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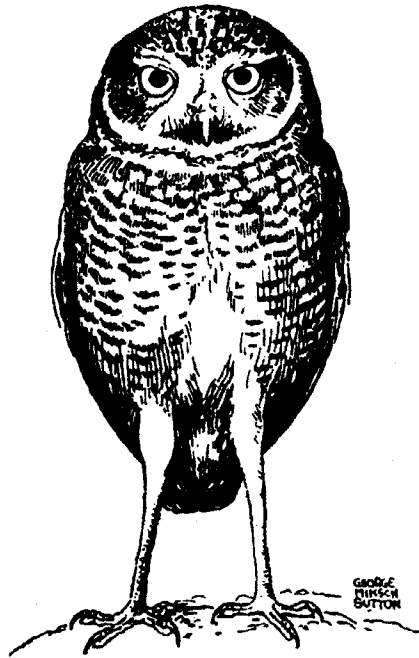
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FALL FIELD REPORT, August-November 2009

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INTRODUCTION

This was probably the most "normal" fall season in a while, as measured by the small number of late departure dates among summer residents and migrants, early arrival dates among winter residents and migrants, high counts, and rarities. In other words, very little of significance happened. Indeed, in order to provide a spark, I'll even mention three exotics that were reported: a Swan Goose at Fremont 26 November (JRo), a Common Peafowl in Dodge Co 5 August (JWe), and a White-faced Cockatiel caught in a Dixon Co yard 24 August (JJ). None is likely to be a threat to our native birds; however, we are keeping an eye on the Mute Swan situation in Omaha. Other items worthy of mention are the apparent abandonment of the only known Nebraska Red-shouldered Hawk nest (with 2 chicks), the abundance of gallinaceous birds in the Broken Bow area, moorhens breeding in the eastern Rainwater Basin, a record early adult Glaucous Gull, easterly Common Poorwills, the continuing Fish Crow, Pygmy Nuthatch in Lincoln (again!), and Nebraska's third Canyon Wren.

I appreciate the information posted on NEBirds, which I collect for this report, as well as information on sightings sent to me at the end of each season by local or visiting birders. The latter yield much information not posted to NEBirds, but which, in the context of all of the data, turns out to be significant. I also use data from eBIRD, some of which is reported there as well as on NEBirds. So I don't think we miss too much of what is going on. I'm always happy to receive new information, sightings you may have that would have added to the report (if you had sent them in!), and, of course, corrections.

ABBREVIATIONS

BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co
Cem: Cemetery
Co(s): County(ies)
CLNWR: Crescent L NWR, Garden Co
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co
GPD: Gavins Point Dam, Knox/Cedar Cos
HCR: Harlan Co Res SRA, Harlan Co
ICSP: Indian Cave State Park, Richardson/Nemaha Cos
L: Lake
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co
LO: L Ogallala (includes contiguous Keystone L), Keith Co
m. ob.: many observers
NC: Nature Center
NLB: North Lake Basin WMA, Seward Co

NM: National Monument
NOURC: Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee
NVP: Niobrara Valley Preserve, Brown/Cherry/Keya Paha Cos
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co
Res: Reservoir
PSP: Ponca SP, Dixon Co
RWB: Rainwater Basin, including parts of Phelps, Hamilton, York, Clay, Fillmore, and Thayer Cos
SHP: State Historical Park
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)
SP: State Park
SRA: State Recreation Area
WHNC: Wildcat Hills NC, Scotts Bluff Co
WMA: (State) Wildlife Management Area
WP: Wilderness Park, Lincoln
WPA: (Federal) Waterfowl Production Area
WSR: Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co

GAZETTEER

Chadron SP: Dawes Co
Johnson L: SRA, Gosper/Dawson Cos
Sandhills: large area of sand-based prairie in north-central Nebraska
Schilling Refuge: Plattsmouth, Cass Co
Wehrspann L: Chalco Hills Recreation Area, Sarpy Co

OBSERVERS

AA: Andrew Albright, Omaha
AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering
ARy: Alan Reyer, Bellevue
BF: Bill Fink, Denver, CO
BFH: Bill F. Huser, South Sioux City
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue
CR: Carolyn Rieke, Lincoln
D&JP: Don & Jan Paseka, Ames
DH: Dave Heidt, Norfolk
DK: Dan Klammer, Hastings
DL: Dan Leger, Lincoln
DSt: Dave Stage, Elkhorn
EB: Elliott Bedows, Bellevue
EBr: Ed Brogie, Laurel
ED: Erika Dittmar, Grand Rapids, MI
ET: Edward Tickle, Lincoln
G&BC: George & Bev Canterbury, Papillion
G&WH: Glen & Wanda Hoge, Alma
GR: Gary Roberts, Fremont

HKH: Helen K. Hughson, Mitchell
JC: John Carlini, Lincoln
JED: James E. Ducey, Lincoln
JF: Joe Freeborn, Madison
JG: Joe Gubanyi, Seward
JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Lincoln
JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield
JLL: Jeanine L. Lackey, Ceresco
JO: Jim Ochsner, Ogallala
JR: Justin Rink, Omaha
JRe: Julie Remp, Las Vegas, NV
JRi: Juanita Rice, Fairmont
JRo: Jim Rowoth, Stockton, CA
JSt: Jon Strong, Omaha
JV: Joseph Verica, State College, PA
JW: Jackie Weller, Red Feather Lakes, CO
JWH: John W. Hall, Omaha
KC: Ken Carnes, Lincoln
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell
KDy: Keith Dyche, Shenandoah, IA
KK: Ken Kranik, Sterling, CO
KS: Kent Skaggs, Kearney
L&BP: Loren & Babs Padelford, Bellevue
LB: Laurel Badura, Kearney
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln
LF: Laurence Falk, Nebraska City
LHa: Luke Hamilton, Lewellen
LR: Lanny Randolph, Minden
LS: Larry Snyder, Kimball
M&BH: Mark & Barbara Hoffman, Philadelphia, PA
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton
MCv: Matthew Cvetas, Evanston, IL
ML: Meryll Lynch, Boone, NC
MU: Moni Usasz, Lincoln
NB: Norma Brockmoller, Winside
PAJ: Paul A. Johnsgard, Lincoln
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings
PR: Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA
PZ: Penny Zahurones, Omaha
RB: Roland Barth, Bellevue
RE: Rick Eades, Lincoln
RH: Robin Harding, Minden
RR: Roy Reinarz, Lago Vista, TX
RSg: Ruben Siegfried, Scottsbluff
RSt: Ruth Stearns, Lincoln
S&RW: Susan & Ron Whitney, Lincoln
SM: Steve Morris, Grand Island
SQ: Susan Quinn, Nebraska City
SS: Shari Schwartz, Lincoln
TEL: Thomas E. Labedz, Lincoln

TH: Tim Hajda, Broken Bow
TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady
WF: William Flack, Kearney
WJP: Willard J. Piercy, Council Bluffs, IA
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** Two different waterfowl breeders in n. Hall Co had 5 and 2 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on top of their duck pens in Jun (MB); these may have been wild birds, suggesting an origin for at least some of the 19 birds (2 adults and 17 immatures) at a Holdrege park 24 Oct (TH).
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** One that summered at Jack Sinn WMA, Lancaster/Saunders Cos, a rare occurrence, remained into the fall period (LE, SQ). Best count was an excellent 1500 in Richardson Co 15 Oct (JRo).
- Snow Goose:** Earliest returnees were 250 over ICSP 17 Oct (SQ, LF). A summering flock at HCR was interesting in that most were "Blue" Geese, suggestive of eastern origin; generally migrants at HCR are white (G&WH).
- Ross's Goose:** One that summered in Hall Co with 5 Snows and lingered into fall (JGJ) was only the 2nd summer record for the state.
- Cackling Goose:** Routine reports.
- Canada Goose:** Routine reports.
- Mute Swan:** Two unmarked adults continued at Wehrspann L (JSt, m. ob.), likely the two that appeared there as juveniles in Nov 2008. Currently this species is not established in Nebraska, and so breeding by these birds could indicate an incipient natural population.
- Trumpeter Swan:** The family group of 4 that resulted from breeding on a small pond on the Custer/Bufalo Co line remained at the site through at least 20 Oct (TH, KS).
- Tundra Swan:** None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant.
- Wood Duck:** Routine reports.
- Gadwall:** Routine reports.
- Eurasian Wigeon:** The only report of this rare migrant was of 2 at Bridgeport 11 Oct (LHa, no details); there are only 3 documented fall records.
- American Wigeon:** Routine reports.
- Mallard:** Routine reports.
- Blue-winged Teal:** Routine reports.
- Cinnamon Teal:** None were reported; these birds become inconspicuous in late summer as males enter eclipse, and all birds depart by mid-Sep.
- Northern Shoveler:** Routine reports.
- Northern Pintail:** Routine reports.
- Green-winged Teal:** Routine reports.
- Canvasback:** Routine reports.
- Redhead:** Routine reports.
- Ring-necked Duck:** Routine reports.
- Greater Scaup:** Only 7 were reported, 18-21 Nov (JGJ,KS,L&BP).
- Lesser Scaup:** Routine reports.

Surf Scoter: The only report was from BOL, where 9, including an adult male, were found 7 Nov (DL,JGJ,PD); 1-2 remained through 18 Nov (PR,LE), the last a female/immature (JGJ).

