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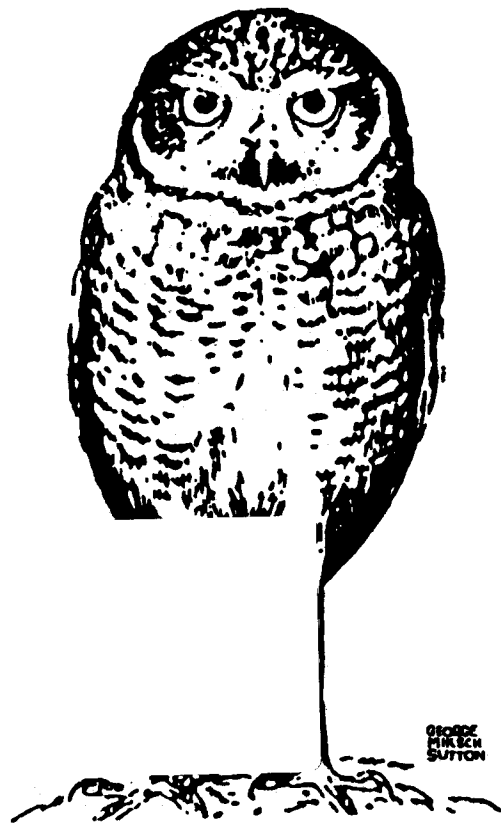
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A REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF *Limnodromus griseus*, THE SHORT-BILLED
DOWITCHER, IN NEBRASKA

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INTRODUCTION

The two North American dowitchers are notoriously difficult to distinguish from each other. This is not only true of field observations, but there are several instances where a specimen identified as one species was found to be the other upon review. *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, the Long-billed Dowitcher, has always been considered the common dowitcher in Nebraska, while *Limnodromus griseus*, the Short-billed Dowitcher, is less common. Confusion about identification and the lack of consistent, well-documented records have caused the status of *L. griseus* in Nebraska to be a matter of speculation.

Taxonomy of dowitchers was for some time confused. Studies of speciation by Rowan (1932) and Pitelka (1950) clarified the status of *L. scolopaceus* and *L. griseus* as distinct species. Three subspecies of *L. griseus* are recognized. *L.g. griseus* breeds in eastern Canada, and migrates and winters along the Atlantic Coast. *L.g. caurinus* breeds in Alaska, and migrates and winters along the Pacific Coast. *L.g. hendersoni* breeds in central Canada and migrates through the interior, east of the Rockies to the Atlantic Coast. This is the subspecies expected in Nebraska; it was known as the "Alberta Dowitcher" by early ornithologists.

REVIEW OF NEBRASKA RECORDS OF *L. griseus*

The first and only previous critical analysis of Nebraska dowitchers was by Myron Swenk (1940), who concluded that *L. scolopaceus* was common throughout the state, and presented six specimens presumed to be *L. griseus*; these are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Specimens of *L. griseus* (Swenk 1940).

Date	County	Number	Age & Sex	Collector
30 April 1933	Lancaster	two	adult males	G.E. Hudson
4 May 1896	Lancaster	one	adult male	unknown
16 May 1910	Lancaster	one	adult male	G.M. Pinneo
10 August 1918	Adams	two	adult male & female	A.M. Brookings
28 August 1896	Lancaster	one	adult male	August Eiche
7 September 1932	Lancaster	one	adult male	G.E. Hudson

Based on these six specimens, Swenk rather generously classified *L. griseus* as a "common migrant in eastern Nebraska."

I attempted to locate and review the specimens listed in Table 1. The female and male taken in Adams County on 10 August 1918 were misidentified. The length of the male's culmen is 62.5 millimeters (mm), and the female's is 67 mm. The male's culmen is longer than the longest length of *L.g. hendersoni* males and the female's culmen length is at the extreme of *L.g. hendersoni*, according to data in Pitelka (1950). It appears that the specimens, not examined first-hand by Swenk, were identified on the basis of plumage, but adults of *L. scolopaceus* can appear identical to *L.g. hendersoni* in August, due to wear and fading of plumage (Newlon and Kent 1980; pers. obs.). One of the pair, housed at the Hastings Museum, was eventually correctly labeled as "Long-billed Dowitcher/*Limnodromus*

scolopaceus." The other was given to the Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge (Mary Lou Jurgena, Accessions Registrar, pers. comm.).

The specimen collected on 7 September 1932 was identified as an adult "Eastern Dowitcher," *L.g. griseus*, solely because it was "identical in every way with the specimens in corresponding plumage from the South Carolina Coast" (Swenk 1940). As such, it would be the sole Nebraska record of *L.g. griseus*. However, both *L.g. griseus* and *L.g. hendersoni* migrate to and winter along the southern Atlantic Coast (Jehl 1963). Furthermore, the specimen is clearly a juvenile, and while these are difficult to assign to subspecies, there is no reason to suspect that this bird is not *L.g. hendersoni*, the only subspecies likely in Nebraska. The golden fringing of the upperparts is very broad, typical of juvenile *L.g. hendersoni* (Paulson 1993).

The two adult males taken on 30 April 1933 in Lancaster County could not be located. Without specimens, the records are considered hypothetical. No measurements or other diagnostic information were provided by Swenk. The two males were simply described as "distinctly Alberta Dowitchers." A specimen in the University of Nebraska State Museum labelled 4-5-1896 is presumed to be the 4 May 1896 specimen. The culmen and wing measurements, and plumage characters are in support of this presumption. The remaining two specimens, 28 August 1896 and 16 May 1910, were reviewed and the author concurs with their identification.

From 1940 up to 1985 there were no additional specimens collected or any documented published accounts. Beginning in 1985 (NBR 55:79-85) and through 1993, the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee reviewed three reports, all accepted. These are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Records reviewed and accepted by the NOU Records Committee

Date	County	Class Voted
13 May 1988	Boone	Class III
16 May 1991	Holt	Class I-P
21 July 1987	Boone	Class III

The 13 May 1988 and 16 May 1991 records listed in Table 2 were reviewed and the author considers them correctly identified. The 21 July 1987 record is not unimpeachable, however. A photograph and description were submitted, but the photograph alone was considered not diagnostic (NBR 58:90-97), and the record was assigned to Class III, a record based on acceptable written documentation. Nevertheless, no diagnostic feature such as call or the markings on the side of the breast at the bend of the wing, is described. While the date of occurrence, 21 July, is suggestive of the earlier migrating *L. griseus*, individuals of *L. scolopaceus* can occur at this time on the central Great Plains. An excellent illustration of this situation is a specimen taken in Colorado on 16 July 1938 and identified as *L. griseus*; on later examination the specimen was found to be *L. scolopaceus* (Andrews and Righter 1992). Although the 21 July 1987 Nebraska report may be *L. griseus*, the lack of conclusive written details leads me to consider the record hypothetical.

There are several additional credible records that have been either published, personally communicated to me, or are my personal observations. Records shown in Table 3 were conclusively identified by the hearing of diagnostic call notes or, if the birds were juveniles, the viewing of the diagnostic tertial pattern. Many of the latest records are mine, and I made a conscious effort to find the species. While there are certainly more records involving

L. griseus, all published reports not involving diagnostic information have been dismissed.

Table 3. Additional records of *L. griseus*

Date	County	Number and Age	Observer(s)	Source
20 April 1996	Knox	2 Adults	Mark Brogie	Pers. comm.
11 May 1996	Keith	4 Adults	Joel & Gerald Jorgensen	Pers. obs.
14 May 1985	Sarpy	10 Adults	R. Wright & S. Zende	NBR 53:41-42
15 May 1996	Douglas	1 Adult	Joel Jorgensen	Pers. obs.
18 May 1996	Clay	4 Adults	W. Ross Silcock	Pers. comm.
5 Aug. 1995	Phelps	40-45 Adults	W.R. Silcock & S.J. Dinsmore	NBR 62:134
7 Aug. 1994	Keith	47 Adults	W.R. Silcock & S.J. Dinsmore	NBR 63:103
16 Aug. 1988	Clay or Hamilton	1 (age ?)	Paul Bedell	NBR 56:16, 18-19
19-26 Aug. 1995	Fillmore	6 Juveniles	Joel Jorgensen	Pers. obs.
20 Aug. 1995	Clay	2 Juveniles	Joel Jorgensen	Pers. obs.
24 Aug. 1996	Platte	3 Juveniles	Joel Jorgensen	Pers. obs.
25 Aug.-10 Sept. 1996	Colfax	1-2 Juveniles	Joel Jorgensen	Pers. obs.
26 Aug. 1995	York	1 Juvenile	Joel Jorgensen	Pers. obs.
2 Sept. 1996	Hamilton	1 Juvenile	Joel Jorgensen	Pers. obs.
8 Sept. 1996	Cass	3 Juveniles	Loren & Babs Padelford	Pers. comm.
10 Sept. 1995	York	1 Juvenile	Joel Jorgensen	Pers. obs.

SUMMARY OF NEBRASKA RECORDS

Spring: Nine documented records. *L. griseus* appears to be found primarily during mid-May in Nebraska. Excluding the 20 April record, records are 4, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 16, 18 May. Out of the nine spring records, seven are from the eastern third of the state.

Fall: Thirteen documented records. There are only three records of adults, two of which were large flocks during the first week of August. The other, a specimen, was collected on 28 August. Nine records, totalling 21 individuals, are of juveniles during the period of 19 August - 10 September. The 16 August 1988 record is probably a juvenile as well.

DISCUSSION

The primary migration pathway of *L. griseus* has generally been considered to pass through the Mississippi River Valley and across the Great Lakes Region (Newlon and Kent 1980), a route that is essentially north and east of Nebraska. In Iowa, the species is considered common (Dinsmore et al. 1984), and in Missouri it is listed as an uncommon to locally common migrant (Robbins and Easterla 1992). It is a "probable fairly common migrant with most records E [east]" in South Dakota (SDOU 1991), although apparently

undocumented sight records were used in this determination.

Away from the main migration pathway, *L. griseus* is much less common. Thompson and Ely (1989) consider it only a rare migrant in Kansas, with most records in the central area. Up to 1960, there were only two specimen records from Oklahoma (Sutton 1960). In Colorado, it is considered accidental in spring and very rare in fall (Andrews and Righter 1992). In Wyoming, it is considered rare (Scott 1993).

