

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

Nebraska Bird Review

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

---

3-1997

***Nebraska Bird Review* (March 1997) 65(1), WHOLE ISSUE**

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev>



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#), [Poultry or Avian Science Commons](#), and the [Zoology Commons](#)

---

"*Nebraska Bird Review* (March 1997) 65(1), WHOLE ISSUE" (1997). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 284.  
<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev/284>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nebraska Bird Review by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

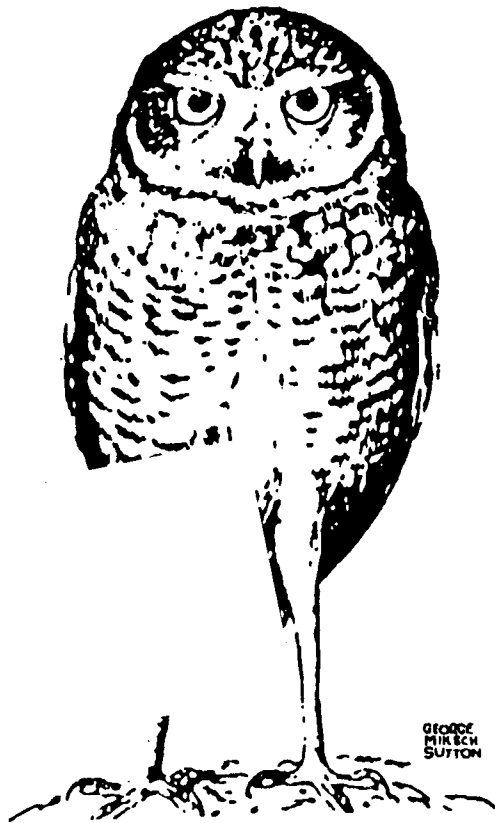
# *Nebraska Bird Review*

gazine of Ornithology of the Nebraska  
Region

Volume 65

March 1997

Number 1



Published by the  
**Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.**  
Founded 1899

ISSN 0028-1816

The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.  
Treasurer's Annual Report 12/31/96

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Investments</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance 1/1/96 on cash basis per bank account	\$ 2281.81	\$ 14,302.74	\$ 16,584.55

Receipts:

Memberships	\$ 2725.00		
Subscriptions	375.00		
Spring Meeting	827.00		
Fall Meeting	2499.00		
Scholarship Donations	183.55		
Interest		1162.85	
Transfers from CDs	1914.19		
Misc.	153.87		
CD Purchase 3/16/96		12,681.60	
CD Purchase 9/16/96		13,324.25	
<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>\$ 8677.61</u>	<u>\$ 27,168.70</u>	<u>\$ 35,846.31</u>

Disbursements:

## The Nebraska Bird Review:

1995, 2 Vols.	\$ 1118.25		
1996, 3 Vols.	1858.43		
Newsletter Printing	308.82		
Bulk Mail Postage	494.63		
Spring Meeting	816.00		
Fall Meeting	2457.00		
Records Committee	86.70		
CD Purchase 9/16/96	2300.00		
CD Withdrawal 12/31/96		914.19	
CD Maturity 3/16/96		11,024.25	
CD Maturity 9/16/96		13,681.60	
<u>Total Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 9439.83</u>	<u>\$ 25,620.04</u>	<u>\$ 35,059.87</u>
<u>Balance 12/31/96</u>	<u>\$ 1519.59</u>	<u>\$ 15,851.40</u>	<u>\$ 17,370.99</u>

CD #29567277 Commercial Federal Bank \$ 10,551.66  
Rate 5.827% annual, issued June 14, 1995  
Value @ 3/14/96 \$ 11,024.25. Redeemed March 16, 1996

CD # 33586466 Commercial Federal Bank \$ 13,324.25  
Rate 5.35% annual, issued March 16, 1996  
Value @ 9/16/96 \$ 13,681.60 Redeemed September 16, 1996

CD # 24649440 Commercial Federal Bank \$ 3500.00  
Issued Dec. 31, 1994, matures Dec. 31, 1995, rolled over month to month. Step-up rate 5.5 to 6.15% = 6.0% avg.  
Withdrawal 12/31/96 \$914.19. Value @ 12/31/96 \$3000.00

CD #37100080 Commercial Federal Bank \$ 12,681.60  
Issued 9/16/96, matures 9/16/97, rolled over month to month.  
Step-up rate 5.3 to 5.9% = 5.75% avg.  
Value @ 12/31/96 \$12,851.40

Elizabeth (Betty) Grenon, Treasurer

## THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA

The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska was last published in 1988 (NOU Records Committee 1988). That list included 406 species whose occurrence in Nebraska had been documented to the satisfaction of the NOU Records Committee at that time, following the sequence and nomenclature as outlined by the American Ornithologists' Union (1983, 1985, 1987). The present list includes 427 species based on all changes to the Official List of the Birds of Nebraska as determined by the NOU Records Committee (Mollhoff 1989; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1997; Brogie 1997), as well as sequence and taxonomic changes made by the American Ornithologists' Union (1989, 1991, 1993, 1995). Additionally, the list reflects changes in frequency of occurrence as determined by the NOU Records Committee, which reviewed records of bird occurrences in Nebraska for 1987-1996. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOU Records Committee 1988):

- Regular - acceptably reported in 9-10 of the past 10 years
- Casual - acceptably reported in 4-7 of the past 10 years
- Accidental - acceptably reported in 0-2 of the past 10 years
- Extirpated - not acceptably reported in the past 50 years
- Extinct - no longer found alive anywhere in the world

The frequency of occurrence for any species that was acceptably reported in 3 or 8 of the last 10 years was discussed by the committee and placed in a category felt most appropriate by the committee. The NOU Records Committee seeks documentation for all species of less than regular occurrence in Nebraska as well as for those species whose occurrence has not been documented in Nebraska. Documentations currently may be sent to Mark Brogie, Records Committee Chair, 508 Seeley, Box 316, Creighton, NE 68729.

Firmness of data supporting a bird on this list is indicated by the following terms (NOU Records Committee 1986): an adequately labelled diagnostic specimen (I-S); an adequately labelled diagnostic photo or slide (I-P); an adequately labelled diagnostic recording (I-R); a sight record with three or more acceptable written documentations (II); and a sight record with one or two acceptable written documentations (III). Species whose occurrence in the state is believed indisputable although no acceptable documentation exists is indicated by (\*\*). A summary of the changes follows.

**Species Added to the List Based on Acceptable Documentation**

Yellow-billed Loon, *Gavia adamsii*: Accidental, I-P

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*:

Accidental, I-S

Sage Grouse, *Centrocercus urophasianus*: Accidental, III

Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*: Accidental, I-P

Little Gull, *Larus minutus*: Accidental, I-P

Mew Gull, *Larus canus*: Accidental, I-P

Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*: Casual, I-P

Glaucous-winged Gull, *Larus glaucescens*: Accidental, I-P

Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*: Casual, I-P

Ross' Gull, *Rhodostethia rosea*: Accidental, I-P

Band-tailed Pigeon, *Columba fasciata*: Accidental, III

White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica*: Accidental, I-P

Inca Dove, *Columbina inca*: Accidental, I-P

Acorn Woodpecker, *Melanerpes formicivorus*: Accidental, I-P

Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*: Accidental, I-P

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*: Accidental, III

Cave Swallow, *Hirundo fulva*: Accidental, I-S

Mountain Chickadee, *Parus gambeli*: Accidental, III

Virginia's Warbler, *Vermivora virginiae*: Accidental, III  
Sage Sparrow, *Amphispiza belli*: Accidental, III

**Species Deleted from the List After Further Review of Existing Records**

Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*)  
Brown Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus*)

**Changes Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions**

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*) replaces Lesser Golden-Plover (*P. dominica*), which is split into American Golden-Plover (*P. dominicus*) and Pacific Golden-Plover (*P. fulva*). After the split, the AOU changed the scientific name of American Golden-Plover from *P. dominica* to *P. dominicus*.  
Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*) replaces Western Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*), which is split into Cordilleran Flycatcher (*E. occidentalis*) and Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*).  
Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) is replaced by American Pipit (*A. rubescens*), which is no longer considered a race of Water Pipit.  
Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) is split into Eastern Towhee (*P. erythrophthalmus*) and Spotted Towhee (*P. maculatus*), both of which occur regularly in Nebraska.  
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) replaces Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. caudacutus*), which is split into Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. nelsoni*) and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. caudacutus*).  
Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) is again split into Baltimore Oriole (*I. galbula*) and Bullock's Oriole (*I. bullockii*), both of which occur regularly in Nebraska.  
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*) replaces Rosy Finch (*L. arctoa*), which is again split into Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*L. tephrocotis*), Black Rosy-Finch (*L. atrata*), and Brown-capped Rosy-Finch (*L. australis*).

**Changes in Frequency of Occurrence**

Pacific Loon, changed from Accidental to Casual  
Clark's Grebe, changed from Accidental to Regular  
Eurasian Wigeon, changed from Accidental to Casual  
Oldsquaw, changed from Casual to Regular  
Black Scoter, changed from Accidental to Casual  
Surf Scoter, changed from Casual to Regular  
White-winged Scoter, changed from Casual to Regular  
Barrow's Goldeneye, changed from Accidental to Casual  
King Rail, changed from Accidental to Casual  
Snowy Plover, changed from Accidental to Casual  
Black-necked Stilt, changed from Casual to Regular  
Red Knot, changed from Accidental to Casual  
Red Phalarope, changed from Accidental to Casual  
Laughing Gull, changed from Accidental to Casual  
California Gull, changed from Casual to Regular  
Thayer's Gull, changed from Accidental to Casual  
Iceland Gull, changed from Accidental to Casual  
Glaucous Gull, changed from Casual to Regular  
Black-legged Kittiwake, changed from Accidental to Casual  
Rufous Hummingbird, changed from Regular to Casual  
Cordilleran Flycatcher, changed from Regular to Casual  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, changed from Regular to Casual  
Clark's Nutcracker, changed from Accidental to Casual  
Sage Thrasher, changed from Accidental to Casual

Bohemian Waxwing, changed from Regular to Casual  
White-eyed Vireo, changed from Regular to Casual  
Prairie Warbler, changed from Casual to Accidental  
Connecticut Warbler, changed from Casual to Regular  
Baird's Sparrow, changed from Casual to Accidental  
Henslow's Sparrow, changed from Accidental to Casual  
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, changed from Regular to Casual  
Pine Grosbeak, changed from Casual to Accidental

#### Changes in Firmness of Data

Red-necked Grebe, changed from II to I-P  
Brown Pelican, changed from III to I-P  
Snowy Egret, changed from II to I-P  
Mississippi Kite, changed from I-P to I-S  
Red Knot, changed from II to I-P  
Laughing Gull, changed from III to I-P  
Thayer's Gull, changed from III to I-P  
Iceland Gull, changed from III to I-P  
Black-legged Kittiwake, changed from I-P to I-S  
Calliope Hummingbird, changed from II to I-P  
Broad-tailed Hummingbird, changed from \*\* to I-P  
Williamson's Sapsucker, changed from III to I-S  
Pileated Woodpecker, changed from II to I-P  
Alder Flycatcher, changed from \*\* to I-R  
Cordilleran Flycatcher, changed from \*\* to I-R  
Canyon Wren, changed from III to I-P  
Bewick's Wren, changed from III to I-P  
Golden-winged Warbler, changed from III to I-S  
Connecticut Warbler, changed from III to I-P  
Cassin's Sparrow, changed from II to I-P  
Great-tailed Grackle, changed from I-P to I-S

#### Name Changes

Olivaceous Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*) changed to  
Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*).  
Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) changed to Great Egret (*Ardea  
albus*).  
Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*) changed to Green Heron  
(*Butorides virescens*).  
American Swallow-tailed Kite changed to Swallow-tailed Kite.  
Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) changed to White-tailed  
Kite (*Elanus leucurus*).  
Common Black-headed Gull changed to Black-headed Gull.  
Common Barn-Owl changed to Barn Owl.  
Northern Hawk-Owl changed to Northern Hawk Owl.  
Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) changed to Burrowing Owl  
(*Speotyto cunicularia*).

#### Other Changes

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) is added after  
inadvertently being left off the original list.  
Following AOU, the order of Falconidae is changed with Prairie  
Falcon placed between Merlin and Peregrine Falcon.

Current Records Committee members are Mark Brogie (chair),  
Robin Harding, Bill Huser, Joel Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Thomas  
Labeledz, Loren Padelford, and Ross Silcock. Joe Gubanyi, a past  
member, voted on records in this report.

## Literature Cited

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Checklist of North American Birds, 6th Ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1985. Thirty-fifth Supplement to the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds. Auk 102:680-686.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1987. Thirty-sixth Supplement to the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds. Auk 104:591-596.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1989. Thirty-seventh Supplement to the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds. Auk 106:532-538.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1991. Thirty-eighth Supplement to the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds. Auk 108:750-754.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1993. Thirty-ninth Supplement to the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds. Auk 110:675-682.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1995. Fortieth Supplement to the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds. Auk 112:819-830.
- Grenon, A. G. 1990. 1990 (third) report of the NOU Records Committee. The Nebraska Bird Review 58:90-97.
- Grenon, A. G. 1991. 1991 (fourth) report of the NOU Records Committee. The Nebraska Bird Review 59:150-155.
- Gubanyi, J. 1996a. 1992,1993 (fifth) report of the NOU Records Committee. The Nebraska Bird Review 64:30-35.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1996b. 1994 (sixth) report of the NOU Records Committee. The Nebraska Bird Review 64:38-42.
- Mollhoff, W.J. 1989. Second report of the NOU Records Committee. The Nebraska Bird Review 57:42-47.
- NOU Records Committee. 1986. Bylaws of the NOU Records Committee. The Nebraska Bird Review 54:72-74.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1988. The official list of the birds of Nebraska. The Nebraska Bird Review 56:86-96.

