

6-2008

Nebraska Bird Review (June 2008) 76(2), WHOLE ISSUE

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev>



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#), [Poultry or Avian Science Commons](#), and the [Zoology Commons](#)

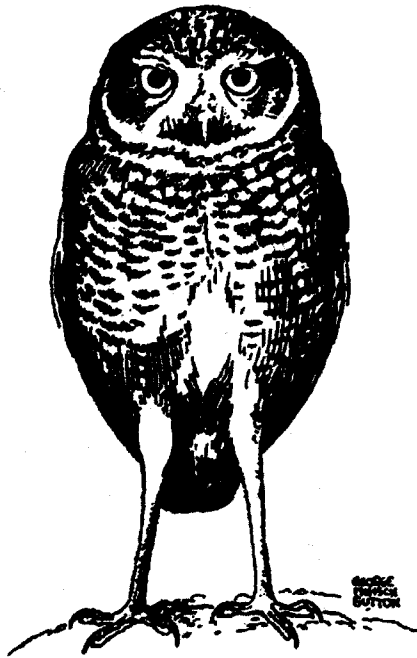
"*Nebraska Bird Review* (June 2008) 76(2), WHOLE ISSUE" (2008). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 1042.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev/1042>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nebraska Bird Review by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

The Nebraska Bird Review

A Magazine of Ornithology of the
Nebraska Region

Volume 76 June 2008 Number 2



Published by the
Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.
Founded 1899

Janis M. Paseka, Editor
Stephen J. Dinsmore, Co-editor

SSSN 0028-1816

SPRING FIELD REPORT, March-May 2008

compiled by W. Ross Silcock

P.O. Box 57, Tabor, IA 51653

silcock@rosssilcock.com

INTRODUCTION

Despite this cool, wet spring, warbler enthusiasts were thrilled by one of the best showings in years, with Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Mourning Warblers leading the charge. Swallows also as a group arrived early, including a record early Barn Swallow, and record early Western Tanagers (yes, more than one) appeared, surprisingly, in the east. There were no reports of mortality due to cold or excessive moisture; apparently food sources were unaffected. The large incursion of Purple Finches and the smaller one of Mountain Chickadees continued into the spring period, with impressive totals.

Identification of *Catharus* thrushes is more difficult in the field than field guides might indicate because of the tendency of birds to stay in areas where lighting is inconsistent and often sub-par for viewing. Thus reports without details earlier than late April are difficult to evaluate; also adding to the problems this spring was a higher than usual number of Hermit Thrushes.

Some exciting rarities were reported; most exciting was Nebraska's first Grace's Warbler, a bird well-documented with photos. Others were two



Grace's Warbler, Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Garden Co.,
4 May 2008. Photo by Cory Gregory.

Black-throated Gray Warblers, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, and several other species considered casual in occurrence.

Species formerly considered zooties, but now mere ordinaries, include White-winged Dove, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, even Glossy Ibis.

All in all, a spring with something for everyone!

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City
BOL: Branched Oak L SRA, Lancaster Co
Cem: Cemetery
CLNWR: Crescent L NWR, Garden Co
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co
GPD: Gavins Point Dam, Cedar/Knox Cos
HCR: Harlan Co Res, Harlan Co
ICSP: Indian Cave SP, Nemaha/Richardson Cos
L: Lake
LM: L McConaughy SRA, Keith Co
LNB: Lakes North and Babcock, Platte Co
LO: L Ogallala SRA, Keith Co
m.ob.: many observers
NC: Nature Center
NNF: Nebraska National Forest
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
PL: Pawnee L SRA, Lancaster Co
Res: Reservoir
RWB: Rainwater Basin
 eastern RWB, mostly Fillmore, Clay and surrounding counties
 western RWB, mostly Phelps Co
SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co
SHP: State Historical Park
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)
SP: State Park
SRA: State Recreation Area
WGP: Walnut Grove Park, Omaha
WMA: Wildlife Management Area (State)
WP: Wilderness Park, Lincoln
WPA: Waterfowl Production Area (Federal)
WSR: Wind Springs Ranch, s. Sioux Co

GAZETTEER:

Burchard L: WMA, Pawnee Co
DeSoto: NWR, Washington Co
Forest Lawn: Cem, Omaha
Funk: WPA, Phelps Co
Hultine: WPA, Clay Co
Johnson L: SRA, Gosper and Dawson Cos
Oliver Res: SRA, Kimball Co

Waco-Spikerush: Waco WPA and Spikerush WMA, York Co
Wehrspann L: Chalco Hills Recreation Area, Sarpy Co

OBSERVERS

AG: Alan Grenon, Seattle, WA
AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering
ARy: Allen Reyer, Bellevue
AS: Audrey Sterkel, Sidney
BA: Byron Alberts, North Platte
BFH: Bill F. Huser, South Sioux City
BG: Betty Grenon, Bellevue
BGe: Bob Gerten, Burwell
BGf: Benjamin Griffith, Merrimack, NH
BGr: Bob Grier, Scottsbluff
BM: Bob Murphy, Kearney
BN: Brent Nelson, Scottsbluff
CB: Cindi Baker, Omaha
CC: Craig Crews, Omaha
CG: Cory Gregory, Ames, IA
CH: Carolyn Hall, Bassett
CHa: Charlene Harding, Omaha
CHy: Carr Heaney, Omaha
CN: Christian Nunes, Flagstaff, AZ
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue
CR: Chris Rustay, Albuquerque, NM
CW: Cory Welch, Omaha
CWH: C.W. (Bill) Huntley, Ogallala
D&JP: Don and Jan Paseka, Ames
DB: Duane Bright, Bellevue
DBe: Devorah Bennu, New York, NY
DD: Deanna Davis, Gretna
DH: Dave Heidt, Norfolk
DK: Dan Kim, Wood River
DL: Daniel Leger, Lincoln
DS: Danny Siebold, Elkhorn
DSt: Dave Stage, Elkhorn
EB: Elliott Bedows, Bellevue
ECT: Edna Claire Thomas, Morrill
G&BC: George & Bev Canterbury, Papillion
G&WH: Glen & Wanda Hoge, Alma
GJ: Gail Johnson, Warminster, PA
HKH: Helen K. Hughson, Mitchell
HY: Heather York, Crete
JaG: Jan Greer, Council Bluffs, IA
JC: Jamalee Clark, Scottsbluff
JD: Jeff Drahota, Kearney
JED: James E. Ducey, Lincoln
JF: John Flavin, Chadron

JG: Joseph Gubanyi, Seward
JGr: Jonas Grundman, Omaha
JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Lincoln
JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield
JLL: Jeanine L. Lackey, Raymond
JM: Jeanne Miller, Bennington
JO: Jim Ochsner, Ogallala
JR: Juanita Rice, Fairmont
JRi: Justin Rink, Omaha
JT: Jerry Toll, Omaha
JWH: John W. Hall, Omaha
KCR: Kathleen Crawford-Rose, Bellevue
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell
KDa: Keith Davis, Gretna
KP: Kevin Poague, Lincoln
KS: Kent Skaggs, Kearney
KSc: Kathy Schwery, Omaha
L&BP: Loren & Babs Padelford, Bellevue
L&CF: Laurence & Carol Falk, Nebraska City
LB: Laurel Badura, Kearney
LBr: Lisa Bringewatt, North Platte
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln
LF: Lara Fondow, North Platte
LFr: Lonnie Frimann, Melbeta
LG: Linda Grdina, Lincoln
LH: Luther Haige, Omaha
LO: Lois O'Gara, Council Bluffs, IA
LR: Lanny Randolph, Gibbon
LS: Larry Snyder, Kimball
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton
ME: Mike Ellis, Omaha
MG: Mary Gertsema, Yankton, SD
MT: Max Thompson, Winfield, KS
MUs: Moni Usasz, Lincoln
NFa: Nelli Falzgraf, Bellevue
NL: Nancy Leonard, Omaha
P&DD: Phyllis and Dean Drawbaugh, Scottsbluff
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings
PS: Phil Swanson, Papillion
RE: Rick Eades, Lincoln
RG: Ruth Green, Bellevue
RH: Robin Harding, Gibbon
RL: Roger Lawson, Curtis
RLu: Richard Luehrs, Kearney
RP: Rob Parsons, Winnipeg, MB
RS: Rick Schmid, Bellevue
SF: Steve Finley, Papillion
SJD: Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA
SM: Steve Morris, Grand Island
SN: Sarah Newman, Omaha

SR: Sarah Rehme, Seward
SS: Sharon Stiteler, Minneapolis, MN
ST: Stan Tekiela, Minneapolis, MN
TB: Tanya Bray, Portland, OR
TEL: Thomas E. Labedz, Lincoln
TH: Tim Hajda, Broken Bow
TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady
TM: Tracy Morfeld, Omaha
TP: Theresa Pester, Walton
TS: Tina Simeon, Ogallala
UL: Urban Lehner, Omaha
WC: Wil Clayton, Benedict
WF: William Flack, Madison
WM: Wayne Mollhoff, Ashland
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose: "Thousands" were in Sarpy Co 2 Mar (CNK) and 1547 in Lancaster Co 8 Mar (LE); 3 stragglers were still at Hultine 31 May (PD). Rare in the Panhandle, 42 were in Scotts Bluff Co 2 Apr, one on 15 Mar, and 2 on 9 Apr (AK).

Snow Goose: "Hundreds of thousands" were in York and Otoe Cos 2 Mar (JGJ, CNK); unusually high numbers for the west were in Scotts Bluff Co 11 Mar, when a record spring tally of 50-75,000 was at Cochran L (AK). Best count after Mar was the 100 stragglers in the e. RWB 10 May (JGJ); 20-30 were at both Hultine and Kirkpatrick Basin North WMA, York Co, mid-late May (WRS, PD).

Ross's Goose: A few were reported statewide; the best count was 100 at BOL 8 Mar (LE). Stragglers included singles at Hultine 31 May (PD) and HCR the same day (G&WH).

Cackling Goose: Routine reports.

Canada Goose: Broods were first noted as expected in early May statewide (KD, P&DD, BGe, TJW).

Trumpeter Swan: Last away from breeding areas were 3 near Ashland 7 Apr (LH), where at least 2 were present since 18 Mar (WM), and one near Waco 6 Apr (JGJ).

Tundra Swan: The only report was of 3 in Dakota Co 24 Mar (JJ); migration is mostly in Mar.

Wood Duck: Earliest were 3 at PL 9 Mar (JGJ), and first fledglings were noted in Omaha 5 May (JED), rather early.

Gadwall: Routine reports.

Eurasian Wigeon: A rare but regular spring migrant in the RWB, one was in Adams Co 5 Mar (KS) and a male was at Waco-Spikerush 6 Apr (JGJ).

American Wigeon: Routine reports.

Mallard: Routine reports.

Blue-winged Teal: Rather early were singles in Seward Co 4 Mar (LE) and Banner Co 6 Mar (WF).

Cinnamon Teal: This species was at its "most numerous in the e. RWB since the 1990s" (JGJ); a total of at least 5 were found 24 Mar-4 May (PD, JGJ, TJW),

including a pair at Hultine (JGJ). At North Platte 1-2 were seen n. of the airport 29 Mar-15 Apr (TJW); this is becoming a regular location.

Northern Shoveler: Routine reports.

Northern Pintail: The 800-1000 in Otoe Co 2 Mar was a good count for the Missouri River Valley (CNK).

Green-winged Teal: "Thousands" were in the e. RWB 29 Mar (JGJ). Of interest were 2 males at Funk as late as 31 May (KS); this species breeds casually in the RWB.

Canvasback: Best count was 700 at Diamond Bar L, McPherson Co 10 Mar (JGJ). Rather late away from breeding areas were singles at LO 16 May (SJD) and 25 May in Rock Co (LR, RH).

Redhead: Routine reports.

Ring-necked Duck: Stragglers were a single in Scotts Bluff Co 24 May (AK) and 2 in the e. RWB 26 May (JGJ). This species is not currently known to breed in Nebraska.

Greater Scaup: Numbers were higher than usual, with at least 33 reported statewide; latest were 2 in Garden Co 30 Apr (RE) and 2 in Scotts Bluff Co 29 Apr (KD).

Lesser Scaup: Routine reports.

Bufflehead: The 248 at Capitol Beach L, Lincoln, 31 Mar (JGJ) was a good spring count.

Common Goldeneye: One in Sarpy Co 10 May (fide CNK) was a bit tardy.

Hooded Merganser: Best count was a record 100 at GPD 29 Mar (BFH), and 23 were in one group in the e. RWB 13 Apr (JGJ). A female with 3 young at Benson Park Lagoon, Omaha, 9 May (CNK) was the 3rd confirmed breeding record since 1915, the second as recently as 2005.

Common Merganser: Routine reports.

Red-breasted Merganser: By far a record spring count was the 300 at L Yankton, Cedar Co, 29 Mar (BFH). Good numbers were reported, mostly in the east, about 410 in all; first were 18 at BOL 16 Mar (JGJ), and last were 5 in Sarpy Co 19 Apr (EB). Rare in the west, one was in Scotts Bluff Co 3 Apr (BN).

Ruddy Duck: The 3 at Capitol Beach L, Lincoln, 2 Mar (JGJ) were rather early; earliest dates are in late Feb.

