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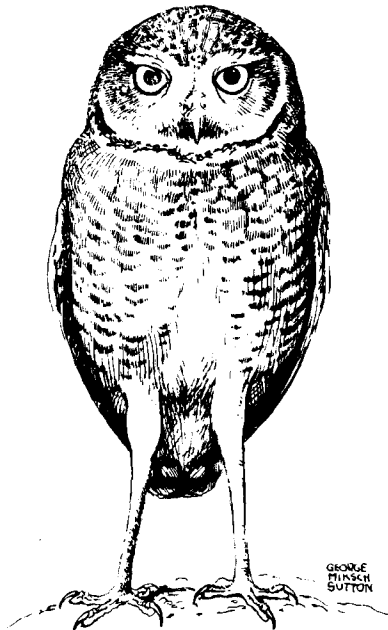
The Nebraska Bird Review

A Magazine of Ornithology of the Nebraska Region

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Number 2



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Founded 1899

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All manuscripts for publication, and all changes of address, should be sent to the Editor, R. G. Cortelyou, 5109 Underwood Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68132.

Other officers are: President, Thomas E. Labedz, 1241 Starview Lane, Lincoln, Nebraska 68512, Vice-president, Douglas G. Thomas, 1035 Mississippi, Alliance, Nebraska 69301, and Secretary, Mrs. Ruth C. Green, 506 W. 31st Avenue, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005.

Compiled by Dr. Esther V. Bennett

Data on the 1988 Nesting season in Nebraska were received from 25 observers and 2 agencies, reporting on 94 species from 52 counties. Counties on the tabulation are listed in a west to east order, with the northernmost of the approximately equal locations given first. Numbers represent Nest Record Cards; underlined numbers represent nests reported on Colonial Bird Register Forms; C represents carrying food; E represents eggs; F represents feeding; H represents nest building (home); N represents nests observed for which no Nest Record Card was submitted; S represents fecal sacs; V represents feeding Brown-headed

[illegible]

Thirty-seven species were reported on 190 North American Nest Record Cards; 4 species were reported on Colonial Bird Register Forms, and 55 species were reported without cards, for a total of 94 species. (Two species were

	K	N	M	H	P	P	Y	C	C	B	S	S	C	D	S	L	G	J	P	D	W	D	S	C	R	T
	n	a	e	a	i	o	d	r	f	i	g	n	c	e	s	n	o	h	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	x	c	r	t	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	1 s
Pied-b, Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D-c. Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
G. Bl. Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B-c. Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-f. Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Gr-w. Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N. Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bl-w. Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cinnamon Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N. Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Am. Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N. Harrier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seainson's H.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed H.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ferruginous H.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Am. Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	17
Gray Partr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

[illegible]

Game and Parks Commission employees, aides, and contractors contributed Colonial Bird Register information and 95 Nest Record cards. The Game and Parks Commission employees are: J. Dinan, M. W. Dwyer, K. M. Hams, K. Menzel, P.

[illegible]

Nineteen species reported in the 1987 Survey were not reported in 1988: Trumpeter Swan, Snow Goose, Prairie Falcon, Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, Spotted Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Rock Dove, Common Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, Clark's Nutcracker, Cedar Waxwing, Prothonotary Warbler, and American Goldfinch.

[illegible]

Anyone who sees evidence of nesting, young, or adult birds carrying nesting material, food, or fecal sacs, can submit the information without the use of a special form. The information should be easily separated by species and county. This information will be included in the Nebraska Nesting Survey by letters rather than by numbers.

Anyone who has found, or expects to find, an active nest is invited to request Nest Record Cards to use in reporting the nest. Each nest requires a separate card, except for colonial nesting species, which require a separate card for each visit to the site.

Send your Nest Record Card requests, completed cards, and other nesting information to Dr. Esther V. Bennett, 1641 Devoe Drive, Lincoln, Neb. 68506.

	S	S	K	D	B	M	C	S	G	C	G	C	M	L	T	C	D	G	F	R	B	H	V	S	B	H	A							
	o	c	i	w	x	o	h	r	a	r	d	r	y	n	d	n	t	e	h	c	m	t	n	p	s	k	d	t	l	m	f	l	a	d
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27							
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Lark Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Grasshopper Sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Song Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
R-w. Blackbird	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	
W. Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Y-h. Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Com. Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B-h. Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	
Orchard Oriole	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Northern Oriole	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
House Finch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Red Crossbill	F	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
House Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Nest Cards	14	-	5	3	7	1	1	-	-	-	-	7	-	15	7	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	4	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Individuals	2	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	5	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Colonial cards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Individuals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
No Nest Cards	3	15	-	-	-	-	-	1	40	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2
Total Species	4	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	40	1	1	1	2	3	5	1	3	1	1	4	2	12	4	1	5	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Species	4	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	40	1	1	1	2	3	5	1	3	1	1	4	2	12	4	1	5	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Clear skies and good weather greeted the participants (there were 66 registered) at the 1989 Annual Meeting, held at the 4-H Camp at Halsey Forest 19 to 21 May. There was a Board meeting Friday night; Saturday and Sunday mornings were open for birding; there was a tour of the tree nursery facilities Saturday morning, and a Records Committee meeting; Saturday afternoon Reid Miller, of the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument gave a talk on the Monument, followed by the business meeting. All present officers were re-elected: Thomas Labedz, President; Doug G. Thomas, Vice-president; Ruth Green, Secretary; Alice Kenitz, Treasurer; Dr. Rosalind Morris, Librarian; and R. G. Cortelyou, Editor. It was announced that Alan Grenon and Mark Brogie had been selected for the Records

	K	N	M	H	P	P	Y	C	C	B	S	S	C	D	S	L	G	J	P	D	W	D	S	C	R	T
	n	a	e	a	l	o	e	e	o	u	e	a	u	o	a	a	a	o	a	a	a	o	a	a	i	o
	n	r	m	a	l	r	d	l	t	w	i	m	d	g	n	g	n	w	k	s	u	r	s	c	t	
	x	c	r	t	k	k	f	t	r	i	i	g	n	c	e	s	n	o	h	g	p	s	h	a	d	
	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Lark Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Grasshoppe Sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Song Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
R-w. Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	
W. Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Y-h. Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Com. Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B-h. Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Orchard Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Northern Oriole	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	2	
House Finch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	NYF	-	-	
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
House Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,N	-	-	-	-	C	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Nest Cards	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	64	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	7	18	5	5	-	1	1	3	3	6	
Individuals	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	2	8	5	2	-	1	1	3	1	5	
Species	-	-	2	2	2	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	
Colonial Cards	26	17	20	15	50	-	-	20	46	-	-	-	43	101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	22	72	639	
Individuals	2	2	2	2	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	
Species	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	23	-	-	1	6	-	-	11	-	-	1	8	2	4	1	-	1	
No Nest Cards	2	2	3	2	2	3	4	35	2	2	1	2	7	2	4	19	5	2	1	9	3	9	4	7	1	
Total Species	2	2	3	2	2	3	4	35	2	2	1	2	7	2	4	19	5	2	1	9	3	9	4	7	1	

Committee to replace Gary Lingle and Ruth Green, and that Joe Gubanyi had been added to the Committee. At a meeting of the Committee Mr. Grenon was elected chairman. At the banquet that night Kenneth Strom, of the Rowe National Audubon Society Sanctuary spoke on the sanctuaries, followed by a slide show. Sunday morning the Vera Coons Memorial Hummingbird/Butterfly Garden was dedicated.

