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## "Notes on Bird Sightings in Nebraska," from *Nebraska Bird Review* (December 1994)

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#### NOTES ON BIRD SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA

**Northern Waterthrush.** At 9:35 a.m. on December 14, and again at 10:15 a.m. on December 21, 1994, I observed what I believe was the same bird on a Burlington Northern railroad embankment north of Gifford Road in Fontenelle Forest, Bellevue, NE. On December 14, I saw it for 7 seconds. It vocalised with a sharp "chink" as it hopped up on a fallen log, then vocalised again 6-7 seconds later as it jumped down into thick underbrush. It was silent on December 21, but I observed it for at least ten minutes as it walked at the foot of a bluff at the edge of water. It remained on the ground with its wings folded, but it constantly pumped its tail like a sandpiper as it probed for vegetation at the water's edge.

The bird was 6 inches in length, and all the upper parts were dark-brown from the forehead to the end of the tail. The belly was in sharp contrast, with a light-buff tinge covered with brown/black slashes or lines. The undertail area was very light-buff with no speckles. The underside of the tail feathers appeared somewhat lighter than the dark-brown of the upper tail feathers. The legs were long and flesh-colored with no discernible difference in the color of the feet. The wings were uniformly dark-brown without bars.

The head had a dark-brown cap with no contrast with the forehead, but the ear patch was lighter-brown than the cap. The eye was dark and indistinct with no ring. The eye stripe was buff and the eye line was dark. The upper and lower mandibles were a uniform dark color. The throat was light-buff with brown/black specks. The chin was light with a buff/brown wash.

---James Alt, Fontenelle Forest Ass'n, 1111 North Bellevue Blvd.,  
Bellevue, NE 68005-4000

**White American Goldfinch.** In late March, 1993, a white goldfinch was a frequent visitor at my bird feeders along with normal-appearing goldfinches. I was not able to see if it was a true albino with pink eyes. I took several photos and also have some video recordings. After about two weeks it disappeared and was not seen again.

-----Roy Stohler, 519 Broadway, Box 26, Concord, NE 68728-0026

[Ed.'s note: Mr. Stohler sent a photo, but the bird was too small to give a clear reproduction when reduced in NBR.]

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES OF THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 10, 1994  
From Robin Harding, Secretary

The 1995 annual spring meeting and field trips will be held at Camp Calvin Crest near Fremont, NE May 19-21. Most of the Executive Committee members agreed that presentation of one scientific paper on Saturday afternoon would be a desirable addition. The 1995 annual fall meeting will be at Halsey National Forest 4-H camp, tentatively on October 6-8. The Executive Committee decided against having a winter meeting.

Alice Kenitz discussed the printing of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union (NOU) Field Card of Nebraska Birds. She reported that there may be some money available from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to help with the printing costs. Wayne Mohlhoff said that Ross Lock, at the Commission headquarters in Lincoln, told him that non-game funds should be available to print the cards. Neal Ratzlaff will investigate the procedure. Wayne found that the University of Nebraska Press is not interested in publishing the Breeding Bird Atlas, which is 450 pages in length.

Neal discussed the need to have a member of the Records Committee on the Publications Committee. He has appointed Duane Bright and Jim Kovanda to serve on the Audit Committee and to help Betty Grenon with finances. A yearly audit is required by the Bylaws.

Archived records of NOU are stored at the Nebraska State Museum on the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln.

Neal will try to get a table at the Audubon Society's River Conference in Grand Island in March, 1995, in an effort to recruit new members for NOU. Robin Harding will take NOU brochures to the Backyard Wildlife store in Grand Island for the same purpose.