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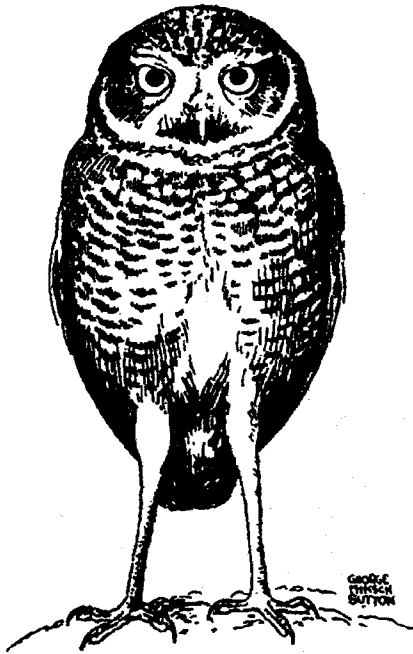
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CORRECTION: The name of the photographer of the Great Blue Heron nest on page 5 of the March 2010 issue of the *Nebraska Bird Review* was inadvertently omitted. The photo was taken by Edward Tickle.

SPRING FIELD REPORT, Mar 2010 to May 2010

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INTRODUCTION

There was much of interest this spring. Early and late dates, early breeding, even a few rarities, are scattered through the species accounts. A few highlights are mentioned here. Mark Brogie found 6 species of Gallinaceous birds in one hour in Knox Co - quite a feat. Glossy Ibis reports continue to increase, and Mississippi Kites were found in new areas. Cranes made news: a leucistic Sandhill, another Common, and good numbers of Whoopings. Piping Plovers may be spreading out a bit, given the disappearance of the expanses of sand at L McConaughy, and amazing finds are being made by the team studying Mountain Plovers in Kimball County. Several shorebird species made a huge push 30 Apr: check out the accounts, beginning with American Avocet. The shorebird star had to be Bailey, the transmitter-wearing Long-billed Curlew, who made a rapid transit from wintering to summering grounds. Not far behind was XN, a banded Hudsonian Godwit seen on Chiloe Island, Chile, and next in Dakota Co, Nebraska. Black-billed Magpies have been hit hard in recent years and their progress is mixed, but Carolina Wrens took a beating last winter. A few survived, however, and we will watch their progress. A Bewick's Wren was a rarity in the southwest, but there was no doubt that the top rarity for the season was the Hermit Warbler photographed at Crescent L NWR; it was Nebraska's second. Additional rare Parulids found were Pine and Hooded Warblers. An amazing find, for the second year in a row, was singing Baird's Sparrows, seemingly acting territorially, in extreme northeast Sioux County. It will be interesting to see if they remain into summer.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City
BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co
Calamus Res: Calamus Reservoir WMA/SRA, Loup and Garfield Cos
CLNWR: Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Garden Co.
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co

Cem: Cemetery

Harvard Marsh: Harvard WPA, Clay Co

HCR: Harlan Co Res, Harlan Co

ICSP: Indian Cave SP, Nemaha and Richardson Cos

Jack Sinn: Jack Sinn Memorial WMA, Saunders and Lancaster Co

LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co

LNB: L North and Babcock, Platte Co

LO: L Ogallala, Keith Co

LPB: La Platte Bottoms, Sarpy Co

m.ob.: many observers

NLB: North Lake Basin WMA, Seward Co

NOU: Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

NWR: National Wildlife Refuge

PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co

PP: Pioneers Park, Lincoln

PRSP: Platte River SP, Cass Co

Res: Reservoir

RWB: wetland complex in several counties of south central and southeast Nebraska

Schramm: Schramm Park SRA, Sarpy Co

SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)

SCP: Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Lancaster Co

SP: State Park

Swanson Res: Swanson Reservoir WMA and SRA, Hitchcock Co

WGP: Walnut Grove Park, Omaha

Whitehead Marsh: Whitehead Saline Wetlands, Lincoln

WP: Wilderness Park, Lincoln

OBSERVERS

AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering

ARu: Alice Rumery, Kearney

ARy: Al Reyer, Bellevue

B&DW: Bruce & Donna Walgren, Casper, WY

BF: Bill Fink, San Francisco, CA

BFH: Bill F. Huser, South Sioux City

BG: Betty Grenon, Bellevue

BH: Brian Hula, Bellevue

BN: Brian Nordstrom, Prescott, AZ

BP: Becky Potmesil, Alliance

BWh: Ben Wheeler, Ord

CF: Craig Fosdick, Logan, UT

CG: Cory Gregory, Ames, IA

CH: Candace Havely, McCook

CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue

CS: Cheryl Samusevich, Lincoln

CW: Chris Wood, Ithaca, NY

D&JP: Don and Jan Paseka, Ames

DH: Dave Heidt, Norfolk

DL: Dan Leger, Lincoln
DR: Dean Rosenthal, Milford
DSt: Dave Stage, Elkhorn
DW: Duane Wolff, Norfolk
EB: Elliott Bedows, Bellevue
EBe: Eric Bents, Omaha
ECT: Edna Claire Thomas, Morrill
ET: Edward Tickle, Lincoln
GJ: Gail Johnson, Warminster, PA
GR: Gary Roberts, Fremont
GW: Gordon Warrick, Lincoln
G&WH: Glen & Wanda Hoge, Alma
IB: Ian Batterman, De Pere, WI
JaG: Janet Greer, Council Bluffs, IA
JAR: Janet Anderson-Ray, Cheyenne, WY
JB: Jesse Bolli, Beatrice
JC: John Carlini, Lincoln
JF: Jay Favinger, North Platte
JG: Joe Gubanyi, Seward
JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Lincoln
JH: Justin Haahr, North Platte
JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield
JLL: Jeanine L. Lackey, Doniphan
JMo: Jim Mountjoy, Lincoln
JO: Jim Ochsner, Ogallala
JP: Jim Petersen, North Platte
JPK: Judy P. Kassick, Friend
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JRi: Juanita Rice, Fairmont
JSe: John Sebastiani, Hockessin, DE
JSi: James Sipiora, Arlington, TX
JSt: Jon Strong, Omaha
JT: Jerry Toll, Omaha
JW: Jake Walker, Lincoln
JWH: John W. Hall, Omaha
JWo: Janice Wobbenhorst, Belden
KB: Kelli Bacon, Lincoln
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell
KDy: Keith Dyche, Shenandoah, IA
KK: Ken Kranik, Alliance
KP: Kevin Poague, Lincoln
KS: Kent Skaggs, Kearney
KSc: Kathy Schwery, Plattsmouth
L&BP: Loren and Babs Padelford, Bellevue
LD: Linda Deeds, North Platte
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln
LF: Laurence Falk, Nebraska City
LJH: Luke J. Hamilton, Oshkosh
LK: Lanny Kizer, Loup City

LO: Linda Ollinger, Wilsonville
LR: Lanny Randolph, Minden
LRu: Linda Rudolph, Iowa City, IA
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton
ME: Mike Ellis, Omaha
MK: Michelle Koch, Lincoln
MM: Marty Mathieson, Shelton
MMi: Mark Miller, Longmont, CO
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NR: Neal Ratzlaff, Omaha
NS: Nathan Senner, Ithaca, NY
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings
P&DD: Phyllis and Dean Drawbaugh, Scottsbluff
PDo: Pam Dong, South Pasadena, CA
PR: Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA
PS: Phil Swanson, Omaha
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RGS: Randy G. Stutheit, Lincoln
RH: Robin Harding, Minden
RiS: Richard Staniforth, Winnipeg, MB
RK: Randy Kraus, Lenoir City, TN
RM: Robert Manning, Omaha
RL: Roger Lawson, Curtis
RS: Rick Schmid, Omaha
RSi: Ruben Siegfried, Gering
RSt: Ruth Stearns, Lincoln
RV: Richard Vitters, Fremont
RW: Rick Wright, Tucson, AZ
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SJD: Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA
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SQ: Susan Quinn, Nebraska City
SR: Sarah Rehme, Lincoln
SS: Shari Schwartz, Lincoln
ST: Scott Taylor, Lincoln
SW: Scott Wessel, Wausa
TEL: Thomas E. Labedz, Lincoln
TG: Tom Gannon, Lincoln
TH: Tim Hajda, Broken Bow
TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady
TK: Tyson Kahler, Grand Island
VC: Virginia Clark, North Platte
VN: Valerie Newman, Scottsbluff
WF: William Flack, Kearney
WM: Wayne Mollhoff, Ashland
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA
ZC: Zachary Cheviron, Los Angeles, CA

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose: Routine reports.

Snow Goose: Impressive were the 400,000 in Antelope Co 14 Mar (MB). As many as 14 were late and easterly in Nemaha Co 29 May (CNK).

Ross's Goose: Best counts were 400 in Antelope Co 14 Mar (MB) and 120 at Jack Sinn 10 Mar (LE).

Cackling Goose: Spring aggregations are not as large as those in fall; the 2000 in Buffalo Co 17 Mar (WF) was a near-record count.

Canada Goose: First brood noted was in North Platte: "fluffies" were seen 26 Apr (TJW).

Mute Swan: Reports continue from the Omaha region; 2 adults were at Venice 13 Mar (fide JaG, DL photos) and a juvenile molting to adult plumage was at Zorinsky L, Omaha, 21 Mar (JR).

Trumpeter Swan: An adult was out of place in Boone Co as late as 31 May (DH). Some 25 were reported in all, most migrants; best count was 12 on a Custer Co playa 31 Mar (BWh).

Tundra Swan: The only report of this rare migrant was of one at Calamus Res 24 Mar (JSe).

Wood Duck: One at Norfolk 3 Mar (WF) was early that far north.

Gadwall: Routine reports.

American Wigeon: Routine reports.

Mallard: Routine reports.

Blue-winged Teal: Routine reports.

Cinnamon Teal: Reports were more widespread than usual, especially eastward, including a rare report of 1-2 as far east as Lincoln 7-9 Apr (LE). Also easterly was a hybrid in Sarpy Co 8-13 Apr (JR, L&BP, EB). Another hybrid was in the e RWB 24 Apr (JGJ), along with 5 Cinnamons at various e RWB locations 9-30 Apr (PD, JGJ, WF).

Northern Shoveler: Routine reports.

Northern Pintail: "Quite a few pairs" on playas in Perkins Co 26 May (TJW) suggested breeding. As yet breeding has not been confirmed in the southwest, although Mollhoff considered it "probable" in Perkins Co during 1984-89 (Breeding Bird Atlas I).

Green-winged Teal: As with Northern Pintail, this species has only bred a few times south of the Platte Valley. Thus "quite a few pairs" on Perkins Co playas 26 May (TJW) were of interest.

Canvasback: A male lingered in North Platte through 14 May (TJW), which was late away from the nw Sandhills summer range.

Redhead: Three at Alma SL 31 May (G&WH) were tardy; breeding is unknown in that part of the state.

Ring-necked Duck: The 560 in Hamilton Co 20 Mar (CW) was a good count; a single lingered to 29 May in the same county (JGJ).

Greater Scaup: At least 60 were reported statewide 7 Mar (JGJ) through 17 Apr (WRS), a good showing; later stragglers were 3 in Hamilton Co 3 May (JGJ) and one at Alma SL 8 May (TH).

Lesser Scaup: Best count was a moderate 1549 at BOL 30 Mar (LE); last was one in Sarpy Co 21 May (WRS et al.).

- Surf Scoter:** Single immature males were found at LO 12 May (TH) and in Sarpy Co 21 May (LRu, WRS, SG, PS). These are only the 6th and 7th documented spring records.
- Black Scoter:** A surprise was an adult male at Oak L, Lincoln, 7 Apr (LE, JMo, JC, SS), only the 3rd documented spring record.
- Bufflehead:** A pair in sw Cherry Co 23 May (WM) may have been potential breeders, although there is only one documented record of breeding for the state.
- Common Goldeneye:** A probable hybrid with Barrow's Goldeneye was in Lincoln Co 21 Mar (TH, TJW).
- Hooded Merganser:** Adult males in May are suggestive of local breeding; one was near Peru 8 May (WRS). This is only the 8th report of an adult male in the period mid-Apr through May; there are only 3 confirmed breeding records for the state.
- Common Merganser:** The 4000-5000 at BOL 14 Mar (JR) was an excellent count, second only to the estimated 200,000 at HCR on the same day in 2003.
- Red-breasted Merganser:** Good numbers were reported, topped by 50+ at BOL 27 Mar (EB) and 48 at L Yankton, Cedar Co, 3 Apr (BFH).
- Ruddy Duck:** Routine reports.
- Gray Partridge:** The range of this species in Nebraska has contracted, with most reports in recent years from Knox, Cedar, and n Antelope Cos; at least 2 pairs were s of Creighton in n Antelope Co 14-19 May (MB).
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Southwest counties have high populations at present; two census routes (20 x 2-minute stops) in Hitchcock Co 17 Apr found 893 and 659 roosters (TJW). The first egg was found 28 Apr in Lincoln Co (TJW), rather early.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** A male was at a Greater Prairie-Chicken lek near Winnetoon all spring, 20 Mar-19 May (MB); hybridization has occurred between these species.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Reports from the east edge of the range were encouraging: 5 were at Buckskin Hills WMA, Dixon Co, 27 Mar (BFH) with a female there 27 May (JJ), and one flushed from a Dodge Co cornfield 2 Apr was the observer's first for the county (D&JP). Two leks with a total of 15+ birds were found in Butler Co 10 Apr (SR), and 2 were at Kirkpatrick Basin South WMA, York Co, 8 May (JGJ). Other reports of interest were 2 leks in the cedar canyons of se Lincoln Co 27 Apr (TJW), and 3 in Harlan Co 31 Mar (PDo).
- Wild Turkey:** An amazing 800+ were tallied in Knox Co 20 Mar (MB).
- Northern Bobwhite:** Winter may have affected populations in Dodge Co; first for the year for the observer were 2 found 10 May (D&JP). Apparently a small population exists on the FF flood plain; 2 were seen there 21 May (EB).
- Pacific Loon:** A basic-plumaged bird at BOL 30 Mar (LE) was only the 4th spring record for the state.
- Common Loon:** Most reports were from the east, where alternate-plumaged birds were found 25 Mar (JR), rather early, through 14 Apr (JR) as expected. Later reports tend to be westerly and of sub-adult birds; one in basic plumage was in Hall Co 27 Apr (D&JP), 2 near-adults in North Platte 26 Apr (fide TJW, photos VC), and two (un-aged) were at LM 13 May (TJW).
- Pied-billed Grebe:** The 85 in Lancaster Co 7 Apr (LE) was an excellent count for spring; the record is 100.
- Horned Grebe:** Two at Bridgeport 13 Mar (LJH) were rather early.