Gray Partridge: Rarely reported recently, this species seems to be at a low ebb in Nebraska. The only report was of 3 nw. of Laurel, Cedar Co, 23 Mar (DSt).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Routine reports.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Small but apparently increasing numbers occur s. of the Platte River in the Panhandle; 8 were in Banner Co 18 Apr (JGJ).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: The 21 leks in a 35-mile survey route in ne. Lincoln Co 20 Mar, including one with 40+ males (TJW), suggest a healthy population there. The e. RWB population continues to occupy leks near water; one at Hultine was on a strip of land in the middle of the marsh surrounded by water; it "looked rather funny surrounded by Snow Geese and Green-winged Teal" (PD). Two birds present 12 May continued from last year on a new lek at Kirkpatrick Basin South WMA, York Co (JGJ).

Wild Turkey: Routine reports.

Northern Bobwhite: Routine reports.

Pacific Loon: The only report was of one at BOL 20 and 28 Mar (LE, details), a rather early date and only the 3rd spring record for Nebraska.

Common Loon: About 35 were reported w. to LM, where the best count of 7 was made 17 Apr (JGJ). Sightings ranged from a rather early 22 Mar at BOL (JGJ) through 20 May (2) at LM (LE).

Pied-billed Grebe: Routine reports.

Horned Grebe: Good numbers were reported statewide 29 Mar (BFH) through 30 Apr (LE), with best count a moderate 17 at Capitol Beach L, Lincoln, 6 Apr (JGJ).

Eared Grebe: Routine reports.

Western Grebe: Large numbers occur Apr-May at LM; this year 14,100 were counted 16 May (SJD).

Clark's Grebe: The 6 reports were westerly, as expected: singles were in Scotts Bluff Co 29 Apr (KD) and 17 and 24 May (fide UL, AK), 2 were at LM 16 May (SJD), one was at Scottsbluff 18 May (LE) and one was north of Oshkosh 19 May (LE).

American White Pelican: Routine reports.

Neotropic Cormorant: Details were provided for one reported as a "possible" at Hultine 31 May; unfortunately diagnostic features could not be seen well (PD). There are 7 Nebraska records 2 May-2 Oct.

Double-crested Cormorant: That this species often follows major river valleys in migration was shown by several large flocks, total 1500-2000 birds, following the Platte River eastward from the vicinity of Highway 75 and turning north to follow the Missouri River 9 Apr (CNK).

American Bittern: Several were reported from the e. RWB 26 Apr (PD) through 17 May (PD, m. ob.); this species is only a casual breeder there, with egg dates beginning late May.

Least Bittern: Surprisingly, given the excellent water conditions in e. Nebraska, there was only one report, of 3-4 at Hultine 31 May (PD); this species becomes more conspicuous in mid-summer when young are being fed.

Great Blue Heron: Birds were "on nests" rather early on 23 Mar in Washington Co (CB).

Great Egret: Routine reports.

Snowy Egret: One near Tamora 16 Apr (RE) was rather early.

Little Blue Heron: The only report was a subadult at Wehrspann L 16 May (JWH).

Cattle Egret: Only about 20 were reported, earliest were 2 in Lincoln Co 15 Apr (TJW) where the species is rare; surprising also were 2 in Scotts Bluff Co 25 May (KD) and one there 28 May (AK).

Green Heron: Routine reports.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Routine reports.

Glossy Ibis: This species is being reported more often each year, as numbers of White-faced Ibis increase markedly (see next species); this year the 3 reports of Glossy Ibis by experienced observers, documented by photographs and descriptions, were the 17th-19th for the state, the first as recent as 1999. Singles were at Green Wing WMA, Clay Co, 3-4 May (JGJ, photo), LM 16 May (SJD, details), and at Mallard Haven WPA, Fillmore Co 18 May (JGJ, photo). Hybrids occur also, but seem to be less often reported in Nebraska as numbers of Glossy Ibis increase. Only one probable hybrid was noted, that in the e. RWB 12 May (JGJ).

White-faced Ibis: This species is becoming abundant in spring migration in Nebraska; the 3 highest spring counts on record were in 2006 and 2008. This year about 400 were reported, including 60-100 near the North Platte airport

29 Apr (RE), 65+ at Funk 31 May (KS), and 60 in the e. RWB 4 May (JGJ). Nesting was in progress at Hultine by 31 May, when 33 birds were present and 4-6 nests, one with 2 eggs, were found (PD). Nesting has occurred in the e. RWB in 2001, 2005, 2007, and 2008.

Turkey Vulture: One at DeSoto NWR 1 Mar (CB) was rather early; earliest dates are in the last few days of Feb. Best tally was 30 in Scottsbluff 5 Apr (P&DD).

Osprey: What appears to be the first breeding record for at least 40 years was a nest under construction with two birds, thought to be young adults, in attendance 15 May 2008 on a telephone pole at Winters Creek L, Scotts Bluff Co (see photo in *The Nebraska Bird Review*, March 2008, p. 14); part of the nest blew down in a storm 24 May, although the adults were still present (BGR, fide AK). One at FF 29 May (ARy) was tardy.

Mississippi Kite: At least one had returned to Ogallala by 24 Apr (fide CWH); this is the 4th-earliest arrival date on record.

Bald Eagle: Best count was 60 in the RWB 13 Mar (RE). Nesting pairs in the state now total 50+ (fide JGJ). A new nest was in McPherson Co 13 Mar (JGJ), and an adult was incubating by the Platte River near Highway 75 by 20 Mar (KSc).

Northern Harrier: Routine reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Routine reports.

Cooper's Hawk: A pair in Bellevue became "very active" 18 Mar and were breaking twigs 28 Mar (L&BP); nesting birds were noted near Plattsmouth 12 May (CNK) and 2 nests were in Omaha 30 May (ME). This species is a rather common nester, although secretive.

Northern Goshawk: The only report was of one in Omaha 16 Mar (JRi).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Continuing a series of sightings at PL was a single 4 Mar (LE); it is likely this species is breeding in the area, although so far no more than single birds have been reported. The only other reports were of single birds at FF, a regular location, 19 Apr (CNK) and 26 Apr (SF).

Broad-winged Hawk: This species migrates mainly through e. Nebraska in spring, but it occurs rarely as far w. as the Panhandle, where there are now 23 records; one was in Banner Co 4 May (KD, P&DD), and another was at CLNWR 16 May (SJD). About 10 others were reported in the east: one in Cedar Co 29 Mar (BFH, details) was rather early, and 2 in Hastings 5-12 May (PD) were westerly.

Swainson's Hawk: Routine reports.

Red-tailed Hawk: Two dark birds (not "Harlan's") wintering n. of Peru were last seen 7 Apr (WRS).

Ferruginous Hawk: Routine reports.

Rough-legged Hawk: Best count was 12 in Kimball and Banner Cos 24 Mar (KD).

Golden Eagle: Routine reports.

American Kestrel: Routine reports.

Merlin: Routine reports.

Prairie Falcon: Routine reports.

Peregrine Falcon: Nesting was underway by early Apr at both Lincoln and Omaha, each nest with 3 eggs (fide NFa, fide JGJ). However, neither nest was successful. The Omaha female, Hera, was injured in a fight with another falcon 5 May and placed in a recovery center. Her two hatched young and 3 eggs were removed 12 May, when the 2 young died and the 3 eggs were

determined to be unviable (<http://www.woodmen.org/falcons>). In Lincoln, 4 eggs were present 15 Apr, but by 12 May only one egg remained. It was removed 16 May, but re-nesting did not occur (<http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/wildlife/falcon.asp>). Migrants were reported as expected 19 Apr (CNK, JRi) through 17 May (PD).

Yellow Rail: Only the 16th spring report for this species in Nebraska was one flushed twice and seen well at Kirkpatrick Basin North WMA, York Co, by an experienced observer 15 May (SJD, details). Ten of the 16 reports are in the period 26 Apr-15 May.

Virginia Rail: One at WSR 17 Mar (HKH) must have wintered nearby; migrants generally arrive in mid-Apr.

Sora: Routine reports.

American Coot: The 2000 at Summit Res SRA, Burt Co, 8 Apr (CNK) was an excellent count.

Sandhill Crane: Stragglers were singles in Seward Co 16 May (JGJ), Fillmore Co 18 May (JGJ), and Buffalo Co 19 May (RP). A good westerly count was 25,000-30,000 at North River WMA, Lincoln Co, 25 Mar (TJW). A pair in Morrill Co raised a chick this year (fide AK), the 4th year that at least one chick has been produced at this location.

Common Crane: It appears there were 2 Common Cranes in Nebraska this spring, the 9th and 10th records. One was in Buffalo and Kearney Cos near Rowe Sanctuary 6-9 Mar (SS, ST, m.ob.), and another was near Hershey 30 Mar-6 Apr (LF, m.ob.). Both were photographed (http://www.birdchick.com/uploaded_images/Common-Crane-with-Sandhills-Tekiela-TEK7423-721547.jpg). The latter bird may have been the same bird that was at Quivira in Kansas 23 Mar (fide MT).

Whooping Crane: The only reports were of 3-5 in the e. RWB 2-14 Apr (JGJ).

Black-bellied Plover: Best count was an excellent 200 in the e. RWB 12-13 May (JGJ).

American Golden-Plover: A flock of 38 near Talmage 29 Mar (WRS) was rather early. Best count was 250, in the e. RWB 10 and 17 May (JGJ).

Snowy Plover: The only reports were of singles, possibly the same bird, at Hultine 1 May (PD) and 10 May (JGJ). This is a rare but regular spring migrant in the e. RWB.

Semipalmated Plover: Routine reports.

Piping Plover: Five migrants were reported in the east 13 Apr-19 May (JGJ, SR, TJW), and a single was at CLNWR 16-17 May (SJD), where breeding occurred in 2007.

Killdeer: First young reported were "tiny" on 15 May in Cass Co (RE), about on time.

Mountain Plover: Earliest were 3 in sw. Kimball Co 26 Mar (LS), tying the 2nd-earliest spring date; 8 others were reported there through 18 May (m. ob.).

Black-necked Stilt: Most reports were from the west as expected, earliest a single on 19 Apr in Sheridan Co (WF); easterly were singles at Hultine 26 May (JGJ) and at Funk 31 May (KS).

American Avocet: One in Scotts Bluff Co 1 Apr (BN) was a bit early, and a near-record spring count was the 192 at LNB 17 Apr (D&JP). The 2 nests, each with 4 eggs, at Hultine 31 May (PD) were two of only a handful of e. RWB breeding records.

Spotted Sandpiper: The 69 at Oliver Res 18 May (SJD) was an excellent count.

Solitary Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Greater Yellowlegs: Rather early was one in Lincoln 3 Mar (JGJ), and the 100+ in Dixon Co 17 Apr (JJ) was a good count.

Willet: Uncommon eastward, one was at Burchard L 26 Apr (WRS) and another in Douglas Co 19 Apr (UL, NL).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Routine reports.

Upland Sandpiper: One in Lincoln Co 4 Apr (TJW) was rather early, and the 20 in Lancaster Co 29 Apr (RE) was a good tally.

Whimbrel: Usually a rare spring migrant, especially in Apr, more than usual were reported: singles were at Ayr L, Adams Co, 26 Apr (PD) and WSR 27 Apr (HKH), and 9 were near Green Acres WPA, Clay Co, 11 May (JGJ).

Long-billed Curlew: An easterly surprise was one in York Co 7 Apr (AG, BG), one of only a handful of RWB records; most of which are recent.

Hudsonian Godwit: Arrival was on the early side, with 14 near Harvard 13 Apr (JGJ), and several other reports over the following few days. The 107 at Funk 18 Apr (JD fide JGJ) was a good count. Migrants are rare westward, with only about a dozen Panhandle records, and so a female near North Platte 17 Apr (TJW, details) was unexpected, as were 5 in Scotts Bluff Co 16 May (LE) and one in Morrill Co 19 May (LE).

Marbled Godwit: One in Douglas Co 25 Apr (JT), another on the DeSoto NWR spring count 3 May (fide JT), and 8 in Dixon Co 16-17 Apr (JJ) were good finds that far east.

Ruddy Turnstone: Reports have been more numerous in recent springs, and at least 27 were found 3-26 May, including 10 at Hultine 18 May (JGJ). Rarer westward, with only about 15 reports from the west half of the state, one was near Wellfleet 15 May (TJW).

Sanderling: Routine reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: This is an abundant migrant in spring in the e. RWB. A record spring count was the 3500 in the e. RWB 4 May (JGJ); 2000 were there 3 May and 2500 on 18 May (JGJ).

Western Sandpiper: Rarer in spring than in fall, the only reports were of 6 at Hultine 27 Apr (PD) and one at Funk 18 May (WRS).

Least Sandpiper: The 400 in the e. RWB 3 May (JGJ) was an excellent count.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Seven at Hultine 27 Apr (PD) were a bit early, and the 3000 in the e. RWB 19 May (JGJ) was a good count.

Baird's Sandpiper: The 1100 in the RWB 4 May (JGJ) was an excellent count.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Dunlin: Numbers of this species have been good in recent years; about 145 were reported, from Antelope Co eastward as expected, including 50 in the e. RWB 18 May (JGJ).

Stilt Sandpiper: The 2800 in the e. RWB 18 May was a record spring count; included were single-location counts of 875 at Hultine and 730 at Redhead WMA, Fillmore Co (JGJ).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: A record count was the 850 in the e. RWB 17 May, including 422 in a single field (JGJ).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Several early arrivals were reported: 6 in Burt Co 26 Apr (JJ), one calling at Hultine 27 Apr (PD) and one there 29 Apr (TJW), and 7 in Scotts Bluff Co 28 Apr (KD). A record count was the 140 in the e. RWB 12 May, including 97 at one location (JGJ).