In spring, *L. griseus* migrates later than *L. scolopaceus*. Based on compiled data from the Cooperative Field Reports in the Nebraska Bird Review, *L. scolopaceus* arrives about a month earlier than *L. griseus*, in late March or very early April, and peak migration occurs about the first of May. April records anywhere in the upper midwest are unusual. In Missouri, where *L. griseus* migrates regularly, it appears at the beginning of May, with the earliest date 27 April, and numbers peak in mid-May (Robbins and Easterla 1992). The earliest record for Iowa is 26 April 1985 (Thomas H. Kent fide W. Ross Silcock, pers. comm.).

Young (1995) has reviewed Kansas specimens and found that these were taken during the period of 13-31 May. The two Oklahoma specimens are for 7 and 18 May (Sutton 1960). As mentioned above, eight of the nine spring records for Nebraska are during the period 4-18 May, five of which fall during the four-day period 13-16 May. The dates from Kansas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska, where *L. griseus* appears to be rare, are essentially during the peak migration period.

Fall migration has been well studied. Jehl (1963) found that *L. griseus* has a highly structured, trimodal fall migration. Around 10 July, large numbers arrive almost simultaneously on the Atlantic Coast. This first peak is composed primarily of post-breeding females. The next influx occurs in late July or early August, and consists of adult males. The final peak of juveniles occurs in mid-August. *L. scolopaceus* adults arrive somewhat later in August and juveniles usually do not appear until the end of September or October.

What is notable about the Nebraska fall records is the absence of any in July. There are two records during the first week of August, both of which were large flocks of adults. Data in Jehl (1963) suggest that these flocks may consist of males, which is interesting and possibly noteworthy, since all Nebraska specimens and most Kansas specimens, including those taken in both spring and fall, are males (Gene Young, pers. comm.). Jehl (1963) suggests that females may make a non-stop flight to the Atlantic Coast, thereby avoiding the interior and Nebraska. Most fall records are juveniles; in fact, there are just as many fall records of juveniles as there are spring records, and three times as many records of juveniles as of adults in fall. All juvenile records neatly fall in the period of 19 August-10 September. Most groups of juveniles have been found only during 19-26 August, possibly indicating the peak movement.

The 28 August 1896 Lancaster record is unusual because it is very late for an adult. Not only is the occurrence late but the bird is in alternate plumage and shows no signs of molting to basic plumage. Most adults of *L. griseus* have molted and are in basic plumage by 15 August (Jehl 1963). The specimen is very old, and the possibility exists that the bird was collected earlier in the month, but the date on the label is inaccurate.

CONCLUSIONS

With the data accumulated and the observations made up to this point, I would consider *L. griseus* a rare (1-6 individuals per

season for the region) spring and fall migrant in the eastern half of Nebraska, becoming less common in the west. Juveniles during the latter half of August are most common. Additional reliable records of *L. griseus* are needed before its true status in Nebraska is known. Migration of *L. griseus* through the Great Plains is interesting, baffling, and not well-defined, primarily due to confusion with the common dowitcher species, *L. scolopaceus*. Observers who find and identify *L. griseus* in the field should send adequate documentation to the NOU Records Committee. At least, observers should submit diagnostic details, such as the hearing of call notes, to the compiler of the Seasonal Field Reports. Documentation is always needed and should always be provided for large flocks and birds found at unexpected times (adults in April and after early August, and any individual after mid-September). Hopefully, after the accumulation of many credible records, questions about occurrence can be answered with some degree of confidence.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would sincerely like to thank Thomas E. Labedz, Collections Manager of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of Nebraska State Museum, for allowing me to examine UNSM specimens. I would also like to thank Charles Crawford, Dr. Roger Sharpe, Gerald Jorgensen, and especially W. Ross Silcock, for reading and making comments on earlier drafts of this paper.

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A LATE BAIRD'S SANDPIPER IN KEITH COUNTY

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On 23 December 1994, Gordon Brown and I were walking the North Platte River below Keystone Dam as part of the Lake McConaughy Christmas Bird Count (CBC). At approximately 8:30 a.m. MST, about 0.5 mi below the dam, we observed a group of 8 Killdeer and a smaller shorebird, which we immediately recognized as a "peep." We studied the bird for about 30 minutes at distances as close as 40 feet, then returned in the afternoon to photograph it. The size and black legs immediately eliminated Least Sandpiper, and the dark rump eliminated White-rumped Sandpiper. The remaining possibilities were Semipalmated, Western, and Baird's Sandpipers, or the remote possibility of something like a stint. The bill was straight, thin, and pointed, very unlike the bill of a Semipalmated. Additionally, the bird had a very elongate body shape like a Baird's and unlike either Semipalmated or Western. This and other features led us to conclude that it was a Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*).

The following is a detailed description of the bird. Its size was about half that of a Killdeer, though it was proportionally slimmer and longer-winged. The slender shape was accentuated by the short legs, and by wingtips that extended beyond the tail tip. The bill was black, straight, and thin, pointed at the tip. The throat was white, neatly separated from the buff-colored breast. The crown, face, and upper breast were buff-colored. There were no obvious darker streaks on the breast. The lower belly and undertail were white. A clear line separated the buff upper breast from the white underparts, like that of a Pectoral Sandpiper. The supercilium was faintly white and most visible when looking at the bird head-on. The mantle was uniformly gray-brown, lacking pale feather edgings. The scapulars were paler and appeared worn. The upperwing on the perched bird was uniformly dark brown, except that the outer two primaries (and possibly the third) were worn, and appeared pale brown and tattered near the tips. We were unable to ascertain the amount of wear on the inner primaries. The legs were short and jet black. The bird vocalized several times when flushed, uttering a high-pitched "kreep," short and abrupt. The call seemed shorter and higher-pitched than that of a Pectoral Sandpiper, and was immediately recognizable as the call note of a Baird's Sandpiper.

The age of this bird was difficult to determine. It was clearly not in fresh juvenal plumage since it lacked buff feather edgings on the upperparts which should have given the bird a scaly appearance. However, this scaly appearance usually disappears by October due to feather wear. Paulson (1993) indicates that Baird's usually do not molt into first-winter plumage until they reach the South American wintering grounds in October. Most adults have left the U.S. by mid-August (Richards 1988) and acquire basic plumage by mid-October on the wintering grounds (Paulson 1993). In rare cases, adults in basic plumage have occurred in the U.S. as early as July (Paulson 1993). The extremely late date for our observation would therefore suggest that the bird was a juvenile. The problem is that the molt pattern is poorly known, and there is much individual variation (Prater et al. 1977). Unfortunately, the above description may not be sufficient to age this bird. Points that favor an adult in basic plumage are the dark (not buff or scaly-appearing) upperparts, obvious white supercilium, and lack of obvious dark breast streaks. The clear white throat is more indicative of a juvenile bird (Hayman et al. 1986). While I cannot say for certain, I believe this bird was an adult that had nearly completed the molt to basic plumage.

Later that day, from 1:45-2:15 p.m., we observed and photographed the bird in the same general area, and it was also seen by Ross Silcock and Larry Malone. This represents the latest occurrence of a Baird's Sandpiper in Nebraska. The previous late date for Nebraska is 21 November 1982 in Douglas and Sarpy Counties (W.R. Silcock, pers. comm.). It is interesting to note that this was the only Baird's Sandpiper recorded on a Christmas Bird Count in North America during the 1994-95 CBC period (Ortega 1995).

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ANOTHER COMMON CRANE IN NEBRASKA WITH A SUMMARY OF NORTH AMERICAN RECORDS

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On 30 March 1996 around 1000 h CST, Bob Janssen and Jim Williams of Minnetonka, Minnesota discovered a Common Crane (*Grus grus*) feeding in corn stubble with a flock of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) in Section 34 T9R10 Hall County, Nebraska. The Common Crane associated with the Sandhill Cranes, which were at peak numbers in the Platte River valley. Later that day, several observers, including myself, witnessed the bird in Section 32, about 500 yards away, where it mingled with a few hundred Sandhill Cranes. The difficulty in seeing this bird was illustrated by the fact that during a 2-hour period, it was visible for less than 10 minutes despite the fact that about 15 observers maintained constant vigilance on the spot where the crane loafed, but was obscured by the Sandhill Cranes. It was seen only when it raised its head above the Sandhill Cranes.

The following morning (31 March 1996), Thomas Labedz and I located the Common Crane in Section 27 at 0845 h CST. It was feeding in corn stubble with a few hundred Sandhill Cranes. I was able to photograph the bird from a vehicle at a distance of about 300 yards using a 400 mm lens (Figure 1). The light was excellent and we were able to see its red iris and red patch on the back of its head through a spotting scope. We decided that it was an adult based on plumage characteristics. After about 20 minutes, the bird flew south about 1 mile and landed in corn stubble in Section 34 with about 1000 Sandhill Cranes. Other people observed the bird that day as well. Scattered sightings of the Common Crane were reported through 8 April 1996, but they were not confirmed by photographs or other documentation. Its nocturnal roost site was never located which was not surprising, since there were about 60,000 Sandhill Cranes roosting in the Platte River about 5 miles north of this location, and it would have been extremely difficult

to pick out the lone Common Crane in among the masses of Sandhill Cranes.



Figure 1. A Common Crane (on left with white head patch) in corn stubble in Section 27 T9R10 Hall County on 31 March 1996.

This sighting is the fourth record for Nebraska and the tenth for North America (Table 1). The ranges of Sandhill Cranes and

Table 1. Summary of Common Crane records for North America.

Date	Location	Authority	Photo	Comments
11-20 Dec. 1957	Cavendish, Alberta	Wishart and Sharp (1959)	Yes	1 bird; age unknown
20 Mar. 1958	Lethbridge, Alberta	Wishart and Sharp (1959)	Yes	1 bird; age unknown
24 Apr.-10 May 1958	Fairbanks, Alaska	Kessel and Kelly (1958)	Yes	1 sub-adult
19 Sept. 1958	Athabasca, Alberta	Wishart and Sharp (1959)	Yes	1 bird: age unknown
Mar. 1963	Bitter Lakes NWR, New Mexico	Hubbard (1978)	No	1 bird: age unknown, considered probable
10 Jan.-3 Feb. 1979	Brownfield, Texas	Tacha et al. (1981)	No	Age unknown; not accepted by Texas Ornithol. Society Records Committee
26-31 Mar. 1972	Lincoln Co., Nebraska	Tremaine (1972)	Yes	1 adult?
31 Mar.-1 Apr. 1972	Phelps Co., Nebraska	Tremaine (1972)	Yes	1 adult?
16-25 Mar. 1974	Buffalo Co., Nebraska	Cochran (1974)	Yes	1 bird; age unknown
30-31 Mar. 1996	Hall Co., Nebraska	This report	Yes	1 adult

Common Cranes overlap in eastern Siberia. It is likely that the Common Crane we observed originated in eastern Asia and mixed with Sandhill Cranes, following them south to winter in North America. Previous sightings from Alberta and Alaska occurred during successive migration periods (fall 1957, spring 1958, fall 1958) and may have been the same individual. Birders in Nebraska should

look very closely at cranes next spring due to the remote possibility of finding another rather uncommon Common Crane.