Joe Gubanyi  
Concordia College  
800 N. Columbia  
Seward, NE 68434

## THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA

Order GAVIIFORMES  
Family Gaviidae: Loons

Red-throated Loon, *Gavia stellata*: Accidental, I-P  
Pacific Loon, *Gavia pacifica*: Casual, I-P  
Common Loon, *Gavia immer*: Regular, I-S

Order PODICIPEDIFORMES  
Family Podicipedidae: Grebes

pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*: Regular, I-S  
Horned Grebe, *Podiceps auritus*: Regular, I-S  
Red-necked Grebe, *Podiceps grisegena*: Accidental, I-P  
Eared Grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis*: Regular, I-S  
Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis*: Regular, I-S  
Clark's Grebe, *Aechmophorus clarkii*: Regular, I-S

Order PELECANIFORMES

Family Pelecanidae: Pelicans

American White Pelican, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*: Regular, I-S  
Brown Pelican, *Pelecanus occidentalis*: Accidental, I-P

Family Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants

Double-crested Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus*: Regular, I-S  
Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*: Accidental, I-S

Family Anhingidae: Darters

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*: Accidental, I-S

Order CICONIIFORMES

Family Ardeidae: Bitterns and Herons

American Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*: Regular, I-S  
Least Bittern, *Ixobrychus exilis*: Regular, I-S  
Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*: Regular, I-S  
Great Egret, *Ardea alba*: Regular, I-S  
Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*: Regular, I-P  
Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea*: Regular, I-S  
Tricolored Heron, *Egretta tricolor*: Accidental, I-S  
Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*: Regular, I-P  
Green Heron, *Butorides virescens*: Regular, I-S  
Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*: Regular, I-S  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*: Regular, I-S

Family Threskiornithidae: Ibises and Spoonbills

White-faced Ibis, *Plegadis chihi*: Regular, I-S  
Roseate Spoonbill, *Ajaia ajaja*: Accidental, II

Family Ciconiidae: Storks

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana*: Accidental, III

Order ANSERIFORMES

Family Anatidae: Swans, Geese and Ducks

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*: Accidental, I-S  
Tundra Swan, *Cygnus columbianus*: Casual, I-S  
Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator*: Regular, I-S  
Bean Goose, *Anser fabalis*: Accidental, I-P  
Greater White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons*: Regular, I-S  
Snow Goose, *Chen caerulescens*: Regular, I-S  
Ross' Goose, *Chen rossii*: Regular, I-S  
Brant, *Branta bernicla*: Accidental, I-S  
Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*: Regular, I-S  
Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*: Regular, I-S  
Green-winged Teal, *Anas crecca*: Regular, I-S



American Black Duck, *Anas rubripes*: Regular, I-S  
Mottled Duck, *Anas fulvigula*: Accidental, I-P  
Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*: Regular, I-S  
Northern Pintail, *Anas acuta*: Regular, I-S  
Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*: Regular, I-S  
Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera*: Regular, I-S  
Northern Shoveler, *Anas clypeata*: Regular, I-S  
Gadwall, *Anas strepera*: Regular, I-S  
Eurasian Wigeon, *Anas penelope*: Casual, I-S  
American Wigeon, *Anas americana*: Regular, I-S  
Canvasback, *Aythya valisineria*: Regular, I-S  
Redhead, *Aythya americana*: Regular, I-S  
Ring-necked Duck, *Aythya collaris*: Regular, I-S  
Greater Scaup, *Aythya marila*: Regular, I-S  
Lesser Scaup, *Aythya affinis*: Regular, I-S  
Common Eider, *Somateria mollissima*: Accidental, I-S  
King Eider, *Somateria spectabilis*: Accidental, I-P  
Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus*: Accidental, I-S  
Oldsquaw, *Clangula hyemalis*: Regular, I-S  
Black Scoter, *Melanitta nigra*: Casual, I-S  
Surf Scoter, *Melanitta perspicillata*: Regular, I-S  
White-winged Scoter, *Melanitta fusca*: Regular, I-S  
Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula*: Regular, I-S  
Barrow's Goldeneye, *Bucephala islandica*: Casual, I-P  
Bufflehead, *Bucephala albeola*: Regular, I-S  
Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus*: Regular, I-S  
Common Merganser, *Mergus merganser*: Regular, I-S  
Red-breasted Merganser, *Mergus serrator*: Regular, I-S  
Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis*: Regular, I-S

#### Order FALCONIFORMES

##### Family Cathartidae: American Vultures

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*: Accidental, I-S  
Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*: Regular, I-S

##### Family Accipitridae: Kites, Hawks, Eagles, and Allies

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*: Regular, I-S  
Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*: Extirpated, I-S  
White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus*: Accidental, I-P  
Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis*: Regular, I-S  
Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*: Regular, I-S  
Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*: Regular, I-S  
Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*: Regular, I-S  
Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*: Regular, I-S  
Northern Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis*: Regular, I-S  
Harris' Hawk, *Parabuteo unicinctus*: Accidental, I-S  
Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus*: Regular, I-S  
Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*: Regular, I-S  
Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni*: Regular, I-S  
Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*: Regular, I-S  
Ferruginous Hawk, *Buteo regalis*: Regular, I-S  
Rough-legged Hawk, *Buteo lagopus*: Regular, I-S  
Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*: Regular, I-S

##### Family Falconidae: Falcons

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*: Regular, I-S  
Merlin, *Falco columbarius*: Regular, I-S  
Prairie Falcon, *Falco mexicanus*: Regular, I-S

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*: Regular, I-S  
Gyr Falcon, *Falco rusticolus*: Casual, I-S

Order GALLIFORMES

Family Phasianidae: Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys, and Quail

Gray Partridge, *Perdix perdix*: Regular, I-S  
Ring-necked Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus*: Regular, I-S  
Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus*: Extirpated, I-S  
Sage Grouse, *Centrocercus urophasianus*: Accidental, III  
Greater Prairie-Chicken, *Tympanuchus cupido*: Regular, I-S  
Lesser Prairie-Chicken, *Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*: Extirpated, I-S  
Sharp-tailed Grouse, *Tympanuchus phasianellus*: Regular, I-S  
Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*: Regular, I-S  
Northern Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus*: Regular, I-S

Order GRUIFORMES

Family Rallidae: Rails, Gallinules, and Coots

Yellow Rail, *Coturnicops noveboracensis*: Accidental, I-S  
Black Rail, *Laterallus jamaicensis*: Accidental, \*\*  
Clapper Rail, *Rallus longirostris*: Accidental, I-S  
King Rail, *Rallus elegans*: Casual, I-S  
Virginia Rail, *Rallus limicola*: Regular, I-S  
Sora, *Porzana carolina*: Regular, I-S  
Purple Gallinule, *Porphyryla martinica*: Accidental, III  
Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*: Accidental, I-S  
American Coot, *Fulica americana*: Regular, I-S

Family Gruidae: Cranes

Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis*: Regular, I-S  
Common Crane, *Grus grus*: Accidental, I-P  
Whooping Crane, *Grus americana*: Regular, I-S

Order CHARADRIIFORMES

Family Charadriidae: Plovers

Black-bellied Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*: Regular, I-S  
American Golden-Plover, *Pluvialis dominicus*: Regular, I-S  
Snowy Plover, *Charadrius alexandrinus*: Casual, I-S  
Semipalmated Plover, *Charadrius semipalmatus*: Regular, I-S  
Piping Plover, *Charadrius melodus*: Regular, I-S  
Killdeer, *Charadrius vociferus*: Regular, I-S  
Mountain Plover, *Charadrius montanus*: Casual, I-S

Family Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets

Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus*: Regular, I-S  
American Avocet, *Recurvirostra americana*: Regular, I-S

Family Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Phalaropes

Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca*: Regular, I-S  
Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*: Regular, I-S  
Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*: Regular, I-S  
Willet, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*: Regular, I-S  
Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia*: Regular, I-S  
Upland Sandpiper, *Bartramia longicauda*: Regular, I-S  
Eskimo Curlew, *Numenius borealis*: Extirpated, I-S  
Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*: Casual, I-S

Long-billed Curlew, *Numenius americanus*: Regular, I-S  
Hudsonian Godwit, *Limosa haemastica*: Regular, I-S  
Marbled Godwit, *Limosa fedoa*: Regular, I-S  
Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*: Regular, I-S  
Red Knot, *Calidris canutus*: Casual, I-P  
Sanderling, *Calidris alba*: Regular, I-S  
Semipalmated Sandpiper, *Calidris pusilla*: Regular, I-S  
Western Sandpiper, *Calidris mauri*: Regular, I-S  
Least Sandpiper, *Calidris minutilla*: Regular, I-S  
White-rumped Sandpiper, *Calidris fuscicollis*: Regular, I-S  
Baird's Sandpiper, *Calidris bairdii*: Regular, I-S  
Pectoral Sandpiper, *Calidris melanotos*: Regular, I-S  
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, *Calidris acuminata*: Accidental, III  
Dunlin, *Calidris alpina*: Regular, I-S  
Stilt Sandpiper, *Calidris himantopus*: Regular, I-S  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Tryngites subruficollis*: Regular, I-S  
Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*: Accidental, I-P  
Short-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus griseus*: Casual, I-S  
Long-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus scolopaceus*: Regular, I-S  
Common Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*: Regular, I-S  
American Woodcock, *Scolopax minor*: Regular, I-S  
Wilson's Phalarope, *Phalaropus tricolor*: Regular, I-S  
Red-necked Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus*: Regular, I-S  
Red Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicaria*: Casual, I-S

#### Family Laridae: Gulls and Terns

Pomarine Jaeger, *Stercorarius pomarinus*: Accidental, I-S  
Parasitic Jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus*: Accidental, I-S  
Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicaudus*: Accidental, I-S  
Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*: Casual, I-P  
Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan*: Regular, I-S  
Little Gull, *Larus minutus*: Accidental, I-P  
Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*: Accidental, III  
Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*: Regular, I-S  
Mew Gull, *Larus canus*: Accidental, I-P  
Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*: Regular, I-S  
California Gull, *Larus californicus*: Regular, I-S  
Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*: Regular, I-S  
Thayer's Gull, *Larus thayeri*: Casual, I-P  
Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*: Casual, I-P  
Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*: Casual, I-P  
Glaucous-winged Gull, *Larus glaucescens*: Accidental, I-P  
Glaucous Gull, *Larus hyperboreus*: Regular, I-P  
Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*: Casual, I-P  
Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*: Casual, I-S  
Ross' Gull, *Rhodostethia rosea*: Accidental, I-P  
Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini*: Accidental, I-S  
Caspian Tern, *Sterna caspia*: Regular, I-S  
Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*: Regular, I-S  
Forster's Tern, *Sterna forsteri*: Regular, I-S  
Least Tern, *Sterna antillarum*: Regular, I-S  
Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger*: Regular, I-S

#### Family Alcidae: Auks, Murres, and Allies

Ancient Murrelet, *Synthliboramphus antiquus*: Accidental, I-S

#### Order COLUMBIFORMES

Family Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves

Rock Dove, *Columba livia*: Regular, I-S  
Band-tailed Pigeon, *Columba fasciata*: Accidental, III  
White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica*: Accidental, I-P  
Mourning Dove, *Zenaida macroura*: Regular, I-S  
Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius*: Extinct, I-S  
Inca Dove, *Columbina inca*: Accidental, I-P  
Common Ground-Dove, *Columbina passerina*: Accidental, III

Order PSITTACIFORMES

Family Psittacidae: Parrots

Carolina Parakeet, *Conuropsis carolinensis*: Extinct, I-S

Order CUCULIFORMES

Family Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Anis

Black-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*: Regular, I-S  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*: Regular, I-S  
Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*: Accidental, I-P

Order STRIGIFORMES

Family Tytonidae Barn Owls

Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*: Regular, I-S

Family Strigidae: Typical Owls

Eastern Screech-Owl, *Otus asio*: Regular, I-S  
Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*: Regular, I-S  
Snowy Owl, *Nyctea scandiaca*: Regular, I-S  
Northern Hawk Owl, *Surnia ulula*: Accidental, I-S  
Burrowing Owl, *Speotyto cunicularia*: Regular, I-S  
Barred Owl, *Strix varia*: Regular, I-S  
Great Gray Owl, *Strix nebulosa*: Accidental, I-S  
Long-eared Owl, *Asio otus*: Regular, I-S  
Short-eared Owl, *Asio flammeus*: Regular, I-S  
Boreal Owl, *Aegolius funereus*: Accidental, I-S  
Northern Saw-whet Owl, *Aegolius acadicus*: Regular, I-S

Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES

Family Caprimulgidae: Goatsuckers

Common Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*: Regular, I-S  
Common Poorwill, *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*: Regular, I-S  
Chuck-will's-widow, *Caprimulgus carolinensis*: Regular, I-P  
Whip-poor-will, *Caprimulgus vociferus*: Regular, I-S

Order APODIFORMES

Family Apodidae: Swifts

Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*: Regular, I-S  
White-throated Swift, *Aeronautes saxatalis*: Regular, I-S

Family Trochilidae: Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*: Regular, I-S  
Calliope Hummingbird, *Stellula calliope*: Accidental, I-P  
Broad-tailed Hummingbird, *Selasphorus platycercus*: Casual, I-P  
Rufous Hummingbird, *Selasphorus rufus*: Casual, I-S

## Order CORACIIFORMES

## Family Alcedinidae: Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher, *Ceryle alcyon*: Regular, I-S

## Order PICIFORMES

## Family Picidae: Woodpeckers

Lewis' Woodpecker, *Melanerpes lewis*: Regular, I-S  
Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*: Regular, I-S  
Acorn Woodpecker, *Melanerpes formicivorus*: Accidental, I-P  
Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Melanerpes carolinus*: Regular, I-S  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius*: Regular, I-S  
Red-naped Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*: Accidental, I-S  
Williamson's Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*: Accidental, I-S  
Downy Woodpecker, *Picoides pubescens*: Regular, I-S  
Hairy Woodpecker, *Picoides villosus*: Regular, I-S  
Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides tridactylus*: Accidental, I-S  
Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus*: Regular, I-S  
Pileated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus*: Accidental, I-P

