderson Bridge WMA, Cherry Co, 25 Oct (Bill Flack, m. ob.).

**American Tree Sparrow:** Routine reports.

**Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored):** Two were early at OR 10 Sep (SB, OD).

- Dark-eyed Junco (Cassiar):** One was early in Douglas Co 26 Sep (SMa).
- Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon):** One was early at GCEM, Scotts Bluff Co, 15 Sep (SM).  
A good count was the 40 at CCSB 10 Nov (SM).
- Dark-eyed Junco (Pink-sided):** One was early at OR 15 Sep (SM). One in Hall Co 4 Nov (Rita Flohr) was easterly.
- Dark-eyed Junco (White-winged):** Reports were all from Scotts Bluff Co, beginning 31 Oct and on through the period (SM, m. ob.). A good count was the 10 at CCSB 10 Nov (SM).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** A record high fall tally was the 295 between Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co, and LALI 23 Oct, reported as pale-lored subspecies *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* (SM). Dark-lored birds occur mostly in the east (presumed subspecies *Z. l. leucophrys*) and Panhandle (in Sep-Oct likely *Z. l. oriantha*, but into Nov and winter more likely vagrant *Z. l. leucophrys*). Reports of *Z. l. leucophrys* were as expected in the east: two in Cass Co 11 Oct (SMa) and one in Douglas Co 4 Nov (Justin Rink). The five reports of dark-lored birds in the Panhandle 27 Sep-24 Oct were probably *Z. l. oriantha* based on dates and location (BFH, m. ob.). Based on its date and location however, a dark-lored bird in Buffalo Co 13 Nov (Deb Wingfield) was probably a westerly *Z. l. leucophrys*.
- Harris's Sparrow:** One was early at LSWNP 17 Sep (Linda Sullivan).
- White-throated Sparrow:** Good counts were the 65 at CC 17 Oct (JP) and 50 at FF wetlands 21 Oct (Brian Seger).
- Vesper Sparrow:** Routine reports.
- LeConte's Sparrow:** Two at Glacier Creek Preserve, Douglas Co, 8 Nov (Tim Houghton) were tardy.
- Nelson's Sparrow:** Reports matched the expected migration period: 27 Sep at MWCW (Steve Kruse) through 23 Oct Glacier Creek Preserve, Douglas Co, (Tim Houghton). One was westerly in Buffalo Co 9 Oct (Andrew Furman).
- Henslow's Sparrow:** None were reported; detection is difficult after singing stops in early Sep. Last documented records are in Aug, with none in Sep, although there are three for Oct.
- Savannah Sparrow:** Tardy were singles at Marsh Hawk WMA, Fillmore Co, 6 Nov (TJW), and SCP 7 Nov (Barbara Straus, Monica Rose, LE).
- Song Sparrow:** The subspecies *Melospiza melodia montana* is rarely reported but possibly an annual fall migrant in low numbers on the plains east of the Rockies. One was at GWTP 31 Oct (SM).
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** Early were singles 25 Aug-1 Sep at GCEM, Scotts Bluff Co, (OD, SB), and 27 Aug at MWCW (Judson Buescher). Tardy in the north was one in Holt Co 25 Oct (Jason Thiele).
- Swamp Sparrow:** The 30 at Flanagan Lake, Douglas Co, 12 Oct (Brian Seger) was a good count.
- Green-tailed Towhee:** Singles were a bit late at OR 15 and 26 Sep (SM), the only reports.
- Spotted Towhee:** Early in the southeast, albeit a possible local breeder, was one at Redtail WMA, Butler Co, 4 Sep (Matthew and Cynthia Van Den Broeke). WHNC hosts large numbers in fall; as of 2 Sep, 48 new captures were banded (Alicia Bachman). Among increasing records of the Rocky Mountains

subspecies *Pipilo maculatus montanus* in the southern Panhandle was one at GCEM, Scotts Bluff Co (SM).

**Eastern Towhee:** At least three were at the west edge of the breeding range in the south in Harlan Co 23 Sep (MB, Ed Brogie, Joel Jorgensen).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** One in Arthur Co 28 Sep (MB, JP, BFH) was late. Rare in the east, singles were in Douglas Co 9 Sep (SMa), and Lancaster Co 23 Sep (Tim Houghton, MN).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Routine reports.