- Long-billed Dowitcher:** A record spring count was the amazing 4750 in the e. RWB 4 May; this included 1300 at Hultine (JGJ). Hultine had a higher tally, 1377, on 3 May (JGJ). Numbers in the e. RWB dropped rapidly after early May; only 300 were found 11 May, 40 on 18 May, and one on 26 May (JGJ).
- Wilson's Snipe:** One winnowing near Talmage 7 Apr (WRS) was a surprise that far s. and e., although birds sometimes winnow during migration (*Birds of North America Online*).
- American Woodcock:** The 3 at BOL 2 Apr (JLL) and 2 in Cedar Co 12 Apr (MG) were within the expected range, but a bit westerly were 3 at Harold Anderson WMA, Howard Co, 19 Apr, where they were present last year also (SM), and 1-2 at Spencer Dam, Holt Co, 16 Apr (WF).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** A record count for the e. RWB was the 5000 there 4 May (JGJ); state spring records are from the west, highest is the 10,000 at North Platte SL 6 May 2006.
- Red-necked Phalarope:** One near North Platte 23 Apr (TJW) was 2nd-earliest on record. Rare eastward, 14 in Webster Co 15 May (LE) were unexpected.
- Franklin's Gull:** Routine reports.
- Little Gull:** One cited here for 13 Mar 2007 was in fact a Mew Gull (see that species).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** The 238 in Lincoln 8 Apr (JGJ) was a good count.
- Mew Gull:** One in Lancaster Co 13 Mar 2007 (JGJ) was incorrectly cited here as a Little Gull.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Routine reports.
- California Gull:** An adult at Capitol Beach L, Lincoln, 19 Mar (JGJ) was only the 7th spring record in the east. Reports from expected locations were one in Scotts Bluff Co 3 Apr (BN) and 3 at LM 16 May (SJD).
- Herring Gull:** Routine reports.
- Thayer's Gull:** The only report was of 3 at Johnson L 31 Mar (JGJ). Migrants (birds not noted in winter) are rarely reported.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Essentially a spring and fall migrant in Nebraska, increasing in numbers significantly in recent years, at least 4 were reported: a 2nd-year bird was at BOL 9 Mar (JGJ), 1-2 adults were at Johnson L 11-13 Mar (JGJ), and an adult was in Lincoln 19-20 Mar (JGJ).
- Glaucous Gull:** The only reports were of one at Johnson L 11 Mar (JGJ) and a rather late "near-adult" at Capitol Beach, Lincoln, 31 Mar (JGJ).
- Least Tern:** Routine reports.
- Caspian Tern:** Two at LNB 23 Apr (JGJ, MB) were rather early; 6-7 others were reported, about as expected.
- Black Tern:** Routine reports.
- Common Tern:** About 21 in all were reported 2 May (JRi), 2nd-earliest on record, through 17 May (SJD); best count was an excellent 11 at LM 16 May (SJD).
- Forster's Tern:** Routine reports.
- Rock Pigeon:** Routine reports.
- Band-tailed Pigeon:** The bird that wintered at Ceresco was last reported 22 Mar (fide MB).
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Routine reports.
- White-winged Dove:** Now regularly reported in spring and summer, there were at least 6 reports of 7 birds: one in Lincoln Co 20-23 Mar (TJW), one in North Platte 30 Mar (LBr), one in Omaha 20 Apr (RS), 1-2 in Omaha 3-23 May

(LH), one in Chadron 12 May (JF), and "at least a pair" in Fairmont 28 May (JR).

Mourning Dove: Routine reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Arrival was later than usual; first reports, both on 23 May, were from FF (JRi) and Douglas Co (TP).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Three of the 4 reports were westerly, where reports are fewer; singles were in Lincoln Co 17 May (TJW) and 31 May (TJW), in Custer Co 26 May (TH), and in Nebraska City 30 May (L&CF).

Barn Owl: Rather early were singles in Scotts Bluff Co 15 Mar (BN), Buffalo Co 16 Mar (DBe), and Broken Bow 2 Apr (TH). A night survey yielded 2-3 in cedar canyons in se. Lincoln Co 19 May (TJW).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Routine reports.

Great Horned Owl: A rather early nestling was found 25 Mar in Lincoln Co (TJW).

Snowy Owl: The last of 3-4 for the winter was in Kimball Co 26 Mar (LS), 6th-latest on record.

Burrowing Owl: Routine reports.

Barred Owl: Somewhat westerly was one in Adams Co 10 Mar (PD). A nest box in Douglas Co had 2 eggs 7 Apr (DSt).

Long-eared Owl: Three almost-fledged young were photographed in Keith Co 28 May (CWH); this species apparently nests statewide, but nests are rarely reported. The only other report was of one calling at Smith L WMA, Sheridan Co, 18 Apr (WF); nesting has occurred there.

Short-eared Owl: More than usual, 12 in all, were reported statewide.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Although long-suspected, breeding has not been proven on the Pine Ridge; thus of interest was a calling bird at Chadron SP, Dawes Co 16 Apr (JGJ). Also intriguing were 2-3 heard on a night survey in the cedar canyons of southeast Lincoln Co 19 May (TJW). There are a few records mid-Apr through early Jun in various parts of the state. Most if not all of these may be of migrants; data on departure timing of wintering birds are lacking.

Common Nighthawk: Routine reports.

Common Poorwill: The count of 3 in the cedar canyons of se. Lincoln Co 19 May was considered low (TJW); "dozens" were there in Jun 2007 (TJW).

Chuck-will's-widow: The only report was of 2 at ICSP, a regular location, 17 May (JRi).

Whip-poor-will: Routine reports.

Chimney Swift: Routine reports.

White-throated Swift: Routine reports.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Bill Huntley reported interesting hummer happenings in Keith Co; at least 2 "females" attended a Keith Co feeder 2 Jun-2 Jul and a single "female" was at another feeder 16-24 Jun. These may have been year-old birds (if indeed this species) not completing migration, as year-old birds may arrive late at breeding grounds (*Birds of North America Online*). This species has nested in Keith Co previously.

Belted Kingfisher: Two birds exhibiting "either territorial behavior or merely a dispute" were observed in Webster Co 28 Mar (WF); at this date the latter explanation is more likely, as limited Nebraska data indicate that most egg-laying is in late May and early Jun.

- Red-headed Woodpecker:** One at FF 6 Apr (CNK) was a bit early if not wintering; most arrive in the se. in late Apr.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Routine reports.
- Downy Woodpecker:** Routine reports.
- Hairy Woodpecker:** Routine reports.
- Northern Flicker:** Record late for a "Red-shafted" bird was one in Knox Co 3 May (JRi); most leave the east by mid-Apr.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** Reports were from FF and nearby, as expected; a high count of 4 at 3 locations there 14 May (JRi) and 2-3 on 24 Mar (CNK) were suggestive of at least two breeding pairs continuing in the area.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Few were reported, only about 6; earliest was on time at FF 12 May (PS).
- Western Wood-Pewee:** Routine reports.
- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** One at DeSoto NWR 3 May (JT) was rather early, while one at North Platte 27 May (TJW) was westerly. The latter was the observer's 3rd in about 7 years in Lincoln Co; this species is only casual in occurrence as far west as the Panhandle.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** The only reports were of singles at ADF 5 May (L&CF, details), a record early date, and in Cass Co 15 May (RE).
- Acadian Flycatcher:** Only one of this late-arriving species was reported, at FF 31 May (CNK).
- Alder Flycatcher:** This species (as are most species in this group) is difficult to identify unless calling, but data indicate that it is at least a fairly common spring migrant. Many reports were received 16-31 May, including a record high count of 14, 9 of which were singing, at Wilderness Park, Lincoln, 25 May (JGJ). It was "numerous" at FF 28 May (JRi) and "many" were there 31 May (CNK). Uncommon westward, a surprise was one at LO 16 May (SJD), which was rather early.
- Willow Flycatcher:** Of interest was an influx of *Empidonax* flycatchers at Riverside Park, Nebraska City, 11 May; none were calling at a time when Least Flycatchers are vocal, and medium (rather than short) primary extension length, minimal eye-rings, and small-headed appearance led the observer (WRS) to conclude these were Willow Flycatchers (or, more conservatively, Willow/Alder), rather than the expected Least Flycatchers at that date (this is also a very early date for Alder Flycatcher). Another Willow was identified in Scotts Bluff Co 11 May (KD), and a "probable" was at FF 14 May (JRi).
- Least Flycatcher:** Reports were widespread; best count was the 16 at DeSoto NWR 3 May (fide JT). Earliest in the east was at FF 1 May (JRi) and in the west in Lincoln Co 4 May (TJW) and Scotts Bluff Co 14 May (fide AK).
- Dusky Flycatcher:** Only the 5th documented spring record was a single at Oliver Res 16 May (SJD, details).
- Cordilleran Flycatcher:** Not often detected in migration, even on the Eastern Colorado Plains, the only report was of one at Scottsbluff 18 May (SJD).
- Eastern Phoebe:** One at North Platte 20 Mar (LBr) was rather early that far west; first in the east was in Pawnee Co about on time 16 Mar (JG, TEL).
- Say's Phoebe:** Record early by 4 days was one in Fillmore Co 11 Mar (JGJ); this is also easterly for this species. Another in North Platte 20 Mar (BA) was also rather early. The 12 in Sioux Co 20 Apr (KD) was an excellent count. A pair was nest-building in Broken Bow 5 May, and eggs were present by 22 May (TH).

Great Crested Flycatcher: One at ICSP 30 Apr (TJW) was rather early, as was one in Lincoln Co 5 May (TJW); arrival is usually a few days later in the west.

Cassin's Kingbird: Routine reports.

Western Kingbird: Eppley Airfield in Omaha holds a mysterious attraction for this species and other *Tyrannus* flycatchers; the earliest Western for the spring was here 27 Apr (JT) and an amazing 43 were counted 7 May (JT). First for the west was at WSR 1 May (HKH).

Eastern Kingbird: At Eppley Airfield with the 43 Westerns 7 May were only 11 Easterns (JT). Earliest was one at Burchard L 22 Apr (HY) and best count was 50 at Wehrspann L, Sarpy Co, 10 May (JWH).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Continuing its decade-long increase in Nebraska, no fewer than 6 were reported, at least two at locations where nesting occurred in 2007. One had returned to the site west of Rowe Sanctuary by 1 May (BM,RLu,KS) and one was seen at the Lincoln Airport 1 May (DL). In addition, one was in Sarpy Co 24 Apr (DS), a male was in Pawnee Co 26 Apr (WRS), one was at Eppley Airfield (where nesting may have occurred in 2007 also) 7 May (JT) and 21 May (JaG, TB, LO), and one was s. of Maxwell 12 May (TJW).

Northern Shrike: Departure is generally in Mar and early Apr; last were singles in Phelps Co 26 Mar (WF) and Buffalo Co 14 Apr (LE).

Loggerhead Shrike: First were reported in late Mar, about on time: singles were in ne. Lincoln Co (TJW), Gage Co (JG), and Saline Co (JG), all on 20 Mar.

Bell's Vireo: Earliest was timely at Wehrspann L, Douglas Co, 9 May (JWH).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Earliest was rather early at FF 25 Apr (JRi); westernmost was within the expected range at Burchard L 22 May (JGJ).

Plumbeous Vireo: Migrants were as expected in Sioux Co 17 May (fide UL) and Scotts Bluff Co 24 May (AK).

Blue-headed Vireo: Good numbers were reported, about 30, all in the east, 30 Apr (PS) through 25 May (TP,JRi).

Warbling Vireo: One was reported in FF 9 Apr (EB) and apparently the same bird again 16 and 19 Apr (JRi,EB), record early. Previous early dates were 14, 16, and 18 Apr. Arrival is later in the west; first there were 2 in Lincoln Co 6 May (TJW).

Philadelphia Vireo: Numbers were excellent, with about 15 reported in the east 12-29 May (PS, JWH), including excellent counts of 5 in Douglas Co 23 May (TP) and 4 at Wehrspann L 29 May (JWH). The 3 high counts for spring are in the short period 23-26 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: Routine reports.

Blue Jay: Many are migrants in Nebraska, but spring migration timing is not well known as flocks are not as conspicuous as in fall. A "first-of-year" arrived in Bassett 20 Apr (CH). Nest-building was underway rather early in Lancaster Co 9 Apr (LE).

Pinyon Jay: None were reported.

Black-billed Magpie: Easternmost reports were in Madison Co 1 Apr (WF), Buffalo Co 17 Apr (RE), and Harlan Co 2 Apr (G&WH).

American Crow: Routine reports.

Horned Lark: Routine reports.

Purple Martin: Earliest was a male about on time at Ogallala 3 Apr (CWH).

Tree Swallow: Singles in Lancaster Co 20 Mar (JRi) and in Harlan Co 21 Mar (G&WH) were rather early. A pair tending a nest box near Peru 7 Apr would

have been early nesters if they began soon after (WRS); earliest Nebraska nest-building is 26 Apr and egg date 6 May.

Violet-green Swallow: One in Scotts Bluff Co 26 Apr (AK) was rather early.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: One in Logan Co 5 Apr (LR,RH) was rather early.

Bank Swallow: Routine reports.

Cliff Swallow: Three at Louisville 6 Apr (JGJ) were rather early.

Barn Swallow: One in Lancaster Co 28 Mar (LE) was record early by 4 days.

Black-capped Chickadee: Routine reports.

Mountain Chickadee: In addition to at least 8 birds reported from 5 locations in fall and winter, an additional 6 at 5 locations were reported this spring, for an excellent total of at least 13, albeit fewer than the 23 or so reported in 1996-97. These were singles at 2 Ogallala feeders, 7 Jan-12 Apr (JO fide CWH) and 19 Mar (TS), Johnson L 13 Mar (LE), North Platte 20 Mar (fide TJW), near Sidney 5 Apr (AS), and in Banner Co 20 Apr (WF, details). The Johnson L bird is the easternmost on record, although one was in Dawson Co early in 1969.

