

12-2007

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Silcock, W. Ross, "Fall Field Report, August-November 2007" (2007). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 1021.
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FALL FIELD REPORT, August-November 2007

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INTRODUCTION

This was essentially a normal fall season in Nebraska, with no major weather events or significant shifts in breeding or migration ranges, although a possible exception is a first record of Lesser Goldfinch breeding in the state. One observer made the point, though, that the hard freeze in the spring affected seed and fruit crops for fall, most conspicuously resulting in fewer large American Robin flocks. Excellent water conditions in the Rainwater Basin were welcome, but few herons and egrets were present, and no unusual breeding events were reported there.

As winter approached, however, increased numbers of a few finch species were noted. Most conspicuous was Purple Finch, which was reported statewide, unusual in the west, where it is normally rare. Other species showing well were Pine Siskin and Red-breasted Nuthatch (OK, it's not a finch!) Although Mountain Chickadee appeared in good numbers on the Colorado Plains, they were not much in evidence in Nebraska.

A few species were found in notable numbers: scoters continued their upward trend of recent years, a flock of 30-35 Whooping Cranes must have spectacular, rather incredible flocks of Purple Martins went over Omaha, and 36 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were counted at one location. Other items of interest were the several species of shorebirds lingering rather late, the slow recovery of Black-capped Chickadees, and proof of a late summer influx and breeding by Marsh Wren, a phenomenon previously attributed mainly to Sedge Wren.

Two species appeared in the east unexpectedly; a Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Bellevue was a first for that species in eastern Nebraska while a MacGillivray's Warbler was photographed in Dodge Co.

With a state list of 448, additions are tough to come by, but there were two this fall, an emaciated Royal Tern that generously decided to expire within the state boundaries, and at least one apparently all-dark frigatebird, unfortunately unidentifiable to species, but still the first documented frigatebird for the state. A pair of 5th state records was provided by a Gray Flycatcher and a Black-throated Gray Warbler. And we would be remiss if we failed to note that the Curve-billed Thrasher in Sioux Co will celebrate his 5th anniversary of residence there in October!

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Otoe Co
BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co
Cem: Cemetery
Co(s): County(ies)
CLNWR: Crescent L NWR, Garden Co
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co
GPD: Gavin's Point Dam: Knox/Cedar Cos
HCR: Harlan Co Res SRA, Harlan Co
L: Lake
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co
LNB: Lakes North and Babcock, Platte Co

LO: L Ogallala (includes contiguous Keystone L), Keith Co
m. ob.: many observers
NC: Nature Center
NM: National Monument
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co
Res: Reservoir
RWB: Rainwater Basin, including parts of Phelps, Hamilton, York, Clay, Fillmore,
and Thayer Cos
SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co
SHP: State Historical Park
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)
SP: State Park
SRA: State Recreation Area
WMA: (State) Wildlife Management Area
WPA: (Federal) Waterfowl Production Area
WSR: Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co

GAZETTEER

Calamus Res: SRA, Loup and Garfield Cos
Chadron SP: Dawes Co
Funk Lagoon: WPA, Phelps Co
Harvard Marsh: WPA, Clay Co
Oliver Res: SRA, Kimball Co
Ponca SP: Dixon Co
Sandhills: large area of sand-based prairie in north-central Nebraska
Sutherland Res: SRA, Lincoln Co

OBSERVERS

AB: Aaron Brees, Des Moines, IA
AD: Ann Duey, Scottsbluff
ADo: Art Douglas, Bellevue
AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering
ARy: Allan Reyer, Bellevue
BB: Bart Bly, Scottsbluff
BT: Bruce Trindle, Norfolk
C&DP: Con & Donna Pierson, Arcadia
CH: Carolyn Hall, Bassett
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue
CW: Cole Wild, Columbus
CWH: C.W. (Bill) Huntley, Ogallala
D&CN: Don and Colleen Noecker, Albion
D&JP: Don & Jan Paseka, Ames
D&RK: Dennis and Rhalene Katus, Bayard
DL: Dan Leger, Lincoln
DR: Dana Ripper, Scottsbluff
DSt: Dave Stage, Elkhorn
EB: Elliott Bedows, Bellevue

EBa: Elaine Bachel, Lincoln
ECT: Edna Claire Thomas, Morrill
G&WH: Glen & Wanda Hoge, Alma
GF: Greg Fletcher, Orchard
GW: Gertrude Wood, Lincoln
HKH: Helen K. Hughson, Mitchell
JED: James E. Ducey, Lincoln
JF: John Flavin, Chadron
JG: Joe Gubanyi, Seward
JGi: Jay Gilliam, Des Moines, IA
JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Lincoln
JGr: Jonas Grundman, Omaha
JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield
JK: Jay Keller, Arlington, VA
JLL: Jeanine L. Lackey, Ceresco
JM: Jeanne Miller, Bennington
JMi: John Miller, Lincoln
JMu: Jerry Mulliken, Nickerson
JR: Juanita Rice, Fairmont
JRi: Justin Rink, Omaha
KCR: Kathleen Crawford-Rose, Bellevue
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell
KJ: Kim Janes, La Vista
KP: Kevin Poague, Lincoln
KS: Kent Skaggs, Kearney
L&BP: Loren & Babs Padelford, Bellevue
L&CF: Laurence & Carol Falk, Nebraska City
LLB: Lauren Badura, Kearney
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln
LH: Luke Hamilton, Lewellen
LR: Lanny Randolph, Gibbon
LS: Larry Snyder, Kimball
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton
MG: Mary Gertsema, Yankton, SD
MM: Marty Mathieson, Shelton
MT: Martha Tacha, Grand Island
NB: Norma Brockmoller, Winside
NF: Nancy Fish, Superior
NOU: Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Fall Meeting
NP: Neva Pruess, Lincoln
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings
RD: Roger Dietrich, Yankton, SD
RE: Rick Eades, Lincoln
RG: Robert Gibson, Lincoln
RGr: Ruth Green, Bellevue
RH: Robin Harding, Gibbon
RM: Robert Manning, Omaha
RS: Rick Schmid, Omaha
RSi: Rachel Simpson, Lincoln
RW: Rick Wright, Tucson, AZ
SJ: Stephen Jones, Boulder, CO
SJD: Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA

SR: Sarah Rehme, Seward
TG: Tom Gannon, Norfolk
TH: Tim Hajda, Broken Bow
TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady
TL: Teri Lee, Peru
TP: Theresa Pester, Walton
UL: Urban Lehner, Omaha
WF: William Flack, Madison
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- Greater White-fronted Goose:** Summer stragglers were 2 each in the e. RWB 31 Aug (JGJ) and in Seward Co 4 Sep (JGJ). First migrant flocks were groups of 20-300 flying south over Lincoln Co 21 Oct, for an excellent fall tally of about 2000 (TJW).
- Snow Goose:** The twelve which summered at Moses Hill L, Phelps Co, (JGJ) was an unusually large group.
- Ross's Goose:** Routine reports.
- Cackling Goose:** One, now apparently a permanent fixture, continued at Schramm SP, Sarpy Co; it was there 8 Sep (L&BP).
- Canada Goose:** Routine reports.
- Trumpeter Swan:** Routine reports.
- Tundra Swan:** None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant.
- Gadwall:** Routine reports.
- American Wigeon:** Routine reports.
- American Black Duck:** None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant.
- Mallard:** Routine reports.
- Blue-winged Teal:** The 2200 at LM 15 Sep (SJD,JGi) was a good number; high fall counts are in the 4200-14,500 range.
- Cinnamon Teal:** Fall reports are few, as this species becomes inconspicuous in eclipse plumage; however, one was identified in Scotts Bluff Co 22 Sep (AK), rather late. Also rare in the east in fall, one was at Moger Lagoon WPA, Clay Co, 18 Aug (JGJ, details).
- Northern Shoveler:** Routine reports.
- Northern Pintail:** The 437 at LM 24 Aug (SJD) was a good count that early; they may have been molt migrants.
- Green-winged Teal:** A female with a brood of 7 was at Harvard Marsh 28 Jul (PD), only the 3rd nesting record for this species south of the Platte River. Large numbers congregate at LM in fall; 4026 were there 14 Sep (SJD,JGi). A sizable non-LM aggregation was the 2000 at Fairmont SL 11 Nov (PD).
- Canvasback:** Routine reports.
- Redhead:** A good tally was the 1416 in Lancaster Co 2 Nov (LE).
- Ring-necked Duck:** A little early was one at BOL 25 Sep (LE).
- Greater Scaup:** Good numbers, a total of about 30, were reported, earliest singles rather early at BOL 28 Oct (JGJ) and Bluestem L, Lancaster Co, the same day (JGJ).
- Lesser Scaup:** The 800 at BOL 8 Nov (JGJ) was a good count.