White-winged Scoter: There were 4 reports of 3-5 birds, a good showing: 2 were at BOL 31 Oct (JC,SS), one was about 5 mi. w. of GPD 11 Nov (MB), and possibly the same bird was at GPD 14 and 22 Nov (MB,DH).

Black Scoter: The 2 reports were from Lancaster Co: 2 at Capitol Beach L 22 Nov (JGJ) and one at BOL 27 and 30 Nov (LE).

Long-tailed Duck: The only report was of one at BOL 8 Nov (PR).

Bufflehead: Routine reports.

Common Goldeneye: Routine reports.

Hooded Merganser: Routine reports.

Common Merganser: The 6 at the NVP 22 Sep (ML) were rather early; migrants usually appear in early Oct.

Red-breasted Merganser: The 58 at BOL 8 Nov (LE) was an excellent count; high for fall is 137.

Ruddy Duck: Routine reports.

Gray Partridge: None were reported; the few reports in recent years are from ne. Nebraska.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Routine reports.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Good numbers coexist with Greater Prairie-Chickens in Custer Co; 22 were near 23 chickens near Broken Bow 18 Sep (TH).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Excellent numbers were found near Broken Bow: a flock of 110 was seen 30 Oct (TH).

Wild Turkey: Routine reports.

Northern Bobwhite: Apparently a great area for gallinaceous birds, the Broken Bow area had 25 bobwhites 18 Sep (TH). Northwesternly, where uncommon, was one at the Niobrara River s. of Merriman on 28 Sep (WF).

Red-throated Loon: Only the 14th documented fall record was one at BOL 21 Nov (JGJ, LE), also a rather late date.

Pacific Loon: The first for a while, and a good showing for this regular but rare fall migrant, were 1-2 at BOL 24 Oct (JGJ) through 22 Nov (L&BP, m. ob.); 2 were there 13-15 Nov (LE). Another was at GPD 29 Nov (MB).

Common Loon: As might be expected from the presence of the rarer loon species, Commons occurred in good numbers, with 8 at BOL 7 Nov (JGJ) and 5-6 there 7 Nov (DL,PD). Dates ranged from 17 Oct at GPD (MB) through 22 Nov at BOL (L&BP, m. ob.); at least 13 different birds were reported.

Yellow-billed Loon: A report of one in Rock Co 29 Nov (fide MB) was referred to the NOURC. If accepted, this would be the 4th state record, all in fall.

Pied-billed Grebe: The 218 in Lancaster Co 9 Oct (LE) was a good count; fall highs are over 700.

Horned Grebe: Best count was a mediocre 18 in Lancaster Co 31 Oct (LE).

Red-necked Grebe: None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant.

Eared Grebe: Routine reports.

Western Grebe: The 6000 estimated from the dam at LM 27 Oct (PD) was a good count for the date. High counts (30,000+) are in late Sep. There were several easterly reports of 1-3 birds 8 Nov (LE) through 28 Nov (PD, m. ob.).

Clark's Grebe: Rare eastward, with only 5 previous reports, one was in Hall Co 26 Oct (JGJ). Three others were reported from Johnson L westward 27 Sep-27 Oct (DH,PD).

- American White Pelican:** Best count was a moderate 800 at HCR 13 Sep (G&WH).
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Best count was a moderate 800 at PSP 28 Sep (L&BP).
- American Bittern:** A total of 7 was reported, including a surprising 5 at NLB 25 Aug (JC,SS), presumably rather early migrants. Elsewhere, singles were in Adams Co 19 Oct (PD,BF) and Stanton Co 26 Oct (WF).
- Least Bittern:** The only report was of one at a "traditional location" in n. Knox Co 7 Aug (MB). The Niobrara Marshes host a small population each summer.
- Great Blue Heron:** Routine reports.
- Great Egret:** Large numbers were at Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo Co, 24 Aug, with 50-100 estimated (KS); peak count at HCR was a moderate 32 on 19 Sep (G&WH), and 29 were at NLB 25 Aug (JC,SS). One at Wehrspann L 1 Nov (JWH) was rather late.
- Snowy Egret:** The 5th latest on record was near North Platte 22 Oct (TJW). Few others were reported, about 8 from 7 Aug (LE) through 27 Sep (TEL, m. ob.).
- Little Blue Heron:** None were reported; this is an uncommon species in fall.
- Cattle Egret:** Best count was only 24, in Cherry Co 25 Sep (WF); about 48 were reported in all (m. ob.).
- Green Heron:** One lingered rather late at Wehrspann L 24 Nov (JWH).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Routine reports.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** The only report was of one at NLB 7 Aug (LE).
- White-faced Ibis:** Routine reports.
- Turkey Vulture:** Best counts were at roosts: 65 at Alma 12 Sep (G&WH) and 50-60 at Ogallala 9 Sep (JO).
- Osprey:** One was rather early at FF 14 Aug (L&BP, RB), while another lingered at BOL rather late 15 Nov (LE); last dates are around 20 Nov.
- Mississippi Kite:** The 2 at Ogallala 10 Aug (JGJ, JLL) were expected at that breeding location; no others were reported.
- Bald Eagle:** Routine reports.
- Northern Harrier:** The 13 in Colfax Co 23 Oct (D&JP) was a good count.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Routine reports.
- Cooper's Hawk:** Routine reports.
- Northern Goshawk:** None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant.
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** The nest site in Lancaster Co appears to have been deserted, as no birds were present after 25 Jun, when 2 adults and 2 chicks were seen (LE). No other nesting activity was reported.
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Breeding probably occurs in the se., although an adult at FF 19 Aug an immature there 30 Aug (L&BP) may all have been migrants. Best count of migrants was a somewhat westerly kettle of 19 over Thomas Co 25 Sep (KDy).
- Swainson's Hawk:** Two juveniles in Dixon Co 2 Aug (JJ), one of which was dark, were suggestive of local breeding. There are no records of dark morphs breeding in Nebraska; most breed in the w. parts of the range (Wheeler: *Raptors of Western North America*).
- Red-tailed Hawk:** The 2nd-earliest on record (Harlan's) Red-tailed Hawk was in Sarpy Co 4 Oct (CNK). An excellent 2.5 hour hawkwatch tally from West Lawn Cem, Omaha, on 23 Oct was 208, including 5 Harlan's Red-tails (CNK).

Ferruginous Hawk: Easterly was one in Knox Co 15 Nov (MB), only the 2nd county record for this veteran observer.

Rough-legged Hawk: One in Keya Paha Co 27 Sep (PAJ) was rather early; earliest dates are in mid-Sep.

Golden Eagle: More than the usual eastward movement was indicated by one in Keya Paha Co 26 Sep (WF,BFH,KD,TH), and, surprisingly, an immature in Saunders Co 31 Oct (CNK).

American Kestrel: Routine reports.

Merlin: Both long-distance migrant *Falco columbarius columbarius* and short-distance migrant and winter visitor *F. c. richardsonii* were reported: A single *F. c. columbarius* was in Buffalo Co 11 Nov (TH), a female *F. c. richardsonii* was in Brown Co 25 Sep (BFH), and 2 of the latter were in Knox Co 22 Nov (MB, DH). Merlins appear in Aug; one was at Alma 25 Aug (G&WH).

Prairie Falcon: One in Clay Co 29 Aug (D&JP) was rather early for an easterly location, although movement away from breeding sites can occur very early in the summer. Another was near Broken Bow 30 Oct (TH), about as far east as this species commonly ventures in fall and winter.

Peregrine Falcon: Routine reports.

Yellow Rail: While a little earlier than most of the few confirmed records for the state, a clicking sound heard at Nathan's L, Washington Co, 7 Sep (JED) may well have been this species.

Virginia Rail: Routine reports.

Sora: One at Holmes L, Lincoln 23, Oct (LE) was rather late; there are only about 8 later records.

Common Moorhen: The exciting discovery of breeding moorhens at NLB was followed up by reports of up to 10 chicks with the adults through 9 Aug (JGJ,JC,SS); there were no subsequent reports. This is about the 10th report of breeding, the last about 10 years ago.

American Coot: An amazing tally of 17,359 in Lancaster Co 24 Oct, including 16,000 which must have blackened Capitol Beach L (LE), was about 10 times the previous fall high count. There were 8000 there a week prior (JGJ).

Sandhill Crane: As expected, high count was in mid-Oct: 600-700 flew over Sioux Co 14 Oct (TJW). One at Wood Duck WMA, Stanton Co, 31 Aug (WF) probably summered there.

Whooping Crane: The official summary of confirmed reports for Nebraska this fall shows a total of about 43 birds, including 2 juveniles, touched down in Nebraska 14 Oct-7 Nov (fide JLL, JGJ); best counts were 7 in Keya Paha/Brown Cos 23 Oct and 7, including a juvenile, in Hall Co 5-7 Nov.

Black-bellied Plover: The only reports were of adults, generally scarce in fall. One was at Schilling Refuge 8 Aug (WRS, KDy) and 2 were in se. Blaine Co 29 Sep (TJW).

American Golden-Plover: Unusual in Aug, and only the 16th such record, one was at NLB 30 Aug and 7 Sep (JGJ,JC,SS). Most reports are of juveniles in Sep-Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: One in Knox Co 4 Oct (MB) was the observer's latest there. Latest dates for the state are around 20 Oct.

Piping Plover: Routine reports.

