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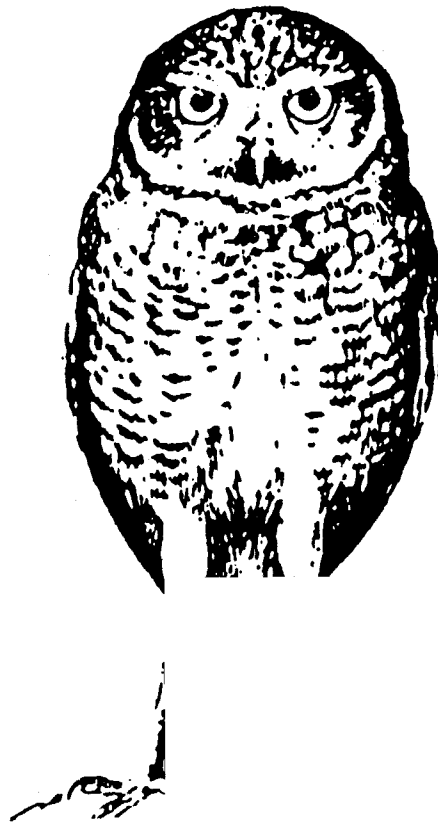
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SUMMER FIELD REPORT, JUNE-JULY 1997

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INTRODUCTION

A couple of preliminary notes: in the accounts below we have noted for several species "Reports were routine." This means that these species, mostly common in occurrence, were indeed present and reported, but the reports did not include unusual arrival or departure dates or high counts. For this Summer Report, observers are encouraged to report high counts on their BBS routes, as well as nesting data such as egg and fledging dates. Finally, this report includes a few observations from 1996.

In general, this was a rather routine summer period. The only real rarity was, however, a good one, a 1st state record Curlew Sandpiper. Other unusual reports were an easterly Pacific Loon, a flock of 42 Clark's Nutcrackers, a lost Prairie Warbler in the Sandhills, and a reported but undocumented Scott's Oriole. Species at the edges of their ranges were Chuck-will's-widow near Kearney, Purple Martin at Bassett, and Brown Creeper in Cass Co. Significant late dates were recorded for several species: 5 shorebird species, Olive-sided Flycatcher, 5 warbler species, and Savannah Sparrow (without details). The only significant early fall date was recorded by Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF = Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City; **BBS** = Breeding Bird Survey; **BOL** = Branched Oak L, SRA, Lancaster Co; **BSC** = Boy Scout Camp; **Cem** = Cemetery; **CLNWR** = Crescent L NWR, Garden Co; **Co(s)** = county(ies); **CRP** = Conservation Reserve Program (US Dept. Agriculture); **FF** = Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co; **FL** = Funk Lagoon, WPA, Phelps Co; **ICSP** = Indian Cave SP, Richardson-Nemaha Cos; **imm(s)** = immatures; **L** = Lake; **LM** = L McConaughy, Keith Co; **mi** = miles; **NC** = Nature Center; **NE** = Nebraska; **NPNWR** = North Platte NWR, Scotts Bluff Co; **NWR** = National Wildlife Refuge; **R** = River; **Res** = Reservoir; **RWB** = Rainwater Basin, sc NE; **SHP** = State Historical Park; **SL** = Sewage Lagoons; **SP** = State Park; **SRA** = State Recreation Area; **WMA** = Wildlife Management Area; **WPA** = Waterfowl Production Area.

GAZETTEER

Arbor L, WMA, Lancaster Co; Ashford BSC, Thurston Co; Burchard L WMA, Pawnee Co; Calamus Res, SRA, Loup-Garfield Cos; Champion Mill SHP, Chase Co; Clear Creek Marshes, extreme se Garden-Keith Cos; County Line Marsh, WPA, Fillmore-Polk Cos; Crescent L, private, Garden Co; Crystal Cove L, South Sioux City; East Harvard Basin, private, Clay Co; Gifford Farm, adjacent to FF, Sarpy Co; Hansen Lagoon, WPA, Clay Co; Harvard Marsh, WPA, Clay Co; Hultine North Basin (formerly Sandpiper), WPA, Clay Co; Jack Sinn Marsh, WMA, Lancaster-Saunders Cos; Johnson Lagoon, WPA, Phelps Co; Keystone L, contiguous with L Ogallala, Keith Co; Kilpatrick L, private, Box Butte Co; Kingsley Dam, between LM and L Ogallala, Keith Co; Kiowa Springs, WMA, Scotts Bluff Co; Kissinger Basin, WMA, Clay Co; L Babcock, Platte Co; L Ogallala, Keith Co; Monroe Canyon, Sioux Co; Mormon Island SRA, Hall Co; Neale Woods, Douglas Co; Pawnee L, SRA, Lancaster Co; Pine Ridge, Sioux-Dawes-Sheridan Cos; Pintail Marsh, WMA, Hamilton Co; Platte River SP, Cass Co; Real Basin, WPA, Fillmore Co; Rock Creek L, SRA, Dundey Co; Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo

Co; Schilling Refuge, Cass Co; Schramm Park, SRA, Sarpy Co; Sinninger Lagoon, WPA, York Co; Smiley Canyon, Fort Robinson SP, Sioux Co; Smith L, WMA, Sheridan Co; Soldier Creek Wilderness, Sioux Co; Stagecoach L, SRA, Lancaster Co; Sutherland Res, SRA, Lincoln Co; Tamora Basin, private, Seward Co; Theesen Lagoon, WPA, Clay Co; Twin Lakes Basin, WMA, Seward Co; Wagontrain L, SRA, Lancaster Co; Wildcat Hills, Scotts Bluff-Banner Cos; Willet Basin, private, Fillmore Co; Wolf L, private, along Platte R in n Saunders Co.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Pacific Loon: One at Offutt Base L, Sarpy Co, was almost in full alternate plumage 1 and 4 Jul (*BP,LP). This is the 5th summer record for the state, but the 1st from the east.

Common Loon: The 2 imms at L Ogallala in late May (see Spring) were joined by an adult 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ). An immature was at North Platte SL 15 Jun (WRS,JS).

Pied-billed Grebe: Reports were routine.

Eared Grebe: Late in the east was a single at a pond in nw Lancaster Co 4 Jun (LE). A few summer in the RWB, although breeding there is rare, such as 3 at Johnson Basin 6 Jul (LR,RH). All other reports were from the Panhandle, primarily CLNWR, where counts of 597 on 10 Jun (MF) and 932 on 10 Jul (MF) were made.

Western Grebe: A single with a Clark's Grebe at BOL 29 Jul was a significant find (JS). Also unexpected was a lone bird at FL 1 Jun (JGJ,GJ). No individual attempted the daunting task of estimating the numbers at LM during the period, although 45 were found at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF).

Clark's Grebe: A well-described single with a Western at BOL 29 Jul (JS) was even more significant than the preceding species. This species is only accidental in Iowa (Kent and Dinsmore; Birds in Iowa). Another was described from North Platte SL 15 Jun (WRS,JS).

American White Pelican: This species does not breed in NE but summers at favored locales such as CLNWR, where 38 were noted 8 Jul (MF). The 18 at BOL 4 Jun (LE) were late migrants and the single at Schilling Refuge 28 Jun may have been an early migrant, as were 50 at FL 19 Jul (LR,RH).

Double-crested Cormorant: A "half dozen" nests were found along BBS route 54027 in Rock Co 10 Jun (NR), and 33 nests were at the recently-established colony near Alma 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

American Bittern: If 19 could be found and counted at CLNWR 8 Jun (MF), who knows how many others were present but well concealed? This species is common at CLNWR.

Least Bittern: Of interest was a report from an unexpectedly westerly location, Island L at CLNWR, where one was heard calling and then flushed 13 Jun (WRS,JS). Two were noted at FL 24 Jul (LR,RH). This species probably occurs wherever suitable cattail habitat exists, although most reports are from e NE.

Great Blue Heron: High count was a modest 36 at CLNWR 8 Jun (MF). The newly-established colony at Alma had 9 nests 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Great Egret: Wandering post-breeders were moving into the flooded areas near Nebraska City by 25 Jun, when 2 were found (LF,CF); by 29 Jul about 35 were present (LF,CF). The only other reports were of singles at Stagecoach L 18 Jul (LF,CF) and at FL 20 Jul (BP,LP).

Snowy Egret: The only reports were of singles at CLNWR 6 Jun (MF) and at L Babcock 27 Jul (JS).

Little Blue Heron: Only 2 were reported, singles near Nebraska City 15 Jul (LF,CF) and at FL 24 Jul (LR,RH).

Cattle Egret: The few reported were 2 at Willet Basin 1 Jun (GJ,JGJ), 1 at Harvard Marsh 13 Jul (LR,RH), 5 near Nebraska City 15 Jul (LF,CF), 20 at FL 19 Jul (LR,RH), and one at Alma 19 Jul

(JGJ,WRS).

Green Heron: One at North Platte SL 19 Jul was somewhat westerly (WRS,JGJ).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: A pair of adults at Crystal Cove L 19 Jun (BFH) was intriguing and suggests the possibility of breeding somewhat e of trhe usual range. High count was a modest 6 at CLNWR 8 Jun (MF).

White-faced Ibis: The only reports were from CLNWR, where 3 were counted 8 Jul (MF) and 18 on 31 Jul (MF), and FL, where 2 were present 1 Jun (LR,RH) and one on 27 Jul (LR,RH). Jul birds are probably postbreeding dispersers.

Turkey Vulture: Reports were routine.

Trumpeter Swan: Few are noted in summer, possibly as many breeding sites are secluded and of poor access. Two were 2 at CLNWR 10 Jun-8 Jul (MF), and a pair with 2 downy cygnets was at Center L, Valentine NWR 5 Jul (JGJ).

Mute Swan: Although this species is not accepted on the state list as none are established and breeding in the state, observers should report observations so that its presence can be monitored. Three adults were on a lake at the I-80 Odessa exit 5-8 Jun (LR,RH).

Greater White-fronted Goose: A lingering pair, possibly injured, was found at Harvard Marsh 5-13 Jul (JGJ,LR,RH). Two were at FL 6 Jul (LR,RH) and another, with an orange neck band, was there 19 Jul (LR,RH).

Snow Goose: In recent summers, a few have been found in the RWB, but 42 at County Line Marsh 1 Jun (JGJ,GJ) is likely a symptom of current high population levels in this species. Also, 9 apparently summered at East Harvard Basin, as they were observed in late May and again 5-13 Jul (JGJ,LR,RH).

Canada Goose: Counts of 619 at NPNWR 25 Jun (LK) and 210 at BOL 18 Jun (LE) indicate healthy populations at those locations.

Wood Duck: High counts were from the w, where birds tend to be concentrated in limited habitat, and included 90 at NPNWR 25 Jun (LK) and 18 at Twentyone L, Valentine NWR 5 Jul (JGJ). A good count elsewhere was 30 at FL 8 Jun (LR,RH).

Green-winged Teal: Reports were routine.

Mallard: Reports were routine.

Northern Pintail: The few reports included 2 at FL1 Jun (JGJ,GJ), a report from CLNWR 8 Jun (JH,EH), a single at Harvard Marsh 5 Jul (JGJ), and a single at FL 6 and 19 Jul (LR,RH).

Blue-winged Teal: Reports were routine.

Cinnamon Teal: Rare in summer, the only reports were of singles at CLNWR 8 Jun (JH,EH) and at Kiowa Springs 12 and 14 Jun (AK,WRS,JS). The latter place is probably the most reliable in summer in NE for this species.

Northern Shoveler: Last reported at a nonbreeding location s of the Platte R was a single at BOL 4 Jun (LE).

Gadwall: High count was 42 at CLNWR 8 Jul (MF), and the only report from nonbreeding locations s of the Platte R was of a single at BOL 4 Jun (LE).

American Wigeon: Uncommon in summer, none were reported other than pairs at Real Basin and Sinninger Lagoon, both on 1 Jun (JGJ,GJ), 10 at FL 1 Jun (LR,RH) and 2 there 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Canvasback: Although fairly common in the Sandhills in summer, the only Sandhills reports were from CLNWR, 13 on 8 Jun (MF) and 22 on 8 Jul (MF). There were, however, 2 at FL 6 Jul (LR,RH). Summer reports away from the Sandhills are rare.

Redhead: Summering birds are most often reported from the Sandhills and RWB, but best count was only 15 on 8 Jul at CLNWR (MF), disappointing compared to previous summer counts. However, 23 were at Pony L, Valentine NWR, 5 Jul (JGJ), and 11-16 were at FL on 1

Jun (JGJ,GJ,LR,RH).

Lesser Scaup: Single birds were at FL and Sinninger Lagoon on 1 Jun (JGJ,GJ), at FL 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ), at LM on 5 Jun (JH,EH), at North Platte SL 15 Jun (WRS,JS) and 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ), at NPNWR on 10 Jun (LK), and at BOL on 18 Jun (LE). Although breeding is rare, summering individuals are (obviously!) not unusual.

Bufflehead: Rare anywhere during summer, a single was at NPNWR on 25 Jun (LK).

Hooded Merganser: In contrast to last summer when several immature/female-plumaged birds were reported, none were reported this summer.