The bird count covered the period from Thursday noon to Sunday noon, and was tabulated in five parts: the Forest and its immediate environs (F), a trip up to Brownlee (B), a trip to Valentine Refuge (V), a trip past Purdum (P), and a trip to the Dunning area (D). The total species count was 146; 21 were reported by all trips, while 58 were reported by only one trip. The Forest count was 112 species, 42 from there only; Brownlee 56, 3 from there only; Valentine 74, 9 from there only; Purdum 62, 4 from there only; and 41 from Dunning, with no exclusives. Pied-billed Grebe B, American White Pelican BVP, Double-crested Cormorant FBVP, American Bittern BV; Great Blue FBVPD and Green-backed FB Herons; Black-crowned Night-Heron VP, Trumpeter Swan V, Canada Goose BVP, Wood Duck F, Green-winged Teal BVP, Mallard FBVPD, Northern Pintail VPD, Blue-winged Teal FBVPD, Northern Shoveler VP, Gadwall VP, American Wigeon P, Canvasback V, Redhead V; Ring-necked V and Ruddy V Ducks; Turkey Vulture FP; Swainson's FVP and Red-tailed FB Hawks; Golden Eagle F, American Kestrel FVD, Peregrine Falcon F, Ring-necked Pheasant FBVPD, Greater Prairie-Chicken FBV, Sharp-tailed Grouse FBVP, Wild Turkey F, Northern Bobwhite F, American Coot BVP, Black-bellied Plover P, Killdeer FBVPD, American Avocet VP; Greater F and Lesser VP Yellowlegs; Solitary Sandpiper F, Willet BVP; Spotted F and Upland FBVPD Sandpipers; Whimbrel V, Long-billed Curlew FVP; Semipalmated FP, Least V, White-rumped FVP, Baird's FV, Pectoral FP, and Stilt VP Sandpipers; Short-billed B and Long-billed VP Dowitchers; Common Snipe BVP, Wilson's Phalarope FBVPD; Franklin's P and Ring-billed V Gulls; Forster's FBVP and Black FBVP Terns; Rock F and Mourning FBVPD Doves; Black-billed F and Yellow-billed F Cuckoos; Great Horned F and Burrowing FB Owls; Common Nighthawk VP, Common Poorwill F, Chimney Swift FV, Belted Kingfisher FD; Red-headed FBVPD and Downy FD Woodpeckers; Northern Flicker FBVD; Western F and Eastern F Wood-Pewees; Acadian F and Least F Flycatchers; Eastern Phoebe F, Great Crested Flycatcher F; Western FBVPD and Eastern FBVPD Kingbirds; Horned Lark FBVP; Tree BP, Northern Rough-winged FB, Bank B, Cliff FBVPD, and Barn FBVPD Swallows; Blue Jay FVD, Black-billed Magpie FBD, American Crow FBVD, Black-capped Chickadee FB; Red-breasted F and White-breasted F Nuthatches; House FD and Marsh P Wrens; Ruby-crowned Kinglet F, Eastern Bluebird FV; Gray-cheeked F and Swainson's F Thrushes; American Robin FBVPD, Gray Catbird FD, Brown Thrasher FVPD, Cedar Waxwing F, Loggerhead Shrike FBVP, European Starling V; Bell's FVD, Warbling FV, and Red-eyed FD Vireos; Tennessee F, Orange-crowned F, Yellow FBPD, Blackpoll F, and Black-and-white F Warblers; American Redstart FD, Ovenbird F, Northern Waterthrush F, Common Yellowthroat FBVD, Wilson's Warbler FD, Yellow-breasted Chat F, Northern Cardinal F; Rose-breasted F, Black-headed F, and Blue FBVP Grosbeaks; Lazuli FB and Indigo F Buntings; Dickcissel F, Rufous-sided Towhee F; Chipping FD, Clay-colored FV, Field FBVD, and Lark FBVPD Sparrows; Lark Bunting FBVP; Grasshopper FBP, Song F, White-crowned F, and Harris' F Sparrows; Bobolink FBVPD, Red-winged Blackbird FBVPD; Eastern FV and Western FBVPD Meadowlarks; Yellow-headed Blackbird BVP, Common Grackle FBVPD, Brown-headed Cowbird FBVPD; Orchard FVPD and Northern FBPD Orioles; Pine Siskin F, American Goldfinch FBVPD, House Sparrow F.

SECOND REPORT OF THE N.O.U. RECORDS COMMITTEE

Introduction

This report contains individual accounts of 56 accepted records of 37 species and 8 non-accepted records of 7 species. The records were contributed by 36 observers. This report covers most of the records #66 - #150. At the NOU Fall Field Day on 3 October 1987, the committee decided to act as repository for all photos published in the *Nebraska Bird Review*. A decision was also made to simply file for record those records which were not deemed unusual enough to warrant full committee action. Thus, the discrepancy between the number of records logged into the files versus the number of records acted upon.

State List

Records included in this report add three species to the Official List:

Great Black-backed Gull, Inca Dove, and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Another record, King Eider, represents the first accepted documentation for the state; however, action on it was completed in time for it to be included in the Official List (NOJRC, 1988). Photos of several species which been published previously were scrutinized by the committee while reviewing documentation available for the Official List: Cattle Egret, Phainopepla, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. As time permits, the committee hopes to review other historic records for documentation and possible inclusion in the current files.

Finally, it has come to the attention of the committee that Evening Grosbeak was inadvertently omitted from the Official List. Thus, the following additions are made to the Official List:

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*): Accidental, III.

(Insert between Glaucous Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake)

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*): Accidental, III.

(Insert between Passenger Pigeon and Common Ground-dove)

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*): Accidental, III.

(Insert between Say's Phoebe and Great Crested Flycatcher)

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*): Regular, I-S.

(Insert between American Goldfinch and House Sparrow)

With these additions the Official List stands at 410 species.

Format

The format used is essentially the same as that used in the first report of the committee (Mollhoff, 1987). For those records in the "accepted" category, the species name will be given first, followed by a brief statement about the occurrence. The location, date, accession #, file #, and the initials of the observer(s) who contributed the documentation make up the rest of the report. If the report and/or photo has been published, the reference is listed after the observer's initials. If the record includes a photo or recording, a (p) or (r), respectively, follows the initials. A specimen is indicated by (s), followed by the museum number and name of the museum where it is housed. A more detailed description of the format is found in the first report of the committee.

In the first report, several documentations which were filed for record were mentioned. Due to the considerable number of such records and photos which the committee has received, these will no longer be listed individually. Instead, these will be summarized following the report of the individual records. These records are all accessioned and filed and available to interested persons.

