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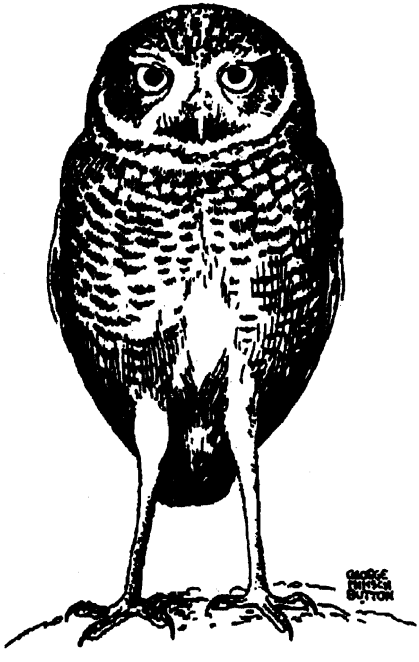

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SUMMER FIELD REPORT, June-July 2004

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INTRODUCTION

The coverage of the state by observers who report their sightings, mostly to the listserv NEBirds, is very good relative to their rather low number. Even so, there are parts of the state that are only recently revealing their secrets. Extensive work in the Panhandle in the late 1990s, including mist-netting by Steve Dinsmore, showed that several western species are regular migrants through that part of the state, and similar extensive coverage of waterbirds and shorebirds at L McConaughy yielded similar valuable information, following the pioneering efforts there by Dick Rosche. This report contains many references to another interesting area only now being covered seriously, the cedar canyons of southeast Lincoln Co. T.J. Walker has come up with many interesting findings of nesting and resident birds that can be read here.

Perplexing to many are the changes in Canada Goose taxonomy; simply put, as far as Nebraska is concerned, the small ones (Mallard-sized, small bills, short necks) are now "Cackling Goose", *Branta hutchinsii*, and virtually all of the others are "Canada Goose" *B. canadensis*. As is often the case with taxonomy, the devil is in the details, but we won't get into those here! There are many good discussions of the topic at various internet sites.

Most of the exciting news this summer was to do with shorebirds, including stilts, plovers, and the rest. Black-necked Stilts are expanding their numbers and breeding range significantly in western Nebraska, with several instances of breeding and high numbers reported. The dry-down of L McConaughy, a rather spectacular phenomenon, has provided huge expanses of seemingly perfect breeding habitat for Snowy and Piping Plovers. Very large numbers of these birds were encountered, with correspondingly large numbers of nests found. Intriguingly large counts of Marbled Godwits in June suggest nesting failure in the breeding range located essentially north of Nebraska, but some observers are wondering whether breeding occurred within the state. Little or no firm evidence was provided, however, and there are still fewer than 5 breeding records for the state.

Another surprising shorebird phenomenon this summer was the number of species reported in mid-to-late June, the short window of time when migratory shorebirds can be expected to be absent. Based on the rather scanty information provided on plumages, most of the birds probably did not complete migration, stopping to summer at the excellent available habitat primarily at Harlan Co Res and L McConaughy. Other unexpected records in this same time period were of Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls, both of which are usually absent for a short while in late June. Also surprising was the first mid-summer report of an adult Herring Gull, usually absent from about Mar-Oct. Whether these summering shorebirds and the large counts of Marbled Godwit in the state at about the same time are related is a matter for conjecture.

Observers of hummingbirds in the Panhandle also pointed out the scarcity of these birds; only 2 birds of 2 species were reported, far fewer than usual. The lower numbers of hummers in much of the western Great Plains the last year or two has been attributed to the effect of dry conditions on breeding success. This has also been floated as a reason for the very low chickadee numbers in parts of Nebraska recently.

Notably early were a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a Wilson's Warbler in Sioux Co, both first July records for the state. There were few real rarities; summer is a time when the best sightings tend to be of range expansions or contractions and unexpected appearances of otherwise common species. Best birds were Red-throated Loon, Laughing Gull, Lesser and Great Black-backed Gulls, and a Scott's Oriole.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Otoe Co; BBS: Breeding Bird Survey; BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co; Cem: Cemetery; CLNWR: Crescent L NWR, Garden Co; CRP: Conservation Reserve Program (USDA); FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co; FL: Funk Lagoon, Phelps Co; HCR: Harlan Co Res, Harlan Co; ICSP: Indian Cave SP, Nemaha/Richardson Cos; LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co; LO: L Ogallala, Keith Co; m.ob.: many observers; MRET: Missouri River Ecology Trail, Neale Woods, Washington Co; NC: Nature Center; NF: National Forest; NGP: Nebraska Game and Parks; NM: National Monument; NOURC: Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee; NWR: National Wildlife Refuge; PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co; Res: Reservoir; eRWB: eastern Rainwater Basin, south central and southeast Nebraska; SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co; SHP: State Historical Park; SL: Sewage Lagoon(s); SP: State Park; SRA: State Recreation Area; WMA: (State) Wildlife Management Area; WPA: (Federal) Waterfowl Production Area; WSR: Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co.

GAZETTEER

Kiowa WMA: Scotts Bluff Co; L Minatare: Scotts Bluff Co; Monroe Canyon: Sioux Co; Niobrara Marsh: Knox Co; Old Stage Hill Road: Scotts Bluff Co; Ponca SP: Dixon Co; Schramm SP: Sarpy Co; Smith L WMA: Sheridan Co; Sowbelly Canyon: Sioux Co; Wildcat Hills NC: Scotts Bluff-Banner Cos.

OBSERVERS

AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering; ARy: Allen Reyer, Bellevue; AS: Audrey Sterkel, Sidney; BFH: Bill F. Huser, South Sioux City; BP: Babs Padelford, Bellevue; BW: Bruce Walgren, Casper, WY; CC: Carol Carpenter, Verdon; CD: Chuck Dummer, Kearney; CHy: Carr Heaney, Omaha; CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue; CR: Carolyn Rieke, Lincoln; DB: Duane Bright, Omaha; DC: David Chaffin, Cleveland, TN; DP: Don Paseka, Ames; DSt: Dave Stage, Lincoln; DW: Donna Walgren, Casper, WY; EB: Elliot Bedows, Omaha; GB: Greg Butcher, Brookfield, WI; GH: Glen Hoge, Alma; HKH: Helen K. Hughson, Mitchell; JA: Jerry Allen, Gretna; JC: Jamalee Clark, Gering; JD: John Dinan, Lincoln; JED: James E. Ducey, Omaha; JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Blair; JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield; JK: Jim Kovanda, Omaha; JO: Jerry Oldenettel, Socorro, NM; JP: Jan Paseka, Ames; JSt: Jon Strong, Omaha; JT: Jerry Toll, Omaha; JWH: John W. Hall, Omaha; KCR: Kathleen Crawford-Rose, Bellevue; KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell; KN: Kay Niyo, Evergreen, CO; KP: Kevin Poague, Lincoln; LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln; LFr: Lonnie Frimann, Scottsbluff; LP: Loren Padelford, Bellevue; LR: Lanny Randolph, Gibbon; MA: Mark Armstrong, Omaha; MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton; MUs: Moni Usasz, Lincoln; NP: Neva Pruess, Lincoln; PEL: Paul E. Lehman, Cape May, NJ; RE: Rick Eades, Lincoln; RG: Ruth Green, Bellevue; RH: Robin Harding, Gibbon; SA: Sue Amiotte, Chadron; SJ: Stephen Jones, Boulder, CO; SJD: Stephen J. Dinsmore, Starkville, MS; SK: Sandy Kovanda, Omaha; TEL: Thomas E. Labedz,

Lincoln; TH; Thomas Hoffman, Omaha; TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady; WH: Wanda Hoge, Alma; WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose: Two stragglers were reported, about average, one each at HCR 22 Jun - 25 Jul (GH,WH) and in the eRWB 31 Jul (JGJ).

Snow Goose: About 11 were reported around the state, usual for mid-summer.

Canada Goose: Best summering count was the 320 at BOL 27 Jun (LE).

Cackling Goose: A small goose identified as a *hutchinsii*, now considered a species separate from larger forms (see Introduction, above), remained through the period at Clay County Wetland 32 (JGJ), for an apparent first summer record. More such records might be expected, however, as this small pale-breasted Arctic goose regularly migrates through central and eastern Nebraska, occurring in concentrations in the Rainwater Basin in spring.

Trumpeter Swan: One was on a nest near Merriman 9 Jun (CNK), the only report.

Wood Duck: Broods were noted 2 Jun - 27 Jul (PEL,LR,RH) as expected.

Gadwall: Best count was 35 at LM 19 Jun (SJD).

American Wigeon: Uncommon in mid-summer away from the fairly restricted breeding range were 4-8 at LM 19-20 Jun (SJD,WRS,KN) and especially a single at HCR 27 Jun (GH,WH).

Mallard: Best count was 260 at LM 20 Jun (SJD).

Blue-winged Teal: First broods reported were 3 in Lincoln Co 2 Jun (TJW). Best count was 231 at LM 19 Jun (SJD).

Cinnamon Teal: Best count was not at the usual location, Kiowa WMA, but at LM, where 6 were found 20 Jun, including 2 pairs (SJD,WRS,KN). A little out of range and rather late at a presumably non-breeding location was one at HCR 11 Jun (GH,WH). No broods were reported.

Northern Shoveler: Routine reports.

Northern Pintail: Routine reports.

Green-winged Teal: Routine reports.

Canvasback: The only report was of a female at LO 19 Jun (SJD); mid-summer sightings away from the breeding range are few.

Redhead: Continuing a trend seen in recent summers, small numbers were noted away from breeding locations. At Alma 2-6 summered on the East SL (GH,WH), and 17 were at LM and LO 19 Jun (SJD). One in the eRWB 26 Jun increased to 12 by 31 Jul (JGJ). The only brood reported was in Sheridan Co 5 Jul (JGJ).

Lesser Scaup: A female remained at Alma SL through 27 Jun (GH,WH); mid-summer reports away from breeding areas are few.

Hooded Merganser: In recent years summering immatures have become normal; this summer about 18 were reported, most westerly the 6 at LO 17 Jun (JSt).

Red-breasted Merganser: A surprise was one at HCR 20 Jun (SJD), only the 2nd ever recorded for Jun.

Ruddy Duck: Unexpected was a male at Alma East SL 25-27 Jun (GH,WH), and 6 at Fairmont SL 26 Jun (JGJ) were also a surprise. Breeding may occur anywhere in the state, however.

Chukar: Again a few birds, 1-4, were seen at BOL 12-28 Jun (LE,KP); these are presumably birds released for dog training.

Gray Partridge: The only report was of one just northwest of Wakefield 16 Jun, the first in the area for 5 years (JJ).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Routine reports.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Five young were seen near Gering 30 Jun (AK).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Routine reports.

Wild Turkey: A group of 37 "unemployed" toms and jakes was in southwest Lincoln Co 26 Jul (TJW); hopefully before they received their pink slips the objects of their desire were happily broody.

Northern Bobwhite: This species is resident at Smith L WMA (SJ), possibly its northwesternmost regular location.

Red-throated Loon: The bird reported in Spring at L Minatare remained through 2 Jun, when it was mostly in alternate plumage (PEL,JO); this was Nebraska's 4th spring record.

Common Loon: The only one reported was a basic-plumaged bird at LO 19-20 Jun (SJD,WRS,KN).

Pied-billed Grebe: Routine reports.

Eared Grebe: Good counts were the 108 at Bunger L, Sheridan Co, 9 Jun (CNK) and the 85 nest mounds at White L, Sheridan Co, 7 Jul (JGJ). The status of one at LO 19 Jun (SJD) was difficult to categorize; breeding is not known there, but one at Alma SL 2 Jun (GH,WH) was a late migrant.

Western Grebe: Best count was 1715 at LM 19 Jun (SJD), many of these are likely immatures, but breeding occurs there.

Clark's Grebe: Up to 7 were at LM through 20 Jun (m.ob.), typical for this location.

American White Pelican: There was some interest in numbers present this summer because of the surprising and unexplained abandonment of eggs and chicks in late May and early Jun by virtually all of the 27,000 or so adult birds at Chase Lake NWR, North Dakota, North America's largest breeding colony. Prior to this summer, during Jun-Jul there were only 2 counts over 100 of pelicans in Nebraska. This summer, there were several, totaling about 1000; these seem likely to have come from Chase Lake. Best was the 350-400 in Platte Co 19 Jun (TJW). Others were 100+ circling over Merritt Res, Cherry Co, 6 Jun (CNK), 140 at BOL 12 Jun (LE), 166 flying over Scotia 13 Jun (LR,RH), 123 at HCR 20 Jun (SJD) and through Jul (GH,WH), and 100 over Genoa 19 Jun (TJW).

Brown Pelican: One appeared at HCR 20 Jun (SJD, photo) and remained with a group of about 15 American White Pelicans through 10 Jul (LR,RH). This is the 6th documented record for Nebraska, all in the period 12 May-10 Jul.

Double-crested Cormorant: Rare eastward in mid-summer, 2 were at Walnut Creek Res, Sarpy Co, 27 Jun (CHy) and 8 were at BOL the same day (LE).

American Bittern: Best count was 5 in the eRWB 26 Jun (JGJ); this species summers regularly there, although nesting has not been confirmed for several years (Jorgensen, http://rip.physics.unk.edu/NOU/eRWBbirdlistJGJPDF.pdf).

Great Blue Heron: A rookery with 30+ nests was found just south of Valentine NWR, Cherry Co, 9 Jun (CNK).

Great Egret: Few were reported, best count only 14, those in the eRWB 31 Jul (JGJ).

Snowy Egret: The only report was of one in southeast Cherry Co 29 Jun (JED); a few appear during Jun-Jul.

Cattle Egret: As with Great Egret, best counts were in late Jul; 113 were at a Clay Co wetland 31 Jul (JGJ). Few others were reported, although "a bunch" were in southeast Cherry Co 29 Jun (JED).

Green Heron: Several sightings of 1-2 along the Platte River in Lincoln Co during the summer (TJW) were somewhat westerly. There are no breeding records in the Platte Valley west of Lincoln Co.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Best count was 6 roosting near Burwell 18 Jun (MUs).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: The only report was of a 1st-year bird in Creighton 9 Jun (fide MB); this is the first Knox Co record since 1986 (fide MB), and only the 3rd for northern Nebraska, all in spring.

White-faced Ibis: Numbers were good in the Sandhills, with 3 observers using words like "abound" (JED), "many, likely breeding several sites" (JGJ), and "lots" (JT); reports were from Cherry, Sheridan, and Garden Cos. The only other report was of an adult at Jack Sinn WMA, Lancaster Co, 12 Jun (LE); this species is uncommon in the east.

Turkey Vulture: Routine reports.

Osprey: One at the North Platte Fish Hatchery 23 Jul (TJW) was rather early; reports in the period 11 Jun - 7 Aug are few. This species is not known to breed in the state currently.

Mississippi Kite: None were reported, although birds had been seen in Ogallala, the only known breeding site, in spring.

Bald Eagle: Two adults were near the North Platte airport 25 Jun, in the area where a nest had blown down in late May (TJW). Two adults were at Swan L, Cherry Co, 8 Jun; it was unknown if they were nesting in the area (CNK). A surprise was an immature at HCR 17 Jul (GH,WH); perhaps it had fledged in the area in the last couple of years.

Northern Harrier: An unusually dark bird was seen in Harlan Co 25 Jul: head, back, and throat were "almost coal black", but white rump patch was present (GH,WH). Perhaps this bird was an exceptionally dark, recently-fledged juvenile; Wheeler (*Raptors of Western North America*, 2003) mentions only 2 melanistic birds, both adults, neither of which had white rumps.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Singles in Nemaha Co 13 Jun (JSt) and Otoe Co 20 Jun (LF,CF) were rather late; there is a surprising number of Jun reports (20+) from southeast Nebraska, raising the possibility of confusion with small male Cooper's Hawks, although there are old records of breeding in the southeast by Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Cooper's Hawk: An adult with two fluffy chicks in a nest was discovered at SCP 26 Jun (KP).

Red-shouldered Hawk: None were reported; following only one FF sighting in Feb and one in Apr (only recently reported), it appears that only a single bird was present then and no summering pair resulted.

Broad-winged Hawk: The only report was of one at FF 31 Jul (CNK,GB), somewhat early for a migrant; one was reported there in Apr, but none in the interim.

Swainson's Hawk: Easternmost was one near Ames 18 Jul (DP,JP); this species is uncommon in the east.

Red-tailed Hawk: Routine reports.

Ferruginous Hawk: Routine reports.

Golden Eagle: Routine reports.

American Kestrel: Routine reports.

Prairie Falcon: Garden Co has few suitable breeding sites for this species north of the Platte River Valley, and breeding has not been reported there; a single bird north of CLNWR 12 Jul (JT) may have been a non-breeder.

Peregrine Falcon: A pair was in attendance at the State Capitol in Lincoln, but nesting did not occur; both the male and female were banded but it was not possible to determine whether they were the same pair that was present last year (JD). In Omaha, Zeus, the male, was present for his 9th consecutive year and Amelia was present for her fifth year; they produced 3 young (JD).