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NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION ANNUAL MEETING 18 MAY 1996 Highlights of Minutes Recorded by Robin Harding, Secretary

Betty Grenon, Treasurer, reported that the cash balance was \$2655.54 and the investments balance was \$17,097.75.

The following slate of officers for 1996-97 was prepared by the Nominating Committee and approved by the members present:

President: Neal Ratzlaff, Omaha
Vice President: Betty Allen, Omaha
Secretary: Robin Harding, Gibbon
Treasurer: Betty Grenon, Bellevue
Editor, NBR: Rosalind Morris, Lincoln
Librarian: Mary Lou Pritchard, Lincoln
Director: Mark Brogie (3 year term). [The other two Directors, whose terms continue, are Thomas Labedz, Lincoln, and Alice Kenitz, Gering].

The 1997 Annual Meeting will be held jointly with the South Dakota and Iowa Ornithologists' Unions in South Sioux City, NE 16-18 May.

Neal Ratzlaff, President, reported on several items. Funds are being sought to publish the Breeding Bird Atlas for Nebraska. The new NOU Field Cards of Nebraska Birds are ready for distribution. The Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative is on hold because some companies are afraid of increasing their prices. NOU members were encouraged to urge Cabela's to support the Initiative. [See NBR 63 (3) 1995, p. 91 for details.]

A request was received from Fermata, Inc., which has a contract with the EPA and the University of Nebraska, to conduct a survey of nonconsumptive wildlife recreation along the Platte River from North Platte to Columbus. The study would gather data on how many people just interested in wildlife viewing come to the area, how long they stay, and how much they contribute to the local economy. The NOU Executive Committee recommended that the NOU mailing list be released to Fermata on condition that they affirm in writing that they will use the list only for this survey, that they will not give or sell it to any other organization, and that they will destroy the list after using it. The members present agreed to this approach but could let Neal Ratzlaff know by June 20 if any did not wish to have their names released to Fermata.

A 7-minute video by Bob Willet about the proposed Willetta Lueshen Ornithological Education Center in Norfolk, NE was shown to the group. Contributions are needed for a computer system designed to link with other sources of ornithological information, a security system, current research materials, bird feeders and water features, and native grasses and other plantings on the grounds of the center. John Lueshen will provide matching funds up to \$15,000. Gifts may be sent to Elkhorn Valley Historical Society, Box 1114, Norfolk, NE 68701.

NOU AND NAMC SPRING BIRD COUNTS MAY 1996

Bird species seen in a Nebraska five-county area during the Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union 17-19 May, are presented in Table 1 on pages 84-90. The total count was 161 species.

The table also includes data for the North American Migration Count on 11 May in two Nebraska counties, Boone (compiler: Wayne Mollhoff, Ashland), and Sarpy (compiler: Betty Grenon, Bellevue). Observations in Boone Co. were made between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. with two observers for 6 hours and one observer for 3 hours. They covered 3 miles on foot for 6 hours and 40 miles by car for 3 hours. The temperature ranged from 38-55°F and the wind from 5-20 mph. There was 100% cloud cover with some sprinkles in the afternoon. Observations in Sarpy Co. were made between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. with 31 observers in 14 parties. They covered 36 miles on foot in 173 hours and 152 miles by car in 18.5 hours. Two observers covered 0.5 miles and 1 hour owling, and two observers spent 1 hour at one feeding station. The temperature ranged from 40-60°F, and the cloud cover from 10-75%. Supporting details for Water Pipit and Townsend's Warbler, both seen in Sarpy County, are given as follows.

Water Pipit. At 7:00 a.m. on 11 May 1996, Gertrude Wood and I observed 6-7 birds at a distance of 20 feet for 5-10 minutes as they walked along the corn rows on Cedar Island in Sarpy Co., NE. The sun was at our backs, and we had perfect viewing conditions. They were smaller than a robin and had brownish-gray on the back and crown, a light-tannish throat, and a very buffy breast with faint streaking. They had a tannish line through the eye and lore, and almost blackish mandibles. The belly and undertail coverts were buffy, and the retrices were almost blackish. They did not make any sound.

----Ruth C. Green, 506 West 31 Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005

Townsend's Warbler. At 10:00 a.m. on 11 May 1996, Sue Gentes and Sandy Karanda observed a male in a bur oak from a distance of 15 feet in Schramm Park, Sarpy County, NE. The bird was warbler size, and had a black forehead and crown, black auricular, and black neck. The throat and upper part of chest were black, with yellow lower on chest and black streaking along the sides, then white farther back. The nape was black, and the mantle was greenish with black streaks. The wings were black with two wing bars. The bird looked like a Black-throated Green Warbler, but differed from it in the black ear patch, yellow below the black throat, and black streaking on the greenish mantle.

----Sent by Betty Grenon, 1409 Childs Rd. East, Bellevue, NE 68005

Table 1. Bird species observed during NOU Annual Meeting 17-19 May 1996 in five Nebraska counties, and North American Migration Counts (NAMC) 11 May 1996 in two Nebraska counties. X = species present.

Species	Counties in NOU count					NAMC counts	
	Buff- alo	Phelps	Kear- ney	Hall	Clay	Boone	Sarpy
Pied-billed Grebe		X			X	10	11
Eared Grebe		X			X		
Western Grebe				X			
Amer. White Pelican		X			X		220
Double-cr. Cormorant		X		X	X	12	289
American Bittern		X					
Great Blue Heron	X	X	X			1	13
Great Egret	X				X		4
Snowy Egret					X		
Little Blue Heron					X		
Cattle Egret		X	X	X	X	9	20
Green Heron					X		1
Black-cr. Night Heron					X	1	
Yellow-cr. Night Heron		X					
White-faced Ibis	X	X		X	X		
Greater White-fronted Goose		X		X			
Snow Goose		X		X	X		
Canada Goose	X	X		X			41
Wood Duck	X	X	X	X		5	82
Green-winged Teal		X			X		4
Mallard	X	X	X	X	X	15	26
Northern Pintail		X			X		
Blue-winged Teal		X		X	X	40	115
Northern Shoveler		X	X	X	X	10	12
Gadwall		X					30
American Wigeon		X	X		X	2	2
Redhead		X		X	X		
Ring-necked Duck						3	
Lesser Scaup		X			X		20
Hooded Merganser					X		
Ruddy Duck	X	X			X	2	17
Turkey Vulture	X					1	32

Species	Counties in NOU count					NAMC counts	
	Buff- alo	Phelps	Kear- ney	Hall	Clay	Boone	Sarpy
Osprey						1	1
Northern Harrier					X		
Sharp-shinned Hawk			X				
Red-shouldered Hawk							3
Broad-winged Hawk							5
Swainson's Hawk		X			X	2	3
Red-tailed Hawk	X	X	X	X	X	3	16
American Kestrel		X	X			4	5
Peregrine Falcon		X			X		2
Ring-necked Pheasant						15	20
Wild Turkey	X		X				19
Northern Bobwhite	X	X				1	6
Virginia Rail		X					
Sora		X			X	2	
American Coot	X	X		X	X	60	317
Sandhill Crane	X		X				
Black-bellied Plover		X		X	X		
Amer. Golden-Plover		X					
Semipalmated Plover		X			X		
Piping Plover				X			
Killdeer	X	X	X	X	X	5	39
American Avocet		X					
Greater Yellowlegs		X			X		5
Lesser Yellowlegs		X			X	3	55
Solitary Sandpiper					X	3	7
Willet					X		
Spotted Sandpiper	X	X			X	4	19
Upland Sandpiper	X		X		X	4	2
Whimbrel		X					
Hudsonian Godwit							11
Ruddy Turnstone					X		
Sanderling		X			X		
Semipalmat. Sandpiper		X		X	X		13
Least Sandpiper		X			X	8	7
White-rump. Sandpip.		X			X		9
Baird's Sandpiper		X				2	2
Pectoral Sandpiper		X			X		99

Species	Counties in NOU count					NAMC counts	
	Buff-alo	Phelps	Kear-ney	Hall	Clay	Boone	Sarpy
Dunlin		X					1
Stilt Sandpiper		X					
Buff-breast. Sandpip.		X			X		
Short-bill. Dowitcher					X		
Long-bill. Dowitcher		X			X		
Common Snipe						1	
Wilson's Phalarope		X			X		
Franklin's Gull		X	X		X	450	106
Bonaparte's gull					X		7
Ring-billed Gull		X					266
Forster's Tern				X	X	1	3
Least Tern				X			5
Black Tern		X			X	30	128
Rock Dove	X		X	X		16	24
Mourning Dove	X	X	X	X		40	271
Eastern Screech-Owl			X			1	
Great Horned Owl	X	X	X				3
Burrowing Owl		X					
Barred Owl							2
Common Nighthawk			X				1
Whip-poor-will							1
Chimney Swift	X	X	X		X	4	118
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird							1
Belted Kingfisher	X		X			2	7
Red-head. Woodpecker	X	X	X	X		1	142
Red-bell. Woodpecker	X		X			1	65
Downy Woodpecker	X		X			2	68
Hairy Woodpecker		X					5
Northern Flicker	X	X	X	X			1
Yellow-shaft. Flicker						12	71
Olive-sid. Flycatcher							1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	X						12
Yell.-bel. Flycatcher							1
Willow Flycatcher	X	X					
Least Flycatcher	X	X		X			54
Empidonax sp.							120
Eastern Phoebe	X	X	X				14

Species	Counties in NOU count					NAMC counts	
	Buff- alo	Phelps	Kear- ney	Hall	Clay	Boone	Sarpy
Great Cr. Flycatcher	X						39
Western Kingbird	X	X		X		1	5
Eastern Kingbird	X	X	X	X			30
Horned Lark		X		X		2	4
Purple Martin				X		1	40
Tree Swallow				X			134
Northern Rough- winged Swallow	X			X	X	25	188
Bank Swallow		X				1	5
Cliff Swallow	X	X	X	X			11
Barn Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	20	195
Blue Jay	X	X	X	X	X	20	374
Black-billed Magpie	X		X				
American Crow		X	X	X	X	41	74
Black-cap. Chickadee	X		X			3	174
Tufted Titmouse							54
Red-breasted Nuthatch							2
White-br. Nuthatch	X			X		2	55
Carolina Wren							5
House Wren	X	X	X		X	3	225
Sedge Wren				X	X		
Marsh Wren		X			X		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet						1	10
Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher							12
Eastern Bluebird	X		X	X		2	17
Veery							1
Gray-cheeked Thrush							56
Swainson's Thrush	X					14	499
Wood Thrush							8
American Robin	X	X	X	X	X	25	485
Thrush sp.							4
Gray Catbird	X	X	X	X			50
Northern Mockingbird				X	X		4
Brown Thrasher	X	X	X	X	X	6	127
American Pipit							6
Cedar Waxwing	X		X				28
Loggerhead Shrike	X					1	3

