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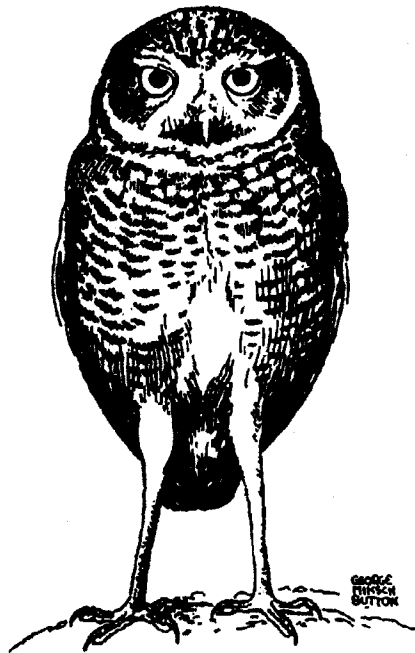
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Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Treasurer's Report 2004

	General Fund	Breeding Bird Atlas	Scholarship Fund	Endowment Fund	Total
Jan. 1, 2004 Balance CDs	\$10,215.41	\$6,433.94		\$12,947.00	\$29,596.35
Jan. 1, 2004 Bal. Checking	(\$33.26)	\$25.00	\$1,108.30	\$50.00	\$1,150.04
Grand Total					<u>\$30,746.39</u>

RECEIPTS

Donations	556.67		510.00	18,430.00	19,496.67
Memberships	2,500.00				2,500.00
Subscriptions	468.00				468.00
NBR - Sales	20.00				20.00
Spring mtg. Ogallala '04	1,775.16				1,775.16
Fall meeting Halsey 2004	2,935.30				2,935.30
Occ. Paper #8	97.50				97.50
NE Breeding Bird Atlas		110.75			110.75
Interest	481.29				481.29
Subtotal Receipts					\$27,884.67

DISBURSEMENTS

Spring mtg. Ogallala '03	1,467.63				1,467.63
Fall meeting Halsey 2004	3,098.21				3,098.21
NE Dept of Rev. sales tax		17.20			17.20
NBR print V71 #2 - V72 #1	1,008.00				1,008.00
Newsletter printing	344.75				344.75
Postage	765.09				765.09
Insurance	193.00				193.00
Occ. Paper #8	201.50				201.50
Interest					0.00
CD/Savings		64.30		18,480.00	18,544.30
Subtotal Disbursements					\$25,639.68

Dec. 31, '04 Bal. Checking	\$1,722.48	\$54.25	\$1,618.30		<u>\$3,395.03</u>
Dec. 31, '04 Bal. Savings	\$10,000.00			\$10,076.67	<u>\$20,076.67</u>
Dec. 31, '04 Balance CDs		\$6,602.58		\$21,641.91	<u>\$28,244.49</u>
Maturity		5/21/05		6/21/05	
Current Rate		1.78%		1.98%	

Grand Total					<u>\$51,716.19</u>
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WINTER FIELD REPORT, December 2004 to February 2005

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INTRODUCTION

This winter was generally unremarkable except for the occurrence of good numbers of several species at the western edge of the state, notably Clark's Nutcracker, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Bohemian Waxwing. There were a couple of sightings of Mountain Chickadee and one of Cassin's Finch for good measure. All of the winter finches on the Nebraska list (except for Hoary Redpoll) appeared, most notably Pine Grosbeak, represented by two birds. One of these was in the southwest (Kansas had several reports) but the other was in the east, suggesting either multiple points of origin, or, as suggested by some in Kansas, northern rather than western origin. Also in good numbers were Red-breasted Nuthatches, but Harris's Sparrows were scarce. Black-capped Chickadees remained in very low numbers in southern Nebraska west of the Missouri River Valley.

Of interest was the discovery of wintering Marsh and Winter Wrens along the central Niobrara Valley; perhaps this is a regular occurrence, but who's been looking? This phenomenon may be linked to other occurrences that would be expected in a warmer winter: several species of ducks that are generally not seen in midwinter were found on the Scottsbluff and Gering Sewage Lagoons, sapsuckers were in good numbers, catbirds and Brown Thrashers put in unexpected winter appearances, and a Loggerhead Shrike was far to the north.

Notable sightings were several, ranging from huge counts to birds rare in winter but expected at other times to bona fide rarities, although the last is a matter of one's definition of rare. Best sightings in these categories were probably the 2,000,000 Snow Geese reported (half the North American population), 4 Barrow's Goldeneyes, a financially savvy Sharp-tailed Grouse, a first-documented Dec Osprey, 3rd-latest Least Sandpipers, Great Black-backed and Iceland Gulls, first winter record for White-winged Dove, 9568 crows and 10,216 robins at Calamus Res, White-winged Crossbill, and, of course, 2 Pine Grosbeaks.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City
BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co
CBC: Christmas Bird Count
Cem: Cemetery
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co
GPD: Gavins Point Dam, Cedar-Knox Cos
HCR: Harlan Co Res, Harlan Co
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co
LO: L Ogallala, Keith Co
m.ob.: many observers
NC: Nature Center
NNF: Nebraska National Forest
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge

PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co
RWB: Rainwater Basin, south central Nebraska
SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co
SHP: State Historical Park
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)
SP: State Park
SRA: State Recreation Area
WMA: Wildlife Management Area
WSR: Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co.

GAZETTEER

Boyer Chute NWR: Washington Co
DeSoto NWR: Washington Co
Johnson Res: Gosper-Frontier Cos
Sutherland Res: Lincoln Co
Wildcat Hills: Scotts Bluff-Banner Cos.

OBSERVERS

AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering
BFH: Bill F. Huser, South Sioux City
BG: Betty Grenon, Bellevue
B&LP: Babs & Loren Padelford, Bellevue
BS: Bill Schmoker, Boulder, CO
B&DW: Bruce & Donna Walgren, Casper, WY
CC: Carol Carpenter, Verdon
CM: Connie McCartney, Grand Island
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue
CS: Carolyn Sonderman, Omaha
CWH: C.W. (Bill) Huntley, Ogallala
DH: Dave Heidt, Norfolk
D&CN: Don and Colleen Noecker, Albion
D&JP: Don & Jan Paseka, Ames
EB: Elliott Bedows, Bellevue
EV: Eric Volden, Grand Island
GH: Gerard Harbison, Lincoln
G&WH: Glen & Wanda Hoge, Alma
GKH: G.K. Hanily, Omaha
HA: Henry Armknecht, Ovid, CO
HKH: Helen K. Hughson, Mitchell
JCm: Jay Carmer, Lincoln
JED: James E. Ducey, Omaha
JG: Joe Gubanyi, Seward
JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Blair
JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield
JS: Jim Schmoker, Boulder, CO
JSt: Jon Strong, Omaha
JT: Jerry Toll, Omaha
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell
LB: Laurel Badura, Kearney
LD: Linda Dennis, Omaha

LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln
L&CF: Laurence & Carol Falk, Nebraska City
LO: Linda Ollinger, Wilsonville
LR: Lanny Randolph, Gibbon
LRB: Linda R. Brown, Lincoln
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton
NB: Norma Brockmoller, Winside
NP: Nathan Pieplow, Boulder, CO
NR: Neal Ratzlaff, Omaha
P&DD: Phyllis & Dean Drawbaugh, Scottsbluff
PJ: Paul Johnsgard, Lincoln
PK: Peter Kondrasov, Maryville, MO
RE: Rick Eades, Lincoln
RG: Ruth Green, Bellevue
RH: Robin Harding, Gibbon
RS: Ruben Siegfried, Scottsbluff
SJD: Stephen J. Dinsmore, Starkville, MS
TEL: Thomas E. Labedz, Lincoln
TJW: T.J. Walker, North Platte
TP: Theresa Pester, Lincoln
TR: Tommie Rogers, Mound City, MO
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA
ZU: Zee Uridil, Chadron

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose: The last fall flock was the 50 in Lancaster Co 28 Dec (LE), but one was in Scotts Bluff Co 1 Jan (KD), where the species is rare. Rather early migrants were 15 in Seward Co 4 Feb (JG) and 203 at LM 12 Feb (JGJ), the latter an excellent westerly count. Best count was 2340 at BOL 20 Feb (LE). A hybrid with Snow Goose was reported at BOL 19 Dec (JG).

Snow Goose: Incredible numbers appeared this spring in central Nebraska. A Corps of Engineers count at HCR in Feb yielded 1,161,608 (fide G&WH); these birds were still present 28 Feb (G&WH). The observers (G&WH) estimated about 10-15% of these birds were Blue Geese, suggesting a different provenance from the birds in the central Platte Valley and RWB, where the flocks are nearly evenly split between blue and white birds. Estimates of the latter birds of 500,000 to 1,000,000 were made 23-26 Feb (LB, RE,LRB,PJ). Thus there were about 2,000,000 Snow Geese in central Nebraska at peak migration this spring, about half the currently estimated total for the species (Canadian Wildlife Service website). Good numbers were noted in the Panhandle also; these western flocks contain essentially all white birds and are from more westerly nesting areas than the huge numbers of eastern birds. Best Panhandle count was the 5000 flying over Scotts Bluff Co 18 Feb (KD); a lone straggler was noted 1 Jan (KD). Unexpected for the dates were the 300 flying south over Dodge Co 3 Jan (D&JP), and 400 rather early in Dixon Co 19 Feb (BFH).

Ross's Goose: Few were reported, as observers apparently spend little time searching among Snow Geese for these birds; midwinter records are few, latest this season were 6 at Swanson Res 20 Dec (SJD).

Canada Goose: The usual large numbers were wintering in the central and western Platte Valley; tens of thousands were seen 30 Jan between Brady and Sutherland, a stretch of only about 40 miles (TJW). Most CBCs reported good

numbers, highest the 3840 at Scotts Bluff 18 Dec (fide AK).

Cackling Goose: Expected to be an abundant spring and fall migrant, best count was 1000 in the central Platte Valley 26 Feb (LRB,PJ). Best fall count was only 50, in Cass Co 26 Dec and Dundy Co 29 Dec (TJW). Also expected to overwinter, but in smaller numbers, 30 were near Seward 4 Feb (JG), possibly early migrants, 7 were in Dawson Co 9 Jan (TJW) and singles were in Scotts Bluff Co 17 and 24 Jan (KD, photo).

Trumpeter Swan: A total of 58 was reported from Gordon (JED) eastward, including 25 in southwest Cherry Co 15 Dec (LB). One at Beaver L, Cass Co, 26 Dec, was a female banded in Minnesota in 2002 (TJW). Of 7 birds in Butler Co 26 Feb (LR,RH), 3 had red collars, presumably from Iowa, 2 had orange wing tags, presumably from Minnesota or Wisconsin, and 2 were unmarked.

Wood Duck: Rare in midwinter anywhere in the state, surprising were as many as 7 at Berggren Pond, Scotts Bluff Co, 1-17 Jan (KD). Less unusual were 2 seen 5 Feb and thought to be wintering at Carter L, Douglas Co (CNK). Two at ADF 19 Feb (L&CF) were new arrivals.

Gadwall: The 70 on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec were a new count high; some apparently wintered, as did the 14 at the Scottsbluff SL 24 Jan (KD).

American Wigeon: Another species finding the Scottsbluff SL to its liking, 684 were a new Scottsbluff CBC high 18 Dec, and 50 were still there 17 Jan (KD). Also wintering were 4-9 present 7-23 Jan at Berggren Pond, Scotts Bluff Co (KD). This species seems to be more often seen in midwinter recently.

American Black Duck: None were reported; this species may no longer be a regular winter visitor.

Mallard: Best counts were the 15,000 on 20 Jan wintering at Sutherland Res (TJW) and 11,882 on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec (fide AK).