Killdeer: Routine reports.

Mountain Plover: More information on fall migration and flocking has been reported recently; a flock of 42 landed in a wheat field being planted in

Kimball Co 30 Aug (LS) and 40 were seen in Kimball Co 23 Sep (fide LS). There are now 4 reports of flocks of 28-78 birds 30 Aug-23 Sep.

Black-necked Stilt: The only report was of a record late (by 23 days) apparent immature in Lincoln Co 19 Oct (TJW); there are only 7 Sep records and no others for Oct.

American Avocet: The 500 at one lake in Sheridan Co 6 Sep (MB, DH) was an excellent (though not record) count; best counts are over 600. "Hundreds" were also at a Sheridan Co lake, possibly the same one, 25 Sep (AK). Easterly were rather early singles at NLB 1 Aug (JGJ) and in Lancaster Co 3 Aug (ET), and 1-5 at BOL 29 Oct-14 Nov (LE,DL). The latter date (5 birds) is 3rd latest on record.

Spotted Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Solitary Sandpiper: A good tally at a rather early date was the 14 in Lancaster Co 1 Aug (LE).

Greater Yellowlegs: Routine reports.

Willet: Routine reports.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Routine reports.

Upland Sandpiper: Flightless but nearly full-grown young in Dodge Co 2 Aug (D&JP) would have to hurry to make their scheduled late Aug departure date; one in Dixon Co 12 Sep (JJ) was tardy. There are fewer than 20 Oct records.

Long-billed Curlew: One in Dawes Co 7 Sep (KDy) was rather late; this is only the 7th report for Sep, with last dates mid-Sep.

Marbled Godwit: Two were easterly in the e. RWB 9-10 Aug (JGJ,JLL); this is only the 26th report east of Keith Co.

Ruddy Turnstone: The only report was of a single at Schilling Refuge 8 Aug (WRS, KDy), only the 23rd fall record for the state.

Sanderling: Routine reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Western Sandpiper: There were more reports than usual of this often-overlooked species, which is more common in fall than in spring. The 6 reports of about 20 birds were from 30 Aug (JGJ) through 3 Oct (TEL, m. ob.). Juveniles migrate rather early; 3 were at NLB 30 Aug (JGJ).

Least Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Baird's Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Dunlin: None were reported; this is a regular migrant, very rare before mid-Sep.

Stilt Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: The usual Aug passage was noted, with best count only 17, in Dodge Co 11 Aug (MB). Last was one in somewhat westerly in Dawson Co 7 Sep (MB, DSt).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Most often reported in Aug in fall, there were 4 reports of 7 birds 3 Aug (MCv) through 25 Aug (LE).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Routine reports.

Wilson's Snipe: One in Lancaster Co 13 Aug (LE) was likely an early migrant, but breeding has occurred there in the past. A good count was 23 in Dawson Co 7 Sep (MB, DSt).

American Woodcock: None were reported; fall reports are Aug-Oct.

Wilson's Phalarope: Routine reports.

Red-necked Phalarope: Routine reports.

Red Phalarope: One photographed at BOL 7 Nov (PD) was only the 13th fall record, and latest by 23 days.

Black-legged Kittiwake: None were reported; 1-2 are usually found in Nov.

Sabine's Gull: The only reports of this regular large-reservoir migrant were from GPD; 3 juveniles (the expected age class) were there 4 Oct (MB) and another 17 Oct (MB), the latter a rather late date.

Bonaparte's Gull: Routine reports.

Franklin's Gull: Best count was a moderate 9300 at Johnson L 27 Oct (PD). The 12 in Lancaster Co 21 Nov (JGJ) were tardy; there are a few winter records.

Ring-billed Gull: Excellent fall counts were the 5125 at BOL 29 Oct (LE), 4th highest on record, and 5000 estimated at LO both 24 Oct (JGJ) and 28 Oct (PD).

California Gull: None were reported; this is a regular species at LM.

Herring Gull: One in Pierce Co 25 Sep (LE) was rather early.

Thayer's Gull: Usually late to appear in fall, the only report was of a first-winter bird about on time at HCR 18 Nov (KS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: There were 2 reports of this now-regular migrant, probably of the same bird: adults were reported at LO 24 Oct (JGJ) and 27 Oct (PD).

Glaucous Gull: A surprise was an adult at LO 16 Oct (TJW); this is the earliest fall date on record, and might indicate a similar situation to Thayer's Gull, where adults are often among the earliest records in fall. Such birds are probably failed breeders; successful breeders and juveniles would be expected to arrive later.

Least Tern: Very late for eggs under incubation, a nest with 2 eggs was found at Two Rivers SP, Douglas Co, 2 Aug (JLL). Best count was an excellent 24, including 8 juveniles, at Schilling Refuge 8 Aug (WRS, KDy).

Caspian Tern: Reports were of 1-6 at BOL 3 Aug-4 Sep, with 6 on 28 Aug (LE), and one at the NVP 22 Sep (ML).

Black Tern: Last was one rather late in Cherry Co 27 Sep (KDy).

Common Tern: None were reported; this is an uncommon migrant.

Forster's Tern: Routine reports.

Rock Pigeon: Routine reports.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Routine reports.

White-winged Dove: Interestingly, all 3 reports received involved pairs. One pair was in a Hastings yard where one bird appeared 23 Jun, 2 on 10 Aug, and 4 in Aug and Sep (DK, PD), highly suggestive of breeding. Two were found in Kearney 2 Aug and relocated 23 Aug (WF), and another pair was at Swanson Res, Hitchcock Co, 20 Aug (WF), but no breeding evidence was noted for either pair.

Mourning Dove: Routine reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Routine reports.

Black-billed Cuckoo: The 4 reports, more than usual, were of singles in Gage Co 1 Aug (RR), Lancaster Co 4 Aug (JC, SS) and 10 Aug (LE), and Scotts Bluff Co 23 Aug (KD).

Barn Owl: One roosting near the observer's North Platte office 26 Oct (TJW) was rather late, although there are about 20 records Nov-Feb. Most depart by mid-Oct.

Eastern Screech-Owl: Routine reports.

Great Horned Owl: Routine reports.

Burrowing Owl: Routine reports.

Barred Owl: Routine reports.

Long-eared Owl: The only report was of one at BOL 30 Nov (JC,SS), presumably a winter visitor.

Short-eared Owl: Only 2 were reported, singles in Sheridan Co 28 Sep (WF) and near Brady 30 Oct (TJW).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: The 3 reports involved calling birds: one in Omaha 16 Sep (JR), another at PSP 19-20 Sep (MB,EBR), and a third at Chadron SP 2 Oct (RE), where the species is known to breed. There is only one other Sep report for Nebraska, that at FF 29 Sep 1972. The significance of these putative Sep reports is unclear; there are various night sounds that can closely resemble the calls of a Saw-whet Owl. It is unlikely that breeding would occur at the reported locations, especially Omaha, but migrants and presumably winter residents do not appear in Nebraska and neighboring states until Oct; neither Iowa (where this species has been extensively netted and banded in fall) nor Missouri have any Sep records.

Common Nighthawk: Routine reports. Last was rather late 18 Oct in Nebraska City (SQ).

Common Poorwill: There were several reports, more than usual for this nightjar in fall. Interestingly, 2 of the 3 reports were easterly: one was in Franklin Co 4 Sep (MB, DSt), and the other was studied closely in snow (!) near Stromsburg 23 Oct (D&JP). The other report was as expected, 3 birds at Chadron SP 6 Sep (KDy).

Whip-poor-will: Rarely reported in fall, one at PSP 20 Sep (MB) was the 3rd latest on record by 12 days.

Chimney Swift: An excellent Omaha count was the 475 flying into a single Omaha chimney 21 Sep (JED; <http://wildbirdsbroadcasting.blogspot.com>). Last were 7 in Omaha 27 Oct (JR), 2nd-latest on record by 6 days. One at North Platte SL 29 Sep (TJW) was rather late that far west; last date for the Panhandle is 2 Oct.

White-throated Swift: Routine reports.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Earliest reports were westerly: a female 14-15 Aug in Ogallala (JO, photo) and another female 6 Sep in Scotts Bluff Co (KD). In the east, first migrant was in Lincoln 7 Sep (MU) and last two were rather late in Lincoln 9 Oct (S&RW) and Dodge Co 10 Oct (D&JP). Last overall, however, was a lingerer in Scotts Bluff Co 3-18 Oct, including a couple of nights below freezing (KD). This is the 2nd-latest on record, and latest for the Panhandle.

Calliope Hummingbird: The only reports were of one s. of Gering 13 and 17 Aug (AK) and a juvenile near Mitchell 23 Aug (KD).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: A normal fall for this species with 5 sightings of at least 5 birds: one was s. of Gering 8 and 17 Aug (AK), a female was near Mitchell 10 Aug (KD), 2 were near Mitchell 16-23 Aug (KD), and 2 females/juveniles were there 30 Aug-7 Sep (KD).

Rufous Hummingbird: Reports were few, possibly because flowers were plentiful (KD). Singles were noted near Mitchell 12 Jul (male) and 16-21 Aug (KD).

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Lewis's Woodpecker: None were reported; this species may no longer be regular in the Panhandle.



Female Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Ogallala. 14-15 Aug 2009. Photo by Jim Ochsner.

Red-headed Woodpecker: A juvenile in Dixon Co 4 Nov (JJ) was rather late for ne Nebraska.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Routine reports.