Common Merganser: An apparent late migrant was a female at BOL 4 Jun (LE). Possible molt migrants were 2 on 25 Jun and 3 on 10 Jul at NPNWR (LK). Up to 11 were at LM 3-5 Jun (JH,EH) and 4 were at Sutherland Res 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Ruddy Duck: The 7 at Pawnee L 4 Jun (LE) may have been late migrants, and the 5 at Nebraska City 4 Jul (LF,CF) may have been wanderers, although summering has occurred on occasion at nearby Forney L, Iowa. High count from a breeding locale was 46 at CLNWR on 8 Jul (MF).

Mississippi Kite: At least 2 were at Ogallala on 1 Jun (JS) and 2 were there 13 Jun (WRS,JS).

Bald Eagle: Summer reports are now routine as NE now has several active nests. Reports included 4 at NPNWR 10 Jun-24 Jul (LK) and 4 at CLNWR 5 Jun (MF).

Northern Harrier: One was at Hultine North Basin 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ); nesting is possible although rarely reported in the RWB.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A single at Pintail Marsh 12 Jun (LF,CF) was probably a lingering migrant, as breeding is very rare in NE.

Cooper's Hawk: The only report was of one at Niobrara Valley Preserve, in Brown Co, 28 Jun (LR,RH).

Swainson's Hawk: Most reports were from the w and n of the Platte R, the exceptions a few reports from the w RWB in Phelps Co (JGJ,GJ,LR,RH) and 1 easterly at Theesen Lagoon 13 Jul (LR,RH). High count was 7 at CLNWR on 8 Jun (MF).

Red-tailed Hawk: Reports were routine.

Ferruginous Hawk: Only one was reported, a single 9 mi e of Chadron on 26 Jul (LF,CF).

Rough-legged Hawk: A report, without details, was received of a single at NPNWR 10 Jun-10 Jul. This species is not expected in summer, although such reports are not unprecedented in NE.

Golden Eagle: Reports were routine.

American Kestrel: Reports were routine.

Gray Partridge: A single 6 mi w of Herman, Washington Co, 18-20 Jun (JGJ) was rather far s considering the species' current range retraction.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Reports were routine.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Reports were routine.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Reports were routine.

Wild Turkey: Reports were routine.

Northern Bobwhite: A single at the Gering Cem 12 Jul (AK) is evidence that the population (we assume there really are more than 1) in the Scottsbluff area remains stable.

Virginia Rail: Observers apparently spent little time railing this summer. Reports were routine.

Sora: One was at Tamora Basin 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ), probably a summering bird.

American Coot: Reports were routine.

Sandhill Crane: Recent years have found a few at Harvard Marsh in summer, raising hopes that breeding may occur. This year a "healthy adult," apparently unaccompanied, was there 13 Jul (LR,RH).

American Golden-Plover: Apparently only the 2nd ever record for Jun, one in alternate plumage was at Crescent L 13 Jun (WRS,JS), presumably a late migrant or non-breeder.

Semipalmated Plover: Earliest was a single at FL 19 Jul (JGJ,WRS,LR,RH) and 3 were at Schilling Refuge 28 Jul (BP,LP).

Piping Plover: Earliest away from breeding areas were 1-2 at FL19-20 Jul (WRS,JGJ,BP,LP).

Killdeer: Flocks form in Jul, as exemplified by 80 in 2 groups in n Clay Co 13 Jul (LR,RH).

Mountain Plover: About 3 mi sw of the Kimball Airport, one was apparently sitting on a nest 12 Jun (*BP,LP). Two were noted 15 Jun just s of the Kimball Airport in stony wheat fallow (WRS,JS).

Black-necked Stilt: At CLNWR, 3 were found on 8 Jul (MF). Unusual was the presence of one at FL 5 and 10 Jun (fide LR,RH).

American Avocet: Pairs at Kissinger Basin and Sinninger Lagoon on 1 Jun may have been late migrants, as they were not found on subsequent visits (JGJ). Breeding occurs on occasion in the RWB, and 2 at FL 8 Jun and also 6 Jul (LR,RH) may have been summering. Reports of migrants include up to 30 at FL 19-20 Jun (BP,LP,WRS,JGJ) and 30 there 27 Jul (LR,RH), and 56 at CLNWR on 8 Jul (MF).

Greater Yellowlegs: Earliest southbound migrants and high count were 15 at CLNWR on 8 Jul (MF).

Lesser Yellowlegs: The 12 at Pintail Marsh 5 Jul were both the earliest and the season's high count (JGJ).

Solitary Sandpiper: Earliest was a single at Harvard Marsh 5 Jul (JGJ). High count was 8 at Stagecoach L 18 Jul (LE).

Willet: Most reports were from CLNWR, where it breeds, best count 16 on 18 Jun (MF), but one 2 mi n of Harvard Marsh 13 Jul (LR,RH) was presumably a migrant.

Spotted Sandpiper: As expected, small numbers were found throughout.

Upland Sandpiper: High counts included 35 at Calamus Res 27 Jun (LR,RH), 15 at CLNWR 10 Jun (MF), and 9 in se Dixon Co 21 Jul (JJ), the latter a good non-migrant count for ne NE.

Long-billed Curlew: This species arrives and breeds relatively early, so excellent counts of 30 at CLNWR on 10 Jun (MF) and 67 at NPNWR on 24 Jul (LK) were likely post-breeding (pre migratory) flocks.

Marbled Godwit: One was at FL 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ) and 2 were there 27 Jul (LR,RH), and another was near Sutherland Res 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Ruddy Turnstone: Rare in fall, a single was at FL19-20 Jul (JGJ, mob).

Sanderling: Late spring migrants were 3 at BOL on 4 Jun (LE).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: A single at BOL 18 Jun (LE) may have discontinued its migration; the previous latest spring date was 10 Jun. Also rather late were 2 at FL 8 Jun (LR,RH). Earliest for fall were 6 at Kissinger Basin 5 Jul (JGJ), followed by 6 at BOL on 8 Jul (LE). High count was 150 at FL 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Western Sandpiper: Adults' stopovers in the state are apparently brief. Earliest were 25 at FL on 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ), but, while only 4 were there the following day (LP,BP), an excellent tally of 100 was reported there (without details) 24 Jul (LR,RH). Also, a single was 3 mi s of Geneva 19 Jul (JGJ,WRS).

Least Sandpiper: Earliest were 2 at Sinninger Lagoon and 10 at Pintail Marsh on 5 Jul (JGJ). High count was 60 at FL 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Late were 13 at BOL on 18 Jun (LE), 2nd latest ever. As many as 110 were at FL 8 Jun (LR,RH).

Baird's Sandpiper: Earliest were 100 at FL19 Jul (LR,RH). High count was 200 there 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Late was a single at Pintail Marsh 12 Jun (LF,CF), the 3rd latest on record. Earliest southbound migrant was a single near Nathan's L, Washington Co, 13 Jul (JGJ) and high count 34 at Schilling Refuge 28 Jul (LP,BP).

Curlew Sandpiper: Perhaps ending the summer doldrums and no doubt the bird of the season was an alternate-plumaged bird just beginning to molt at FL 19-21 Jul (JGJ*,WRS*, BP*,LP*, LR*,RH*, mob). If accepted by the NOURC, this would be a 1st state record of this species. Records from neighboring states are in early fall also, usually adults, and suggest that juveniles may be overlooked due to their similarity to Stilt Sandpipers, especially in water.

Stilt Sandpiper: Earliest were 12 at Pintail Marsh 5 Jul (JGJ). An excellent high count was 245 at FL 20 Jul (WRS).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: A single bird returned before the end of the period at Jack Sinn Marsh 26 Jul (JGJ), 2nd earliest on record.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Earliest and the only report for the period was of 4 at Jack Sinn Marsh 20 Jul (JGJ,WRS). Details were provided.

Long-billed Dowitcher: This year 2 arrived at Willet Basin on 19 Jul (JGJ,WRS) and 4 were at CLNWR on 20 Jul (WRS,JGJ). Identification for both sightings was based on call and, together with the Short-billed sighting above, suggests that either species of dowitcher may be found in Jul. Because many are molting into winter plumage, identification other than by call can be tricky. A dowitcher unidentified to species was at FL 6 Jul (LR,RH), a very early record. There are few Jul records of dowitchers identified to species.

Common Snipe: A single at Kiowa Springs 12 Jun (AK) suggests the possibility of breeding at that locale. Also suggestive of breeding, 2 were found on BBS route 54027, Rock Co, 10 Jun (NR).

American Woodcock: Presumably a bird feigning an injury at BOL on 4 Jun (LE) was the parent of 2 others (newly-fledged birds?) nearby.

Wilson's Phalarope: One in basic plumage was at North Platte SL 15 Jun (WRS,JS), the latest ever spring date away from a breeding location. The 2 at Pintail Marsh 5 Jul were likely the first fall migrants away from breeding areas. Migration was well underway by the end of the period, however, as evidenced by counts of 1321 at CLNWR on 8 Jul (MF) and 280 at Gering SL 29 Jul (AK).

Franklin's Gull: Last for spring were 25 at BOL 4 Jun (LE), a report from CLNWR on 8 Jun (JH,EH), and a single at Pintail Marsh 12 Jun (LF,CF). A single at FL 20 Jul (BP,LP) was probably an early migrant as were 25 at Sutherland Res 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ).

Ring-billed Gull: Best count from the w, where summer concentrations are highest, was 245 on 24 Jul (LK). Best count from the e was only 3, on 29 Jul (LE).

California Gull: The only report was of 2 adults on 19 Jul at Sutherland Res, not LM, where the species is to be expected by the end of the period. Water levels at LM were very high this summer and may account for the lack of birds and/or observations.

Caspian Tern: A rather high count of 16 was recorded at BOL 4 Jun (LE), probably late migrants. Rare in the w, but becoming more regular in recent years, 2 were at Keystone L 20 Jun (JS).

Common Tern: At Crescent L, 6 adults were noted (details provided) 13 Jun (WRS,JS), a rather late date.

Forster's Tern: At BOL, 4 remained until 18 Jun (LE) and 5 showed up on 29 Jul (LE). Only 2 were found at CLNWR on 6 Jun (MF), however 60 were at a nesting site at Goose L, CLNWR, 13 Jun (WRS,JS), and 40 were at CLNWR 8 Jul (MF). Late or lingering were 2 at Wolf L 7 Jun (TH).

Least Tern: At least 2 active nests were observed at the parking

lot/nesting area at the n end of Kingsley Dam 19 Jul (JGJ,WRS). In the east, 2 were along the Papio Trail, Sarpy Co, 8 Jun (BP,LP), 2 were at Schilling Refuge 28 Jul (BP,LP), and 4 were near Wolf L 26 Jul (TH). One-two were at Rowe Sanctuary 5 and 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Black Tern: Migrants were 40 at FL 1 Jun (LR,RH), and returning were 30 there 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ). Breeding is not recorded in the RWB.

Rock Dove: Reports were routine.

Mourning Dove: No young had been produced in the Wolf L area by 26 Jul (TH), rather unusual for this productive species.

Black-billed Cuckoo: The only westerly reports were from CLNWR, where first birds were seen 15 Jun (MF). All other reports were from the east, totalling only about a dozen birds.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Varying reports were received; "no cuckoos" were found in Lancaster Co during the period (LE); a total of about a dozen birds were reported, including nestlings as far west as s Sioux Co 14 Jun (HKH), and a nest with 4 nestlings at Ashford BSC 11 Jul (BFH).

Barn Owl: None were reported east of the traditional Clear Creek Marshes site 11 Jun (BP,LP).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Reports were routine.

Great Horned Owl: Reports were routine.

Burrowing Owl: Good counts were 8 s of Lyman 14 Jun (AK) and 5 in Dundy Co 13 Jun (WRS,JS). Furthest e was a lonely bird 1 mi w of Funk Lagoon 19 (WRS,JGJ), 24 and 27 Jul (LR,RH); it appears that the prairie dogs at this site are no longer present.

Barred Owl: Westerly was 1 ne of Ames 14 Jul (B); no information on the location was given.

Long-eared Owl: Interesting were reports of likely summering birds: 2 at Smith L 1 Jun (WM) and another heard at ICSP 12 Jul (B); the latter was near site 37 at the campground. Nesting occurs statewide, but summering birds are rarely noted.

Short-eared Owl: None were reported.

Northern Saw-Whet Owl: A report from 1996 was of one singing at 4.30 am on 23 Jun at Champion Mill SHP, Chase Co (MB). There are occasional reports statewide away from the Pine Ridge in summer, but nesting at any of these locations has not been confirmed.

Common Nighthawk: Reports were routine.

Common Poorwill: Reports were routine.

Chuck-will's-widow: Apparently establishing itself along the Platte River westward in recent years, westward limits were consolidated by birds heard by Lingle and the Tebbels during the summer between the Minden and Kearney bridges (fide LR,RH). Curiously, there is a report of one on the south bank of the Platte 9 mi se of Kearney 19-29 Jun 1983 (NBR), generally the same area as the above reports, suggesting that Chuck-will's-widows may have been in the area for some time. Other than these reports, furthest w in the Platte Valley is the population near Morse Bluff; one was heard at Wolf L throughout the period (TH). Surprisingly, there are no reports from the se other than near the Missouri R; the only such report this year was of one heard near the main RV campground 22 Jun (JS). In recent years there have been reports in the Missouri Valley as far n as Dakota Co.

Whip-poor-will: Reports were routine.

Chimney Swift: Reports were routine.

White-throated Swift: The 3 reports were from expected locations: s of Gering in the Wildcat Hills 1 Jun (AK), in the Pine Ridge at Fort Robinson SP with Violet-green Swallows 7 Jun (JS), and 6 at Soldier Creek WMA 1 Jun (JS).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: None were reported.