Acknowledgments

The committee wishes to thank the following observers who have contributed records which are included in this report: L. M. Baylor (LB), Tanya Bray (TB), Duane E. Bright (DB), Ellen L. Brogie (EB), Mark A. Brogie (MB), Bruce A. Fall (BF), William C. Garthright (WG), Ruth C. Green (RG), Alan G. Grenon (AG), William F. (Bill) Huser (WH), Clyde Johnson (CJ), Joel Jorgensen (JJ), Alice Kenitz (AK), Thomas H. Kent (TK), Raymond C. Korpi (RCK), Raymond T. Korpi (RTK), Thomas E. Labedz (TL), Leon Marquardt (LM), Michael M. Melius (MM), Wayne J. Mollhoff (WM), Everett Montgomery (EM), Bill Otto (BO), Eileen E. Paine (EP), Barbara (Babs) Padelford (BP), Loren Padelford (LP), Jerry Probst (JP), Rachelle Rezac (RR), Gail L. Roebuck (GR), Dorothy J. Rosche (DR), Richard C. Rosche (RCR), B. J. Rose (BR), John Row (JR), Doug Thomas (DT), Randall D. Williams (RDW), Greg Wingfield (GW), Rick Wright (RW). It goes without saying that without their careful field observations and meticulous documentation this report would not have been possible. I must also comment on a marked improvement in the documentations. The attention to accuracy and inclusion of pertinent data have improved steadily, especially with those observers who have contributed a series of records. As a result, fewer requests for additional details are needed, the work of the committee is made easier, and the records on file are of greater value to future researchers.

The following committee members besides myself have acted on some or all of the listed records: Tanya Bray, Ruth C. Green, Alice Kenitz, Thomas E. Labedz, Gary Lingle, and Babs Padelford. Their careful research, unbiased scrutiny, and hard work have established the committee as the respected arbiter and repository for the bird records of the state. Their promptness, conscientiousness, and patience have been much appreciated. They have also acted as reviewers for this report and their comments were very helpful in

improving it.

Species reports - accepted records

CLARK'S GREBE, (*Aechmophorus clarkii*). The first Nebraska specimen record for this species was obtained 11 June 1986 on Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., acc. # 141, file # 1.1-6, (s) #ZM-15749, U. of Nebr. State Mus., TL (NBR 55:68-72, 1987). A single bird was seen at Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar Co. on 6 Dec. 1986, acc. # 066, file # 1.1-1, WH. Several documentations were received of a bird on Merritt Res., Cherry Co., 15-17 May 1987, acc. # 091, 092, 093, 144, 146, file # 1.1-2, 1.1-3, 1.1-4, 1.1-7, 1.1-8, RTK, RCK, RG, BP, LP, TB (NBR 55:35, 1987; *Am. Birds* 41:455, 1987).

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*). A single bird was seen and photographed at Hidden Lake, Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., 2-5 May 1987; acc. # 079, 080, 145, 150; file # 118-1, 118-2, 118-3, 118-4; BR (p), TB, BP, LP, RTK, (NBR 55:50, 1987; *Am. Birds* 41:455, 1987).

GREAT EGRET (*Casmerodius albus*). A single bird was seen at University Lake in southern Sioux Co. on 30 Apr. 1988; acc. # 138, file # 196-2; AK (NBR 56:54, 1988).

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*). A single bird was seen 2 mi. E of Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co. on 30 Apr. 1988; acc. # 139, file # 197-2; AK (NBR 56:54, 73, 1988).

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*). Photographs of 2 birds at Albion, Boone Co. on 7 May 1983 were used as documentation for the Official List; acc. # 103, file # 200.1-1; WM (NBR 51:67, 1983; NBR 55:47, 1987).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax violaceus*). A single bird was at South Sioux City, Dakota Co., on 17 May 1985. Another was seen there 18 May 1987; acc. # 132, 108; file # 203-3, 203-2; WH (NBR 53:51, 1985; NBR 55:51, 1987).

TUNDRA SWAN (*Cygnus columbianus*). Nine birds were seen on a sandpit 4 mi. E. of North Platte, Lincoln Co., 16-18 March 1988, by Nebr. Game and Parks personnel; acc. # 137, file # 180-1; GW (NBR 56:46-47, 1988).

ROSS' GOOSE (*Chen rossii*). A single bird was seen on the edge of a flock of Snow Geese at DeSoto NWR, Washington Co. on 6 Nov. 1987; acc. # 117, file # 170-1; RTK.

BRANT (*Branta barnicla*). A single bird of the Atlantic subspecies (*B.b.hrota*) was found at Funk Lagoon, Phelps Co. in a flock of Canada Geese by a group on a field trip from the U. of Minn. on 21 March 1988; acc. # 125, file # 173-1; BF (NBR 56:77-78, 1988).

EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*). A single bird was several miles W. of Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 20 Dec. 1986 - 8 Jan. 1987; acc. # 067, file # 136-1; AK, MB (p), (NBR 55:19, 52, 1987); Another male was found with a flock of 11 American Wigeon on 29 Feb. 1988, 7 mi. E. of Milford, Seward Co.; acc. # 126, file # 136-2; BP (*Am. Birds* 42:283, 1988).

KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*). Two birds, at least one of which was unanimously agreed to be of this species, were at DeSoto NWR, Washington Co., 10-20 Nov. 1985; acc. # 013, file # 162-1; TK(p), BR(p), (NBR 54:10, 81, 1986; NBR 55:73, 1987; *Am. Birds* 40:135, 1986). This constitutes the first state record for the species.

OLDSQUAW (*Clangula hyemalis*). A single female was seen 15 mi. NW of Albion, Boone Co., 24 Apr. 1987; acc. # 096, file # 154-2; WM (*Am. Birds* 41:455, 1987).

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*). A single bird was seen at DeSoto NWR, Washington Co., on 6 Nov. 1987; acc. # 119, file # 163-2; RTK.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*). A single male was photographed at Keystone Lake, Keith Co., on 19 Apr. 1987; acc. # 089, file # 152-1; EB, MB (p), (NBR 55:44, 1987; *Am. Birds* 41:455, 1987).

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippians*). One was photographed near Byron, Thayer Co., on 28 Sept. 1986; acc. # 069, file # 329-3; LM (*Am. Birds* 41:110, 1987).

COMMON MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*). A pair hatched a brood of 7 young at South Sioux City, Dakota Co., 5 May - 29 Aug. 1987; acc. # 107, 112, file # 219-1, 219-2; WH, RDW (p), (NBR 55:54-55, 1987; NBR 56:14, 16-17, 1988; *Am. Birds* 41:455, 1987).

BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*). The breeding flock 4.5 mi. W. of Lakeside, Sheridan Co., was documented repeatedly 15 May - 3 June 1987; acc. #

101, 104, 105, file # 226-1, 226-2, 226-3; WM (p), JJ (p), AK.

CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*). A single bird was photographed at Keystone Lake, Keith Co., on 14 Aug. 1986; acc. # 070, file # 53-2; MY (p), (NBR 54:77, 1986; *Am. Birds* 41:111, 1987).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*). An immature was seen at the Sutherland Res., Lincoln, Co., on 21 Feb. 1988; acc. # 124, file # 47-1; RCR (Am. Birds 42:284, 1988). This is the first documented record for the state.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*). A well-documented immature was at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 10-14 Oct. 1987, and was observed by many; acc. # 115, 127, 149, file # 62-1, 62-2, 62-3; RTK, BP, TL, (NBR 56:21, 1988; *Am. Birds* 42:98, 1988).

INCA DOVE (*Columbina inca*). Nebraska's first recorded Inca Dove obligingly stayed in Kearney, Buffalo Co., from 28 Oct. 1987 to 29 Feb. 1988, where it was seen by a number of observers; acc. # 122, 131, file # 321-1, 321-2; EP, RW (NBR 56:3, 1988; *Am. Birds* 42:284, 1988).

LEWIS' WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes lewis*). A single bird well out of its usual breeding range was found 7 June 1987, near Almeria, Loup Co. Later searches failed to find it again and no evidence of breeding was noted; acc. # 102, file # 408-2; WM (p).

