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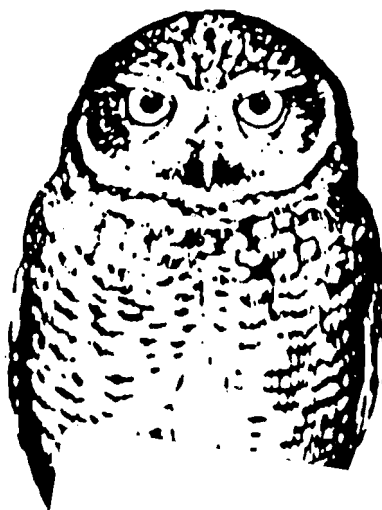
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1992 TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Investments</u>	<u>Total</u>
BALANCE Jan. 1, 1992	1444.36	13,761.22	15,205.58
RECEIPTS:			
Memberships, 1992	1742.00		
Memberships, 1993	257.00		
Memberships, LIFE	300.00		
Subscriptions, 1992	208.00		
Subscriptions, 1993	22.50		
Ne Bird Rev. copies	4.00		
Field cards	5.25		
Misc. publications	26.50		
Winter meeting	356.82		
Fall meeting	889.50		
V.pres. acct.	38.80		
Interest	69.00	672.00	
Gifts	525.00		
Sales tax	1.50		
Miscellaneous	.71		
CD cashed (1/92)	2368.87	(-2368.87)	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	6815.45	-1696.87	
EXPENSES:			
Nebraska Bird Review			
Vol. 59 (4-5)'91			
Vol. 60 (1-3)'92	3067.21		
Newsletters			
Dec.'91 and 6			
issues in '92	626.54		
Bylaws printing and			
Mail ballot	492.46		
Membership brochure,			
printing	127.80		
Postage permit 6/92	300.00		
Postage permit 12/92	75.00		
Officers' Expenses			
President 6/91-6/92	314.06		
Vice-Pres. '91-9/92	97.31		
Treasurer	51.08		
Editor	53.98		
Librarian	60.29		
New projector (library)	511.89		
Records Committee	13.19		
Nominating Committee	6.16		
Parliamentarian	50.00		
Winter meeting	481.89		
Fall meeting	719.50		
1991 sales tax	14.01		
Opening savings acct.	10.00	10.00	
CD purchase	400.00	400.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	7472.37		
BALANCE:			
December 31, 1992	787.44	12,474.35	13,261.79

SAMUEL AUGHEY'S LIST OF NEBRASKA BIRDS (1878): A CRITICAL EVALUATION

Roger S. Sharpe

Department of Biology, University of Nebraska at Omaha

The University of Nebraska was founded in Lincoln in 1869, but finances did not allow the addition of a scientist until 1875, when Samuel Aughey was added to the staff to fill the first chair of natural history (Pound and Clements 1900). Although a theologian by training, Aughey wrote prolifically on a number of natural-history subjects pertaining to Nebraska, including its flora, fauna, and geology. A summary of his impressions of the natural history of the state, including its biota, was published in a book, "Sketches of the Physical Geography and Geology of Nebraska" (Aughey 1880), which was printed in Omaha. Shortly after its printing in 1883, Aughey was released from the University for a variety of reasons, including some alleged improprieties. Perhaps these were but an excuse by the administration to terminate Aughey's services; it is possible, albeit conjectural, that administrators and co-workers had begun to question seriously his capability and integrity as a scientist.

Aughey's works, early and potentially important, unfortunately have left subsequent scientists and readers with many questions about their accuracy and authenticity. As early as 1894, Aughey's botanical findings were seriously challenged. Pound and Clements (1900), in referring to Aughey, wrote that,

..the University was not fortunate in the person who first filled the old chair of natural history. Not only was no adequate work done upon the flora of Nebraska during his term, but what was done has required undoing. The pretentious catalogue, enumerating some 2,000 species, put forth by Professor Aughey in 1875, and his lists given in other writings, might lead one to suppose that the flora of the State was well known when he severed his connection with the University. The facts are otherwise. His collections contain not more than 200 species, and are confined to the southeastern portion of the State. His catalogue and his lists, as has been shown elsewhere (Bot. Surv. Neb., 3: 43, 1894), were based almost entirely upon conjecture as to the range of species, taken from data in the manuals, and they have proved entirely unreliable.

After a careful review of Aughey's list of Nebraska birds (1878), it is my opinion that the list suffers from the same shortcomings as his plant list. It contains many potentially spurious accounts, and therefore should be used with discretion as an historic ornithological resource.

Aughey's list, entitled "Notes on the Nature of the Food of the Birds of Nebraska", was published in the 1878 Report of the United States Entomological Commission as Appendix II, pages 13-62. A portion of the main body of the report (pages 338-350) also contains a narrative of Aughey's findings, particularly as they relate to the relationships between "locusts" and their avian predators. From what can be gathered in the main body of the report, major periodic eruptions of locusts, particularly migrating locusts, *Caloptenus spretus* (now *Melanoplus spretus*, Order Orthoptera) occurred in the Great Plains during Aughey's residence in Nebraska. These eruptions resulted in significant crop depredation, and thus stimulated considerable investigation by local scientists and agricultural specialists, particularly those associated with local colleges and universities such as the University of Nebraska, where Aughey was employed. Locust eruptions apparently were of sufficient economic impact so as to draw the attention of the federal government, which published local and regional findings in government documents such as that in which Aughey's report was published.

Aughey's report includes observations made over 13 years during the period 1864-1878, as a resident in Nebraska (page 13, Appendix II), and represents the first comprehensive list of birds by a resident scientist. Thus, Aughey's list has been treated by some authors (Bruner 1896; Bruner et al. 1904) as the first serious work on Nebraska birds, and is often cited in works that attempt to establish historic avian distributions. Other important works (American Ornithologists' Union 1957, 1983; Ridgeway 1901-1918) have apparently used Bruner (1896) and Bruner et al. (1904) as sources for Nebraska locations in establishing geographic distributions for a number of species. Unfortunately, some important early and unique records rest solely on the observations of Aughey.

Earlier lists and notes by explorers and naturalists reflected short-term (less than one year) stays by observers. Noteworthy earlier compilations include those of Thomas Say (Thwaites 1904, Appendix A), who spent the winter and spring of 1819-1820 near present-day Omaha, and J. J. Audubon, who carefully recorded species encountered on his trip up the Missouri River in 1843 (Coues and Audubon 1960). These accounts, though based on short-term experiences, in my opinion reflect a more accurate record of the historic avifauna in Nebraska than that of Aughey. The picture they paint of their contemporary environments suggests that habitats and their associated avifauna have changed little in composition to the present time.