Virginia Rail: The only report of breeding was the sighting of 2 adults with 2 fluffy

young along White Horse Creek, Lincoln Co, 9 Jun (TJW). Other sightings included 4 birds at Pawnee Creek, Lincoln Co, 27 Jun (LR,RH), one near North Loup 4 Jul (LR,RH), and a belated sighting of one at Sinninger Basin, York Co, 5 Jul 2003 (LR,RH). This species is "perhaps a casual breeder" in the RWB (Jorgensen-URL cited above).

Sora: None were reported.

American Coot: An adult with a chick was at Chilibaba Ponds, Scotts Bluff Co, 13 Jun, and another with 7 young was there 17 Jul (KD). This wetland mitigation pond is providing good waterbird habitat. Drier conditions this year reduced numbers at Moger WPA, Clay Co; only 3 birds were there 26 Jun compared to 6+ breeding pairs last summer (JGJ).

Sandhill Crane: An apparent cripple which had been near Gibbon since spring was seen 17 Jul (LR,RH). Very interesting information was received from Sioux Co (fide AK) indicating that a pair of Sandhill Cranes raised 2 young in 2003; the rancher, Larry Wickersham, said that a pair was there in 2002, but he saw no young. They raised 2 young in 2003 and came back in 2004, but left in Jun because of the very dry conditions and lack of water. Larry said that the odd sounds made by the cranes "spooked his horses". The birds in 2003 bred on a neighboring ranch but foraged in meadow and meadow stubble in 2003, accompanied by their young.

American Golden-Plover: None were reported; early dates, presumably adults, are in mid-Jul, but adults are not expected in fall.

Snowy Plover: Very exciting was the major increase in numbers of breeding birds this summer at 2 major reservoirs where drought conditions and irrigation draw-down exposed extensive sandy flats. As many as 20+ individuals and 10 nests were located at LM this summer and 19 chicks fledged (Gabe Wilson, fide SJD); on 19 Jun 10 males and 4 females, a nest with 3 eggs, and a brood were found there (SJD). The second location, HCR, had 2 pairs, each with a "very fresh brood", 20 Jun (SJD).

Semipalmated Plover: Apparent late spring migrants were 2-3 at LM 19-20 Jun (SJD); this is the latest of 9 Jun dates for this species. First for fall were 3 in Lincoln 24 Jul (LE).

Piping Plover: Incredible record numbers were at LM this summer: 360+ individuals and 182 nests were found and 371 chicks fledged (Gabe Wilson,SJD). As might be expected, nesting was taking place at HCR also; 5 broods were there 20 Jun (SJD). The first Panhandle breeding record for this species, made possible because of drought-induced low water levels, was L Minatare, where 2 birds had a nest 19 Jun (SJD). A southeast Saunders Co gravel operation provides breeding habitat each summer; at least one brood was noted there 19 and 29 Jun (CNK,ARy).

Killdeer: Best count was a moderate 76 at LM 19 Jun (SJD).

Mountain Plover: None were reported.

Black-necked Stilt: This species is increasing in numbers rapidly in the western Sandhills; detailed data were provided by JGJ of sightings of about 55 individuals and about 8 breeding pairs, 6 confirmed with chicks, at several wetlands in Sheridan and Garden Cos 3-5 Jul. Additional sightings were of 17 at Lakeside 5 Jun (JED) and 2 near Smith L WMA 9 Jun (CNK). Breeding also occurred again at County Road F Pond, near Kiowa WMA, where 2 pairs were nesting and at least one brood resulted (KD,PEL,JO,AK). This pond is another Scotts Bluff Co wetland mitigation pond that is having immediate success as a breeding location for waterbirds.

American Avocet: At least 50 adults were at the County Road F Pond, Scotts Bluff

Co, during the period (KD); "dozens" were on nests and at least 7 broods were counted (KD,AK). All had departed the area by 28 Jul (KD). Along with the large numbers of Black-necked Stilts in the western Sandhills, large numbers of avocets were present, including 300 and at least one nest at Schoonover L, northwest Garden Co, 5 Jul (JGJ). At LM, a nest was located 19 Jun, along with 42 adults (SJD); this appears to be the first confirmed nesting there.

Greater Yellowlegs: First were 2 at HCR 22 Jun (GH,WH), about on schedule for fall arrival.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Separating spring and fall migrants is difficult; some birds probably do not complete migration, such as one at HCR 13 Jun (GH,WH). This and another, possibly an early fall migrant, were there 20 Jun (SJD). Presumably fall migrants based on the numbers were 7 in the eRWB (JGJ) and 7 in Cherry Co (JED) on 26 Jun, and late spring migrants were 3 at Sinninger Basin, Clay Co, 12 Jun (LR,RH).

Solitary Sandpiper: First for fall was one rather early in Seward Co 27 Jun (LE).

Willet: A good count was 60 in southern Sheridan Co 14 Jun (JED). Two at LM 19-20 Jun (SJD) may have been early fall migrants.

Spotted Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Upland Sandpiper: Good numbers were evident in the breeding range, with 40 in Platte River meadows in Lincoln Co 21 Jun (TJW), and it was "pleasantly ubiquitous" in Sheridan and Garden Cos 4 Jul (JGJ). An adult with 3 young was near North Loup 4 Jul (LR,RH).

Long-billed Curlew: A few breed as far west as Scotts Bluff and Banner Cos; 4 were just north of the county line 17 Jun (AK). An excellent tally was the 200 scattered among potholes north of CLNWR 12 Jul (JT); such aggregations form prior to the fall exodus. An early fall migrant was at HCR 20 Jun (SJD).

Marbled Godwit: This species may have suffered a serious setback in breeding within its normal range to the north of Nebraska this year, as large numbers appeared in Nebraska beginning with 5 north of CLNWR 9 Jun (CNK), 18 in southern Sheridan Co 14 Jun (JED), and peaking at an amazing 186 at LM 20 Jun (SJD,WRS,KN), by far a record count. Previous high counts have been in Jul and Aug. Appearance at these dates might suggest breeding, but the evidence remains circumstantial only. A rancher "on the vast meadow flat" north of Lakeside indicated that "short-billed curlews" had bred there "for decades" (fide JED), but there is no confirmation of this. Marbled Godwit is not known to breed regularly in Nebraska. A belated report was of a pair 7 miles south of Smith L WMA in early Jun 2003 that was aggressively territorial, attacking the observer, and present at the same spot 4 weeks earlier (SJ); they were not observed this year.

Sanderling: None were reported; early dates are in late Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Likely late spring migrants were 3 at LM 19 Jun (SJD), the latest spring date. However, the earliest fall date is 25 Jun, suggesting that such mid-Jun records are of birds which have not undergone a complete migration.

Western Sandpiper: None were reported; early dates are in late Jul.

Least Sandpiper: The 1-3 at LM 19-20 Jun (SJD) and one at HCR 20 Jun (SJD) were probable early fall migrants, as early fall dates begin 22 Jun whereas late spring dates end 10 Jun. This species is generally not a late spring migrant. Best count was 86 in Lincoln 24 Jul (LE).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Even though a noted late spring migrant, rather late were 9 at LM and 4 at HCR 20 Jun (SJD), and a worn adult at Hultine North WPA, Clay Co, 26 Jun (JGJ). The latter is the latest ever except for 3 confirmed

fall records. Numbers were low this year, with no counts over 50; significantly higher numbers are seen into Jun. It was suggested (JGJ) that widespread rain and resulting sheet water later in May dispersed these birds, resulting in few, if any, large aggregations.

Baird's Sandpiper: Yet another species with mid-Jun dates this summer, this in surprising numbers; one was at L Minatare 19 Jun (SJD), as many as 30 were at LM 19 Jun, declining to 9 on 20 Jun (SJD), and 12 were at HCR 20 Jun (SJD). These were likely late spring migrants, but this is difficult to determine by plumage, as both late spring and early fall migrants are adults.

Pectoral Sandpiper: And again; 2 at Sinninger Basin, York Co, 12 Jun (LE) were rather late for this often-recorded-in-Jun species, and an injured adult at HCR 20 Jun (SJD) was about the 4th latest ever in spring. (I'm assuming the latter bird was headed northward when it was injured!) Earliest fall dates are in early Jul.

Stilt Sandpiper: Latest on record for spring were 6 at LM 19 Jun, 3 there 20 Jun (SJD), and an injured adult at HCR 20 Jun (SJD). Rather early for fall were 3 in Lincoln 18 Jul (LE); earliest fall date is 5 Jul.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Rather early were 21 in the eRWB 31 Jul, including 18 at North Lake Basin, Seward Co, on bare ground scraped clean during wetland restoration (JGJ). Numbers were disappointing (JGJ).

Short-billed Dowitcher: None were reported; fall arrival is generally in late Jul.

Long-billed Dowitcher: An alternate-plumaged adult at HCR 20 Jun (SJD) added to the long list of mid-Jun shorebirds found this summer. This is the latest ever for spring. Fall arrival is in late Jul; the only one reported, however, was in the eRWB 31 Jul (JGJ).

Wilson's Snipe: Breeding may occur virtually anywhere in the state, but is generally restricted to areas north of the Platte Valley and westward; sightings along White Horse Creek, Lincoln Co, 9 and 21 Jun (TJW) may have been of breeding birds, but breeding is unconfirmed in Lincoln Co. Breeding has been confirmed in the past in Lancaster Co, and so, while a rare sighting, 4 at Jack Sinn WMA, Lancaster Co, on 12 Jun (LE) may also have been breeding.

American Woodcock: None were reported.

Wilson's Phalarope: Probably few of the 104 birds of mixed gender at LM 19 Jun (SJD) were breeders, although breeding has been recorded there; most were likely failed- or non-breeders, as probably were 2 at HCR 20 Jun (SJD). The 350 at Chain of Lakes, northern Garden Co, 4 Jul were thought to be post-breeders, as some were juveniles, but territorial males were present also (JGJ). Six males in the eRWB 26 Jun (JGJ) were also likely non-breeders; at this time males would be incubating.

Red-necked Phalarope: Two males at LM 19 Jun (SJD) were out of place for the date; these also were likely failed breeders. This species does not breed in the state. There is a male specimen in the State Museum collected in Scotts Bluff Co 23 Jun 1916 (fide TEL).

Laughing Gull: A surprising two were reported, both alternate-plumaged adults, one at L Minatare 18 Jun (WRS,KN) and the other at LM 20 Jun (SJD,WRS,KN); the latter was displaying to uninterested Franklin's Gulls. These are the 11th and 12th documented records for the state, almost all in spring and summer.

Franklin's Gull: Best count was 730 at LM 20 Jun, including a leucistic individual which was essentially white (SJD,WRS,KN). Such numbers at this date are indicative of failed breeding. More typical of fall migration, numbers at HCR had increased to 400 by 25 Jul (GH,WH).

Bonaparte's Gull: The only report was a first alternate bird at LM 19 Jun (SJD);

this is a record late spring date. There is only one mid-summer record, and earliest fall date is 19 Jul.

Ring-billed Gull: Best count was 683 at LM 20 Jun, including a leucistic bird (SJD). This is a record count for Jun.

California Gull: Best count at LM was the 21 birds there 20 Jun (SJD); ages were mixed, with 8 adults, 11 second alternates, and one first alternate. Two were at L Minatare 2 Jun (PEL,JO).

Herring Gull: An adult at LM 19 Jun (SJD,WRS,KN) is the first Nebraska record of an adult in the period 14 May-20 Sep. It was accompanied by 5 juveniles (SJD,WRS,KN).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A first alternate-plumaged bird at LM 19 Jun (SJD,WRS,KN); this is the only record for Nebraska 30 Apr-24 Aug, although there are now some 39 total records for the state, 19 each for spring and fall.

Great Black-backed Gull: Apparently the same bird present 15-16 May was again noted at LM 19-20 Jun (SJD,WRS,KN); it represents the 16th record for Nebraska.

Caspian Tern: Most reports were from the LM area: one near Clear Creek Marshes, Keith Co, 4 Jun (DC) and 5 at LM 20 Jun (SJD,WRS,KN). This species has occurred in small numbers at LM in Jun in recent years. Rare in mid-summer elsewhere, 3 were at BOL 10 Jul (LE).

Common Tern: The only reports were of one in Scotts Bluff Co 13 Jun (KD) and 7 at LM 20 Jun (SJD); the latter is the latest spring date. There are no records 21 Jun-21 Jul.

Forster's Tern: Apparently a newly-discovered breeding location is Square L, western Cherry Co, where nesting was in progress 28 Jun (JED). Mid-summer records (14 Jun-3 Jul) away from breeding locations are few; 4 were at Burchard L SRA, Pawnee Co, 19 Jun (LE), 1-3 were at LM 19-20 Jun (SJD), 5 were at HCR 20 Jun (SJD), and 3 at BOL 27 Jun (LE). Rather late as spring migrants were 2 at HCR 13 Jun (GH,WH). Early for fall was one near Sargent 5 Jul (LR,RH).

Least Tern: Good numbers were breeding at a southeast Saunders Co gravel pit; best tally was on 29 Jun, with 24 adults, 2 juveniles, and 5+ chicks (ARy); 30+ birds were there 19 Jun and "good numbers" 31 Jul (CNK,GB). At LM 11 were present 19 Jun (SJD) and for the summer 19 nests were found and 26 chicks fledged (Gabe Wilson, fide SJD). The Platte River adjacent to Schramm SP in Sarpy Co is good for this species; 5 were at the hatchery ponds and 7 on the river 17 Jul (LE).

Black Tern: Large flocks were noted rather early in fall, indicative of failed breeding; 178 in a single flock were at LM 20 Jun (SJD,WRS,KN) and 227 were at HCR the same day (SJD). Still at their breeding site were 200 at White L, Sheridan Co, 4 Jul (JGJ).

Rock Pigeon: Routine reports.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Nesting was observed in Nebraska City during the summer (Pam and Jerry Esser fide SJD). Best count was 15 at Cody Park, North Platte, 9 Jun (TJW). There were no new county records.

White-winged Dove: Records of this species continue unabated; one photographed in a Gretna yard was there 4-18 Jun (JA). This is the 30th state record, all since 1988.

Mourning Dove: Routine reports.

Black-billed Cuckoo: The 4 reports were encouraging: singles in two different southeast Lincoln Co cedar canyons 5 and 9 Jun (TJW), one in southwest Dixon Co 7 Jul (JJ), and one in Lancaster Co 10 Jul (LE).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: A good count was the 10 in southeast Lincoln Co 5 Jun (TJW).

Barn Owl: There were several reports from and near the Panhandle, including a pair with 3 young using a hole in the high dirt banks around Red Willow Res, Frontier Co, 15 Jun (Angus Garey fide TJW). Another appeared to be nesting on the spillway structure at Enders Dam, Chase Co, 2 Jul (TJW). Singles were at West Lawn Cem, Gering, 2 Jun (PEL,JO), Kiowa WMA 6 Jun (AK), and 1-2 were at CLNWR 2-4 Jul (JGJ,JT).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Routine reports.

Great Horned Owl: Routine reports.

Burrowing Owl: Best count was 11 at a prairie-dog town along Antelope Road in Lincoln Co 2 Jun (TJW). Three of 7 seen near Gordon 9 Jun had down (CNK), and a pair with 6 young were at a prairie-dog town near Stockville 23 Jun (TJW). None were reported from the eastern half of the state.

Barred Owl: Routine reports.

Long-eared Owl: This species has nested virtually statewide, but records are few. Thus of interest were fledged young at Smith L WMA 7 Jun (SJ); the species had nested here in the early 1990s also (SJ). A surprise was one flushed at Clear Creek Marshes, Keith Co, 4 Jun (DC).

Short-eared Owl: About 7 were reported, all from Panhandle grasslands, although one in Kimball Co 18 Jun was using CRP grassland; a pair had been seen at the same location a few years earlier (WRS).

Common Nighthawk: Routine reports.

Common Poorwill: Somewhat easterly were one at McKelvie NF, Cherry Co, 12 Jun (KP) and a road killed bird in Cottonwood Canyon, Lincoln Co, 22 Jun (TJW). The latter is surprisingly only the 2nd Lincoln Co record; breeding numbers may be significant in the cedar canyons in southeast Lincoln Co.

Chuck-will's-widow: This species continues at a traditional location, Wolf L, Saunders Co, where 1-2 were heard 19 and 26 Jun (TH). A belated report was of one far out of the expected range at Smith L WMA in 1995 (SJ). There is, however, a report from Thomas Co and regular sightings from the Fort Kearny area, along the Buffalo-Kearney Cos line.

Whip-poor-will: None were reported.

Chimney Swift: Routine reports.

White-throated Swift: Routine reports.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Intriguing was the continuing presence from spring (9 May) through 13 Jun of a pair in a Brady yard (TJW); although nesting apparently did not occur, these birds were only the 3rd record for the western half of the state. The few other reports were from the east; no breeding was documented.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: The only report was from a Mitchell yard 16 Jul (KD), the earliest fall record ever by one day.

Rufous Hummingbird: The only report was from WSR 29 Jul (HKH). Surprisingly few hummingbirds were reported from the Panhandle.

Hummingbird sp.: An unidentified hummingbird was in a Gering yard around 7 Jun (JC, fide AK) and another south of Gering 21 Jun (AK). At this time, these could have been any of several species.

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Several observers indicated that this species was conspicuously numerous this summer.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Downy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Northern Flicker: Routine reports.

Pileated Woodpecker: Two birds were seen in the vicinity of this spring's nest site in northern FF during the first week of Jun (CNK), and one was heard in southern FF 4 Jun (BP,LP).