Tufted Titmouse: Routine reports.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Reports were widespread well into May away from breeding areas, although no evidence for breeding was noted, except for a banded bird with a brood patch at NNF, Halsey, 17 May (RG), where breeding occurs. Latest were singles in Omaha 23 May (L&BP, TB) and Nebraska City 30 May (L&CF), the latter rather late for a non-breeding location.

White-breasted Nuthatch: One at LO 16 May was identified as *carolinensis* (SJD), the eastern subspecies, which is a relatively recent breeder westward in the North Platte Valley.

Pygmy Nuthatch: Routine reports.

Brown Creeper: One in an Omaha yard 26 Apr (LH) was rather late, if not breeding nearby; late dates where breeding is not known are 26 and 29 Apr and 2 May. Reports of singles at FF during May, including one singing on territory 9 May (JRI), are of local breeders.

Rock Wren: One at Curtis 6 Apr (RL) was rather early.

Carolina Wren: This species now occurs along most of the Republican Valley; reports were from McCook 17 May (WRS), HCR 14 Mar (LE), Franklin and Webster Cos 28 Mar (WF), and Jefferson Co 6 May (SJD). Farther north, it was reported in Adams Co 10 Mar (WF) and at Fairmont 31 Mar (JR). Northwesternly were one at Johnson L 13 Mar (LE) and 2 in Cuming Co 12 Mar (D&JP). Nest-building was in progress in Bellevue 20 Mar, but the first egg did not appear until 14 Apr (ARy); also in Bellevue, 4 young were at a suet feeder 21 May (L&BP). A nest in w. Douglas Co had 5 eggs 15 Apr (DSt).

Bewick's Wren: Only the 10th spring record since 1980 and the first in 9 years was one at a Bellevue feeder 2 May (CNK, details).

House Wren: One at FF 5 Apr (GJ) was unusually early; there are only two earlier dates with details. Birds studied at Wellfleet WMA, Lincoln Co, 17 May and Barnett Park, McCook, 18 May were brownish with no discernible mantle barring, suggesting that the eastern subspecies *aedon* occurs farther west than generally assumed. Western *parkmanii* (greyer, with barring visible on the mantle) is thought to occur in most of Nebraska (WRS).

- Winter Wren:** A few winter in the southeast, but numbers are lowest in Feb-Mar; one hardy bird was in Lincoln 7 Mar (JED). Rather late was one at FF 7 May (JRI); most depart by the end of Apr.
- Sedge Wren:** Reports were all from the east 28 Apr (JWH) through 10 May (JWH,LR,RH), suggestive of migrants, although one at Wehrspann L was "vehemently establishing his song post" 28 Apr (JWH). Breeding in Nebraska is rare prior to late Jul and Aug.
- Marsh Wren:** Routine reports.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Routine reports.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** The 20 at FF 14 Apr (CNK) was an excellent count, as was the 17 at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 17 Apr (JRI). Early for the locations were singles in Custer Co 13 Mar (LE) and in Phelps Co 27 Mar (WF).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** One at FF 12 Apr (CNK) was rather early.
- Eastern Bluebird:** Routine reports.
- Mountain Bluebird:** Adults were carrying food in Scotts Bluff Co 31 May (AK), perhaps on the early side based on meager data.
- Townsend's Solitaire:** Rare in the east, a previously-reported single was still at Forest Lawn 16 Mar (JRI); departure in the east is by late Mar.
- Veery:** Only 3 were reported: singles in Sarpy Co 9 May (KCR) and 15 May (RE), and one of few but increasing numbers of records westerly, at North Platte 31 May (TJW). Data suggest that different subspecies migrate through the east and west, with few of either subspecies occurring in cen. Nebraska.
- Gray-checked Thrush:** More than usual were reported in the east 9-23 May: about 8 (m. ob.). A single was at ADF on the very early date of 13 Apr (L&CF, details). Two were reported in the Panhandle, where rare: one near Sidney 26 Apr (AS, details) was westerly as well as rather early, and the other was n. of Oshkosh 19 May (LE). There are about 34 Panhandle records.
- Swainson's Thrush:** Three at FF 14 Apr (CNK, details) were record early by 2 days.
- Hermit Thrush:** Good numbers were reported, all in the east, with best count an excellent 5 at FF 12 Apr (CNK); they were "numerous" at FF 7 Apr (RS).
- Wood Thrush:** One at FF 26 Apr (JRI) was rather early.
- American Robin:** Rather early was a nest with eggs in Bellevue 14 Apr (ARy).
- Varied Thrush:** A male in Omaha 21-28 Apr was photographed (CHa); it was 6th-latest on record. There are only 14 records since 1991, but 9 of these are from 2005 and later.
- Gray Catbird:** Routine reports.
- Northern Mockingbird:** There are only 6 records for Feb, and early migrants appear after mid-Mar, so status of birds found 1-20 Mar is conjectural. One was in Adams Co 10 Mar (WF); the next reported was in Genoa 19 Apr (SM).
- Sage Thrasher:** One at WSR 1 May (HKH) was only about the 13th record for spring. Most sightings are of fall migrants.
- Brown Thrasher:** The wintering bird in Lincoln was still present 9 Mar (LG); overwintering is rare. A good tally of 51 was reported on the DeSoto Spring Count 3 May (fide JT).
- Curve-billed Thrasher:** There is sad news to report. The long-staying male (since Oct 2002!) at the Lonnie Frimann Ranch in extreme se. Sioux Co disappeared around 1 May, just before a severe blizzard, possibly the victim of a Sharp-shinned Hawk that was frequenting the ranch at that time. Happy

to the end, the bird had been busy singing and building a nest (LFr, fide AK, fide KD).

European Starling: High spring counts occur in early Mar, all in the east, but these may be wintering birds. Flocks of 400 and 600 were near Peru 7 and 12 Apr (WRS), and high counts away from the se. are in mid-Apr also, suggesting that migrants move through at this time. There is a strong migratory component for this species on the Great Plains, as indicated by banding returns.

American Pipit: Routine reports.

Sprague's Pipit: The only report was of one in Kearney Co 26 Apr (LB).

Bohemian Waxwing: The only report was of a flock of 20-30 at Riverside Zoo, Scottsbluff 13 Mar (BN).

Cedar Waxwing: Flocks may appear into early Jun, thought to be long-distance migrants which winter in Mexico and Central America (Robbins and Easterla, *Birds of Missouri*). A flock of 20 was at SCP 31 May (KP).

Blue-winged Warbler: This rare migrant was reported twice: 2 birds at FF 10 May (CW) and one in Cass Co 15 May (RE).

Golden-winged Warbler: An excellent spring for this species saw a total of about 12 from 9 May at FF (JRI) through 20 May at Neale Woods, Douglas Co, (L&BP). Best count was a record 3 males (possibly 4) and a female at FF 14 May (JRI) and westerly was one photographed at LO 16 May (SJD), only the 6th record from Keith Co westward.

Tennessee Warbler: One at FF 26 Apr (SF) was rather early, and the 50+ at Wehrspann L 28 May (JWH) was a good count. Generally rare in the west, a surprising 6 were reported: a male at LO 16 May (SJD), a female at West Lawn Cem, Gering, 18 May (SJD), one in Kimball Co 18 May (SJD), one in Sioux Co 18 May (DH), one in Banner Co 18 May (AK), and a single in Scotts Bluff Co 19 May (KD).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Routine reports.

Nashville Warbler: One at WGP 30 May (ME) was rather late.

Virginia's Warbler: Two were reported, both 18 May, at Oliver Res (SJD) and at West Lawn Cem, Gering, (SJD). These are the 4th and 5th documented spring records; there are 6 for fall.

Northern Parula: This species was common at FF (m. ob.); the 20-25 singing males there 1 May (JRI) was a record spring count. Farthest west were 2 at Burchard L 22 May (JGJ).

Yellow Warbler: One at North Platte 29 Apr (LBr) was rather early for that westerly location.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: This was a great spring for this normally uncommon eastern migrant, especially at WGP, where 20+ were tallied 23 May (L&BP, TB); about 45 were reported in all. Westerly stragglers were 2 at Burchard L 22 May (JGJ), one in Hastings 31 May (PD), and farthest west, one in McCook 17 May (WRS).

Magnolia Warbler: This species also was in good numbers, with about 30 reported in all; best count was an excellent 5 at Burchard L 22 May (JGJ). Westerly were a single at Hastings 12 May (PD) and 2 there 31 May (PD).

Cape May Warbler: The only sighting of this rare migrant was of one at WP 13 May (LE).

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler: Singles in Kimball and Banner Cos 20 Apr (WF) were rather early; earliest dates are 12, 12, and 13 Apr.

- Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** Non-wintering birds appear in mid-Mar; 3 were rather early at Arnold L SRA, Custer Co, 11 Mar (JGJ), where wintering is unlikely.
- Black-throated Gray Warbler:** Surprisingly, two were reported, only the 3rd and 4th spring records: one was seen at WSR 12 May (HKH) and a male was photographed at CLNWR 16 May (SJD). There are 3 fall records.
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** In contrast to 2007, when only one was reported, 9 were found this spring 10-23 May (m.ob.), a good showing. Of these, 4 were found on the Sarpy Co Spring Count 10 May (fide CNK). A correction: the one reported in spring 2007 (TP) was in Lancaster Co, not Douglas, as stated in the 2007 Spring Report.
- Blackburnian Warbler:** Another migrant species in excellent numbers, including a record tally of 15 at WGP 23 May (L&BP,TB). About 45 were reported in all, none west of Lincoln, where singles were seen 22 May (JGJ), 25 May (JGJ), and 27 May (LE).
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** Earliest were 2 at FF 19 Apr (RS), about on time. Best count was 4 there 14 May (JRi); none were reported elsewhere.
- Grace's Warbler:** Nebraska's first was a great find at CLNWR 4 May (CG, photos, details). This species occurs north and east to s.-cen. Colorado, but this Nebraska record appears to be the first north and east of the normal range for the species.
- Palm Warbler:** There are only 8 Panhandle records, and so one as far west as Lincoln Co 3 May (TJW) was unexpected.
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** This is a rare spring migrant, thus it may not be surprising that none were reported, despite good numbers of other uncommon migrant warblers. A correction: the one reported in spring 2007 (TP) was in Lancaster Co, not Douglas, as stated in the 2007 Spring Report.
- Blackpoll Warbler:** Normally a fairly common spring migrant statewide, numbers reported were about average, a total of about 65, with best counts only moderate: 7 at Burchard L 22 May (JGJ) and 6 at WGP 23 May (L&BP,TB). A male at Sidney 19 Apr (AS) was rather early.
- Cerulean Warbler:** Only 2 were reported: singles at Schramm SP, Sarpy Co, 10 May (D&JP) and on the DeSoto NWR Spring Count 3 May (fide JT). The long-standing singing male(s) at Hummel Park, Omaha, were not reported this spring.
- Black-and-white Warbler:** Good numbers were reported, including a tally of 10 by 2 veteran observers for the season, considered "the most we've seen in years" (L&BP).
- American Redstart:** One at FF 25 Apr (JRi) was only a week away from record early. Females and immatures arrive later than males; the 8 at Burchard L 22 May included no adult males (JGJ). Of interest was the presence of a pair in a nw. Scottsbluff yard 31 May (AK); breeding occurs in the Pine Ridge, but is unconfirmed in Scotts Bluff Co, despite sporadic summer records since 1999.
- Prothonotary Warbler:** Two were singing at FF 18 May (L&BP) and 4 birds were reported there 16 May (JRi), suggesting 2 pairs may have been present. The only reports away from FF were of 3 on the DeSoto NWR Spring Count 3 May (fide JT) and one in Elmwood Park, Omaha, 9 May (JED).
- Worm-eating Warbler:** At least 2 of this casual spring migrant were reported: one was at FF 10 May (CW), likely the same bird that was there 23 and 28 May (JRi), and the other was a window-killed bird in Omaha 20 May (JED).

Ovenbird: Routine reports.

Northern Waterthrush: Routine reports.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Rather early were 2 at Platte River SP, Cass Co, 6 Apr (JGJ); there are late Mar arrival dates for this species.

Kentucky Warbler: Few were reported; earliest was a single in a Bellevue yard 11-13 May (DBr).

Connecticut Warbler: As one of the rarer regular warbler migrants, a surprising 3 were reported: one at WGP 24 May (L&BP), a female at FF 28 May (JRi), and a male there 31 May (CNK, details).

Mourning Warbler: Numbers were good; a total of about 30 was reported, all but two from the east, including an excellent 6 at FF 23 May (JRi). Westerly, where rare, was one at LO 16 May (SJD), and only the 4th Panhandle record was one n. of Oshkosh 19 May (LE). There are only about a dozen records from Lincoln Co west.

MacGillivray's Warbler: None were reported, rather surprisingly, as this is a fairly common migrant in the west.

Common Yellowthroat: One in Douglas Co 23 Apr (KDa) was rather early. The 30 at Wehrspann L 11 May (JWH) was a good tally.

Hooded Warbler: It is almost a given that at least one appears in the state each spring, although entirely unpredictable as to where; this spring one was at Elmwood Park, Omaha, 9 May (JED) and another (male with possible female) at Neale Woods, Douglas Co, 15 May (CR, details).

Wilson's Warbler: They came early and stayed late! Although the total number of this statewide migrant was about average for spring, about 50, one in Sioux Co 20 Apr (KD) was 4th-earliest on record, and another at WGP 30 May (ME) was about the 10th-latest on record.