- Surf Scoter:** Three of the 4 sightings were of singles, the other a flock of 9 female/immature birds at BOL 9 Nov (JGJ,LE), a record high fall count for the state. Others were at L Yankton, Cedar Co, 27 Oct (RD), Harvard Marsh, an immature (PD, photo), and LO 14 Nov (RE).
- White-winged Scoter:** Strangely few in recent years, this fall three were reported: a rather early female/immature at Holmes L, Lincoln, 16 Oct (RG), another at Alma SL 12 Nov (PD), and one unidentified to age/gender at LO 14 Nov (RE).
- Black Scoter:** Second best fall count on record was the 6 at BOL 18 Nov (JGJ); also, 2 were at L Yankton, Cedar Co, 27 Oct (RD), and a female/immature at PL 9 Nov (JGJ).
- Long-tailed Duck:** The only 3 reported were a first fall female at LO 13 Nov (RE), an immature at PL 15 Nov (JGJ), and a single in Knox Co 24 Nov (MB).
- Bufflehead:** Routine reports.
- Common Goldeneye:** Routine reports.
- Hooded Merganser:** Routine reports.
- Common Merganser:** Routine reports.
- Red-breasted Merganser:** About 15 were reported 3-22 Nov, a typical fall for this species, generally uncommon in Nebraska.
- Ruddy Duck:** Routine reports.
- Gray Partridge:** The only report from the northeast was of 2 in Knox Co 24 Nov (MB). The small population in s. Sioux Co persists, with a small flock seen from time to time at WSR (HKH).
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Routine reports.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Routine reports.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Reports were from expected areas, although a flock of about 20 was using an alfalfa field near a playa wetland in Lincoln Co 20 Oct (TJW), a reassuring habitat selection.
- Wild Turkey:** Routine reports.
- Northern Bobwhite:** Routine reports.
- Red-throated Loon:** After a lull of a few years, two juveniles popped up this year: one was photographed at Harvard Marsh 4 Nov (PD) and another juvenile was at Willow Creek Res, Pierce Co, 5 Nov (MB).
- Pacific Loon:** None were reported; this is a regular, rare fall migrant.
- Common Loon:** Good numbers, about 25, were reported, mostly in the east, as expected, although there were sightings at LM of a single bird, probably the same bird which may have summered there, 8 and 24 Aug and 14 Sep (SJD,JGi), and another there 30 Nov (JGJ). Earliest migrant was rather early in Sarpy Co 16 Sep (CNK), and 3 were at BOL 28 Nov (LE).
- Pied-billed Grebe:** Routine reports.
- Horned Grebe:** About 8 were reported, a normal fall, 12 Sep-26 Nov.
- Red-necked Grebe:** More often reported in recent years, this fall a basic adult, possibly the same bird seen in recent falls, was at BOL 15-18 Nov (JGJ,LE).
- Eared Grebe:** Migrants appear south of the breeding range in late Aug; this fall one was at LO 24 Aug (SJD), another was at Funk Lagoon 27 Aug (NF) and 15 were in Webster Co 29 Aug (WF).
- Western Grebe:** Aggregations become noticeable by late Jul; 1400 were at Sutherland Res 26 Aug (SJD) and 12,000 at LM 14 Sep ((SJD,JGi). "Thousands" were still there in mid-Nov (RE). In the east, where uncommon, one was in Lancaster Co 22 Sep (PD), and 2 were at BOL 10 Oct (LE) and 21 Oct (JGJ); singles were there 25 Oct and 9 Nov (LE).

Clark's Grebe: The 3 reports were of 3 at Sutherland Res 11 Aug (SJD), 5 at LM 25 Aug (SJD), and one at Diamond Bar L, McPherson Co 8 Sep (TJW). At present it is unknown whether breeding occurs at Diamond Bar L.

American White Pelican: Largest flocks reported were moderate: 400 at both Cottonwood WPA, Phelps Co, 31 Aug (JGJ) and BOL 11 Sep (JGJ), with 378 at LM 14 Sep (SJD,JGi).

Double-crested Cormorant: The 254 at LM 24 Aug was a good number for the date; a nest was noted as well (SJD,JGi), one of the two found in summer. Best count was an impressive 4000 at HCR 14 Oct (G&WH), although "a few thousand" were at BOL 1 Oct (JGJ).

Frigatebird sp: Reports of a probable Magnificent Frigatebird(s) from northeast Nebraska 28 Aug-8 Sep following Hurricane Dean's passage through the Yucatan Peninsula generated excitement; these brief sightings fit with observations of an adult female Magnificent Frigatebird in northwest Iowa 2-3 Sep. First was a photograph taken of a bird near Norfolk 28 Aug (TG, BT; photo); although clearly a frigatebird, no coloration other than black is visible in the rather distant photograph. Then followed brief sightings of apparent frigatebird(s) on Lewis and Clark Lake, Knox Co, 7-8 Sep (MB,D&CN) and a report of an all-dark bird with a forked tail below the dam 8 Sep (MG). It is possible that these sightings were all of a single individual.

American Bittern: Singles at LM 8 Aug (SJD) and in the e. RWB 11 Aug (JGJ) may have been breeding; fall migration begins in late Aug. Several migrants were reported south of the Platte River, latest one rather late at Harvard Marsh 11 Nov (PD). There are only about 5 later records.

Least Bittern: The only report was of probably the same bird (or possibly each bird of a pair) at North Lake Basin, Seward Co, 4 and 11 Aug (JGJ); the species was found there Jun 1996 also, and breeding is likely.

Great Blue Heron: Routine reports.

Great Egret: Numbers were significantly lower in the e. RWB this fall (JGJ,RE), and best count was a mediocre 26 at HCR 28 Aug (WF); fall high counts are in the 130-150 range. Uncommon westward, one was at LM 24 Aug (SJD).

Snowy Egret: About 17 were reported, including 12 at LM 25 Aug (SJD). High fall counts are in the 30-60 range.

Little Blue Heron: The only reports were of a juvenile near Harvard 7 Aug (PD,CW) and two sightings of probably the same juvenile at Funk Lagoon 26 and 31 Aug (KS,JGJ).

Cattle Egret: Only about 50 were reported, best count only 17, in Knox Co, 13 Sep (MB). High counts are in the 400-600 range.

Green Heron: None were reported west of Thomas Co, where one was found 1 Sep (MB,DSt).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Routine reports.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: None were reported; this is a regular late summer-early fall visitor in low numbers.

White-faced Ibis: Summer aggregations in the Sandhills can be large; an excellent tally was the 245 in Grant Co 4 Aug (DSt). Most observers carefully report dark ibises as "Plegadis sp."; some 150 were reported statewide. One at Funk Lagoon 20 Oct (TH) was rather late, but a "dark ibis" in Lincoln 11 Nov (RSi fide JGJ) was only the 3rd Nov record for the state.

Turkey Vulture: The 200 at PL 17 Sep (GW,EBa) was an excellent count.