Aughey's list of birds includes 252 species, 250 of which he records as having been observed or taken as specimens in Nebraska. Included for most species are accounts that often reflect his personal observations, including relative abundance, geographic distribution in the state, seasonal occurrence, breeding activity, and food habits. Interestingly, nearly all of the species are represented as being predatory on locusts, including Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), and Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*).

The following comparisons illustrate some of the more surprising findings in his list, along with my comments:

Excerpts from Aughey's List

Author's Comments

Hermit Thrush (*Turdus Pallasi*, Cab.), p. 14, listed as having been taken near Dakota City, NE on June 6, 1865.

Assuming this to be *Catharus guttatus* (Pallas), it is unlikely that this species would be present at this latitude and in this environment at this late date. This species is migratory in Nebraska and nests in coniferous spruce forests. The latest Nebraska spring record for this species, as published in The Nebraska Bird Review, 1933-1990, is May 26, 1968, Cass Co.

Olive-backed Thrush (*Turdus swainsoni*, Cab.), p. 14, listed as having been taken near Dakota City, NE on June 15 and 17, 1875.

Likely referring to *Catharus ustulatus* (Nuttall), Swainson's Thrush. These records would represent late spring extremes, compared to modern records (May 26, 29, June 6). On p.15 Aughey lists a specimen of a Catbird as having been taken in Lancaster Co. on June 15, 1875, but does not indicate in either case whether he was in both locations on that same date (not possible given the available means of transportation in the 1870's), or whether some assistant was

Excerpts from Aughey's ListAuthor's Comments

(Swainson's Thrush cont'd)

securing specimens for him in one location while he was elsewhere (not acknowledged in the paper).

Veery (*Turdus fuscescens*, Steph), p.15, listed as having been taken in Richardson County on June 5, 1875.

Referring to *Catharus fuscescens* (Stephens). A coniferous forest species, which is migratory in Nebraska. Modern, late-spring records include May 27, 28, June 12, while the main, modern migratory movement is the middle of May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*, L.), p. 16. A specimen is listed as having been taken in Dakota County on June 5, 1865.

The contemporary migration patterns indicate that this species moves through the state in April. Straggler dates include May 27 and 29. Aughey's specimen would represent an extremely late date.

Golden-crested Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*, L.), p.16. "Have not seen them south of the Platte. In June, 1865, observed it picking up small locusts, east of Dakota City, in a sparse wood near the river."

The Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa* Lichtenstein) is a regular spring and fall migrant in Nebraska, and often overwinters. Latest spring dates include May 3, 5, and 28. No modern June records.

Western Bluebird (*Cinclus mexicanus*, Sw.), p. 16. "Rare in Nebraska. Seen..in August on the Niobrara ... in dense timber...Hon. J. Sterling Morton says that they are abundant in Otoe County."

There are no documented records for *Siala mexicana* Swainson for Nebraska.

Pygmy Nuthatch, *Sitta pygmaea*, Vig., p.17. "Met this bird for the first time this season in Nebraska...in the timbered bottom and bluffs of the Niobrara River..."

Sitta pygmaea is found in northwest Nebraska, associated with *Pinus ponderosa* woodland. Aughey's accounts suggest that he only explored the mouth of the Niobrara River, which from his time to the present has been dominated by a deciduous tree flora.

Rock Wren, *Salpinctes obsoletus*, (Say) Cab., p. 18. "In June, 1875, also found a nest in an old stump on Salt Creek [Lancaster County, author], and observed the parents feed their young with small locusts."

I know of no sources, including Bent (1964), that mention Rock Wrens as nesting in other than clay and sandstone banks, rock crevices and ledges, piles of rocks, and other similar locations. Furthermore, there are no other southeast Nebraska breeding records. His list also includes House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), and Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), suggesting that he could distinguish among these.

Nashville Warbler, *Helminthophaga ruficapilla* (Wils.), p. 20."..Some seasons at least breeds in and on the borders of the timber belts. On June 10, 1865, I found a young one that had just left the nest and flew with difficulty."

Refers to *Vermivora ruficapilla* (Wilson). The nearest recent and historic breeding for this species is southeastern Minnesota (AOU Checklist 1957). It is found breeding in climax eastern deciduous forest (Bent 1963). No other known Nebraska breeding records.

Excerpts from Aughey's ListAuthor's Comments

Virginia's Warbler, *Helminthophaga virginiae*, Bd., p. 20. "Have only seen one specimen of this bird in Southwestern Nebraska in a narrow belt of timber in the Republican River Bottom, in Hitchcock County."

Refers to *Vermivora virginiae* (Baird). This species prefers low-growing, shrubby vegetation for nesting habitat, and is common as far eastward as the lower elevations of the eastern slopes of the Colorado Rockies (Bent 1963). It has been noted casually in western Kansas as a migrant (AOU 1957). Two Nebraska records have been cited. The record by Bruner et al. (1904) refers to Aughey's sighting. It was reported in The Nebraska Bird Review (32: 67, 77. 1964) but the sighting was unsubstantiated. The absence of plant specimens taken by Aughey from this location, or of any other bird observations in this location, leads one to question whether he actually visited the site. On the other hand, there is some limited chance that migratory Virginia's Warblers could occasionally travel through extreme southwest Nebraska, as evidenced by western Kansas records.

Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroeca virens*, (GM.) Bd. p. 21. Aughey lists five specimens, one taken June 5, 1865, two on June 6, and two on June 14, 1875.

Twentieth century Nebraska records for this species, *Dendroica virens* (Gmelin), indicate that it is a regular, but uncommon, migrant in eastern Nebraska. The preponderance (almost 50%) of sightings is during the first ten days of May. Latest spring dates are May 19 and May 22.

Caerulean Warbler, *Dendroeca coerulea*, (Wils.) Bd., p. 21. "All the nests (six) that I have found in thirteen years in Nebraska were built in plum-bushes, from two to four feet from the ground. One such I watched near Pilgrim Hill, in Dakota County, Nebraska, in June, 1865. The parents every few minutes brought a locust to their young. I saw them picking them up, with my fieldglasses, and carrying them to their nests."