Northern Shoveler: The only midwinter report was of up to 8 at Berggren Pond, Scotts Bluff Co, 7-17 Jan (KD); this species winters regularly but in small numbers only in the Platte Valley.

Northern Pintail: Routine reports.

Green-winged Teal: Routine reports.

Canvasback: Few were reported, none in midwinter.

Redhead: Rare in midwinter, the only report was of 2 at Scottsbluff SL 24 Jan (KD).

Ring-necked Duck: Rare in midwinter like Redheads, the 65 on 18 Dec provided a Scottsbluff CBC high (fide AK), and 1-2 remained in the area through 17 Jan (KD) for the only midwinter report.

Greater Scaup: About 170 were reported, including 118 fall migrants at LO 19 Dec (SJD) and 36 spring migrants at LM 12 Feb (JGJ). The only midwinter report was of one at Scottsbluff SL 17 Jan (KD).

Lesser Scaup: The only midwinter report was of 15 at Scottsbluff SL 17 Jan (KD). Most midwinter reports are from LM, and of only 7 elsewhere, 3 are from Scotts Bluff Co.

White-winged Scoter: The 2 reports included 3 birds (adult male, 2 immatures) at LM 17-19 Dec (SJD), one first-winter bird apparently staying until 31 Dec (BS,JS). The other report was of a single first-winter bird at GPD 3-8 Jan (MB,DH,JJ). Except for 2 winter reports, these are the latest fall dates for the state.

Bufflehead: The 2 at Scottsbluff SL 4 Feb (KD) may have wintered, following a CBC high of 5 there 18 Dec (fide AK); the 7 at Scottsbluff SL 18 Feb (KD) were likely early migrants. The 8 at LM 12 Feb (JGJ) probably wintered there; 148 were there 19 Dec (SJD).

Common Goldeneye: A good northerly count for the date was the Calamus CBC high of 327 on 1 Jan (fide DH). A male hybrid with Hooded Merganser at LO 12 Dec (HA) and 31 Dec (BS,JS) has wintered there for a few years now. Another of the same cross was photographed at Scottsbluff SL 17 Jan (KD) and possibly the same bird was nearby 18 Feb (KD).

Barrow's Goldeneye: Regular in winter in the North Platte Valley, 4 were reported. Up to 3 were in Scotts Bluff Co 11 Dec (KD) through 18 Feb (KD), including 3 on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec (fide AK) and a pair at the Scottsbluff SL 4 Dec (KD). Another (juvenile male) was on the LM CBC 19 Dec (SJD).

Hooded Merganser: Rare in midwinter, one was at Scottsbluff SL 24 Jan (KD).

Common Merganser: Best counts were the 5000 at Swanson Res, Hitchcock Co, 16 Feb (JSt) and the 3000-4000 on 20 Jan wintering at Sutherland Res (TJW).

Red-breasted Merganser: Generally casual in winter, but probably regular at LM, as many as 10 were still at LO 12 Jan (TJW), declining to 2 on 10 Feb (CWH), but an apparent influx 12 Feb saw 29 there, including 26 males (JGJ). Unexpected was one at L Maloney, Lincoln Co, 31 Jan (TJW).

Ruddy Duck: The only reports of this cold-sensitive species were of one on the Branched Oak-Seward CBC 19 Dec (LE, fide JG) and 7 on the LM CBC the same day (SJD).

Gray Partridge: The only report was from the population at WSR, where 8 wintered around the homestead (HKH).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Best count was an excellent 181 at Boyer Chute NWR 10 Jan (JT).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: One in a small tree next to a North Platte banking facility 22 Dec was thought to be opening a lekking account because business was booming (TJW). Other reports were from expected locations in north-central Nebraska (DH,NPi,JED).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Good numbers were noted in north-central and southeast Nebraska, including 100 at an irrigated corn stubble field in southwest Custer Co 23 Jan (TJW) and 51 in Johnson Co 9 Dec (TEL). At the northeast edge of the range were 7 on the Ponca SP CBC 27 Dec (BFH).

Wild Turkey: Huge counts were received of this species, which is obviously doing very well statewide. Best were 484 on the Grand Island CBC 18 Dec (fide CM) and 444 on the DeSoto NWR CBC 19 Dec (fide JT), although most impressive were the 375 in one flock near Orleans 21 Jan (G&WH).

Northern Bobwhite: Impressive for the location was the count record 68 on the Calamus CBC 1 Jan (fide DH). Also of interest were the 8 on the Crawford CBC 20 Dec (B&DW), where the species is rare.

Common Loon: The only report was of one rather late on the LM CBC 19 Dec (SJD); there are only about 6 later sightings.

Pied-billed Grebe: Rather late was one in Dundy Co 29 Dec (TJW); a few linger until freeze-up most years.

Horned Grebe: Last was one at LM 17-19 Dec (SJD).

Western Grebe: The only report was of the 20, fewer than in recent years, on the LM CBC 19 Dec (SJD).

Clark's Grebe: Rather late was one at LM 19 Dec (SJD).

American White Pelican: Two wintered at LO (CWH,JGJ,BS,JS) and 5-6 at Sutherland Res (TJW,JGJ), both locations where a few now winter regularly. One as far northeast as the Norfolk CBC 18 Dec was a count first (fide DH). Returning birds included 8 rather early at HCR 25 Feb (G&WH).

Double-crested Cormorant: One at Sutherland Res 12 Feb (JGJ) may have wintered there; there are a few similar records for this location.

- Great Blue Heron:** Only casual in winter away from the Platte River Valley, one at Burwell on the Calamus CBC 1 Jan (NB,DH) was unexpected.
- Osprey:** An injured bird was found near Doniphan on the Grand Island CBC 18 Dec; it was captured and taken to a recovery center but died a few weeks later (fide EV). This is the first documented Dec report for Nebraska, albeit an unfortunate one.
- Bald Eagle:** Nesting was under way at NNF-Halsey, Thomas Co, 15 Feb (RG) and in Nemaha Co 25 Feb (CC).
- Northern Harrier:** Routine reports.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Routine reports.
- Cooper's Hawk:** Routine reports.
- Northern Goshawk:** There were 3 reports. Single immatures were near North Platte 3 Jan (TJW) and in Otoe Co 17 Jan (L&CF), and an adult was seen in Carter Canyon on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec (WRS, PK,TR).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** None were reported; most winters this species is reported from FF.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** An early nester, one was repairing a nest near Alma 27 Feb (G&WH).
- Ferruginous Hawk:** Easternmost of the 7 reported was near Orleans 21 Jan (G&WH). One of the 5 on the LM CBC 19 Dec was a dark morph (CNK); this is the 5th Nebraska report of this form, which comprises about 1% of the total population and breeds mostly in Alberta and Saskatchewan (Wheeler, *Raptors of Western North America*).
- Rough-legged Hawk:** Numbers were good, with best counts 16 between WSR and Hemingford 12 Dec (HKH), 12 in about 25 miles south of Harrison 25 Jan (HKH), and, eastward, 7 in Polk, Merrick, and Platte Cos 3 Feb (D&JP).
- Golden Eagle:** Easterly, where it is only casual, were singles on the DeSoto NWR CBC 19 Dec (fide JT) and the Ponca SP CBC 27 Dec (fide BFH).
- American Kestrel:** They were everywhere in southwest Nebraska 29 Dec, where some 150 were counted in 300 miles (TJW). Because migration is essentially over by late Oct, this must represent an extraordinary lingering concentration attracted by an extraordinary prey supply.
- Merlin:** Routine reports.
- Prairie Falcon:** Rare southeastward, singles were found during count week of the 19 Dec Branched Oak-Seward CBC (fide JG) and in Seward Co 4 Feb (JG).
- Peregrine Falcon:** Although fall migration ends in mid-Nov and spring migration starts in late Mar, nesting began early, with 3 eggs present at the Woodmen Tower, Omaha, 28 Feb (fide CNK). Similarly, 3 birds were noted around the State Capitol, Lincoln, 18 Feb (JCm). This, along with previous winter sightings in Omaha and Lincoln, suggests that stocked resident birds winter in the vicinity; Wheeler (*Raptors of Western North America*) noted that stocked birds as far north as Minneapolis usually winter there.
- Virginia Rail:** This species winters regularly in the North Platte Valley; 5 were found on the LM CBC 19 Dec (SJD). Another known wintering location is the upper end of Rock Creek L SRA, Dundey Co, where one was found 20 Dec (SJD). However, searches by JED revealed that similar habitats (spring-fed unfrozen marsh, usually minimal in extent, each possibly hosting only a single bird) as far north as the Niobrara Valley host wintering birds also. Singles were located south of Nenzel and Merriman, Cherry Co, 16 Dec, at the latter location again 18 Feb, and at two locations just north of NNF-McKelvie, Cherry Co, 18-19 Feb (JED). These are the northernmost wintering records in Nebraska.

- American Coot:** The only midwinter report was of 35-65 at Scottsbluff SL 17 Jan-18 Feb (KD), although 4 at LM 12 Feb (JGJ) probably wintered there.
- Sandhill Crane:** Most years the first movement is noticed in late Jan; this year first were 75 flying over McCook 4 Feb (fide CH); first large concentration reported was 25,000 in the central Platte Valley 26 Feb (LRB). Unexpected was one near Gibbon 5 Feb (LR,RH); it may have been a lone early migrant.
- Killdeer:** Rare in winter eastward, one was near Fremont 2 Jan (D&JP).
- Least Sandpiper:** Two lingered very late at PL, last seen 11 Dec (LE); this is the 3rd latest fall record for Nebraska.
- Wilson's Snipe:** Northernmost lingering birds were 3 on the Calamus CBC 1 Jan (fide DH). None were reported later.
- Franklin's Gull:** No details were provided for a report of this species on the Grand Island CBC 18 Dec. There are, however, about 15 reports, most recent, of single adult-plumaged birds for the period 15 Dec-21 Feb.
- Bonaparte's Gull:** The only report was of two rather late at Swanson Res, Hitchcock Co, 20 Dec (SJD). Lingered birds have been noted more often in recent years.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Routine reports.
- California Gull:** Rare away from LM, an adult at Cunningham L, Omaha, 4 Dec (JGJ), was only the 6th fall record from the east, while another was at Swanson Res 20 Dec (SJD), a far less surprising location.
- Herring Gull:** Best counts were the CBC-high 314 at Calamus CBC 1 Jan (fide DH) and 200 at Johnson L, Gosper Co, 12 Feb (JGJ).
- Thayer's Gull:** The reports were all from LM, where up to 3, including an adult, were found 12 Dec through 2 Jan (HA,SJD,PK,BS,JS).
- Iceland Gull:** A 2nd-winter bird frequenting the spillway at LM 12 Dec-2 Jan (HA, m.ob.) was probably the same bird that was there last year. This is the 8th fall and 21st overall record for the state.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** The only report was of a 1st-winter bird at Johnson Res 12 Feb (JGJ).
- Glaucous Gull:** Only 4 were reported, an adult and 2 first-winters at LM 12 Dec-2 Jan (JGJ, m.ob.) and an immature at Johnson Res 12 Feb (JGJ).
- Great Black-backed Gull:** The only report was of a second basic immature on the LM CBC 19 Dec (SJD). There are now some 14 records for the state. Individuals that discover LM tend to stay there for extended periods.
- Rock Pigeon:** Routine reports.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Numbers continue to increase, with best counts 42 on the Grand Island CBC 18 Dec (fide CM), 37 at Mitchell 19 Feb (KD), and 37 at Brady, including 28 at the observer's feeder (TJW). So far, highest counts are in winter, indicating that flocking occurs at his time of year. As with Rock Pigeon, breeding may be attempted at any time; copulation was seen near Brady 16 Dec (TJW). There are still a few counties without records, mostly in the Sandhills: Adams, Blaine, Boyd, Cedar, Cherry, Gosper, Grant, Hooker, Jefferson, Keya Paha, Logan, Loup, Pawnee, Saline, Sherman, and Thomas.
- Ringed Turtle-Dove:** While most reports of this species probably are Eurasian Collared-Doves identified by folks with older field guides, a few escaped or released birds appear from time to time, and the problem of hybridization of released birds with naturally-occurring Eurasian Collared-Doves may be an under-appreciated phenomenon. Four white birds were found in southwest Butler Co 27 Dec, probably variant Ringed Turtle-Doves (LR,RH). One that was carefully observed in downtown Omaha 4 Feb had been there a few days (GKH).

