

1-1941

Nebraska Bird Review (January–June 1941) 9(1)
WHOLE ISSUE

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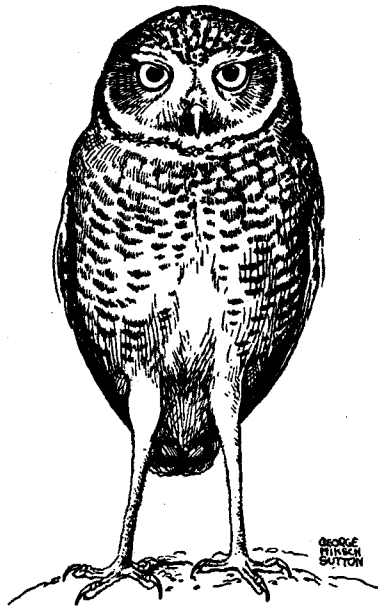
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VOLUME IX

JANUARY-JUNE, 1941

NUMBER 1

The Nebraska Bird Review



*A Magazine of the Ornithology
of the Nebraska Region*

Published by the
Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

THE NEBRASKA BIRD REVIEW

A Magazine of the Ornithology of the Nebraska Region

Published semiannually, in January-June and July-December, by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, as its official journal.

Sent free as issued to all members of the N. O. U. who are not in arrears for dues. Subscriptions taken from non-members, libraries and institutions at one dollar a year in the United States, and at one dollar and twenty-five cents a year in all other countries, payable in advance. Single numbers, fifty cents each. All dues should be remitted to the Treasurer and all subscriptions to the Associate Editor-Custodian.

Editor, Myron H. Swenk, 1410 North Thirty-seventh Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. Associate Editor, F. W. Haecker, 506 South Fifty-second Street, Omaha, Nebraska. Material for publication as well as observations and notes should be sent to the Associate Editor.

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Actual date of publication, June 30, 1941

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THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE IN THE SANDHILL REGION OF NEBRASKA

By GLENN VIEHMEYER

The survival and increase of the Greater Prairie Chicken and the two races of the Sharp-tailed Grouse that occur in Nebraska* is probably of interest to all lovers of wildlife. This paper relates especially to the present status of two species in the sandhill region of Nebraska. As recently as 1937, these two species of upland game birds, and especially the Greater Prairie Chicken, were reaching a point where there was a definite possibility of their becoming extirpated within the state at no distant time. Today, fortunately, they again have increased to a point where there are sufficient numbers of breeding birds to enable them to reestablish themselves over a part of the state in which there is now suitable habitat.

I realize that the present study of this problem is inadequate, in that the area covered in the survey is small and that factors of more or less importance may have been overlooked by me. A more detailed and extensive study must be made before a final satisfactory analysis of the status of these two splendid game birds in Nebraska can be reached or plans for rehabilitation developed. On the other hand, their preservation is of such vital importance to all who are interested in the wildlife of Nebraska that I feel that even an incomplete report, covering but a fraction of the breeding range, is well worth while, and that an attempt at an analysis of the factors that control the rise and fall in population of these two species in Nebraska is now justified, even at the risk that additional study may prove that some of the factors outlined are not fully applicable or that other factors of importance, here omitted, may be uncovered by such future study. Bearing this in mind, I here offer an outline of the present status of these birds as observed in two areas in Nebraska, viz., (1) in Logan County and (2) in the Holt, Rock, Brown and Keyapaha Counties general region, and I also attempt to explain the periodic rise and fall of the grouse populations in these areas.

**Tympanuchus cupido pinnatus* Brewster, and *Pedioecetes phasianellus campestris* Ridgway and *P. p. jamesi* Lincoln

In my paper entitled "Is the Prairie Chicken Passing?" (antea, vi, pp. 25-28), read at the thirty-ninth annual meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, held at Superior, Nebraska, on May 13, 1938, I gave an outline of the then status of the Greater Prairie Chicken in the southern part of the Nebraska sandhills and along the Platte River as far west as eastern Wyoming. In an article appearing in the issue of "Outdoor Nebraska" for the spring and summer of 1941 I give a comparison of surveys made in the sandhills of northern Nebraska in 1935 and 1940. These data, which are included in this paper, are, I believe, conservative. I have no desire to paint a rosy picture or to raise hopes of a coming abundant Greater Prairie Chicken and Sharp-tailed Grouse population. While the present rate of increase is gratifying, and promises well for the future, I know that these birds cannot take an important place in the Nebraska avifauna unless the present favorable breeding conditions are maintained, and that they cannot spread to other parts of the state unless changes of present agricultural practices re-establish a favorable habitat for them. Briefly, we now have a foundation stock of breeding birds that could possibly eventually restock the entire state. The question is, are we willing to make room for the Greater Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse or shall we let them go the way of the Passenger Pigeon and the Plains Bison? It is strictly up to us. Do we keep them or let them go?

As to the status of the Greater Prairie Chicken in Logan County, I will say that in the fall of 1937 I observed 219 Greater Prairie Chickens in this county. Most of the flocks were small, composed of a dozen birds or less, the only large flock observed having been along the South Loup River, west of Stapleton, and numbering about 125 birds. In the fall of 1940 flocks of 25 to 150 birds were not uncommon, and an estimate of a total population of 1200 or more birds, is, I believe, conservative. This would mean an increase of about 400 percent during the past three breeding seasons (1938-1940, inclusive).

In the Holt, Rock, Brown and Keyapaha Counties region, with 1200 miles of driving, I counted 53 Greater Prairie Chickens and 9 Sharp-tailed Grouse in the spring of 1935. In the fall of 1940, while serving as Conservation Officer for the Nebraska Grouse Game Commission, I recorded in approximately the same area an estimated 1500 Greater Prairie Chickens and 1000 Sharp-tailed Grouse.

In comparing the 1935 count with that of 1940 there are a number of factors that must be considered before a true estimate of the increase can be made. At first glance a direct comparison of the figures of the two counts, 53 and 1500 Greater Prairie Chickens, respectively, would indicate an increase of nearly 3000 percent, which is, of course, far too high. The 1935 count was taken in late April and in June. The big winter flocks had been broken up. Many of the birds were nesting and were scattered all over the territory. The 1940 count was made in October and November, after the birds had flocked for the winter, and may have included a considerable number of indivi-

duals that had drifted in from farther north. The 1935 count was made by me alone, traveling in a car driven at a fairly high rate of speed. The 1940 count was made from a car driven at a low rate of speed by Conservation Officer W. J. Weller of Atkinson, thus giving me better opportunity for observation as well as the assistance of another man. Finally, the distance traveled and the area covered in 1940 was over twice as great as that of 1935. In making these counts I at no time counted birds seen in areas previously patrolled, so as to avoid any possible duplication of records. From a study of the two counts, and of estimates of increase given me by farmers, ranchers and sportsmen throughout the area, it appears that an estimated increase of 400 to 500 percent during the past six breeding seasons (1935 to 1940, inclusive) is a reasonable one.

Before attempting an analysis of the reasons for this rather rapid increase of grouse population in Nebraska during the past few years, let us take a look at the state as it was when the white man first came and as it is today. Records left by the pioneers who first saw Nebraska are agreed that the bulk of the land was grassland. In the canyons and along the streams, shrubs and trees had established themselves. In the eastern part of the state this was an extension of the eastern forest that had moved up the Missouri River from the south and east and extended westward along the drainage systems of the Republican, Platte, Loup and Niobrara Rivers. In the western part of the state the woody flora of the Rocky Mountains and the Black Hills had extended eastward and southward to occupy the Pine Ridge, Wildcat Hills and the drainage systems of the upper Platte and Niobrara Rivers. Between these extensions of the eastern and western forests, along the valleys of the rivers and upon the high tablelands that divide the various drainage systems, the grasslands of the Great Plains lay undisturbed by the white man and his agriculture. These grasslands were the home of the Greater Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse; a home that was exactly fitted to the needs of these species, furnishing a habitat where they had through many generations become adapted to that particular environment, and to no other kind. The prairie, with its dense cover of grasses, furnished nesting sites and food, the latter in the seeds and fruits of grasses, legumes and composites, and in the form of an abundant insect fauna. The woodlands along streams and canyons furnished winter cover and an additional food supply in the form of fruit and buds. It was under such conditions that the Greater Prairie Chicken developed and increased, until the white men who early contacted the species told of flocks that were "uncountable and that took flight with a roar of wings like thunder."