## Order PASSERIFORMES

## Family Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Contopus borealis*: Regular, I-S  
Western Wood-Pewee, *Contopus sordidulus*: Regular, I-S  
Eastern Wood-Pewee, *Contopus virens*: Regular, I-S  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, *Empidonax flaviventris*: Casual, I-S  
Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*: Regular, I-S  
Alder Flycatcher, *Empidonax alnorum*: Regular, I-R  
Willow Flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii*: Regular, I-R  
Least Flycatcher, *Empidonax minimus*: Regular, I-S  
Hammond's Flycatcher, *Empidonax hammondi*: Accidental, I-S  
Cordilleran Flycatcher, *Empidonax occidentalis*: Casual, I-R  
Eastern Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe*: Regular, I-S  
Say's Phoebe, *Sayornis saya*: Regular, I-S  
Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*: Accidental, I-P  
Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*: Accidental, III  
Great Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*: Regular, I-S  
Cassin's Kingbird, *Tyrannus vociferans*: Regular, I-S  
Western Kingbird, *Tyrannus verticalis*: Regular, I-S  
Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*: Regular, I-S  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus*: Casual, I-P

## Family Alaudidae: Larks

Horned Lark, *Eremophila alpestris*: Regular, I-S

## Family Hirundinidae: Swallows

Purple Martin, *Progne subis*: Regular, I-S  
Tree Swallow, *Tachycineta bicolor*: Regular, I-S  
Violet-green Swallow, *Tachycineta thalassina*: Regular, I-S  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*: Regular, I-S  
Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*: Regular, I-S  
Cliff Swallow, *Hirundo pyrrhonota*: Regular, I-S  
Cave Swallow, *Hirundo fulva*: Accidental, I-P  
Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*: Regular, I-S

## Family Corvidae: Jays, Magpies, and Crows

Gray Jay, *Perisoreus canadensis*: Accidental, III  
Steller's Jay, *Cyanocitta stelleri*: Accidental, I-S  
Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*: Regular, I-S  
Pinyon Jay, *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*: Regular, I-S  
Clark's Nutcracker, *Nucifraga columbiana*: Casual, I-S  
Black-billed Magpie, *Pica pica*: Regular, I-S  
American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*: Regular, I-S  
Chihuahuan Raven, *Corvus cryptoleucus*: Accidental, I-S  
Common Raven, *Corvus corax*: Accidental, III

Family Paridae: Titmice

Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*: Regular, I-S  
Mountain Chickadee, *Parus gambeli*: Accidental, I-P  
Tufted Titmouse, *Parus bicolor*: Regular, I-S

Family Sittidae: Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*: Regular, I-S  
White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*: Regular, I-S  
Pygmy Nuthatch, *Sitta pygmaea*: Regular, I-S

Family Certhiidae: Creepers

Brown Creeper, *Certhia americana*: Regular, I-S

Family Troglodytidae: Wrens

Rock Wren, *Salpinctes obsoletus*: Regular, I-S  
Canyon Wren, *Catherpes mexicanus*: Accidental, I-P  
Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*: Regular, I-S  
Bewick's Wren, *Thryomanes bewickii*: Casual, I-P  
House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*: Regular, I-S  
Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes*: Regular, I-S  
Sedge Wren, *Cistothorus platensis*: Regular, I-S  
Marsh Wren, *Cistothorus palustris*: Regular, I-S

Family Cinclidae: Dippers

American Dipper, *Cinclus mexicanus*: Accidental, I-S

Family Muscicapidae: Kinglets, Thrushes and Allies

Golden-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus satrapa*: Regular, I-S  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus calendula*: Regular, I-S  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila caerulea*: Regular, I-S  
Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*: Regular, I-S  
Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia currucoides*: Regular, I-S  
Townsend's Solitaire, *Myadestes townsendi*: Regular, I-S  
Veery, *Catharus fuscescens*: Regular, I-S  
Gray-cheeked Thrush, *Catharus minimus*: Regular, I-S  
Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*: Regular, I-S  
Hermit Thrush, *Catharus guttatus*: Regular, I-S  
Wood Thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina*: Regular, I-S  
American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*: Regular, I-S  
Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*: Casual, I-S

Family Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers

Gray Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*: Regular, I-S  
Northern Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos*: Regular, I-S

Sage Thrasher, *Oreoscoptes montanus*: Casual, I-S  
Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum*: Regular, I-S  
Curve-billed Thrasher, *Toxostoma curvirostre*: Accidental, I-S

Family Motacillidae: Pipits

American Pipit, *Anthus rubescens*: Regular, I-S  
Sprague's Pipit, *Anthus spragueii*: Casual, I-S

Family Bombycillidae: Waxwings

Bohemian Waxwing, *Bombycilla garrulus*: Casual, I-S  
Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*: Regular, I-S

Family Ptilogonatidae: Silky-flycatchers

Phainopepla, *Phainopepla nitens*: Accidental, I-P

Family Laniidae: Shrikes

Northern Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*: Regular, I-S  
Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*: Regular, I-S

Family Sturnidae: Starlings

European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*: Regular, I-S

Family Vireonidae: Vireos

White-eyed Vireo, *Vireo griseus*: Casual, I-S  
Bell's Vireo, *Vireo bellii*: Regular, I-S  
Black-capped Vireo, *Vireo atricapillus*: Accidental, I-S  
Solitary Vireo, *Vireo solitarius*: Regular, I-S  
Yellow-throated Vireo, *Vireo flavifrons*: Regular, I-S  
Warbling Vireo, *Vireo gilvus*: Regular, I-S  
Philadelphia Vireo, *Vireo philadelphicus*: Regular, I-S  
Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*: Regular, I-S

Family Emberizidae: Wood-Warblers, Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks,  
Buntings, Towhees, Sparrows, Longspurs, Meadowlarks,  
Blackbirds, Orioles and Allies

subfamily Parulinae: Wood Warblers

Blue-winged Warbler, *Vermivora pinus*: Casual, I-S  
Golden-winged Warbler, *Vermivora chrysoptera*: Regular, I-S  
Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrina*: Regular, I-S  
Orange-crowned Warbler, *Vermivora celata*: Regular, I-S  
Nashville Warbler, *Vermivora ruficapilla*: Regular, I-S  
Virginia's Warbler *Vermivora virginiae*: Accidental, III  
Northern Parula, *Parula americana*: Regular, I-S  
Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*: Regular, I-S  
Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pensylvanica*: Regular, I-S  
Magnolia Warbler, *Dendroica magnolia*: Regular, I-S  
Cape May Warbler, *Dendroica tigrina*: Casual, I-S  
Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*: Casual, I-S  
Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*: Regular, I-S  
Townsend's Warbler, *Dendroica townsendi*: Casual, I-S  
Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens*: Regular, I-S  
Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*: Regular, I-S  
Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica*: Regular, I-P

Pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus*: Casual, I-P  
Prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor*: Accidental, I-P  
Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum*: Regular, I-S  
Bay-breasted Warbler, *Dendroica castanea*: Regular, I-S  
Blackpoll Warbler, *Dendroica striata*: Regular, I-S  
Cerulean Warbler, *Dendroica cerulea*: Regular, I-S  
Black-and-white Warbler, *Mniotilta varia*: Regular, I-S  
American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*: Regular, I-S  
Prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea*: Regular, I-S  
Worm-eating Warbler, *Helmitheros vermivorus*: Casual, I-P  
Swainson's Warbler, *Limnothlypis swainsonii*: Accidental, I-S  
Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*: Regular, I-S  
Northern Waterthrush, *Seiurus noveboracensis*: Regular, I-S  
Louisiana Waterthrush, *Seiurus motacilla*: Regular, I-S  
Kentucky Warbler, *Oporornis formosus*: Regular, I-S  
Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis*: Regular, I-P  
Mourning Warbler, *Oporornis philadelphia*: Regular, I-S  
MacGillivray's Warbler, *Oporornis tolmiei*: Regular, I-S  
Common Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas*: Regular, I-S  
Hooded Warbler, *Wilsonia citrina*: Casual, I-S  
Wilson's Warbler, *Wilsonia pusilla*: Regular, I-S  
Canada Warbler, *Wilsonia canadensis*: Regular, I-S  
Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens*: Regular, I-S

subfamily Thraupinae: Tanagers

Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*: Regular, I-S  
Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*: Regular, I-S  
Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana*: Regular, I-S

subfamily Cardinalinae: Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies

Northern Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*: Regular, I-S  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*: Regular, I-S  
Black-headed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus melanocephalus*: Regular, I-S  
Blue Grosbeak, *Guiraca caerulea*: Regular, I-S  
Lazuli Bunting, *Passerina amoena*: Regular, I-S  
Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*: Regular, I-S  
Painted Bunting, *Passerina ciris*: Accidental, I-S  
Dickcissel, *Spiza americana*: Regular, I-S

subfamily Emberizinae: Towhees, Sparrows and Longspurs

Green-tailed Towhee, *Pipilo chlorurus*: Casual, I-S  
Eastern Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*: Regular, I-S  
Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus*: Regular, I-S  
Cassin's Sparrow, *Aimophila cassinii*: Casual, I-P  
American Tree Sparrow, *Spizella arborea*: Regular, I-S  
Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina*: Regular, I-S  
Clay-colored Sparrow, *Spizella pallida*: Regular, I-S  
Brewer's Sparrow, *Spizella breweri*: Regular, I-S  
Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*: Regular, I-S  
Vesper Sparrow, *Poocetes gramineus*: Regular, I-S  
Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus*: Regular, I-S  
Black-throated Sparrow, *Amphispiza bilineata*: Accidental, I-P  
Sage Sparrow, *Amphispiza belli*: Accidental, III  
Lark Bunting, *Calamospiza melanocorys*: Regular, I-S  
Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis*: Regular, I-S  
Baird's Sparrow, *Ammodramus bairdii*: Accidental, I-S  
Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*: Regular, I-S  
Henslow's Sparrow, *Ammodramus henslowii*: Casual, I-S



Le Conte's Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii*: Regular, I-S  
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus nelsoni*: Casual, I-S  
Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca*: Regular, I-S  
Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia*: Regular, I-S  
Lincoln's Sparrow, *Melospiza lincolnii*: Regular, I-S  
Swamp Sparrow, *Melospiza georgiana*: Regular, I-S  
White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*: Regular, I-S  
Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*: Accidental, I-P  
White-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*: Regular, I-S  
Harris' Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula*: Regular, I-S  
Dark-eyed Junco, *Junco hyemalis*: Regular, I-S  
McCown's Longspur, *Calcarius mccownii*: Regular, I-S  
Lapland Longspur, *Calcarius lapponicus*: Regular, I-S  
Smith's Longspur, *Calcarius pictus*: Accidental, I-S  
Chestnut-collared Longspur, *Calcarius ornatus*: Regular, I-S  
Snow Bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis*: Regular, I-S

subfamily Icterinae: Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, Orioles and Allies

Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*: Regular, I-S  
Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*: Regular, I-S  
Eastern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna*: Regular, I-S  
Western Meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*: Regular, I-S  
Yellow-headed Blackbird, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*: Regular, I-S  
Rusty Blackbird, *Euphagus carolinus*: Regular, I-S  
Brewer's Blackbird, *Euphagus cyanocephalus*: Regular, I-S  
Great-tailed Grackle, *Quiscalus mexicanus*: Regular, I-S  
Common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*: Regular, I-S  
Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*: Regular, I-S  
Orchard Oriole, *Icterus spurius*: Regular, I-S  
Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*: Regular, I-S  
Bullock's Oriole, *Icterus bullockii*: Regular, I-S

Family Fringillidae: Finches

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, *Leucosticte tephrocotis*: Casual, I-S  
Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator*: Accidental, I-S  
Purple Finch, *Carpodacus purpureus*: Regular, I-S  
Cassin's Finch, *Carpodacus cassinii*: Regular, I-S  
House Finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus*: Regular, I-S  
Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*: Regular, I-S  
White-winged Crossbill, *Loxia leucoptera*: Casual, I-S  
Common Redpoll, *Carduelis flammea*: Regular, I-S  
Hoary Redpoll, *Carduelis hornemanni*: Accidental, I-P  
Pine Siskin, *Carduelis pinus*: Regular, I-S  
Lesser Goldfinch, *Carduelis psaltria*: Accidental, I-P  
American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis*: Regular, I-S  
Evening Grosbeak, *Coccothraustes vespertinus*: Regular, I-S

Family Passeridae: Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*: Regular, I-S

## WINTER FIELD REPORT, DECEMBER 1996-FEBRUARY 1997

Compiled by

W. Ross Silcock, P.O. Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653  
Joel G. Jorgensen, 1218 Jackson St. Blair, NE 68008

## INTRODUCTION

First, we wish to thank Larry Malone (LKM) for his excellent and detailed reports over the last 3 years or so. The reporting from western Nebraska has been greatly enhanced through Larry's efforts. Larry has retired from his position as Superintendent of NPNWR and CLNWR and we wish him luck.

Interesting features of this winter report include a few rarities such as Barrow's Goldeneye, Greater Yellowlegs, Mew Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Inca Dove, a "montane invasion" of such species as Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Gray-crowned Rosy-finch, and Cassin's Finch, birds rare in midwinter such as Red-breasted Merganser and Orange-crowned Warbler, unusually good numbers of regular winterers such as Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting, and a continuation of the ever-more-complex gull identification situation at LM, which is looking more like the west coast each winter.

