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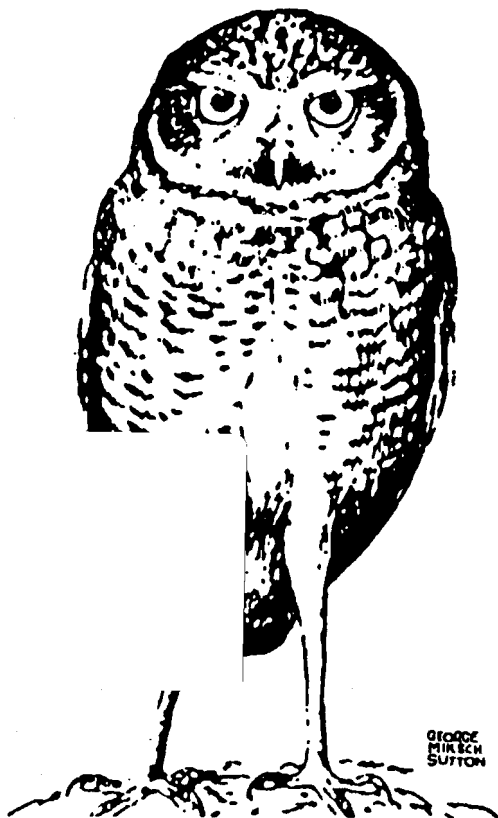
# *the Nebraska Bird Review*

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## FALL FIELD REPORT, AUGUST-NOVEMBER 1994

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## INTRODUCTION

The fall season is a long one in terms of bird movements. The SUMMER FIELD REPORT detailed the post-breeding wanderings of herons and the beginning of shorebird migration. This report covers the end of these and the southward movements of insectivorous passerines, mainly in August and September, while seedeaters such as sparrows follow, mainly in September and October. Waterfowl generally bring up the rear, moving south just ahead of the freezeup.

The fall season is probably the most exciting time for rare bird enthusiasts, as young birds of many species wander, often aimlessly, at this time of year before they face reality and head south. A few exceptions linger into the winter season to be picked up on Christmas Bird Counts and at feeders.

Highlights of this report include a few notably early or late dates of occurrence; no particular pattern emerges with these, however, although the fall was generally mild, allowing a few species to extend their stays in NE. Several species were reported which had very few fall records previously; most unexpected was probably the 1st fall panhandle record of Scarlet Tanager. Rarities include the 2nd state record for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, found by Larry Malone in Sheridan Co., and the 4th state record for Calliope Hummingbird, caught by a dog on the Jim Hatch ranch in s Sioux Co. and reported by Alice Kenitz, who recovered the specimen. Also rare were a family group of Tundra Swans in s Holt Co., a Mississippi Kite in Thomas Co., a Gyrfalcon in Dawes Co., and a "Black-crested" Tufted Titmouse in Otoe Co., the latter the 1st state record of this former species.

Nebraska data is lacking on numbers present at various stages of protracted fall movement in the more common species. This report, and the numbers provided by the many contributors, will start to provide this information. Most birders know that wintering icterids such as Common Grackle and Red-winged Blackbird are usually found as singles or very small groups at feeders, if they are present at all. What, then, is the timing of movements of the large flocks of these species, especially as it relates to different regions of the state?

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Initials in parentheses refer to observers; a list follows this report. \* = documented; please refer to Nebraska Bird Review 54:74, 1986 for information about writing documentations, and the Official List of the Birds of Nebraska (NBR 56:86, 1988), which indicates that all birds whose status is less than Regular (occurring more often than 9-10 of the past 10 years) should be documented. It is also important to document very early or very late records of Regular species. The best available reference for such dates is Johnsgard's "A Preliminary List of the Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States", much of which was published in NBR 48:26, 1980 (non-passerines) and NBR 48:46 (passerines). CBC = Christmas Bird Count; FFNC = Fontenelle Forest Nature Center; FWA = Federal Waterfowl Area; L = Lake; NE = Nebraska; NNF = Nebraska National Forest; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; R = River; Res = Reservoir; SL = Sewage Lagoons; SP = State Park;

SRA = State Recreation Area; UNL = University of Nebraska-Lincoln;  
WMA = Wildlife Management Area; WPA = Waterfowl Production Area.

#### GAZETTEER

(Place names, not listed here, can be located in a road atlas). Counties are in parentheses.

Arbor L WMA (Lancaster), Arbor Lodge Farm (Otoe), Atlanta Marsh WPA (Phelps), Bessey Division, NNF (Thomas), Branched Oak SRA (Lancaster), Carter L (Douglas), Chain L (Holt), Collins L (Grant), Conestoga SRA (Lancaster), Crescent Lake NWR (CLNWR) (Garden), Crystal Cove L (Dakota), De Soto NWR (Washington), Elwood Res WMA (Gosper), Fontenelle Forest Nature Center (Sarpy), Funk Lagoon WPA (Phelps), George Syas WMA (Platte), Gering SL (Scotts Bluff), Glenn Cunningham L (Douglas), Hansen WPA (Clay), Harlan Co. Res (Harlan), Harvard WPA (Clay), Jack Sinn Memorial WMA (Saunders), Kilpatrick L (Box Butte), Kingsley Dam (Keith), Kiowa WMA (Scotts Bluff), Kissinger Basin WMA (Clay), L Babcock (Platte), L C.W. McConaughy (LM) (Keith), L Minatare SRA (Scotts Bluff), L North (Platte), Lewis and Clark L (Knox), Long L SRA (Brown), Mallard Haven WPA (Fillmore), Niobrara SP (Knox), North Platte NWR (NPNWR) (Scotts Bluff), Offutt Base L (Sarpy), Palmer L (Sheridan), Pawnee L SRA (Lancaster), Peterson FWA (Gosper), Ponca SP (Dixon), Pressey WMA (Custer), Sacramento-Wilcox WMA (Phelps), Sinninger Lagoon WPA (York), Smith L WMA (Sheridan), Snyder Bend (Dakota), Sowbelly Canyon (Sioux), Stagecoach L SRA (Lancaster), Standing Bear (Douglas), Summit Res SRA (Burt), Sutherland Res SRA (Lincoln), Theesen WPA (Clay), Two Rivers SRA/WMA (Douglas), Victor L FWA (Gosper), Wagon Train SRA (Lancaster), Wehrspann L (Sarpy), Walgren L SRA (Sheridan), Whitney L (Dawes), Zorinsky L (Douglas).

**Common Loon:** Non-breeders (see Summer) remained at NPNWR into the period (LKo); best count was 3 there on 27 Oct (LKo). Last were singles at NPNWR (LKo) and Conestoga SRA (JoJ) on 22 Nov.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Migration peaks near the end of Sep, as indicated by an amazing 720 at De Soto NWR on 23 Sep (JoJ) and 63 at NPNWR on 13 Oct (LKo). The De Soto NWR birds were in scattered groups of 20-70 (JoJ). Last were 2 at Zorinsky L on 28 Nov (BP,LP), in the n 1 near Niobrara on 25 Nov (RCR,DJR), and in the w 2 on 16 Nov at NPNWR (LKo).

**Horned Grebe:** Uncommon in the w, 5 were seen between 8 Sep at CLNWR (Lma), possibly those seen there in summer, and 11 Nov at Gering SL (AKe) and Box Butte Res (RCR). In the e, earliest were 2 at De Soto NWR on 23 Sep (JoJ) and 8, also the high count, at Funk Lagoon WPA (LRa,RHa), while last were 2 on 27 Nov at Base L (KCR), tying the previous late date.

**Eared Grebe:** Early for the e was 1 at Funk Lagoon WPA on 14 Aug (LRa,RHa). Flocks were on the move in late October, with 23 at NPNWR on 27 Oct (LKo) and 69 at Sutherland Res on 7 Nov (SJD). Of few found in the e, earliest were 5 at Branched Oak SRA on 30 Oct (JoJ), and last 1 at Funk Lagoon WPA on 12 Nov (LRa,RHa) and another in Holt Co. on 13 Nov (MBR).

**Western Grebe:** LM is a major staging area for this species; numbers were above 2000 there as early as 6 Aug, when 2400 were estimated (SJD,WRS), and as late as 5 Nov, when 2000 were estimated (SJD). Several linger into Dec (see LM CBCs). The last birds departed CLNWR on 26 Oct (Lma) and NPNWR on 27 Oct (LKo). A few appear in the e in fall; 2 were at

- Branched Oak SRA 30 Oct and also 22 Nov (JoJ), while last was 1 at Glenn Cunningham L 29 Nov (JoJ).
- Clark's Grebe:** Among the many Westerns at LM on 5 Nov was 1 Clark's (SJD), while 2 immatures were at Sutherland Res SRA the same day (SJD).
- American White Pelican:** Migrants were first noted as early as 5 Aug, when 60 were at Funk Lagoon WPA (LRa,RHa). High count was 500 at Harlan Co. Res on 17 Sep (LRa,RHa) and Branched Oak SRA on 1 Oct (LEi), while 125 were unexpected at FF on 31 Aug (BP,LP). A few linger into December at major reservoirs; 2 were still at Wagon Train SRA on 22 Nov (JoJ).
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Apart from 1 at Funk Lagoon WPA on 14 Aug (LRa,RHa), first migrants in the e were seen 31 Aug, when 20 flew over FFNC (BP,LP), and 7 were in Lancaster Co. (LEi). Numbers peaked at 259 at CLNWR on 10 Sep (LMa), up from the 50 there 12 Aug (RCR,DJR), although best count reported was 431 at NPNWR on 27 Sep (LKo), whence the last birds left 27 Oct (LKo). Rather late for a high count was the 300 at Harlan Co. Res on 26 Nov (LRa,RHa). Stragglers remain into Dec at major reservoirs; 1 was still at Standing Bear L on 21 Nov (NR,IR).
- American Bittern:** The only report was from CLNWR, where the last 2 were seen 28 Sep (LMa). This species may linger rather late in fall.
- Great Blue Heron:** Best counts were post-breeding groups of 67 at Box Butte Res on 27 Aug (RCR,DJR) and 42 at NPNWR on 21 Sep (LKo). A few linger into Dec around open water; 2 were still at Lewis and Clark L on 25 Nov (RCR,DJR) and as many as 11 were at Glenn Cunningham L on 1 Nov (BP,LP).
- Great Egret:** Best count was 16 at Mallard Haven WPA, Kissinger Basin WMA, Hansen WPA, and Sinninger Lagoon WPA on 20 Aug (JoJ). Earliest were singles at Funk Lagoon WPA on 5 Aug (LRa,RHa) and Nebraska City 11 Aug (LLF), although 1-2 were at Box Butte Res 31 Jul (see Summer) through 9 Sep (RCR,DJR). This species is uncommon in the w. Last for the state was 1 in York Co. on 14 Oct (LMa), a rather late date.
- Snowy Egret:** This was a good fall for this usually scarce species. About 16 were reported statewide, including 6 at De Soto NWR on 1 Aug (JoJ). Latest were 2 at CLNWR on 7 Sep, where 2 first appeared on 13 Jul (LMa).
- Little Blue Heron:** Only 3 were found; 1 at Glenn Cunningham L 3-6 Aug (JoJ) and 2 immatures at Harlan Co. Res on 4 Sep (LRa,RHa).
- Cattle Egret:** The nesting group at the w end of LM (see Summer) consisted of 31 birds 6-7 Aug, with 3 nests with 3 eggs each and 2 nests under construction (SJD,WRS). A major rookery was discovered in a rush bed near the center of a marsh 13 miles sw of Chambers in extreme ne Garfield Co.; there were estimated to be an amazing 70 nests, which all had young by 9 Jul (LB1). This species was very common this fall, with 450 at East Odessa WMA on 8 Aug (NR,IR), 175 at Kissinger Basin WMA on 20 Aug (JoJ), and 160 at Ell L on 6 Sep (JoJ). Last were 2 at Gering SL on 1 Nov (AKe), a rather late date.
- Green Heron:** Latest was unusually far w at NPNWR on 25 Sep (LMa), while another was as far n as the Bessey Division, NNF, on 10 Sep (NR,IR).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** At the marsh in extreme ne Garfield Co. at the edge of the Cattle Egret rookery were 3 nests of this species, each of which contained chicks on 3 Jul (LB1). Latest were at CLNWR on 29 Sep (LMa) and in Knox Co. on 1 Oct (MBr). Best count was an excellent 45 at Funk Lagoon WPA on 14 Aug (LRa,RHa).

- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** The only reports were of post-breeding wanderers in the Rainwater Basin; 2 were in Kearney Co 22-23 Aug (LRa,RHa).
- White-faced Ibis:** Best counts were 15 at both Funk Lagoon WPA on 5 Aug (RHa,LRa) and the w end of LM on 4 Sep (JoJ). Last were 4 at Harlan Co. Res on 8 Sep (LRa,RHa).
- Tundra Swan:** There were 2 reports of this rare migrant: the yellow spots were seen on the bills of the adults in a family group of 4 at Chain L on 9-13 Nov (LB1,MBr), while a single was at NPNWR on 23 Nov (LMa).
- Trumpeter Swan:** Aerial surveys around 1 Sep indicated nesting occurs essentially in the w Sandhills, including Sheridan, Garden, Cherry, Grant, Arthur, and McPherson Cos. (fide RCG); see also Summer. Flocks were forming within the breeding range by early Oct, as 9, including 5 adults and 4 subadults, were at Collins L on 8 Oct (RCG). Latest report from the breeding range was of 2 just s of Hyannis on 6 Nov (SJD,WRS), while it would be of interest to know the headings of singles at Box Butte Res on 11 and 19 Nov and at Whitney L on 19 Nov (RCR,DJR).
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** A few odd birds fail to migrate with the main group, such as singles at Hansen WPA and Harvard WPA on 20 Aug (JoJ), another at Funk Lagoon WPA on 24 Sep (LRa,RHa), and another rather late and to the e at Wehrspann L on 28 Nov (BP,LP). The only report of migrants was of several hundred at Funk Lagoon WPA on 12 Nov (LRa,RHa), a rather late date for this number.
- Snow Goose:** Summer stragglers included 6 at Harvard WPA on 20 Aug (JoJ) and 1 at De Soto NWR on 3 Aug (JoJ). A few injured birds and their mates normally summer at favored migration locations. Rosché considered this species "the most common and widespread in many, many years in the Panhandle"; first migrants there were 75 over Chadron on 8 Nov (RCR), and the best count 800 at Whitney L on 19 Nov (RCR,DJR). A pair at NPNWR on 25 Oct (LMa) were earliest in the w, while last was a single in Scotts Bluff Co. on 24 Nov (LMa). Best e count was only 720 in n Saunders Co. on 19 Nov (THo), about the peak of migration, with earliest 60 at Nebraska City on 3 Nov (LLF).
- Ross' Goose:** Earliest was a single, as usual with a flock of Snow Geese, at Snyder Bend on 6 Nov (BFH), while up to 5 were picked out at De Soto NWR 28-29 Nov (JoJ). Uncommon in fall in the w, a single was n of Antioch 11 Nov (RCR).
- Canada Goose:** First migrants were noted at Morrill on 21 Sep, a flock of 30 (ECT). High counts were 3317 at NPNWR on 22 Nov (Lko), while 600 were in Scotts Bluff Co. 24 Nov (LMa). In the e, a "rather large flock" of 320 were at Crystal Cove L on 6 Nov (BFH); biggest concentrations are in the North Platte R valley in fall.
- Wood Duck:** Best counts were from the w; "unprecedented" were 60-65 at Box Butte Res 12-27 Aug (RCR,DJR), while 72 was the peak at NPNWR on 13 Oct (Lko). All had left NPNWR by 30 Oct (LMa). Best count in the e was 50 at FFNC on 26 Sep (BP,LP). A single lingered until 26 Nov in Stanton Co. (JJo), a late date, although a few linger into Dec. Still uncommon away from the Platte valley in the w, 2 in Sowbelly Canyon 27 Aug were unusual (RCR,DJR).
- Green-winged Teal:** Large numbers assembled in the w; 4000-5000 were at the w end of LM 17 Sep (RCR) and 2000 were at Box Butte Res on 27 Aug (RCR,DJR). High count at NPNWR was 378 on 21 Sep (Lko), and 340 were at CLNWR on 7 Sep (LMa). As late as 2 Nov, 60 were at FFNC (BP,LP).

- Mallard:** High count was 53938 at NPNWR on 22 Nov; only 90 were there on 8 Aug (LKo). No comparable counts were received from the locations.
- Northern Pintail:** High count was 200 in Kearney Co. on 8 Oct (LRa,RHa). Last were at CLNWR on 30 Oct (LMa). A few linger into Dec; 2 were still at Wehrspann L on 28 Nov (BP,LP).
- Blue-winged Teal:** High count was 140 in Kearney Co. on 8 Oct (LRa,RHa). Peak at CLNWR was 48 on 24 Aug (LKo), probably summering birds, whereas at NPNWR peak was somewhat later, with 43 on 13 Oct (LKo). Latest in the w were 15 at NPNWR on 27 Oct (LKo), while rather late in the n were at least 1 in Antelope Co. on 13 Oct (MBr). Very late were 2 at Funk Lagoon WPA on 4 Nov (NR,IR).
- Cinnamon Teal:** The only report was of 1-6 at CLNWR through 24 Aug; 6 were there 24 Aug (LMa). There are very few fall records for the state.
- Northern Shoveler:** Most reports were from the w; high counts were 380 at CLNWR on 26 Oct (LMa) and 70 at Harlan Co. Res on 17 Sep (LRa,RHa). There were still 26 at the Gering SL at the end of the period (AKe), while the last birds left NPNWR on 30 Oct (LKo). At least 1 was still in Holt Co. on 13 Nov (MBr).
- Gadwall:** Numbers at CLNWR rose from 12 on 10 Aug to a peak of 460 on 26 Oct (LMa). High count in the e was 32 in n Saunders Co. on 22 Oct (THo). Latest were the 10 still at Gering SL at period end (AKe), while in the e 1 was at Branched Oak SRA on 26 Nov (LEi) and at least 1 was in Cedar Co. the same day (MBr).
- American Wigeon:** Migration peaked with high counts of 2137 at NPNWR on 10 Nov (LKo) and 1500 at Palmer L on 11 Nov, "the largest concentration I've seen in years" (RCR). Last were 2 still at Gering SL on 30 Nov (AKe), while in the n at least 1 was in Antelope Co. 25 Nov (MBr).
- Canvasback:** High count was 3000 at CLNWR on 5 Nov (SJD,WRS); last at NPNWR were 6 on 22 Nov (LKo). Birds were still in Cedar Co. 26 Nov (MBr) and at Wehrspann L on 28 Nov (BP,LP).
- Redhead:** High count was 3292 at NPNWR on 10 Nov, up from only 2 on 10 Aug (LKo), while in the e 150 were at Branched Oak SRA on 30 Oct (JoJ). In Knox Co. at least 1 remained until 22 Nov (MBr), while 4 were still at Wehrspann L on 28 Nov (BP,LP).
- Ring-necked Duck:** Earliest was 1 at NPNWR on 10 Sep (LKo), where 1-2 may have summered (see Summer), followed by 9 at Walgren L on 1 Oct (RCR,DJR). Peak was 1228 at NPNWR on 10 Nov; 128 were still there 22 Nov (LKo), while at least 1 was still in Antelope Co. on 25 Nov (MBr).
- Greater Scaup:** The only report was from Cedar Co. on 19 Nov, a female (MBr).
- Lesser Scaup:** Earliest were 12 at NPNWR on 13 Oct (LKo), and in the e 3 in Otoe Co. on 30 Oct (LLF). Branched Oak SRA still had 12 on 26 Nov (LEi). High count was 643 at NPNWR on 10 Nov; 171 were still there 22 Nov (LKo).
- Oldsquaw:** Only 1 appeared before the end of the period, a female on a pond s of Sutherland Res on 5 Nov (SJD,WRS).
- Surf Scoter:** A female was at Zorinsky L 14 Nov, perhaps a favored location, as 3 first winter males appeared there 27 Nov (JoJ).
- White-winged Scoter:** This, usually the most often reported scoter in NE, was second to Surf with 3 birds; a female was photographed at Stage Coach L SRA on 22 Nov (JoJ), an adult male was at De Soto NWR on 27 Nov (JoJ), and an undescribed bird was at Carter L on the same day (NR,IR).
- Common Goldeneye:** Earliest were 7 at NPNWR on 10 Nov (LKo), followed in the e by 50 at Branched Oak SRA on 22 Nov (JoJ).

- High by the period end was 126 at NPNWR on 22 Nov (LKo).
- Bufflehead:** Very early was an immature at Gordon SL 10 Sep (RCR,DJR), followed by 2 at NPNWR on 21 Sep (LKo). High count was 141 at Gering SL on 1 Nov (AKe). Latest were 8 still at Wehrspann L on 28 Nov (BP,LP).
- Hooded Merganser:** Earliest was 1 at NPNWR on 21 Sep (LKo). Best count and first in the e were 29 at Branched Oak SRA on 30 Oct (JoJ); this species is more numerous in the e. Lingers remain into Dec; 4 were at Lewis and Clark L on 25 Nov (RCR,DJR), and 8 were still at NPNWR on 22 Nov (LKo).
- Common Merganser:** An amazingly high count for summer was 170 at NPNWR on 10 Aug (LKo); hopefully this is not a typo! Earliest fall dates for NE are in Sep, and so 2 at the Kingsley Dam spillway 17 Sep were very early (RCR). By the end of the period large numbers had arrived, with "thousands" on Lewis and Clark L 25 Nov (RCR,DJR), 911 at NPNWR on 22 Nov (LKo), and 700 at Harlan Co. Res on 26 Nov (LRa,RHa).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** Only 2 reports were received; 7 were at Crystal Cove L on 9 Nov (BFH), while at the other end of the state 4 females were at Box Butte Res on 19 Nov (RCR,DJR).
- Ruddy Duck:** Numbers increased at NPNWR from 6 on 23 Aug to a high of 56 on 10 Nov (LKo). High in the e was 300 at Branched Oak SRA on 30 Oct (JoJ). First migrants in the e were 39 at Harlan Co. Res on 17 Sep (LRa,RHa). Not particularly hardy, and so rather late for the w, were 2 at Box Butte Res on 19 Nov (RCR,DJR); there were still 50 at NPNWR on 16 Nov (LKo). Also late were 3 still at Standing Bear L on 30 Nov (JoJ) and 4 as far n as Niobrara on 25 Nov (RCR,DJR).
- Turkey Vulture:** High counts of migrants were 40 at Gering on 19 Sep (AKe), and 25 in a night roost at Chadron SP on 3 Oct (RCR), the latter group last in the w. Last in the e were singles in Dixon Co. (JJo) and at Pawnee L (LEi) on 9 Oct.
- Osprey:** All reports were of 1-2 birds, and most were from the e, where a very early bird was noted 27 Aug in n Saunders Co. (THo), closely followed by another at Glenn Cunningham L on 1 Sep (JoJ). Earliest in the w was at Keystone on 17 Sep (RCR). Last were singles in Phelps Co. 6 Nov (SJD) and at Glenn Cunningham L on 8 Nov (JoJ).
- Mississippi Kite:** Far to the n was 1 at Bessey Division, NNF, on 11 Sep (NR,IR,LRa,RHa); no age was given. Subadults and immatures wander widely in fall, but most are moving s by mid-Sep; this species is still rare in NE.
- Bald Eagle:** An adult at De Soto NWR during Aug (JoJ) and an immature in n Saunders Co. on 6 Aug and an adult there in Aug 1993 (THo) suggest nesting. First migrants appeared in Knox Co. on 1 Oct (MBr), Lincoln Co. on 1 Nov (IGr), Dixon Co. on 4 Nov (JJo), and near Chadron on 10 Nov (DJR); 6 were at NPNWR by 16 Nov (LKo).
- Northern Harrier:** Possibly summering was 1 in sw Phelps Co. on 5 Aug (LRa, RHa). Another in Dixon Co. 31 Aug (JJo) was rather early for a migrant, while 1 at Arbor L WMA on 16 Sep was earliest in the e (LEi).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Nesting (see Spring) apparently was successful near Wolf L in n Saunders Co., where an immature was heard "near nest site" on 6 Aug (THo). Ducey (1988: Nebraska Birds, Breeding Status and Distribution) cited only 2 records of nesting since 1900, in Brown and Sherman Cos. First migrants were singles at FFNC 9 Sep (NR,IR) and in Greeley Co. on 12 Sep (NR,IR).
- Cooper's Hawk:** Earliest were singles in Lancaster Co. on 10 Sep, an immature (LEi), at Bessey Division, NNF, on 11 Sep (LRa,RHa),

