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Fall Field Report, August–November 2010

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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
JR: Justin Rink, Omaha
JRi: Juanita Rice, Fairmont
JT: Jerry Toll, Omaha
JWH: John W. Hall, Omaha
KCR: Katherine Crawford-Rose, Bellevue
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell
KDy: Keith Dyche, Shenandoah, IA
KS: Kent Skaggs, Kearney
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.