It is not clear whether Aughey was referring to *Dendroica caerulescens* (Gmelin), the Black-throated Blue Warbler, or *Dendroica cerulea* (Wilson), the Cerulean Warbler, but I suspect the latter. The Black-throated Blue Warbler indeed nests in low shrubbery, but is not known to nest in Nebraska (AOU 1957). The Cerulean Warbler, for which there are a number of Nebraska nesting records, builds its nest very high (more than 40 feet) in deciduous forest trees (Bent 1963). The three nests that I have observed in Nebraska were all in excess of 40 feet above the ground, and positioned near the tips of horizontal branches. My guess is that Aughey knew of the presence of the "Cerulean" Warbler in the state, but "extracted" his breeding information from a source that was referring to *D. caerulescens*, the Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Excerpts from Aughey's ListAuthor's Comments

Prairie Warbler, *Dendroeca discolor*, (Vieill.) Bd., p. 22. "Abundant in Eastern Nebraska, where it breeds. I have seen the young in Dakota County, and found one nest in Richardson County..." Specimen dates of June 1, 2, 4, and 14.

Since 1928, there are seven recorded spring sightings of the Prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor* (Vieillot), in Nebraska, ranging in date from April 21 to May 20. It is considered accidental in South Dakota with two records (Whitney 1978). Just 26 years after Aughey's list, Bruner et al. (1904) carefully note that "recent observers do not find it so [abundant, in referring to Aughey's comments] by any means. Since then [1878, Aughey's list], Bruner has noted it at West Point and Omaha, and L. Skow at the latter locality also. It should be found breeding in small numbers along the Missouri river, especially southward." These authors give no argument for this last statement, except the citation of Aughey's findings, nor do they give any additional breeding records. It should also be noted that the most recent editions of the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds (1957, 1983) state that the Prairie Warbler breeds "from southeastern South Dakota, eastern Nebraska (Dakota County, Omaha), eastern Kansas, central Missouri..." It appears that breeding distribution remarks for this species in the AOU Checklists are based on Aughey's findings, and perhaps on a misinterpretation of the remarks of Bruner et al. (1904). The Prairie Warbler is clearly a species that is attracted to old fields, which have undergone succession to brush (Bent 1963). It is not likely that in Aughey's time, any fields were allowed to go fallow, given that eastern Nebraska was then undergoing intensive agricultural development (Hayden 1867). I suspect that Aughey, living in a prairie state, was misguided by the common name of the species, Prairie Warbler, which Bent (1963) notes "is a decided misnomer, as it is not to be found on the real prairies of the Middle West," and included this species in his list on the basis of its name, adding details to make it appear legitimate.

Mourning Warbler, *Geothlypis philadelphia* (Wils.) Bd., p. 23. "Found in eastern Nebraska, and breeds in at least the southeastern part of the State, where I once saw the old birds feed the young..."

Refers to *Oporornis philadelphia* (Wilson). This is the only Nebraska breeding record for a species whose nearest breeding population is northcentral Minnesota (Green and Janssen 1975). This species prefers, as nesting habitat, moist forest edge with a groundcover of moss and fern (Bent 1963).

Brotherly-love Vireo, *Vireo philadelphicus*, Cass., p. 27. "It also breeds here, ..." He lists specimen dates of May 27, June 5, 16, and 17.

The Philadelphia Vireo is a spring and fall migrant in Nebraska. Nearly 50% of the records are for the middle ten days of May. Latest spring dates of occurrence for a 60-year period are May

Excerpts from Aughey's ListAuthor's Comments

(Philadelphia Vireo cont'd)

21, June 1, and June 26. There are no documented Nebraska breeding records for this species, which occupies, as breeding habitat, early successional stages (willow and alder), and edges of climax-type eastern deciduous forest.

Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula* (Nutt.) Gamb., p. 31. "Have noticed it in winter, but have frequently seen the young in the northeastern part of the State."

It is extremely unlikely that this tundra-nesting species (Harris' Sparrow) would have nested in Nebraska during Aughey's time. It is conceivable that Aughey mistook migrating and overwintering individuals, which lacked much of the dark "bib" as juveniles.

Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica* (Linn.) Bd., p. 39. "Those that I examined in May and June...invariably had more or less locusts in their stomachs."

It is not likely that this aerial insectivore, which is equipped to capture very small, flighted insects, would be feeding on early-instar, flightless grasshoppers.

Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, *Sphyrapicus varius* (Linn.) Bd. p. 41. Aughey lists specimens for June from Dakota, Dixon, and Lancaster Counties.

All Nebraska records since his list suggest that the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is a migrant and winter visitor.

American Long-eared Owl, *Otus vulgaris wilsonianus*, (Less.) Allen, p. 42. "This one, captured in July, 1865, in Dakota County, had a few insects and part of a rabbit in its stomach."

Refers to *Asio otus* (L.). The Long-eared Owl is not known to feed on insects, and only rarely takes juvenile rabbits (Bent 1961).

Short-eared Owl, *Brachyotus palustris*, (Bechst.) Gould., p. 42. "I found one nest in a burrow on the side of a bluff in Dixon County."

Refers to *Asio flammeus* (Pontoppidan). This species nests on the ground in grasslands, and is not known to nest in burrows. It is conceivable that Aughey mistook this sighting for a Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*, however, he apparently was familiar with this species, given his account of it in his list.

Snowy Owl, *Nyctaea scandiaca* (Forst.) Boie., p. 43. "I regret to be compelled to say that three out of the four that I dissected... had only the remains of quail and grouse in their stomachs. The fourth...had 10 insects and a rabbit..."

The Snowy Owl is widely known as a predator on small rodents. Nowhere in the literature is there a suggestion that it feeds on insects, nor does it feed on birds. It is likely not capable of capturing quail.

Red-tailed Buzzard, *Buteo borealis*, (Gm.) Vieill., p.45. "The single one (specimen)...had 37 insects and a quail in its stomach."

Refers to *B. jamaicensis* (Gmelin). It is highly unlikely that the Red-tailed Hawk could capture a quail.

<u>Excerpts from Aughey's List</u>	<u>Author's Comments</u>
Arctic Tern, <i>Sterna macrura</i> , Naum., p. 61. "Only saw a few of these terns in Dixon County in May, 1866."	If Aughey was referring to <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> , he likely was confusing this species with <i>S. hirundo</i> (Common Tern) or <i>S. forsteri</i> (Forster's Tern).
Black Tern, <i>Hydrochelidon lariformis</i> (Linn.) Coues. p. 62. Among the stomach contents of six specimens, Aughey listed the following: Locusts, other insects, crawfish (twice), snails, frog, lizard.	Refers to <i>Chlidonias niger</i> (L.). The Black Tern is widely known as an insectivore that feeds on the water's surface.