Western Wood-Pewee: Nesting birds were at the Gordon Cem (nest-building) 9 Jun (CNK) and at Smith L WMA the same day (CNK). Good numbers were noted on the Pine Ridge, Sioux and Dawes Cos, 12 Jun (AK).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Singles in Harlan Co 5 Jun (GH,WH) and at Oxford 10 Jul (LR,RH) were at or near the west edge of the Republican Valley range, and a singing bird at Victoria Springs SRA, Custer Co (TJW), was northwesterly.

Acadian Flycatcher: Numbers are increasing in the southeast; 4 were at ICSP 13 Jun (WRS) and 2 were in Handsome Hollow, FF, 6 Jun (WRS).

Willow Flycatcher: Good numbers of this summering empid were found in Lincoln Co, including 10 calling males near Hershey 4 Jun (TJW) and 6 along Pawnee Creek 27 Jun (LR,RH). A few others were reported statewide.

Least Flycatcher: Unexpected and virtually unprecedented was a single which called several times in southeast Saunders Co 19 Jun (CNK); there are old undocumented reports of breeding for Douglas and Richardson Cos, and a pair apparently nested in northeast Kansas in 1996.

Cordilleran Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Eastern Phoebe: A good count was 10 in southeast Lincoln Co 5 Jun (TJW).

Say's Phoebe: The enigmatic appearances of this species in the northeast continued this year with one near the observer's Dixon Co yard 9 Jul (JJ); 1-2 birds have been seen in the area sporadically since 1997 (JJ).

Great Crested Flycatcher: This species has been present on the Pine Ridge as far west as Sioux Co for some time now, but generally is found in riparian habitat. Mollhoff (*Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas*) raised the possibility that it might be adapting to non-riparian habitats ("dry upland wooded areas") as it moves westward in Nebraska. Interesting observations in this regard were of 10 birds in the cedar canyons of southeast Lincoln Co 5 Jun (TJW), 3 in a "roadside thicket in the middle of a large beautiful prairie" in Franklin Co 6 Jun (LR,RH), and one in central Sheridan Co 9 Jun where there was "not much habitat" (CNK). Although these early Jun sightings might be of migrants, most birds are on territory by this time. Additional westerly sightings were of 2 at McCook 16 Jun (TJW) and 2 at Enders Res, Chase Co, 2 Jul (TJW). The latter 2 records are only the 8th and 9th in the Republican River drainage west of Harlan Co, all since 1986.

Cassin's Kingbird: One in open prairie in southern Banner Co 2 Jun (PEL,JO) may still have been migrating; in Nebraska this species usually is found in open, shrubby woodland or parkland.

Western Kingbird: An interesting discussion on NEBIRDS generally concluded that in eastern Nebraska this species is associated with man-made structures, thus occurring in towns and cities, in contrast to Eastern Kingbird, which is rural throughout the state. Perhaps the use of structures has allowed Westerns to spread eastward with minimal interference from Easterns.

Eastern Kingbird: Routine reports.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: This species may be moving northward; this summer there were 3 reports, including a nesting pair at a ball park in Filley. Apparently the birds were in Filley in 2003 (fide BP,LP), and this year were first noted 9 Jun (BP,LP) and a nest discovered 12 Jun (JK,SK). Last report was 25 Jun (NP); no information came to hand regarding nest success, but the male was seen to be

"out playing in right field" 13 Jun (EB). This is the 10th nesting record for Nebraska. Two other reports were of singles near North Platte 4 Jun (JJ) and an adult male at Eppley Airfield, Omaha, 25-27 Jul (JT,MA), where a female or immature had been seen in 2003 (JT). These are the 19th and 20th Jun-Jul records for Nebraska without nesting noted.

Loggerhead Shrike: A nest with 5-6 naked young was found in York Co 19 Jun (LR,RH).

Bell's Vireo: This species is numerous in central Nebraska: 15 were in Valley Co 13 Jun (LR,RH); 12 calling males, 3 nests, 2 with eggs, were near Hershey 4 Jun (TJW); and 10 were counted in southeast Lincoln Co 5 Jun (TJW).

Yellow-throated Vireo: A good count was 6 in Douglas and Sarpy Cos 6 Jun (WRS), and northerly were 2 at Ashford Scout Camp, Thurston Co, 18 Jun (BFH).

Plumbeous Vireo: Marking the end of spring migration and start of fall were singles at WSR 5 Jun and 26 Jul (HKH); these are the latest spring and earliest fall dates for migrants (there is no breeding habitat at WSR).

Warbling Vireo: Routine reports.

Red-eyed Vireo: An excellent count was the 24 in Howard Co 8 Jun (LR,RH).

Blue Jay: Routine reports.

Pinyon Jay: None were reported.

Black-billed Magpie: A group of 7 at Old Stage Road, Scotts Bluff Co, 17 Jul were the most the observer had seen together for some time (AK).

American Crow: None were seen during the summer at Wolf L, Saunders Co, for the first time in 29 years, prompting the observer to invoke the possibility of West Nile Virus as a causative agent (TH).

Horned Lark: Juveniles with adults in Saunders and Lancaster Cos 10 Jul (LE) were probably second broods for this usually early nester.

Purple Martin: First fall staging was noted in Lincoln, where "hundreds" were present 27 Jul (CR). Breeding occurs in the Republican Valley west to Benkelman, where 5 were at a martin house 7 Jun (MB); it is common in Culbertson, where it has nested since 1965 (JSt). Rare from about Ogallala westward in the Platte Valley, a good sighting was one at Ogallala 4 Jul (JSt).

Tree Swallow: Nestlings were seen at Brady 9 Jun (TJW). This species has nested at Smith L WMA since 1993 (SJ).

Violet-green Swallow: Routine reports.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Routine reports.

Bank Swallow: Apparently a recent colonizer in Scotts Bluff Co, one was at Kiowa WMA 17 Jun (AK), and an excellent fall aggregation of 250-300 was there Jul 28 (KD).

Cliff Swallow: Routine reports.

Barn Swallow: Routine reports.

Black-capped Chickadee: Singles were noted in a few places where they had been absent, suggesting a gradual recovery from the depressed numbers reported during 2003-2004. One at Walnut Grove Park, Omaha, 12-14 Jun was the first there this year (JWH); only one was found in 100 miles of coverage in Lancaster Co 27 Jun (LE); and the first in the observer's Dixon Co yard since Mar was one there 30 Jun (JJ). Good numbers were noted, however, in the southeast Lincoln Co cedar canyons 22 Jun (TJW).

Tufted Titmouse: Routine reports.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: A juvenile was with 2 adults at McKelvie NF, Cherry Co, 12 Jun (KP); this is the first report since breeding was first noted there in 1980.

White-breasted Nuthatch: The subspecific identity of one at WSR 26 Jul (HKH)

was not determined, but would be of considerable interest. At this location, which does have breeding habitat, eastern birds which are spreading along the Platte Valley may occur, or a fall disperser from the western population in the Pine Ridge might occur.

Pygmy Nuthatch: Routine reports.

Brown Creeper: One was seen in the northwest part of the MRET (CNK), about a quarter of a mile from the 23 May sighting in the area; hopefully this indicates at least 2 pairs might be summering there.

Rock Wren: The cedar canyons in southeast Lincoln Co again provided interesting sightings, this time of good numbers of Rock Wrens; best count was of 4 birds 26 Jun and 2 nests were located 22 Jun (TJW).

Carolina Wren: The small westerly population at HCR continues, with singles in the Methodist Cove area 17 and 27 Jun (GH,WH). Adults with 3 young in the observer's Bellevue yard 6 Jun were building a new nest (KCR).

House Wren: A veteran observer at Bellevue (RG) sent the following: "I remember when you could hear them singing all over Bellevue in the summer. I have even banded as many as 50 just in my yard--no more. I'm lucky if I band 3." This is an example of the importance of keeping track of numbers of common birds; numbers banded is also a good way to track populations (assuming the obvious variables are recognized).

Sedge Wren: Jun reports are few; also somewhat northwesterly were 2 at Scotia Canal WMA, Valley Co, 13 Jun (LR,RH). More usual are singing birds in late Jul and Aug; 4 at Spikerush WMA, York Co, 25 Jul (LR,RH) were the first for fall.

Marsh Wren: Southeasternmost were 2 at Nathan's L, Washington Co, 21 Jul (JT), 2-5 at Jack Sinn WMA, Lancaster & Saunders Cos, 10-31 Jul (LE), and one in Cass Co 31 Jul (CNK,GB), the latter possibly an early migrant. Summer reports in the southeast are rare.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Exceptionally early was one at WSR 26 Jul (HKH); this is only the 2nd Jul record ever. Usual arrival is in mid-Sep.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Reports from the edge of the eastern range were of one of the outlying population near the Orleans Republican River bridge 10 Jul (GH,WH), and singles in Lincoln 24-25 Jul (LE,TEL).

Eastern Bluebird: A total of 67 had fledged from boxes at ADF by 31 Jul (LF,CF).

Mountain Bluebird: Routine reports.

Swainson's Thrush: Last of the spring migrants was at WSR 2 Jun (HKH).

Wood Thrush: A good count was 14 in Sarpy and Douglas Cos 6 Jun (WRS). This species is sometimes found in surprisingly small patches of woods; one such was at Verdon L SRA, Richardson Co, 18 Jul (CC).

American Robin: An aggregation of 56 mostly young birds at Victoria Springs SRA, Custer Co, 19 Jul 2003 (LR,RH) was about on schedule for fall flock formation.

Gray Catbird: A nest with 5 eggs was found near Hershey 4 Jun (TJW).

Northern Mockingbird: An excellent count was the 6 on a BBS route in southeast Lincoln Co 5 Jun (TJW). The other reports, of 4 birds, were from grasslands in the southeast.

Brown Thrasher: Nests with eggs were reported 4-12 Jun (TJW,DP,JP), and first hatchlings 2 Jun (TJW).

Curve-billed Thrasher: The bird at the Frimann Ranch, Sioux Co, continued its lengthy stay, 23 months as of this writing (LFr,AK). This summer it fed Common Grackle and American Robin fledglings (LFr).

European Starling: Routine reports.

Cedar Waxwing: A nest was found 25 ft up in a Lincoln sycamore 11 Jun; adults were feeding nestlings there 27 Jun, having survived a severe storm 13 Jun (LE).

Tennessee Warbler: Last spring migrant was at DeSoto NWR in southeast Washington Co 2 Jun (JT); latest spring date is 11 Jun.

Northern Parula: Best count was 5 at FF 6 Jun (WRS).

Yellow Warbler: Excellent numbers were found in Lincoln Co; 15-20 singing males were north of Hershey 4 Jun (TJW) and 43 were counted along Pawnee Creek 27 Jun (LR,RH). A female was carrying food in Clay Co 26 Jun (JGJ).

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler: None were reported; this species breeds on the Pine Ridge and in the Wildcat Hills.

Yellow-throated Warbler: One at MRET 23 Jun was the 3rd consecutive year one was seen there mid-late Jun (CNK). Breeding there has not yet been confirmed, but seems likely.

Cerulean Warbler: Extensive surveys of likely breeding habitat in eastern Nebraska yielded a total of 5-7 singing males, only one of which, a bird at Hummel Park, Omaha, appeared to be accompanied by a female (WRS,BFH). The female could not be located there 23 Jun, however (CNK). This was the 3rd consecutive year a singing male has been at Hummel Park, and at least 2 observers (LP,WRS) were fairly sure that two males might have been there. One at MRET did not stay long (CNK,WRS), but others at ICSP, FF, and Ashford Scout Camp, Thurston Co, sang persistently into Jun (WRS,BFH). No breeding evidence was obtained at any of these locations. Habitat features common to all locations were (1) a significant stream or creek and (2) a flat area with very tall trees, species unimportant, usually adjacent to steep wooded hillsides.

Black-and-white Warbler: One along the Niobrara River at the north edge of McKelvie NF, Cherry Co, 12 Jun (KP) was only the 4th Jun record for Cherry Co.

American Redstart: Routine reports.

Prothonotary Warbler: None were reported, after several spring reports.

Ovenbird: Routine reports.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Summering numbers were better than average: one was at FF 6 Jun (WRS), 3 at ICSP 13 Jun (WRS, JSt), and one at Schramm SP 17 Jul (LE).

Kentucky Warbler: As with Louisiana Waterthrush, summering numbers were good, with 3 in southeast Washington Co 6 Jun (WRS), 7 at ICSP 13 Jun (WRS,JSt), and one still singing at Schramm SP 17 Jul (LE).

Common Yellowthroat: Routine reports.

Hooded Warbler: Despite the surprising 7 reports in spring, none were reported during Jun-Jul.

Wilson's Warbler: Earliest ever for fall by 5 days and first ever Jul record was one at WSR 29 Jul (HKH).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Easternmost was one in Wheeler Co 4 Jul (LR,RH), about at the eastern edge of the summer range.

Summer Tanager: Although present at ICSP in good numbers in Jun (WRS), the only other report was of one at FF 26 Jul (DB); this species has begun to summer there in recent years.

Scarlet Tanager: Routine reports.

Western Tanager: Best count was 5 in northern Sioux Co 12 Jun, including a male in cottonwoods surrounded by grasslands (AK).

Spotted Towhee: Routine reports.

Eastern Towhee: Westerly was one in southeast Lincoln Co 5 Jun, where most are

Spotteds (TJW). This appears to be the first record of an Eastern Towhee for Lincoln Co; presumably it looked like an Eastern, but most Nebraska birds are at least somewhat mixed genotypically.

Green-tailed Towhee: Last spring migrant was in a Sidney yard 1 Jun (AS); latest spring dates are in early Jun.

Cassin's Sparrow: Good numbers were found in the southwest, as might be expected with the dry conditions prevailing there. About 20 were reported in all, including 8 west of Enders Res in Chase Co on 20 Jun (MB) and 5 in southeast Grant Co 2 Jul (TJW). All were in sandsage grasslands, north to the CLNWR area (BW,DW,JT).

Chipping Sparrow: Numbers continue to increase in the HCR area (GH,WH); summering numbers are fewest in the southwest.

Brewer's Sparrow: This species is adapting to CRP grassland within its western Nebraska range; 2 were noted in such habitat in Kimball Co 18 Jun (WRS).

Field Sparrow: This species was found to be quite numerous in Lincoln Co during the summer; a BBS route in southeast Lincoln Co found it on "most stops" (TJW), and 3 pairs and a nest with 5 young were found north of Hershey along the Platte River 4 Jun (TJW). Field Sparrows are rare in summer west of Keith Co.

Vesper Sparrow: Numbers appear to increasing in the eRWB in recent years, although it is "by no means common" (JGJ).

Lark Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lark Bunting: Good numbers were reported in the Panhandle, including "hundreds" north of Oshkosh 12 Jul (JT). None were reported east of Lincoln Co, where 3 males were seen 25 Jun (TJW).

Grasshopper Sparrow: This species is doing well in most of Nebraska. Good counts were the "dozens" in prairie in southeast Franklin Co 6 Jun (LR,RH) and 13 in southwest Custer Co 17 Jul (LR,RH).

Henslow's Sparrow: The only reports were from locations where a few have been noted in recent years: 1-2 at Boyer Chute NWR, Washington Co, 18 Jun (JT), and 2 at SCP 3 Jun (KP).

Song Sparrow: Rare as far west in the Platte Valley as Lincoln and Keith Cos, but suggestive of increasing numbers at least in Lincoln Co, 2 were singing north of Hershey 4 Jun (TJW) and singles were along White Horse and Pawnee Creeks in Lincoln Co 9 Jun (TJW).

Swamp Sparrow: This species is scattered throughout central Nebraska in cattail marshes during summer. Among few Lincoln Co reports were 1-2 singing males along White Horse Creek 9 and 21 Jun (TJW). At the northwest edge of the Nebraska summer range, breeding occurred at Smith L WMA in 1998 and 2000; singing males have been there since 1997 (SJ).

Harris's Sparrow: A singing bird in the observer's Dixon Co yard 23 Jun was not as much of a surprise as might be thought; one was there 8 Jun 2003 (JJ), very likely the same disoriented bird. This is the 6th Nebraska record in the period 23 Jun-13 Aug.

Dark-eyed Junco: One that was seen inside a Walmart store in Omaha through winter and spring was still present 22 Jun; it was eating spilled seed at the bird feed area of the store (DSt). The observer (DSt) wondered why we couldn't "all go to Walmart to bird, just like we do for everything else"?

McCown's Longspur: None were reported.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: The only report was of 4 in Kimball Co 18 Jun, where numbers were lower than usual (WRS).

Northern Cardinal: Routine reports.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Numbers in the west in recent springs have increased, but summer reports are still scarce. Two singles were found, one in Monroe Canyon 2 Jun (PEL,JO) and another with a Black-headed Grosbeak family at a Mitchell feeder 24 Jul (KD).

Black-headed Grosbeak: At the eastern edge of the summer range were singles near Gibbon 3 Jul (LR,RH) and at Edison 10 Jul (LR,RH), the latter a male.

Blue Grosbeak: Routine reports.

Lazuli Bunting: As with Rose-breasted Grosbeaks west, Lazuli Buntings east have become routine in spring, but are rarer in summer. One well-studied in York Co 19 Jun showed no signs of hybridization (LR,RH).