Red-necked Grebe: A surprise was an adult in n Antelope Co 8 May (BFH, WF, PR, MB); apparently it is the first for Antelope Co and only the third documented spring record for the state.

Eared Grebe: Routine reports.

Western Grebe: Routine reports.

Clark's Grebe: The only reports were of 2 on Swanson Res 25 Apr (CH) and one at Mother L, Cherry Co, 25 May (WM).

American White Pelican: Routine reports.

Neotropic Cormorant: Nebraska's 11th record was of 2 at BOL 15-16 May (JR, JC, SS, ET photo). This species is increasing in numbers northward on the Great Plains.

Double-crested Cormorant: Flocks flying over Sarpy Co 11 Apr contained 2300 birds (L&BP), an excellent tally. Several were on nests at a private Interstate 80 lake in Lincoln Co 26 May (TJW).

American Bittern: The 5 at NLB 16 May (JC, SS) was a good count; habitat appeared to be suitable for breeding this spring.

Least Bittern: Reports from locations to the nw of the expected se Nebraska range seem to be increasing in recent years. Far-flung singles were near the North Platte airport 14 Apr (TJW), second-earliest on record, and at CLNWR 21 May (CG).

Great Blue Heron: Birds were reported back on rookeries in 3 locations across the state on the same day, 22 Mar in Sarpy Co (CNK), in Lincoln (ET), and in Lincoln Co (TJW).

Great Egret: Reports were widespread but in low numbers, best count was the 6 at Whitehead Marsh 7-8 Apr (LE, RSt). Uncommon in the Panhandle, with fewer than 30 spring records, one was in Scotts Bluff Co 22-23 May (AK).

Snowy Egret: Second-highest spring count on record was the 15 at LPB 30 Apr (CNK). Only about 20 were reported in all, however. This species is a statewide migrant, unlike Great Egret; a Snowy was in Scotts Bluff Co 5 May (RSi).

Little Blue Heron: This species is rare in spring; an adult with plumes was at PP 27 Apr (DL).

Cattle Egret: Three along the Middle Loup River in Custer Co 31 Mar (BWh) were the 4th-earliest on record. Reports were widespread but in low numbers, best count was only 11, in the e RWB 30 Apr (JGJ).

Green Heron: Only the 5th Panhandle spring report, one was in Scotts Bluff Co 22-23 May (AK).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Few were reported; one at Jack Sinn 9 Apr (LE) was on the early side.

Glossy Ibis: The influx of this species in recent years is nothing short of phenomenal. Of about 44 records, all but 3 have occurred 2005-2010, with records each of those years of 3, 10, 2, 6, 8, and 12 birds respectively. This spring, about 12 were reported statewide 24 Apr-29 May (m. ob.). Only one hybrid was suspected, that at Harvard Marsh 8 May (JGJ). Reports have been most numerous in the e RWB and this year was no exception, with about 8 birds: one was in York Co 24 Apr (JGJ); 2 were in Clay Co on 30 Apr and one on 2 May (JGJ); one was in Nuckolls Co 30 Apr (JGJ); singles in Seward Co at Straightwater WMA 3 May (JGJ) and at NLB 6-8 May (LE, L&BP) were possibly the same bird; and 3 were in Hamilton Co 29 May (JGJ). The remaining reports, probably of 4 birds, were westerly: one was in n Garden Co

29 Apr and possibly the same bird 9.5 miles farther north 6 May (CG); one was in Scotts Bluff Co 2 May (CG photo, KD, RSi); and 2 were in Sheridan Co 17 May (LE).

White-faced Ibis: This species has also become much more common in recent years; more than 450 were reported, including counts of 117 in the e RWB 30 Apr (JGJ), 102 in Garden Co 28 May (JGJ), and 80 at North Platte 7 May (TJW). A flock of 50 in McPherson Co 25 May contained 20-25% immatures (WF).

Turkey Vulture: Rather early was one at SCP 7 Mar (ZC); most show up beginning in late Mar. Best counts were a record-tying 80 in a kettle over BOL 4 Apr (JR) and an excellent 50 apparently circling a Lincoln roost site 31 Mar (LE).

Osprey: One at BOL 22 Mar (GR) was rather early; the 5-6 there 30 Apr (ET) was a good count. One in Scotts Bluff Co 22-23 May (AK) may have been one of the pair that has attempted breeding there the past 2 years without success.

Mississippi Kite: This spring brought signs that this species might be freeing itself from the confines of Ogallala, as reports were received from several other locations; one observer (TJW) suggested, though, that the influx might have been merely a result of strong southerly winds, an idea supported by the occurrence of all reports away from Ogallala in the short period 23-28 May. Two appeared rather early in Ogallala 26 Apr (JO), and 3 were there 27 May (KDy). Elsewhere, singles were in Lincoln 23 May (DL) and 24 May (TEL), Norfolk 23 May (MB - only the second ne Nebraska record for this observer), Hooker Co 25 May (WF), w Douglas Co 26 May (DSt), and Culbertson 28 May (JSt - this observer's first for Hitchcock Co).

Bald Eagle: The 800 at Calamus Res 24 Mar (JSe) was by far the highest spring count on record.

Northern Harrier: Routine reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: One in Dakota Co 15 May (BFH) was tardy.

Cooper's Hawk: This species has become a common breeder statewide, even in cities. Details of nesting in an Omaha neighborhood for the last 6 years were received; this year was the first time the previous year's nest was reused (ME). Several nests were reported from Adams and Lancaster Cos (PD, LE); birds were incubating in Lancaster Co 9 Apr (LE).

Northern Goshawk: Singles in Lincoln 5 Mar (JMo) and near Giltner 18 Mar (JaG) were not unexpected, but one identified as an adult in Nebraska City 15 May (LF, SQ) was one of very few May reports away from the northwest.

Red-shouldered Hawk: There were a few more reports than usual. Singles were seen at BOL 7 Mar (RSt, JMo) and 30 Apr (ET), over Offutt Base L, Sarpy Co, 21 Mar (JR), at PL 1 Apr (LE), and at FF 1 May (JR). No evidence of breeding was reported.

Broad-winged Hawk: About 20 were reported from York Co eastward 7 Apr-29 May (m. ob.); the 29 May report was of 2 birds over FF (JR), a site where breeding is suspected to occur on occasion.

Swainson's Hawk: The 107 or so birds were reported statewide 2 Apr-11 May (m. ob.), with best count 60 in Lincoln Co 26 Apr during a "huge push" (TJW). A dark morph bird was in sw Kimball Co 27 May (KDy).



Leucistic Sandhill Crane near Hershey 9 Mar 2010. Photo by Virginia Clark.

Red-tailed Hawk: Unusual was a white bird paired with a normally-plumaged bird in cen. Nebraska 31 Mar (BWh). Such white birds are noted on occasion, but mostly in migration.

Ferruginous Hawk: One was on a nest in se Grant Co 25 May (WM).

Rough-legged Hawk: The 8 in Knox Co 1 Mar (MB) was an excellent count. Last reported was in Seward Co 6 May (LE), rather late. Latest dates are in mid-May.

Golden Eagle: Easterly were two on the Platte-Buffalo Co line 6 Mar (MM) and one in Hall Co 6 Mar (TK); an adult in Hooker Co 17 May (TH) was easterly for the date.

American Kestrel: Routine reports.

Merlin: Routine reports.

Prairie Falcon: Easternmost were singles (same bird?) near Harvard 14 Mar (JGJ) and Verona 18 Mar (JGJ); another was seen on a trip from Hordville to Valparaiso 5 Mar (JLL).

Peregrine Falcon: The usual migrants were reported, a total of 12, mostly eastward, 6 Apr-17 May (m. ob).

Virginia Rail: Rather early were singles at McCook 16 Apr (RBo) and Fremont 17 Apr, the latter caught in a fish net and photographed (fide RM). A family group with juveniles was in Sioux Co 30 May (TJW), a rather early date.

Sora: Rather early were singles in Dakota Co 16 Apr (BFH) and at Jack Sinn 17-19 Apr (BH, JC, SS). A good count was the 14 in Seward Co 8 May (JG).

Common Moorhen: Despite some enticing-looking habitat in the east, the only report was of one at NLB 20 May (MK fide JGJ).

American Coot: One at Lewellen 1 Mar (LJH) was rather early. Best count was an excellent 1790 at Whitehead Marsh 30 Mar (LE).

Sandhill Crane: A strikingly leucistic bird near Hershey 8-15 Mar (JH, VC, RL) was photographed 8 Mar (JH, VC); it is easy to see how such a bird could be misidentified as a Whooping Crane, except for its size and extent of red on its crown. Best count of Sandhills was 250,000 in Buffalo Co 22 Mar (SQ). The breeding pair in Morrill Co returned to its territory 24 Mar (KD), and a pair had returned by 7 Apr to a field next to Kiowa WMA, Scotts Bluff Co, for the second year; no breeding was detected last year (KD).

Common Crane: Becoming an annual occurrence was the presence of one near Hershey 18-24 Mar (VC photos; TJW). (See photo March *NBR*, page 5.) There have been 6 separate reports of Common Crane 2007-2010 in the area between Buffalo and Garden Cos; it is possible that all are of the same bird. A photo was provided belatedly of one near North Platte 12 Mar 2009 (JF); there was a previous 2009 report of one near Lewellen 19 Mar (fide MB); as mentioned above, these may have been of the same bird.

Whooping Crane: An adult in Hall Co 5 Mar-3 Apr (JLL) was early, followed by 2 adults in Kearney Co 20 Mar-5 Apr (fide JLL); these early migrants lingered for some time, in contrast to the remaining 48 birds which passed through 23 Mar-21 Apr, with no groups staying longer than 6 days (fide JLL). Biggest group was the 11 in Custer Co 11 Apr (fide JLL). An overlooked area for this species is the Central Table playa wetlands in the Arnold area of w. Custer Co (BWh photo).

Black-bellied Plover: Routine reports.

American Golden-Plover: Routine reports.

Snowy Plover: Reports are fewer as LM refills; reports reflected the species' status pre-LM sand-flats, with only 3, all from the e RWB: singles were in Adams Co 30 Apr (JGJ), Fillmore Co 2 May (JGJ), and Clay Co 18 May (PD).

Semipalmated Plover: The 104 in the e RWB 2 May (JGJ) was a good count; highest counts are in the 200-300 range.

Piping Plover: The once-extensive sandy habitat at LM is being inundated as the reservoir level rises; only 12 were found there 28 May (JGJ). At least one was at CLNWR 14 May (CG), continuing the rather recent breeding presence there, and a nesting pair was near Milburn Dam, Blaine Co, 27 May (WF), the first time since 1987 that nesting has occurred there (fide WM). One of 3 in the e

RWB 2 May was color-banded at L Sakakawea, North Dakota (JGJ). The Platte River continues to provide good albeit ephemeral habitat; 12 were counted in Sarpy and Cass Cos 14 May (JGJ) and 10 were in the Rowe Sanctuary area 17 May (BN). Most other reports were from the east, some 26 birds in all (m. ob.).



Common Crane northwest of North Platte 12 Mar 2009. Photo by Jay Favinger.

Killdeer: Routine reports.

Mountain Plover: The only observer reports were of 2 in Kimball Co 28 May (JGJ) and 3 in sw. Kimball Co 27 May (KDy), but extensive data are being gathered by the continuing efforts of a partnership between Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and Nebraska Environmental Trust, and updated regularly on Facebook (OK, I'm not as old as you think!) under "Nebraska Mountain Plover Chick Survival Study". First nest was reported 30 Apr and 16 nests had been marked by May 12, when an 8-inch snowfall and freezing temperatures arrived. Amazingly, several nests survived. More in the Summer Report!

Black-necked Stilt: Only one was reported away from the w Sandhills, in Clay Co 14 May (PD). About 10 were found in Sheridan Co 16-31 May (LE, LJH).

American Avocet: A major influx occurred 30 Apr, when a record 354 were counted in the e RWB, including a record single-location tally of 106 in Seward Co (JGJ). An amazing 303 were found at LPB and Offutt Base L, Sarpy Co, (L&BP), 103 were at Whitehead Marsh (LE), and 70 were at BOL (ET). Strangely, the 4 highest spring counts on record for this species are from the e RWB eastward. Breeding occurs on occasion in the e RWB; a pair was mating at the Trumbull wetland complex, Clay Co, 3 May (PD).

Spotted Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Solitary Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Greater Yellowlegs: Routine reports.

Willet: As with American Avocets, there was a big push of Willets 30 Apr; best count was the 74 in the e RWB 30 Apr (JGJ), and 5 were as far east as Sarpy Co (L&BP).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Routine reports.

