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## 1988 Fall Field Day

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1988 FALL FIELD DAY

There were 65 people who attended part or all of the 1988 Fall Meeting at Halsey Forest 8-9 October. This included Dr. Jan Skoudln, of Prague, Czechoslovakia. Saturday night Dr. Julie Ann Savidge spoke on "The Extinction of an Island Forest Avifauna by an Introduced Snake", a summary of her investigation of the brown tree snake's effect on Guam's avifauna. There was also a short slide show. The rest of the time was available for birding. A few NOU members came early enough on Friday to work with members of the US Forest Service on a butterfly and hummingbird garden near the entrance to the Forest. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission had provided funds for some lattice-work frames which the Forest Service had erected. Further planting is planned for the spring, and the garden will be dedicated at the spring meeting 19-21 May 1989. There will be a plaque commemorating the late Vera Coons. At the officers' meeting it was decided to buy some files for the NOU Library, using an honorarium Dr. Johnsgard passed on to NOU.

Seventy-seven species were tallied on or immediately adjacent to the Forest during the meeting. This count was lower than in the past, which may have been due to the meeting being later in the year than usual, or to the weather being a little on the cool side (but pleasant). Species also recorded from Blaine Co. are marked B. Pied-billed Grebe was recorded only from Blaine Co. American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron B, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier; Sharp-shinned, Broad-winged, Swainson's, and Red-tailed Hawks; Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Northern Bobwhite, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Cuckoo sp., Eastern Screech-Owl; Great Horned and Burrowing Owls; Belted Kingfisher; Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers; Northern Flicker, Horned Lark B, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee; Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches; Brown Creeper, House Wren; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets; Eastern Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing; Northern and Loggerhead Shrikes; European Starling B; Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, and Yellow-rumped Warblers; Northern Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee; American Tree, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, Vesper B, Song, Lincoln's, White-throated, White-crowned, and Harris' Sparrows; Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. Seven Whooping Cranes on the Loup 6 October were reported by Tom Keeney, too soon for observation by even the early attendees. At the year's end the Fish and Wildlife Service had not received any definite information on this sighting and so classified it as an unconfirmed sighting.