Belted Kingfisher: A good count was 8 at Crystal Cove L 30

Jul (BFH).

Lewis' Woodpecker: None were reported.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Two observers (LE,TH) noted numbers fewer than in recent years.

Downy Woodpecker: Reports were routine.

Hairy Woodpecker: Not a species given to "high" counts, a total of 4 were at ADF 5 Jul (CF,LF); in the absence of details, they may have been a family group.

Northern Flicker: Reports were routine.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Last migrants in the e were 2 at FF 1 Jun (B), and rather late in the w was one at Ogallala 12 Jun (LF,CF), 2nd latest ever in spring. Westerly departure dates in Jun are not unexpected.

Western Wood-Pewee: Reports were routine.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Furthest w was near Gibbon 1 Jun (LR,RH), well within its expected range.

Acadian Flycatcher: Rather rare in Nebraska in summer, 2-3 were reported, most northerly one (possibly 2) at Neale Woods 6 Jun (BP,LP) and 4 Jul (B), the other at a regular location in recent years, Trail 9 at ICSP, 7 Jun (JS). There are only about 5 reports in recent years n of ICSP.

Alder Flycatcher: Last was one reported without details but at an expected time and location at Schramm SP 1 Jun (B).

Willow Flycatcher: Small numbers, about 10 birds, were reported statewide, as expected. It would be of interest for observers to note the characteristics of eyerings in summering Nebraska Willow Flycatchers; in general, this empid has the weakest eyering in the group. Is there variation across the state?

Least Flycatcher: Last were singles in sw Dixon Co (JJ) and at Bellevue (BP,LP) the same day.

Cordilleran Flycatcher: At an unexpected location was one in Smiley Canyon 1 Jun (JS); it may have been a migrant. It is being found with some regularity in Monroe Canyon these days; 2 were there 14 Jun (JS,WRS).

Eastern Phoebe: A nest with 3 chicks was found at Ashford BSC 12 Jul (BFH); this is towards the end of the breeding period for this species. Uncommon westerly was 1 at Ogallala 3 Jun (LF,CF).

Say's Phoebe: Probably the easternmost regular summer location is in Dixon Co, where 3 were present 5 Jun (JJ). Birds were noted there 2-11 Jun, one found dead on the latter date (JJ).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Reports were routine, as can be said in recent years of the westernmost summering population for the species, persisting in the Pine Ridge, where 2 were noted in Monroe Canyon 14 Jun (WRS).

Cassin's Kingbird: Reports were routine.

Western Kingbird: Reports were routine.

Eastern Kingbird: Reports were routine.

Horned Lark: Trying not to be routine, a count of 33 in sw Dixon Co 30 Jul (JJ) was noteworthy.

Purple Martin: Of interest were 10 in Bassett 27 Jun (LR,RH), not far east of Ainsworth, beyond which there are few if any summer reports. Observations from northcentral Nebraska in summer are of definite interest.

Tree Swallow: A few scattered nesting locations have been reported in northcentral Nebraska in recent years, but densities are low. Nesting was noted at Smith L 1 Jun (WM), and a first county nesting was in Boone Co the same day (WM). It was noted also at Calamus Res 27 Jun (LR,RH). More expected was a count of 26 at Wagontrain L 18 Jul (LE), indicative of the start post-breeding flocking.

Violet-green Swallow: The usual few birds were reported from the northwest, including "some" at Fort Robinson SP 7 Jun (JH) and 2 at

Soldier Creek campground 1 Jun (JS).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Reports were routine.

Bank Swallow: A good count was 50 at BOL 8 Jul (LE) and an excellent count 800 at Funk Lagoon 24 Jul (LR,RH), obviously migrants, although somewhat earlier than previous high counts, which have been in early Aug.

Cliff Swallow: A good count was 1000 at Funk Lagoon 24 Jul (LR,RH). Peak movement is in early Aug.

Barn Swallow: Reports were routine.

Blue Jay: Reports were routine.

Pinyon Jay: None were reported, not really surprisingly, as these birds can be tough to find during the nesting season. Perhaps this is not the correct assumption to make; are they numerous in summer on the Pine Ridge?

Clark's Nutcracker: Continuing the invasion of last winter, an amazing 42 were at the lower end of Monroe Canyon 1 Jun (JS). The breeding adults at Morrill had departed before 1 Jun, but their single offspring remained until 4 Jun (ECT,AK).

Black-billed Magpie: Easterly was 1 at Pintail Basin in Hamilton Co 9 Jun (NR).

American Crow: Reports were routine.

Black-capped Chickadee: Reports were routine.

Tufted Titmouse: Reports were routine.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Reports were from expected summer locations, including 2-3 at the Niobrara Valley Preserve in Keya Paha Co 28-29 Jun (LR,RH).

White-breasted Nuthatch: Reports were routine.

Pygmy Nuthatch: The summer population at Wildcat Hills continues, although only a single was reported, on 5 Jun (JH).

Brown Creeper: Single birds were reported from the traditional and only known breeding site in FF 27 Jun and 5 Jul (BP,LP), but a report from Cass Co 6 Jun, location not stated (GW), may indicate a previously unknown summer population.

Rock Wren: Easternmost was one s of Kingsley Dam 5 Jun (JH).

Carolina Wren: Reports were from the se, n to Neale Woods, where one (2?) were present 6 Jun (BP,LP) and 4 Jul (B). Others were in Cass (GW) and Otoe (LF,CF) Cos.

House Wren: Reports were routine.

Sedge Wren: More than usual were reported in Jun, most singing birds; generally only a few are found then, but an influx occurs in Jul-Aug, when almost all reported nestings have occurred. At Arbor L 4 were seen 4 Jun (LE), but none were reported from there until a singing bird was noted 29 Jul (LE). Two or 3 were at each of Fricke and Schneekloth Prairies in Sarpy Co and Nine-Mile Prairie in Lancaster Co 10-20 Jun (JH), but a fall influx was indicated by the presence of 10 at Nine-Mile Prairie 25 Jul (JH). Other Jun reports were of one along Papio Trail in Sarpy Co 7-8 Jun (BP,LP) and 2 at Jack Sinn Marsh 17 Jun (JS). About as far w as it is regular, 1-2 were near Gibbon 12 and 21 Jun (LR,RH). More expected were 2 which appeared at Harvard Marsh 13 Jul (LR,RH), a single at Twin Lakes Basin 30 Jul (JH) and 2 at Stolley Prairie, Omaha, 31 Jul (JH).

Marsh Wren: Two singing birds at Crystal Cove L 19 Jun were, as expected, of the eastern song type (BFH). An outlying population at Funk Lagoon continued (LR,RH). Abundant at CLNWR, 75 were counted (!) 13 Jun (WRS) and 44 were there 18 Jun (MF).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One at Neale Woods 6 Jun (BP,LP) was near the n edge of the regular summer range, which is in central Washington Co.

Eastern Bluebird: Westerly, and uncommon there, were one near the Wildcat Hills NC 5 Jun (JH) and 2 nearby on Stage Hill RD, just n

of the NC, 27 Jul (AK).

Mountain Bluebird: Reports were routine.

Swainson's Thrush: The only ones making it into this period were 5 at CLNWR 2 Jun (MF).

Wood Thrush: Furthest w reported were at least 3 birds at different locations in the Wolf L area during the period (TH) and a single ne of Ames 9 Jun (B).

American Robin: Reports were routine.

Gray Catbird: Reports were routine.

Northern Mockingbird: Reports were routine, a total of 4 birds noted statewide (JS,GW).

Brown Thrasher: Reports were routine.

Cedar Waxwing: Somewhat like Northern Mockingbird, this species pops up in summer virtually anywhere (although in different habitats), and although seemingly noteworthy, the reports are really routine. A count of 25 in sw Dixon Co 6 Jun (JJ), however, was probably a group of late migrants. Of interest also, was the absence of waxwings from BOL between 5 Jun and 28 Jul (LE); there were, however, birds at Wolf L 22 and 26 Jun (TH).

Loggerhead Shrike: Reports were routine.

European Starling: Reports were routine.

Bell's Vireo: This species is numerous at Rock Creek SRA, where 10 were noted 13 Jun (WRS) and in sc NE, where 12 were counted on the Furnas-Gosper Co BBS (LR,RH).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Northernmost, but expected that far n, was 1 at Ashford BSC 12 Jul (BFH). This species occurs in summer throughout the Missouri Valley.

Warbling Vireo: Reports were routine.

Red-eyed Vireo: A good tally was 20 at the Niobrara Valley Preserve in Brown Co 28 Jun (LR,RH).

Tennessee Warbler: Last for the spring was 1 at FF 3 Jun (BP,LP), about a week earlier than the latest dates for the species.

Northern Parula: Presumably summering were birds at FF 5 Jul (BP,LP), Hummel Park, Douglas Co, 6 Jun (BP,LP), and at ICSP 12 Jul (B), all within the expected range.

Yellow Warbler: Reports were routine.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Rather late was 1 at Schramm SP 1 Jun (B); last dates are 3-4 Jun, which were exceeded significantly by one in the observers' yard near Gibbon 16 Jun (*LR,RH). There are no similar Nebraska reports, although it has bred near Boulder, Colorado, and has occurred in summer in the Black Hills.

Magnolia Warbler: Another very late bird, but not a record setter, was one in the observers' yard in Bellevue 10 Jun (BP,LP). There are 3 other reports, including a specimen 16 Jun, in the period 12-16 Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A rather late migrant, subspecies unspecified, was at CLNWR 6 Jun (MF). The only later report of a "Myrtle" Warbler is 15 Jun 1992 in Lincoln Co. Although there are about 10 reports away from the breeding range of "Audubon's" Warbler in the period 30 Jun-11 Aug, subspecies are unspecified.

Yellow-throated Warbler: The only reports were from the usual location, FF, although no more than single birds were reported, through 5 Jul, when one was singing near the Gifford Farm parking lot (BP,LP).

Prairie Warbler: Quite a surprise was a singing bird at Nebraska National Forest, Halsey, 5 Jul (JGJ), the only summer record for the state. In the interest of propriety, we will not mention the reason the observer was in this particular rather secluded spot.

Blackpoll Warbler: Rather late was one in the observers' yard 1 Jun (BP,LP). Latest dates are 4-7 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: Singles were reported at FF, an expected

location, 1 and 28 Jun (BP,LP), and another was at Hummel Park, Douglas Co, 6 Jun (BP,LP), where it is not regularly noted.

Black-and-white Warbler: There are few summer reports in recent years from the lower Missouri Valley, where 1 was at ICSP 6 Jun 1996 (MB). Breeding does occur regularly at the Niobrara Valley Preserve, where one was noted 29 Jul in Keya Paha Co (LR,RH).

American Redstart: The few reports were from the Missouri Valley, including 4 singing birds at FF 5 Jul (BP,LP) and 3 singing at Ashford BSC (BFH), both locations where breeding is apparently regular, but few birds seem to be present.

Prothonotary Warbler: None were reported during the period; the population along North Stream Trail in FF may no longer be present.

Ovenbird: A count of 40 in the Niobrara Valley Preserve, in Brown Co, on 28 Jun (LR,RH) shows how numerous this species can be in n Nebraska in summer. More usual were 3 at Neale Woods 6 Jun (BP,LP). Numbers of Ovenbirds present may be a good indicator of a woodland with a complete succession of vegetation; it is rare or absent in the Platte Valley west of Schramm SP.

Northern Waterthrush: Another record-late warbler was one of this species at the Rock Creek Fish Hatchery, Dundy Co, 13 Jun (WRS,JS). The few Jun reports include a specimen collected in Adams Co 8 Jun 1953, and the purported presence of birds at FF 18 Jun and in Jul 1982, and a female with a brood patch banded there 18 Jun 1983, although no details have been published on the FF reports.

Louisiana Waterthrush: None were reported for the period, despite a flurry of rather widespread spring reports.

Kentucky Warbler: Reports were from se NE locations: singles were at Neale Woods 6 Jun (BP,LP) and 5 Jul (B), at ADF 17 Jul (LF,CF), and at Platte River SP 1 Jun (B). No evidence of breeding was noted.

Connecticut Warbler: Only the 3rd spring report, and possibly the same bird reported at FF 31 May (Spring Report), was one singing at FF 1 Jun (B). No details were provided for what would be the 2nd latest ever.

Mourning Warbler: Expected in early Jun, last were 2 at Schramm SP 1 Jun (B). Latest dates for this species are 11-15 Jun.

Common Yellowthroat: Reports were routine.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Reports were as expected from c NE westward; it is common at Rock Creek SRA, Dundy Co, where 12 were noted 13 Jun (WRS,JS). Unexpected, however, was a report from Platte River SP 14 Jun, where another, likely the same, was noted in the Spring Report (GW). This species is now only casual in e NE.

Summer Tanager: The only report was from the usual location, Schramm SP, on 1 Jun (B). Of interest is a belated report of one at ICSP 5 Jun 1996 (MB); this species is rarely reported away from Schramm SP.

Scarlet Tanager: There were reports away from the Missouri Valley, where it is regular in summer, as far n and w as Oak Glen WMA, Seward Co, 2 pairs 28 Jun (B), and the Niobrara Valley Preserve, in Brown Co, 28 Jun (LR,RH). The latter location is about the westward extent of regular breeding in the Niobrara Valley, although nesting is reported w to the Valentine area.