The grasslands of Nebraska were of two types. Those of the eastern part were the true prairies, made up of the taller bluestems, Indian grass*, and others of the same type. The Nebraska sandhills form

**Andropogon furcatus* Muhlenberg and *A. hallii* Hackel, *Sorghastrum nutans* (Linnaeus)

an extension of this tall-grass country, with a typical flora of its own. As one progresses westward across the state the type of vegetation gradually changes with the decreasing precipitation until it merges with the grama-grass and buffalo-grass* association of the short grass country.

These three sections of Nebraska, the tall-grass prairie of the eastern part of the state, the sandhills of the north-central section and the drier short-grass areas of south-central and western Nebraska have each fared differently at the hand of the white man and his agriculture. The tall-grass prairies have become a strictly agricultural area, devoted in the main to the production of the cereals. Native grassland has been reduced to a minimum and in many places is non-existent. The sandhills have remained much the same, with the livestock industry well established and farming at a minimum. The short-grass areas are devoted to both livestock and farming, with enough native grassland remaining to be potentially a valuable breeding ground for the Greater Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse if sufficient cover were maintained to make them attractive to these birds. However, the maintenance of cover suitable for breeding grounds on the short-grass plains is much more difficult than in the sandhill region. The somewhat scanty precipitation, with a high loss of water runoff, and the short grasses make the establishment and maintenance of nesting cover difficult, and possibly out of the question. Seasons of drought result in overgrazing and the very nature of the vegetative cover, coupled with insufficient moisture, make overgrazed areas slow to recover. As managed at the present time the entire area is of questionable value as a habitat for the Greater Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse. In short, I feel that under present conditions the sandhill region alone in Nebraska holds much promise for the prosperity of these two game birds in the state.

Let us turn to the sandhill region and try to discover the causes behind the present rise of the Greater Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse populations there. It is at once evident that the rise and fall of the populations of these birds is related to a number of factors, and that these factors now, as they always have, determine the density of the populations. I believe the chief factors to be (1) available food supply, (2) prevalence of natural enemies, (3) favorable seasons for rearing young and (4) suitable nesting grounds.

Any influence that adversely effects the birds through any one of these factors immediately sets up what is called in industry "a bottleneck of production." All other factors may be favorable, yet this single unfavorable factor can and does limit the rate of increase as well as the extent of distribution of the birds. The recent increase in the Greater Prairie Chicken and Sharp-tailed Grouse populations can be attributed to a favorable change in at least one of the necessary requirements. Be-

**Bouteloua hirsuta* Lagasca and *B. oligostachya* (Nuttall), *Bulbilis dactyloides* (Nuttall)

low I will attempt to outline conditions bearing on the problem and their effect on the populations of these birds.

1. **Food Supply.** The present food supply is excellent, equal to or possibly even better than at the time when these birds were numbered by the hundreds of thousands. True, there has been a change in the food plants. Corn, small grains and sorghums have replaced some of the native food species, but this is, I believe, a change for the better. Extensive planting by the settlers has developed an additional food supply in the form of the fruit and buds of trees and shrubs. Lately the "restoration land" of the AAA program has added a large supply of food in the form of weed seed. In the sandhill area this restoration land produces literally tons of bird food in the form of seeds of the prairie sunflower.* Here we undoubtedly have food for a much larger population of birds.

2. **Natural Enemies.** On the whole I believe there has been a reduction in the numbers of many of the natural enemies of the Greater Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse. The Plains Coyote has been reduced in numbers by hunting and trapping. Skunks have been much reduced in numbers by trapping, and also by a disease that apparently has destroyed many of them. The Prairie Spotted Skunk, however, one of the worst predators on grouse, is numerous and may even be increasing. Most species of hawks are fewer in number. An exception is the Swainson Hawk, which has become more plentiful as a breeder, nesting commonly in the scattered trees of the abandoned homesteads, established under the Kinkaid Land Act of 1904, scattered throughout the sandhills. This species is a predator on grouse but very rarely, if at all. I recall, however, having once found a young chicken, about the size of a Western Meadowlark, in a nest containing young Swainson Hawks. The Western Bullsnake is a very serious predator but is much less common in the Logan County area than in past years. The Eastern Crow has spread over most of the breeding range of the two game birds here under discussion, and probably causes considerable losses of eggs and young birds. However, I do not believe that the Crow is as serious a predator as many think it to be.

Illegal killing of these grouse is decreasing. While some shooting undoubtedly still occurs, public opinion is high against such a practice and it is decreasing rapidly. Both Sportsmen and landowners want to see these birds come back and are making a decided effort to protect them.

3. **Favorable Seasons for Rearing Young.** In most of the sandhill region the past few seasons have been quite favorable for the rearing of young. An abundance of insect food has been available, while dry and warm springs have reduced the mortality rate of the young birds.

4. **Suitable Nesting Grounds.** Here is the major factor that is

**Helianthus petiolaris* Nuttall

now limiting the Greater Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse populations in Nebraska, in my opinion. It is the real "bottleneck of production". This was discussed at some length in my previous paper, "Is the Prairie Chicken Passing?", and the main point is now again brought up, as well as new and favorable developments since that time. Without a program that restores and maintains suitable nesting areas, the Greater Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse are doomed, if not to complete extirpation in Nebraska, at least to an insignificant role in our avifauna.

During the drought period following 1933 there was an influx of livestock into the sandhill region from adjacent drought-stricken areas. All ranges were stocked far beyond their grazing capacity, and as a result vegetative cover suffered greatly. Most nesting areas were denuded of all cover, and as a result very few young birds were reared. This condition of overgrazing continued until 1937, and with this destruction of nesting cover the Greater Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse populations fell to an all-time low. With 1937 a new factor entered the picture. The range program of the AAA began to make itself felt. The practice of "deferred grazing" became general over the range country, and in the sandhill region nesting cover was again available to the few birds that remained. Here, the population of these two game birds was again on the upgrade.

But why was this upswing apparent only in the sandhills? Why not over the entire range country? The answer lies, I think, in the nature of the soil and vegetation of the sandhills. In the sandhills the soil is quick to absorb the moisture that falls and for all practical purposes there is no runoff. The chief grasses are tall grasses, and these are quick to repair the damaging effects of overgrazing. The soils of the other grazing areas in Nebraska are finer in texture, moisture is slow to enter such soils and much of the scanty precipitation is lost through runoff water. In vegetation the two types of range land also differ. In the sandhills the characteristic vegetation is made up of the tall coarse grasses such as sand dropseed, sand-grass, switch-grass, big, little and sandhill bluestems and Indian grass*; species that are able rapidly to repair the damage of overgrazing. That of the less sandy plains soils is composed of such grasses as grama-grass, buffalo-grass and western wheat grass.** During times of drought the short grasses are dominant and after having been overgrazed do not make acceptable nesting cover for the birds for a longer period. Likewise in these areas of heavier soils a greater percent of the land is util-

**Sporobolus cryptandrus* (Torrey), *Calamovilfa longifolia* (Hooker), *Panicum virgatum* Linnaeus, *Andropogon furcatus* Muhlenberg, *A. scoparius* Michaux, *A. hallii* Hackel and *Sorghastrum nutans* (Linnaeus).

