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**"Notes on Bird Sightings in Nebraska," from Nebraska Bird Review  
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#### NOTES ON BIRD SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA

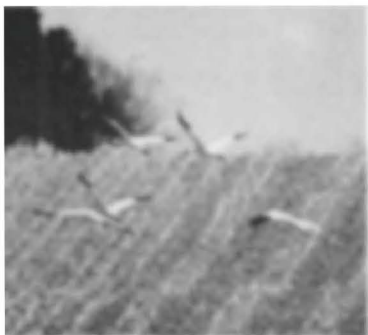
##### **Black-throated Sparrow.**

Jan and Richard Johnson first saw this bird on their farm 6 miles north of Wayne (Dixon County) on January 2, 1993. It was still coming to the feeders regularly early in February. Photo by B. J. Rose.



**Whooping Cranes.** I have enclosed two photos of Whooping Cranes. They were discovered about five miles northeast of Creighton (Knox County) the afternoon of Easter Sunday, April 11, 1993. They were standing in a flooded area in a corn field. During the following days, they also frequented two other wet areas less than a mile from the corn field. All during their stay, the weather remained rainy with a wind from the north. When skies cleared and the wind shifted to the south on April 17, they resumed their journey.

---Loren Blake, HC 63, Box 18, Chambers, NE 68725



Photos by Loren Blake

**More Whooping Cranes.** ---Norris Alfred and I observed nine Whooping Cranes on April 17, 1993, nine miles northwest of Bradshaw. The person who reported them to us said that they had been in the area for 3 days. They left shortly after we arrived, but we observed them for several minutes as they caught a thermal and circled higher and higher, then drifted off to the north until out of sight. All this time, they

were calling loudly. It was so unusual to hear that a flock of nine were seen that at first I wondered if someone had misidentified them, but they really were whoopers. I'm very familiar with them after making so many trips to see them on the Aransas Game Refuge in Texas.

---Lee Morris, R.R.1, Box 14, Benedict, NE 68316

**Common Loons.** [There was] a better than average fall flight in 1992, with a peak of 12 at Box Butte Reservoir, Dawes County, and Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff County, on 30 October. Two late courting and calling stragglers were at Box Butte Reservoir on 21 November.

---Richard C. Rosché, 501 Shelton St., Chadron, NE 69337

**American White Pelicans.** Bob Starr saw about 300 birds at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, Washington County, during the first week in September, 1992. (Communicated by R. G. Cortelyou.)

**Great Egrets.** Steve Duecker, a wetlands biologist, observed four adult Great Egrets in breeding plumage in the Bazile Creek State Wildlife Management Area, Knox County, on April 21, 1993. (Communicated by Mark Brohman.)

**Rose-breasted X Black-Headed Grosbeak.** A hybrid male was observed at Box Butte Reservoir, Dawes County, on 8 August, 1992. It looked mostly like a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, but it had some brown on the nape and yellowish under the wings as it flew.

---Richard C. and Dorothy J. Rosché, 501 Shelton St.,  
Chadron, NE 69337

**American Pipits.** Three birds were seen along the North Platte River near Keystone, Keith County, on 19 December, 1992 by Dorothy J. Rosché and myself. These individuals were seen by Ross Silcock and Steve Dinsmore on the Lake McConaughy Xmas Count on the previous day. These were small, sparrow-sized birds with very thin bills that were walking and flicking their tails up and down in the river bed. The white outer tail feathers could be seen as they did this. The breasts were heavily streaked and the upperparts were darkish. The legs and feet were dark. On a couple of occasions, an individual would fly up and land elsewhere, giving its characteristic two-parted and high-pitched call note as it flew. The birds were feeding on the shallow-water edge of the river in and among algae-covered rocks. I am not familiar with any other wintering records for Western Nebraska.

---Richard C. Rosché, 501 Shelton St., Chadron, NE 69337

**Yellow-headed Blackbirds.** On April 21, 1993, I observed two large groups of Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Each group had about 100 birds; one group was all males and the other, all females. They flew from tree to tree along the South Loup River just north of Miller in Buffalo County. Between trees, both groups flew rapidly and changed directions often while they flew within a few feet of each other.

---Mark Brohman, Wetlands Biologist, NE Dept. Roads, 1500 Hwy 2,  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

**Additional Note on Yellow-headed Blackbirds.** Lee Morris wrote of huge flocks of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the Benedict area of Knox County around May 1, 1993.

Ed. Note: The notes on sightings during late spring and early summer, 1993 will be included in Vol. 61 (3) 1993 of the NBR.