The foregoing are the most glaring deviations that appear in Aughey's list. Many additional records and comments raise questions in the reader's mind. The bird list that was published in his 1880 book suffers from similar problems.

One can understand occasional errors in identification, a problem common to early naturalists. They were limited by inadequate field identification equipment, including poor-quality field glasses and the lack of field guides. In those days, "a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush", and a freshly killed specimen was identified using a key such as that of Coues (1874), which was one of the few identification sources available to Aughey. However, one cannot easily explain why Aughey apparently borrowed from other sources to develop his description of the Nebraska avifauna. Perhaps the university administration held unreasonable expectations about his scholarly production, and he was forced to fabricate in order to retain his natural-history chair. Perhaps federal funds for research were dependent on his level of productivity. Perhaps he was limited in his ability to travel, which was largely by horseback and buggy in those days in Nebraska. Or, perhaps he was overzealous in his eagerness to establish his name as a leading natural historian in the Great Plains.

It is also unknown why the early zoologists at the University such as Lawrence Bruner, Robert Wolcott, and Myron Swenk, did not heed the warnings of their contemporary botanists such as Pound and Clements, and question the integrity of Aughey's list. However, Bruner was an entomologist, as was his student, Myron Swenk, and they looked upon birds as important enemies of insect pests (Bruner et al. 1904). They also used Aughey's information about food habits to support their arguments for bird protection. Wolcott was a parasitologist and used dead birds as sources of parasites. It is also possible that the botanists and zoologists were highly competitive and not on good terms, and the zoologists defended Aughey's work.

Aughey's list clearly has difficulties. What his motives were to generate such a list, and why it was perpetuated by later workers, may never be explained. It is my hope, however, to have raised sufficient questions that future workers who use his list to establish historic, geographic, avian distributions, carefully consider the record.

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BIRD COUNT, NOU WINTER MEETING, GRAND ISLAND, NE FEBRUARY 26-28, 1993

The list of 56 species was compiled by Scott Purdy, Vice-President, NOU. The temperature ranged from 0-30° F and the days were sunny. There was 100% snow cover, and water areas were 99% iced over. The five counties included are abbreviated as follows: B = Buffalo, H = Hall, HA = Hamilton, HO = Howard, M = Merrick.

Great Blue Heron (H); Canada Goose (H); Mallard (H); Northern Pintail (H); Northern Shoveler (H); American Wigeon (H); Common Goldeneye (H); Common Merganser (H, M); Bald Eagle (B, H, HO); Northern Harrier (H); Sharp-shinned Hawk (H); Red-tailed Hawk (H, M); Rough-legged Hawk (H, M); American Kestrel (H); Merlin (H); Prairie Falcon (H); Ring-necked Pheasant (B, H); Greater Prairie-Chicken (H); Wild Turkey (H); Northern Bobwhite (HO); American Coot (H); Common Snipe (H); Rock Dove (H); Great Horned Owl (H); Belted Kingfisher (H); Red-bellied Woodpecker (HO); Downy Woodpecker (H, HO); Hairy Woodpecker (H, HO); Northern Flicker (H); Horned Lark (H, HA, HO, M); Blue Jay (H); Black-billed Magpie (H, HO, M); American Crow (H, HO); Black-capped Chickadee (H, HO, M); White-breasted Nuthatch (H, HO); Brown Creeper (H); Golden-crowned Kinglet (H); American Robin (H, M); Cedar Waxwing (H); Northern Shrike (H); Loggerhead Shrike (H); European Starling (H, HA, M); Northern Cardinal (H, M); Rufous-sided Towhee (H); American Tree Sparrow (H, HO); Song Sparrow (H); White-crowned Sparrow (H); Harris' Sparrow (H, HO); Dark-eyed Junco (H, M); Red-winged Blackbird (H); Western Meadowlark (B, H, HA, M); Purple Finch (H); House Finch (H); Pine Siskin (H, HO); American Goldfinch (H, HO); House Sparrow (H, HO).

1992 NEBRASKA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 1992 count was based on eight locations, giving a total of 98 species. This is 11 less than for the 1991 count, and is the first time the number of species has dropped below 100 in the past six years. There were 51,158 individual birds in the 1992 count, which is also the lowest individual count over the six-year period. The individual count includes 271 not identified to species, distributed as follows: Accipiters (3), Buteos (3), Hawks (5), Falcons (1), Gulls (2), Owls (1), Wrens (1), Meadowlarks (219), and Blackbirds (36). They are included in Table 1 following the species observations for each group. Lake McConoughy, which was a very successful area in 1991, was not covered for the 1992 count.

Locations and Participants (Compilers in Parentheses):

Beaver Valley: center at NW corner of Sec. 5, T21N, R7W, 41° 50' N, 98° 10' W, near Petersburg, Boone County. WAYNE MOLLHOFF. Count made after 4-5 days of intermittent freezing drizzle, which made most of the normal food inaccessible, and made the birds difficult to find. These conditions also were present in the Loup City area.

Grand Island: center at NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 1, T10N, R10W, including all of Grand Island, Cornhusker State WMA, south half of Hall County Airport, and Crystal Lake. Colleen Babcock, Faye Conlon, Tom Conlon, Anne Kruse, Ron Kruse, GARY LINGLE, Ryan Lingle, Connie McCartney, Jim Meyer, Scott Purdy, John Purdy, Vern Throop, Erika Wilson. There were record high counts for Sharp-shinned Hawk, Eastern Screech-Owl, and Pine Siskin, and one new species for the region, the Lark Sparrow.

Kearney: center at bridge over the Platte River south of Kearney, including Kearney Cemetery, Harmon Park, Cottonmill Park, Alfalfa Center, Odessa bridge, Fawn Woods Lake, Fort Kearny State Historical

Park, and the Bike-Hike Trail. Field Observers: Bonnie Bernholtz, George Brown, Marian Brown, Laurie Brown, Bonnie Chuzara, ROBIN HARDING, LANNY RANDOLPH, Mark Urwiller, Vicki Urwiller, Zack Urwiller, Jamie Urwiller, Heather Whitaker. Feeder Observers: John Bliese, Margaret Bliese, Bev Kimball, Norma Schrack, Ward Schrack.

