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The Eighty-First Annual Meeting

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THE EIGHTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

The first two thirds of May 1982 were much wetter than usual in Nebraska, and many of the people coming to the meeting drove in rain Friday until they got to within 150 miles or so of Chadron, and after they got home after the meeting encountered rainy weather again. But 21 and 22 May were dry and sunny in the meeting area. There was the usual get-together Friday night, at the meeting headquarters at Camp Norwesca, just south of Chadron State Park. At the business meeting Saturday afternoon the following officers were elected: Mrs. Ruth Green, Bellevue, president; Mr. Gary Lingle, Grand Island, vice president; Mrs. Emma Johnson, Omaha, secretary; Mrs. Jack Shafer, Wood River, treasurer; Dr. Neva Pruess, Lincoln, librarian, and Dr. R. G. Cortelyou, Omaha, editor. It was decided to hold the fall meeting at Halsey if a week end there was available, and to hold the next Annual Meeting at Lincoln. An increase in dues was discussed, but no action could be taken because proper notice had not been given before the meeting. It was suggested that a change in the by-laws on this point be submitted to mail vote. Sixty-seven people registered for the meeting, and 78, including guests and visitors, were at the banquet, after which Les Baylor, S.D. School of Mines, showed slides to illustrate his talk on "Fun with Birds in Photography". The directors decided that the White-tailed Kite (*NBR* 50:10) was the best bird recently reported. Dr. Pruess had brought out from the archives three photographs, one being of those at the Chadron meeting in 1960. Of the 63 in the picture, 10 were present at the 1982 meeting, and two spouses, who were present but not in the 1960 picture, were also at the 1982 meeting.

The official count was 129 species. The count period was restricted to Saturday and to Sunday morning, the area covered Dawes and the northern part of Sioux County. The birds were: Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebes; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons; Mallard, Pintail; Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal; Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Turkey Vulture; Cooper's, Red-tailed, Broad-winged, Swainson's and Ferruginous Hawks; Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Prairie Falcon, American Kestrel, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Bob-white, Ring-necked Pheasant, Turkey, American Coot, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlew; Upland, Spotted, and Baird's Sandpipers; Wilson's Phalarope, Ring-billed Gull; Black Tern; Rock and Mourning Doves; Screech, Great Horned, and Burrowing Owls; Poor-will, Common Nighthawk, White throated Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker; Red-headed and Lewis' Woodpeckers; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers; Eastern, Western, and Cassin's Kingbirds; Great Crested Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Horned Lark; Violet-green, Tree, Rough-winged, Barn, and Cliff Swallows; Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Pinon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Black-capped Chickadee; White breasted, Red-breasted, and Pygmy Nuthatches; Brown Creeper; House and Rock Wren; Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin; Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrush; Mountain Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling; Solitary and Red-eyed Vireos; Black-and-white, Yellow, and Yellow-rumped Warblers; Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Western Meadowlark; Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds; Orchard and Northern Orioles; Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Western Tanager; Rose-breasted, Black-headed, and Blue Grosbeaks; Indigo and Lazuli Buntings; Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Red Crossbill, Rufous-sided towhee, Lark Bunting, Savannah, Vesper, and Lark Sparrows; Dark-eyed Junco; Chipping, Clay-colored, Brewer's, White-crowned, Lincoln's, and Song Sparrows; McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs. . .

Three other species were recorded in the count area on Friday but not on the count days: Northern Phalarope, Short-eared Owl, and House Finch.

And incoming participants recorded 31 additional species Friday on their trips through the Sandhills, many of them from between Whitman and Hyannis: White Pelican, Green Heron, Cattle Egret, American Bittern, Swan sp. (presumably Trumpeter, but too far away to identify), Canada Goose, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Common Snipe; Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs; Willet; Pectoral, White-rumped, Least, and Semipalmated Sandpipers; Long-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, American Avocet; Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls; Forster's and Least Terns; Red-bellied Woodpecker, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Eastern Meadowlark.

Everyone who wanted to go to see the Lewis' Woodpeckers - four - just outside the Park in a portion of the Dead Horse burn. The Cassin's Kingbird was seen by Lee Morris on a power line. It looked similar to a Western but had no white on the sides of the tail, but had a touch of white at the tip. Before he could get more details it flew farther away, but from what he did see, and from the description in the book, he took it for a Cassin's Kingbird.