Upland Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Whimbrel: The only report of this rare but regular spring migrant was of one at CLNWR 14 May (CG).

Long-billed Curlew: First reported were 17 in Garden Co and 5 in Keith Co 6 Apr (TH), moving north at about the same time as the transmitter-wearing bird "Bailey", which left its nw Mexico winter location 8 Apr and arrived in Garden Co 9 Apr- just a short hop! (CG, JGJ, SJD). Bailey settled in at a location 11 miles ne of last year's nesting site (CG, JGJ, SJD).

Hudsonian Godwit: Numbers were low; best count was only 15 in Dakota Co, and in the e RWB a surprisingly low 14 (JGJ). Arrival was early; previous early dates were 6, 7, and 11 Apr, but this spring there were 3 locations reporting birds 9-11 Apr. Nine were in the e RWB 9 Apr, increasing to 14 the next day (JGJ), one was easterly in Sarpy Co 10 Apr, increasing to 5 on 11 Apr (L&BP), and 15 had arrived in Dakota Co 10 Apr (BFH). One of the Dakota Co birds was color-banded; "XN" was banded as an adult in sc Alaska in summer 2009, was seen wintering on Chiloe Island in southern Chile, and again, of course, in Dakota Co this spring (NS fide BFH).

Marbled Godwit: A recently-discovered breeder in the state, two were "giving the observer hell" in Sheridan Co 23 May (WM).

Ruddy Turnstone: Only 4 were reported, in Clay and Fillmore Cos 15-18 May (JGJ, PD).

Sanderling: Routine reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Best count was an excellent 1440 in the e RWB 8 May (JGJ); highest counts are 3000+.

Western Sandpiper: There were more reports than usual of this rare spring migrant. One in Dakota Co 10 Apr (BFH, details) was record early by 2 days. Two were at Trumbull wetland complex, Adams Co, 30 Apr (PD), one was at Ayr L, Adams Co, 1 May (PD), 2 were in the e RWB 2 May (JGJ), and 3 were at Hultine WMA, Clay Co, 3 May (PD).

Least Sandpiper: One in the e RWB 18 Mar (JGJ) was rather early, and a record spring count was the 500+ at LPB 5 May (CNK). The 321 in the e RWB 2 May (JGJ) was also an excellent count.

White-rumped Sandpiper: One in the e RWB 26 Apr (LR, RH) was on the early side; earliest dates are 19, 23, and 24 Apr. Best count was 1600 in the e RWB 8 May (JGJ); record count is 7000.

Baird's Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: The 200-300 in Sarpy Co 5 May (CNK) was an excellent tally; highest counts are 500+.

Dunlin: Routine reports.

Stilt Sandpiper: Three in Seward Co 14 Apr (LE) were rather early; earliest dates are 9, 10, and 10 Apr.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Routine reports.

- Short-billed Dowitcher:** Spring migrants occur almost exclusively in May; this spring there were 11 reports of about 40 birds 3-21 May (m. ob.). The best count was 15 in Colfax Co 14 May (JJ) and the westernmost sighting was in Lincoln Co 4 May (TJW).
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Numbers were low until the major push 30 Apr (see American Avocet and Willet), when 1230 appeared in the e RWB (JGJ), dwarfing the total before then of 32; numbers increased to 1995 there by 2 May (JGJ). Record spring count is 4750.
- Wilson's Snipe:** Best count was a moderate 47 in Dakota Co 4 Apr (BFH). Two were winnowing at Jack Sinn 19 Apr and another was there 16 May (JC, SS); breeding has occurred there previously.
- American Woodcock:** This species was widely reported in the e half of the state (m. ob.), nw to n Antelope Co 8 Apr (2, WF) and 20 Apr (6, MB). Earliest were singles at BOL 7 Mar (RSt, JMo).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** The huge influx of shorebirds 30 Apr involved this species also; 7520 were in the e RWB 2 May (JGJ), 3rd-highest on record, with 3035 arriving 30 Apr (JGJ) and 3000 in Clay Co 3 May (PD). A preferred staging location for this species is the North Platte SL, where "thousands" were still present 14 Jun (TJW), an unprecedented number at that location and date.
- Red-necked Phalarope:** Rare in the east, one was at Whitehead Marsh 12 May (LE).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** One in basic plumage was rather early at Jack Sinn 31 Mar (LE); the 180 in Sarpy Co 10 Apr (JR) was a good count.
- Franklin's Gull:** Routine reports.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Routine reports.
- California Gull:** The only report was of 2 at BOL 27 Mar (EB); this species occurs more often eastward in spring than in fall, though still rare.
- Herring Gull:** Routine reports.
- Thayer's Gull:** Two or three were reported, a typical spring for this regular migrant: 3 were at LO 28 Feb (JMo), an immature was at Oak L, Lincoln, 9-12 Mar (JGJ, m. ob.), and a similar or the same bird was at BOL 16-21 Mar (LE, JGJ).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** This species also is a regular migrant in low numbers, although the only report this spring was of an adult at BOL 26-30 Mar (DL, m. ob.).
- Glaucous Gull:** At least 4 were reported, a typical spring. Single immatures were at BOL and Oak L, Lincoln, 7 Mar (JMo) through 25 Mar (m. ob.); these sightings were likely of the same bird. Elsewhere, one was at Calamus Res 14 Mar (MB), an immature was at HCR 19 Mar (JRi, CW), and an immature was at LM 25 Apr (JMo), which was one of only 4 reports later than 12 Apr.
- Least Tern:** Routine reports.
- Caspian Tern:** The only report of this regular migrant was of one in Adams Co 17 May (PD).
- Black Tern:** Routine reports.
- Common Tern:** The only report of this uncommon migrant was of one in Colfax Co 14 May (JJ).
- Forster's Tern:** The 50-100 at Swanson Res 18 May (WM) was a good tally. High counts for spring are 100+.
- Rock Pigeon:** Routine reports.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: A small population in Papillion appears to be mostly feral cage-raised birds (WRS); there have been a few instances of such birds mixing with wild birds to date in Nebraska.

White-winged Dove: Now a regular species in small numbers statewide, 5 singles were reported: one easterly in Waterloo 12-15 Apr (JaG, photo), one in Milford 18 Apr (DR fide JGJ), one in Kearney 14 May (ARu), one in North Platte 20 May (JP), and one in Lincoln 27 May (RGS fide JGJ).

Mourning Dove: One in a Scottsbluff yard 8 Mar (P&DD) was rather early; winter records are very few there.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Routine reports.

Black-billed Cuckoo: None were reported; this is an uncommon summer resident.

Barn Owl: The only reports were westerly, as expected: singles were s of Gering 27 Mar (AK) and at Brady 29 Apr (TJW).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Routine reports.

Great Horned Owl: Routine reports.

Burrowing Owl: In recent years the number of reports from the e RWB has increased. This spring there were reports from a prairie dog town at Hultine WPA, Clay Co, 11 Apr (JMo) and 8 May (JGJ), as well as unspecified locations in the e RWB 25 Apr (JLL, KS) and Clay Co 16 Apr (PD). All of these sightings may have been from Hultine WPA.

Barred Owl: A pair using an Elkhorn nest box had 2 eggs 13 Mar and 2 small chicks 4 Apr (DSt), similar dates as in the previous two years (DSt). A nest in Lincoln had a downy chick 8 May (LE). Reports along the Republican River are few; 2 were 4 miles from Webster Co in Nuckolls Co 18 Mar (WF). Other westerly reports were of one at Wood Duck WMA, Stanton Co, 15 Apr (WF) and one at George Syas WMA, sw Platte Co, 10 Apr (WF).

Long-eared Owl: Reports in late Apr and May might indicate breeding birds; singles were in Knox Co 15 May (MB), at a location near Bennington 11 Apr and 21 May (EBE), and in Oak Glen WMA, Seward Co, 26 May (RSt).

Short-eared Owl: The only report of breeding was of one at a nest site in ne Sioux Co 14-16 May (TH); 5 were counted in the same general area 30 May (KDy). There were reports of singles from Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 7 Mar (JR), Broken Bow 25 Mar (TH), and LNB 13 May (LE). The LNB bird may have been breeding nearby at that date.

Northern Saw-Whet Owl: None were reported; this is a scarce winter visitor, generally departing by mid-Apr.

Common Nighthawk: Routine reports.

Common Poorwill: One in the cedar canyons of se Lincoln Co 22 Apr (LD) was 2nd-earliest on record.

Chuck-will's-widow: One at Bohemia Prairie, Knox Co, 15 May (MB) continues the species' presence at this northerly outpost. The only other report was of 1-2 at Oak Glen WMA, Seward Co, 17-26 May (LE, JG).

Whip-poor-will: Three singles arrived very early in the northeast: one in nw Antelope Co 20 Apr (MB), another the same date near Center, Knox Co, (SW), and one at Niobrara SP, Knox Co, 21 Apr (SW). Record early dates for the state are 15, 18, 18 Apr. One was near Bohemia Prairie WMA, Knox Co, 7 May (WF), a previously-known location, and another was westerly at Redbird WMA, Holt Co, 8 May (WF). An excellent count was the 17 at Oak Glen WMA, Seward Co, 26 May (JG).

Chimney Swift: One at Brady 13 Apr (TJW) was rather early that far west.

White-throated Swift: Reports are few as far east as Sheridan Co, where it breeds in the extreme west of the county; one was found there 16 May (CNK, B&DW).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: One was at Brady 5 May (TJW), about as far west as this species occurs in spring; one was there in 2006, and a pair summered there in 2004 without breeding evidence noted (TJW).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: One was reported near Scotts Bluff NM, Scotts Bluff Co, 25 May (VN fide KD). This and about 5 other spring reports of this species are undocumented; these are likely as it is considered a rare spring migrant. There are records for sw Kansas and the Black Hills of South Dakota in spring and a couple of intriguing Jun records for Nebraska.

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Lewis's Woodpecker: One at Fort Robinson SHP, Dawes Co, 13-16 May (TH, m.ob.) delighted the spring NOU meeting membership; this species is a rare spring migrant in the Panhandle, generally limited to areas of Ponderosa Pine. (See photo Mar *NBR*, page 4.)

Red-headed Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Still a rare bird in Scotts Bluff Co, one in the observer's yard 8-10 May was her first in a few years (KD).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker: Counts of 11 at both HCR 19 Mar (CW) and at FF 3 Apr (RW) established new highs for this low-density species.

Downy Woodpecker: The 25 at FF 2 Apr (RW) was a good count.

Northern Flicker: A red-shafted bird was rather late at North Platte 7 Apr (TJW). Last dates are in mid-Apr.

Pileated Woodpecker: There were several reports from FF (m. ob.), with best count 3 on 1 May (JR), but a surprise was one at DeSoto NWR, Washington Co, 24 Apr (JSi). None were reported from the other known breeding location, ICSP.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: This species is rare as far west as the Panhandle; one was in Dawes Co 16 May (DL, JWo).

Western Wood-Pewee: One was east of the expected range, but not unprecedented, at Santee, Knox Co, 27 May (CF). This is the 10th spring report east of the breeding range.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Routine reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: One at ADF 22 May was well-described (LF, SQ); no others were reported.

Acadian Flycatcher: Reports in recent years suggest that this species is expanding its range northwestward; one was at WP 19-23 May (LE, DL), there were 4 at FF 22 May (JR) and singles were reported there through 28 May (JR, GR), and one was in a Papillion yard 29 May (PS photo).

Alder Flycatcher: Reports were as expected from the southeast: about 6 birds 21-28 May (m. ob.).

Willow Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Least Flycatcher: One was reported at FF 13 Apr (EB), a very early date; reports prior to 22 Apr are undocumented.

Cordilleran Flycatcher: The 4 reports 15-23 May in Sheridan and Scotts Bluff Cos (RSi, D&JP, AK), were likely of migrants, as they were from areas where breeding is not expected. A 5th report, of one calling at Soldier Creek Wilderness, Sioux Co, Co 29 May (KDy) may have been of a breeding bird.

Eastern Phoebe: One was building a nest in Clay Co 8 Apr (PD), rather early.

Say's Phoebe: Nest-building was underway early in nw Antelope Co 20 Apr (MB).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Routine reports.

Cassin's Kingbird: Routine reports.

Western Kingbird: One in Scotts Bluff Co 27 Apr (RSi) was rather early there, as was another at Brady 28 Apr (TJW). This species has a strange affinity for the eastern edge of Eppley Airfield in Omaha; perhaps the Missouri River is somewhat of a barrier. No fewer than 60 were there 27 May (DSt), up from the 21 there 1 May (JT). The 60 is in fact the 3rd-highest spring count on record for this species. See Eastern Kingbird.

Eastern Kingbird: Best count was only 35, at Eppley Airfield 27 May (DSt), paling in comparison to the 60 Western Kingbirds there the same day (DSt).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Four singles were reported, all in the southeast: one at BOL 2 May (RSt), one in Jefferson Co 9 May (JW), one in Pawnee Co 22 May (ST fide JGJ), and one at Eppley Airfield with the plethora of Westerns and Easterns 27 May (DSt).

Northern Shrike: Last for the winter was one at Calamus Res 24 Mar (JSe), about on time. The only other reports were of 2 in Scotts Bluff Co 13 Mar (KD) and one in Morrill Co the same day (LJH).

Loggerhead Shrike: Routine reports.

White-eyed Vireo: There were 3 reports, which is more than usual. Singles, possibly the same bird, were at FF 2 May (PS) and 20 May (JR), and one was in Johnson Co 2 May (CNK). These are the 23rd-25th reports since 1981.

Bell's Vireo: Routine reports.