Lincoln: center at South Coddington and West A Streets, including Pioneers Park, about 8 miles of Wilderness Park, Lagoon Park, Yankee Lake and Conestoga Lake areas, eastern half of Pawnee Lake, and Wyuka Cemetery. Field Observers: Irene Alexander, Ann Bleed, Cindy Cochran, David Cochran, Jan DeGarmo, Kevin DeGarmo, Joe Doremus, Larry Einemann, DARYL GIBLIN, MARGARET GIBLIN, Joseph Gubanyi, Carolyn Hall, Nancy Hall, Ellen Harrington, Jeffrey Huebschman, Norma Johnson-Mueller, Karla Kaufman, Paul Kaufman, Tim Knott, Thomas Labedz, Rosalind Morris, Ken Reitan, Roger Riss, Hazel Scheiber, Don Showen, Charles Sullivan, John Sullivan, Frances Taylor. Feeder Observers: George Alexander, Maxine Keller, Barbara Voeltz.

Daryl Giblin's detailed account about trends in species in the Lincoln area is summarized in the following paragraphs:

"The decline in the density of Eastern Screech-Owls is continuing, as is the decline in the number of Long-eared Owls that overwinter in this region. In the former case, the lack of suitable nesting and roosting sites may be more significant than the creeping urbanization and clean farming practices. Twenty years ago, there were many dead trees following in the wake of Dutch elm disease through the countryside. Today, there are few dead trees left; most get rendered to firewood. The slow decline of Wood Ducks in this area is probably due to the same problems. Resident Canada Geese are increasing in numbers and are starting to be seen as nuisances by residents around the lakes.

"A male Hooded Merganser was reported from Holmes Lake, and several more were seen at Branched Oak Lake, which is outside the count area. An immature Double-crested Cormorant was reported from Yankee Hill Lake, and a number at Branched Oak Lake. These two species, along with other waterfowl and water-related birds, have lingered in the area due to favorable weather and open water conditions, which persisted throughout the fall until the count date. Therefore, none of these species ought to be considered unusual or rare.

"Some species appear to have moved into this area. They include Wild Turkey, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, and Black-billed Magpie. In addition, there has been a resident Peregrine Falcon in Lincoln for over three years.

"The Prairie Falcon used to be uncommon in the winter but had gone into decline. However, in the last few years, this species has been appearing in the winter, and this year there are several in the Lincoln area. Observers described a large, light-brown falcon with black wingpits, which help to distinguish this species from the Peregrine Falcon. Merlins often persist into early winter here, and are usually found near grain elevators, where they prey upon pigeons and other birds that congregate there.

"The Swamp Sparrow, which used to be a common migrant and uncommon winter bird, has declined dramatically. It is not evident that there is an underlying problem with winter habitat compared to 10-15 years ago.

"Meadowlarks and American Tree Sparrows are slowly increasing in numbers after populations decimations during the severe winter of 1983-1984. Western Meadowlarks were identified by songs, and all non-singing meadowlarks were reported as meadowlark sp.

"The Field Sparrow and Brewer's Blackbird are examples of common and still lingering migrants. The characteristic markings of the Field Sparrow (solid rusty cap and eye line, white eye-ring, pink bill and legs, and clear, light breast) serve to distinguish this species from

the immature White-crowned Sparrow and American Tree Sparrow.

"Identification of the Brewer's Blackbird was made on the basis of its smaller size (Robin size) relative to the Common Grackle, with a proportionately much shorter tail, lack of rusty appearance, which is characteristic of the Rusty Blackbird in winter, relatively shorter bill than the Rusty Blackbird, and overall shiny-black appearance (no brown head).

"The Smith's Longspurs were found in the company of the Lapland Longspurs, the Snow Bunting, and a flock of about 500 Horned Larks that were feeding in, and flying about, a field of short winter wheat. They were spotted first on the basis of their overall buffy color below and above. Their backs were streaked and breasts were lightly streaked. The outer tail feathers were whitish. The light-colored, streaked back, sparrow bill, and behavior (no tail-bobbing) distinguished them from Water Pipits. The horizontal posture, light (not heavy) streaking on breast, and lack of a rufous wing-patch serve to distinguish them from Vesper Sparrows. We are just outside of the normal wintering range for the Smith's Longspur, but it was observed regularly during the severe winters in the late 1970s and early 1980s, presumably due to the ice and snow forcing them closer to roads and making them more visible. During those severe winters, the Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings appeared to be more numerous."

Frances Louise Taylor indicated that the Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, and Smith's Longspurs were first occurrences for the Christmas count in the Lincoln area, while the Double-crested Cormorant was a second occurrence. The Lapland Longspurs and the single Snow Bunting were the first to be seen since the early 1980's.

Loup City: center at NW corner of Sec 13, T15N, R15W, 1N, 41° 17' N, 98° 59' W, Sherman County. WAYNE MOLLHOFF.

North Platte: The group did not use an official center according to the rules of the National Audubon Society. They branched out from Centennial Road to include different types of terrain. Robert Bailey, Esther Cunningham, Harold Cunningham, Greg Hoover, Margaret Morton, R. M. Raney, Darlene Schick, Marvin Tickle, Ryan Tickle, WILMA WYMAN, Howard Wyman.

Omaha: center at Offutt Air Force Base Lake including Fontenelle Forest, Lake Manawa (Iowa) State Park, Plattsmouth Waterfowl Refuge, and portions of the Platte and Missouri Rivers. Glenn Albert, Betty Allen, Jim Alt, Mary Babcock, Treasure Baker, Carol Beaty, Shelly Bonsall, Tanya Bray, Sue Gentes, Sue Gilliam, Ruth Green, BETTY GRENON, Sam Grill, Essie Grill, Craig Hensley, Ed Higgins, Father Thomas Hoffman, Clem Klaphake, Ray Korpi, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Susan Lobmeier, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Chris Rasmussen, Richard Rasmussen, Neal Ratzlaff, Kathleen Rose, Eric Scholar, David Smith, Robert Starr, Jerry Toll, Suzanne Winkler.

Betty Grenon sent the following documentation for the two Ring-necked Ducks: white crescent on side, dark head, dark bill with a white stripe above the nail, light belly, smaller than a Mallard.

Scottsbluff: center at Visitors' Center at Scotts Bluff National Monument, 41° 51' N, 103° 39' W. Mary Allison, Helen Hughson, ALICE KENITZ, Robert Larkin, Brad McKinney, Doug Thomas, Edna Claire Thomas, Nora Mae Vance, Margaret Varga. Additional species seen during count week but not on count day were Golden Eagle, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Northern Cardinal.

Details of the on the Christmas counts in eight locations is given in Table 1 on pages 14-19, and the data on weather conditions, hours, distances, and numbers of observers are shown in Table 2 on pages 19-20.

