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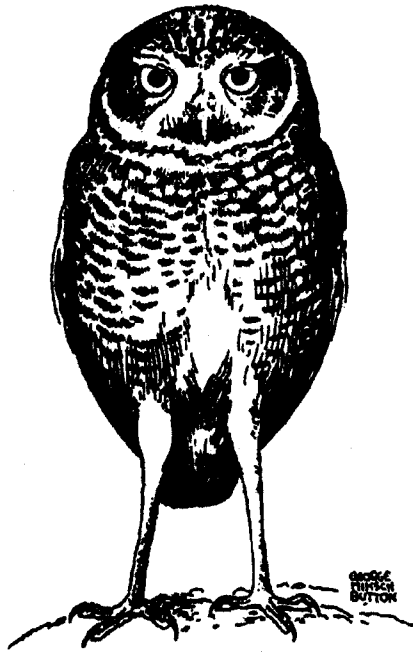
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SPRING FIELD REPORT, March-May 2006

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INTRODUCTION

As many of you know, the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) has changed some generic names and rearranged the taxonomic order for shorebirds in the expanded genus *Tringa* and for the terns. This Spring Report uses the new taxonomic order.

Observers (thank you, I think!) submitted a huge amount of data that I distilled for this report; I entered more than 3500 sightings into my database, which allows for a comprehensive overview of what birds were doing this spring.

As has been the case the last few years, there were several record or near-record early arrival dates, some requiring documentation (readily supplied!) and some only marginally early relative to the previous early dates. Shorebirds had several of these early dates, with at least 8 species at or near record-early arrival dates. Two species of grebes and Blue-winged Teal also were early. Three species of swallow, along with Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Rock Wren, Swainson's Thrush, and American Pipit also showed up early. Finally, three "southern" warblers that breed north to Nebraska were record early: Yellow-throated, Prothonotary and Louisiana Waterthrush.

Species with tales to tell include Greater Prairie-Chicken in the eastern Rainwater Basin, the 5 sightings of Glossy Ibis (9 birds!), four more Long-billed Curlew records in the eastern Rainwater Basin, and westward expansion of Carolina Wren in the Republican Valley. Of interest were Barred Owl sightings along the Republican (how far west are they?) and continued northward sightings of Summer Tanagers.

For the birders, rarities included a heard-only Flammulated Owl, and sightings of Brambling and Common Crane, all of which will be dealt with by the NOU Records Committee. In addition, rare sightings of Eurasian Wigeon, Hammond's Flycatcher (4th spring record) and Painted Bunting were made.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Otoe Co;
BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co;
CCM: Clear Creek Marshes, Keith Co;
Cem: Cemetery;
CLNWR: Crescent L NWR, Garden Co;
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co;
GPD: Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar/Knox Cos;
HCR: Harlan Co Res, Harlan Co;
ICSP: Indian Cave SP, Nemaha/Richardson Cos;
L: Lake;
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co;
LO: L Ogallala (+L Keystone), Keith Co;

m.ob.: many observers;
NC: Nature Center;
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge;
PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co;
Res: Reservoir;
RWB: Rainwater Basin; eastern RWB mostly Fillmore, Clay and surrounding counties; western RWB: mostly Phelps Co;
SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co;
SHP: State Historical Park;
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s);
SP: State Park;
WMA: Wildlife Management Area (State);
WPA: Waterfowl Production Area (Federal).

GAZETTEER:

Ash Hollow: SHP, Garden Co;
Buckskin Hills: WMA, Dixon Co;
Burchard L: WMA, Pawnee Co;
Chilibaba Pond: Scotts Bluff Co;
Cunningham L: Omaha;
Freeman Lakes: WPA, York Co;
Harvard Marsh: WPA, Clay Co;
Kiowa: WMA, Scotts Bluff Co;
L Minatare: Scotts Bluff Co;
Moger: WPA, Clay Co;
North Lake Basin: WMA, Seward Co;
Oliver Res: Kimball Co;
Pine Ridge: Ponderosa Pine-covered escarpment in northwest Nebraska;
Platte River SP: Cass Co;
Ponca SP: Dixon Co;
Rock Creek L: SRA, Dundy Co;
Rowe Sanctuary: Buffalo Co;
Schramm SP: Sarpy Co;
Smith L: WMA, Sheridan Co;
Swanson Res: SRA/WMA, Hitchcock Co;
Valentine NWR: Cherry Co;
Wehrspann L: Omaha;
Wildcat Hills NC: Scotts Bluff Co;
Winters Creek L: Scotts Bluff Co.

OBSERVERS

AD: Ann Duey, Scottsbluff;
AEK: Allen E. Kurth, Bellevue;
AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering;
AR: Allen Reyer, Bellevue;
AS: Audrey Sterkel, Sidney;
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CG: Carlos Grandes, Geneva y España;

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CK: Courtney Kearns, Alliance;
CM: Connie McCartney, Grand Island;
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue;
CoS: Connor Sonderman, Omaha;
CS: Carolyn Sonderman, Omaha;
CSp: Carolyn Spilman, Valentine NWR;
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D&JP: Don and Jan Paseka, Ames;
DE: Dave Ely, Superior, NE;
DF: Doug Faulkner, Arvada, CO;
DH: Dave Heidt, Norfolk;
DP: Dave Powers, Omaha;
DSt: Dave Stage, Elkhorn;
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EM: Erin McFadden, Bellevue;
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L&CF: Laurence & Carol Falk, Nebraska City;
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LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln;
LO: Linda Ollinger, Wilsonville;
LR: Lanny Randolph, Gibbon;
MA: Matt Allmand, Holdrege;
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton;
MM: Marty Mathieson, Shelton;

MS: Michael Stromer, Hastings;
MSc: Mary Schatz, Plattsmouth;
NE: Nathaniel Emery, Wilcox, NE and Yankton, SD;
NF: Nelli Falzgraf, Bellevue;
NP: Neva Pruess, Lincoln;
NR: Neal Ratzlaff, Omaha;
NW: Nathan Woolery, Hastings;
P&DD: Phyllis & Dean Drawbaugh, Scottsbluff;
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings;
PEL: Paul Lehman, Cape May, NJ;
PR: Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA;
PS: Phil Swanson, Omaha;
PWB: Patty Waits Beasley, Corpus Christi, TX;
RD: Roger Dietrich, Yankton, SD;
RE: Rick Eades, Lincoln;
RG: Ruth Green, Bellevue;
RH: Robin Harding, Gibbon;
RS: Rick Schmid, Bellevue;
RSg: Reuben Siegfried, Gering;
RW: Rick Wright, Tucson, AZ;
SA: Sue Amiotte, Chadron;
SJ: Stephen Jones, Boulder, CO;
SJD: Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA;
ST: Scott Taylor, Lincoln;
TH: Tyler Hicks, Valentine NWR;
TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady;
TM: Tracy Morfeld, Valley;
TP: Theresa Pester, Walton;
TS: Tom Stehn, Austwell, TX;
UL: Urban Lehner, Omaha;
WM: Wayne Mollhoff, Ashland;
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose: As expected, best counts were early, notably the 1845 in Lancaster Co 3 Mar (LE). Last flock was the 86 at Hastings 10 Apr (PD). A good Panhandle count, where the species is rare, was the 53 at Winters Creek L 11 Mar (KD); "a few" were there 18 Mar (KD) and a straggler remained on 16 May (SJD).

Snow Goose: Again, best counts were early, an excellent 300,000 estimated at Harvard Marsh 8 Mar (PD). Some 100,000 were still there 29 Mar (EV). Few were reported after Mar, the latest one at Burchard L 7-14 May (WRS,SJD) and 2 in Nuckolls Co 14 May (SJD). The 40,000 at BOL 3 Mar was unusual there (LE).

Ross's Goose: Best counts were an excellent 430 at Straightwater WMA, Seward Co, 25 Mar (JGJ) and a fewer-than-expected 125 in the Grand Island area 19 Mar (PEL). An unexpected straggler, seemingly uninjured, was at Powder Creek Res, Dixon Co, 11-21 May (LE, BFH, JJ, m. ob.). A neck-collared bird in Gage Co 4 Mar was from Nunavut (SJD).

- Canada Goose:** Peak central Platte Valley counts are in early Mar, but none were received. Best was only 1150 at Smith L 16 Mar (SJ). Earliest nest was near North Platte 26 Mar (TJW).
- Cackling Goose:** Best count was a record "thousands" near Lexington 28 Mar, where they "far outnumbered Canada Geese" (RW). Elsewhere, best was the 390 in Lancaster Co 3 Mar (LE). One at Berggren Pond, Scotts Bluff Co, 31 May (AK) was rather late.
- Egyptian Goose:** Singles were noted in Merrick Co 11 Mar (LR,RH) and at Elkhorn 29 Mar (TM, photo). These sightings add to a few others in recent years, but are almost certainly escaped birds.
- Trumpeter Swan:** Unexpected was an adult apparently finishing the winter at a pond at North Platte through 16 Mar (TJW); on that date 2 immatures appeared at Cody Park, North Platte (TJW). Also unusual was an immature at Chilibaba Pond 13 May (AK). Several nesting pairs were on Valentine NWR by 25 May (TH), and 3 pairs, 2 with young, were in Grant Co 28 May (LR,RH).
- Wood Duck:** Earliest were found 9 Mar: 2 in Otoe Co (L&CF) and a male in Stanton Co (JJ). First brood reported was near Orleans 31 May (G&WH).
- Gadwall:** A hybrid with Mallard ("Brewer's Duck") was seen 30 Mar in the eastern RWB (JGJ). There is one previous report, also in the eastern RWB, 14 Apr 2001 (JGJ).
- Eurasian Wigeon:** A male and possible female were at Chilibaba Pond 18 Mar (KD; photo). This is the 25th spring record (30th overall); 18 of the spring reports are in the period 10 Mar-10 Apr.
- American Wigeon:** Routine reports.
- Mallard:** Routine reports.
- Blue-winged Teal:** Earliest were 3 at PL 3 Mar (LE), although one arrived record early by 4 days 24 Feb (see Winter Report).
- Cinnamon Teal:** Earliest were singles at Red Cloud SL 1 Apr (DH) and at Kiowa the same day (AK). Good numbers were reported, some 60+, including 2 males as far east as PL 5 May (LE) and another at Twin Lakes WMA, Seward Co, 13 May (LR,RH).
- Northern Shoveler:** Two broods of 12 and 3 young were seen at Scottsbluff SL 31 May (P&DD), apparently a rather early date for this species in Nebraska.
- Northern Pintail:** Routine reports.
- Green-winged Teal:** Routine reports.
- Canvasback:** There is a small breeding population in the Sandhills; a male was at Crescent L, Garden Co, 28 May (LR,RH). Stragglers south of the breeding range were 4 females at LO 16 May (SJD), a male at Scottsbluff SL the same day (SJD), and a male at Rock Creek L 5 May (TJW).
- Redhead:** Singles were a bit tardy in Dixon Co 20 May (G&WH) and Seward Co 26 May (LE). Breeding is unknown in these areas of the state.
- Ring-necked Duck:** Good numbers, some 700, were noted between Grand Island and Kearney 22 Mar (PEL).
- Greater Scaup:** Only about 50 were reported, 24 of these at GPD 22 Mar (RW). Last was a rather late bird at Memphis SL 14 May (CNK); this ties the 4th latest spring date.
- Lesser Scaup:** Routine reports.
- Harlequin Duck:** The cooperative young male first seen 27 Feb remained in essentially the same spot at the intake above GPD (in Cedar Co) through 7 May (D&CN, m. ob.; photos). This is the 8th record for the state, but only the 4th documented, and first for spring. The 3 additional

documented records include 2 in Nov, and the other, taken by a hunter, is also likely a fall date.

