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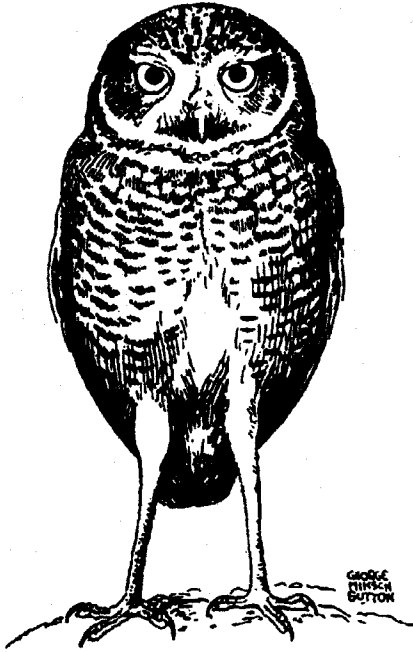
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# ***The Nebraska Bird Review***

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## FALL FIELD REPORT, August-November 2010

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## INTRODUCTION

This was a pretty routine fall for the most part, although there were scattered early and late dates and high counts as in most seasons. Decidedly non-routine, though, was the appearance of two rarities, Ross's Gull and Brown-headed Nuthatch, both enjoyed by many. A surprising 15 gull species were reported, this without much help from L McConaughy! Also notable were the sea-ducks, scoters and Long-tailed Duck, which were in good numbers.

Tom Labedz, collections manager at the University of Nebraska State Museum, is an excellent source; he contributed greatly to discussions herein on Greater Prairie-Chicken and Fox Sparrow.

A clarification: in the Spring Report I misleadingly implied that Eurasian Collared-Doves in Papillion were mostly feral, but I was referring only to a specific small group near Phil Swanson's house. As pointed out by Loren and Babs Padelford, there are increasing numbers of "wild" birds in Papillion. Generally, though, their presence in larger cities is lagging behind their rural small town ubiquity, especially in the west.

I have expanded the "Routine Reports" statement to indicate what indeed is the routine status for such species. Generally, "routine" implies no early or late dates or high counts were reported for the particular season. I list all regularly-occurring species for each season, the vast majority of which do indeed have reports of interest. Of the remainder, some have "Routine Reports", while the few remaining have "None were reported"; for these latter species I generally include a brief comment on their status as well.

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City  
BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co  
CBL: Capitol Beach L, Lincoln  
Cem: Cemetery  
Co(s): County(ies)  
CLNWR: Crescent L NWR, Garden Co  
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co  
GPD: Gavins Point Dam, Knox/Cedar Cos  
HCR: Harlan Co Res SRA, Harlan Co  
ICSP: Indian Cave State Park, Richardson/Nemaha Cos  
L: Lake  
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co  
LNB: Lakes North and Babcock, Platte Co  
LO: L Ogallala (includes contiguous Keystone L), Keith Co  
LPB: LaPlatte Bottoms, Sarpy Co  
m. ob.: many observers  
NC: Nature Center

NLB: North Lake Basin WMA, Seward Co  
NM: National Monument  
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge  
PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co  
Res: Reservoir  
PRSP: Platte River SP, Cass Co  
PSP: Ponca SP, Dixon Co  
RWB: Rainwater Basin, including parts of Phelps, Hamilton, York, Clay,  
Fillmore, and Thayer Cos  
SHP: State Historical Park  
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)  
SP: State Park  
SRA: State Recreation Area  
WHNC: Wildcat Hills NC, Scotts Bluff Co  
WMA: (State) Wildlife Management Area  
WP: Wilderness Park, Lincoln  
WPA: (Federal) Waterfowl Production Area  
WSR: Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co

#### GAZETTEER

Chadron SP: Dawes Co  
Harvard Marsh: WPA, Clay Co  
Jack Sinn: Jack Sinn Memorial WMA, Lancaster and Saunders Cos  
Sandhills: large area of sand-based prairie in north-central Nebraska  
Wehrspann L: Chalco Hills Recreation Area, Sarpy Co

#### OBSERVERS

AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering  
ARy: Al Reyer, Bellevue  
AS: Audrey Sterkel, Sidney  
BC: Blaine Carnes, Fort Worth, TX  
CB: Charles Brown, Tulsa, OK  
CG: Cory Gregory, Ames, IA  
CL: Charles Lesiak, Raymond  
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue  
CW: Collin Woolley, Portland, OR  
CWH: C.W. (Bill) Huntley, Ogallala  
D&JP: Don & Jan Paseka, Ames  
DA: Danny Akers, Ames, IA  
DH: Dave Heidt, Norfolk  
DL: Dan Leger, Lincoln  
DLe: Denise Lewis, Omaha  
DSt: Dave Stage, Elkhorn  
EB: Ed Brogie, Laurel  
ET: Edward Tickle, Lincoln  
G&WH: Glen & Wanda Hoge, Alma  
GR: Gary Roberts, Fremont  
HKH: Helen K. Hughson, Mitchell

JC: John Carlini, Lincoln  
JD: Jeff Drahota, Lincoln  
JED: James E. Ducey, Lincoln  
JG: Joe Gubanyi, Seward  
JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Lincoln  
JGr: Jonas Grundman, Omaha  
JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield  
JK: Judy Kassik, Friend  
JLL: Jeanine L. Lackey, Doniphan  
JM: Jeanne Miller, Bennington  
JO: Jim Ochsner, Ogallala  
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JRi: Juanita Rice, Fairmont  
JT: Jerry Toll, Omaha  
JWH: John W. Hall, Omaha  
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KSc: Kathy Schwery, Plattsmouth;  
L&BP: Loren & Babs Padelford, Bellevue  
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln  
LF: Laurence Falk, Nebraska City  
LJH: Luke Hamilton, Lewellen  
LR: Lanny Randolph, Minden  
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton  
MC: Matthew Cvetas, Evanston, IL  
MR: Mike Resch, Pepperell, MA  
NR: Neal Ratzlaff, Omaha  
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings  
PS: Phil Swanson, Papillion  
RE: Rick Eades, Lincoln  
RH: Robin Harding, Minden  
RM: Robert Manning, Omaha  
RS: Rick Schmid, Omaha  
RSt: Ruth Stearns, Lincoln  
S&RW: Susan & Ron Whitney, Lincoln  
SM: Steve Morris, Grand Island  
SQ: Susan Quinn, Nebraska City  
SS: Shari Schwartz, Lincoln  
SWe: Scott Wessel, Norfolk  
TEL: Thomas E. Labedz, Lincoln  
TH: Tim Hajda, Broken Bow  
TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady  
UL: Urban Lehner, Omaha  
VC: Virginia Clark, North Platte  
WF: William Flack, Kearney  
WM: Wayne Mollhoff, Ashland  
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA  
WW: Walter Wehtje, Alda

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** One appeared at a pond behind an Omaha restaurant in mid-Aug (fide MB) and was still present at the end of the period (WF); this is the 2nd-latest of 11 records for the state.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Rather early were 4 in Otoe Co 4 Oct (LF).

**Snow Goose:** No large numbers had been reported by period's end; best count was only 200, flyovers at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Douglas Co, 28 Oct (JR).

**Ross's Goose:** As with Snow Goose, small numbers, fewer than 10 in all, were reported (LR, RH, LE).

**Cackling Goose:** Two larger flocks were reported: 300 at Cunningham L, Omaha, 20 Nov (JR) and 250 at Broken Bow SL 23 Nov (TH).

**Canada Goose:** Reports were routine; large numbers of migrants and resident birds occur during fall.

**Mute Swan:** Currently "untickable", but tantalizing for state twitchers, one was at Wehrspann L 24 and 27 Nov (CNK, NR). Movements and age classes reported in the Omaha area are suggestive of an incipient feral population.

**Trumpeter Swan:** An adult in Kearney 21 Aug (KS) was possibly a failed breeder; expected fall movement began with 2 in Morrill Co 30 Oct (AK). There was an influx 20 Nov, with 2-3 at Cunningham L, Omaha, (JR, L&BP) and 7 at BOL (DL, DA). The latter birds were a family group; one of the adults reportedly had an orange neck collar (DL), suggesting an origin in British Columbia, but it seems more likely it was a faded red collar, indicating Iowa provenance.

**Tundra Swan:** None were reported; this species is a rare but regular fall migrant, but there are few recent reports.

**Wood Duck:** One at BOL 22 Nov (LE) was tardy. The 51 at Jack Sinn 20 Aug (LE) was a good count; high counts are 100+.

**Gadwall:** Also a good count was the 1450 at BOL 28 Oct (LE); high counts are over 2000.

**American Wigeon:** Reports were routine; no large counts were noted for this common migrant.

**American Black Duck:** Rather rare in recent years, but findable among Mallard flocks in e Nebraska with patience, one was at GPD 26 Nov (MB).

**Mallard:** Reports were routine except for that of a pair mating at Wehrspann L 6 Oct (ARy); this may be a hormonal phenomenon along the lines of fall singing in some species.

**Blue-winged Teal:** Reports were routine for this common breeder; most leave by early Nov.

**Cinnamon Teal:** None were reported; fall reports are fewer, in large part because males are in eclipse plumage, are easily overlooked, and leave the state as soon as flight is regained.

**Northern Shoveler:** Reports were routine for this common breeder and fall migrant.

**Northern Pintail:** The 500-600 at LPB 2 Nov (CNK) was an excellent fall tally. Arrivals in Aug are likely molt migrants; 10 were in Hamilton Co 22 Aug (LE), 4 at BOL 24 Aug (LE), and 6 in Harlan Co 26 Aug (G&WH).

**Green-winged Teal:** As with Northern Pintail, presumed molt migrants or failed breeders appear in late Aug; 2 were in Washington Co 21 Aug (JR, JED) and 2 in Hamilton Co 22 Aug (LE).

**Canvasback:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.

**Redhead:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.

**Ring-necked Duck:** The 591 at BOL 28 Oct (LE) was a good count.

**Greater Scaup:** Only 5 were reported, singles at CBL 30 Oct (JGJ) and 21 Nov (LE), and 3 at Wehrspann L 23 Nov (JR).

**Lesser Scaup:** The 1846 at BOL and PL 19 Nov (LE) was 2nd-highest fall count on record. Good numbers were at CBL also, with 800-850 there 13-15 Nov (WRS, PS, LE). Singles in Scotts Bluff Co 19 Sep (KD) and at BOL 27 Sep (JGJ) were rather early.

**Surf Scoter:** Numbers of scoters in general appear to be increasing, including a few spring records in recent years; scoters have been very rare in spring. There were 5 reports involving 6 Surf Scoters this fall: a female/immature was at BOL 23 Oct (LE), a similar bird was at LO 1-2 Nov (MR), a single was at Pierce SL 13 Nov (MB), 1-2 were at CBL 5-23 Nov (LE, JGJ), and a female was at Wehrspann L 21 Nov (CNK).

**White-winged Scoter:** There were 6 reports involving at least 10 birds: 4 female/immature birds at LO 1-2 Nov (MR), a female at Red Willow Res, Hitchcock Co, 5 Nov (TJW), 2-3 at CBL 12-24 Nov (LE, JGJ), one at Pierce SL 13 Nov (MB), one at BOL 20 Nov (JGJ), and one at GPD 26-29 Nov (MB, JJ).

**Black Scoter:** Of the 6 reports received, the most surprising was the near-record 18 birds, all female/immatures, at Conestoga L, Lincoln, 21 Nov (JGJ); 5 were still present there 23 Nov (JR). The record count is 20. The other 5 reports were of one at Wayne SL 24 Oct (D&JP), a female/immature at LO 1-2 Nov (MR), 1-2 birds at BOL 2-19 Nov (JGJ, LE), 3 at Summit L, Burt Co, 14 Nov (CNK), and 2 at PL 21 Nov (JGJ).

**Long-tailed Duck:** Along with scoters, there were unusually good numbers of this species, too. The 3 reports involved at least 4 birds: 1-2 at CBL 20-29 Nov (JGJ, NR), 2 at Cunningham L, Omaha, 20-27 Nov (CNK, L&BP, JT, NR), and one at GPD 26-27 Nov (MB, JR).