***Bouteloua hirsuta* Lagasca and *B. oligostachya* (Nuttall), *Bulbilis dactyloides* (Nuttall), *Agropyron smithii* Rydberg.

ized for growing crops. Many of the smaller pastures are permanently overgrazed and worthless as a breeding ground for the birds.

To recapitulate, I believe: (1) that at the present time the Nebraska sandhill region is the only area in the state that has much value as a breeding ground for the Greater Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse; (2) that unless the present favorable nesting conditions are maintained the sandhills will also lose much of their value in this respect; (3) that while other grazing lands of the state could by proper management be made acceptable as breeding grounds, it is highly improbable that such management will ever be developed; (4) that we now have a sufficient number of breeding birds to restock those parts of the state that are capable of supporting populations of these two species of upland game birds; and (5) that the preservation of these species is dependent upon the establishment and maintenance of suitable nesting areas, and that only through the cooperation of all interested persons and agencies can such breeding grounds be established and maintained.

Stapleton, Nebr.

THE FIRST WILDLIFE INVENTORY OF NEBRASKA SHELTERBELTS

By CARROLL F. ORENDURFF

During the summer of 1940 a questionnaire was mailed to the owners of Nebraska farm shelterbelts that had been planted by the U. S. Forest Service, in an effort to determine their value to Nebraska wildlife. A total of 313 cooperators responded with replies to the questionnaire. In using the word "shelterbelt", I am referring to long narrow belts of trees and shrubs planted by the Prairie States Forestry Project to protect adjoining fields. The shelterbelts planted by the Forest Service consist generally of ten rows of trees and average about one-half mile in length. The tree rows are usually ten feet apart, which requires a strip of land approximately seven rods wide. A few belts of variable width, ranging from three to nine rows wide, are planted to meet special conditions.

Shelterbelts are planted (1) to protect soil from blowing, (2) to conserve moisture by reducing evaporation and run-off and by holding snow, (3) to protect livestock thus reducing feed requirements during the winter, (4) to provide food and cover for insectivorous and game birds, and (5) to improve living conditions in the Great Plains region. Hardy, drought-resistant trees grown in Nebraska from seed collected locally are used for planting the shelterbelt. Species of trees used vary with the type of soil, soil moisture and depth of the water table. The major species used are American elm, hackberry, honeylocust, Chinese elm, cottonwood, green ash, black locust, mulberry, Russian olive, chokecherry, American plum, caragana, Austrian pine, yellow pine, and red cedar. From four to eight different species are planted in

each shelterbelt, thus assuring early effectiveness with the rapid-growing species, permanency with the slower-growing trees, and a healthy planting of the mixed species.

The questionnaires were mailed to 2,335 tenants on and owners of farms having shelterbelts planted in 1935, 1936, 1937, and 1938. No questionnaires were sent to those having shelterbelts planted in 1939 and 1940 because these were not regarded as old enough to be of material benefit. Three hundred and thirteen questionnaires, or 13 percent, were returned, representing 23 Nebraska counties. These 313 shelterbelts represent 191 miles of ten-row plantings, totaling 2,472.7 acres, or 11.6 percent of the acreage planted in Nebraska from 1936 to 1939. A total of 736,828 trees were planted on these shelterbelts. The following summary of the returned questionnaires indicates that shelterbelt plantings are materially benefiting Nebraska wildlife.

	Estimated No. of birds	Estimated No. of nests	Average % of increase per farm
Ring-necked Common Pheasant	9,362	1,179	30.2
Greater Prairie Chicken	1,052	36	36.0
Bobwhite Quail (subsp.)	870	61	35.5
Sharp-tailed Grouse (subsp.)	130		40.0
Sage Hen	87		21.0
Chukar Partridge	37		75.0
Insectivorous Birds	51,650	4,816	27.0
Small Game Animals			18.0

The consensus of cooperators returning the questionnaire was that the belts had proven of much value to Nebraska wildlife in furnishing protective cover from hunters, predators, and the elements, and in producing nesting facilities and food, and that these values would increase as the age of the belts advanced.

On several occasions Forest Officers have reported numerous nests of various species of song, insectivorous and game birds in the shelterbelts. Cottontail rabbits have made appearance in the 1935, 1936, and the larger 1937 shelterbelts. A number of Western Fox Squirrel dens have also been observed in several of the older shelterbelts in the Norfolk and Neligh areas.

*Prairie States Forestry Project, U. S.
Department of Agriculture, Grand Island,
Nebr.*

NESTING OF THE GREAT HORNED OWL IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

F. W. HAECKER

The following record of the nesting of the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*) in Nebraska's most densely populated county is given for the following reasons: (1) the record is fairly com-

plete, (2) the nesting was entirely successful, (3) from an economic standpoint it appears to be on the beneficial side, and (4) the development of the young from the time of hatching till they were capable of strong flight was more rapid than indicated in most of the literature.

On February 16, 1941, Dr. R. Allyn Moser and I were driving along the highway near Irvington, Douglas County, Nebraska. In a grove of large pines on a hill near the highway we noticed Eastern Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*) dipping down into the trees in a manner that led us to suspect they were worrying an owl. Walking into the grove we found the object of the crows' attack to be a Great Horned Owl which flew away at our approach. Several old crows' nests were noted and it was thought at the time that one of them might have been taken over by the owl.

Returning on February 22, we again walked into the grove and observed the owl flying away as we entered. Selecting the most likely looking nest I climbed the tree and found two apparently fresh eggs of the Great Horned Owl. They were in an old crow's nest located 35 feet from the ground in a pine tree near the center of the grove which was about four acres in extent. The owner of the land was Dr. Robert R. Hollister, a practicing physician. We found him to be sympathetic toward the predators, and although he lived on the land in a country home he maintained there, he kept no poultry and did no farming. Two photographs of the nest and eggs were taken at this time.

On March 2 we again visited the site and noticed one adult bird which flew low to the edge of the grove where the crows took notice. The other adult, presumably the female, remained on the eggs until we walked directly under the nesting tree, finally flying away but remaining in evidence while the tree was climbed and more photographs taken of the eggs. The adult birds always seemed to drop from the top of the tree to a point near the ground before flying away through the grove. Although we had the nest under observation during nearly two months of cold weather we made it a point not to visit the site when the temperature was below freezing.

On March 8 the incubating adult was again flushed from the nest and more photographs taken. Again on March 19 the site was visited. The owl was flushed from the nest but the tree was not climbed for absence of any remains of game around the nesting tree led us to believe that the eggs had not yet hatched.

On March 23 one bird remained on the nest until we were close to the tree. The other adult was not seen. The tree was climbed and the nest found to contain two young in white down, with eyes not yet opened. One held up its head and begged for food while being photographed. We estimated that the eggs hatched on March 20, 26 days after the eggs were first observed and 32 days after the adult bird was first noticed in the grove. The hind quarters of a rabbit were in the nest.

When I climbed to the nest on March 20 I found an abundance of food on hand for the two young which I estimated to weigh over one pound each. In the nest were the hind quarters of six Cottontail Rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), one cottontail's head and one hind leg of that species; also three decapitated Norway Rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) and two white-footed mice, probably of the genus *Peromyscus*. No avian remains were found in or about the nest. Sheathes were beginning to show on the young. Their eyes were open and they showed little fear.

On April 6 when I climbed to the nest the young owls were very much larger than on the previous visit, a condition to be expected in consideration of the food supply which seemed to be always on hand for them. At first they seemed to be alarmed, but soon allowed themselves to be stroked and handled. When I lifted them over the side of the nest for the benefit of the observers on the ground I noticed that their stomachs were full rounded and packed with food. This time the nest contained four rabbit legs, one decapitated Norway Rat, one cottontail hind quarters and the hind quarters of one Pocket Gopher (*Geomys bursarius*). One adult owl flew from the nest when we approached. During this visit, as well as on some previous visits, color photographs were taken of the nest and its contents.