## ABBREVIATIONS

Initials in parentheses refer to the observers, listed at the end of this report. \* = documentation submitted and passed to NOU Records Committee. Please refer to Nebraska Bird Review 54:74 for information about writing documentations, and the Official List of Birds of Nebraska (NBR 65: 3-16, this issue) for birds which should be documented. It is also important to document birds which are out-of-season. The best current source of early and late occurrence dates is Dr. Paul Johnsgard's "The Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States" reprinted in 1997 and available from the author at UNL.

**ad** = adult; **ADF** = Arbor Day Farm, Otoe Co; **BOL** = Branched Oak L SRA, Lancaster Co; **CBC** = Christmas Bird Count; **Cem** = Cemetery; **CLNWR** = Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Garden Co; **Co(s)** = County(ies); **FFNC** = Fontenelle Forest Nature Center; **HCR** = Harlan Co Res, Harlan Co; **imm** = immature; **juv** = juvenile; **L** = Lake; **LM** = L McConaughy, Keith Co; **mob** = many observers; **NBR** = Nebraska Bird Review; **NC** = Nature Center; **NE** = Nebraska; **NNF** = Nebraska National Forest; **NOURC** = Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee; **NPNWR** = North Platte NWR, Scotts Bluff Co; **R** = River; **Res** = Reservoir; **RWB** = Rainwater Basin, an area of Federal, State, and private basins and wetlands mainly in Phelps, Kearney, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, and York Cos; **SHP** = State Historical Park; **SL** = Sewage Lagoons; **SP** = State Park; **SRA** = State Recreation Area; **UNL** = University of Nebraska-Lincoln; **UNSM** = University of Nebraska State Museum; **WMA** = Wildlife Management Area (State); **WPA** = Waterfowl Production Area (Federal).

## GAZETTEER

**Arbor Lodge:** SHP, Otoe Co; **Blue Creek:** Garden Co; **Carter Canyon:** Scotts Bluff Co; **Clear Creek Marsh:** SRA/WMA, Garden/Keith Cos; **Ft. Kearny:** SHP, Kearney Co; **Funk Lagoon:** WPA, Phelps Co; **Grandpa's Steakhouse L:** Buffalo Co; **Holmes L:** Lincoln, Lancaster Co; **Indian Cave SP:** Nemaha/Richardson Cos; **James Ranch:** Fort Robinson SP, Sioux Co; **Johnson L:** SRA, Gosper/Dawson Cos; **Keystone Diversion**

**Dam:** L Ogallala, Keith Co; **Kingsley Dam:** LM, Keith Co; **L Alice:** NPNWR, Scotts Bluff Co; **L Ogallala:** Keith Co; **Monroe Canyon:** Sioux Co; **Offutt Base L:** Sarpy Co; **Pawnee L:** SRA, Lancaster Co; **Pawnee Prairie:** SRA, Pawnee Co; **Peterson WPA:** Gosper Co; **Pine Ridge:** escarpment of ponderosa pine in extreme nw NE; **Stateline Island:** WMA, Scotts Bluff Co; **Sutherland Res:** Lincoln Co; **Valentine NWR:** Cherry Co; **Wildcat Hills NC:** Scotts Bluff Co; **Wild Rose Ranch:** Hall Co; **Wolf L:** Saunders Co.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** A single bird at Offutt Base L 1-4 Dec was the only individual to be recorded during the period.

**Western Grebe:** Rare away from LM during the period, a pair lingered at Offutt Base L. until 13 Dec (BP,LP). At LM, 4 were found on 28 Dec (SJD,JS). This is a rather low count compared to previous years, likely due to a cold Dec.

**American White Pelican:** The cooling lake at Sutherland Res. is the only locale in the state where voluntary overwintering is attempted and has been successful. This year 4 birds were found there on 26 Dec (SJD,WRS) and all made it through the worst part of winter, as they were observed again on 15 Feb (JGJ,WRS). Curious was a single at HCR on 2 Feb (RH,LR). This bird was not present earlier in the season as this lake was well-covered on 13-16 Dec for the local CBC.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** A good early Dec tally was 20 at HCR on 1 Dec (RH,LR). Only 1 was there on 13 Dec (JGJ) and none on the HCR CBC 16 Dec. Other lingering birds include 2 at Offutt Base L. 1-4 Dec (BP,LP), 2 at Johnson L. on 14 Dec (LR,RH), and a single at Sutherland Res. on 26 Dec (SJD,WRS). None were found in Jan or Feb.

**Great Blue Heron:** Overall, fewer birds may have overwintered and all reports were from the Platte R valley south. The species went unrecorded at Wolf L for the first time in 20 years (TH). Mid-winter reports include 1 at BOL on 2 Jan (LE), 1 at Stateline Island on 8 Jan (LKM), 2-3 at NPNWR on 16-29 Jan (LKM,LK), and 2 at LM on 1 Feb (LKM).

**Trumpeter Swan:** Reports from the west are as follows: a pair was in the North Platte R, below Kingsley Dam on 28 Dec (SJD,JS), up to 8 were at L. Ogallala on 1-15 Feb (LKM,JGJ,WRS), and 9 were noted in Blue Creek on 30 Jan (LKM). Unexpected in the east, 2 birds with neck collars were at Wolf L. 18 Jan-16 Feb (TH). According to TH, who looked into the matter, these birds were released at Storm Lake, Iowa, in the fall.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Latest southbound migrants were 30 at Grandpa's Steakhouse L. on 7 Dec (LR,RH). No others were reported until 16 Feb, when 100 flew over Buffalo Co. (RH,LR).

**Snow Goose:** Small numbers were noted at several locales during Dec. Jan reports include 538 recorded on the Omaha CBC and 1 on 30 Jan in Garden Co. Spring migrants were detected in late Feb: two observers (LR,RH) were able to watch "wave after wave" arrive at Funk Lagoon on 22 Feb, totalling an estimated 200,000 birds.

**Ross' Goose:** The only reports were from Grandpa's Steakhouse L., where 11 were found on 7 Dec (LR,RH) and 1 was found on 4 Jan (LR,RH).

**Canada Goose:** Large numbers winter in the Platte valley from about Kearney west. Good counts include 30,575 at NPNWR on 16 Dec (LK), 15,000 at Sutherland Res on 16 Dec (SJD,WRS), and 36,900 on the Kearney CBC on 21 Dec (LR,RH). In the east, a few thousand were noted in Lancaster Co. during the period (LE) and 617 were tallied on the Omaha CBC.

**Wood Duck:** Rather far north was a female in sw Dixon Co. on 8 Dec (JJ). A good count was 8 on the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan. Other reports include 1 in Sarpy Co 26 Jan (DS), 1 at Holmes L. on 12 Feb (LE),

and 1 at HCR on 2 Feb (LR,RH).

**Green-winged Teal:** A few were found statewide during Dec and the species returned in late Feb. There were no Jan reports and the only mid-winter report was of 6 in Scotts Bluff Co. on 8 Feb (LKM,LR,RH).

**American Black Duck:** No reports were received.

**Mallard:** Good counts include 9,009 on the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ), 52,636 at NPNWR on 16 Dec (LK), 10,000 on the Scottsbluff CBC on 21 Dec (AK), 20,000 at Sutherland Res. on 26 Dec (SJD,WRS), and 10,000 at Funk Lagoon on 22 Feb (LR,RH).

**Northern Pintail:** A few were noted in Dec at several locales. The only Jan report was 4 at BOL on 18 Jan (BP,LP). Spring migrants begin drifting north in early Feb and migration is well under way during the latter half of that month; evidence of this is 10,000 at Funk Lagoon on 22 Feb (LR,RH).

**Northern Shoveler:** The only report was from Sarpy Co. on 2 Feb (DS); this species is rare in midwinter.

**Gadwall:** Dec reports include 4 at Wolf L. on 21 Dec (TH) and 1 on the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ). The only Jan reports were of 1-3 at NPNWR on 15-16 Jan (LKM) and in Sarpy Co 4 Jan (DS). Northbound migrants were detected in late Feb.

**American Wigeon:** This species was well reported this winter. High counts include 40 west of Scottsbluff on 21 Dec. and 60 in Scotts Bluff Co. on 7 Feb (LKM). Jan reports include 2 at BOL on 18 Jan (BP,LP) and in Sarpy Co 4 Jan (DS). Northbound migrants were detected in late Feb.

**Canvasback:** The only reports were of returning birds during the latter half of Feb, with the highest count being 256 at CLNWR on 21 Feb (MF).

**Redhead:** The only reports before Feb were singles at both BOL 18 Jan (BP,LP) and the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ). High count of spring migrants was 213 at CLNWR on 21 Feb (MF).

**Ring-necked Duck:** Earliest, and the best count, was 25 at BOL on 18 Feb (LE). All other reports are as follows: 7 were at Wolf L. on 22 Feb (TH) and 3 at Ft. Kearny on 23 Feb (LR,RH).

**Greater Scaup:** The only report was of a pair at Sutherland Res. on 15 Feb (JGJ,WRS).

**Lesser Scaup:** Good Dec and Jan counts include 15 at Grandpa's Steakhouse L. on 7 Dec (LR,RH), 9 at the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ), and 6 at the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan. Small numbers arrived in late Feb.

**Oldsquaw:** The only report of this rare winter visitor was a female at LM on 28 Dec (SJD).

**Common Goldeneye:** High counts of wintering birds include 350 at Johnson L. on 4 Jan (LR,RH) and 430 at Sutherland Res. and LM 1 Feb (LKM).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** This species should be looked for with Commons in the North Platte valley. A pair was found on 15 Feb (JGJ,WRS) at L. Ogallala, the first report from the LM area since 1991 (Rosché 1994, Birds of LM).

**Bufflehead:** Singles or pairs were noted at HCR on 13 Dec (JGJ), Johnson L on 14 Dec (LR,RH), and Offutt Base L on 13 Dec (BP,LP). The only mid-winter report was 8 at LM on 1 Feb (LKM). A few returning birds were detected in late Feb, including the season's best count of 27 at CLNWR on 21 Feb (MF).

**Hooded Merganser:** Only report was a single at Holmes L. on 12 Feb (LEI).

**Common Merganser:** An estimated 12,000 at HCR on 1 Dec (LR,RH) nearly doubled to an estimated 23,071 on 15 Dec (JGJ). A cold Dec may have been the impetus for the growth in numbers at HCR, forcing birds south that were to the north. Cold weather and a nearby frozen lake is also the likely reason that only 4,000 were recorded

at LM on 28 Dec (SJD,JS).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Overwintering is not expected, but a determined female apparently did so at L. Ogallala, as it was found with Common Mergansers on 28 Dec (SJD) and 15 Feb (JGJ).

**Bald Eagle:** Notable concentrations include 45 at Johnson L. on 14 Dec (LR,RH), 176 at HCR on 4 Jan (LR,RH), and 218 at LM and Sutherland Res on 1 Feb (LKM). Respectable away from a major reservoir was the count of 23 on the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan.

**Northern Harrier:** Moderate numbers were encountered throughout the period in the south, with the best count being 13 at HCR on 13 Dec (JGJ). One pair of observers (LR,RH) were able to tally 22 in eight counties during the period. A report from Knox Co. on 2 Feb (MB), was the only report from n of the Platte R valley.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Up to 17 were recorded in eleven counties. None were recorded in the north-central or Pine Ridge.

**Cooper's Hawk:** In contrast to the preceding, only 3 were found in three counties. Singles were found in Buffalo Co. on 11 Jan (LR,RH), in Lancaster Co. on 17 Jan (LE), and on the Scottsbluff CBC on 21 Dec (LKM).

**Northern Goshawk:** No reports were received.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** Notable concentrations include 53 counted on the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan and 47 counted on the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ).

**Ferruginous Hawk:** Even though this species is expected to be found in winter near prairie dog towns, 7 at one town west of Kearney on 8 Dec (LR,RH) is a superb count. All other reports include singles in Franklin Co. on 1 Dec (LR,RH), at HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ), in Scotts Bluff Co. on 21 Dec (LKM), in Harlan Co. on 26 Dec (LR,RH), in Morrill Co. on 28 Dec (BFH,MB), in Cherry Co. on 29 Dec (BFH,MB), and at LM on 1 Feb (LKM).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Words such as common, ubiquitous, and numerous were used to describe this species' occurrence in the north and west. Up to 25 were tallied in sw Sioux Co. on 27 Dec (SJD,WRS,JS), 35 were found along the road from Neligh to North Platte on 27 Dec (BFH,MB), and 10 were noted at Valentine NWR on 31 Dec (JGJ,GEJ). Small numbers were found in the east and south.

**Golden Eagle:** Best count from the panhandle was 3 tallied on the Scottsbluff CBC on 21 Dec (LKM). The only report away from the panhandle was 2 at HCR on 12 Jan (LR,RH).

**American Kestrel:** Best counts include 23 on the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan and 8 on the Scottsbluff CBC on 21 Dec (LKM).

**Merlin:** Singles were noted in Buffalo Co. on 7 Dec (LR,RH), Harlan Co. on 15 Dec (JGJ), Pierce Co. on 21 Dec (MB), Morrill Co. on 28 Dec (MB), Sioux Co. on 29 Dec (BFH,MB), and Garden Co. 8 Jan-2 Feb (MF), and two were noted in Kearney Co. on 18 Jan (LR,RH).

**Prairie Falcon:** Most easterly was a single, whose black axillars were noted, east of Tekamah on 21 Dec (JGJ). Two observers (LR,RH) found 4 in the south-central during the period, including two in Webster Co. on 31 Dec. A final easterly report is from Knox Co. on 2 Feb (MB). In addition, 4 were found from Keith Co. westward.

**Gray Partridge:** No reports were received, which is not a surprise in light of this species' current population crash.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** A respectable panhandle count was 27 in Morrill and Cheyenne Cos. on 13 Jan (LKM), but that count is eclipsed by 200+ in Dixon Co. on 6 Dec (JJ).