**Bufflehead:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.

**Common Goldeneye:** Reports were routine for this common to abundant winter visitor.

**Hooded Merganser:** There were several good counts reported, the best was the 76 at BOL 28 Oct (LE). Record count is 321.

**Common Merganser:** Few had arrived by the end of the period. Three at Sutherland Res, Lincoln Co, 31 Aug (TJW) were likely molt migrants; one in Hitchcock Co 26 Sep (TEL) was rather early, possibly having undergone molt.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** A female at BOL 23 Oct (LE) was rather early, as were 7 at BOL 30 Oct (JGJ).

**Ruddy Duck:** Only a rare breeder in the RWB, a hen with 3 young at Deep Well WMA, Hamilton Co, 17 Aug (JGJ) was a good find. A single was at NLB 22 Aug (LE). The 970 at BOL 28 Oct (LE) was an excellent count.

**Gray Partridge:** For the last few years, this species has been reported only from the northeast, mostly Knox and Cedar Cos, and there is also a small population in Sioux Co. Encouragingly, several broods were noted: 2 with at least 10 young each during the summer in the Wausa area (SWe), a pair with 7 young near Laurel 6 Aug (DSt), and an adult with 9 young near Creighton 9 Aug, the observer's first breeding record for more than 10 years in Knox Co (MB). The western branch was represented by a single at WSR 25 Aug (HKH).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Reports were routine for this locally common resident.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse:** The observer's largest flock to date in his area was the 44 near Broken Bow 2 Oct; a total of 51 was observed that day (TH).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** The sighting of 2 juveniles/females in se Washington Co 26 Aug (JED, JR) raised questions and caused some discussion concerning their provenance on the NEBirds list serve. Although this species is known to make southeastward dispersal movements in winter, a long-time aficionado of this species (TEL) suggested that the general increase in Prairie-Chicken range and numbers in e. Nebraska in recent years may have led to this and similar late summer sightings. The increase was suggested to be a consequence of the increasingly mosaic nature of agricultural areas in e. Nebraska as CRP fields and smaller farms such as "hobby" farms become more widespread, in effect mimicking the mid-to-late 19th century era of westward expansion of small grain-growing farms into prairie areas (TEL). Apropos of the above was the single in se Butler Co 2 Aug (TEL). The 22 on a lek site near Winnetoon 25 Aug was a "large number" to be on a lek in fall (MB), and a good count was the 39 near Broken Bow 18 Oct (TH).

**Wild Turkey:** Reports were routine for this common statewide resident.

**Northern Bobwhite:** Reports were routine for this fairly common resident of southern and eastern Nebraska.

**Common Loon:** Good numbers were reported 17 Oct-22 Nov (m. ob.), including counts of 16 at GPD 29 Oct (MB, EB) and 12 at BOL 20 Nov (DA).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Best counts were only moderate: 36 at BOL 23 Oct (LE) and 35 at Winters Creek L, Scotts Bluff Co, 16 Oct (KD).

**Horned Grebe:** A juvenile at Harvard Marsh 16 Sep (WRS, PS) was rather early. Best count was an excellent 109 at BOL 15 Nov (JGJ). Record count is 266.

**Red-necked Grebe:** The 3 reports were more than usual: first winter birds were at GPD 21 Sep (MB) and BOL 16-20 Nov (1-2; DL, RSt, DA), and one molting into winter plumage was at Cunningham L, Omaha, 2-25 Nov (NR, m. ob.).

**Eared Grebe:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.

**Western Grebe:** An exciting discovery was a family group including 3 half-grown unfledged young on the south pond at North Platte SL 16 Sep (WRS, PS); this is likely an isolated extralimital breeding record. Best count was 8000 at LM 17 Sep (WRS, PS); peak counts are in late Sep and are over 30,000. Uncommon in the east, there were more reports there than usual, with 1-6 at BOL 5-23 Oct (PD, LE, JGJ), one at PL 16-30 Oct (CG, LE, JGJ), one at Holmes L, Lincoln, 30 Oct (JGJ), and one at LNB 31 Oct (JJ).

**Clark's Grebe:** The only report was of one in Hitchcock Co 26 Sep (LR, RH); reports south of the North Platte River valley are few.

**American White Pelican:** The 1200 at HCR 19 Sep (G&WH) is 4th-best on record; high count is 2100. The first large group of migrants was the 200 at Sutherland Res, Lincoln Co, 31 Aug (TJW), about as expected. The 525 in Otoe Co 21 Oct (LF) was a good easterly tally.

**Neotropic Cormorant:** Nebraska's 13th was at BOL 26 Nov (JC, SS, details); it was also the latest by nearly 2 months.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** The 5,000 at HCR 10 Oct (G&WH) was an excellent count; the 4 highest counts on record range from 5,000-12,000 and are all from HCR 5-16 Oct.

**American Bittern:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.



- Least Bittern:** All reports but one were from LPB, where 1-4 were found through 23 Sep, rather late (L&BP, ARy, m. ob.). Elsewhere, one was at NLB 22 Aug (LE).
- Great Blue Heron:** Reports were routine for this common breeder and fall migrant.
- Great Egret:** Reports were widespread, but numbers were generally low; best count was only 35 in Otoe Co 13 Oct (CNK). Highest counts are 130+. Fifth-latest on record was one in se. Washington Co 16 Nov; 3 were there 7 Nov (JT).
- Snowy Egret:** Only 4 were reported: singles in Sarpy Co 13 Aug (JR, JED), in Cass Co 8 Sep (CNK), at LM 23 Sep (KDy), and at HCR 17 Oct (KS), which was rather late.
- Little Blue Heron:** The 2 reported were about usual for late summer; a juvenile was at BOL 20 Aug (LE), and an adult was at HCR 2 Sep (G&WH).
- Cattle Egret:** The 300 in Washington Co 23 Aug (JGr) was a good count. The 4 at Wehrspann L 15 Nov (CNK) provided the 2nd-latest date on record.
- Green Heron:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and fall migrant.
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** One at Niobrara SP, Knox Co, 20 Oct (TJW) was rather late.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** The only report of this uncommon late summer visitor was of one at Bittern's Call WMA, Dawson Co, 4 Sep (CNK).
- White-faced Ibis:** Best count was 76 at Harvard Marsh 16 Sep (WRS, PS); most were immatures, presumably the group that summered there. A single *Plegadis* ibis with a reddish eye was rather late in Saunders Co 31 Oct (CNK).
- Turkey Vulture:** The 300 at Red Willow Res, Frontier Co, 23 Sep (TJW) was a record count.
- Osprey:** Reports were widespread, with best count 8 in Lancaster Co 17 Sep (JGJ). Three in Dixon Co 15 Aug (JJ) were rather early, and one at GPD 29 Nov (JJ) was 5th-latest on record.
- Mississippi Kite:** A previously-unreported likely summering location is Benkelman, where up to 7 were present 3-23 Aug (TJW, WM); local residents said the birds had been present "a few years" (fide WM). The well-known Ogallala "colony" had a "very productive year" with 5 nests producing young; 4 nearby nests with juveniles were being watched 29 Aug (JO).
- Bald Eagle:** Reports were routine for this now statewide low-density breeder.
- Northern Harrier:** Reports were routine for this statewide low-density breeder.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Cooper's Hawk:** This species is now a common though inconspicuous breeder statewide, including in wooded areas in large cities. Numbers are highest in fall as migrants arrive: 7 were seen over a weekend 16-18 Sep in w NE (WRS, PS).
- Northern Goshawk:** The only report was of a juvenile shot near Valley 17 Oct (DLe, photos), a rather early date; juveniles begin migration early on occasion.
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** All reports were of a single, likely the same bird, at BOL 28 Oct-15 Nov (LE).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** An adult and an immature at Bellevue 28 Aug (L&BP) may indicate not unexpected local breeding. Westerly reports were of a group of 9 over Ogallala 24 Sep (KDy) and an adult in Kearney 22 Sep at the same location where one had been seen the 2 previous years (TH).

**Swainson's Hawk:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** A rather early "Harlan's" Red-tail was in Dixon Co 10-11 Oct (JJ) and a "Krider's" type was in Sarpy Co 15 Nov (CNK).

**Ferruginous Hawk:** There were more reports than usual, including rather early easterly reports of 2 in Clay Co 11 Oct (JLL, KS), one in Fillmore Co 13 Oct (JGJ), one in Loup Co 18 Nov (WF), and 2 at Prairie Dog WPA, Kearney Co, 16 Nov (WF).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** One in Hitchcock Co 16 Sep (LR, RH) was early; early arrival dates are not well-documented.

**Golden Eagle:** Reports were routine for this Panhandle resident and uncommon migrant elsewhere.

**American Kestrel:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.

**Merlin:** The long-distance migrant subspecies *Falco columbarius columbarius* was reported 13 Sep-20 Nov (TH, JR, MB); the only report of *F. c. richardsoni*, the usual wintering subspecies, was from Broken Bow 18 Oct (TH).

**Prairie Falcon:** Rather early eastward birds were in Fillmore Co 13 Oct (JRi) and 17 Oct in Buffalo Co (KS).

**Peregrine Falcon:** A "very dark" juvenile near Broken Bow 15 Aug (TH) was rather early.

**King Rail:** The bird(s?) reported in summer were seen through 16 Aug at LPB (KSc photo, JC, SS).

**Virginia Rail:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident and migrant.

**Sora:** Breeding likely occurred at LPB, where single birds were noted 5 and 12 Aug (KSc, MC). Migration was peaking around 22 Sep, when 12 were counted in "a small area" of Gadwall WMA, Hall Co, (SM). One in Custer Co 2 Nov (TJW) was only the 5th Nov record; there are none in Dec.

**American Coot:** The 3770 in Lancaster Co 13 Oct (LE) was a good count; highest are 5000+.

**Sandhill Crane:** Two adults and an immature were at County Line WPA, Clay Co, 31 Aug (JD); this appears to be a new RWB breeding location. Migrants were first seen near Mitchell 25 Sep (KD) and last were 8 at BOL 21 Nov (L&BP).

**Whooping Crane:** The only report was of 2 adults in Knox Co 29 Oct (MB).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Four at Cottonwood WPA, Phelps Co, 7 Nov (PD) were tardy. Molt is underway as these birds pass through Nebraska; an adult in alternate plumage was in Hamilton Co 1 Aug (JC, SS), another in Washington Co was in transition to basic by 2 Sep (JR), and an adult in basic was in Perkins Co 9 Sep (TJW).

**American Golden-Plover:** Good numbers were reported, including an excellent tally of 263 in Seward Co 15 Oct (JGJ). Most migrants in fall are juveniles, but a single presumed adult was in Hamilton Co 18 Aug (PD), one of only about 20 such records.

**Semipalmated Plover:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.

**Killdeer:** Best count reported was 300 in Seward Co 15 Oct (JGJ); record count is 700.

**Mountain Plover:** A group of 9 was found in Kimball Co 28 Aug (<http://www.facebook.com/MountainPlover>).

**Black-necked Stilt:** None were reported, as might be expected following a summer season with reports only from traditional Sandhills locations.

**American Avocet:** The 6 at BOL 10 Nov (LE) provided the 3rd-latest record.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and migrant.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** The 37 in Phelps Co 6 Oct (JGJ) was a good fall count. Best counts are 50+.

**Willet:** A "raucous" juvenile was in Hamilton Co by 5 Aug (PD), rather early even for this early fall migrant; most are gone before Sep. Rather late was one at Jack Sinn 27 Aug (LE); another was easterly in Washington Co 13 Aug (JR, JED). Fall migrants are rare in the east.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.

**Upland Sandpiper:** The 72 in one field in Pierce Co 4 Aug (MB) must have indicated peak migration; most are gone by Sep. Record fall counts are 175+.