Canada Warbler: Also in average numbers, albeit only 4-7, singles were reported at FF 18 May (DD, L&BP), 21 and 23 May (JRi), near Walton 23 and 25 May (TP), and at Hummel Park, Omaha, 24 May (JRi).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Migrants are found on occasion east to cen. Nebraska, but more than usual were found eastward this year, notably singles in York Co 13 May (JGJ), and 3 in Adams Co 13, 19, and 31 May (PD). On a 19 May night survey of the cedar canyons in se. Lincoln Co, "a bunch" were heard (TJW).

Summer Tanager: As in recent years, reports were numerous and widespread in the east; ICSP is a stronghold for this species, with individuals "everywhere" 17 May (JRi). An adult male was at FF rather early 1 May (JRi), with reports there of single birds through 19 May (JRi, L&BP, NFa) and an excellent tally of 3 there 14 May (JRi). A pair was at Hummel Park, Omaha, 20 May (L&BP). One was westerly in York Co 13 May (JGr), and a mottled 1st-year male was at WP 11 May (MUs).

Scarlet Tanager: One in a Bellevue yard 10 May was molting (L&BP); this is an odd time for molt in this species.

Western Tanager: No fewer than 3 were found in the east, 2 of these on very early dates. A male was photographed at Plattsmouth 26 Apr (KSc), a record early date, another was photographed in Benedict 2 May (WC), and a third was in Omaha 19 May (CC).

Green-tailed Towhee: None were reported; this is a rare, regular spring migrant in the Panhandle.

Spotted Towhee: Routine reports.

Eastern Towhee: The 12 in Cass Co 15 May (RE) was a record spring tally.

Cassin's Sparrow: None were reported; this is a somewhat erratic, late spring arriver, however.

American Tree Sparrow: Routine reports.

Chipping Sparrow: An early egg date was provided by a nest with eggs in Hall Co 6 May (DK).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Routine reports.

Brewer's Sparrow: Record numbers were tallied in the s. Panhandle 18 May: 28 in Kimball Co and 42 in Banner Co (SJD).

Field Sparrow: One in Gage Co 20 Mar (JG) was rather early; wintering is only occasional. Rare in the Panhandle, one was at West Lawn Cem, Gering, 18 May (SJD). A good number was the 41 on the DeSoto NWR Spring Count 2 May (fide JT).

Vesper Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lark Sparrow: The 75 in Holt Co 11 May (JJ) was an excellent count.

Sage Sparrow: Details were provided for a "possible" Sage Sparrow north of CLNWR 15 May (DL). There is a single accepted record for Nebraska, 6 Aug 1989 in Sioux Co (DSt), and another report (not accepted by NOURC), also in Sioux Co.

Lark Bunting: Singles in Lincoln Co 19 Apr (BGf, CN) were a bit on the early side.

Savannah Sparrow: One in Kearney Co 9 Mar was the earliest spring date with tangible documentary evidence (PS, photo). This species may over-winter on occasion in Nebraska, although this has not been documented. There are a few documented mid-winter records.

Grasshopper Sparrow: One in McPherson Co 14 Apr (TJW) was rather early for that westerly location; the same observer found one there 7 Apr 2005.

Henslow's Sparrow: Only 2 were reported: singles were in a CRP field at Twin Oaks WMA, Johnson Co, 15 May (CNK) and at SCP 20 May (KP).

Le Conte's Sparrow: Routine reports.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: None were reported; special search is usually needed to find this late May migrant.

Fox Sparrow: The 17 at FF 12 Apr (CNK) was a good count. One at LO 1 May (RE) was rather late, as well as westerly. There are no documented Panhandle records.

Song Sparrow: One was singing on territory at Peru SL rather early 29 Mar (WRS); 2 were there 7 Apr (WRS). Breeding has not been documented in the Republican Valley, but the breeding range has been extending southward in recent years, and so a bird singing on territory at Barnett Park, McCook, 18 May (WRS) may indicate expansion into the area.

Lincoln's Sparrow: One at Johnson L 13 Mar (LE) was rather early.

Swamp Sparrow: One at Neale Woods, Washington Co, 24 Mar (CHy) was rather early.

White-throated Sparrow: Routine reports.

Harris's Sparrow: Rarer westward, one was in a yard near Morrill 31 Mar and 28 Apr (KD), and 8 were at North Platte 24-28 Apr (TJW).

White-crowned Sparrow: Routine reports.

Golden-crowned Sparrow: Nebraska's 5th was seen 1-4 May by several observers in the Curtis Keck yard in Creighton (MB, photos). This is only the 2nd documented spring record, along with 3 for fall. There are 4 additional

undocumented, possibly correct, spring records, and out of the 6, 4 are in the period 30 Apr-7 May.

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: One banded at NNF, Halsey 18 May was the latest ever banded by the veteran bander (RG); latest dates for this form are in early Jun. Counts of "100+" at FF 21 Mar (CNK), Standing Bear L, Omaha 27 Mar (JRI), and Forest Lawn 3 Apr (JRI) were excellent spring tallies.

McCown's Longspur: The "several hundred" in Kimball Co 17 Apr (JGJ) was a good count; high spring counts are in the 2000 range.

Lapland Longspur: The 6500 in Thurston Co 2 Mar (JJ) was an excellent count. Close was the 6000 in Dixon Co 4 Mar (JJ) and 5000 there 1 Mar (JJ).

Smith's Longspur: The only report was of a brief look at 3 birds with "buffy underparts" among large numbers of Laplands Longspurs in Thurston Co 2 Mar (JJ); this would be the earliest by about 3 weeks of only about 13 spring records in all.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: That this species occurs eastward with some regularity (rarely in the east) is indicated mostly by sightings after blizzards, but 2 in Adams Co 21 Apr were in short, grassy alfalfa (PD).

Snow Bunting: None were reported; latest dates are in early Mar.

Northern Cardinal: Somewhat scattered in its distribution in n.-cen. Nebraska, this species is "spreading out" in the sandhills of Rock Co, whereas previously it was generally found among pines and spruces (CH). Nest-building was underway in Omaha 25 Apr (SN), about on time.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: A rare spring migrant in the Panhandle, a surprising 4 were reported: singles in Scotts Bluff Co 17 May (AK), Banner Co 18 May (LE), Box Butte Co 18 May (LE), and Cheyenne Co 20 May (LE).

Black-headed Grosbeak: Routine reports.

Blue Grosbeak: Routine reports.

Lazuli Bunting: This species continues to provide multiple eastern sightings; this spring a male was in sw. Dixon Co 13-14 May (JJ), singles were near Valley 18 May (TM) and in Papillion 26 May (G&BC), and 2 were at SCP 31 May (KP).

Indigo Bunting: A hybrid male was at LO 16 May (SJD).

Painted Bunting: Only the 16th and 17th records for the state were a male at DeWeese with Chipping Sparrows 12 May (PD) and a green-backed female or immature at Kearney 14 May (KS).

Dickcissel: Two at North Platte 21 May (TJW) were westerly at that date.

Bobolink: One in Lancaster Co 1 May (JGJ) was rather early.

Red-winged Blackbird: Routine reports.

Eastern Meadowlark: One singing in Douglas Co 13 Mar (JM) provided a rather early song; another near North Platte 29 Mar (TJW) was rather early that far west.

Western Meadowlark: Routine reports.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Arrivals were about on time, led by 5 at Hultine 24 Mar (PD).

Rusty Blackbird: Routine reports.

Brewer's Blackbird: Routine reports.

Common Grackle: Two in Wayne Co 9 Mar (JJ) were rather early that far north; another was in Madison 16 Mar (WF).

Great-tailed Grackle: A mixed-gender flock of 10 was rather early at Columbus 1 Mar (WF); most early blackbirds are single males. A flock of 50 in Scotts

Bluff Co 29 Apr (KD) was an unusual number there. Two nests, one with eggs, were at Hultine 31 May (PD).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Routine reports.

Orchard Oriole: Routine reports.

Baltimore Oriole: First reported was in Bellevue 23 Apr (KCR), about a week later than earliest dates. Rare in the Panhandle, but apparently increasing recently, one was in a Sidney yard 6 May and 3 were there 12 May (AS). Another was in a Scotts Bluff Co yard 14 May (KD). A good tally at a single location was the 38 in Adams Co 13 May (PD).

Bullock's Oriole: A few were reported in the Panhandle beginning 12 May (AS,KD), but first reported was a singing male a little easterly near Brady 7 May (TJW). There are very few documented reports east of the Panhandle.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch: The only report was of one atop the Scotts Bluff NM 1 Mar (JC, fide AK).

Purple Finch: The large winter influx was reflected in the good numbers persisting into spring statewide, including a count of 65 in Lancaster Co 28 Mar (LE). Five were westerly at Ash Hollow SHP, Garden Co, 13 Mar (JGJ). Most departed by the end of Apr, but one was found on the Sarpy Co Spring Count 10 May (CNK) and a pair at a Dodge Co feeder persisted until "mid-May" (D&JP).

Cassin's Finch: The only report of this rare visitor was of one in s. Scotts Bluff Co 11-12 May (AK).

House Finch: Routine reports.

Red Crossbill: Small groups were reported statewide throughout the period; latest easterly reports were of 6 at Neale Woods, Douglas Co, 28 Apr (PS), 11 in Hastings 15 May (PD), 2 in Alma 25 May (G&WH), and 10 in Holt Co 26 May (LR,RH). Best count was 20 at Forest Lawn 17 Apr (JRi).

White-winged Crossbill: Occurrences of this species in Nebraska are erratic with most records in incursion years, most recently 2005; a female was with a small flock of Red Crossbills in Omaha 13 Mar (CHy), only the 3rd record since 1981 outside an incursion year.

Common Redpoll: None were reported; the few reports this winter were in Dec-Jan.

Pine Siskin: This species was widespread in good numbers, and persisted statewide well into May, with several instances of breeding or probable breeding. A female was carrying nest material in Broken Bow 15 Apr (TH), several still at Forest Lawn 16 May were thought to be nesting (JRi), and a nest was found in a blue spruce at Parkview Cem, Hastings, 16 May (PD). Several birds banded at NNF, Halsey, 17 May had brood patches (RG); siskins are regular breeders there. Best count was the 50 in a Sidney yard 5 Apr (AS), where the species has bred previously.

Lesser Goldfinch: A surprising 3 were reported, including the two earliest on record: one in a yard s. of Gering 15 Mar (AK) and another in a yard near Morrill 28 Apr (KD). The 3rd, only about the 20th for the state, was a black-backed male in a Morrill yard 27 May (ECT). This species is being reported more often in recent years, notably at earlier and later dates.

American Goldfinch: Routine reports.

House Sparrow: Routine reports.

Endangered Species Responses to Natural Habitat Declines:
Nebraska's Interior Least Terns (*Sternula antillarum athalassos*)
and Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) Nesting in a
Human-created Habitat

Mary Bomberger Brown ^{1,4}, Joel G. Jorgensen ², and Sarah E. Rehme ^{2,3}

¹ Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership
153 Hardin Hall
3310 Holdrege Street
Lincoln, NE 68583
mbrown9@unl.edu

² Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
2200 North 33rd Street
Lincoln, NE 68503
joel.jorgensen@nebraska.gov

³ Current address: School of Natural Resources
244 Hardin Hall
3310 Holdrege Street
Lincoln, NE 68583
srehme@neb.rr.com

⁴ Corresponding author

Formerly, state and federally endangered Interior Least Terns (*Sternula antillarum athalassos*) and state and federally threatened Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) nested on sandbars in rivers, as well as on other sandy beach habitat (Hardy 1957; Haig 1992; Kirsch 1992; Ziewitz et al. 1992; Thompson et al. 1997). In Nebraska, the birds primarily used sandbars in the Platte, Loup, Elkhorn, Niobrara, and Missouri rivers (Sharpe et al. 2001). These sandbars were created and maintained by river flow and regular flooding events. Despite the frequent scouring, reshaping and relocation of the sandbars, nesting habitat was consistently available to the birds in these river systems. With recent human-caused modifications to annual river flow, river bed and bank structure, and emergent vegetation, the number of river sandbars that are suitable for nesting has been greatly reduced (Haig 1992; Ziewitz et al. 1992; Wilson et al. 1993; Thompson et al. 1997; NRC 2005).

In recent decades, Least Terns and Piping Plovers have used human-created habitats for nesting, although they still use river sandbars when they are available (Haig 1992; Thompson et al. 1997). During the last several decades, the birds have nested on human-created sites such as sand spill piles at sand and gravel mines, fly-ash piles at electrical power-generating plants, gravel and tar rooftops, and lakeshore-sandy beach housing developments (Ducey 1982; Haig 1992; Kirsch 1992; Ziewitz

et al. 1992; Wilson et al. 1993; Thompson et al. 1997; Forys and Borboen-Abrams 2006). In eastern Nebraska, economic growth near human population centers has increased the attractiveness of lakeshore housing developments to investors. In the past, retired sand and gravel mines were converted into lakeshore housing developments. Recently, however, developers have bypassed the mine stage and are excavating the lakes directly for housing developments.

As terns and plovers use human-created and human-dominated habitats with increasing frequency, the importance of these areas to conservation and management becomes more critical. Threats to nests, chicks, and adults may be quite different at these sites than at river nesting sites or sand and gravel mines because of different human uses. Reliable nesting data are essential for the development of effective protocols to secure and recover the populations of these two protected species. Here we report the results of one nesting season at a human-created site along the lower Platte River.

Methods

The study site is located adjacent to the Platte River, near North Bend, Dodge County, Nebraska. It consists of a human-created sandpit lake surrounded by an expanse of sparsely vegetated and bare sand. Houses and other structures, in various stages of completion, are distributed around the lake with extensive areas of open sand between the structures (see Figure 1). The Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership (Partnership) worked cooperatively with lot owners and the developer to limit conflicts between these two protected species and people. Partnership personnel located nests, marked nest clusters with signs, and occasionally roped off areas so that people would not disturb nesting birds.