TABLE 1. 1992 CHRISTMAS COUNTS FOR EIGHT LOCATIONS IN NEBRASKA

Name of Bird	Scotts-bluff	North Platte	Loup City	Kearney	Grand Island	Beaver Valley	Lincoln	Omaha
Amer. White Pelican		1						
Double-crested Cormorant							1	
Great Blue Heron	3	3					8	2
Greater White-fronted Goose								3
Snow Goose		1			3		26 + 2 Blue	5
Canada Goose	1195	1138		5000	1043		1804	527
Green-winged Teal	40	1		4				1
Mallard	1636	5	78	106	4186	2500	773	393
Northern Pintail	1				1		1	
Gadwall	2		2				1	
Amer. Wigeon	1		2					
Redhead					1			
Ring-necked Duck								2
Lesser Scaup								1
Common Goldeneye	5		1	4	2		19	146
Hooded Merganser							1	
Common Merganser	1			8	3		17	288
Ruddy Duck							1	1

Name of Bird	Scotts-bluff	North Platte	Loup City	Kearney	Grand Island	Beaver Valley	Lincoln	Omaha
Bald Eagle (total)	9	38		14	16	9	2	43
Immature	3				11	3		6
Adult	6				5	6	2	37
Undesignated		38		14				
Northern Harrier	2			1	6		4	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				1	3		1	1
Cooper's Hawk		2		1			1	
Northern Goshawk					1			
Accipiter sp.							1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	1	20	1	7	25	4	47	53
Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk						1		
Ferruginous Hawk			1					
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	1		1	5	2	
Buteo spp.								3
Hawk spp.							5	
Golden Eagle		2				1 ad		
Amer. Kestrel	3	21	1	7	11	1	25	35
Merlin	1				1		1	1
Peregrine Falcon							1	
Prairie Falcon	1	1			3		2	
Falcon sp.							1	

TABLE 1. 1992 CHRISTMAS COUNTS FOR EIGHT LOCATIONS IN NEBRASKA

Name of Bird	Scotts-bluff	North Platte	Loup City	Kearney	Grand Island	Beaver Valley	Lincoln	Omaha
Ring-necked Pheasant			3	8	17	3	46	2
Greater Prairie-Chicken		35				12		
Sharp-tailed Grouse	2	104				1		
Wild Turkey	39	38			7			38
Northern Bobwhite					16		34	
Amer. Coot					5			
Common Snipe	1				3	4		
Ring-billed Gull				1			360	1
Herring Gull							33	
Gull spp.								2
Rock Dove	62	60	2	222	134	4	685	118
Mourning Dove	2	2			3		53	10
Eastern Screech-Owl			1		10	1	18	5
Great Horned Owl	3	3	2	2	8	2	22	3
Barred Owl							3	2
Long-eared Owl							10	1
Owl sp.							1	
Belted Kingfisher	2			1	4	1	5	3
Red-headed Woodpecker					2		3	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		6	4	1	4	1	17	56

Name of Bird	Scotts-bluff	North Platte	Loup City	Kearney	Grand Island	Beaver Valley	Lincoln	Omaha
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				1			2	1
Downy Woodpecker	6	13	2	10	13	3	51	99
Hairy Woodpecker		4		1	1		17	14
Northern Flicker (total no.)	26	16	1	23	42	1	26	52
Yellow-sh.	1		1			1	13	50
Red-sh.	19						1	2
Yellow-sh. x Red-sh.	2							
Undesignated	4	16		23	42		12	
Horned Lark	1317	2	43	62	40	21	718	153
Blue Jay	35	12	7	17	16	2	327	86
Black-billed Magpie	38	10	1	9	8	3	1	
American Crow	87	357	57	162	62	12	482	149
Black-capped Chickadee	22	25	13	20	111	6	290	421
Tufted Titmouse								31
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	1					6	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	4	5	30	11	5	60	123
Brown Creeper		1		5		1	23	5

TABLE 1. 1992 CHRISTMAS COUNTS FOR EIGHT LOCATIONS IN NEBRASKA

Name of Bird	Scotts-bluff	North Platte	Loup City	Kearney	Grand Island	Beaver Valley	Lincoln	Omaha
Carolina Wren							1	4
Marsh Wren						1		
Wren sp.					1			
Golden-crowned Kinglet				10	8		51	13
Eastern Bluebird				1				1
Mountain Bluebird		68						
Townsend's Solitaire	3	1		4				
American Robin	34	1081	226	70	459		11	5
Brown Thrasher					1		1	
Cedar Waxwing		88	6	38	10			81
Northern Shrike	3	6	1		2	1	3	
Loggerhead Shrike					1		1	
European Starling	1694	451	50	205	1532	23	2507	844
Northern Cardinal		9	7	6	8	1	126	194
Rufous-sided Towhee							1	
American Tree Sparrow	48	396	12	82	169	74	414	193
Field Sparrow				1			1	
Lark Sparrow					3			
Song Sparrow	2		1	5	1	1	14	8
White-throated Sparrow				1			4	

Name of Bird	Scotts-bluff	North Platte	Loup City	Kearney	Grand Island	Beaver Valley	Lincoln	Omaha
White-crowned Sparrow	53						1	
Harris' Sparrow		1	2	3	26	3	130	8
Dark-eyed Junco (total)	138	670	4	40	201	44	484	460
Slate-color.	9		1			32	76	460
Oregon	86		3			12	7	
Undesignated	43	670		40	201		401	
Lapland Longspur							16	
Smith's Longspur							2	
Snow Bunting							1	
Red-winged Blackbird	150			1	1	100	207	89
Western Meadowlark	32	3		5	25	2	9	
Meadowlark spp.							167	52
Brewer's Blackbird							1	
Common Grackle		14	1			3	3	2
Brown-headed Cowbird				1		26	40	
Blackbird spp.							2	34
Purple Finch		6			2			
House Finch	130	140		18	13		46	
Pine Siskin	28	3		3	72		109	119
American Goldfinch	25	479		35	166	5	288	221

TABLE 1. 1992 CHRISTMAS COUNTS FOR EIGHT LOCATIONS IN NEBRASKA

Name of Bird	Scotts-bluff	North Platte	Loup City	Kearney	Grand Island	Beaver Valley	Lincoln	Omaha
House Sparrow	1261	701	70	77	288	16	1551	865
No. of Species	46	48	32	48	58	38	74	55
Total No. of Birds	8147	6044	640	6334	8811	2904	12	

TABLE 2 . 1992 CHRISTMAS COUNT INFORMATION AND WEATHER CONDITIONS, 1992.

