

3-2011

Nebraska Bird Review (March 2011) 79(1),
WHOLE ISSUE

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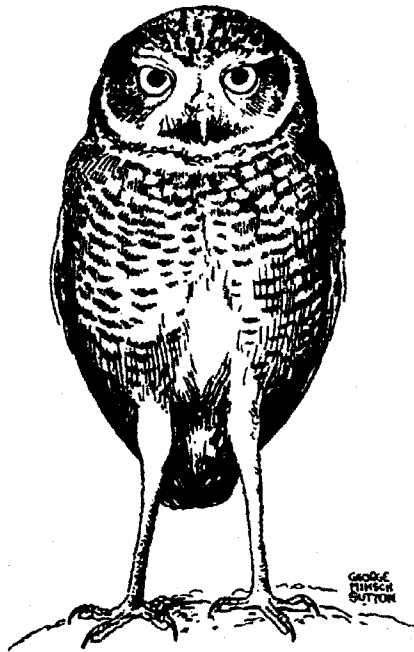
"*Nebraska Bird Review* (March 2011) 79(1), WHOLE ISSUE" (2011). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 1159.
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The Nebraska Bird Review

A Magazine of Ornithology of the
Nebraska Region

Volume 79 March 2011 Number 1



Published by the
Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.
Founded 1899

Janis M. Paseka, Editor
Joseph Gubanyi, Ph. D., Technical Editor

SSSN 0028-1816

NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION TREASURER'S REPORT December 31, 2010

	General Funds	Breeding Bird Atlas	Scholarship Fund	Endowment Fund	Total
CHECKING					
Jan. 1, 2010 Balance - Checking	\$1,217.84	\$229.57	-\$431.28	\$500.00	\$1,516.13
RECEIPTS					
Memberships	2,205.00				2,205.00
Subscriptions	285.00				285.00
Donations-Projector	200.00				200.00
Donations-NBR	564.00				564.00
Donations-Quilt	60.00				60.00
Donations-General/Scholarship	400.00		1,150.00		1,550.00
Spring Meeting-Chadron-2010	4,512.50				4,512.50
Fall Meeting-McCook-2010	1,490.00				1,490.00
NG&P Atlas Grant		11,450.50			11,450.50
Transfer from Endowment CD	500.00				500.00
Transfer from Savings	2,500.00		716.28		3,216.28
Sub-total Receipts	\$12,716.50	\$11,450.50	\$1,866.28	\$0.00	\$26,033.28
DISBURSEMENTS					
Spring Meeting-Chadron-2010	4,224.00		285.00		4,509.00
Fall Meeting-Valentine-2009	12.40				12.40
Fall Meeting-McCook-2010	1,128.25		209.42		1,337.67
NBR-Sept/Dec 2009, Mar 2010	2,058.17				2,058.17
Newsletter - Printing	556.05				556.05
Postage	629.34				629.34
Projector	713.68				713.68
Insurance-net of refund	226.00				226.00
Website	1,599.95				1,599.95
Transfer to Endowment CD				500.00	500.00
Reimburse Mollhoff-Atlas #2		11,846.14			11,846.14
Sub-total Disbursements	\$11,147.84	\$11,846.14	\$494.42	\$500.00	\$23,988.40
Dec. 31, 2010 Balance-Checking	\$2,786.50	-\$166.07	\$940.58	\$0.00	\$3,561.01
SAVINGS					
Jan. 1, 2010 Balance - Savings	\$6,401.68	\$120.43	\$1,375.20		\$7,897.31
Interest	6.94				6.94
Transfer to checking	-2,500.00		-716.28		-3,216.28
Transfer from Endowment CD	259.57				259.57
Dec. 31, 2010 Balance - Savings	\$4,168.19	\$120.43	\$658.92		\$4,947.54
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT					
Jan. 1, 2010 Balance - CDs	\$6,556.63	\$6,761.55		\$34,560.26	\$47,878.44
Principal Additions				500.00	500.00
Transfer to Savings				-259.57	-259.57
Transfer to Checking				-500.00	-500.00
Interest Received	59.98	27.22		525.42	612.62
Dec. 31, 2010 Balance - CDs	\$6,616.61	\$6,788.77		\$34,826.11	\$48,231.49
Maturity	2/20/10	6/20/10		6/27/10	
CD Annual Rates	0.50%	0.30%		1.00%	
Endowment Principal				\$34,652.00	
Grand Total					\$56,740.04



Peregrine Falcon, State Capitol Building,
Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 20 April 2011.
Photo by Joel Jorgensen.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hormel Park,
Fremont, Dodge Co., 14 May 2011.
Photo by Ken Shuster.



Sedge Wren, Shoemaker Marsh,
Lancaster Co., 31 May 2011.
Photo by Kenneth Carnes.



Spotted Towhee, Audubon Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co., 5 Jan 2010. Photo by
Gordon Warrick.



Female Northern Harrier carrying small mammal (voles are their typical prey), Branched Oak Lake SRA, Lancaster Co., 6 Mar 2011. Photo by Keith Lacy.



Long-eared Owl, Holmes Lake, Lancaster Co., 4 Jan 2011. Photo by Rick Eades.

Mississippi Kite in Scottsbluff
near nest site, Scotts Bluff Co.,
19 June 2011.
Photo by Kathy DeLara.



Immature Loggerhead
Shrike, Rush Lake,
Garden Co., 12 June 2011.
Photo by Dan Leger.



Snow Bunting, Pawnee Lake,
Lancaster Co., 18 Dec 2010.
Photo by Joel Jorgensen.

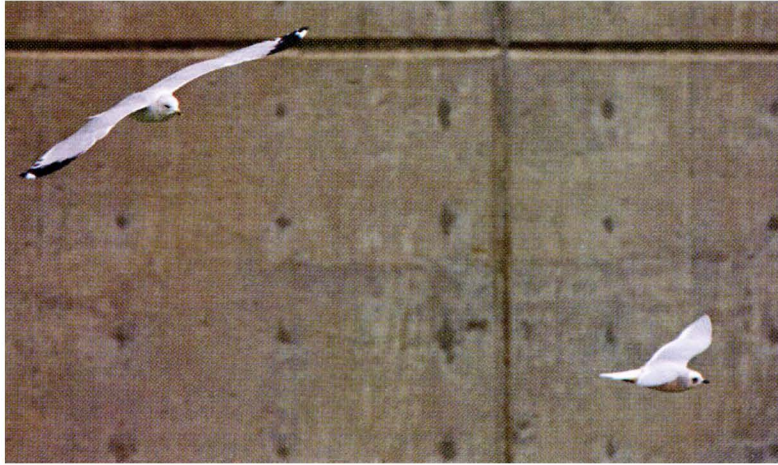


Piping Plover, Green Acres WPA, Clay
Co., 21 Apr 2011. Photo by Neal Ratzlaff.
The bird nested on a sandbar in Lewis and
Clark Lake, Knox Co., and was banded as
an adult in the summer of 2010.