The study site was visited every 1–4 days from 12 June through 1 August 2007. The entire area was surveyed, and we attempted to locate all Least Tern and Piping Plover nests. During each visit, Partnership personnel also assessed the effectiveness of protection measures and whether any nests had been disturbed. The GPS coordinates of each nest were recorded. Eggs were floated when each nest was first located to determine the date of nest initiation (Hays and LeCroy 1971). Nests were otherwise undisturbed during incubation. Clutch size, defined as the maximum number of eggs found in the nest, was recorded.

Least Terns typically lay three eggs and incubate for 25 days (Thompson et al. 1997). Piping Plovers typically lay four eggs and incubate for 28 days (Haig 1992). The expected hatching date was extrapolated from the nest initiation date. All of the following analyses use the expected hatching date rather than the actual hatching date. Nests were observed on the expected hatching date to determine the hatching success. Hatching success was inferred by the presence of unhatched eggs, egg shells, or nestlings in the nest. Hatching success was defined as the number of eggs or the percentage of the clutch that hatched. After hatching began, the study site was surveyed to locate broods being attended by adults and dependent juveniles. We were not able accurately to assess the number of fledglings produced from the site due to logistical and methodological limitations.

To analyze nesting synchrony or how closely in time eggs within and between clusters hatched, the standard deviation (SD) of the modal hatching date for all tern nests at the study site was calculated. Each nest was then assigned, based on its hatching date, as within ± 1 SD, within ± 2 SD, etc. If more nests hatch near the modal hatching date or within ± 1 SD of the mode, it implies more synchronous nesting (see Brown and Brown 1996: 35–36 for additional details on this technique for describing synchrony).

Most of the following analysis and discussion is focused on the Least Tern nesting data. Due to a very small sample size (five nests), our Piping Plover data analyses are largely anecdotal.

Using GPS coordinates, nest nearest-neighbor distance was calculated using ArcGIS 9.2 (ESRI 2006). All statistics were calculated using Prism 3.02 (GraphPad Prism 2000). Due to small sample sizes, all statistical tests were non-parametric. Statistical significance was set at $P < 0.05$.

We analyzed our data using correlation. This statistic provides a measure of how associated two variables are. Correlation is represented by the term r_s and ranges from -1 to +1. If the association is weak, r_s will be near 0. As the association becomes stronger r_s will diverge from 0; r_s values of -1 and +1 represent perfect association. Positive values of r_s occur when both variables in the association increase. Negative values of r_s occur when one value in the association increases while the other decreases. A statistically significant value of r_s refers to the closeness of the association. P is the significance level and represents our confidence in the association. N is the sample size and indicates how many values were used in the calculation. SE is the standard error of the mean and provides us with a confidence interval around the mean.

No birds were handled and no nests or eggs were damaged or destroyed by Partnership or Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) personnel as a consequence of data collection.

Results

A total of 67 Least Tern and five Piping Plover nests was found at the study site. The nests were distributed around the lake in eight clusters. The clusters were separated by water, roads, buildings, elevation, or vegetation. The clusters ranged in size from 2–18 nests (Table 1). One Piping Plover nest was located in each of four clusters (3, 17, 7, 7 Least Tern nests). One Piping Plover nest was isolated from all other nests (Table 2). One Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) nest was located in one cluster (13 Least Tern nests). Three clusters consisted of Least Terns only (10, 2, 8 Least Tern nests). At least 9 incidents of human disturbance within nest clusters were noted, including two incidents of vehicles having been driven into nesting areas. The death of one Least Tern chick, caused by human encroachment into a nesting area, was noted. Incidents of human disturbance were reported to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement.

Table 1. Least Tern variables at a housing development near North Bend, Dodge County, Nebraska, 2007.

	Modal Hatch Date	Clutch Size ^a	Number Hatched ^a	Percent Hatched ^a	Nearest Neighbor ^b	Total Eggs	Total Hatched	Number of Nests	Mean Hatch Date ^c	Hatch Date Range ^d
Cluster 1	20-Jun	2.5 ± 0.2	1.7 ± 0.2	71.6 ± 10.0	15.7 ± 3.4	25	17	10	53.6 ± 2.2	25
Cluster 2	23-Jun	2.7 ± 0.3	1.0 ± 1.0	33.3 ± 33.3	34.2 ± 14.2	8	3	3	58.3 ± 5.9	20
Cluster 3	19-Jun	2.8 ± 0.1	1.9 ± 0.3	67.6 ± 10.2	14.5 ± 1.8	48	33	17	52.8 ± 2.1	27
Cluster 4	19-Jun	2.7 ± 1.3	1.4 ± 0.3	52.6 ± 11.6	13.4 ± 1.2	35	18	13	52.3 ± 2.4	34
Cluster 5	24-Jun	2.6 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.5	35.7 ± 18.0	16.8 ± 2.4	18	6	7	59.0 ± 6.5	42
Cluster 6	5-Jul	3.0 ± 0.0	3.0 ± 0.0	100.0 ± 0.0	43.0 ± 0.0	6	6	2	65.5 ± 0.5	2
Cluster 7	25-Jun	2.1 ± 0.3	1.3 ± 0.5	45.3 ± 17.3	29.3 ± 4.7	15	9	7	56.0 ± 2.1	14
Cluster 8	20-Jun	2.6 ± 0.2	1.8 ± 0.5	62.5 ± 18.3	14.3 ± 1.7	21	14	8	54.3 ± 3.0	20
Total	24-Jun	2.6 ± 0.1	1.6 ± 0.2	58.5 ± 5.3	17.9 ± 1.4	176	106	67	54.6 ± 1.2	42

^a = mean ± 1SE

^b = mean ± 1SE, meters

^c = mean ± 1SE, 1 May = 001, 1 June = 032, 1 July = 062

^d = number of days between first and last egg hatching

Based on egg-floating nest age estimates, all Least Tern nests at the study site were initiated between 20 May and 18 June. Eight nests did not hatch due to predation or abandonment by the adults. The remaining tern nests hatched between 12 June and 24 July, a span of 42 days. Of the 67 tern nests located, 48 (72%) hatched at least one egg and 19 (28%) did not hatch. Thirty-four of the 48 (71%) tern nests hatched during the first 12 days of the hatching period. The remaining 14 nests (29%) hatched over the following 30 days. Within the eight clusters, hatching spanned 2–42 days.

Among all tern nests, there was no statistically significant correlation between hatch dates and clutch size ($r_s = -0.137$, $P = 0.275$, $N = 66$), number of eggs hatched ($r_s = -0.038$, $P = 0.762$, $N = 66$) or percent of the clutch hatched ($r_s = -0.039$, $P = 0.759$, $N = 66$). This suggests that clutches initiated later in the season, which may be second nesting attempts by adults possibly in poorer condition, are not smaller in size nor are the eggs less fertile.

Hatching synchrony for terns across all clusters, as measured by modal hatch date SD was not correlated with clutch size ($r_s = -0.016$, $P = 0.217$, $N = 67$), number of eggs hatched ($r_s = -0.084$, $P = 0.498$, $N = 67$), or percent of clutch hatched ($r_s = -0.078$, $P = 0.532$, $N = 67$). This suggests that hatching in temporal proximity to others was not necessarily advantageous to the birds.

Nest density within the tern clusters, as reflected by nearest-neighbor distance, was not correlated with clutch size ($r_s = 0.022$, $P = 0.858$, $N = 67$), number of eggs

Table 2. Piping Plover nest variables at a housing development near North Bend, Dodge County, Nebraska, 2007.

	Hatch Date	Clutch Size	Number Hatched	Percent Hatched	Nearest Neighbor ^a	Cluster Size ^b
Solitary	25-Jun	4	4	100.0	N/A	0
Cluster 2	12-Jun	4	0	0.0	27.4	3
Cluster 3	26-Jun	4	4	100.0	11	17
Cluster 5	6-Jul	4	0	0.0	33.4	7
Cluster 7	22-Jun	4	4	100.0	20	7

^a = meters, measured to nearest Least Tern nest

^b = number of Least Tern nests

hatched ($r_s = -0.009$, $P = 0.944$, $N = 67$), or percent of clutch hatched ($r_s = -0.061$, $P = 0.623$, $N = 67$). This suggests that the proximity of other active nests does not influence the success of a specific nest or the success of the cluster as a whole. Nearest-neighbor distance and hatch date were positively correlated ($r_s = 0.468$, $P < 0.0001$, $N = 67$). Nests initiated later in the season, which may be second nesting attempts, begin after broods in nearby nests have left the immediate area so the nests, by necessity, are spaced more widely.

The number of tern nests in each cluster was not significantly correlated with clutch size ($r_s = -0.311$, $P = 0.462$, $N = 8$), number of eggs hatched ($r_s = 0.192$, $P = 0.665$, $N = 8$), or the percent of clutch hatched ($r_s = 0.204$, $P = 0.619$, $N = 8$). This suggests that the presence of other nests in close proximity does not affect the success of a nest. There was a significant negative correlation between the number of nests in each cluster and the nearest-neighbor distance ($r_s = -0.874$, $P = 0.007$, $N = 8$). When the number of nests in an area seen as suitable for nesting by the birds increases, the nearest neighbor distance decreases.

The correlation between Least Tern nest hatching date and Piping Plover hatching date, for the four clusters with plovers present, was not significant ($r_s = -0.675$, $P > 0.05$, $N = 4$). This suggests that the terns and plovers initiated nesting independently. The number of terns in the four clusters with plovers was not significantly correlated with the plovers' hatching date ($r_s = 0.000$, $P = 1.05$, $N = 5$), the plovers' clutch size ($r_s = 0.7071$, $P = 0.233$, $N = 5$) or the number of plover eggs hatched ($r_s = -0.408$, $P = 0.5167$, $N = 5$). This suggests that the presence of terns does not influence the nesting success of the plovers.

Discussion

Birds are generally thought to aggregate their nests, either to avoid predation via increased vigilance and deterrence of predators by conspecifics, to increase foraging efficiency, or to exploit a limited habitat (Alexander 1974; Brown and Brown 2001). Even though our analyses are based on only one study site for one nesting season with small sample sizes, several patterns are apparent. It appears that the number of conspecifics nesting nearby (in the same nest cluster) does not affect the nesting success of Least Terns, at least to the egg-hatching stage. Our analyses did not include actual fledging data, so there may be a conspecific effect after broods leave the nest area that we did not detect. One might expect that birds nesting in larger groups or in close proximity to others would be more successful due to the presence of more individuals watching for predators. This increase in nesting success was seen in a large (500-nest) Least Tern colony in Connecticut (Brunton 1997). At our study site, terns nesting in smaller clusters or less densely packed clusters were not more or less successful than terns nesting in larger or more densely paced clusters. The colony size and cluster sizes at our study site may have been too small for the anti-predator effect to be apparent. Kirsch (1992) reported that nesting success varies widely between nesting sites in the lower Platte River. This suggests that the effects of nest clustering may also vary. Further research is needed to clarify this issue. It has been suggested that the less aggressive plovers nest in close proximity to the terns, presumably for the advantage of increased predator avoidance and deterrence (Haig 1992). The small number of plover nests at our study site did not allow us to address this question.

Our data suggest, but do not demonstrate conclusively, that terns aggregate their nests due to limited habitat availability. Burger (1984) predicts that the loss of suitable nesting habitat will result in a decrease in the number of Least Tern colonies and an increase in the size of those colonies. Parham's (2007) analysis of suitable sandbar nesting habitat in the lower Platte River (1954–2004) showed that the availability of such habitat has declined above the confluence with the Elkhorn River, particularly in the last 10 years (1996–2005). Nesting on river sandbars in this area is now infrequent, with nesting recorded in only three years from 1996–2005, and there are no records from the past four years (Dinan 2005, Jorgensen 2006, 2007; Parham 2007; NPGC unpubl. data). During 2007, no sandbar nesting habitat was available to the birds within the lower Platte River during late May and June because all sandbars were submerged by high water flow (approximately 12,000 cfs, 13 June 2007 at North Bend USGS gauge). Parham (2007) estimated that optimum habitat forming flows are 38,170 cfs. Flows of this magnitude or greater have not occurred in this reach of the lower Platte River since 1999 (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov>). The long-term reduction of river habitat coupled with short-term high water flows very likely contributed to the increase in the number of birds nesting on off-river sites, such as the lakeshore housing development near North Bend.



Figure 1. Piping Plover nest at a lakeshore housing development in eastern Nebraska, 2007. Image shows close proximity of a threatened species to human activity. Note the nest with protective caging to the left, a “do not enter” sign, a rope cordoning off the nesting area, and a house with construction workers in the background.

The consequences of more birds nesting in fewer but larger groups are unknown but likely to be negative. Large numbers of adults, eggs, and chicks may be lost simultaneously due to disease, predation, human disturbance, or stochastic events. Even though our visits were limited and we were present only for short periods of time, high rates of human disturbance, including direct chick mortality, were observed, despite knowledgeable residents and marking nest clusters with signs. Clearly, making suitable nesting habitat available for these two vulnerable species is critically important (Ziewitz et al. 1992). Unfortunately, human-created nesting sites are ephemeral for the birds. In time, structures will occupy most available space at housing developments, and sand spill piles at mines may become overgrown with vegetation (Wilson et al. 1993).

Maintaining water flow adequate to create and maintain river sandbars must be included in any management plan for these two species (Thompson et al. 1997). Unless more usable river sandbars are made available to the birds for nesting, they will be forced to continue nesting at these man-made sites, with uncertain consequences for their survival.