Red-naped Sapsucker: The only report was of one banded at WHNC 20 Sep (JRe); this is the 9th documented fall report, 8 of these in the Panhandle 13-27 Sep.

Hairy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Downy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Northern Flicker: Routine reports.

Pileated Woodpecker: Reports were of 1-2 at FF through the period (m. ob.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Western Wood-Pewee: One at Valentine NWR, Cherry Co, 23 Sep (M&BH) was rather late; last dates are at the end of Sep.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: One at FF 19 Oct (L&BP, photo) was 2nd-latest on record. Adults with 2 fledglings were at Nebraska City 6 Sep (JR), a rather late brood.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The only report was of a calling bird at WP 12 Sep (WRS).

Alder Flycatcher: The only report was of a calling bird at Nebraska City 6 Sep (JR).

Willow Flycatcher: Rather late were 2 at Hormel Park, Dodge Co, 18 Sep (GR) and one at FF 19 Sep (JR).

Least Flycatcher: Rather late were one banded at WHNC 20 Sep (JRe) and another at FF 23 Sep (JR).

Hammond's Flycatcher: No reports; this is a rare migrant in the Panhandle.

Dusky Flycatcher: None were reported; this is a rare migrant in the Panhandle.

Cordilleran Flycatcher: The only report was of a migrant banded at Chadron SP 10 Sep (ED).

Eastern Phoebe: Singles in Lancaster Co (LE) and at Wehrspann L (JWH) on 24 Oct were rather late; most leave by late Oct.

Say's Phoebe: One at BOL 9 Oct (LE) was easterly, and the 4th-latest on record. Most have gone by Oct. There are only about 15 eastern reports, mostly from Polk Co.

Great Crested Flycatcher: Numbers continue to increase in Scotts Bluff Co (AK); this species is now found more or less statewide in woodland, but is least common in the s. Panhandle and w. Sandhills.

Cassin's Kingbird: Best count was 31 s. of Redington 17 Aug (JGJ); highest counts are in the 40+ range.

Western Kingbird: One in Box Butte Co 2 Oct (WF) was 4th-latest on record for the west, while one in Otoe Co 21 Oct (SQ, LF, details) was the latest on record for the state by 9 days.

Eastern Kingbird: Adults were feeding fledglings in Keya Paha Co 2 Aug (BFH) and at Fairmont 4 Aug (JRi).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: A pair of adults with a "mobile" juvenile in Knox Co 8 Aug probably nested in the area (MB); this is the 16th and farthest north nesting record for the state.

Northern Shrike: Routine reports.

Loggerhead Shrike: Routine reports.

Bell's Vireo: Two in Dodge Co 5 Oct (GR) were rather late; most are gone by Oct.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Last were 2 tardy birds at FF 23 Sep (JR); late dates are in late Sep.

Plumbeous Vireo: Routine reports.

Cassin's Vireo: The only report was of one banded at Chadron SP 9 Sep (ED, photo).

Blue-headed Vireo: This was another good fall after last year, with about 27 reported. Unexpected were 2 in the Panhandle, only the 7th and 8th reports, 5 of which are documented, including both this fall: one at WSR 29 Aug (HKH, details) and another banded at Chadron SP 9 Sep (AF).

Warbling Vireo: Routine reports.

Philadelphia Vireo: Only 2 were reported, singles at Nebraska City 17 Sep (SQ) and in Lancaster Co 29 Sep (RSt).

Red-eyed Vireo: Routine reports.

Blue Jay: Routine reports.

Pinyon Jay: None were reported; this species can be elusive.

Black-billed Magpie: Easterly were 4 in Madison Co 28 Sep (LE).

American Crow: Peak migration is Oct-Nov; 500+ were counted in a 2.5 hour hawk watch at West Lawn Cem, Omaha, 23 Oct (CNK).

Fish Crow: A bird found in the summer (JGJ) was relocated along the Platte River near Schilling Refuge 8 Aug; the characteristic nasal calls were heard as it chased 2 noticeably larger American Crows (WRS, KDy).

Horned Lark: Routine reports.

Purple Martin: Again this fall huge numbers congregated at roosts in Omaha; peak estimate was 40,000 on 28 Aug (JR, JED; last year's peak was 35,000 on 2 Sep). About 20,000 were present by 15 Aug and the last 5 were seen at the location 14 Sep (JR, JED). "Thousands" were in dead trees at Walnut Creek L, Sarpy Co, 21 Aug (EB). Rather late were 8 in Dodge Co 25 Sep (GR).

Tree Swallow: The 602 at BOL 1 Sept (LE) was 2nd best count on record for fall; best is 750.

Violet-green Swallow: Prior to this fall the only Sep report was 5 Sep 1973 in Sioux Co. However, this fall there were two more: 3 on 7 Sep at Chadron SP (KDy) and one in Scotts Bluff Co 19 Sep (AK). There are no later dates.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: One at Bellevue 19 Oct (L&BP) was the 6th-latest on record and another in Otoe Co 17 Oct (SQ) was 8th latest.

Bank Swallow: Routine reports.

Cliff Swallow: Routine reports.

Barn Swallow: Routine reports.

Black-capped Chickadee: Routine reports.

Tufted Titmouse: Routine reports.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Numbers were about normal; earliest arrival was one in a Fairmont yard 1-4 Aug (JRi), rather early. Arrival dates are around 10 Aug, and there are only two late Jul dates where summering did not occur.

White-breasted Nuthatch: Sightings in summer in Scotts Bluff Co and the Wildcat Hills are rare and apparently all of the eastern subspecies, suggesting spread in very low numbers westward in the Platte Valley. Whether 3 banded at Chadron SP 9 Sep (AF) were local breeders or early migrants was undetermined; measurements were insufficient to determine subspecies, but all were males, one adult and the other two immatures. There are a few other early Sep records of migrants away from known breeding areas. Less unusual were 2 of the western subspecies in Dawes Co 15 Oct (TJW); it breeds in the Pine Ridge.

Pygmy Nuthatch: Following last fall's surprising appearance of one at Pioneers Park in Lincoln and this spring's sighting at Holmes Lake in Lincoln, presumably the same disoriented bird showed up again at Holmes Lake 16-23 Oct (LE). This species almost never strays from Ponderosa Pines, but of only 6 such records, 4 are from Lincoln: the 3 above, and the other of up to 4 birds which were present in pine and pin oak woodland 13 Dec 1961-3 Feb 1962. A good tally was 16 at Chadron SP 6 Sep (KDy), where it breeds.

Brown Creeper: Routine reports.

Rock Wren: Routine reports.

Canyon Wren: A belated report of one in Cheyenne Co 6-7 Oct 2007 (KK) was accepted by the NOURC; this is only the 3rd Nebraska record.

Carolina Wren: Far-flung reports continued this fall, when birds tend to disperse: most adventurous were singles in Chase Co 18 Aug (WF) and at NVP 22 Sep (ML).

House Wren: Last, and rather late, was one in Omaha 23 Oct (JR).

Winter Wren: Rather early were singles in Dixon Co 12 Sep (JJ) and at Bellevue 15 Sep (ARy). One in Madison Co 7 Nov (WF) was tardy that far north.

Sedge Wren: Last were rather late singles at Wehrspann L 24 Oct (JWH) and at FF 25 Oct (L&BP).

Marsh Wren: Reports in Aug from the e. RWB may be of late local breeders or early migrants; 2-6 were there 1-4 Aug (JGJ,JC,SS).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Routine reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Routine reports.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One in Dodge Co 3 Oct (GR) was latest on record by 4 days. As has become the norm, there were multiple Panhandle reports, north to Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 7 Sep (KDy).

Eastern Bluebird: Routine reports.

Mountain Bluebird: Routine reports.

Townsend's Solitaire: Routine reports.

Veery: The only reports of this rare migrant in fall were of singles in Lincoln 27 Aug (LE), 6th-earliest on record, and at FF 5 Sep (JR).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Another rare migrant in fall, the only reports were of singles in Lincoln 10 Sep (LE) and Geneva Cem 13 Sep (WRS).

Swainson's Thrush: Routine reports.

Hermit Thrush: One banded at WHNC 20 Sep (JRe) was likely the Rocky Mountain subspecies *Catharus guttatus auduboni*, which migrates earlier than eastern *C. g. faxoni*.

Wood Thrush: One in Dodge Co 4 Oct (GR) was rather late.

American Robin: Routine reports.

Gray Catbird: The 29 at WP 12 Sep (WRS) was a record fall count.

Northern Mockingbird: Routine reports.

Sage Thrasher: None were reported; this is a regular, rare fall migrant in the west.

Brown Thrasher: Routine reports.

European Starling: Routine reports.

American Pipit: One at BOL 18 Nov (CR) was rather late; there are a few Dec records.

Sprague's Pipit: The only report of this elusive but regular migrant was of one in Cherry Co 27 Sep (NB).

Bohemian Waxwing: The only report was a surprise in the east: one was with Cedar Waxwings in Stanton Co 26 Oct (JF, details), rather early for this species.

Cedar Waxwing: Adults were feeding fledglings in Pawnee Co 13 Sep (WRS), rather late.

Tennessee Warbler: One in Cherry Co 26 Sep (BFH) was westerly, but 2 were even further west at Chadron SP 7 Sep (KDy), only the 10th Panhandle record.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Routine reports.