**Long-billed Curlew:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident; most depart by Sep.

**Marbled Godwit:** The 4 in Keith Co 3 Oct (MB) were tardy for this generally early migrant.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** The only report of this rare fall migrant was of one in Hamilton Co 4-6 Aug (PD, L&BP).

**Sanderling:** Reports were routine for this fairly common migrant.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Two fresh juveniles were with about 30 adults in Hamilton Co 2 Aug (PD); juveniles generally begin to outnumber adults by mid- to late Aug. Three in Phelps Co 6 Oct (JGJ) were rather late.

**Western Sandpiper:** Six were reported, fewer than expected in fall. All were singles 9 Aug-1 Oct (LE, WRS, JGJ, CNK, MB), including juveniles 25 Aug at LNB (JGJ) and at L Wanahoo, Seward Co, 16 Sep (WRS, PS).

**Least Sandpiper:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** Nebraska's 4th was a juvenile at Cottonwood WPA, Phelps Co, 6 Oct (JGJ). All 4 records are of juveniles in the period 8 Sep-12 Oct.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.

**Dunlin:** Reports were routine for this uncommon fall migrant.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Reports were widespread in the east in low numbers through 1 Sep, when 2 were in Hamilton Co (PD). Best count was only 23, in Sarpy Co 7 Aug (ARy).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** The reports were in the expected early fall period 13 Aug-5 Sep (LE, PD, CNK).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.

**Wilson's Snipe:** Breeding occurs in se Nebraska on occasion; 3 birds were "flying in circles" at Jack Sinn 15 Aug (WRS), and 2 were seen there 20 Aug (LE). One was in Washington Co 21 Aug (JR, JED). All of these may have been migrants, however, as young birds gather into small flocks ("wisps") to migrate as early as late Jul.

**American Woodcock:** The only report of this elusive fall migrant was of one flushed from long grass at L Wanahoo, Saunders Co, 8 Oct (CNK).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** This is an uncommon fall migrant eastward; 1-3 were in Washington Co 21 Aug-2 Sep (JR, JED). Singles were in Lancaster Co 15 Sep (CNK) and 7-10 Oct (LE), the latter rather late.

**Red Phalarope:** Only the 14th fall record was one at BOL 5 Oct (PD).

**Long-tailed Jaeger:** Nebraska's 6th for fall (8th overall) was a juvenile intermediate phase bird, photographed at Winters Creek L, Scotts Bluff Co, 18-19 Sep (PS, WRS, KD et al).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** A juvenile which appeared at BOL 19 Nov (LE) was seen by many through 27 Nov (m. ob.; photo JGJ). This is only the 19th fall record for the state.

**Sabine's Gull:** The 3 reports were about as expected: single juveniles were at BOL 16-18 Sep (WRS, PS, LE), GPD 20 Sep (MB), and at Medicine Creek Res, Frontier Co, 27 Sep (LE).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Good numbers passed through 1 Oct- 29 Nov (m. ob.); best count was an excellent 179, one of which was still in alternate plumage, at CBL 24 Nov (JGJ).

**Ross's Gull:** Apparently part of a Northern Great Plains influx involving about 5 birds, one very pink-breasted bird thrilled many observers at GPD after being discovered 26 Nov; it was still present 30 Nov (MB, m. ob.).

**Laughing Gull:** One at BOL 11 Nov (DL) was about the 20th overall for Nebraska, 6th for fall.

**Franklin's Gull:** Although not near a record, the 22,020 in Lancaster Co 1 Oct (LE) was a good tally for this abundant migrant. There are 3 counts (estimates?) of 85,000+.

**Mew Gull:** As is often the case, one rarity begets another; the many observers of the GPD Ross's Gull were treated to a Mew Gull there at the same time, 26-29 Nov (MB, m. ob.). This is the 13th fall record, 24th overall.

**Ring-billed Gull:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

**California Gull:** Three of the 4 reports were as expected from LM; these were a single adult 17 Sep (WRS, PS), 17 on 23 Sep (KDy), and 2 on 17 Oct (CG). An adult photographed in difficult bright light at Oak L, Lincoln, 13 Nov (WRS, PS) had features of this species (dark eye, long straight bill, a fading red spot on the lower mandible) and was thought to be of the prairie-breeding subspecies *Larus californicus albertaensis* (WRS, PS). Easterly records of this species have been of the same subspecies, whereas those at LM may be either this or the nominate *L. c. californicus*.

**Herring Gull:** Surprisingly early for adults were the 10 seen at LM and in the Panhandle 18-19 Sep 2010 (WRS, PS). There is one earlier record of an adult, that of 3 at LM 27 Aug 2006.

**Thayer's Gull:** There were 4 reports during the period; 2 adults and a first winter were rather early at LO 1 Nov (MR) and an adult and a first winter were there 23 Nov (CG), 2 birds were at GPD 26 Nov (MB), and a first winter was in Lincoln Co 29 Nov (TJW).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** There were 5 reports involving at least 6 birds; this species is now a regular migrant in low numbers. An un-aged bird was at LM 17 Oct (CG), an adult and a 3rd-year bird were there 1-2 Nov (MR), a second year bird was in Scotts Bluff Co 1-2 Nov (MR), a second year bird was at Oak L, Lincoln, 8-26 Nov (JC, SS, m. ob.), and an adult was there 29 Nov (JGJ).

**Glaucous Gull:** The only bird arriving in time to make the Fall Report was one at GPD 26 Nov (MB).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Surprisingly, there were two reports of this rare gull: an adult was photographed at LM 23 Sep (KDy) and a first winter was at GPD

26 Nov (MB), the latter adding to the gull bonanza there in late Nov. There are now 10 records for fall: the earliest 5 are all adults, and 4 of the records are from LM.

**Least Tern:** Reports from non-breeding locations involved about 10 birds in the period 13 Aug (JR, JED) through 25 Aug (WRS, LE, JGJ), about as expected.

**Caspian Tern:** Reports were of 8 birds at 3 locations 11 Sep-1 Oct (LE, MB, TJW), also about normal for fall.

**Black Tern:** Two at BOL 27 Sep (JGJ) were tardy; latest dates are 2 and 5 Oct.

**Common Tern:** Reports were routine for this uncommon fall migrant.

**Forster's Tern:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.

**Rock Pigeon:** Reports were routine for this common resident.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Far less common in cities than rural areas, numbers of this species are, however, increasing in cities: the 14 in Lincoln 14 Aug was the observer's best count yet (RE).

**White-winged Dove:** The only report was of one in Ogallala 14-15 Aug (CWH, JO), fewer than have been reported in recent falls.

**Mourning Dove:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident and abundant migrant.

**Rosy-faced Lovebird:** An obvious escapee or released bird was hanging out at the Omaha Purple Martin roost 4-17 Sep (JR). This species is established in a few much warmer locations in the US.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** One at WP 18 Sep (RSt) was a bit tardy, although there are a few records for early Oct.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** There were only 3 reports: singles were in Dixon Co 8 Aug (JJ), at LM 17 Sep (WRS, PS), and in Otoe Co 10 Oct (KDy), which is 2nd-latest on record by 5 days.

**Barn Owl:** This species is uncommon in the ne. half of Nebraska. A nest in a grain bin near Creighton had 6 young 9 Aug and 5 fully-feathered young 24 Aug, with one apparently having fledged (MB, DSt).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Reports were routine for this common resident.

**Great Horned Owl:** Reports were routine for this common resident.

**Burrowing Owl:** A pair of juveniles were beside a burrow at WSR 18 Sep (WRS, PS).

**Barred Owl:** Reports of this species along the slowly-expanding west edge of its Nebraska range are increasing; singles were near Palmer 12 Oct (CL) and at Niobrara SP, Knox Co, 20 Oct (TJW).

**Long-eared Owl:** Likely breeding in the area was one in n. Knox Co 24 Aug (MB, DSt); the only other report was of one at Holmes L, Lincoln, 8 Nov (LE).

**Short-eared Owl:** The only report was of one in Dodge Co 4 Nov (D&JP); fall movement is irregular and probably mostly nomadic rather than migration in the usual sense.

**Common Nighthawk:** Migration peaks around 1 Sep; "hundreds" were over Bellevue 31 Aug (RS). Nine flying over Bellevue 9 Oct (L&BP) were tardy. Last dates are around 20 Oct.

**Common Poorwill:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

**Whip-poor-will:** This species is common at Bohemia Prairie WMA, Knox Co; 12 were there 24 Aug (MB, DH). Rarely reported in fall, one at PRSP 20 Sep (MB) was 4th-latest on record; latest is 2 Oct.

**Chimney Swift:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

**White-throated Swift:** Reports were routine for this fairly common local summer resident in the Panhandle.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Reports were numerous, peaking during Sep, when a record 25 were at ICSP 4 Sep (KDy) and 8 were in each of two yards in Lancaster Co 16 Sep (S&RW) and Douglas Co 28 Sep (DSt). Earliest migrant was a male in a Lincoln yard 24 Jul (S&RW); also early were one in Dixon Co 1 Aug (JJ) and a male in Lincoln 8 Aug (JGJ). There are now several late Jul records where summering was not noted that suggest migration does indeed begin in late Jul with males arriving first. The bulk of migration begins around 10 Aug, however, when females and immatures arrive. Last was a female in a Lincoln yard 17 Oct (S&RW); there is only one later date on record, 23 Oct. Westerly reports are increasing; a juvenile was in a Scotts Bluff Co yard 21 Aug (KD), the 11th fall Panhandle record, and female/immature singles were in a Brady yard 19 and 26 Aug (TJW).

**Calliope Hummingbird:** The only report of this rare migrant was of one in a Mitchell yard 17-18 Aug (KD).

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird:** Single birds were noted on 3 dates in a Mitchell yard: 21, 27, and 28 Aug (KD), and 2 were in a Sidney yard 28 Aug (AS), typical dates and locations.

**Rufous Hummingbird:** There were only 2 reports: an immature male and a female were in a Mitchell yard 28 Aug (KD), and one was easterly at Creighton 15 Sep (MB). The latter was rather late, although typical of easterly fall records.

**Belted Kingfisher:** Reports were routine for this fairly common resident.

**Lewis's Woodpecker:** An exciting discovery was a pair with a juvenile in lower Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 16-19 Aug (MB, EB, JR). Whether they bred nearby is unknown; this species becomes more noticeable during Aug when fledged birds become mobile. Reports away from the Pine Ridge are few; a juvenile at LM 18 Sep (CB et al., details) provided only the 3rd such record.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Rather late for dependent young, adults were feeding a begging fledgling near Omaha 3 Oct (JGr). A rather late juvenile for the location was near North Platte 3 Oct (TJW).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Westernmost was one visiting a Mitchell yard 30 Sep-31 Oct (KD); it had not been seen during the summer. Somewhat less surprising but significant was a male at Bridgeport 16 Sep-25 Oct (LJH). There appear to be only about 5 reports, likely of only 3 individuals, west of LM.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** About 14 were reported; earliest was in Bellevue 3 Oct (KCR). Westerly were one in Lincoln Co 23 Nov (VC, photo), 2 in Lincoln Co 6 Nov (TJW), and an immature in Cherry Co 11 Oct (WF). There are more reports westward in fall than in spring.

**Red-naped Sapsucker:** The two reports were at expected locations and dates for this rare fall migrant in the Panhandle: singles were at Oliver Res, Kimball Co, 17 Sep (WRS) and in Scotts Bluff Co 29 Sep (AK).

**Downy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this common resident.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** The 4 at Wehrspann L, Sarpy Co, 6 Nov (NR) was a good count for this low-density species; they may have been a family group.

**Northern Flicker:** Reports were routine for this common resident and migrant.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Reports were received from the traditional locations at ISCP and FF (m. ob.); less consistent is the Steamboat Trace Trail in e. Otoe Co, where there have been a few recent sightings, including singles this fall 12 Sep and 17 Oct (LF).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The 5 sightings were from the east in the period 22 Aug-13 Sep (LE, RS, L&BP, JR), as expected.

**Western Wood-Pewee:** Reports were routine for this common western summer resident.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Last reported was at ADF 30 Sep (LF), a bit tardy. A "very dark" bird reminiscent of Western Wood-Pewee was at FF 22 Sep (JR); identification as such was not confirmed, however.