I climbed the tree no more, for the young were now getting large enough to be easily observed from the ground, also large enough, I suspected, to put up an argument. Strangely enough, I was never attacked by the adults while climbing to the nest, although I understand from the literature that other observers have not been so fortunate. On April 13 the young seemed to be about half the bulk of the old bird that remained with them while we watched the family with our glasses from the ground below. They were certainly more than half as tall as the adult. The old bird finally flew away when we got too close.

Crows were worrying one adult, probably the male, when we visited the site again on April 20. He flew as we approached and a moment later the other adult flew from the nest. One young bird nearly as large as the adult looked over the side of the nest. It was still in light colored plumage with barred breast and well developed ear tufts. The area about the eyes appeared to be quite dark. The remains of rabbits could be seen on the edge of the nest. Just the back of the other young bird was visible, for it did not stand up but remained crouching low.

On April 27 both old birds were again seen. The two young in the nest appeared somewhat darker. On the ground below the nest were the hind quarters of a cottontail, also found there was the first sign of guilt: some white chicken feathers.

On May 8 we were surprised to find the nest completely destroyed. Not one stick of it remained in the tree. Most of it was found at the base of the nesting tree. We finally found one adult about a quarter of a mile away being worried by crows. After some search the two young were found, perched in a tree about 15 feet apart and about

20 feet from the ground. They were in a tree about 50 feet away from the nesting tree and it was difficult to see how they could have got there without some ability to fly. This was six weeks and two days after we had found the young birds with eyes unopened when we estimated them to be three days old.

On May 11 we found the young in a tree several hundred feet from the nesting tree. They were again at the same level, about 20 feet from the ground and about 15 feet apart. Each had a good supply of game in its talons, rabbit remains could be seen and the food appeared to be entirely mammalian. The old birds were not noticed on this visit. All pellets that we could find were collected and sent to Mr. Edson H. Fichter of the Zoology Department of the University of Nebraska for study and analysis.

Our last observance of this family of Great Horned Owls was made on May 15. Both adults and one young flew from the grove as we entered. The remaining young bird was finally found perched in a tree and urged to fly, which it did, with a flight as strong and rapid as that of the adults. In flight the young appeared the same size as the adults but were much lighter in color, being in general a light gray while the adults were brown. According to our calculations the young were just eight weeks old at the time of this visit, flying well and learning to hunt for themselves. We left the entire family still together, having escaped all contrivances of man arrayed against them. The nesting was successful and from the amount of rodents destroyed, appeared to be beneficial.

Omaha, Nebr.

GENERAL NOTES

The Hungarian Partridge in Keyapaha and Holt Counties, Nebraska.—The Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission endeavored some years ago to establish the Hungarian Partridge in Nebraska, with, it was feared, but poor results. It is of interest, therefore, to place on record the observation and positive identification of the Hungarian Partridge in Keyapaha County, Nebraska, in the fall of 1940, by Conservation Officer W. J. Weller and me, as well as the probable presence of the birds in southern Holt County and at other points in Mr. Weller's territory. Mr. Weller's headquarters are at Atkinson, Holt County. Unfortunately the data are incomplete and some of the reports by hunters are questionable. However, all reports received from all sources are listed, and insofar as is possible the location of the coveys, their habitat, the number of birds seen and by whom, and any other pertinent facts are included.

Records prior to October 26, 1940, are from memory, due to the supposition on my part that the birds in question were Chukar Partridges, local persons having informed me that this species had been introduced into the area. But on October 26 and 27, 1940, we sighted and positively identified Hungarian Partridges about five miles direct-

ly east of Springview, Keyapaha County. Both observations were made in the same area and possibly represent the same birds.

At 1:30 P.M. on October 26, I flushed a flock of 17 birds in an old cottonwood grove and was uncertain of my identification, though fairly sure that the birds were not Chukar Partridges. Upon returning to the car, I told Mr. Weller what I had seen, and he suggested that they might be Hungarian Partridges. On the following day, October 27, we drove over the same route and flushed seven birds within one-half mile of the same site. These birds flew across the road and settled in a stand of sweet clover about 40 rods north of the road. I stalked them and approached to within 20 feet before they flushed. I was in full sunlight and able to identify them beyond all question as Hungarian Partridges.

Another report of birds that are, in all probability, Hungarian Partridges, comes from the Inez territory about 15 or 18 miles south of Atkinson, Holt County. In this case, the birds were reported by two ranchers, Messrs. Howard Berry and Ray White, who have observed them repeatedly and who are agreed that they are not Chukar Partridges. Mr. Berry reports seeing about 20 birds and Mr. White reports seeing about 30 birds. One Charles Withers of Atkinson, Holt County, also reports seeing about 20 partridges in this same area, but was unable to identify them as to species. Since these reports come from the same general area, the same birds may have been concerned in all of them. Description of the birds, as to color, size, and notes, definitely indicates that they were not Chukar Partridges. Both men are positive that the birds do not have heavy barring on the sides. Mr. Berry says that he thinks that one pair bred in a grove of jack pine trees near his house in the spring of 1940, for although no nest was found the young birds were noted there during the summer.

Mr. Weller and I made two trips to the White and Berry ranches in an attempt to locate the birds, but without success. On each trip we covered all likely cover on foot and in the car in an attempt to flush them. We questioned Mr. Berry and his family and Mr. White. The description given us by these people leaves me with no doubt that the birds were Hungarian Partridges. Other reports of partridges seen by hunters in the fall of 1940 are as follows:

1. About October 20, 1940. Some unidentified hunters saw about 20 on the prairie about five miles southwest of Ainsworth, Brown County.
2. About October 24, 1940. Some unidentified hunters saw about a dozen in a meadow with willow brush southwest of Brocksburg, Keyapaha County.
3. About October 25, 1940. Some unidentified hunters saw 10 to 15 at the breaks of the Niobrara River, five miles southwest of Springview, Keyapaha County.
4. October 26, 1940. I saw 17 in a meadow pasture cultivated with groves and brush, four miles east of Springview, Keyapaha County.

5. October 27, 1940. Mr. Weller and I saw seven in a meadow pasture cultivated with groves and brush, five miles east of Springview, Keyapaha County.

6. October 29, 1940. W. H. Alepress saw eight or nine along the Keyapaha River, six miles east of Brocksburg, Keyapaha County.—GLENN VIEHMEYER, *Stapleton, Nebr.*

The Glaucous Gull in Iowa and Nebraska.—For a day or two prior to March 24, 1941, residents living near Lake Manawa, in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, reported having noticed a very large, wholly white gull about the lake. On March 24, Mr. Bruce Stiles, the well-known ornithologist of Council Bluffs, Iowa, visited Lake Manawa and saw this all white gull in company with American Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. He recognized it as either a Glaucous Gull or an Iceland Gull, and on the following day, March 25, again visited Lake Manawa, accompanied by Dr. R. Allyn Moser of Omaha, when the bird was again seen. On March 26, Bruce Stiles, Dr. Moser and F. W. Haecker of Omaha, all watched the bird, which on that day was on the Nebraska side of Lake Manawa, probably in Sarpy County. It was observed to be noticeably larger than the American Herring Gulls, which indicated that it probably was the Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*), rather than the Iceland Gull, which is the only other wholly white or whitish gull that could occur in this region. So far as we know this is the first definite record for the Glaucous Gull in either Iowa or Nebraska. The specimen was collected at Lake Manawa on March 27. The bird proved to be an adult female. Its measurements in the flesh as taken in inches were: Length, 26.20; extent, 61.50; wing, 17.70; tail, 8.06; tarsus, 2.75; and culmen, 2.37, all of which are well above the maximum measurements of the Iceland Gull.* The specimen, made into a study skin, is to be preserved at Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa, in the custody of Dr. T. C. Stephens.—R. ALLYN MOSER and F. W. HAECKER, *Omaha, Nebr.*

*Through the courtesy of Dr. Moser, who on March 29 brought the freshly made skin to Lincoln for the purpose, I was able to examine the specimen carefully. It is unquestionably a Glaucous Gull, and the immaculate plumage and bright pinkish legs and feet indicate that it is an adult in its third winter, or older. Accepting the above flesh measurements of length, extent and wing, I obtained somewhat smaller measurements for the tail (184 mm.), tarsus (63mm.) and chord of the culmen (56 mm.), and 20 mm. for the depth of bill at base. Although this constitutes the first record of a collected specimen of Glaucous Gull for Nebraska, and I think also for Iowa, there have been previous field identifications of the species, based on wholly white birds appearing larger than the accompanying American Herring Gulls, seen at Capitol Beach near Lincoln.—Ed.