Acknowledgements

Funding was provided by The Nebraska Environmental Trust (grant 05-164) and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. We thank Charles R. Brown, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Alice Heckman, Paul A. Johnsgard, Martha Tacha, and Chris Thody for useful comments on the manuscript. We thank Bob Virgl, Glenn Baumert, and the members of the homeowner's association for their assistance and cooperation. We also thank Robin Smith for assistance in the field.

Literature Cited

- Alexander, R. D. "The Evolution of Social Behavior." *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics* 5 (1974): 325–383.
- Brown, C. R. and M. B. Brown. *Coloniality in the Cliff Swallow: The Effect of Group Size on Social Behavior*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.
- Brown, C. R. and M. B. Brown. "Avian Coloniality: Progress and Problems." *Current Ornithology* 16 (2001): 1–82.
- Brunton, D. H. "Impacts of Predators: Center Nests are Less Successful than Edge Nests in a Large Nesting Colony of Least Terns." *Condor* 99 (1997): 372–380.
- Burger, J. "Colony Stability in Least Terns." *Condor* 86 (1984): 61–67.
- Dinan, J.J. "The 2004 Least Tern and Piping Plover Nesting Survey. W-15-R Segment 61 Annual Report, 2004–05." Lincoln: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2005.
- Ducey, J. "The 1982 Least Tern and Piping Plover Breeding Season on the Lower Platte River, Nebraska." *The Nebraska Bird Review* 50 (1982): 68–72.

- ESRI. ArcGIS 9.2 software. Redlands, CA: ESRI, 2006.
- Haig, S. M. "Piping Plover." *The Birds of North America*, No. 2. Eds. A. Poole, P. Stettenheim, and F. Gill. Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington D.C.: The American Ornithologists' Union, 1992.
- Hardy, J. W. "The Least Tern in the Mississippi Valley." *Publications of the Museum of Michigan State University Biology Series* 1 (1957): 1–60.
- Hays, H. and M. LeCroy. "Field Criteria for Determining Incubation Stage in Eggs of the Common Tern." *Wilson Bulletin* 83 (1971): 425–429.
- Jorgensen, J.G. "2006 Lower Platte River Least Tern and Piping Plover Nesting Survey. W-15-R Segment 61 Annual Report, 2005–06." Lincoln: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2006.
- Jorgensen, J.G. "2007 Lower Platte River Least Tern and Piping Plover Nesting Survey. W-15-R Segment 61 Annual Report, 2006–07." Lincoln: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2007.
- Kirsch, E. M. "Habitat Selection and Productivity of Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) on the Lower Platte River, Nebraska." PhD dissertation. University of Montana, Missoula, MT, 1992.
- National Research Council of the National Academies (NRC). *Endangered and Threatened Species of the Platte River*. Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press, 2005.
- Parham, J.E. "Hydrologic Analysis of the Lower Platte River from 1954–2004, with Special Emphasis on Habitats of the Endangered Least Tern, Piping Plover, and Pallid Sturgeon." Lincoln, NE: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2007.
- Sharpe, R.S., W.R. Silcock, and J.G. Jorgensen. *Birds of Nebraska: Their Distribution and Temporal Occurrence*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2001.
- Thompson, B. C., J. A. Jackson, J. Burger, L. A. Hill, E. M. Kirsch, and J. L. Atwood. "Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*)." *The Birds of North America*, No. 290. Eds. A. Poole and F. Gill. Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington D.C.: The American Ornithologists' Union, 1997.
- Wilson, E. C., W. A. Hubert, and S. H. Anderson. "Nesting and Foraging of Least Terns on Sand Pits in Central Nebraska." *Southwestern Naturalist* 38 (1993): 9–14.
- Ziewitz, J. W., J. G. Sidle, and J. J. Dinan. "Habitat Conservation for Nesting Least Terns and Piping Plovers on the Platte River, Nebraska." *Prairie Naturalist* 24 (1992): 1–20.

2007 Nebraska Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey

Joel G. Jorgensen
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
2200 N. 33rd St.
Lincoln, NE 68503
joel.jorgensen@ngpc.ne.gov

Sarah E. Rehme
244 Hardin Hall
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68583-0984
srehme@neb.rr.com

Bald and Golden Eagles are species of conservation concern that regularly winter in Nebraska (Sharpe et al. 2001). The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) has conducted an annual statewide Midwinter Eagle Survey (MWS) since 1980. The Nebraska MWS is done in conjunction with a national survey coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey. The purpose of the MWS is to determine the number and distribution of eagles wintering in Nebraska. Here we present results from the 2007 Nebraska MWS.

Methods

NGPC personnel conducted aerial surveys 3-5 January 2007 along all or portions of major river systems, including the North Platte, South Platte, Middle Loup, North Loup, and Republican systems, where wintering has been previously observed (see Figure 1). Ground personnel surveyed areas not covered by aerial surveys 3-10 January. During all surveys, observers recorded the number and ages (adult or immature [<4 years old] only) of eagles, as well as weather and climate data.

Results and Discussion

Maximum daily temperatures reported during the 2007 survey period were seasonably normal to warm, ranging between 30° and 50° F. Maximum daily temperatures ranged from 30° to 40° F during the aerial survey period and skies were generally clear. Minimum daily temperatures were as low as 7° on 3 January. The 2007 survey took place days after a severe ice storm in south-central Nebraska left many areas with > 0.5 inches ice cover. Snow covered points west (e.g. snow depth at Scottsbluff was 5 inches and North Platte was 9 inches). Eastern and northern Nebraska had little or no snow cover (e.g. Lincoln and Omaha had no snow cover). As in recent years, low water levels were noted at western storage reservoirs,

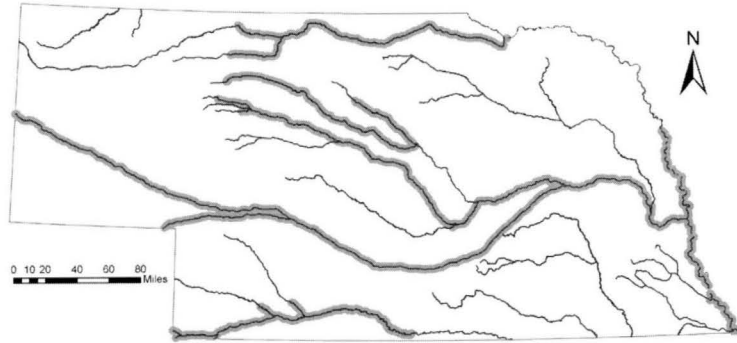


Figure 1. Major Nebraska rivers and portions (shaded gray) that were surveyed by aircraft during the 2008 mid-winter survey.

including Harlan County Reservoir and Lake McConaughy. Lake McConaughy was at approximately 30% of maximum storage capacity (elevation approximately 3210 feet above mean sea level). Lakes across southeast Nebraska were 25-75% ice covered. The Republican River and associated reservoirs were completely frozen. Sandhills lakes were completely frozen, while creeks in the Sandhills were open. The North Platte River had 30% ice cover. Medicine Creek Reservoir, Lake McConaughy, Lake Ogallala, Swanson Reservoir, and Branched Oak Lake were 75-100% frozen. The Niobrara and Loup Rivers were 50-75% frozen with channels of running water. The Platte River in eastern Nebraska, the Missouri, and the Elkhorn Rivers were 0-10% frozen.

During the 2007 Nebraska survey, a total of 808 Bald Eagles was counted (Figure 2). The highest concentrations were found at reservoirs, including 73 at Harlan County Reservoir, 56 at Sutherland Reservoir, and 53 at Lake North/Babcock. A total of 165 birds was tallied along the Missouri River. Overall totals represent a 6% decrease from the 2006 survey total of 858 Bald Eagles, a 9% decrease from the 1980-2006 statewide average of 888, and a 32% decrease from the previous 5-year average of 1186 Bald Eagles. Immature birds represented 28% ($n=224$) of all Bald Eagles identified to age ($n=800$) in 2007, representing a 4% decrease from the previous 5 year average of 233 immature birds. The total of 808 Bald Eagles is the 14th highest number recorded in Nebraska since surveys began in 1980. The 165 Bald Eagles counted along the Missouri river constitutes 20% of the 2007 statewide wintering numbers. The 2007 total represents a 59% decrease over the previous 5-year average of 404 birds along the Missouri River.

In addition to the Bald Eagles, 10 Golden Eagles were reported. This total included 8 adult Golden Eagles, 1 immature, and one of unknown age. Golden Eagles were recorded in Platte, Buffalo, Seward, Clay and Dawes Counties. Three Golden Eagles were recorded in Clay and three in Dawes.

Bald Eagle numbers have fluctuated widely from year to year likely in response to weather conditions, but numbers have generally increased. This is similar to trends noted throughout the contiguous 48 states, where numbers have increased 1.9% per year 1986-2000 (Steenhof et al. 2002).

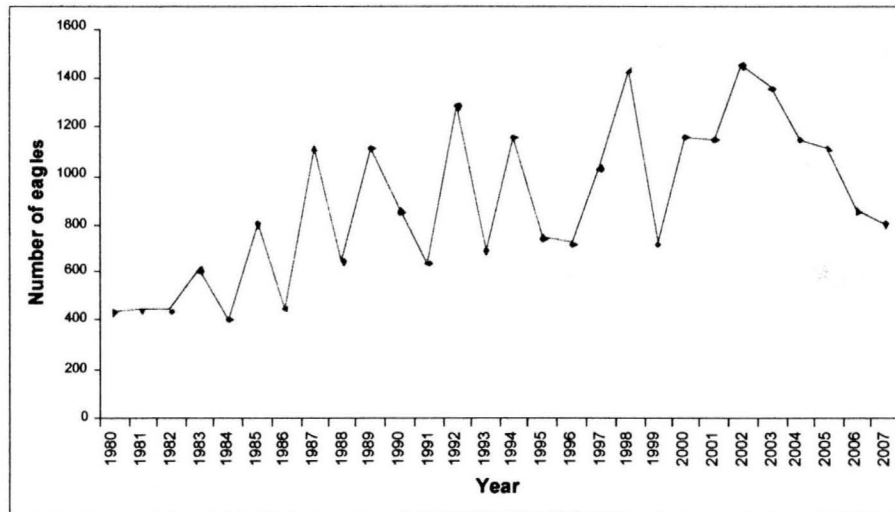


Figure 2. Number of Bald Eagles recorded on the Nebraska Mid-winter Eagle Survey 1980-2007.

Acknowledgment

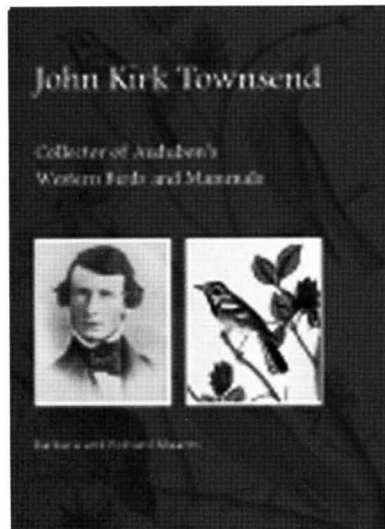
The authors thank the numerous individuals from NGPC's Wildlife and Law Enforcement Division, and a handful of volunteers, who participated and contributed to the 2007 Midwinter Eagle Survey.

Literature Cited

- Sharpe, R.S., W.R. Silcock, and J.G. Jorgensen. *The Birds of Nebraska: Their Distribution and Temporal Occurrence*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2001.
- Steenhof, K., L. Bond, K.K. Bates, and L.L. Leppert. "Trends in midwinter counts of Bald Eagles in the Contiguous United States, 1986-2000." *Bird Populations Journal* 6 (2002): 21-32.

Book Review

John Kirk Townsend: Collector of Audubon's Western Birds and Mammals. Barbara and Richard Mearns. 2007. Published by the authors, Dumfries, UK. 389 pp., with 18 appendices, and a bibliography of nearly 150 entries. No price given. ISBN 978-0-9556739-0-0



This large (9 x 12") and sumptuously-illustrated book details the life and biological contributions of John Townsend, one of the earliest biologists after Lewis and Clark (1804) and Prince Maximilian (1832) to visit what is now Nebraska, preceding John J. Audubon's visit (1843) by nearly a decade. Townsend ascended the upper Platte Valley during an 1834 expedition organized by Thomas Nuttall for exploring the American interior from Philadelphia to the Pacific Coast. John James Audubon later used many of the specimens Townsend collected on that trip in painting his monumental *Birds of America*, including Townsend's namesake species, Townsend's Warbler. His name is also taxonomically associated with several western American mammals that he collected, including a ground squirrel, a chipmunk, a mole, a vole, and the white-tailed jackrabbit. Townsend also

collected and described a still uncertainly-identified bird that he named the Audubon's "Bunting" (*Emberiza auduboni*), which was possibly an aberrant Dickcissel.

The Nebraska segment of the Nuttall-Townsend expedition occurred between the middle and end of May, 1834. The two entered what is now Nebraska via the Little Blue River, where on the 15th of May they observed gray wolves and pronghorns, probably near present-day Nelson. By the 18th of May they were on the central Platte. There they reported seeing Long-billed Curlews and "great numbers" of Sandhill Cranes, although mid-May would seem a very late date for large crane flocks still to be in the Platte Valley. They had their first views of bison on May 20th, and soon were in sight of large groups of bison, elk and pronghorns.