**Alder Flycatcher:** At least one of 3 birds at FF 3 Sep was calling (JR), and another in a Lincoln yard 22 Sep was identified as this species from a photo (S&RW, WRS). The latter is the latest on record.

**Willow Flycatcher:** One at WSR 11 Sep (AK) was rather late.

**Least Flycatcher:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.

**Hammond's Flycatcher:** The only report of this rare fall migrant was of one at Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS).

**Cordilleran Flycatcher:** The 3 reported were from well-known Panhandle migrant traps: singles at WSR 25 Aug (HKH) and 11 Sep (AK), and Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS). Migrants (away from breeding areas) are still not often reported.

**Eastern Phoebe:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident.

**Say's Phoebe:** Reports were routine for this fairly common westerly summer resident.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

**Cassin's Kingbird:** The 2 at Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS) were the only ones found away from breeding areas, indicating fall migrants.

**Western Kingbird:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

**Eastern Kingbird:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** The only report, following the 2 unsuccessful nesting attempts this summer, was of one in se. Lincoln Co 13 Aug (TJW).

**Northern Shrike:** The winter started well for this species; first reported was in Custer Co 18 Oct (TH), and by the end of the period 10 more were found (TJW, LE, JJ), including 3 juveniles and an adult in Lincoln Co 9 Nov (TJW).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and rare winter resident in the southeast.

**White-eyed Vireo:** An adult in Imperial 3 Oct (MB) was only the 3rd fall record away from the east, and also provided a rather late date.

**Bell's Vireo:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Reports were routine for this fairly common eastern summer resident.

**Plumbeous Vireo:** There were no reports of this rarely-noted fall migrant.

**Cassin's Vireo:** There was a good showing by this species, with about 9 reported, including an after-hatch-year bird banded at WHNC 1 Sep (CW) and somewhat easterly reports of 3 at Lisco 28 Aug (KD) and 2 at LO 17 Sep (WRS, PS). Others were singles at Oliver Res, Kimball Co, 17 Sep (WRS, PS) and in Scotts Bluff Co 17 and 18 Sep (KD).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** One in Douglas Co 21 Oct (RS) was rather late.

**Warbling Vireo:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** None were reported; this is an uncommon fall migrant.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Uncommon in the west, one was in Scotts Bluff Co 19 Sep (KD); one at WP 2 Oct (LE) was tardy.

**Blue Jay:** Migrants were in evidence and on time in early Oct, although counts were only moderate: 32 over Friend 2 Oct (JK) and 29 in Dixon Co 5 Oct (JJ).

**Pinyon Jay:** None were reported; this is a somewhat enigmatic and unpredictable resident.

**Black-billed Magpie:** Interesting reports from areas where the species is rare included the observer's 2nd for Custer Co near Broken Bow 18 Oct (TH) and one in Nuckolls Co 19 Oct (WF).

**American Crow:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident and fall migrant.

**Horned Lark:** Reports were routine for this common resident.

**Purple Martin:** The Omaha roost reached 20,000 by 7 Aug (JR) and peaked at 30,000 on 4-14 Sep (JR). Numbers had dropped to 250 by 20 Sep and none were present 27 Sep after the passage of a cold front (JR).

**Tree Swallow:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and common fall migrant.

**Violet-green Swallow:** Reports were routine for this fairly common western summer resident.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and common fall migrant.

**Bank Swallow:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident.

**Cliff Swallow:** A few were still in nests in Wheeler Co 1 Aug (TJW); most colonies depart in early Aug.

**Barn Swallow:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** This species appears to be making a slow recovery in areas where numbers had declined markedly, such as Lancaster Co (LE).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Reports were routine for this common resident.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Numbers were about average for this fairly common winter visitor.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** Reports were routine for this common resident.

**Brown-headed Nuthatch:** One of the more stunning finds in Nebraska ornithology was a single bird of this species in mature pines at Holmes L, Lincoln, 8 Nov (LE). Two were thought to be present based on spacing of calls and sightings 10 Nov (RSt, CNK) and 2 were actually seen together 12 Nov (RE). The birds remained through the period and were seen by many observers. It is remarkable that Holmes L, Lincoln, is almost certainly the only place that has hosted all 4 North American nuthatch species! A paper by Frank Renfrow (<http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/NAB/v057n03/p00422-p00428.pdf>) suggests that while this species is generally sedentary, irruptions have occurred as a result of major habitat destruction, such as fire or clear felling.

**Pygmy Nuthatch:** Reports were routine for this common resident of northern Panhandle pine woodlands.

**Brown Creeper:** Reports were routine for this fairly common winter resident.

**Rock Wren:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

**Carolina Wren:** Survivors of the severe winter 2009-2010 remain, mostly in the southeast, but there were several reports of birds appearing late in summer where none had been present earlier, suggesting that shuffling of territories and movement into areas of unoccupied habitat is ongoing. Such reports included one calling at FF 18 Aug at a location where none were present in spring and summer (RS), one that appeared in an Omaha yard 19 Sep (RM), and the "first since 1 Aug" in a Bellevue yard 12 Oct (L&BP). A few were reported



away from the se.; singles were in Red Willow Co 26 Sep (JG), at HCR 15 Oct (KS), at Grand Island 17 Oct (SM), and in Fairmont 17 Oct (JRi).

**House Wren:** Two in Dixon Co 8 Nov (JJ) were the 8th-latest on record.

**Winter Wren:** As far as is known, there are no proven records of the newly-split Pacific Wren in Nebraska, although the NOU Records Committee is studying the matter. The only reports identifying birds as Eastern or Pacific Wrens indicated Easterns by calls in Buffalo Co 17 Oct (WF) and at LO 2 Nov (MR). The latter, as well as one in Mullen 12 Oct (WF) and singles in Hitchcock Co 27 Nov (LR, RH) and at McCook 28 Nov (LR, RH), were westerly. An early arrival at Wehrspann L 4 Sep (JWH) was 2nd-earliest on record; another in Dixon Co 19 Sep (JJ) was rather early also.

**Sedge Wren:** One in Douglas Co 22 Oct (NR) was rather late.

**Marsh Wren:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident and migrant.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** The 50 at PSP 18 Sep (MB) was an excellent count; high is 51.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Reports were from all parts of the state except the Sandhills (m. ob.); the expansion over the last few years has been rather rapid.

**Eastern Bluebird:** A record fall count of 300 was made at BOL 2 Nov (ET). One in Scotts Bluff Co 2 Nov (KD) was rather late there. A productive nest-box near Bennington produced 3 broods, each of 3 young, over the summer (JM).

**Mountain Bluebird:** Good numbers had arrived in the wintering range in se. Lincoln Co by mid-Oct; 40 were there 17 Oct (LR, RH).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** A remarkably early eastern report was of one in Otoe Co 27 Aug (LF, SQ, details); there are late Aug arrival dates for the Panhandle, and one for Lincoln Co.

**Veery:** None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant, mostly in the east.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant, mostly in the east.

**Swainson's Thrush:** Numbers are lower in fall, and so a record-tying count was the 4 at WSR 18 Sep (WRS, PS).

**Hermit Thrush:** The 3 in Knox Co 17 Oct (MB) was a good count; high is 8. Westerly, and likely of the Rocky Mountains subspecies *Catharus guttatus auduboni*, an earlier migrant than eastern *C. g. faxoni*, were one banded 21 Sep at Chadron SP (BC) and one at Bridgeport 14 Oct (LJH). A few linger into the winter, such as one in a Bellevue yard 19-24 Nov (L&BP) and another at FF 24 Nov (RS).

**Wood Thrush:** Reports were routine for this fairly common eastern summer resident.

**American Robin:** A careful estimate of the number involved in a 20 minute fly-by in Knox Co 20 Oct yielded at least 150,000 birds (MB); flocks of "thousands" have been reported several times, notably in cedar areas in north-central Nebraska, but this is the first estimate of over 10,000 birds.

**Gray Catbird:** Scarce in the Panhandle in summer, migration yielded good numbers there, with 12 counted 18 Sep (WRS, PS); another 12 were in one bush at Aurora 22 Sep (SM).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Most leave the state in winter; a bit tardy was one in Pawnee Co 8 Nov (WF).

- Sage Thrasher:** None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant in the w. Panhandle.
- Brown Thrasher:** Reports were routine for this common statewide summer resident.
- European Starling:** Reports were routine for this abundant resident.
- American Pipit:** One at Pierce SL 13 Nov (MB) was a bit tardy.
- Sprague's Pipit:** There were 3 reports, all within the expected migration period: singles were at CLNWR 26 Sep (WW), at SCP 16 Oct (JR) and in Kearney Co 17 Oct (KS).
- Cedar Waxwing:** An adult was feeding a fledgling at FF 19 Sep (JR), rather late. The 130 at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 20 Nov (JR) was a good fall count.
- Golden-winged Warbler:** This species is very rare in fall, with only about 28 records in all. One of only 3 fall records away from the Missouri Valley was one at Enders Res, Chase Co, 2 and 3 Oct (MB).
- Tennessee Warbler:** Reports were routine for this fairly common eastern fall migrant.
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** One at ADF 25 Aug (LF) was rather early. The 50+ "everywhere" at North Platte 4 Oct (TJW) tied the record high count.
- Nashville Warbler:** Good numbers were reported in the east, including 50+ at PSP 18 Sep (MB), 2nd-highest on record, and another excellent count of 25 at FF 22 Sep (JR). One in Dixon Co 19 Aug (JJ) was rather early. Westerly, where uncommon, were singles at North Platte 3 Oct (MB) and in Hitchcock Co 26 Sep (GR).
- Northern Parula:** Latest on record by 7 days was one in a Bellevue yard 9 Oct (L&BP).
- Yellow Warbler:** Last reported was in Chase Co 2 Oct (MB); there are few Oct records.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Only one was reported, which is fewer than usual: a single was at FF 22 Sep (JR).
- Magnolia Warbler:** The only reports were of singles at ICSP 4 Sep (KDy) and at PSP 18 Sep (MB).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Surprisingly, the 3 reports of this rare migrant tied the total for the previous two species, with singles at WSR 22 Aug (HKH) and in Bellevue 16 Sep (ARy), and a female at PSP 18 Sep (MB). The WSR bird is earliest on record by 9 days.
- Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler:** The only report was of 4 migrants at Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS).
- Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** The 100+ at BOL 10 Oct (LE) was an excellent count; record is 129.
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** This species was reported more than usual; the total of 12 birds, including 5 at ICSP 13 Sep (JC), ties the high count for fall. A first fall bird was in Buffalo Co 20 Oct (TH), tardy and a little westerly.
- Townsend's Warbler:** The only reports of this fairly common Panhandle fall migrant were of 2 at WSR 19 Aug (HKH), rather early, and 5 at Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** Only two were reported, singles at ICSP 4 Sep (KDy) and PSP 18 Sep (MB).
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** None were reported; most depart the state by early Sep.