Count data	Scotts-bluff	North Platte	Loup City	Kearney	Grand Island	Beaver Valley	Lincoln	Omaha
Date	Dec. 19	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Dec. 19	Dec. 19	Jan. 2	Dec. 20	Dec. 19
Start a.m.	7:30	7:30	7:45	8:00	5:20	8:00		6:45
End p.m.	4:00	3:00	4:30	5:00	5:45	5:00		5:00
Miles, Car	160.75.7		96		335	80	377	542.6
Miles, Foot	1.5		5		7	6	79	33.5
Miles Owling	0		0		25	0	45.3	47
Hours, Car	15		5.5		24	5	28.1	39.5
Hours, Foot	1.5		3.75		8	4	72.3	38.25
Hours, Owling	0		0		3	0	7.2	6.75
Hours at Feeders	10		0		0	0	16.1	7.5
Max.Temp. (F)	24	31	20	25	30	26		28
Min. Temp. (F)	0	20	12	12	16	20		18
Wind Direction	WNW	SE	NW		NW	NW		NW
Wind Speed (mph)	0-15	10-15	15-25	Little wind	5-10	5-15		5-10

Count data	Scotts-bluff	North Platte	Loup City	Kearney	Grand Island	Beaver Valley	Lincoln	Omaha
Weather (a.m.)	Clear	Heavy overcast & frosty	Cloudy, light snow	Clear	Clear		Clear	Clear
Weather (p.m.)	Partly cloudy	Same	Cloudy	Clear	Clear		Clear	Cloudy
Snow Cover	0.5-12"	Icy	2"	Snow cover,	100% (90% ice)	2"		
Still Water	Partly open		Frozen	Ice cover		Frozen		Partly open
Moving Water	Open		Partly open	50% ice cover		Partly open		Open
# Field Observers	9	11	1	12	13	1	27	33
# Parties	1-3		1			1	16-17	13
# Feeder Watchers	2		0	5	0	0	5	1

1993 MIDWINTER SURVEY OF BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES IN NEBRASKA

National Wildlife Federation: Bald and Golden Eagles.

The 1993 survey was held January 1-15, and was coordinated and compiled by John Dinan, Nongame Bird Biologist with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, who supplied the following information.

Temperatures during the survey period ranged from approximately 5 to 30°F. There was snow cover statewide in varying amounts, but generally deeper in the eastern third of the state. Nearly all water habitats were frozen-over weeks before the survey period. The percent of open, flowing river channel was consistently low for most rivers. While the channelized portion of the Missouri River reported the lowest percentage of ice cover (10-25%), slush and flow ice was present along its entire length.

During the survey period, 698 Bald Eagles were observed, including 139 along the Missouri River. This total is a 46% decrease from the 1992 record high count of 1292 Bald Eagles, but only a 2% decrease from the 1980-1993 average of 714 Bald Eagles. Compared with the 14-year average, Bald-Eagle use of the Platte River Darr-Elm Creek area was down 64%, and use of the Republican River-Harlan County Reservoir area was down 79%. Use of the South Platte, North Platte, and Platte Rivers-Sutherland Reservoir area was up 21%, while use of the North Platte River-Lake McConaughy area was up 224%.

There were 19 Golden Eagle sightings in Nebraska in the following reporting areas: Platte River from Shelton-Grand Island (2), Missouri River (1), Beaver Creek (2), and in the following counties: Blaine (1), Box Butte (2), Chase (2), Dawes (1), Dundy (1), Holt (1), Scotts Bluff (2), and Sheridan (4).

The data on the Bald Eagles is presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1. BALD EAGLE NUMBERS IN NEBRASKA, JANUARY, 1993 (National Wildlife Federation survey). Imm.=immature, Unkn.= unknown age.

	Adults	Imm.	Unkn.	Total
NORTH PLATTE RIVER TOTALS	71	37	60	168
Wyoming Line-Bayard (area lakes)	3	7	0	10
Bayard-Lisco	4	1	0	5
Lisco-Lewellen	0	0	0	0
Lewellen-Keystone (area lakes)	60	29	60	149
Keystone-Paxton	4	0	0	4
Paxton-North Platte	0	0	0	0
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER TOTALS	7	2	0	9
Colorado Springs-Big Springs	0	0	0	0
Big Springs-Paxton	4	0	0	4
Paxton-North Platte, Tri-Co. Div.	3	2	0	5

	Adults	Imm.	Unkn.	Total
PLATTE RIVER TOTALS	81	24	1	106
North Platte-Gothenberg (lake, canal)	8	4	0	12
Gothenberg-Darr	11	3	0	14
Darr-Elm Creek (lakes, canal)	21	3	1	25
Elm Creek-Kearney	4	1	0	5
Kearney-Shelton	6	0	0	6
Shelton-Grand Island	8	3	0	11
Grand Island-Silver Creek	1	6	0	7
Silver Creek-Columbus	2	0	0	2
Columbus-North Bend	9	3	0	12
North Bend-Fremont	1	1	0	2
Fremont-Linoma	4	0	0	4
Linoma-Plattsmouth	6	0	0	6

LOUP RIVER TOTALS	19	3	1	23
Brewster-Burwell (North Loup)	4	1	1	6
Burwell-mouth of North Loup River	2	0	0	2
Thedford-Milburn (Middle Loup)	1	0	0	1
Milburn-Arcadia (Middle Loup)	1	0	0	1
Arcadia-Mouth of Middle Loup (Sherman Reservoir)	3	0	0	3
North Loup River-Genoa (Loup R.)	7	2	0	9
Genoa-mouth of Loup River	1	0	0	1

NIOBRARA RIVER TOTALS	31	7	0	38
Snake River-Cornell	5	1	0	6
Cornell-Cherry County Line	11	1	0	12
Cherry County Line-Cuba	1	0	0	1
Cuba-Newport	4	0	0	4
Newport-Redbird/Lynch	5	4	0	9
Redbird/Lynch-Missouri River	5	1	0	6

SNAKE RIVER TOTALS [Hwy 97 bridge - mouth (Merritt Res.)]	7	1	0	8
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	Adults	Imm.	Unkn.	Total
REPUBLICAN RIVER TOTALS	11	7	1	19
Alma-Naponee (Harlan Reservoir)	9	6	1	16
Naponee-Riverton	2	0	0	2
Riverton-Guide Rock	0	1	0	1