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus nuthalis*). A single male was photographed in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co., on 17 Apr. 1987, to provide the first documented record of this recently-split species since 1920; acc. # 090, file # 402.1-1; MB (p), (NBR 55:40, 1987; *Am. Birds* 41:456, 1987).

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*). Two birds were seen in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., on 28 Apr. 1988, but were not seen again; acc. # 140, file # 457-1. DB (NBR 56:66-67, 1988).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus cinerascens*). A single bird was very carefully studied near the White River, north of Chadron, Dawes Co., on 29 Aug. 1987; acc. # 123, file # 454-1; RCR, DR (Am. Birds 42:99, 1988). This is the first accepted record of the species in the state.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus forficatus*). A photo was published of one caught in a banding net near Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., in July 1979; acc. # 111, file # 443-3; RG (NBR 55:47, 1987).

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER (*Nucifraga columbiana*). The birds, which have been in the Pine Ridge since Oct. 1986, were documented in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co., on 15 May 1987; acc. # 147, file # 491-3; TB (Am. Birds 41:456, 1987). Nesting was documented in the southern Black Hills in adjacent South Dakota in Apr. 1987 (*S. D. Bird Notes* 40:94-95, 1988) and should be searched for in the Pine Ridge of Nebraska.

WINTER WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). A single bird was found near the Missouri River north of Willis, Dakota Co., on 7 Feb. 1987, providing a mid-winter record; acc. # 083, file # 722-1; WH (NBR 55:60, 1987).

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevius*). Photos were placed in the committee files of two past records from Alliance, Box Butte Co. They were taken in Nov. 1984 and Jan. 1980; acc. # 075, 077, file # 763-2, 763-3; DT (p) (NBR 53:80-81, 1985).

SAGE THRASHER (*Oreoscoptes montanus*). A single bird was photographed in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co. on 18 Apr. 1987; acc. # 088, file # 702-1; MB (p) ((NBR 55:47, 1987; *Am. Birds* 41:457, 1987).

PHAINOPEPLA (*Phainopepla nitens*). A series of photographs of the only Nebraska record for this species has been placed in the files. They were taken in Jan. 1983 in Alliance, Box Butte Co.; acc. # 078, file # 620-1; DT (p) (NBR 51:18-19, 1983).

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*). A single bird was found near Winnebago, Thurston Co., on 8 May 1987, somewhat north of its usual range; acc. # 109, file # 631-1; WH (NBR 55:62, 1987).

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helminthos vermivorus*). A single individual was found in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., on 5 May 1987. Another was found on Cedar Island, Sarpy Co., on 9 May 1987; acc. # 081, 145, file # 639-1, 639-2; TB, RTK (NBR 55:63, 1987).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*). A single bird was seen at close range at the NOU Fall Field Day on 3 Oct. 1987 in the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey, Thomas Co.; acc. # 116, file # 678-1; RTK (NBR 55:78, 1987).

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER (*Oporornis tolmiei*). A single bird was caught,

photographed, banded, and its identity carefully established on 21 May 1986, near Laurel, Cedar Co.: Acc. # 087, FILE # 680-1; MB (p) (NBR 55:41-42, 1987; *Am. Birds* 40:493, 1986).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). Photos of the bird at Alliance, Box Butte Co., on 25-26 Nov. 1984, have been placed in the committee files. This appears to be the only Class I record for the state; acc. # 074, file # 557-1; DT (p) (NBR 52:77, 1984).

SMITH'S LONGSPUR (*Calcarius pictus*). Four birds were seen at Pawnee Lake, west of Lincoln, Lancaster Co., on 11 Feb. 1988; acc. # 128, file # 537-3; BO (NBR 56:77, 1988).

Non-accepted records

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*). This is another documentation of the bird at Branched Oak Res., Lancaster Co., in Nov. 1986. The bird was studied and photographed and some of the documentations were accepted. It has been the subject of some debate, hinging not so much on the adequacy of the documentations themselves, as on whether or not the Pacific and Arctic Loons may be definitely identified in the field in basic (winter) plumage. The publication of new identification techniques will necessitate a review of all documentations received by the committee, in order to form a consensus of opinion.

CLARK'S GREBE (*Aechmophorus clarkii*). Documentation of a bird seen at Walgren Lake, Sheridan Co., on 3 June 1987, was found too incomplete to be acceptable.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). The report of a bird seen at Valentine, Cherry Co., on 16 May 1987, was voted Class IV (probably correct, but not beyond doubt) because the description was not felt adequate to exclude a male Northern Harrier, and the behavior of this bird and other birds in the area at the time did not seem to fit quite right.

THAYER'S GULL (*Larus thayeri*). This bird at Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar Co., on 30 Nov. 1985 was originally reported as a Glaucous-winged Gull (*L. glaucescens*). Another observer had identified it as a Thayer's Gull and sent photographs of it to an outside authority who agreed that it was a Thayer's Gull. However, the photos were not made available to the committee and the correspondence left some questions unanswered in the minds of the committee. The committee agreed that the evidence pointed toward Thayer's Gull, but that there were just too many uncertainties to accept it as a first state record.

YELLOW RAIL (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). A report of a bird seen on 10 June 1987, south of Bassett, Rock Co., was voted Class IV. It was not accepted because of the very brief duration of the sighting and because the bird did not respond to a taped call of the species. The area was searched again a week later but to no avail.

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE (*Parus gambeli*). This report of a bird seen 5 Dec. 1976 at Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., was voted Class IV, primarily because it was based on memory and not on notes made at the time of the sighting. There is not adequate documentation available to add the species to the state list at this time.

PINE WARBLER (*Dendroica pinus*). A report from Omaha, Douglas Co., on 12 Sept. 1986, and one from Cedar Island, Sarpy Co., on 9 May 1987 were both voted Class IV because the descriptions did not exclude the possibility of another species.

In addition to the above records, the committee has also received and filed for records documentations of the following species: Great Egret, Mallard (p), Red-tailed Hawk albino (p), Golden Eagle, Merlin (p), Sharp-tailed Grouse (p), Whooping Crane, Burrowing Owl (p), Townsend's Solitaire, American Robin albino (p), Solitary Vireo (p), Brewer's Sparrow (p), and Red Crossbill (p).

Observers are again encouraged to contribute documentations of all occurrences of birds of less than REGULAR status on the Official List. The following species have been upgraded to REGULAR status since the committee first requested such reports: Snowy Egret, Ross' Goose, Greater Scaup, Mississippi Kite, Northern Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Whooping Crane, Common Tern, Western Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Golden-winged Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Rosy Finch (Gray-crowned).

Observers are also encouraged to submit reports on any bird which is out of its expected range or outside its usual dates of occurrence.

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- Wayne J. Mollhoff, Chairman, NOU Records Committee, 714 A St., Albion, Neb. 68620

NESTING ECOLOGY OF SEDGE WRENS IN HALL COUNTY, NEBRASKA

The status of the Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) in Nebraska is not well known. Cink (1973) summarized summer records from 1867 to 1971 and described only a few nest records. One nest discovered on 28 August 1902 at Capitol Beach, Lancaster Co., was assumed empty, apparently because of the late date. Bedell (1987) recorded July and August sightings in southcentral Nebraska and raised the question of whether these birds were migrants or nesting.