Townsend's two most important Nebraska contributions to ornithology came on May 25 and May 28th. On the 25th they were proceeding up the North Platte River (in present-day Keith or Garden County), and collected a male Lark Bunting, which Townsend called a "Prairie Finch", and recognized as a new species. A female Lark Bunting was collected on May 28. This evidently occurred in what is now Morrill County, on the day before they passed Chimney Rock. Also on the 28th Townsend shot a male specimen of second new bird species, the Chestnut-collared Longspur. This he named the "Brown-colored Finch", which Audubon later illustrated and renamed, as the "Chestnut-collared Lark Bunting".

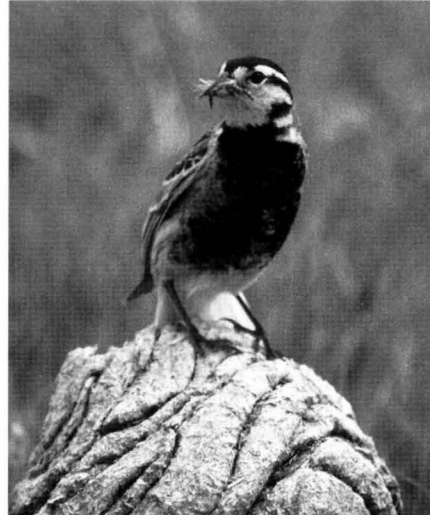
All told, Townsend collected and described 11 species of western American birds. Nine more were described and named by other famous naturalists such as J. J. Audubon, John Nuttall, Charles Bonaparte and John Cassin, based on specimens obtained by Townsend. Ten western American mammals were also named on the

basis of Townsend's specimens. Four additional bird species were named from specimens that Townsend collected on the Hawaiian Islands and Tahiti during his voyage back to the Atlantic coast.

Sadly, Townsend's life was cut short in February of 1851 at the age of 41, as the result of a still-unknown illness. His death occurred only ten days after that of John J. Audubon at the age of 65, whose pioneering monographs on birds and mammals had greatly benefited from the many observations and collections made by Townsend.

This grand and comprehensive biography of John Townsend is a marvelous contribution to the history of American ornithology, and is the first book to fully document the life of this highly talented but relatively little known biologist. The book also illuminates the many interactions among Townsend, Nuttall, Audubon, and other important American naturalists of the day.

—Paul A. Johnsgard



Chestnut-collared Longspur. Photo courtesy of Barbara and Richard Mearns.

Annual Meeting at Scottsbluff

The 109th Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union was held in Scottsbluff on May 16-18, 2008. Gatherings and meals took place at the Jane Fliesbach Retreat Center at the Trails West YMCA Camp on the North Platte River at the base of Scotts Bluff National Monument. The meeting was hosted by members of Wildcat Audubon, who arranged the speakers, field trips, lodging, meeting facility and meals.

Field trips were led by Alice Kenitz, Helen Hughson, Kathy DeLara, and Wayne Mollhoff to Wildcat Hills SRA, Kiowa WMA, Winters Creek Lake, Lake Minatare, Chilibaba Pond in Scotts Bluff Co. and various sites in Kimball and Sioux Counties. One of the most popular trips was led by Wayne Mollhoff to a location south of Kimball where Larry Snyder of the Nebraska Prairie Partners pointed out nesting Mountain Plovers.

Our Friday night speaker was Drew Larsen of Pheasants Forever, who described his organization's efforts to preserve and improve habitat for pheasants and other prairie birds. Saturday night Bart Bly and Larry Snyder of the Nebraska Prairie Partners, a cooperative project between the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, described their efforts in working with landowners, leaseholders and land managers to conserve shortgrass prairie birds and their habitats. They talked about their surveys and nest monitoring of Northern Saw-whet Owls, Mountain Plovers, Ferruginous Hawks and Swainson's Hawks.

NOU 2008 Annual Meeting - Scottsbluff

	Banner	Kimball	Morrill	Scotts B.	Sioux
Snow Goose				x	
Ross's Goose				x	
Cackling Goose				x	
Canada Goose		x	x	x	x
Wood Duck				x	
Gadwall		x		x	
American Wigeon		x		x	
Mallard		x	x	x	x
Blue-winged Teal	x	x	x	x	
Cinnamon Teal				x	
Northern Shoveler		x		x	
Northern Pintail				x	
Green-winged Teal		x		x	
Redhead				x	
Ring-necked Duck				x	
Lesser Scaup		x		x	
Bufflehead				x	
Hooded Merganser				x	
Common Merganser				x	
Ruddy Duck		x		x	
Ring-necked Pheasant		x		x	x
Wild Turkey	x	x		x	
Pied-billed Grebe				x	
Eared Grebe		x		x	
Western Grebe		x		x	
Clark's Grebe				x	
American White Pelican		x		x	
Double-crested Cormorant		x	x	x	
Great Blue Heron		x		x	x
White-faced Ibis				x	
Turkey Vulture	x	x	x	x	x
Osprey			x	x	
Northern Harrier	x	x	x	x	
Cooper's Hawk				x	
Swainson's Hawk		x	x	x	
Red-tailed Hawk	x	x	x	x	x

NOU 2008 Annual Meeting - Scottsbluff

	Banner	Kimball	Morrill	Scotts B.	Sioux
Ferruginous Hawk				x	
Golden Eagle		x		x	x
American Kestrel	x	x	x	x	x
Peregrine Falcon				x	
Prairie Falcon	x		x	x	x
Virginia Rail		x	x		
American Coot		x		x	
Killdeer	x	x	x	x	x
Mountain Plover		x			
Black-necked Stilt				x	
American Avocet				x	
Lesser Yellowlegs			x	x	
Solitary Sandpiper				x	
Willet		x	x	x	
Spotted Sandpiper		x	x	x	
Upland Sandpiper					x
Whimbrel				x	
Long-billed Curlew			x		x
Hudsonian Godwit				x	
Sanderling		x		x	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				x	
Least Sandpiper		x	x	x	
White-rumped Sandpiper		x			
Baird's Sandpiper		x			
Pectoral Sandpiper				x	
Stilt Sandpiper		x		x	
Short-billed Dowitcher				x	
Long-billed Dowitcher		x	x	x	
Wilson's Snipe				x	x
Wilson's Phalarope		x	x	x	
Red-necked Phalarope				x	
Franklin's Gull				x	
Ring-billed Gull		x		x	
Caspian Tern				x	
Black Tern				x	
Forster's Tern				x	

NOU 2008 Annual Meeting - Scottsbluff

	Banner	Kimball	Morrill	Scotts B.	Sioux
Rock Pigeon	x	x	x	x	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	x	x	x	x	
Mourning Dove	x	x	x	x	x
Barn Owl					x
Eastern Screech-Owl				x	
Great Horned Owl	x			x	x
Burrowing Owl	x	x		x	x
Common Poorwill				x	
Chimney Swift		x		x	
White-throated Swift				x	
Belted Kingfisher				x	
Red-headed Woodpecker			x		
Downy Woodpecker		x		x	x
Hairy Woodpecker			x	x	
Northern Flicker		x	x	x	
Western Wood-Pewee					x
Least Flycatcher	x	x		x	x
Dusky Flycatcher		x			
Cordilleran Flycatcher		x		x	
Say's Phoebe	x	x	x	x	x
Great Crested Flycatcher				x	
Cassin's Kingbird	x	x			
Western Kingbird	x	x	x	x	x
Eastern Kingbird	x	x	x	x	x
Loggerhead Shrike	x	x		x	x
Plumbeous Vireo					x
Warbling Vireo				x	x
Red-eyed Vireo					x
Blue Jay		x	x	x	x
Black-billed Magpie	x	x		x	x
American Crow	x			x	
Horned Lark	x	x	x	x	x
Tree Swallow				x	x
Violet-green Swallow	x			x	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	x		x	x	x
Bank Swallow		x	x	x	

NOU 2008 Annual Meeting - Scottsbluff

	Banner	Kimball	Morrill	Scotts B.	Sioux
Cliff Swallow	x	x	x	x	x
Barn Swallow	x	x	x	x	x
Black-capped Chickadee	x	x		x	x
Red-breasted Nuthatch	x			x	
White-breasted Nuthatch				x	
Pygmy Nuthatch				x	
Rock Wren	x	x		x	x
House Wren	x	x	x	x	x
Marsh Wren				x	x
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	x	x		x	x
Eastern Bluebird	x			x	x
Mountain Bluebird	x			x	
Swainson's Thrush		x	x	x	
American Robin	x	x	x	x	x
Gray Catbird	x	x		x	x
Northern Mockingbird		x			
Brown Thrasher	x	x		x	x
European Starling	x	x	x	x	x
American Pipit		x			
Cedar Waxwing				x	
Tennessee Warbler	x	x		x	x
Orange-crowned Warbler	x	x		x	x
Virginia's Warbler		x		x	
Yellow Warbler	x	x		x	x
Yellow-rumped Warbler	x	x		x	x
Blackpoll Warbler	x			x	x
Black-and-white Warbler					x
American Redstart		x		x	x
Northern Waterthrush					x
Common Yellowthroat		x	x	x	x
Wilson's Warbler					x
Yellow-breasted Chat	x			x	
Western Tanager	x	x		x	x
Spotted Towhee	x	x		x	x
Chipping Sparrow	x	x		x	x
Clay-colored Sparrow	x	x		x	x

NOU 2008 Annual Meeting - Scottsbluff

	Banner	Kimball	Morrill	Scotts B.	Sioux
Brewer's Sparrow	x	x			
Vesper Sparrow					x
Lark Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x
Lark Bunting	x	x	x	x	x
Savannah Sparrow				x	
Grasshopper Sparrow	x	x			x
Song Sparrow		x	x		
Lincoln's Sparrow		x		x	
White-crowned Sparrow		x		x	x
McCown's Longspur		x			x
Chestnut-collared Longspur					x
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	x			x	
Black-headed Grosbeak		x		x	
Blue Grosbeak				x	
Lazuli Bunting	x			x	
Red-winged Blackbird	x	x	x	x	x
Western Meadowlark	x	x	x	x	x
Yellow-headed Blackbird				x	x
Common Grackle	x	x	x	x	x
Great-tailed Grackle				x	
Brown-headed Cowbird	x	x	x	x	x
Orchard Oriole		x		x	
Bullock's Oriole		x		x	x
Baltimore Oriole			x	x	
House Finch		x	x	x	
Red Crossbill		x		x	
Pine Siskin		x		x	
American Goldfinch	x	x		x	x
House Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x
Total species 173	59	99	50	149	73

The Nebraska Bird Review is published quarterly by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc., as its official journal, and is sent to members not in arrears of dues. Annual subscription rates (on a calendar-year basis only): \$15 in the United States, \$18 in Canada and \$30 in all other countries, payable in advance. Single copies are \$4 each, postpaid, in the United States, \$5 in Canada, and \$8 elsewhere. Send orders for back issues to Mary Lou Pritchard, NOU Librarian, c/o University of Nebraska State Museum, W-436 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0514.

Memberships in the NOU (on a calendar-year basis only): Active, \$15; Sustaining, \$25; Student, \$10; Family Active, \$20; Family Sustaining, \$30; Life, \$250. An application for membership can be found on the NOU website (see address below). Send dues and subscription requests to Betty Grenon, NOU Treasurer (see address below). Contributions to the NOU are tax deductible.

Send manuscripts and notes on bird sightings to Janis Paseka, Editor (see address below). Send quarterly bird reports to Ross Silcock (see address below).

President and Newsletter Editor: Lanny Randolph, 50370 24th Road, Gibbon, NE 68840; virginiarail@nctc.net

Vice-President: Urban Lehner, 15526 Pierce Circle, Omaha, NE 68144; urbanity@hotmail.com

Secretary: Kevin Poague, 379 S. 46th St., Lincoln, NE 68510; kpoague@audubon.org

Treasurer: Betty Grenon, 1409 Childs Road East, Bellevue, NE 68005; grenon925@aol.com

Librarian: Mary Lou Pritchard, 6325 O Street #515, Lincoln, NE 68510

Directors:

Steve Lamphere, 3101 Washington St., Apt. 98, Bellevue, NE 68005; kingfisher65@aol.com (2009)

Kathy DeLara, 170188 Spring Creek Road, Mitchell, NE 69357; renosmom@charter.net (2010)

Roland Barth, 4002 Hunters Cove, Omaha, NE 68123; REBarth@cox.net (2011)

Records Committee Chairman: Mark Brogie, Box 316, Creighton, NE 68729; mbrogie@esu1.org

Editor of The Nebraska Bird Review: Janis Paseka, 1585 Co. Rd. 14 Blvd., Ames, NE 68621; paseka76@gmail.com

Occurrence Report Compiler: Ross Silcock, P.O. Box 57, Tabor, IA 51653; silcock@rosssilcock.com

Breeding Bird Atlas Project and Nest Records Coordinator: Wayne Mollhoff, 2354 Euclid St., Ashland NE 68003; wmollhoff@netscape.net

NOU Website: <http://rip.physics.unk.edu/NOU/>

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.
3745 Garfield
Lincoln, NE 68506-1028

NONPROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 756

Address Service Requested

Table of Contents

Spring Field Report, Mar.- May 2008 by W. Ross Silcock	50
Endangered Species Responses to Natural Habitat Declines: Nebraska's Interior Least Terns and Piping Plovers Nesting in a Human- created Habitat by Mary Bomberger Brown, Joel G. Jorgensen and Sarah E. Rehme	72
2007 Nebraska Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey by Joel G. Jorgensen and Sarah E. Rehme	81
<i>John Kirk Townsend: Collector of Audubon's Western Birds and Mammals</i> by Barbara & Richard Mearns. Book Review by Paul A. Johnsgard	84
NOU Annual Meeting at Scottsbluff, May 16-18	85
Subscription and Organization Information	91