Indigo Bunting: Individuals showing no sign of hybridization are uncommon in the Panhandle; singles were near Chadron 22 Jun (SA) and in southern Scotts Bluff Co 17 Jul (AK).

Dickcissel: Westernmost, but within the summer range, were 4 singing at Brady 4 Jun (TJW).

Bobolink: An excellent count was the 125 on a BBS route in southeast Cherry Co 8 Jun (CNK). There were a few southerly reports: 4 at SCP 3 Jun (KP) and 2 there 4 Jul (LE), 3 in southeast Saunders Co 19 Jun (CNK), and 1-3 at Burchard L SRA, Pawnee Co, 19-22 Jun (LE,RE). Plowing of CRP grassland in southwest Dixon Co reduced numbers there (JJ).

Red-winged Blackbird: Routine reports.

Eastern Meadowlark: Westerly, but at a regular summer location, were "a few" in the White Horse Creek meadows north of the North Platte airport 2-21 Jun (TJW).

Western Meadowlark: An indication of the abundance of this species in the Sandhills were the counts of 247 and 212 on BBS routes in Cherry and Sheridan Cos in early Jun (CNK).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Southeasterly were 10 at Jack Sinn WMA, Lancaster & Saunders Cos, 27 Jun (LE).

Brewer's Blackbird: Routine reports.

Common Grackle: Routine reports.

Great-tailed Grackle: Reports are now statewide; fewest reports are from the Sandhills, where 2 pairs were nest-building at Smith L WMA 7-9 Jun (SJ,CNK). Best count was 30+ along White Horse Creek near the North Platte airport 9 Jun (TJW).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Routine reports.

Orchard Oriole: A nest in York Co 19 Jun contained 5 eggs and a cowbird egg (LR,RH).

Baltimore Oriole: An adult was feeding nestlings at FF 20 Jun (ARy).

Bullock's Oriole: An interesting mix of plumages was provided by the 8 birds at a Mitchell feeder 11 Jul (KD): 2 adult males, 2 adult females, a juvenile, 2 first-year males, and an odd bird that might have been a blackish female or first-year male. One at the CLNWR headquarters 12 Jul (JT) was the easternmost reported.

Scott's Oriole: What would be Nebraska's 6th report (only one of the previous 5 documented) was one in Kearney 29 Jun (CD); details were provided and have been forwarded to the NOU Records Committee.

House Finch: Routine reports.

Red Crossbill: At least one was at McKelvie NF, Cherry Co, 12 Jun (KP); summer reports from this area are few.

Pine Siskin: None were reported; few were reported in spring as well.

American Goldfinch: Routine reports.

House Sparrow: Routine reports.

Birds of Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center - 1999 - 2004

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INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 1998, Audubon Nebraska, a state office of the National Audubon Society, purchased the 610-acre O'Brien Ranch located three miles south of Denton, Nebraska. The site, now called Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center (SCPAC), will be devoted to prairie education and restoration. The Center's size expanded to 626 acres in 2000 when the Wachiska Audubon Society bought an adjacent 16-acre property on the northwest corner of the section.

Historically, most of the ranch was never farmed, probably because of its hills and the large number of glacial boulders present in the soil. It is one of the largest native grasslands remaining in Lancaster County, containing nearly 500 acres of unplowed tall grass prairie. Other natural features include Spring Creek and its associated riparian zones, several wetlands, springs, ravines, and a mature bur oak woodland. Six cattle ponds have been constructed on site, two along Spring Creek. There is a 52-acre crop field in the southeast corner, two small (< 5 acres) abandoned alfalfa fields, and disturbed areas north and south of the ranch house.

A century of cattle ranching has impacted the floristic composition of the prairie. Overgrazing on portions of several pastures has encouraged the spread of woody and exotic plant species. Large, resilient stands of excellent prairie, though, remain. A three-year research project catalogued more than 340 plant species (Kottas 2000). Current land management targets the removal of invasive and exotic plants - honey locust, Siberian elms, leafy spurge, and musk thistles being priorities - and the establishment of native flora. Because prairie developed naturally under periodic grazing of bison, elk, and other animals, grazing will continue with cattle, but with lower stocking rates than the previous owner's and a rotation system. All pastures are periodically rested and burned to revitalize vegetation.

SCPAC's large size and diversity of habitats are attractive to a wide variety of birds. Prairie species needing large expanses of grassland for breeding are of particular interest, as modern fragmented landscapes restrict the amount of habitat available for these birds. The 3,000-acre grassland and crop land matrix surrounding the Center could also provide quality habitat. The area's integrity, however, is threatened by encroaching urban development. Preserving the current agricultural setting offers an important opportunity to protect a rare and dwindling resource for grassland birds.

METHODS

Standardized avian surveys were conducted from August 1999 to September 2002. Eight transects of similar length were set up within different habitats (prairie [3], pond [1], riparian [2], shrub/mixed [2]). The author conducted morning surveys for 30 minutes in each transect once or twice a month. Every bird seen or heard was counted, including birds flying overhead. Surveys were not set up to compare bird numbers or diversity among sites scientifically. Rather, the purpose was to record

seasonal bird occurrences, and these baseline data will 1) help determine land management goals for the upcoming years, and 2) indicate future shifts in species composition.

Beginning in 2003, informal counts replaced transect surveys and continue to the present day. These counts have targeted spring and fall migration and a few species of particular interest, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Sprague's Pipit, and Henslow's Sparrow among them.

To document nesting species, breeding bird surveys have been completed each June beginning in 2001. Count points were spaced along four separate survey routes winding through various habitats. At each point, observers recorded every bird seen and heard within a 200-foot radius for five minutes. Evidence of breeding (adults carrying nesting material or food, singing males, juveniles, etc.) was noted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As of July 2004, 188 bird species have been recorded (see Appendix). The transect surveys alone produced 100 species; the most common (by number) were European Starling, American Robin, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, American Goldfinch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Barn Swallow, Northern Flicker, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-capped Chickadee, and Northern Bobwhite. The starling result is misleading, as 95 percent of these were seen on one day in one flock. Abundance was highest in woods and shrub/mixed habitats and the least in prairie transects.

The four yearly breeding bird surveys have documented 70 species (see Appendix). Many juvenile birds were observed, as were nests, including a successful Cooper's Hawk nest in 2004.

The following is a compendium of sightings by various classifications:

Grassland species - A wide variety of grassland birds can be found throughout the year. There have been a few observances of Short-eared Owls, a prized prairie inhabitant. Upland Sandpipers, Dickcissels, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, and Grasshopper and Field Sparrows have been common summer residents. Bobolinks were rarely seen until the summer of 2003, when as many as five pairs were present. To expand and improve nesting habitat and potentially reduce cowbird parasitism, land management will focus on removing all upland woody vegetation.

One of the most exciting discoveries has been the remarkable regular fall sightings of Sprague's Pipits. Unfamiliar with this particular species, I noticed these birds in the autumns of 2001 and 2002, but did not confirm their identification until September 23, 2003, their initial date of observation that year. The birds were recorded almost every time they were searched for that fall, whether it was morning or afternoon, until they were last seen on October 21. In 2004, spring surveys were for the first time focused on this species, and seven individuals were recorded on April 15.

The recently-published *Birds of Nebraska* notes that Sprague's Pipits are found mostly during migration though central Nebraska in short- to mid-grass areas, particularly in the fall (Sharpe *et al.* 2001). An additional note in this same book about where to look for the species - in shallow ruts made by vehicles crossing grassy fields - can be corroborated by my observations. The pipits were consistently

found along a vehicular path worn down to dirt near the top of a ridge dividing the property. The grass is shorter here than in other areas of the prairie, and the sometimes-used prairie-chicken lek is along this same ridge. It is therefore possible that other similar habitats in southeastern Nebraska - those containing prairie-chicken leks or ones which have the potential for leks, and having vehicle paths or areas of very short grass - could contain Sprague's Pipits during migration.

In late March 2000, the sighting of six Greater Prairie-Chickens, including one male in courtship behavior, was completely unexpected. The activity did not reoccur in 2001, but one male was with two females in April 2002. The following spring, as many as six birds were displaying along a ridge on various mornings through April. In early June 2003, the discovery of a hen and two just-hatched chicks was the first confirmed nesting of this species on the property. Unfortunately, this lek was not active in 2004, but leks were observed on sections of land to the west and northwest of SCPAC.

It is unknown how many Prairie-Chickens are in the vicinity; 17 is the highest number seen at one time, that in October 2002. Annual surveys should be attempted to determine population status, potential breeding areas, and winter territories. These birds may be part of the last viable breeding population in the county.

The presence of Henslow's Sparrows, found initially in May 2000, has been a pleasant surprise. In 2003, at least 5 individuals were present, and there was one reliable yet unconfirmed report of a fledgling being fed by an adult.

Woodland species - Woodlands are restricted to the borders of Spring Creek, limiting the occurrences of forest-dwelling birds. Moreover, the majority of the large honey locust trees have been removed in an effort to curtail their invasion of the prairie uplands. Nonetheless, Red-headed Woodpeckers have successfully nested each summer, and the presence of Eastern Wood-Pewees, Great Crested Flycatchers, and Barred Owls attests to the quality of the riparian zone. The Cooper's Hawk nest found in 2004 is the first evidence of breeding of any raptor species.

Edge species - Transect surveys indicated the most common species (by number) are Eastern Kingbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Bluebird, Baltimore Oriole, and Orchard Oriole. Future numbers may be impacted by the planned removal of all upland woody vegetation. Native trees and shrubs will remain along Spring Creek and in ravines. The plan's impact is also uncertain for uncommon species or those needing a mix of open land and trees, such as Bell's Vireo, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Mockingbird, and both cuckoo species.

All of the other game fowl found in this part of the state occur here as well, making good use of the edge habitat. Flocks of up to 14 Wild Turkeys have been seen, as were nests with eggs in May 2001 and 2004. Northern Bobwhite are common year-round, and broods (one numbering 14 chicks) have been produced over the past three years. Ring-necked Pheasants have not been plentiful and are more often on surrounding crop land.

Purple Finches have appeared at the Center's bird feeding station the past three winters, and Harris's and American Tree Sparrows are very common in plum thickets and woodland edges.

Wetland species - Ducks are common on the ponds during spring migration, but few species of water birds remain for the summer. Canada Geese and Mallards have stayed over but with no nests or young recorded. A scattering of wading birds appear from spring to fall; an amazing sight one day in spring 2000 was 23 Great Egrets roosting in the trees around the lower pond. A Sandhill Crane was seen flying very low over the property in April 2001. Water levels in the two largest ponds are manipulated during migration to create shallow wading areas and to promote the establishment of beneficial wetland plants.

Shorebird species typical of southeast Nebraska have taken advantage of the mudflats on the edges of drying ponds, but numbers have been low. Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper linger through the summer, although nesting has not been documented.

Endangered/threatened species - No state or federally endangered or threatened species are present.

APPENDIX

Species List:
Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, White-faced Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Sora, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Short-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Sprague's Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm

Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Summer Tanager, Spotted Towhee, Eastern Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Smith's Longspur, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

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In Memory of Clyde E. Johnson

Long-time NOU member Clyde Johnson passed away on May 4, 2003. He is survived by his wife Emma, who now resides in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Clyde and Emma lived in Omaha, where Clyde was employed as an insurance agent. They made numerous birding trips to Central America, Europe and Asia. Few other details of his life are available, which is quite likely just the way Clyde wanted it. Although Clyde was quiet about his personal life, he was well-known among NOU members for his contributions of time, enthusiasm and money to the organization.

Clyde and Emma joined the NOU in 1969, and Clyde served as the Nebraska Coordinator for the Breeding Bird Survey for many years. They made generous contributions to the *Birds of Nebraska* publication effort and to the Endowment Fund. In 1998 they donated funds to help pay for new shelving for the NOU library. After his death, their collection of natural history books (451 titles, including valuable first edition volumes and field guides from around the world) was donated to the NOU library, along with glass-fronted bookcases and a gift to the Endowment Fund.

The Johnsons were good friends to the NOU and will be missed. We wish Emma well in her new home in Texas.

THE 2001 NEBRASKA NESTING REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The spring of 2001 will likely be remembered as the winter that wouldn't end, especially in central and western Nebraska. The last remnants of roadside snowbanks remained in the east until 10 April, but the last *blizzard* closed down the Panhandle on 21-22 April, and the last appreciable snowfall there was on 19 May. None of these dates represent late records, but are remarkably later than average for the past 10-15 years, and seemed especially burdensome following the long cold winter and the remarkably early spring the previous year.

While I recognize the danger inherent in making generalizations when working with such a small sample size, I feel it worthwhile to comment on differences and similarities between the timing of the 2000 and 2001 nesting seasons. While only a few species allowed direct comparison by being found nesting again in the same location as last year, the following information is offered for what it's worth. It would have been interesting to compare data on more of the cavity nesters, but unfortunately, I did not locate any active nuthatch nests this year, nor take the time to search out more of the other cavity nesters.

In the southern Panhandle, Cassin's, Western and Eastern Kingbirds, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Bullock's Oriole (and Red-winged Blackbird in the east), all appeared to be 2-3 weeks later in their breeding cycle than last year. By contrast, also in the Panhandle, Great Blue Heron, Great Horned Owl, Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Wood-Pewee, Lark Sparrow, and McCown's Longspur seemed to be on the same schedule as last year, as were American Crow, Common Grackle, and House Finch in the east.

While it seems intuitive that some species would respond to the late spring by nesting later, why *didn't* some other species? How much of the difference in timing was actually due to the weather, and how much was due to the randomness of the small sample size or other variables? Obviously, it will take more years of data collection and a much larger sample size, one that includes all species, before generalizations can be made. Witnessing a blizzard disrupt breeding by Pinyon Jays and Canada Geese makes the reason for those delays pretty apparent. But what about kingbirds and gnatcatchers that were not even present yet? Were they later because of delayed plant growth and insect development? More study and many more records are needed before we can speak with certainty.

The following observers contributed reports and information: John Dinan (JD), Belle Esau (BE), Jon Farrar (JF), Michael Forsberg (MF), David Hellbusch (DH), Alice Kenitz (AK), Clem Klaphake (CK), Wayne Mollhoff (WM), and Jean Pearson (JP).

A total of 140 reports were received on 44 species. There were no new state species breeding records reported, but the discovery of an old Pinyon Jay nesting colony, along with finding a new nest colony under construction, were exciting firsts in their own right.

Abbreviations used: E - east, N - north, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, S - south, SP - State Park, UNSM - University of Nebraska State Museum, W - west, WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Eared Grebe A colony with 9 nests was located 0.5 mi. E of Lakeside, Sheridan Co., on 29 June 2001. Two nests with 2 eggs and 3 nests with 3 eggs were noted, but some eggs may have been concealed by vegetation. The nests were still being incubated on 13 July (WM).

Great Blue Heron The colony in a cottonwood grove on the Niobrara River 8 mi. SW of Harrison, Sioux Co., had about 15 active nests. The young were well feathered and appeared to be nearly full-grown on 2 June 2001 (WM,JD).

White-faced Ibis Birds were noted in suitable habitat in southern Sheridan / northern Garden Cos. by 3 June 2001 (JD,WM). On 25 June 2001, in Sheridan Co. near the Crescent Lake NWR road several miles SSE of Lakeside, several birds were seen carrying vegetation in their beaks and landing at scattered locations in a wet area of tall grassy vegetation, apparently nest-building. A search for nests was not made (CK). Dozens of birds remained in the area through at least 11 August, but young-of-the-year birds were not reported (WM).

Turkey Vulture A nest with a pair of eggs was found in a manger in an empty horse barn 3 mi. W of Albion, Boone Co., in June 2001. The eggs hatched several days after they were found. One young disappeared almost immediately, probably lost to a predator. The adults and the surviving young were tolerant of visits by the owners, sometimes soaring around them during the week they remained around the farmstead after the young one fledged in August (DH).

Trumpeter Swan A pair occupying a nest on South Wolfenberger Lake 3 mi. W of Hyannis, Grant Co., was incubating on 3 June 2001 (WM).

Northern Harrier See the mention in the Swainson's Hawk account.

Swainson's Hawk A bird incubating a single egg on 3 June 2001, 8 mi. N of Lakeside, Sheridan Co., abandoned the nest sometime before 29 June (JD,WM).

A tree nest at Willy Lake, 1.5 mi SE of Bingham, Sheridan Co., had a pair of Northern Harriers present on 20 May 2001(AK), but was occupied and being incubated by a pair Swainson's Hawks on 3 June (WM,JD). On 14 July a pair of half-grown young Swainson's with the adults in attendance occupied the nest (WM). The earlier presence of the Northern Harriers on the nest remains a mystery, especially since they normally nest on the ground.

A nest with a trio of 2/3 grown young was noted 1 mi. W of Ellsworth, Sheridan Co., on 13 July 2001 (WM).

A low nest in chokecherry bushes just a few feet from a busy railroad track 2 mi. E of Ashby, Grant Co., held 3 half-grown young on 13 July 2001 (WM).

A late nest 3 mi. N of Lakeside, Sheridan Co., held a pair of 1/3 grown young on 14 July 2001. On 11 August the grown young were still in the nest (WM).

Red-tailed Hawk In a repeat of last year, a pair again occupied their nest in the edge of the Great Blue Heron colony 8 mi. SW of Harrison, Sioux Co., on 2 June 2001; the contents of the nest were not visible however (WM,JD).