Sedge Wrens are frequently polygynous (Crawford 1977, Burns 1982) and may exhibit two waves of nesting effort in some areas (Burns 1982). Nest initiation appears to fall into two periods depending on the latitude; one from early May to June in Michigan (Walkinshaw 1935), Minnesota (Burns 1982), North Dakota (Stewart 1975), and Wisconsin (Manci and Rusch 1988), and the other beginning in late July through August in Kansas (Cink pers. comm., Williams 1981) and Arkansas (Meanley 1952) in addition to more northern latitudes as cited above. This may explain why Sedge Wrens are often not encountered during "typical" May and June breeding bird censuses, especially in southern and western portions of their nesting range (Robbins et al. 1986).

This paper compares nesting densities on a grazed versus an ungrazed area and describes the nesting phenology of Sedge Wrens during the 1988 nesting season in Hall Co.

Study area and methods

The study area was the sedge meadows located on Mormon Island Crane Meadows, Hall Co., Nebraska (Lingle and Hay 1982). Four transects, 2 in an ungrazed pasture and 2 in an adjacent grazed pasture, were established. Each transect was about 0.4 mi. in length and ran perpendicular to the sinuous topography of the relict channels meandering throughout the meadows. A chi-square test was used to determine differences in the number of Wrens counted in the grazed versus ungrazed pastures.

Censuses were conducted 3 times on each transect between 12-18 August 1988. Morning counts occurred between 0736 and 0940 h CDT. An observer recorded all Wrens observed or heard and estimated the perpendicular distance each Wren was from the transect line. Population estimates were derived by estimating the area censused and recording the number of males present within each polygon.

Eleven adult Sedge Wrens were captured during 19-25 August by driving them into mist nets. Each bird was banded and released. During banding operations an active nest was found and its fate was determined through repeated visits.

Results

Occurrence

Sedge Wrens arrived in the area on 26 July and were present at least through 18 October 1988. First arrivals were seen on 28 June 1984 (Labeledz 1984) and on 1 August, 16 August, and 20 August 1985-1987 respectively (Bedell 1987, Lingle unpubl. data). This species has not been recorded on MICH during breeding bird census studies, which have been conducted annually between 23 May to 20 June since 1980. Departure dates previous to 1988 were not determined.

Nesting populations and habitat use

A total of 123 ($\bar{X} = 41 \pm 5$) Sedge Wrens were counted during all censuses combined (Fig. 1, Table 1). There were significantly more Wrens counted on the ungrazed versus grazed pasture ($p < .05$). Individual transect

Table 1. Sedge Wren nesting population estimate

	Ungrazed	Grazed	Combined
Number counted	86	37	123
\bar{X} Wren/census	29 ± 4	12 ± 2	41 ± 5
Density (males/100 ac.)	48	18	32

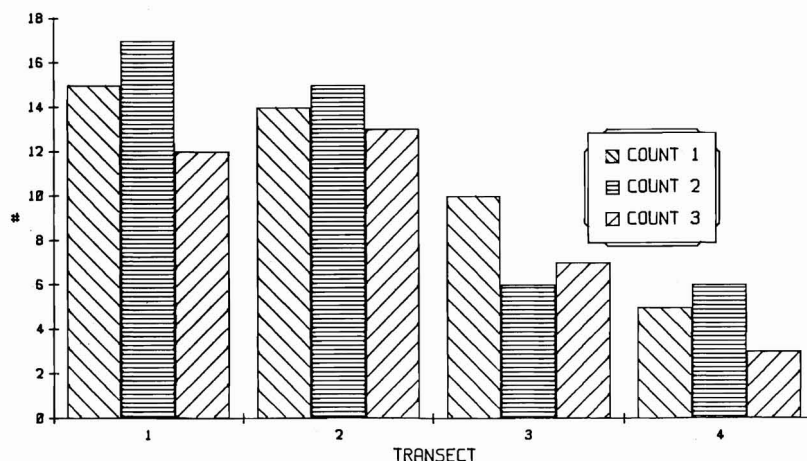


Figure 1. Sedge Wren census on Mormon Island Crane Meadows.

Transects #1 and 2 were in an ungrazed pasture, and transects # 3 and 4 were in a grazed pasture.

counts had from 3 to 17 Wrens. Sedge Wrens were most prevalent along the margins of the relict channels (sloughs), avoiding the higher ground between the sloughs. Predominant vegetation where Wrens occurred was water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), and river bulrush (*Scirpus fluviatilis*). Cattle were in the grazed area from 1 July to 14 August at a stocking rate of 1.0 AUM (animal unit month) per acre.

Nest observations

Three nests were discovered on 24 August during banding operations. Two were empty and may have been dummy nests and the other contained 3 eggs. There were 4 eggs present on 25 August and 5 eggs on 1 September. The nest contained 2 blind and naked hatchlings on 8 September and 3 hatchlings on 10 and 13 September. The other two eggs, which were addled, were collected. Three nestlings were banded on 18 September at 11 days of age. Rectrices and remiges were emerging, as were most contour feathers. The site was visited next on 4 October. Although an adult Wren was in the vicinity, there was no sign of the nest. It was assumed the young fledged, but what happened to the nest is unknown.

Discussion

Sedge Wrens established territories and initiated nesting in late July through mid-August in Hall Co. Although singing males have been reported in June in eastern Nebraska (Cink 1973, Johnsgard 1980), their breeding season may shift between years at the same site (Burns 1982). A nest with 3 nearly fledged nestlings was found on 28 August 1988 in Boone Co. (W. Mollhoff, pers. comm.). An adaptive advantage to late nesting is reduced competition for available resources. It is not known if birds nesting in the late summer have nested earlier elsewhere in their range. This aspect of their nesting behavior needs clarification.

Nesting densities (expressed as males/100 acres) have been as high as 47 in Illinois (Birkenholz 1984), 29 in Iowa (Wilson 1983), 12 in Kansas (Cink and Sepahi 1983), 78 in Minnesota (Hanowski and Niemi 1983), 60 in North Dakota (Higgins et al. 1984), 72 in Wisconsin (Manci and Rusch 1988), and 350 in Michigan (Walkinshaw 1935). In comparison, densities from this study were somewhat lower.

We believe the higher density of Sedge Wrens in the ungrazed areas was due to denser nesting cover than that in the grazed area. Grazing and trampling by cattle reduced vegetation stature, apparently making it less attractive to Wrens. Physiography was similar in both areas. Both pastures were dry, with no standing water in the sloughs.

The disappearance of the nest in this study is puzzling. Picman and Picman (1980) observed male Sedge Wrens remove nest material from an

artificially placed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) nest and use it for their own nest. Burns (1982) suspected the destruction by another wren of a Sedge Wren nest under observation. It is possible that the nest in our study was removed by the Wrens themselves. Observations of nests in the future may shed light on this hypothesis.

This nest is the westernmost documentation in Nebraska. On 19 August 1988 we heard a singing male in a sedge meadow in Sec. 15, T8N, R19W, Phelps Co., but no nest was found. Sedge Wrens are possible breeders in northeast Colorado (A.O.U. 1983). A singing male was reported last August at Arapahoe NWR, Colorado, northwest of Rocky Mountain National Park (H. Kingery, pers. comm.). Perhaps closer scrutiny of Sedge Wrens in August may better define their western range in the central Great Plains.

Acknowledgments

We thank Wayne Mollhoff for critically reviewing this manuscript.