Western Tanager: Reports were routine.

Northern Cardinal: Reports were received from westerly outposts of the range, most interestingly from 12 mi e of Chadron, where 1 was noted 26 Jul (LF,CF); there are few Pine Ridge reports. It occurs throughout the Republican Valley, where 2 were noted at Rock Creek SRA 13 Jun (WRS,JS). The small group survives in Scotts Bluff Co, where 3 were the most seen at one time, 2 males and a female (AK).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Near the w edge of the range of "pure" birds of this species, up to 4 (3 females, 1 male) were in the

observers' yard near Gibbon throughout the summer (LR,RH).

Black-headed Grosbeak: Reports were routine.

Blue Grosbeak: Reports were routine.

Lazuli Bunting: Reports included a good count of 6 s of Gering 1 Jun (AK), and a hybrid in the Sue Amiotte yard s of Chadron 3 Jul (fide AK).

Indigo Bunting: Rather rare, although now regular, in the w Republican Valley, 1 was noted on the Benkelman BBS 13 Jun (JS,WRS).

Dickcissel: Rather sporadic westerly, especially in Jun, 3 were at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF), and 1 was noted on the Agate BBS, Sioux Co, 14 Jun (WRS,JS). Richard Rosche has suggested that there is a regular, low-density breeding population in the west, and a later-arriving (Jul) population consisting of single males generally associated with alfalfa fields.

Eastern Towhee: At the w edge of the range were 3 singing "drink your teedle tee" (!!) at Ashford BSC 12 Jul (BFH), and another heard at Wolf L 6 Jun (TH), possibly a late migrant, as most summer birds there are Spotted (see below).

Spotted Towhee: A phenotypic Spotted sang the Eastern song (see above for an accurate rendition) at Ashford BSC 12 Jul; most birds in that woodland near the w edge of the range of Eastern Towhee appear to be hybrids. At Wolf L, Spotted is a summer resident; 2-3 pairs were there (TH) at the e edge of the range. Also at the e edge of the range was one which summered near Gibbon (LR,RH).

Cassin's Sparrow: Despite an extensive search of known and other locations in Dundy Co, none were found (JS,WRS). A significant part of the best habitat along the ridges on the n side of the Republican R was burned in grass fires in 1996. A location where birds were found 23 Jun 1996 (MB) was also searched without success; this was on the s side of Highway 34 just w of its junction with Highway 161.

Chipping Sparrow: Least common in sw NE, the furthest sw report was of 5 on the campus of University of Nebraska-Kearney 26 Jun (LR,RH). Reports s of the Platte R and w of Grand Island are of interest.

Brewer's Sparrow: Reports were received from traditional locations, 7 birds s of Kilpatrick L 14 Jun (WRS,JS), and along the Wyoming border in Sioux Co (B), but of interest were 2 singing birds acting territorially in atypical habitat in Kimball Co 15 Jun (JS,WRS). One was in a planted shelterbelt of shrubs about 8 ft tall, and the other was singing from a dense clump of brome grass on CRP pasture. At least 8 others were found in Kimball and Banner Cos the same day, all in typical sage grassland habitat (WRS,JS).

Field Sparrow: Westerly was 1 on the Furnas-Gosper Cos BBS 22 Jun (LR,RH). Numbers decline markedly to the w.

Vesper Sparrow: This species is probably most numerous in the Sandhills, as reflected by a good count of 26 at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF).

Lark Sparrow: Rather common statewide, but especially in the Sandhills, best counts were 25 at the Niobrara Valley Preserve, in Brown Co, 28 Jun (LR,RH), and 20 s of Gering 27 Jul (AK).

Lark Bunting: Although none were reported e of the Panhandle, numbers there were good, with totals of over 400 in Kimball Co 15 Jun (WRS,JS) and over 350 in Sioux Co 14 Jun (WRS,JS).

Savannah Sparrow: The few nesting records are from the northwest, and so 2 birds, reported without details, 3 mi s of Nebraska City 1 Jun (LF,CF) were probably late migrants; the previous late dates were 24-25 May, although there are undocumented reports 29 May 1992 from Lancaster Co and 31 May 1975 from Douglas-Sarpy Cos.

Grasshopper Sparrow: This species is doing very well in w NE. Over 100 were noted both 13 Jun in Dundy Co and 15 Jun in Kimball Co

(WRS,JS) and 118 were counted at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF). These counts are in line with others in these areas in recent years.

Henslow's Sparrow: One was singing at the traditional location just s of the prairie-chicken blinds at Burchard L SRA 22 Jun (JS), but of interest were reports from additional locations: 3 were at Meadowlark L SRA in Seward Co 14 Jul (B), and one was at Nine-Mile Prairie in Lancaster Co 12 Jun (B). Recent years have seen increasing reports of this species, especially in prairies which are regenerating or managed by burning.

Song Sparrow: Traditionally, this species bred only along the e and n edges of the state, but since the 1960s it has been noted in other areas, generally in the Loup drainage and along the Platte Valley w to about Buffalo Co, and including at least Funk Lagoon in Phelps Co. Reports this summer suggest that it is consolidating its range in the Rainwater Basin, with reports from Pintail WMA 12 Jun (LF,CF), Hansen Lagoon 5 Jul (JGJ), Southeast Marsh at Hastings 13 Jul (LR,RH), and at Harvard and Harvard Northeast Marsh 13 Jul (LR,RH) and 19 Jul (WRS,JGJ). Thus Song Sparrow probably now occupies wetland areas of most of e and c NE, as well as an isolated, small population at Oliver Res in Kimball Co. Possibly a new habitat was the Earl May Garden Center in Bellevue, where one was carrying food 8 Jun after having been noted singing there earlier in the spring (BP,LP).

Swamp Sparrow: The small Funk Lagoon population continues, with reports 24 and 27 Jul (LR,RH).

Dark-eyed Junco: None were reported.

McCown's Longspur: Reports were from traditional locations along the Wyoming border road in Sioux Co (B) and in sw Kimball Co, where 11 were noted at "Stop 52" of the Kimball BBS route (WRS,JS).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Reports were received from several locations in the Panhandle, best count 13 along the Agate BBS route w in Sioux Co 14 Jun (WRS,JS).

Bobolink: Generally a bird of wet meadows, it has also adapted to alfalfa fields, and occurs throughout most of the state, although still most common in Sandhills meadows. It is least numerous in s NE, where this summer there were more reports than usual from the se: 2-4 were at Gifford Farm in Sarpy Co through 8 Jul (BP,LP), 1 was in Otoe Co 1 Jun (LF,CF), and it was reported from Cass Co (no location) 12 Jun (GW). It is numerous in certain Platte Valley locations, as indicated by 45 at Rowe Sanctuary 5 Jul (LR,RH). It also is utilizing managed prairies in se NE such as Madigan Prairie in Lancaster Co, where at least 10 were present 1 Jul (JH).

Red-winged Blackbird: Large flocks of "several thousand" were in evidence in Buffalo Co as early as 19 Jul (LR,RH). The breeding population, about 35 birds, at Arbor L had departed by 29 Jul (LE), which agrees with the timing of the flocks noted above.

Eastern Meadowlark: Continuing the excellent counts of recent years at CLNWR was the report of 26 there 18 Jun (MF).

Western Meadowlark: Numerous in the w, at least 300 were noted in Kimball Co 15 Jun (WRS,JS) and 207 were counted at CLNWR 18 Jun (MF).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Reports were routine.

Brewer's Blackbird: Reports were routine.

Great-tailed Grackle: The first confirmed breeding record for Boone Co was of 3 recently-fledged young seen 1 Jun (WM). At least 6 were found in Lancaster Co 4 Jun and 1 was at Arbor L 8 Jul (LE); summer reports are few away from the Rainwater Basin. Northerly, albeit belated, reports of note were from Antelope and Rock Cos 2 Jun 1996 (MB).

Common Grackle: Flocks of juveniles were noted in c NE by 19 Jul (WRS).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Reports were routine.

Orchard Oriole: Common in sw NE, at least 30 were found in Dundey Co 13 Jun (WRS,JS).

Baltimore Oriole: Reports were routine.

Bullock's Oriole: Reports were routine.

Scott's Oriole: One was reported at Mormon Island SP "across from the campground and creek" 2 Jul (B), but no details have been provided. There are 4 other reports of this species in NE, none well-documented.

House Finch: Reports were routine.

Red Crossbill: All reports were from the Wildcat Hills, where there are several summer reports but no evidence of breeding. Best count this summer was 25 at the feeders of Wildcat Hills NC 15 Jun (WRS,JS). At least 2 remained through the period at a feeder s of Gering (AK).

Pine Siskin: There were several reports, most of birds at feeders, through mid-Jun in the Panhandle, best count about 50 at Wildcat Hills NC 15 Jun (WRS,JS). The last seen at the James Ranch feeders were on 16 Jun (SL). A late bird was at Nebraska City 1 Jun (LF,CF). Belated was a report of nesting at Wayne State College 18 Jun 1996 (MB).

American Goldfinch: Reports were routine.

House Sparrow: Reports were routine.

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1996 (Eighth) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

Compiled by Mark A. Brogie (NOURC Chairperson)

508 Seeley, Creighton, NE 68729

The functions and methods of the NOU Records Committee are described in its bylaws (NOU Records Committee 1986). The committee's purpose is to provide a procedure for documenting unusual bird sightings and to establish a list of all documented birds for Nebraska. THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA was first published in 1988 (NOU Records Committee 1988) and has been appended six times (Mollhoff 1989, Grenon 1990, 1991, Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c). An update of THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA was last published in 1997 (NOU Records Committee 1997) and includes the additions and changes in status of the 1996 NOURC records.

This report includes all accounts submitted during the calendar year of 1996, covering 153 records with accession numbers 451-479, 491-614. All records mentioned here will be available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the

University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, NE. Interested parties should contact the current NOU Librarian, whose address can be found in the latest issue of The Nebraska Bird Review.

State List

With this report, the following change is made to "THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA" (NBR 65: 3-16. 1997):

Addition

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

This species was inadvertently left off the 1997 version of "THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA"

Accepted Records

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

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

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

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 5 November, 1995.
2. A photograph (Class I-P; JS) was received of this species observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 30 October, 1996. An individual (assumed same bird) was observed (Class III; WRS) at the same location, 3 November, 1996.
3. A single bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Stagecoach Lake, Lancaster Co., 3 November, 1996.
4. A single bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Bluestem Lake, Lancaster Co., 3 November, 1996.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*).

1. A juvenile/first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Wagon Train Lake, Lancaster Co., 19 November, 1995.
2. One written report (Class III; WRS) and two photographs (Class I-P; JS, JJ) of presumed same late juvenile/first-winter bird observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 15-22 June, 1996.
3. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Standing Bear Lake, Douglas Co., 17 November, 1996.
4. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JS) at Olive Creek Reservoir, Lancaster Co., 17 November, 1996.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*).

1. One written report (Class III; WRS) and two sets of

photographs (Class I-P; JJ, JS) of presumed same juvenile/first-winter bird observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 17-23 November, 1996. These reports represent the first documented occurrence of Yellow-billed Loon in Nebraska.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*).

1. A juvenile/first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; MB) on Lewis & Clark Lake, Knox County, 24 November, 1995.
2. A single basic-plumaged bird was observed (Class III; SD) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 21 December, 1995 (NBR 64: 131).
3. A description and photograph (Class I-P; SD) and a written report (Class III; WRS) were received of a molting adult at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., 26-27 September, 1996.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*).

1. Two sets of photographs were received (Class I-P; JJ, LB) and one written report (Class III; BP, LP) of a single bird observed at a small marsh east of Chambers, Holt Co. from 20-30 May, 1996.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; MB) in Cuming County, 29 May, 1996.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*).

1. A specimen of an adult bird salvaged (Class I-S; WV of NGP) in Brown Co., 14 April, 1992 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17043 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*).

1. An adult was observed (Class III; TH) at Wolf Lake, Saunders Co. several times during the dates of 23 December, 1995 through 6 January, 1996.
2. A specimen of an adult bird found shot and salvaged (Class I-S; NGP) during the fall, 1991 at Clear Creek WMA, Garden Co. was prepared as specimen # ZM-17009 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.
3. A specimen of an adult bird found shot and salvaged (Class I-S; LWB of NGP) 24 November, 1995, Boyd Co. was prepared as specimen # ZM-17292 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.
4. A group of four birds were photographed (Class I-P; MB) at Chain Lake, Holt Co., 13 November, 1994.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*).

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Harvard Marsh, Clay Co., 27 April, 1996.
2. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P; MB) at Lake Yankton, Cedar Co., 10 March, 1993.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*).

1. A female observed (Class III; WRS) at the North Platte Sewage Lagoons, Lincoln Co., 28 October, 1996 was well described.
2. A female (presumed above bird) and a first-winter Black Scoter were observed (Class III; BL) at the North Platte

Sewage Lagoons, Lincoln Co., 1 November, 1996.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*).

1. A specimen of an immature male found dead along I-80 and salvaged (Class I-S; NGP) in Lincoln Co., 9 September, 1991 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17034 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*).

1. A brown-phase female captured 8 January, 1983 by a licensed falconer in Cherry Co., died in captivity 17 February, 1983; was salvaged (Class I-S; NGP) and prepared as specimen # ZM-16380 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.
2. A gray-phase male captured 8 January, 1983 by a licensed falconer in Cherry Co., died in captivity 25 December, 1983; was salvaged (Class I-S; NGP) and prepared as specimen # ZM-16381 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*).