Green Heron on nest, Norfolk (behind
Super 8 Motel), Madison Co., 22 May
2011 (NOU meeting weekend). Photo
by Jan Johnson.

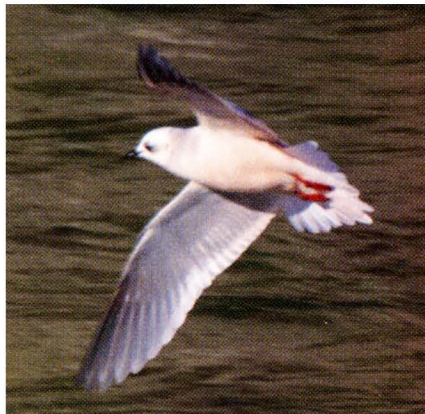




Ring-billed Gull with Ross's Gull, showing size difference, Gavins Point Dam, Cedar Co., 6 Dec 2010. Photo by Roger Dietrich.



Juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake, Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 5 Dec 2010. Photo by Joel Jorgensen.



Ross's Gull, Gavins Point Dam, Cedar Co., 6 Dec 2010. Photo by Roger Dietrich.



Adult Lesser Black-backed Gull, Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 27 March 2011. Photo by Paul Dunbar.

WINTER FIELD REPORT, December 2010 to February 2011

Compiled by W. Ross Silcock
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INTRODUCTION

This winter was pretty much a rerun of last, although perhaps not as severe; I could have used last winter's Introduction again. If there was an overall theme, it would be the widespread occurrences of species that would not be expected to linger into late December and January. Several species of waterbirds, notably Blue-winged Teal, scoters, Ruddy Duck, Common Loon, and Horned and Red-necked Grebes were in this category. Large numbers of Western Grebes were still at Lake McConaughy in early January, and surprisingly late individuals of Black-crowned Night-Heron and *Plegadis* ibis were located. Mourning Doves were in good numbers in the southeast, and, among passerines, Hermit Thrushes were in good numbers, also. Late surprises among sparrows included Clay-colored, Chipping, and Field. Other daringly-late passerines included two (!) Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Ogallala in February, and a Wilson's Warbler in December in Scotts Bluff Co. Things are happening with some woodpeckers; for the second consecutive winter, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were everywhere, and Pileateds continue to expand their range northward in the Missouri Valley. This was a great year for Snow Buntings, even better than last year's good showing.

Rarities were scarce; prominent of course was the carryover Ross's Gull from fall, but almost unbelievable was another Ross's Gull in Lancaster Co. in early December while the Gavins Point bird was still present. Also a carryover story, but apparently ending sadly, was the Brown-headed Nuthatch saga in Lincoln; 2 birds were last reported in mid-December, and the last sighting was at the end of January. Otherwise, rare birds were the Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco and a small group of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches, both in Scotts Bluff Co.

ABBREVIATIONS

BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co
CBC: Christmas Bird Count
Cem: Cemetery
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co
GPD: Gavins Point Dam, Cedar Co
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co
LO: L Ogallala, Keith Co
m.ob.: many observers
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge

PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co
Res: Reservoir
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)
SP: State Park

OBSERVERS

AD: Ann Duey, Scottsbluff
ADG: Alex DeGarmo, Greenwood
AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering
AP: Andrew Pierson, Gering
ARy: Al Reyer, Bellevue
B&DW: Bruce & Donna Walgren, Casper, WY
B&KG: Bob and Kathi Gerten, Burwell
BF: Bill Fink, Denver, CO
BFi: Betsy Finch, Elmwood
BFH: Bill F. Huser, South Sioux City
BG: Betty Grenon, Bellevue
CD: Curtis Dykstra, Grand Rapids, MI
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue
CM: Connie McCartney, Grand Island
D&CN: Don and Colleen Noecker, Albion
D&JP: Don and Jan Paseka, Ames
DC: Doug Chapman, Sioux Falls, SD
DH: Dave Heidt, Norfolk
DL: Dan Leger, Lincoln
EB: Elliott Bedows, Bellevue
GR: Gary Roberts, Fremont
GS: Greg Stoiber, Bellevue
JC: John Carlini, Lincoln
JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Lincoln
JH: Jill Holmquist, Lincoln
JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield
JLC: Jill Liske-Clark, Lincoln
JLL: Jeanine L. Lackey, Doniphan
JO: Jim Ochsner, Ogallala
JR: Justin Rink, Omaha
JT: Jerry Toll, Omaha
JWH: John W. Hall, Omaha
KCR: Kathleen Crawford-Rose, Bellevue
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell
KDi: Kenny Dinan, Grand Island
KDy: Keith Dyche, Shenandoah, IA
KS: Kent Skaggs, Kearney
KSc: Kathy Schwery, Plattsmouth
KZ: Karla Zeutenhorst, Yankton, SD
L&BP: Loren and Babs Padelford, Bellevue
LD: Linda Deeds, North Platte
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln

LJH: Luke J. Hamilton, Bridgeport
LR: Lanny Randolph, Minden
LRB: Linda R. Brown, Lincoln
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton
MS: Malcolm Swan, Rolla, MO
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings
PJ: Pete Janzen, Wichita, KS
PR: Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA
PS: Phyllis Salyards, Hastings
R&SW: Ron and Susan Whitney, Lincoln
RB: Roland Barth, Bellevue
RD: Roger Dietrich, Yankton, SD
RE: Rick Eades, Lincoln
RH: Robin Harding, Minden
RJ: Rita Jensen, Hooper
RL: Roger Lawson, Curtis
RSt: Ruth Stearns, Lincoln
RW: Rick Wright, Vancouver, BC
SJD: Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA
SM: Steve Morris, Grand Island
SS: Shari Schwartz, Lincoln
SW: Scott Wessel, Norfolk
TH: Tim Hajda, Broken Bow
TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady
VC: Virginia Clark, North Platte
WF: William Flack, Kearney
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: The single bird at an Omaha pond, Nebraska's 11th and by far the latest date, was last seen 8 Dec (D&JP).