- Osprey:** Reports were numerous 25 Aug-5 Nov, the expected migration period. Best count was 8, at LM 14 Sep (SJD,JGi) and in Scotts Bluff Co 7 Oct (KD).
- Mississippi Kite:** Last one reported at Ogallala was an immature 13 Sep (CWH).
- Bald Eagle:** Routine reports.
- Northern Harrier:** Routine reports.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Routine reports.
- Cooper's Hawk:** This species is becoming more numerous, with sightings statewide, notably in summer. Best count was 10, in sw. Nebraska 25 Oct (TJW).
- Northern Goshawk:** The only report was of a juvenile near Niobrara 24 Nov (MB).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** One was at FF, a regular site, 8 Sep (JRi). Reports from places other than FF are increasing, notably in Lancaster Co; singles, likely the same bird, were at PL 2 and 28 Nov (LE).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Reports at FF 9 and 12 Aug, the latter chasing a Red-tailed Hawk (L&BP), suggest breeding in the area. Westerly were a juvenile at LO 14 Sep (SJD,JGi) and a single at Oliver Res 15 Sep (SJD,JGi). These are only the 16th and 17th reports away from the east.
- Swainson's Hawk:** This species appears to be doing well in the sw. Panhandle, where 107 occupied nests, averaging 2-3 chicks, were located during the summer (BB). Unusual in summer in the e. RWB, one was seen 4 Aug (JGJ). Migrants were reported through 10 Oct, one at SCP (KP), with best count "thousands" in a Rock Co field 29 Sep (CH). Such large congregations are not unprecedented for this species in Nebraska.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** This species can be numerous in peak migration; 33 were seen in 2 hours in Hamilton, Polk, and Merrick Cos 4 Nov, including 2 "Harlan's" types and a dark western type (D&JP). A "Krider's" type was near Omaha 29 Nov (JRi).
- Ferruginous Hawk:** Being a species of concern, encouraging were the 35 active nests with at least 69 chicks in the Panhandle this summer; most were in Kimball Co and in the Niobrara River Valley (BB). There was a noticeable concentration of dark morphs in Morrill Co (BB). Good details were provided for an immature observed for about 2 hours in Douglas Co 19 Oct (CH); this is only the 3rd documented record for the east.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** Earliest reported was near Grand Island 9 Oct (LR,RH), about on time.
- Golden Eagle:** A total of 18 nests with 1-2 chicks each was located in the sw. Panhandle this summer (BB). A juvenile at L Ogallala 13 Sep (JRi) may have been a newly-fledged bird; interestingly, 2 adults were in Keith Co 11 Aug (SJD), unexpected this far east at that date. The most recent breeding record for Keith Co was in 1982.
- American Kestrel:** Routine reports.
- Merlin:** Earliest migrants are usually of the northerly-breeding long-distance subspecies *columbarius*; indeed, two of the 3 earliest reports this fall were identified as this taxon: 24 Aug at LM (SJD), and a female at LNB 9 Sep (JGJ).
- Prairie Falcon:** A few occur eastward in winter, with earliest sightings usually in late Sep; one was in the e. RWB "early" on 4 Sep (JGJ), one was in Knox Co 12 Sep (MB), and another was in Buffalo Co 14 Sep (LB).
- Peregrine Falcon:** The earliest fall records are in late Jul and such early sightings tend to be of juveniles. Fitting this pattern was a juvenile at LM 8 Aug (SJD).

Virginia Rail: One in the e. RWB 25 Aug (JGJ) was likely a migrant, although breeding has occurred there.

Sora: Although there are several recent breeding season (Jun-early Jul) reports for the RWB and some old breeding records, the only recent breeding record is of a pair with a fully-grown juvenile at Funk Lagoon 9 Sep (LR,RH). Migrants appear in late Jul and become numerous in Aug; a record fall count of 42 was made in the e. RWB 25 Aug (JGJ).

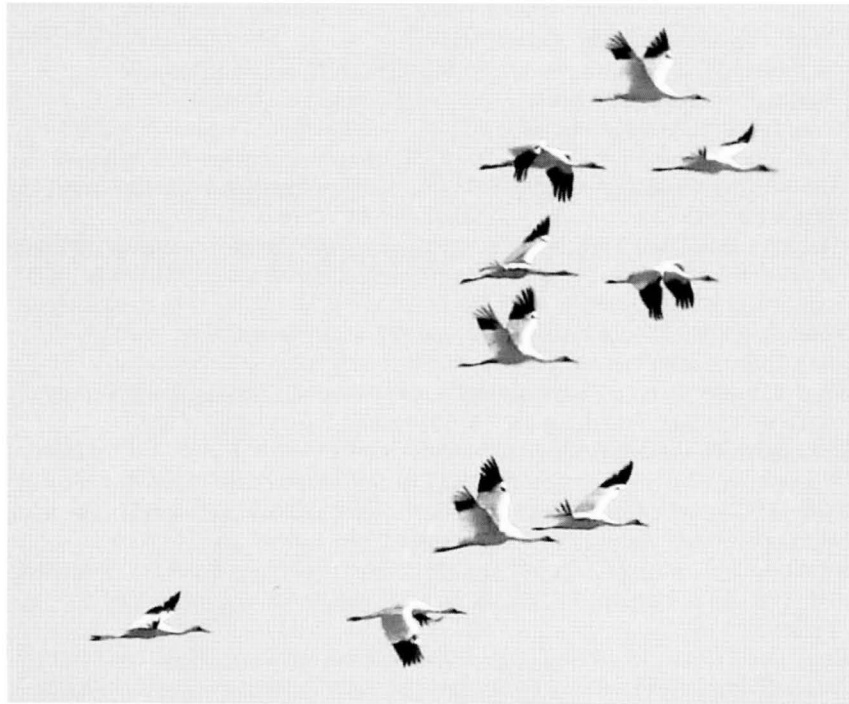
American Coot: Routine reports.

Sandhill Crane: The pair in Morrill Co (see Summer Report) raised a single chick, which was first seen in flight 1 Aug; by 13 Aug the family was moving around a lot (D&RK fide KD). Best counts of migrants were excellent, and were both on a strong cold front 20 Oct: 4000-5000 in Lincoln Co (TJW), and "thousands" in Scotts Bluff Co (AK). Easterly were 160 flying over the Seward-Lancaster Cos line 16 Nov (LE).

Whooping Crane: As the size of the Great Plains flock increases, sightings of flocks in Nebraska are increasing also. An amazing 30-35 were at Valentine NWR 20 Oct (fide MT), and a flock of 9 adults and a juvenile in Sherman Co 28-29 Oct were photographed (C&DP); 10 birds near Alda 29 Oct (CNK) were likely the same flock. An additional 20-25 were reported (fide MT).

Black-bellied Plover: Routine reports.

American Golden-Plover: The usual few were noted; as expected, most were juveniles. Rare westward, a juvenile was at LM 14 Sep (SJD). Best count was 20 near Goehner 4 Oct (JGJ).



Whooping Cranes on 28 Oct 2007 along the Middle Loup River in Sherman County, southeast of Arcadia. Photo courtesy of Donna Pierson.

Snowy Plover: The only reports were of a single 4 Aug at Springer WPA, Hamilton Co, the first fall record for the e. RWB (JGJ, photo), and 2-4 at LM 8 Aug-14 Sep (SJD,JGi), including a brood of 2 on 24 Aug (SJD).

Semipalmated Plover: A new fall record count (by one) was the 23 at LM 14 Sep (SJD, JGi).

Piping Plover: The only reports were from LM, where 23 were counted 8 Aug and 39 on 24 Aug (SJD). Although there is some habitat reduction resulting from rising water levels, 2007 was the 2nd-best year for nests with 245; the number of fledged chicks, however, was down somewhat at 235, resulting in 0.96 chicks fledged per nest, compared with the average of 1.49 for 1992-2007 (Payton and Wilson, "Least Tern and Piping Plover Nest Monitoring Final Report 2007"; Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, Holdrege).