Species	Counties in NOU count					NAMC counts	
	Buff- alo	Phelps	Kear- ney	Hall	Clay	Boone	Sarpy
European Starling	X	X	X	X	X	36	272
Bell's Vireo	X		X				
Solitary Vireo							24
Yellow-thr. Vireo							7
Warbling Vireo	X	X	X		X	1	40
Red-eyed Vireo	X						2
Golden-wing. Warbler							2
Tennessee Warbler	X			X			9
Orange-crown. Warbler						3	24
Nashville Warbler			X				4
Northern Parula							11
Yellow Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	2	56
Magnolia Warbler							3
Yellow-rump. Warbler	X	X					756
Myrtle Warbler						18	
Townsend's Warbler							1
Black-throated Green Warbler							4
Blackburnian Warbler							3
Yellow-thr. Warbler							2
Palm Warbler							26
Blackpoll Warbler	X						14
Black-&-wh. Warbler							110
American Redstart							20
Prothonotary Warbler							2
Ovenbird							59
Northern Waterthrush	X	X				6	28
Louisiana Waterthr.							4
Waterthrush sp.							4
Kentucky Warbler							2
Common Yellowthroat	X	X	X	X	X	1	119
Wilson's Warbler							7
Yellow-breasted Chat			X				
Scarlet Tanager							3
Northern Cardinal	X		X			1	130
Rose-breast. Grosbeak	X					1	64
Black-head. Grosbeak	X		X				
Lazuli Bunting		X	X				

Species	Counties in NOU count					NAMC counts	
	Buff- alo	Phelps	Kear- ney	Hall	Clay	Boone	Sarpy
Indigo Bunting			X		X	1	5
Dickcissel	X	X	X	X	X	2	54
Eastern Towhee							16
Spotted Towhee	X						1
Amer. Tree Sparrow							3
Chipping Sparrow	X		X			2	508
Clay-colored Sparrow	X	X			X	15	100
Field Sparrow	X		X			2	35
Vesper Sparrow						1	1
Lark Sparrow	X						19
Lark Bunting		X					
Savannah Sparrow		X			X		10
Grasshopper Sparrow	X		X		X	2	21
LeConte's Sparrow						1	
Song Sparrow	X	X	X		X	5	58
Lincoln's Sparrow			X		X	3	44
White-throat Sparrow							199
White-crown. Sparrow	X					12	62
Harris' Sparrow						14	235
Bobolink	X	X		X	X		45
Red-winged Blackbird	X	X	X	X	X	150	513
Eastern Meadowlark	X			X	X	3	16
Western Meadowlark	X	X	X	X	X	25	25
Meadowlark sp.							15
Yellow-headed	X	X			X	4	1
Great-tailed Grackle		X		X	X	7	
Common Grackle	X	X	X	X	X	60	832
Brown-headed Cowbird	X	X	X	X	X	4	215
Orchard Oriole	X	X	X	X	X		7
Baltimore Oriole	X	X	X	X	X	1	122
House Finch	X			X	X	4	54
Pine Siskin	X						6
American Goldfinch	X	X	X	X	X	5	196
House Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	16	169

SUMMER FIELD REPORT, JUNE-JULY 1996

Compiled by

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 passerines)

INTRODUCTION

Starting with this report, Joel Jorgensen will write the reports for sub-passerines. Hopefully this will help with timeliness, especially in getting reports to the Regional Editor for Audubon Field Notes. It is a long process writing up especially the Spring and Fall reports, given the excellent number received.

Highlights in this report are rare loons at Lake McConaughy, three reports of Clark's Grebe, King Rail in Seward Co, Sandhill Cranes in Clay Co, Mountain Plovers in Kimball Co, easterly reports of Black-necked Stilt, first breeding record for Wilson's Phalarope in the Rainwater Basin, Brown Creeper in Sarpy Co, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the panhandle and in Harlan Co, Townsend's Solitaire in the panhandle, Wood Thrush in Gage Co, Sage Thrasher in Kimball and Banner Cos, Curve-billed Thrasher in Scotts Bluff Co (pending NOU Records Committee approval), Tennessee Warbler in the panhandle, Western Tanager near Redington, Northern Cardinal breeding near Scottsbluff, Chestnut-collared Longspur in Holt Co, Eastern Meadowlark high count at Crescent Lake NWR, and Red Crossbill in Buffalo Co.

Larry Malone made an interesting observation of a small fall-out of migrant passerines at Kilpatrick L, Box Butte Co., on 2 Jun. A northwesterly wind of 15-25 mph led to several observations listed below; notable was the fact that all warblers were females, except for the Tennessee, which was impossible to determine.

An error by WRS was pointed out in the Winter Field Report. Lanny Randolph and Robin Harding did not report the 11 Eastern Meadowlarks in Kearney Co. on 16 Feb; they were reported in fact by Larry Malone. Hopefully observers will report such errors so that they do not become permanent.

ABBREVIATIONS, GAZETTEER

Initials in parentheses refer to observers; a list follows this report.

*=documented; CLNWR= Crescent Lake NWR; FF= Fontenelle Forest Nature Center; LM= L. McConaughy; NE= Nebraska; NM = National Monument; NPNWR= North Platte NWR; NWR= National Wildlife Refuge; Res= Reservoir; RWB= Rainwater Basin, SHP= State Historical Park; SL= sewage lagoons; SP= State Park; SRA= State Recreation Area; WMA= Wildlife Management Area; WPA= Waterfowl Production Area.

Arbor Day Farm, Otoe; Arbor L WMA, Lancaster; Ayr L, Adams; Basswood Ridge WMA, Dakota; Branched Oak SRA, Lancaster; Bruning Pit, Fillmore; Burchard L WMA, Pawnee; Calamus Res SRA, Loup; Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff; CLNWR, Garden; Deep Well WMA, Hamilton; DeSoto Bend NWR, Washington; Facus Springs, Morrill; FFNC, Sarpy; Fort Kearny SHP, Kearney; Fort Robinson SP, Dawes/Sioux; Freeman Lakes WPA, Seward/York; Funk Lagoon WPA, Phelps; Glenvil Basin WPA, Clay; Harvard Marsh WPA, Clay; Indian Cave SP, Nemaha/Richardson; James Ranch, Sioux; Kilpatrick L, Box Butte; Massie WPA, Clay; L. McConaughy, Keith; Medicine Creek Res SRA, Frontier; Miller's Pond, Fillmore; Monroe Canyon, Sioux; Nine Mile Prairie, Lancaster; Niobrara Valley Preserve, Brown/Keya Paha/Rock; Lake North, Platte; Oak Glen WMA, Seward; Oliver Res

SRA, Kimball; Pawnee L SRA, Lancaster; Pine Glen WMA, Brown; Rauscher Lagoon WPA, Fillmore; Rock Creek L SRA, Dundy; Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo; Rulo Bluffs Preserve, Richardson; Sacramento-Wilcox WMA, Phelps; Schramm Park SRA, Sarpy; Scotts Bluff NM, Scotts Bluff; Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux; State Line Island, Scotts Bluff; Theesen Lagoon WPA, Clay; Valentine NWR, Cherry; Wagon Train L SRA, Lancaster; Walgren L SRA, Sheridan; Wehrspann L, Sarpy; Wild Rose Ranch, Kearney; Yankee Hill WMA, Lancaster.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Red-throated Loon: The identity of two small loons at Lake Ogallala on 22 Jun was controversial and will have to be ultimately determined, if possible, by the Records Committee. A loon was identified as a Red-throated in the late morning (*LKM). Two small loons were observed together in the early afternoon, one identified as a Pacific and one as a small Common (*WRS,*JGJ). Three Common Loons, one of which was markedly smaller and presumably the small Common Loon that was observed on 22 Jun, were observed on Keystone Lake on 3 Aug (JGJ,SJD,WRS).

Pacific Loon: See Red-throated Loon.

Common Loon: See Red-throated Loon.

Pied-billed Grebe: Breeds and summers somewhat locally in the east; 3 were at North Lake Basin WMA on 10 Jun (LP,BP), and the species was found throughout the period in Otoe Co (LF,CF) and at Funk WPA (LR,RH). In the southwest was one in Chase Co on 4 Jul (IP).

Eared Grebe: Exceptional were counts of 436 on 13 Jun and 316 on 29 Jul at CLNWR (MF). Probably late migrants were 3 at Funk WPA on 3 Jun (LR,RH).

Western Grebe: Rather far east were singles at Funk WPA on 2 Jun (LR,RH) and in Antelope Co on 12-13 Jul (LP,BP,LR,RH). Otherwise, reports were restricted to the west with a high count of 77 at LM on 15 Jul (LP,BP).

Clark's Grebe: With good details provided, 2 birds observed at Lake Ogallala on 9 Jun (LP,BP), 2 off Omaha Beach, LM on 16 Jun (WRS), and a single at NPNWR 16 Jun-12 Jul (LKM,LK), add to evidence that a few individuals can be routinely found with Westerns.

American White Pelican: Good numbers were reported throughout with a high count of 76 in Otoe Co on 21 Jun (LF,CF).

Double-crested Cormorant: At least 1 nest and 30 individuals were at Harlan Co. Res. on 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). A few can be found during summer at favored locales, but 60 were at CLNWR on 13 Jun (MF) and 125 were there on 16 Jun (MF). Possible early migrants, 88 were in Rock Co on 20 Jul (LR,RH).

American Bittern: All but 1 were at CLNWR, where 8 were found on 24 Jul (MF). The other was 1 at Funk WPA on 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ).

Least Bittern: With several reported from the Rainwater Basin, breeding is suspected. Observations were at North Lake Basin WMA on 10-15 Jun (LP,BP,JGJ), Funk WPA on 1-2 Jun (LR,RH) and 19 Jul (LP,BP), and Deep Well WMA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Great Blue Heron: Numbers begin building at favored locales during July. High count was 20 at Hansen WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Great Egret: A few were noted in Otoe Co (LF,CF) and the RWB (LR,RH,LP,BP) during June, but 2 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM) were mildly unexpected. "Post breeders" appear and numbers build during July; high count was 17 at Kissinger Basin WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Snowy Egret: Increasing over the last two decades, up to 10 individuals were found at five locales. The most westerly were 1-3 at CLNWR on 23-31 Jul (MF,LKM).