1. A single bird was recorded (Class I-R; JG) at North Basin WMA, Seward Co., 4 June, 1996. A photograph (Class I-P; JS) of the bird taken at the same location on 4 June, 1996 was also received.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*).

1. A single adult was observed (Class III; JG) at North Basin WMA, Seward Co., 7 June, 1996.

Common Crane (*Grus grus*).

1. Two separate written reports by the initial observers (Class III; RJ, JW) and two sets of photographs (Class I-P; GL, MB) were received of an adult bird in Hall Co., 30-31 March, 1996. These sightings represent the fourth record for Common Crane in Nebraska (NBR 64: 80-82).

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*).

1. A group of five adults were photographed (Class I-P; MB) south of Creighton, Antelope Co., 11 April, 1993. This represents one of the eastern-most records for Whooping Crane in Nebraska in the last 100 years.

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Harvard WPA, Clay Co., 27 April, 1996.
2. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Mallard Haven WPA, Fillmore Co., 27 April, 1996.

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*).

1. A pair of adult birds were observed (Class III; WRS) in Kimball Co., 15 June, 1996.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*).

1. A single adult was photographed (Class I-P; MB) south of Creighton, Antelope Co., 30 April, 1996. This represents one of NE eastern-most records for this species.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*).

1. Two written reports (Class III; WRS, BP, LP) were received of a single juvenile observed at Schilling

Refuge, Cass Co., 23 September, 1996.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*).

1. Two juveniles were photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Cut-off Rainwater Basin, Platte Co., 24 August, 1996.

Dowitcher sp. (*Limnodromus* sp.).

1. Two dowitchers (Long-billed?) were observed (Class III; SS) in Merrick Co., 8 November, 1996 (notable late date).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*).

1. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P; MS) at Lewis & Clark Lake, Knox Co., 30 June, 1990.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*).

1. A single second-winter bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., 28 October, 1996; WRS.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*).

1. Two reports were received of a single juvenile bird observed (Class III; JJ, JG) at Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co., 3 October, 1996. This represents the second documented occurrence of Little Gull in Nebraska.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*).

1. A second-winter bird was observed (Class III; WRS) above Kingsley Dam, Keith Co., 17 February, 1996. This represents the first documented occurrence of Mew Gull in Nebraska.
2. An adult was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 11 May, 1996.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*).

1. An adult was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 27 March, 1996; JJ. This represents one of the eastern-most records for this species in Nebraska.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*).

1. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 23 November, 1995.
 2. Of two adults observed, one was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 20 January, 1996.
 3. A first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 20 January, 1996.
 4. A single first-winter bird was described (Class III; KN, LN) and photographed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 18 March, 1996. The NOURC felt the photographs taken of this bird were not diagnostic enough to stand by themselves.
 5. A first-year bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 15 April, 1996.
 6. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 17 November, 1996.
 7. Two first-winter birds were observed (Class III; WRS) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 7 December, 1996.
- The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Iceland Gull (Larus glaucooides).

1. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; BP, LP) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 18 February, 1996.
2. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; KN, LN) and photographed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 18 March, 1996. The NOURC felt the photographs taken of this bird were not diagnostic enough to stand by themselves.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus).

1. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., March, 1996.
2. Two written reports (Class III; WRS, BP, LP) were received of a single adult (presumed same bird) observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 17-19 February, 1996.
3. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 24 March, 1996.
4. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; KN, LN) at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 18 March, 1996.

Glaucous Gull (Larus hyperboreus).

1. One second-winter bird was observed (Class III; RH) at Harlan Co. Reservoir, Harlan Co., 27 December, 1995.
- The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus).

The following documentations presumably may be all of the same bird at Lake McConaughy, Keith County.

1. First-winter bird photographed (Class I-P; JJ); 20 January, 1996.
2. First-winter bird observed (Class III; BP, LP); 5 February, 1996.
3. First-winter bird observed (Class III; WRS); 17-18 February, 1996.
4. First-winter bird photographed (Class I-P; KN, LN); 18 March, 1996.
5. First-summer bird photographed (Class I-P; SD); 4 August, 1996.

Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla).

1. A first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 21 November, 1995.
2. A first-winter bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Summit Lake, Burt Co., 27 November, 1995.
3. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 3 December, 1995.

Sabine's Gull (Xema sabini).

1. One written report (Class III; BP, LP) and a photograph (Class I-P; JJ) of the presumed same juvenile bird observed at Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co., 22-26 October, 1995.
2. Two written reports (Class III; LR, RH, WRS) and two sets of photographs were received (Class I-P; JJ, SD) of at least two juveniles observed at Lake Maloney, Lincoln Co., 26-29 September, 1996 (NBR 65: 42-43).
3. A single adult bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Lake Maloney, Lincoln Co., 26 September, 1996 (NBR 65: 42-43).
4. A single juvenile was observed (Class III; JJ) at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., 26 September, 1996 (NBR 65: 42-43).

5. Two written reports (Class III; JJ, WRS) and a photograph (Class I-P; SD) of a juvenile observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 28 September, 1996 (NBR 65: 42-43).

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).

1. A juvenile was observed (Class III; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 1 September, 1996.
2. A juvenile was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 6 September, 1996.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*).

1. A basic-plumaged adult was observed (Class III; WRS) at Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln Co., on the very late date of 28 October, 1996.

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; ET) at Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co., 15 October, 1996. This represents the first documented occurrence for Band-tailed Pigeon in Nebraska.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaidura asiatica*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; BM, KM) in Malcolm, Lancaster County, 13 May, 1994. This represents the third documented occurrence for White-winged Dove in Nebraska.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*).

1. A female/immature was observed (Class III; SD) coming to a feeder in Harrison, Sioux Co., 4 August, 1995.
2. A female/immature was observed (Class III; WRS) coming to a feeder in Bushnell, Kimball Co., 3 August, 1996.

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*).

1. A probable female belonging to this complex was observed (Class III; WRS) coming to a feeder in Bushnell, Kimball Co., 3-4 August, 1996.
2. A female/immature belonging to this complex was photographed (Class I-P; SD) at a feeder in Bushnell, Kimball Co., 10 August, 1996.

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*).

1. Two sets of photographs submitted (Class I-P; LB, MB) taken 19 May, 1996 of a single adult bird coming to a feeder stocked with oranges near Chambers, Holt County. This bird was seen daily from 18-21 May, 1996 and constitutes the first documented record for Acorn Woodpecker in Nebraska.

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*).

1. A single adult was observed (Class III; BL) at a feeding station at Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff Co., 2 November, 1996.

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*).

1. One bird from a group of approximately 40 was photographed (Class I-P; MB) in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co., 29 December, 1986.

Mountain Chickadee (*Parus gambeli*).

1. An initial report was received of seven birds observed and documented (Class III; LM) at Stateline Island Unit of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge, Scotts Bluff Co., 5 October, 1996. A second documentation (Class III; AK) of three birds at the same location on 12 October, 1996 was also received.
2. A single bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Riverside Park, Scotts Bluff Co., 27 October, 1996.
3. A single bird photographed (Class I-P; DC, JC), actually feeding out of the hand, in Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., 12 November, 1996.
4. A specimen of a female found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; RSm) in Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., 23 November, 1996 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17444 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*).

1. One of the few records away from the Platte or Missouri River systems; a single bird was photographed (Class I-P; MB) near Wisner, Cuming Co., 29 October, 1994.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*).

1. A single (out of normal range) bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) near Malcolm, Lancaster Co., 5 November, 1995.

Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*).

1. One photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Hormel Park, Dodge Co., on the very late date of 31 December, 1995.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*).

1. Of a group of four birds observed, one was photographed (Class I-P; BP, LP) south of I-80 Exit 1, Kimball Co., 18 July, 1996.
2. A single bird was observed (Class III; LM) at the base of Chimney Rock, Morrill Co., 2 September, 1996.

Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; LK) south of Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., 2 July, 1996. This represents the first documented record for Curve-billed Thrasher in Nebraska since the 1960's.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*).

1. An unusual mid-winter record of a single bird observed (Class III; RH, LR) near Hazard, Sherman Co., 1 January, 1996 was received.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*).

1. A single first-fall bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Schramm Park, Sarpy Co., 15 September, 1996.
2. A single bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 10 October, 1996.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*).

1. A specimen of an adult female found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; TL) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 18 May, 1993 was prepared as specimen # ZM-16966 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*).

1. A specimen of an adult male found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; AG) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 12 May, 1993 was prepared as specimen # ZM-16910 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.
2. A specimen of an adult male found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; TL) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 13 May, 1993 was prepared as specimen # ZM-16911 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*).

1. A specimen of an immature female found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; TL) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 11 October, 1994 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17097 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*).

1. An adult female was observed (Class III; SG, SK) at Schramm Park, Sarpy Co., 11 May, 1996 (NBR 64: 83).

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*).

1. An adult male was observed (Class III; BP, LP) at Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., 18 May, 1996.
2. An adult male was observed (Class III; DS) at Wilderness Park, Lancaster Co., 12 May, 1996.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*).

1. An adult male was observed (Class III; WRS) at N.P. Dodge Park, Douglas Co., 27 May, 1996.
2. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P; MB) at Schramm Park, Sarpy Co., 30 May, 1996.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*).

1. A specimen of an adult male found dead and salvaged (Class I-S; TL) on UNL City Campus, Lancaster Co., 10 May, 1994 was prepared as specimen # ZM-17033 at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*).

1. A report of one adult male and two females (accompanied by a photograph of the adult male; Class I-P; MBH) coming to a feeding station near the Belmont Dam, Morrill Co., 12 May, 1996 was received.
2. Two sets of photographs were submitted (Class I-P; EV, MB); taken 30 May, 1996 of a single female-plumaged bird coming to a feeder at Crane Meadows Nature Center, Hall County.

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; JJ) at Courthouse Rock, Morrill Co., 11 May, 1996.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*).

1. A single singing bird was observed (Class III; JJ) along Long Canyon Road, Banner Co., 11 May, 1996.

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*).

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P; SZ) at Burchard Lake, Pawnee Co., 6 May, 1985 (NBR 53: 82).
2. A single bird was recorded (Class I-R; JG) at Burchard Lake, Pawnee Co., 1 June, 1996.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*).

1. A single bird was observed (Class III; WRS) at Jack Sinn WMA, Lancaster County, 15 September, 1996.

Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*).

1. A single adult male was observed (Class III; LM) at a bird feeder in Crawford, Dawes Co., 28 January, 1996.
2. A group of three males and two females were observed (Class III; WRS) at a feeding station at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff Co., 26-27 October, 1996.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*).

Out-of-normal range records received included:

1. Photographs of several individuals (Class I-P; GF) of a group of 15 birds at Kearney, Buffalo Co., 20 July, 1996.
2. Two heavily streaked birds were observed (Class III; RH, LR) south of Gibbon, Buffalo Co., 3 August, 1996.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*).

1. A photograph of several individuals (Class I-P; JJ) of a group of seven birds at Oakland Cemetery, Burt Co., 17 March, 1996.

Unaccepted Records

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

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

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

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). Class V.

1. A written report was received of a bird observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 22 June, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate all other possibilities.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*). Class V.

1. A written report was received, describing a bird flying up the Platte River, Sarpy Co., 22 June, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate all other possibilities.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). Class IV.

1. A scoter was photographed at Olive Creek Reservoir, Lancaster Co., 17 November, 1996; however, the photograph did not show enough details to identify to species.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*). Class IV.

1. A written report of a single bird briefly observed in flight after being flushed from a wet meadow at Crescent Lake NWR, Garden Co. during the spring of 1995. The description in this documentation lacked sufficient

details to eliminate other species.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*).

1. A first-winter bird was observed above Kingsley Dam, Keith Co., 18 February, 1996. The description in this documentation lacked sufficient details to eliminate other species. (Class IV).
2. An adult gull was observed and photographed at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Douglas Co., 5 December, 1996. The photographs in this documentation lacked sufficient details to eliminate other species. (Class IV).
3. A single first-winter bird was observed and described at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 19 February, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate all other possibilities. (Class IV).

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*). Class V.

1. A first-winter gull was observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 7 December, 1996. Identified as Iceland by some observers, others considered it a small Glaucous (NBR 65: 22). Resolution not considered possible by some NOURC members.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). Class IV.

1. A first-winter bird was observed and described at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 19 February, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate other possibilities.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). Class VI.

1. A first-winter bird was observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 7 December, 1996. Identified as Iceland by some observers, others considered it a small Glaucous (NBR 65: 22). Resolution not considered possible by some NOURC members.

Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*). Class VI.

1. A very interesting report received of a single bird at Offut AFB, Sarpy Co., 19 September, 1993. While there are fall records for inland states such as Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Illinois, making this record a possibility, several reviewers noted that there was no description of the bird's primary wing pattern, which is a key differentiating characteristic to separate this species. One reviewer also noted, "This bird was described as having 'the classic black cap,' a feature which almost certainly rules out Royal Tern, as the latter species possesses a black cap only for a very short time in March-May, while Caspian retains the black cap March-September."

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*). Class IV.

1. A single bird was observed at Lake Alice, Scotts Bluff Co., 27 September, 1996. The description in this documentation did not completely eliminate other possibilities.