Killdeer: Rather late for the number were the 137 near Holdrege 5 Nov; 82 were still there 12 Nov (PD).

Mountain Plover: Recent years have yielded excellent counts of nests by Prairie Partners; this year 112 nests were found and "cleared" (marked and protected) in Kimball, Cheyenne, and Banner Cos; these had 85% hatching success, with the few failures due mainly to predation and cultivation (BB). The flock of 78 in s. Kimball Co, 3 Sep (LS), must have been quite a sight; a flock of 28 juveniles was found in Kimball Co 28 Aug 2006 (LS). Last reported was an adult in Kimball Co 15 Sep (SJD,JGi), 2nd-latest on record.

Black-necked Stilt: The only reports were from Funk Lagoon, where 2 juveniles (part of a family group first seen there in Jul) and up to 3 adults were present 11 Aug- 3 Sep (SJD, m. ob.). This is the 2nd breeding record at Funk Lagoon, the other was in 2003.

American Avocet: The 643 at Lakeside 16 Sep (SJD,JGi) was a fall record.

Spotted Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Solitary Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Greater Yellowlegs: The 56 at LM 24 Aug (SJD) was an excellent fall tally, as was the 47 near Holdrege 5 Nov (PD); the single near Holdrege 12 Nov (PD) was a bit tardy.

Willet: This species is rare in the east in fall, and so the 2 reports were significant: singles were in York Co 8 Sep, the 3rd Sep record for the e. RWB (JGJ), and at LNB 22 Sep (PD).

Lesser Yellowlegs: The 2 near Holdrege 5 Nov (PD) were a little late.

Upland Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Long-billed Curlew: Small flocks flying over I-80 in w. Nebraska 11 Sep (JRi) were a little late; late dates are 15, 18, and 19 Sep.

Marbled Godwit: Routine reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: At least 3 were reported, only the 20th and 21st fall records: single birds were reported at LNB 10-16 Sep (SJD,WF,LE) and two were at Springer WPA, Hamilton Co, 14 Sep (RE).

Red Knot: Only the 26th and 27th fall reports of this rare migrant were of a molting adult at LM 14 Sep (SJD,JGi) and a juvenile at Calamus Res 23 Sep (WRS).

Sanderling: The 179 at LM 14 Sep (SJD,JGi) was a record fall count.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: The 266 at LM 24 Aug (SJD,JGi) was an excellent count.

Western Sandpiper: The only reports were of 4 in the e. RWB 18 Aug, the first there for a long while (JGJ), 2 on 24 Aug in Lancaster Co (LE), 7 on 24 Aug and 9 on 25 Aug at LM (SJD), and a single in Scotts Bluff Co 22 Sep (AK).

Least Sandpiper: By far a record fall count was the 899 at LM 14 Sep (SJD,JGi). Sometimes a rather late migrant, 2 were in Polk Co 28 Oct (LR,RH), and 3 were near Holdrege 12 Nov (PD); late dates are Nov 23, 23, and 27, and there are 3 Dec records.

Baird's Sandpiper: Three near Holdrege 5 Nov (PD) were tardy; late dates are Nov 7, 8, and 10, with a few later Nov records and two for Dec.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Six near Holdrege 5 Nov were tardy also; late dates are Nov 9, 9, and 9, with a few Nov records and one for Dec.

Dunlin: Generally a late migrant also, with adults migrating later with juveniles, the 3 reports were of singles at BOL 15 Oct (JGJ), near Holdrege 5 Nov (PD), and at LO 30 Nov (JGJ), the latter a record late date by 4 days.

Stilt Sandpiper: The 396 at LM 14 Sep (SJD,Gi) was a good count. One near Holdrege 5 Nov (PD) was the latest on record by 3 days.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Rare westerly were 4 juveniles at LM 24 Aug (SJD); although the fall migration corridor is wider than in spring, most reports are from central and eastern Nebraska.

Short-billed Dowitcher: All reports were of juveniles, as are most fall reports for this species. Some 15+ were reported 18 Aug-22 Sep, all but one in the RWB. The latter was a juvenile at LNB 22 Sep (PD), the latest fall date for the state by 2 days.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Two near Holdrege 12 Nov (PD) were tardy; late dates are Nov 13, 18, and 19, and there are 3 Dec records.

Wilson's Snipe: Three in the e. RWB 18 Aug (JGJ) were likely migrants; the summer status of this species there is not well known. Juveniles appear first in fall, as early as early Aug.

American Woodcock: None were reported; this is a regular fall migrant.

Wilson's Phalarope: Routine reports.

Red-necked Phalarope: The 29 at LM 14 Sep (SJD,JGi) was a record fall count; 18 were in Sheridan Co 15 Sep (SJD,JGi).

Red Phalarope: A basic adult at Lakeside 15 Sep 2007 (SJD,JGi; details) was only the 12th fall record.

Pomarine Jaeger: An observer experienced with jaegers reported one as "jaeger, sp." but was 95% certain that it was this species at LM 24 Aug (SJD). The date is rather early but not unprecedented for this species.

Laughing Gull: A second-winter bird was chummed in with popcorn at Lewis and Clark L, Knox Co, 3 Oct (MB).

Franklin's Gull: The usual huge numbers passed through between mid-Sep and mid-Oct. Highest estimate received was the 100,000 over Lewis & Clark L, Knox Co, 12 Sep (MB), 2nd highest on record. One at LNB 22 Nov was tardy (TJW); only 4 were reported after mid-Oct.

Bonaparte's Gull: Normal numbers passed through starting 22 Sep (one at LNB, PD), and 8 were still at LM at the end of the period (JGJ). A good count was the 200 at HCR 12 Nov (PD).

Ring-billed Gull: Routine reports.

California Gull: The only reports were of 151 at LM 24 Aug (SJD), a fall record count, but only 19 were there 30 Nov (JGJ); a few generally linger into late Dec, with occasional wintering.

Herring Gull: An adult in Knox Co 3 Oct (MB) was early; there are only about 5 earlier fall dates for adults, only 3 prior to Oct. Also early was a first basic at LM 8 Aug (SJD).

Thayer's Gull: The only report of this regular fall migrant was of one at LO 14 Nov (RE).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: This regular migrant is being reported more often. A molting adult was rather early at LM 25 Aug (SJD), 2 adults (alternate and molting adult) were there 14 Sep (SJD,JGi), and, likely one of these, a single was there 13 Nov (RE).

Glaucous Gull: Just making it into the Fall Report was an adult on a small pond at Ogallala 30 Nov (JGJ), one of the earliest arrival dates for an adult.

Great Black-backed Gull: The only report of this casually-occurring species was of an adult at LM 14 Sep (SJD,JGi; photo). This is only the 8th fall record, about the 20th overall.

Sabine's Gull: Some 20-25 were reported statewide 2 Sep-21 Oct. The 2 Sep sightings, one in Knox Co (MB,DSt) and the other at LM (MB) are the 2nd-earliest ever, while one at Capitol Beach L, Lincoln, 21 Oct (JGJ) was rather late. Best counts were 5 at LM 14 Sep (SJD,JGi) and 4 at Capitol Beach L, Lincoln, 4 Oct (JGJ). An adult at Alma SL 8 Oct (KS) and 16 Oct (G&WH) was only the 5th adult on record.

Black-legged Kittiwake: None were reported; this species is a rare Nov migrant.

Least Tern: As with Piping Plovers, Least Terns had a good season at LM, with at least 50 adults associated with 29 nests that fledged 1.00 chicks per breeding pair (Payton and Wilson, cited above). The number of nests at LM has increased steadily from the mid-1990s, with 2007 the highest so far, although the ratio of young fledged per nest has declined from a peak in 2004 (Payton and Wilson). At least 11 adults were still present at LM 8 Aug (SJD).