White-winged Dove: One was seen in Morrill by an experienced observer 9 Feb (fide AK); this is the first winter record for this species, although one was reported from Oshkosh 14 Dec 2002. All of the other 31 reports, all since 1988, are in the period 15 Apr-10 Oct.

Mourning Dove: Wintering is regular in southeast Nebraska, where there were several reports, including a winter roost of 75+ on the campus at University of Nebraska-Omaha (JGJ) and 65 at a Fremont elevator corn pile 10 Jan (D&JP). Elsewhere midwinter sightings are unusual; despite a count-high 82 on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec (fide AK), the 2 in Scotts Bluff Co 17 Jan were the observer's first in midwinter (KD). A group of 90 in Lincoln disappeared after 7 Jan (LE). A single in Dixon Co 27 Dec-8 Jan (JJ,BFH) was northerly. Returning birds were first noted at Wilsonville 15 Feb (LO) and Alma 26 Feb (G&WH).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Routine reports.

Great Horned Owl: Routine reports.

Snowy Owl: None were reported.

Barred Owl: Routine reports.

Long-eared Owl: Of the few reports received, best count was the count high 10 on the Branched Oak-Seward CBC 18 Dec (fide JG).

Short-eared Owl: All of the 5 reports were in Dec and from the Platte Valley southward. Occasionally this species can be found roosting with Long-eared Owls, especially when snow cover is heavy; one such was in Douglas Co at a traditional Long-eared roost 20 Dec (JT). Encouraging was one on Conservation Reserve Program ground near Vesta 9 Dec (TEL).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: The only report was of one in cedars along the south side of Enders Res, Chase Co, 20 Dec (SJD).

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: All reports were from the southeast, where a few winter most years. Best count was 28 on the Omaha CBC 18 Dec (fide BG).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Only recently expanding into the Panhandle along the North Platte Valley, one was counted on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec (fide AK) and a westerly male wintered at an Ogallala feeder (CWH).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: This species was present in good numbers, about 21 in all. All reports were from south and east of a line from Ponca SP to Seward and Lancaster Cos, defining the extent of regular wintering. Best count was 5 on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide LRB). The Ponca SP bird was an adult male seen 8 Jan (BFH).

Downy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Northern Flicker: A few red-shafted flickers made it to the extreme east: one, along with 138 yellow-shafted flickers, was found on the DeSoto NWR CBC 19 Dec (JT), and singles were in Lincoln 5 Dec (RE) and in Gage Co 28 Feb (JSt). At the other end of the state, the count high 54 on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec had 25 red-shafted, 6 yellow-shafted, and 6 orange-shafted birds (fide AK).

Pileated Woodpecker: The only reports were of singles at FF 4-5 Feb (CNK,EB).

Northern Shrike: Reports were statewide, with best counts 6 on the LM CBC 19 Dec (fide SJD) and 4 as far southeast as the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec, where the count high is 5 (fide LRB), and Branched Oak-Seward CBC 19 Dec (fide JG).

Loggerhead Shrike: Details were received of one on the Beaver Valley CBC 2 Jan (D&CN). A few occur in the extreme southeast most winters, but occurrence within the winter range of Northern Shrike is rare, and documentation of such sightings is necessary.

Blue Jay: Routine reports.

Pinyon Jay: None were reported.

Clark's Nutcracker: Following a couple of sightings in the fall, this species appeared in the northwest in invasion numbers, with 40-50 in the Sowbelly Canyon area of Sioux Co 5 Feb (KD), and other counts in the area involving several groups of as many as 30 birds 21 Dec-25 Jan (EB,B&DW,HKH). The last such irruption was in 1996-97.

Black-billed Magpie: This species occurs eastward in the extreme northeast to Dixon Co, where most birds are seen at Buckskin Hills WMA and along the Missouri River (JJ) to the Ponca SP area, where one was seen 27 Dec (BFH). Also easterly were one in Dodge Co through the winter (D&JP) and 5 on the Norfolk CBC 18 Dec (fide DH).

American Crow: An excellent CBC count of 8568 was made at Calamus CBC 1 Jan, close to the count high of 9602 on 27 Dec 2003 (fide DH). These are the highest CBC totals for the state.

Horned Lark: Best count was an excellent 5000 in Sherman Co 17 Jan (LR,RH).

Black-capped Chickadee: Numbers continue to be very low in south-central Nebraska, east to Lancaster Co, where only 29 were found on 1038 miles of almost-weekly trips in Lancaster Co, 2 CBCs in the county, and home feeders (LE). The Branched Oak-Seward CBC reached a new low count of 11, when last year's then-new low was 28 and the 10-year average is 144 (fide JG). The first chickadee in the observers' yard near Gibbon for over a year was seen 15 Jan (LR,RH). On the other hand, CBC numbers along the Missouri River Valley at Omaha and DeSoto NWR were normal (fide BG,fide JT).

Mountain Chickadee: The only reports were of two singles in widely-separated Scottsbluff yards through the period; one, counted on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec, was in the west Scottsbluff yard of Rod Smith (fide AK), and the other was in the Drawbaugh yard beginning 13 Dec, but not seen for the CBC (P&DD, fide AK).

Tufted Titmouse: Routine reports.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Good numbers, significantly more than usual, were reported statewide, with best CBC counts 27 at LM 19 Dec, a count high (fide SJD), 24 at Scottsbluff 18 Dec, also a count high (fide AK), and 17 at Branched Oak-Seward 19 Dec (fide JG).

White-breasted Nuthatch: Three birds in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 21 Dec were of the expected resident western subspecies *nelsoni*, but one in nearby Harrison was of the eastern subspecies *cookei* (EB), which occurs during winter in areas where it does not breed. The extent of movement of *nelsoni* in winter in Nebraska is not well known, but there are reports from Bushnell and LM, suggesting that either subspecies might occur in winter in the Panhandle and nearby.

Pygmy Nuthatch: Numbers in the western Pine Ridge were amazing on 28 Dec (B&DW), and 75 were estimated in Monroe and Sowbelly Canyons 21 Dec (EB). This suggests an influx from farther west or north. All reports were from expected Pine Ridge or Wildcat Hills locations except for a report without details of one as far east as LO on 2 Jan. Such a report seems highly unlikely, as this species is very rare away from Ponderosa Pine habitat.

Brown Creeper: An excellent CBC count was the 22 at Lincoln 18 Dec (fide LRB).

Carolina Wren: Good numbers were reported: about 15, all from the Lincoln and Omaha areas. Best counts were 5 at Spring Lake Park, Omaha, 25 Dec (JED) and 5 on the Omaha CBC 18 Dec (fide BG).

- Winter Wren:** There are very few overwintering records in northern and western Nebraska, and so the presence of 3 birds along the Niobrara River in Cherry Co 15-18 Dec (JED) was a surprise. That these birds were indeed attempting to winter is suggested by the presence of one on the Niobrara at Buckhorn Spring, Cherry Co, 19 Feb (JED). There is a prior report for Cherry Co 5 Jan 1957. Wintering in extreme southeast Nebraska is not unusual, although there are very few Feb and Mar records; one was at Wilderness Park, Lincoln, 30 Jan (LE).
- Marsh Wren:** Reports at favored locations continue, but unexpected was the presence of 5 along the Niobrara in Cherry Co 15-18 Dec and 4 in the same general section of the Niobrara River 18-19 Feb (JED). Other reports were from Scotts Bluff Co (fide AK,KD), the LM CBC (SJD), 4 birds at Rock Creek L SRA, Dundy Co, 29 Dec (TJW), and, perhaps most surprising, one in Lincoln on the CBC 18 Dec (LE, fide LRB).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Good numbers lingered into Dec, with 33 counted on the DeSoto NWR CBC 19 Dec (fide JT), the best count. Stragglers in Jan are very rare away from the southeast, and so one on the Beaver Valley CBC 2 Jan (D&CN) was unexpected. Three other reports in Jan, including 3 birds at FF 20 Jan (B&LP) and one at Wilderness Park, Lincoln, 30 Jan (LE) were unusual, even for the southeast.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** This species is rare westward into Dec, and so 3 reports were a surprise: singles were in Scotts Bluff Co on or about 18 Dec (fide AK), on the LM CBC 19 Dec (SJD), and at Rock Creek L SRA, Dundy Co, 29 Dec (TJW).
- Eastern Bluebird:** There were mid-winter reports of small numbers statewide, most notably 3 in Cherry Co 19 Feb (JED). Returning birds were noted in Harlan Co 18 Feb (G&WH) and Dodge Co 23 Feb (D&JP). Best counts were 64 on the Omaha CBC 18 Dec (fide BG) and 53 at DeSoto NWR CBC 19 Dec (JT).
- Mountain Bluebird:** Wintering birds were found at the usual location in cedar canyons in southeast Lincoln Co 25 Jan (TJW), and arrival on the breeding grounds was noted in mid-Feb, with 3 at Wildcat Hills 18 Feb (P&DD). The 20 in southern Sioux Co 18 Feb (HKH) were migrants, as were probably a small flock at the Oshkosh SL 13 Feb (HA).
- Townsend's Solitaire:** This species was common in the west, with best counts 140 on the LM CBC 19 Dec (fide SJD) and 67 on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec (fide AK). Easternmost were a surprising 5 on the Branched Oak-Seward CBC 19 Dec, tying the count high (fide JG); 2 were in Cedar Co 8 Jan (JJ) and another was at Ponca SP 19 Feb (BFH).
- Hermit Thrush:** Three were reported on CBCs in southeast Nebraska, about normal, but one as far north as Steer Creek Campground, NNF-McKelvie, 15 Dec (JED) was unexpected. A belated report was of one apparently wintering at a heated waterer at Neale Woods, Douglas Co, and seen 8 Feb 2004 (CS,LD).
- American Robin:** Remarkable numbers occur in the extensive cedar areas of central Nebraska in late fall; 10,216 were tallied on the Calamus CBC 1 Jan (fide DH). Similarly, thousands were in southeast Lincoln Co cedar canyons 25 Jan (TJW).
- Gray Catbird:** The two reports were surprisingly far west, especially one at LO 2 Jan (HA); the other was at Wilsonville 22 Jan (LO).
- Brown Thrasher:** A surprising 4 were reported. Rare enough were singles on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln downtown campus 18-28 Dec (LE) and on the Branched Oak-Seward CBC 19 Dec (fide JG), but singles at a feeder in North Platte 10 Jan (fide TJW) and another in Morrill Co 1 Feb (fide AK) were unexpected. The latter two sightings are only the 7th and 8th mid-winter reports away from the southeast.

European Starling: Best count was a remarkable 33,207 on the Grand Island CBC 18 Dec (fide CM).

Bohemian Waxwing: This was a banner year for this species in the west after a virtual absence for many years; CBC totals were 100 at Scottsbluff 18 Dec (fide AK), 237 at LM 19 Dec (SJD), and 225 at Crawford 20 Dec (fide B&DW). None were reported east of LM, however.