Greater White-fronted Goose: The 4 in Kearney Co 9 Feb (TH) was an unusual mid-winter sighting, but the few birds that wintered in Scotts Bluff Co (KD) provided only the 9th Panhandle winter record. First large group noted was the 175 at North Platte SL 16 Feb (TJW).

Snow Goose: Early movement was noted 7 Feb, with "waves" flying north in Hall Co (JLL). Best count "for many years" was the 50,000 in Sarpy Co 19 Feb (L&BP).

Ross's Goose: Reports were routine; these birds can be picked out of most Snow Goose flocks with some patience.

Cackling Goose: Best count was the 5042 on the North Platte CBC 18 Dec (fide TJW). Five were in Lancaster Co 12 Jan (LE); numbers are fewest eastward.

Canada Goose: Best counts were in Dec, with 25,000 at Sutherland Res 7 Dec (TJW), 19,614 on the Grand Island CBC 18 Dec (fide CM), and 12,464 on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec (fide AK). The 9606 on the Omaha CBC 18 Dec was a count high (fide BG). A good wintering tally for the location was the 4600 on Salt Creek, Lincoln, 9 Feb (LE).

Mute Swan: One at Wehrspann L, Sarpy Co, in late Nov was still present 1 Dec (RSt), and another at Grand Island 16 Jan is apparently the last of a small group that has been there for many years (SM).

Trumpeter Swan: Best counts of wintering groups were moderate: 54 at Calamus Res 18 Jan (fide JGJ) and 30 at LO 8 Jan (PD, BF).

Wood Duck: A rare mid-winter surprise, especially in the north, was a male at the Broken Bow SL 21 Jan (TH).

Gadwall: The 8 at North Platte SL 6 Jan (TJW) were tardy; late fall dates and early spring dates for most duck species in Nebraska are determined by timing of fall freeze-up and spring thaw.

American Wigeon: The 50 at LO 11 Jan (TJW) was a good number for the date; a few overwinter below LO most winters.

American Black Duck: Apparently 3 different individuals were reported in the extreme east, where expected though rare: singles were in Sarpy Co and Cass Co 16 Jan, the latter seen again 22 Jan (L&BP), and in Omaha 22 Jan (CNK). There are very few reports westerly; one with Mallards in Keith Co 2 Dec (TJW) was only about the 5th winter record for the western half of the state.

Mallard: Sutherland Res had its usual large late fall flock this year, a bit larger than most years, estimated at 50,000-80,000 on 9 Jan (PD, BF), up from the 25,000 there 7 Dec (TJW) and an excellent count for Jan. Best CBC tally was 10,828 on the Ames CBC 14 Dec (fide D&JP).

Blue-winged Teal: Unexpected in a Winter Report, this warm-weather bird was represented by one on the Omaha CBC 18 Dec, a new species for this long-running CBC (fide BG). Fewer than 6 records exist for Dec-Jan for Nebraska.

Northern Shoveler: This species was late in fall and early in spring, taking advantage of sewage lagoons in both cases: 8 were at North Platte SL 6 Jan (TJW) and 24 showed up at the Scottsbluff SL 18 Feb (KD).

Northern Pintail: Reports were routine for this uncommon winter visitor and abundant statewide spring migrant.

Green-winged Teal: Reports were routine for this uncommon winter visitor and common statewide spring migrant.

Canvasback: LO often has a few overwintering; this year 30 were there 11 Jan (TJW).

Redhead: As with Canvasback, a few winter at LO most years; this year 12 were there 11 Jan (TJW), down from the 165 there 2 Jan (fide SJD).

Ring-necked Duck: As with Canvasback and Redhead, a few winter at LO most years; this year 22 were there 11 Jan (TJW), down from the 197 present 2 Jan (fide SJD).

Greater Scaup: Best count was an excellent 65 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD). The only other reports were of singles in Johnson Co 10 Dec (CNK) and on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec, a new species for the CBC (fide LRB).

Lesser Scaup: As with Canvasback, Redhead, and Ring-necked Duck, a few winter at LO most years; this year 16 were there 11 Jan (TJW), down from the 331 present 2 Jan (fide SJD).

Surf Scoter: 1-2 were at LO 1-8 Jan (SJD, PD, BF), with an adult female and a juvenile male present 2 Jan (SJD). This is only the 2nd record for Jan.

White-winged Scoter: A single juvenile male was at LO 1-8 Jan (SJD, PD, BF), only the 5th record for Jan.

- Black Scoter:** There were two reports: a single was at BOL 3 Dec (JGJ), and a juvenile was at LO 2-8 Jan (SJD, PD, BF), the latter only the 4th record for Jan.
- Long-tailed Duck:** Completing the "sea duck slam" (scoters and Long-tailed Duck) for the period was an excellent showing of this species, with 18 reported in all. Up to 3 were at Capitol Beach L, Lincoln, 1-10 Dec (LE, JGJ, RSt), including 2 immatures and an adult male (JGJ), and 4 were at L Bennington, Douglas Co, 3 Dec (JR). LO hosted at least 11 different birds 22 Dec (BF fide PD) through 8 Jan (SJD, PD, BF); on 2 Jan 6 birds were on LM (SJD).
- Bufflehead:** The 74 at LM 2 Jan (fide SJD) was a good count for the date.
- Common Goldeneye:** The 630 at Sutherland Res 3 Jan (SJD) was a good count. Despite its dull yellow bill, a female at Capitol Beach L, Lincoln, 5 Dec was identified as this species by head shape (JGJ); females are sometimes difficult to separate from female Barrow's Goldeneyes because of this.
- Barrow's Goldeneye:** None were reported; this is a rare but regular winter visitor in the North Platte Valley, notably at LO.
- Hooded Merganser:** Rather early for the number were the 38 in Lancaster Co 25 Feb (LE).
- Common Merganser:** Best count was the 12,235 at Sutherland Res 1 Jan (SJD). This is close to the maximum number that is reported from either Sutherland or LM in mid-winter most years.
- Red-breasted Merganser:** A few can be found with patience at LM among the Common Mergansers; 15 were on LO 1-2 Jan (SJD).
- Ruddy Duck:** There are few Jan records, so 22 at Carter L, Omaha, 5 Jan (CNK) were unexpected. Also rather late were 4 at LM 1-3 Jan (SJD). Rather early for spring were 2 at BOL 23 Feb (RSt).
- Northern Bobwhite:** Northerly reports were of 12 on the Calamus-Loup CBC 28 Dec (fide DH) and 17 near Broken Bow 1 Jan (TH).
- Gray Partridge:** At the south and west edges of the current ne. Nebraska range were 8 birds near Elgin, Antelope Co, 15 Jan (MB) and 6 in a disked corn field in Holt Co 12 Feb (BFH, MB, DH).
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Large flocks reported were the 70+ in Antelope Co 15 Jan, the observer's "largest for many years" (MB) and 57 in Washington Co 26 Dec (JT).
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Reports were routine for this mostly northern and western prairie resident.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Best counts were 114 on the Beaver Valley CBC 19 Dec (fide D&CN) and 76 in one flock in Lincoln Co on the North Platte CBC 18 Dec (fide TJW). Impressive at the e. edge of the range were the 64 at Buckskin Hills WMA, Dixon Co, 14 Dec (BFH). A surprise was one in restored tall grass prairie on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide LRB); there are nearby populations in w. Lancaster Co and se. Butler Co. At the latter location 17 were counted 23 Feb (CNK). Nine anxious males were on a booming ground near Winnetoon as early as 9 Feb (MB).
- Wild Turkey:** Reports were routine for this widespread resident.
- Common Loon:** One at LM 1-2 Jan (SJD) was one of only 3 Jan records; there are 3 for Feb and an overwintering record from LM also. One at BOL 3-4 Dec (LE) was also rather tardy.
- Pied-billed Grebe:** One in Lincoln 23 Feb (LE) was the earliest spring arrival on record. As many as 14 were at LM 2 Jan (fide SD), and 2 were still there