Caspian Tern: One at Capitol Beach L, Lincoln, 10 Oct (LE) was about the 4th latest on record. About 6 others were reported, an average fall for the species.

Black Tern: An excellent count was the 349 at LM 24 Aug (SJD).

Common Tern: Of the 8 or so reported, most were at BOL rather late, with an adult and a juvenile there 26 Oct (JGJ), 2nd-latest on record. BOL hosted 1-5 in the period 24 Sep (LE) through 26 Oct (JGJ), with 5 present 15 Oct (JGJ), itself a rather late date.

Forster's Tern: The 64 at LM 8 Aug (SJD) was a good count. This species also lingered at BOL, with a single still present 20 Oct (JGJ). There are only about 20 records for Oct, and latest date is 1 Nov.

Royal Tern: Very exciting for birders (but not the tern) was one at LNB 8-10 Sep; it was found and photographed 8 Sep (D&JP), determined to be seriously emaciated 9 Sep (JGJ), seen barely living on 10 Sep (SJD) and found dead later the same day (WF). It was recovered as a specimen for the State Museum (JGJ). This is the first confirmed state record; there is a sight record for Sarpy Co 13 Sep 1993 that was not accepted by the Nebraska Records Committee.

Rock Pigeon: Routine reports.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Numbers continue to increase, as indicated by the start of winter flocking; best count was only moderate, 35 in Dixon Co 17 Oct (JJ).

White-winged Dove: Now regular in occurrence in summer and into mid-Oct, the expected few reports came to hand: one was in Fairmont 2 and 5 Aug (JR), two were in Lincoln 21 Sep (RE), unusual in that few are reported from

large cities, and one was in a Norfolk yard 30 Nov (RS). The latter is only the 5th record in the period mid-Oct through mid-Apr.

Mourning Dove: A bold attempt to count this species in fall in the Sandhills resulted in a record number of 4000+ in Cherry Co 1 Sep (CNK). This species is indeed abundant there.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: One in Deuel Co 22 Sep (WF) was rather late, although there are records well into Oct for Nebraska (*Birds of Nebraska*). Perhaps these should be re-examined.

Black-billed Cuckoo: The usual few reports continue for this low-density summer resident: singles were at FF 11 Aug (EB) and ADF 31 Aug (L&CF). An immature in Seward 25 Sep (JG) was rather late, although there are dates for Oct.

Barn Owl: Reports continued from nesting sites near Creighton and Ulysses; at Creighton young were seen for the 3rd year on 12 Aug (MB), and at Ulysses 3 young were seen 11 Aug with an adult (RE). Singles were noted at LO 24 Aug and 14 Sep (SJD), where the species has been found roosting in cedars recently. Others were near Brule 8 Aug (SJD), at Swanson Res, Hitchcock Co, 6 Sep (D&JP), and one was rather late in Scotts Bluff Co 20 Oct (AK).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Routine reports.

Great Horned Owl: Routine reports.

Burrowing Owl: Prairie Partners surveys in the Panhandle showed only half as many owls as in 2006, with possible reasons for the decline poisoning of and plague in prairie-dogs (BB).

Barred Owl: Routine reports.

Long-eared Owl: Routine reports.

Short-eared Owl: Routine reports.

Common Nighthawk: Oct reports are few; several flew over Omaha 1 Oct (JRi).

Common Poorwill: Easterly migrants are not unprecedented, but still a surprise was one with Common Nighthawks over Lincoln 24 Sep; it lacked wing-bars and had smaller wings with more rounded wing-tips than the nighthawks (LE). A road-killed bird was found near Halsey 29 Sep (WM), a live bird was seen in flight there 30 Sept (LE et al.) and one was seen in the Thedford cemetery on 30 Sept (D&JP).

Chuck-will's Widow: None were reported; the few fall records are in Aug.

Whip-poor-will: None were reported; departure is during Aug and Sep.

Chimney Swift: The 532+ at a single Omaha chimney 7 Sep (RE) was a record fall count, edging out the 532 seen at a Lincoln chimney 17 Sep (JED). The single-chimney record is up for grabs! Two at Alma 1 Oct (G&WH) were a bit tardy for that location.

White-throated Swift: The only report was of 8 at Scotts Bluff NM, Scotts Bluff Co, 15 Sep (SJD,JGi).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: There were numerous reports through 9 Oct (LE), with best count 20 at feeders in Peru 10 Sep (TL). Westerly were a female at a Mitchell feeder 29-30 Aug (KD; details) and a single in Ogallala 26 Aug (CWH).

Calliope Hummingbird: Sightings of singles at a feeder near Mitchell 4 Aug-1 Oct involved at least 4 different birds; on Oct 1 the female/immature present then was braving temperatures around 35 degrees (KD). The latter is the latest date by 2 days.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: There were two reports, one routine, the other definitely not. Routine, although rather late, was a female near Mitchell 21-

23 Sep (KD). On the other hand, one attended a Bellevue feeder 17 Oct-3 Dec (ADo; L&BP photo; RGr photo). Intriguingly, a hummingbird was seen at another Bellevue feeder about 800 yards from this one 16 Oct, when no other hummers had been seen for 15 days (ARy). This is the easternmost record for Nebraska; the late date is typical of vagrant western hummers eastward.

Rufous Hummingbird: The only reports were of an adult male in Kimball 11 Aug (SJD) and a single near Mitchell 17 Aug (KD).

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Movement in the west was clearly underway 24 Aug, when 28 were found at LM (SJD), an unusually high number for the westerly location. Highest fall counts in the east are in early Sep.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Perhaps more than usual for fall, 4 singles were reported in the southeast during Nov (KCR,JJ,RW,JMi).

Red-naped Sapsucker: The only report of this casual fall migrant was of a male photographed at Oliver Res 15 Sep (SJD,JGi). There are now about 10 fall reports.

Downy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Northern Flicker: Routine reports.

Pileated Woodpecker: The 4 reports were from known locations, FF (JRi,CNK), and se. Otoe Co (L&CF).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: There were several reports 11 Aug-8 Sep, including 2 birds westerly, where rare, in Morrill Co 27 Aug (KD).

Western Wood-Pewee: Routine reports.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The 25 at FF 6 Sep (JRi) was an excellent count.

Alder Flycatcher: The only reports were of a singing bird at FF 10 Aug (L&BP) and a single in Dixon Co 16 Sep (JJ). Latest documented report is 4 Sep.

Willow Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Least Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Hammond's Flycatcher: The only reports of this regular but rare Panhandle fall migrant were of one at Bushnell 15 Sep (SJD,JGi) and two at Oliver Res 1 Sep (JGJ). There are now about 24 fall records.

Gray Flycatcher: One was seen at WSR 27 Aug (HKH, details), only the 5th Nebraska record, those in the period 24 Aug-5 Oct.

Dusky Flycatcher: Also a rare but regular Panhandle fall migrant, at least two and possibly 4 were reported: sightings of possibly the same bird at Oliver Res 8 Sep (AB), 13 Sep (JRi), and 15 Sep (SJD,JGi), and another at Bushnell 15 Sep (SJD,JGi).

Cordilleran Flycatcher: Migrants are not often reported, but 3 singles were found this fall: one in extreme se. Sioux Co 18 Aug (KD), one at WSR 27 Aug (HKH), and one in s. Sioux Co 29 Aug (KD). The 15 available fall records show a migration period 9 Aug-11 Sep.

Eastern Phoebe: One at FF 23 Oct (L&BP) was rather late; there are a few Nov records.

Say's Phoebe: This species is rare eastward in fall, possibly occurring regularly in small numbers east to Polk Co, where a juvenile was found 16 Sep (LR,RH); another juvenile was in Merrick Co 22 Sep (LR,RH). One in Blaine Co 29 Sep (fide UL) was rather late.