- Palm Warbler:** This species is less than annual in fall, with only 42 records in all, and so the 3 reported were unexpected. Singles were in Dixon Co 23-25 Sep (JJ), near Broken Bow 2 Oct (TH), and at BOL 7 Oct (LE).
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** Only one was found, in a Bellevue yard 9 Sep (L&BP). This species is generally more often reported in fall than in spring.
- Blackpoll Warbler:** Rare in fall, one was in Lincoln Co 10 Sep (TJW).
- Cerulean Warbler:** One of few fall reports of this species was one in an Omaha yard 19 Sep (RM, no details), the latest date for this species.
- Black-and-white Warbler:** One in Clay Co 15 Aug (JGJ) was rather early.
- American Redstart:** One of only about 10 reports in Oct for this species was of a female at Brady 5 Oct (TJW).
- Ovenbird:** Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
- Northern Waterthrush:** Surprisingly, there was only one report, a single at FF 7 Sep (JC, SS).
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** This species leaves early in fall, but 3 at PRSP 30 Aug may have been a little late due to re-nesting after the large floods earlier in the summer (JC, SS).
- Kentucky Warbler:** More than usual were reported for fall; this species leaves early in general. Singles were at ICSP 4 and 13 Sep (KDy, JC, SS), 1-3 were at FF 7-11 Sep (JC, SS, JR details), and westerly was a female in Lincoln Co 10 Sep (TJW, details). This species is very rare as far west as the Panhandle.
- Mourning Warbler:** One was westerly in Red Willow Co 7 Sep (WF, details). The only other report was of one at ICSP 4 Sep (KDy). This species is also very rare as far west as the Panhandle.
- MacGillivray's Warbler:** There were 4 Panhandle reports 11-19 Sep (AK, PS, WRS, KD), including one banded at Chadron SP 13 Sep (BC).
- Common Yellowthroat:** One in York Co 24 Oct (SM) was 6th-latest on record. The 8 in Otoe Co 10 Oct (KDy) was a good count.
- Wilson's Warbler:** Numbers were lower than usual, but reports were widespread 19 Aug-28 Sep (m. ob.).
- Canada Warbler:** A typical fall had 5 reports from the east 26 Aug-19 Sep (LF, JR, KDy), but a surprise was one in Hitchcock Co 26 Sep (D&JP). This is only the 11th away from the east.
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** Reports were routine for this common western summer resident.
- Summer Tanager:** ICSP has good numbers in summer; 5 were there 4 Sep (KDy) and 5 on 13 Sep (JR). Reports continued from other locations where this species has increased: PRSP 30 Aug (JC, SS) and FF 18 Aug (RS).
- Scarlet Tanager:** A big surprise was a female at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 20 Nov (JR, details), the latest ever by 10 days; there is only one other Nov record.
- Western Tanager:** Reports were routine for this fairly common Panhandle summer resident and uncommon migrant.
- Spotted Towhee:** Most appear in the south and east in mid-Oct, and so one in Lancaster Co 1 Oct (LE) was a bit early.
- Eastern Towhee:** Westward range in the Republican Valley is unclear, probably variable year-to-year, and confused by hybridization. Nevertheless, of interest were phenotypic Easterns in Frontier Co 26 Sep (KD) and Red Willow Co the same day (WF).
- Cassin's Sparrow:** None were reported; departure is early, usually in Aug.
- American Tree Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common winter visitor.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Large migrating flocks can be found in the west in fall, but are less often seen in the east. There were 80 at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, both 16 and 29 Sep, the latter flock mostly first year birds (JR).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** About 90 were estimated in w. Nebraska 16 Sep, where they were "all over" (WRS, PS). Fall migration is extended; reports were in the period 29 Aug-23 Oct (m. ob.). Juvenile plumage is quickly lost, usually before migration, but one still in this plumage was in Custer Co 2 Oct (TH).

**Brewer's Sparrow:** The two reports were from expected w. Panhandle locations for migrants: one was at WSR 11 Sep (AK) and 4 were in w. Kimball Co 22 Sep (WRS, PS).

**Field Sparrow:** This species is uncommon westward, where the western subspecies occurs; one with a "very bland face" was at Oliver Res, Kimball Co, 17 Sep (WRS, PS). Other westerly reports were of 1-2 in Morrill Co 28-30 Sep (LJH), 3 at North Platte 4 Oct (TJW), and 2 in Hitchcock Co 27 Nov (LR, RH, details). The Hitchcock birds were rather late, although Dec records are fairly numerous in the south.

**Vesper Sparrow:** Breeding is as yet unknown in the e. RWB, although it may be occurring as this species adapts to row crop fields; 2 birds there 15 Aug were tagged "migrants or breeders?" (JGJ). As with Chipping and Clay-colored Sparrows, large numbers of this species are often seen in the west during fall migration. An estimated 220 were noted in w. Nebraska 16-18 Sep (WRS, PS), and 38 were in Frontier Co 27 Sep (LE).

**Lark Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident and migrant.

**Lark Bunting:** The east edge of the summer range is variable, depending presumably on weather conditions. Four near Broken Bow made only the 2nd sighting in the county by the observer (TH); "more than ever before" were seen there 13 Sep (TH).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common migrant.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Two in Custer Co 18 Oct (TH) were rather late, as was another as far n. as Antelope Co 10 Oct (MB).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** As expected, the only ones found at a prairie in Pawnee Co 15 Aug were the 5-6 using 3-year-old grassland on one of the ridges there (WRS). Rarely found during migration, one was at BOL 13 Oct (LE).

**LeConte's Sparrow:** Rather late was one in Omaha 7 Nov (JR). The 35 in Lancaster Co 16 Oct (CG) was a good tally; record count is 158.

**Nelson's Sparrow:** Reports are more frequent as observers understand where and when to look for these birds. There were 9 reports 1-22 Oct involving about 23 birds (m. ob.), including good counts of 7 at Little Salt Fork Marsh, Lincoln, 9 Oct (JGJ) and 6 at Jack Sinn 7 Oct (RSt). Most reports are from the east; one in Antelope Co 10 Oct was unusual there (MB).

**Fox Sparrow:** Numbers of this species continue to impress; over 40 were reported, including a count of 17 in Wayne Co 24 Oct (D&JP). Two were westerly, including one identified as a Slate-colored Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca schistacea*) at LO 1- Nov (MR). There are several other reports of grayish Fox Sparrows in Nebraska, but so far there are no documented reports of *P. s. schistacea* since its type specimen was collected in Nebraska. Fox Sparrows in Nebraska that appear to be grayer may be of the western race of Red Fox Sparrow, *P. s. zaboria*, or the more southerly western form *P. s. altivagans* (fide TEL), which name may actually refer to birds in a hybrid zone between

*P. s. zaboria*, *P. s. schistacea*, and the western Sooty Fox Sparrow (*P. s. unalaschensis*). Bottom line: there are a few reports of grayish Fox Sparrows in Nebraska, but they are likely representatives of the greyer western races of Red Fox Sparrow, rather than true Slate-colored Fox Sparrow (*P. s. schistacea*). Also westerly this fall was one quite early at WSR 11 Sep (AK).

**Song Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common resident.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** The 40 in Webster Co 9 Oct (LR, RH) was a good count; record high is 100.

**Swamp Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this fairly common resident and fall migrant.

**White-throated Sparrow:** A tan-striped bird was rather early at FF 19 Sep (JR); this form occurs occasionally among adult White-throated Sparrows in Nebraska (all immatures are tan-striped).

**Harris's Sparrow:** The 275 in Wayne Co 24 Oct (D&JP) was an excellent count, exceeded only by the record count of 1000.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** One banded at Chadron SP 13 Sep was of the most commonly-occurring subspecies in Nebraska, grey-lored *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* (BC).

**Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and uncommon fall migrant.

**Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco:** The 250 at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 28 Oct (JR) was a record fall tally.

**Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco:** Arrival was very early, including an adult banded at WHNC 13 Sep (CW) and another adult at Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS). These are the 3rd and 4th-earliest arrivals on record.

**Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco:** The 2nd-earliest arrival on record was one at Bushnell Cem 17 Sep (WRS, PS).

**McCown's Longspur:** None were reported; this is an uncommon summer resident in the western Panhandle.

**Lapland Longspur:** Reports were routine for this common winter visitor.

**Chestnut-collared Longspur:** Reports were routine for this uncommon western summer resident.

**Snow Bunting:** This may be a good winter for this species; usually few arrive before Dec, but this fall there were 6 reports involving some 34 birds. Most reports were from the sandy berms at LNB: 3 were rather early there 31 Oct (JJ), 12 were there 25 Nov (TJW), and 11 were there on 30 Nov (LE). Other reports were of 5-6 at BOL 13-15 Nov (UL, LE) and 2 at PL 24 Nov (JGJ).

**Northern Cardinal:** The small westerly populations e. of Scottsbluff in Scotts Bluff Co (AK) and at Bridgeport SRA, Morrill Co, (LJH) continue.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Reports were routine for this common western summer resident.

**Black-headed Grosbeak:** Reports were routine for this common western summer resident.

**Blue Grosbeak:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident.

**Lazuli Bunting:** Reports were routine for this fairly common Panhandle summer resident.

**Indigo Bunting:** The observer's Dixon Co yard tends to host the last Indigo Buntings to leave in fall; a female and a juvenile male were there 8 Oct (JJ). Last dates are in mid-Oct.

- Dickcissel:** Singles in Garden and Cheyenne Cos 1 Aug (WF) were the westernmost reported. Some locations were abandoned early; none were near McCook 8 Aug (LR, RH), and Lincoln Co birds had departed by 9 Aug (TJW). However, there were still good numbers reported around Omaha 7 Aug (ARy) and in Saunders Co 9 Sep (CNK). Departure from breeding locations generally occurs by late Sep, but there are several records of lingering birds. One was in Harlan Co 16 Nov (WF, details).
- Bobolink:** Flocks form in Aug, when molting occurs in marshes; 30 were at Sinninger WPA, York Co, 15 Aug (JGJ) and 18 were at Hultine WPA, Clay Co, 22 Aug (LE).
- Red-winged Blackbird:** Reports were routine for this common resident and abundant migrant.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Western Meadowlark:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident and uncommon winter visitor.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Rusty Blackbird:** Few were reported, although numbers are often higher later into winter. In Dixon Co, there were the "fewest in years", however (JJ). Only 26 were reported, 19 of these in Lancaster Co 22 Nov (LE).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** Easterly were 30 in Thayer Co 31 Oct (LR, RH) and 11 in Polk Co 21 Nov (LR, RH). Fall migrants are fairly common eastward.
- Common Grackle:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident and abundant fall migrant.
- Great-tailed Grackle:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer resident and fall migrant.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Departure from the north and west usually occurs in Oct; two at CLNWR 6 Nov (KL) were tardy.
- Orchard Oriole:** A female/immature at ADF 26 Sep (LF) was rather late; there are only 5 Oct records.
- Baltimore Oriole:** A phenotypically pure male at West Lawn Cem, Gering, 18 Sep (WRS, PS) was only the 5th fall record for the Panhandle, and the latest record there.
- Bullock's Oriole:** Adult males generally leave early on molt migration, thus a major surprise was one near Mitchell 18 Sep, the observer's latest by 3 weeks (KD).
- Purple Finch:** Numbers were about normal, with 14 reported, all in the east. Earliest were one in Dixon Co 22 Oct and 3 there the next day (JJ).
- Cassin's Finch:** At least 2 were at WHNC: a hatch year bird and an adult were banded 13 Sep (CW, details), and one was at the feeders there 19 Sep (KD). These are only the 5th and 6th Sep records for this species; fall reports are erratic.
- House Finch:** There is some indication that after their rapid spread westward and consolidation of numbers, there may be a decline underway. Best counts reported were 20+ in Lincoln Co 4 Oct (TJW) and 10 in Nebraska City 2 Aug (LF).
- Red Crossbill:** Occurrence of this species is highly erratic; despite a good cone crop, "few" were noted by one observer (AK), but 323 were banded at WHNC 1 Sep-6 Oct as compared to only 18 in 2009 (CW). The few available data suggest that numbers are highest in Sep most years.

**Common Redpoll:** None were reported; in “off” years, the few reports tend to be in mid-winter.

**Pine Siskin:** As with Red Crossbill, numbers banded during Sep (1 Sep-6 Oct) at WHNC were up: 155 compared to only 11 in 2009 (CW). These two species are erratic in occurrence, but these Sep numbers suggest that fall influxes may most likely be detected in Sep. Elsewhere, reports were widespread but numbers were low; best count was 25-30 in a Doniphan yard 20 Nov (JLL).

**Lesser Goldfinch:** All reports were from WHNC, where 6 were banded 1 Sep-4 Oct (CW) and 1-2 were reported 17 Sep (WRS, PS, AK).

**American Goldfinch:** Usually a late nester, an adult was feeding begging young at Wehrspann L 14 Oct (L&BP); the first half of Oct is about the limit for fledging young.