Long-tailed Duck: An adult male in the HCR area in Jan and Feb was likely the same bird seen on the lake 3 and 8 Mar (SJD,PD). One present above GPD for a while, but generally sticking to South Dakota waters, was intercepted as it entered Nebraska waters 25 Mar (MB).

Bufflehead: One at Memphis SL 23 May (L&BP) was tardy.

Common Goldeneye: The 111 at BOL 3 Mar (LE) was a good count at a non-wintering location. One in Saline Co 28 Apr (LE) was a bit late.

Barrow's Goldeneye: There were two reports. A single at North Platte 28 Mar was east of the usual wintering areas in the North Platte Valley (TJW), and a female was found at BOL 10 Apr (RE; details). These are only the 10th and 11th spring records (not including wintering birds); most (8) such records are, interestingly, from eastern Nebraska.

Hooded Merganser: Best count was an excellent peak of 39 at Lake Yankton, Cedar Co, 5 Mar (JJ). There are virtually no breeding records for the state, and so the presence of an adult male 5 Apr (L&BP) and a pair 16 Apr (L&BP) in suitable habitat at FF was of interest. The pair was joined by a 2nd-year male 29 Apr (RS). An odd hybrid, thought to be a Hooded X Red-breasted Merganser, was photographed at Buckskin Hills 13 Apr (BFH).

Common Merganser: An excellent count was the 3400 at HCR 3 Mar (SJD). Last high number was the 200 at BOL 28 Mar (JGJ), but 2 females were rather late at LO 15 May (SJD).

Red-breasted Merganser: Although there were few reports, good counts were the 60 at Lake Yankton, Cedar Co, 18 Mar (RD) and 47 at BOL 24 Mar (JGJ).

Ruddy Duck: Routine reports.

Chukar: One was in the observer's yard near Sidney 1 Apr (AS). Chukars are often released by hunters for dog and hunter training, and in the Panhandle and southwest habitat a feral population might become established from such released birds. Observers are encouraged to report sightings. Of interest were reports I received that around Nunn, Colorado, breeding occurred in fall 2005 among the small group of about 7 escapees there (GL); there was a "flock" at Tamarack Ranch, Logan Co, Colorado in fall 2005 (HA); and a pair was in a Greeley neighborhood this spring (JF).

Gray Partridge: One in Thurston Co 29 Apr was the first seen by the observer in that area in 4-5 years (JJ).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Routine reports.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Good numbers were found in the Tryon area 21 Apr; a total of 74, including 36 on one lek, were reported (TJW). A nest with 11 eggs was found in a clump of yucca plants near Bassett 8 May (CH).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: This species continues to be conspicuous in the eastern RWB. As many as 30 birds were at the North Hultine WPA, Clay Co, lek 17 Mar and 7 and 14 Apr (JGJ), and 11 were at a lek at Rauscher WPA, Fillmore Co, 17 Mar (JGJ). North Hultine appears to have 2 leks; 17 birds were at the second site 21 Mar (EV). At Harvard Marsh, 7 were noted 17 and 22 Apr (PD), and 2 were at Moger 14 Apr (JGJ,JPM). Farther west, at Gleason WPA, Kearney Co, two leks were found in the area this spring (LR,RH). At known easterly sites, 17 birds were using two leks at Buckskin Hills 15 Apr (BFH), and 3-5 were at SCP during the period (KP). Unexpected was a lek in Cass Co that had 4 birds 13 Apr (KF,ST). In the core Sandhills range, large numbers were found in McPherson Co 3 Apr, with some 60 leks located in a 20-mile route (TJW), and 8 leks in the

Tryon area had 65 males and a total of 78 birds 21 Apr (TJW). Additional high counts were 80 in the Seneca area 27 Mar (RW) and 70 in north-central cos 9 Mar (JJ).

Wild Turkey: "Hundreds" were present in the cedar canyons of se. Lincoln Co 4 Apr (TJW), but more surprising was one in the heart of Omaha, at 52nd and Center, 6 Apr (DP). This species has become very common throughout the state in recent years.

Northern Bobwhite: Northerly was a covey of 15 near Halsey 27 Mar (RW), and westerly, where this species is fairly common along the North Platte Valley, 4 were in the observer's yard near Mitchell 20 Mar (KD). Also 6 were near North Platte 24 May (TJW).

Pacific Loon: One of few reports of this species in recent years was of a basic-plumaged bird at LO 25 Apr (JGJ).

Common Loon: Only about 15 migrants were reported, those statewide 1 Apr (JGJ) through 13 May (fide CM, EV). At LO, 1-2 basic-plumaged birds 19-27 May (DF) were probably attempting to summer; another at Valentine NWR 20 May (TH) was probably like-minded.

Pied-billed Grebe: Routine reports.

Horned Grebe: Only 10 were reported, statewide, 10 Mar (LE), rather early, through 11 Apr (CS, CoS, fide KD).

Eared Grebe: Third-earliest ever were 8 at HCR 8 Mar (PD).

Western Grebe: Another early grebe, 4th-earliest ever, was one at Smith L 19 Mar (SJ). Best count was a disappointing 629 at LM 15 May (SJD), although "hundreds, possibly thousands" were there 21 Apr (TJW); spring high counts are in the 10,000+ range. There are few known nesting locations in the state, and so of interest was one at the west end of HCR 14 May where the habitat "looked good for nesting" (SJD). None were reported from eastern Nebraska.

Clark's Grebe: About 12 were reported beginning 29 Apr (KD) from Valentine NWR westward; 6 of these were at LM 15 May (SJD).

American White Pelican: Routine reports.

Double-crested Cormorant: Three at HCR 11 Mar (G&WH) were rather early. At CLNWR 15 May, 93 were counted, and 43 nests were located (SJD).

American Bittern: About 10 were found in the eastern RWB 14 Apr-6 May (JGJ, PD), probably migrants. The other reports (8 birds) were from Sandhills wetlands in late May (TH, LR, RH, SJ).

Least Bittern: None were reported; early dates are around 1 May.

Great Blue Heron: Rookeries were reported at HCR, 7 nests 11 Mar (G&WH), near Adams 11 Mar (D&JP), and in ne. Scotts Bluff Co 30 Apr, 37 nests with at least half active (KD).

Great Egret: This species is rare in spring in the west, and so the appearance of singles at Chilibaba Pond 16 Apr (KD) and 8 May (AK) was of interest. These are only the 24th and 25th spring records for the Panhandle.

Snowy Egret: Unlike the preceding species, Snowies are statewide migrants. However, only 5 were reported 26 Apr (TJW)-13 May (KD).

Little Blue Heron: Only 3 were reported: an adult at Hastings 18 Apr, also seen a few days later (PD), an adult at Freeman Lakes 21 Apr (JGJ), and one in intermediate plumage at Hastings 6 May (PD).

Cattle Egret: Only about 32 were reported; all from the eastern half of the state 18 Apr (PD)-23 May (JG).

Green Heron: Farthest northwestward, where less common, was one at Lewellen 19 May (DF).

- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** An excellent count was the 55 in the eastern RWB 21 May, including a flock of 44 flying over (JGJ).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Unusual in spring, an adult appeared at FF 7 Apr (EM), 2nd-earliest arrival date ever, and was seen again 13 May (EB). An immature (year-old?) was also there 29 May (AEK, photo).
- Glossy Ibis:** Reports are increasing rapidly, even while observers are carefully checking for hybrid characteristics. It appears that the increase is real and recent, and may in fact constitute a range expansion. A simplified synopsis is as follows: when the first few individual Glossies showed up on the Great Plains in the 1990s, hybrids appeared to be as numerous as pure birds, but despite increasing numbers of "pure" Glossies in recent years, the number of hybrids hasn't apparently kept pace. This suggests that interbreeding between Glossy and White-faced is rare and only happened when there was a scarcity of either or both species. This spring at least 9 Glossies were reported. One was at Harvard Marsh 19 Apr (MS) and 5 were there, along with a possible hybrid with a reddish iris, 6 May (PD). Singles were at Oshkosh 3 May (JGJ,TJW), Hastings 13 May with 16 White-faced Ibis (PD; photo), and at LM with 47 White-faced Ibis 15 May (SJD). These 5 sightings add to the previous 8 records for a total of 13.
- White-faced Ibis:** Excellent numbers were reported statewide, including a record tally of 300 in the Oshkosh area and "as many" in the Antioch area 3 May (TJW), 47 at LM 15 May (SJD), and 46 in the eastern RWB 17 Apr (JGJ). Arrival was rather early, with 2 at Harvard Marsh 8 Apr (RE), a new early date by one day; 5 more had arrived there by 10 Apr (PD).
- Turkey Vulture:** Earliest were two rather early at Bellevue 6 Mar (L&BP). Earliest dates are at the end of Feb.
- Osprey:** Excellent counts were the 7 at PL 26 Apr (LE) and 5 at HCR 30 Apr (G&WH). A lone bird started a nest on a power pole at Powder Creek Res, Dixon Co, 13 May, but the brief and fruitless effort ended with the placement of a mere two sticks (JJ).
- Mississippi Kite:** Of interest was one over Alma 29 May (G&WH); a single was seen near Orleans, a few miles west, last spring. At the regular summer site at Ogallala, 2 appeared 15 May (SJD), and as many as 5 were present 27 May (DF).
- Bald Eagle:** Joel Jorgensen, Nebraska Game and Parks, provided an interesting summary of breeding since the first nest was found in 1991 in Douglas Co. Through 2005, 376 young have fledged from 218 nesting attempts in 53 Nebraska counties. Of 71 nests monitored in 2005, 66 young were fledged from the 37 occupied nests.
- Northern Harrier:** A female was carrying nest material at Kiowa 29 May, while being watched by her lazy mate (KD). This may have been a re-nesting at this date.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** One in Dixon Co 20 May (BFH) was a bit tardy, possibly an immature.
- Cooper's Hawk:** For the 2nd year in a row at the location, a pair was building a nest on the same day, 25 Mar, in the observers' Bellevue yard (L&BP).
- Northern Goshawk:** The only report was of a flyover at FF 1 Apr (CNK).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** The only sightings in the FF area were 15 Apr (CNK) and 22 Apr (AR). No breeding activity was reported. Unexpected was an adult far to the north near Creighton 27 Apr, only the 2nd Knox Co record (MB).

