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NOTES ON BIRD SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA

Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. On Wednesday, May 26, 1993, at 7:00 a.m., we saw two of these birds at our house in rural Lancaster Co., south of Denton, NE (S 26 T-9-N R-5-E). The ducks flew across part of the pond and perched in a dead cedar for about ten minutes before flying off in a southwesterly direction. The distinctive coloration, including black underparts, gray head, bright beak, and pink legs were readily visible. As the birds were flying, the large white areas on the tops of the wings were also clearly discernible.

---Dave and Cindy Cochran, Rt.1, Box 88-A1, Denton, NE 68339

Gyr Falcon. On May 10, 1993, I observed a large hawk over one of our large local basins. It had very wide and pointed wings, and flew very low and fast. After a couple of turns around and over the basin, it landed on a brush pile close by. At this range I could see that it was a Gyr Falcon.

It was uniformly gray with no dark helmet such as a Peregrine Falcon has. I watched it for several minutes before I left. I did not see it again although I did look for it the following day, and occasionally later.

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

Rock Wren. On April 26, 1993, we saw the Rock Wren foraging on a large, fallen tree in Fontenelle Forest along Cottonwood Trail, approximately 100 yards east of the railroad tracks. We watched it for about five minutes, and noted its large size compared to the House Wren, and that it was gray on top, and white on the breast and belly. A third observer was Laurine Blankenau.

---Babs and Loren Padelford, 1405 Little John Rd., Bellevue, NE 68005

Bewick's Wren. This photo was taken by B. J. Rose on the Wild Rose Ranch south of Alda in Hall County on April 3, 1993. He saw it again on April 5.

(Communicated by Babs and Loren Padelford.)



White-eyed Vireos and Summer Tanagers. On June 16, 1993, Dick Rasmussen and I were birding in the Nebraska National Forest, near Halsey in Thomas Co., when we heard and soon spotted a breeding pair of Summer Tanagers. They were in a cottonwood tree in plain view along the Middle Loup River adjacent to the tennis courts. In the same area we heard a pair of White-eyed Vireos calling from a dense thicket. I later spotted one of these vireos. These two species are normally not found this far west.

---Duane E. Bright, 1304 Potter Rd., Bellevue, NE 68005

Summer Tanagers. I was teaching a class at Neale Woods [on the north edge of Omaha in Douglas Co.] on May 7, 1993, when a male Summer Tanager chose to perch on a bare branch near my banding nets. A day or so later, Dot Duda found a female at her home that had flown into a grill and killeed itself. Neal Ratzlaff found Summer Tanagers on May 6, 1993, just west of Fort Calhoun [in Washington Co.].

---Ruth C. Green, 506 W. 31st Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005

Summer Tanagers. On May 20, 1993, Mike Gutzmer, Chuck Chase, and I observed two (possibly three) males at Indian Cave State Park, Section 6, Township 63 North, Range 17 East, Richardson Co., NE. The birds were approximately 200-300 meters [about the same in yards] apart along the paved road in small, isolated trees. The area around the small trees is mown, but the border of the deciduous forest is only 20-30 meters from the road edge.

---Justin W. King, Nebraska Public Power District, P. O. Box 499, Columbus, NE 68602

Lazuli Bunting. On May 5, 1993, Craig Hensley, Program Director at Fontenelle Forest, saw one bird on the south end of the Marsh. He was the first to see and report this western species, which is seldom seen here, and it was a "lifer" for him.

---Reported by Ruth C. Green (see address above)

Notes on Waterfowl and Shorebirds by Lee Morris, Benedict, NE, May 1, 1993. "Birding has been exceptionally good for these two groups since our basins are so full this spring. There are more **Canvasbacks** and **Goldeneyes** than I've seen in years; two flocks of **Hudsonian Godwits** in the last week, the first time I've seen any of that species in years; so far, one **White-faced Ibis** and one **Cattle Egret**." [R. G. Cortelyou reported that Lee Morris saw **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** on May 15, 1993.]

Notes on Warblers during the spring of 1993 by Ruth Green, Bellevue, NE. "**Golden-wing, Kentucky, Connecticut, Mourning, Pine, and Worm-eating Warblers** were reported by several birders from Fontenelle Forest or Neale Woods. The Boardwalk at Fontenelle Forest was the 'hot spot' for **Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, and Bay-breasted Warblers**; they were seen there for a week or more. I have never had as many **Hooded Warblers** reported as this year." Ruth wrote that she and Shelley Bonsall saw three males at the same time along the railroad tracks in Fontenelle Forest, and, on the same day, another was seen from the Boardwalk, while Gertrude Wood had one at her home in Elmwood. Nesting warblers were also present in Fontenelle Forest according to Ruth, including **Ceruleans, Parulas, and Prothonotaries**.