Ash-throated Flycatcher: The last sighting of the birds which nested in Kimball Co was of an adult 11 Aug (SJD).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Cassin's Kingbird: This species leaves later than the other kingbirds; 4 were in Garden Co 21 Sep (WF). Late dates are Sep 25, 26, and 27.

Western Kingbird: The 70+ in Cherry Co 1 Sep (CNK) was an excellent count.

Eastern Kingbird: A rather amazing count was the record 500+ in Cherry Co 1 Sep (CNK).

Northern Shrike: Routine reports.

Loggerhead Shrike: Routine reports.

Bell's Vireo: One at Peru 1 Oct (TL) was rather late; Oct records are few.

Yellow-throated Vireo: One at Ponca SP 25 Sep (L&BP) was tardy.

Plumbeous Vireo: One at Chadron SP 12 Sep (JRi) was likely a migrant, and somewhat tardy; breeding there is unconfirmed.

Cassin's Vireo: The only reports were somewhat east of the usual w. Panhandle route: singles in Hyannis Cem 1 Sep (MB,DSt) and Tryon 1 Sep (MB,DSt) were only the 3rd and 4th east of the Panhandle.

Blue-headed Vireo: One at ADF 23 Oct (L&CF) was rather late; there are a few Nov records. Somewhat westerly were two in Merrick Co 22 Sep (LR,RH).

Warbling Vireo: One at Ponca SP 25 Sep (L&BP) was getting a bit late; late dates are in early Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: The 5 sightings were of singles at FF rather early on 11 Aug (EB) and another there 29 Aug (JRi), in Lancaster Co 30 Aug (LE), in Bellevue 3 Sep (CNK), and in Saline Co 5 Sep (LE). This is a typical fall showing.

Red-eyed Vireo: Routine reports.

Blue Jay: Routine reports.

Pinyon Jay: None were reported. This species has been scarce in recent years.

Clark's Nutcracker: This species has a propensity for individuals to appear in odd locations at unpredictable times; one was photographed near Orchard 9 Sep (GF fide KP).

Black-billed Magpie: Easterly were 2 in Hamilton Co 4 Nov (D&JP). Concern about low numbers continues in some areas; none have been seen in Lincoln Co for a while (TJW), and one in Harlan Co 11 Nov was the first there since Apr 2006 (G&WH).

American Crow: Two flocks totaling some 1600-1750 crows were in Custer Co 14 Nov (RE); there are previous counts in the 2000-3000 range.

Common Raven: Intriguing was a sighting of at least one in Cherry Co 29 Sep (CNK et al). The location of the sighting was not far from where a raven was seen in Valentine NWR, Cherry Co, 28 Oct 2006, raising the possibility of a small population in the area, or even a family group returning in fall to the area.

Horned Lark: Routine reports.

Purple Martin: Amazing counts of flocks flying over Omaha were 2000-4000 on 16 Aug and 12,000-15,000 on 20 Aug (JRi). This species gathers in huge fall roosts prior to migration, and these large groups migrate together. Last at Creighton nest boxes departed 2 Aug (MB) and an Ogallala nest box was abandoned 4 Aug (CWH). One with nighthawks over Omaha 1 Oct (JRi) was rather late.

Tree Swallow: Routine reports.

Violet-green Swallow: None were reported; departure is in early Aug.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: The 1000 in Cherry Co 25 Aug (JJ) was a record fall count.

Bank Swallow: Routine reports.

Cliff Swallow: Routine reports.

Barn Swallow: Second broods were fledged in Buffalo Co 4 and 9 Aug (MM) and 5 Aug (LR,RH), and in se. Sioux Co 18 Aug (KD). One in Lancaster Co 29 Oct (RE) was rather late.

Black-capped Chickadee: Careful tracking of chickadees during extensive coverage of Lancaster Co over the last few years by Larry Einemann indicates that numbers are still reduced, and that chickadees are recovering slowly and "very localized". This status appears to apply to the large areas of southern Nebraska where chickadee numbers have declined in recent years.

Mountain Chickadee: The only reports were of one near Lewellen 30 Sep (LH, details) and another visiting a Scotts Bluff Co feeder 24 Oct through the period (AD). This species moves onto the plains east of the Rockies on occasion.

Tufted Titmouse: Routine reports.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: This species was widely reported in higher than usual, but not large, numbers; best count was a moderate 10 in Omaha 23 Oct (JGr). Earliest were 2 in Kimball Co 11 Aug (SJD) and one in Winside 22 Aug (NB).

White-breasted Nuthatch: Interesting was the presence of both subspecies at L Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co, 16 Sep, identified by call notes (SJD,JGi). Data at hand indicate that both subspecies wander from the breeding range in fall at about the same time, mid-Sep.

Pygmy Nuthatch: This species was "ubiquitous" at Chadron SP 12 Sep (JRi), where it is resident.

Brown Creeper: One at FF 25 Aug (JGr) was likely one of the summering birds there. First migrant was at Calamus Res 23 Sep (WRS), rather early.

Rock Wren: The 4 at WSR 28 Oct (HKH) were rather late.

Carolina Wren: One at Dannebrog 17 Nov (LR,RH,MB) was probably a fall disperser; evidence shows this species expands its range by fall movement to new areas and survival of the following winter potentially to breed in the spring.

House Wren: Routine reports.

Winter Wren: Routine reports.

Sedge Wren: Sedge Wrens appeared in the east as expected during Jul-Aug; good numbers were in suitable se. Nebraska grasslands, notably those occupied by Henslow's Sparrows (WRS) and 6 were in a grassland at Harvard Marsh occupied by Henslow's 7 Aug (PD,CW). One at ADF 29 Oct (L&CF) was rather late.

Marsh Wren: The well-known late summer influx of Sedge Wrens in Nebraska may also apply to Marsh Wren; 6 eastern types were singing vigorously in the e. RWB 4 Aug (JGJ) and another was found 25 Aug (JGJ). Confirmation of breeding by such birds was provided by the presence of a newly-fledged young bird with an agitated adult at Jack Sinn WMA, Saunders & Lancaster Cos, 22 Sep (WRS,JGJ,SR). Additional breeding and late summer records south of the Platte River may fit this pattern also.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Routine reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Rather early was one at BOL 15 Sep (LE), and rather late was one at North Platte 5 Nov (TJW).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Northward expansion continues in central Nebraska, now that the species has reached the nw. and ne. corners of the state (see Summer Report). One was in Cherry Co 25 Aug (JJ), and another was in Thomas Co 29 Sep (NOU), the latter the latest on record by 2 days.

Eastern Bluebird: Routine reports.

Mountain Bluebird: Migrants appear in mid-Aug in the west; one was in Kimball Co 17 Aug (DL). One in Thomas Co 29 Sep (NOU) was a little earlier than usual.

Townsend's Solitaire: Earliest was noted southward in the west 8 Sep at Oliver Res (AB), and by 30 Sep solitaires were widespread in nc. Nebraska (NOU). Furthest se. was one in a cedar canyon in Hamilton Co 4 Nov (D&JP).

Veery: One was identified by call by an observer familiar with thrush flight calls as it flew over Zorinsky L, Omaha, 25 Sep (JK). This is the latest on record by 3 days.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: One was heard as it flew over Zorinsky L, Omaha 25 Sep (JK); this species migrates later than Veery, but is rare in fall.

Swainson's Thrush: Routine reports.

Hermit Thrush: Routine reports.

Wood Thrush: Routine reports.

American Robin: Routine reports.

Varied Thrush: One appeared at WSR 26 Oct for the 3rd straight year (HKH); several have been reported in the last few years.

Gray Catbird: One in Norfolk 16 Nov (RS) was pushing the safety envelope. There are numerous reports into Dec or later, but most are in the southeast.

Northern Mockingbird: The 7 in Kimball Co 11 Aug (SJD) was a good count.