American Kestrel A pair occupied the same cavity that was used in 1998 and 1999 in a dead pine snag 11 mi. SE of Crawford in West Ash Canyon, Dawes Co. (It was not checked in 2000.) The nest held 4 eggs on 1 June 2001 (WM).

Two nests were found in natural cavities in the sandstone buttes 8-9 mi. SW of Harrison, Sioux Co. Both nests (one with 4 eggs) were under incubation when visited on 2 June 2001 (MF,WM).

Sharp-tailed Grouse A nest with eggs near a cow trail was pointed out by a dog 20 mi. S of Whitman, Grant Co., on 16 June 2000 (MF)(Forsberg 2001).

Black-necked Stilt The following 6 nests near Lakeside, Sheridan Co., were studied and photographed in May-June 2000 (Farrar 2001).

A nest just W of Lakeside held 4 eggs on 16 May 2000, all of which hatched on 7 June (JF).

Another nest 1.3 mi. E of Lakeside also held 4 eggs on 16 May 2000, but was abandoned on 18 May due to heavy rain and rising water. By 2 June an apparent replacement nest nearby held 4 eggs (JF).

Two nests were found 5 mi. W of Lakeside. One held 4 eggs on 4 June 2000; the other held 4 eggs on 6 June (JF).

A nest 3 mi. W of Lakeside held 4 eggs on 3 June 2000 (JF).

Great Horned Owl A bird was incubating its 2 eggs in a nest atop an ice-covered tree 0.5 mi. N of Dix, Kimball Co., during a day of freezing mist on 24 March 2001 (WM).

Another bird, surely the winner of the one tough mother award, was incubating in an icy tree on an exposed hilltop 7 mi. W of Big Springs, Deuel Co., also on 24 March 2001. The young hatched just after a blizzard on 7-8 April that dropped temperatures to 20 degrees F., buffeted the area with 80+ kph (50+ mph) NW winds, 13mm (0.5 in.) of rain and 15 cm (6 in.) of snow, knocked out power and closed I-80 to all traffic. This was followed by similar winds and temperatures in a storm of 21-22 April that left 20 cm (8 in.) of snow and closed roads throughout the Panhandle. When visited on 29 April, the temperature was 82 degrees F. and the young birds were perched on the edge of the nest, their mouths wide open, using gular flutter to cool themselves (WM).

White-throated Swift The nest in West Ash Canyon, Dawes Co, 12 miles SE of Crawford that has been in use and under observation annually since it was found in 1998 was not used this year. The birds were present in the area and were seen visiting the crevice on 27 April 2001, but the nest was unoccupied and appeared to have been abandoned by 1 June. When visited again on 13 July following a heavy rainstorm, the outer wall of the crevice was found to have collapsed, carrying the nest away with it (WM).

Lewis's Woodpecker A pair of birds in West Ash Canyon, Dawes Co., again occupied the same cavity that has been used since at least 1999. The nest held 3 eggs when visited on 1 June 2001. On 14 July the adults were carrying food into the cavity, and by 11 August one adult was still present at the nest with one young-of-the-year bird and 2 others that also appeared to be juveniles (WM).

Western Wood-Pewee A pair was busy working on a nest at Smith Lake, Sheridan Co., on 3 June 2001, with the nest about 1/3 complete. On 29 June the nest appeared to be complete but was still not occupied. By 13 July, 4 eggs were under incubation. Since this is at the eastern limit of proven nesting (Mollhoff 2001), the birds were carefully identified by plumage, bill coloration and calls. The nest was later salvaged for the UNSM collections (WM,JD).

On 1 July 2001, 2 nests (with 2 and 3 eggs) were found 9 mi. SW of Redington, Morrill Co. Another nest with a single egg was found abandoned in that vicinity. A fourth nest was under construction only 50 meters away from the abandoned nest, possibly a re-nesting following a failed first attempt (WM).

Cassin's Kingbird Two nests (each with 4 eggs) were found on 1 July 2001, 9 mi. SW of Redington, Morrill Co. (WM).

Western Kingbird A nest with 4 eggs was found 9 mi. SW of Redington, Morrill Co., on 30 June 2001. Two more nests found in the vicinity were still under construction on the same date (WM).

Eastern Kingbird A nest with an incomplete clutch of 2 eggs was found on 30 June 2001, 8 mi. SW of Redington, Morrill Co. (WM).

Loggerhead Shrike A nest with 6 half-grown young was found in the Sandhills a mile north of Smith Lake, Sheridan Co., on 3 June 2001. The nest was later

salvaged for the UNSM collections (WM,JD).

Pinyon Jay A group of 9 nests was found on 14 April 2001, the remains of a nesting colony that was probably occupied in 1999 or 2000. It was located 7 mi. SW of Redington, Morrill Co. (WM).

After several early attempts to locate the 2001 nesting colony were frustrated by spring snowstorms (which also repeatedly disrupted the jays' breeding activities - note the weather comments in the Great Horned Owl account), the colony was finally located about 1 km (0.6 mi) from the old colony mentioned above. When finally located on 29 April 2001, they were engaged in nest-building and had 10 nests about half completed. The frenzy of activity concentrated on a single hectare (2.5 acre) hillside was truly a sight to behold! However, after several more bouts of inclement weather (including snow on 3 and 19 May), the colony was largely abandoned, and only a single nest (with 5 eggs) was occupied on 1 June. That nest was later salvaged for the UNSM collections. The flock remained on their territory but no other nesting colony was located (WM).

American Crow Nest-building was initiated in Lincoln, Lancaster Co., by 2 March 2001 (WM).

Tree Swallow A nest box with 5 eggs was noted on 27 May 2001 at Mahoney SP, Cass Co. (WM).

Adults were noted feeding fledged, begging young at Smith Lake, Sheridan Co. on 29 June 2001 (WM).

Violet-green Swallow The cliff cavity below the White-throated Swift colony noted above, used in 1999 and 2000, was not used this year (WM). Whether its non-use could be related to the absence of the swifts is unknown.

Cliff Swallow A busy colony of ~175 nests on the side of a butte 9 mi. SW of Harrison, Sioux Co., was visited on 25 June 2001. The nests were placed beneath overhanging ledges, in cavities and irregularities, and around exposed devil's corkscrews (fossilized *Daemonelix* sp. burrows). Many of the nests were still under construction or repair. One of the aforementioned American Kestrel nest cavities was located just beneath the colony (MF,WM).

Rock Wren A bird was noted carrying nest material into a cavity in an isolated boulder on 1 June 2001, 9 mi. SW of Redington, Morrill Co. On 30 June the completed nest held an incomplete clutch of 3 eggs (WM,JD,MF).

Marsh Wren A nest with an egg and at least 2 tiny young was found at Willy Lake 1.5 mi. E of Bingham, Sheridan Co., on 14 July 2001 (WM).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher A nest with 2 eggs was found 9 mi. SW of Redington, Morrill Co., on 1 July 2001 (WM).

Yellow Warbler A low nest was discovered 70cm (2 ft.) above the ground in a patch of buckbrush (*Symphoricarpos* sp.) 3 mi. NE of Angora, Morrill Co., on 29 June 2001. It held 2 eggs and 2 just-hatched young. The nest was later salvaged for the UNSM collections (WM).

Vesper Sparrow A nest with 4 eggs was found in a rural road ditch 1 mi. W of Schramm SP, Sarpy Co, on 15 May 2001 (CK).

Lark Sparrow Two ground nests with 4 & 6 eggs were found 8 mi. SW of Redington, Morrill Co., on 1 June 2001 (WM,MF,JD). On 30 June both nests were empty.

Two additional ground nests with 1 & 6 eggs were found in the same vicinity on 30 June 2001 (WM).

A tree nest with a single egg was located nearby on 1 July 2001 (WM).

McCown's Longspur A nest with 3 young several days old was found 7 mi. SW of Harrison, Sioux Co., on 3 June 2001 (MF,JD,WM). Other birds in the colony were noted carrying nest material on 2 June (JD,WM).

Great-tailed Grackle Following up on a two-year-old lead, a nesting colony was located in the Saunders Co. portion of the Jack Sinn WMA 4 mi. SE of Ceresco, Saunders and Lancaster Cos., on 8 June 2001. Two nests held single eggs, 3 nests held 2 eggs, 2 nests held 3 eggs, and 3 nests held 4 eggs. Another nest held 2 nearly grown young. An additional 7 empty nests were also found on that date. One nest with its clutch of eggs, apparently tipped over during a thunderstorm the previous night, was salvaged for the UNSM collections (WM,JD).

Bullock's Oriole Two nests under construction were found 1 June 2001, 8 mi. SW of Redington, Morrill Co., one barely started, the other nearly complete (WM,JD,MF).

On 29 June 2001, a nest with 4 just-hatched young was found 3 mi. NE of Angora, Morrill Co. (WM).

On 30 June 2001, a nest with 4 young 3-5 days old was found 9 mi. SW of Redington, Morrill Co. (WM).

On 1 July 2001, 3 nests were found 9 mi. SW of Redington, Morrill Co. One of the nests was still under construction, another held a single egg, and the third held 3 or 4 young several days old (WM).

Pine Siskin A delayed report was received of a pair with 2 just-fledged young just out of the nest in Petersburg, Boone Co., in June 1996 (BE).

House Finch A nest with 3 eggs was found 27 May 2001 at Mahoney SP, Cass Co. (WM).

A nest in Lincoln, Lancaster Co., held 5 eggs on 28 May 2001. The first egg hatched on 9 June; all were hatched by 11 June (JP).

A nest with eggs was found in North Loup, Valley Co., on 26 May 2001 (WM).

ADDITIONAL SPECIES

Other species which were recorded but not mentioned in the accounts above include: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mourning Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, Warbling Vireo, Blue Jay, House Wren, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Chipping Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

As stated in previous reports, more input is needed. While regular reports made consistently over a period of years of birds in the same area are most valuable, all reports are useful. Careful identification of all species is critical. Key basic information includes: location, date, what was seen, and type of activity noted. Also important and useful is information about habitat, nest placement and weather. Anyone who finds evidence of breeding by wild birds (nest building, nests with eggs or young, adults feeding or tending young) is encouraged to submit the information for inclusion in the nesting report. Observers who expect to find evidence of breeding may request information on procedure for data collection or record cards from the author. All observers who contribute data will be credited in the nest report.

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The Greater Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens atlanticus*) in Nebraska

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INTRODUCTION

Recently, Mr. William Lemburg of Cairo, Nebraska, in a letter to the Editor of *The Nebraska Bird Review*, noted the following: "I have a friend who does quite a bit of goose hunting. He remarked to me that during the spring snow goose season, he occasionally shoots an extra large Snow. Thinking that maybe a few Greater Snows that winter along the Atlantic Coast may end up in the Central Flyway, I asked him to save the head of one if he bagged one the following season. This is about five years ago. The following season he did get one. Enclosed is a picture [see Figure 1], showing it with the head of a Lesser Snow and a Ross's Goose. Even though the head was dried some, the bill measured 65 mm. According to the book by Bellrose *Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America,* this would place it with the Greater Snow."

Measurements of bills (culmen) of Snow Geese in Palmer (1976) show for male Greaters 59-73 mm, female Greaters 57-68 mm, male Lessers 52-63 mm, female Lessers 50-60 mm. Thus it seems likely this bird was indeed a Greater Snow Goose (Gilles Gauthier, pers. comm.); Palmer states that bill measurements are diagnostic.

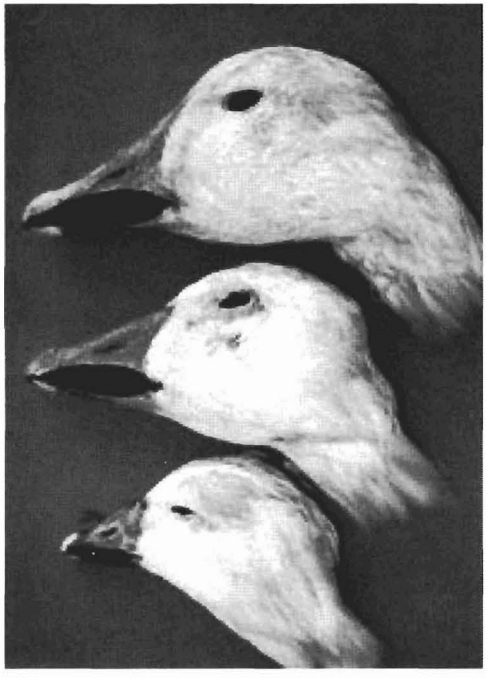

Figure 1. From top: Greater Snow Goose, Lesser Snow Goose, Ross's Goose. Photo courtesy of William Lemburg

TAXONOMY

Historically, the Snow Goose (*C. caerulescens*) bred in several widely separated locations in Arctic Canada and extreme eastern Siberia and wintered mainly along the Gulf Coast, in California, and in Washington. Migrants occurred throughout North America, but were least numerous in the Mountain West. Within the breeding range, three groups of geese were discernible as of the 1970s (Bellrose 1976, Palmer 1976). The easternmost breeding population, located in extreme northwest Greenland and adjacent Canadian islands, consists of large birds, and was (and still is) separable from other Snow Geese as the subspecies *C. c. atlanticus*, popularly known as "Greater Snow Goose" (designated *C. hyperborea atlanticus* by the American Ornithologists'

Union in 1957). The 1957 AOU Check-list listed as a separate species the "Blue Goose" (*C. caerulescens*), breeding at four locations north of Hudson Bay, from Baffin Island in the East to Queen Maud Gulf in the West. All other Snow Goose breeding populations, from Wrangel Island in Siberia east to colonies situated between the eastern breeding areas of Greater Snow Geese and Blue Geese, were designated "Lesser Snow Goose" (*C. h. hyperborea*). In the 1960s it was determined that "Blue Goose" was merely a color morph of Lesser Snow Goose, and the current Snow Goose taxonomy names only Lesser Snow Goose *C. c. caerulescens* (*caerulescens* had naming priority over *hyperborea*) and Greater Snow Goose *C. c. atlanticus*.

Because geese traditionally breed in and faithfully return to the same areas each summer, gene flow between breeding populations in different areas was thought to be minimal. Such minimal gene flow and fidelity to breeding sites usually, given time, leads to differentiation into different subspecies and even species. Perhaps the best example is provided by the several discrete breeding populations of "White-cheeked Geese" that until recently were allocated to several subspecies within (former) Canada Goose. These subspecies have now been grouped into two species, Canada and Cackling Geese. Strangely, differentiation to the subspecies level has not generally occurred as extensively in Snow Geese, even though they breed in only a few widely-separated Arctic locations whose populations rarely overlap, even in migration and winter. The sole exception is Greater Snow Goose.

DISTRIBUTION AND RECENT CHANGES

Since the 1970s, Snow Goose numbers have risen dramatically. In the 1970s, Bellrose (1976) gave the total population as about 1.3 million, but current estimates are in the 4 million range (Canadian Wildlife Service 2005). Numbers at all colonies, except that on Wrangel Island in Siberia, have increased. At the same time, and possibly the reason for the increase, Snow Geese have adapted to agricultural food sources, especially waste corn. This change, along with the advent of wildlife refuges along the traditional migration pathways, has led to significant changes in the migration and wintering behavior of these birds. Because Snow Geese are adapted to feed on rushes and aquatic plants, they traditionally had to migrate rapidly from breeding areas to wintering areas such as those along the Gulf Coast to find their preferred food sources. Nowadays, migration in fall especially is a more leisurely affair, with long stays and even overwintering some distance north of the Gulf Coast in the interior. Along with these changes, there has been significant movement of some traditional migration corridors; a Nebraska example is the westward shift of approximately 1,000,000 Snow Geese from the Missouri Valley to the Rainwater Basin during the last 20 years.

This movement and to some extent intermingling of traditional migration corridors has led to genetic mixing as well. Pairing occurs on the wintering grounds, and so ganders are the agents of gene flow; females return to their natal areas to breed. This is most evident in the case of "Blue Goose" genes. The gene for "blue" color is dominant over that for "white", and so the spread of Blue Goose genes is easy to observe. Blue Geese were until recently common only in the Mississippi Flyway (and west to eastern Nebraska), but during the last 20 years they have become more noticeable east of the Mississippi Flyway as "Blue Geese" have spread to and begun to breed in colonies previously known to contain only white birds. However in Nebraska, flocks of Snow Geese in the western part of the state,

notably at Lake McConaughy, are still predominantly white, leaving little doubt that they are derived from breeding locations in western Canada that are as yet underexposed to "Blue Goose" genes.