Hudsonian Godwits in the Missouri River Bottoms Near Blair, Nebraska.—On May 18 a bird field day was held at Preparation Canyon, Monona County, Iowa, by the Sioux City and Council Bluffs, Iowa, bird clubs. The N. O. U. was represented by a party of Omahans who had the interesting experience of observing a pair of Hudsonian Godwits (*Limosa haemastica*) while making the trip home. These birds were noted feeding at a roadside pond in Harrison County, Iowa, not far from Blair, Nebraska. They were quite unafraid and allowed six observers to approach within about forty feet, making it possible to identify them with certainty. In fact, some difficulty was experienced in getting the birds to fly so that their flight markings could be checked.—JANE M. WINSLADE, Omaha, Nebr.

The Piping Plover Returns to Its Nesting Site in Omaha.—On April 27, 1941, a pair of Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) was observed at their last year's nesting site in Levi Carter Park of Omaha, actually in Pottawattamie County, Iowa (antea, viii, pp. 92-94). On May 15 we found a nest of this species containing four eggs. We have called this nest number one and so far as we know it is the earliest nesting record of this bird that has been recorded in the Nebraska region. Notes made at this and other nests that we have had under observation this season indicate that incubation starts after the set is complete and that all chicks in each nest hatch at nearly the same time. On June 3 at sunset the four eggs in nest number one were still unhatched. At 2:30 P.M. on June 4 two eggs had hatched and one of the chicks was still wet. At 5:45 P.M. of the same afternoon three eggs had hatched. Early the next morning, June 5, the four chicks were in the nest but readily scampered out while we observed them. On the evening of the same day a group of five was unable to find the chicks, although the two adults were present and showed concern.

We found nest number two with four eggs on June 4, and this condition remains unchanged at this writing (June 8). Nest number three was found in the early morning of June 5. It then contained three eggs and one wet chick. On the evening of the same day four dry chicks were in the nest. Nest number four was found on June 7 containing four eggs. The brooding bird was apparently blind in the right eye for we noticed that this eye remained closed. At 3:45 P.M., June 8 there were three chicks near the nest and the last egg was hatching. At 4:45 P.M., one hour later, there was only one wet chick in the nest, the others having gone. Nest number five was found on this same day with four eggs, one of which was hatching.

Observations taken in this area on June 7 accounted for twelve adult Piping Plovers, thirteen chicks and eight eggs; since then four more eggs have been found. This is a good increase over last year when only ten adults were observed and only one chick was ever seen. It is interesting to note that all the nests observed this year contained the full set of four eggs and so far as we know there has been no loss of eggs, nests, chicks or adults. While the first eggs were found this year

on May 15 and many chicks are now (June 8) in evidence, the first eggs of last year were not found till June 10 and the only chick observed on July 13.

All of the adults observed in this area this year as well as two birds nesting at Lake Manawa near Council Bluffs, Iowa, have the black collar complete around their necks. The Belted Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus circumcinctus*) was recognized as a distinct race prior to 1910 by the American Ornithologists' Union. It is still considered to be a distinct subspecies by some authorities and it is to this race that the birds here discussed undoubtedly belong.

In this same nesting area so far this season we have found fifteen nests of the Least Tern containing from one to three eggs each, two nests of the Spotted Sandpiper each containing four eggs, and one nest of the Killdeer containing four eggs.—R. ALLYN MOSER and F. W. HAECKER, Omaha, Nebr.

Some Notes on 1940-41 Winter Birds at Fairbury, Jefferson County.—Daily bird visitors to the suet and grain that we put out for them during the early winter of 1940-41 at our farm west of Fairbury included the Eastern Hairy, Northern Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Horned Lark (subsp.), European Starling, Western Meadowlark, Eastern Slate-colored Junco, Harris Sparrow and Tree Sparrow (subsp.). Up to January 24, the year 1941 has not shown as many birds as usual. On January 23, 1941, we trapped three banded Harris Sparrows, along with many others of that species that had no bands. The three banded ones were originally banded by us on February 24, 1933 (B|149213), March 26, 1935 (34|103539) and November 24, 1935 (35|110934).—MISSES AGNES and SUSIE CALLAWAY, Fairbury, Nebr.

The American Egret Seen in the Omaha Vicinity During the Nesting Season.—For the past dozen years watchers along the Missouri River boundary of Nebraska have noted three species of white herons which usually come north every late summer after the nesting season. These include the American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*), the Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*), and the Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea caerulea*) in the white, immature plumage. These species are never common, but they are usually reported each summer during July or August. This year we were surprised to note an American Egret in the Omaha vicinity during the nesting season. The bird was first seen on Lake Manawa (Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and Sarpy County, Nebraska) by the writer on May 28. It was again noted by F. W. Haecker and me on May 29 and again on June 1. The bird is entirely unafraid and allows approach to within twenty or thirty feet so that the identification has been made certain. Only one bird has been noted and since it has no plumes, it is assumed that no nesting activities can be expected and that the bird is in its second year. We have read with great interest the published accounts of these birds nesting to the north and east of the Nebraska region, and this May record for the species

in the Omaha vicinity gives promise that nesting may be expected here in the not-too-distant future.—R. ALLYN MOSER, *Omaha, Nebr.*

January Bird Lists From Dorchester, Saline County, and Nelson, Nuckolls County.—I have had reported to me the January, 1941, bird lists of two local Nebraska bird clubs. The two-year-old Dorchester Bird Club, under the leadership of Mr. Robert Lamphere listed 13 species as follows: (? American Rough-legged) Hawk (6), Eastern Bob-white (6), Ring-necked Common Pheasant (10), Nebraska Screech Owl (1), Northern Downy Woodpecker (6), Northern Blue Jay (2), Eastern Crow (25), Black-capped Chickadee (subsp.) (4), Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch (2), Northern Shrike (subsp.) (4), European Starling (50), English House Sparrow (75) and Eastern Slate-colored Junco (10). The Senior Bird Club of Nelson, under the leadership of Mrs. H. C. Fabrique, has listed 15 species, as follows: (? Nebraska Screech) Owl (1), Red-bellied Woodpecker (2 pairs), Eastern Hairy Woodpecker (3), Northern Downy Woodpecker (3), Horned Lark (subsp.) (15), Eastern Crow (11), Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch (6), Brown Creeper (subsp.) (3), European Starling (4), English House Sparrow (dozens), Western Meadowlark (1), Eastern Cardinal (4), Eastern Slate-colored Junco (18), Tree Sparrow (subsp.) (17) and Harris Sparrow (12).—RUTH M. FLEMING, *Assistant Technician, Recreations Projects, W. P. A., Lincoln, Nebr.*

The Bald Eagle in the Omaha Vicinity.—On March 5, 1941, we watched an eagle flying over Lake Manawa, in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, that we identified as a Bald Eagle in immature plumage. We followed the bird for some time in an automobile watching it fly over the south portion of Council Bluffs until we finally lost it in the vicinity of the South Omaha bridge. Mr. Bruce Stiles reports to us that he also has seen this eagle, and identified it as an immature Bald Eagle. This is the first eagle that we have noted in the Omaha vicinity.—F. W. HAECKER and R. ALLYN MOSER, *Omaha, Nebr.*