- and near Long Pine on 12 Sep (NR,IR).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** Latest sighting from FFNC was 9 Oct (BP,LP). Apparently these birds are not resident at this breeding location.
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Fall migration appears to be minimal in NE; only 3 birds were noted, 1 at FFNC on 16 Sep (BP,LP), 1 in Knox Co. on 17 Sep (MBr), and another at Towle Park in Omaha on 25 Sep (NR,IR).
- Swainson's Hawk:** Suggestive of nearby nesting were 2 immatures in Phelps Co. on 5 Aug (LRa,RHa). Latest were singles at NPNWR on 13 Oct (LKO) and near Rushville on 24 Sep (RCR,DJR). No migrating flocks were noted. Migrants were noted e to Wayne, Dixon (JJo), and Phelps Cos. (LRa,RHa).
- Red-tailed Hawk:** In the w, the first of the migrant and wintering dark races was noted 8 Oct in Sheridan Co. (RCR,DJR). Best counts were 19 in Otoe Co. on 30 Oct (LLF) and 15 in one field with freshly spread chicken waste, including chicken bodies, in Dixon Co. on 4 Nov (JJo).
- Ferruginous Hawk:** A count of 10 was made on US 20 between Merriman and Ainsworth on 24 Nov (RCR,DJR). No other reports were received.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** No details were provided for a report of 2 at NPNWR on 10 Aug (LKO); this would be the first NE record for Aug. Earliest were 5 at NPNWR on 5 Nov (LKO), a more expected arrival date for this winter resident.
- American Kestrel:** High counts were 13 near Pressey WMA on 9 Sep (LRa,RHa) and 12 in Otoe Co. on 30 Oct (LLF), presumably migrants, while 10 in sw Phelps Co. on 5 Aug (LRa,RHa) and 9 s of Gering on 24 Aug (AKe) were more likely family groups fledged nearby.
- Merlin:** First to appear were immatures in the w, with singles at Box Butte Res on 27 Aug and 9 Sep, and at Hay Springs on 10 Sep (RCR,DJR). First in the e was in Dixon Co. on 14 Sep (JJo). First designated adult was in Holt Co. on 24 Nov (RCR,DJR).
- Gyr Falcon:** The only report was of an immature gray phase bird seen in flight at Box Butte Res on 5 Nov (SJD,WRS). This species may occur annually in the nw half of NE; it appears to be seen with some regularity by falconers and others who are extensively afield.
- Prairie Falcon:** Most easterly was 1 n of Elm Creek on 18 Nov (LRa,RHa).
- Gray Partridge:** Numbers were low (MBr), with the only reports from the expected ne NE range: 1 was a little far s near Kennard on 6 Aug (JoJ), while 11 were in the heart of the range in sw Dixon Co. on 18 Sep (JJo).
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** An "extremely successful" nesting season in the nw resulted in counts of 70 in Dawes Co. and 25 near Hay Springs on 1 Oct (RCR,DJR). To the s, near Lyman, 15 were noted on 20 Aug (AKe). Best count in the e was 20 in Dixon Co. on 9 Oct (JJo).
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** The only report was of 30 w of Chambers on 17 Sep (JJo).
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** RCR noted that the nesting season was unusually good this year in the w, with large numbers seen all fall, even during hunting season. At the se edge of its NE range was 1 at Victor L FWA on 7 Aug; this FWA consists of open brushland and some wet meadow (LRa,RHa).
- Wild Turkey:** Up to 20 were seen regularly in n Saunders Co. all period (THo), while 26 were counted at FFNC on 13 Oct (BP,LP).
- Northern Bobwhite:** This species is not uncommon in Scotts Bluff

Co., where 5 were n of Morrill on 19 Nov (ECT). Best e count was 12 in Dixon Co. on 6 Sep (JJo).

**Sora:** Migration may have been underway by 30 Aug, when 1 came to grief on the UNL campus (TEL); suitable breeding habitat there is lacking. Latest was 1 at Summit Res SRA on 19 Oct (JoJ), a fairly late date.

**American Coot:** A late brood of 3 young with adults was at Kilpatrick L on 12 Aug (RCR,DJR). Flocks were forming by late Aug, with 600-800 at Box Butte Res on 27 Aug (RCR,DJR), while first migrants were noted in the w at Gering SL where 1 was seen 20 Sep (AKe) and in the e at Branched Oak Res where 50 were found 17 Sep (LEi). Peak migration was in late Oct, with 3105 at NPNWR on 27 Oct (LKO) and 1500 at Branched Oak Res on 22 Oct (LEi). There were still 460 at NPNWR as late as 22 Nov (LKO) and 3 at Lewis and Clark L on 25 Nov (RCR,DJR); small groups often linger into Dec anywhere water remains open.

**Sandhill Crane:** Intriguing was a group of 4 birds identified as "Greater" in Clay Co. on 20 Aug; included were 2 adults and 2 subadults (JoJ). This race nested in n NE prior to 1900 (Ducey, op.cit.), and has recently begun to nest in Iowa. Fall migrants were detected statewide, mostly in flocks of 500 or fewer birds. An exception was the amazing 30,000 which flew over Morrill on 7 Oct (ECT), also the earliest sighting, but followed closely by 900 in Adams Co. on 9 Oct (LRa,RHa). Most flocks were seen in the w half of the state, although rather far e were 66 on 23 Oct and 75-80 the next day in Dixon Co. (JJo). Latest were a single at Box Butte Res on 11 Nov (RCR) and 17 near Gibbon on 23 Nov (LRa,RHa).

**Whooping Crane:** A group of 8, including a single juvenile, were at Funk Lagoon WPA on 4 Nov (NR,IR); 11 were present on 10 Nov (NR), probably a high count for NE, and 9 were there 12 Nov (LRa,RHa).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Of 4 sightings reported, 2 from the w were in Aug, while 2 from the e were in Oct. On 12 Aug 2 were at Box Butte Res, and 1 was near Crawford on 13 Aug (RCR,DJR), while singles were at Branched Oak SRA on 1 Oct and 16 Oct (LEi).

**American Golden-Plover:** Very rare in fall due to its e Atlantic Ocean migration route, a straggler was at L Babcock on 27 Oct (MBr); there are fewer than 30 fall records for NE.

**Semipalmated Plover:** Earliest was the only w report, 1 near Whitney on 6 Aug (RCR,DJR). Other sightings were from the e, between 18 Aug, when 1 was at Jack Sinn Memorial WMA (NR,IR), and 22 Sep, when 1 was at De Soto NWR (JoJ). High count was 6 at Harvard WPA on 20 Aug (JoJ).

**Killdeer:** High count for late summer was 100 sw of Mitchell on 20 Aug (AKe), while later in the migration period 40 were in Otoe Co. on 14 Oct (LLF). Latest were 1 at Niobrara SP on 25 Nov (RCR,DJR) and 5 at Branched Oak SRA on 12 Nov (LEi). These birds occasionally linger into Dec.

**American Avocet:** High counts, presumably migrants, included 46 at the w end of LM on 4 Sep (JoJ), and 35 at Harvard WPA on 20 Aug (JoJ). Last were 14 at NPNWR on 27 Sep (LMA). Easterly were 3 at Branched Oak SRA on 17 Sep and 16 there on 22 Oct (LEi).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Few were noted this fall, with the high count 15 in Kearney Co. on 9 Oct (LRa,RHa). Last were at least 1 in Holt Co. on 13 Nov (MBr), and in the w 3 at Gering SL on 1 Oct (AKe).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** High counts for the fall were 100 at Kissinger Basin WMA on 20 Aug (JoJ) and 40 in Kearney Co. on 24 Sep (LRa,RHa). Latest were singles at Branched Oak SRA on 22 Oct

- (LEi) and at NPNWR on 10 Nov (LKo), a rather late date.
- Solitary Sandpiper:** High count was 7 in Kearney Co. on 23 Aug (LRa,RHa); last were singles in Antelope Co. on 28 Sep (MBr) and in Scotts Bluff Co. on 1 Oct (LMa).
- Spotted Sandpiper:** Last were 6 at De Soto NWR on 13 Sep (JoJ), 1 at Pawnee L SRA on 17 Sep (LEi), and another in Antelope Co. on 17 Sep (MBr).
- Upland Sandpiper:** Most depart in Aug; in the w 5 migrants were over Chadron in the night of 8 Aug (RCR), while 4 were in Dixon Co. on 17 Aug (JJo), for the last report. High count was 7 in Gosper Co. on 5 Aug (LRa,RHa).
- Long-billed Curlew:** Also departing in Aug, latest, and high count, were 8 at Box Butte Res on 27 Aug (RCR). The only other reports were of 2 at CLNWR on 24 Aug (LMa) and 7 at Box Butte Res on 12 Aug (RCR).
- Marbled Godwit:** High count for the migration was 16 at Keystone L on 6 Aug (SJD,WRS), while last was 1 at NPNWR on 1 Sep (LMa). The only other report was of 3 at Box Butte Res on 12 Aug (RCR,DJR).
- Sanderling:** Earliest for the fall were 157 at NPNWR on 10 Aug, where the high count was an amazing 730 on 23 Aug (LKo). Latest were 2 at L North on 14 Sep (BP,LP) and 3 at NPNWR on 27 Sep (LKo).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Rather low numbers appeared, with 12 in Clay Co. on 20 Aug (JoJ) the second best count for the migration (see Summer). Last were 1 in Kearney Co. on 25 Sep (LRa,RHa) and 3 at Jack Sinn Memorial WMA on 3 Oct (BP,LP).
- Western Sandpiper:** Few were reported. High count for fall was only 8, also the latest, at CLNWR on 28 Sep (LMa).
- Least Sandpiper:** High counts for the fall were 30 in Kearney Co. on 21 Aug (LRa,RHa) and 25 at De Soto NWR on 14 Aug (JoJ), while latest were 3 at Branched Oak SRA on 22 Oct (LEi).
- Baird's Sandpiper:** Numbers this fall were much higher in the w, where counts of 200 near Crawford on 6 Aug and 100 there on 13 Aug were made (RCR,DJR). In the e, best count was only 6 at FFNC on 2 Sep (BP,LP). Latest were 8 at CLNWR on 28 Sep (LMa) and 1 at Branched Oak SRA on 30 Oct (JoJ), a rather late date.
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** High counts were 28 in Clay Co. on 20 Aug (JoJ) and 20 at Box Butte Res on 9 Sep (RCR). Last were 6 at Jack Sinn Memorial WMA on 3 Oct (BP,LP) and 1 in Adams Co. on 9 Oct (LRa,RHa).
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** Only the second NE record for this species was a well-described juvenile in Sheridan Co. on 8 Sep (\*LMa). The other was in Butler Co. on 12 Oct 1986 (NBR 54:70).
- Stilt Sandpiper:** High count for the fall was 160 in Clay Co. on 20 Aug (JoJ), while latest were 1 at Branched Oak SRA on 17 Sep (LEi) and 4 in Kearney Co. on 25 Sep (LRa,RHa). The only report from the w was of 11 near Crawford in Aug (RCR,DJR).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Somewhat erratic in fall, this year only 2 singles were found, 1 at Jack Sinn Memorial WMA on 18 Aug (NR,IR) and another at the Todd Valley Sod Farm near Mead on 11 Sep (JMo). In fall some migrate through the interior and others over the Atlantic Ocean route; perhaps most took the ocean route this fall.
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** It appears that this species migrates w in NE at least to the e edge of the panhandle; 47 adults in alternate plumage were closely studied at the w end of LM on 7 Aug, with identification based on calls and scapular pattern (SJD,WRS). This is the highest known count this far w in the state. This species normally appears earlier in fall than Long-billed.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Excellent high counts for the fall were 273 at CLNWR on 28 Sep (LMa) and 130 at Kissinger Basin WMA on 20 Aug (JoJ). Last were 15 near Bayard on 25 Oct (AKe) and 15 at CLNWR on 26 Oct (LMa). A very late dowitcher, unidentified to species, was in Holt Co. on 13 Nov (MBr).