Sage Thrasher: A surprising 6 were reported, all but one in the w. Panhandle as expected: singles were south of I-80 Exit 1 in Kimball Co 8 and 25 Aug (SJD) and 31 Aug (JGJ); in Scotts Bluff Co 30 Aug (KD); and sw. of Kimball 15 Sep (SJD,JGi). The other was farther east, at CLNWR 1 Sep (MB,DSt); there are no fall records east of Garden Co.

Brown Thrasher: Routine reports.

Curve-billed Thrasher: The Frimann Ranch bird in extreme se. Sioux Co continues; he was seen 18 Aug (KD). His 5-year anniversary was 20 Oct 2007.

European Starling: As noted in previous years, starlings were seen hawking insects at North Platte 19 Sep (TJW); it was suggested that this happens when most swallows and swifts have departed, leaving an open food niche.

American Pipit: One at LNB 9-10 Sep (JGJ,JJ,WF) was rather early.

Sprague's Pipit: Recent years have shown this species to be a regular migrant at SCP; this fall about 30 were found there 3-23 Oct (KP,JRi,EB,LE), with best day 7 Oct when 13 were found (JRi). Elsewhere, 2 were in s. Cherry Co 20 Sep (WF) and 2 in Seward Co 23 Oct (RE).

Bohemian Waxwing: None were reported; arrival, when it occurs, is in mid-Nov.

Cedar Waxwing: Routine reports.

Blue-winged Warbler: The only report was of a male in Dixon Co 1 Sep (JJ), only the 12th fall record. Close to being the 13th, but taxonomically challenged, was a "Brewster's Warbler" at FF 6 Sep (JRi), only the 2nd for Nebraska.

Golden-winged Warbler: Only casual in fall, 3 were reported, only the 22nd-24th on record for fall: a single at FF 23 Aug (L&BP), a female there 29 Aug (JRi), and a single in Bellevue 11 Sep (L&BP).

Tennessee Warbler: Routine reports.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Routine reports.

Nashville Warbler: Routine reports.

Northern Parula: Routine reports.

Yellow Warbler: Routine reports.

- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** The only reports were from a single yard, probably of the same bird, in Bellevue 18-28 Aug (L&BP).
- Magnolia Warbler:** The only three reports were of singles in Bellevue 30 Aug (L&BP), Omaha 19 Sep (RE), and FF 29 Sep (JRi).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** There were two reports of this regular but rare fall migrant, both from the Panhandle: two juvenile females were at Oliver Res 15 Sep (SJD,JGi, photo) and a single was in Scotts Bluff Co 20 Sep (AD).
- Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler:** There were 3 reports of migrants: 12 Sep at Chadron SP (JRi), where breeding is not known, 13 Sep at Oliver Res (JRi), and 22 Sep in Scotts Bluff Co (AK).
- Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** Earliest migrants were 2 rather early at Smith L WMA, Sheridan Co, 26 Aug (SJ). Rather late for the Panhandle was one at WSR 28 Oct (HKH); another at LO 30 Nov (JGJ) was even more tardy, but not quite in the Panhandle. There are 3 Dec reports for LM. Rather late in the east were 3 in Lancaster Co 16 Nov (LE), and one in Nuckolls Co 11 Nov (LR,RH), although "dozens" were still at Platte River SP, Cass Co, 9 Nov (RM).
- Black-throated Gray Warbler:** An adult male was photographed at Oliver Res 8 Sep (AB); this is the 3rd documented fall record, all in the period 1-8 Sep, and with 2 spring records, the 5th overall.
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** More than usual for fall were reported, about 11. Most were in the east, the earliest separate singles tying the record early date at FF 23 Aug (CNK,L&BP). Unexpected were 2 at Calamus Res 23 Sep (WRS); this species is casual away from the east.
- Townsend's Warbler:** The two reports of this regular Panhandle migrant were of 2 at WSR 27 Aug (HKH) and 2 juvenile males at Oliver Res 15 Sep (SJD,JGi; photo).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** Eight were reported, quite good for fall for this species. Singles at FF and in the observers' Bellevue yard 17 Aug (L&BP) were rather early. A surprise so far west was one in Morrill 27 Aug (KD), only the 6th Panhandle record.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** None were reported; the few late dates are in early Sep.
- Pine Warbler:** A bird banded at Wildcat Hills NC 23 Nov was probably this species based on the details provided (DR); Pine Warbler has a propensity to linger into winter on occasion.
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** The only reports were from the Bellevue area: possibly the same bird in the observers' yard 26 Aug-7 Sep (L&BP), and another at FF 5 Sep (L&BP).
- Cerulean Warbler:** None were reported; most depart during Aug.
- Black-and-white Warbler:** Routine reports.
- American Redstart:** Routine reports.
- Ovenbird:** Routine reports.
- Northern Waterthrush:** There are only about 15 reports from the Panhandle, and so of interest are one at Oliver Res 25 Aug (SJD) and two there 1 Sep (JGJ).
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** None were reported; most depart in Aug.
- Kentucky Warbler:** None were reported; departure is completed by mid-Sep.
- Mourning Warbler:** The only report was of one in Dixon Co 1 Sep (JJ).
- MacGillivray's Warbler:** A photo taken in the observer's Nickerson, Dodge Co, yard 8 Sep (JMu) allowed identification as this species. This is the easternmost documented fall record and one of only 5 east of the Panhandle.
- Common Yellowthroat:** One at GPD 27 Oct (RD) was 3rd latest on record. Most depart by early Oct.

Hooded Warbler: There are a surprising number of Panhandle reports for this southeastern species. A female was at WSR 27 Aug (HKH, details), about the 10th fall report for the state, half from the Panhandle, although few are documented.

Wilson's Warbler: This species arrives early in fall, this year especially so, with a male in Washington Co 5 Aug (RM) and another at Oliver Res 11 Aug (SJD). The Washington Co bird was 3rd earliest on record, the Oliver Res bird 6th. Best count was 52 at Oliver Res 1 Sep (SJD); high counts are in the range 70-81.

Canada Warbler: Five were reported, all in the Missouri Valley 26 Aug-8 Sep (m. ob.), an average fall.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Routine reports.

Summer Tanager: One at FF 29 Aug (Jri) suggests continuing summer presence there, a recent phenomenon.

Scarlet Tanager: Routine reports.

Western Tanager: More than usual were reported, about 15, all from the Panhandle 27 Aug-20 Sep, including 7 in a tree at Bushnell 13 Sep (Jri).

Green-tailed Towhee: Three were reported, a good showing, as there were only 16 fall records prior; singles were at Oliver Res 1 Sep (JGJ) and 13 Sep (Jri), and near Bushnell 15 Sep (SJD,JGi).

Spotted Towhee: This species moves southeastward in fall; first arrivals were detected rather early 22 Sep at Broken Bow (TH), and in Saunders and Butler Cos (LE).

Eastern Towhee: A phenotypic male in Nuckolls Co 8 Aug sang "perfect" songs of each species one after the other (LR,RH); as the songs are learned, any combination is possible for birds in the hybrid zone (LR,RH). Somewhat northwest of the expected range was one in Antelope Co 28 Sep (LE), where hybrids and Spottedts would be expected to predominate.

Cassin's Sparrow: None were reported; departure is in Aug.

American Tree Sparrow: Arrival was a bit later than usual, with first sightings 24 Oct (JJ, L&CF,TP).

Chipping Sparrow: Adults were feeding fledglings in Lincoln 22 Aug (NP), a rather late brood. Chipping Sparrows that linger after mid-Nov are usually solitary; thus rather late for small groups were 6 at Platte River SP, Cass Co, 9 Nov (RM) and 3 in Clay Center 11 Nov (PD).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Routine reports.

Brewer's Sparrow: The only report was of one in Kimball Co 8 Sep (AB). Most depart during Sep.

Field Sparrow: Routine reports.