- 11 Jan (TJW); LM is the only location where wintering has occurred, albeit rarely, and there are 2 early Feb records elsewhere.
- Horned Grebe:** Only the 7th Jan record was provided by 3 at LM 2 Jan (fide SJD). There is one record of overwintering, also at LM.
- Red-necked Grebe:** One on the LM CBC 2 Jan (SJD) was the 4th Jan record in addition to the single record of overwintering, all at LM since 1997.
- Eared Grebe:** The only report was of one on the North Platte CBC 18 Dec (fide TJW); expected last dates are in early Dec, but there are a few Jan records as well.
- Western Grebe:** Rather amazing for the date were the 776 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD). One at Sutherland Res 3 Jan (SJD) was rather late, as was another in Frontier Co 12 Dec (LR, RH).
- Clark's Grebe:** The 3 on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) were the 4th Jan record, all from LM.
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Last was one on the North Platte CBC 18 Dec (fide TJW); stragglers occur on occasion into late Dec.
- American White Pelican:** Sutherland Res is a favored late fall and winter spot for this species; 12 were there 7 Dec, dwindling to 3 on 7 Jan (TJW). LO is also a regular spot; one was still there 3 Jan (SJD). Elsewhere, stragglers were the 4 on the Omaha CBC 18 Dec (fide BG) and one on the Calamus-Loup CBC 28 Dec (DH).
- Great Blue Heron:** Reports were routine for this regular but localized winter visitor.
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** An immature was found on the Grand Island CBC 18 Dec (SM); this is the 3rd-latest date on record.
- Plegadis ibis sp.:** Amazingly, one materialized in a drainage ditch near GPD 2 Dec through 5 Dec (MB, RD, BFH; KZ photo), latest on record by 22 days. (See photo on page 42.)
- Bald Eagle:** Nesting begins in mid-Feb; a pair was copulating (on ice!!) at BOL 19 Feb (LE). Adults at a nest in Cass Co 1 Jan (L&BP) may have been establishing territorial rights prior to nesting.
- Northern Harrier:** Reports were routine for this fairly common, essentially year-round visitor and resident.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** The 7 on the DeSoto NWR CBC 2 Jan (fide JT) was a good CBC tally. High CBC tally for the state is 11.
- Cooper's Hawk:** Reports were routine for this rather common year-round resident and migrant.
- Northern Goshawk:** None were reported; this is a rare winter visitor.
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** Two apparently different singles were reported, both in regular locations: a juvenile was at PL 28 Dec (JR), a single was there 3 Jan (LE), and one was at BOL 4-5 Dec (PJ, RSt).
- Red-tailed Hawk:** The 146 on the Omaha CBC 18 Dec (fide BG) was a record CBC tally for Nebraska.
- Ferruginous Hawk:** Reports were routine for this uncommon western resident.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** Best count was a surprising 30 in n.-cen. Nebraska 12 Feb (BFH, MB, DH); 27 were in Scotts Bluff Co 16 Jan (KD).
- Golden Eagle:** Easterly were adults in Dixon Co 14 Dec (BFH) and Holt Co 28 Feb (SW fide JGJ).
- American Kestrel:** Anecdotal reports from Raptor Recovery suggest that numbers have declined in recent years, possibly due to the apparently increasing numbers of Cooper's Hawks in the state (BFH).

Merlin: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide winter visitor.

Peregrine Falcon: Unexpected in mid-winter except for the resident breeders in Omaha and Lincoln, singles were in York Co 9 Jan (SM) and at Fremont 16 Jan (D&JP). Both latter sightings could be of Omaha or Lincoln birds; it is unknown how far these birds range in winter.

Prairie Falcon: Easterly were singles in Butler Co 20 Dec (CD) and Dodge Co 14 Dec (fide D&JP) and 2 Feb (D&JP).

Virginia Rail: A good find were the 4 on Lonergan Creek at LM 2 Jan (SJD). A few winter regularly at seeps around LM.

American Coot: Reports were routine for this species, which lingers well into Dec in many parts of the state.

Sandhill Crane: Earliest migrants appear in late Jan most years, although the only such report this year was of one apparently lost bird with Snow Geese near Riverside Zoo at Scottsbluff 14-28 Jan (AK). Otherwise, first reported was one in Hall Co 3 Feb (JLL), followed by the first flock of 50 near Lewellen 19 Feb (LJH).

Killdeer: Stragglers may remain very late in fall and overwinter at favored locations along the North Platte Valley. Away from those locations Jan reports are few, but this year 5 were in Dawson Co 3 Jan (ARy) and one was in Lancaster Co 7 Jan (LE). Earliest in spring were about on time, with one at Scottsbluff SL 18 Feb (KD), which may have wintered there, and several arrivals 20 Feb: 2 in Lincoln (RE), one at Bellevue (GS), 3 at Offutt Base L, Sarpy Co, and 2 at La Platte Bottoms, Sarpy Co, (CNK).