**Common Snipe:** Blake noted that winnowing Common Snipe are commonly heard in the Elkhorn R valley and tributaries from Bassett to Norfolk in May and June; on 21 Jun 1993 a nest with 4 eggs was located in a pasture on his ranch w of Chambers. Blake believes that this species nests much more commonly than generally thought, but nests are well hidden and adults are secretive during nesting. Earliest were 3 at Jack Sinn Memorial WMA on 18 Aug (NR,IR) and 1 near Lincoln on 20 Aug (LEi). High count was only 6 w of Chambers on 17 Sep (JJo). Latest were 3 at CLNWR on 26 Oct (LMa) and 2 rather late in Scotts Bluff Co. on 22 Nov (LMa). This species overwinters on occasion, however, notably in the Platte valley.

**American Woodcock:** The only report was of 1 in n Saunders Co. on 13 Aug (THo). In recent years a few have occurred w in the Platte valley to the Kearney area.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** A few probably breed in the Rainwater Basin, likely including 3 at Sacramento-Wilcox WMA on 5 Aug (LRa,RHa). High counts were from the w, with 440 at CLNWR on 10 Aug (LMa) where the summer count was only 16 (Summer), and 250 near Crawford on 6 Aug (RCR,DJR). Last were 14 at CLNWR on 10 Sep (LMa) and 1 at Gering SL on 20 Sep (AKe).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** The only reports were of 3 at CLNWR on 24 Aug (LMa) and 1 in Knox Co. on 20 Sep (MBr). This species is rather rare in fall; the Knox Co. record was the observer's first there.

**Franklin's Gull:** LM appears to be a late summer staging area for this species; 10,000 were estimated there 6 Aug (SJD,WRS), an early date for such a concentration. There were 250, about 50% juveniles, at L Minatare SRA on 12 Aug (RCR,DJR); RCR considers the species to be declining. Most migrants pass through in Sep, such as 3,000 at Branched Oak SRA and 1,000 at Pawnee L SRA on 17 Sep (LEi), and several hundred at Harlan Co. Res on 4 Sep (LRa,RHa). Last in the e were in Cedar and Knox Cos (MBr) and 1 at Branched Oak SRA (JoJ), all on 1 Oct, but in the w 1 was still at Gering SL on 1 Nov (AKe).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Earliest was 1 at NPNWR on 2 Sep (LMa), a rather early date. No others were sighted until 19 Oct, when 17 were at Summit Res SRA (JoJ). High counts were 191 at Sutherland Res on 5 Nov (SJD,WRS) and 45 at Glenn Cunningham L on 6 Nov (NR,IR). Latest, and apparently the latest ever for NE, were about 20 in Cedar Co. below Gavin's Point Dam on 25 Nov (RCR,DJR), at least 1 in Cedar Co. on 26 Nov (MBr), and 5 at Harlan Co. Res on 26 Nov (LRa,RHa).

**Ring-billed Gull:** Numbers first appeared in the w, with 4 at NPNWR on 9 Aug (LMa), but 623 there the next day (LKo). Earliest in the e was 1 at Pawnee L SRA on 21 Aug (LEi). High counts were 1,670 at NPNWR on 16 Nov (LKo) and 400 e of Gering on 18 Nov (AKe), and in the e 100 at Offutt Base L on 27 Nov (KCR). There were still 15 at Glenn Cunningham L on 28 Nov (BP,LP).

**California Gull:** After only 1 summer sighting (see Summer), 40, most adults, had arrived at LM by 6 Aug (WRS,SJD), 2 were at Arthur Bay on the n side of LM on 17 Sep (RCR), while 148 were counted around the lake on 5 Nov (SJD,WRS). The pattern of a significant fall buildup, mostly of adults, has become consistent in recent years; many remain at least through mid-Dec.

- Herring Gull:** Prebreeders which probably summered included single 1st summer and 3rd summer birds at LM on 6 Aug (SJD). Probable early fall wanderers were an unaged single at NPNWR on 28 Aug (LMa), and 2 in Phelps Co. on 17 Sep (LRa,RHa). Migration truly begins when adults appear, such as a group of 4 on 13 Oct at NPNWR (LMa). High count by the end of the period was only 7, those at NPNWR on 23 Nov (LMa). Only a few appeared in the e by period end; singles in Cedar Co. on 19 Nov (MBr), at Branched Oak SRA on 12 (LEi) and 22 Nov (JoJ), and another at Summit Res SRA on 29 Nov (JoJ). This species does not usually appear in numbers in NE.
- Caspian Tern:** Uncommon in NE in fall, only 2 birds were noted. Singles were at De Soto NWR on 13 Sep (JoJ) and Branched Oak SRA on 17 Sep (LEi).
- Common Tern:** Also uncommon, and often difficult to identify, 3 were reported: 2 adults were at LM on 7 Aug (SJD,WRS) and 1 was at CLNWR on 7 Sep (LMa).
- Forster's Tern:** High counts were low, with only 12 at Glenn Cunningham L on 13 Aug (NR,IR) and 10 at Pawnee L SRA on 21 Aug (LEi). Last were 5 at NPNWR on 10 Sep (LKO) and at least 1 in Knox Co. on 17 Sep (MBr).
- Least Tern:** The only report was of singles in n Saunders Co., where the species summers, on 3 Aug and 3 Sep (THo). Most depart by mid-Sep.
- Black Tern:** High counts were rather low for this declining (RCR) species, including 40 at CLNWR on 24 Aug (LMa), 30 at L Minatare SRA on 12 Aug (RCR,DJR), and 20 at Box Butte Res on 27 Aug (RCR,DJR). Early, or perhaps summering, in the Rainwater Basin were 2 at Funk Lagoon WPA on 5 Aug (LRa,RHa). Last were 15 at CLNWR on 7 Sep (LMa) and 4 at L North on 14 Sep (BP,LP).
- Mourning Dove:** High count was 120 in Scotts Bluff Co. on 28 Aug (LMa), probably mostly summer birds. Last in the w was considered very late on 11 Nov at Box Butte Res (RCR). Last in the e, where a few linger into Dec, were 2 still in Douglas Co. on 19 Nov (JJo).
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** Last were singles in Dakota Co. on 2 Sep (BFH) and Otoe Co. on 10 Sep (LLF). High count was 6 at Arbor Lodge Farm on 4 Sep (LLF). Most westerly were 1 in Lancaster Co. 20 Aug (LEi).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Most westerly was 1 at Peterson WPA on 7 Aug (RHa,LRa). Last were in Knox Co. 10 Sep (MBr) and at FFNC on 16 Sep (BP,LP).
- Burrowing Owl:** The only reports were of 6-7 s of Lyman on 20 Aug (AKE,LMa) and a family group of 6 near Chadron on 6 Aug; 4 were at the latter location 13 Aug (RCR,DJR).
- Barred Owl:** Only report was from within the regular range, in Otoe Co. (LLF).
- Long-eared Owl:** The only report was of 2-3 at Smith L WMA on 11 Nov (RCR).
- Short-eared Owl:** The only reports were probably fall migrants: 1 in sw Dixon Co. on 8 Nov (JJo), 1 in Buffalo Co. on 13 Nov (LRa,RHa), 1 near Hay Springs on 22 Nov (DJR), and 1 at CLNWR on 26 Nov (LMa).
- Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Rather unusual was an adult hunting in town at South Sioux City on 27 Nov; the observer suspected it might have been forced to do so by a blizzard (BFH).
- Common Nighthawk:** Migration was well underway by late Aug, with several hundred near Gering on 23 Aug (AKE) and 80-100 in Dixon Co. the next day (JJo). Latest were singles noted at Nebraska City on 6 Oct (LLF) and in Scotts Bluff Co. on 18 Oct

- (LMa), the latter a rather late date.
- Common Poor-will:** Last, and only reports, were 1 s of Gering on 11 Sep (AKe) and another flushed from dense coniferous trees near Rushville on 24 Sep (RCR,DJR).
- Chimney Swift:** High count, and last in the w, were 100 at Gering 10 Sep (AKe), while last in the e were 1 in Lincoln 16 Oct (LEi) and 6 at Bellevue on 18 Oct (BP,LP).
- White-throated Swift:** The only report was of 12 in Sioux Co. (no specific location listed) on 21 Aug (LMa).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** All reports were from Lancaster Co. eastward; few were reported, with high count "several" at FFNC on 24 Aug (BP,LP). Last were in Lincoln 10 Sep (LEi) and a specimen picked up on the UNL campus 11 Sep (TEL).
- Calliope Hummingbird:** Probably the most unexpected rarity of the season, actually for summer, was the 4th NE record, a male dispatched deftly without damage around 23 Jun by a dog owned by Jim Hatch in s Sioux Co. (fide AKe, NOU Newsletter). The specimen was preserved; it was probably a very early fall migrant. There are 2 early Aug records and an early Apr record previously for this species.
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird:** Apparently a regular late summer panhandle migrant, primarily in late Jul-Aug, singles were reported in Scotts Bluff Co. 7 Aug (LMa) and near Morrill on 14 Aug (ECT).
- Rufous Hummingbird:** None were reported. This species appears to be less common as a migrant in NE than the preceding. Johnsgard (NBR 48:36) lists 29 fall and 1 spring records for Broad-tailed and 16 fall records for Rufous.
- Belted Kingfisher:** Last at NPNWR was on 30 Oct (LMa).
- Lewis' Woodpecker:** A few were scattered around the Pine Ridge, with Dawes Co. sightings including 2 near Chadron on 9 Sep (RCR), and 2 on Ash Creek Road and 3 on Deadhorse Road on 5 Sep (JoJ). No location was given for 4 in Sioux Co. 21 Aug (LMa), and 2 were near Fort Robinson on 27 Aug (RCR,DJR), an extensive burn area in Sioux Co. where future sightings should increase.
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** Best counts were of summering birds, 18 in n Saunders Co. on 20 Aug (THo) and 15 in sw Dixon Co. on 20 Aug (JJo). Last in the n and w were at Gering Cemetery on 23 Sep (AKe), in Thomas Co. on 11 Sep (LMa), and in Knox Co. on 18 Sep (MBr). At least 1 was still in Otoe Co. on 30 Nov (LLF), where wintering may occur some years.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Most westerly were 2 in Harlan Co. 17 Sep (LRa,RHa).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** The only reports were of singles at De Soto NWR on 28 Sep (JoJ) and in Knox Co. on 3 Nov (MBr); this species is essentially a winter visitor in se NE.
- Northern Flicker:** Birds with some "Red-shafted" characters, and thus presumably migrants or potential winter visitors, were noted 18 Sep at UNL, a specimen (TEL), 20 Sep in Buffalo Co. (LRa,RHa), 23 Oct in Dixon Co. (JJo), 2 on 19 Nov near Kearney (RHa,LRa), and 2 there on 24 Nov (LRa,RHa). Also probable migrants were 30, the high count, in n Saunders Co. on 24 Sep (THo).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Some 23 sightings defined the migration period this fall: early was 1 at Elmwood Park in Omaha on 7 Aug (CEJ), tying the 2nd earliest ever, and last was another there on 12 Sep (CEJ). Uncommon in the panhandle, 1 was in Dawes Co. 22 Aug (LMa).
- Western Wood-Pewee:** Best count was 8 in Dawes Co. on 22 Aug (LMa). Last was 1 in Scotts Bluff Co. on 28 Aug (LMa).

- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Most reports were from the Missouri valley, although 1 was in Adams Co. on 5 Sep (LRa,RHa); best count was 6 in Ponca SP on 27 Aug (BFH), while last were singles at FFNC on 16 Sep (BP,LP), and a late bird in Otoe Co. on 3 Oct (LLF).
- Willow Flycatcher:** Summering birds occur statewide; singles were in Dixon Co. 1 and 7 Aug (JJo), at Atlanta Marsh WPA on 5 Aug (LRa,RHa), 4 were at Peterson FWA on 7 Aug (LRa,RHa), and 1 at CLNWR on 10 Aug (LMa).
- "Traill's" Flycatcher:** Birds (1-2) listed as this complex of Willow and Alder Flycatchers were in n Saunders Co. 3-10 Sep (THo). At this time either species is likely but difficult to identify.
- Least Flycatcher:** Two reports included singles in Dixon Co. on 16 Aug (JJo) and in n Saunders Co. on 27 Aug (THo). Observers should provide details for any Empidonax identified in fall.
- Cordilleran Flycatcher:** A single listed as a "Western", but with no supporting identification details, was at Gering on 10 Sep (ECT). This date corresponds with the few previous fall NE reports; however, none are documented.
- Eastern Phoebe:** Last were singles at FFNC on 11 Oct (BP,LP) and in Phelps Co. on 14 Oct (LMa). The latter is a rather late date away from se NE.
- Say's Phoebe:** At the e edge of the breeding range were birds in Dixon Co. on 7 Aug (JJo) and at Sacramento-Wilcox WMA on 5 Aug (LRa,RHa). Rather late, indeed last for the state, was 1 in Thomas Co. on 10-11 Sep (LMa,LRa, RHa). There are few fall reports e of the panhandle. Last in the w was 1 near Hay Springs on 24 Sep (RCR,DJR).
- Great Crested Flycatcher:** All reports were in or near the Missouri valley, with the high count only 3, at FFNC on 31 Aug (BP,LP). Last was 1 at Arbor Lodge Farm on 16 Sep (LLF).
- Cassin's Kingbird:** The only reports were of 8 near Dunlap on 27 Aug (RCR), and 3 near Belmont on 9 Sep (RCR,DJR). This species is most common in NE as a fall migrant, essentially restricted to the w panhandle.
- Western Kingbird:** High count was a moderate 22 at CLNWR on 10 Aug (LMa), presumably summering birds. Last was 1 at Long Pine on 12 Sep (NR,IR), while in the w last was at Morrill on 4 Sep (ECT).
- Eastern Kingbird:** High count was also of summering birds; 60 were in Dixon Co. on 7 Aug (JJo). Best w count was 41 in Sioux Co. on 21 Aug (LMa). Last were in the e, as expected, with 1 in Lancaster Co. on 24 Sep (LEi) and another at Arbor Lodge Farm on 19 Sep (LLF).
- Horned Lark:** Best count was 250 in Dixon Co. on 29 Nov (JJo), presumably migrants.
- Purple Martin:** Latest reported were 3 at FFNC on 30 Aug (BP,LP); these may have been summer residents.
- Tree Swallow:** High counts were 50 in Dixon Co. on 16 Aug (JJo) and 30 as far w as CLNWR on 10 Aug (LMa), where this species has become established in recent years. Last were 17 in Otoe Co. on 19 Sep (LLF).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** High count, and latest, were 90 at FFNC on 11 Oct (BP,LP). Last in the w was 1 at CLNWR on 7 Sep (LMa).
- Bank Swallow:** High counts, presumably migrants, were 350 at Kiowa WMA on 12 Aug (RCR,DJR) and 128 at CLNWR on 10 Aug (LMa). Latest was 1 in n Perkins Co. on 16 Sep (RCR), and in the e 6 were in Dixon Co. on 6 Sep (JJo) and at least 1 in KNox Co. on 17 Sep (MBr).
- Cliff Swallow:** Best count was a surprising 2000 at Funk Lagoon WPA

- on 21 Aug (LRa,RHa), while 600 or so on a Platte R sandbar in n Saunders Co. on 20 Aug (THo). The 150 at Kiowa WMA on 12 Aug was a good count for a relatively late date in the w (RCR,DJR). Latest were singles at Lisco on 13 Sep (RCR) and in Brown Co. on 10 Sep (LMa).
- Barn Swallow:** High count was 1000 at Elwood Res WMA on 1 Oct (LRa,RHa). Latest were 4 in Otoe Co. on 16 Oct (LLF) and 30 in Phelps Co. on 14 Oct (LMa), and in the w 25 at Gering SL on 2 Oct (AKe).
- Blue Jay:** Probably migrants were 30 in n Saunders Co. on 24 Sep; few were noted there prior or later (THo). Most fall migrants are noted in late Sep and early Oct.
- Pinyon Jay:** RCR reported few for the fall, including 1 at Sowbelly Canyon on 27 Aug (RCR,DJR), although 65 were at an unnoted location in Sioux Co. on 21 Aug (LMa). This species can be elusive at times.
- Black-billed Magpie:** In late fall individuals occur somewhat e of the summer range, such as 1 in nw Lancaster Co. on 16 Oct (LEi) and 3 ne of Hosking on 13 Nov (LLF). Possibly in this category, but also within the summer range, were 2 at Bloomfield Resort on Lewis and Clark L and 2 at Niobrara SP on 25 Nov (RCR,DJR). Best count was only 19, in Scotts Bluff Co. on 1 Oct (LMa).
- American Crow:** Large numbers are unusual any time of year in the w (RCR), and so a count of 86 near Chadron on 8 Oct was noteworthy (DJR); next best was only 21 e of Gering on 18 Nov (AKe). By comparison, 380 were in Gosper Co. on 14 Oct (LMa).
- Tufted ("Black-crested") Titmouse:** An individual carefully studied in se Otoe Co. had a black crest and white forehead and was identified as a "Black-crested" Titmouse (LLF); it was with Tufted Titmice (form bicolor). While the Black-crested (*atricristatus*) form is currently considered a race of Tifted Titmouse, and occurs no closer to NE than s Texas, there is a vagrant record for Massachusetts (AOU Checklist of North American Birds, 6th Edition, 1983).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Good counts of 21 were made in Dawes Co. on 22 Aug and 9 Oct (LMa), possibly residents, as the species has not been particularly common this fall (RCR). A count of 5 at Long Pine (NR,IR) may also have been residents. First migrant in Chadron was noted 11 Aug (DJR). The only reports from the e before the period's end were in Knox Co. 20 Sep and 6 Nov (MBr), Kearney Co. on 9-11 Sep (LRa,RHa), and 1 at Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln on 16 Oct (LEi).
- White-breasted Nuthatch:** First migrant in Scotts Bluff Co., where the species is an uncommon winter visitor, was seen 7 Sep (AKe).
- Pygmy Nuthatch:** A good count of 11 was made in Sioux Co. on 21 Aug (LMa), and 3 were in Sowbelly Canyon 27 Aug (RCR,DJR). While these are expected locations for the species, it is more difficult to find in Dawes Co., where a single was 12 mi s of Chadron, in the Pine Ridge, on 4 Aug (RCR), and another was reported, location unspecified, on 9 Oct (LMa).
- Brown Creeper:** Although breeding has not been confirmed in the Pine Ridge, a few summer, such as 1 on 21 Aug (LMa) and another in Sowbelly Canyon on 27 Aug (RCR,DJR). Migrants do not appear until late Sep; 1 at FFNC on 16 Sep (BP,LP) may have been either, as nesting occurs there. Probably an early migrant was 1 at Gordon on 24 Sep (RCR,DJR), as was the first noted in the e, in Lincoln on 16 Oct (LEi).
- Rock Wren:** The only report was the last at CLNWR, on 7 Sep (LMa).

- Carolina Wren:** Unexpected so far n was 1 at a feeder from 29 Oct through the period in Cuming Co. (MBr), as was 1 as far w as Kearney Co. on 12 Oct (LRa,RHa). The only other reports were of 1-2 in expected locations in Sarpy (NR,IR) and Otoe (LLF) Cos. where this species is resident.
- Bewick's Wren:** Exciting was a report of 1 in a brushpile 3/4 mile w of the Lied Center in Nebraska City on 1 Oct (LLF). Details were provided for what appears to be the first NE fall record for at least 30 years.
- House Wren:** Last in the w were 2 at Hay Springs on 24 Sep (RCR,DJR), while in the e singles were at Arbor Lodge Farm on 20 Oct (LLF), a rather late date, and on the UNL campus, a specimen, on 10 Oct (TEL).
- Winter Wren:** The only report were of singles in Knox Co. 17 Sep (MBr) and Dixon Co. on 22 Oct (JJo); these are typical fall migration dates.
- Sedge Wren:** This species has a propensity for appearing in numbers in Aug in areas where it was absent earlier in the summer; studies by Lingle and Bedell (NBR 57:47) led them to suggest that breeding by such groups may occur, and that these birds may have been unsuccessful or may not have found suitable nesting habitat elsewhere during the "normal" Jun-Jul period. An example of this phenomenon may have been the 20 present at Jack Sinn Memorial WMA on 15-20 Aug (BP,LP,NR,IR); no evidence of nesting was noted, however. Of course, any Sedge Wrens seen from Jul through Oct may be mere migrants, such as 1-2 in Dixon Co. 6 and 18 Aug (JJo), 1 at Wehrspann L on 19 Aug (NR,IR), and 1 on 21 Aug at Arbor L WMA (LEi). Certainly migrants were 1 in n Saunders Co. on 24 Sep (THo), a specimen picked up on the UNL campus 1 Oct (TEL), and 1 in Dixon Co. on 9 Oct (JJo).
- Marsh Wren:** Last at CLNWR were 3 on 28 Sep (LMa). In the e latest were singles in Knox Co. on 1 Oct (MBr), at Pawnee L SRA on 1 Oct (LEi), and specimens on the UNL campus 1 and 10 Oct (TEL).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Very early was 1 near Hay Springs on 24 Sep (RCR,DJR); this ties the 2nd earliest previous record for NE. Next in the w were 2 in Dawes Co. on 9 Oct (LMa). Earliest in the e was also rather early at Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln on 28 Sep (LEi), followed by 1 in Saunders Co. on 8 Oct (THo). Numbers were low for the period; 10 at Wyuka Cemetery on 16 Oct (LEi) was best count.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Earliest was in the w, a very early individual at Gordon on 10 Sep (RCR,DJR), while in the e 1 was in Dixon Co. 15 Sep (JJo). High count was 25 at Ponca SP on 24 Sep (BFH). Last were singles in Dixon Co. on 23 Oct (JJo) and in Lincoln on 22 Oct (LEi).
- Eastern Bluebird:** Best count was 25 at Arbor Lodge Farm on 7 Sep (LLF). Westerly were singles in the Wildcat Hills of Banner Co. on 25 Oct (AKe) and a male at Box Butte Res on 30 Sep (RCR), the only w reports. Last were 2 in n Saunders Co. still present on 30 Nov (THo). Normally a few linger into Dec in se NE.
- Mountain Bluebird:** There were few reported. High count was only 16, in the Wildcat Hills in Banner Co. on 9 Oct; these summering birds were last seen on 25 Oct (AKe).
- Townsend's Solitaire:** Furthest e was 1 in Kearney Co. on 26 Nov (LRa,RHa), at about the e extent of the expected winter range. All other reports were from the w, where an early arrival was 12 mi s Chadron in the Pine Ridge on 5 Sep (RCR), followed by 1 at NPNWR on 27 Sep (LMa). High count was 10 in Scotts Bluff Co. on 1 Oct (LMa).