- Broad-winged Hawk:** Only about 16 were reported, including surprisingly far west reports of 2 in the Wildcat Hills, Scotts Bluff Co, 30 Apr (KD) and one at Ash Hollow 15 May (SJD). There are about 20 Panhandle reports for spring. One at Ponca SP 21 May may attempt to summer there (BFH).
- Swainson's Hawk:** One in Elm Creek was rather early 25 Mar (MA); next to arrive were singles in Hitchcock and Dundy Cos 5 Apr (TJW) and at FF, also 5 Apr (L&BP). Arrival dates for this species are controversial; while 25 Mar for Nebraska seems very early, Robbins and Easterla cite early dates 14 and 18 Mar for Missouri, and Andrews and Righter show arrival in Colorado in early Mar. Best counts were from the eastern RWB: a record spring tally of 155 birds were in a field being worked 21 Apr (JGJ) and 71 were in the eastern RWB 17 Apr (JGJ). Spring concentrations are generally smaller than in fall, and are usually associated with agricultural fieldwork.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** Last *harlani* to leave was over Bellevue 8 Apr (CNK); latest dates are mid-Apr. Nestlings were being fed in Sarpy Co 26 Apr (JWH), and a nest initiated in Feb at HCR fledged 3 young by 13 May (G&WH), the latter somewhat early.
- Ferruginous Hawk:** Rare in the eastern half of the state, 2 were reported: a "light adult" was in Butler Co 5 May (LE) and another was found in Kearney Co 1 May (RG, EV). Documented records in the eastern part of the state are few.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** One in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM; no details) was rather late.
- Golden Eagle:** A nest in the Wildcat Hills had at least one nestling 13 May (CG), about on time.
- American Kestrel:** Routine reports.
- Merlin:** One at Ponca SP 20 May (BFH) was rather late; most depart by late Apr. A female identified as subspecies *richardsoni* was in Dixon Co 26 Mar (SJD); this is the wintering subspecies in Nebraska.
- Prairie Falcon:** Easternmost was one at Harvard Marsh 29 Mar (EV).
- Peregrine Falcon:** Most Nebraska birds are migrants, although "city birds" in Omaha and Lincoln appear to winter in those cities. One at Carter L, Omaha, 24 Mar (RW) could have been one of the Omaha pair, but one at Grand Island 25 Mar (EV) was probably an early migrant. Earliest otherwise was one in Clay Co 7 Apr (JGJ), and last was one near Creighton 19 May (LR, RH). The pair at the Capitol Building in Lincoln began nesting activity 31 Mar, 4 eggs were present 11 Apr, and the chicks hatched 19 May (JGJ).
- Virginia Rail:** Routine reports.
- Sora:** Routine reports.
- American Coot:** Routine reports.
- Sandhill Crane:** The usual large numbers were reported in the central Platte Valley in Mar, including 200,000 on 10 Mar (L&CF). There were good numbers westward as well, with "tens of thousands" between Sutherland and North Platte 3 Apr (TJW) and "several hundred" near Bridgeport 16 Mar (AD). The 150-300 at Winters Creek L were considered "surprising" (KD); few occur there in spring. Rare in the east, singles were in Washington Co 3-4 May (JT, JSt, CNK) and Dixon Co 20 May (UL). Last apparent migrants were the 14 rather late at CCM 15 May (SJD). Likely a resident pair of "Greaters" was in Clay Co 3 Apr (JGJ), and another "Greater" was near North Platte 16 May (TJW). Such late "Greaters" bear watching, as this is the southerly-breeding subspecies.

- Common Crane:** One was reported in a large group of roosting Sandhill Cranes near Rowe Sanctuary 17 Mar (KB, details). The description appears to rule out the possibility that the bird was one of the hybrids seen in 2000 (LB). The bird was not reported again.
- Whooping Crane:** A single that appeared 11 Mar on the central Platte River (fide PWB) apparently was the same bird that wintered with Sandhill Cranes in south Texas; it likely has never visited Aransas (TS). Two unassociated singles were present 24 Mar (TS), and subsequently a family group of 3 and a pair passed through around 1 Apr (TS). Thus a total of 7 birds was confirmed in the central Platte Valley, at least one of which was still present 3 Apr (RE) and 7 Apr (MA). Additional sightings away from the Platte River Valley included 4 birds near Creighton 12 Apr (MB) and 2 in Rock Co 22 Apr (CH).
- Black-bellied Plover:** Good numbers passed through 21 Apr (JGJ)-20 May (BFH,L&BP), with best count an excellent 165 at Freeman Lakes 19 May (JGJ).
- American Golden-Plover:** This was a "great year" for this species; the 544 in one field near Utica 14 May provided a record single-location count for the eastern RWB (JGJ), soon to be eclipsed by the 714 near Freeman Lakes the next day (JGJ). An additional 800+ were reported, including 232 at Freeman Lakes 22 Apr (MB). All but 2 birds were found in the eastern RWB.
- Snowy Plover:** This species was difficult to locate at LM; only one was found 15 May (SJD). Elsewhere, there were several reports, a good showing. Unexpected were two Sandhills reports, one in the central Sandhills 9 May, the 3rd "Sandhills lake" record (JED), and the first record for Antelope Co, one on 11 May (MB, details). The only others were singles at Harvard Marsh 13 May (PD) and in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM, no details).
- Semipalmated Plover:** The draining of Cunningham L provided something that appealed to this species; a record count of 300 was made there 12 May (CNK), with 100+ present 10-14 May (L&BP,LE,EW). Of interest were 4 inserting themselves into the "dry ag field" guild in the eastern RWB 15 May (JGJ).
- Piping Plover:** As might be expected, most were at LM, 38 on 15 May (SJD), but migrants were widely reported, earliest 12 Apr (D&JP). One was at L Minatare at last year's nest location 30 Apr (KD). Also of interest were 3 at 2 locations in the central and western Sandhills 7-9 May, including a pair "acting broody" (JED), and one at CLNWR 15 May (SJD). Breeding is rare in the Sandhills. As many as 16 were noted at the new Elk Point Bend WMA, Dixon Co, 20 May (BFH, m.ob.), presumably birds forced from the nearby Missouri River due to the concurrent "spring rise" activated by the Corps of Engineers as part of the river management plan.
- Killdeer:** An excellent tally of 231 in Lancaster Co 19 Mar (LE) resulted from snow forcing birds to roadsides.
- Mountain Plover:** Most of us are happy to locate numbers like the 2-7 reported in sw. Kimball Co 25 Apr-16 May (JGJ,KD,CG,SJD), but the number of plovers actually present is surprising; 65 nests were monitored (and achieved good success) this spring by a cooperative project between farmers, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and Nebraska Game and Parks (fide JGJ).

- Black-necked Stilt:** Few were reported this spring, those that were were from regular w. Sandhills locations and from the eastern RWB, where singles were at North Lake Basin rather early on 21 Apr (JGJ), Harvard Marsh 6 May (PD), and an injured bird at Kirkpatrick Basin South WMA, York Co, 10-12 May (JGJ).
- American Avocet:** A record spring count was the 221 in Lancaster Co 12 Apr, including 150 at PL (LE), an easterly location for such a high count.
- Spotted Sandpiper:** An excellent count was the 46 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM).
- Solitary Sandpiper:** Routine reports.
- Greater Yellowlegs:** A few singles arrived very early, including one record early near Ames 1 Mar (D&JP), another in Nuckolls Co 4 Mar (SJD), and one at Harvard Marsh 8 Mar (PD). Previous earliest dates were 3, 6, and 9 Mar.
- Willet:** Peak numbers usually occur in late Apr; the best count, 28 at Harvard Marsh 22 Apr (PD), fit the pattern.
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** This species also arrived early, with one at Harvard Marsh 8 Mar (PD), 3 there 10 Mar (PD), and 2 in Saline Co 11 Mar (LE), comparing with previous earliest dates of 10, 13, and 14 Mar.
- Upland Sandpiper:** This species was widely-reported in small numbers, except for a record spring tally of 70 at CLNWR 28 May (LR,RH), clearly a favored location.
- Whimbrel:** The only report was of 2 near Creighton 19 May (LR,RH).
- Long-billed Curlew:** Until 2003 there had been only 2 reports for the eastern RWB and none for 50+ years; now there are 8, an amazing 4 this spring:singles were in Hamilton Co 30 Mar (JGJ) and at Moger 3 Apr (JGJ), with 2 at the latter location 7 Apr (JGJ), and at Harvard Marsh 6 Apr (NW, fide PD). An older easterly recently-reported sighting was of one downed in a snowstorm in Albion 26 Mar 1983 (WM). Best count was of 11 in McPherson Co 21 Apr (TJW). Near the eastern edge of the breeding range were 2 in Brown Co 13 May (JED).
- Hudsonian Godwit:** Numbers were far lower than last year's, but reports were more widespread. Best counts were a moderate 50 at Fairmont SL 15 May (L&BP) and 48 at Burchard L 14 May (SJD). Uncommon westward, 2 were in the central Sandhills 9 May (JED) and one was at Valentine NWR 28 May (TH). Two at Hastings 7 Apr (PD) were the second-earliest on record.
- Marbled Godwit:** Routine reports.
- Ruddy Turnstone:** Generally a rare spring migrant, reports were numerous, including a high count of 21 at Freeman Lakes 18 May (JGJ). A total of about 37 were reported 12 May (JGJ) through 21 May (TJW) from the eastern RWB eastward.
- Sanderling:** Good numbers were reported statewide; best count was the 59 at LM 15 May (SJD).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** The drying Cunningham L provided habitat that hosted 200 on 4 May (CNK), an unusual concentration in the east.
- Western Sandpiper:** This species is a rare migrant statewide in spring, and so the 24 or so reported 22 Apr (PD) through 20 May (TH) made for a good migration. Details were provided, however, only for an alternate bird at Burchard L 23 Apr (WRS), another at Cunningham L 4 May (CNK), and 2, an alternate and a basic, at Valentine NWR 20 May (TH), a rather late date.
- Least Sandpiper:** Another good count at Cunningham L was the 200 on 4 May (CNK); 106 were in Sheridan Co 15 May (SJD).

- White-rumped Sandpiper:** Rather early for this late migrant were 5 in both Lancaster and Gage Cos 28 Apr (LE), followed closely by 14 at Wehrspann L 30 Apr (JWH).
- Baird's Sandpiper:** Tying the 3rd-earliest date were one at Harvard Marsh 10 Mar (PD) and 4 in the eastern RWB the same day (JGJ). Excellent counts were the 900 at Harvard Marsh 17 Apr (PD) and 810 in the eastern RWB 14 Mar (JGJ).
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** Another 3rd-earliest date was provided by 2 at Harvard Marsh 10 Mar (PD).
- Dunlin:** Numbers were good this spring for this usually uncommon migrant, rarely reported away from the east. An excellent count was the 51 at Cunningham L 17 May (JT). Apr reports are few, and so 2 in Stanton Co 25 Apr (D&JP) were noteworthy.
- Stilt Sandpiper:** Rather early was one at Harvard Marsh 22 Apr (PD) and a good count was the 717 at CCM 15 May (SJD).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Six at Harvard Marsh 22 Apr (PD) were record early by a day. Good numbers were reported from the migration corridor in the eastern RWB, peaking on 20 May at a record 627, 522 of which were in two fields (JGJ). This is a bit late for such a high count; other good counts were in mid-May, as expected: 600 in the eastern RWB 14 May (JGJ) and 321 in Antelope Co 15 May (MB), an excellent count for that location.
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** This species is essentially a May migrant; there are very few Apr reports, the earliest of which is 25 Apr, and almost none are documented. Good numbers were noted in mid-May; it was considered "widespread" at that time (SJD). Peak counts were 54 at LM 15 May (SJD) and 53 at CCM the same day (SJD).
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Previous earliest date for this species was 16 Mar; this spring at least 6 different birds were reported at 3 locations prior to this date. One was at Wehrspann L 5-12 Mar (RE, CNK, L&BP), 3 were at Harvard Marsh 10 Mar (PD), and 2 were at Griess WPA, Fillmore Co, the same day (JGJ).
- Wilson's Snipe:** Migrants usually appear in mid-Mar, but wintering can occur almost anywhere. Thus sightings 7 Mar at Gibbon (LR, RH), 8-10 Mar (2-3) at Harvard Marsh (PD), and 9 Mar (4) at Burchard L (NR) would be early if indeed migrants. Winnowing is usually an indication of at least attempted breeding; a southeasterly instance was the 2 winnowing at Jack Sinn WMA, Lancaster Co, 11 Apr (JGJ).
- American Woodcock:** The only reports were from an expected location, FF, 25 Mar (RW), and an unexpected but not unprecedented location as far west as Grand Island 20 Mar (EV). Small numbers have been reported as far west as the Kearney area in the Platte Valley.
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Best count was a 3rd-best ever 6550 at CLNWR 15 May (SJD); an excellent count for the eastern RWB was 2000, including 1200 at North Lake Basin and 800 at Moger 12 May (JGJ).
- Red-necked Phalarope:** Good numbers were reported from expected locations from the eastern RWB westward, including 388 at CLNWR 15 May (SJD), and 165 in the Lakeside-Antioch area the same day (SJD). A record single site count for the eastern RWB was 37 at Moger 12 May (JGJ). Rare in the east, 9 were near Yutan 19 May (CNK).
- Franklin's Gull:** Two at BOL 3 Mar (LE) were a bit early.
- Bonaparte's Gull:** Routine reports.