**Greater Prairie-chicken:** This species is proving to be more numerous in the south-central than previously thought. In recent years, Randolph (LR) and Harding (RH) have brought to light the existence of isolated populations in remnant sandhills in Kearney Co and adjacent Adams Co. Also, in Dec birds were found at HCR where large tracts of grassland exist in the arroyos in the Republican R drainage, offering suitable habitat for the species.

A covey of 15 was found on 13 Dec (JGJ) near the HCR dam and 7 were found at the other end of the lake on 15 Dec (WRS). Since this species is known to wander in fall and winter, a follow-up would be needed in summer to provide evidence of breeding in the area.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse:** A good count was 56 at and around Valentine NWR on 31 Dec (JGJ,GEJ).

**Wild Turkey:** Notable counts include 64 in Carter Canyon on 29 Jan (LKM) and 37 tallied on the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan.

**Northern Bobwhite:** Only 8 were tallied on the Omaha CBC on 4 Jan and 9 on 16 Dec was the best count from ADF (LF,CF), while 35 were found in a single covey in Kearney Co on 18 Jan (LR,RH) and 15 were tallied on the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ). Much of the non-agricultural land in the far east is succeeding to more mature woodland and quality brush habitat appears to be minimal. Are higher densities of this species now found away from the Missouri R valley, especially in the south?

**Virginia Rail:** A single lingered at CLNWR to 1 Dec (MF). At a more traditional winter locale were 8 in late Dec at Clear Creek Marsh near Lewellen (SJD,WRS,JS).

**American Coot:** A late bird was noted at Grandpa's Steakhouse L on 7 Dec (LR,RH) and the first spring migrant was detected at Funk Lagoon on 22 Feb (LR,RH).

**Sandhill Crane:** First arrivals were 50 in Kearney Co. on 16 Feb (LR,RH) and 1000 there on 23 Feb (LF,CF).

**Killdeer:** As many as 10 were tallied along the North Platte R below the Keystone Diversion Dam on 28 Dec (SJD,JS), dropping to 3 on 1 Feb (LKM), and none were found on a quick check on 15 Feb (JGJ). A single was also found at NPNWR from 14 Jan-7 Feb (LKM). Likely a spring migrant was 1 at BOL 18 Feb (LE).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** A surprise find was a single at Stateline Island on 14 Jan (LKM). This is the first Jan report for this species and the first between 28 Dec and 3 Mar.

**Common Snipe:** A single at Scottsbluff on 21 Dec (LKM,AK) and 8 Feb (LKM,LR,RH) likely wintered. In addition, 2 were at Stateline Island on 7 Feb (LKM).

**Franklin's Gull:** A very eager adult was at BOL on 23 Feb (JGJ).

**Mew Gull:** An adult at BOL, first observed and photographed on 1 Dec (JGJ), remained until 5 Dec (BP,LP\*). This will likely become the third state record as well as the third 1996 record, although all three still await NOURC approval.

**Ring-billed Gull:** This species is numerous on either side of Jan. Good Dec counts were 1000 at Johnson L. on 14 Dec (LR,RH) and 467 at HCR on 15 Dec (JGJ). Good Feb counts include 250 at LM on 1 Feb, 450 at HCR on 22 Feb (LF,CF), and 500 at Pawnee L. on 23 Feb (JGJ).

**California Gull:** An adult on 13 Dec (JGJ) and a first-winter on 15 Dec (WRS) at HCR represent only the 4th and 5th reports east of Cherry and Lincoln Cos. An adult was with Herring Gulls at Sutherland Res on 27 Dec (BFH). Only 1-2 were at LM on 28 Dec (JGJ,BFH), but 20 were tallied on 1 Feb (LKM), dropping back to 1 on 15 Feb (JGJ).

**Herring Gull:** Respectable Dec counts include 446 at HCL on 15 Dec (JGJ) and 100 at Johnson L. on 14 Dec (LR,RH). The 220 at LM on 1 Feb (LKM) grew to 400 on 15 Feb (JGJ,WRS).

**Thayer's Gull:** Despite able and cautious observers, hard evidence (i.e. specimens, photographs) of this species' regular occurrence in the state is lacking, as most documented reports involve descriptions. Identification of "light end birds" i.e. birds tending towards Iceland Gull, can be tricky, as can that of "dark end birds", those resembling pale Herring Gulls. Single first-winter birds were well-studied at BOL on 8 Dec (MB), HCR on 15 Dec (WRS,JGJ) and Sutherland Res. on 27 Dec (SJD,WRS). At least one

first-winter and an apparent fourth-winter were at L. Ogallala on 15 Dec (JGJ,WRS).

**Iceland Gull:** A standoff, with good cases made by each camp, involved the identity of a first-winter bird at BOL on 1-5 Dec. The gull in question appeared much like a first-winter Glaucous Gull present, except that it was markedly smaller and the division between the pink and black on the bill was not clean-cut. One pair of observers believed it to be an Iceland Gull (BP,LP), while another pair thought it to be a Glaucous Gull of one of the smaller subspecies, such as *barrovianus* (WRS,JGJ). Distinguishing these possibilities has bedeviled west coast birders for some time. NOURC will attempt to sort this one out, but resolution may not be possible.

**Glaucous Gull:** Still rare, but regular in the east, 1-2 (see preceding) were at BOL on 1-5 Dec (JGJ,WRS,BP,LP). Up to 5 were tallied at the HCR CBC on 15 Dec (JGJ), providing the best count to date away from the reservoirs of the western Platte valley. At IM, 7 were counted on 1 Feb (LKM) and 9, including 2 adults, were there on 15 Feb (WRS,JGJ). Up to 4 first-winters were tallied at Sutherland Res on 26-27 Dec (BFH,SJD,WRS).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** A second-winter was present at L. Ogallala on 15 Feb (WRS,JGJ). This is plausibly the same individual present last winter and in Aug.

**Glaucous-winged X Western Gull?:** Of interest to gull-watchers was the presence of two Herring Gull-sized first-winter gulls, which are as likely to be this hybrid or a related backcross as either of two other equally intriguing possibilities at L. Ogallala on 16 Feb (JGJ,WRS). The two, essentially identical and possibly siblings, could be described as giant, pale Thayer's Gulls but lacking checkering on their tertials. A series of slides were reviewed by three west coast experts, who all came to different conclusions. Potential identities of the gulls include Slaty-backed or introgressants of Glaucous-winged and Herring or Glaucous-winged and Western. These individuals, along with the Iceland/Glaucous Gull (see above), illustrate the minefield that is gull identification on the west coast and apparently now posing similar problems on the northern Great Plains.

**Rock Dove:** Best count was 150 in Lincoln 10 Jan (LE).

**Mourning Dove:** All reports were from the extreme se, best count a remarkable midwinter tally of 270 n of Lincoln (LE). An excellent 60 were recorded on the Omaha CBC 4 Jan.

**Inca Dove:** Nebraska's 4th (see Fall) was noted at the Uridil feeder in Chadron 14 Nov (ZU); the last date noted in the Fall Report was 6 Nov.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Reports were routine.

**Great Horned Owl:** Reports were routine.

**Snowy Owl:** The only report was of 1 seen on an "igloo-shaped" church building in Kearney 3 Dec (LR,RH). Must have felt at home!

**Barred Owl:** The only report was from an expected location in Sarpy Co (DS).

**Long-eared Owl:** There were only 3 reports: 5 were at a roost 7 mi n of Lincoln through the period (DS), 1 was at ADF 3 Dec (LF,CF), and 1 was in Stanton Co 21 Dec (MB).

**Short-eared Owl:** The only midwinter report was of 2 birds 3 mi s of Peterson WPA 26 Jan (LR,RH). Dec reports were of 1 at CLNWR 17 Dec (LKM) and another in Cass Co 1 Dec (GW et al).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** A fresh road-kill was picked up at mile marker 121.5 just east of Ash Hollow SHP on 28 Dec (MB,BFH). This was the only report for this species.

**Belted Kingfisher:** Likely to winter anywhere if open water is present, a midwinter report of interest was of 1 at Blue Creek 6

Feb (LKM), a stream which stays open all winter and harbors wintering Trumpeter Swans.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** As is expected in midwinter if any remain, reports were from the extreme se, singles in Saunders Co 4 Jan (DS), Cass Co 22 Jan (GW et al), and Otoe Co on 9 Feb (LF,CF).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** None were reported w of Saunders Co.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Like Red-headed Woodpecker, wintering birds are usual during the period only in the extreme se; there were 3 reports, more than usual in midwinter: 1 wintered at ADF (LF,CF), 1 was reported on the Omaha CBC 4 Jan, and 2 were at Arbor Lodge 31 Jan (BP,LP).

**Downy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine.

**Northern Flicker:** None were reported between 7 Dec and 17 Feb; these birds are scarcest in midwinter.

**Horned Lark:** Best count was 5275 around LM 28 Dec (LR,RH).

**Steller's Jay:** Leading off a great array of invading montane species this winter were 2 cooperative birds which appeared during the fall period in Carter Canyon and remained there through the winter period (mob). For a time, only 1 was present; the other may have been the bird seen at Mitchell 16 Jan (AK). This occurrence is about the 30th for this species in Nebraska.

**Blue Jay:** Now rather common throughout the Platte valley, if not everywhere in the state, 23 were counted on the Scotts Bluff CBC 21 Dec.

**Pinyon Jay:** The numbers reported, higher than in average winters, suggested that this species was involved in the general invasion of Scotts Bluff Co by montane species. Best count was 125 along the White River in Sioux Co 29 Dec (JGJ,GEJ), while up to 41 frequented the exciting Wildcat Hills NC feeders through the period (SJD, mob). Most significant report was of a single bird which attended feeders at the Dummer and Rumery residences in Kearney through the period (LR,RH).

**Clark's Nutcracker:** This is another montane species which appeared this winter. First were up to 6 present in Monroe Canyon 29-30 Dec (MB,BFH,JGJ,GEJ). These birds probably came from the Black Hills of South Dakota, but provenance of 1-2 in Morrill Co 11 Jan (AK) through 8 Feb (LKM,LR,RH) is less obvious.

**Black-billed Magpie:** Recently appearing regularly around BOL, 1 was there 6 Dec (LE), also the most easterly reported. Best count was only 25, those at HCR 12 Jan (LR,RH).

**American Crow:** Best count was a modest 90 at BOL 31 Jan (LE).

**Black-capped Chickadee:** Reports were routine.

**Mountain Chickadee:** The influx noted in fall continued through the winter period. Surprisingly far to the east was 1 at the KNOP TV station's feeder in North Platte at least 4-6 Dec (NR,BP,LP). This species reached Lincoln Co during the 1968-69 invasion, when the most easterly Nebraska report, from Dawson Co in early 1969, was made. Best count was up to 5 at the Wildcat Hills NC feeders through the period (mob). The other report received was of 1 in Gering 4 Dec (AK).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Reports were from regular locations in Sarpy and Cass Cos.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** The many reports received totalled only about 22 birds, rather routine. Best count was 8 at the Wildcat Hills NC feeders (surprise!) 3 Jan (LKM). Reports were statewide.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** Reports were routine; none from areas where breeding does not occur.

**Pygmy Nuthatch:** This species was common this winter, indicating an influx of non-resident birds, especially on the Pine Ridge. Best counts were 38 in the Sioux Co Pine Ridge 29 Dec (SJD) and 21 in



Monroe Canyon 29 Dec (JGJ). Up to 6 were at the Wildcat Hills NC feeders throughout (mob), a not unusual number for the location.

**Brown Creeper:** Reports were from the se, where best count was 6 at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, 21 Dec (LE), except for 1 bird at the Gering Cem 4 Dec (LKM). Creepers are uncommon in fall and rare in winter in the panhandle away from the Pine Ridge.

**Carolina Wren:** Only 2 reports were received: 1 was in Cass Co 1 Dec (GW et al) and another was at ADF throughout (LF,CF). Reports of this species have declined recently.

**Winter Wren:** The only report was of 1 at Indian Cave SP 1Feb (WRS). Few overwinter.

**Marsh Wren:** This species winters regularly in the LM area, but also apparently around springs in Scotts Bluff Co; 1 was observed there 28 Jan (LKM).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Several wintered in the se; 4 were counted on the Omaha CBC 4 Jan, and 3 were at ADF 23 Jan (LF,CF). Furthest w were singles at Wild Rose Ranch 12 and 28 Dec (TEL).

**Eastern Bluebird:** Reports were from Buffalo and Franklin Cos southeastward. A good midwinter count was 9 in nw Franklin Co 2 Feb (LR,RH).

**Mountain Bluebird:** The only report of this species, Nebraska's best candidate for an "altitudinal migrant", was 10 around LM 28 Dec (BFH). Wintering is regular in the Platte valley as far east as se Lincoln Co.

**Townsend's Solitaire:** Rather far e was 1 at Wolf L 8 Dec (TH). Elsewhere, best count was a modest 13 around LM 1 Feb (LKM).

**American Robin:** An excellent midwinter count was 475 at Wolf L 3 Jan (TH). Returning flocks were noted at Nebraska City 17 Feb, when 55 were counted (LF,CF).

**Gray Catbird:** Chuck and Joan Dummer reported 1 in their Kearney yard 5 Jan (fide LR,RH). No details were provided. The only other midwinter report for the state is 7-8 Feb 1993 in Douglas Co (AB 42:273).

**Brown Thrasher:** The only report for the period was 1 in Kearney 21 Dec on the CBC. Dec reports are rare, but not unusual in s and e Nebraska.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** A beautiful sight were 362 flying around Harrison 29 Dec (SJD, mob). Few have been reported in recent years. A smaller group, 10 birds, were at LeMoyne on LM 28 Dec (JGJ,GEJ).