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(LWB), Loren Blake (LB), Mark A. Brogie (MB), Dan Clark (DC), Jamalee Clark (JC), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SD), Glen Falk (GF), Sue Gentes (SG), Amy Goedert (AG), Joe Gubanyi (JG), Robin Harding (RH), Thomas A. Hoffman (TH), Mary B. Hunt (MH), Robert Jassen (RJ), Joel Jorgensen (JJ), Sandy Kovanda (SK), Alice Kenitz (AK), Lee Kenitz (LK), Ray Korpi (RK), Tom Labedz (TL), Gary Lingle (GL), Bob Livermore (BL), Larry Malone (LM), Bonnie Meltvedt (BM), Klare Meltvedt (KM), Jim Mountjoy (JM), Nebraska Game & Parks personnel (NGP), Kenny Nichols (KN), LaDonna Nichols (LN), Babs Padelford (BP), Loren Padelford (LP), Lanny Randolph (LR), Roger Schmidt (RS), Rod Smith (RSm), Mark Schubert (MS), Glenna Schwalbe (GS), Paul Schwalbe (PS), Don Shower (DS), W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Steven Stoppkotte (SS), John Sullivan (JS), Edna Claire Thomas (ET), W.L. Vodehual (WV), Eric Volden (EV), Jim Williams (JW), Soheil Zende (SZ).

Current Records Committee members are Mark A. Brogie (Chair), Robin Harding, Bill Huser, Joel Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Tom Labedz, Loren Padelford, and Ross Silcock.

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NOTES ON BIRD SIGHTINGS IN NEBRASKA

1997 Report for Wauneta area, Chase County. I have seen 49 species, including 20 Turkey Vultures, many Wild Turkeys, a covey of Northern Bobwhite near my house, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in my garden flowers such as *Gilia*, and a Black-headed Grosbeak - a first for my acreage. On 6 September, a male Northern Cardinal brought two young to one of the seven water pans I keep for birds and animals. Other species listed in the area: Great Blue Heron, Gadwall, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk,

Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, House Wren, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Lark Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Meadowlark sp., Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow.

-----L. Iola Pennington, R R 2, Box 119, Wauneta, NE 69045.

INTERNATIONAL SHOREBIRD SURVEY REPORT FOR SOUTHEASTERN NEBRASKA -
SPRING 1997

Kevin Poague, Conservation Technician, and John Dinan, Nongame Bird Program Manager, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2200 No. 33rd St., P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370 (phone: 402/471-0641; Fax: 402/471-5528)

INTRODUCTION

In 1974, Manomet Observatory in Massachusetts organized the International Shorebird Survey (ISS) to collect information on shorebirds during migration. The project is intended to monitor shorebird population trends and to identify major migration routes, timing, and locations of staging areas. More than 600 contributors from 38 states of the United States, and countries, territories, and commonwealths throughout the hemisphere have contributed data since the program's inception. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission collected data for the ISS in the eastern Rainwater Basin area (Clay, Fillmore, York, and Seward counties) from 1993-1996.

Nebraska's eastern saline wetlands, located in or near the city of Lincoln, are considered critically imperiled and the most limited and endangered vegetation community in the state (LaGrange 1997). The shallow waters and exposed mudflats are especially attractive to waterfowl and shorebirds, who feed on the abundant invertebrate life forms. More than 230 species of birds have been identified in the salt basins of Lancaster County alone, more than half the total number of species reported for Nebraska (Farrar and Gersib 1991). In 1997, we began surveying eastern saline wetlands to document the numbers and species of shorebirds using these unique natural habitats.

METHODS

ISS guidelines state that for the spring migration period, one survey should be conducted every ten days in April and May, and one during the first ten days of June. Nebraska Game and Parks Commission biologists conducted seven surveys from April 3 through June 2, 1997, at five saline wetland locations in northern Lancaster and southern Saunders counties in southeastern Nebraska: Arbor Lake Wildlife Management Area ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of 27th Street and Arbor Road, Lincoln, NE), Jack Sinn WMA (the main water area east of Highway 77 and Ashland Road, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Ceresco, NE), the Department of Road's Davey Road wetland mitigation site (2 miles south of Ceresco), Otto Conservation Easement (4 miles east of Ceresco), and the Nature Conservancy's Little Salt Fork Preserve (3 miles east of Raymond, NE). All available shorebird habitat at each site was explored. Counts took place on clear to partly cloudy days with winds less than 20

mph. Surveys began and ended on the same day, with as much time taken as was needed to complete a site. (During the initial ten-day sampling period, surveys were conducted on April 3 at four sites, and on April 9 at Little Salt Fork Preserve.) The order of the sites visited each day remained constant.

Two observers recorded numbers and species of shorebirds at or flying over each site, and all other bird species encountered. Abundances were qualified as either exact or extrapolated counts. No attempts were made to distinguish between Long- and Short-billed Dowitchers. Unidentified shorebirds were listed as "shorebird spp.," or "peeps" if they were known to belong to the genus *Calidris* (Western, Semipalmated, Least, White-rumped, and Baird's Sandpiper).

RESULTS

Observers recorded 22 shorebird species using the eastern saline wetlands during spring migration (Table 1). Excluding peeps, yellowlegs spp. were recorded most often, followed by White-rumped and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Killdeer, and Dunlin. Ten species (Killdeer, all peeps except Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Dowitcher spp., Common Snipe, and Wilson's Phalarope) were found at all five sites, whereas birds seen at only one location were Solitary and Upland Sandpipers (Little Salt Fork), Willet (Jack Sinn), and Red-necked Phalarope (Davey Road).

Table 1. Species and abundance of shorebirds, and dates observed, at five saline wetlands in northern Lancaster and southern Saunders counties, Nebraska, April 3-June 2, 1997.

Species	Arbor Lake	Davey Road	Jack Sinn	Otto Easement	Little Salt Fork	Total	Date(s) [†]
American Golden-Plover	0	0	0	1	2	3	M 21
Semipalmated Plover	0	5	3	2	0	10	M 1, 15
Killdeer	22	14	17	18	31	102	A 3-J 2
Greater Yellowlegs	8	0	5	1	9	23	A 9-M 15
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	2	0	10	21	33	A 9-M 21
Yellowlegs, spp.	86	0	0	12	193	291	A 9-M 15
Solitary Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	1	1	M 15
Willet	0	0	1	0	0	1	A 3
Spotted Sandpiper	2	7	1	0	0	10	A 23-J 2
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	2	2	M 1
Hudsonian Godwit	0	7	0	42	0	49	A15-M21
Semipalmated Sandpiper	4	54	13	31	2	104	M 1-J 2
Western Sandpiper	3	2	2	2	5	14	M1-M 21
Least Sandpiper	14	11	0	15	15	55	M 1-J 2
White-rumped Sandpiper	8	52	23	53	40	176	M 15-J 2
Baird's Sandpiper	10	14	25	10	3	62	A23-M21
Pectoral Sandpiper	12	10	1	1	4	28	A 15-J 2
Dunlin	5	13	8	40	18	84	M 15
Stilt Sandpiper	8	0	0	0	1	9	M 15
Dowitcher spp.	6	10	5	22	1	44	M 1, M15
Common Snipe	29	1	3	2	23	58	A 3-M 1
Wilson's Phalarope	20	5	1	10	31	67	A23-M21
Red-necked Phalarope	0	3	0	0	0	3	M 15
Shorebird spp.	0	1	0	20	0	21	
Peeps	84	76	112	151	162	585	
Total abundance	321	287	220	443	564	1835	
Number of species	14	16	14	16	17	22	

[†] A=April; M=May; J=June. Dates surveyed: April 3 & 9, 15, 23; May 1, 15, 21; June 2.

More species and numbers of shorebirds were observed at Little Salt Fork than at any other site. This was the largest area covered and it contained exposed shoreline and several flooded fields. The low totals for Jack Sinn were due in part to high water levels in the spring that limited the availability of mudflats and shoreline. Shorebird migration peaked in mid-May (Figures 1 & 2).

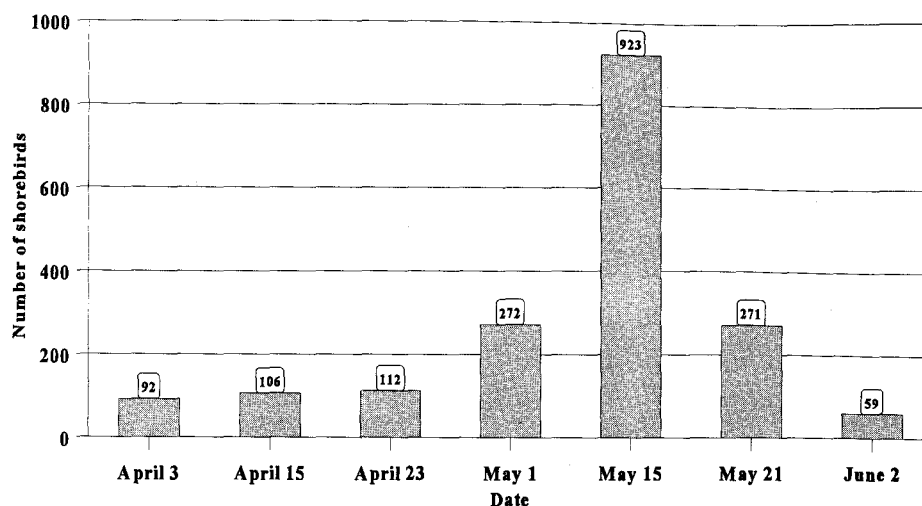


Figure 1. Number of shorebirds by date at five saline wetlands in northern Lancaster and southern Saunders counties, Nebraska, April 3-June 2, 1997.

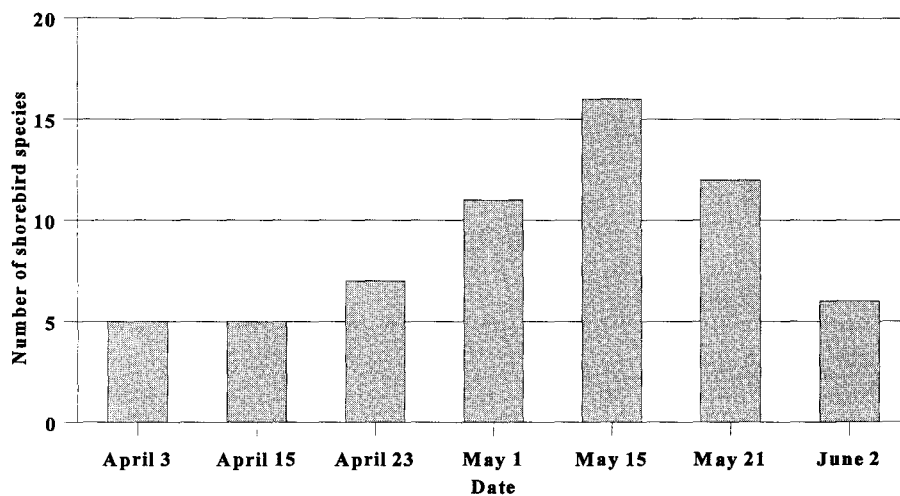


Figure 2. Number of shorebird species by date at five saline wetlands in northern Lancaster and southern Saunders counties, Nebraska, April 3-June 2, 1997.

Sixty-four additional bird species were identified during the surveys (see Appendix). Nesting was documented for Blue-winged Teal (six ducklings at Little Salt Fork on May 21) and Loggerhead Shrike (two juveniles at Arbor Lake and five nestlings at Otto easement on June 2). A pair of Great-tailed Grackles built and defended a nest site at Jack Sinn, but the outcome was not determined. The Le Conte's Sparrow was seen at Otto easement on April 23, and hunting overhead there on May 15 was the Peregrine Falcon. On May 1, the Virginia Rail was at Jack Sinn, and the Sora was heard at Arbor Lake on May 15.

DISCUSSION

An estimated 3,244 acres of saline wetlands remain in eastern Nebraska (LaGrange 1997). The ISS sites for this study represent 160 acres, or 5% of the total. Based on our initial survey, and assuming that at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the remaining eastern saline wetland acres provide stopover habitat similar to our survey sites, we estimate that more than 20,000 shorebirds may use these highly vulnerable staging areas during spring migration. These surveys will continue for the 1997 fall migration. We are hoping to repeat the surveys during the spring and fall migrations of 1998 and 1999, depending on availability of personnel. Persons interested in assisting with these surveys or setting up a shorebird survey elsewhere in Nebraska should contact John Dinan at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for more information.

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Our thanks to Chris Colt, Winter Smith, and Jennifer Delisle for their expert assistance and good company during the surveys. We would also like to thank the Nature Conservancy for allowing us access to their property.

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APPENDIX

Additional bird species at five saline wetlands in northern Lancaster and southern Saunders counties, Nebraska, April 3-June 2, 1997: Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Northern Flicker, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Sedge Wren, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Savannah Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Le Conte's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Bobolink,

Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER NEST IN KIMBALL COUNTY

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On 18 May 1995 I observed two adult Mountain Plovers 5 mi west and 1.25 mi north of Bushnell in southwest Kimball County. The birds were in an area of short-grass prairie interspersed with clumps of prickly pear and bare ground. I observed both birds almost continuously from 1-2 p.m. MDT. The first bird was along the road south of the fenceline, just after the road climbs on top of the plateau. The second bird was about 0.1 mi to the north on the west side of the road. Both birds were medium-sized, plain shorebirds, similar in shape and posture to a Killdeer. The crown, nape, mantle, and upperwings were pale brown. The forehead and lores were white with a narrow black band separating them from the brown crown. The underparts were white with some buffy wash on the flanks. The legs were long and pale-colored. The posture was very upright, unlike other plovers. At approximately 1:45 p.m. I located the nest of the first bird. It contained three eggs and was 15 m east of the road on top of the plateau. The nest was a shallow depression in the ground, lined with small pebbles. As I examined the nest, the bird remained close by, giving several loud, whistled, "whit" notes in an attempt to distract me away. I photographed both the nest and the adult bird, then left to avoid further disturbance.