Vesper Sparrow: Away from the north and Missouri Valley summer records are few. Thus of interest were 5 in Seward Co 4 Aug (JGJ) and another there 18 Aug (LR,RH). These sightings probably indicate the west edge of the summer range of the Missouri Valley population (subspecies *gramineus*), which has adapted to row-crop agriculture and may indeed be expanding its range.

Lark Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lark Bunting: Routine reports.

Savannah Sparrow: Routine reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: A window-killed bird picked up in Seward Co 28 Oct (JG) was 4th latest on record.

- Henslow's Sparrow:** An indication that this species occurs in good numbers in the limited amount of suitable habitat in Nebraska was the count of 31 singing birds in a pristine 160-acre prairie near Burchard 19 Aug (WRS). In this same field, an adult was carrying food 19 Aug; there are very few records of breeding for Nebraska (WRS). At least one was in grassland at Harvard Marsh 7 Aug (PD,CW). Migrants were found in roadside habitats in Lancaster Co 30 Aug, 22 Sep, and 27 Sep (LE). One at SCP 20 Oct (EB) was rather late; late dates are Oct 20, 21, and 23.
- Le Conte's Sparrow:** The limits of the migration period were defined by one at Jack Sinn WMA, Saunders & Lancaster Cos, 16 Sep (SJD,JGJ,JGi) and another in Nemaha Co 31 Oct (RE).
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** By far a record fall count was the 36 at Jack Sinn WMA, Saunders & Lancaster Cos, 16 Sep (SJD,JGJ,JGi); 20 were there 22 Sep (WRS,JGJ,SR). One in Knox Co 3 Nov (MB) was 2nd-latest on record. Late dates are Oct 20, 21, and 23.
- Fox Sparrow:** Routine reports.
- Song Sparrow:** Routine reports.
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** Routine reports.
- Swamp Sparrow:** A presumed migrant in Saunders Co 19 Sep (LE) was rather early.
- White-throated Sparrow:** Rather early were the 7 at LO 14 Sep (SJD,JGi).
- Harris's Sparrow:** Rare in the west, one was in Morrill 11 Nov (ECT) and two others were near there 12 Nov (KD).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** Routine reports.
- Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco:** One was banded at Wildcat Hills NC 2 Oct (DR); the onset of fall movement in Nebraska is not well-known.
- Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco:** Routine reports.
- Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco:** One at Chadron SP 12 Sep (JRi) was 2nd-earliest on record; arrival is usually in late Sep. This form does not breed in Nebraska.
- Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco:** Best count was 24 in Lincoln Co 7 Nov (TJW).
- McCown's Longspur:** The only report was of 20 at WSR 16 Oct (HKH); migration occurs during Oct.
- Lapland Longspur:** Best count was 500 in a flock near Holdrege 12 Nov (PD); high counts are in the thousands.
- Smith's Longspur:** There were 3 reports, the 18th-20th for fall, all convincing: singles were at SCP 3 Oct (KP), Hultine WPA, Clay Co, 10 Oct (RE), and Harvard Marsh 19 Oct (PD; details). Of the now 20 fall records, 14 are in the period 29 Sep-29 Oct.
- Chestnut-collared Longspur:** None were reported; departure is in early Oct.
- Snow Bunting:** A good fall for this species saw several reports, earliest the 3 birds rather early at LNB 29 Oct (RE); best count was 8 at GPD 24 Nov (MB).
- Northern Cardinal:** Routine reports.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Routine reports.
- Black-headed Grosbeak:** Routine reports.
- Blue Grosbeak:** Routine reports.
- Lazuli Bunting:** Two somewhat easterly at CLNWR 1 Sep (MB,DSt) were likely migrants, as breeding is unknown there.
- Indigo Bunting:** The 10 at Dodge Park, Omaha, 8 Sep (JRi) was an excellent fall count for this non-flocking species. Uncommon westward, one was at LO 24 Aug (SJD).

Dickcissel: Rather late were a nest with nestlings in Clay Co 4 Aug and a nest with 5 eggs in Clay Co 18 Aug, the latter unfortunately abandoned by 25 Aug (JGJ). One was rather late in Lancaster Co 25 Oct (LE).

Bobolink: Routine reports.

Red-winged Blackbird: Routine reports.

Eastern Meadowlark: Routine reports.

Western Meadowlark: Routine reports.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Rather late as far north was one in Rock Co 24 Nov (LR,RH).

Rusty Blackbird: There were 3 reports of a total of about 30 birds; 5 were at Harvard Marsh 7 Nov (PD), one was at FF 12 Nov (L&BP), and 20-25 were in Dixon Co 24 Nov (JJ).

Brewer's Blackbird: Routine reports.

Common Grackle: The 3000 in the observer's Mitchell yard 7 Sep (KD) would have put some stress on the feeder operation. Typical of lingering birds were singles in Lincoln 12 Nov (LE) and near Chadron 14 Nov (JF), the latter rather late for the location.

Great-tailed Grackle: Large flocks, into the "hundreds" were in Lincoln and rural Lancaster Co 1 Oct-14 Nov (JGJ,JLL,KP,JRi). Still not numerous in the Sandhills, 10 were in Grant Co 29 Sep (LE).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Routine reports.

Orchard Oriole: One in Peru 1 Oct (TL) was rather late.

Baltimore Oriole: Only the 4th Panhandle fall record was an adult male at Oliver Res 1 Sep (JGJ). Two at a feeder near Bennington 20 Sep (JM) were tardy.

Bullock's Oriole: Routine reports.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch: None were reported; arrival is in Nov.

Purple Finch: This species staged a significant incursion into Nebraska this fall. Reports were widespread, including the Panhandle, where it usually rare. As one Bellevue observer noted regarding his feeder: "just like the good old days, Purple Finches and no House Finches" (RW). A similar lack of House Finches in the presence of Purple Finches was noted near Mitchell (KD), where Purple Finches are normally absent. First reported was an immature/female at a Bellevue feeder 26 Sep (ARy), 5th-earliest on record. Best count was 30 at Niobrara SP, Knox Co, 8 Nov (MB), 2nd highest fall count on record. In all, at least 140 were reported.

Cassin's Finch: A female was banded and photographed at Wildcat Hills NC 1 Oct (DR), 2nd-earliest on record. Another was heard singing at LO 30 Nov, but could not be sighted (JGJ). Typically, fall sightings are few, with numbers building into spring.

House Finch: There was some evidence that this species was less in evidence when Purple Finches were present (see Purple Finch).

Red Crossbill: A few more than usual were reported, but by no means large numbers; best count was 50 in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co, 30 Aug, about 50% juveniles (KD). This species is commonly seen in the Wildcat Hills, usually at Wildcat Hills NC feeders, where 15-20 were present 27 Nov (AK). A few straggled eastward, notably one at a Peru feeder 1 Oct (TL), but also 2 at Norfolk 2 Nov (RS) and 1-2 at Creighton 2-25 Nov (MB).

Common Redpoll: The only report of this late arriver was of 2 at FF 13 Nov (KJ).

Pine Siskin: Along with Purple Finch, this species was much in evidence this fall. Beginning rather early with singles at LO 8 Aug (SJD) and in Kimball Co 11 Aug (SJD), reports were statewide, including a best count of 40 in

Saline Co 3 Nov (LR,RH). Earliest in the east was a single in Saunders Co 15 Sep (LE) and another at FF 29 Sep (JRi).

Lesser Goldfinch: An intriguing report was of an adult male black-backed bird with a probable female at Wright's Gap, Morrill Co, 1 Sep; a vigorously-begging juvenile appeared next to the male, which, however, ignored it (JGJ). This is the 16th summer record for the state. There are no breeding records for Nebraska, although it apparently breeds in se. Wyoming.

American Goldfinch: Routine reports.

House Sparrow: A feeder operator reported increasing numbers of this species in the Mitchell area, with 123 at the feeder 12 Nov (KD).