**Cedar Waxwing:** Best count among the statewide reports was 255 at Wolf L 21 Dec; 220 were there 4 Jan also (TH). Reports were about average.

**Northern Shrike:** Several reports were received, indicating a good year for this species. Furthest se were 1 in Sarpy Co 11 Jan (DS), 2 in Lancaster Co 6 Dec (LE), and 1 at BOL 18 Jan (BP,LP).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** The only reports were from Cass Co; none were reported in midwinter, when most depart the state. Singles were in Cass Co 1 Dec (LP,BP) and 23 Jan (GW et al).

**European Starling:** Best count among the statewide reports was 475 at NPNWR 16 Jan (LKM). Rather lonely at an unexpected midwinter location was 1 at CLNWR 12 Jan (MF).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** No details were received with a report of 1 on the UNL East Campus, Lincoln, 21 Dec (LE). This would be the latest ever by over a month, although it was described as "wintering as far north as Omaha" without details in 1979-80 (AB 34:287).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Dec reports from the se are not unusual, but 1 at North Platte 6 Dec (BP,LP) was rather far west at that date.

**Northern Cardinal:** Best count was a modest 20 in n Lancaster Co 10 Feb (LE), while the small Scotts Bluff Co population continues: 2 were seen 21 Dec (AK), hopefully male and female.

**spotted Towhee:** All towhees reported were this species; most Easterns leave in midwinter. As many as 4 were as far e as Lancaster Co 21 Dec (LE).

**American Tree Sparrow:** Best counts were 300 in Otoe Co 9 Feb (LF,CF) and 280 in Lancaster Co 10 Feb (LE).

**song Sparrow:** Wintering statewide wherever water remains open, a good midwinter count was 9 at NPNWR 16 Jan (LKM).

**Swamp Sparrow:** One of only a handful of midwinter panhandle reports was 1 at Stateline Island 7 Feb (LKM). This species is rare anywhere in the state in midwinter, with most reports from the se. Less unusual was 1 at HCR 14 Dec (JGJ).

**White-throated Sparrow:** Furthest w were 1 wintering in a yard near Gibbon (LR,RH) and another at HCR 14 Dec (JGJ). Most wintering reports are from the se.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** No large counts were received; most are s of Nebraska in midwinter. Scotts Bluff Co hosted 4 on 21 Dec (LKM) and singles were at BOL 18 Jan (LP,BP) and 12 Feb (LE).

**Harris' Sparrow:** Rare in the northwest, 1 was at a feeder in Chadron 11 Dec (ZU, photo). Other reports were from the s and e, with best counts an excellent 95 in Otoe Co 1 Jan (LF,CF) and 50 in Lincoln 21 Dec (LE).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** Observers should note, if possible, the plumage type of juncos; treat them as though they were different species! Observers in the e generally do not differentiate types, probably because most are "Slate-colored". No "Oregon" Juncos were reported e of Hall Co, where 1 was seen at Wild Rose Ranch 12 Dec (TEL). "White-winged" Juncos were at the James Ranch feeders through the period (SL). Best counts of "Dark-eyed" were 350 in Otoe Co 9 Feb (LF,CF) and 75 at BOL 10 Feb (LE).

**Lapland Longspur:** Good midwinter counts were received: 3000 were in se Gosper Co 26 Jan (LR,RH), and 1500 were in sw Phelps Co 26 Jan (LR,RH) and in sw Dixon Co 1 Feb (JJ). Very large numbers appear in ne NE in late Feb, presumably migrants; at least 10,000 were noted in sw Dixon Co 20 Feb, where "mile after mile ... they kept rising out of the cornfields. I've never seen this many at one time before." (JJ).

**Snow Bunting:** This was a good year for this species. Many reports were received, including excellent counts of 1000 in Wayne Co 7 Jan (JJ), 160 near Niobrara 30 Dec (BFH), and 92 w of Valentine 30 Dec (JGJ). All reports were n of the Platte R, except for 15 n of Lincoln 10 Feb (LE).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** An amazing concentration was 12,500 in a creek bottom at Pawnee Prairie 8 Feb (JGJ,WRS); these may have been early migrants. Singing birds were on territory by 22 Feb at Wolf L (TH).

**Western Meadowlark:** First identified by song were in Otoe Co 22 Feb (LF,CF).

**Meadowlark sp.:** None were reported, although several reports of "Western" Meadowlark were received without identification details. Although most, if not all, winter meadowlarks in Nebraska are probably Westerns, field identification to species in winter is difficult if not impossible unless a call is heard.

**Rusty Blackbird:** The only reports were of 41 at HCR 14 Dec (JGJ) and at least 1 in Cass Co 5 Jan (GW et al). This species is not unusual in the se as late as early Jan.

**Brewer's Blackbird:** The only report was from Cass Co 5 Jan (GW et al). There are a few reports in midwinter in the se, but these are poorly documented.

**Common Grackle:** Midwinter reports were from the se, as expected, except for 1 in Knox Co 19 Jan (MB). Few overwinter, usually singles at feeders. One, the only sighting by this observer, was at

a feeder in Lincoln 16 Jan (LE), and 1 was reported on the Omaha CBC 4 Jan.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** Rare in midwinter, 3 reports were received: 3 were in w Lancaster Co 2 Jan (LE), 1 was in Sarpy Co 12 Jan (DS), and 6 were in the observers' yard near Gibbon 10 Feb (LR,RH).

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch:** This was a good winter for this species. The flood of rarity-hunters in w Nebraska in late Dec located a flock of 30-40 at a rocky outcropping roost site on the Hughson Ranch n of Scottsbluff 27 Dec (SJD,WRS,JS). These birds had been in the area for some time (Helen Hughson fide WRS). A flock of about 100 were near Whitney in Dawes Co 29 Dec (SJD,JS,WRS,BFH) and up to 75 were at a Chadron feeder through the period (ZU). Other reports were 40 at L Alice 14 Jan (LKM), 3 at the Wildcat Hills NC feeders 23 Feb (AK), 2 w of Fort Robinson in Sioux Co 30 Dec (JGJ), and the first to appear at the James Ranch feeders was seen 16 Dec (SL).

**Purple Finch:** Fewer than 10 were reported, but 1 was far west near Gering for the winter (AK).

**Cassin's Finch:** Observers were afforded an opportunity to study the rarest of the 3 Carpodacus finches in Nebraska when several Cassin's appeared at the Wildcat Hills NC feeders during the fall, probably also part of the montane influx. Not as many remained there through winter, best count 5 on 27 Dec (SJD).

**House Finch:** Best count was 48 on the UNL East campus in Lincoln 17 Jan (LE).

**Red Crossbill:** After a promising eastward move in the fall, winter reports east of the expected range were sporadic at best. Best eastern count was 35 in Harlan Co 2 Feb (LR,RH), and 1 was at Wild Rose Ranch 28 Dec (TEL), another at Cottonmill Park in Kearney 23 Feb (LR,RH), 5 were at Nebraska City 24 Feb (LF,CF), and it was reported from Cass (GW et al) and Saunders (DS) Cos without numbers given. Best count was from the west: 65 at Wildcat Hills NC 25 Jan (LKM).

**Common Redpoll:** As seems to be usual for this species following a good year, none were reported this year.

**Pine Siskin:** Reports were statewide in average numbers except for the west, where good numbers were reported, including up to 300 at the Wildcat Hills NC 27 Dec (SJD) and 80 at Chadron 3 Feb (ZU).

**American Goldfinch:** Numbers were about average statewide. Best counts were 75 at a single feeder in Lincoln 10 Jan (LE) and 45 in Nebraska City 13 Jan (LF,CF).

**Evening Grosbeak:** Most reports were from (where else?) the Wildcat Hills NC feeders, where a flock wintered; best count was 48 on 25 Jan (LKM). Numbers were good in the west, as 116 were counted on the Scottsbluff CBC 21 Dec and 12 were seen at Harrison 29 Dec (SJD). Easterly reports were of 3 at Kearney on the CBC 21 Dec, 5 at LM 28 Dec (BFH), and 15 at HCR 12 Jan (LR,RH).

**House Sparrow:** This species appears to be intimidated not only by House Finches, but by Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches; all the House Sparrows left whenever Gray-crowns appeared at the observer's feeders (ZU).

#### OBSERVERS

Mark Brogie (MB), Creighton; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Fort Collins, CO; Larry Einemann (LE), Lincoln; Carol Falk (CF), Nebraska City; Laurence Falk (LF), Nebraska City; Marlin French (MF), Ellsworth; Robin Harding (RH), Gibbon; Thomas A. Hoffman (TH), Omaha; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City; Jan Johnson (JJ), Wakefield; Joel G. Jorgensen (JGJ), Blair; Alice Kenitz (AK), Gering; Lucy Koenig (LK), Scottsbluff; Thomas E. Labeledz (TEL), Lincoln; Sandy Lemmon (SL), Crawford; Larry K. Malone (LKM),

Scottsbluff; Babs Padelford (BP), Bellevue; Loren Padelford (LP), Bellevue; Lanny Randolph (LR), Gibbon; Neal Ratzlaff (NR), Omaha; W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Tabor, IA; Dave Stage (DS), Lincoln; John Sullivan (JS), Elmwood, Edna Claire Thomas (ECT), Morrill; Zee Urudil (ZU), Chadron; Gertrude Wood, Donald Wood, Kevin DeGarmo, Jan DeGarmo (GW et al), Elmwood.

-----

#### NEBRASKA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR 1996

The official count period for the 97th Audubon National Society's Christmas Bird Count was 20 December 1996 through 5 January 1997. One location (Harlan County) conducted counts outside the official period.

The numerical data are presented in Table 1 (pages 28-34) in a west (left) to east (right) order for nine locations in Nebraska. Unusual species that were underlined in the individual reports are marked by an asterisk (\*) before the number in a particular column, and unusual numbers underlined in the reports are shown in **bold**. For Bald Eagles, the total number, which is given first, includes any adults and/or immatures (given in parentheses). Species with subdivisions such as for Snow Goose, Northern Flicker, and Dark-eyed Junco, are counted as a unit in getting species totals. Unidentified species are included in the total numbers but not in the number of species for a location except when no specific form was reported. Species seen in the count circle during the count period, but not on the count day, are listed at the end of the location descriptions.

The following descriptions of the nine locations with abbreviations (if used) in Table 1, are presented alphabetically, and include pertinent information and names of compilers and participants.

**Beaver Valley:** center 4 mi. west, 1.5 mi. south of Petersburg, Boone Co. (NW corner of Sec. 5, T21N, R7W); 29 Dec., 7:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., temp. -3 to 16° F, partly cloudy, wind NW 0-5 mph, snow 4" (100% snow-covered), still water frozen, moving water partly open; 5 observers in 2 parties + 1 at feeders; 14 hrs. and 10 mi. on foot, 4 hrs. and 46 mi. by car. Observers: Belle Esau, Dave Heidt, **Wayne Mollhoff** (compiler), Neal Pohlman, Brant Wolff, Duane Wolff. Comments by Wayne Mollhoff: "There was a very marked scarcity of birds due to a severe ice/sleet storm that gave 2-4" of ice, with 100% ice cover from mid-November through mid-December. There was still about 10% ice cover beneath the hard, crusted snow on count day."

**Harlan County (Harlan Co):** center 2 mi. east of Alma, center of Section 26, includes Harlan Co. Lake, Orleans, Republican City, and Huntley; 15 Dec., 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., temp. 20 - 31° F, wind NW 15-25 mph, water open; 5 observers in 3 parties (all in field); 1.5 hrs. and 2 mi. owling, 26 total party hrs., total party mi. 210 by car, 4 on foot. Observers: Robin Harding, Jerry Jorgensen, **Joel Jorgensen** (compiler), Lanny Randolph, and Ross Silcock. Species observed during count week but not on count day: Double-crested Cormorant (1), Greater White-fronted Goose (1), Snow Goose (3), Ross' Goose (1), Northern Pintail (1), Bufflehead (2), Lincoln's Sparrow (1), Swamp Sparrow (1), White-throated Sparrow (1).

**Kearney:** center 2 mi. west of Kearney Platte River bridge, circle includes Kearney Cemetery, Cottonmill Park, Fort Kearny State Parks including Hike-Bike Trail, Kearney, roadside areas, cropland, and grassland visible from the road; 21 Dec., 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., temp. 31-37°F, cloudy to partly cloudy, wind calm, no

(continued on p. 35)

Table 1. 1996 Nebraska Christmas Bird Counts for Nine Areas.

Species	Scotts -bluff	Lake McCon.	North Platte	Harlan County	Loup City	Kearney	Beaver Valley	Lincoln	Omaha
Western Grebe		4							
American White Pelican									
Great Blue Heron blue form		6		1		2		8	1
Trumpeter Swan		2							
Greater White-fronted Goose						4		1	
Snow Goose blue form		5				25		4 1	538
Ross' Goose						2			
Canada Goose small forms	12,873	13,700	5867	1687	1500 150	36,900	6	5557	617
Wood Duck								2	8
Green-winged Teal, Am.	6	3		1			28		1
Mallard	10,448	2021	3	9009	1750	116	2500	1086	317
Northern Pintail	4	2					1	2	
Gadwall		21		1			1		
American Wigeon	44	3							
Redhead				1					



Table 1. 1996 Nebraska Christmas Bird Counts for Nine Areas.