Yellow-throated Vireo: One at WP 24 Apr (MUs) was a bit early; earliest dates are in mid-Apr. Pushing the edge of the range were one at Verdigre 8 May (BFH), one at Hastings 21 May (PD), and one near Broken Bow 11 May (TH). Recent years have seen more such reports away from the Missouri Valley.

Plumbeous Vireo: One at Bridgeport 13 May (LJH) was a bit east of the usual migration corridor.

Blue-headed Vireo: Routine reports.

Warbling Vireo: Routine reports.

Philadelphia Vireo: The only reports of this uncommon migrant were of singles at ICSP 1 May (RSt) and in Dodge Co 3 May (GR).

Red-eyed Vireo: Routine reports.

Blue Jay: Routine reports.

Pinyon Jay: Hard to find during the breeding season, and harder to prove nesting, 2-3 were located along Corkscrew Road in Sioux Co 16 May, at an area they occupied in 2008 (WM, m. ob.). These birds were building a nest, which may have been a second attempt at that date (WM).

Black-billed Magpie: In a situation somewhat similar to that of the Black-capped Chickadee, numbers of this species declined significantly for a few years beginning around 2004, a decline generally attributed to West Nile Virus. Recently there have been signs of a slow recovery, mostly in the northeast part of the range. First sightings for a few years were made in Dakota Co (BFH), nw Antelope Co (MB), and in Madison Co (WF, DH). However, populations in the west may still be in decline; one observer (TJW) suggests that the loss of open riparian woodland ("We either have NO trees or all trees.") has degraded the preferred habitat for magpies in the west. They are still "scarce" in Scotts

- Bluff Co (AK), and the first for the year in sw Nebraska was not seen until May (TJW), prompting the observer to comment that "they are all but gone from sw Nebraska". Two in North Platte 7 May were the observer's first there in 2-3 years (VC).
- American Crow:** The 318 in Seward Co 22 Mar (CW) was a good count.
- Horned Lark:** Fledged juveniles were with adults in Dodge Co 19 Apr (D&JP); earliest fledging dates are in late Mar.
- Purple Martin:** Routine reports.
- Tree Swallow:** The 2nd-earliest on record were 2 at Jack Sinn 10 Mar (LE); previous modal early dates were 15, 17, 18 Mar.
- Violet-green Swallow:** Routine reports.
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Three at FF 3 Apr (JR) were rather early; earliest dates are 30 Mar, 1, 2 Apr.
- Bank Swallow:** One in Lincoln 7 Apr (JMo) was 3rd-earliest on record.
- Cliff Swallow:** Routine reports.
- Barn Swallow:** Routine reports.
- Black-capped Chickadee:** The 35 at FF 3 Apr (RW) was an excellent count.
- Tufted Titmouse:** Routine reports.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Nesting occurs in the current range in the northwest, along the Niobrara Valley, in the Nebraska National Forests at Halsey, and in Cherry Co. However, a pair was nest-building at PP 25 Apr (CNK) and at least one bird was still there 24 May (LE, JR, JC, SS).
- White-breasted Nuthatch:** At the edge of the Platte River Valley range, one taking food from a feeder into trees 13-14 May (JO) may have been breeding.
- Pygmy Nuthatch:** Routine reports.
- Brown Creeper:** At least one pair continues to breed at FF; a pair was carrying food 20 May (JR), and one was singing 23 May (JR).
- Rock Wren:** Two were at Ashfall Fossil Beds SHP, Antelope Co, 29 May, where one had arrived 5 May (MB). There is a single prior breeding record there, in 1992.
- Carolina Wren:** The winter of 2009-2010 was long and cold, putting immense pressure on this cold-sensitive species. Many observers noted that individuals in their yards survived into Jan or Feb but then disappeared; a rough estimate from observer comments is that at least 50% of the previously resident birds did not survive the winter. Nevertheless, there were survivors, generally those at residential feeders, and it seems that new recruits have appeared; one wintered in a Bellevue yard and had a mate by 28 Mar (CNK), and one in another Bellevue yard 13 Apr was the first heard all winter (EB). Birds disappeared from a Lincoln yard but one had returned by 22 Mar (JMo). On the other hand, former forest haunts were still unoccupied into Apr and May: FF 3 Apr-21 May (JR, L&BP, WRS et al), PRSP 21 Apr (JGJ), and ICSP (JMo) lacked birds. There were a few surprising reports, considering the winter and location: one was at Calamus Res during Mar (JSe), one was in Gosper Co 5 Apr (WF), one was in Hayes Co 14 May (TJW), and one was in Norfolk 27 May (MB).
- Bewick's Wren:** A singing bird was in a Wilsonville yard for a few days prior to 11 Apr (LO, details); it is only the 23rd record of the species since 1969.
- House Wren:** Earliest was one in Lancaster Co 11 Apr (RSt), rather early.

Winter (Pacific?) Wren: Surprising was one in Scotts Bluff Co 9 May (JAR); in light of the recent split of Pacific Wren it would be of interest to determine identity of such western reports.

Sedge Wren: Westerly were 2 in Antelope Co 23 May (DH).

Marsh Wren: Routine reports.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Although a few winter on occasion in the se, this winter would likely have precluded that. Two at WP 2 Mar (LE) thus may have been early arrivals.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Routine reports.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Three at FF 6 Apr (L&BP) tied the record early date. Arrival is later in the west, where the species has only recently become established; 4 were at Swanson Res 3 May (TJW) and one was in Scotts Bluff Co 13 May (AK).

Eastern Bluebird: Although some winter most years, the cold winter delayed spring arrivals; "first-of-year" for the observer were 4 in Omaha 7 Mar (JR).

Mountain Bluebird: Routine reports.

Townsend's Solitaire: A few linger into May in the west, but breeding is rare. Last reported were in Sioux and Dawes Cos 15-16 May (TH, RSi).

Veery: An excellent showing of 8 was reported, including 3 in the Panhandle, where western *Catharus fuscescens salicicola* is likely; none were identified as either subspecies however. The 3 westerly birds were singles at CLNWR 14 May (CG), in Box Butte Co 14 May (RSi), and in Dawes Co 16 May (RSi). Elsewhere, singles were at WP 5 May (DL), at Schramm 6 May (DSt), in Lancaster Co 6 May (RSt), in Buffalo Co 17 May (BN), where rare, and in FF 21 May (EB).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Along with Veery, there were many more of this species than usual. About 15 were reported 8-21 May, all from the e RWB eastward, as expected (m. ob.).

Swainson's Thrush: Routine reports.

Hermit Thrush: Routine reports.

Wood Thrush: One was carrying nest material at ICSP 8 May (WRS, SG).

American Robin: This homeowner knows about bird-friendly yards: 4 nests were in the observer's yard in Scotts Bluff Co 10 May (KD).

Gray Catbird: One in Otoe Co 30 Mar (SQ) either returned early or wintered; the latter seems unlikely given the winter conditions.

Northern Mockingbird: There were 8 reports of 10 birds, earliest 11 Apr, all but two from se Nebraska (m. ob.). The exceptions were one in Custer Co 29 Apr (TH) and one far to the nw in ne Sioux Co 30 May (KDy). Wintering is rare, and arrival is in late Mar and Apr.

Brown Thrasher: Right on time for first arrivals in the east was one in Lancaster Co 6 Apr (TG); likewise one in se Lincoln Co 19 Apr (TJW) was on the early side there.

European Starling: Routine reports.

American Pipit: Routine reports.

Sprague's Pipit: The only report of this regular but hard to find migrant was of one at SCP 13 Apr (KP).

Cedar Waxwing: This species has a main spring migration peak in Apr and a minor one in late May, the latter possibly birds wintering farther south than the earlier migrants (see *Birds of Missouri*, Robbins and Easterla). This spring showed

this difference: 3 small flocks totaling 25 birds were at FF 28 May (ARy), while in se Lincoln Co cedar canyons a remarkable record high total aggregation of "thousands" of birds (12-15 groups of 300-500) was noted 19 Apr (TJW).

Golden-winged Warbler: Only one was reported, fewer than usual, at FF 13 May (JR).

Tennessee Warbler: This species is rare in the Panhandle, where there are about 40 records in all. This spring saw two reports: one at CLNWR 14 May (CG) and one or two in Sheridan Co 15-16 May (RSi, JWo). Westerly in addition were 2 at Brady 3 May (TJW) and another in Lincoln Co 22 May (TJW). Best count was a moderate 36 at WGP 22 May (JWH).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Routine reports.

Nashville Warbler: Only the 6th Panhandle report for this easterly migrant was one in Dawes Co 16 May (CNK). Another was westerly in Custer Co 17 May (LE).

Northern Parula: The 15th Panhandle report was of one at CLNWR 26 May (CG, photo). Tying the 2nd-highest count on record was the 17 at FF 29 Apr (JR).

Yellow Warbler: Rather early for westerly locations were singles at McCook 21 Apr (RBo) and in Custer Co 23 Apr (TH). First in the southeast were not found until 1 May, singles at 3 locations (TEL, RSt, LE).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: There was a better than usual showing of this species, with about 11 reported 8-23 May, all in the east (m. ob.).

Magnolia Warbler: Only 3 were reported, singles at WGP 21 May (NR, ARy) and 22 May (JWH), and in Sarpy Co 21 May (GJ).

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler: Easternmost was one in Custer Co 6 May (TH); there are a few records farther east.

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: One at WP 2 Mar (LE) and another at ADF 10 Mar (LF) probably wintered there. Best count reported was a moderate 100+ at Gering Cem 8 May (KD).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Four were reported, about the norm: singles were at Schramm 6 May (DSt), in Sarpy Co 8 May (fide CNK), and two were in Hormel Park, Dodge Co, 20 May (GR).

Hermit Warbler: The fortuitous residence of graduate student Cory Gregory at CLNWR continued to produce rarities, this time the state's second Hermit Warbler 21 May (CG, photo). (See also photo Mar *NBR*, page 9.)

Blackburnian Warbler: The nine or so reported were more than usual. As many as 4 were at WGP 15-21 May (JSt, NR, BF), 2 were in Lincoln 20 May (TEL), one was at Hastings 21 May (PD), and singles were at FF 21 May (EB) and 23 May (GR).

Yellow-throated Warbler: All reports were from the two known regular summer locations, FF and Neale Woods (Missouri River Ecology Trail), Washington Co. First at FF was 12 Apr (RS), rather early, and best count was an excellent 7 at FF on both 29 Apr and 1 May (JR). Record count is 10 at FF.

Pine Warbler: A surprising discovery at PP (maybe not so surprising- Pygmy Nuthatch?) was a singing male Pine Warbler 13 Apr (JMo), seen again the same day by local observers (DL, JC, SS). This bird continued singing through 23 May (DL). No evidence of breeding was reported, although 2 singing birds were reported in the period 16 Apr-1 May (KSc, LE, RE). This is only the 6th documented record for spring for this species. The occurrence brought to light a previous sighting in Nebraska City 14 Apr "several years ago" (JC, SS; no details).



Hermit Warbler at Crescent Lake NWR 21 May. Photo by Cory Gregory.

Palm Warbler: More than usual were reported, a total of about 15, most from the east as expected, 29 Apr-16 May (m. ob.). Westerly were singles in Custer Co 7 May (TH) and Dawes Co 16 May (RSi). Five were identified to subspecies: all were the western *Dendroica palmarum palmarum*, the expected taxon in Nebraska.

Bay-breasted Warbler: The only report of this rare spring migrant was of one at Hormel Park, Dodge Co, 31 May (GR), 3rd-latest on record.

Blackpoll Warbler: This statewide spring migrant was reported in normal numbers 8-22 May (m. ob.).

Cerulean Warbler: Only 2 were reported, both in FF 23 May, one at the same place as last year (JR, GR). This is a rare, edge-of-range species in Nebraska.

Black-and-white Warbler: Routine reports.

American Redstart: Routine reports.

Prothonotary Warbler: A surprise was one at SCP 21 Apr (KP), 5th-earliest on record and somewhat westerly. All other reports this spring were of the usual 1-2 singing birds at FF beginning 1 May (JR, m. ob.).

Worm-eating Warbler: There are very few recent reports of this rare casual spring overshoot; one was at WP 12 May (LE).

Ovenbird: Routine reports.

Northern Waterthrush: There were more reports than usual, a total of 24 birds statewide 29 Apr (JR) through 29 May (JR). The latter, in Omaha, was the 4th-latest spring migrant on record.

Louisiana Waterthrush: This was an excellent spring for this species; at least 17 birds were reported. Two at ICSP 4 Apr (JMo) were early, but earliest dates are

in late Mar. Most reports were from known summering locations, including FF, ICSP, and PRSP. Excellent counts of 7 at ICSP 8 May (WRS, SG) and 6 at PRSP 18 Apr (JC, SS) indicated the suitability of these two locations. A nest at PRSP was photographed (see March 2010 *NBR*, page 4) 16 and 21 May (GR, JC, ET); although there are several reports of adults feeding young, this is only the 3rd nest found since 1980, the others at FF. A little westerly was one in Johnson Co 2 May (CNK); there are few spring reports away from known summer locations.

Kentucky Warbler: None were reported, despite a search of regular locations at ICSP 8 May (WRS, SG).

Mourning Warbler: The fewer than usual reports were of singles at FF 13 May (JR) and 30 May (GR), and at WGP 19 May (JWH).

MacGillivray's Warbler: None were reported; this is a regular migrant in the west.

Common Yellowthroat: Routine reports.

Hooded Warbler: The 3 reports were encouraging for this rare casual spring migrant. Single singing males were at FF 13 May (JR) and WP 18 May (LE) and a female was at WP 20 May (JGJ).