Cedar Waxwing: Best count was an excellent 1742 on the Calamus CBC 1 Jan (fide DH), one of the highest CBC totals for the state. Another good count was 500+ near Kearney 1 Jan (TEL).

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: The only reports were of 10 below the dam at HCR 1 Jan (G&WH) and 5 on the LM CBC 19 Dec (SJD); this species is rare as late as Jan anywhere in the state.

Spotted Towhee: Only 4 were reported, including one as far west as Scottsbluff, on the CBC there 18 Dec (fide AK). Two were wintering on the city campus of University of Nebraska-Lincoln (LE,GH), and one was found on the Branched Oak-Seward CBC 19 Dec (fide JG).

American Tree Sparrow: Good numbers were reported; best CBC count was an excellent 795 on the DeSoto NWR CBC 19 Dec (fide JT) and best non-CBC tally was 200 in southern Sioux Co 1 Feb (KD).

Savannah Sparrow: Details were provided for one at Boyer Chute NWR 10 Jan (JT); this is only the 4th documented record for Jan-Feb, although there are a few other reports. This species winters regularly in northern Kansas and Missouri.

Song Sparrow: Routine reports.

White-throated Sparrow: Wintering birds, maximum count 3, were noted at feeders in Otoe (L&CF), Douglas (NR) and Sarpy (B&LP) Cos. Few others were reported, all from the southeast (fide BG, fide LRB,RE).

White-crowned Sparrow: Numbers are lowest in mid-winter, especially in the east; all Jan-Feb reports were from Harlan Co westward. Few were reported on eastern CBCs, and best CBC count was 53 at Scottsbluff 18 Dec (fide AK).

Harris's Sparrow: Most observers mentioned the scarcity of this species this winter; in Lancaster Co, only 19 were found during the period over a total of 943 miles driven (LE). The best CBC count was only 13, at LM 19 Dec (fide SJD). A regional look might indicate that these birds wintered elsewhere; otherwise it seems that Harris's Sparrow is in decline in recent years.

Dark-eyed Junco: CBCs had good numbers, best the 798 at DeSoto NWR 19 Dec (fide JT). Two of the DeSoto NWR birds were Oregons, which compares with the mix on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec, which had 287 juncos, consisting of 57 Oregon, 43 Pink-sided, 90 Slate-colored, 5 White-winged, and 92 unidentified to form (fide AK). Other easterly Oregons were one at a Nebraska City feeder 26 Dec (L&CF), two in a Lincoln yard 14 Feb (RE), and a surprising 14 on the Branched Oak-Seward CBC 19 Dec (fide JG). None of the 437 juncos on the Omaha CBC 18 Dec were Oregons (fide BG). Unexpected was a junco which fit the description of the stable hybrid form *cismontanus* (Oregon x Slate-colored) in Lincoln 14 Jan (TP). Good numbers of White-winged juncos were reported in the western half of the state, some 27, including 17 on the Crawford CBC 20 Dec (fide B&DW). Easternmost White-winged were 2 at North Platte 15 Feb (TJW); this form is rare east of the Panhandle.

Lapland Longspur: An amazing 5000 were estimated near Oxford 23 Jan (LR,RH).

Snow Bunting: None were reported.

Northern Cardinal: Numbers continue to consolidate in Scotts Bluff Co, where 5 were counted on the CBC 18 Dec (fide AK) and a female was visiting a Gering feeder through the period (fide AK). One singing in a Lincoln yard 31 Jan was 2 weeks earlier than last year (RE). Westerly was one along the Niobrara River at NNF-McKelvie, Cherry Co, 19 Feb (JED).

Red-winged Blackbird: Best counts were of spring returnees: 2000 in Lancaster Co 16 Feb (TP), 2200 in the same county 20 Feb (LE), and 2000 in Dixon Co 27 Feb (JJ). The first female flock reported was 550 in Scotts Bluff Co 19 Feb (KD). Unexpected in mid-winter were 750 in Dixon Co 8 Jan (JJ), 50 at Agate 5 Feb (KD), and one at a Mitchell feeder 9 Jan (KD).

Eastern Meadowlark: Routine reports.

Western Meadowlark: First singing birds were noticed in Dodge Co (D&JP) and Otoe Co (L&CF) the same day, 3 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: This species occurs occasionally in winter in the east, but one on the Calamus CBC 1 Jan was a bit far west (fide DH,NB). Eastern midwinter reports were of 3 in Lancaster Co 8 Jan (LE), 15 in Otoe Co 17 Jan (LE), and 25 in Otoe Co 25 Jan (L&CF). Best count was 30 on the Greeley-Wheeler Cos line 12 Feb (LR,RH), presumably migrants (presumably also in single file?).

Brewer's Blackbird: The only reports were from CBCs: 3 at Grand Island 18 Dec (fide CM), 3 at LM 19 Dec (fide SJD), and one at Beaver Valley 2 Jan (D&CN), which was rather northerly for the date.

Common Grackle: Typical winter reports are of single birds; thus one appeared to be wintering at a garden store feeder in Scotts Bluff Co, where it was seen 1 Feb (KD). Another was late in Dixon Co 1 Jan (JJ). Spring arrivals were led by two rather early in Scotts Bluff Co 19 Feb (KD).

Great-tailed Grackle: Routine reports.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Generally rare in mid-winter and restricted to the southeast, there were more reports than usual in late Dec into Jan. At least 3 wintered at a Bellevue feeder (CNK), one was in Dixon Co 8 Jan (JJ), one was in Lancaster Co 30 Dec (TEL), and one was at BOL 28 Dec (LE). Earliest in spring was one rather early with Red-winged Blackbirds at Verdon 15 Feb (CC). Other early arrivals were 5 in Hamilton Co 20 Feb (LR,RH) and 5 near Alma the same day (G&WH).

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch: None were reported; none had been seen all winter at WSR (HKH).

Pine Grosbeak: This winter saw an incursion of limited numbers onto the western Great Plains, notably in Kansas, but detected in Nebraska as well. Only two birds were found in Nebraska, but this species has been essentially absent since the 1980s; these are only the 8th and 9th reports since 1980. A female was feeding on crabapples at BOL on the Branched Oak-Seward CBC 19 Dec (LE), and a male at Grant 20 Dec was photographed (SJD). The eastern location of one of these seems surprising, but information from Kansas sightings suggests that these Pine Grosbeaks may have been northern, rather than western, birds.

Purple Finch: Following a good year last year, numbers were excellent this year, with about 129 reported. Best CBC counts were 25 at LM 19 Dec (fide SJD) and 21 at Omaha 18 Dec (fide BG), while elsewhere best count was 20 at Anderson Bridge WMA, Cherry Co, 19 Feb (JED). Purple Finches are rare in the Panhandle, and so one in a Gering yard for the period (fide KD, fide AK) was a surprise.

Cassin's Finch: The only report was of two rather easterly birds on the LM CBC 19 Dec (fide SJD). This species has been found on this CBC three times now.

House Finch: Four CBCs reported more than 100, best LM with 220 on 19 Dec (fide SJD). Best non-CBC count was 100+ near Kearney 1 Jan (TEL).

Red Crossbill: Reports were statewide, with some good counts from the east; 91 were counted on the Branched Oak-Seward CBC 19 Dec (fide JG), and 20-25 were visiting a Bellevue feeder through the period (fide RG). The birds in a flock of 11 at Ericson L, Wheeler Co, 12 Feb were very bright red, sounded different, had seemingly smaller bills, and the females were rich golden brown (LR,RH). Red Crossbill types, possibly separate species, are difficult to identify in the field, however.

White-winged Crossbill: The only report was of one at in Duncan 30 Jan (LR,RH).

Common Redpoll: A few were reported, all at 3 eastern locations. Up to 5 were regulars at an Omaha feeder through 7 Feb (NR), one was at a feeder near Lincoln 25 Dec (GH), and 15 were found at BOL 12 Feb (LE).

Pine Siskin: Numbers were generally good in the west, but observers in the east thought numbers were low. Feeders in Chadron (ZU) and near Mitchell (KD) had over 100 in attendance, and the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec had 148 (fide AK). Among the Mitchell birds were two very pale, perhaps leucistic, individuals (KD, photo). Best count in the east was 35-40 at a Garland feeder through the period (LE).

American Goldfinch: Best tally was the 753 on the Calamus CBC 1 Jan (fide DH).

Evening Grosbeak: There were only two reports; despite some early and easterly appearances in the fall, there was no incursion detected. The reports this winter were of 4 in Scottsbluff 4 Dec (RS), and one near Kearney 1 Jan (TEL).

House Sparrow: Best CBC count was 975 on the Norfolk CBC 18 Dec (fide DH). This is far lower than the counts in the 5000 range reported some 20 years ago on CBCs in the larger cities.

THE 2003-2004 NEBRASKA NEST REPORT

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Due to the fact that I was recalled to active duty by the US Army, I have been out of the state for the past two years. Hence, the number of observations made will be much abbreviated, and the usual comments on climatic conditions will be more limited.

A brief visit to the western Panhandle in June 2003 revealed that at least the southwestern Panhandle received enough rain to grow a crop of wheat, and there was more grass on the hills than in the previous several years. Despite this, some other parts of the state, especially the western Republican River drainage and the Sandhills, remained dry. In 2004 the Panhandle and western Republican Valley again remained dry through most of the breeding season, although rains returned to some areas later in the season. The northwestern Panhandle remained especially dry, with pastures in some areas virtually without grass, and ranchers again forced to sell off breeding stock. These climatic conditions doubtless affected the birds, with species requiring more humid conditions adversely affected, while xerophilous species like Lark Bunting and Cassin's Sparrow may have found expanded breeding opportunities.

Observations reported on NEBirds are not included unless additional details have been obtained because those reports are usually included in the seasonal reports.

OBSERVERS

The following individuals submitted records for the nesting report: Linda Brown (LB), Mary Dowd (MD), Jon Farrar (JF), Mitzi Fox (MF), Stephen Jones (SJ), Clem Klaphake (CK), Wayne Mollhoff (WM), Jeff Nichols (JN), Allen Reyer (AR).

A total of 110 reports was received on a total of 52 species. Species reported but not included in this account include: Mourning Dove, Horned Lark, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Rock Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, and Orchard Oriole.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

SRA State Recreation Area;
WMA Wildlife Management Area

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Eared Grebe A colony of about 100 birds was noted in the middle of Bungler Lake, about 30 mi. S of Gordon, Sheridan Co., on 23 June 2003 (CK).

Double-crested Cormorant A group of cormorants was observed sitting on nests and feeding young on 22 June 2003 in the mixed cormorant-Great Blue Heron colony at Mayhew Lake, ~45 mi. SW of Valentine, Cherry Co. (CK).

Great Blue Heron Herons were likewise observed sitting on nests and feeding young at the mixed colony described above on 22 June 2003 (CK).

A colony of at least 25 nests occupied by both adults and young was noted on Gordon Creek at Highway 97 about 40 mi. SW of Valentine, Cherry Co., on 22 June 2003 (CK).

Swainson's Hawk A nest with 2 eggs was located 36 feet up a willow tree one half mi. SW of Bushnell, Kimball Co., on 2 June 2004(WM).

Red-tailed Hawk The large old stick nest on a ledge on the north face of Jail Rock, 5 mi. S of Bridgeport, Morrill Co., held a pair of half-grown young on 15 June 2003. Positive identification was made when the adults arrived and fed the young (WM,JF,SJ).

Wild Turkey A hen and at least 3 week-old chicks were noted in the edge of the 1985 McIntosh Burn in West Ash Creek Canyon, 12 mi. SE of Crawford, Dawes Co., on 5 June 2004 (WM,MD,JN).