Golden Eagle adult immature	3 (2) (1)		2		1					
American Kestrel	8	17	17	5		6	2	21	23	
Merlin		5		1						
Prairie Falcon		1			1	1				
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	37	6	2	26	8	30	14		
Greater Prairie- Chicken		1		7			21			
Sharp-tailed Grouse		9					10			
Wild Turkey	52							1	37	
Northern Bobwhite			18	15			1	34	8	
Sandhill Crane			1							
Killdeer		10						1		
Common Snipe	3	6			1					
Ring-billed Gull		18		467					1	
California Gull		3		1						
Herring Gull	2	200		446					1	
Herring/Ring-billed Gull			3							
Thayer's Gull				1						
Glaucous Gull				5						
Rock Dove	78	91	100	32	53	141	4	513	66	

Mourning Dove		21		1	1					495	60
Eastern Screech-Owl		2		7	1				1	4	2
Great Horned Owl	2	6	2	10	1				2	6	3
Barred Owl										1	1
Long-eared Owl				5					2	1	
owl species										2	
Belted Kingfisher	2	3	1	3	1	3			1	8	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker		3		23	2	7			3	23	67
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker										1	1
Downy Woodpecker	2	7	6	17	11	11			8	110	109
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1		2	3	3			2	22	13
Northern Flicker	15	71	23	18		6				13	
Yellow-shafted Red-shafted	2			21	1				6	9	19
Yel.-sh. x Red-sh.	1			3					1	2	
Horned Lark	102	6533		162	780	470			5	4	
Steller's Jay	*2										
Blue Jay	39	9	14	11	4	19			3	317	38
Pinyon Jay	42										
Black-billed Magpie	17	110	1	20		7			1	2	
American Crow	99	3	233	324	120	120			48	1141	329
Black-capped Chickadee	29	23	19	53	20	20			21	301	421
Mountain Chickadee	*10		1								



[illegible][illegible]



**Table 1. 1996 Nebraska Christmas Bird Counts for Nine Areas.**

Brewer's Blackbird		3									
Great-tailed Grackle									2		
Common Grackle			7	1					15	1	
Brown-headed Cowbird				19					1		
blackbird species											
Purple Finch				2				1			
Cassin's Finch	*2										
House Finch	99	317	108	21			76	40	101	35	
Red Crossbill	4	32	45	21				1			
Pine Siskin	335	154	360	1				5	1	1	
American Goldfinch	17	135	226	62	70		18	9	381	241	
Evening Grosbeak	136	12					3				
House Sparrow	442	380	153	39	30		175	160	926	460	
Total species	52	80	42	67	36		44	46	73	53	
Total individuals	26,530	33,313	9243	39,785	4784		40,000	3061	17,142	6493	

(continued from p. 27)

snow cover, still water frozen, moving water open; 8 observers in 2 parties and 5 feeder watchers; 2.5 hrs. and 4.5 mi. on foot, 13 hrs. and 104 mi. by car. Observers: John Bliese, George Brown, Marian Brown, Robin Harding, Wes Kellogg, John Kozak, Richard Luehrs, Eileen Paine, **Lanny Randolph** (compiler), Alice Rumery, Barbara Tebbel, Paul Tebbel, and Mark Urwiller.

**Lake McConaughy (Lake McCon.):** center at north end of Ogallala Beach Recreation Area, Gate 20, along south side of the lake, circle includes Lemoyne, Keystone, and Ogallala; 28 Dec., 5:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., temp. 21-52°F, mostly clear, wind variable 5-15 mph, snow cover 0-1", still water mostly frozen, moving water partly open; 11 observers in 6 parties (0 at feeders), 15 hrs. and 13.5 mi. on foot, 30.75 hrs. and 390 mi. by car, .5 hr. and 1 mi. owling. Observers: Mark Brogie, **Stephen J. Dinsmore** (compiler), Robin Harding, Bill Huser, Jerry Jorgensen, Joel Jorgensen, Babs and Loren Padelford, Lanny Randolph, Ross Silcock, John Sullivan.

**Lincoln:** center at intersection of Coddington and West A Sts., circle includes Pioneers Park, about 8 mi. in Wilderness Park, Lagoon Park, Yankee Hill Lake and Conestoga Lake areas, eastern half of Pawnee Lake, and Wyuka Cemetery; 21 Dec., 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., temp. 32-38° F, cloudy a.m., partly cloudy p.m., wind S 5 mph, no snow, still and moving water partly frozen; 20 observers in 12 parties, 3 feeder observers, 60 hrs. and 74 mi. on foot, 26 hrs. and 407 mi. by car, 2 hrs. and 1 mi. owling, 5 hrs. at feeders. Observers: Irene and George Alexander, Russ Benedict, Terry Brown, Cindy Cochran, Dave Cochran, Jan and Kevin DeGarmo, John Dinan, Larry Einemann, **Paul and Karla Kaufman** (compilers), Tim Knott, Jeanine Lackey, Linda and Peter Maslowski, Ken Reitan, Terry Stentz, Moni Usase, Diane West.

**Loup City:** northeast corner of Loup City, Sherman Co., northeast corner of Sec. 13, T15N, R15W; 1 Jan, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., temp. 30-52° F, partly clear a.m., cloudy p.m., wind calm, no snow, still water frozen, moving water partly open; 3 observers in 1 party (none at feeders), 3 hrs. and 3 mi. on foot, 7 hrs. and 95 mi. by car. Observers: **Wayne J. Mollhoff** (compiler), Don and Colleen Noecker. Comments by Wayne Mollhoff: "A marked difference between this count and that for Beaver Valley, less than 100 miles apart, and with a similar mix of habitat. There was a relative abundance of ground feeders here. Wild fruit (juniper berries) was nearly non-existent."

**North Platte and Lincoln County:** no official center given according to the rules of the National Audubon Society; 21 Dec., 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., temp. 16-38°F, overcast, wind 5 mph. Observers (all members of Tout Bird Club): Robert Bailey, Florence Clough, Esther and Harold Cunningham, Greg Hoover, Pat McEvoy, Nancy Norton, Darlene Schick, Carol Somerholder, **Wilma Wyman** (compiler), Howard Wyman. Comments by Wilma Wyman: "The one Sandhill Crane seems to take sanctuary on the north side of the North Platte River and feeds in the harvested corn fields nearby. Burt Somerhalder, a knowledgeable birder in our club, has sighted the crane twice, once within 10 feet of his blind. He was amazed at the beauty of its plumage and that it is still here in the cold. The Mountain Chickadee was sighted for several weeks at the TV office and broadcasting studio north of North Platte. Loren and Babs Padelford drove out to see it and were successful. Loren said it was the first Mountain Chickadee reported this far east."

**Omaha:** center at Offutt Air Force Base Lake, Bellevue, circle includes Fontenelle Forest, Lake Manawa (Iowa) State Park, Plattsmouth Waterfowl Refuge, and portions of the Platte and Missouri Rivers; 4 Jan., 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., temp. 20-29° F,

clear in a.m., partly cloudy in p.m., wind NW 10-20 mph, no snow, still water frozen, moving water open; 38 observers in 12-13 parties (none at feeders), 28 hrs. and 23.25 mi. on foot, 27.75 hrs. and 393 mi. by car, 1 hr. and 1 mi. owling. Observers: Betty Allen, Roland Barth, Elliott Bedows, Laurene Blankenau, Duane Bright, Mani Bunnamit, Kathleen Crawford-Rose, Kevin DeGarmo, Sharon Draper, Dick Gilson, Shirley Gilster, Chad Graeve, Ruth Green, **Betty Grenon** (compiler), Essie and Sam Grill, Craig Hensley, Clem Klaphake, Ray Korpi, Eunice Levisay, Toby Lyons, Don Maas, Jim McLochlin, Frances Mendenhall, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Dick Rasmussen, Eric Scholar, Greg Stoiber, John Sullivan, Jerry Toll, Pam Vaughn, Jeff Wallace, Patrice Wallace, Chris Williams, Alexander Wilson, Edith Wilson, Gertrude Wood. Species seen during the count period but not on the count day: American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Cooper's Hawk, and Winter Wren.

**Scottsbluff:** The center of the circle, intersection of County Roads P and 20, has been moved approximately 1.75 miles SE of previous center, which was at Visitors' Center, Scottsbluff National Monument, in order to include a new Nature Center. The circle includes the cities of Gering and Scottsbluff, Wildcat Hills Nature Center, part of Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff County Airport, and Robidoux Pass; 21 Dec., 7:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., temp. 27-44° F, cloudy, wind ESE 3-18 mph, no snow, still water partly open, moving water open; 8 observers in 1-2 parties (none at feeders), 1 hr. and .75 mi. on foot, 12.5 hrs. and 152 mi. by car, no owling. Observers: Bob DeLara, Mary Hunt, **Alice Kenitz** (compiler), Kathy Larson, Larry Malone, Brad McKinney, Annie Sherrill, Cherie Terwilliger. Species seen during count week but not on count day: Sharp-shinned Hawk. Comments by Alice Kenitz: "We are having an interesting winter with a number of species visiting our area - Cassin's Finch, Mountain Chickadee, and Steller's Jay. We speculate that this is happening because of drought and fires in the mountains and in the west, causing a lack of food supply in those areas."

-----

#### 1997 SURVEY OF BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES IN NEBRASKA

John Dinan, Nongame Bird Program Manager, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2200 N. 33rd St., P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370 (phone: 402/471-0641; Fax: 402/471-5528), supplied the results of the 1997 (January 1-15) Bald and Golden Eagle surveys, with six organizations and twelve individuals participating

Conditions for 1997 survey: Temperatures ranged from 8 to 35°F. The Niobrara River had 50-100% ice cover except the upper portion, which was mostly open. The unchannelized portion of the Missouri River was 90-100% ice-covered, but the channelized portion was open and was carrying floating ice below Tekamah. The Platte River had 50-90% ice cover, the North Platte River was mostly open, and ice cover on the South Platte River was highly variable (0-90%). The Loup River was 90-95% ice-covered. Lakes and reservoirs were 70-100% ice-covered except for Lake McConaughy, which had 40% ice cover.

Golden Eagles: There were 29 Golden Eagle sightings in Nebraska during the 1997 survey, distributed as follows: North Platte River (11); Republican River (2); Sidney (1); and in the following counties: Cherry (1); Dawes (4); Dundy (1); Garden (1); Rock (1); Scottsbluff (1); Sheridan (1); Sioux (3); Wheeler (2).

Bald Eagles: The 1997 survey included 736 adults, 293 immatures, and 1 of unknown age. The total of 1030 Bald Eagles is a 43% increase over the 1996 count of 719, a 39% increase over the 1980-96 statewide average of 743, and an 11% increase over the

previous five-year average of 924. The frequency of immature individuals among age-identified birds was 28%, representing a 6% increase over the previous 10-year average. Bald Eagle numbers were reported to the National Wildlife Federation for four standardized reporting segments. Compared to the 1980-1996 average, Bald Eagle use was up 150% for the North Platte River, Keystone to Lewellen, including Lake McConaughy and Ogallala; up 10% for the North and South Platte Rivers, Maxwell to the Lincoln/Keith County line, including Sutherland Reservoir; up 159 % for the Republican River, Alma to Naponee, including Harlan Co. Reservoir; and down 38% for the Platte River, Darr to Elm Creek area, including Johnson and Elwood Reservoirs.

Bald Eagle data are given in the following tables.

Imm. (immature), NRD(Natural Resource District), NWR (National Wildlife Refuge); WMA (Wildlife Management Area).

	Adults	Imm.	Total
<b>North Platte River, Totals</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>157</b>
Wyoming Line-Bayard (area lakes)	5	7	12
Bayard-Lisco	8	9	17
Lisco-Lewellen	4	2	6
Lewellen-Keystone (area lakes)	68	42	110
Paxton-North Platte	11	1	12

No Bald Eagles sighted from Keystone to Paxton.

<b>South Platte River, Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>
Big Springs-Paxton	2	.	2
Paxton-North Platte Tri-Co. Div.	6	1	7

No Bald Eagles sighted from Colorado Line to Big Springa.

<b>Platte River, Totals</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>170</b>
North Platte-Gothenberg (lake, canal)	31	2	33
Gothenberg-Darr	16	1	17
Darr-Elm Creek (lakes, canal)	28	15	43
Elm Creek-Kearney	7	4	11
Kearney-Shelton	6	6	12
Shelton-Grand Island	3	1	4
Grand Island-Silver Creek	6	.	6
Silver Creek-Columbus	1	.	1
Columbus-North Bend	10	5	15
North Bend-Fremont	6	2	8
Fremont-Linoma	11	3	14
Linoma-Plattsmouth	6	.	6

	Adults	Imm.	Total
<b>North Loup, Middle Loup, and Loup Rivers, Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>
Arcadia-mouth (Sherman Reservoir) (Middle Loup)	3	1	4
North Loup River-Genoa (Loup R.)	11	.	11
Genoa-mouth (Loup River)	5	.	5

<b>Niobrara River, Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>
Snake River-Cornell	6	1	7
Cornell-Cherry Co. Line	7	.	7
Cherry Co. Line-Cuba	2	1	3
Newport-Redbird/Lynch	1	.	1
Redbird/Lynch-Missouri River	1	.	1

No Bald Eagles sighted for Cuba to Newport.

<b>Snake River, Totals (Hwy 97 bridge-mouth (Merritt Res.))</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>
---	----------	----------	-----------

<b>Republican River, Totals</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>324</b>
Alma-Naponee (Harlan Reservoir)	129	65	194
Naponee-Riverton	68	49	117
Riverton-Guide Rock	7	1	8
Guide Rock-Superior	4	1	5

<b>Missouri River, Totals</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>191*</b>
Missouri River	3	3	6
NE Line-Monowi	2	1	3
Gavins Pt.-Goat Island	7	1	8
Goat Island.-Ponca St. Park	1	1	2
Ponca St. Park-Homer	5	.	5
Homer-Decatur	11	2	13
Decatur-Tekamah	12	.	12
Tek.-Mormon Bridge (DeSoto NWR)	18	5	24*
Mormon Bridge-Hwy 275	1	.	1
Hwy 275-Plattsmouth	3	.	3
Plattsmouth-Union	8	4	12
Union-Peru	30	4	34

(table continued on p. 39)

(Table for Missouri River continued)

	Adults	Imm.	Total
Peru-Indian Cave State Park	47	11	58
Indian Cave State Park-Kansas	9	1	10

\* Includes 1 of unknown age in Tekamah to Mormon Bridge area.  
 No Bald Eagles sighted for Monowi to Gavins Pt (Lewis & Clark).