Little Blue Heron: Excellent were counts of 14 on 4 Jun and 13 on 24 Jul in Otoe Co (LF,CF). Two immatures were at Funk WPA on 11

Jun (LR,RH), singles were at Sandpiper WPA and a private marsh in Clay Co. on 23 Jun (WRS, JGJ), and a single was at Miller's Pond on 28 Jul (JGJ).

Cattle Egret: Possible late migrants were 5 at Waco WPA (LP,BP), 20 at North Lake Basin on 1 Jun (LP, BP), 1 at Sacramento-Wilcox WMA on 2 Jun (LR,RH). Possible early migrants were 40 at the Shelton I-80 exit on 19 Jul (LR,RH) and 60 in Otoe Co on 24 Jul (LF,CF).

Green Heron: Four reports received, most westerly in Buffalo Co on 8 Jun (LR,RH) and Kearney Co on 11 Jun (LR,RH). High count of 4 at Hansen WPA on 28 Jul (JGJ).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Most of the few reports received, including a high count of 6 on 31 Jul, were from CLNWR. In the RWB, the species was observed at Funk WPA on 11 & 30 Jul (LR,RH).

White-faced Ibis: Up to 9 were at CLNWR during Jul (LKM,MF) and 16 were at Funk WPA on 11 Jul (LR,RH). Four easterly reports were all from the eastern portion of the RWB and include a high count of 8 at North Lake Basin WMA on 10 Jun (LP, BP).

Trumpeter Swan: Only reports were 2 at CLNWR on 13 Jun-16 Jul (MF) and 2 near Hyannis on 23 Jul (LKM).

Snow Goose: A single was at Jack Sinn WMA on 25 Jun (LP,BP) and 3 were at Wagon Train L. on 1 Jun.

Canada Goose: Becoming a nuisance in some areas, the season's high count was 330 at NPNWR on 12 Jul (LK).

Wood Duck: Most westerly were 2 at NPNWR on 7 Jun (LKM), 2 at the Gering SL on 4 Jun (AK), and 2 at Crawford on 27 Jun (LEi).

Green-winged Teal: A few were found in the RWB this summer, but a good count of 130 was predictably from CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM).

Mallard: Underscoring a good breeding season this summer in the RWB and likely elsewhere were 7 hens with broods at the rather small Theesen WPA on 14 Jul (JGJ).

Northern Pintail: Small numbers were reported in the panhandle and RWB, with high count of 30 at CLNWR on 31 Jul (LKM).

Blue-winged Teal: High count was 117 on 27 Jun at CLNWR (MF). The species also enjoyed a good breeding season in the RWB, with several broods noted during July (JGJ).

Cinnamon Teal: Besides two reports from the western Panhandle, one was slightly east at Clear Creek WMA on 10-22 Jun (LP,BP,WRS,JGJ). Two were further east at Funk WPA on 30 Jun (LR,RH), but a single was even further east at Theesen WPA on 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). Finally, a male (the winner?) was the furthest east at Freeman Lakes WPA on 14 Jul (JGJ).

Northern Shoveler: All reports were from the panhandle and RWB, with the highest count being 40 on 5 Jun at CLNWR (LKM).

Gadwall: All reports were from the panhandle and RWB, with the highest count being 78 on 16 Jul at CLNWR (MF).

American Wigeon: A few reports from the panhandle and even fewer from the RWB, no more than 2 were noted at a single locale per visit.

Canvasback: Reports from CLNWR include 13 on 13 Jul (MF) and 15 on 29 Jul (MF). The species was also observed in Sheridan Co on 21 Jun (LEi).

Redhead: Probably in response to abundant water were several at wetlands in the RWB, with the best count being 35 at Funk WPA on 22 Jun (LR,RH). Regular during summer in the Sandhills, 52 were at CLNWR on 13 Jun (MF).

Lesser Scaup: Most reports were from the panhandle, including a high count of 48 at CLNWR on 16 Jul (MF). A few were noted in the RWB (LP,BP) and Lancaster Co (LEi) during the first week of June and may have been late migrants. Origin and intent of a single at Funk WPA on 22 Jun (LR,RH) and 4 at Harvard WPA on 21 & 28 Jul (JGJ) are debatable.

Ring-necked Duck: A good find was a single at CLNWR on 31 Jul (LKM).

Bufflehead: Possible late migrants were 3 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM).

Hooded Merganser: Breeding activity would be predicted to occur in an eastern river drainage, so six reports of female/first-year birds in the RWB and 3 at CLNWR on 31 Jul (LKM) were likely wandering non-breeders.

Common Merganser: As many as 90 were at NPNWR on 22 Jul where only a single was seen 10 Jun (LK). In addition, 10 at Lake Ogallala on 9 Jun grew to 18 on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ,LKM), and all were still present on 15 Jul (LP,BP).

Ruddy Duck: Like most of the other ducks, highest numbers were at CLNWR. High count there was 99 on 16 Jul (MF). Seven reports were from the RWB, including 4 birds, one of which was a displaying male, at North Lake Basin WMA on 23 Jun (WRS, JGJ).

Turkey Vulture: Often seen soaring in summer, the species was well reported this year. A good concentration was 22 "sitting on a pipeline over the Missouri River" at Ponca SP on 17 Jun (LP,BP).

Osprey: A late migrant was in Otoe Co on 4 Jun (LF,CF). An early migrant was at Branched Oak SRA on 20 Jul (JM). Possible summer wanderers were a single at LM on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ,LKM) and at Scottsbluff 28 Jun (LEi).

Mississippi Kite: Hopefully an indicator that the established colony in Ogallala is doing well is an observation of 4 on 9 Jun (LP,BP).

Bald Eagle: Only report was 3 at NPNWR, a known nesting site, from 10 Jun-8 Jul (LK).

Northern Harrier: Few were reported, most easterly were 2 in Knox Co on 18 Jun (LP,BP) and a single male in Dixon Co on 3 Jun (JJo). As many as 4 were at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM) & 31 Jul (MF).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A June observation in Scottsbluff Co (AK) is the only report.

Cooper's Hawk: Only reports were a single at Ft. Robinson SP on 13 Jul (LKM) and Pants Butte on 16 Jun (WRS).

Swainson's Hawk: Possibly indicating the eastern fringe of the summer (breeding?) range in the south were observations in Kearney Co on 2, 22, 23 Jun and 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Red-tailed Hawk: Reports were routine.

Ferruginous Hawk: This high-plains species was reported only from the western panhandle, with 4 being found near Harrison on 8 Jun (LKM).

Golden Eagle: Singles were noted near Kilpatrick Lake on 2 Jun (LKM), south of Morrill on 13 Jun (AK), and at CLNWR on 17 Jul (LKM). The latter was east of the breeding range, but likely was a non-breeder or failed breeder.

American Kestrel: As expected, reported throughout Nebraska.

Prairie Falcon: The only report was at Scottsbluff NM on 28 Jun (LEi).

Gray Partridge: A single found in Dixon Co. on 1 Jun (JJo) is the only report of this species, which has almost vanished from the state.

Ring-necked Pheasant: A BBS route done on 13 Jun in Box Butte Co. yielded a good count of 55 (LKM).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Reports from the south-central continue to document the isolated population. Nine birds were found on 9 Jun in Kearney Co southeast of Lowell (LR,RH). Out of habitat was 1 at Funk WPA on 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Reported only from CLNWR, where 3 were observed on 5 Jun (LKM).

Wild Turkey: Reported from the Broadwater area on 27 Jun (LKM), Wheeler Co on 14 Jul (LR,RH), Custer Co on 20 Jul (LR,RH), and

young were noted in Banner Co on 29 Jun (AK).

Northern Bobwhite: Possibly in response to adequate rainfall in recent years, the species is doing well. As many as 6 were found in Dundy Co on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ), it was present in Chase Co on 4 Jul (IP), and 1 was rather far west at Scottsbluff NM on 27 Jun (LKM).

King Rail: A good find was 1 at North Lake Basin WMA on 1-2 Jun (LP,BP,WRS,JGJ).

Virginia Rail: Only reports were 2 at Funk WPA on 30 Jun (LR,RH) and 1-3 at CLNWR during Jun (MF).

Sora: Up to 8 were found at CLNWR on 13 Jun (MF). Others were noted at Funk WPA on 1 Jun (LR,RH) and in Kearney Co. on 30 Jun and 27 Jul (LR,RH).

American Coot: Good counts include 414 at CLNWR on 13 Jun (MF) and 350 at Funk WPA on 1 Jun (LR,RH). An adult with downy young was noted at North Lake Basin WMA on 28 Jul (JGJ).

Sandhill Crane: A single was heard at the Rowe Sanctuary on 27 Jun (LR,RH). A pair of "greater" were found at Harvard WPA on 14, 21, & 28 Jul (JGJ). No breeding activity was noted (JGJ), but the sighting alone is interesting since a family group was noted two years ago at a small basin in the same county on 20 Aug (NBR 62:133), and since the species is increasing and breeding in Iowa and Minnesota.

Black-bellied Plover: A late migrant was one at NPNWR on 10 Jun (LK).

Semipalmated Plover: The first and only southbound migrant was a single adult at Bruning Pit on 28 Jul (JGJ).

Piping Plover: Reported where expected, 7 were on the Niobrara River in Knox Co. on 13 Jul (BP,LP,MBr,WRS,JGJ), 4 were at LM on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ), and a single was at the Wild Rose Ranch on 1 Jun (BP,LP).

Killdeer: Post-breeders begin flocking in July, such as 200 at Funk WPA on 4 Jul (LR,RH) and 145 at Theesen WPA on 28 Jul (JGJ).

Mountain Plover: Acting territorially, but interestingly found in a newly disced wheat field, were 2 birds 9 mi. s and 2 mi. w of Kimball on 15 Jun (WRS). Although no young were seen, it is likely that they were present. Although nesting usually requires native short-grass prairie with up to 30% bare ground, chicks move up to 800 meters as soon as they hatch (Knopf and Rupert 1996 - Wilson Bulletin 108:28).

Black-necked Stilt: Only 1 was found at the traditional Lakeside-Antioch breeding locale on 4 Jun (LKM), and 4 were at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM). Away from the pandhandle and quite unexpected were 1 at Funk WPA on 11 Jun (BF fide LR,RH), and 2 on 2 Jun (WRS,JGJ) and 1 on 10 Jun (LP,BP) at North Lake Basin WMA.