Marbled Godwit In the second recent report of apparent breeding in the state, a territorial pair was noted on 15 May 2003, and later noted performing a distraction display at the same location near Diamond Lake, about 15 mi. N of Lakeside, Sheridan Co., on 11 June 2003 (SJ).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo An adult was observed feeding a fledged young bird twice at the Memphis SRA, Saunders Co., on 19 July 2003 (CK).

Burrowing Owl Four separate broods of young owls were noted exercising their wings while standing on the mounds beside their burrows in a small prairie dog colony near the SW edge of Gordon, Sheridan Co., on 22 June 2003 (CK).

White-throated Swift A nest with at least 2 eggs was found at the previously-reported colony in West Ash Creek Canyon 12 mi. SE of Crawford, Dawes Co., on 13 June 2003. At least 3 more pairs were present, occupying narrow, crooked crevices that precluded viewing (WM).

On 8 June 2004, the above crevice nest was occupied by a Violet-green Swallow (see below). Swifts again occupied other crevices. Apparent copulation was noted on 5 June 2004 as a pair grappled in flight and tumbled through the air a few feet from the face of the cliff, then separated and continued their courtship flight (WM, MD, JN).

Lewis's Woodpecker The nest used by the woodpeckers in 2002 was occupied by a pair of American Kestrels in 2003. After extensive searching, the pair was located in the same burned area (McIntosh Burn, 1985) in West Ash Creek Canyon, Dawes Co., 13 mi. SE of Crawford. The new nest snag was located about a mile away across a canyon from the 2002 nest. Adults were seen carrying tiny food items into the nest on 14 June 2003. No further investigation was made due to the very unstable condition of the nest snag (WM, JF).

On 4 June 2004, the 2003 nest mentioned above was found occupied by a pair of kestrels. Further searching finally turned up a Lewis's Woodpecker in that area on 9 June 2004, but neither its mate nor the nest were discovered (WM, JN, MD). Another pair of woodpeckers was found occupying a nest on a territory several miles away, but the nest was empty (WM).

Downy Woodpecker A nest with 4 young was found near the picnic ground in West Ash Creek Canyon about 12 mi. SE of Crawford, Dawes Co., on 14 June 2003 (WM, JF).

Pileated Woodpecker Adults were noted carrying food to a nest in late May and again in mid-June 2003 at a site on the North Stream Trail in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co. On 19 June the heads of two well-feathered young were seen peering out of the nest hole, and on 26 June the nest appeared empty (CK).

Western Wood-Pewee A nest with 4 eggs was found and photographed in the above-mentioned picnic ground in West Ash Canyon, Dawes Co., on 14 June 2003 (JF, WM).

An adult was noted delivering food to a nest high in a cottonwood at Smith Lake, 22 mi. S of Rushville, Sheridan Co., on 23 June 2003 (CK).

Eastern Phoebe A nest was found in a cavity in a cliff face in West Ash Creek Canyon on 8 June 2004. A pair of adults and 3-4 recently-fledged young were found foraging nearby (WM).

Say's Phoebe A nest with 2 eggs plus 2 Brown-headed Cowbird eggs was found and photographed on a ledge beneath an overhang in a canyon 8 mi. S of Redington, Morrill Co., on 15 June 2003 (WM, JF).

A nest in the same location mentioned above held a single egg on 3 June 2004 (WM, MD, JN).

A nest in an abandoned house 7 mi. S of Redington, Morrill Co., held 1 egg on 20 May and 6 eggs on 2 June 2004 (WM).

A nest placed in the entrance of a Bank Swallow burrow 7 mi. SSW of Harrison, Sioux Co., held 5 eggs on 5 June 2004 (WM).

- Cassin's Kingbird** Two empty nests were found in a canyon 9 mi. S of Redington, Morrill Co., on 16 June 2003. One was complete, the other nearly so. An additional 5 nests found in the same area on 15-16 June 2003 held 1, 2, 2, 4, and 5 eggs, respectively (WM).
- Western Kingbird** Two nests found in the above-mentioned area S of Redington on 15-16 June 2003 held 4 eggs each (WM).
Two nests were found on 2-3 June 2004 in the same area. One was 1/3 complete and the other held 5 eggs (WM).
- Eastern Kingbird** Construction was just begun on 16 June 2003 on a nest in the above area S of Redington (WM).
- Plumbeous Vireo** A nest tended by a pair of adults was found on 5 June 2004 in West Ash Creek Canyon 12 mi. SE of Crawford, Dawes Co. (JN, WM, MD).
When investigated further on 8 June, it held a single half-grown young (WM).
- Black-billed Magpie** A nest in a tree hanging over the road in Smiley Canyon, Ft. Robinson, Sioux Co., held 4 two-week-old young on 7 June 2004 (WM).
- Tree Swallow** A nest box at Twin Lakes WMA 13 mi. SE of Seward, Seward Co., held 3 eggs on 15 May 2003. When re-checked on 21 May, the eggs were gone. The nest was removed on 12 June. The box held a new nest with 4 eggs on 21 June, 5 eggs on 26 June, just hatched young on 4 July, and 10-day-old young on 15 July. The young had fledged by 18 July (LB).
- Violet-green Swallow** A female incubating 2 eggs in the same tree cavity used in 2002 in West Ash Creek Canyon 12 mi. SE of Crawford, Dawes Co., refused to leave the nest on 14 June 2003 (WM, JF).
A swallow nest, placed in a crevice nest in West Ash Creek Canyon and used in 2003 by a White-throated Swift (see above), held 5 eggs on 8 June 2004 (WM).
- Bank Swallow** The colony in a dry, vertical blowout bank in a shortgrass prairie pasture located 7 mi. SSW of Harrison, Sioux Co., had 14 occupied holes on 5 June 2004. All occupied nests held eggs, with clutch sizes of 3-6 eggs (WM).
- Pygmy Nuthatch** Two occupied nests were found in dead snags in East Monroe Canyon 6 mi. NW of Harrison, Sioux Co., on 6 June 2004. An adult was seen carrying something from one of the nests, perhaps a fecal sac. At the other nest, an adult repeatedly carried food to the hole and gave it to the adult inside, which came to the cavity entrance to receive it. Neither nest was investigated further due to the very fragile nature of the dead snags (JN, WM).
- Carolina Wren** A pair of fledged young was noted following, begging from, and being fed by a pair of adults on 14 Aug. 2003 at the Schilling WMA at the mouth of the Platte River just N of Plattsmouth, Cass Co. (CK).
Nest-building was noted on a front porch in Bellevue, Sarpy Co., on 6-7 Aug. 2004. The nest appeared complete on 8 Aug. but was abandoned on 9 Aug., and the birds were not seen again (AR).
- Sedge Wren** An agitated adult was noted dropping into the grass several times to deliver insects to peeping young at Walnut Creek Lake Recreation Area, SW of Papillion, Sarpy Co., on 6 July 2003 (CK).
- Marsh Wren** An adult was noted feeding noisy young in a nest at least twice on Smith Lake, 22 mi. S of Rushville, Sheridan Co., on 23 June 2003 (CK).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** A nest with 3 young, 2-4 days old, was found and photographed on 15 June 2003, 8 mi. S of Redington, Morrill Co. (WM, JF).
- Mountain Bluebird** A pair of adults was noted feeding at least 3 recently-fledged young in the pine-covered canyons 8 mi. S of Redington, Morrill Co., on 3 June 2004 (MD, JN, WM).

Swainson's Thrush At least 5 singing males were noted in West Ash Creek Canyon 12 mi. SE of Crawford, Dawes Co., on 5 June 2004 (JN, MD, WM). Further investigation on 8 June revealed at least 2 pairs, one of which had a complete but empty nest that was closely guarded by the singing bird (WM). The only other nest which has been found in the state was found in the same canyon in 1973.

Cedar Waxwing Apparent courtship activity was noted in Monroe Canyon 6 mi. NNW of Harrison, Sioux Co., on 7 June 2004. A pair was seen repeatedly visiting a particular stream-side, vine-covered tree, following which one begged from the other on several occasions (WM).

Yellow Warbler A pair of adults was noted feeding a single fledged young bird on 19 July 2003 at Memphis SRA, Memphis, Saunders Co. (CK).

Three nests were found on 8 June 2004 in West Ash Creek Canyon, 12 mi. SE of Crawford, Dawes Co. Two nests each held 4 eggs, while the other nest held 1 egg and 3 newly-hatched young (WM).

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler A female was seen carrying food in Monroe Canyon 6 mi. NNW of Harrison, Sioux Co., on 7 June 2004, but a search for the nest was unsuccessful (WM).

Common Yellowthroat A nest with 4 eggs was found along the Niobrara River 9 mi. SW of Harrison, Sioux Co., on 5 June 2004 (WM, MF).

Spotted Towhee A nest with 3 young was found in West Ash Creek canyon 12 mi. SE of Crawford, Dawes Co., on 8 June 2004 (WM).

Chipping Sparrow A nest with 4 eggs was found in West Ash Creek Canyon, 12 mi. SE of Crawford, Dawes Co., on 8 June 2004 (WM).

Lark Sparrow Two nests were found 8 mi. S of Redington, Morrill Co., on 2 June 2004. One nest held 3 sparrow eggs plus 2 cowbird eggs; the other held 1 sparrow egg plus 4 cowbird eggs (WM, MD, JN).

Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco A pair of adults was seen feeding at least 2 recently-fledged young atop a ridge in the West Ash Creek Canyon drainage 13 mi. SE of Crawford, Dawes Co., on 8 June 2004 (WM).

Black-headed Grosbeak A pair was noted gathering nesting material atop a ridge in East Monroe Canyon 6 mi. NNW of Harrison, Sioux Co., on 7 June 2004 (WM). Two nests, each with 4 eggs, were found in West Ash Creek Canyon, 12 mi. SE Crawford, Dawes Co., on 8 June 2004 (WM).

Brewer's Blackbird A colony of 3 pairs was found in Smiley Canyon, Ft Robinson, Sioux Co., in the Soldier Creek Burn (1989) on 7 June 2004. Two nests were found, one with 4 young that were 7-10 days old; the other held 4 young that were 4-8 days old, plus an unhatched egg (WM).

Another colony of 4-5 pairs 9 mi. E of Harrison, Sioux Co., was again occupied on 4 June 2004. Only a single nest was found despite prolonged searching. It contained 2 eggs and 3 recently-hatched young (WM).

A colony of 6-8 pairs 12 mi. E of Harrison, Sioux Co., was again occupied on 4 June 2004. A nest with 4 young, about 1 week old, was found. Another nest with 3 one-day-old young, 2 blackbird eggs and a cowbird egg was also found.

Brown-headed Cowbird See comments above in the Say's Phoebe, Lark Sparrow, and Brewer's Blackbird accounts.

Bullock's Oriole A nest under construction, with the sack barely formed and still at the see-through stage, was found on 3 June 2004, 8 mi. S of Redington, Morrill Co. (WM).

HABITAT ASSOCIATIONS OF NEBRASKA BIRDS

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In the fall of 2003 we set out to assign habitat associations to 363 species of birds that regularly occur in Nebraska for the purpose of evaluating the relative importance of each of Nebraska's major habitats to the state's breeding, migrating and wintering birds. It is our hope that this information will 1) provide the first thorough investigation of Nebraska's birds and the habitats they use, and 2) provide a method for prioritizing the conservation of Nebraska's varied habitats for birds. The resulting spreadsheet matrix showing the assigned habitat values for all 363 species may be seen at the following URL:

http://www.nebraskabirds.org/Resources/resources_files/Matrix%20Guide.pdf

METHODS

We began by gathering habitat descriptions from all the major state bird atlases that we could find, especially those from states immediately surrounding Nebraska. Of these, the *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* (Kingery 1998) was especially valuable for its quantitative habitat analyses.