	Adults	Imm.	Total
<b>Reservoirs and Lakes, Totals</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>80</b>
Sutherland Reservoir	12	10	22
Lake Maloney	6	3	9
Enders Reservoir	0	5	5
Swanson Reservoir	26	12	38
Red Willow Reservoir	2	.	2
Medicine Creek Reservoir	1	.	1
Calamus Reservoir	2	.	2
Walgren Lake	1	.	1

No Bald Eagles seen at Lake Babcock, Salt Valley Lakes, or Lincoln City Lakes.

	Adults	Imm.	Total
<b>Other Areas, Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>5</b>
Area not identified	2	.	2
Schilling WMA	2	.	2
Twin Lakes	1	.	1

No Bald Eagles seen at Sidney, Mahon Ranch, Cody Park, Sac-Wilcox WMA, Sandy Creek NRD, Valentine NWR, Frenchman, or Maloney Canal.

	Adults	Imm.	Total
<b>Counties, Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>
Boone	6	.	6
Chase	1	.	1
Cherry	1	.	1
Clay	1	.	1
Cuming	1	.	1
Dawes	1	.	1
Furnas	9	4	13
Garfield	4	.	4
Lancaster	1	.	1
Loup	3	.	3

(Table continued on p. 40)



(Table for counties continued)

	Adults	Imm.	Total
Madison	1	.	1
Red Willow	4	.	4
Scottsbluff	1	.	1
Thayer	1	.	1
Valley	3	.	3

No Bald Eagles observed in Dundy, Garden, Rock, Sheridan, Sioux, or Wheeler Counties.

BALD EAGLE COUNTS AT TWO CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER AND  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT FACILITIES

Mark M. Peyton and Rodger Knaggs

Central NE Public Power and Irrigation District

P.O. Box 188, Gothenburg, NE 69138-0188

Since 1988, the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (Central) has provided free access to the public at its Johnson #2 (J-2) Hydroelectric Plant south of Lexington, Dawson County, and the use of spotting scopes and binoculars to view Bald Eagles foraging and perching along the tailrace of the plant. Central also provided a small trailer from 1990-95 for viewing Bald Eagles near the outlet of the Kingsley Hydroelectric Plant at Lake Ogallala in Keith County. In 1996, Central completed construction of a permanent viewing facility at this location. Central provides personnel at both locations to answer questions and provide assistance with the viewing scopes. These individuals also conducted daily eagle surveys from these locations.

METHODS

Central personnel, using binoculars and/or spotting scopes, counted the number of Bald Eagles visible from each viewing site. Counts were made at 8:00 a.m. local time, noting age of the birds and weather conditions at the time of the counts.

RESULTS

The J-2 Plant was open to the public for 27 days from 21 December 1996 to 23 February 1997. A total of 2104 people registered for an average of 78/day, and 346 Bald Eagle sightings (12.8/day) were recorded. The new viewing facility at Kingsley Dam was open for 55 days from 13 December 1996 to 16 March 1997. Bald Eagle surveys were conducted on those days and ten additional days. A record 4127 people registered at the facility for an average of 75/day. A total of 4810 Bald Eagle sightings (74/day) were recorded.

Peak Bald Eagle counts were 24 on 26 December at the J-2 Plant, and 324 on 1 February at the Kingsley viewing facility. The average number of Bald Eagles counted in both locations was normal when compared to the previous six years of data (Table 1).

DISCUSSION

During the past seven years, over 40,000 people have registered to view Bald Eagles at the two facilities provided to the public by the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation

Table 1: The average number of eagles counted per day from the J-2 Power Plant and the Kingsley Viewing Facility from 1990 - 1997.

YEAR	J-2 PLANT	KINGSLEY
1990-91	11	21
1991-92	8	42
1992-93	4	87
1993-94	14	114
1994-95	11	17
1995-96	17	64
1996-97	13	74

District. During 1996-97, over 6000 people utilized the facilities for leisure or scientific observations of the eagles and other birds of interest.

By providing the 1200 square foot Kingsley Viewing Center with large picture windows overlooking Lake Ogallala and the Kingsley hydro discharge, in addition to the J-2 Power Plant viewing area with large windows overlooking the tailrace of the Plant, Central makes available to the public some of the best views of foraging eagles to be found anywhere in the Great Plains region of the United States. Central will open the facilities next season beginning in mid-December. Photography blinds may be reserved by contacting the Central office at Holdrege (308/995-8601) or the Kingsley office at 308/284-2332.

#### NOTES ON BIRD SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA

**Albino Eastern Bluebirds.** On 24 July 1996, I banded two totally white Eastern Bluebirds in Sarpy County, Nebraska. These two birds were in a nest with two other normally plumaged siblings. They were not only white-plumaged, their feet and bills were white and the eyes were a pinkish-red. They were just as well-developed as the two normal birds and were ready to fledge, which they did the following day.



I believe these birds fit the description of total albinism as defined by John K. Terres in The Audubon Encyclopedia of North American Birds. He defines total albinism as the rarest form, in which the bird has a complete absence of melanin from the eyes, skin, and feathers.

---- Ruth C. Green, 506 W 31st Ave., Bellevue, NE 58005-5520

**American Goldfinch.** Bird banding tells us many things about various species - where they migrate, distribution, age, and much more. I had an experience with a female American Goldfinch recently that I never dreamed would happen. I banded this bird 21 March 1996 in my Bellevue yard. On 12 March 1997, while banding at Ft. Kearny near Minden, NE, I re-netted the same bird - a year later and 185 miles west of Bellevue. The chances of this happening are so remote that

I can't imagine what the odds would be. What was surprising was not the distance the bird had moved, but that the same bander encountered it at such widely separated places.

-----Ruth C. Green, 506 W 31st Ave., Bellevue, NE 58005-5520

**Clark's Nutcrackers.** On 8 February 1997, Helen Hughson, Robin Harding, Lanny Randolph, Larry Malone, and I were in the town of Morrill in western Scotts Bluff County, looking for two Clark's Nutcrackers that had been reported to be visiting feeders there since 11 January 1997. We found the birds in a residential neighborhood. They were easily identified as Clark's Nutcrackers - gray birds a little larger than an American Robin, with a long, black bill, black wings and tail with white wing patches and outer tail feathers clearly visible in flight. After we had identified and watched them for a few minutes, one of them flew away and our attention focused on the one that flew to a feeder area in a nearby yard. We could not see it there, so we decided to move the car to a spot from which we thought we could see it. We had just moved the car a few feet when the Clark's Nutcracker flew from the feeder, went across the street in front of us, and lit on the ground. We noticed that it had its beak open quite far. It appeared to have something stuck in the back of its throat and seemed to be struggling to get it out. We were concerned that it might be choking on something and were trying to figure out how to keep this bird from dying right in front of us. It soon flew to another spot on the ground 10 to 15 feet from the original spot. It continued to have its beak open, but periodically would close it very briefly and we could see something in the end of it. Then it began to move dried grass and leaves. It was then that Larry Malone realized the nutcracker had stored food in its throat or sublingual pouch and was burying it. Edna Claire Thomas, whose feeder the bird had visited, reported to me that the Clark's Nutcrackers fed mainly at her suet feeders. The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds notes that Clark's Nutcrackers can carry up to 70 seeds in their throats (or sublingual pouches). They store these seeds by burying them and appear to eventually eat up to 70 % of those stored.

-----Alice Kenitz, 190648 Co. Rd. 22, Gering, NE 69341-6700

**Sabine's Gulls.** In late September 1996, we joined Ross Silcock and John Sullivan for a trip to western Nebraska. One of the species we were looking for was Sabine's Gull, but we did not expect to find five different individuals at three locations. Their occurrence in western Nebraska probably resulted from the passage of a strong cold front on 25-26 September. This report includes details of these sightings and comments on the species' status in Nebraska.

On 26 September 1996, we arrived at the inlet canal of Lake Maloney in Lincoln County. We immediately spotted a small, brown-mantled gull resting on the water near the inlet canal at the northwest end of the lake. We studied the bird from 2:43 to 3:17 p.m. CST. It was roughly 20% smaller than nearby Franklin's Gulls. It had a dainty appearance created by the small bill and rounded head. The forehead, throat, breast, and flanks were white. The bill was short, straight, and black. The eye was dark. The crown, nape, and mantle were a dark gray-brown. On the water, the wings appeared to be the same color as the mantle except for black primaries. In flight, the upperwing pattern was striking: outer primaries black; inner primaries, secondaries, and some greater secondary coverts white; remainder of secondary coverts dark gray-brown. The tail was white, slightly forked, and had a narrow, black terminal band. Within a few minutes, this juvenile bird was joined by a second

juvenile and an adult, which was similar to the juveniles except for gray on the upper secondary coverts, a yellow-tipped bill, and a black hood with some white flecks on the forehead. At times, the perched adult appeared to have a black shoulder bar, but this may have been due to missing or out-of-place feathers. We returned on 29 September and found one juvenile still present.

Later on 26 September, we stopped at the Sutherland Reservoir in Lincoln County. We were searching through the thousands of Franklin's Gulls when Joel spotted a juvenile Sabine's Gull along the southeast shore of the lake. We watched the bird from 3:55 to 4:15 p.m. CST. It was slightly smaller and had more tern-like wings than the Franklin's Gulls, with which it was feeding. The upperwing pattern was three-toned: black outer primaries, white inner primaries and secondaries, and brown secondary coverts. It was otherwise similar to the juveniles noted at Lake Maloney.

Finally, on 28 September 1996, the four of us observed a juvenile Sabine's Gull on Lake McConaughy in Keith County. We watched the bird from 8:55 to 9:15 a.m. MST from a boat. It was in the middle of the lake near the west end, associating with a small flock of Franklin's Gulls. It was similar to the juveniles noted earlier.

These represent the seventh, eighth, and ninth records of this species in Nebraska. Previous records were from April (1), September (1), and October (4). Eight additional undocumented reports, many of them probably correct, are from September (4) and October (4). Perhaps regular checks of the large reservoirs in western Nebraska after strong cold fronts in September and October might produce more records of this species.

----Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014

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

NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Highlights of Meeting 28 September 1996

Recorded by Robin Harding, Secretary

The meeting was held at the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey during Fall Field Days.

Betty Grenon, Treasurer, indicated that Dr. and Mrs. R. G. Cortelyou gave many items to N.O.U. when they moved to Mercer Island, WA. The funds from contributions for these items will be used to establish a scholarship fund to recruit new members. The scholarship recipient will get an all-expenses-paid trip to a N.O.U. meeting. Details will be worked out later.

Neal Ratzlaff, President, said that N.O.U. has 501 C3 status and is recognized by the federal government as a non-profit organization.

The status of the Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas Project (Wayne Mollhoff, Coordinator) was discussed. The Atlas will have about 200 pages with about 335 sketches and maps. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has agreed to do the maps, and Brett Ratcliffe has agreed to edit the atlas. Funding is being sought to pay for the printing expenses.

Mary Lou Pritchard, Librarian, reported that the N.O.U. Field Card of Nebraska Birds, printed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, is very popular, and reprinting will be needed at some time in the future. She also said that 250 books were given to the N.O.U. Library by the Cortelyous.

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.  
3018 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68510-1529

Forward and Return Postage Guaranteed  
Address Correction Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Lincoln, NE  
Permit No. 756

---

Table of Contents

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Treasurer's Annual Report.....	2
The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska.....	3
Winter Field Report, December 1996-February 1997.....	17
Nebraska Christmas Bird Count for 1996.....	27
1997 Survey of Bald and Golden Eagles in Nebraska.....	36
Bald Eagle Counts at Two Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District Facilities.....	40
Notes on Bird Sightings in Nebraska.....	41
Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Executive Committee Meeting Highlights, 28 September 1996.....	43

The Nebraska Bird Review is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc., as its official journal, and is sent to members not in arrears for dues. Annual subscription rates (on a calendar-year basis only): \$12.50 in the United States, \$15.00 in Canada and Mexico, and \$17.50 for all other countries, payable in advance. Single copies are \$4.00 each, postpaid, in the United States, and \$5.00 elsewhere. Send orders for back issues to Mary H. Pritchard, NOU Librarian, University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, NE 68588-0514.

Memberships in NOU (on a calendar year basis only): Active, \$10.00; Sustaining, \$20.00; Student, \$8.00; Family Active, \$15.00; Family Sustaining, \$25.00; Life, \$150.00. Send dues and subscriptions to Elizabeth Grenon, NOU Treasurer, 1409 Childs Road East, Bellevue, NE 68005.

Send manuscripts, Christmas count reports, and notes on bird sightings to Rosalind Morris, Editor, 3018 O St., Lincoln, NE 68510-1529. Quarterly bird reports are sent to Ross Silcock, P.O. Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

Other officers are: President, Neal Ratzlaff, 536 Brentwood Rd., Omaha, NE 68114-4269; Vice-President, Betty Allen, 9628 Emmet St., Omaha, NE 68134; Secretary, Robin Harding, R.R. 2, Box 218, Gibbon, NE 68840-9654; Directors, Thomas Labedz, 724 Glenarbor Circle, Lincoln, NE 68512; Mark Brogie, 508 Seeley, Box 316, Creighton, NE 68729; Alice Kenitz, 190648 County Road 22, Gering, NE 69341. The Records Committee Chair is Mark Brogie (address given under Directors).