Greater Yellowlegs: Apt to linger rather late, one was at the Calamus-Loup CBC 28 Dec (fide DH).

Wilson's Snipe: This species can be found along the North Platte Valley late in fall also; 16 were in the LM area 2 Jan (fide SJD) and 6 were at North Platte 6 Jan (TJW).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Three juveniles were reported: one at GPD, a traditional hotspot for this species, 8 Dec (fide MB), one at BOL 1-5 Dec (m. ob.), likely the same bird that was there in late Nov (see photo on page 6), and one which provided Nebraska's latest record by 11 days at Sutherland Res 3 Jan (SJD).

Bonaparte's Gull: One at LO 3 Jan (SJD) was tardy; latest date is 5 Jan. Fewer than usual were reported; best count was only 22 at BOL 4 Dec (JGJ).

Ross's Gull: The individual at GPD in Nov (see photos on page 6) continued to be seen by many through 7 Dec (MB), but a major surprise was another bird at BOL 3 Dec (JGJ, video). These are Nebraska's 2nd and 3rd records, and were part of an influx of at least 5 birds into the Northern Great Plains.

Franklin's Gull: One at LM 8 Jan (PD, BF) was only the 18th record overall for 2 Dec-18 Feb. Early arrival is in mid-Feb; showing the way were 1-2 at PL 19-23 Feb (RSt, LE).

Mew Gull: One at GPD 1-2 Dec (DC, PR) had no chance of avoiding the many birders there for the Ross's Gull. This is Nebraska's 14th for fall.

Ring-billed Gull: Reports were routine for this uncommon winter visitor and abundant migrant.

California Gull: As is usual, most were at LM; 16 were counted on the CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) and one was there 8 Jan (PD, BF). Elsewhere, a juvenile/first winter bird was at BOL 3 Dec (JGJ), the Scottsbluff CBC recorded its first ever 18 Dec (LJH, fide AK, KD), and one was at Sutherland Res 1 and 3 Jan (SJD).

- Herring Gull:** The 186 at Sutherland Res 3 Jan (SJD) was a good count for a Jan date.
- Thayer's Gull:** This regular fall visitor was reported from 6 locations through 8 Jan, a total of 16 birds. An excellent count of 8 (7 juveniles and an adult) was reported at Sutherland Res 3 Jan, and on 1 Jan a 2nd basic bird was present also, for a reservoir total of 9 over the 3 days (SJD). Elsewhere, an immature was at North Platte 1 Dec (TJW), an adult was at BOL 3-4 Dec (LE, MS fide JGJ), an adult was at GPD 5 Dec (MB), 1-2 were at L Maloney, Lincoln Co, 7-18 Dec (TJW), and an adult and a juvenile were at LM 1-8 Jan (SJD, PD, BF).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** As with Thayer's Gull, this species is a regular fall visitor in small numbers. Eight were reported from 5 locations 3 Dec-3 Jan (JGJ, m. ob.).
- Glaucous Gull:** The only reports of this regular winter visitor were of one on the North Platte CBC 18 Dec (fide TJW) and an adult at Sutherland Res 1 Jan (SJD).
- Great Black-backed Gull:** This species is being reported more often recently. The two reports were of single first-winter birds at GPD 1-4 Dec (DC, MB, BFH, RD), likely the same bird reported there in late Nov (MB), and on the North Platte CBC 18 Dec (fide TJW). The latter is the 11th fall record.
- Rock Pigeon:** Reports were routine for this common resident.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** At opposite ends of the spectrum, and illustrating this species' preference for small towns and cities in the west, were the 357 on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec, a count high (fide AK), and the first ever appearance on the Lincoln CBC, where 42 were counted 18 Dec (fide LRB).
- Mourning Dove:** Unusually high numbers lingered in the southeast, including 241 on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide LRB), 90+ in Lincoln 6 Jan (LE), and "an exceptional" 100+ in Sarpy Co 9 Jan (L&BP). North of the Platte Valley this species is rare to absent in winter; 2 were on the Calamus-Loup CBC 28 Dec (fide DH), and rather late westward were 7 in York Co 2 Jan (SM), 4 in Adams Co 14 Jan (PD), and one at Brady as late as 17 Jan (TJW).
- Monk Parakeet:** This species, of enigmatic occurrence in Nebraska, made one of its periodic appearances; one was in Greenwood 18 Feb (ADG fide RW). There are currently no known breeding sites in the state.
- Eastern Screech-Owl:** Reports were routine for this common statewide resident.
- Great Horned Owl:** Reports were routine for this common statewide resident.
- Snowy Owl:** Despite this not being a Snowy Owl winter on the Great Plains, there was a single report: one was near Elgin 13 Jan (KDi fide JGJ).
- Barred Owl:** Reports were routine for this common eastern resident.
- Long-eared Owl:** There were 4 reports of this unobtrusive but fairly common species. One wintering at Holmes L, Lincoln, (see photo on page 4) was seen by many of the nuthatch crowd 5 Dec-13 Feb (LE, m. ob.), 2 were on the Ponca SP CBC 14 Dec (fide BFH), 2 were on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD), and one was on the Norfolk CBC 18 Dec (fide DH).
- Short-eared Owl:** There were 7 reports involving 11 birds of this nomadic winter visitor, more than usual (m. ob.).
- Northern Saw-whet Owl:** There was only one report, about the norm: one was well-studied at Brady 13 Feb (TJW).
- Belted Kingfisher:** Reports were routine for this low-density resident.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Reports were routine for this uncommon winter visitor in the southeast.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Westerly reports continue as this species slowly establishes itself in the w. North Platte Valley; singles were on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec (fide AK) and in Morrill Co 28 Dec (LJH).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Something remarkable has been happening with this species in recent years. There was an amazing number of reports this winter, virtually statewide, for this species which has previously been a rare mid-winter visitor only in the extreme southeast. However, even in the Omaha-Bellevue area several observers were surprised by sightings in Jan-Feb: one in a Bellevue yard 9 Feb was the observer's second there in 30 years (RBa), and at least 9 others were reported in the metro area 16 Jan-6 Feb (m. ob.). Lincoln observers also had multiple sightings, perhaps more unexpected than those in the Omaha-Bellevue area: 6 were reported Jan-Feb (m. ob.), including 2 wintering at a feeder (fide JLC). Away from these areas, winter reports are rare, but this winter there were no fewer than 12: one was at Curtis 5 Dec and 1 Jan (same bird? RL), 2 at a Burwell feeder 11 Dec had been there some time (B&KG), one was in Frontier Co 11 Dec (LR, RH), one was on the North Platte CBC 18 Dec (fide TJW), another was near North Platte 27 Dec (LD), 2 were on the Calamus-Loup CBC 28 Dec (fide DH), one was in Custer Co 6 Jan (TH), one at Grand Island 9 Jan had been there for 3 weeks (SM), one was in Buffalo Co 23 Jan (B&KG), one was in Colfax Co 25 Jan (LE), one was in Geneva 7 Feb (fide JRi), and one was in Wheeler Co 16 Feb (WF). The Wheeler Co record is the first for Feb north of the Platte Valley away from the east, and the four Jan-Feb records cited above for north of the Platte Valley comprise one third of all such records.