Nashville Warbler: Westerly were singles in Custer Co 24 Sep (WF) and Cherry Co 27 Sep (CNK); this species is rare in the west.

Northern Parula: Routine reports.

Yellow Warbler: Routine reports.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: The 2 reports were of singles at Platte River SP, Cass Co, 7 Sep (JC, SS) and in Bellevue 13 Sep (L&BP).

Magnolia Warbler: The 2 reports were of singles in FF 19 Sep (JR) and in Dodge Co 4 Oct (GR).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: The 3 reports were more than the usual: a male was at WP 10 Sep (LE), a female at Geneva Cem 13 Sep (WRS), and another male in Lincoln 17 Sep (TEL, JC, SS).

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler: No reports of this western breeder and migrant were received.

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: The first reported was banded and about on time at WHNC 8 Sep (JRe). Best count was 60 at FF 15 Oct (JR).

Black-throated Green Warbler: This was the 2nd good showing for this species in a row, with 11 reported 5 Sep (JR, D&JP) through 23 Sep (JR, m. ob.), all in the east.

Townsend's Warbler: None were reported; this is a regular low-density fall migrant in the Panhandle.

Blackburnian Warbler: The only reports were of singles at Platte River SP, Cass Co, 31 Aug (JC, SS), in Dodge Co 18 Sep (GR), and at FF 19 Sep (JR).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Rarely noticed in fall, singles were at FF 15 Aug (PZ) and Neale Woods, Washington Co, 7 Sep (WRS). There are only 10 records after Aug.

Palm Warbler: Only a casual migrant in fall, the only report was of one in Lincoln 14 Oct (KC).

Bay-breasted Warbler: None were reported; this is a regular fall migrant.

Black-and-white Warbler: Best count was 5 at Chadron SP 6 Sep (KDy).

American Redstart: Breeding is generally restricted to the north and east; there are no recent such reports from the Loup drainage, and so several in Loup Co 16 Aug (LR, RH) were probably early migrants. Early dates away from breeding areas are in mid-Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: None were reported; departure occurs during Aug.

Ovenbird: Routine reports.

Northern Waterthrush: The only reports of this statewide migrant were of singles at Schramm SP, Sarpy Co, 5 Sep (L&BP) and another rather late in Cherry Co 27 Sep (WJP).

Louisiana Waterthrush: None were reported; summering birds depart during Aug.

Kentucky Warbler: None were reported; summering birds depart by mid Sep.

Mourning Warbler: The 3 reports were of singles in Seward 12 Sep (JG), Dixon Co 12 Sep (JJ), and 2 at Geneva Cem 13 Sep (WRS).

MacGillivray's Warbler: An apparent adult female was reported in a Sarpy Co yard 12 Oct and submitted to NOURC (EB); there are no documented records in fall east of Fillmore Co.

Common Yellowthroat: One in Lancaster Co 14 Oct (S&RW) was rather late.

Wilson's Warbler: Routine reports.

Canada Warbler: This was another good showing for this species, continuing the positive trend of recent years. At least 9 were found, including 3 at WP 27 Aug (LE) and 3 in Bellevue 13 Sep (CNK). Others were singles at FF 1 Sep (L&BP), in Douglas Co 7 Sep (WRS), and in Seward 12 Sep (JG).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Routine reports.

Summer Tanager: Singles in Dodge Co 18 Sep (GR) and at WP 12 Aug (LE) were at the edge of the current range, which has expanded in recent years. An adult male was feeding a juvenile at Platte River SP, Cass Co, 31 Aug (JC, SS). There were several reports from FF (JR, L&BP), the last one a female there 25 Oct (L&BP, photo), 3rd-latest on record.

Scarlet Tanager: Routine reports.

Western Tanager: Routine reports.

Green-tailed Towhee: The only report of this rare to casual fall migrant was of one in Kimball Co 5 Sep (MB, DSt). There are only 21 fall reports in all.

Spotted Towhee: Routine reports.

Eastern Towhee: North of the usual range for pure-appearing birds was a male in Keya Paha Co 2 Aug paired with a Spotted Towhee (BFH, details). Most birds between Valentine and PSP are probably hybrids. An adult was feeding a young bird at FF 12 Sep (L&BP), a little tardy.

Cassin's Sparrow: Few are reported in fall as departure is early, but 2 at WSR 29 Aug (HKH) provided the latest date by 2 days.

American Tree Sparrow: Routine reports.

Chipping Sparrow: The briefly-held juvenile plumage was still being sported by one near Broken Bow 4 Oct (TH). The 115 at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 8 Oct (JR) was a good count.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Routine reports.

Brewer's Sparrow: The only report was of 3 in Kimball Co 5 Sep (MB, DSt).

Field Sparrow: An excellent count was the 40 at Wehrspann L 16 Oct (JV).

Vesper Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lark Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lark Bunting: Unusually far east were singles in Hamilton Co 18 Aug (JGJ) and in Kearney Co 24 Aug (WF). The 300+ at CLNWR 7 Sep (KDy) was an excellent count.

Savannah Sparrow: Routine reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: One in Custer Co 15 Oct (WF) was rather late. Flocks are rarely reported, but a group of 25 birds was near Broken Bow 18 Sep (TH).

Henslow's Sparrow: The only reports were of 1-2 at Wehrspann L 14-16 Oct (JV); there are few reports of fall migrants.

LeConte's Sparrow: Tripling the previous high count was the 158 at Harvard Marsh 19 Oct (PD, BF). This species often forms conspicuous aggregations in fall. Singles in Hall Co (LB) and Thayer Co (WF) 28 Oct and Gage Co 27 Oct (TEL) were rather late.

Nelson's Sparrow: One in Cherry Co 27 Sep (LR, RH) was westerly; there are very few records away from the east. A sighting 28 Oct 2008 was an error on my part in the 2008 Fall Report; the correct date was 28 Sep.

Fox Sparrow: Routine reports.

Song Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Routine reports.

Swamp Sparrow: Routine reports.

White-throated Sparrow: The 30 at Wehrspann L 25 Oct (JWH) was a good count.

Harris's Sparrow: Routine reports.

White-crowned Sparrow: One in Kimball Co 5 Sep (MB, DSt) was rather early; earliest dates are in late Aug. This species is mostly a migrant in the east; last in Lancaster Co was 3 Nov (LE).

Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco: There were 3 reports away from the breeding range, all in Scotts Bluff Co 30 Sep-6 Oct (JRe, RSg); early fall dates are now 30 Sep, 2 Oct, and 2 Oct.

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: One banded at WHNC 31 Aug (JRe) provided the earliest fall date on record by one day.

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco: Arrival of "Oregon" juncos in the east is in mid-Oct, about a month later than the west; one was in Dodge Co 19 Oct (GR). "Pink-sided" Juncos arrive in the west and central in mid-Oct also; one was in Lincoln Co 26 Oct (TJW).

McCown's Longspur: The only report was of 25 at WSR 2 Oct (HKH); flocking begins in Sep and most depart by late Oct.

Lapland Longspur: Arrival is in mid-Oct, but 8 near Alma 14 Oct (G&WH) were rather far south for that date.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: None were reported; most leave by mid-Oct.

Snow Bunting: As for last year, there were more sightings than usual before 30 Nov: 3 were at Lakes North and Babcock, Platte Co, 14 Nov (SM), 1-3 were at BOL 18-22 Nov (DL, m. ob.), 2 were near Creighton 22 Nov (MB), and one was at PL 28 Nov (PD).

- Northern Cardinal:** Unexpected was one at Oliver Res, Kimball Co, 4 Sep (MB, DSt); the only record for the s. Panhandle. Adults feeding a fledgling 22 Oct in Winside (NB) provided the latest date on record for dependent young.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Interesting hybrids appearing initially like male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were banded at Chadron SP 12 and 24 Sep (ED, photos); the first had a mottled pink breast and pink underwing coverts and the second had its back heavily streaked with brown, underwing coverts yellow, and buffy underparts streaked with brown.
- Black-headed Grosbeak:** None were reported; departure is completed by late Sep.
- Blue Grosbeak:** A female/immature in Franklin Co 14 Oct (WF) was latest on record by one day. Two nestlings were in Lancaster Co 28 Aug (LE), rather late for this species, as was a nest with young in Scotts Bluff Co 19 Aug (AK); the latter nest was empty 23 Aug (AK).
- Lazuli Bunting:** An immature male in molt was photographed easterly and rather late in Cherry Co 26 Sep (BFH).
- Indigo Bunting:** Three at the NVP 22 Sep (ML) and one in Cherry Co 26 Sep (WF) were tardy at those locations. One was carrying food in Keya Paha Co 2 Aug (BFH), a female was escorting an immature in Douglas Co 7 Sep (WRS), and 3 juveniles were in a Dixon Co yard 12 Sep (JJ).
- Dickcissel:** Routine reports.
- Bobolink:** Two in the NVP 22 Sep (ML) were rather late at that location.
- Red-winged Blackbird:** Migration (after molting) is underway by early Oct; best counts were 16,000 in Richardson Co 12 Oct (JRo) and 10,000 in Sioux Co 19 Oct (KD).
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Routine reports.
- Western Meadowlark:** Fall singing was noted in Custer Co 18 Sep (TH) and Saunders Co 31 Oct (CNK); "Birds of North America Online" notes that "Singing declines after breeding with low-level resumption of singing in fall, following Definitive Prebasic molt", suggesting a hormonal cause.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Routine reports.
- Rusty Blackbird:** By far a record fall count was the 150-200 at FF 5 Nov (L&BP), encouraging for this supposedly-declining species. Only 7 others were reported 10-21 Nov (LE, MB).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** Large numbers were reported: 400 in Dawson Co 12 Oct (WF) and 200 in Sarpy Co 15 Oct (JV). The latter is a large count for the east, but there were 8 other easterly reports of up to 15 birds 12-31 Oct (m. ob.).
- Common Grackle:** Huge flocks occur in fall, mostly in Oct; 100,000+, "95% Common Grackles", were near North Platte 22 Oct (TJW) and 30,000 were in Douglas Co 15 Oct (DSt); the latter observer noted that "he hadn't seen flocks of this size since he was a boy in Cedar Co in the 1960s".
- Great-tailed Grackle:** A good number was the flock of 100-150 in n. Lincoln 7 Nov (TEL); as with Common Grackles, most leave by the end of Nov.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Largest flocks occur in early Sep; 2500 were in Seward Co 4 Sep (LE). Stragglers were singles in Fairmont 7 Nov (JRi) and Lancaster Co 30 Nov (LE).
- Orchard Oriole:** Routine reports.
- Baltimore Oriole:** An amazing aggregation was the 51 at one spot in Lancaster Co 17 Aug (LE); previous high fall count was only 20. One was well-seen at Standing Bear L, Omaha, 26 Nov (AA); amazingly, there are 6 previous Nov records and 4 for Dec-Jan.