American Avocet: Superb was a count of up to 270 at CLNWR on 16 Jul (MF, LKM). With no other June observations from the locale, a single at Funk WPA on 30 Jun was likely an early migrant. Easterly was 1 in Otoe Co on 24 Jul (LF,CF).

Greater Yellowlegs: Earliest were 3 at CLNWR on 24 Jun (MF), followed by 1 in Antelope Co on 12 Jul (LR,RH). High count, from CLNWR, was 20 on 16 Jul (MF).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Late was a single at CLNWR on 5 Jun. Earliest arrivals were 4 at Funk WPA (LR,RH) and 4 at Clear Creek WMA (WRS,JGJ), both on 22 Jun. High count was 35 at CLNWR on 17 Jul (LKM).

Solitary Sandpiper: First arrivals were 4 at Funk WPA on 4 Jul (LR,RH). A good single-locale high count was 7 at Theesen WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Willet: Reports were from the panhandle, with the best count of 11 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM), and 1 was in Sheridan Co. on 21 June (LEi).

Spotted Sandpiper: Breeds locally, but a good count of 11 at Funk WPA on 30 Jun (LR,RH) were possibly migrants.

Upland Sandpiper: Good counts included 60 in Rock Co on 20 Jul (LR,RH), 40 in Holt Co on 14 Jul, and 35 at Mormon Island Crane Meadows 29 Jun (LR,RH). Uncommon in the most intensely cultivated areas, 6 were in Dixon Co on 27 Jun (JJo).

Long-billed Curlew: Reports from the panhandle included 11 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM). Furthest east and likely migrants were 9 in Cherry Co on 31 Jul (JJo).

Marbled Godwit: Earliest and a good count was 28 at Clear Creek WMA on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ). The only other reports were from NPNWR, where 1 was found on 8 Jul (LK) and 3 were present on 22 Jul (LK).

Sanderling: Very early, in fact, the second earliest on record, were 2 at Funk WPA on 4 Jul (LR,RH). The only other reports include 3 at Lake North (JGJ) and 6 at Branched Oak Lake (JMo), both on 21 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Late spring migrants were 4 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM). The earliest fall migrants were 10 at Funk WPA on 4 Jul (LR,RH), followed by 2 in Knox Co (LP,BP), 1 in Antelope Co (LR,RH), and 1 in Lancaster Co (LEi), all on 13 Jul.

Western Sandpiper: Late were 9 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM). Earliest were 6 at Funk WPA on 4 Jul (LR,RH). The only other report was of 2 at CLNWR on 31 Jul (LKM).

Least Sandpiper: Earliest was 1 at Massie WPA (JGJ) and 3 at Theesen WPA (JGJ) on 7 Jul. High count was 24 at Theesen WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Migration lasts into middle June, but 126 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM) was a good count. Latest were 48 at Clear Creek WMA on 10 Jun (LP,BP).

Baird's Sandpiper: Most pass through during April, so 49 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM) were unusual. Earliest was 1 in Antelope Co on 12-13 Jul (LR,RH) and 20 in Knox Co on 13 Jul (LP,BP). High counts were 77 at Theesen WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ) and 76 at CLNWR on 31 Jul (LKM).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Uncommon during fall in the panhandle, 6 were found at CLNWR on 17 Jul (LKM). Earliest were 11 in Antelope Co on 12-13 Jul (LR,RH) and 12 in Knox Co on 13 Jul (LP,BP). Eastern high count was 87 at Theesen WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Stilt Sandpiper: Latest in the spring were 3 at Funk WPA on 1 Jun (LR,RH) and 24 at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM). Earliest were 3 in Phelps Co on 6 Jul (LR,RH), 1 at Theesen WPA on 7 Jul (JGJ), and 7 near Mead on 7 Jul (JGJ). High count was 22 at Theesen WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Four reports from 28 Jul (all JGJ) are the second earliest on record; 9 were at Lake North, 4 were in a flooded field in Platte Co, 3 were at Theesen WPA, and 6 were at a private marsh in Fillmore Co.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Only report was 3 at CLNWR on 31 Jul (LKM). Any report of this species should be accompanied with details on field marks or method of identification.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Unexpected were several July reports of the species, which does not usually arrive until the beginning of August. Reports include 1 in Antelope Co on 12 Jul (LR,RH), 3 in Adams Co on 17 Jul (LP,BP), 48 on 17 Jul (LKM) and 51 on 29 Jul (MF) at CLNWR, and 5, identified by call, in the RWB on 28 Jul (JGJ). The reason for the numerous reports is open to conjecture, but it may indicate a poor breeding year. Even though it is somewhat rare, Short-billed would have been the expected dowitcher in July. Therefore, any dowitcher observed during July should be thoroughly scrutinized and ideally identified by call, because both species can appear identical in fall due to wear and fading of plumage.

Common Snipe: Breeding status in the state is not well known. Only reports were 1-2 during Jul at CLNWR (LKM), 1 south of Morrill on 13 Jun (AK), and 5 in Holt Co on 14 Jun (JGJ,GeJ).

American Woodcock: No reports were received.

Wilson's Phalarope: Likely breeding were up to 4 males vigorously circling and "whonking" at an intruder (JGJ) at Harvard WPA on 7 & 14 Jul. A juvenile with remnant down on the head was observed on 21 Jul (JGJ). This is the first reported breeding in the RWB. Several were noted at CLNWR during June, but excellent counts of 588 on 29 Jul (MF) and 1,338 on 31 Jul (LKM) were certainly migrants.

Franklin's Gull: This year several lingered into June, but counts of 200 in Clay Co (LP,BP), 250 at Harvard WPA (LP,BP), and 600 at Funk WPA (LR,RH) were still good counts for 1 Jun. Another good count, likely early migrants, were 235 at NPNWR on 12 Jul (LKM).

Ring-billed Gull: Found locally in summer, especially at large reservoirs. No counts exceeded 21, with the exception of 284 at NPNWR on 12 Jul (LK).

Herring Gull: Despite good numbers of other gull species, none were reported.

California Gull: Least common during summer, a single was at LM on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ,LKM). Most unexpected were a mixed-age flock of 23 at the Harrison SL on 16 Jun (WRS).

Caspian Tern: The species is primarily an uncommon eastern migrant, so 6 at LM on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ) and 2 at Harlan Co Res. on 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ) were a surprise; one can only speculate why they were present. A single at Branched Oak SRA on 21 Jul (JGJ) was likely an early migrant.

Common Tern: Identified by "dark outer tail feathers" were 3 in Otoe Co on 29 Jun (LF,CF). Reported without details, 2 were at Gavin's Point Dam on 18 Jun (LP,BP). Very few Nebraska records are documented (five to date) and identification is very difficult, especially in fall, so observers are encouraged to provide identification details when reported.

Forster's Tern: CLNWR had 34 on 13 Jun (MF), and 15 were in Sheridan Co. on 21 Jun (LEi). Few were reported elsewhere, but 30 were at Branched Oak L. on 31 Jul (LP,BP).

Least Tern: Most reports were from expected locales and included the best count, 6, at LM on 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ,LKM). Away from known breeding areas were 1 in Adams Co on 1 Jun (LP,BP) and 4 in Otoe Co on 21 Jun (LF,CF).

Black Tern: Several migrants were detected during the first week of June, including 80 at Funk WPA on 1 Jun (LR,RH). Also at Funk, only 10 were present on 2 Jun (LR,RH), but 100 were tallied on 11 Jun (LR,RH). One was also at Holmes L. in Lincoln on 12 Jun (LEi). Elsewhere, 56 were at CLNWR on 16 Jul (MF).

Rock Dove: Away from major urban areas were 1 at CLNWR on 4 Jun (LKM) and 14 at LM on 22 Jun (LKM).

Mourning Dove: Common throughout, 126 were counted on a BBS route in Cheyenne and Morrill Cos on 11 Jun (LKM). Another good count was 200 at Springer WPA on 21 Jul (JGJ).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Supposedly more common in the north, 1 was south at Arbor Day Farm 11 Jun-1 Jul (LF,CF). The only other report was 1 at CLNWR 12 Jun-10 Jul (MF). Observers are encouraged to report all sightings of this species.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Of several reports, furthest west was 1 in Chase Co on 4 June (IP).

Barn Owl: Most common in the west, but still an impressive count were 14 at CLNWR on 27 Jun (MF). The only other reports were 2 adults and 2 young south of Gering on 31 Jul (AK) and 1 in Sioux Co on 2 Jul (LKM).

Eastern Screech-owl: Hopefully not an indicator of a tragic

decline, no reports were received.

Great-horned Owl: Reports were routine, with 4 in Sioux Co on 20 Jul (LKM) being the best count.

Burrowing Owl: Best count was 6 in the Lyman area on 12 Jul (LKM). Eastern reports include 2 near Funk WPA on 1 Jun (LR,RH), 1 in Holt Co on 14 Jul (LR,RH), and 1 south of Geneva on 14 Jul (JGJ).

Barred Owl: Only reports were in Otoe Co on 8 Jun (LF,CF) and 2 Jul (LCF).

Short-eared Owl: Interesting was 1 near Holbrook, Gosper Co, on 16 Jun (LR,RH). Acting territorially and even harassing a nearby Swainson's Hawk, were 2 in CRP land 12 mi. s. and 3 mi w of Kimball on 15 Jun (WRS).

Common Nighthawk: Reports were routine.

Chuck-will's-widow: A single was at Indian Cave SP on 8 Jul (LP,BP).

Whip-poor-will: A good count and the only report was 14 at Schramm SP on 23 Jun (WRS).

Chimney Swift: Reports from the far west were singles in Scottsbluff on 9 Jul (LKM) and at Ft. Robinson on 13 Jul (LKM). This species is now regular in these locations.

White-throated Swift: Up to 60 were tallied at Scottsbluff NM on 27 Jun (LKM), but only 12 could be found on 12 Jul (LKM). Elsewhere, 1 was in Sowbelly Canyon on 8 Jun (LKM), 1 was seen in the Wildcat Hills on an occasion during June (AK), 3 were at Red Cloud Buttes, Dawes Co on 22 Jun (JJo), 10 were seen on Pants Butte Road, Sioux Co on 27 June (Lei), and 4 were at the Timber Reserve, Sioux Co on 24 June (LEi).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: A male was at Ponca on 23 Jun (JJo). No other reports were received.

Hummingbird sp.: A hummer, likely western in origin, was noted in Gering on 17 Jul (fide AK). No other details were provided.

Belted Kingfisher: Reports routine.