Downy Woodpecker: Reports were routine for this statewide resident.

Hairy Woodpecker: Reports were routine for this statewide resident.

Northern Flicker: Reports were routine for this common resident and winter visitor.

Pileated Woodpecker: Reports continue from FF, a regular location (JR, L&BP, CNK), but northward expansion seems to be underway, with a pair at Dodge Park, Omaha, 6 Dec-5 Jan (CNK, JT, JR, RSt). Farther north, there was a belated report of 2 at DeSoto NWR 28 Feb 2010 (JR, SS).

Loggerhead Shrike: Generally only a rare lingering species in the southeast, two were found on CBCs, singles on the Grand Island CBC 18 Dec (fide CM) and DeSoto NWR CBC 2 Jan (fide JT).

Northern Shrike: Good counts were the 6 between North Platte and Grant 7 Dec (TJW) and 10 on the Calamus-Loup CBC 28 Dec (fide DH).

Pinyon Jay: None were reported; this is a generally common but erratic winter visitor.

Blue Jay: The 353 on the Lincoln CBC (fide LRB) was a good count.

Black-billed Magpie: The current erratic occurrence pattern south of the Platte Valley continues; sightings this winter included 2 in Franklin Co 5 Dec (LR, RH) and one in Frontier Co 7 Dec (RL).

American Crow: The 1540 on the Calamus-Loup CBC 28 Dec (fide DH) was a good count, but far below the CBC record of 9602 from the same location.

Horned Lark: The 5000 in Scotts Bluff Co 19 Feb (KD) was a good count; large flocks occur in Feb, probably as northward migration begins.

Black-capped Chickadee: Numbers are recovering in Lancaster Co; 1-5 were found on most trips there as opposed to none during the last few years (LE), and a

good count of 236 was made 18 Dec on the Lincoln CBC (fide LRB). One at Brady 27 Dec was the "first there for a long while" (TJW).

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

Red-breasted Nuthatch: The 55 on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide LRB) was a good CBC tally for a non-invasion year. Although widespread at feeders, numbers were about normal.

White-breasted Nuthatch: Reports were routine for this common eastern and northern resident and winter visitor elsewhere.

Pygmy Nuthatch: Reports were routine for this northern Panhandle resident.

Brown-headed Nuthatch: The remarkable discovery of 2 birds in fall at Holmes L, Lincoln (LE), was extended into mid-winter, with many reports of 1-2 birds, including 2 on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide LRB). The Nebraska winter may have been too much, however, as one on 31 Jan, "appeared cold, having second thoughts about its Nebraska trip" (JC, SS). Despite searching in Feb, none were found (LE). The last report of 2 birds was on the CBC. An intriguing report of "squeaky calls" came from Pioneer Park, Lincoln, 3 Dec (RE). (See photo on page 40.)

Brown Creeper: An apparent record high CBC count was the amazing 43 at Lincoln 18 Dec (fide LRB).

Carolina Wren: This species is making a slow recovery after a few down years. Most reports were as expected from the southeast, with a few exceptions: one was at Hastings 3-19 Jan (PS, PD), one at the Sutherland exit of I-80 was photographed 3 Jan (SJD), and one was in a Grand Island yard 8-9 Jan (SM). The 6 found on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide LRB) was encouraging.

Winter Wren: There was only one report away from the southeast where a few winter most years: 3 were found on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD). There are only about 30 Dec-Feb records in northern and western Nebraska.

Marsh Wren: As usual, there were a few reports from the North Platte Valley, where this species winters at seeps; one was at Winters Creek L, Scotts Bluff Co, 5 Dec (AD), and the North Platte, LM, and Scottsbluff CBCs each had 1-3 birds (fide TJW, fide SJD, fide AK).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Two in Lincoln Co 21 Feb (TJW) were mid-winter rarities there. The 83 on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide LRB) was a record CBC tally.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Reports of singles of this generally cold-sensitive species near Scottsbluff 7 Dec (AD) and at L Maloney on the North Platte CBC 18 Dec (fide TJW) were surprising, but amazing were 2 photographed at an Ogallala feeder 11 Feb (JO), only the 4th Feb record for the western half of the state.

Eastern Bluebird: A count high of 175 was recorded on the Omaha CBC 18 Dec (fide BG); this is the 2nd highest CBC count by one!

Mountain Bluebird: The 10 n. of Brady 16 Feb (TJW) were likely moving to the breeding range; wintering birds are confined to the cedar breaks s. of the Platte River in Lincoln Co.

Townsend's Solitaire: One in Omaha 14 Dec (JR) was the only report from the east; most years at least a few get to eastern Nebraska.

Hermits Thrush: Although reports into Dec, including CBCs, are fairly regular, mid-winter records are scarce, especially westward. A westerly count week bird reported for the North Platte CBC 18 Dec (fide TJW) was only the 6th Dec-Mar report away from the east. All other reports were from the southeast,

where there were more Jan-Feb reports than usual: 5 Jan at Dodge Park, Omaha, (CNK), 6 Jan and 4 Feb at Pioneers Park, Lincoln, (LE), 11 and 20 Jan at FF (CNK, JR), 22 Jan at Omaha (CNK), 2 in a Bellevue yard 2 Feb (BG), one at Plattsmouth 5 Feb (KSc), and one at FF 27 Feb (CNK). Hermit thrushes were recorded 9 out of the last 10 years in one or more CBCs in the state with as many as 3 counts in some years. Interestingly, from 1990-1999, only two birds were recorded on CBCs in the state while from 2000-2009, 26 birds were recorded.