The Northern Louisiana Heron in Nebraska: A Correction.—In recording the specimen of the Northern Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*) taken at Kearney and mounted by me, constituting the only Nebraska record of the species (antea, i. p. 31), I was uncertain as to the exact date, the original label for the specimen having been lost, but put down what I thought at the time was good corroborative memory evidence. In a recent conversation with Mr. Logue Erickson of Kearney, the man who actually shot the bird, I learned that it was taken on the south bank of the Platte River (not at a pond as previously stated), ten miles west of the Kearney Bridge, in Kearney County, on November 14, 1918, and not about September 11, 1924, as previously recorded. This would seem to be an unusually late fall date for a wandering heron, but I believe Mr. Erickson has the correct information on this record.—CYRUS A. BLACK, *Kearney, Nebr.*

Eastern Lapland Longspur Casualties at Fairbury, Jefferson County.—On or about January 23, 1941, we received reports that many birds had been found dead that morning in the town of Fairbury. It was stated that they resembled "common sparrows", but were not the English House Sparrow. On February 5 a woman reported to me that she had found two of them dead in a sitting posture in the snow in her yard. I asked for the dead birds and found that they were longspurs. The two specimens were sent to Prof. M. H. Swenk at Lincoln for exact identification, and he reported that they were the Eastern Lapland Longspur.—MRS. MAE RICHARDSON, *Fairbury, Nebr.*

Two Interesting 1940 Bird Records From the Missouri River Bottoms.—My 1940 bird list for the Missouri River watershed totals 201 species and subspecies, which is my best record for any single year to date. I also noted 24 additional forms outside of the Missouri River drainage area, but did not get very far away from it at any time during 1940. Two 1940 observations that seem of more than usual interest may be placed on record. Several times during the summer I noted two Northern Turkey Vultures flying in the vicinity of the Missouri River opposite Thurston County, Nebraska, in the vicinity of the boundary line of Woodbury and Monona Counties in Iowa, and it is quite possible that they were nesting in the vicinity. These birds are rare in this locality, which is the farthest upstream on the Missouri River that I ever have noted the species. The birds were last seen on September 19, 1940. On December 11, 1940, I watched a Great Blue Heron (subsp.) fishing near the highway in a Missouri River chute south of Rulo, in Richardson County, Nebraska. This date is exactly one month after the severe storm of November 11, which swept most migrants southward, and is the latest record that I have for this species in Nebraska. It is interesting to speculate how this bird survived the sub-zero temperatures and deep snows of the November storm, which must have made fishing an impossibility for it for a considerable period.—FREDERICK W. HAECKER, *Omaha, Nebr.*

The White-throated Sparrow and Other Birds Wintering in Extreme Southeastern Nebraska.—The road from the mouth of the Big Nemaha River, in Nebraska, to White Cloud, Kansas, runs along an old railroad grade at the base of wooded bluffs and close to the Missouri River all of the way. I have found it a most favorable locality for bird observations. In addition to being the southeastermost point of Nebraska it also has the lowest elevation and the highest precipitation in the state. I am convinced that if a complete record could be made over a period of years, it would prove to be the locality of mildest winter temperatures in Nebraska. On January 30, 1941, near the mouth of the Big Nemaha River in Richardson County, I watched a White-throated Sparrow bathing in the pools formed by the melting snow in the ruts of the road. I watched the bird at close range for some time, using eight power glasses in good light, and am sure of the identification. This is my first winter record for this species in Missouri River

territory, and I know of no records made by other observers of its occurrence there in winter. Other birds bathing with or near the White-throated Sparrow included an Eastern Robin, a few English House Sparrows, a few Eastern Cardinals, many American Goldfinches (subsp.), six Arctic Spotted Towhees, many Eastern Slate-colored Juncos, a few Shufeldt Oregon Juncos, several Harris Sparrows and many Song Sparrows (subsp.). In the trees nearby were Northern Yellow-shafted Flickers, Northern Downy Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmice and Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglets. On previous days I have seen many Eastern Common Bluebirds in this locality.—FREDERICK W. HAECKER, *Omaha, Nebr.*

The 1940 Christmas Bird Census at Fremont, Dodge County.

—During the last week in December, 1940, I took my usual Christmas bird census at Fremont. The habitats visited were Wild Court (a natural woodland tract), the cemetery, open fields and along country roads. Twenty-nine species were observed, as follows: Marsh Hawk, Pigeon Hawk (subsp.), Eastern Bob-white, Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Western Mourning Dove, Nebraska Screech Owl, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Black-capped Chickadee (subsp.), Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper (subsp.), Eastern Robin, Eastern Common Bluebird, Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Migrant Loggerhead Shrike, English House Sparrow (200 to 300), Western Meadowlark, Bronzed Grackle, Eastern Cardinal, American Goldfinch (subsp.), Eastern Red-eyed Towhee, Eastern Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow (subsp.) and Harris Sparrow.—MRS. LILY RUEGG BUTTON, *Fremont, Nebr.*

Some Christmas Season Nebraska Bird Notes.—I did not take my usual Christmas bird census in 1940, but during the Christmas holidays took part in a "crow hunt" that was held in the Missouri River bottoms of Sarpy County, a little north of Fort Crook and south of Omaha. Using a mounted Great Horned Owl as a decoy, several Eastern Crows were shot as they came to harass the owl. I received a surprise, however, when an American Magpie also came to harass the owl, but my effort to collect the Magpie resulted only in removing a few of its tail feathers. Three hawks, one definitely identified as an American Rough-legged Hawk, also came to the owl for the same purposes, but none of these were shot. Also, during the holiday period I made study skins of a Red-shouldered Hawk and a Northern Barred Owl (shot at Bellevue, Sarpy County) that were sent in, and mounted for the University of Nebraska Museum an American Bohemian Waxwing taken at and sent in from Halsey, Thomas County.—RALPH VELICH, *Department of Zoology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebr.*

The 1940 Christmas Bird Census at Hastings, Adams County.

—The Brooking Bird Club held its annual Christmas bird census on December 27, 1940, visiting Prospect Park, Frisch's Lake, Crystal Lake,

and the Knights of Pythias grounds, meeting at the K. of P. lodge for a covered-dish luncheon at noon. Twenty-three species of birds were observed, as follows: Red-tailed Hawk (subsp.), Greater Prairie Chicken, Ring-necked Common Pheasant, Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Common Red-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark (subsp.), Eastern Crow, Black-capped Chickadee (subsp.), Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper (subsp.), Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Bohemian Waxwing, European Starling, English House Sparrow, Bronzed Grackle, Eastern Cardinal, Eastern American Goldfinch, Eastern Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow (subsp.), and Song Sparrow (subsp.).—MR. AND MRS. A. M. BROOKING, MR. WILLIAM T. JAKES, MRS. A. M. JONES, MRS. A. E. OLSON, MRS. C. E. RUCH, MR. AND MRS. PAUL SALA, AND MISS M. CARYLE SYLLA, *Hastings, Nebr.*

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

The forty-second annual meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and the thirty-ninth annual field day were held in Hastings, Nebraska, on Friday and Saturday, respectively, May 9 and 10, 1941. The Brooking Bird Club was the host organization. All sessions were held in the Municipal Museum. Registration began at 9:30 with Mrs. A. M. Brooking, Mrs. A. A. Adams and Mrs. Dorr Mahoney in charge.

There was a special exhibit in a wing of the Museum, of original bird and animal paintings, eight by Dr. George M. Sutton of Ithaca, New York, and two by Major Allen A. Brooks.

The business session was called to order at 11:15 with Mr. F. W. Haecker presiding. On motion, the minutes of the 1940 annual meeting were not read since they were published in full in the July-December, 1940, number of the Nebraska Bird Review (antea, viii, pp. 98-104).