- Swainson's Thrush:** This was a poor fall, with only 5 birds reported. First was rather early at FFNC on 28 Aug (BP,LP), and last was n of Scottsbluff on 1 Oct (AKe).
- Hermit Thrush:** Only 3 birds were reported, including singles at FFNC 12 Oct (JAl) and in Otoe Co. on 18 Oct (LLF). The third was at Box Butte Res on 30 Sep (RCR), and was of an eastern reddish-tailed race, presumably *faxoni*, which is very rare in w NE. Most migrants in the w are browner-tailed w birds (RCR), presumably *auduboni* (AOU Checklist of North American Birds, 5th Edition, 1957).
- Wood Thrush:** The only report was a summering bird in Otoe Co., location unspecified, on 6 Aug (MBr).
- American Robin:** High count was only 90, in n Saunders Co. on 22 Oct (THo).
- Gray Catbird:** Last in the w were 1 at Box Butte Res on 30 Sep (RCR) and another n of Scottsbluff on 1 Oct (AKe); this species is not numerous in the panhandle. In the e, last 1 was in a Blair yard 6-22 Oct (JoJ). This species rarely lingers into Dec.
- Northern Mockingbird:** Singles were near Crawford 13 Aug (RCR,DJR), in Eagle Canyon, Keith Co., on 6 Aug (SJD,WRS), and at Nebraska City on 12 Aug (LLF). This species may show up anywhere in NE.
- Sage Thrasher:** The only report was of 1 at L Alice, NPNWR, on 12 Aug (RCR,DJR). While RCR notes that mid-Aug is the optimum time to find this species in w NE, there are only about 25 fall records.
- Brown Thrasher:** Last in the w was 1 in Scotts Bluff Co. on 1 Oct (LMa), while in the e rather late birds were in in Kearney Co. on 13 Nov (LRa,RHa) and in an Omaha yard 26 Nov (NR,LR). There are numerous Dec records in e NE, although most depart by mid-Oct.
- American Pipit:** In the w 2 were rather early at Gordon on 10 Sep (RCR,DJR), about the 5th earliest for NE, while an excellent count of 54 was made at CLNWR on 26 Oct (LMa). Reports also were for Antelope Co. on 14 Oct and Platte Co. on 27 Oct (MBr).
- Cedar Waxwing:** High count was 115 in Thomas Co. on 10 Sep (LMa). Migrants may appear as early as late Aug, such as the 34 at NPNWR on 28 Aug (LMa).
- Northern Shrike:** By far the earliest was 1 near Rushville on 8 Oct (RCR,DJR), followed by 1 at CLNWR on 26 Oct (LMa) and in the ne in Antelope and Knox Cos on 30 Oct (MBr). The species had arrived in numbers by 6 Nov, when 6 were found in about 12 miles in the Beaver Creek area of Sheridan Co. (SJD,WRS). Southeasterly were 3 in Buffalo Co. on 19-26 Nov (RHa,LRa) and 1 at Conestoga SRA the same day (LEi). In general there is little overlap of the 2 shrike species in NE.
- Loggerhead Shrike:** A very late bird was at CLNWR on 26 Oct (LMa); there are only about 5 later reports, none documented, from the panhandle. Also very late was 1 in sw Dakota Co. on 4 Nov (JJo); there are few records in n NE after Oct. Observers should provide details for such late reports away from se NE.
- European Starling:** High counts were 990 at NPNWR on 30 Oct (LMa) and 700 in Dixon Co. on 4 Nov (JJo).
- White-eyed Vireo:** Very rare in fall, only the 5th fall record since 1970, and the latest ever, was 1 in a Bellevue yard 2 Oct (KCR). Details should be provided for any record of this species, which does not appear every year, even in spring.
- Bell's Vireo:** Last of only 2 reports was 1 at George Syas WMA on 27 Aug (LRa,RHa).
- Solitary Vireo:** Somewhat e of the usual w Pine Ridge summer range

were reports from Dawes Co. (no location specified) on 22 Aug (LMA) and 12 miles s of Chadron on 26 Aug (RCR). Migrant reports were all of 1-2 birds in the e; earliest were a specimen picked up at UNL on 29 Aug (TEL), tying the 2nd earliest for NE, and 1 at Crystal Cove L on 2 Sep (BFH), while last were 1 at Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln 1 Oct (LEi) and another UNL specimen found 6 Oct (TEL).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Reports were from the lower part of the Missouri valley breeding range; last was 1 at FFNC on 9 Sep (BP,LP). Best count was 4 at FFNC on 24 Aug (BP,LP).

**Warbling Vireo:** Latest in the e were 2 at FFNC on 9 Sep (BP,LP) and 1 in Knox Co. on 10 Sep (MBR), while in the w 1 was near Morrill on 30 Sep (ECT). The latter date is very late, indeed is the 2nd latest ever, for the panhandle, where most birds are of the early-departing western race *swainsonii*; the late date is suggestive of eastern *gilvus*, which leaves the state later than *swainsonii*, and is rare as far w as the panhandle. A bird with yellow flanks was at Ponca SP on 27 Aug (BFH); this may have been a *swainsonii*, although fall immatures of all races may show yellowish flanks.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** This uncommon migrant was reported from and near the Missouri valley, as expected; earliest was at Arbor Lodge Farm on 30 Aug (LLF) and latest in n Saunders Co. on 17 Sep (THo).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** A good count for summer in the Pine Ridge, where this is an uncommon summer resident, was 12 in Dawes Co. on 22 Aug (LMA). Other reports were of migrants in the e; high count was 12 at Crystal Cove L on 2 Sep (BFH), and latest were singles at Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln on 17 Sep (LEi) and at Arbor Lodge Farm on 18 Sep (LLF).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** The only report was of 1 at Crystal Cove L on 1 Sep (BFH). This is only the 10th fall report for NE, and the furthest n.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** A singing bird was at FFNC on 2 Sep (BP,LP); this is only the 11th fall report for NE.

**Tennessee Warbler:** Most common in the e in fall, earliest were 2 very early at FFNC on 18 Aug (BP,LP), tying the 2nd earliest for NE. Latest was 1 at Gering Cemetery on 1 Oct (AKe); another, or the same, was there 29 Sep (AKe). This species is very rare in w NE in fall, these being only the 7th and 8th fall panhandle reports.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Far more common statewide as a fall migrant than the preceding, good numbers of this species appeared this fall. Migrants move through a little earlier in the w; earliest for the state were 3 at Morrill on 5 Sep (ECT), 2 at Box Butte Res on 9 Sep (RCR), and 8 at Morrill on 10 Sep (ECT). High count for the state was an excellent 40 on 18 Sep at Arbor Lodge Farm (LLF). Last in the w were about 8 at Rushville on 8 Oct (RCR,DJR). Last in the e was 1 picked up on the UNL campus 1 Nov, now a specimen (TEL).

**Nashville Warbler:** All but 1 report were from the e; this species is rare in fall in the w, where 1 was at Hay Springs on 8 Oct (RCR,DJR) for only about the 5th fall panhandle report. Earliest in the e were 2 at Ponca SP on 27 Aug (BFH), high count was 12 there on 24 Sep (BFH), while last were 3 at De Soto NWR on 28 Sep (JoJ) and 3 at Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln the same day (LEi).

**Northern Parula:** Latest for this local summer resident was 18 Sep within the summer range at FFNC (BP,LP).

**Yellow Warbler:** This species departs very early in fall. A specimen was picked up at UNL as early as 11 Aug (TEL), while last in

the e was also a UNL specimen on 1 Sep (TEL). Last for the state was 1 at Rushville on 10 Sep (RCR,DJR), while last at Morrill were 2 on 27 Aug (ECT).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Only 3 birds were found, all in the Missouri valley within 3 days: first was 1 at Crystal Cove L on 2 Sep (BFH) and last 1 at FFNC on 4 Sep (BP,LP,NR,IR).

**Magnolia Warbler:** Only 3 were found, all at FFNC on 29 Aug, 1 Sep, and 2 Sep (BP,LP). These are rather early dates for this species.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** The only report for this rare migrant which is most likely in fall was 8 Sep, without details or location (fide NR). This is an expected date, however.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** A single in Sioux Co. (no location specified) on 21 Aug (LMa) was probably a summering bird. This statewide migrant appeared first in the w, where 1 was at Morrill on 5 Sep (ECT), and 1 at Walgren L SRA and 2 at Gordon on 10 Sep (RCR,DJR). These are very early dates away from the breeding range, and may represent wandering immatures of the western race *auduboni*. In the w high was 45 at NPNWR on 18 Sep (LMa), and last were 5 at Gering on 7 Oct (AKE). Earliest in the e were 6 in n Saunders Co. (THo) and 1 at Raymond Cemetery (LEi) on 17 Sep; high count was 50 in n Saunders Co. on 8 Oct (THo), and last in the e were 3 at Offutt Base L on 6 Nov (KCR). A few sometimes linger into Dec in the se.

**Townsend's Warbler:** RCR suggests that this species is probably a fairly regular fall transient in the w Panhandle during the first 2 weeks of Sep; 2 were in planted spruces and firs in the Rushville Cemetery on 10 Sep (RCR,DJR). There are about 25 fall records for NE.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Earliest were 2 at FFNC on 9 Sep (BP,LP) and last 1 at Arbor Lodge Farm on 21 Sep (LLF). Only 4 were reported.

**Pine Warbler:** Excellent details were provided for 1 which appeared at a bird-bath in Bellevue on 10 Oct (BP,LP). This is the 2nd latest of about 15 fall records for NE, although Pine Warbler may also show up in early winter; 1 was in Wayne Co. 7 Nov 1986 (Am. Birds 41:112), another was at FFNC feeders 1-15 Dec 1984 (Am. Birds 38:84), and 1 was reported without details in Antelope Co. 1 Jan 1950 (NBR).

**Palm Warbler:** Unexpected was 1 at Rushville on 8 Oct (RCR,DJR); this is only the 3rd fall record for the panhandle. There are only about 25 fall records in all for the state, almost all from the Missouri valley. Thus less of a surprise, although still rare finds, were singles in Knox Co. on 17 Sep (MBr) at De Soto NWR on 28 Sep (JoJ).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Very rare in spring, this species is most often seen in NE in fall in the Missouri valley. Earliest were 3 at FFNC on 1 Sep (BP,LP), and last 1 there on 12 Oct (JAl). A specimen (UNSM 17097) was picked up at UNL on 11 Oct (TEL). These 2 late records are the 2nd and 3rd latest for NE.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Most often seen in NE in spring, this species is very rare in fall, with only about 10 records since 1980. This year, 1 was at Hay Springs on 1 Oct (RCR) and another in Dawes Co. on 9 Oct (LMa), only the 3rd and 4th fall panhandle records, and in the e 1 was at Ponca SP on 24 Sep (BFH) and another in Knox Co. on 18 Sep (MBr).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** A single in Sowbelly Canyon 27 Aug (RCR,DJR) and 2 in Dawes Co. 22 Aug (LMa) may have been summer birds, although migrants appear by late Aug. First in the e were 1 picked up at UNL on 16 Aug (TEL) and 2 at FFNC on 18 Aug (BP,LP); these are very early fall dates. Last was another