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- Paul A. Bedell, *The Platte River Whooping Crane Trust*, 2550 Diers Ave., Suite H., Grand Island, Neb. 68803.
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"YOUNG PURPLE FINCH"; SOME QUESTIONS

A recent note in the *Review* (Green, 1988) reported on an immature Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) and gave the impression that the bird was hatched in eastern Nebraska. Before a claim is made that would imply a first state

breeding record, and it becomes an unquestioned part of the state's literature, I believe the evidence should be closely examined and be as irrefutable as possible. The report cites evidence used to support the claim of recent, nearby fledging, but, in my opinion, the cited evidence refutes rather than supports that claim. Since the species has never been reported to be a part of the state's breeding avifauna, I believe a response is in order.

My concerns with the report fall into several areas: 1) the age criteria listed in the note are not diagnostic for aging this species; 2) accepted age criteria which are diagnostic were not used, nor even mentioned; 3) the likelihood of finding a just-fledged bird on this date, at this location, is not discussed or even mentioned. I will address these points in turn.

The report cites three points in identifying the bird as recently fledged: 1) an orange gape, 2) "juvenile" plumage, 3) incomplete feather tract.

1) Orange gape: the only reference to gape in the age key used in the Banding Manual (USF&WS, 1980) is the statement "DO NOT age by gape" (their emphasis). Although many passerines may be reliably aged by the presence of a swollen, brightly colored gape, it is NOT a reliable age indicator for this species.

2) Juvenile plumage: The diagnostic criteria cited in the Banding Manual to identify juvenile plumage are: "throat finely and heavily streaked and undertail coverts streaked; crissum fluffy and loosely textured". Bent (1968) describes the abdomen as "dull white, streaked with paler olive-brown"; while Roberts' (1955) description of the abdomen states that the "markings are diffuse, faint yellowish below". The photo in the Audubon Master guide (1983) labeled "immature" (which appears to be of a juvenal-plumaged individual) illustrates the difference between juvenal and the first pre-basic (first winter) plumage very clearly. The original photo (NOU Records Committee file #517-1), which is labeled "juvenile plumage", shows only the belly and cheek and thus does not show the diagnostic marks as stated in the Banding Manual. It does, however, show an abdomen with sharply defined markings on a clear white background, thus indicating that the bird is not in juvenal plumage. The photo labeled "gape" does give a good view of the throat. It does not show a throat "finely and heavily streaked" however; it shows, instead, a throat with a clear, unmarked white throat patch, another characteristic mark of an older bird.

If the bird was molting into juvenal plumage (pre-juvenal molt) as the note infers, remnants of natal down would very likely still be present and the feathers would be fresh and unworn. Down is not mentioned in the text, nor is any evident in the picture. A close examination of the original photo shows the crown feathers to be quite worn, exactly what would be expected in a bird undergoing the normal partial pre-alternate (pre-nuptial) molt at a minimum age of 10 - 12 months.

Another age clue mentioned in the literature and illustrated in the photos of the Audubon Master Guide is a short, indistinct superciliary stripe. The photos of the bird in question show instead a bright, clearly defined stripe, which extends on down the neck. While this is not an absolutely diagnostic mark by itself, it is yet another strong indication of a more mature bird.

3) Incomplete feather tract: Although this term is not further described, the original photo shows an incompletely filled ventral tract, with numerous pinfeathers. This is a strong indication that molt is in progress, although there is a remote possibility that these feathers are being replaced after an injury. Assuming molt, the question is, which molt is occurring? The Banding Manual states that the normal pre-alternate (pre-nuptial) molt is restricted to the head, but a more recent reference (Pyle, et al., 1987) is not so restrictive, stating instead that the species undergoes a limited, pre-alternate molt in April. Both references list unanswered questions about plumage/molt sequences that are still in need of further research, apparently because the species exhibits so much individual variation.

A final question, not mentioned in the note, is the likelihood of finding a just-fledged bird on this date at this location. The answer is that it is unlikely in the extreme. The nearest regular breeding range appears to be in north-central Minnesota and Wisconsin (DeSante and Pyle, 1986). However, breeding activity there does not commence until late May - early June, with the young being fledged in July (Johnsgard, 1979). Bent lists a total of 109 egg dates for the U.S. The peak appears to be about the first week of June. The earliest egg record reported was 15 May. If we work backward from the date of

this report, 20 April, and subtract 14 days for the nestling period, minus another 13 days for incubation, we arrive at a laying date not later than 20 March, about 2.5 months earlier than average and nearly 2 months earlier than any reported by Bent. This would require a nesting two months early and 400 miles out of range and in the wrong habitat. A search of the regional reports in *American Birds* (1987) revealed no mention of unusual breeding activity by Purple Finches for the eastern half of the continent during that spring and summer. They were mentioned only in passing as being present in normal or lower than normal numbers.

In summary, I believe this report does not justify the belief that the bird was raised nearby nor that it is a young bird. The criteria used to age the bird are demonstrably unreliable. The photos show quite clearly the markings characteristic of a bird at least 10-11 months old. There is nothing to demonstrate that it was anything other than a bird undergoing its first pre-alternate molt. The orange gape is not completely "normal", but as the Banding Manual warns, it cannot be used as an age indicator for this species. The bird appears to be a sub-adult undergoing its usual pre-alternate molt in April, right on schedule. The difficulty in aging this species correctly has been a problem for the past century and some questions may yet remain to be answered. It shows again how imperfect our collective knowledge is of even a common species.

I wish to thank the following bird banders for critically reviewing this note: Mark Brogie, Thomas Labeledz, Gary Lingle, and David Stage.

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--- Wayne J. Molhoff, Coordinator, Nebr. Breeding Bird Atlas Project,
Chairman NOU Records Committee, 714 A St., Albion, Nebr. 68620

NEBRASKA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM REQUEST FOR HELP

The Nebraska Natural Heritage Program is a computer-assisted inventory of rare or uncommon plants, animals, and communities in Nebraska. This information is used to help establish protection priorities, land protection, species review, impact assessment, research, and for education. We are currently operating under a two-year contract between the Nature Conservancy and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Our office is in the Nebraska Game and Parks building in Lincoln. We have a full-time staff consisting of a Botanist, Zoologist, and Community Ecologist.

As the Zoologist for the Program, I would like to solicit the help of NOU members. Currently, I am tracking information on 67 species of birds (see list). Next to each species on the list is a code indicating the type of information being recorded for that particular species. If you have or obtain information which meets these specification on any of the birds on this list please send me as much of the following information as you have:

SPECIES, OBSERVER'S NAME, OBSERVATION DATE, LOCATION (AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE,

TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION IF AVAILABLE), HABITAT DESCRIPTION, POPULATION INFORMATION.