- Ring-billed Gull:** The 7377 at BOL 10 Mar (LE) was a nice tally, but high spring counts are in the 19,000+ range, including 20,000 at BOL itself 24 Mar 2001.
- California Gull:** 1-2, including at least one adult, were in the LM area 15-19 May (SJD,DF). Elsewhere, sightings away from LM are few; singles at CLNWR 13 May (fide AK) and in Scotts Bluff Co 18 Mar (AK), the latter rather early, were only the 16th and 17th such reports.
- Herring Gull:** An excellent estimate of 1000 Omaha flyovers was made 23 Mar (EB).
- Thayer's Gull:** Only two were reported: an adult at Swanson Res 3 Mar (SJD) and a 2nd-year at BOL 12 Mar (JGJ). This species is only casual as a spring migrant.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Now a regular but rare spring migrant statewide, two were reported: a juvenile was at HCR 3 Mar (SJD) and an adult tarried at BOL 11-24 Mar (JGJ,PEL).
- Glaucous Gull:** Three juveniles were the only reports: one at Swanson Res 3 Mar (SJD) and two at HCR the same day (SJD).
- Least Tern:** Some 13 were reported, all in the east except for the earliest, which was near Kearney 5 May (KS).
- Caspian Tern:** Singles at LO 24 Apr (JGJ) and near Yankton on the Missouri River 25 Apr (NE) were rather early. In all, about 8 were reported.
- Black Tern:** Best count was 975 at HCR 14 May (SJD).
- Common Tern:** More than usual were reported, about 25, including an excellent count of 13 at L Minatare 16 May (SJD; details). One on the Missouri River near Yankton 10 May (NE) was rather early, as were 3 at North Lake Basin 12 May (JGJ). Earliest spring date is 9 May.
- Forster's Tern:** Routine reports.
- Rock Pigeon:** Routine reports.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Nest-building was underway 8 Apr in a spruce at Mitchell (KD). Of interest in the non-urban Sandhills was the first record for Valentine NWR, 25 May, a single (TH).
- White-winged Dove:** The parade continues, with 3 more sightings this spring, including potential breeding. Singles were at Gering 4 Apr (RSg), possibly the bird seen there in Dec, at Cozad 11 May (TJW), and at Albion, where one was present from 23 Apr, and was singing and carrying nest material 25 May (D&CN). Breeding apparently occurred there last year.
- Mourning Dove:** Rather early for the west was one in Scotts Bluff Co 11 Mar (KD). First nest-building reported was in Saunders Co 31 Mar (LE).
- Inca Dove:** The wintering bird at Bellevue, Nebraska's 5th, was last reported 19 Mar (CNK).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** A record-early arrival was one heard in Otoe Co 16 Apr (LB); previous earliest was 24 Apr.
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** There were only 3 reports: singles were in Butler Co 20 May (LE) and at ADF 21 May (L&CF), but 5, a record spring count, arrived in Otoe Co 31 May (L&CF), confirming this species' late migration timing.
- Barn Owl:** Rather early was one at Alma 30 Mar (G&WH). Consolidating a possible northeastward expansion in the breeding range (see nesting near Creighton in 2005) was one that had returned 23 May to a site at Ulysses where breeding evidence was obtained in 2005 (JG).
- Flammulated Owl:** Highly tantalizing was a calling bird heard at Valentine NWR Headquarters 24 May by an observer experienced with the species (TH).

Unfortunately the calls were not taped nor was the bird seen, but this report is similar to the only other credible Nebraska report, a bird heard at Chadron SP, Dawes Co, 30 Jun 1978 by an observer familiar with the calls of this species and similar-sounding ones. This is a migratory species and there is a small breeding population in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Eastern Screech-Owl: Routine reports.

Great Horned Owl: Large young were noted 20 Apr at Wehrspann L (CW) and in Cass Co 7 May (LE).

Burrowing Owl: Sightings are becoming more frequent in the eastern RWB as grasslands improve in quality and extent; sightings were from Fillmore, Clay, Seward, and York Cos; a farmer carefully disked around the Seward Co birds, and the family group in Clay Co was associated with a prairie-dog town (JGJ). Best count was 10 at Prairie Dog WMA, Kearney Co, 4 May (EV). Nesting was apparently initiated near Bassett by 16 Apr, where birds had been present for a week (CH).

Barred Owl: Westerly reports were from Nuckolls Co 4 Mar and 6 May, where they were "seen daily" around the latter date (SJD,DE), and se. Fillmore Co 11 Mar (LE). Records from Jefferson and Thayer Cos suggest that a population exists in the Little Blue River drainage, and the Nuckolls Co records indicate that the same applies to the eastern Republican Valley. The westward extent of the latter population would be of interest. One was using a nest box in w. Douglas Co 16 Apr (DSt).

Long-eared Owl: Two flushed from a trail near Rowe Sanctuary 3 May (EV) were reluctant to leave the area 9 May (KS), and presumably were nesting. The only other reports were from Smith L 19 Mar and 30 May (SJ), where nesting has occurred in the past. Birds remaining after mid-Apr are likely to summer.

Short-eared Owl: Only four were reported, all singles: 31 Mar Swanson Res (JSt), 3 Apr in Lincoln Co sandhills (TJW), 11 May Kimball Co (AR), and 29 May at Kiowa (KD).

Common Nighthawk: Rather early were 13 at Buckskin Hills 13 Apr (PR); not far away, at South Sioux City, the first arrivals were "very late", on 23 May (BFH). First in Omaha were reported 9 May (JT).

Common Poorwill: Somewhat easterly were 2 in the cedar canyons of se. Lincoln Co 18 May (TJW); it would seem that the species should breed here with some regularity based on its distribution in Kansas, but documentation is needed.

Chuck-will's-widow: None were reported; arrival is in May.

Whip-poor-will: The only report was of one at Ponca SP 19 May (KS).

Chimney Swift: Two rather early at Brady 17 Apr were the first reported (TJW).

White-throated Swift: One was in Scotts Bluff Co by 12 May (AK), a bit late for a first arrival.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: A female appeared at feeders in Brady 19 May (TJW); a pair was there in 2004, although breeding was not noted at the time at this westerly location for the species.

Hummingbird sp.: An unidentified hummingbird was at a Scottsbluff feeder 14 May (fide AK); spring sightings are very rare in the west. Most likely species is probably Broad-tailed, even though the only documented spring record of a hummingbird in the Panhandle is of a Calliope; there are no Panhandle records of Ruby-throated for spring.

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: The only reports were of a single near Superior 4 Mar (SJD,DE), and a male at FF 14-16 Apr (L&BP). A few winter in se. Nebraska, and migrants pass through in Apr.

Downy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Northern Flicker: Last "Red-shafted" Flickers were reported from Douglas Co 2 Apr (TP) and Phelps Co 3 Apr (RE); a hybrid male was in Douglas Co 6 Apr (TP). These dates are at the end of the easterly wintering period for these birds.

Pileated Woodpecker: Reports were from the FF area through the period (m. ob.); no evidence of breeding was noted however.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Only 5 were reported, all in the east, first in Dixon Co 20 May (BFH, m.ob.).

Western Wood-Pewee: A good count was the 10 at Smith L 30 May (SJ). At the east edge of the summer range was one at LM 27 May (DF).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Earliest was one in Sarpy Co 9 May (CNK).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The only report was of one at Walnut Grove Park, Omaha, 21 May (JWH).

Acadian Flycatcher: Four singles were reported in the southeast from 25 May (L&CF,JT,CNK,NR).

Alder Flycatcher: About 9 of this late migrant were reported, also in the southeast, from 22 May (TP), including a good count of 4 at Neale Woods, Douglas Co, 26 May (JT).

Willow Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Least Flycatcher: One at Walnut Grove Park, Omaha, 29 Apr (RS) was a bit early, and the same park yielded a good count of 22 on 21 May (JWH).

Hammond's Flycatcher: Only the 4th documented spring record, one at CLNWR 13 May was photographed (KD,AK). The 4 records are in the period 11-24 May.

Cordilleran Flycatcher: The only report was easterly: one was at Valentine NWR 20 May (TH). This is the only report east of the Panhandle, and could be a bird of the "Western" complex that wintered in the eastern United States or even in Nebraska.

Eastern Phoebe: Four birds arrived rather early on the same day, 11 Mar: one in Gage Co (D&JP), 2 in Fillmore Co (LE), and one at HCR (G&WH). Nestbuilding had begun in Dodge Co 15 Apr (TJW).

Say's Phoebe: Easterly was one in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM), not an unexpected location in spring.

Great Crested Flycatcher: Earliest was rather early at ICSP 23 Apr (WRS).

Cassin's Kingbird: One of only 5 records east of the Panhandle in spring was a single at CLNWR 15 May (SJD, details). A good count was the 6 south of I-80 Exit 1 in Kimball Co (SJD).

Western Kingbird: An excellent count for the location was the 241 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM).

Eastern Kingbird: Also in Hall Co 13 May, 269 were counted (fide CM).

Northern Shrike: Last reported was a brownish immature in McPherson Co 3 Apr (TJW); most depart by mid-Apr.

Loggerhead Shrike: A good count was the 15-20 in McPherson Co 21 Apr (TJW).

Bell's Vireo: Rather early for the westerly location was one at Ash Hollow 19 May (DF). A good count was the 13 in Seward Co 13 May (LR,RH).

Yellow-throated Vireo: A bit westerly was one at Verdigre 6 May (BFH).

Plumbeous Vireo: The only report was of a migrant at Oliver Res 17 May (SJD).

Blue-headed Vireo: Ten were reported, all in the east, 30 Apr (JWH) through 21 May (EB).

Warbling Vireo: Routine reports.

Philadelphia Vireo: The only reports were of singles in Kearney Co 4 May (RG, EV) and Sarpy Co 13 May (fide CNK), and 3 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM; no details). This species is rare away from the east, the Kearney and Hall Co reports are only the 9th and 10th.

Red-eyed Vireo: An excellent count was the 34 at ICSP 14 May (SJD). One at Oxford 30 Apr (LR, RH) was a little early.

Blue Jay: Routine reports.

Pinyon Jay: None were reported.

Black-billed Magpie: Concerns were expressed by central Nebraska observers about low numbers of magpies; only 2 were seen by a tour group over several days in late Mar (RW), and 4 in Harlan Co 7 Apr were the first seen there in 9 months (G&WH). Additional easterly reports were of 4 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM) and one in Thayer Co 14 May (SJD), where the species is rare.

American Crow: As with magpies, numbers seemed low in central Nebraska; only 2 were noted during a 4-day banding stint in Kearney Co in early May (RG, EV). Best count reported was a modest (by crow standards) 216 in Seward Co 26 Mar (LE).

Horned Lark: Routine reports.

Purple Martin: One at Ainsworth 13 May (JED) was at the west edge of the summer range in northern Nebraska.

Tree Swallow: Routine reports.

Violet-green Swallow: The only report was of 2 rather early in Scotts Bluff Co 30 Apr (KD)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Three in Cass Co 2 Apr (TJW) were the 2nd-earliest on record, with 5 in Lancaster Co 7 Apr (LE) close behind.

Bank Swallow: Routine reports.