- UNL specimen found 25 Sep (TEL).
- American Redstart:** A single in Sioux Co. on 21 Aug (LMa) may have been a summering bird. Other reports were from the Missouri valley, where first was at Arbor Lodge Farm on 27 Aug (LLF) and last was a UNL specimen found 9 Sep (TEL).
- Ovenbird:** Migrants were UNL specimens on 30 Aug and 24 Sep (TEL); earlier was 1 at Ponca SP on 27 Aug (JJo), where the species summers. It also summers on the Pine Ridge, where 1 was in Sowbelly Canyon on 27 Aug (RCR,DJR).
- Northern Waterthrush:** Earliest was at FFNC on 30 Aug (BP,LP), and last were there 12 Oct (JAl) and 13 Oct (BP,LP) and another extremely late on 2 Nov (BP,LP); this is the 2nd latest for NE, other than 1 there last year on 8 Dec. Could this be the same tardy individual?
- Connecticut Warbler:** The only report was without details or location for the very early date 26 Aug (fide NR). This would be the earliest fall date for the state.
- Mourning Warbler:** Only 3 were found, all at Crystal Cove L; 1 was there 31 Aug and 2 on 2 Sep (BFH).
- MacGillivray's Warbler:** The 3 reports were, as expected, from the w panhandle, where singles were in Sowbelly Canyon 27 Aug, at Box Butte Res the same day, and at Box Butte Res on 9 Sep (RCR,DJR).
- Common Yellowthroat:** Last in the w were singles at NPNWR on 18 Sep (LMa) and a female at Walgren L SRA on 1 Oct (RCR,DJR), while in the e a specimen was found at UNL 5 Oct (TEL). High count was 9, all immatures, in Dixon Co. on 18 Aug (JJo).
- Wilson's Warbler:** This common statewide migrant, one of very few species more common in w Ne than in the e, was first noted in the e, where 2 were at FFNC on 18 Aug (BP,LP), a rather early date. First in the w were 9 at Box Butte Res on 27 Aug (RCR,DJR). High counts were 26 in Sheridan Co. on 10 Sep (RCR,DJR) and 15 at Morrill on the same day (ECT). No more than 2 were noted any day in the e. Latest was 1 at Walgren L SRA on 1 Oct (DJR) and in the e singles at Ponca SP (BFH) and in n Saunders Co. (THo) on 24 Sep.
- Canada Warbler:** Earliest was rather early at FFNC on 18 Aug (BP,LP), tying the 2nd earliest for NE in fall, while last was 1 at Ponca SP on 24 Sep (BFH). Only 5 were detected.
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** The only report was the last of the season, 1 at Box Butte Res on 27 Aug (RCR,DJR). This species no longer occurs regularly in e NE.
- Summer Tanager:** Last from the usual summer range was 1 calling at FFNC on 25 Aug (BP,LP). Most unusual was the presence of 1 at North Platte on 6 Sep; a pair was there in summer 1993 (WWy). The only other report of summer birds away from the se NE range was a pair in Thomas Co. in 1993 (Am. Birds 47:1124).
- Scarlet Tanager:** Unexpected was a well-described fall-plumaged male seen 24 Sep at Gordon; the wings were black without any trace of wingbars (RCR,DJR). This is the 1st fall record for the panhandle. In the e, latest was at Ponca SP on 24 Sep (BFH).
- Western Tanager:** Last in the breeding range was in Sowbelly Canyon on 27 Aug (RCR,DJR), while last migrant was at Morrill on 19 Sep (ECT). High count was 6 in Sioux Co. on 21 Aug (LMa).
- Northern Cardinal:** At least 1 pair have become residents just e of Scottsbluff in the last 2-3 years, where breeding was first confirmed in 1994; 2 were at their favored location throughout the period (AKe).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** All reports were from or near the Missouri valley breeding range; last were 1 at Branched Oak SRA on 1 Oct (LEi) and 2 at Bellevue on 21 Sep (BP,LP).

- Black-headed Grosbeak:** The only report was of 4 in Sioux Co. on 22 Aug (LMa).
- Blue Grosbeak:** Last in the w was 1 s of Gering on 16 Aug (AKe) and another singing near Crawford on 13 Aug (RCR,DJR). Latest elsewhere were 1 in Thomas Co. on 11 Sep (LMa) and another in Dixon Co. on 28 Sep (JJo), a very late date.
- Lazuli Bunting:** The only reports were of a female at Box Butte Res on 27 Aug (RCR,DJR) and another very late near Hay Springs on 10 Sep (RCR,DJR), the 2nd latest for NE.
- Indigo Bunting:** There was only 1 report away from the w; a female was at Box Butte Res on 9 Sep (RCR,DJR), a rather late date for the panhandle. Last in the e were 2 at De Soto NWR on 2 Oct (JoJ) and 1 very late at FFNC on 13 Oct (BP,LP), the 2nd latest for NE.
- Dickcissel:** The only report from the w was of 1 at CLNWR 24 Aug (LMa), where it is sporadic in summer. High count was a moderate 13 in Dixon Co. on 4 Sep (JJo), and latest were singles in Otoe Co. on 17 Sep (LLF) and at Arbor L WMA on 24 Sep (LEi).
- Rufous-sided Towhee:** Potential wintering birds of the western spotted form were first noted in the e at Bellevue on 28 Sep (KCR); migrants were first noted in Lancaster Co. on 28 Sep also (LEi). A spotted bird in Gosper Co. on 5 Aug (LRa,RHa) was at the e edge of the summer range for the form. Departure of the species was noted around the end of Oct, as indicated in Lancaster Co. on 22 Oct (LEi) and n Saunders Co. on 30 Oct (THo).
- American Tree Sparrow:** Earliest by far were 9 in n Sheridan Co. on 8 Oct (RCR,DJR), a rather early date. First in the e were in Kearney Co. on 15 Oct (LRa,RHa) and 1 in Dixon Co. on 23 Oct (JJo). High count was 65 at CLNWR on 26 Oct (LMa).
- Chipping Sparrow:** High counts were from the w, with an excellent 330 in Sheridan Co. on 24 Sep (RCR,DJR) and 70 in Dawes Co. on 22 Aug (LMa); RCR noted that the nesting season was "apparently extremely successful". Latest in the w were 5 at Morrill on 3 Oct (ECT) and in the e latest were 1 in Otoe Co. on 23 Oct (LLF) and at least 1 rather late for the n in Holt Co. on 13 Nov (MBr).
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** Migrants appear in the latter part of Aug, and are more common westward. First was 1 very early at CLNWR on 10 Aug (LMa), where summering is possible, with 20 there as early as 20 Aug (LMa). None appeared in the e until 11 Sep in Kearney Co. (LRa,RHa), 17 Sep in Antelope and Knox Cos. (MBr), and 18 Sep, 1 at Arbor Lodge Farm (LLF). Latest were singles on the UNL campus 2 Nov (TEL) and at Arbor Lodge Farm on 3 Nov (LLF). Further w, latest were 10 in Gosper Co. on 14 Oct (LMa), and 1 sw of Gering on 1 Oct (AKe).
- Brewer's Sparrow:** The only reports were from summering locations, with 3 near Kilpatrick L on 12 Aug (RCR,DJR) and 2 in Sioux Co. on 21 Aug (LMa).
- Field Sparrow:** Westerly reports were of singles near Hay Springs on 24 Sep and 1 Oct (RCR,DJR), where the species is rare; there are fewer than 20 fall reports for the panhandle. A singing bird was at Kingsley Dam on 6 Aug (SJD), where the species is uncommon in summer. High count of migrants was 30 in Thomas Co. on 11 Sep (LMa) and 30 in n Saunders Co. on 20 Aug (THo). Last were 3 in Kearney Co. (LRa,RHa) and 2 in Lancaster Co. (LEi) on 22 Oct.
- Vesper Sparrow:** High count was 45 at CLNWR on 28 Sep (LMa), while last were 2 in n Lancaster Co. on 22 Oct (LEi), at least 1 in Kearney Co. on 15 Oct (LRa,RHa), and 10 w of Morrill on 3 Oct

(ECT).

**Lark Sparrow:** High count was only 29, at CLNWR on 10 Aug (LMa), presumably summering birds; migrants peaked during the first 10 days of Aug in Scotts Bluff Co. (AKe). Last in the w was 1 at CLNWR on 4 Oct (LMa), while in the e 1 was very late in Otoe Co. on 7 Nov (LLF), the 3rd latest for NE.

**Lark Bunting:** High counts were 600 in Box Butte Co. on 12 Aug, "our highest count in a long time" (RCR,DJR), and 448 in Sioux Co. on 21 Aug (LMa). Furthest e were 40 in Thomas Co. on 11 Sep (LMa), at least 1 near Purdum the same day (NR,IR), 12 along US 20 in Brown Co. on 12 Sep (NR,IR), 35 s of Stockville on 13 Aug (LRa,RHa) and at least 1 in Kearney Co. on 9 Sep (LRa,RHa). The latter were the last reported for the fall.

**Savannah Sparrow:** The nest reported in the Summer report was incorrectly stated to be in Scotts Bluff Co. The observer (LMa) kindly let me know that it was actually about 3 miles n of Scotts Bluff Co. at the upper end of Spotted Tail Creek in a wet sedge meadow. A single was at CLNWR on 10 Aug (LMa), a very early date for a fall migrant. Earliest migrants appeared 6 Sep in Dixon Co. (JJo) and 10 Sep in Kearney Co. (LRa,RHa), and in the w at Morrill on 9 Sep (ECT). High counts were 175 at CLNWR on 25 Sep (LMa), 55 in Sheridan Co. on 10 Sep (RCR,DJR), and, in the e, 100 at Jack Sinn Memorial WMA on 3 Oct (BP,LP) and 50 in Dixon Co. on 23 Oct (JJo). Last were singles in Dixon Co. on 28 Oct (JJo) and in Kearney Co. on 23 Oct (LRa,RHa), and, in the w, 1 sw of Gering on 1 Oct (AKe).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** High count was 62 at CLNWR on 10 Aug (LMa), where the species is doing well in summer. An adult was with 2 juveniles on the rather late date of 10 Sep near Gordon (RCR,DJR). Last was a UNL specimen found on 25 Sep (TEL).

**LeConte's Sparrow:** Earliest was 1 in sw Dixon Co. on 29 Sep (JJo), and latest 5 there on 28 Oct (JJo), a very late date. High count was 8 at Jack Sinn Memorial WMA on 2 Oct (JoJ) and in Otoe Co. on 21 Oct (LLF). Rather westerly was 1 in Gosper Co. on 14 Oct (LMa); there are only about 20 fall records away from e NE.

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** After locating 3 at Jack Sinn Memorial WMA on 2 Oct, JoJ searched similar habitat on private land ("Sprick's") in Washington Co. and found 6 on 16 Oct; the latter site consists of several small ponds used for fishing surrounded by a variety of planted grasses (JoJ). Two were at Jack Sinn Memorial WMA on 3 Oct, also (BP,LP). There are still fewer than 20 fall records for this species in NE; only the 4th away from the e was of 1 at an unspecified location in Gosper Co. on 14 Oct (LMa).

**Fox Sparrow:** Earliest for this Missouri valley migrant was at FFNC on 10 Oct (BP,LP), and latest was in n Saunders Co. on 13 Nov (THo). Only 5 were reported.

**Song Sparrow:** In the w, where few birds summer, 2 migrants appeared near Hay Springs on 10 Sep (RCR,DJR), followed by 1 in Scotts Bluff Co. on 22 Sep (LMa). Last in the w, where wintering is very local, was 1 near Scottsbluff on 1 Oct (AKe).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** A single at CLNWR on 22 Aug (LMa) was the earliest record for NE in fall; previous early dates were in late Aug. More usual were 2 w of Morrill on 7 Sep (ECT) and 2 near Hay Springs on 10 Sep (RCR,DJR). In the e, earliest were in Antelope Co. on 17 Sep (MBr), Knox Co. on 18 Sep (MBr), and 1 at Arbor Lodge Farm on 18 Sep (LLF). High count was 50 in Dixon Co. on 3 Oct (JJo). Last in the w was 1 at CLNWR on 26 Oct (LMa), and in the e 5 were still at Arbor Lodge Farm on 19 Nov (LLF).