Bullock's Oriole: Routine reports.

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

Purple Finch: Numbers were about normal. Westernmost were 3 in Custer Co 27 Nov (TH).

Cassin's Finch: A rare find in summer and early fall, one was at Chadron SP 6 Sep (KDy). Breeding is rare in the Pine Ridge and winter visitors usually arrive in Dec-Jan.

House Finch: One banded at WHNC 1 Sep had an active brood patch (JRe), suggestive of late breeding.

Red Crossbill: Generally an early (though erratic) breeder in Nebraska, one with a brood patch was banded at WHNC as late as 10 Sep (JRe). There were "lots" of Red Crossbills at Chadron SP 6 Sep (KDy).

Common Redpoll: The only report of this mid-winter visitor was of 4 in Dodge Co 15 Nov (GR).

Pine Siskin: Numbers continue to be impressive; up to 12 were in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co, 10-26 Aug (JGJ, JLL, G&BC), 4 were in sw. Kimball Co 17 Aug (JGJ) and 12 were there 5 Sep (MB, DSt), and 1-2 were reported in the Wildcat Hills, Scotts Bluff Co 19 Sep (AK, RSg).

American Goldfinch: One banded at WHNC 11 Sep had a brood patch (JRe); even for this late breeder, this is a bit tardy.

House Sparrow: Routine reports.

The Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) Reaches Nebraska

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INTRODUCTION

The Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) was formerly endemic to the southeastern United States where it inhabited coastal areas along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts (McGowan 2001). Since the early 1900s, the species has steadily expanded north and west along major river systems (McGowan 2001). Fish Crow range expansion has followed a logical pattern, expanding along major rivers in regions close to established populations, in adjacent states to the south and east of Nebraska. The species was first recorded in Missouri in 1964 (Robbins and Easterla 1992). In 1984, Fish Crow was first reported in Kansas and by 1991 was found breeding in that state (Thomson and Ely 1992). Iowa's first record was in 1991 (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). There are no records from adjacent states to the north and west of Nebraska (Tallman et al. 2002, Andrews and Righter 1992, Scott 1993, Wyoming Game and Fish Department 1997).

The Fish Crow has long been considered an inevitable addition to Nebraska's avifauna. During the summer of 2009, we observed an adult Fish Crow on multiple occasions on the lower Platte River (LPR) near its confluence with the Missouri River. Documentation was provided to the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (NOURC) and this observation was subsequently accepted as the first documented record for the species in Nebraska (Mark Brogie, NOURC Chairperson, personal communication). Here, we describe our observations and comment on the future occurrence of the species in Nebraska.

FIELD ENCOUNTERS

A single Fish Crow was observed by Jorgensen and Panella on 29 May, Jorgensen and Stoner on 24 July, and Silcock and Keith Dyche on 8 August 2009. All encounters occurred on the LPR between U.S. Highway 75 and the Platte - Missouri River confluence in Sarpy and Cass Counties. The first two observations occurred while Nebraska Game and Parks Commission employees were conducting research on Interior Least Terns (*Sternula antillarum athalassos*) and Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*). This portion of the LPR was accessed on all occasions by canoes or kayaks.

The initial observation occurred at 16:45 on 29 May. Jorgensen noted an unfamiliar bird call originating downstream. At that time, the bird was approximately 0.25 miles away and the call was faint. As Jorgensen and Panella moved downstream, the call continued to be heard. They searched for the call's source and within a minute or two of initially hearing the bird, located a crow (*Corvus sp.*) calling from a snag adjacent to a large sandbar within the river channel. They immediately discussed the possibility that the bird was a Fish Crow. They observed the crow from a distance of 40-50 meters for a total of 20 minutes, including approximately 10 minutes in which the bird called constantly from a dead tree limb. It was at this time that call differences between this crow and typical and juvenile American Crows were discussed. With the bird in sight, it was concluded that the bird was a Fish Crow. No other crows were observed in this area or in association with the Fish Crow.

On 24 July, Jorgensen and Stoner were observing Interior Least Terns and Piping Plovers on a midstream sandbar near the original observation location. Jorgensen again heard a call from a distance that sounded like the Fish Crow heard on 29 May. Jorgensen and Stoner walked south toward the call, which was approximately 400 meters away. As they approached the south bank, a juvenile Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was sitting in a large dead cottonwood tree (*Populus deltoides*). They located the calling Fish Crow in the interior of a live tree adjacent to the dead cottonwood and were able to watch and listen to the Fish Crow from approximately 40 meters. The Fish Crow appeared to be half-heartedly harassing the eagle. After a few minutes, the Fish Crow flew into the dead tree where the juvenile Bald Eagle was perched. It continued to hop around the eagle, calling constantly, for about 15 additional minutes and then finally flew out of sight into the vegetation. Once it flew off, it ceased calling. No other crows were observed in association with the Fish Crow.

Aware of earlier reports, Silcock and Keith Dyche canoed upstream from Schilling Wildlife Management Area to search for the Fish Crow on 8 August. The Fish Crow was relocated, first by call only, but subsequently it was observed chasing two American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). The Fish Crow stopped chasing the American Crows and was observed perched for an additional 15 minutes before the bird flew off. No additional observations of the Fish Crow were made.

DESCRIPTION

The Fish Crow was entirely glossy black and appeared sleek and long-tailed compared to typical American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). The bird was an adult and showed no signs of being a hatching-year bird. On 24 July, while the bird was observed in flight, it was noted that the mid-wing primaries (P4 or P5) on both wings were missing, thus indicating the bird was molting. This detail confirmed that the bird was an adult, as only after-hatching year birds lose and replace primaries during summer (McGowan 2001, 2002, Pyle 1997). It was also noted that the bird's throat appeared fluffed or shaggy when it called.

The typical call heard during all observations was an "ahn". However, several variations of the call were heard. All calls sounded nasal and croaky, and also somewhat thin, when compared to American Crow calls. Fish Crow's nasal and thin "ahn" call is distinctive from adult American Crow's comparatively deep and boisterous "caa caa caa" call. A newly-fledged or young juvenile American Crow giving a "begging" call could lead to misidentification as a Fish Crow. Although the tone of the juvenile American Crow's begging call is similar, its delivery is different in that it is extended or "dragged-out". Fish Crow's calls are comparatively concise and are not extended. The Platte River Fish Crow gave calls consistent with Fish Crow. The two-syllable call of the Fish Crow was not heard.

Young (hatching-year) American Crows were heard and seen on numerous occasions (most while canoeing or kayaking on the Platte River) during the summer of 2009. Calls were similar, but American Crow calls were separable from the calls given by the Fish Crow. On all occasions when young American Crows were heard and observed, the young birds were in family groups of 4-8 individuals. Hatching-year American Crow calls were also given in social situations. When birds were observed within a reasonable distance, hatching-year (juvenile) crows were easily distinguished from adults by a large swollen gape, duller plumage, and weaker flight. The Fish Crow observed on the Platte River in 2009 was usually solitary and not in association with other crows (i.e., not in social situations that would illicit a begging call). The exception to this was when it was observed chasing American Crows on 8 August.

DISCUSSION

American and Fish Crows are very similar morphologically and vocally. The bird observed on the LPR in 2009 was identified as a Fish Crow because it 1) was an adult, 2) was observed singly and not in association with other crows, 3) gave distinctive nasal and thin "ahn" calls, 4) possessed a distinctive "fluffed" or "shaggy"

throat when calling, 5) was in expected habitat in a logical location, and 6) multiple observers saw and heard the bird. Written documentation provided to NOURC was reviewed and these observations of Fish Crow are now the first accepted record for Nebraska.

