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NOTES

THE TABLES FOR THE 1990 SPRING OCCURRENCE REPORT were poorly printed, for unexplained reasons. The tables did not match across the "gutter"; it will help to draw a line from the first line on one page to the first line on the facing page, and then draw a line across for every third line. That way, the line for each species will either have a line across, or be just above or just below one. The headings for the left-hand pages after page 60 were omitted. The headings for pages 58 and 60 are correct for the rest of the pages; a paper guide with the headings marked on it can be used, or the headings can be written in for more permanent use.

NESTING TRUMPETER SWANS. On 2 September 1990 I saw 2 adult and 2 young Trumpeter Swans on the west end of Long Lake, T26N R17W S12, Rock Co. The east end of Long Lake is in T26N R16W S7, Holt Co. The lake is over a mile long and quite narrow, with a lot of rushes and emergent vegetation, in places growing completely across the lake. The open water is in fragmented strips and patches. The young Swans were getting good sized but still noticeably smaller than the adults. I would guess the young were capable of flight, but not long sustained flight.

My cousin, Clyde Blake, who lives 3 miles west of the lake, says the young definitely were hatched there. His neighbor, Jim Boettcher, who owns an airplane and flies over the lake frequently, has been watching the birds all summer. Jim says they are usually found at the east end of the lake. I understand that the adults were at the lake last year, but no young were seen.

A check of recent Reviews and of Ducey's Nebraska Birds: Breeding Status and Distribution indicates that this is the first recent breeding record east of Cherry Co. Ducey lists a 1896 record in Holt Co. and one in 1900 in Adams Co.

— Loren Blake, HC 63 Box 18, Chambers, Neb. 68725

SUNNING PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. I was informed of a Prothonotary Warbler nest located in an area of Fontenelle Forest which beavers had flooded out several years ago. The morning I went down to the nest was hot and humid. I was able to set my camera within 20 yards of the nest, in a tall patch of grass to try to conceal myself as much as possible. Within a few minutes a male Prothonotary Warbler arrived. He began singing while flying from tree to
tree as if he were trying to attract a female. He did this for about 20 minutes or so, then he flew down to a fallen tree, over the water, and lay down on his side with his head flat against the tree. Periodically he would raise his head to look around, and then he would lay it back down. He did this for about 5 minutes before he flew and started singing again. After about 20 minutes of singing he flew back down to the exact spot as before and lay down for an additional 5 to 10 minutes. Then he flew back to the tree tops and started singing again, and he eventually flew off. I would guess that this was some form of sunning, but it appeared to me as if he were lying down to sleep.

— Mark Dietz, Ranger, Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, 1111 Bellevue Boulevard, North, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005


— Loren Blake, HC 63, Box 18, Chambers, Neb, 68725

HAWK VS. OWL. On 25 April 1989 I was hiking along Cottonwood Trail in Fontenelle Forest when a Barred Owl flew up, almost at my feet, with a snake in its mouth. I watched it land on a branch of a tall cottonwood in what appeared to be an attempt to get a better grip on its prey. Suddenly a Broad-winged Hawk swooped in and struck the Owl on the head. The Hawk made three more striking passes, and on the fourth pass succeeded in knocking the Owl completely from its perch. The Owl actually fell about ten feet before it grabbed onto a lower branch. While the Hawk was preparing to make another dive the Owl quickly flew into a nearby tree cavity, still clutching the snake. It was obviously carrying food to young. I know Broad-winged Hawks like to eat snakes, too, but this Owl was not about to relinquish its prey, even at the risk of losing its dignity, head feathers, and perch!

— Ruth Green, 506 W. 31st Ave., Bellevue, Neb. 68005

PINE GROSBEAK On 22 May 1988, after being alerted to its presence by several of the attendants at the annual Meeting, Wayne Mollhoff, Art Huser, and I retraced their steps to Carter canyon, Scotts Bluff Co., to try to locate the Pine Grosbeak seen earlier that day. A thorough search of the chokecherry thicket soon resulted in locating the sedate bird as it fed on the emerging flower buds. The bird, a female or immature, was extremely tame and unwary. Although lighting conditions were unfavorable, the cooperation of the bird and the assistance of Wayne, who, with a stick, held aside intervening branches, made photos possible. After this close approach and Wayne’s moving twigs virtually adjacent to the bird, he succumbed to temptation and reached out and with his stick touched the bird’s tail without disturbing it. The large, chunky bird was largely gray in color, the wings and tail darker than the body. Prominent wingbars were white. The grey of the cheek, crown, and nape seemed overlaid with a golden green. The bill was dark in color, stout, blunt and with a strongly curved culmen.

— Bill Huser, 401 E. 14th Street, South Sioux City, Neb. 68776
PARTIAL ALBINOS. A partial albino Red-winged Blackbird was first reported to us about 1 May 1989 by a friend who lives in its area. It is two miles east of the junction of N50A and N10, about 4.75 miles east of the entrance to Fort Kearney State Park, in Kearney Co. It was sighted by Marian and a group of Book Club ladies on 15 May, and observed at close range, maybe 15 feet, for about 20 minutes. On 10 June we were in the area again and made some more notes about appearance and behavior, over a period of about half an hour. It appeared to be territorial, with a female in the immediate area. It displayed and called from a fence wire along a small drainage ditch, with weeds and small plum bushes and willows. The bird's body and head were white, with black eyes, black beak, and a small black spot on the breast. The outer and inner wing coverts were white, primaries black with white secondaries. The shoulder patches were bright red. The tail feathers were white, except for the right outer and the second from left which were black. If new color patterns are in order for Red-winged Blackbird males, we would vote for this one. The bird is spectacular, especially in flight.

The bird returned to its 1989 territory in mid-March, 1990, and has defended it since then. And we have learned that the bird was fledged in 1988 in this same area.

— George and Marian Brown, 2018 12th Avenue, Kearney, Neb. 68847

This is a picture of a Grackle that I observed at my feeder in 1989. The bird was also observed in 1988. It came back in 1990.

— Bob Willett, 508 N. 13th St., Norfolk, Neb. 68701