- Swamp Sparrow:** A single at CLNWR on 10 Aug (LMa) was probably summering there; migrants are rarely encountered in the w away from breeding sites. The summering birds at Funk Lagoon WPA (see Summer) remained until at least 5 Aug, when 6 were counted (LRa,RHa). In the e, earliest was 1 at Long L SRA on 11 Sep (NR,IR), possibly having summered there, while first in areas where breeding does not occur were at Towle Park in Omaha 25 Sep (NR,IR) and at Arbor Lodge Farm on 29 Sep (LLF). High count was 6 at Tower Marsh in Dakota Co. on 3 Oct (BFH). Last were 3 at FFNC on 3 Nov (BP,LP) and another in Sarpy Co. on 12 Nov (MBr). A few linger into Dec.
- White-throated Sparrow:** This species is far less common in the w than the e. First in the w were 1 at Box Butte Res on 30 Sep (RCR,DJR) and 2 at NPNWR on 1 Oct (AKe). In the e, 1 identified as a female without details was at Arbor Lodge Farm on 3 Aug (LLF), an extremely early date. More usual, although still rather early, was 1 in n Saunders Co. on 17 Sep (THo). High count was 38 in n Saunders Co. on 8 Oct (THo). Last in the w, where there are no wintering records, was at a Chadron feeder 13 Nov (RCR,DJR), while in the e, 1 was still at Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln on 26 Nov (LEi).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** This species is far more common in the w, the reverse of White-throated. First were 1 at Box Butte Res on 9 Sep (RCR) and 15 at CLNWR on 18 Sep (LMa). In the e at least 1 was in Antelope Co. on 17 Sep (MBr) and another was in n Saunders Co. the same day (THo). High count was 160 at CLNWR on 28 Sep (LMa). Many linger into winter.
- Harris' Sparrow:** Earliest and only report from the w was 1 at Chadron on 19 Oct (RCR);<sup>1</sup> this species is uncommon in the panhandle. In the e, first was in Antelope Co. on 28 Sep (MBr), followed by 1 at Arbor Lodge Farm (LLF) and 12 in n Saunders Co. (THo) on 8 Oct. High count was 25 in n Saunders Co. on 30 Oct (THo).
- Dark-eyed Junco:** a single in Sioux Co. on 21 Aug (LMa) was probably summering. Earliest migrants were 2 at Gordon on 10 Sep (RCR,DJR) and 1 at Gering Cemetery on 12 Sep (AKe). In the e, first were in Kearney Co. on 17 Sep (LRa,RHa) and singles at Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln (LEi) and in n Saunders Co. (THo) on 24 Sep. High count was 60 in n Saunders Co. on 13 Nov (THo). The only "oregon" types reported were 2 at Wild Rose Ranch in Hall Co. on 29 Nov (TEL); this form arrives later in the e than the far more common "slate-colored" form.
- Snow Bunting:** Only 1 was detected during the period: it was at Glenn Cunningham L on 5 Nov (NR,IR), a rather early date.
- Bobolink:** Last at CLNWR were 21 on 7 Sep, probably migrants, as only 1 was there on 10 Aug (LMa).
- Red-winged Blackbird:** High counts were "thousands" in Otoe Co. on 19 Sep (LLF) and 1100 in Phelps Co. on 14 Oct (LMa), an indication of peak migration.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** The last at CLNWR, where it is a regular summer resident, was there 26 Oct (LMa), a very late date. Another was still identifiable in Sarpy Co. on 12 Nov (MBr). High count was 62 in Phelps and Gosper Cos. on 14 Oct (LMa), presumably migrants.
- Western Meadowlark:** High count was 144 in Sioux Co. on 21 Aug (LMa), presumably summering birds. Last in the w were 4 in Scotts Bluff Co. on 23 Nov (LMa). A few linger into Dec and later.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** High count was 280 summering birds at CLNWR on 10 Aug (LMa). Last in the w were 2 near Hay Springs on 1 Oct (RCR,DJR). Last in the e were 1 in Kearney Co. on 12

Nov (LRa,RHa) and another very late as far n as Knox Co. on 22 Nov (MBr). This species rarely lingers into Dec.

**Rusty Blackbird:** Most records are from the Missouri valley, as was the case this fall. Earliest were in Kearney Co. on 8 Oct (LRa,RHa) and 1 at Summit Res SRA on 19 Oct (JoJ). High counts were 50 at De Soto NWR on 30 Nov (JoJ) and 40 in Dixon Co. on 27 Nov (JJo). Many linger into Dec.

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Migrants appeared rather early w of Axtell on 14 Aug (RHa,LRa), in Kearney Co. on 25 Sep (LRa,RHa), and in Knox Co. on 22 Nov (MBr). No others were reported.

**Great-tailed Grackle:** A good count of 65 was made near Ong on 20 Aug (JoJ); the Rainwater Basin is this species' summer stronghold. Also, 3 were near Arbor L WMA on 13 Nov (LEi); curiously, most late fall migrant records are from Lancaster Co.

**Common Grackle:** Documentation of successful wintering in the panhandle is lacking; last there were 7 at Chadron on 20 Nov (DJR). Migrants were on the move in the panhandle in early Oct, when 600 were counted in Scotts Bluff Co. on 1 Oct (LMa). Rather late were 2 males near Niobrara on 25 Nov (RCR,DJR). Most later reports are from the se.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** Latest in the e were an adult male near Lewis and Clark L on 25 Nov (RCR,DJR) and at least 1 in Knox Co. on 27 Nov (MBr). A few linger into Dec.

**Orchard Oriole:** The only report was of a good count of 19 at Box Butte Res on 12 Aug (RCR,DJR), presumably migrants.

**Northern Oriole:** Last in the w was a "Bullock's" on 28 Aug in Morrill Co. (LMa), and in the e presumed "Baltimores" were at Arbor Lodge Farm on 16 Sep (LLF) and as far n as Knox Co. on 17 Sep (MBr).

**Purple Finch:** All reports were from the Missouri valley, where earliest was 1 in Dixon Co. on 29 Sep (JJo), 1 of the earliest dates for NE. Next was 1 in Blair on 25 Oct (JoJ). Very few had appeared by period's end.

**House Finch:** Numbers continue to increase in Bellevue; 12 were banded in a yard where none were captured last year (KCR). "Hundreds" were at a Creighton feeder (MBr).

**Red Crossbill:** RCR noted that this species was not particularly common this fall. High count in the w was only 12, in the Wildcat Hills in Scotts Bluff Co. on 25 Oct (AKe) and in Sowbelly Canyon on 27 Aug (RCR,DJR). Wandering birds reached CLNWR as early as 10 Sep, when 6 were found (LMa). The only report from the e was of 15 at Neale Woods Nature Center in Douglas Co. on 9 Nov (NR,IR).

**White-winged Crossbill:** Rare in NE at any time, a single was w of Scottsbluff 7-8 Nov (AKe), for the only report, and the 2nd earliest in fall for NE.

**Pine Siskin:** A report of 1-4 birds in s Dixon Co. 9-21 Aug (JJo) is suggestive of nearby nesting, although no evidence was obtained. Reports from known breeding localities were of 5 in Sioux Co. on 21 Aug (LMa) and at least 1 in the Bessey Division, NNF, 10 Sep (NR,IR), where this species has very recently become a summer resident. Migrants appeared in Kearney Co. on 10 Sep (LRa,RHa) and in n Saunders Co. on 17 Sep (THo). Few were reported from the e. High count was 240 in Scotts Bluff Co. on 1 Oct (LMa).

**Evening Grosbeak:** The only reports were of 1-2 heard 12 miles s of Chadron in the Pine Ridge and 2 in Chadron on 20 Oct, and a pair at the Rosché feeder on 13 Nov (RCR,DJR).

## OBSERVERS

James Alt (JAl), Omaha; Loren Blake (LBl), Chambers; Mark Brogie (MBr), Creighton; Kathleen Crawford-Rose (KCR), Bellevue; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ames, IA; Larry Einemann (LEi), Lincoln; Carol Falk (CF), Nebraska City; Laurence L. Falk (LLF), Nebraska City; Ruth C. Green (RCG), Bellevue; Irma Grill (IGr), North Platte; Robin Harding (RH), Kearney; Thomas Hoffman (THo), Omaha; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City; Clyde E. Johnson (CEJ), Omaha; Jan Johnson (JJo), Wakefield; Gerald Jorgensen (GeJ), Blair; Joel Jorgensen (JoJ), Blair; Alice Kenitz (AKe), Gering; Lucy Koenig (LKo), NPNWR, Scottsbluff; Thomas E. Labedz (TEL), Lincoln; Larry Malone (LMA), Scottsbluff; Babs Padelford (BP), Bellevue; Loren Padelford (LP), Bellevue; Lanny Randolph (LRa), Kearney; Izen Ratzlaff (IR), Omaha; Neal Ratzlaff (NR), Omaha; Dorothy J. Rosche (DJR), Chadron; Richard C. Rosche (RCR), Chadron; W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Tabor, IA; Edna Claire Thomas (ECT), Morrill; Wilma Wyman (WWy), North Platte.

## WHOOPIING CRANE SIGHTINGS, AUGUST 1994 - JANUARY 1995

Compiled from information sent by Steven Anschutz  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 203 West Second St.  
Grand Island, NE 68801

The first arrival at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in southern Texas was on October 5, 1994, and the last arrivals (a family group) were on January 12, 1995, the latest date that an adult pair had ever arrived at Aransas. A total of 132 (125 adult/subadult and 7 young) Whooping Cranes are wintering at Aransas, including 3 birds that spent the summer at Aransas. A solitary chick sighted with Sandhill Cranes in Oklahoma on January 2, 1995 is the 133rd crane in the flock. Since, under optimum conditions, 148 cranes were expected to reach Aransas during the fall migration, the location and cause of summer and migrational losses are not known.

The first dates for confirmed observations of migrating Whooping Cranes were August 16 in Canada and September 7 in the United States. The last sighting date was January 5 in Oklahoma. Sightings were reported from Alberta, Canada (1); Saskatchewan, Canada (18); Montana (1); North Dakota (5); South Dakota (2); Nebraska (5); Kansas (13); Oklahoma (4); and Texas (1).

The migration progressed slowly, perhaps due to the mild weather during September and October. There were two or more Whooping Cranes present at Cheyenne Bottoms State Wildlife Area, Kansas, between October 13 and November 29, with a peak of 18 birds on November 1. A group of five Whooping Cranes was present at Cheyenne Bottoms between October 25 and November 29 (36 days), which is a record migration stopover time for the United States.

Dates and locations of confirmed and probable Nebraska sightings are presented in the table on p. 150. The first number under "No. of Cranes" refers to adults and the second number to young birds. The legal descriptions of locations by township and range have been omitted, but may be obtained from the Editor or from Wally Jobman at the address shown under the title. There was only one unconfirmed sighting in Nebraska, a report of 6-8 birds flying in Rock County  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Bassett on October 31, 1994.

<u>Date of Sighting</u>	<u>No. of Cranes</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Confirmed Sightings:</u>		
10/31 - 11/2/94	2 + 1	Custer Co., 6 mi. west, 3¼ mi. north of Merna.
11/02 - 14/94	2 + 1	Custer Co., 8 mi. west, ¼ mi. south of Broken Bow.
11/02 - 21/94	7 + 1	Phelps Co., Funk Lagoon WPA, 2 mi. north of Funk.
11/07 - 21/94	3	Phelps Co., Funk Lagoon WPA, 2 mi. north of Funk.
11/18/94	4 + 1	Boone Co., 4 mi. west, 1½ mi. south of Petersburg.
<u>Probable Sightings:</u>		
10/23/94	4	Cherry Co., 17 mi. south, 3 mi. west of Valentine, flying.
10/24/94	2	Loup Co., North Loup River, 8 mi. west of Burwell.
10/30/94	3	Howard Co., 3 mi. north, 3 mi. east of St. Paul, flying.
11/03/94	2	Howard Co., 3 mi. southwest of Dannebrog, flying.
11/07/94	1	Holt Co., 4½ mi. south, 8½ mi. east of Chambers junction (Highways 281/95), flying.

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NOTES ON BIRD SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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