The addition of Fish Crow to Nebraska's avifauna has been anticipated. As noted above, Fish Crow range expansion has occurred at a slow and steady rate for decades (McGowan 2001, Sauer et al. 2008). Since 2000, the number of reports and locations in which Fish Crows have been recorded in Kansas and Missouri has also slowly, but steadily, increased (Dinsmore 2005, 2006, 2008, Grzybowski and Silcock 2005, 2006, 2008). In 2003, Fish Crow was reported from the Kansas City area, Missouri (McNeill 2003), less than 160 km (100 miles) from Nebraska.

This first accepted record occurred at a location perhaps more northerly than expected. The 2009 record occurred approximately 145 km (90 miles) north of Nebraska's southern border. Range expansion by Fish Crow, however, has been described as following a leapfrog pattern, with individuals or groups forming colonies disjunct from established ranges (McGowan 2001). The Fish Crow was observed in expected habitat along a major river.

Based on long-term range expansion, Fish Crow records are likely to increase in Nebraska in the future. Additional records are most likely to occur along major rivers in the southeastern part of the state. Observers need to exercise caution when identifying possible Fish Crows. Awareness of subtle morphological and vocal differences between American and Fish Crow will be important. Future observations should be documented. It remains unclear whether the Fish Crow will become a regularly-occurring or breeding species in Nebraska. Such an outcome seems plausible, if not likely, at this time.

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2009 (21st) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

Compiled by: Mark A. Brogie - NOU Records Committee Chairperson
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The functions and methods of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union (NOU) Records Committee are described in its bylaws (NOU Records Committee 1986). The committee's purpose is to provide a procedure for documenting unusual bird sightings and to establish a list of all documented birds for Nebraska. All records mentioned here are available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM), Lincoln, NE. Interested parties should contact the current NOU Librarian, whose address can be found in the latest issue of *The Nebraska Bird Review* (NBR).

State List

The "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" was first published in 1988 (NOU Records Committee 1988) and has been updated three times (NOU Records Committee 1997, 2004, 2009). The "Official List" has been appended nineteen times: (Mollhoff 1989; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009; Jorgensen 2001, 2002, 2003). The American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (1998) and its following supplements: (AOU: 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009), contain many taxonomic changes affecting North American birds. The following summarizes all 2009 revisions by the AOU in regards to changes in scientific names and changes in assignments to family and order of species included in the most recently published "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009" (NOU Records Committee 2009). This report includes all accounts submitted during the 2009 calendar year, covering 48 records with accession numbers 1271-1318.

Criteria for Accepted Record

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

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

Each account of an accepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and initial(s) of observers. This report summarizes all records accessioned in 2009, discusses any new additions to the state list, and reports any

changes in firmness of data of Nebraska birds. Additionally, the list reflects changes in frequency of occurrence, as determined by the NOU Records Committee, which reviewed records of bird occurrences in Nebraska for 2000-2009. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOU Records Committee 2009):

- Regular - acceptably reported in 9-10 of the past 10 years.
- Casual - acceptably reported in 4-7 of the past 10 years.
- Accidental - acceptably reported in 0-2 of the past 10 years.
- Extirpated - not acceptably reported in the past 50 years.
- Extinct - no longer found alive anywhere in the world.

The frequency of occurrence for any species that is acceptably reported in 3 or 8 of the last 10 years is discussed by the committee and placed in a category felt most appropriate by the committee. This report summarizes the 2009 changes made to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009".

2009 Additions to State List

There were two new species added in 2009.

1. Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) Accidental, Class III.
Replaces (*Fregata* species).
2. Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*), Accidental, Class III.
Insert after American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).

With these additions, the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" now stands at 454 species.

Changes Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions and/or Changes in English or Scientific Names Based on AOU 2009

1. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) changed to Nelson's Sparrow.
2. Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) becomes *Acanthis flammea*.
3. Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) becomes *Acanthis hornemanni*.
4. Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) becomes *Spinus pinus*.
5. Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*) becomes *Spinus psaltria*.
6. American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) becomes *Spinus tristis*.

2009 Changes in Sequence Based on AOU 2009

The following changes were made in the taxonomic order in the latest "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska".

In the Order GALLIFORMES, Family Odontophoridae: Quail now precedes Family Phasianidae: Partridges, Grouse, and Turkeys.

On the basis of new information on their phylogenetic relationships, the (*Piranga*) tanagers were moved (retaining their same sequence) from the Family Thraupidae to the beginning of the Family Cardinalidae: Cardinals and Allies. Thus the family Thraupidae was removed from the "Official List".

2009 Changes in Frequency of Occurrence

1. Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) changed from Regular to Casual.

2009 Changes in Firmness of Data

1. Black Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte atrata*) changed from Class III to Class I-P.

Pre-2009 Accepted RecordsNeotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

1. Photographs (Class I-P, DC) were received of a single bird observed at DeSoto NWR, Washington Co., 01 July 2006. Accession # 1290.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)

1. A detailed description (Class III, CS) was received of an adult male observed on the south channel of the Missouri River around Goat Island, Cedar Co., 29 August 2007. This record was originally submitted to the South Dakota Records Committee with the following review: "This report was an acceptable sight record with two observers, so it would constitute a first state record. However; the committee was unsure of whether the sighting occurred in what is legally defined as South Dakota or Nebraska. The record will be listed as hypothetical pending the outcome of the litigation over the boundary dispute involving Goat Island." (Swanson 2008). From information received, regardless of the NE/SD boundary dispute, the NOURC deemed that the bird was clearly within Nebraska during part of the observation. Accession # 1310.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*)

1. Photographs (Class I-P, NG) were received of a male bird banded (Rocky Mtn. Bird Observatory) at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff Co., 25 September 2008. Accession # 1313.

Black Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte atrata*)

1. A photograph (Class I-P, HH) was received of a bird at Wind Springs Ranch, southern Sioux Co., 15 January 2001. Accession # 1311.

2009 Accepted RecordsBlack-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, SN via NN) at Pier Park in Grand Island, Hall County, 30 December 2008. Although a late date, the bird was unbanded and had an intact right hind toe (an indication of a wild bird). Accession # 1271.
2. Two birds were photographed (Class I-P, WL) at a game farm north of Cairo, Howard County. Both birds had intact hind toes on the right foot and were present from 21 June through mid-July, 2009. Accession # 1306.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, KS) at Funk WPA, Phelps Co., 05 March 2009. Accession # 1275.
2. An additional photograph (Class I-P, PD) of the above bird taken 06 March 2009. Accession # 1276.
3. Two adult males were observed (Class III, LH) at Bridgeport SRA, Morrill Co., 11 October 2009. Accession # 1308.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

1. An immature bird was observed (Class III, DP, JP) at Lake Babcock, north of Columbus, Platte Co., 15 May 2009. Accession # 1285.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

1. Two adult birds were photographed (Class I-P; TB via CG) in southern Sheridan Co., 30 April 2009. Accession # 1277.

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)

1. A single adult was photographed (Class I-P, MAB) southwest of Brady, Lincoln Co., 25 June 2009. Accession # 1287.
*This is the same location at which a bird was observed 01 July 2008 (Brogie 2009).
2. Additional photographs (Class I-P, PD) of the above bird observed on 26 July 2009 were received. Accession # 1292.
3. A single adult bird was observed (Class III, LS) along I-80 west of Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 30 May 2009. Accession # 1318.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

1. Photographs (Class I-P, JR) of a "half decomposed (nearly mummified)" bird was discovered 23 November 2009 at Indian Creek Nursery, Omaha, Sarpy County. The carcass was turned over to the UNSM for skeletal material. Accession # 1315.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

1. Members of a family group (2 adults, 10 chicks) were photographed (Class I-P, JJ) at North Lake Basin, Seward Co., 01 August, 2009. Accession 1294.

Common Crane (*Grus grus*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, BHo) at Crane Valley Ranch near Lewellen, Garden Co., 18-21 March 2009. Accession # 1277.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

1. An adult in non-breeding plumage was photographed (Class I-P, PD) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 07 November 2009. Accession # 1307.

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*)

1. A single adult bird was observed (Class III, DL) at Lake North/Lake Babcock, Platte Co., 16 May 2009. Accession # 1283.

Inca Dove (Columbina inca)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, TS) in Benkelman, Dundy Co., 08 June 2009. Accession # 1296.

Red-naped Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus nuchalis)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, HH) at Wind Springs Ranch, southern Sioux Co., 18 May 2009. Accession # 1286.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (Myiarchus cinerascens)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, TH) south of Exit 1, Kimball Co., 23 June 2009. Accession # 1288.

White-eyed Vireo (Vireo griseus)

1. A bird "calling regularly" was photographed (Class I-P, PS) at Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., 02 May 2009. Accession # 1280.
2. An adult "molting bird" was observed (Class III, MAB) near Schlindler Creek, northwest of Verdigre, Knox Co., 29 July 2009. Accession # 1293.

Fish Crow (Corvus ossifragus)

1. A detailed report (Class III, JJ) was received of a single bird first observed at mile 1.2 of the Platte River, Cass/Sarpy Co., 29 May 2009 and again at the same location on 24 July 2009. Accession # 1291.
*This represents the first documented record for this species in Nebraska.
2. An additional report (Class III, WRS) was received of a Fish Crow observed at the above location on 15 August 2009. Accession # 1299.

Mountain Chickadee (Poecile gambeli)

1. A single bird, present since early January, was photographed (Class I-P, CM) at Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 22 February 2009. Accession # 1273.