**Evening Grosbeak:** After the surprising appearance of several birds in the Panhandle this spring, the only report since is of 2 photographed in a Lincoln Co yard 5 Nov, the observer's first there in 25 years (VC, photo).

**House Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common resident.

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### McCook Fall Field Days

The 2010 NOU Fall Field Days were held in McCook on September 24-26, and 57 members and friends were in attendance.

Field trip destinations included Medicine Creek Reservoir and points east, led by William Flack, Red Willow State Recreation Area and other Frontier County locations, led by T. J. Walker, and Swanson Reservoir State Recreation Area and the Benkelman sewage lagoons, led by Robin Harding and Lanny Randolph. A final tally of 131 species was recorded.

Gerhard Assenmacher, wildlife photographer and conservationist, spoke on Saturday night about his Medicine Creek Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is comprised of more than 550 acres of native prairie and rich bottomland in Frontier County. It surrounds Medicine Creek, a principal tributary of the Republican River, and is one of the few protected properties in the Mixed Grass Prairie Ecoregion, which has been designated as a Natural Legacy Area by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission.

Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
American Wigeon  
Mallard  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Northern Pintail  
Green-winged Teal  
Redhead  
Common Merganser  
Ruddy Duck  
Ring-necked Pheasant  
Greater Prairie-Chicken  
Wild Turkey  
Northern Bobwhite  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Eared Grebe  
Western Grebe  
Clark's Grebe  
American White Pelican  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
White-faced Ibis  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Cooper's Hawk  
Swainson's Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk

[illegible]



## Fall NOU Meeting - McCook

	Chase	Dundy	Frontier	Furnas	Gosper	Hayes	Hitchcock	Lincoln	Red Willow
Ferruginous Hawk							x		
Rough-legged Hawk							x		
American Kestrel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
American Coot		x	x		x		x	x	
Killdeer		x	x	x			x	x	x
Greater Yellowlegs						x			
Lesser Yellowlegs		x							
Solitary Sandpiper		x	x						
Spotted Sandpiper		x	x				x		
Western Sandpiper			x						
Least Sandpiper			x						
Baird's Sandpiper		x	x						x
Pectoral Sandpiper			x						x
Stilt Sandpiper			x						
Short-billed Dowitcher			x						
Long-billed Dowitcher			x						
Franklin's Gull			x	x	x		x	x	
Ring-billed Gull	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
Herring Gull			x						
Common Tern							x		
Forster's Tern			x				x		
Black Tern							x		
Rock Pigeon		x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Eurasian Collared-Dove	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mourning Dove	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Eastern Screech-Owl			x	x					x
Great Horned Owl			x						x
Burrowing Owl		x				x	x		
Common Nighthawk									x
Chimney Swift							x		x
Belted Kingfisher	x		x	x	x		x	x	x
Red-headed Woodpecker			x				x		
Red-bellied Woodpecker		x	x	x	x		x		x
Downy Woodpecker		x	x	x	x		x	x	x

## Fall NOU Meeting - McCook

	Chase	Dundy	Frontier	Furnas	Gosper	Hayes	Hitchcock	Lincoln	Red Willow
Hairy Woodpecker			x				x		x
Northern Flicker	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Empidonax sp.			x						
Eastern Phoebe			x	x			x		x
Say's Phoebe			x	x		x	x		
Loggerhead Shrike						x			
Blue Jay			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Black-billed Magpie	x			x					
American Crow			x	x	x		x	x	x
Horned Lark	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Tree Swallow						x			
Bank Swallow			x						
Barn Swallow		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Black-capped Chickadee			x		x		x		x
Red-breasted Nuthatch							x	x	x
White-breasted Nuthatch			x	x	x			x	x
Rock Wren		x		x			x		
Carolina Wren									x
House Wren		x	x		x		x	x	x
Marsh Wren			x						
Ruby-crowned Kinglet							x		
Eastern Bluebird	x		x				x		x
Townsend's Solitaire			x			x			
American Robin	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Gray Catbird			x						x
Brown Thrasher			x				x		x
European Starling		x	x	x	x		x	x	x
American Pipit		x	x	x			x		x
Cedar Waxwing			x	x		x	x		x
Orange-crowned Warbler	x	x	x	x			x		x
Nashville Warbler							x		
Yellow Warbler							x		x
Yellow-rumped Warbler	x		x				x	x	x
Common Yellowthroat		x		x			x		x

## Fall NOU Meeting - McCook

	Chase	Dundy	Frontier	Furnas	Gosper	Hayes	Hitchcock	Lincoln	Red Willow
Wilson's Warbler							x		x
Canada Warbler							x		
Spotted Towhee			x			x	x		x
Eastern Towhee			x						x
Chipping Sparrow			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Clay-colored Sparrow		x	x	x	x		x		x
Field Sparrow			x	x	x		x		x
Vesper Sparrow		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Lark Sparrow			x	x		x	x		
Lark Bunting		x	x			x			
Savannah Sparrow		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Grasshopper Sparrow		x	x	x					x
Le Conte's Sparrow									x
Song Sparrow	x		x	x			x	x	x
Lincoln's Sparrow			x	x			x	x	x
White-throated Sparrow									x
White-crowned Sparrow		x	x	x			x	x	x
Dark-eyed Junco	x						x		x
Northern Cardinal			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Blue Grosbeak			x						
Indigo Bunting			x				x		
Red-winged Blackbird			x					x	x
Western Meadowlark		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Yellow-headed Blackbird							x		x
Common Grackle			x	x	x		x	x	x
Brown-headed Cowbird									x
House Finch			x	x	x		x	x	x
Pine Siskin							x		
American Goldfinch	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
House Sparrow		x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Total species	17	46	98	53	35	36	92	51	75

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Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee:  
A Review of the First 25 Years (1985-2009)

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The year 2009 marked the 25th year of existence of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (NOURC). Its beginning can be traced to one person - Wayne Mollhoff. Wayne raised the need for a records committee in the spring of 1985 at the NOU Annual Meeting in Gretna, Nebraska. At the general membership meeting, then-president Gary Lingle appointed Wayne to form a committee to establish a Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee. Using procedures from several other states' records committees, Wayne developed a set of operating guidelines or by-laws specific to Nebraska. Further discussion of a records committee continued at the 1985 NOU Fall Meeting at Halsey. At this meeting, by-laws and nominees to serve on the NOU Records Committee were presented and approved by the NOU Board of Directors, thus establishing the NOURC. Wayne was selected to serve as its first chairperson.

The functions and methods of the NOURC are described in its by-laws, which are printed in this issue and can also be found on the NOU website: [www.noubirds.org](http://www.noubirds.org). The Committee's purpose is to provide a procedure for documenting unusual bird sightings and to establish a list of all documented birds found in Nebraska. The "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" was first published in 1988 (NOU Records Committee 1988) and has been updated three times (NOU Records Committee 1997, 2004, 2009) and appended nineteen times (Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Jorgensen 2001, 2002, 2003; Mollhoff 1989). A chronological listing of all NOURC reports published in *The Nebraska Bird Review* (NBR) is listed below (Appendix 1). Included in this listing are all NOURC accession numbers and NOURC members involved in the particular year of the NOURC Report.

The documentation of many species over the years has helped to clarify their status and distribution in Nebraska. As a result, the NOURC annually determines the frequency of occurrence for all species in Nebraska, categorizing them as regular (reported 9 or more of last 10 years), casual (reported 4-7 years of last 10 years), or accidental (reported less than 2 of last 10 years). The NOURC actively seeks documentation for birds listed as casual and accidental, and for any species not currently on the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska". These records are voted on by the Committee. This listing and a "rare birds" documentation form can be found on the NOU website (<http://www.noubirds.org/Birds/Birds.aspx>). The Committee also seeks documentation for any species out of normal date/range distribution. These records are filed without votes.

Since its inception, and through 2009, the NOURC has filed 1266 records of 263 species that are on the current "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009", and an additional 34 records of species/genera not currently on the "Official List" (hybrids, exotics, etc.) have also been accessioned (Appendix 2). In order for a record to be accepted, a minimum of six votes in favor is required with no more than one dissenting vote (NOU Records Committee 1986). Each account of an accepted

record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and initial(s) of observers. Reviews of documentations over the past 25 years have led to 51 species added and 3 species deleted from the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" as shown in Appendix 1.

Occasionally, as shown in Appendix 2, some documentations for a species will be voted on while others will be filed without voting. This reflects the Committee's continuing advances in understanding of the abundance of a certain species. There may have been few records for a species submitted and therefore the Committee requested documentations for that species. When enough sightings were reported, it became clear the species was common enough that the Committee no longer requested documentation for that species, hence continued documentations were filed without votes. This illustrates the important role people who submit records have in our understanding of the distribution and abundance of Nebraska birds.

All records of the NOURC are available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM), Lincoln, NE. Interested parties should contact the current NOU Librarian or NOURC Chair, whose addresses can be found in the latest issue of *The Nebraska Bird Review* and on the NOU website (<http://www.noubirds.org>).

#### CURRENT NOURC MEMBERS:

Mark A. Brogie (MAB), chair, Paul Dunbar (PD), Joseph A. Gubanyi (JAG), Bill Huser (BH), Joel G. Jorgensen (JGJ), Loren Padelford (LP), W. Ross Silcock (WRS), T.J. Walker (TJW)

#### PAST NOURC MEMBERS:

Tanya Bray (TB), R.G. Cortelyou (RGC), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ruth Green (RG), Alan G. Grenon (AGG), Robin Harding (RH), Alice Kenitz (AK), Thomas E. Labedz (TEL), Gary Lingle (GL), Wayne J. Mollhoff (WJM), Babs Padelford (BP), Bill Sharf (BS), John Sullivan (JS), Jerry Toll (JT), Rick Wright (RW).

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## Appendix 1

### Chronological Listing of NOURC Articles Published in *The Nebraska Bird Review* Showing Additions and Deletions to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" (1986-2009)

NOU Records Committee. 1986. By-laws of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 54(4):72-74.

Mollhoff WJ. 1987. First report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 55(4):79-85.

(Accessions #1-65) NOURC: WJM-Chair, TB, RGC, RG, AK, TEL, GL, BP.

NOU Records Committee. 1988. The official list of the birds of Nebraska.  
(406 species) Mollhoff WJ, compiler. NBR 56(4):86-96.

Mollhoff WJ. 1989. Second report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 57(2):42-47.

(Accessions #66-150) NOURC: WJM-Chair, TB, RG, AK, TEL, GL, BP.

Additions:

1. Great Black-backed Gull
2. Inca Dove
3. Ash-throated Flycatcher
4. Evening Grosbeak (inadvertently left off "Official List" - 1988).

Grenon AG. 1990. Third report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 58(4):90-97.

(Accessions #151-245) NOURC: AGG-Chair,

TB, MAB, JAG, AK, TEL, WJM, BP.

Additions:

1. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
2. Greater Sage-Grouse
3. Sage Sparrow

Grenon AG. 1991. Fourth report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 59(4):150-155.

(Accessions #246-294) NOURC: AGG-Chair,

TB, MAB, JAG, TEL, WJM, LP, RW.

Additions:

1. Vermilion Flycatcher

Deletions:

1. Carolina Chickadee
2. Brown Towhee

NOU Records Committee. 1995. List of species for which the Records Committee  
seeks documentation. Gubanyi JA, compiler. NBR 63(1):12-13.

Gubanyi JA. 1996a. 1992, 1993 (fifth) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 64(1):30-35.

(Accessions #295-358) NOURC: JAG-Chair,

MAB, RH, BH, JGJ, TEL, LP, BS, WRS.

-----, 1996b. 1994 (sixth) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 64(2):38-42.

(Accessions #359-360; 362; 364-366; 368-395) NOURC: JAG-Chair,  
MAB, RH, BH, JGJ, TEL, LP, WRS.

-----, 1996c. 1995 (seventh) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 64(4):132-138.

(Accessions #396-450; 480-490) NOURC: JAG-Chair,

MAB, RH, BH, JGJ, AK, TEL, LP, WRS.