MISSOURI RIVER TOTALS	117	22	0	139
Undesignated area	3	2	0	5
Nebraska Line-Monowi	0	0	0	0
Monowi-Gavins Pt. (Lewis & Clark Lake)	0	0	0	0
Gavins Pt.-Goat Island	6	3	0	9
Goat Island-Ponca State Park	1	0	0	1
Ponca State Park-Homer	5	0	0	5
Homer-Decatur	13	4	0	17
Decatur-Tekamah	9	0	0	9
Tekamah-Mormon Bridge (De Soto NWR)	18	3	0	21
Mormon Bridge-Hwy 275	1	0	0	1
Hwy 275-Plattsmouth	6	0	0	6
Plattsmouth-Union	5	0	0	5
Union-Peru	12	2	0	14
Peru-Indian Cave State Park	24	8	0	32
Indian Cave State Park-Kansas	14	0	0	1

TOTALS OF RESERVOIRS AND LAKES*	42	27	0	69
Sutherland Reservoir	33	25	0	58
Enders Reservoir	2	0	0	2
Swanson Reservoir	3	0	0	3
Medicine Creek Reservoir	3	2	0	5
Walgren Lake	1	0	0	1

No eagles were seen at Lake Maloney, Red Willow Reservoir, Calamus Reservoir, Lake Babcock, Salt Valley and Lincoln City Lakes, or Grove Lake.

	Adults	Imm.	Unkn.	Total
TOTALS OF OTHER AREAS	11	1	1	13
Mahon Ranch	1	0	0	1
Sandy Creek NRD	4	0	0	4
Beaver Creek	3	0	0	3
Valentine NWR	1	1	0	2
Frenchman Creek	1	0	0	1
Maloney Canal	1	0	1	2

* No eagles seen at Sidney, Cody Park, Sac-Wilcox WMA, Schilling WMA, Turkey Creek, or Funk WMA.
WMA=Wildlife Management Area, NRD=Natural Resources District,
NWR=National Wildlife Refuge.

TOTALS FOR COUNTIES*	56	49	1	106
Blaine	5	1	1	7
Brown	2	0	0	2
Cherry	5	0	0	5
Clay	1	0	0	1
Colfax	12	24	0	36
Cuming	10	16	0	26
Custer	1	0	0	1
Furnas	5	6	0	11
Harlan	1	0	0	1
Holt	1	0	0	1
Jefferson	1	0	0	1
Knox	2	0	0	2
Merrick	2	0	0	2
Morrill	1	0	0	1
Phelps	1	0	0	1
Scottsbluff	1	0	0	1
Sheridan	1	0	0	1
Sherman	0	1	0	1
Washington	2	1	0	3
Wheeler	2	0	0	2

No eagles seen in the following counties: Box Butte, Chase, Dawes, or Dundy.

NWF TOTALS FOR NEBRASKA, 1993	453	180	65	698
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Big Bend Audubon Society Bald Eagle Count, January 17, 1993.

The report was submitted by Robin Harding, who gave the following weather statistics: temperature 14-22° F; wind N 6-8 mph to E 6mph; cloudy skies, with haze; ground cover - snow all covered; Platte River 95% ice; Harlan County Lake 99% ice; Republican River 100% ice; Spillway 100% ice.

The data for the different locations are presented in Table 2.

TABLE 2. NUMBERS OF BALD EAGLES, KEARNEY - LEXINGTON AREA, JAN. 17, 1993

	Adults	Imm.	Unkn.	Total
TOTALS, KEARNEY-LEXINGTON & RETURN	70	8	28	106
Kearney bridge-Odessa bridge	6	1	4	11
Odessa bridge-Elm Creek bridge	9	0	1	10
Elm Creek bridge-Overton bridge	22	2	3	27
Overton bridge-Canady Steam Plant	9	3	16	28
Canady Steam Plant-J-2 Power Plant	4	0	1	5
J-2 Power Plant-East Johnson Lake	6	0	2	8
Johnson Lake-Lexington bridge	11	2	0	13
Lexington bridge-Overton bridge	1	0	1	1
Overton bridge-Elm Creek bridge	1	0	0	1
Elm Creek bridge-Odessa bridge	1	0	0	1
Odessa bridge-Kearney bridge	0	0	0	0

TOTALS FOR HARLAN COUNTY LAKE AND ENVIRONS	4	2	2	8
Harlan County Lake SW	0	0	0	0
Harlan County North	0	1	0	1
Harlan County Dam (lakeside)	2	0	0	2
Harlan County Dam (spillway)	0	1	0	1
Dam-Naponee (south side of Republican River)	0	0	0	0
Naponee bridge-Republican City (north side of Republican River)	2	0	2	4

Grand Totals for the Two Areas	74	10	30	114
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Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District: Bald Eagles

Mark Peyton and Roger Knaggs sent data on the numbers of Bald Eagles at two viewing sites, the J-2 Hydropower Plant near Lexington, and Lake Ogallala below the Kingsley Dam, during January and February, 1993.

The daily averages over the past three years were as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>J-2 Power Plant</u>	<u>Kingsley Dam</u>
1991	11	21
1992	8	42
1993	4	87

It is evident that Bald Eagles have been decreasing in numbers at the J-2 Plant, but increasing significantly at Kingsley Dam. The daily numbers and totals are given in Table 3.

TABLE 3. NUMBERS OF BALD EAGLES AT TWO VIEWING SITES, 1993

<u>Date</u>	<u>J-2 HYDROPOWER PLANT NEAR LEXINGTON</u>		<u>LAKE OGALLALA BELOW KINGSLEY DAM</u>	
	<u>January</u>	<u>February*</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
1	NA	NA	64	135
2	6	NA	68	124
3	5	1	76	121
4	NA	NA	93	114
5	NA	NA	86	53
6	NA	NA	153	42
7	3	NA	181	31
8	8	NA	113	31
9	NA	NA	164	11
10	NA	0	162	20
11	NA	NA	170	13
12	NA	NA	168	23
13	NA	NA	103	17
14	3	NA	167	12
15	2	NA	102	8
16	5	NA	78	18
17	5	6	162	8
18	2	NA	175	30
19	NA	NA	168	24
20	NA	NA	171	37
21	5	NA	151	9
22	2	NA	176	8
23	4	NA	106	12
24	4	0	130	6
25	4	NA	184	18
26	NA	NA	148	8
27	NA	NA	160	5
28	4	NA	176	5
29	3		162	
30	6		136	
31	3		58	
Totals	74	7	4,211	943
Ave./Day	4.11	1.75	135.84	33.68
Total Ave./Day		3.68		87.36

* The J-2 Power Plant viewing center was closed on February 1 in order to repair the generator at the plant. Weekly observations were made from the plant at 10:00 a.m. CDT.

NA = not available.

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.
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