Bewick's Wren (Thryomanes bewickii)

1. A single adult was observed (Class III, LE) at Holmes Lake Park, Lancaster Co., 13 April 2009. Accession # 1301.

Varied Thrush (Ixoreus naevius)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class I-P, KS) at Kearney, Buffalo Co., 17 May 2009. Accession # 1282.

Lesser Goldfinch (Spinus psaltria)

1. A "black-backed" male was photographed (Class I-P, JJ) at Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co., 10 August 2009. Accession # 1298.
2. Photographs (Class I-P, JJ) were received of several birds in various locations in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co., 16 August 2009. Accession # 1300.
3. A "black-backed" male was photographed (Class I-P, DS) northwest of Gretna, Douglas Co., 20-21 May 2009. Accession # 1302.
*This represents the easternmost record for this species in Nebraska.
4. Two "black-backed" males were photographed (Class I-P, MAB) south of Exit 1, Kimball Co., 06 September 2009. Accession # 1303.

Unaccepted Records

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

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

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

Unaccepted Records (Received in 2009)**Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)**

1. A description of a bird observed at Ender's Reservoir, Chase Co., 22 May 2009 was very suggestive of the species, but lacked sufficient details for approval. Class IV. Accession # 1284.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

1. A single bird was observed and described near Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co., 12 September 2009. Although most likely correct, some reviewers believed the description lacked sufficient details to eliminate other possible species. Accession # 1289.

Records Submitted in 2009: Filed Without Votes**Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)**

1. A photograph (KS) of a single "blue-phase" individual near Kearney, Buffalo Co., 05 March 2009, was filed. Accession # 1274.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

1. Photographs (JJ) of a single bird at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 24 October 2009 were filed. Accession # 1305.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

1. A photograph (PD) of an adult bird in Hastings, Adams Co., 09 June 2009 was filed. Accession # 1295.

Common Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*)

1. A report (DP, JP) of an "out of range and out of season" bird discovered at Buckley Park in Stromsburg, Polk Co., 23 October 2009 was filed. Accession # 1309.

Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)

1. A photograph (TS) of a single bird in Dundy Co., 08 May 2009 was filed. Accession # 1297.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*)

1. A photograph (MA via TJW) of a single bird at Medicine Creek Reservoir, Frontier Co., 10 June 2009 was filed. Accession # 1317.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*)

1. A photograph (NG) of a female banded (Rocky Mtn. Bird Observatory) at Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff Co., 13 September, 2008 was filed. Accession # 1314.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

1. Photographs (TP) of a single bird coming to a suet feeder in Walton, Lancaster Co., 04 December 2009 were filed. Accession # 1316.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*)

1. A photograph (CH via KD) of an adult male in Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co., 03 May 2009 (present since 30 April) was filed. Accession # 1281.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*)

1. A description (EB) of an "adult female or possible immature" observed at Bellevue, Sarpy Co., 12 October 2009 was filed. Accession # 1304.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

1. Photographs (EM) of an extralimital adult male observed in Omaha, Douglas Co., 28-30 April 2009 were filed. Accession # 1279.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*)

1. A photograph (BH) of a single bird coming to a feeder in Ogallala, Keith Co., 03 January 2009 was filed. Accession # 1272.
2. A photograph (HH) of a single bird of the "Gray-cheeked" or "Hepburn's" form at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co., 15 January 2001 was filed. Accession # 1312.

Acknowledgments

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2009 NOU Records Committee Members

Mark A. Brogie (chair), Paul Dunbar, Joe Gubanyi, Bill Huser, Loren Padelford, W. Ross Silcock, and T.J. Walker.

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Fall Field Days at Valentine

Fall Field Days were held in Valentine September 25-27, 2009, with 65 participants registered for the weekend. Dave Heidt organized the meeting and led field trips to Cherry County lakes and marshes. Trips to Smith Falls and along the Niobrara River in Keya Paha and Brown Counties were guided by Mark Brogie. Lanny Randolph led trips to the Ft. Niobrara NWR and the Valentine Fish Hatchery. A total of 133 species was tallied.

On Friday evening Dan Leger, Professor of Psychology at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, gave an impromptu presentation on the microphones and recording equipment he uses to record bird vocalizations in his research.

On Saturday evening, Kent Skaggs of the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary south of Gibbon spoke on what is being done to maintain and improve habitat along the Platte River for Sandhill Cranes, geese, ducks and other birds. Due to reduced water flow in the river, mechanical clearing is necessary to maintain the wide channels and open sandbars that cranes prefer. Yearly mowing and disking to remove woody plants and invasive species such as purple loosestrife and phragmites is also necessary.

Jill Liske-Clark gave a brief account of the activities of the Nebraska Partnership for All Bird Conservation.

A business meeting was held to vote on changes to the Bylaws. The following changes were approved:

1. Assign to the Secretary the task of maintaining a current copy of the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws and post the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws on the NOU website rather than mail them to members every five years.
2. Exempt the chairperson of the NOU Records Committee from term limit restrictions.

Fall Field Days at Valentine

	Brown	Cherry	Keya Paha
Canada Goose		x	
Trumpeter Swan		x	
Wood Duck	x	x	
Gadwall		x	
American Wigeon		x	
Mallard		x	
Blue-winged Teal	x	x	
Northern Shoveler		x	
Northern Pintail		x	
Green-winged Teal		x	
Canvasback		x	
Redhead		x	
Ring-necked Duck		x	
Lesser Scaup		x	
Ruddy Duck		x	
Ring-necked Pheasant		x	
Sharp-tailed Grouse		x	x
Greater Prairie-Chicken		x	x
Wild Turkey	x	x	x
Pied-billed Grebe	x	x	
Horned Grebe		x	
Eared Grebe		x	
Western Grebe		x	
Clark's Grebe		x	
American White Pelican	x	x	x
Double-crested Cormorant		x	x
American Bittern		x	
Great Blue Heron	x	x	
Snowy Egret		x	
Cattle Egret		x	
Black-crowned Night-Heron		x	
Turkey Vulture	x	x	x
Osprey	x	x	
Bald Eagle	x	x	x
Northern Harrier	x	x	x
Sharp-shinned Hawk	x	x	
Cooper's Hawk		x	
Swainson's Hawk		x	x
Red-tailed Hawk	x	x	x
Ferruginous Hawk		x	x
Rough-legged Hawk			x
Golden Eagle			x
American Kestrel		x	x
Merlin	x	x	
Prairie Falcon		x	

Fall Field Days at Valentine

	Brown	Cherry	Keya Paha
American Coot		x	
Killdeer		x	
Spotted Sandpiper		x	
Greater Yellowlegs		x	
Lesser Yellowlegs		x	
Pectoral Sandpiper		x	
Stilt Sandpiper		x	
Dowitcher sp.		x	
Wilson's Snipe		x	
Red-necked Phalarope		x	
Franklin's Gull		x	
Ring-billed Gull		x	
Black Tern		x	
Forster's Tern		x	
Rock Pigeon		x	x
Eurasian Collared-Dove		x	x
Mourning Dove	x	x	x
Eastern Screech-Owl	x	x	x
Great Horned Owl		x	
Burrowing Owl		x	
Belted Kingfisher	x	x	x
Red-headed Woodpecker	x	x	x
Red-bellied Woodpecker		x	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	x	x	
Downy Woodpecker	x	x	x
Hairy Woodpecker		x	
Northern Flicker	x	x	x
Eastern Phoebe	x	x	x
Say's Phoebe		x	x
Blue Jay	x	x	x
American Crow	x	x	x
Horned Lark		x	x
Tree Swallow		x	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		x	
Bank Swallow		x	
Cliff Swallow		x	
Barn Swallow	x	x	x
Black-capped Chickadee	x	x	x
Red-breasted Nuthatch	x	x	
White-breasted Nuthatch	x	x	x
House Wren		x	
Marsh Wren		x	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		x	x
Eastern Bluebird	x	x	x
Swainson's Thrush		x	

Fall Field Days at Valentine

	Brown	Cherry	Keya Paha
American Robin	x	x	
Gray Catbird		x	x
Brown Thrasher		x	x
European Starling		x	x
Sprague's Pipit		x	
Cedar Waxwing		x	x
Tennessee Warbler		x	
Orange-crowned Warbler	x	x	x
Nashville Warbler		x	
Yellow-rumped Warbler		x	x
American Redstart		x	
Northern Waterthrush		x	
Common Yellowthroat		x	
Wilson's Warbler		x	
Yellow-breasted Chat		x	
Spotted Towhee	x	x	x
Chipping Sparrow	x	x	x
Clay-colored Sparrow	x	x	x
Field Sparrow		x	x
Vesper Sparrow		x	x
Lark Sparrow		x	
Savannah Sparrow		x	
Grasshopper Sparrow		x	
Nelson's Sparrow		x	
Song Sparrow		x	x
Lincoln's Sparrow		x	x
Swamp Sparrow		x	
White-throated Sparrow		x	
Harris's Sparrow		x	
White-crowned Sparrow		x	x
Dark-eyed Junco	x	x	
Northern Cardinal		x	x
Bunting sp.		x	
Red-winged Blackbird		x	
Eastern Meadowlark			x
Western Meadowlark		x	x
Yellow-headed Blackbird		x	
Common Grackle	x	x	
Brown-headed Cowbird		x	
House Finch		x	
Pine Siskin		x	
American Goldfinch	x	x	x
House Sparrow		x	
Total species: 133	36	130	50

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