Mountain Plovers are rare breeders in Nebraska. There are four previous nesting records as follows: a nest on 8 July 1859 near North Platte (Ducey 1988), a half-grown fledgling on 7 June 1975 7 mi west of Bushnell (Lock 1975, Bennett 1976), an adult with three half-grown young on 18 July 1983 3-4 mi north of Highway 30 and 1 mi east of the Wyoming border (Cox 1983), and a nest with three eggs from 21-23 May 1990 at this same location found by Fritz L. Knopf (Clausen 1990). Small numbers of Mountain Plovers probably occur most years in Kimball County. There, they could nest in small patches of short-grass prairie or on fallow fields. I thank Ross Silcock for providing information on previous nesting records of this species in Nebraska.

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WHOOPING CRANE SIGHTINGS DURING MARCH-MAY 1997 MIGRATION
 Compiled from information provided by Steven Anschutz
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During the 1996-97 winter, 158 (143 adult/subadult and 15 juvenile) Whooping Cranes stayed at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. Two early migrants in Nebraska were an adult-plumaged bird first observed on 9 March, and a juvenile confirmed on 19 March. Neither of these birds wintered at Aransas, so the total population was therefore 160 (144 adult/subadult and 16 juvenile). All 158 cranes wintering at Aransas were present 3 April, but by 10 April, about 103 cranes had begun to migrate, and by 24 April, only 13 cranes were still at Aransas. All cranes had migrated by 6 May.

Migrations for Nebraska are given in the following table. Locations by township and range, and data for other states can be obtained from the NBR Editor or from Wally Jobman at the address listed under the title. All sightings in the table were confirmed. WPA = Waterfowl Production Area.

<u>1997 Sighting Date</u>	<u>No. of Cranes</u> <u>adults + young</u>		<u>Location</u>
3/9	1		Buffalo Co., 4.5 mi. south, 1.75 west of Gibbon, Platte River.
3/10-4/17	1		Hall Co., 3 mi. west of Doniphan, Platte River.
3/19-4/7	+	1	Buffalo Co., 4.5 mi. south, west of Gibbon, Platte River.
4/8	+	1	Lincoln Co., 4 mi. south of Hershey.
4/14	1		Kearney Co., 6 mi. south of Gibbon.
4/14-16	2		Kearney Co., 2 mi. south of Gibbon, Platte River.
4/15-16	2		Holt Co., 1 mi. south, 2.5 west of Atkinson.
4/15-17	12		Valley Co., 1 mi. north, 1.5 east of Elyria, North Loup River.
4/15-17	4		Kearney Co., 6 mi. south, 11 east of Minden, Jensen WPA.
4/15-17	2	+	1 Custer Co., 8 mi. east of Callaway.
4/18-19		+	1 Phelps Co., 4.5 mi. south, 1 west of Overton.
4/21-24	3		Buffalo Co., 5 mi. south, 2 west of Gibbon, Platte River.
4/25-28		+	1 Gosper Co., 9 mi. east, 5 north of Elwood.
5/12	2		Lincoln Co., 20 mi. northeast of North Platte on Hwy 83, flying.

The first dates for confirmed observations of migrating Whooping Cranes were 9 March in the United States and 6 April in Canada. The last sighting was 25 May in Saskatchewan, Canada. Sightings were reported from Oklahoma (1), Kansas (5), Nebraska (14), South Dakota (4), North Dakota (5), and Saskatchewan (19).

A spring blizzard struck western Nebraska and the Dakotas on 5 and 6 April, and cold, snowy weather continued until 12 April. The migration peak was probably during the week of 13 April. In Nebraska, 12 adult-plumaged cranes (the largest group ever confirmed in Nebraska) were observed on 15 April. At least two juveniles and possibly as many as five (three sightings may have been the same bird) migrated alone or with Sandhill Cranes.

SHOREBIRD MIGRATION IN THE EASTERN RAINWATER BASIN-SPRING 1997
Joel G. Jorgensen, 1218 Jackson St., Blair, NE 68008

The Rainwater Basin is arguably Nebraska's most productive area for observing migrant shorebirds, especially in spring. After several years of irregular shorebirding in the region, in 1997 I decided to perform regular shorebird censuses in the eastern portion of the RWB (eRWB).

CONDITIONS

High-water conditions were present at many basins during the fall of 1996. Presumably, these conditions persisted through the winter, as slightly higher than average water levels were noted at several basins in March. Good water levels during the winter apparently scoured many basins of old vegetation. Besides a snowstorm that occurred on 12 April, little precipitation fell during April and May. Therefore, since the basins' only source of water is rainfall and occasionally pumps at certain Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) during waterfowl migration, water levels were decreasing throughout the spring. This created excellent shorebird conditions, but some basins dried too quickly and many dried up before migration was over (see below).

METHODS

Shorebird censuses were conducted on seven occasions during the spring of 1997, three times in April and four times in May. A minimum of five days was allowed to pass before another census period began. Each location was visited officially once during each census period. During each visit, shorebird numbers were counted or rarely estimated, the latter only occurring when very large flocks were encountered. The locations visited during each census are listed below. Several basins are private and no official name for them is known. I have given these basins arbitrary names to make record-keeping easy. Their locations relative to nearby towns is given. Otherwise, federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) and state Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) can be found in the Sportsman's Atlas, Delorme Atlas, or County Road Maps. If a site dried up, the date on which that basin became dry and more or less had no shorebirds is given in parentheses following the locale.

Adams County Basins - Ayr Lake (23 May), Hastings Basin (se edge of Hastings on Elm St.) (23 May).

Clay County Basins - Bluewing WMA (3 May), East Harvard Basin (3 mi. e & 1 mi. n of Harvard), Great Little Basin (5.5 mi. n & 1 mi. e. of Ong), Hansen WPA, Harvard WPA, Hultine WPA (includes

the former Sandpiper WPA)(16 May), Kissinger Basin WMA, Long Basin (7 mi. n & .5 mi. e. of Edgar)(3 May), Massie WPA, Moger WPA, North Harvard Basin (.5 mi. w. & 2.5 mi. n. of Harvard)(16 May), Pine Tree Hill Basin (3 mi. w & 2.5 mi. n. of Ong)(3 May), Roadside Basin (.5 mi w. & 6 mi. n. of Edgar)(15 May), Smith WPA, Theesen WPA.

Hamilton County Basins - Aurora Pond (1.5 mi. s. of Aurora), Gadwall WMA, Pintail WMA.

Fillmore County Basins - Griess WPA, Island Basin (2.5 mi. s. & 6 mi. w. of Geneva), Little Wilkins Basin (3 mi. e. of Grafton), Marsh Hawk WMA, Mallard Haven WPA (23 May), Miller's Pond (WPA, 2.5 mi. s. of Shickley), Pearson Basin (3.5 mi. s. & 2 mi. w of Shickley), Rauscher WPA, Real WPA (17 May), Rolland WPA, Wilkins WPA (10 May), Willet Basin (3 mi. n. & 1.5 mi w. of Shickley). Seward County Basins - North Lake Basin WMA, Tamora Basin (.5 mi. s. of Tamora), Goehner Basin (WMA, 2 mi. n. & 1 mi. w. of Goehner).

York County Basins - Barn Basin (4.5 mi. e. & 1 mi. s. of McCool Junction)(3 May), County Line WPA, Kirkpatrick WMA, Sinniger WPA (both basins), Spikerush WMA/Waco WPA.

Thayer County Basin - Father Hupp WMA.

RESULTS

SPECIES	APRIL			MAY				TOTALS
	3-4	18-19	25-26	2-4	7-10	16-17	23	
Black-bellied Plover			1	3	41	146	26	217
American Golden-Plover	2	28	11	20	280	708	36	1085
Snowy Plover				2	2	1		5
Semipalmated Plover		1	35	113	115	65	2	331
Piping Plover				3		2		5
Killdeer	276	112	110	63	86	85	59	791
American Avocet		30	13	79	28	42	1	193
Greater Yellowlegs	82	56	88	22	1	1	1	251
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	46	898	344	70	116	10	1487
Yellowlegs, unident.	1		5					6
Solitary Sandpiper			1	2	1			4
Willet		3	53	153	29	1		239
Spotted Sandpiper					7	18	7	32
Upland Sandpiper				2	2	9		13
Whimbrel				1		1		2
Hudsonian Godwit		38	12	12	75	122	41	300
Marbled Godwit		1	6	10		3		20
Ruddy Turnstone					5	35		40
Sanderling				1	19	1	3	24
Calidris species				29	24	20		73
Semipalmated Sandpiper		29	22	915	907	968	557	3398
Western Sandpiper				8				8
Least Sandpiper		2		117	329	469	86	1003
White-rumped Sandpiper			1	348	1648	5544	1442	8983
Baird's Sandpiper	24	175	299	253	50	58	44	903
Pectoral Sandpiper	12	50	270	54	160	166	61	773
Dunlin	2	2	42	14	16	70	13	159
Stilt Sandpiper			1	10	257	1119	207	1594
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				9	169	32	6	216
Short-billed Dowitcher					10	95	1	106
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	2	104	2306	602	85		3100
Common Snipe	130	7	7	5				149
Wilson's Phalarope			11	266	231	201	89	798
Red-necked Phalarope					4	12		16
Totals	533	582	1990	5164	5168	10,196	2692	26,324

DISCUSSION

Brief comments on the occurrence of certain species are mentioned here.

American Golden-Plover: The largest flock was 273 at Freeman L. on 17 May. An additional flock (not officially recorded) of 81 was found in a field on 17 May in Fillmore Co.

Piping Plover: Total number of birds recorded was lower than expected; higher numbers have been encountered in previous springs.

Lesser Yellowlegs: A genuine "wave" was observed. The species was abundant and ubiquitous on 25 April when most of the 898 were tallied. On the following days, most of the sights were unofficially revisited and very few Lesser Yellowlegs were found.

Ruddy Turnstone: A large flock: 21 at the Cattle Yard Basin, Sinniger WPA.

White-rumped Sandpiper: A large flock: 3600 at Freeman L. on 17 May.

Dunlin: A large flock: 36 at Mallard Haven on 25 April.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: An additional flock (not officially recorded) of 116 was found in a plowed field on 17 May in Fillmore Co.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Like the Lesser Yellowlegs, a "wave" was also noted with this species. Most of the 95 totaled 16-17 May were found on 16 May; few could be seen the following day and only a single could be found on 23 May. Large flocks: 31 at Mallard Haven on 16 May, 22 at Father Hupp WMA on 16 May, and 16 at South Basin, Sinniger WPA.

CONCLUSION

Totals of 26,324 individuals and 32 species of shorebirds were recorded during the spring of 1997. The numbers recorded this spring may seem large, but from my experience, they are probably close to what can be expected during a typical spring. In fact, greater numbers of shorebirds were present in April and early May of 1994 than during the same period in 1997.

TWO HYBRID DIVING DUCKS AT CUNNINGHAM LAKE, DOUGLAS COUNTY
Joel G. Jorgensen, 1218 Jackson St., Blair, NE 68008

During the spring of 1997 I had the opportunity to observe and study two apparent hybrid diving ducks at Glenn Cunningham Lake, Douglas County. Both birds appeared to be mature males in breeding plumage. One bird was a suspected Redhead x Canvasback hybrid and the other was a suspected Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser hybrid. Sibley (1994) states that both hybrid combinations occur "occasionally."

The Redhead x Canvasback hybrid was observed on 11-19 March. The hybrid associated exclusively with Redheads, even though Canvasbacks were relatively close at times. The overall size of the bird was similar to that of a Redhead, although the back appeared broader. The head shape was intermediate between the two suspected parental species. The forehead was sloped more than a Redhead's, but the overall head shape was rounder than that of a Canvasback. The "rear" portion (uppertail and undertail coverts and tail) was black, as was the breast. The mid-portion of the body was a pale, silvery gray, intermediate between the two suspected parental species. The head was colored a bright chestnut, with no darker or black markings towards the crown or

bill. The iris color was red. The bill length was similar to that of a Redhead, but the structure was reminiscent of a Canvasback. The bill appeared rather dark, although the tip was noticeably darker. On the topside of the bill, there was a pale area of light blue immediately adjacent to the black tip. The sides of the bill, below the nostrils, also showed a lightening, although this could only be observed under ideal light conditions. The very base and the area near the cutting edge of the bill were black.

Haramis (1982) described seven Redhead x Canvasback hybrids (specimens or trapped birds), but only one was taken with Redheads; it was also the only one that possessed an all-dark bill with faint-blue patches near the base. The other six hybrids were taken or captured in Canvasback flocks, and all possessed bills that were colored like that of a Redhead. The bird that I observed, and presumably the other dark-bill hybrid mentioned in Haramis (1982), appeared very much like a Common Pochard, with the exception of the bill.

