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Mist netting at Oliver State Recreation Area

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During the fall 2000 migration, I decided to do some mist netting at Oliver State Recreation Area in Kimball County. My main emphasis was to document the occurrence of several species of *Empidonax* in western Nebraska. Limited netting there in fall 1999 was not very successful, but I was more optimistic this year. With that in mind, I obtained the necessary federal and state permits and netted on four dates (26 August, 31 August, 7 September, and 20 September), each chosen to be immediately after the passage of a cold front.

On each date I set up nets at two locations, each location having two nets strung up in tandem. On each of these dates, the nets were set up pre-dawn

and taken down by noon. I captured a total of 87 individuals of 26 species on these four days (see Table 1). The most abundant species was Wilson's Warbler, which is not surprising given their abundance as a migrant and their habit of foraging relatively close to the ground. The most significant find was the capture of three Dusky Flycatchers (Dinsmore and Silcock, in prep.). No other *Empidonax* were caught, although at least one other species (Hammond's Flycatcher) was seen on these dates. Although the sample is very small, this suggests that Dusky Flycatcher may in fact be one of the more common species of *Empidonax* in western Nebraska during fall migration. Several other western migrants, many of them formerly considered casual in Nebraska, were also captured, including four Cassin's Vireos, a Townsend's Warbler, and two MacGillivray's Warblers. I was also interested in identifying as many birds as possible to race, where applicable. This resulted in the capture of a Hermit Thrush of the Rocky Mountain subspecies *auduboni*, the first confirmed record of that form for Nebraska. I also captured a total of eight Warbling Vireos, six of which were the western subspecies *swainsoni*. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the help of Ross Silcock (31 August) and Loren & Babs Padelford (7 September). Their presence certainly made the experience much more enjoyable.

Literature Cited

Dinsmore, S. J., and W. R. Silcock. In prep. "First confirmed records of Dusky Flycatcher for Nebraska."

Table 1. Birds netted at Oliver State Recreation Area, Kimball County, NE, in fall 2000.

Species	Number	Comment
Mourning Dove	2	
Downy Woodpecker	2	
Western Wood-Pewee	1	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1 on 31 August	Juvenile, first confirmed record for the western Panhandle
Dusky Flycatcher	1 on 31 August 1 on 7 September 1 on 20 September	Adult Age unknown Juvenile First definitive records for NE
Eastern Kingbird	1	

Cassin's Vireo	3 on 31 August 1 on 7 September	2 adults, 1 juvenile Juvenile
Warbling Vireo	1 on 26 August 7 on 31 August	6 were the western race <i>swainsoni</i>
House Wren	2	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1 on 7 September	
Hermit Thrush	1 on 7 September	Western subspecies <i>auduboni</i>
American Robin	2	
Gray Catbird	1	
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 on 31 August	
Yellow Warbler	5	
Townsend's Warbler	1 on 7 September	Immature female
Northern Waterthrush	1 on 31 August	
MacGillivray's Warbler	2 on 31 August	1 female and 1 immature male
Common Yellowthroat	3	
Wilson's Warbler	24	
Western Tanager	1 on 7 September	Adult male
Clay-colored Sparrow	1 on 31 August	
White-crowned Sparrow	1 on 20 September	Pale-lored race <i>gambelii</i>
Dark-eyed Junco	1 on 7 September	"Pink-sided" form <i>mearnsi</i>
Black-headed Grosbeak	1 on 26 August	Immature male
American Goldfinch	17	