Wilson's Warbler: Surprisingly, only 9 of this generally fairly common spring migrant were reported, all 8-28 May (m. ob.).

Canada Warbler: Only one was reported, down from recent years; it was at WGP 22 May (JWH).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Easternmost was one in Harlan Co (no date given; G&WH); there has been a small population in the area in recent years.

Summer Tanager: Numbers of this species continue to increase in its core Nebraska range and it is appearing more often away from this range. Unexpected locations were Loup Co, where 2 were photographed 3 May (LK), CLNWR 21 May (CG photo), and another in the Panhandle in Sheridan Co 29 May (BP). These are the 8th and 9th Panhandle records. Good numbers continue at ICSP, with 4 there 8 May (WRS, SG), and reports continue at FF, where the species probably is breeding, with 1-2 reported beginning 6 May (JR, fide CNK). PRSP hosted 1-2 on 15-16 May (MUs, JC, SS, KSc) and one was at Neale Woods 23 May (CNK). There were 3 reports from WP: a first year male 6 May (ET), and singles 9 May (LE) and 20 May (JGJ).

Scarlet Tanager: The 5 at FF 28 May (JR) was an excellent count, and somewhat out of range was one in Holt Co 9 May (WF); breeding occurs in the Niobrara River Valley west to Brown and Keya Paha Cos.

Western Tanager: Routine reports.

Green-tailed Towhee: The only report of this rare migrant was of one in Scottsbluff 13 May (RSi).

Spotted Towhee: One in Gage Co 8 May (JB) was tardy; most have left the east by May.

Eastern Towhee: Only the 2nd Custer Co record for the observer was a "pure-looking" bird 29 Mar (TH); this is westerly for this species and record early away from the southeast, where a few winter on occasion. Singles in Colfax Co 5 Apr (JJ), 28 Apr (LE) and 13 May (WF) were a bit west of the usual summer range for pure birds, as were singles in Holt Co 14 May (LE) and Dawson Co 25 May (WF).

Cassin's Sparrow: A late spring arriver, this species barely makes the spring report most years; two were singing at Agate Fossil Beds NM, Sioux Co, 30 May (TJW).

American Tree Sparrow: Departure was rather early; none were reported after the 2 at FF 8 Apr (GR). Latest dates are in May.

Chipping Sparrow: Earliest dates are in late Mar, but one in Lancaster Co 1-5 Mar (CS photo) was record early.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Routine reports.

Brewer's Sparrow: The only reports were of one in Banner Co 9 May (SMc) and 3 in sw Kimball Co 27 May (KDy); this species generally has to be targeted in its extreme w Nebraska sage habitat to be found.

Field Sparrow: Routine reports.

Vesper Sparrow: The 120 in Adams and Clay Cos 6 Apr (PD) is a record high spring count; fall high counts are much higher.

Lark Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lark Bunting: Routine reports.

Savannah Sparrow: Singles in Sarpy Co 22 May (JR) and in Custer Co 26 May (TH) were rather late for migrants; the few known breeding areas are in the north and west.

Grasshopper Sparrow: One in Banner Co 20 Apr (SMc) was the earliest Panhandle date on record by a week; spring arrival dates are about a month later there than in the east.

Baird's Sparrow: Clearly the most exciting news of the spring was the discovery 15 May by Tim Hajda and Wayne Mollhoff of up to 3 singing, apparently territorial, birds in extreme ne Sioux Co, near where some were found in May 2009 along Sugar Loaf Road. Luckily for attendees at the NOU Spring Meeting at nearby Chadron, many birders saw these birds through 16 May. (See photo Mar *NBR*, page 9.) One was in the same area 30 May (KDy). It will be interesting to see if the birds are still present in Jun; the 2009 birds could not be found in Jun. Strangely, another was singing in a field occupied also by Chestnut-collared Longspurs about 9 miles s of Harrison on Highway 29 on 16 May (TH).

Henslow's Sparrow: Like Brewer's Sparrow, Henslow's has to be searched for in its restricted habitat; the only report was of one at SCP 18 May (KP).

Le Conte's Sparrow: Earliest migrants arrive at the end of Mar, but one at Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo Co, 13 Mar (IB) was one of only 3 earlier Mar records, all of which may have been of birds that wintered nearby or in n Kansas.

Nelson's Sparrow: None were reported. This is another limited-habitat species that has to be searched for; the few spring records are in late May.

Fox Sparrow: Good numbers, about 25, were reported 10 Mar (LE) through 11 Apr (NR), all in the east as expected. The several birds noted at BOL during the early winter were absent 4 Mar (LE), suggesting inability to survive the severe winter conditions.

Song Sparrow: An interesting sighting was of 40-50 at a marshy playa in Lincoln Co 3 Apr (TJW); this species occurs near water both in migration and when breeding.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Routine reports.

Swamp Sparrow: One at ADF 26 Mar (LE) was rather early; one at Schramm 6 Mar (RS) may have wintered in the area. There are only a few Mar reports prior to 20 Mar, as well as a few winter reports in the southeast.

White-throated Sparrow: Even in the south and east this is a rare bird in winter; one at a feeder in South Sioux City 3 Mar (BFH) may have been a survivor.

White-crowned Sparrow: This species is also a rare winterer in the south and west, usually at feeders; one was at the Rowe Sanctuary feeders, Buffalo Co, 7 Mar (JMo).

Harris's Sparrow: Routine reports.

Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco: Routine reports.

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: One in Dodge Co 11 May (RV) was tardy; there are a few early Jun dates but most leave in Apr.

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco: Two forms are included here, Oregon (*Junco hyemalis montanus*) and Pink-sided (*J. h. mearnsi*). An Oregon in Custer Co 22 Apr (TH) was 3rd-latest on record; there are 2 later dates in Apr. A Pink-sided in Antelope Co 8 Apr (KK) was easterly.

Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco: One hit a garage door s of Gering 12 Apr and stayed through 15 Apr (AK), the observer's first "for years". Most unexpected was one near North Platte 22 May (TJW), only the 8th record with any details. Occurrence is unpredictable, but mostly in winter in the west. These are large juncos, essentially like White-wingeds, but without wing bars and with a reddish "saddle".

McCown's Longspur: Routine reports

Lapland Longspur: Large numbers were reported in Mar: 6400 were estimated in Dixon Co 24 Mar (JJ), and "thousands" were in the e RWB 7-9 Mar (JGJ). High spring counts are in the 10,000 range. The 1200 in a "mono-specific flock" in Polk Co 8 Mar (WF) was a nice find. One in Custer Co 26 Apr (TH) was 3rd-latest on record.

Smith's Longspur: A photo taken at SCP 2 Apr (GW) was generally agreed to be of this species; see <http://www.ilbirds.com/index.php?topic=34735.0> for an interesting discussion of this difficult identification. This is only the 15th spring record of this elusive migrant.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Routine reports.

Snow Bunting: Following good numbers during the winter, only one was reported, and that was on the first day of the spring period, in Madison Co 1 Mar (RiS). Most depart in late Feb-early Mar.

Northern Cardinal: One was reported from the western outpost in Scotts Bluff Co 22 May (AK). The 40 at SCP 7 Mar (ZC) was an excellent count.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: One in Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co, 13 May (ECT) was westerly; it is rare there in spring.

Black-headed Grosbeak: Routine reports.

Blue Grosbeak: Routine reports.

Lazuli Bunting: Easterly reports in recent years are fairly numerous; this year there were 3. Singles were at Geneva Cem 30 Apr (JGJ), rather early, at Friend 16 May (JPK), and in Dodge Co 19-20 May (fide RS). A hybrid female with wing bars was at FF 13 May (JR).

Indigo Bunting: Routine reports.



Smith's Longspur at Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co, 2 Apr 2010. Photo by Gordon Warrick.

Dickcissel: Arrival was about on time in the east, early May, but one at CLNWR 14 May (CG) was early for the west, where early dates are generally mid- to late May.

Bobolink: Arrival was rather early, with 3 in Lancaster Co 1 May (RSt) and one in Dodge Co 3 May (D&JP). There are only about 8 records for Apr.

Red-winged Blackbird: Flocks usually appear in Mar, although the 10,000 in Clay Co 6 Mar (RSt) was a little early for that number. The 16,000 in Lincoln Co 21 Mar (TJW, TH, CW) was more typical, but still an excellent count. A mixed flock of about 2250 containing about 35% females in Saunders Co 7 Mar (CNK) was a bit early for that number of females.

Eastern Meadowlark: One in Lincoln 10 Mar set an early date for a singing bird (RE). One in Scotts Bluff Co 1 Apr (RK) was early that far west, as was another at North Platte 7 Apr (TJW).

Western Meadowlark: Routine reports.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Routine reports.

Rusty Blackbird: Reports were encouraging, with about 135 reported 12 Mar-11 Apr, most as expected in the east (m. ob.). Best count was an excellent 30-40 in Washington Co 17 Mar (JR). A male with a large flock of Red-winged Blackbirds in Lincoln Co 21 Mar (TJW, TH, CW) was westerly; there are only about 8 Panhandle reports.

Brewer's Blackbird: Routine reports.

Common Grackle: Best count was a spring record 11,222 in Lancaster Co 31 Mar (LE).

Great-tailed Grackle: Tying the 4th-earliest date were 4 at Fairmont 1 Mar; 17 were there 4 Mar (JRi). There are few reports from the Sandhills, thus 2 at Atkinson 9 Apr (JGJ) were of interest.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Routine reports.

Orchard Oriole: One in Lancaster Co 18 Apr (KB) was the 6th-earliest on record.

Baltimore Oriole: Routine reports.

Bullock's Oriole: Easternmost was one in Hitchcock Co 14 May (TJW); this species is rare east of the Panhandle.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch: None were reported; most depart by mid-Mar.

Purple Finch: Numbers were good for this species, with a total of at least 55 through 21 Apr (m. ob.). Westerly were 2-3 in Lincoln Co 3 and 15 Mar (TJW).

Cassin's Finch: None were reported; this species is erratic in winter.

House Finch: A pair with a single early fledgling were near North Platte 19 May (TJW).

Red Crossbill: Fledged young were being fed in Dawes Co 16 May (CNK). Strange happenings continued at PP with an apparent pair present; a female was seen 16 Apr (LE) and 17 Apr (RS, BG), and a male was observed 22 May (MUs) and 23 May (MB). There were no sightings of the two together, however. There are single old nest records for Douglas and Lancaster Cos. The male seen on 23 May was a "very large-billed bird" (MB); the breeding birds of nw Nebraska are large-billed Ponderosa Pine specialists (Groth Type 2, subspecies *Loxia curvirostra bentii*), but we have no doubt not heard the last word on Red Crossbill taxonomy.

White-winged Crossbill: A "dull male" in pines at the Fort Niobrara NWR Visitor Center, Cherry Co, 11 Apr was identified by a Colorado birder (MMi fide PD). This species is erratic and can turn up anywhere at any time.

Common Redpoll: The only report was of a flock of "well over 200" in Stanton Co 4 Mar (DW fide MB); this followed only 2 reports for fall and winter.

Pine Siskin: This species has a propensity to breed in early spring at wintering locations; one of 17 birds at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, was "singing strongly" 7 Mar. On 29 Apr 2 fledglings were seen following adults, and the male of another pair was flight singing (JR). Singing and chasing was taking place in Lincoln for a month or so prior to 21 Apr (JMo). One was still in a Dixon Co yard 29 May (JJ), rather late.

Lesser Goldfinch: That famous migrant trap, CLNWR, has hosted at least one Lesser Goldfinch each of the last 3 summers 25 May-12 Jun (2008-2010, CG); the 2010 sighting was 27 May (CG). Two were in a Scotts Bluff Co yard 31 May (KD). Reports of this species have dramatically increased beginning in 2008; prior to 2008 there were 11 records of 14 birds, and from 2008 to spring 2010 there have been 19 records of 48 birds.

American Goldfinch: Routine reports.

Evening Grosbeak: A rather amazing showing involving 28 birds at Camp Norwesca, Dawes Co, and 2 n of Hay Springs in Sheridan Co delighted NOU members 16 May (TH, D&JP, B&DW, m.ob.). This appears to be the first record of this species in Nebraska since a few apparently bred in the Crawford area in the early 1990s.

House Sparrow: Routine reports.

Annual Meeting at Chadron

Sixty-seven members and guests were in attendance at the 111th Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union held at Camp Norwesca on May 14-16, 2010. The Camp Norwesca campus, located just south of Chadron State Park, proved to be an excellent birding location, providing good views of Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills. Evening Grosbeaks were also found at Chadron State Park and at Beaver Wall in Sheridan Co.

Field trips were led by Wayne Mollhoff, Kathy DeLara, Ann Duey, Alice Kenitz, and Bruce and Donna Walgren. Rain on Saturday morning caused some last-minute changes to the trip itineraries. Among the locations visited were Gilbert-Baker WMA, Fort Robinson State Park, White River, Chadron Creek Ranch WMA, Chadron State Park, Oglalla National Grasslands, Beaver Wall, and Smith Lake WMA.

The total tally for the weekend was 166 species, with Baird's Sparrow, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Evening Grosbeak being among the most popular with the group.

On Friday evening, Todd Nordeen, a district wildlife manager for Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, spoke about the bighorn sheep management program in the Nebraska Panhandle. Bighorn sheep were native to the area, but were extirpated in the early 1900s due to disease, habitat loss and over-hunting. Over the past few years, bighorn sheep have been reintroduced, and herds can now be found at Fort Robinson State Park, Bighorn WMA, Cedar Canyon WMA, and Hubbard Gap. The total population of bighorn sheep in Nebraska is currently estimated at 250 to 300.