A report from Corresponding Secretary Earl W. Glandon was read as follows:

Membership May 1, 1940	119
Received at Annual Meeting, May 10, 1940	7
Membership May 10, 1940	126
Renewals	125
New names for approval May 9, 1941	13
Membership as of May 10, 1941	138

A report from Treasurer L. M. Gates was then presented which may be summarized as follows:

RECEIPTS:

Cash on hand May 1, 1940	\$25.52
6 Sustaining Membership annual dues 40-41	30.00

24 Active Membership annual dues for 40-41	48.00
67 Associate Membership annual dues 40-41	67.00
1 additional payment to change associate membership dues to active membership 40-41	1.00
One Sustaining Membership annual dues 40-41	5.00
4 Active Membership annual dues 41-42	8.00
21 Associate Membership annual dues 41-42	21.00
Exchange on check03
Sale of Sets of Review	5.00
32 subscriptions to Review for 1940	32.00
7 subscriptions to the Review for 1941	7.00
Money deposited but not accounted for	3.00
	<hr/>
	\$252.55

EXPENDITURES:

Expense of Corresponding Secretary	
Postage and Stationery	\$ 11.99
Postage and envelopes for office of Editor-Custodian	23.13
Printing July-December, 1940 <i>Nebraska Bird Review</i>	141.50
Balance on hand May 1, 1941	75.93
	<hr/>
	\$252.55

On motion the report was received and referred to an Auditing Committee appointed by President Haecker and composed of chairman Dr. R. A. Moser and Mrs. A. E. Olson.

The report of the special committee appointed in 1940 to draft a proper constitutional amendment which would care for junior members was read by L. M. Gates: Article II—Section I. Any student of ornithology resident in Nebraska or *an adjacent state*, not less than sixteen years of age may become a member on receiving a majority vote of the members present at any meeting. There shall be three classes of membership: associate, active and sustaining members, and members and applicants for membership may designate their classification. Active and sustaining members in good standing shall have the right to vote and hold office. Any boy or girl resident in *Nebraska or an adjacent state, less than sixteen years of age, who has exhibited a special interest in bird study, upon the presentation to the Corresponding Secretary, of a written certificate signed by two active, sustaining, or associate members attesting to a degree of proficiency in bird study approximating the ability to identify fifty birds by sight, may become an associate member on receiving a majority vote of the members present at any meeting.*

The changes in and additions to Article II, Section 1, are italicized.

By motion and vote the amendment was incorporated in the Con-

stitution, copies of the proposed change having been sent to all members thirty days prior to this meeting.

The proposal of names and election of new members was next in the order of business. The names of Mrs. R. E. Chesebrough and Mrs. H. H. Davis, Omaha, Nebraska, were proposed for active membership. The names of Miss Carrie Ludden, Biology Department, Kearney State Teachers' College, Kearney, Nebraska; Mr. Mark Moore, Kearney, Nebraska; Miss Trudy Fritz, Lincoln, Nebraska; Miss Laura Dennison, Miss Flora Lake, Mrs. J. W. Roberts, Mrs. O. H. Shelly, Mrs. Henry Dale White, Mrs. Joseph Baldrige and Y. W. C. A. Camp Brewster of Omaha; Miss Fannie B. Cross of Fairbury, Nebraska; Mr. Jean Laffoon of Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa; as Associate Members.

All were elected to membership by the casting of a unanimous vote.

The following Resolutions Committee was appointed by the President: Mr. Harry Weakly, chairman; Mrs. S. A. Perkins and Mrs. A. M. Brooking.

The report of the Nominating Committee, Mrs. M. H. Swenk, Chairman, Mr. C. F. Orendurff, and Mrs. Lily Button (previously appointed) was read as follows:

For President—Mrs. Wilson Tout, North Platte

For Vice-President—Dr. R. Allyn Moser, Omaha

For Corresponding Secretary—Mr. Earl W. Glandon, Stapleton

For Recording Secretary—Mrs. A. H. Jones, Hastings

For Treasurer—Mr. L. M. Gates, Lincoln

For Editor-Custodian—Professor Myron H. Swenk

Nominations were invited from the floor. By motion nominations were closed and the secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous vote for the ballot as read.

The morning session recessed until 1:15 P.M.

The program for the afternoon was opened by Mr. A. M. Brooking, Curator of the Hastings Museum. Mr. Brooking traced the development of the Hastings Museum from the woodshed exhibit of his boyhood to the present-day modern and spacious building with its varied displays. The aim of the Museum is to show the development of the Great Plains.

Dr. R. Allyn Moser presented the history of the Piping Plover in Nebraska. The description of the nesting of the Piping Plover in Levi Carter Park of Omaha was accompanied by colored slides.

Mr. C. F. Orendurff of the Prairie States Forestry Project, Grand Island, showed motion pictures, "The Tree of Life" and "Trees That Tame the Winds", which stressed tree conservation.

"Finding What You Want When You Want It" was the subject discussed by Mr. Wilson Tout of North Platte. He illustrated his talk with a check list of "Birds of Lincoln County" which he had compiled and also with printed daily charts and an original system of filing cards

for each species.

Mrs. Ruth Fleming's subject, "What Recreation Is Trying to Do in the Field of Bird Study", showed her interesting and unique way of gaining and retaining the interest of children in the study of birds.

Informal talks were given by Mrs. A. M. Brooking on "Birds of Yellowstone Park" and by Mrs. A. H. Jones on "Winter Birds of Southern California."

The latest addition to Nebraska's Bird List, the Glaucous Gull, reported by Dr. R. Allyn Moser and its identification verified by Professor M. H. Swenk, brought the published list of the State up to 458 birds.

Mr. Frank H. Shoemaker, president of the N. O. U. in 1904 was asked to tell of his boyhood experience in finding the nest of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in a cypress swamp in Southwestern Louisiana.

Edson Fichter, of the Department of Zoology at the University of Nebraska, spoke of an egg collection which he had found stored in Bessie Hall. This was labeled as the property of N. O. U. By motion President Haecker appointed a committee to investigate this finding and to provide a suitable depository for this collection: Mr. Edson Fichter, chairman, Mr. L. M. Gates and Mrs. Ruth Fleming.

Report of the Resolutions Committee was called for and presented by Mr. Harry E. Weakley as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union express the deepest appreciation to the Brooking Bird Club, our hosts at this 42nd meeting.
2. That the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, at this time, hereby instruct the president of the Union to convey in writing the best wishes and sympathy of the organization to Professor and Mrs. M. H. Swenk.
3. That the appreciation of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union is hereby expressed for the untiring efforts of the officers of the past year.
4. That the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union join the Mitchell Bird Club and others in their protest against the use of bird feathers on hats and that our president be instructed to sign the enclosed petition in behalf of the Society.
5. That in the interest of increasing our knowledge concerning Nebraska birds, the Union adopt as a project the collection of data concerning the nesting of birds over the State.

These Resolutions were read and accepted.

President Haecker asked for the report of the incoming Executive Committee which had been asked to select a nominee as Associate Editor-Custodian of the N. O. U. The duty of this officer will be to

assist Professor Swenk during his present illness. The committee's recommendation of F. W. Haecker of Omaha was voted on in open meeting and unanimously accepted.

An invitation to the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union to be the guests of the Inez Houghton Audubon Society of Chadron at the annual meeting in 1942 was read. This invitation was followed by another, signed by Glenn Viehmeyer, Superintendent, asking the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union to hold the 1942 or 1943 meeting at Niobrara State Park. It was left to the Executive Committee to determine the place of meeting for 1942.

President Haecker announced the unanimous election by mail ballot of Dr. George M. Sutton to Honorary Membership in the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. Dr. Sutton is curator of Birds at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and is a painter of renown. The illustration of the Burrowing Owl which is used on the cover of the Nebraska Bird Review is his work. President Haecker was requested to write to Dr. Sutton, informing him of the honor conferred upon him by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union.

Announcement was made of the serious illness of Professor Myron H. Swenk and deep appreciation expressed for his years of ceaseless and untiring effort for the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union.