Additions:

1. Ruff
2. Little Gull

3. Ross's Gull
4. Lesser Black-backed Gull
5. Glaucous-winged Gull
6. White-winged Dove
7. Mountain Chickadee
8. Virginia's Warbler

NOU Records Committee. 1997. The official list of the birds of Nebraska.  
(427 species) Gubanyi JA, compiler. NBR 65(1):3-16.

Brogie MA. 1997. 1996 (eighth) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 65(3):115-126.

(Accessions #451-479; 491-614) NOURC: MAB-Chair,  
RH,BH,JGJ,AK,TEL,LP,WRS.

Additions:

1. Yellow-billed Loon
2. Mew Gull
3. Band-tailed Pigeon
4. Acorn Woodpecker
5. Cave Swallow
6. Split of Northern Oriole into Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole

Brogie MA. 1998. 1997 (ninth) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 66(4):147-159.

(Accessions #615-760; 361; 363; 367) NOURC: MAB-Chair,  
SJD,RH,BH,JGJ,AK,TEL,WRS.

Additions:

1. Emperor Goose
2. Garganey
3. Curlew Sandpiper
4. Eurasian Collared-Dove
5. Split of Solitary Vireo into Blue-headed Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, and Plumbeous Vireo
6. (Above vireo split resulted in adding two species)
7. Scott's Oriole

Brogie MA. 1999. 1998 (tenth) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 67(4):141-152.

(Accessions #761-810, 812-868) NOURC: MAB-Chair,  
SJD,RH,BH,JGJ,AK,TEL,WRS.

Jorgensen JG. 2001. 1999 (11th) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 69(2):85-91.

(Accessions #869-872 Deleted, 875, 877-888, 890-891, 893-905, 907-909,  
911-913, 915-924, 926-929, 931-932, 934-935, 945, 981). NOURC:  
JGJ-Chair,SJD,RH,AK,TEL,BP,LP,JS.

Additions:

1. Glossy Ibis
2. White Ibis
3. Tufted Duck

4. Gray Flycatcher
5. Black-throated Gray Warbler
6. Hepatic Tanager
7. Brambling

Jorgensen JG. 2002. 2002 [sic] (12th) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
(mistitled 2000 report) NBR 70(2):84-90.

(Accessions #930, 933, 936-944, 946-967, 969-976, 978-980, 982-987,  
994-996). NOURC: JGJ-Chair, SJD, RH, AK, TEL, BP, LP, JS.

Additions:

1. Reddish Egret
2. Arctic Tern
3. Dusky Flycatcher
4. Black Rosy-Finch

Jorgensen JG. 2003. 2001 (13th) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 71(2):97-102.

(Accessions #874, 892, 906, 910, 914, 925, 968, 977, 988-993, 997-1010).  
NOURC: JGJ-Chair, SJD, AK, BP, LP, JS, WRS, JT.

Brogie MA. 2003. 2002 (14th) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 71(3):136-142.

(Accessions #811, 1011-1048). NOURC: MAB-Chair,  
SJD, JAG, BP, LP, WRS, JT.

Additions:

1. Costa's Hummingbird
2. Hermit Warbler

Brogie MA. 2004a. 2003 (15th) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 72(2): 59-65.

(Accessions #1049-1084). NOURC: MAB-Chair,  
JAG, JGJ, BP, LP, WRS, JT.

NOU Records Committee. 2004a. The official list of the birds of Nebraska: 2003.  
(447 species) Brogie MA, compiler. NBR 72(3):108-126.

NOU Records Committee. 2004b. Changes to the bylaws of the NOU Records  
Committee. Brogie MA, compiler. NBR 72(2):65.

-----, 2004c. Correction to the 2001 (13th) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 72(2):65.

-----, 2004d. Species for which the NOU Records Committee seeks documentation.  
Brogie MA, compiler. NBR 72(2):66-68.

Brogie MA. 2005. 2004 (16th) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 73(2):78-84.

(Accessions #1085-1109). NOURC: MAB-Chair,  
JAG, JGJ, BP, LP, WRS, JT.

Additions:

1. Cackling Goose (split of Canada Goose complex)



NOU Records Committee. 2005a. Correction to the 2002 NOURC report.  
NBR 73(2):84.

-----, 2005b. Correction to the official list of the birds of Nebraska: 2003.  
NBR 73(2):84.

Brogie MA. 2006. 2005 (17th) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 74(2):69-74.  
(Accessions #1110-1130). NOURC: MAB-Chair,  
JAG,JGJ,BP,LP,WRS,JT.

Brogie MA. 2007. 2006 (18th) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 75(3):86-94.  
(Accessions #1131-1175). NOURC: MAB-Chair,  
PD,JAG,JGJ,WRS,JT,TJW.

Brogie MA. 2008. 2007 (19th) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 76(3):111-119.  
(Accessions #1176-1205). NOURC: MAB-Chair,  
PD,JAG,BH,JGJ,LP,TJW.  
Additions:  
1. Frigatebird species  
2. Zone-tailed Hawk  
3. Royal Tern  
4. Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Brogie MA. 2009a. 2008 (20th) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 77(2):80-90.  
(Accessions #1206-1270 & 873). NOURC: MAB-Chair,  
PD,BH,JGJ,LP,WRS,TJW.

NOU Records Committee. 2009a. The official list of the birds of Nebraska: 2009.  
(454 species) Brogie MA, compiler. NBR 77(3):112-131.

NOU Records Committee. 2009b. Accidental and casual species for which the  
Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee seeks documentation.  
Brogie MA, compiler. NBR 77(3):131-132.

Brogie MA. 2009b. 2009 (21st) report of the NOU Records Committee.  
NBR 77(4):160-168.  
(Accessions #1271-1318). NOURC: MAB-Chair,  
PD,JAG,BH,LP,WRS,TJW.  
Additions:  
1. Magnificent Frigatebird (replaces Frigatebird species - 2008)  
2. Fish Crow  
3. Grace's Warbler  
Deletions:  
1. Frigatebird species

Appendix 2. A list of all species, genera and hybrids for which documented sightings were submitted from 1986-2009, showing NOURC action taken for each submission including whether or not it was accepted or filed without votes. Entries in bold are species that are not on the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska". Class designations are defined in the NOURC bylaws which can be found on pages 167-170 in this issue and on the NOU website: [www.noubirds.org](http://www.noubirds.org).

	Record's Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	7	1	4			2		
Taiga Bean-Goose	1					1		
<b>Pink-footed Goose</b>	1						1	
Greater White-fronted Goose	1					1		
Emperor Goose	1		1					
Ross's Goose	4					2		2
Brant	7		1			5	1	
<b>Barnacle Goose</b>	2						2	
<b>Mute Swan</b>	2						2	
Trumpeter Swan	1					1		
Tundra Swan	12	2	2			8		
<b>Egyptian Goose</b>	1						1	
Eurasian Wigeon	17		11			4	2	
American Black Duck	1					1		
Mallard	1							1
Blue-winged/Cinnamon Teal hybrid	1							1
Northern Pintail	7		2			3	2	
Tufted Duck	4		2			2		
Greater Scaup	2					1		1
King Eider	1		1					
Harlequin Duck	4		3			1		
Surf Scoter	3		3					
White-winged Scoter	6		2			3	1	
Black Scoter	11		3			8		
Bufflehead	4		1			3		
Barrow's Goldeneye	14		3			10	1	
Hooded Merganser	1							1
Red-breasted Merganser	1							1
<b>Chukar</b>	1						1	
Gray Partridge	1		1					
Greater Sage-Grouse	1					1		
Sharp-tailed Grouse	2						1	1
Greater Prairie-Chicken	1					1		
Red-throated Loon	20		7			12	1	
Pacific Loon	25		6			16	2	1
Common Loon	1							1
Yellow-billed Loon	10		4			6		
Red-necked Grebe	16		2			12	1	1

Appendix 2	Records Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Eared Grebe	1					1		
Clark's Grebe	16	1	1			13	1	
Brown Pelican	7		5			2		
Neotropic Cormorant	12		6			5	1	
Anhinga	5		1			4		
Magnificent Frigatebird	1					1		
<i>Fregata</i> species	2		1			1		
American Bittern	1						1	
Least Bittern	2		1					1
Great Egret	3					2		1
Snowy Egret	4		1			3		
Tricolored Heron	2		1			1		
Reddish Egret	2		1			1		
Cattle Egret	1		1					
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1					1		
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	10	1	1			4		4
White Ibis	6		3			3		
Glossy Ibis	13		3			8	2	
White-faced Ibis	1						1	
<i>Plegadis</i> species	1					1		
Roseate Spoonbill	2					2		
Wood Stork	3		1				2	
Turkey Vulture	1						1	
Osprey	1							1
Swallow-tailed Kite	2						2	
White-tailed Kite	5		2			3		
Mississippi Kite	10	1	3			3	1	2
Harris's Hawk	1					1		
Broad-winged Hawk	2						1	1
Zone-tailed Hawk	1					1		
Red-tailed Hawk	1							1
Ferruginous Hawk	1					1		
Rough-legged Hawk	1						1	
Golden Eagle	1							1
Merlin	2							2
Gyr Falcon	5	2				1	2	
Peregrine Falcon	2						1	1
Yellow Rail	5		1			2	2	
Black Rail	6			1			5	
King Rail	11		3	2		3	3	
Common Moorhen	6		3			3		
Sandhill Crane	2		1					1
Common Crane	13		9			4		
Whooping Crane	3		2					1
American Golden-Plover	1						1	
Snowy Plover	12		3			9		
Mountain Plover	6		2			3	1	

Appendix 2	Records Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Black-necked Stilt	8		5			3		
Greater Yellowlegs	1					1		
Eskimo Curlew	1						1	
Whimbrel	8		1			6	1	
Hudsonian Godwit	2					2		
Ruddy Turnstone	1					1		
Red Knot	12		4			4	1	3
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1					1		
Western Sandpiper	1					1		
Least Sandpiper	1					1		
Baird's Sandpiper	2					2		
Pectoral Sandpiper	1					1		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	4					4		
Curlew Sandpiper	3		1			2		
<i>Caladris</i> species	1					1		
Ruff	7		2			5		
Short-billed Dowitcher	6		4			2		
Long-billed Dowitcher	2					1		1
American Woodcock	1					1		
Red-necked Phalarope	1						1	
Red Phalarope	12		6			5	1	
Black-legged Kittiwake	15	1	6			8		
Ivory Gull	1						1	
Sabine's Gull	32		6			24		2
Black-headed Gull	2					1	1	
Little Gull	18		3			15		
Ross's Gull	6		4			2		
Laughing Gull	14		3			9	2	
Mew Gull	21		8			12		1
California Gull	6		3			3		
Thayer's Gull	24		3			11	6	4
Iceland Gull	22		5			14	3	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	30		4			25	1	
<b>Slaty-backed Gull</b>	2						2	
Glaucous-winged Gull	3		1			1	1	
Glaucous Gull	16		3			9	3	1
Glaucous/Herring Gull hybrid	1							1
Great Black-backed Gull	14		5			7	1	1
Gull species (unknown genus)	1							1
Caspian Tern	1					1		
Common Tern	3		1			2		
Arctic Tern	6		1		3	1	1	
Forster's Tern	1					1		
Royal Tern	2		1				1	
<b>Black Skimmer</b>	1						1	
Pomarine Jaeger	13		4		4	5		
Parasitic Jaeger	3					2	1	