On Saturday evening, Bart Bly, a biologist with the Nebraska Prairie Partners, gave a presentation on bird research in western Nebraska pine forests. The Nebraska Prairie Partners, a collaboration between the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, assists landowners with habitat development on private lands and designs projects to benefit wildlife, particularly species of conservation concern. Species studied recently in the Nebraska Panhandle include Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Common Poorwill and Mountain Plover. The Nebraska Prairie Partners hopes to improve the long-term viability of native habitats and increase public awareness of the importance of conserving and maintaining habitats to keep common species common and to reverse the plight of threatened and endangered species.

Board Meeting and Election

A brief business meeting was held, and Urban Lehner (president), Nancy Leonard (vice-president), Betty Grenon (treasurer), Kevin Poague (secretary), Anita Breckbill (librarian), and Janis Paseka (editor) were reelected to additional one-year terms. Jan Johnson was elected to a three-year term as director, replacing Kathy DeLara.

NOU Annual Meeting - Chadron

	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Snow Goose			x	
Canada Goose	x	x	x	
Trumpeter Swan			x	
Wood Duck		x	x	
Gadwall	x	x	x	x
Mallard	x	x	x	x
Blue-winged Teal	x	x	x	x
Cinnamon Teal		x		
Northern Shoveler		x	x	
Northern Pintail	x		x	
Green-winged Teal		x		
Canvasback			x	
Redhead		x	x	
Lesser Scaup		x	x	
Bufflehead		x	x	
Common Merganser			x	
Ruddy Duck		x	x	
Ring-necked Pheasant	x	x	x	x
Sharp-tailed Grouse				x
Wild Turkey	x	x	x	x
Pied-billed Grebe		x	x	
Eared Grebe		x	x	
Western Grebe		x	x	
American White Pelican		x	x	
Double-crested Cormorant			x	
Great Blue Heron		x	x	x
White-faced Ibis		x	x	
Turkey Vulture		x	x	x
Osprey		x		
Northern Harrier	x	x	x	x
Cooper's Hawk		x	x	x
Swainson's Hawk	x	x	x	x
Red-tailed Hawk	x	x	x	x
Ferruginous Hawk	x	x	x	x
Golden Eagle	x	x		
American Kestrel	x	x	x	x
Prairie Falcon		x		

NOU Annual Meeting - Chadron

	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Virginia Rail			x	
Sora	x	x	x	
American Coot			x	
Black-bellied Plover	x			
Semipalmated Plover	x			
Killdeer	x	x	x	x
Black-necked Stilt			x	
American Avocet		x	x	
Lesser Yellowlegs		x	x	
Willet		x	x	
Spotted Sandpiper		x	x	x
Upland Sandpiper		x	x	x
Long-billed Curlew	x	x	x	x
Least Sandpiper	x			
Wilson's Snipe		x		
Wilson's Phalarope	x	x	x	
Franklin's Gull			x	
Ring-billed Gull		x	x	
Black Tern		x	x	x
Forster's Tern			x	
Rock Pigeon	x	x	x	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	x	x	x	x
Mourning Dove	x	x	x	x
Great Horned Owl	x	x	x	
Burrowing Owl	x	x	x	
Short-eared Owl				x
Chimney Swift	x	x	x	
White-throated Swift		x	x	
Belted Kingfisher		x	x	x
Lewis's Woodpecker		x		
Red-headed Woodpecker	x	x	x	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		x		
Downy Woodpecker	x	x	x	x
Hairy Woodpecker		x		x
Northern Flicker	x	x	x	x
Olive-sided Flycatcher		x		
Western Wood-Pewee		x		

NOU Annual Meeting - Chadron

	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Willow Flycatcher			x	
Least Flycatcher		x	x	x
Cordilleran Flycatcher			x	
Eastern Phoebe		x	x	
Say's Phoebe	x	x		x
Great Crested Flycatcher		x	x	
Western Kingbird	x	x	x	x
Eastern Kingbird	x	x	x	x
Loggerhead Shrike	x	x	x	x
Plumbeous Vireo		x		x
Warbling Vireo	x	x		
Red-eyed Vireo		x		
Blue Jay	x	x	x	
Pinyon Jay				x
Black-billed Magpie		x		x
American Crow	x	x	x	x
Horned Lark	x	x	x	x
Tree Swallow		x	x	x
Violet-green Swallow		x	x	x
N. Rough-winged Swallow		x	x	x
Bank Swallow		x		
Cliff Swallow	x	x		
Barn Swallow	x	x	x	x
Black-capped Chickadee		x	x	x
Red-breasted Nuthatch		x	x	x
White-breasted Nuthatch		x	x	
Pygmy Nuthatch		x		x
Brown Creeper		x		
Rock Wren				x
House Wren	x	x	x	x
Marsh Wren			x	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		x	x	
Eastern Bluebird		x	x	x
Mountain Bluebird		x	x	x
Townsend's Solitaire		x		x
Veery		x		
Swainson's Thrush		x	x	

NOU Annual Meeting - Chadron

	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Hermit Thrush	x			
American Robin	x	x	x	x
Gray Catbird		x	x	x
Brown Thrasher	x	x	x	
European Starling	x	x	x	x
American Pipit				x
Cedar Waxwing		x		x
Tennessee Warbler			x	
Orange-crowned Warbler		x	x	x
Nashville Warbler		x		
Yellow Warbler		x	x	x
Yellow-rumped Warbler	x	x	x	x
Palm Warbler		x		
Blackpoll Warbler		x	x	
Black-and-white Warbler		x		x
American Redstart		x	x	x
Ovenbird		x	x	x
Northern Waterthrush			x	
Common Yellowthroat		x	x	x
Wilson's Warbler		x		
Yellow-breasted Chat		x	x	x
Western Tanager		x		
Spotted Towhee	x	x	x	x
Chipping Sparrow	x	x	x	x
Clay-colored Sparrow	x	x	x	x
Field Sparrow	x			
Vesper Sparrow	x		x	x
Lark Sparrow	x	x	x	x
Lark Bunting	x	x	x	x
Grasshopper Sparrow		x		x
Baird's Sparrow				x
Lincoln's Sparrow			x	
Harris's Sparrow		x		
White-crowned Sparrow		x	x	
Dark-eyed Junco		x		
McCown's Longspur				x
Chestnut-collared Longspur				x

NOU Annual Meeting - Chadron

	Box Butte	Dawes	Sheridan	Sioux
Black-headed Grosbeak		x	x	x
Bobolink			x	
Red-winged Blackbird	x	x	x	x
Western Meadowlark	x	x	x	x
Yellow-headed Blackbird	x	x	x	
Brewer's Blackbird		x		x
Common Grackle	x	x	x	x
Great-tailed Grackle			x	
Brown-headed Cowbird	x	x	x	x
Orchard Oriole			x	
Bullock's Oriole		x	x	
Baltimore Oriole		x	x	
House Finch	x	x	x	x
Red Crossbill		x		x
Pine Siskin		x	x	x
American Goldfinch	x	x	x	x
Evening Grosbeak		x	x	
House Sparrow	x	x	x	x
Total species	166	60	132	120
				82

An Unfortunate Name - With a Nebraska Twist

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The past days have seen an amusing conversation about bird names conducted on the online discussion group NEBirds - just the sort of thing to get us through these dog-day afternoons of August. A very sharp young birder has brought

up the case of the Paltry Tyrannulet, a cute little tropical flycatcher whose English name seems determined to add insult to diminutive injury.

In a fascinating bit of serendipity, this onomastically maligned bird, resident from Mexico south through Central America to Colombia, in fact has a Nebraska connection. Described 150 years ago in the genus *Elainia*, the tyrannulet was quickly renamed *Tyranniscus vilissimus*, and it bore that name until 1977, when the late Melvin Traylor - himself memorialized in the name of the Orange-eyed Flatbill *Tolmomyias traylori* - erected a new genus for this and another almost dozen species.

Traylor named his new genus *Zimmerius*, in honor of the great and little-remembered American ornithologist John Todd Zimmer. Born in Ohio in 1889, Zimmer and his family moved to Nebraska in the early years of the twentieth century, and he graduated from the University of Nebraska one hundred years ago this year; he took the M.A. there in 1911, and was granted the D.Sc. *honoris causa* in 1943. Like others I could name, Zimmer spent much of his college time outside looking for birds and inside looking at birds, and he eventually left a large and very fine collection of skins to the University of Nebraska State Museum, where they still reside.

Zimmer left Nebraska to hold positions in the Philippines and New Guinea, then moved to the Field Museum and finally to the American Museum, where he spent nearly thirty years working on the birds of the Neotropics, particularly Peru. The naming of *Zimmerius* recognizes his contribution to the taxonomy of South American birds, cited by the Brewster Medal Committee in 1952 as "truly the foundation for the work of all other current students of the South American avifauna."

Unfortunately, when Sclater and Salvin christened the Paltry Tyrannulet in 1859, they gave it the specific epithet *vilissimus*, the superlative of the Latin adjective *vilis*, meaning (as its English descendant "vile" would suggest) "contemptible, worthless, ordinary, vulgar," a reflection of both the bird's abundance and its relatively undistinguished appearance. With Traylor's revision, though, the species' current scientific name, *Zimmerius vilissimus*, joins the epithet to a person's name - giving us a translation something like "the very contemptible Zimmer." The fact that the species is polytypic makes it even worse: the nominate subspecies, *Z. v. vilissimus*, is "the very, very contemptible Zimmer."

Surely not what Traylor wanted to say, but such things happen in the world of birds and words.

The biographical details in this note are from Murphy, R.C., and D. Amadon. 1959. "In Memoriam: John Todd Zimmer." The Auk 76: 418-423. The taxonomic history of the Paltry Tyrannulet can be reviewed in The AOU Check-list of North American Birds, 7th ed., 1998; Traylor's revision was published in Traylor, M.A. 1977. "A Classification of the Tyrant Flycatchers (Tyrannidae)." Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology 148: 129-184.

English and Scientific Alpha Codes for the Birds of Nebraska

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Alpha codes, abbreviations of common or scientific bird names, have long been used by ornithologists. The U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory's employment of alpha codes has become an integral part of large ornithological programs across the United States and Canada. Rather than using the full English or scientific name of a bird species, alpha codes allow quicker data entry and can also help to cross-reference other data.

The following is a list of alpha codes, current through the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (1998), its following supplements: (AOU: 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010), and the most recent published "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009" (NOU Records Committee 2009).

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	6-LETTER CODE
Acadian Flycatcher	ACFL	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	EMPVIR
Acorn Woodpecker	ACWO	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	MELFOR
Alder Flycatcher	ALFL	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	EMPALN
American Avocet	AMAV	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	RECAME
American Bittern	AMBI	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	BOTLEN
American Black Duck	ABDU	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	ANARUB
American Coot	AMCO	<i>Fulica americana</i>	FULAME
American Crow	AMCR	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	CORBRA
American Dipper	AMDI	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	CINMEX
American Golden-Plover	AMGP	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	PLUDOM
American Goldfinch	AMGO	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	SPITRI
American Kestrel	AMKE	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	FALSPA
American Pipit	AMPI	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	ANTRUB
American Redstart	AMRE	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	SETRUT
American Robin	AMRO	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	TURMIG
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	ATTW	<i>Picoides dorsalis</i>	PICDOR
American Tree Sparrow	ATSP	<i>Spizella arborea</i>	SPIARB
American White Pelican	AWPE	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	PELERY
American Wigeon	AMWI	<i>Anas americana</i>	ANAAME
American Woodcock	AMWO	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	SCOMIN
Ancient Murrelet	ANMU	<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>	SYNANT
Anhinga	ANHI	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	ANHANH

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	6-LETTER CODE
Ash-throated Flycatcher	ATFL	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	MYICIN
Baird's Sandpiper	BASA	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	CALBAI
Baird's Sparrow	BAIS *	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>	AMMBAI
Bald Eagle	BAEA	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	HALLEU
Baltimore Oriole	BAOR	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	ICTGAL
Band-tailed Pigeon	BTPI	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	PATFAS
Bank Swallow	BANS *	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	RIPRIP
Barn Owl	BANO *	<i>Tyto alba</i>	TYTALB
Barn Swallow	BARS *	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	HIRRUS
Barred Owl	BADO *	<i>Strix varia</i>	STRVAR
Barrow's Goldeneye	BAGO	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	BUCISL
Bay-breasted Warbler	BBWA	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	DENCAS
Bell's Vireo	BEVI	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	VIRBEL
Belted Kingfisher	BEKI	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	MEGALC
Bewick's Wren	BEWR	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	THRBEW
Black Rail	BLRA	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	LATJAM
Black Rosy-Finch	BLRF	<i>Leucosticte atrata</i>	LEUATT *
Black Scoter	BLSC	<i>Melanitta americana</i>	MELAME
Black Tern	BLTE	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	CHLNIG
Black Vulture	BLVU	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	CORATR
Black-and-white Warbler	BAWW	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	MNIVAR
Black-bellied Plover	BBPL	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	PLUSQU
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	BBWD	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	DENAUT
Black-billed Cuckoo	BBCU	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	COCERY
Black-billed Magpie	BBMA	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	PICHUD
Blackburnian Warbler	BLBW *	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	DENFUS
Black-capped Chickadee	BCCH	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	POEATR
Black-capped Vireo	BCVI	<i>Vireo atricapilla</i>	VIRATR
Black-crowned Night-Heron	BCNH	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	NYCNYC
Black-headed Grosbeak	BHGR	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	PHEMEL
Black-headed Gull	BHGU	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	CHRRID
Black-legged Kittiwake	BLKI	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	RISTRI
Black-necked Stilt	BNST	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	HIMMEX
Blackpoll Warbler	BLPW *	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	DENSTR
Black-throated Blue Warbler	BTBW	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	DENCAE
Black-throated Gray Warbler	BTYW *	<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>	DENNIG
Black-throated Green Warbler	BTNW *	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	DENVIR
Black-throated Sparrow	BTSP	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	AMPBIL
Blue Grosbeak	BLGR	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	PASCAE
Blue Jay	BLJA	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	CYACRI
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	BGGN	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	POLCAE
Blue-headed Vireo	BHVI	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	VIRSOL