Cliff Swallow: Nestbuilding was underway rather early on 1 May in Scotts Bluff Co (KD).

Barn Swallow: One in the observer's Lincoln yard 22 Mar (LE) was only the 5th record in Mar for the species. Normal arrival is in early Apr; next reported this spring were 4 birds at 3 locations 9 Apr (L&CF, JPM, JGJ, JWH). A good count was the 349 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM).

Black-capped Chickadee: One was carrying nest material in Lancaster Co rather early 8 Apr (LE).

Tufted Titmouse: One was singing "incessantly" at the Valentine NWR headquarters 25 May (CSp, TH). There are five similar reports in spring some distance north and west of the breeding range, suggesting limited movement at that time of year; such records appear to be increasing in the last 2-3 years.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: One in Lincoln 25 May (KP) was lingering rather late.

White-breasted Nuthatch: Routine reports.

Pygmy Nuthatch: One was using a hole in "The Snag" at Wildcat Hills NC 27 May (AK). Nesting has occurred in this piece of lumber before.

Brown Creeper: Nesting has occurred at FF for several years; one was singing there 14 Apr (L&BP). Recently, nesting has occurred at Neale Woods, Washington Co; a pair was nesting there 28 May (CNK). One at DeSoto

NWR, Washington Co, 2 May (RE) and 2 at Hormel Park, Fremont, (RE) may have been late migrants; nesting is not known at those locations, but is likely at either.

Rock Wren: One near Benkelman 5 Apr (TJW) was the 2nd-earliest on record. An excellent count was the 35 in the canyons of se. Lincoln Co 12 May (TJW); this species has a decided liking for cut-banks there (TJW).

Carolina Wren: This species is becoming common in southeast Nebraska and is expanding its range northwestward. Two at North Platte 23 Mar had been wintering there (TJW), but most significant were the 2 pairs at McCook 1 May, one of which was carrying nest material (LR,RH). This is the westernmost nesting record for the state, although there were several sightings there in 2005 (LR,RH) and breeding may have occurred there then. Otherwise, reports were numerous in an area bounded by Webster, Clay, Seward, and Douglas Cos.

House Wren: One at FF 8 Apr (RS) was rather early, as were 2 at L Maloney, Lincoln Co, 21 Apr (TJW); arrival is noticeably later westward.

Winter Wren: 1-2 were found at FF 6 Mar (L&BP) through 24 Apr (AR); most were probably migrants, as overwintering is unusual even in the southeast. Another was at Wehrspann L 20 Apr (JWH).

Sedge Wren: Migrants passed through the east about on time 26 Apr (LE) through 20 May (JJ,JU). Few remain into Jun.

Marsh Wren: A "very vocal" bird was at the North Platte Airport 15 Mar (TJW); it may have wintered in the area. "Unbelievable numbers and density" were noted in the western Sandhills 28 May (LR,RH), and 150 were estimated at Smith L 30 May (SJ); this is an abundant summering species in the Sandhills.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Defining the span of the migration period were singles at HCR 11 Mar (G&WH) and at Albion 10 May (D&CN).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: One in a Scottsbluff yard beginning 1 Jan (see Winter Report) remained until 15 Mar (P&DD); there are only 8 other Dec-early Mar records for the Panhandle. One at HCR 11 Mar (G&WH) was rather early and may have wintered nearby.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One at Platte River SP, Cass Co, 14 Apr (LE) was a bit early; first in the west was one in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co, 23 Apr (KD). One was on a nest in Scotts Bluff Co 27 May (AK). Both the western and eastern populations appear to be expanding; one was at Ash Hollow 27 May (DF), and in the east, one was as far west along the Republican River as Oxford 30 Apr (LR,RH). There has been a population in the Orleans area for some time. Continuing the increase in northward reports, 1-2 were in Dixon Co 12-21 May (JJ,JT,KS). The 9 in Nance Co 5 May (LR,RH) indicates consolidation at the northwest edge of the eastern range.

Eastern Bluebird: Peak movement is in mid- to late Mar; 200 were in Gage Co 11 Mar (D&JP) and "hundreds" were in the se. Lincoln Co cedar canyons 29 Mar (TJW). A nest at Ogallala had 2 eggs as early as 16 Apr, and 5 young had fledged by 25 May (CWH). Eggs had hatched at Plattsmouth by 27 Apr (MS), and 34 young had fledged at ADF by 31 May (L&CF).

Mountain Bluebird: Singles had returned to the breeding range in the Wildcat Hills, Scotts Bluff Co, 1 Mar (AK) and at Smith L 19 Mar (SJ).

Townsend's Solitaire: Easternmost was one rather late in Dakota Co 17 Apr (JJ); such occurrences are rare. Another was easterly in Seward Co 3 Mar (LE).

Veery: Four were reported from the east 6-20 May (AR,GH,CNK,JT), about average.

- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** This was a good spring for this uncommon migrant, with about 12 reported 6-17 May, all in the east except for one as far west as CLNWR 15 May (SJD). There are about 30 Panhandle reports.
- Swainson's Thrush:** Excellent numbers were reported, with best counts 36 at CLNWR 15 May (SJD), and 25 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM). Record early by 2 days was one in Bellevue 18 Apr (EB).
- Hermit Thrush:** One very early in Nance Co 11 Mar (LR,RH) may have wintered in the area, and another at FF was also rather early 29 Mar (RW). Rather late were singles at FF 5 May (NF) and at ICSP 11 May (GH); primarily an Apr migrant, details should be provided for May reports.
- Wood Thrush:** An excellent count was the 17 at ICSP 14 May (SJD,WRS).
- American Robin:** "Thousands" were in the cedar canyons of se. Lincoln Co 29 Mar (TJW).
- Gray Catbird:** An excellent count was the 98 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM).
- Northern Mockingbird:** Another southern species becoming more widely-reported, at least 15 were found, mostly in the southeast, but as far north as Mullen on 28 May (LR,RH). Earliest was one in Sarpy Co 9 Mar (CNK); a few winter.
- Brown Thrasher:** Excellent counts were the 144 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM), and a single-observer tally of 126 in extreme se. Nebraska 6 May (WRS).
- European Starling:** Large flocks are less common in spring; thus a good count was 1000 in Gage Co 5 Mar (LE); the 3 top spring counts (all 1000!) are 5-6 Mar.
- American Pipit:** Tying the 2nd-earliest date were 3 at Harvard Marsh 10 Mar (PD); 2 in Dixon Co 20 May (UL,MB) were rather late.
- Cedar Waxwing:** Occasionally large flocks appear well into May, possibly long-range migrants; 250 were in Dixon Co 21 May (JJ), 130 in Butler Co 20 May (LE), and 100 at North Platte 24 May (TJW).
- Golden-winged Warbler:** The 3 reported were about average: one in Douglas Co 9 May (EW) and 2 at ICSP 14 May (SJD,WRS).
- Tennessee Warbler:** Good numbers were reported as far west as Valentine NWR, 6 on 20 May (TH), and at LO, 7 on 15 May (SJD). There are only 32 Panhandle reports.
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** Good numbers appeared statewide; best count was 30 at McCook 1 May (LR,RH).
- Nashville Warbler:** Rare as far west as Valentine NWR, one was there 20 May (TH). About 20 were reported 5 May (SJD) through 21 May (JWH); best count was 6 at ICSP 14 May (SJD,WRS).
- Northern Parula:** Northernmost was one at Ponca SP 20 May (MB); all others were found from Neale Woods southward in the Missouri Valley. First was at FF 12 Apr (L&BP), and the best count was 8 at ICSP 23 Apr (WRS).
- Yellow Warbler:** One in Furnas Co 30 Apr (LR,RH) was a bit early for the westerly location, and the 130 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM) was an excellent tally.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Only two were reported, singles in Bellevue 17 May (L&BP) and at Ponca SP 20 May (JT).
- Magnolia Warbler:** The 11 reported, all in the southeast 13 May (fide CNK) through 21 May (JWH), was a good showing.
- Cape May Warbler:** The only report of this casual migrant was of one in the observer's Blair yard 21 May (JJo). This is only the 17th spring record since 1982.
- Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler:** The only report was of one at Sidney rather early on 17 Apr (AS).

- Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** Good numbers were reported, including 50 as early as 11 Mar at HCR (G&WH) and "hundreds" at L Maloney, Lincoln Co, 21 Apr, all "Myrtles" (TJW).
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** The only two reported were singles at FF 29 Apr (RS) and ICSP 14 May (SJD,WRS).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** Only two were reported, one at Ponca SP 20 May (JT), and another far to the west at CLNWR 15 May (SJD), the latter surprisingly preceded by as many as 11 other Panhandle records.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** All but one of the reports were from Neale Woods and FF; peak count was the 4 at FF 8 Apr (RS), which was also the 2nd-earliest date for this species. Unexpected by location and habitat was one at Hormel Park, Fremont, 10 Apr (RE), also rather early.
- Palm Warbler:** Only about 11 were reported, all from the east, 27 Apr (JWH) through 21 May (JWH).
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** Generally rare in spring, only 3 were reported. Singles were in Lincoln 18 May (LE) and at Ponca SP 20 May (DH,BFH). The third was westerly at Valentine NWR 20 May (TH), and is only about the 10th spring report from central and western Nebraska.
- Blackpoll Warbler:** This species was widespread in good numbers this spring, beginning with one rather early at Ponca SP 25 Apr (NE), followed by "a great spring for the species in western Nebraska" with 37 counted in the Panhandle 15-16 May (SJD).
- Cerulean Warbler:** Single males were noted at 4 locations, only one a new site; no females or indication of breeding were noted. Unexpected was a singing male at the Missouri River near Newcastle in Dixon Co 13 May (JJ). Others were a male at Hummel Park, Omaha 6 May (RS) though 25 May (CNK); one at ICSP 14 May (SJD,WRS); and one at Neale Woods, Washington Co, 28 May (CNK) at the same location it or another was found 2 years ago.
- Black-and-white Warbler:** One at Sidney 17 Apr (AS) was record early for the Panhandle, where arrival dates are almost a month later than in the east.
- American Redstart:** The 32 at ICSP 14 May (SJD,WRS) was an excellent count, and the 6 in and near the Panhandle 15-16 May (SJD) was a good westerly tally.
- Prothonotary Warbler:** Regular only from FF south, at least one was at FF beginning 21 Apr (CS), 5th-earliest on record, and another was at ICSP 17 May (L&CF). Most unexpected was one at the east end of LO 27 May (DF; details). Interestingly, 2 males and a female frequented this spot 17-24 May 1996 (JK). There are only 3 spring Panhandle records and 4 other records away from the east.
- Ovenbird:** Two at ICSP 23 Apr (WRS) were 2nd-earliest on record and the 14 there 14 May (SJD,WRS) was an excellent count.
- Northern Waterthrush:** Best count was a moderate 8 at FF 13 May (EB).
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** All reports, perhaps a total of 12 birds, were from expected locations in the southeast. Although normally an early arriver, one at South Bend 29 Mar (RW) was record early by one day. Best count was the 4 at Schramm SP 13 May (L&BP). Nests are rarely found, but one was seen in Mormon Hollow, FF, 18 May (EB).
- Kentucky Warbler:** Singles were found in Otoe Co 3 and 16 May (L&CF), but the other reports were from ICSP, a stronghold for this species in Nebraska; 6 were there 7 May (WRS) and a record 8 on 14 May (SJD,WRS).