**Bobolink:** A good catch was a flyby female recorded in Cass Co quite late 11 Oct (SMa). An impressive tally was the 120 at Funk WPA, Phelps Co, 8 Sep (Paul Dunbar).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Two at LSWNP 17 Nov (Linda Sullivan) were tardy, and the 50 there 18 Oct (Steve Kruse) was an impressive count.

**Western Meadowlark:** Routine reports.

**Orchard Oriole:** A female-plumaged bird was late at MWCW 22 Sep (MW).

**Bullock's Oriole:** Routine reports.

**Bullock's Oriole x Baltimore Oriole (hybrid):** One was easterly in Buffalo Co 30 Aug (John Walter, Bill Flack).

**Baltimore Oriole:** Rare in the Panhandle in fall, the four reports were of two in Dawes Co 10 Aug (April Casey), and singles in Scotts Bluff Co 25 Aug (SB, OD), Box Butte Co 27 Aug (Tannya Reeve), and Sheridan Co 3 Sep (Tony Hindman).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** Large flocks flew over a Seward Co site during the day 3 Sep, including one of 15,000 and two smaller for a total estimated at 25,000 (TJW).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** Late for the north were three at Berry Bridge, Cherry Co, 24 Oct (Greg Hesse). A spectacular sight must have been the 10,000 near Axtell, Kearney Co, 17 Oct (Letitia Reichart), a near record fall high for the state.

**Rusty Blackbird:** Routine reports.

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Two easterly in Brown Co 18 Aug (Paul Roisen) were likely early fall dispersers, as were four closer to the expected breeding range in Kimball Co 11 Aug (Davey Walters) and one in Keith Co 12 Aug (Barbara Brown). One south of Antioch, Sheridan Co, 12 Aug (Elaine Sharpe, Robert Riggs) was in an area where recent years have seen summer reports.

**Common Grackle:** Routine reports.

**Great-tailed Grackle:** Late in the north and west were seven near Minatare 23 Oct (SM), 45 in Garfield Co 4 Nov (Jacob Cooper, m. ob.), and 15 at Kiowa WMA, Scotts Bluff Co, 17 Nov (SM).

**Ovenbird:** Routine reports.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** None were reported; expected last fall dates are in mid-Aug. This discouraging lack of Aug reports might suggest a connection to the second consecutive year of severe summer drought in eastern Nebraska drying up stream habitat usually occupied by Louisiana Waterthrushes.

**Northern Waterthrush:** One at Niobrara Valley Preserve, Brown Co, 17 Aug (Paul Roisen) was early.

- Golden-winged Warbler:** Rare in fall, the three reports were of singles in Gage Co 26 Aug (Joel Jorgensen), an early date, 10 Sep at FF (Eli Weber), and 13 Sep at WP (MN), a bit tardy.
- Black-and-white Warbler:** Routine reports.
- Prothonotary Warbler:** One at FF 31 Aug (Barbara Brown) provided only the third documented date for Aug.
- Tennessee Warbler:** Rare in fall in the Panhandle, the three reports were of singles at Gilbert-Baker WMA, Sioux Co, 13 Aug, about 10 days early (Colin Croft), OR 8 Sep (SM), and Scotts Bluff Co 29 Sep (Diane Thomas, Andrew Fix). Another early single was in Sarpy Co 20 Aug (Phil Swanson).
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** One at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co, 12 Nov (Keith Roragen) was late. A good tally was the 31 at OR 8 Sep (SM).
- Nashville Warbler:** One at Heron Haven, Douglas Co, 26-29 Nov (Brian Seger, Tim Houghton) was about a month late.
- MacGillivray's Warbler:** The two reports were as expected, singles in Dundy Co 31 Aug (SM) and Dawes Co 6 Sep (SB).
- Mourning Warbler:** Rare in the central, singles were in Nuckolls Co 2 Sep (Nancy Drilling) and Hall Co 11 Sep (Steve Morris). One in Dakota Co 22 Aug (JP, BFH) was early. Three at Heron Haven, Douglas Co, 5 Sep (Tim Houghton) was a good tally.
- Kentucky Warbler:** None were reported; expected last fall dates are 25-27 Aug.
- Common Yellowthroat:** One at CC 25 Oct (BFH) was late.
- Hooded Warbler:** Only the 9<sup>th</sup> fall record for the state was one in a Sarpy Co yard 10 Sep (Phil Swanson, video).
- American Redstart:** Routine reports.
- Northern Parula:** One in a Sarpy Co yard 17 Nov (Phil Swanson, video) was 2<sup>nd</sup> latest on record for the state. One in Scotts Bluff Co 26 Sep (SM) was only the 12<sup>th</sup> fall record away from the east.
- Magnolia Warbler:** Routine reports.
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** One in Gage Co 26 Aug (Joel Jorgensen) was early. Tardy were singles in Dakota Co 2 Oct (JP, BFH), and in Douglas Co 30 Sep (Loren and Babs Padelford). Only the 8<sup>th</sup> fall record for the state away from the east was one in Harlan Co 23 Sep (MB).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** One in a Sarpy Co yard 22-23 Aug (Phil Swanson) was early, as was another at CC 22 Aug (BFH). One at Grove Lake, Antelope Co, 26 Aug (Bob Anderson) was westerly.
- Yellow Warbler:** Tardy was one at CC 7 Oct (Kevin Kerr, m. ob.).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Early were four at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park, Madison Co, 20 Aug (Jason Thiele) and one at CC 22 Aug (BFH).
- Blackpoll Warbler:** Less than annual in fall, the only report was of an adult male at Hormel Park, Dodge Co, 12 Sep (Gary Roberts).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** The only report was of one at Mormon Island SRA, Hall Co, 11 Sep (Steve Morris, Colleen Childers).
- Palm Warbler:** One was tardy at Glacier Creek Preserve, Douglas Co, 21 Oct (MB).
- Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** Early was one in Hall Co 11 Sep (Steve Morris), and another at OR was a bit late in the west 10 Nov (SM).

**Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler:** One in Merrick Co 26 Sep (Bill Flack) was a rarity that far east. Several lingered rather late: one at OR 10 Nov (SM), three at SR 14 Nov (SM), and one at Ogallala, Keith Co, 23 Nov (Jacob and Caroline Cooper). A good tally was the 30 at OR 26 Sep (SM).

**Yellow-rumped (Myrtle x Audubon's) Warbler:** Two at SR 17 Oct (SM) were tardy.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Remarkable was the first fall Panhandle report for this species, one at CCSB 27 Sep (JP, MB, BFH). (See article on page 155.) Only the seventh report for the state overall after Jul was one at FF 9 Sep (Tim Houghton).

**Townsend's Warbler:** Surprisingly, there was only one report of this usually fairly common western fall migrant; a single was at OR 8 Sep (SM).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** One at Johnson Lake SRA, Gosper Co, 23 Sept (TJW, m. ob.) was a rarity that far west.

**Canada Warbler:** The total of 17 reported is 2<sup>nd</sup> highest for a fall season.

**Wilson's Warbler:** The 61 at OR 8 Sep (SM) was an impressive tally. Much more numerous in fall in the west, all seven counts above 10 were in the Panhandle (SM, SB, OD). Best count elsewhere was 10 in Hall Co (Steve Morris).

**Summer Tanager:** Tardy singles were in Bellevue, Sarpy Co, 30 Sep (Loren and Babs Padelford), and Cass Co 2 Oct (Kathy Schwery).

**Scarlet Tanager:** One at Zorinsky Lake, Douglas Co, 9 Oct (Brian Seger) was tardy.

**Western Tanager:** Tardy in Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co, was one on 7 Oct (OD, SB).

**Northern Cardinal:** Only the 4th Grant Co record was one near Hyannis 10 Sep (Dylan Dell-Haro).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** One in Harlan Co 23 Sep (Joel Jorgensen) was westerly for fall. A female at a Lincoln, Lancaster Co, feeder 15-17 Nov (Linda Sullivan) was about six weeks late.

**Black-headed Grosbeak:** One in Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co, 24 Sep (SB) was tardy.

**Blue Grosbeak:** Routine reports.

**Lazuli Bunting:** Routine reports.

**Lazuli Bunting x Indigo Bunting (hybrid):** There were two reports, the first of this hybrid for Aug: 6 Aug at CCSB (MW, MN), and 10 Aug at Fort Robinson SP, Dawes Co, (April Casey).

**Indigo Bunting:** Rare in the Panhandle in fall, one was at Monroe Canyon, Sioux Co, 3 Sep (David Cunningham). Two in Cass Co 11 Oct (SMA) were tardy.

**Dickcissel:** Two at Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo Co, 21 Oct (Jacob Cooper, Nathan Eidem) were tardy.