We also chose to use names and descriptions of the state's natural terrestrial habitats as identified by Steinauer and Rolfsmeier (2003), although these were generally chosen as a coarser level of analysis than the most specific types identified by them. Additionally, because these authors excluded some non-native communities (e.g., agricultural lands), deep water aquatic communities (e.g., rivers, lakes, reservoirs) and transitional communities (e.g., shorelines and woodland edge habitats), we added several new categories. We thus identified a total of 29 habitats of significance to Nebraska birds (Table 1).

We also summarized all of our data by habitat type, including an estimate of the percentage of the state's overall area (about 78,000 square miles) occupied by that habitat type (Table 2).

Habitat area estimates are Johnsgard's, and are based on various sources, including CALMITs (2002) statewide GAP analyses and Lawson *et al.* (1977). They should not be considered as authoritative, and those labeled as "est." (estimate) are generally less reliable than those labeled as "c" (*circa*). Thus, average Nebraska stream width is assumed at 20 feet, and collective state stream length at 10,000 miles. Some published estimates suggest greater total state stream length but

probably include very small streams. The collective areas of narrow and linear habitats (shorelines, woodland edges) are difficult to quantify owing to highly variable ecological widths, such as the widths of river floodplains and forest-grassland transition zones. Thus, our estimates are based on the best information available, but their accuracy is unknown.

Alkaline wetlands are permanent Sandhills wetlands at least 12 acres in size and with moderate or higher alkalinity (McCarrahar 1977), plus about five square miles of relict saline wetlands in southeastern Nebraska. Including slightly alkaline and smaller alkaline Sandhills wetlands would increase the total area estimate, as would adding temporary (playa) alkaline wetlands, which are separately listed. There are about 2,000 square miles of shallow lakes, marshes and wet meadows in the Sandhills alone, excluding the estimated 50 square miles of highly alkaline wetlands (LaGrange 1997). The overall area ratio of wet meadows to marshes in the Sandhills is roughly 6:1, as there are about 177,000 acres of open water and marshes. The indicated Nebraska prairie dog acreage is a 2003 estimate of active colonies, based on the mean of two independent surveys (Johnsgard 2005). The remaining habitat estimates seem fairly reliable, and were based on a variety of sources.

“S” rankings that follow area estimates identify the Nebraska Natural Heritage Programs rarity ranks (S1 = critically imperiled communities; S5 = secure communities), as provided by Steinauer and Rolfsmeier (2003). Using this ranking, playa wetlands and upland tallgrass prairies are the most endangered habitat types of major importance to birds in Nebraska. Habitats listed as “s?” were unranked by Steinauer and Rolfsmeier (2003).

Upper-case code letters identify each habitat's total number of species having major breeding (B), migration (M) and wintering (W) associations; b, m & w indicate corresponding minor associations, the distinction between major and minor based on the authors' subjective evaluations. For most resident species, wintering habitats are assumed to be the same as breeding habitats but are separately tallied. Breeding habitats are assigned only for species known to be currently or recently breeding within the state. (Sharpe *et al.* 2001)

Total is the collective number of species using the habitat in one or more seasons. Rank is based on total species associations relative to those of the other habitat types. Thus, 1 indicates the habitat type with the highest number of species associations and 29 is the lowest.

Use is an area-use index of estimated available habitat relative to its species-use, calculated as 100 times the total species associations, divided by the estimated square miles of the habitat believed by the authors to be present in Nebraska. Higher figures indicate richer species associations relative to amount of available habitat. This index is, by definition, area-dependent, and thus does not reflect overall habitat value of a community type, which is better estimated by the Total figures given above. Adding Total to Use ranks might provide a better overall index to the importance of each habitat to Nebraska birds (T + U Rank). By this index, alkaline wetlands (T+U = 6), playa wetlands (T+U =9), and woodland edges (T+U =9) are most valuable, and croplands (T+U =52) are least valuable. Within major categories, habitats are arranged by increasing T+U values, or estimated diminishing overall value to birds.

RESULTS

An assessment of the habitat preferences of 363 species of Nebraska birds indicates that, relative to the total state surface area represented by each habitat type, streams have the highest rate of multi-species bird usage. However, the greatest overall usage by the highest number of species of birds occurs in wet meadows and marshes. If both criteria are used cumulatively, alkaline wetlands rank highest, followed by playa wetlands, woodland edges, and streams.

These results have considerable value in assigning conservation priorities for obtaining and preserving relatively rare Nebraska habitats that have particular value to large numbers of bird species. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, The Nature Conservancy, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Audubon Society are among the groups that might want to use these data in evaluating habitat priorities for possible preservation.

Limitations to the approach include the fact that a "pest" species such as the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) has the same weight in calculating avian habitat values as does, for example, the endangered Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*). However, habitat data for rare or endangered species can readily be extracted and evaluated separately, or such species may be given higher rank value than that assigned more common species. Another weakness lies in the difficulty of accurately estimating the areas of ephemeral habitats, such as playa wetlands. Again, when more accurate data on the areas of such elusive habitats become available, the matrix values can be easily recalculated.

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Table 1. Primary Nebraska habitat types of importance to birds.

FOREST (Wooded communities with canopies >5 m and > 60% canopy cover)

Lowland (Floodplain) Deciduous Forest

Upland Coniferous Forest

Upland Deciduous Forest

WOODLAND (Wooded communities with canopies <5 m
and 25–60% canopy cover)

Lowland (Floodplain) Deciduous Woodland

Upland Coniferous Woodland

Upland Deciduous Woodland

SHRUBLAND (Wooded communities with shrubs < 5 m
and > 25% canopy cover)

Lowland (Floodplain) Shrubland

Upland Shrubland

Sandsage Shrubland/Grassland

HERBACEOUS (Communities dominated by non-woody plants;
canopy cover >25%)

Lowland Tallgrass Prairie

Upland Tallgrass Prairie

Sand Hills Prairie

Mixed-grass Prairie

Shortgrass Prairie

SPARSE VEGETATION (Plant cover <25%, highly variable topography)

Badlands (Steep, eroded slopes)

Dry Cliffs/ Rock Cavities (Very steep rock escarpments)

Rock Outcrops (Moderate to fairly steep rock escarpments)

Sand or Gravel Flats (Barren riverine/lacustrine edges & bars)

WETLANDS

Alkaline (Saline) Wetlands

Playa (Seasonal) Wetlands

Wet Meadow/Marsh (Meadow: Marsh area ratio c. 6:1)

Open Water, Lakes & Reservoirs

Open Water, Streams & Rivers

Swamps/Wooded Backwaters (Woody oxbows, flooded trees)

Open Shorelines (Lightly vegetated shores)

OTHER HABITATS (Variable plant life-form and cover extent)

Cropland

Prairie Dog Colony

Urban/Parks/Bridges/Other human constructions

Woodland Edge (Woodlands edged by shrub & herbaceous communities)

Table 2. Seasonal habitat associations of birds in Nebraska

	Breeding B/b	Migration M/m	Winter W/w	Total (Rank)*	Use(Rank)**	T+U (Rank)***
FOREST (c. 2% of state area)						
Lowland Decid. Forest (c. 1,000 mi. ²) S3	31/11	20/8	20/1	91(6-tie)	9.1(18)	24(9-tie)
Upland Conif. Forest (c. 350 mi. ²) S2****	25/5	11/6	17/7	71(11)	20.3(16)	27(11-tie)
Upland Decid. Forest (c. 300 mi. ²) S3-S?	24/6	12/6	19/0	67(14)	22.3(15)	29(14-tie)
WOODLAND (est. 8%)						
Lowland Decid. Woodland (est. 2,000 mi. ²) s? 52/6	29/12	22/2	123(2-tie)	6.2(21-tie)	23(8)	
Upland Decid. Woodland (est. 2,000 mi. ²) s? 41/5	17/8	17/0	88(9)	4.4(25)	34(17)	
Upland Conif. Woodland (est. 2,000 mi. ²) s? 29/5	17/4	17/9	81(10)	4.1(26)	36(19)	
SHRUBLAND (est. 3%)						
Lowland Shrubland (est. 1,000 mi. ²) s? 23/1	20/5	7/0	56(16)	5.6(23)	39(21)	
Upland Shrubland (est. 1,000 mi. ²) s? 24/0	8/6	7/0	45(18)	4.5(24)	42(25-tie)	
Sand Sage Shrub (est. 300 mi. ²) S2? 13/3	2/1	5/1	25(26)	8.3(19)	45(27-tie)	
HERBACEOUS (c. 35%)						
Upland Tallgrass Prairie (est. <50 mi. ²) S1 27/3	3/0	6/2	41(19)	82(8)	27(11-tie)	
Lowland Tallgrass Prairie (est. <25 mi. ²) S2 19/2	5/0	7/1	34(22)	136(6)	28(13)	
Shortgrass Prairie (c. 775 mi. ²) S2? 38/2	6/1	8/2	57(15)	7.4(20)	35(18)	
Mixed-grass Prairie (c. 7,300 mi. ²) S3–4 38/2	8/1	13/6	68(13)	0.9(27)	40(22-tie)	
Sandhills Prairie (c. 19,000 mi. ²) S4-5 34/2	4/1	11/2	54(17)	0.3(28)	45(27-tie)	

	Breeding B/b	Migration M/m	Winter W/w	Total (Rank)*	Use(Rank)**	T+U (Rank)***
WETLANDS (c. 3%)						
Alkaline Wetlands***** (c. 50 mi. ²) S1-3	38/5	66/11	1/0	121(4)	242(2)	6(1)
Playa (Seasonal) Wetlands (c. 120 mi. ²) S1	33/5	75/9	1/0	123(2-tie)	102.5(7)	9(2-tie)
Streams (est. < 20 mi. ²) s?	7/1	36/19	6/0	69(12)	345(1)	13(4)
Lakes & Reservoirs (c. 310 mi. ²) s?	6/10	47/16	8/3	90(8)	29 (12)	20(6)
Wet Meadows/Marshes (est. 2,000 mi. ²) S2-4	43/7	64/9	1/0	124(1)	6.2(21-tie)	22(7)
Swamps, Wooded Backwaters (< 20 mi. ²) s?	10/3	11/1	4/0	29(24)	145(5)	29(14-tie)
Open Shorelines (est. <50 mi. ²) s?	6/0	23/4	2/0	35(21)	70(9)	30(16)
SPARSE VEGETATION (<1%)						
Sand or Gravel Flats (est. <20 mi. ²) S3-5	4/0	30/3	3/0	40(20)	200(4)	24(9-tie)
Cliffs & Rock Cavities (est. <10 mi. ²) S5	5/0	0/0	0/1	6(28)	60(10)	38(20)
Rock Outcrops (est. <10 mi. ²) S4	3/0	0/0	0/0	3(29)	30(11)	40(22-tie)
Badlands (est. <50 mi. ²) S3	4/1	2/0	4/1	12(27)	24(13)	40(22-tie)
OTHER HABITATS (c. 48%)						
Woodland Edges (est. < 40 mi. ²) s?	50/1	14/4	20/2	91(6-tie)	228(3)	9(2-tie)
Cities, Parks, Structures (c. 400 mi. ²) s?	42/1	14/7	27/3	94(5)	23.5(14)	19(5)
Prairie Dog Colonies (c. 160 mi. ²)***** s?	18/1	4/0	4/1	28(25)	17.5(17)	42(25-tie)
Croplands (c. 36,600 mi. ²) s?	6/1	16/1	7/2	33(23)	0.1(29)	52(29)

* Numbers in first three columns indicate number of major (M) /minor (m) species associations per habitat type per season, followed by total associations for all seasons. See text for rank calculation.

