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NOTES ON BIRD SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA

Ruff and Godwits. On April 19, 1994, I discovered a red-phased Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) in alternate plumage at the Sacramento Wildlife Management Area in Phelps County. It was feeding with a flock of Hudsonian Godwits (*Limosa haemastica*) and Marbled Godwits

(*Limosa fedoa*) in a flooded marshy area. The Ruff was easily recognized and required little effort to identify. I observed and photographed it for about one hour in the early evening, using a Canon AE-1 and my Kowa TSN-4 with a 1200 mm photo attachment as a lens. I was unable to locate it the following morning. Several photographs have been sent to the Records Committee.

Snowy Plover and Other Plovers. On May 2, 1994, I found a Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) at the Funk Marsh Waterfowl Production Area in Phelps County. It was on a mud flat with 16 Semipalmated Plovers (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) and a single Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), as well as a variety of sandpipers. The Snowy Plover was pale on the upperparts and white on the underparts. The bill was black and the legs appeared to be a dark-slate color. The bird had a blackish breast band, which was limited to the side of the breast, and a dark area behind the eye. It possessed the typical *Charadrius* feature of a blackish area at the front of the crown.

The only species that could possibly be confused with a Snowy Plover would be the Piping Plover. Breeding male and female Piping Plovers were eliminated from consideration because this bird had dark legs and bill, a dark area behind the eye, and was smaller in size than the Piping Plover. Non-breeding Piping Plovers have dark legs and bill but lack any darker plumage patterns.

Photographs of the Snowy Plover will be sent to the Records Committee.

--- Joel Jorgensen, 1218 Jackson St., Blair, NE 68008

Bobolinks. On May 13, 1994, we saw Bobolinks in western Douglas County between Venice and Waterloo. They were in two fields where we have seen them consistently over the years, and one was in a second field about two miles away. It is only the second time we have seen Bobolinks in that field in the time we have been birding in that area.

---R. G. Cortelyou, 5109 Underwood Ave., Omaha, NE 68132

Common Loon, Wood Ducks, and Wild Turkeys. One Common Loon and many Wood Ducks were seen at Enders Reservoir, and many Wild Turkeys (66 in one flock) during the spring of 1994 [no dates given].

Counts in Two Locations. For the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I counted 19 species in the Stratton area on June 17, 1994, and 28 species in the Benkelman area on June 20, 1994.

Stratton list: Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Bobwhite, Killdeer, Red-headed Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, House Wren, American Robin, European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, House Sparrow.

Benkelman list: Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Common Nighthawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, House Wren, American Robin, Loggerhead Shrike, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Grasshopper Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Orchard Oriole, House Sparrow.

---Iola Pennington, R.R.2, Box 119, Wauneta, NE 69045-9711