This mixing of genetic material has also affected Greater Snow Geese. Traditionally, Greater Snow Geese migrated from their breeding areas through a narrow corridor passing over Quebec, staged at Cap Tourmente, east of Quebec City along the St Lawrence River, and then moved to wintering areas along the Atlantic Coast, mostly in coastal Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina. As with other Snow Geese, the Greater Snow Goose population has risen dramatically; during 1955-74 the winter population, estimated from numbers staging at Cap Tourmente, was stable at about 54,000 (Bellrose 1976), but this increased to about 356,000 in 1991 (Pittaway 1992) and a rather amazing 750,000 currently (Canadian Wildlife Service 2005). An indication that Lesser Snow Geese are mixing genetically with Greaters is the appearance in recent years of a few "blue Greaters" in the wintering population (Pittaway 1992). These are large birds, otherwise identical to white Greaters. Lesser Snow Geese (including blue morphs) have for many years staged in significant and now rapidly increasing numbers in the area of southern James Bay. For about 50 years (Haven Wiley, pers. comm.) a few Lessers (<10,000?) from this staging area have flown to the Atlantic Coast (Bellrose 1976); this population contains an increasing proportion of "Blue Geese" (about 50% among the 3000 at Lake Mattamuskeet NWR, up from about 33% in the 1980s; Kelly Davis, pers. comm.), and the presence of these birds allows observers to differentiate between them and flocks of Greaters, still essentially all white. Conversely, migrant Greaters have recently shifted westward, away from their traditional migration corridor. Interestingly, flocks of Lessers along the Atlantic Coast, and Greaters in the interior still tend to separate from each other; the Lesser and Greater flocks at Lake Mattamuskeet NWR in eastern North Carolina generally (but not always) live at separate locations, and flocks of Greaters in eastern Ontario are likewise obvious by their whiteness in comparison with the mixed-color flocks of Lessers in the same area (Pittaway 1992).

The occurrence of the Greater Snow Goose west of its traditional migration corridor has only recently been noticed. Palmer (1976) stated that Greater Snow Goose was only an "Occasional straggler well inland, there being a few alleged sightings annually, plus a band recovery in Texas and another in Ill. or that general region." I have been unable to verify any Texas records (Mark Lockwood, pers. comm.) nor any firm records from "Ill. or that general region". Westward occurrence of Greater Snow Geese was documented for eastern Ontario in 1986 (Pittaway 1992), and since then, occurrences are annual, most in spring but a few in fall also, and a few large "blue Greaters" have been seen (Pittaway 1992). More recently, flocks of as many as 40,000 Greaters have been found in spring (Morin 2004). Both Pittaway (1992) and Morin (2004) suggest that adaptation to agricultural food sources by Greaters has allowed the shift of their migration corridor westward, and Morin noted that Montezuma NWR in nearby western New York has hosted as many as 100,000 Greater Snows in spring in recent years. These large Ontario flocks of Greaters can be readily identified as they contain essentially all white birds, whereas the small locally uncommon flocks of Lessers in southern Ontario contain 65-75% "Blue Geese" (Ron Pittaway, pers. comm.)

PROVENANCE OF NEBRASKA RECORDS

The research carried out for this article resulted in 5 records of Greater Snow Goose for Nebraska. These are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1
Nebraska Records of Greater Snow Goose (*C. c. atlanticus*)

Date	Collar	Culmen	County	Comment
spring ca. 2000	none	65 mm	Hall	shot by hunter
12-13 Mar 2002	JY03	61 mm	Phelps	female; from Bylot Island
13 Mar 2003	JP05		Hall	from Bylot Island
3 Mar 2003	KA13		Phelps	from Bylot Island
9 Mar 2003	KF09		Dawson	from Bylot Island

The only documented records of purported Greater Snow Goose west of Ontario that I was able to find, apart from that of Bill Lemburg for Nebraska, is a surprising series of observations (Michael Schwitters, pers. com.) of birds neck-collared on Bylot Island, north of Baffin Island, an important breeding area for Greater Snow Goose (http://www.cen.ulaval.ca/bylot/ecomon-anispec-greatersnowgoose.htm). These observations indicate that some birds originating from Bylot Island are indeed finding their way into the Central Flyway, most likely through staging areas at southern James Bay. Large numbers of Lesser Snow Geese fly southwestward from this staging area to the Central Flyway, and traditionally from there to the Gulf Coast. Gilles Gauthier (pers. comm.) indicated that of the 45,000 birds banded 1990-2003 on Bylot Island, there were 1,959 winter recoveries in the United States, including only 20 from the Mississippi Flyway and 15 from the Central Flyway. This recovery frequency suggests that fewer than 60 birds from Bylot Island may be reaching these flyways annually.

Although the vast majority of the birds banded on Bylot Island must be pure Greaters, it is likely that at least some of them may be Lessers or intergrades between Lesser and Greater Snow Geese. Interestingly, Schwitters stated that "In all cases I could not distinguish these birds as larger than the other Snow Geese in the flocks ...though I was working quickly to find as many collars as possible. They may have been Lesser Snow Geese captured in banding drives for Greater Snow Geese on Bylot Island, Nunavut." Further, Ken Abraham (pers. comm. Ron Pittaway) observed that the large Lesser Snow Goose colony south of Bylot Island on southwest Baffin Island could be an annual source for molt-migrants, including non-breeding yearlings and failed breeders, reaching Bylot Island. Nevertheless, Gauthier noted (pers. comm.) that of about 150 adult geese measured annually on Bylot Island, only 1-3 fall into the range of Lesser Snow Goose. However, the culmen measurement (65 mm) of the bird shot in Nebraska by Lemburg's acquaintance places it well within the range for Greater Snow Goose and outside that of Lesser Snow Goose (Gilles Gauthier, pers. comm.).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

I wish to thank several people who generously responded to my requests for

information used in this article. I want to thank especially Gilles Gauthier, who provided information from Bylot Island of critical importance to this article, and who made suggestions that significantly improved it. Michael Schwitters kindly provided an exciting series of neck-collar observations he made in the Central Flyway, and added additional information. Ron Pittaway also provided information and reviewed the article, also resulting in significant improvement. Stephen J. Dinsmore reviewed the article and made important corrections and suggestions. In addition, information and suggestions were provided by Kelly Davis, William Hester, Mike Legare, Mark Lockwood, and Haven Wiley. Last but definitely not least, I want to thank Mr. William Lemburg, an expert on Nebraska waterfowl, for bringing his Nebraska record of Greater Snow Goose to light.

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THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA: 2003

The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska was last published in 1997 (NOU Records Committee 1997). That list included 427 species whose occurrence in Nebraska had been documented to the satisfaction of the NOU Records Committee at that time, following the sequence and nomenclature as outlined by the American Ornithologists' Union (1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2003). The present list includes 447 species based initially on Bray et al. 1986, and subsequently all changes to the Official List of the Birds of Nebraska as determined by the NOU Records Committee (Mollhoff 1987, 1989; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1997; Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004; Jorgensen 2001, 2002, 2003), as well as sequence and taxonomic changes made by the American Ornithologists' Union (1998, 2000, 2002, 2003). Additionally, the list reflects changes in frequency of occurrence as determined by the NOU Records Committee, which reviewed records of bird occurrences in Nebraska for 1993-2003. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOU Records Committee 1988):

Regular - acceptably reported in 9-10 of the past 10 years
Casual - acceptably reported in 4-7 of the past 10 years
Accidental - acceptably reported in 0-2 of the past 10 years
Extirpated - not acceptably reported in the past 50 years
Extinct - no longer found alive anywhere in the world

The frequency of occurrence for any species that is acceptably reported in 3 or 8 of the last 10 years is discussed by the committee and placed in a category felt most appropriate by the committee. The NOU Records Committee seeks documentation for all species of less than regular occurrence in Nebraska as well as for those species whose occurrence has not been documented in Nebraska. Species documentation currently may be sent to:

Mark A. Brogie, Records Committee Chair
508 Seeley, Box 316
Creighton, NE 68729

Firmness of data supporting a bird on this list is indicated by the following terms (NOU Records Committee 1986): an adequately labeled diagnostic specimen (I-S); an adequately labeled diagnostic photo or slide (I-P); an adequately labeled diagnostic recording (I-R); a sight record with three or more acceptable written documentations (II); and a sight record with one or two acceptable written documentations (III). Species whose occurrence in Nebraska is believed indisputable; although no acceptable documentation exists is indicated by (**).

A summary of the changes to the 1997 Official List of the Birds of Nebraska follows.

Species Added to the Official List of the Birds of Nebraska Based on Acceptable Documentation (Since 1997)

Emperor Goose, (*Chen canagica*), 1-P
Garganey, (*Anas querquedula*), 1-P
Tufted Duck, (*Aythya fuligula*), 1-P
Yellow-billed Loon, (*Gavia adamsii*), 1-P (counted in; but inadvertently left off 1997 Official List)
Reddish Egret, (*Egretta rufescens*), 1-P
White Ibis, (*Eudocimus albus*), 1-P
Glossy Ibis, (*Plegadis falcinellus*), III
Curlew Sandpiper, (*Calidris ferruginea*), 1-P
Arctic Tern, (*Sterna paradisaea*), 1-P
Eurasian Collared-Dove, (*Streptopelia decaocto*), 1-P
Costa's Hummingbird, (*Calypte costae*), III
Gray Flycatcher, (*Empidonax wrightii*), III
Dusky Flycatcher, (*Empidonax oberholseri*), 1-P
Black-throated Gray Warbler, (*Dendroica nigrescens*), III
Hermit Warbler, (*Dendroica occidentalis*), III
Hepatic Tanager, (*Piranga flava*), 1-P
Scott's Oriole, (*Icterus parisorum*), III
Brambling, (*Fringilla montifringilla*), 1-P
Black Rosy-Finch, (*Leucosticte atrata*), III

Changes Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions

Common Snipe is split into **Wilson's Snipe** (*Gallinago delicata*), widespread in North America and **Common Snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*), the Old World form that breeds sparingly in the Aleutian Islands.

Wilson's Snipe, (*Gallinago delicata*), Regular, 1-S

Three-toed Woodpecker is split into **American Three-toed Woodpecker** (*Picoides dorsalis*) and the Old World form **Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker** (*Picoides tridactylus*).

American Three-toed Woodpecker, (*Picoides dorsalis*), Accidental, 1-S

Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) is split into **Blue-headed Vireo** (*V. solitarius*), **Cassin's Vireo** (*V. cassinii*), and **Plumbeous Vireo** (*V. plumbeus*).

The species (*V. solitarius)* is typically encountered migrating through eastern Nebraska, (*V. plumbeus)* has been found nesting in extreme northwestern Nebraska, and (*V. cassinii*) has been found as a western Nebraska migrant.

Plumbeous Vireo, (*Vireo plumbeus*), Regular, 1-S

Cassin's Vireo, (*Vireo cassinii*), Casual, 1-S

Blue-headed Vireo, (*Vireo solitarius*), Regular, 1-S

Black-billed Magpie of North America becomes (*Pica hudsonia)*, split from the Old World form (*Pica pica)*; (**Magpie** or **Eurasian Magpie**).

Black-billed Magpie, (*Pica hudsonia*), Regular, 1-S

Changes at the Family and/or Order Level

The order Anseriformes are placed ahead of the order Gaviiformes.

The family Cathartidae (New World Vultures) are removed from the order Falconiformes and placed in the order Ciconiiformes after Wood Stork.

The New World Quail (i.e. Northern Bobwhite) are now placed in their own family (Odontophoridae).

The family Laniidae (shrikes) are moved behind the family Tyrannidae (flycatchers); the first family in the order Passeriformes.

The family Vireonidae (vireos), and the family Corvidae (jays, crows, and allies); in that sequence, will directly follow the Laniidae (shrikes).

The kinglets are now placed in their own family (Regulidae).

The Gnatcatchers are now placed in the family Sylviidae and follow the Regulidae.

The true thrushes (Eastern Bluebird through Varied Thrush) are placed in the family Turdidae and follow the Sylviidae.

The family Sturnidae (i.e. European Starling) will now follow the family Mimidae (mockingbirds and thrashers).

The wood-warblers (Blue-winged Warbler through Yellow-breasted Chat) are placed in the family Parulidae.

The tanagers are placed in the family Thraupidae.

The New World Sparrows and allies (Green-tailed Towhee through Snow Bunting) are retained as the family Emberizidae.

The cardinals, buntings, and grosbeaks (Northern Cardinal through Dickcissel) are placed in the family Cardinalidae and will follow the family Emberizidae.

The blackbirds and orioles (Bobolink through Scott's Oriole) will be placed in the family Icteridae and will follow the family Cardinalidae.

The sequence of families of Nebraska birds in the Order Passeriformes will be:

Tyrannidae, Laniidae, Vireonidae, Corvidae, Alaudidae, Hirundinidae, Paridae, Sittidae, Certhiidae, Troglodytidae, Cinclidae, Regulidae, Sylviidae, Turdidae, Mimidae, Sturnidae, Motacillidae, Bombycillidae, Parulidae, Thraupidae, Emberizidae, Cardinalidae, Icteridae, Fringillidae, and Passeridae.

Changes in Frequency of Occurrence

Tundra Swan, (*Cygnus columbianus*) changed from Casual to Regular
Black Scoter, (*Melanitta nigra*) changed from Casual to Regular
Barrow's Goldeneye, (*Bucephala islandica*) changed from Casual to Regular
Red-throated Loon, (*Gavia stellata*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Pacific Loon, (*Gavia pacifica*) changed from Casual to Regular
Red-necked Grebe, (*Podiceps grisegena*) changed from Casual to Regular
Neotropic Cormorant, (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Common Moorhen, (*Gallinula chloropus*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Snowy Plover, (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) changed from Casual to Regular
Mountain Plover, (*Charadrius montanus*) changed from Casual to Regular
Whimbrel, (*Numenius phaeopus*) changed from Casual to Regular
Red Knot, (*Calidris canutus*) changed from Casual to Regular
Ruff, (*Philomachus pugnax*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Short-billed Dowitcher, (*Limnodromus griseus*) changed from Casual to Regular
Pomarine Jaeger, (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Little Gull, (*Larus minutus*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Mew Gull, (*Larus canus*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Thayer's Gull, (*Larus thayeri*) changed from Casual to Regular
Lesser Black-backed Gull, (*Larus fuscus*) changed from Casual to Regular
Sabine's Gull, (*Xema sabini*) changed from Accidental to Regular
Eurasian Collared-Dove, (*Streptopelia decaocto*) changed from Accidental to Casual
White-winged Dove, (*Zenaida asiatica*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Calliope Hummingbird, (*Stellula calliope*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Broad-tailed Hummingbird, (*Selasphorus platycercus*) changed from Casual to Regular
Rufous Hummingbird, (*Selasphorus rufus*) changed from Casual to Regular
Red-naped Sapsucker, (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Pileated Woodpecker, (*Dryocopus pileatus*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Hammond's Flycatcher, (*Empidonax hammondii*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Dusky Flycatcher, (*Empidonax oberholseri*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Cordilleran Flycatcher, (*Empidonax occidentalis*) changed from Casual to Regular
Cassin's Vireo, (*Vireo cassinii*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Steller's Jay, (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) changed from Accidental to Casual; changed from from Casual back to Accidental
Mountain Chickadee, (*Poecile gambeli*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Sage Thrasher, (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) changed from Casual to Regular
Blue-winged Warbler, (*Vermivora pinus*) changed from Casual to Regular
Virginia's Warbler, (*Vermivora virginiae*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Black-throated Blue Warbler, (*Dendroica caerulescens*) changed from Casual
Townsend's Warbler, (*Dendroica townsendi*) changed from Casual to Regular
Prairie Warbler, (*Dendroica discolor*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Hooded Warbler, (*Wilsonia citrina*) changed from Casual to Regular
Green-tailed Towhee, (*Pipilo chlorurus*) changed from Casual to Regular
Cassin's Sparrow, (*Aimophila cassinii*) changed from Casual to Regular

Baird's Sparrow, (*Ammodramus bairdii*) changed from Accidental to Casual
Henslow's Sparrow, (*Ammodramus henslowii*) changed from Casual to Regular
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) changed from Casual to Regular
Smith's Longspur, (*Calcarius pictus*) changed from Accidental to Casual
White-winged Crossbill, (*Loxia leucoptera*) changed from Casual to Regular
Lesser Goldfinch, (*Carduelis psaltria*) changed from Accidental to Casual

Changes in Firmness of Data

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) changed from (**) to 1-R
Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) changed from Class III to 1-P
Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) changed from 1-P to 1-S (UNSM # ZM-17601)

Changes in Scientific Names

Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) becomes (*Platalea ajaja)*
Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrula martinica*) becomes (*Porphyrio martinica)*
American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus)* becomes (*Pluvialis dominica)*
Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria)* becomes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)
Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) becomes (*Patagioenas fasciata)*
Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*) becomes (*Megascops asio)*
Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) becomes (*Bubo scandiaca)*
Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia)* becomes (*Athene cunicularia)*
Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*) becomes (*Contopus cooperi*)
Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus)* becomes (*Vireo atricapilla)*
Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota)* becomes (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota)*
Cave Swallow (*Hirundo fulva)* becomes (*Petrochelidon fulva)*
Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) becomes (*Poecile atricapillus*) which becomes (*Poecile atricapilla)* which changes back to (*Poecile atricapillus)*
Mountain Chickadee (*Parus gambeli*) becomes (*Poecile gambeli)*
Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) becomes (*Baeolophus bicolor)*
Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) becomes (*Seiurus aurocapilla)*
Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) becomes (*Passerina caerulea*)

Changes in English Names

Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*) changed to **Ross's Goose**
Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) changed to **Long-tailed Duck**
Harris' Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) changed to **Harris's Hawk**
Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) changed to **Greater Sage-Grouse**
Ross' Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) changed to **Ross's Gull**
Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) changed to **Rock Pigeon**
Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) changed to **Lewis's Woodpecker**
Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) changed to **Harris's Sparrow**

Other Changes

Multiple changes in sequential reordering of species inside families can be found in the following text.

THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA: (2003)
(447 Species)

Order ANSERIFORMES
Family Anatidae: Swans, Geese, and Ducks

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), Accidental, 1-S
Bean Goose, (*Anser fabalis*), Accidental, 1-P
Greater White-fronted Goose, (*Anser albifrons*), Regular, 1-S
Emperor Goose, (*Chen canagica),* Accidental, 1-P
Snow Goose, (*Chen caerulescens*), Regular, 1-S
Ross's Goose, (*Chen rossii*), Regular, 1-S
Canada Goose, (*Branta canadensis*), Regular, 1-S
Brant, (*Branta bernicla*), Accidental, 1-S
Trumpeter Swan, (*Cygnus buccinator*), Regular, 1-S
Tundra Swan, (*Cygnus columbianus*), Regular, 1-S
Wood Duck, (*Aix sponsa*), Regular, 1-S
Gadwall, (*Anas strepera*), Regular, 1-S
Eurasian Wigeon, (*Anas penelope*), Casual, 1-S
American Wigeon, (*Anas americana*), Regular, 1-S
American Black Duck, (*Anas rubripes*), Regular, 1-S
Mallard, (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Regular, 1-S
Mottled Duck, (*Anas fulvigula*), Accidental, 1-P
Blue-winged Teal, (*Anas discors*), Regular, 1-S
Cinnamon Teal, (*Anas cyanoptera*), Regular, 1-S
Northern Shoveler, (*Anas clypeata*), Regular, 1-S
Northern Pintail, (*Anas acuta*), Regular, 1-S
Garganey, (*Anas querquedula),* Accidental, 1-P
Green-winged Teal, (*Anas crecca*), Regular, 1-S
Canvasback, (*Aythya valisineria*), Regular, 1-S
Redhead, (*Aythya americana*), Regular, 1-S
Ring-necked Duck, (*Aythya collaris*), Regular, 1-S
Tufted Duck, (*Aythya fuligula*), Accidental, 1-P
Greater Scaup, (*Aythya marila*), Regular, 1-S
Lesser Scaup, (*Aythya affinis*), Regular, 1-S
King Eider, (*Somateria spectabilis*), Accidental, 1-P
Common Eider, (*Somateria mollissima*), Accidental, 1-S
Harlequin Duck, (*Histrionicus histrionicus*), Accidental, 1-S
Surf Scoter, (*Melanitta perspicillata*), Regular, 1-S
White-winged Scoter, (*Melanitta fusca*), Regular, 1-S
Black Scoter, (*Melanitta nigra*), Regular, 1-S
Long-tailed Duck, (*Clangula hyemalis*), Regular, 1-S
Bufflehead, (*Bucephala albeola*), Regular, 1-S
Common Goldeneye, (*Bucephala clangula*), Regular, 1-S
Barrow's Goldeneye, (*Bucephala islandica*), Regular, 1-P
Hooded Merganser, (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), Regular, 1-S
Common Merganser, (*Mergus merganser*), Regular, 1-S
Red-breasted Merganser, (*Mergus serrator*), Regular, 1-S
Ruddy Duck, (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), Regular, 1-S

Order GALLIFORMES
Family Phasianidae: Partridges, Grouse, and Turkeys

Gray Partridge, (*Perdix perdix*), Regular, 1-S
Ring-necked Pheasant, (*Phasianus colchicus*), Regular, 1-S
Ruffed Grouse, (*Bonasa umbellus*), Extirpated, 1-S
Greater Sage-Grouse, (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), Accidental, III
Sharp-tailed Grouse, (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*), Regular, 1-S
Greater Prairie-Chicken, (*Tympanuchus cupido*), Regular, 1-S
Lesser Prairie-Chicken, (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*), Extirpated, 1-S
Wild Turkey, (*Meleagris gallopavo*), Regular, 1–S

Family Odontophoridae: Quail

Northern Bobwhite, (*Colinus virginianus*), Regular, 1-S

Order GAVIIFORMES
Family Gaviidae: Loons

Red-throated Loon, (*Gavia stellata*), Casual, 1-P
Pacific Loon, (*Gavia pacifica*), Regular, 1-P
Common Loon, (*Gavia immer*), Regular, 1-S
Yellow-billed Loon, (*Gavia adamsii*), Accidental, 1-P

Order PODICIPEDIFORMES
Family Podicipedidae: Grebes

Pied-billed Grebe, (*Podilymbus podiceps*), Regular, 1-S
Horned Grebe, (*Podiceps auritus*), Regular, 1-S
Red-necked Grebe, (*Podiceps grisegena*), Regular, 1-P
Eared Grebe, (*Podiceps nigricollis*), Regular, 1-S
Western Grebe, (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), Regular, 1-S
Clark's Grebe, (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), Regular, 1-S

Order PELECANIFORMES
Family Pelecanidae: Pelicans

American White Pelican, (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), Regular, 1-S
Brown Pelican, (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), Accidental, 1-P

Family Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants

Neotropic Cormorant, (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), Casual, 1-S
Double-crested Cormorant, (*Phalacrocorax auritus),* Regular, 1-S

Family Anhingidae: Darters

Anhinga, (*Anhinga anhinga*), Accidental, 1-S

Order CICONIIFORMES
Family Ardeidae: Bitterns and Herons

American Bittern, (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), Regular, 1-S
Least Bittern, (*Ixobrychus exilis*), Regular, 1-S

Great Blue Heron, (*Ardea herodias*), Regular, 1-S
Great Egret, (*Ardea alba*), Regular, 1-S
Snowy Egret, (*Egretta thula*), Regular, 1-P
Little Blue Heron, (*Egretta caerulea*), Regular, 1-S
Tricolored Heron, (*Egretta tricolor*), Accidental, 1-S
Reddish Egret, (*Egretta rufescens*), Accidental, 1-P
Cattle Egret, (*Bubulcus ibis*), Regular, 1-P
Green Heron, (*Butorides virescens*), Regular, 1-S
Black-crowned Night-Heron, (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Regular, 1-S
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, (*Nyctanassa violacea*), Regular, 1-S

Family Threskiornithidae: Ibises and Spoonbills

White Ibis, (*Eudocimus albus*), Accidental, 1-P
Glossy Ibis, (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Accidental, III
White-faced Ibis, (*Plegadis chihi*), Regular, 1-S
Roseate Spoonbill, (*Platalea ajaja*), Accidental, II

Family Ciconiidae: Storks

Wood Stork, (*Mycteria americana*), Accidental, III

Family Cathartidae: American Vultures

Black Vulture, (*Coragyps atratus*), Accidental, 1-S
Turkey Vulture, (*Cathartes aura*), Regular, 1-S

Order FALCONIFORMES
Family Accipitridae: Kites, Hawks, Eagles, and Allies

Osprey, (*Pandion haliaetus*), Regular, 1-S
Swallow-tailed Kite, (*Elanoides forficatus*), Extripated, 1-S
White-tailed Kite, (*Elanus leucurus*), Accidental, 1-P
Mississippi Kite, (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), Regular, 1-S
Bald Eagle, (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Regular, 1-S
Northern Harrier, (*Circus cyaneus*), Regular, 1-S
Sharp-shinned Hawk, (*Accipiter striatus*), Regular, 1-S
Cooper's Hawk, (*Accipiter cooperii*), Regular, 1-S
Northern Goshawk, (*Accipiter gentilis*), Regular, 1-S
Harris's Hawk, (*Parabuteo unicinctus*), Accidental, 1-S
Red-shouldered Hawk, (*Buteo lineatus*), Regular, 1-S
Broad-winged Hawk, (*Buteo platypterus*), Regular, 1-S
Swainson's Hawk, (*Buteo swainsoni*), Regular, 1-S
Red-tailed Hawk, (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Regular, 1-S
Ferruginous Hawk, (*Buteo regalis*), Regular, 1-S
Rough-legged Hawk, (*Buteo lagopus*), Regular, 1-S
Golden Eagle, (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Regular, 1-S

Family Falconidae: Falcons

American Kestrel, (*Falco sparverius*), Regular, 1-S
Merlin, (*Falco columbarius*), Regular, 1-S

Gyrfalcon, (*Falco rusticolus*), Casual, 1-S
Peregrine Falcon, (*Falco peregrinus*), Regular, 1-S
Prairie Falcon, (*Falco mexicanus*), Regular, 1-S

Order GRUIFORMES
Family Rallidae: Rails, Gallinules, and Coots

Yellow Rail, (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*), Accidental, 1-S
Black Rail, (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), Accidental, 1-R
Clapper Rail, (*Rallus longirostris*), Accidental, 1-S
King Rail, (*Rallus elegans*), Casual, 1-S
Virginia Rail, (*Rallus limicola*), Regular, 1-S
Sora, (*Porzana carolina*), Regular, 1-S
Purple Gallinule, (*Porphyrio martinica*), Accidental, III
Common Moorhen, (*Gallinula chloropus*), Casual, 1-S
American Coot, (*Fulica americana*), Regular, 1-S

Family Gruidae: Cranes

Sandhill Crane, (*Grus canadensis*), Regular, 1-S
Common Crane, (*Grus grus*), Accidental, 1-P
Whooping Crane, (*Grus americana*), Regular, 1-S

Order CHARADRIIFORMES
Family Charadriidae: Plovers

Black-bellied Plover, (*Pluvialis squatarola*), Regular, 1-S
American Golden-Plover, (*Pluvialis dominica*), Regular, 1-S
Snowy Plover, (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), Regular, 1-S
Semipalmated Plover, (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), Regular, 1-S
Piping Plover, (*Charadrius melodus*), Regular, 1-S
Killdeer, (*Charadrius vociferus*), Regular, 1-S
Mountain Plover, (*Charadrius montanus*), Regular, 1-S

Family Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets

Black-necked Stilt, (*Himantopus mexicanus*), Regular, 1-S
American Avocet, (*Recurvirostra americana*), Regular, 1-S

Family Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Phalaropes

Greater Yellowlegs, (*Tringa melanoleuca*), Regular, 1-S
Lesser Yellowlegs, (*Tringa flavipes*), Regular, 1-S
Solitary Sandpiper, (*Tringa solitaria*), Regular, 1-S
Willet, (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), Regular, 1-S
Spotted Sandpiper, (*Actitis macularia*), Regular, 1-S
Upland Sandpiper, (*Bartramia longicauda*), Regular, 1-S
Eskimo Curlew, (*Numenius borealis*), Extirpated, 1-S
Whimbrel, (*Numenius phaeopus*), Regular, 1-S
Long-billed Curlew, (*Numenius americanus*), Regular, 1-S
Hudsonian Godwit, (*Limosa haemastica*), Regular, 1-S
Marbled Godwit, (*Limosa fedoa*), Regular, 1-S

Ruddy Turnstone, (*Arenaria interpres*), Regular, 1-S
Red Knot, (*Calidris canutus*), Regular, 1-P
Sanderling, (*Calidris alba*), Regular, 1-S
Semipalmated Sandpiper, (*Calidris pusilla*), Regular, 1-S
Western Sandpiper, (*Calidris mauri*), Regular, 1-S
Least Sandpiper, (*Calidris minutilla*), Regular, 1-S
White-rumped Sandpiper, (*Calidris fuscicollis*), Regular, 1-S
Baird's Sandpiper, (*Calidris bairdii*), Regular, 1-S
Pectoral Sandpiper, (*Calidris melanotos*), Regular, 1-S
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, (*Calidris acuminata*), Accidental, III
Dunlin, (*Calidris alpina*), Regular, 1-S
Curlew Sandpiper, (*Calidris ferruginea*), Accidental, 1-P
Stilt Sandpiper, (*Calidris himantopus*), Regular, 1-S
Buff-breasted Sandpiper, (*Tryngites subruficollis*), Regular, 1-S
Ruff, (*Philomachus pugnax*), Casual, 1-P
Short-billed Dowitcher, (*Limnodromus griseus*), Regular, 1-S
Long-billed Dowitcher, (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*), Regular, 1-S
Wilson's Snipe, (*Gallinago delicata*), Regular, 1-S
American Woodcock, (*Scolopax minor*), Regular, 1-S
Wilson's Phalarope, (*Phalaropus tricolor*), Regular, 1-S
Red-necked Phalarope, (*Phalaropus lobatus*), Regular, 1-S
Red Phalarope, (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), Casual, 1-S

Family Laridae: Gulls and Terns

Pomarine Jaeger, (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), Casual, 1-S
Parasitic Jaeger, (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), Accidental, 1-S
Long-tailed Jaeger, (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), Accidental, 1-S
Laughing Gull, (*Larus atricilla*), Casual, 1-P
Franklin's Gull, (*Larus pipixcan*), Regular, 1-S
Little Gull, (*Larus minutus*), Casual, 1-P
Black-headed Gull, (*Larus ridibundus*), Accidental, III
Bonaparte's Gull, (*Larus philadelphia*), Regular, 1-S
Mew Gull, (*Larus canus*), Casual, 1-P
Ring-billed Gull, (*Larus delawarensis*), Regular, 1-S
California Gull, (*Larus californicus*), Regular, 1-S
Herring Gull, (*Larus argentatus*), Regular, 1-S
Thayer's Gull, (*Larus thayeri*), Regular, 1-P
Iceland Gull, (*Larus glaucoides*), Casual, 1-P
Lesser Black-backed Gull, (*Larus fuscus*), Regular, 1-P
Glaucous-winged Gull, (*Larus glaucescens*), Accidental, 1-P
Glaucous Gull, (*Larus hyperboreus*), Regular, 1-P
Great Black-backed Gull, (*Larus marinus*), Casual, 1-P
Sabine's Gull, (*Xema sabini*), Regular, 1-S
Black-legged Kittiwake, (*Rissa tridactyla*), Casual, 1-S
Ross's Gull, (*Rhodostethia rosea*), Accidental, 1-P
Caspian Tern, (*Sterna caspia*), Regular, 1-S
Common Tern, (*Sterna hirundo*), Regular, 1-S
Arctic Tern, (*Sterna paradisaea*), Accidental, 1-P
Forster's Tern, (*Sterna forsteri*), Regular, 1-S
Least Tern, (*Sterna antillarum*), Regular, 1-S
Black Tern, (*Chlidonias niger*), Regular, 1-S

Family Alcidae: Auks, Murres, and Allies

Ancient Murrelet, (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*), Accidental, 1-S

Order COLUMBIFORMES
Family Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves

Rock Pigeon, (*Columba livia*), Regular, 1-S
Band-tailed Pigeon, (*Patagioenas fasciata*), Accidental, 1-P
Eurasian Collared-Dove, (*Streptopelia decaocto*), Casual, 1-P
White-winged Dove, (*Zenaida asiatica*), Casual, 1-P
Mourning Dove, (*Zenaida macroura*), Regular, 1-S
Passenger Pigeon, (*Ectopistes migratorius*), Extinct, 1-S
Inca Dove, (*Columbina inca*), Accidental, 1-P
Common Ground-Dove, (*Columbina passerina*), Accidental, III

Order PSITTACIFORMES
Family Psittacidae: Parrots

Carolina Parakeet, (Conuropsis carolinensis), Extinct, 1-S

Order CUCULIFORMES
Family Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Anis

Black-billed Cuckoo, (*Coccyzus erythropthalmus*), Regular, 1-S
Yellow-billed Cuckoo, (*Coccyzus americanus*), Regular, 1-S
Groove-billed Ani, (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*), Accidental, 1-P

Order STRIGIFORMES
Family Tytonidae: Barn Owls

Barn Owl, (*Tyto alba*), Regular, 1-S

Family Strigidae: Typical Owls

Eastern Screech-Owl, (*Megascops asio*), Regular, 1-S
Great Horned Owl, (*Bubo virginianus*), Regular, 1-S
Snowy Owl, (*Bubo scandiaca*), Regular, 1-S
Northern Hawk Owl, (*Surnia ulula*), Accidental, 1-S
Burrowing Owl, (*Athene cunicularia*), Regular, 1-S
Barred Owl, (*Strix varia*), Regular, 1-S
Great Gray Owl, (*Strix nebulosa*), Accidental, 1-S
Long-eared Owl, (*Asio otus*), Regular, 1-S
Short-eared Owl, (*Asio flammeus*), Regular, 1-S
Boreal Owl, (*Aegolius funereus*), Accidental, 1-S
Northern Saw-whet Owl, (*Aegolius acadicus*), Regular, 1-S

Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES
Family Caprimulgidae: Goatsuckers

Common Nighthawk, (*Chordeiles minor*), Regular, 1-S

Common Poorwill, (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*), Regular, 1-S
Chuck-will's-widow, (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*), Regular, 1-P
Whip-poor-will, (*Caprimulgus vociferus*), Regular, 1-S

Order APODIFORMES
Family Apodidae: Swifts

Chimney Swift, (*Chaetura pelagica*), Regular, 1-S
White-throated Swift, (*Aeronautes saxatalis*), Regular, 1-S

Family Trochilidae: Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, (*Archilochus colubris*), Regular, 1-S
Costa's Hummingbird, (*Calypte costae*), Accidental, III
Calliope Hummingbird, (*Stellula calliope*), Casual, 1-P
Broad-tailed Hummingbird, (*Selasphorus platycercus*), Regular, 1-P
Rufous Hummingbird, (*Selasphorus rufus*), Regular, 1-S

Order CORACIIFORMES
Family Alcedinidae: Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher, (*Ceryle alcyon*), Regular, 1-S