** "Use" is derived from formula: Total associations x 100/ Area of available habitat (mi.²). See text for rank calculation.

*** "T + U" equals totals of two prior rankings. Overall rank is derived these scores, sequenced from lowest to highest.

**** Estimate of Weaver, 1965

***** Estimate of Johnsgard, 2005 (average of two different 2003 surveys)

***** Estimate of LaGrange, 1997

NEW WESTWARD BREEDING RECORDS FOR EASTERN TOWHEES IN CENTRAL NEBRASKA

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INTRODUCTION

The current breeding range of Eastern Towhees (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) in Nebraska is described as westward to a line from Cedar Co through Platte, Hall and Harlan Cos (*NBR* 64: 124, Sharpe *et al.* 2001). Frequent recent sightings of Eastern Towhees during the breeding season have been made from more westward locations. A few reports are from Lincoln Co., 5 June 2004 by TJ Walker (*NBR* 72: 91), and Dawson Co., 13 May 2004 by Laurel Badura (*NBR* 72: 55). In contrast to the capture data presented here, none of the sightings is corroborated with breeding condition data such as cloacal protuberance or brood patch nor are nests located. Further recent sightings (Silcock in press *NBR*: 73) indicate the probability of Spotted Towhee genes in the eastern-most counties of Nebraska through intermediate songs and plumage. There are no other known capture studies that have data of the type presented here from the central Platte River valley.

Sibley and West (1959), working from museum specimens, indicated genetic influences of Eastern Towhees in central Nebraska with their hybrid index based on a scale from 0 to 7 for combined sexes, with 0 being pure Eastern Towhee phenotypes and with scores greater than 0 influenced by Spotted Towhee, *P. maculatus*, genes. In an east-west gradient along the Platte River, Elm Creek had a hybrid index of 1.9, Gothenburg, 2.0 and Sutherland 2.2. This is contrasted with much higher scores of 3.5 and 3.8 for birds collected at more northerly locations on the Niobrara River and at Chadron respectively. The values for Blair and Omaha indicate nearly pure populations of Eastern Towhees with a 0.14 score. Scharf and Kren in Brown *et al.* (1996) recorded 33 mostly Easterns and 29 mostly Spottededs out of 62 hybrid birds banded at Lake Ogallala.

METHODS AND STUDY AREAS

Four sites in Dawson County, Nebraska, (at 40° 41' N ranging from 99° 22' to 99° 33' W), were mist-netted to capture and band birds over four nesting seasons. Two sites were within the Cottonwood Ranch Property of Nebraska Public Power District, and two sites were within the Jeffrey Island Habitat Area of Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District.

Each of the four sites had a minimum of ten standard 3-m x 12-m mist nets with either 36-mm or 30-mm mesh erected on 3.3-m poles in likely-looking openings between habitat cover patches. Where the nets were proximate to the river, they were oriented at right angles to the channel. The original net locations were maintained through four spring-summer seasons. There was a regular rotation of capture days among sites with each set of ten nets being opened every fourth day. Nets were opened at or slightly before dawn each morning for at least six hours

unless high temperature, wind or rain caused concern for the welfare of the birds. Accumulated effort was 14,856 net hours in riparian woodlands for the four nesting seasons.

Captured birds were banded with U.S. Geological Survey bands. The sex of adult breeding towhees was determined by plumage. To determine breeding condition, males were checked for cloacal protuberance, and females for brood patch (Pyle 1997). In this study, only males with unspotted coverts, scapulars and interscapulars, but with a large white patch at the base of the primaries and females with a rich brown head and back, as in typical *P. erythrophthalmus*, were categorized as Eastern Towhees (category 0 of Sibley and West 1959). A few hatching-year birds with no dorsal spotting were designated Eastern Towhees, and those with dorsal spotting were called Spotted Towhees.

RESULTS

I captured 107 individual towhees, excluding 15 recaptures, of both species as well as hybrids during the four nesting seasons. There were 20 Eastern Towhees exhibiting the phenotype of category 0 (Sibley and West 1959). They comprised 19% of all individual towhees captured. The sexes of Eastern Towhees were distributed as 11 males and 7 females with 2 hatching-year birds of unknown sex. There were 87 towhees comprising hybrids and Spotted Towhees, categories 1 to 7 of Sibley and West (1959). They include 81% of the towhees captured. The sexes of the hybrids and Spotted Towhees were 43 males and 40 females with 4 hatching-year birds of unknown sex. Table 1 shows the distribution of captures of individuals of the two species with hybrids grouped together with Spotted Towhees.

Table 1. Number of towhees captured by year.

Year	Eastern Towhees	Spotted Towhees and hybrids
2001	9	9
2002	5	22
2003	3	31
2004	3	25
Total	20	87

DISCUSSION

Extension of the range of the Eastern Towhee in Nebraska may be viewed as further evidence of eastern bird species invading westward through an extension of eastern woodlands along the Platte River (Currier and Davis 2000). Alternatively, the cottonwood/ash woodlands are of historic lineages, and these records may represent a status quo that has been hitherto undetected by ornithologists (Johnson 1994, Johnson and Boetcher 2000). The possibility that Spotted Towhees may actually have moved eastward along the wooded riparian zone seems to be an alternative that is seldom considered, but see Silcock (in press *NBR*: 73).

It is my experience in Nebraska that hybrid ratios and their associated sibling species numbers vary greatly from year to year in the same location (Brown *et al.* 1996, Scharf, unpublished data). The year of highest captures of Eastern Towhees coincides with the year of lowest captures of Spotted Towhees (Table 1). This illustrates a tension zone maintained by a balance between dispersal and selection against hybrids (Barton and Hewitt 1985).

My reasoning in choosing towhees without spots (category 0 of Sibley and West 1959) is that uniformity exists within the Eastern Towhee genotype and the appearance of spots on the plumage indicates a discontinuity in that genotype representing hybridization (Moore and Buchanan 1985). Thus, all towhees with spots represent this discontinuity moving toward a new uniformity of genotype within the Spotted Towhee species. The two towhee species seem to represent a truly plastic genetic mix.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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In Memory of Dr. Rushton G. Cortelyou

The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union lost a longtime member and friend on May 2, 2004, when Dr. Rushton Cortelyou passed away just 16 days shy of his 98th birthday. He had been a member of the NOU for more than 50 years. He was preceded in death by Margaret, his wife of 68 years. Survivors include daughters Helen Linger and Carol Cortelyou, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Dr. Cortelyou, "Rusty", as he was known to his friends, was born on May 18, 1906, in Manhattan, Kansas, where his father was on the faculty at Kansas State University. Rusty graduated from KSU in 1927 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He earned an MBA from Harvard in 1929 and served in the U. S. Navy during World War II and the Korean Conflict, retiring with the rank of Commander.

Rusty and his wife Margaret Manley Cortelyou moved to Omaha in 1946, where he was treasurer of Fairmont Foods. Later, after earning a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1967, he taught business courses at Bellevue College (now Bellevue University) until his retirement in 1973.

Rusty's membership in the NOU dates from 1953, and he contributed much to the organization. He served as president in 1962-64 and as editor of *The Nebraska Bird Review* from 1965 to 1990. As his daughter Carol remembers, "My dad really enjoyed the kind of detailed work needed for the *NBR*; he even kept doing the index when others took over the editing job." Rusty and his wife Margaret celebrated their 90th birthdays at the NOU spring meeting in Kearney in 1996. Later that year they moved to the Seattle area to be closer to their daughter Carol.

Rusty's participation in the NOU didn't end with the move to Washington state. He attended NOU meetings when he was able and watched over the organization's affairs from afar when he was not. Generous donations of books and money have been made over the years, and the Cortelyous were instrumental in the formation of the Scholarship Fund. Rusty wrote an article about his early years in the organization, "N.O.U. History Notes", which was published in the 1999 Centennial Meeting Program. In 2002 at the NOU Annual Meeting in Norfolk, Rusty was elected an Honorary Life Member. He was recognized in the nomination document for the "time, effort, unsurpassed leadership and continuity" he has given to the organization.



Rusty's generosity was extended also to the Kansas State University Foundation in a bequest for the renovation of a historic, 94-year-old limestone barn at the Konza Prairie Biological Station.

Rusty was an inspiration to all who knew him. He was always interested in learning, getting his PhD after age 60 and snorkeling for the first time at age 95. He outlived most of his generation and many of the generation that followed. According to his daughter Carol, he "enjoyed amazingly excellent health for 97 years". He was able to continue to enjoy many of his accustomed activities: reading, using his computer, updating his financial records, writing letters and watching nature shows, and being sick towards the end didn't keep him from watching Kansas State in the bowl game.

2004-05 Christmas Bird Counts in Nebraska

The addition of a new count encompassing Ponca State Park brings our total reported Nebraska counts to twelve this year. A total of 199 field counters and 20 feeder watchers participated. Temperatures were average, DeSoto being the cold spot, and precipitation was minimal.

This was the first year Cackling Geese were reported, following the recent split of Canada and Cackling Geese; a total of 70 were counted in 6 circles. American Wigeon numbers have been rising steadily on Nebraska CBCs, and the trend continued this year with 819 counted, a 25-year high. Three White-winged Scoters were found at Lake McConaughy, where they have been counted in three of the past four years. Greater Scaup made a good showing this year also, with a total of 123 counted, highest for the past 15 years. Common Mergansers were down this year, from over 36,000 last year to 5279 this year, but more Red-breasted Mergansers were counted this year (47) than ever before. To muddy the taxonomic waters a bit this year, 3 hybrid ducks were reported.

No Gray Partridges were found this year, but Galliformes in general made a good showing. Sharp-tailed Grouse were at a 10-year high, and Wild Turkeys seem poised to take over the state. This year's count of 1367 surpassed last year's all-time high by 210 birds. Raptor numbers were also in the usual range. A Goshawk at Scotts Bluff was a standout, and a record-high 341 Bald Eagles were counted.

Eight gull species were observed, including Thayer's, Iceland, Glaucous and Great Black-backed; all except the Grand Island Franklin's Gull made appearances at Lake McConaughy. Ring-billed, California and Herring Gulls all had higher counts this year than in recent years.

The expansion of the Eurasian Collared-Dove was reflected in the highest-ever count of 75. This species was first counted on a Nebraska Christmas Bird Count in 2000, and the numbers have been steadily increasing ever since. In 2000, it was recorded only at Lake McConaughy; this year it was found on 5 counts.

Nebraska's population of Black-capped Chickadees continues to be a cause for concern. Although there was a slight increase in the number of chickadees

counted at five locations (Beaver Valley, Calamus-Loup, Lake McConaughy, Lincoln and Scottsbluff), overall numbers declined again: 699 compared to last year's low count of 774, in spite of the fact that data from an additional count (Ponca) were included this year. The pattern remains the same: locations along the Missouri River have low counts which are still dropping but are not out of line with data from the past 25 years. Panhandle counts in general have not seen a drastic decline either, although they were uneven this year: Crawford dropped while Scottsbluff increased. In the rest of the state, between the Missouri River valley and the Panhandle, numbers are still low. Grand Island reported only 6 this year; in Norfolk only 36 were found, compared to counts in the hundreds in past years.

Counts outside of Nebraska continue to reflect this pattern: Christmas Bird Counts to the east of Nebraska in Sioux City and Shenandoah, Iowa, both had increases in chickadee numbers (Shenandoah nearly doubled their 2003 count of 69) and the overall numbers at these counts are within the range of historical fluctuation. Likewise western counts at Rapid City, South Dakota, and Casper, Wyoming, were not drastically low and showed increases this year. However, counts in central South Dakota and north central Kansas continued to show abnormally low numbers of chickadees, as do our central Nebraska counts. (Christmas Bird Count data from outside Nebraska were obtained from www.audubon.org.)