- Mourning Warbler:** Only 4 were reported: singles at Memphis Lakes SRA, Saunders Co, 14 May (CNK) and Schramm SP 21 May (EB), and 2 at FF 23 May (JT).
- MacGillivray's Warbler:** The only report was of 2 in the observer's yard near Mitchell 14 May (KD).
- Common Yellowthroat:** First was one about on time in Saline Co 28 Apr (LE).
- Hooded Warbler:** The two reports seem to be about par for the course in recent springs, but both were pioneers in their own way: one, a male, was westerly at CLNWR 15 May (SJD), and the other record early at FF 8 Apr (EM,CNK). Panhandle reports are surprisingly numerous, this the 14th for spring, but the FF bird was record early by 13 days.
- Wilson's Warbler:** Surprisingly few were reported, only 10, from 10 May (AR) through 21 May (JWH), all in the east.
- Canada Warbler:** None were reported.
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** All reports were from the west; the easternmost reported only made it as far as Lincoln Co (TJW).
- Summer Tanager:** Reports continue from several locations where this species was essentially absent until recently. Most surprising location was a first-year male at Buckskin Hills 20 May (JJ,D&JP). Other reports were of singles at FF 7 and 12 May (CNK,L&BP), one at Hummel Park, Omaha, 12 May (CNK), singles at Schramm SP 13 May (L&BP) and 21 May (EB), one in a Bellevue yard 25 May (L&BP), 3 at ICSP 14 and 17 May (SJD,WRS,L&CF), and a good count of 6 in se. Otoe Co 31 May (L&CF).
- Scarlet Tanager:** All reports were from the east, beginning with a female at Hummel Park 2 May (JT). Best count was an excellent 8 at ICSP 14 May (SJD,WRS).
- Western Tanager:** One was in a Mitchell yard 12 May (KD) as might be expected, but two others were somewhat easterly: a male at CCM 15 May (SJD) and another bird at North Platte 27 May (fide TJW). This species is rare away from the Panhandle.
- Green-tailed Towhee:** The only report of this rare-but-regular migrant was from a Gering yard 4 May (RSg).
- Spotted Towhee:** Departure from the southeast is complete by mid-May, and so singles in Sarpy Co 13 May (fide CNK) and Otoe Co 16 May (L&CF) were rather late.
- Eastern Towhee:** Routine reports.
- American Tree Sparrow:** Routine reports.
- Chipping Sparrow:** The 542 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM) was an excellent total.
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** Best count was a moderate (for this species) 535 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM).
- Brewer's Sparrow:** Rarely reported (identified?) east of the Panhandle, one at LO 24 Apr (JGJ) added to the few such records, most from Lincoln and Keith Cos.
- Field Sparrow:** Singles in Douglas Co 29 Mar (TP) and 30 Mar (RW) were rather early. The 86 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM) was a good count.
- Vesper Sparrow:** Routine reports.
- Lark Sparrow:** Routine reports.
- Lark Bunting:** A few straggle eastward in spring; one was in Brown Co 13 May (JED), but less usual were one in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM) and 2 males in Wayne Co 25 May (JJ). "Hundreds" were in Kimball Co by 11 May (AR).

Savannah Sparrow: One at BOL 24 Mar (JGJ) was a little early.

Grasshopper Sparrow: The 73 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM) was a good count.

Henslow's Sparrow: There were only two reports: 4 were found in native Conservation Reserve Program grassland in Johnson Co 29 May (WRS), and one was reported in mid-May in Hall Co (fide CM; no details).

Le Conte's Sparrow: The only report was of one in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: There are surprisingly few spring records for this species, possibly due to its late migration timing and difficulty of access to habitat. A singing bird at Valentine NWR 29 May (TH) adds to the limited knowledge of the extent of the migration corridor, being the westernmost spring record.

Fox Sparrow: Early arrival dates were threatened by no fewer than 6 different singles arriving 4-5 Mar (SJD,LE,NE); earliest date is 2 Mar.

Song Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lincoln's Sparrow: This species does not winter in Nebraska; early dates are in mid-Mar, although general arrival is in late Mar. Thus very early were one that remained in an Omaha yard 28 Feb-2 Mar (PS) and another near Wilcox 3 Mar (NE).

Swamp Sparrow: One at Rock Creek 3 Mar (SJD) probably wintered there; migrants generally arrive in late Mar.

White-throated Sparrow: Wintering occurs in the southeast, but farther west is rare; thus one near Wilcox 3 Mar (NE) and 3 in Nuckolls Co 4 Mar (SJD) may have been early migrants. This species is rare in the west, and so noteworthy were singles at LO 24 Apr (JGJ) and at CLNWR 15 May (SJD).

White-crowned Sparrow: This species winters in southern and western Nebraska, but most leave the state in midwinter. Earliest report in the east was of one in Douglas Co 31 Mar (LE). May reports are common, but one at FF 31 May (WM) was rather late. A good tally was the 219 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM).

Harris's Sparrow: Rather rare in the west, one was in a Mitchell yard 20 Mar and 6 Apr (KD), and another was at CLNWR 13 May (AK).

Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco: None were reported; migrants pass through the west.

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: Most leave before May, and so 4 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM) and one at Ponca SP 20 May (JK) were rather late.

Dark-eyed (Oregon and Pink-sided) Junco: Unusually high numbers of these forms were found in central Nebraska alongside snowbound roadsides in Mar; 40 Oregons were found 21 Mar when usually 2-3 are seen, and 3 Pink-sideds were found 21-22 Mar, when usually only one at most is seen (PEL). Pink-sided is rare eastward.

Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco: Two were reported: a single at Crane Meadows NC, Hall Co, 15 Mar (JKi, fide PEL) and another at Alliance 17 Mar (CK). Despite some 45 reports of this form in Nebraska, there are only about 7 documented records.

McCown's Longspur: The 3 reports were from Kimball Co, including a moderate count of 75 on 25 Apr (JGJ).

Lapland Longspur: Large numbers were brought to roadsides by heavy snow in central Nebraska in mid-Mar; 2500 were estimated near Grand Island 19 Mar (PEL) and again in the eastern RWB 21 Mar (PEL).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: None were reported; migration occurs late Mar-early Apr.

Snow Bunting: None were reported; departure is often complete by 1 Mar.

Northern Cardinal: Two males at Bridgeport 12 May (KD) indicated continued range consolidation along the western North Platte Valley.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Not uncommon westerly during spring migration, there were these reports: a pair was at feeders at Shelton 7 May (MM), one was at Wilsonville 20 May (LO), 2 in a Brady yard 15 May were the 3rd in 4 years there (TJW), and a male was at Valentine NWR 21 May (TH). Earliest was one in Bellevue 28 Apr (EB).

Black-headed Grosbeak: The 10 in se. Lincoln Co 17 May (TJW) was a good count.

Blue Grosbeak: Routine reports.

Lazuli Bunting: One at Fort Kearny SHP, Kearney Co, 26 Apr (EH) was 2nd-earliest on record, followed closely by another in Scotts Bluff Co 30 Apr (KD). In recent years, reports eastward have become more numerous; prior to this year there were only 26 in all. Thus the 4 reports were surprising: a male at FF 10, 14, and 18 May (AR,EB), probably the same individual, one in Lincoln 21 May (LE), 2 in the observer's sw. Dixon Co yard 24 May (JJ), and two males photographed together in a Valley yard 26 May (TM).

Indigo Bunting: Routine reports.

Painted Bunting: Nebraska's 10th documented record was of a 2nd-year male, bright green with some yellowish coloration, at Sacramento-Wilcox WMA, Phelps Co, 2 May (RG,EV).

Dickcissel: Normally a late arriver westward, the first noted in that part of the state were "a few" in the North Platte area 23 May (TJW). A hint of things to come (see Summer Report) were higher numbers than usual in the north and west; they were said to be "everywhere" in Blaine Co 28 May (LR,RH).

Bobolink: This species was widely-reported in good numbers, including 100 in Blaine Co 28 May (LR,RH) and 62 in Boone Co 7 May (LR,RH).

Red-winged Blackbird: Females arrive later than males; a "general arrival" of females was noted in Sarpy and Cass Co 29 Mar (RW). Some 10,000 at North Platte 6 Mar (TJW) were probably migrant males.

Eastern Meadowlark: Singing birds were first noted in the North Platte area (TJW); in the southeast, where numbers wintering, if any, are unknown, the first singing birds were noted in Johnson Co 5 Mar (LE). Pockets of this species occur in the Sandhills; reports were from CLNWR 13 May (AK), Brown Co 13 May (JED), as well as LO 19 May (DF).

Western Meadowlark: Migrants had reached ne. Nebraska by 26 Mar, where 62 were counted between Sioux City and Yankton, including one flock of 30 (WRS).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Routine reports.

Rusty Blackbird: Apparently a species in some trouble nationally, all reports are significant; genders and ages, if known, should be reported. Generally a spring migrant in the eastern half of the state, about 32 were reported 5 Mar (LE) through 14 Apr (L&BP). As far west as North Platte, 3 were found on 7 Mar (TJW), and at Alma, 2 were seen on 30 Mar (G&WH). Best count was 20 in Johnson Co 5 Mar (LE).

Brewer's Blackbird: The usual migrants were noted in central and western parts of the state, peaking in mid-Apr. Best count was an impressive 250 in the eastern RWB 21 Apr (JGJ). Rare further east, 3 were in Cass Co 25 Mar (RW).

Common Grackle: Two young had fledged from a Lincoln nest 16 May (NP), a little early.

Great-tailed Grackle: Large numbers were reported during peak migration in Mar, as expected; best count was 200 at an elevator at Shickley 11 Mar (LE). One had made it as far ne. as Dakota Co by 26 Mar (BFH). A good count for the Panhandle was 35-40 in Scotts Bluff Co 11 Mar (KD). Two breeding colonies near North Platte contained about 50 birds in all 23 May (TJW), and about 15 birds were nesting near Alma by 15 May (SJD).

Brown-headed Cowbird: A single male as far north as Dixon Co 3 Mar (JJ) was in a hurry; arrival in the south is in late Feb.

Orchard Oriole: One in Omaha 29 Apr (JWH) was a little early.

Baltimore Oriole: The 148 in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM) was a good count. One in Brady 27 Apr (TJW) was about a week early there (TJW). Rare in the Panhandle, one was in Scotts Bluff Co 27 May (AK), and another at Smith L 30 May (SJ). A "pure male" was at LO 27 May; no pure Bullock's Orioles were found (DF). Following the report of a Scott's Oriole (see that species) this spring, several observers noted sightings of yellow Baltimore Orioles, including photos. Carotenoids, pigments causing orange coloration, are diet-derived, and for some reason, orioles reaching our area must have experienced a deficit in food items containing carotenoids over the winter.

Bullock's Oriole: No pure adults were found at LO 27 May, although a pure Baltimore was present (DF).

Scott's Oriole: A report was received of one in Saline Co 10 May (RE); some details were provided, most significantly an extension of black coloration into the breast area, but other features separating Scott's from a yellow Baltimore Oriole (see that species) were not noted. If accepted by the NOU Records Committee, this would be Nebraska's 7th report, but only the second acceptably documented.

Brambling: A bird identified as a 2nd-year male Brambling appeared at the Crane Meadows NC feeders 8 Apr (KS). It was seen by several people at the Center, but did not reappear the next day. If accepted by the NOU Records Committee, this would be the 2nd Nebraska record.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch: None were reported; departure is in early Mar.

Purple Finch: Only 6 were reported, after only a moderate winter for the species. Last were 2 in Bellevue 17 Apr (AR).

House Finch: A nest with 4 eggs was found at Columbus 15 Apr (TJW).

Red Crossbill: An apparent family group of 2 adults and 2 juveniles appeared at a Dawes Co feeder 6 Mar (SA); this species is a very early breeder in Nebraska. The only other reports were from Wildcat Hills NC, 1-4 birds on 5-27 May (KD,AK).

Common Redpoll: None were reported; departure is in Mar.