The annual meeting concluded with a tour of the Museum conducted by Mr. A. M. Brooking. Interest centered on the unusual exhibit on the second floor of approximately four thousand specimens of birds.

Members and guests numbering 69 reconvened at the Clarke Hotel for the banquet at 6:30 P.M. During the dinner hour the Hastings girls' trio, composed of Misses Betty Hoch, Dorothy Auble and Ruth Theobald, sang several numbers accompanied by Miss Mary Armstrong. Mrs. Clarence Hide gave two readings, "To a Water Fowl" and "Feathered Birds—Phooey".

After dinner the group retired to the Junior High School auditorium for an illustrated lecture by Daniel Beard of Omaha. This talk, "Endangered Species", was instructive, interesting and well received. Motion pictures of bird life, in color, by W. LeRoy Wilcox, of Omaha, concluded the program. These were unusual bird and animal pictures taken by Mr. Wilcox on vacation trips to Wyoming and California. Most outstanding were the pictures of the Rufous Hummingbirds.

The following N. O. U. members were among those who attended: Mrs. Harry E. Weakly, Harry E. Weakly, W. LeRoy Wilcox, Mrs. Wilson Tout, Wilson Tout, Mrs. Carl Collister, Mrs. Glen Chapman, Mrs. Ruth M. Fleming, Mrs. L. H. McKillip, Mrs. Clyde Johnston, Mrs. E. R. Maunder, Miss Vera Maunder, A. M. Brooking, Mrs. A. M. Brooking, A. A. Adams, Mrs. A. A. Adams, Fred Day, C. F. Orendurff, Earl Glandon, Jean Laffoon, Mrs. A. H. Jones, Mrs. S.A. Perkins, F. W. Haecker, Frank H. Shoemaker, Carrie E. Ludden, R. Allyn Moser, Miss Caryle Sylla, Mrs. Earle Lionberger, Mrs. A. M. Jones,

Mrs. A. E. Olson, L. M. Gates, Mrs. L. M. Gates, Edson Fichter, Miss Mary Ann Wake, Miss Mary Ellsworth, Miss Emma Ellsworth, Miss Bertha Calvert.

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL FIELD DAY OF THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

On Saturday, May 10, 1941, the thirty-ninth annual field day of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union was held in the Hastings vicinity. The field parties were under the leadership of Mr. A. A. Adams and Mr. W. T. Jaques. The group assembled at 6:30 at the Hastings City Auditorium Park. The territory covered was from Hastings to the Blue River and from Crystal Lake to Pauline. Some of the group visited a lagoon west and south of Hastings. The entire party, numbering 61, met at the Methodist Church at Pauline where luncheon was served by the ladies of the Church. The total list of 113 birds for the day was as follows: Eared Grebe, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Lesser Scaup Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, Krider's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Eastern Sparrow Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellow-legs, Long-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Western Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Western Burrowing Owl, Sennett's Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Arkansas Kingbird, Northern Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Alder Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Prairie Horned Lark, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Northern Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Long-tailed Chickadee, Western House Wren, Eastern Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Willow Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Migrant Shrike, Starling, Bell's Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Eastern Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Ovenbird, Grinnell's Water Thrush, Louisiana Water Thrush, Northern Yellow-throat, Western Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Eastern Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Eastern Cowbird, Eastern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rocky Mountain Grosbeak, Western Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Dickcissel, Eastern Goldfinch, Red-eyed Towhee, Arctic Towhee, Lark Bunting, Eastern Savannah Sparrow, Western Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Vesper Sparrow, Eastern Lark Sparrow, Eastern Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Western Field Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow,

White-crowned Sparrow, Gambel's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Dakota Song Sparrow.

High points of the field trip were the large numbers of Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes seen; and also the finding of the nests of both the Eastern and Say's Phoebes.

As directed by the N. O. U. membership at the May, 1941, annual meeting at Hastings, the retiring president wrote to Dr. George Miksch Sutton notifying him of his election to Honorary Membership in the society. Dr. Sutton's letter of reply, dated May 21, 1941, is quoted in full as follows:

"Dear Mr. Haecker:

I must thank you for your courteous letter of May 9, and, at your first opportunity, I wish you would thank the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union for their graciousness in electing me to Honorary Membership of the organization.

Needless to say, this pleases me very much, the more so because I started life in Nebraska and began my ornithological career there. By this I mean to say that even during my earliest years I was deeply interested in birds and have many fond recollections of barn owls, baby blue jays, marsh hawks, and so on that were part of my life in the little college town of Bethany.

You will be interested in knowing that our Cornell University-Carleton College expedition to Mexico was very successful. The four-man party suffered seriously neither from accident nor illness, and much good work was done.

One other word: The Nebraska Screech Owl specimen which you were good enough to send on makes a splendid addition to our material on this species. I can't tell you how glad we are to have it.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) George M. Sutton"

Members of the Executive Committees of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union have been planning a proposed joint meeting of the two societies at Omaha in 1943. It is noted that both organizations are planning to move away from their common boundary for their 1942 meetings, the N. O. U. expecting to meet at Chadron, and the I. O. U. planning to meet next year in the eastern part of their state. These plans would make it natural for the meeting place to be in the Missouri River territory in 1943, and it is hoped that a joint meeting in Omaha during May of that year can be arranged. The last joint meeting of the two organizations was held at Sioux City, Iowa, May 10, 1935.

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGIST'S UNION

Organized December 16, 1889

		<i>Retiring President</i>
1899	Lincoln, December 16.....	Lawrence Bruner
1901	Omaha, January 12.....	I. S. Trostler
1902	Lincoln, February 1.....	E. H. Barbour
1903	Lincoln, January 24.....	J. M. Bates
1904	Lincoln, January 30.....	F. H. Shoemaker
1905	Omaha, December 31.....	R. H. Wolcott
1906	Lincoln, December 29.....	Wilson Tout
1907	Lincoln, January 19.....	S. R. Towne
1908	Bellevue, May 8.....	M. H. Swenk
1909	Lincoln, May 14.....	August Eiche
1910	Peru, April 29.....	H. B. Duncanson
1911	Lincoln, May 5.....	Louis Sessions
1912	Lincoln, May 10.....	H. B. Lowry
1913	Lincoln, May 9.....	D. C. Hilton
1914	Lincoln, May 15.....	Lawrence Bruner
1915	Omaha, May 7.....	T. C. Stephens
1916	Omaha, May 5.....	R. W. Dawson
1917	Lincoln, May 4.....	R. H. Wolcott
1918	Omaha, May 10.....	C. E. Mickel
1919	Hastings, May 9.....	A. M. Brooking
1920	Lincoln, May 14.....	C. A. Black
1921	Omaha, May 13.....	H. B. Lowry
1922	Lincoln, May 19.....	H. Hapeman
1923	Fairbury, May 11.....	Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon
1924	Lincoln, May 9.....	R. H. Wolcott
1925	Superior, May 8.....	R. H. Wolcott
1926	Omaha, May 14.....	Mrs. C. W. McCaskill
1927	Hastings, May 13.....	C. K. Hart
1928	Lincoln, May 11.....	L. H. Watson
1929	Sioux City, Iowa, May 10.....	Mrs. A. H. Jones
1930	Omaha, May 16.....	Miss Mary St. Martin
1931	Lincoln, May 15.....	F. G. Collins
1932	Hastings, May 13.....	L. O. Horsky
1933	Fairbury, May 12.....	Miss Susie Callaway
1934	Omaha, May 18.....	Mrs. L. H. McKillip
1935	Sioux City, Iowa, May 10.....	Miss Mary Ellsworth
1936	North Platte, May 15.....	L. M. Gates
1937	Hastings, May 21.....	Mrs. H. C. Johnston
1938	Superior, May 13.....	H. E. Weakly
1939	North Platte, May 12.....	George E. Hudson
1940	Omaha, May 10.....	Fred Eastman
1941	Hastings, May 9.....	F. W. Haecker