Order PICIFORMES
Family Picidae: Woodpeckers

Lewis's Woodpecker, (*Melanerpes lewis*), Regular, 1-S
Red-headed Woodpecker, (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), Regular, 1-S
Acorn Woodpecker, (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), Accidental, 1-P
Red-bellied Woodpecker, (*Melanerpes carolinus*), Regular, 1-S
Williamson's Sapsucker, (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*), Accidental, 1-S
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, (*Sphyrapicus varius*), Regular, 1-S
Red-naped Sapsucker, (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*), Casual, 1-S
Downy Woodpecker, (*Picoides pubescens*), Regular, 1-S
Hairy Woodpecker, (*Picoides villosus*), Regular, 1-S
American Three-toed Woodpecker, (*Picoides dorsalis*), Accidental, 1-S
Northern Flicker, (*Colaptes auratus*), Regular, 1-S
Pileated Woodpecker, (*Dryocopus pileatus*), Casual, 1-P

Order PASSERIFORMES
Family Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher, (*Contopus cooperi*), Regular, 1-S
Western Wood-Pewee, (*Contopus sordidulus*), Regular, 1-S
Eastern Wood-Pewee, (*Contopus virens*), Regular, 1-S
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, (*Empidonax flaviventris*), Casual, 1-S
Acadian Flycatcher, (*Empidonax virescens*), Regular, 1-S
Alder Flycatcher, (*Empidonax alnorum*), Regular, 1-R
Willow Flycatcher, (*Empidonax traillii*), Regular, 1-R
Least Flycatcher, (*Empidonax minimus*), Regular, 1-S
Hammond's Flycatcher, (*Empidonax hammondii*), Casual, 1-S
Gray Flycatcher, (*Empidonax wrightii*), Accidental, III

Dusky Flycatcher, (*Empidonax oberholseri*), Casual, 1-P
Cordilleran Flycatcher, (*Empidonax occidentalis*), Regular, 1-R
Eastern Phoebe, (*Sayornis phoebe*), Regular, 1-S
Say's Phoebe, (*Sayornis saya*), Regular, 1-S
Vermilion Flycatcher, (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), Accidental, 1-P
Ash-throated Flycatcher, (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), Accidental, III
Great Crested Flycatcher, (*Myiarchus crinitus*), Regular, 1-S
Cassin's Kingbird, (*Tyrannus vociferans*), Regular, 1-S
Western Kingbird, (*Tyrannus verticalis*), Regular, 1-S
Eastern Kingbird, (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), Regular, 1-S
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, (*Tyrannus forficatus)*, Casual, 1-P

Family Laniidae: Shrikes

Loggerhead Shrike, (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Regular, 1-S
Northern Shrike, (*Lanius excubitor*), Regular, 1-S

Family Vireonidae: Vireos

White-eyed Vireo, (*Vireo griseus*), Casual, 1-S
Bell's Vireo, (*Vireo bellii*), Regular, 1-S
Black-capped Vireo, (*Vireo atricapilla*), Accidental, 1-S
Yellow-throated Vireo, (*Vireo flavifrons*), Regular, 1-S
Plumbeous Vireo, (*Vireo plumbeus*), Regular, 1-S
Cassin's Vireo, (*Vireo cassinii*), Casual, 1-S
Blue-headed Vireo, (*Vireo solitarius*), Regular, 1-S
Warbling Vireo, (*Vireo gilvus*), Regular, 1-S
Philadelphia Vireo, (*Vireo philadelphicus*), Regular, 1-S
Red-eyed Vireo, (*Vireo olivaceus*), Regular, 1-S

Family Corvidae: Jays, Magpies, and Crows

Gray Jay, (*Perisoreus canadensis*), Accidental, III
Steller's Jay, (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), Accidental, 1-S
Blue Jay, (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Regular, 1-S
Pinyon Jay, (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*), Regular, 1-S
Clark's Nutcracker, (*Nucifraga columbiana*), Casual, 1-S
Black-billed Magpie, (*Pica hudsonia*), Regular, 1-S
American Crow, (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Regular, 1-S
Chihuahuan Raven, (*Corvus cryptoleucus*), Accidental, 1-S
Common Raven, (*Corvus corax*), Accidental, III

Family Alaudidae: Larks

Horned Lark, (*Eremophila alpestris*), Regular, 1-S

Family Hirundinidae: Swallows

Purple Martin, (*Progne subis*), Regular, 1-S
Tree Swallow, (*Tachycineta bicolor*), Regular, 1-S
Violet-green Swallow, (*Tachycineta thalassina*), Regular, 1-S
Northern Rough-winged Swallow, (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*), Regular, 1-S

Bank Swallow, (*Riparia riparia*), Regular, 1-S
Cliff Swallow, (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), Regular, 1-S
Cave Swallow, (*Petrochelidon fulva*), Accidental, 1-P
Barn Swallow, (*Hirundo rustica*), Regular, 1-S

Family Paridae: Titmice

Black-capped Chickadee, (*Poecile atricapillus*), Regular, 1-S
Mountain Chickadee, (*Poecile gambeli*), Casual, 1-P
Tufted Titmouse, (*Baeolophus bicolor*), Regular, 1-S

Family Sittidae: Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch, (*Sitta canadensis*), Regular, 1-S
White-breasted Nuthatch, (*Sitta carolinensis*), Regular, 1-S
Pygmy Nuthatch, (*Sitta pygmaea*), Regular, 1-S

Family Certhiidae: Creepers

Brown Creeper, (*Certhia americana*), Regular, 1-S

Family Troglodytidae: Wrens

Rock Wren, (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), Regular, 1-S
Canyon Wren, (*Catherpes mexicanus*), Accidental, 1-P
Carolina Wren, (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), Regular, 1-S
Bewick's Wren, (*Thryomanes bewickii*), Casual, 1-P
House Wren, (*Troglodytes aedon*), Regular, 1-S
Winter Wren, (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), Regular, 1-S
Sedge Wren, (*Cistothorus platensis*), Regular, 1-S
Marsh Wren, (*Cistothorus palustris*), Regular, 1-S

Family Cinclidae: Dippers

American Dipper, (*Cinclus mexicanus*), Accidental, 1-S

Family Regulidae: Kinglets

Golden-crowned Kinglet, (*Regulus satrapa*), Regular, 1-S
Ruby-crowned Kinglet, (*Regulus calendula*), Regular, 1-S

Family Sylviidae: Gnatcatchers

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, (*Polioptila caerulea*), Regular, 1-S

Family Turdidae: Thrushes and Allies

Eastern Bluebird, (*Sialia sialis*), Regular, 1-S
Mountain Bluebird, (*Sialia currucoides*), Regular, 1-S
Townsend's Solitaire, (*Myadestes townsendi*), Regular, 1-S
Veery, (*Catharus fuscescens*), Regular, 1-S
Gray-cheeked Thrush, (*Catharus minimus*), Regular, 1-S

Swainson's Thrush, (*Catharus ustulatus*), Regular, 1-S
Hermit Thrush, (*Catharus guttatus*), Regular, 1-S
Wood Thrush, (*Hylocichla mustelina*), Regular, 1-S
American Robin, (*Turdus migratorius*), Regular, 1-S
Varied Thrush, (*Ixoreus naevius*), Casual, 1-S

Family Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers

Gray Catbird, (*Dumetella carolinensis*), Regular, 1-S
Northern Mockingbird, (*Mimus polyglottos*), Regular, 1-S
Sage Thrasher, (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), Regular, 1-S
Brown Thrasher, (*Toxostoma rufum*), Regular, 1-S
Curve-billed Thrasher, (*Toxostoma curvirostre*), Accidental, 1-S

Family Sturnidae: Starlings

European Starling, (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Regular, 1-S

Family Motacillidae: Pipits

American Pipit, (*Anthus rubescens*), Regular, 1-S
Sprague's Pipit, (*Anthus spragueii*), Casual, 1-S

Family Bombycillidae: Waxwings

Bohemian Waxwing, (*Bombycilla garrulus*), Casual, 1-S
Cedar Waxwing, (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), Regular, 1-S

Family Ptilogonatidae: Silky-flycatchers

Phainopepla, (*Phainopepla nitens*), Accidental, 1-P

Family Parulidae: Wood Warblers

Blue-winged Warbler, (*Vermivora pinus*), Regular, 1-S
Golden-winged Warbler, (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), Regular, 1-S
Tennessee Warbler, (*Vermivora peregrina*), Regular, 1-S
Orange-crowned Warbler, (*Vermivora celata*), Regular, 1-S
Nashville Warbler, (*Vermivora ruficapilla*), Regular, 1-S
Virginia's Warbler, (*Vermivora virginiae*), Casual, III
Northern Parula, (*Parula americana*), Regular, 1-S
Yellow Warbler, (*Dendroica petechia*), Regular, 1-S
Chestnut-sided Warbler, (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), Regular, 1-S
Magnolia Warbler, (*Dendroica magnolia*), Regular, 1-S
Cape May Warbler, (*Dendroica tigrina*), Casual, 1-S
Black-throated Blue Warbler, (*Dendroica caerulescens*), Regular, 1-S
Yellow-rumped Warbler, (*Dendroica coronata*), Regular, 1-S
Black-throated Gray Warbler, (*Dendroica nigrescens*), Accidental, III
Black-throated Green Warbler, (*Dendroica virens*), Regular, 1-S
Townsend's Warbler, (*Dendroica townsendi*), Regular, 1-S
Hermit Warbler, (*Dendroica occidentalis*), Accidental, III
Blackburnian Warbler, (*Dendroica fusca*), Regular, 1-S

Yellow-throated Warbler, (*Dendroica dominica*), Regular, 1-P
Pine Warbler, (*Dendroica pinus*), Casual, 1-P
Prairie Warbler, (*Dendroica discolor*), Casual, 1-P
Palm Warbler, (*Dendroica palmarum*), Regular, 1-S
Bay-breasted Warbler, (*Dendroica castanea*), Regular, 1-S
Blackpoll Warbler, (*Dendroica striata*), Regular, 1-S
Cerulean Warbler, (*Dendroica cerulea*), Regular, 1-S
Black-and-white Warbler, (*Mniotilta varia*), Regular, 1-S
American Redstart, (*Setophaga ruticilla*), Regular, 1-S
Prothonotary Warbler, (*Protonotaria citrea*), Regular, 1-S
Worm-eating Warbler, (*Helmitheros vermivorus*), Casual, 1-P
Swainson's Warbler, (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), Accidental, 1-S
Ovenbird, (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), Regular, 1-S
Northern Waterthrush, (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), Regular, 1-S
Louisiana Waterthrush, (*Seiurus motacilla*), Regular, 1-S
Kentucky Warbler, (*Oporornis formosus*), Regular, 1-S
Connecticut Warbler, (*Oporornis agilis*), Regular, 1-P
Mourning Warbler, (*Oporornis philadelphia*), Regular, 1-S
MacGillivray's Warbler, (*Oporornis tolmiei*), Regular, 1-S
Common Yellowthroat, (*Geothlypis trichas*), Regular, 1-S
Hooded Warbler, (*Wilsonia citrina*), Regular, 1-S
Wilson's Warbler, (*Wilsonia pusilla*), Regular, 1-S
Canada Warbler, (*Wilsonia canadensis*), Regular, 1-S
Yellow-breasted Chat, (*Icteria virens*), Regular, 1-S

Family Thraupidae: Tanagers

Hepatic Tanager, (*Piranga flava*), Accidental, 1-P
Summer Tanager, (*Piranga rubra*), Regular, 1-S
Scarlet Tanager, (*Piranga olivacea*), Regular, 1-S
Western Tanager, (*Piranga ludoviciana*), Regular, 1-S

Family Emberizidae: Towhees, Sparrows and Longspurs

Green-tailed Towhee, (*Pipilo chlorurus*), Regular, 1-S
Spotted Towhee, (*Pipilo maculatus*), Regular, 1-S
Eastern Towhee, (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), Regular, 1-S
Cassin's Sparrow, (*Aimophila cassinii*), Regular, 1-P
American Tree Sparrow, (*Spizella arborea*), Regular, 1-S
Chipping Sparrow, (*Spizella passerina*), Regular, 1-S
Clay-colored Sparrow, (*Spizella pallida*), Regular, 1-S
Brewer's Sparrow, (*Spizella breweri*), Regular, 1-S
Field Sparrow, (*Spizella pusilla*), Regular, 1-S
Vesper Sparrow, (*Pooecetes gramineus*), Regular, 1-S
Lark Sparrow, (*Chondestes grammacus*), Regular, 1-S
Black-throated Sparrow, (*Amphispiza bilineata*), Accidental, 1-P
Sage Sparrow, (*Amphispiza belli*), Accidental, III
Lark Bunting, (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), Regular, 1-S
Savannah Sparrow, (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Regular, 1-S
Grasshopper Sparrow, (*Ammodramus savannarum*), Regular, 1-S
Baird's Sparrow, (*Ammodramus bairdii*), Casual, 1-S
Henslow's Sparrow, (*Ammodramus henslowii*), Regular, 1-S

Le Conte's Sparrow, (*Ammodramus leconteii*), Regular, 1-S
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, (*Ammodramus nelsoni*), Regular, 1-S
Fox Sparrow, (*Passerella iliaca*), Regular, 1-S
Song Sparrow, (*Melospiza melodia*), Regular, 1-S
Lincoln's Sparrow, (*Melospiza lincolnii*), Regular, 1-S
Swamp Sparrow, (*Melospiza georgiana*), Regular, 1-S
White-throated Sparrow, (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), Regular, 1-S
Harris's Sparrow, (*Zonotrichia querula*), Regular, 1-S
White-crowned Sparrow, (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), Regular, 1-S
Golden-crowned Sparrow, (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*), Accidental, 1-P
Dark-eyed Junco, (*Junco hyemalis*), Regular, 1-S
McCown's Longspur, (*Calcarius mccownii*), Regular, 1-S
Lapland Longspur, (*Calcarius lapponicus*), Regular, 1-S
Smith's Longspur, (*Calcarius pictus*), Casual, 1-S
Chestnut-collared Longspur, (*Calcarius ornatus*), Regular, 1-S
Snow Bunting, (*Plectrophenax nivalis*), Regular, 1-S

Family Cardinalidae: Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Allies

Northern Cardinal, (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), Regular, 1-S
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), Regular, 1-S
Black-headed Grosbeak, (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), Regular, 1-S
Blue Grosbeak, (*Passerina caerulea*), Regular, 1-S
Lazuli Bunting, (*Passerina amoena*), Regular, 1-S
Indigo Bunting, (*Passerina cyanea*), Regular, 1-S
Painted Bunting, (*Passerina ciris*), Accidental, 1-S
Dickcissel, (*Spiza americana*), Regular, 1-S

Family Icteridae: Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, Orioles, and Allies

Bobolink, (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), Regular, 1-S
Red-winged Blackbird, (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Regular, 1-S
Eastern Meadowlark, (*Sturnella magna*), Regular, 1-S
Western Meadowlark, (*Sturnella neglecta*), Regular, 1-S
Yellow-headed Blackbird, (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), Regular, 1-S
Rusty Blackbird, (*Euphagus carolinus*), Regular, 1-S
Brewer's Blackbird, (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), Regular, 1-S
Common Grackle, (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Regular, 1-S
Great-tailed Grackle, (*Quiscalus mexicanus*), Regular, 1-S
Brown-headed Cowbird, (*Molothrus ater*), Regular, 1-S
Orchard Oriole, (*Icterus spurius*), Regular, 1-S
Bullock's Oriole, (*Icterus bullockii*), Regular, 1-S
Baltimore Oriole, (*Icterus galbula*), Regular, 1-S
Scott's Oriole, (*Icterus parisorum*), Accidental, III

Family Fringillidae: Finches

Brambling, (*Fringilla montifringilla*), Accidental, 1-P
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*), Casual, 1-S
Black Rosy-Finch, (*Leucosticte atrata*), Accidental, III
Pine Grosbeak, (*Pinicola enucleator*), Accidental, 1-S
Purple Finch, (*Carpodacus purpureus*), Regular, 1-S

Cassin's Finch, (*Carpodacus cassinii*), Regular, 1-S
House Finch, (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), Regular, 1-S
Red Crossbill, (*Loxia curvirostra*), Regular, 1-S
White-winged Crossbill, (*Loxia leucoptera*), Regular, 1-S
Common Redpoll, (*Carduelis flammea*), Regular, 1-S
Hoary Redpoll, (*Carduelis hornemanni*), Accidental, 1-P
Pine Siskin, (*Carduelis pinus*), Regular, 1-S
Lesser Goldfinch, (*Carduelis psaltria*), Casual, 1-P
American Goldfinch, (*Carduelis tristis*), Regular, 1-S
Evening Grosbeak, (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*), Regular, 1-S

Family Passeridae: Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow, (*Passer domesticus*), Regular, 1-S

2003 NOU Records Committee members - Mark A. Brogie (chair), Joe Gubanyi, Joel Jorgensen, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, W. Ross Silcock, and Jerry Toll.

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Table of Contents

Summer Field Report, June - July 2004
by W. Ross Silcock 78
Birds of Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center - 1999-2004
by Kevin Poague 94
In Memory of Clyde E. Johnson 98
The 2001 Nebraska Nesting Report by Wayne J. Mollhoff 99
The Greater Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens atlanticus*)
in Nebraska by W. Ross Silcock 104
The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2003
by Mark A. Brogie 108
Subscription and Organization Information 127