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Blue-winged Teal	BWTE	Anas discors	ANADIS
Blue-winged Warbler	BWWA	Vermivora cyanoptera	VERCYA
Bobolink	BOBO	Dolichonyx oryzivorus	DOLORY
Bohemian Waxwing	BOWA	Bombycilla garrulus	BOMGAR
Bonaparte's Gull	BOGU	Chroicocephalus philadelphia	CHRPHI
Boreal Owl	BOOW	Aegolius funereus	AEGFUN
Brambling	BRAM	Fringilla montifringilla	FRIMON
Brant	BRAN	Branta bernicla	BRABER
Brewer's Blackbird	BRBL	Euphagus cyanocephalus	EUPCYC *
Brewer's Sparrow	BRSP	Spizella breweri	SPIBRE
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	BTAH *	Selasphorus platycercus	SELPLA
Broad-winged Hawk	BWHA	Buteo platypterus	BUTPLA
Brown Creeper	BRCR	Certhia americana	CERAME
Brown Pelican	BRPE	Pelecanus occidentalis	PELOCC
Brown Thrasher	BRTH	Toxostoma rufum	TOXRUF
Brown-headed Cowbird	BHCO	Molothrus ater	MOLATE
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	BBSA	Tryngites subruficollis	TRYSUB
Bufflehead	BUFF	Bucephala albeola	BUCALB
Bullock's Oriole	BUOR	Icterus bullockii	ICTBUL
Burrowing Owl	BUOW	Athene cunicularia	ATHCUN
Cackling Goose	CACG *	Branta hutchinsii	BRAHUT
California Gull	CAGU	Larus californicus	LARCAL
Calliope Hummingbird	CAHU	Stellula calliope	STECAL
Canada Goose	CANG *	Branta canadensis	BRACAN
Canada Warbler	CAWA	Wilsonia canadensis	WILCAN
Canvasback	CANV	Aythya valisineria	AYTVAL
Canyon Wren	CANW *	Catherpes mexicanus	CAPMEX *
Cape May Warbler	CMWA	Dendroica tigrina	DENTIG
Carolina Parakeet	CAPA	Conuropsis carolinensis	CONCAL *
Carolina Wren	CARW *	Thryothorus ludovicianus	THRLUD
Caspian Tern	CATE	Hydroprogne caspia	HYDCAS
Cassin's Finch	CAFI	Carpodacus cassinii	CARCAS
Cassin's Kingbird	CAKI	Tyrannus vociferans	TYRVOC
Cassin's Sparrow	CASP	Peucaea cassinii	PEUCAS
Cassin's Vireo	CAVI	Vireo cassinii	VIRCAS
Cattle Egret	CAEG	Bubulcus ibis	BUBIBI
Cave Swallow	CASW	Petrochelidon fulva	PETFUL
Cedar Waxwing	CEDW *	Bombycilla cedrorum	BOMCED
Cerulean Warbler	CERW *	Dendroica cerulea	DENCER
Chestnut-collared Longspur	CCLO	Calcarius ornatus	CALORN
Chestnut-sided Warbler	CSWA	Dendroica pensylvanica	DENPEN
Chihuahuan Raven	CHRA	Corvus cryptoleucus	CORCRY

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
	CODE		
Chimney Swift	CHSW	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	CHAPEL
Chipping Sparrow	CHSP	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	SIPAS
Chuck-will's-widow	CWWI	<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i>	CAPCAR
Cinnamon Teal	CITE	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	ANACYA
Clapper Rail	CLRA	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>	RALLON
Clark's Grebe	CLGR	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>	AECCLA
Clark's Nutcracker	CLNU	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	NUCCOL
Clay-colored Sparrow	CCSP	<i>Spizella pallida</i>	SIPAL
Cliff Swallow	CLSW	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	PETPYR
Common Crane	COMC *	<i>Grus grus</i>	GRUGRU
Common Eider	COEI	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	SOMMOL
Common Goldeneye	COGO	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	BUCCLA
Common Grackle	COGR	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	QUIQUI
Common Ground-Dove	COGD	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	COLPAS
Common Loon	COLO	<i>Gavia immer</i>	GAVIMM
Common Merganser	COME	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	MERMER
Common Moorhen	COMO	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	GALCHL
Common Nighthawk	CONI	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	CHOMIN
Common Poorwill	COPO	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>	PHANUT
Common Raven	CORA	<i>Corvus corax</i>	CORCOR
Common Redpoll	CORE	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	ACAFLA
Common Tern	COTE	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	STEHIR
Common Yellowthroat	COYE	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	GEOTRI
Connecticut Warbler	CONW *	<i>Oporornis agilis</i>	OPOAGI
Cooper's Hawk	COHA	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	ACCCOO
Cordilleran Flycatcher	COFL	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>	EMPOCC
Costa's Hummingbird	COHU	<i>Calypte costae</i>	CALCOS
Curlew Sandpiper	CUSA	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	CALFER
Curve-billed Thrasher	CBTH	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	TOXCUR
Dark-eyed Junco	DEJU	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	JUNHYE
Dickcissel	DICK	<i>Spiza americana</i>	SPIAME
Double-crested Cormorant	DCCO	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	PHAAUT *
Downy Woodpecker	DOWO	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	PICPUB
Dunlin	DUNL	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	CALALP
Dusky Flycatcher	DUFL	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	EMPOBE
Eared Grebe	EAGR	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	PODNIG
Eastern Bluebird	EABL	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	SIASIA
Eastern Kingbird	EAKI	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	TYRTYR
Eastern Meadowlark	EAME	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	STUMAG
Eastern Phoebe	EAPH	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	SAYPHO
Eastern Screech-Owl	EASO	<i>Megascops asio</i>	MEGASI
Eastern Towhee	EATO	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	PIPERP *

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Eastern Whip-poor-will	EWPW	Caprimulgus vociferus	CAPVOC
Eastern Wood-Pewee	EAWP	Contopus virens	CONVIR
Emperor Goose	EMGO	Chen canagica	CHECAN
Eskimo Curlew	ESCU	Numenius borealis	NUMBOR
Eurasian Collared-Dove	EUCD	Streptopelia decaocto	STRDEC
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	ETSP	Passer montanus	PASMON
Eurasian Wigeon	EUWI	Anas penelope	ANAPEN
European Starling	EUST	Sturnus vulgaris	STUVUL
Evening Grosbeak	EVGR	Coccothraustes vespertinus	COCVES
Ferruginous Hawk	FEHA	Buteo regalis	BUTREG
Field Sparrow	FISP	Spizella pusilla	SPIPUS
Fish Crow	FICR	Corvus ossifragus	COROSS
Forster's Tern	FOTE	Sterna forsteri	STEFOR
Fox Sparrow	FOSP	Passerella iliaca	PASILI
Franklin's Gull	FRGU	Leucophaeus pipixcan	LEUPIP
Gadwall	GADW	Anas strepera	ANASTR
Garganey	GARG	Anas querquedula	ANAQUE
Glaucous Gull	GLGU	Larus hyperboreus	LARHYP
Glaucous-winged Gull	GWGU	Larus glaucescens	LARGLS *
Glossy Ibis	GLIB	Plegadis falcinellus	PLEFAL
Golden Eagle	GOEA	Aquila chrysaetos	AQUCHR
Golden-crowned Kinglet	GCKI	Regulus satrapa	REGSAT
Golden-crowned Sparrow	GCSP	Zonotrichia atricapilla	ZONATR
Golden-winged Warbler	GWWA	Vermivora chrysoptera	VERCHR
Grace's Warbler	GRWA	Dendroica graciae	DENGRA
Grasshopper Sparrow	GRSP	Ammodramus savannarum	AMMSAV
Gray Catbird	GRCA	Dumetella carolinensis	DUMCAR
Gray Flycatcher	GRFL	Empidonax wrightii	EMPWRI
Gray Jay	GRAJ *	Perisoreus canadensis	PERCAN
Gray Partridge	GRAP *	Perdix perdix	PERPER
Gray-cheeked Thrush	GCTH	Catharus minimus	CATMIN
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	GCRF	Leucosticte tephrocotis	LEUTEP
Great Black-backed Gull	GBBG	Larus marinus	LARMAR
Great Blue Heron	GBHE	Ardea herodias	ARDHER
Great Crested Flycatcher	GCFL	Myiarchus crinitus	MYICRI
Great Egret	GREG	Ardea alba	ARDALB
Great Gray Owl	GGOW	Strix nebulosa	STRNEB
Great Horned Owl	GHOW	Bubo virginianus	BUBVIR
Great-tailed Grackle	GTGR	Quiscalus mexicanus	QUIMEX
Greater Prairie-Chicken	GRPC	Tympanuchus cupido	TYMCUP
Greater Sage-Grouse	GRSG	Centrocercus urophasianus	CENURO
Greater Scaup	GRSC	Aythya marila	AYTMAR

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Greater White-fronted Goose	GWFG	Anser albifrons	ANSALB
Greater Yellowlegs	GRYE	Tringa melanoleuca	TRIMEL
Green Heron	GRHE	Butorides virescens	BUTVIR
Green-tailed Towhee	GTTO	Pipilo chlorurus	PIPCHL
Green-winged Teal	GWTE	Anas crecca	ANACRE
Groove-billed Ani	GBAN	Crotophaga sulcirostris	CROSUL
Gyr Falcon	GYRF	Falco rusticolus	FALRUS
Hairy Woodpecker	HAWO	Picoides villosus	PICVIL
Hammond's Flycatcher	HAFL	Empidonax hammondii	EMPHAM
Harlequin Duck	HADU	Histrionicus histrionicus	HISHIS
Harris's Hawk	HASH *	Parabuteo unicinctus	PARUNI
Harris's Sparrow	HASP	Zonotrichia querula	ZONQUE
Henslow's Sparrow	HESP	Ammodramus henslowii	AMMHEN
Hepatic Tanager	HETA	Piranga flava	PIRFLA
Hermit Thrush	HETH	Catharus guttatus	CATGUT
Hermit Warbler	HEWA	Dendroica occidentalis	DENOCC
Herring Gull	HERG *	Larus argentatus	LARARG
Hoary Redpoll	HORE	Acanthis hornemanni	ACAHOR
Hooded Merganser	HOME	Lophodytes cucullatus	LOPCUC
Hooded Warbler	HOWA	Wilsonia citrina	WILCIT
Horned Grebe	HOGR	Podiceps auritus	PODAUR
Horned Lark	HOLA	Eremophila alpestris	EREALP
House Finch	HOFI	Carpodacus mexicanus	CARMEX
House Sparrow	HOSP	Passer domesticus	PASDOM
House Wren	HOWR	Troglodytes aedon	TROAED
Hudsonian Godwit	HUGO	Limosa haemastica	LIMHAE
Iceland Gull	ICGU	Larus glaucoides	LARGLD *
Inca Dove	INDO	Columbina inca	COLINC
Indigo Bunting	INBU	Passerina cyanea	PASCYA
Kentucky Warbler	KEWA	Oporornis formosus	OPOFOR
Killdeer	KILL	Charadrius vociferus	CHAVOC
King Eider	KIEI	Somateria spectabilis	SOMSPE
King Rail	KIRA	Rallus elegans	RALELE
Lapland Longspur	LALO	Calcarius lapponicus	CALLAP
Lark Bunting	LARB *	Calamospiza melanocorys	CALMEC *
Lark Sparrow	LASP	Chondestes grammacus	CHOGRA
Laughing Gull	LAGU	Leucophaeus atricilla	LEUATC *
Lazuli Bunting	LAZB *	Passerina amoena	PASAMO
Le Conte's Sparrow	LCSP	Ammodramus leconteii	AMMLEC
Least Bittern	LEBI	Ixobrychus exilis	IXOEXI
Least Flycatcher	LEFL	Empidonax minimus	EMPMIN
Least Sandpiper	LESA	Calidris minutilla	CALMIL *

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Least Tern	LETE	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	STEANT
Lesser Black-backed Gull	LBBG	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	LARFUS
Lesser Goldfinch	LEGO	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	SPIPSA
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	LEPC	<i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i>	TYMPAL
Lesser Scaup	LESC	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	AYTAFF
Lesser Yellowlegs	LEYE	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	TRIFLA
Lewis's Woodpecker	LEWO	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	MELLEW
Lincoln's Sparrow	LISP	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	MELLIN
Little Blue Heron	LBHE	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	EGRCAE
Little Gull	LIGU	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	HYDMIN
Loggerhead Shrike	LOSH	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	LANLUD
Long-billed Curlew	LBCU	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	NUMAME
Long-billed Dowitcher	LBDO	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	LIMSCO
Long-eared Owl	LEOW	<i>Asio otus</i>	ASIOTU
Long-tailed Duck	LTDU	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	CLAHYE
Long-tailed Jaeger	LTJA	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	STELON
Louisiana Waterthrush	LOWA	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>	PARMOT
MacGillivray's Warbler	MGWA	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>	OPOTOL
Magnificent Frigatebird	MAFR	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	FREMAG
Magnolia Warbler	MAWA	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	DENMAG
Mallard	MALL	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	ANAPLA
Marbled Godwit	MAGO	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	LIMFED
Marsh Wren	MAWR	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	CISPAL
McCown's Longspur	MCLO	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	CALMCC
Merlin	MERL	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	FALCOL
Mew Gull	MEGU	<i>Larus canus</i>	LARCAN
Mississippi Kite	MIKI	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	ICTMIS
Mottled Duck	MODU	<i>Anas fulvigula</i>	ANAFUL
Mountain Bluebird	MOBL	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	SIACUR
Mountain Chickadee	MOCH	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>	POEGAM
Mountain Plover	MOPL	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	CHAMOT *
Mourning Dove	MODO	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	ZENMAC
Mourning Warbler	MOWA	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	OPOPHI
Nashville Warbler	NAWA	<i>Oreothlypis ruficapilla</i>	ORERUF
Nelson's Sparrow	NESP	<i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i>	AMMNEL
Neotropic Cormorant	NECO	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>	PHABRA
Northern Bobwhite	NOBO	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	COLVIR
Northern Cardinal	NOCA	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	CARCAI *
Northern Flicker	NOFL	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	COLAUT *
Northern Goshawk	NOGO	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	ACCGEN
Northern Harrier	NOHA	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	CIRCYA
Northern Hawk Owl	NHOW	<i>Surnia ulula</i>	SURULU