Lewis' Woodpecker: Only report was 1 in Smiley Canyon on 23 Jun (LEi).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Reports were routine.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Observed throughout the period in Kearney Co (LR,RH), a regular location.

Downy Woodpecker: Reports were routine.

Hairy Woodpecker: Out in the boonies, by woodpecker standards, was a single at CLNWR on 5 Jun (LKM).

Northern Flicker: Likely not "pure" birds, but Yellow-shafted were noted from several locales in the panhandle. Red-shafteds were restricted to the panhandle, but most summer birds are likely not "pure" either.

Western Wood-Pewee: Reports were from regular summer locations in the western panhandle, although 6 at Rock Creek L SRA 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ) were at a location with few summer reports. Six at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM) may have been migrants, although breeding would be expected there. Best count was 14 in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Most westerly were 2 at Orleans (WRS,JGJ) 23 Jun; it is rare west of there in the Republican valley.

Acadian Flycatcher: The small population at Indian Cave SP continued this summer; singing birds were heard 4 Jun and 9 Jul (BP,LP).

Willow Flycatcher: Reports of up to 3 birds were received from locations statewide, as expected. Best count was 3 in Kearney Co 8 Jun (LR,RH).

Least Flycatcher: The last of this statewide migrant were singles in Dixon Co 1 Jun (JJo) and 2 in Box Butte Co 2 Jun (LKM).

Cordilleran Flycatcher: Rarely reported and undocumented (including

this report) away from the w Pine Ridge, a migrant was at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM). In all, at least 6 were reported: up to 3 were in Sowbelly Canyon 3-8 Jun (JGJ,GeJ,WRS,LKM), and 1 was in Monroe Canyon 8 Jun (JGJ,GeJ). A new location was the Wood Reserve, Sioux Co, where 2 were found on 24 June.

Eastern Phoebe: Reports were routine.

Say's Phoebe: Most easterly was 1 in sw Phelps Co 6 Jul (LR,RH); this is probably the e edge of the regular summer range s of the Platte River.

Great Crested Flycatcher: In recent years it appears to have become regular in summer on the Pine Ridge; 2 were reported in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (JGJ,GeJ,LKM) and 6 were there on 16 Jun (WRS). Of interest was 1 along the Niobrara River s of Gordon 9 Jun (JGJ,GeJ); there are few reports w of the Valentine area other than from the Pine Ridge. Uncommon w of Harlan Co, 1 was at Stratton 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ).

Cassin's Kingbird: Reports from the e edge of the range were 1 in Dawes Co 7 miles w of Hay Springs 8 Jun (JGJ, GeJ), and 6 in a favored canyon s of Redington 29 Jun (LKM,AK).

Western Kingbird: Reports were routine.

Eastern Kingbird: A good westerly count was 11 in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM).

Horned Lark: Reports were routine.

Purple Martin: Westerly were reports from Antelope Co 12 Jul (LR,RH), flyovers in Chase Co on 4 July (IP) that were possible migrants, and 4 at Stratton 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). The range extends westward in major river valleys, but it is uncommon west of the 100th meridian in the south and the 98th meridian in the north.

Tree Swallow: Reports were routine.

Violet-green swallow: Reports were from breeding locations: up to 10 were in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM), and 1-2 were s of Gering 29 Jul (AK) and at Scotts Bluff NM 28 Jun (LEi) and 12 Jul (LKM).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: An outstanding count of migrants was 781 at CLNWR 29 Jul; 108 were there 23 Jul (MF).

Bank Swallow: Another outstanding count of migrants was 2400 at CLNWR 31 Jul (LKM). A colony at Peru had at least 100 adults (LF,CF).

Cliff Swallow: Numbers had started to decline by 4 Jul at a large colony on the highway 2 Missouri River bridge at Nebraska City (LF,CF). At LM 510 were counted 22 Jun (LKM).

Barn Swallow: Reports were routine.

Blue Jay: Now occurring statewide, furthest w was 1 at Stateline Marsh WMA 12 Jul (LKM).

Pinyon Jay: Not obvious in early summer, best count was 8 in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM). Probable post-breeders were a few at feeders at James Ranch in Jul (SLe).

Black-billed Magpie: At the southeast edge of the range, a flock of 10 was near Gibbon 14 Jun (LR,RH). Fledglings appeared at James Ranch mid-Jun and mid-Jul (SLe).

American Crow: Reports were routine.

Black-capped Chickadee: Reports were routine.

Tufted Titmouse: Reports were routine.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Reports were from expected breeding locations; of most interest were a few at Pine Glen WMA in Brown Co 20-21 Jul (LR,RH). Six were in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM).

White-breasted Nuthatch: Numbers decline rapidly westward from Harlan Co in the Republican valley; 6 were at Orleans 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). Regular on the Pine Ridge, 3 were in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM).

Pygmy Nuthatch: Reports were routine.

Brown Creeper: Summering currently is regular only at Fontenelle

Forest, where at least 1 singing bird was heard on 3 occasions 3-26 Jun along North Stream Trail (BP,LP).

Rock Wren: Easternmost was 1 at a rocky escarpment in se Hitchcock Co 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ).

Carolina Wren: None were reported.

House Wren: Reports were routine.

Sedge Wren: As is typical of this species, reports were essentially in two groups, early and late summer; the only report between 8 Jun and 12 Jul was of 1-2 at Arbor L. WMA until 17 Jul, but not reported again until 27 June (LEi). There was no evidence of nesting, which usually does not occur until Jul and Aug in NE.

Early reports were of 1 heard near Gibbon 1-10 Jun (LR,RH) and 1 at Arbor Day Farm 4 Jun (LF,CF). Later reports were from Rowe Sanctuary 12-28 Jul (LR,RH), ne of Rose, Rock Co, 20-21 Jul (LR,RH), and 1 at Harvard Marsh WPA 21 Jul (JGJ).

Marsh Wren: Generally not numerous s of the Platte River, Funk Lagoon WPA is a regular location; at least 5 were there 30 Jun (LR,RH). A report of several at Goose L in se Holt Co is of interest; this location is near the dividing line between eastern and western song types, which may be separate species (Kroodsma, NBR 56:40). The line, about 100 km in width with little suitable Marsh Wren habitat, passes se through O'Neill, approximately following the Elkhorn valley. Reports from this general area, especially recordings, would be of interest.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: The third panhandle record was 1 at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM); there are 2 prior Jun records for Kimball Co (WRS), as well as Jun records for Keith and Lincoln Cos. This species is regular but rare in the South Platte valley of northeast Colorado during migration (Colorado Birds, Andrews and Righter 1992). Of interest also was the presence of 2-3 territorial birds 2 miles s of Orleans 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ); this area of outstanding riparian woodland appears to support a breeding population, as territorial birds were noted 5 miles s and 1 mile e of Orleans in 1990 (WRS).

Eastern Bluebird: Reports were routine.

Mountain Bluebird: Reports were from the breeding range, e to Morrill Co, where 2 were noted 29 Jun (AK). Young fledged at James Ranch 25 Jul (SLe).

Townsend's Solitaire: Generally rare in summer, there were more reports than usual of this species. Singles were in Box Butte Co 4 Jun (LMa), and at Fort Robinson SP 13 Jul (LKM).

Swainson's Thrush: Last of the migrants were reported in the northwest, where Jun records are not unusual; 1 was near Gering in early Jun (AK) and 2 were at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM).

Wood Thrush: Reports were received for Jun in Otoe (LF,CF) and Cass Cos (BP,LP), and also n to Thurston Co, where 1 was singing at Ashford Camp 12 Jul (BFH), and w to Gage Co, where another was singing at Homestead NM 29 Jun (LF,CF). The Gage Co report is rather far westward for recent years; it is unusual even in Lancaster Co.

American Robin: Reports were routine.

Gray Catbird: Rare in the w Republican valley, and not known to breed in the Colorado section (Andrews and Righter op. cit), none were noted w of the 4 seen just sw of McCook 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). However, it was reported 4 Jul in Chase Co(IP). Also westerly were 2 at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM), rather early for the panhandle, where it is uncommon.

Northern Mockingbird: This species is now being reported statewide with regularity. About 15 were found, with 3 the best count, both in the Dalton area 11 Jun (LKM) and sw of Cotesfield 14 Jul (LR,RH).

Sage Thrasher: Early enough to indicate breeding was a group of 4 in Kimball Co 18 Jul (photo, BP,LP); the earliest fall reports are 31 Jul, 3 Aug, and 5 Aug. Also unexpected was 1 w of Harrison on 27 Jun (LEi).

Brown Thrasher: Reports were routine.

Curve-billed Thrasher: Perhaps the rarest bird reported this summer is one at a feeder s of Gering at the base of the Wildcat Hills 2 Jul (*LKe). This bird was seen closely for about 5 minutes. If accepted by the NOU Records Committee, this would be the 4th documented record; the others were for 24 Mar, 2 May, and 18 Nov from McCook, North Platte, and s Sioux Co, respectively. It was reported but unconfirmed as breeding in the Lawrence Fork area of Morrill Co in 1965.

Cedar Waxwing: This species breeds uncommonly in woodlands in the Missouri and Niobrara valleys, the Pine Ridge and Wildcat Hills, and westward at least to Buffalo Co in the Platte valley, where it was noted throughout the period in the Gibbon area (LR,RH). The only nesting evidence was of a pair carrying food to a nest 15 feet up in a Scotch Pine at Branched Oak SRA 25 Jun (BP,LP). One at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM) may have been a migrant.

Loggerhead Shrike: Reports were routine.

European Starling: Reports were routine.

Bell's Vireo: This species is common at Rock Creek L SRA, where at least 10 were noted 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ).

Solitary Vireo: The only reports were of 2 summering birds of the plumbeus race in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM) and 27 Jun (LEi).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Reports were as expected from the Missouri valley, n to Thurston Co, where 4 were singing at Ashford Camp 12 Jul (BFH).

Warbling Vireo: Reports were routine.

Red-eyed Vireo: None were reported prior to the end of the period in the panhandle, but 3 were singing in Sowbelly Canyon 3 Aug (WRS,JGJ,SJD), where it is an uncommon summer resident.

Tennessee Warbler: Rare in the panhandle in spring, 1 was part of the Kilpatrick L fallout 2 Jun (LKM) for the only report.

Northern Parula: The only report was from Fontenelle Forest, where 1-2 were present at least through 26 Jun (BP,LP).

Yellow Warbler: About 60 were counted in the Gibbon area and around the I-80 Gibbon exit 17 Jun (LR,RH), indicating how numerous these birds can be in suitable breeding habitat.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Reports were of the race auduboni; 1 at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM), a rather late date for a migrant, while 1-2 were in Sowbelly Canyon, a breeding location, 8 Jun (LKM) and 27 Jun (LEi).