Appendix 2	Records Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Long-tailed Jaeger	2		1			1		
<i>Stercorarius</i> species	3					3		
Band-tailed Pigeon	7		5			2		
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5		1			4		
<b>Ringed Turtle-Dove</b>	1						1	
White-winged Dove	19		11			6	1	1
Inca Dove	12		8			4		
Common Ground-Dove	3					2	1	
<b>Monk Parakeet</b>	1						1	
<b>Greater Roadrunner</b>	1						1	
Groove-billed Ani	1		1					
Barn Owl	1							1
<b>Flammulated Owl</b>	1						1	
<b>Whiskered Screech-Owl</b>	1							1
Great Horned Owl	1							1
Snowy Owl	4							4
Burrowing Owl	1							1
Barred Owl	1		1					
Long-eared Owl	2							2
Short-eared Owl	1							1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	1						1
Common Poorwill	1							1
Whip-poor-will	1					1		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2					1	1	
<i>Archilochus</i> species	1							1
Costa's Hummingbird	2		1			1		
Calliope Hummingbird	6		3			3		
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	12		3			8	1	
Rufous Hummingbird	11		4			4	2	1
Lewis's Woodpecker	7		2			2	1	2
Acorn Woodpecker	2		2					
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2		1					1
Williamson's Sapsucker	1	1						
Red-naped Sapsucker	4		3			1		
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	1					1		
Pileated Woodpecker	5		2			2	1	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1					1		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2					1	1	
Acadian Flycatcher	1					1		
Alder Flycatcher	2			1			1	
Hammond's Flycatcher	13		2			9	2	
Gray Flycatcher	4					4		
Dusky Flycatcher	9					5	4	
Cordilleran Flycatcher	1			1				
Say's Phoebe	1					1		
Vermilion Flycatcher	1		1					
Ash-throated Flycatcher	2		2					

Appendix 2	Records Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Western Kingbird	1		1					
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	9		6			2		1
Loggerhead Shrike	1					1		
White-eyed Vireo	4		1			3		
Plumbeous Vireo	2					1		1
Cassin's Vireo	9	1				8		
Blue-headed Vireo	2		1			1		
Philadelphia Vireo	3					3		
Steller's Jay	6		3			3		
Pinyon Jay	3		2			1		
Clark's Nutcracker	8		2			6		
Fish Crow	2					2		
Chihuahuan Raven	1					1		
Common Raven	4					1	3	
<i>Corvus</i> (raven) species	1					1		
Cave Swallow	2		2					
Carolina Chickadee	1						1	
Mountain Chickadee	13	1	3			7	2	
Tufted Titmouse	1							1
Pygmy Nuthatch	1							1
Rock Wren	3		1			1		1
Canyon Wren	5		1	1		3		
Carolina Wren	1		1					
Bewick's Wren	7		2			4	1	
Winter Wren	2			1		1		
Marsh Wren	2					2		
American Dipper	1						1	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2						1	1
Western Bluebird	1						1	
Mountain Bluebird	1		1					
Townsend's Solitaire	2							2
Hermit Thrush	3		1			1	1	
American Robin	1							1
Varied Thrush	15		11			4		
Sage Thrasher	9		6			3		
Curve-billed Thrasher	7		5			2		
American Pipit	1					1		
Sprague's Pipit	7		2			5		
Bohemian Waxwing	3		2			1		
Phainopepla	1		1					
Blue-winged Warbler	7			1		5	1	
Golden-winged Warbler	4	1				2		1
Nashville Warbler	1					1		
Virginia's Warbler	5					5		
Northern Parula	2					2		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2					2		
Cape May Warbler	3	2	1					

Appendix 2	Records Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Black-throated Blue Warbler	4	1	1			2		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1					1		
Black-throated Gray Warbler	5		1			3	1	
Townsend's Warbler	8					6	2	
Hermit Warbler	1					1		
Blackburnian Warbler	4		1			2		1
Yellow-throated Warbler	2		1					1
Grace's Warbler	1		1					
Pine Warbler	13		5			4	4	
Prairie Warbler	7		2			5		
Palm Warbler	3					2		1
Bay-breasted Warbler	1					1		
Prothonotary Warbler	3					2		1
Worm-eating Warbler	8		1	2		4	1	
Ovenbird	1					1		
Connecticut Warbler	5		2			3		
Mourning Warbler	2					2		
MacGillivray's Warbler	7	1	2			1	2	1
Common Yellowthroat	1					1		
Hooded Warbler	7		1			3	2	1
Canada Warbler	1					1		
Green-tailed Towhee	2		1			1		
Spotted Towhee	1							1
Canyon Towhee	2						2	
Cassin's Sparrow	5		1			4		
Chipping Sparrow	2						1	1
Brewer's Sparrow	1							1
Vesper Sparrow	1					1		
Black-throated Sparrow	6		5			1		
Sage Sparrow	2					1	1	
Savannah Sparrow	3					2	1	
Baird's Sparrow	8		1			3	4	
Henslow's Sparrow	10		2	3		2	2	1
Nelson's Sparrow	5		1	1		2		1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1							1
Golden-crowned Sparrow	6		4			2		
Dark-eyed Junco	3		1			1		1
McCown's Longspur	2		2					
Smith's Longspur	7					5	2	
Chestnut-collared Longspur	1		1					
Hepatic Tanager	2		2					
Summer Tanager	3		2				1	
Western Tanager	2							2
Northern Cardinal	1							1
Rose-breasted/Black-headed Grosbeak hybrid	1					1		
Indigo Bunting	1						1	
Painted Bunting	8		4			3	1	

Appendix 2	Records Filed	Accepted I-S	Accepted I-P	Accepted I-R	Accepted II	Accepted III	Non-Accepted	Filed w/o Votes
Red-winged Blackbird	1							1
Brewer's Blackbird	1					1		
Common Grackle	1							1
Great-tailed Grackle	1						1	
Audubon's Oriole	1						1	
Scott's Oriole	4					2	2	
Brambling	4		1			2	1	
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	7		1			2	1	3
Black Rosy-Finch	5		1			4		
Pine Grosbeak	5		2			3		
Purple Finch	1							1
Cassin's Finch	3	1				2		
Red Crossbill	4		2			1		1
White-winged Crossbill	9		4			4		1
Common Redpoll	2					1		1
Lesser Goldfinch	15		9			3	3	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	1		1					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>97</b>

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The following procedural guidelines, or "by-laws", were revised and approved by the NOURC and the NOU Board of Directors (2010).

## BY-LAWS OF THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION (N.O.U.) RECORDS COMMITTEE

### I. NAME.

The name of the committee is the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (N.O.U.R.C.), hereafter referred to as "the committee".

### II. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY.

This committee exists to serve the ornithological community of Nebraska, not vice versa. It exists to promote and help maintain a high degree of quality and integrity in Nebraska ornithology. All Nebraska ornithologists should understand this and realize that for the committee to achieve these goals, it needs the support of all interested persons. The committee should be regarded as a logical, convenient clearinghouse in regards to records of Nebraska birds. All ornithologists, professional and amateur, are invited



and encouraged to use it as such. The committee should not necessarily regard itself, nor be regarded by others, as infallible, and committee decisions should not be seen as reflecting in any way upon the competency of individual observers. Any of its decisions are subject to review upon submission of new evidence. Both individual observers and the committee should feel free to engage in an ongoing dialogue in the open literature. Individuals are also free to independently publish their findings and the committee should welcome this as an alternate way of contributing to Nebraska ornithology.

III. PURPOSES.

- A. To provide a standardized systematic procedure for routinely reviewing and documenting unusual reports of birds in Nebraska in a fair and impartial manner.
- B. To compile and keep current an official list of the birds of documented occurrence in Nebraska and to assemble and maintain a file of the documentary evidence, to be available for use by researchers in the future.
- C. To provide guidance and assistance in methods of improving identification and documentation, with the goal of improving both the quality and quantity of our knowledge of the birds of Nebraska.

IV. DUTIES.

- A. The committee shall publish an "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska".
- B. The official list will include all those species whose occurrence has been reported in Nebraska, the species categorized as specified in paragraph VII, D.
- C. The committee shall keep the official list current.
- D. The committee shall publish a list of species for which details are requested with every sighting reported.
- E. The committee shall publish a summary of reports submitted and actions taken on those reports at least annually.
- F. The committee shall establish and maintain a file of substantiating evidence documenting the occurrence and identification of the birds reported.

V. MEMBERSHIP.

- A. The committee shall be composed of at least seven members.
- B. If possible, members shall be chosen from across the state, to help avoid a regional bias.
- C. Members shall be persons familiar with the birds of Nebraska and experienced in field identification.
- D. New members shall be appointed by the committee with the approval of the N.O.U. Board of Directors.
- E. The committee shall select its own officers, to include at least a chairperson.

- F. Members shall serve 3-year terms, with one-third of the members' terms expiring each year so that continuity of membership is maintained. A member may serve no more than two consecutive terms, followed by a year off before being re-elected to the committee.
- G. The chairperson will not be subject to term limits, but may be removed from the committee by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- H. The chairperson shall be allowed to vote on records.
- I. The chairperson shall be a member of the Board of Directors.
- J. Two-thirds of the members shall constitute a quorum for voting on procedural matters.
- K. Since the business of the committee must be conducted in a timely fashion, if a member is consistently unable to work within the schedule, that member may be replaced.
- L. By a two-thirds vote, the committee may remove a member for failure to review records or other just cause.
- M. The committee may make and amend its rules as necessary, so long as they do not conflict with the rules and by-laws of the N.O.U.

#### VI. PROCEDURES.

- A. All reports submitted shall be referred to the chairperson.
- B. The committee prefers that reports be submitted on committee forms, although this is not absolutely necessary.
- C. The chairperson will review the report and assign it accession and file numbers.
- D. The chairperson may request additional information from the reporter, but if submitted it will be identified as such to keep it separable from the original report.
- E. The chairperson will submit copies to the committee members to review. The original material will be retained in the file.
- F. The members will individually review the material, make comments on it and return it to the chairperson. Members may indicate their vote on a written ballot sheet or vote electronically, returning their votes and comments to the chairperson promptly.
- G. If the vote is inconclusive, or if new evidence is submitted, the report may be recirculated for another vote or discussed at a meeting.
- H. When voting has been completed and a decision reached, the chairperson shall notify the reporter and the committee members of the decision reached and of the reasons for the decision.
- I. Decision on reports submitted will be published in the Nebraska Bird Review at least annually.
- J. A permanent file shall be maintained by the committee, which shall include all reports submitted, actions taken by the committee, comments, documentary evidence, photos, etc. The original material will be placed in a file in the N.O.U. library archives and maintained for use by anyone with a legitimate research interest. The chairperson should keep and maintain a notebook of record information for his/her own use.
- K. Any record, present or past, may be submitted to the committee for review. Reports already acted upon by the committee may be re-submitted if new evidence becomes available.

- L. The committee may send material to an outside authority for an opinion or evaluation.
- M. The committee may meet as necessary. A meeting may be called by the chairperson or by two-thirds of the members.
- N. The committee recommends as strongly as possible that specimens of rare birds taken in Nebraska be prepared and retained as voucher specimens in a public college or university museum collection in the state, where they will be assured proper curation and be available for study by researchers. The committee recommends the State Museum of Natural History at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln as the logical repository for such specimens.

## VII. VOTING.

- A. All records need a minimum of six votes to be categorized.
- B. To be placed in a Class I, II, or III, a record must be voted 6-0, 6-1, 7-0, 7-1, 8-0, 8-1, etc., in that category.
- C. Only those species classified as I, II, or III will be recognized as accepted records on the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska".
- D. In compiling the official list, as well as voting on individual reports, the following categories will be used:

- Class I: A record for which there is an adequately labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for study.
- Class II: A sight record for which there is acceptable documentation provided independently by three or more observers.
- Class III: A sight record for which there is acceptable documentation provided independently by one or two observers.
- Class IV: A record which is probably correct, but not beyond doubt.
- Class V: A record with insufficient evidence submitted to support the stated identification.
- Class VI: Probably a released or escaped bird, probably mistaken identification, or otherwise unacceptable record.

- E. Records will be assigned to the highest category agreed upon by the committee with no more than one dissenting vote. If a record is circulated among 8 committee members and receives 2 votes as Class III, and 6 votes as Class IV, it will be categorized as a Class IV record. Similarly, if a record receives 3 Class III, 4 Class IV, and 1 Class V vote, it will also be categorized as a Class IV record. If it receives 3 Class III, 2 Class IV, and 2 Class V votes, it will be categorized as a Class V record.
- F. Members of the committee may vote upon their own records.

Mark A. Brogie - NOURC Chair  
508 Seeley, Box 316  
Creighton, NE 68729

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