Pine Siskin: Reports were widespread, although numbers were generally low except for the 100+ at the feeders of the North Platte Experimental Station 23 Mar (TJW). Last in the east were singles at Albion 9 May (D&CN) and in Hall Co 13 May (fide CM). Nesting occurs erratically away from the Pine Ridge and usually is initiated early; nest material was being gathered at Sidney 17 Apr, and a nest with 2 young was found there 14 May (AS). A pair was nest-building at Oliver Res 16 May (SJD), and nesting may have occurred at HCR, where at least one bird lingered until 30 May (G&WH).

American Goldfinch: Routine reports.

House Sparrow: Routine reports.

A Book-collector's Guide to Roger Tory Peterson

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One of the major disappointments of my youth was that I grew up without access to a real field guide to birds. My early years were spent in a small North Dakota village that lacked a library, and my only reference book on birds was a badly-tattered copy of a badly-illustrated 1912 book that my mother had grown up with, Chester A. Reed's *Birds of Eastern North America*. However, in 1939 a very kind aunt gave me a still-cherished copy of the Macmillan edition of Audubon's *Birds of America* as a Christmas present. With its hundreds of wonderful color plates, I finally had a way of identifying many previously unrecognized birds. But as I was soon to discover, a bird artist and author by the name of Roger Tory Peterson was about to revolutionize the field guide world. I suspect that many of today's birders were first introduced to birds and birding by a Peterson guide, so I thought that a summary of Peterson's products might be of interest.

Although the first edition of Roger Tory Peterson's landmark book, *A Field Guide to the Birds, Giving Field Marks of all Species Found in Eastern North America* had been published in 1934, only three years after my birth, I didn't learn of its existence until I went away to college in the early 1950's. By that time Peterson's eastern guide was already available in a third edition (having first been revised in 1939, and again in 1947). During the 1950's I bought almost every new Peterson field guide as soon as I learned of its availability, including Peterson's western companion volume, *A Field Guide to Western Birds*. This book had been published in 1941, the first printing having a distinctive "1941" appearing on the title page, and the dust jacket (illustrated with woodpeckers and quails) has a \$2.75 price tag. This title was still in its first edition during the 1950's, but by then the price had been raised to \$3.75, and a more colorful jacket design of buntings and woodpeckers had been adopted.

During this same period, Peterson, Guy Mountfort and P.A.D. Hollom collaborated to produce *A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe*. It was printed in London by Collins in 1954, and priced in the U.S. at \$5.00. Swedish, Dutch, German and Swiss (in French) versions also appeared at about the same time. There were thirteen printings of the first English-language edition before a revised edition was published in 1966. A third edition appeared in 1974, and a fourth in 1983. By the printing of the fourth edition, almost a million copies had been sold. Nearly a dozen foreign-language editions of this work have been published---their details would be a fit topic for some ornithological bibliophile to sort out.

With the financial support of the Texas Game and Fish Commission, Peterson's only single-state guide, *A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas*, was published in 1960. The first printing is so identified on the copyright page, and the book could be obtained only directly from the Texas Commission, for \$3.00 postpaid. It was revised in 1963 and distributed thereafter by Houghton Mifflin. It was most recently reprinted in 1999, and has a current retail price of \$22.00.

A much-anticipated second edition of Peterson's western field guide finally appeared in 1961, having a price of \$4.95, and with new paintings and the Hawaiian Islands species added. The third edition of this volume (now jacket-titled *Western Birds*) was published in 1990, its final version. It was most recently reprinted in 1998, and the paperback version is currently priced at \$18.00.

In 1973 Roger collaborated with Edward L. Chalif to produce *A Field Guide to Mexican Birds*. First printing copies are so identified on the copyright page and were initially priced at \$8.95. Its jacket title was simplified in 1987 to *Mexican Birds*, but the text has remained unchanged, and it is currently priced at \$22.00.

In an effort to compete with the ever-increasing array of bird field guides, Peterson also extensively revised and enlarged his eastern field guide, publishing the fourth edition in 1980, with its jacket title being simplified to *Eastern Birds* in 1987. Peterson's fifth edition of his classic eastern field guide was published posthumously, in 2002, using a slightly larger page format (5 x 8.5") than in earlier editions, and retailing currently at \$22.00.

Some recent permutations of the eastern field guide have included an oversized (6.7 x 10.6") large-type version of the fourth edition, published in 1999 and currently priced at \$24.00. Some shortened and simplified versions of the Peterson guides for novice naturalists (*Peterson First Guides*) have been produced as well. The bird volume in this series was published in 1998, and is currently priced at \$5.95. A children's coloring-book, *A Field Guide to the Birds Coloring Book*, was published in 1982, in collaboration with Peter Alden and John Sill.

As a celebration of Roger Tory Peterson's contributions to field identification, a near-facsimile reprint of the first edition of the eastern field guide was recently published by Houghton Mifflin. It may be easily distinguished from the actual first edition by its distinctive dust jacket, the rear jacket having a photo of Roger Petersen and a printed price tag of \$18.95. Inside, a commemorative statement appears opposite the book's title page. The color plates lack tissue guards, but the monochrome plates (showing the "dirty" swan and egrets) appear as they do in the first and second printings.

Variant deluxe editions of the Peterson bird guides have also been published. In 1980 Houghton Mifflin published a full-leather-bound and author-signed fourth edition of the eastern guide. This limited edition consisted of 1,000 numbered copies. In 1990 Houghton Mifflin produced a corresponding leather-bound version of the third edition of the western guide, with 2,000 signed and numbered copies, retailing at \$125.00.

Also in the 1980's, "The Fiftieth Anniversary Edition" of all 48 of the then-available Peterson-series guides appeared. They were printed between 1984 and 1986 by the Easton Press, and were bound in full leather, with gilt edging. These "Collector's Lifetime Edition" guides include the fourth edition of the eastern guide (1984), the third edition of the western guide (1984), the Mexican guide (1984), the second edition of the Texas guide (1985), and the fourth edition of the guide to Britain and European birds (1985). Some of these copies were author-signed.

Finally, coffee-table versions of the artwork of both the eastern (fourth edition) and western (third edition) field guides include *The Field Guide Art of*

Roger Tory Peterson, published by Easton Press in 1990. These leather-bound and large-folio (11.5 x 17.4") volumes have enlarged and unlabelled versions of his field guide plates, with matching captions printed on facing pages. Apparently all copies of this "Collector's Edition" were signed by Peterson. A cloth-backed "First Trade Edition" was distributed by Houghton Mifflin in 1992, also signed by Peterson.

Collectible Editions and Retail Values of Peterson's Bird Guides

Only 2,000 copies of the first printing ("first state") of Peterson's eastern guide were printed and released in April of 1934. Three subsequent printing variants, or "states," of the first edition were printed during the next five years. Each of these may be easily distinguished as follows:

First state: Publication date (1934) is printed on bottom of title page, all four color plates have tissue guards, "bob-pumper" misprint appears in index, and the Whistling Swan and White Egret illustrations opposite page 12 (egrets) and 18 (Whistling Swan) have "dirty" gray plumages.

Second state: No date on title page, tissue guards are present, "bob-pumper" in index has been corrected to "bog-pumper" (a vernacular name for the American Bittern), egrets and swan still have dirty plumages.

Third state: No date on title page, tissue guards are present, clean swan and egrets.

Fourth state: No date on title page, no tissue guards, clean swan and egrets. Of all these various titles and editions, the two earliest states of the first printing of the eastern guide are easily the most valuable, with first state copies recently being offered by book dealers at prices of \$2,500 to \$3,000. A copy of the almost equally rare second state version was recently offered at \$2,500. The increasingly more common third and fourth state versions are valued substantially lower; a copy of the third state was recently advertised at about \$500. So-called "late" first edition printings, presumably fourth state copies, have recently been offered by book dealers in the range of \$150 to \$675 (average of six, \$275).

None of the other subsequent Peterson field guide titles has attained a secondary-market value anywhere approaching these. The leather-bound special edition guides that were published by Easton Press in the mid-1980's are often available from used-book dealers for from \$50 to \$150 (average of six, \$107). The similar signed and numbered editions of Peterson's eastern and western guides that were published by Houghton Mifflin have recently been offered at prices ranging from \$95 to \$250 for the eastern guide (average of seven, \$167), and from \$60 to \$145 for the western guide (average of eight, \$102).

The leather-bound and folio-sized Easton Press volumes of Peterson's field guide art have also been offered recently by used-book dealers in the range of \$200 to \$300 (average of ten, \$243) for the two-volume signed set. Single volumes of either title have recently ranged from \$90 to \$200 (average of six, \$131). Cloth-bound folio-sized copies having the Houghton Mifflin imprint and Peterson's signature likewise generally sell for \$250 to \$300 for the two-volume set, and \$75 to \$150 for single volumes.

First printings of the western bird guide's first edition (which often go unrecognized since they are not obviously marked as such) generally sell at \$50 to \$60. First printings of later editions of the western guide (which are clearly identified) have been offered recently at \$50 to \$75 (second edition) and \$44 to \$70 (third edition). Signed or inscribed copies of the easily identified first printing of the guide to Mexican birds have recently been offered by used-book dealers at prices from \$95 to \$125.

So-described first printing copies of the guide to the birds of Britain and Europe have recently been offered from \$20 (fair condition) to about \$45.50, which seems a greatly undervalued price range, but the first printing of this book must have been substantial. First-printings of the many foreign-language versions of this title were not researched by me, but might make an interesting and still-inexpensive collecting area. Likewise, the nearly contemporary 1946–1957 *Audubon Bird Guide* series, written by Richard H. Pough and illustrated by Don Eckelberry, is highly attractive, and copies can still rather easily be found. There are three separate volumes, covering small eastern land birds (1946), water and large land birds (1951) and western birds (1957). Their first printings (which for the 1946 volume is not clearly identified) so far have not significantly increased in cost among rare book dealers.

Like nearly all books, first-printings of Peterson's field guides are easily the most desirable for book-collectors to have, at least from the standpoint of later appreciation in value. Obviously, later versions are likely to contain more and better color plates, updated bird names and terminology, and sometimes increased species coverage. The leather-bound versions of the Peterson guides have not increased greatly in resale value from their original retail prices, and clearly were intended to remain on bookshelves rather than to be taken into the field. For most birders, the real value of any field guide is not what its future monetary worth might be, but rather how useful it actually is as an aid to field identification of birds. In this regard, the Peterson guides have set the bar that others have tried to surpass for nearly 75 years.

Annual Meeting at Ponca State Park

The 107th Annual Meeting of the NOU was held in the new Missouri River Resource and Education Center in Ponca State Park on May 19-21. Although the weather ranged from hot and windy on Friday to steady rain on Saturday morning to cool and breezy on Sunday, the 80+ attendees accumulated a list of 159 species. Warbler diversity was disappointing, but shorebirds were abundant.

On Friday evening, a program on the Galapagos Islands was presented by Dr. Paul Johnsgard, Linda Brown, Dr. Josef Kren and Allison Johnson. Each of the four recounted an aspect of their 2005 trip to the islands off the coast of Ecuador and accompanied their account with photos.

On Saturday evening, Dr. W. Ross Silcock spoke on hybridization of birds in Nebraska. A number of pairs of similar species (Rose-breasted and Black-headed Grosbeak, Baltimore and Bullock's Oriole, Eastern and Western Meadowlark, Eastern and Spotted Towhee) meet on the plains. Ross presented current theories on their status as species.

Field trips were led by Jan Johnson, Mark Brogie and Bill Huser in Ponca State Park, along the Missouri River, to Powder Creek and to Buckskin Hills. Josef Kren and Allison Johnson set up mist nets in the area between the Education Center and the river overlook and banded birds on the veranda of the Center.