Eared Grebe	B	Black Rail	A	Carolina Wren	B
American Bittern	C	King Rail	C	Sedge Wren	B
Least Bittern	C	Piping Plover	B	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	B
Black-crowned Night-Heron	C	Mountain Plover	C	Townsend Solitaire	B
White-faced Ibis	B	Black-necked Stilt	C	Sage Thrasher	B
Trumpeter Swan	B	Eskimo Curlew	A	White-eyed Vireo	B
Canvasback	B	Long-billed Curlew	B	Bell's Vireo	B
Swallow-tailed Kite	B	Common Snipe	B	Solitary Vireo	B
Bald Eagle	A	Forster's Tern	B	Yellow-throated Vireo	B
Northern Harrier	BD	Interior Least Tern	B	Cerulean Warbler	B
Sharp-shinned Hawk	B	Black Tern	B	Prothonotary Warbler	B
Cooper's Hawk	B	Barred Owl	B	Louisiana Waterthrush	B
Red-shouldered Hawk	B	Short-eared Owl	B	Kentucky Warbler	B
Swainson's Hawk	C	Common Poorwill	B	Summer Tanager	B
Ferruginous Hawk	B	Chuck-will's-widow	B	Western Tanager	B
Golden Eagle	B	White-throated Swift	B	Lazuli Bunting	B
Merlin	BD	Lewis' Woodpecker	B	Savannah Sparrow	B
Peregrine Falcon	B	Pileated Woodpecker	C	Swamp Sparrow	B
Ruffed Grouse	A	Western Wood-Pewee	B	McCown's Longspur	B
Sage Grouse	A	Western Flycatcher	B	Chestnut-collared	
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	A	Violet-green Swallow	B	Longspur	B
		Pygmy Nuthatch	B	Brewer's Blackbird	B
		Brown Creeper	B	Red Crossbill	B

Code Explanation

- A location where collected or sighted in appropriate habitat
- B nest, nesting pairs, territorial displays, presence of young or eggs, adult carrying food to nest
- C as in B or observed in appropriate habitat during breeding season
- D concentrations in critical wintering habitat

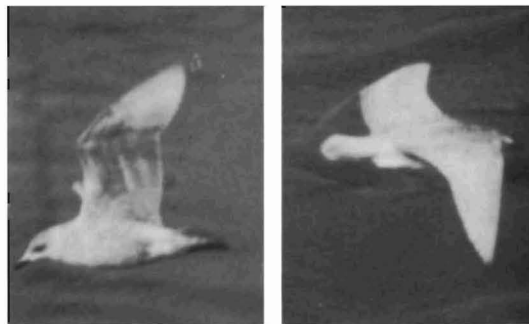
Mary Kay Clausen, Nebraska Natural Heritage Program, 2200 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503 (402) 471-5421.

AN ICELAND GULL IN CEDAR COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Both Johnsgard (1986) and Bray et al. (1986) list the Iceland gull (*Larus glaucooides*) as accidental; the only record for Nebraska being a first-year male bird shot from a flock of crows by a boy at Dorchester, Saline Co., on 15 January 1907. The specimen was supposedly preserved, but now cannot be located with certainty. The following provides the second record for this species for Nebraska.

On 4 December 1988 we observed a first winter Iceland Gull at the Gavin's Point tailwaters, Cedar Co., Nebraska. The bird was first seen flying from a small sandbar and was in the company of several Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). It flew upstream to the area where the water is released from the power plant, where it spent approximately 15 minutes. During this time it flew past us several times at a distance of less than 25 yards, and we were able to get several photos of the bird.

The bird appeared several inches larger than the Ring-billed Gulls, and exhibited a whitish body with brown fleckings, translucent primaries, all dark brownish-black bill, dark eye, and flesh-colored feet. In flight, the forewings appeared noticeably darker than that of the whitish primaries. From above, the back part of the tail was more brownish than the whitish colored rump patch;



Photos: Ed M. Brogie/Mark A. Brogie

however the terminal edge of the tail was bordered with white. The mantle appeared a dirty white, becoming increasingly whiter toward the wing tips.

The head of this gull was noticeably more rounded and was in smaller proportion to the body than that of a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) or Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*); species which were also present that day. The bill was also noticeably less robust than the bill of a Herring or Glaucous Gull.

This gull was seen by several observers in subsequent days. As far as we know, it was last observed by Mark and Ellen Brogie on 13 December. On this date, at approximately 4:45 PM, it was found sitting on the ice on the southwest side of Lake Yankton. It was observed for about 20 minutes, at which time it flew west over Lewis and Clark Lake and disappeared. Identifiable photographs are in possession the authors and others have been sent to the Nebraska Records committee.

Literature cited

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- Mark A. Brogie, Box 316, Creighton, Neb. 68729
- Ed M. Brogie, 1120 Main St., Wayne, Neb. 68787

NOTES ON BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES IN CEDAR COUNTY, NEBRASKA

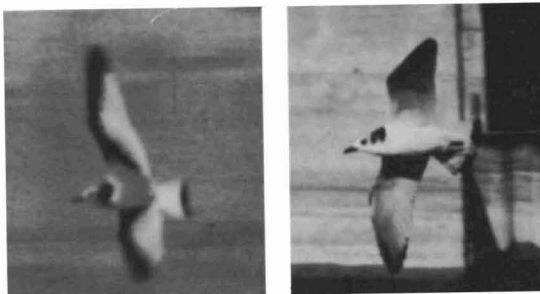
The Black-legged Kittiwake is listed as accidental for Nebraska by both Johnsgard (1986) and Bray et al., (1986). Only a few documented records exist for this species for the state. Photographs of Black-legged Kittiwakes found in Cedar Co., 1988, are in possession of the author and others have been sent to the Nebraska Records Committee.

On 26 November 1988 Bill Huser found a first-winter plumaged Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) at the tailwaters of Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar Co., Nebraska. On 2 December David Stage visited the area and found a Kittiwake frequenting the same area. He observed it feeding in the area where the water is emitted from the power plant and flying to a resting spot on the ice on the south side of Lake Yankton. On 3 December Mark and Ellen Brogie observed two different Kittiwakes; both first-winter plumaged birds. The birds were seen on the ice at Lake Yankton and feeding in the area below the power plant. Several photographs were taken. On 4 December Ed M. and Mark Brogie observed and photographed two Kittiwakes feeding together below the power plant. When feeding, the birds often went completely out of sight beneath the surface. The birds could be separated, as one was missing a central tail feather, and the black collar of one birds was noticeably more extensive. Several times the birds flew past at a distance of less than 10 yards. On 5 December Bill Huser and David Stage had three first-winter plumaged Kittiwakes at the Gavin's Point area. At least one first-winter plumaged Kittiwake was observed periodically from 6 through 17 December by Willis Hall, David Stage, and Mark Brogie. On 18 December Willis Hall and Mark and Ellen Brogie saw one Kittiwake early in the morning below the power plant, and the Brogies saw two different first-winter plumaged Kittiwakes about 11 AM, one on the ice on Lake Yankton and another flying upriver toward the dam. This represents the last author-known sightings of this species for the area.

Literature cited

- Bray, T. E., B. K. Padelford, W. R. Silcock, 1986. *The Birds of Nebraska - A Critically Evaluated List*. Published by the authors, Omaha, Nebraska. 111 pp.

(continued on the next page)



Photos: Ed M. Brogie/Mark A. Brogie

Johnsgard, P. A., 1986. *A Revised List of the Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States*. Occ. Pap. Nebr. Ornith. Unions, No. 6 170 pp.
 --- Mark A Brogie, Box 316, Creighton, Neb. 68729

NOTES

GLAUCOUS GULL IN CEDAR COUNTY, NEBRASKA. On 4 December 1988, Ed M. Brogie observed and I photographed a first-winter plumaged Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) at the tailwaters of Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar Co., Nebraska. It was seen in the company of several Herring (*Larus argentatus*) and Ring-billed (*Larus delawarensis*) Gulls, and was noticeably larger than both these species. Its large, bicolored bill, dark eye, flesh-colored feet, and large flattened head were noted. Its body feathers were whitish in color, intermixed with brown fleckings. The wings appeared long and had the translucent primaries characteristic of the species. In subsequent days as many as four or five Glaucous Gulls were observed in the area by several observers. Ellen Brogie and I last recorded the species for the area on 18 December. Photographs of this gull species are in possession of the author and others have been sent to the Nebraska Records Committee.