This year's Red-breasted Nuthatch total of 99 birds ties the 1999 total for the highest count ever. Likewise Townsend's Solitaires had the highest count ever: 223. More European Starlings were counted this year than in any year previous, a stunning 61,255. On a more cheerful note, Cedar Waxwings hit an all-time high count of 2537 on 10 counts, and a total of 562 Bohemian Waxwings, which had never before been recorded on Nebraska CBCs, were found in three locations (Crawford, Lake McConaughy and Scottsbluff).

Sparrow numbers were in the normal range, although all three *Zonotrichia* sparrows showed declines this year. The White-crowned Sparrow count of 58 is a 4-year low, and only 5 White-throated Sparrows (excluding a count week sighting at Branched Oak) were found, which is a 12-year low. Harris's Sparrows have been scarce for the past two years: a total of 75 were found in 2003 and 52 in 2004, compared to 534 in 2002. The 2003 and 2004 Harris's Sparrow counts are the lowest in 40 years; totals in the hundreds are typical.

A pleasant surprise was the single Pine Grosbeak found at Branched Oak, a first for Nebraska CBCs. Purple Finches were down to a more usual count of 82 after their high of 223 in 2003. Two Cassin's Finches, a species not often observed on CBCs, were found at Lake McConaughy. Red Crossbills had a good winter here, with 91 counted at Branched Oak.

2004-05 CBC PARTICIPANTS

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2004-05 CBC Site Data

	Date	Species	Individuals	Observers	Low Temp	High Temp	Sky (am/pm)	Rain	Snow
Beaver Valley	2 Jan 05	30	497	2	13	34	partly cloudy/clear	none	none
Branched Oak-Seward	19 Dec	76	6,892	16	3	22	cloudy/partly cloudy	none	none
Calamus-Loup	1 Jan 05	49	28,830	12	15	35	cloudy/cloudy	light	none
Crawford	20 Dec	30	1,044	4	22	42	cloudy/partly cloudy	none	none
DeSoto-Boyer	19 Dec	55	18,461	23	-1	16	clear	none	none
Grand Island	18 Dec	64	42,095	15 + 3	31	47	clear/partly cloudy	none	none
Lake McConaughy	19 Dec	100	16,018	15 + 17	18	48	partly cloudy	none	none
Lincoln	18 Dec	55	10,273	29	31	49	partly cloudy	none	none
Norfolk	18 Dec	55	14,990	19	20	32	cloudy/cloudy	none	light
Omaha	18 Dec	62	17,661	36	34	47	pt. cloudy/cloudy	none	none
Ponca	27 Dec	43	1,856	6	17	35	partly cloudy	none	none
Scottsbluff	18 Dec	77	22,791	22	26	48	clear/clear	none	none
		131	181,408	199 + 20					

Observers at Grand Island and Lake McConaughy include 3 and 17 feeder watchers, respectively.

2004 - 2005 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Br. Oak Seward	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Lake McC	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Ponca	Scotts- bluff	Total
Gr. White-fronted Goose	-	35	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
Snow Goose	-	100	-	-	365	1	1	1	601	2,600	-	1	3,672
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Canada Goose	-	2,557	267	-	2,079	3,123	2,416	3,431	739	3,487	-	3,840	21,939
Cackling Goose	-	37	7	-	-	-	16	-	1	5	-	4	70
goose sp	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	cw	-	6	-	1	-	0	1	-	-	8
Gadwall	-	5	-	-	-	-	77	-	-	1	-	70	153
American Wigeon	-	5	-	-	-	-	130	-	-	-	-	684	819
American Black Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Mallard	52	520	2,209	14	2,504	2,171	1,110	1,222	2,085	186	155	11,882	24,110
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	8	15
Northern Pintail	-	cw	cw	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	68	70
Green-winged Teal	-	1	4	-	-	2	75	2	-	10	-	30	124
Casvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	20
Redhead	-	1	-	-	-	-	81	-	-	cw	-	5	87

2004 - 2005 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Br. Oak Seward	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Lake McC	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Ponca	Scotts- bluff	Total
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	76	-	-	-	-	65	141
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	119	-	-	-	-	4	123
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	530	-	-	-	-	53	583
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Bufflehead	-	2	-	-	-	-	148	-	-	-	-	5	155
Common Goldeneye	-	30	327	-	68	25	704	10	-	244	32	339	1,779
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	4
Hooded Merganser	-	10	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	cw	-	1	23
Common Merganser	-	192	1,048	-	2	-	3,956	10	-	44	22	3	5,277
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	-	-	-	-	-	47
Ruddy Duck	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	8
Mallard x N. Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Mallard x N. Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
C. Goldeneye x H. Merg. duck sp.	-	-	-	-	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	14	2	7	25	34	1	9	38	-	36	13	180

2004 - 2005 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Br. Oak Seward	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Lake McC	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Ponca	Scotts- bluff	Total
Sharp-tailed Grouse	-	-	40	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	48
Greater Prairie-Chicken	9	-	53	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	7	-	84
Wild Turkey	-	9	237	24	444	484	2	-	12	105	-	50	1,367
Northern Bobwhite	-	17	68	8	-	4		-	1	-	-	-	98
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Western Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	20
Clark's Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
American White Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	5
Great Blue Heron	-	-	1	-	-	5	3	5	3	-	-	12	29
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bald Eagle	5	1	69	3	80	27	70	-	16	44	8	18	341
Northern Harrier	1	1	1	-	4	10	10	2	2		4	4	39
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	3	cw	-	2	4	3	1	2	5	1	1	23
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	3	0	1	2	10

2004 - 2005 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Br. Oak Seward	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Lake McC	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Ponca	Scotts- bluff	Total
Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
accipiter sp.	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	4
Red-tailed Hawk	9	33	5	2	62	35	22	30	45	68	22	28	361
Ferruginous Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Rough-legged Hawk	4	3	4	-	2	6	3	1	6	0	6	1	36
Buteo sp.	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	5
American Kestrel	-	7	2	-	13	34	20	9	11	7	6	25	134
Merlin	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	8
Prairie Falcon	-	cw	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
American Coot	-	-	-	-	-	1	81	5	-	-	-	80	167
Killdeer	-	cw	-	-	-	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	11
Wilson's Snipe	-	1	3	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	8
Franklin's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-billed Gull	-	66	1,500	-	-	-	992	614	-	5	-	23	3,200

2004 - 2005 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Br. Oak Seward	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Lake McC	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Ponca	Scotts- bluff	Total
California Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	44
Herring Gull	-	77	314	-	-	-	160	12	-	-	-	1	564
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
gull sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Rock Pigeon	56	171	-	39	288	454	121	229	264	381	12	242	2,257
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	7	-	5	-	42	17	-	-	-	-	4	75
Mourning Dove	-	15	-	-	1	-	1	51	2	17	1	82	170
Eastern Screech-Owl	-	1	-	-	8	11	2	-	3	1	2	1	29
Great Horned Owl	1	4	2	-	6	4	6	2	6	-	3	3	37
Barred Owl	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	1	1	2	2	-	13
Long-eared Owl	-	10	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	14
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Belted Kingfisher	-	-	1	-	2	5	7	7	3	6	1	4	36

2004 - 2005 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Br. Oak Seward	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Lake McC	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Ponca	Scotts- bluff	Total
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	-	29
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	37	3	-	88	5	4	15	24	98	14	1	290
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	8
Downy Woodpecker	3	47	16	1	112	17	23	45	24	81	10	15	394
Hairy Woodpecker	3	16	3	1	14	2	2	9	6	12	6	3	77
Northern Flicker	8	44	15	1	139	37	47	10	26	59	22	54	462
Loggerhead Shrike	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Shrike	-	4	3	3	1	4	6	4	2	1	3	2	33
Blue Jay	3	68	4	1	88	12	15	39	30	46	20	80	406
Black-billed Magpie	-	-	-	10	-	10	32	-	5	-	1	34	92
American Crow	17	255	8,568	9	171	53	17	134	382	181	58	25	9,870
Horned Lark		54	200	10	411	23	517	6	33	6	1	356	1,617
Black-capped Chickadee	11	11	18	15	187	6	27	27	36	275	45	41	699
Mountain Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Tufted Titmouse	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	52	-	-	66
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	17	1	3	-	2	27	13	2	6	-	24	99

2004 - 2005 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Br. Oak Seward	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Lake McC	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Ponca	Scotts- bluff	Total
White-breasted Nuthatch	7	40	7	6	77	11	10	30	20	125	12	3	348
Pygmy Nuthatch	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7
Brown Creeper	2	3	-	-	5	4	8	22	1	11	-	1	57
Carolina Wren	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	-	7
Winter Wren	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	5
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	9	-	-	33	-	18	8	3	8	-	-	80
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	cw	1
Eastern Bluebird	-	22	-	-	53	1	-	-	-	64	12	-	152
Mountain Bluebird	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Townsend's Solitaire	-	5	4	6	1	-	140	-	-	-	-	67	223
Hermit Thrush	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
American Robin	44	73	10,216		3,847	251	619	9	25	172	600	62	15,918
Northern Mockingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Brown Thrasher	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
European Starling	42	210	308	205	4,511	33,207	1,148	3,126	8,687	7,397	288	2,126	61,255

2004 - 2005 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Br. Oak Seward	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Lake McC	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Ponca	Scotts- bluff	Total
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	-	225	-	-	237	-	-	-	-	100	562
Cedar Waxwing	-	111	1,742	-	35	82	385	63	12	50	27	30	2,537
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Spotted Towhee	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	4
American Tree Sparrow	83	434	360	65	795	58	116	116	177	76	154	172	2,606
Song Sparrow	-	7	-	-	13	27	24	-	3	3	-	13	90
White-throated Sparrow	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	5
Harris's Sparrow	-	7	-	-	6	8	13	6	1	11	-	-	52
White-crowned Sparrow	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	53	58
sparrow sp.	-	38	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
Dark-eyed Junco	-	378	163	65	798	168	425	387	290	437	134	287	3,532
Lapland Longspur	-	5	4	-	3	-	15	-	-	-	-	67	94
Northern Cardinal	1	134	15	-	173	27	20	57	29	173	36	5	670
Red-winged Blackbird	-	140	85	-	125	357	4	8	73	3	-	503	1,298
Western Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
meadowlark sp.	-	10	-	-	16	55	8	24	cw	20	-	43	176

2004 - 2005 Christmas Bird Counts

	Beaver Valley	Br. Oak Seward	Calamus Loup	Crawford	DeSoto Boyer	Grand Island	Lake McC	Lincoln	Norfolk	Omaha	Ponca	Scotts- bluff	Total
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	1	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Brewer's Blackbird	1	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	7
Common Grackle	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	-	-	6
Great-tailed Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	-	11
blackbird sp.	33	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58
Pine Grosbeak	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Purple Finch	-	17	5	-	9	3	25	-	-	21	2	-	82
Cassin's Finch	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
House Finch	27	19	67	10	33	110	220	45	7	108	2	189	837
Red Crossbill	-	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91
Pine Siskin	-	6	-	91	-	-	169	7	1	1	6	148	429
American Goldfinch	-	275	753	39	231	198	235	89	265	274	70	78	2,507
House Sparrow	65	322	101	172	394	820	264	299	975	613	10	532	4,567
TOTAL SPECIES	30	76	49	30	55	64	100	55	55	62	43	77	131
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	497	6,892	28,830	1,044	18,461	42,095	16,018	10,273	14,990	17,661	1856	22,791	181,408

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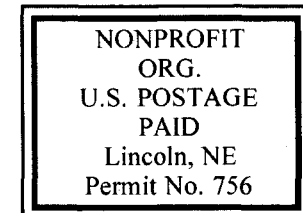
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