NOU 2006 Annual Meeting - Ponca State Park

Dixon Co.	Ponca S. P.	Cedar Co.	
x			Ross's Goose
x	x		Canada Goose
x	x		Wood Duck
x			Gadwall
x	x		Mallard
x	x		Blue-winged Teal
x			Northern Shoveler
x			Green-winged Teal
x			Redhead
x			Lesser Scaup
x	x		Ruddy Duck
x	x		Ring-necked Pheasant
x	x		Wild Turkey
	x		Northern Bobwhite
x			Pied-billed Grebe
x	x		American White Pelican
x			Double-crested Cormorant
x	x		Great Blue Heron
x			Black-crowned Night Heron
x	x		Turkey Vulture
	x		Osprey
x	x		Bald Eagle
x			Sharp-shinned Hawk
x	x		Cooper's Hawk
	x		<i>Accipiter sp</i>
x			Broad-winged Hawk
	x		Swainson's Hawk
x	x		Red-tailed Hawk
x	x		American Kestrel
x			Merlin
x			Sora
x	x		American Coot
	x		Sandhill Crane

NOU 2006 Annual Meeting - Ponca State Park

Dixon Co.	Ponca S. P.	Cedar Co.	
x			Black-bellied Plover
x			Semipalmated Plover
x			Piping Plover
x			Killdeer
x	x		Spotted Sandpiper
x	x		Willet
x			Lesser Yellowlegs
x			Hudsonian Godwit
	x		Marbled Godwit
	x		Sanderling
x			Semipalmated Sandpiper
x			Least Sandpiper
x			White-rumped Sandpiper
x			Baird's Sandpiper
x	x		Pectoral Sandpiper
x	x		Dunlin
x			Stilt Sandpiper
x			Short-billed Dowitcher
x			Wilson's Phalarope
x	x		Franklin's Gull
x	x		Least Tern
x	x		Black Tern
x			Forster's Tern
x		x	Rock Pigeon
x	x	x	Mourning Dove
	x		Eastern Screech-Owl
	x		Great Horned Owl
	x		Barred Owl
	x		Common Nighthawk
x	x		Whip-poor-will
x	x		Chimney Swift
x	x		Ruby-throated Hummingbird
x	x		Belted Kingfisher
x	x		Red-headed Woodpecker
x	x		Red-bellied Woodpecker
x	x		Downy Woodpecker
x	x		Hairy Woodpecker
x	x		Northern Flicker
x	x		Olive-sided Flycatcher
x	x		Eastern Wood-pewee
	x		Willow Flycatcher
x	x		Least Flycatcher
x	x		Eastern Phoebe
x	x		Great-crested Kingbird
x	x		Western Kingbird

NOU 2006 Annual Meeting - Ponca State Park

Dixon Co.	Ponca S. P.	Cedar Co.	
x	x		Eastern Kingbird
x			Loggerhead Shrike
x	x		Bell's Vireo
x	x		Yellow-throated Vireo
	x		Blue-headed Vireo
x	x		Warbling Vireo
x	x		Red-eyed Vireo
x	x		Blue Jay
x	x		American Crow
x	x		Horned Lark
x	x		Tree Swallow
x	x		Northern Rough-winged Swallow
x	x		Bank Swallow
x	x		Cliff Swallow
x	x	x	Barn Swallow
x	x		Black-capped Chickadee
x	x		White-breasted Nuthatch
x	x		House Wren
x	x		Sedge Wren
x	x		Ruby-crowned Kinglet
x	x		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
x	x		Eastern Bluebird
	x		Veery
x	x		Swainson's Thrush
x	x		Wood Thrush
x	x		American Robin
x	x		Gray Catbird
x	x		Brown Thrasher
x	x		European Starling
x	x		American Pipit
x	x		Cedar Waxwing
x	x		Tennessee Warbler
x	x		Orange-crowned Warbler
	x		Nashville Warbler
	x		Northern Parula
x	x		Yellow Warbler
	x		Chestnut-sided Warbler
x	x		Yellow-rumped Warbler
	x		Blackburnian Warbler
	x		Palm Warbler
	x		Bay-breasted Warbler
x	x		Blackpoll Warbler
x	x		Black-and-white Warbler
x	x		American Redstart
x	x		Ovenbird

NOU 2006 Annual Meeting - Ponca State Park

Dixon Co.	Ponca S. P.	Cedar Co.	
	x		Northern Waterthrush
x	x		Common Yellowthroat
	x		Wilson's Warbler
x			Summer Tanager
x	x		Scarlet Tanager
x	x		Spotted Towhee
x	x		Eastern Towhee
x	x		Chipping Sparrow
x	x		Clay-colored Sparrow
x	x		Field Sparrow
x	x		Vesper Sparrow
x	x		Lark Sparrow
x			Savannah Sparrow
x	x		Grasshopper Sparrow
x	x		Song Sparrow
x			Lincoln's Sparrow
	x		White-throated Sparrow
x	x		Harris's Sparrow
x	x		White-crowned Sparrow
	x		Dark-eyed Junco
x	x		Northern Cardinal
x	x		Rose-breasted Grosbeak
x	x		Blue Grosbeak
x	x		Indigo Bunting
x	x		Dickcissel
x	x		Bobolink
x	x	x	Red-winged Blackbird
x	x		Eastern Meadowlark
x	x		Western Meadowlark
x			Yellow-headed Blackbird
x	x	x	Common Grackle
x	x		Brown-headed Cowbird
x	x		Orchard Oriole
x	x		Baltimore Oriole
x	x		House Finch
x	x		American Goldfinch
x	x	x	House Sparrow
136	126	6	
Total species:	159		

2005 (17th) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

Compiled by Mark A. Brogie (NOURC Chairperson)
508 Seeley, Box 316
Creighton, NE 68729

The functions and methods of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union (NOU) Records Committee are described in its bylaws (NOU Records Committee 1986). The committee's purpose is to provide a procedure for documenting unusual bird sightings and to establish a list of all documented birds for Nebraska. "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" was first published in 1988 (NOU Records Committee 1988) and has been updated two times (NOU Records Committee 1997, 2004).

The "Official List" has been appended fifteen times: (Mollhoff 1989; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005; Jorgensen 2001, 2002, 2003). This report includes all accounts submitted during the calendar year of 2005 covering 21 records with accession numbers 1110-1130.

All records mentioned here will be available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM), Lincoln, NE. Interested parties should contact the current NOU Librarian, whose address can be found in the latest issue of *The Nebraska Bird Review* (NBR).

State List

The American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (1998) and the Forty-first, Forty-second, Forty-third, Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, and Forty-sixth Supplements to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU, 1997, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005) contain many taxonomic changes affecting North American birds. The following summarizes all 2005 revisions by the AOU in regards to changes in scientific names and changes in assignments to Family and Order of species to the most recent published "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" (NBR 72: 108-126).

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 1996-2005. 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 is acceptably reported in 3 or 8 of the last 10 years is discussed by the committee and placed in a category felt most appropriate by the committee.

With this report, the following changes are made to "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2003".

Changes in Firmness of Data

1. Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) III to 1-P
2. Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) III to 1-P
Additional photos submitted (MU) of the 2001 Dawson County bird were voted on and accepted by the 2005 NOURC.

Changes in Frequency of Occurrence

1. Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) Regular to Casual
2. Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) Casual to Regular
3. Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) Casual to Regular
4. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) Casual to Regular
5. Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*) Casual to Regular
6. Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) Casual to Regular
7. Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) Casual to Regular

2005 Additions to State List

No new additions in 2005; "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" stands at 448 species.

Criteria for Accepted Records

For a record to be accepted, a minimum of six votes in favor are required with no more than one dissenting vote (NOU Records Committee 1986). Records in the following classes listed as accepted:

- I-S - a diagnostic, labeled specimen exists
- I-P - a diagnostic, labeled photograph or slide exists
- I-R - a diagnostic, labeled recording exists
- II - three or more independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist
- III - one or two independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist

Each account of an accepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and initial(s) of observers.

Pre-2005 Records Accepted**Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)**

1. A basic adult was observed (Class III; SD) on Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 19, 21 December 2003. (3rd documented Nebraska record)

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*)

1. A female was observed (Class III; JG) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 19 December 2004.

2005 Accepted Records**Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)**

1. One of two birds was photographed (Class 1-P; PD) at Harvard WPA, Clay Co., either 15 or 23 April 2005.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

1. A single flying bird was observed (Class III; BP,LP) at Indian Cave State Park, Richardson Co., 30 April 2005.

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)

1. An adult bird was observed (Class III; LE) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 17 April 2005. (4th documented Nebraska record)

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

1. A non-breeding "probably a male" plumaged bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Ekchardt WPA, Clay Co., 26 March 2005.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)

1. An adult in alternate plumage was observed (Class III; MAB) below Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar Co., 26 July 2005.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

1. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; MAB) below Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar Co., 06 December 2005.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

1. A photograph (Class 1-P; CN) of a bird in Albion, Boone Co., 20 June 2005. This bird was found under a large Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) after a strong storm, but later recovered and flew away. Age of bird strongly suggests Nebraska's first nesting record for this species.
2. An adult was photographed (Class 1-P; MAB) in Creighton, Knox Co., 10 August 2005.
3. An adult bird was observed (Class III; RH, LR) at Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., 17 December 2005.
The NOURC no longer seeks documentation for this species.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*)

1. A male was photographed (Class 1-P, KD) at Mitchell, Scotts Bluff Co., 21 July 2005.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class 1-P, MB) in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., 30 May 2005.
The NOURC no longer seeks documentation for this species.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

1. An adult was photographed (Class 1-P; EB) south of Creighton, Antelope Co., 13 September 2005.
The NOURC no longer seeks documentation for this species.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

1. A male was photographed (Class 1-P, KD) at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co., 10 September 2005.
2. A male was photographed (Class 1-P, KD) at Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 17 December 2005.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*)

1. A single female/juvenile was photographed (Class 1-P; CK) in Creighton, Knox Co., 05 July, 2005.
The NOURC no longer seeks documentation for this species.

2005 Records Filed Without Votes**Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)**

1. A photograph (MAB) of one of at least four owlets found in a barn near Creighton, Knox Co., 08 October, 2005.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)

1. A photograph (LW via TJW) of two owlets just out of the nest near Parks, Dundy Co., 09 May 2005.
2. A photograph (MAB) of one of two owlets just out of the nest near Bloomfield, Knox Co., 23 May 2005.

Unaccepted Records

Records in the following classes are considered unaccepted (NOU Records Committee 1986):

- IV - probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt
- V - a record with insufficient evidence to support the identification claimed
- VI - a probable released or escaped bird or mistaken identification

Each account of an unaccepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and reasons for the committee's failure to accept the record.

2005 Unaccepted Records**Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)**

1. A written report of a single adult at Wagon Train Lake, Lancaster Co., 10 September, 2005. Although very suggestive, the description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for this species to be placed on the Official State List.

2004 Records Withdrawn**Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*)**

1. A 2003 record submitted to the NOURC in 2004; Accession # 1087 has been withdrawn by the reporter.

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)

1. A 2003 record submitted to the NOURC in 2004; Accession # 1088 has been withdrawn by the reporter.

Acknowledgments

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2005 NOU Records Committee members: Mark A. Brogie (chair), Joe Gubanyi, Joel Jorgensen, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, W. Ross Silcock, and Jerry Toll.

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Table of Contents

Spring Field Report, Mar. - May, 2006 by W. Ross Silcock	38
A Book-collector's Guide to Roger Tory Peterson by Paul A. Johnsgard	61
NOU Annual Meeting at Ponca State Park, May 19-21	64
2005 (17th) Report of the NOU Records Committee compiled by Mark A. Brogie	69
Subscription and Organization Information	75