Yellow-throated Warbler: None were reported.

Cerulean Warbler: Reported only from Fontenelle Forest, a female and a singing male were in the North Stream Trail area 3 Jun and 14 Jun, respectively (BP,LP).

Black-and-White Warbler: Summering is regular on the Pine Ridge, where 3 were counted in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LMA).

American Redstart: Also regular in summer on the Pine Ridge, as many as 11 were in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM). It also breeds regularly in the Missouri valley; 5 were singing at Ashford Camp in Thurston Co 12 Jul (BFH). Part of the Kilpatrick L fallout 2 Jun were 11 redstarts (LKM), presumably migrants, although this is a rather late spring date away from known breeding locations.

Prothonotary Warbler: Despite an increase in habitat at Fontenelle Forest, only 1 male was heard, on 26 Jun (BP,LP).

Ovenbird: Reports were routine.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Following a good spring influx, only 2 were noted in Jun: singles were at Platte River SP 6 Jun (BP,LP) and in

Mill Hollow at Fontenelle Forest 14 Jun (BP,LP). No breeding evidence was noted.

Kentucky Warbler: None were reported.

Common Yellowthroat: A count of 100 at Funk Lagoon WPA 30 Jun (LR,RH) indicates the abundance of this species in summer in the Rainwater Basin.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Furthest e reported were 3 sw of McCook 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ) and 6 at Rock Creek L SRA 22 Jun (WRS,JGJ). As many as 10 were in Sowbelly Canyon 8 Jun (LKM).

Summer Tanager: None were reported.

Scarlet Tanager: Best count was 3, singing at Ashford Camp, Thurston Co, 12 Jul (BFH).

Western Tanager: It was numerous in Sowbelly Canyon this summer, where 11 were counted 8 Jun (LKM). It was reported e to the Redington area, where 1 was noted s of "town" 29 Jun (LKM); this appears to be the 2nd mid-summer report of this species this far e (it was reported in Brown Co 27 Jun 1967), although habitat in the area seems suitable for breeding.

Northern Cardinal: The westernmost breeding population persists just e of Scottsbluff; 2 were fledged late Jul-early Aug (AK). The presence of 6 near Benkelman 22-23 Jun (WRS,JGJ) indicate its occurrence throughout the Republican valley, a fairly recent phenomenon, as it first bred in the Wray, Colorado, area around 1980 (Andrews and Richter op. cit.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Individuals appearing "pure" were noted w to the Orleans area 23 Jun, and hybrids were common there and westward to the Oxford area (WRS,JGJ).

Black-headed Grosbeak: "Pure"-appearing individuals were noted e to the Orleans area 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). Thus, between Orleans and Oxford both Rose-breasted and Black-headed types, as well as hybrids, were noted.

Blue Grosbeak: Best count was 7 in the Redington area 29 Jun (LKM) and furthest e were 3 in the Wakefield area 1 Jun (JJo); 6 were in Dixon Co 24 Jul (JJo).

Lazuli Bunting: The only report e of Morrill Co, where 3 were counted 29 Jun (LKM), was in Chase Co on 4 Jul (IP). Best count was 6 s of Gering 1 Jun (AK).

Indigo Bunting: Furthest w, where it summers regularly in the northwest, were up to 3 at the James Ranch feeders until mid-Jun (SLe). It was not noted in the Republican valley w of Oxford on 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ), although it apparently breeds throughout the area, and at least rarely in extreme e Colorado (Andrews and Richter op. cit.).

Dickcissel: First for the year in the w were 2 at CLNWR on 13 Jun (MF); numbers increased to 22 there on 28 Jun (MF), but were dwarfed by the estimated 1000 on 6 Jul in the four-corners area where Gosper, Frontier, Furnas, and Harlan Cos meet (LR,RH). It was numerous on the alfalfa fields at Clear Creek Marsh WMA 22 Jun (WRS); alfalfa is a favored habitat for westerly populations.

Eastern Towhee: One was noted near Gibbon 1 Jun, where Spotted Towhee is the usual summering species (LR,RH). "Pure" Easterns were noted west to the Orleans area of the Republican valley 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ); hybrids and Spotted Towhees were present also in that area.

Spotted Towhee: Hybrids and "pure" birds were noted e to the Harlan Co Res area in the Republican valley 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). This species is the regular summer species in the Buffalo and Kearney Co area (LR,RH).

Cassin's Sparrow: At the northernmost breeding locality known for the species, 1 was at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM). Also a regular summering location, 5 were found at two locations in sage

grasslands in Dundy Co 22 Jun (JGJ,WRS); these were 3 miles w of Haigler and 2.5 miles n of Parks.

Chipping Sparrow: Reports were routine.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Although no identification details were provided, of interest was a report of at least 1 which appeared at the James Ranch feeders in mid-Jul (SLe); although possibly a rather early migrant, breeding has been suspected in northwest NE, although undocumented.

Brewer's Sparrow: The only report was from a regular location, the Kilpatrick L area, where 9 were found 2 Jun (LKM).

Field Sparrow: Only casual in the panhandle, 1 was at Kilpatrick L 2 Jun (LKM), probably a migrant. Uncommon in the southwest, 2 were in Hitchcock Co 22-23 Jun (WRS,JGJ).

Vesper Sparrow: Reports were routine.

Lark Sparrow: Best counts were 60 in ne Rock Co 21 Jul (LR,RH) and 29 at CLNWR 24 Jun (MF).

Lark Bunting: Few were noted east of the panhandle; 1 was in Furnas Co 16 Jun (LR,RH), and a male in Frontier Co 23 Jun was the only one seen in the southwest 22-23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). One was in Cherry Co 31 Jul (JJo).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Doing well in the w, 116 were at CLNWR 17 Jul, where they had a good breeding season, about 60% of the 116 seen being young birds (LKM).

Henslow's Sparrow: The birds noted at Burchard L SRA in spring remained at least until 4 Jun, when 1 was noted (BP,LP).

Song Sparrow: A good population continues at Funk Lagoon WPA, where 15 were counted 22 Jun (LR,RH). Establishment of breeding populations away from northern and eastern Nebraska is relatively recent, probably since the 1970s (Cink, NBR 43:3). Information on dates of establishment of such "outlying" summering populations is welcomed.

Swamp Sparrow: Funk Lagoon WPA is also the site of perhaps the southernmost regular breeding colony in the state; up to 3 were reported through the period, notably near the viewing kiosk (LR,RH).

Dark-eyed Junco: Only reports were 3, identified as aikenii, in Sowbelly Canyon on 16 Jun (WRS) and 1, presumably aikenii, in Monroe Canyon on 27 June (LEi).

McCown's Longspur: The only report was from a regular summer location, west-central Sioux Co, where 8 were found 8 Jun (LKM).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Encouraging were continuing reports from possibly the easternmost breeding location in the state; up to 35 were 6 miles ne of O'Neill 14-31 Jul (LR,RH,JJo). It continues rather widespread in Sioux Co (LKM,WRS).

Bobolink: Generally uncommon, or at least local, s of the Platte valley, a few were reported in the Rainwater Basin: at least 1 was at Sacramento-Wilcox WMA 2 Jun (LR,RH), 4 were at Harvard Marsh WPA 7 Jul (JGJ), and 2 were at Rauscher Lagoon WPA the same day (JGJ).

Red-winged Blackbird: Fall flocks were forming by 26 Jul, such as one of 150 birds in Dixon Co (JJo).

Eastern Meadowlark: A westerly center of abundance is CLNWR, where an amazing 173 were reported present 24 Jun (MF). It is local throughout the Sandhills, and otherwise numerous only in the southeast. None were noted on BBS routes in Buffalo, Kearney, Furnas, and Gosper Cos (LR,RH).

Western Meadowlark: Reports were routine.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Southeasterly were 18 along the Missouri River in Otoe Co 4 Jul (LF,CF) and 2 at Arbor L WMA on 2 Jun (LEi).

Brewer's Blackbird: At James Ranch, none were seen after early Jul (SLe), suggesting departure after breeding. Far out of range if correctly identified was a reported "adult" without further details

in Otoe Co 8 Jun (LF,CF). There are no documented summer records away from the panhandle.

Great-tailed Grackle: A new breeding location away from the Rainwater Basin was at Burchard L SRA, where a female was carrying nesting material 4 Jun; a male and 4 females were present (BP,LP). Several were at Burchard L SRA last year. The colony at Funk Lagoon WPA persists, with up to 14 present on 30 Jun (LR,RH). We know of no breeding locales in the eastern portion of the RWB.

Common Grackle: Fall flocking was evidenced by 100 in Dixon Co 24 Jul (JJo).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Fall flocking was evident in this species also, with 200 in Wheeler Co 14 Jul (LRa,RHa).

Orchard Oriole: A good count was 15 "behind the motel" in Ainsworth 21 Jul (LR,RH). Numbers dwindled eastward along the Republican valley, where it was numerous in Dundey Co 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ).

Baltimore Oriole: "Pure"-appearing birds of this species were noted as expected throughout the Republican valley 23 Jun (WRS,JGJ). Individuals exhibiting hybrid characteristics were noted e to sw of McCook, however. Baltimore Oriole breeds statewide e of the panhandle.

Bullock's Oriole: No "pure" individuals were noted in the Republican valley 23 Jun, but hybrids were present e to the McCook area (WRS,JGJ). Bullock's Oriole is rare e of the panhandle; most easterly reports were 1 at CLNWR 3 Jul (LKM) and 2 near Ogallala 29 Jun (LEi).

House Finch: At South Sioux City, Huser suggested that aggressive defense of nesting territories by House Finches may be impacting House Wrens and Purple Martins, both of which were unsuccessful in his yard after House Finches set up nesting territories; the Purple Martins abandoned their "house". It has been suggested that cardinals as well as House Sparrows are similarly affected.

Red Crossbill: Perhaps foreshadowing an invasion this winter, a few have been in the Kearney area since early Jul, including a female at the observers' feeder 30 Jul (LR,RH), and it was reported in Chase Co. on 4 Jul (IP). Crossbills were common on the Pine Ridge during the period (LKM,WRS,JGJ,SJD),.

Pine Siskin: The long-established summer population on the UN-Kearney campus persists; a few were noted there through the period (LR,RH). One was near Gibbon also during the period (LR,RH). It was noted through the period on the Pine Ridge and in the Wildcat Hills, where it is regular (LKM,WRS,SLe).

American Goldfinch: Reports were routine.

House Sparrow: Reports were routine.

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