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Northern Mockingbird	NOMO	Mimus polyglottos	MIMPOL
Northern Parula	NOPA	Parula americana	PARAME
Northern Pintail	NOPI	Anas acuta	ANAACU
N. Rough-winged Swallow	NRWS	Stelgidopteryx serripennis	STESER
Northern Saw-whet Owl	NSWO	Aegolius acadicus	AEGACA
Northern Shoveler	NSHO *	Anas clypeata	ANACLY
Northern Shrike	NSHR *	Lanius excubitor	LANEXC
Northern Waterthrush	NOWA	Parkesia noveboracensis	PARNOV
Olive-sided Flycatcher	OSFL	Contopus cooperi	CONCOO
Orange-crowned Warbler	OCWA	Oreothlypis celata	ORECEL
Orchard Oriole	OROR	Icterus spurius	ICTSPU
Osprey	OSPR	Pandion haliaetus	PANHAL
Ovenbird	OVEN	Seiurus aurocapilla	SEIAUR
Pacific Loon	PALO	Gavia pacifica	GAVPAC
Painted Bunting	PABU	Passerina ciris	PASCIR
Palm Warbler	PAWA	Dendroica palmarum	DENPAL
Parasitic Jaeger	PAJA	Stercorarius parasiticus	STEPAS *
Passenger Pigeon	PAPI	Ectopistes migratorius	ECTMIG
Pectoral Sandpiper	PESA	Calidris melanotos	CALMET *
Peregrine Falcon	PEFA	Falco peregrinus	FALPER
Phainopepla	PHAI	Phainopepla nitens	PHANIT
Philadelphia Vireo	PHVI	Vireo philadelphicus	VIRPHI
Pied-billed Grebe	PBGR	Podilymbus podiceps	PODPOD
Pileated Woodpecker	PIWO	Dryocopus pileatus	DRYPIL
Pine Grosbeak	PIGR	Pinicola enucleator	PINENU
Pine Siskin	PISI	Spinus pinus	SPIPIN
Pine Warbler	PIWA	Dendroica pinus	DENPIN
Pinyon Jay	PIJA	Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus	GYMCYA
Piping Plover	PIPL	Charadrius melodus	CHAMEL
Plumbeous Vireo	PLVI	Vireo plumbeus	VIRPLU
Pomarine Jaeger	POJA	Stercorarius pomarinus	STEPOM
Prairie Falcon	PRFA	Falco mexicanus	FALMEX
Prairie Warbler	PRAW *	Dendroica discolor	DENDIS
Prothonotary Warbler	PROW *	Protonotaria citrea	PROCIT
Purple Finch	PUFI	Carpodacus purpureus	CARPUR
Purple Gallinule	PUGA	Porphyrio martinica	PORMAR
Purple Martin	PUMA	Progne subis	PROSUB
Pygmy Nuthatch	PYNU	Sitta pygmaea	SITPYG
Red Crossbill	RECR	Loxia curvirostra	LOXCUR
Red Knot	REKN	Calidris canutus	CALCAN
Red Phalarope	REPH	Phalaropus fulicarius	PHAFUC *
Red-bellied Woodpecker	RBWO	Melanerpes carolinus	MELCAR

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Red-breasted Merganser	RBME	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	MERSER
Red-breasted Nuthatch	RBNU	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	SITCAN
Red-eyed Vireo	REVI	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	VIROLI
Red-headed Woodpecker	RHWO	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	MELERY
Red-naped Sapsucker	RNSA	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>	SPHNUC
Red-necked Grebe	RNGR	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	PODGRI
Red-necked Phalarope	RNPH	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	PHALOB
Red-shouldered Hawk	RSHA	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	BUTLIN
Red-tailed Hawk	RTHA	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	BUTJAM
Red-throated Loon	RTLO	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	GAVSTE
Red-winged Blackbird	RWBL	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	AGEPHO
Reddish Egret	REEG	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	EGRRUF
Redhead	REDH	<i>Aythya americana</i>	AYTAME
Ring-billed Gull	RBGU	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	LARDEL
Ring-necked Duck	RNDU	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	AYTCOL
Ring-necked Pheasant	RNEP *	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	PHACOL
Rock Pigeon	ROPI	<i>Columba livia</i>	COLLIV
Rock Wren	ROWR	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	SALOBS
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	RBGR	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	PHELUD
Roseate Spoonbill	ROSP	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	PLAAJA
Ross's Goose	ROGO	<i>Chen rossii</i>	CHEROS
Ross's Gull	ROGU	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	RHSROS *
Rough-legged Hawk	RLHA	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	BUTLAG
Royal Tern	ROYT *	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	THAMAX
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	RCKI	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	REGCAL
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	RTHU	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	ARCCOL
Ruddy Duck	RUDU	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	OXYJAM
Ruddy Turnstone	RUTU	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	AREINT
Ruff	RUFF	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	PHIPUG
Ruffed Grouse	RUGR	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	BONUMB
Rufous Hummingbird	RUHU	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	SELRUF
Rusty Blackbird	RUBL	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	EUPCAR
Sabine's Gull	SAGU	<i>Xema sabini</i>	XEMSAB
Sage Sparrow	SAGS *	<i>Amphispiza belli</i>	AMPBEL
Sage Thrasher	SATH	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	OREMON
Sanderling	SAND	<i>Calidris alba</i>	CALALB
Sandhill Crane	SACR	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	GRUCAN
Savannah Sparrow	SAVS *	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	PASSAN
Say's Phoebe	SAPH	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	SAYSAY
Scarlet Tanager	SCTA	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	PIROLI
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	STFL	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	TYRFOR
Scott's Oriole	SCOR	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>	ICTPAR

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Sedge Wren	SEWR	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	CISPLA
Semipalmated Plover	SEPL	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	CHASEM
Semipalmated Sandpiper	SESA	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	CALPUS
Sharp-shinned Hawk	SSHA	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	ACCSTR
Sharp-tailed Grouse	STGR	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>	TYMPHA
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	SPTS *	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	CALACU
Short-billed Dowitcher	SBDO	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	LIMGRI
Short-eared Owl	SEOW	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	ASIFLA
Smith's Longspur	SMLO	<i>Calcarius pictus</i>	CALPIC
Snow Bunting	SNBU	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	PLENIV
Snow Goose	SNGO	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	CHECAE
Snowy Egret	SNEG	<i>Egretta thula</i>	EGRTHU
Snowy Owl	SNOW	<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	BUBSCA
Snowy Plover	SNPL	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	CHAALE
Solitary Sandpiper	SOSA	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	TRISOL
Song Sparrow	SOSP	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	MELMEL
Sora	SORA	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	PORCAR
Spotted Sandpiper	SPSA	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	ACTMAC
Spotted Towhee	SPTO	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	PIPMAC
Sprague's Pipit	SPPI	<i>Anthus spragueii</i>	ANTSPR
Steller's Jay	STJA	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	CYASTE
Stilt Sandpiper	STSA	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	CALHIM
Summer Tanager	SUTA	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	PIRRUB
Surf Scoter	SUSC	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	MELPER
Swainson's Hawk	SWHA	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	BUTSWA
Swainson's Thrush	SWTH	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	CATUST
Swainson's Warbler	SWWA	<i>Limnithlypis swainsonii</i>	LIMSWA
Swallow-tailed Kite	STKI	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	ELAFOR
Swamp Sparrow	SWSP	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	MELGEO
Taiga Bean-Goose	TABG	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	ANSFAB
Tennessee Warbler	TEWA	<i>Oreothlypis peregrina</i>	OREPER
Thayer's Gull	THGU	<i>Larus thayeri</i>	LARTHA
Townsend's Solitaire	TOSO	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	MYATOW
Townsend's Warbler	TOWA	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	DENTOW
Tree Swallow	TRES *	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	TACBIC
Tricolored Heron	TRHE	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	EGRTRI
Trumpeter Swan	TRUS *	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	CYGBUC
Tufted Duck	TUDU	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	AYTFUL
Tufted Titmouse	TUTI	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	BAEBIC
Tundra Swan	TUSW	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	CYGCOL
Turkey Vulture	TUVU	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	CATAUA *
Upland Sandpiper	UPSA	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	BARLON

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	6-LETTER CODE
Varied Thrush	VATH	<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	IXONAE
Veery	VEER	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	CATFUN *
Vermilion Flycatcher	VEFL	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	PYRRUB
Vesper Sparrow	VESP	<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	POOGRA
Violet-green Swallow	VGSW	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	TACTHA
Virginia Rail	VIRA	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	RALLIM
Virginia's Warbler	VIWA	<i>Oreothlypis virginiae</i>	OREVIR
Warbling Vireo	WAVI	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	VIRGIL
Western Grebe	WEGR	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	AECOCC
Western Kingbird	WEKI	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	TYRVER
Western Meadowlark	WEME	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	STUNEG
Western Sandpiper	WESA	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	CALMAU
Western Tanager	WETA	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	PIRLUD
Western Wood-Pewee	WEWP	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	CONSOR
Whimbrel	WHIM	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	NUMPHA
White Ibis	WHIB	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	EUDALB
White-breasted Nuthatch	WBNU	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	SITCAR
White-crowned Sparrow	WCSP	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	ZONLEU
White-eyed Vireo	WEVI	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	VIRGRI
White-faced Ibis	WFIB	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	PLECHI
White-rumped Sandpiper	WRSA	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	CALFUS
White-tailed Kite	WTKI	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	ELALEU
White-throated Sparrow	WTSP	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	ZONALB
White-throated Swift	WTSW	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	AERSAX
White-winged Crossbill	WWCR	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	LOXLEU
White-winged Dove	WWDO	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	ZENASI
White-winged Scoter	WWSC	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	MELFUS
Whooping Crane	WHCR	<i>Grus americana</i>	GRUAME
Wild Turkey	WITU	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	MELGAL
Willet	WILL	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	TRISEM
Williamson's Sapsucker	WISA	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>	SPHTHY
Willow Flycatcher	WIFL	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	EMPTRA
Wilson's Phalarope	WIPH	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	PHATRI
Wilson's Snipe	WISN	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	GALDEL
Wilson's Warbler	WIWA	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	WILPUS
Winter Wren	WIWR	<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>	TROHIE
Wood Duck	WODU	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	AIXSPO
Wood Stork	WOST	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	MYCAME
Wood Thrush	WOTH	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	HYLMUS
Worm-eating Warbler	WEWA	<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>	HELVER
Yellow Rail	YERA	<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	COTNOV
Yellow Warbler	YWAR *	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	DENPET

COMMON NAME	4-LETTER CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	YBFL	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	EMPFLN *
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	YBSA	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	SPHVAR
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	YBCU	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	COCAME
Yellow-billed Loon	YBLO	<i>Gavia adamsii</i>	GAVADA
Yellow-breasted Chat	YBCH	<i>Icteria virens</i>	ICTVIR
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	YCNH	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	NYCVIO
Yellow-headed Blackbird	YHBL	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	XANXAN
Yellow-rumped Warbler	YRWA	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	DENCOR
Yellow-throated Vireo	YTVI	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	VIRFLF *
Yellow-throated Warbler	YTWA	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	DENDOM
Zone-tailed Hawk	ZTHA	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>	BUTALN *

General Rules in Forming Codes:

1. If the English name consists of only one word, the code is formed from the first four initial letters:
 BUFF Bufflehead
 MALL Mallard
2. If the English name consists of two words, the code is formed from the first two letters of each word:
 AMRO American Robin
 WEME Western Meadowlark
3. For three-word names, in which the last two words are hyphenated, the code is formed from the first two letters from the first word and one each from the last two:
 AMGP American Golden-Plover
 EASO Eastern Screech-Owl
4. For other names with three words, the code is formed by taking one letter each from the first two words and two from the last word:
 ATSP American Tree Sparrow
 RTHA Red-tailed Hawk
 WPWI Whip-poor-will
5. For four-word names, the code is formed with one letter from each word:
 BCNH Black-crowned Night-Heron
 BTBW Black-throated Blue Warbler
 GWFG Greater White-fronted Goose
6. For Scientific names, the code is formed from the first three letters of each word:
 STUNEG *Sturnella neglecta* Western Meadowlark
 HALLEU *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* Bald Eagle

7. * Non-"first-order" codes:

Codes marked by an asterisk are codes which due to conflicts do not follow the above basic rules. A conflict is a situation in which two or more names would abbreviate to the same code using the above rules. See Pyle and DeSante, North American Bird Bander 28:64-79 (2003) for more information.

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