The suspected Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser hybrid was observed 15-19 March. The accompanying photograph shows the overall appearance of the bird, which associated with Common Goldeneyes. The size was comparable to that of the two suspected parental species. This bird had a more peaked head shape than a Hooded Merganser, but it had a short crest like a Hooded Merganser. The upperparts were primarily black. The folded wing showed white patches similar to that of a Common Goldeneye. The long tertials were white with black fringing, like a Hooded Merganser. The bird had two black vertical bars on the side of the breast, similar to, but not as bold, as on a Hooded Merganser. The vermiculations of the flanks were similar to those of a Hooded Merganser, but were gray rather than rufous. The head was a solid, metallic green, similar to the head of a Common Goldeneye. The iris color was gold. The bill shape was longer and slimmer than the bill of a Common Goldeneye, but broader at the base than that of a Hooded Merganser. The bill was all black.



Just as the morphological features of this bird appeared confused, so did the behavior. One morning I was observing it with a group of 32 male Common Goldeneyes, who were actively performing "head throws." The apparent hybrid, caught up in all the excitement, was also performing. The display started with the head gently being brought down and forward, similar to the movement of a Common Goldeneye before the head is thrown backwards. Rather than directly proceeding with the head throw, the bird would pause for a second or two, looking as if it were paralyzed with confusion. Finally, it would dispassionately raise its head straight up as far as possible.

LITERATURE CITED

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- Sibley, D. 1994. A guide to finding and identifying hybrid birds. *Birding* 26:162-177.
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SPRING 1997 BIRD COUNTS DURING TRISTATE MEETING, AND FOR
NORTH PLATTE - LINCOLN COUNTY, NEBRASKA

The Ornithologists' Unions of Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota held a Tristate spring meeting at Sioux City, IA on 16-18 May, organized by Bill Huser and committee members from Iowa and South Dakota, and hosted by the Loess Hills Audubon Society from South Sioux City, NE. Field trips were made into nearby areas of all three states. During an indoor session, a paper on "Migrating hawks along Iowa's Loess Hills" was presented by Loren and Babs Padelford. The banquet speaker was Ken Kaufman, who spoke on "Bird study and natural history in the 21st century."

During the weekend, a total of 196 bird species were seen, distributed as follows: Iowa - 177, Nebraska - 122, South Dakota - 147. The data are given in Table 1.

Participants in the North Platte count on 10 May were Florence Clough, Harold and Esther Cunningham, **Gregg Hoover** (compiler), Pat McEvoy, Nancy Norris, Carol Somerhalder, and Howard and Wilma Wyman. Observers were in the field from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The temperature ranged from 40 - 84°F and the wind from 10 - 25 mph from the northwest. The sky was clear. A total of 82 species were seen, and the data are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Bird species observed during Tristate Ornithologists' Unions spring meeting 16 - 18 May, 1997, with the data for each state shown separately, and in North Platte - Lincoln County on 10 May, 1997. X = species present.

Species	Iowa	Nebraska	South Dakota	North Platte - Lincoln County
Pied-billed Grebe	X	X	X	X
Horned Grebe	X			
Eared Grebe	X			X
American White Pelican	X			X
Double-crested Cormorant	X	X	X	
Least Bittern	X			
Great Blue Heron	X	X	X	X
Great Egret	X	X		
Snowy Egret	X			X
Cattle Egret	X	X	X	
Green Heron	X			
Black-crowned Night-Heron		X		
Snow Goose	X			
Canada Goose	X	X	X	X
Wood Duck	X	X	X	X
Green-winged Teal	X		X	X
Mallard	X	X	X	X
Northern Pintail	X		X	

Species	Iowa	Nebraska	South Dakota	North Platte - Lincoln County
Blue-winged Teal	X	X	X	X
Northern Shoveler	X	X	X	X
Gadwall	X		X	X
American Wigeon	X		X	
Canvasback	X		X	
Redhead	X		X	
Ring-necked Duck			X	
Lesser Scaup	X		X	X
Ruddy Duck	X		X	X
Turkey Vulture	X	X	X	X
Osprey			X	
Northern Harrier			X	X
Sharp-shinned Hawk		X	X	
Cooper's Hawk	X			
Broad-winged Hawk	X			
Swainson's Hawk		X	X	
Red-tailed Hawk	X	X	X	X
Rough-legged Hawk	X			
American Kestrel	X	X	X	X
Ring-necked Pheasant	X	X	X	X
Wild Turkey	X	X	X	X
Northern Bobwhite		X		X
Virginia Rail	X		X	
Sora	X		X	
American Coot	X	X	X	X
American Golden-Plover	X		X	
Semipalmated Plover	X			
Piping Plover	X			
Killdeer	X	X	X	X
American Avocet				X
Greater Yellowlegs	X			X
Lesser Yellowlegs	X		X	
Solitary Sandpiper	X		X	
Willet	X			
Spotted Sandpiper	X	X	X	X
Upland Sandpiper		X	X	X
Hudsonian Godwit	X		X	
Marbled Godwit	X			

Species	Iowa	Nebraska	South Dakota	North Platte - Lincoln County
Ruddy Turnstone	X			
Sanderling	X			
Semipalmated Sandpiper	X		X	
Least Sandpiper	X		X	
White-rumped Sandpiper	X		X	
Baird's Sandpiper	X	X		
Pectoral Sandpiper	X		X	
Dunlin	X			
Stilt Sandpiper	X			
Short-billed Dowitcher	X			
Common Snipe	X			
Wilson's Phalarope	X		X	X
Franklin's Gull	X	X	X	
Ring-billed Gull	X			X
Herring Gull				X
Forster's Tern	X	X	X	
Least Tern	X			
Black Tern	X	X	X	X
Rock Dove	X	X	X	
Mourning Dove	X	X	X	X
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		X		
Eastern Screech-Owl	X			
Great Horned Owl	X		X	X
Common Nighthawk	X		X	
Whip-poor-will	X			
Chimney Swift	X	X	X	X
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	X	X	X	
Belted Kingfisher	X	X		
Red-headed Woodpecker	X	X	X	X
Red-bellied Woodpecker	X	X	X	X
Downy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X
Hairy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X
Northern Flicker	X	X	X	X
Olive-sided Flycatcher	X	X		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	X	X	X	
Alder Flycatcher		X		
Willow Flycatcher	X		X	

Species	Iowa	Nebraska	South Dakota	North Platte - Lincoln County
Least Flycatcher	X	X	X	
Eastern Phoebe	X			
Great Crested Flycatcher	X	X	X	
Western Kingbird	X	X		X
Eastern Kingbird	X	X	X	X
Horned Lark	X	X	X	
Purple Martin	X	X	X	
Tree Swallow	X	X	X	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	X	X	X	X
Bank Swallow	X	X	X	X
Cliff Swallow	X	X	X	X
Barn Swallow	X	X	X	X
Blue Jay	X	X	X	X
Black-billed Magpie	X			
American Crow	X	X	X	X
Black-capped Chickadee	X	X		X
White-breasted Nuthatch	X	X	X	X
Brown Creeper			X	
Rock Wren			X	
House Wren	X	X	X	X
Sedge Wren	X		X	
Marsh Wren	X		X	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	X	X	X	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	X	X	X	
Eastern Bluebird	X	X	X	X
Veery	X		X	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	X	X	X	
Swainson's Thrush	X	X	X	
Wood Thrush	X	X	X	
American Robin	X	X	X	X
Gray Catbird	X	X	X	
Brown Thrasher	X	X	X	X
American Pipit	X			
Cedar Waxwing	X	X	X	X
Loggerhead Shrike	X	X		X
European Starling	X	X	X	X
Bell's Vireo	X	X		

Species	Iowa	Nebraska	South Dakota	North Platte - Lincoln County
Solitary Vireo	X		X	
Yellow-throated Vireo	X	X	X	
Warbling Vireo	X	X	X	
Red-eyed Vireo	X	X	X	
Blue-winged Warbler		X	X	
Golden-winged Warbler	X	X	X	
Tennessee Warbler	X	X	X	
Orange-crowned Warbler	X		X	
Nashville Warbler	X	X	X	
Northern Parula			X	
Yellow Warbler	X	X	X	X
Chestnut-sided Warbler	X	X	X	
Magnolia Warbler	X	X	X	
Cape May Warbler	X		X	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	X	X	X	
Black-throated Green Warbler	X		X	
Blackburnian Warbler	X	X	X	
Palm Warbler	X			
Bay-breasted Warbler			X	
Blackpoll Warbler	X	X	X	
Cerulean Warbler		X	X	
Black-and-white Warbler	X	X	X	
American Redstart	X	X	X	
Ovenbird	X	X	X	
Northern Waterthrush	X	X	X	
Louisiana Waterthrush			X	
Kentucky Warbler	X	X		
Mourning Warbler	X	X		
Common Yellowthroat	X	X	X	
Wilson's Warbler	X	X	X	
Yellow-breasted Chat			X	
Scarlet Tanager	X	X	X	
Northern Cardinal	X	X	X	X
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X	X	X	
Lazuli Bunting	X			
Indigo Bunting	X	X	X	

Species	Iowa	Nebraska	South Dakota	North Platte - Lincoln County
Dickcissel	X	X	X	
Eastern Towhee	X	X	X	X
Spotted Towhee		X	X	
American Tree Sparrow				X
Chipping Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Clay-colored Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Field Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Vesper Sparrow	X	X	X	
Lark Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Lark Bunting				X
Savannah Sparrow	X	X	X	
Grasshopper Sparrow	X	X	X	X
LeConte's Sparrow	X			
Song Sparrow	X	X	X	
Lincoln's Sparrow	X	X	X	
Swamp Sparrow	X		X	
White-throated Sparrow	X	X	X	
White-crowned Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Harris' Sparrow	X	X	X	X
Bobolink	X	X	X	X
Red-winged Blackbird	X	X	X	X
Eastern Meadowlark	X			
Western Meadowlark	X	X	X	X
Yellow-headed Blackbird	X	X	X	X
Brewer's Blackbird				X
Great-tailed Grackle	X			
Common Grackle	X	X	X	X
Brown-headed Cowbird	X	X	X	X
Orchard Oriole	X	X	X	X
Baltimore Oriole	X	X	X	X
House Finch	X	X	X	X
Red Crossbill	X			X
Pine Siskin	X			X
American Goldfinch	X	X	X	X
House Sparrow	X	X	X	X

REMEMBERING DORIS GATES, A GREAT TEACHER
Mark M. Peyton, 2118 Av. H, Gothenburg, NE 69138

Doris Gates (1915-1983) taught Biology at Huntley, NE from 1938-1941, North Platte from 1941-1955, and Chadron State College from 1955-1974. She lived until her death at the foot of "Rush No More Butte" south of Chadron, was a member of the North Platte Tout Bird Club, and served as President of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and Editor of The Nebraska Bird Review.

Doris included plants and birds in her lectures on Biology, but she taught much more than that because she understood the beauty of life. She believed that beauty was in what you did rather than what you looked like, in what you were rather than what you were not. Maybe that's why she wanted to return as a Turkey Vulture in her next life. Her philosophy, which I try to pass on, allows me to forget the rotting, smelly mass of feathers I am trying to sketch, instead seeing dihedral wings soaring up and over Doris's former home.

Turkey Vultures are the consummate hang gliders. No amount of technical skill, gadgetry, or engineering can match the grace, majestic beauty of flight, and effortless poise these birds possess in the air. Yet they are ugly. They have a small, red, mostly bald head and small "hairs" that dot their skull like three-day-old whiskers on an old man. You can see their ears, which are covered by feathers in other birds. The beak is unusually long with a hardened, cornified tip and a huge nostril opening, which lets one look through it to the other side and is as out-of-place as the beak, which is like a big nose.

As I look at the dead bird, which reminds me of a runny-nosed, watery-eyed, rummy, bald-headed old man who needs a shave, I remember what Doris Gates told me and no longer see the ugly. I see a graceful, winged wonderment of the heavens, a magnificent collection of cytoplasm and tissue, a creature to aspire to in another life, simply because I had Doris Gates as a friend and teacher. I see the creature of beauty and say out loud, "Thank you, Miss Gates!"

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

A 12-volume work entitled "Handbook of the Birds of the World" is in the making, with nine authors representing six countries (four from the U.S.) and 17 artists. The first three volumes have been published, and the fourth is due in December 1997. Each volume is illustrated with color photographs, color plates, and distribution maps. The publisher is Lynx Edicions, Passeig de Gràcia, 12, 08007 Barcelona, Spain. The first four volumes can be purchased for US \$580 (special offer until 12/31/97), or monthly payments can be arranged (no extra postage or packaging charges). Further information can be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.hbw.com>. ----Editor

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Table of Contents

Summer Field Report, June-July 1997.....	102
1996 (Eighth) Report of the NOU Records Committee.....	115
Notes on Bird Sightings in Nebraska.....	126
International Shorebird Survey Report for Southeastern Nebraska - Spring 1997.....	127
Mountain Plover Nest in Kimball County.....	131
Whooping Crane Sightings During March-May 1997 Migration.....	132
Shorebird Migration in the Eastern Rainwater Basin - Spring 1997.....	133
Two Hybrid Diving Ducks at Cunningham Lake, Douglas County...	135
Spring 1997 Bird Counts During Tristate Meeting, and for North Platte - Lincoln County.....	137
Remembering Doris Gates, a Great Teacher.....	143
Book Announcement.....	143

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