Photo: Ed M. Brogie/
 Mark A. Brogie

--- Mark A. Brogie, Box 316, Creighton, Neb. 68729

SPRING 1988 SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA RECORDS. Glen and Wanda Hoge found a male Kentucky Warbler 26 May at Indian Cave State Park (Richardson Co.) campground, and on 28 May they saw two Black-billed Magpies in Jefferson Co., between Fairbury and Powell.

A YANK, NOT A REB. The color original of the Connecticut Warbler picture (NBR 56:99) shows only a slight lightening of the head color as it goes under the throat; why the black-and-white picture shows such a sharp division and change of color is not apparent. But this division prompted a reader to suggest that the bird actually was a Nashville Warbler. Mr. Blake sent him a color picture; Mr. Mollhoff, of the Records Committee, sent him a letter mentioning several points of identification, some depending on color. With this information in hand the reader agreed that it indeed was a Connecticut Warbler. This note is for those who questioned the identity but didn't write

BOOK REVIEWS

The Complete Birder, A Guide to Better Birding, Jack Connor, illustrated by Margaret LaFarge, xiii + 285 pp., Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, softcover \$8.95.

The Complete Birder is divided into twelve chapters that can aid both the serious birder and the beginning birder. Connor opens with a chapter entitled "The Sporting Science". In this chapter he unequivocally states outright that birding is not easy, no matter how experienced one is nor how well equipped. He does say, and I tend to agree, that "birding can be exhilarating, enlightening, evocative, or exasperating -- and often all of these at once --". He uses this chapter to historically relate his development as a birder. The process was a slow, prolonged, tortuous development.

Excellent chapters on optics and acoustics follow. Connor explains all the details to look for when buying the right binoculars, spotting scopes, and tripods. He states that the road to good birding is done by upgrading the binoculars the birder uses. To do this involves comparison shopping and careful analysis of the technical information. One needs to know what one wants to do as a birder. Then one goes out and finds the binoculars and other equipment that best suit one's needs. Once one has binoculars, one needs to use them in the field on a regular basis. Becoming a good birder cannot be accomplished by resting on the living room sofa in front of the television set. Birding experience is gained through contact with nature. In addition, the author leads

the reader through the various ways the reader can use the bird songs and calls to become a better birder. This requires practice and a number of other fine-honed mnemonic skills. These skills are not acquired overnight.

Three chapters cover migration, winter birds, and summer birds. The chapter on migration explains this interesting phenomenon and how migration relates to birding. The winter and the summer chapters explain how these two seasons vary as to what birds are to be found in various geographical regions of the United States. All three chapters are interesting to read and are useful to the birder.

The next five chapters deal with birds that are difficult to identify when encountered across the country during different times of the year. The five groups of birds are warblers, hawks, shorebirds, terns, and gulls. These five chapters provide detailed, often subtle, points on how to identify these problem birds when encountered in the field. Connor gives adequate details to separate similar-appearing birds from each other, using geographic range, season of the year, flight patterns, songs and calls, plumage variations, other morphological features, and behavior. The advice that Connor gives to make crucial identifications is excellent, although distinctions are often subtle, requiring a practiced eye for detail and an excellent memory. This can only come from experience and perseverance. Generally, Connor uses sections of the United States, namely, the Atlantic states, Great Lake states, Gulf Coast states, and western regions, including the Pacific Ocean states and the desert southwest. This sort of breakdown does not assist birders much in some sections of the country, especially the Midwest. Even if one visited these areas, one would have trouble applying the information needed to separate the troublesome birds encountered. For most of these areas, the problem birds are not conveniently tabulated for ready reference and instant retrieval. (If one has ample time, one can do such tabulations by laboriously extricating pertinent information from the text and transferring this information to note cards for the regions one is interested in.)

If one is truly interested in improving one's birding, then it is important to take notes and to incorporate these descriptive notes into one's field guide. These note tips should be reviewed often or else the tips fade rapidly from memory. (A WARNING: Sadly, I did not take notes when I read the book, therefore I have nothing to show for it.) As I stated above, Connor should have used tables to facilitate the transference of information for identifying difficult, similar-appearing birds. By universally using more self-help tables and other guides, one would have a very useful tool to launch oneself into better birding. In its current format, most of the helpful tips will soon be forgotten unless one takes notes.

Connor is my kind of birder. He flavors each chapter with numerous real-life anecdotes. Connor's basic conclusion: even the best birders make mistakes, although fewer of them. If one is birding alone, one should be extra careful in making crucial identifications. One should take detailed notes in the field when rarities and unusual sightings are encountered. If one is birding with others, dare them to actively scrutinize the bird in view so that it can be quickly and correctly identified. (I try to play devil's advocate when I bird alone or with others.) In a group, I more often than not blurt out spontaneously identifications, which often miss the mark, or I recklessly gabble the wrong name as I sometimes do: ring-billed duck for ring-necked duck, or hooded grebe for horned grebe, and so on. This kind of maneuver is due more to my idiopathic excitement than anything else; however, it does help to get others to think about what they see and hear. In the flurry of activity, I become hyperexcited. I guess that is the way I am -- quirks, idiosyncrasies, personality warps, myopic vision, warts, and all. As Connor states, the mind can play all kinds of tricks, whether one is alone or in the company of others. These tricks can be embarrassing and frustrating at times and on other occasions these tricks can transform situations into enjoyable, rewarding experiences. While birding, one will encounter the whole gamut of birder types. THE LIFE OF A BIRDER IS NEVER DULL.

--- Larry L. Einemann, 2917 South 53rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

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The Maine Woods, Henry David Thoreau, introduction by Edward Hoagland, xxxiii + 442, indexed, Penguin Books, New York, soft cover \$7.95

Another of the Penguin Nature Library. This book describes Thoreau's trips to Maine's backwoods (when they really were) in 1846, 1853, and 1857. He gives the details of getting to the outposts, and of the trips in the woods. He covers the geography, the weather, the fauna, the flora - anything that comes to his notice. Maine, contrasted to Massachusetts, paid for water troughs (for stock) by its highways, and was banishing bar-rooms from them. Homesteads in the woods were cleared by cutting the trees and burning them (presumably not enough timber involved to warrant a timber drive). Thoreau didn't mind this, except that until the land was completely cleared it made hard walking when they had to cross such an area, but he disapproved of the slaughter of moose for their hides (for moccasins). Usually most, if not all, of the meat was left unused. The perpetrators were not subject to the harassment now given to those who are cutting down the tropical forests, or killing elephants and rhinoceroses. It is interesting reading without bothering with such comparisons, but if one is interested in detail one should get a fairly detailed map of Maine, to follow the trips (hoping that the names of rivers, lakes, and mountains are still the same), and read, or at least be aware of, the appendices at the back with the names of trees, plants, animals, and birds. On the last trip, especially, they were botanizing most of the time, with fishing maybe second in the use of spare time. Thoreau, on the advice of his Indian guide, reports that Red-headed Woodpeckers are good to eat. For at least one bird, both the common and the scientific names have changed. The spirit duck, or dipper, *Fuligula albicollis*, is now known as the Bufflehead, *Bucephala albeola*.