American Robin: Large counts were the 5200 on the Calamus-Loup CBC 28 Dec (fide DH) and 3697 on the North Platte CBC 18 Dec (fide TJW). High CBC counts are 10,000+. An intriguing very grey robin was photographed near North Platte 8 Feb (VC).

Northern Mockingbird: One apparently wintering was seen several times at PL (RSt, LE); over-wintering is rarely documented, although there are quite a few mid-winter sightings. One was on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide LRB), singles were at BOL 10 and 21 Dec (RSt), and a surprise for the northerly location were the 2 on the Calamus-Loup CBC 28 Dec (fide DH).

Brown Thrasher: One on the LM CBC 20 Jan (fide SJD) was one of fewer than 10 Jan-Feb reports away from the southeast.

European Starling: Best tally was 5007 on the Omaha CBC 18 Dec (fide BG), which is historically mediocre; high CBC counts are 30,000+.

Bohemian Waxwing: The only report of this erratic winter visitor was from an expected location: 4 were on the Harrison CBC 22 Dec (fide B&DW).

Cedar Waxwing: Reports were routine for this common but erratic winter visitor.

Lapland Longspur: Huge aggregations occur on occasion; a careful observer estimated 36,000, 3rd best total on record after 50,000 twice, in a 3-mile square near Funk 28 Jan (PD). Elsewhere, 8000 were in Dixon Co 24 Dec (JJ).

Snow Bunting: This was one of the best years on record for this species in Nebraska. Impressive counts reported were 600 in Pierce and Wayne Cos 27 Dec (JJ), 210 in Dixon Co 15 Jan (BFH), and 200-300 in Clay Co 23 Jan (KS, JLL). Reports were overwhelmingly from the east and north-central, with patchy occurrence westward: only one was located amongst those 36,000 Lapland Longspurs near Funk 28 Jan (PD). The 36 found on the Harrison CBC 22 Dec was a count first there (fide B&DW). After much searching in the Mitchell area 2 were found 19 Feb (KD), and another was in Scotts Bluff Co 2 Feb (AP). Few were reported south of Lincoln/Omaha and the Platte Valley: singles were in Gage Co 22 Jan (LE), Saline Co 23 Jan (LE), and Otoe Co 24 Jan (LE).

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: This species has been increasingly reported on CBCs and into early Jan in recent years, with reports mid-Jan through Mar increasing also. This year there were several mid-winter sightings statewide, including singles northerly in Wheeler Co 26 Feb (WF) and in Burwell 20 Jan (B&KG). Others were 2 near Willis 7 Feb (BFH), 3 in Kearney Co during Jan (KS) and 9 Feb (TH), and 2 in Lincoln Co 21 Feb (TJW). One in Bellevue 5 Feb (KCR) rounded out the total of 5 reports for Feb; previously there have been only 24 reports statewide for Feb, 4 of those in 2007-2008.

Wilson's Warbler: A major surprise was a male near Scottsbluff 29 Dec (AD), the latest on record by a couple of months; there is a report from Boone Co 20 Nov 1976.

- Spotted Towhee:** A few winter in s. and se. Nebraska, but Jan-Feb reports elsewhere are unexpected; a male was near Sutherland 3 Jan (SJD) one was at Hooper 11 Jan (fide RJ), and one was in Cuming Co 25-27 Jan (LE).
- Eastern Towhee:** Overwintering occurs rarely in the se., where Spottedts are more likely in mid-winter; possible wintering Easterns were one at FF 11 Jan (CNK) and another near Fremont 12 Jan (D&JP).
- American Tree Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this abundant winter visitor.
- Chipping Sparrow:** Late stragglers were a "first winter" bird at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 5 Dec (JR), an adult there with juncos 26 Dec (JR), and one in a Hastings yard 3 Jan (PD, photo). The latter is only the 4th documented for Jan.
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** Amazingly, 2 reports were received: 2 on the Omaha CBC 18 Dec (fide BG, EB details) and one at Hastings 3 Jan (PD). Previously there had been 2 reports for Jan and one in Dec.
- Field Sparrow:** Only the 9th record for mid-Jan through mid-Feb was one heard singing and then seen amongst 80+ American Tree Sparrows near Broken Bow (TH). Reports are rare on CBCs in the se., almost always of single birds, and 5 on the Lincoln CBC (fide LRB) was an unexpected tally.
- Fox Sparrow:** Rare westward, one on the LM CBC 2 Jan (fide SJD) was identified as a grayish "Red" Fox Sparrow (WRS, KDy). Reports from Kearney Co 11 and 16 Jan (KS, LR, RH) and 26 Feb (LR, RH) may have been of the same bird over-wintering. The remaining reports, fewer than last winter, were from the se., where wintering occurs on occasion. One was in Lincoln 4 Feb (LE).
- Song Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this uncommon but widespread winter visitor.
- Swamp Sparrow:** One at FF 27 Feb (CNK) was likely an early migrant; there are a few early Mar records.
- White-throated Sparrow:** A bit westerly for Jan-Feb were 5 at a Hastings feeder 3 Jan (PD, PS).
- Harris's Sparrow:** This species is rare in the west, but most likely in the North Platte Valley, where one was at a Scottsbluff feeder 15 Dec (AD) and 4 were near Sutherland 3 Jan (SJD).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** Largest mid-winter numbers occur in the west, with fewer eastward; 112 were on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec (fide AK) and 40 were at a Mitchell feeder 16 Jan (KD). In the east, the only mid-Jan through Feb reports were of 1-2 in Sarpy Co 15-16 Jan (ARy, L&BP), one in Omaha 17 Jan (JWH), 1-2 in Lincoln 22-24 Jan (R&SW), and 2 in Cuming Co 27 Jan (LE).
- Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco:** None were reported; a few winter in the west most years.
- Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco:** The 986 on the DeSoto NWR CBC 2 Jan (fide JT) was an impressive CBC total.
- Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco:** The 28 "Oregon" Juncos on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide LRB) was a good tally; about 5-10% of wintering juncos in the east are "Oregons".
- Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco:** This form is rare in the east, with few well-documented records. However, 2 different birds photographed in Lincoln showed features consistent with this form: 22 Feb (RSt) and 27 Feb (JH).

Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco: The only report was of one on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec (fide AK), only the 9th documented record; reports have increased to perhaps one a year recently.

Northern Cardinal: Reports were routine for this common resident.

Red-winged Blackbird: The 5000 at a Brady feedlot 2 Jan (TJW) was a large group for the date. As noted by the observer, most winter birds are males, and so 3 females in Scotts Bluff Co 9 Jan (KD) were unexpected.

Eastern Meadowlark: None were reported; a few likely winter in the southeast.

Western Meadowlark: First singing was heard in Sarpy Co 26 Feb (L&BP). Northwesternly for the dates were 6 near Broken Bow 1 Jan (TH) and 12 near Gering 4 Jan (AK).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: The only report was of a male on the Ames CBC 14 Dec (DL, fide D&JP).

Rusty Blackbird: This species is a regular, though rare, winter visitor in the east; thus unexpected were singles at L McConaughy 1-2 Jan (SJD) and at Broken Bow 28 Jan (TH). There are only 12 Panhandle records Nov-Mar, and so a flock of 110 at Walgren L, Sheridan Co, 24 Dec (B&DW) was a surprise.

Brewer's Blackbird: Three at Walgren L, Sheridan Co, 24 Dec (B&DW) and 2 in Cass Co 26 Dec (RSt) were late.

Common Grackle: The 31 at North Platte 9 Feb (TJW) were likely early migrants; wintering birds are usually singles, such as one in Kearney Co 30 Jan (LR, RH).

Great-tailed Grackle: Wintering occurs in the south on occasion; 7 were in Fillmore Co 3 Feb (LE). A male near Gothenburg 15 Feb (TJW) and one at BOL 19 Feb (LE) were likely early migrants.

Brown-headed Cowbird: An early arrival was one in Lancaster Co 25 Feb (LE).

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch: The only report of this localized Panhandle winter visitor was of 10 on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec (fide AK).

Purple Finch: Numbers were about average, best count the 23 on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide LRB). Less common westerly, good finds were the single on the Scottsbluff CBC 18 Dec (fide AK) and 2 near Sutherland 1 Jan (SJD).

House Finch: The 263 on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide LRB) was a good count.

Red Crossbill: Only one bird was reported from the east, that on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide LRB). Only about 20 were reported in all.

Common Redpoll: As is often the case with this species, good showings are followed by no showing. None were reported.

Pine Siskin: Reports were widespread, although numbers were moderate; best count was from a CBC, as might be expected: 109 at Lincoln 18 Dec (fide LRB), but 100 were at a feeder near Gering 28 Jan (AK). This species is an early breeder and may nest anywhere in the state; two appeared to be engaged in courtship feeding at Bellevue 18 Feb (L&BP).

American Goldfinch: Numbers at feeders were higher than in recent years; the 200+ in the observer's yard 1 Feb were the most there for 15 years (JJ). Elsewhere, 200+ were in a Lincoln yard 31 Jan (R&SW), and the best CBC count was 372 on the Lincoln CBC 18 Dec (fide LRB).

House Sparrow: Reports were routine for this common commensal.

2010-2011 Christmas Bird Counts

by Don Paseka

Fourteen Christmas Bird Counts were held in Nebraska in the 2010-2011 season. The Branched Oak-Seward count was canceled due to weather, but in comparison to last year, the weather was generally dry, mild and cooperative. Even though open water was limited, the species associated with water were well represented, resulting in the highest total number of species (149) ever, easily topping the previous high count of 138 in 2001. In all, 17 species set new high counts, 5 tied previous highs, and the amazing Brown-headed Nuthatches stayed in Lincoln and were counted for the first time in Nebraska.

Twelve species including Northern Harrier and Rough-legged Hawk were found on all 14 counts. However, 34 species were found on only one count, and of those, 18 were single individuals. Some of the more interesting "one-bird wonders" were Black-crowned Night-Heron at Grand Island, Northern Goshawk and Northern Saw-whet Owl at DeSoto-Boyer, Red-shouldered Hawk at Omaha, Brown Thrasher at Lake McConaughy and Yellow-headed Blackbird at Ames.

Twenty-nine species of Anseriformes were counted with record numbers for Cackling Goose (6,946), Canada Goose (81,450), Trumpeter Swan (49), Canvasback (150) and Long-tailed Duck (11). In addition, all three scoters were found as singles at Lake McConaughy.

For only the second time, all six grebe species were counted, with record numbers of Pied-billed Grebe (14) and Western Grebe (777). American Coot set a new high (1654), as did Wilson's Snipe (33). A single Greater Yellowlegs at Calamus marks only the third time that this species has been found on a Nebraska count.

While gull and raptor numbers were unremarkable, many other non-waterbirds had excellent counts. Rock Pigeons set a new high (6593), as did Eurasian Collared-Dove (998), Downy Woodpecker (587), and Hairy Woodpecker (120). The count week bird at DeSoto marks the first time Pileated Woodpecker was found in a circle other than Omaha. Some other woodland birds also did well, with new highs for Winter Wren (11), Hermit Thrush (11), and Yellow-rumped Warbler (42), along with Snow Bunting (62) out in the open areas. Only three times in the past has even a single Grey-crowned Rosy-Finch been counted, so the Scottsbluff count of 10 is noteworthy.

Among all these high counts, a few species had remarkably low counts. Sharp-tailed Grouse were missed entirely for the first time since 1991. The 35 Northern Bobwhites, found on only 5 counts, was the lowest total since 22 in 1998. The Black-billed Magpie count of 34 was the second lowest count ever; only the 1967 count of 16 was lower. Black-capped Chickadee numbers continue a slow rebound with this year's 1123 the highest count since 2002.

2010-11 CBC Site Data

	Date	Species	Individuals	Observers	Low Temp (F)	High Temp (F)	Sky	Precipitation
Ames	14 Dec	60	19,512	13	21	31	cloudy	none
Beaver Valley	19 Dec	26	1,010	3	22	30	cloudy	none
Calamus-Loup	28 Dec	63	25,480	8	10	50	clear	none
Crawford	21 Dec	37	1,259	2	28	30	partly cloudy	none
DeSoto-Boyer	2 Jan	65	16,478	21	13	28	clear	none
Grand Island	18 Dec	61	29,602	14	17	26	cloudy	none
Harrison	22 Dec	24	423	2	24	28	cloudy	none
Lake McConaughy	2 Jan	109	20,339	17	-8	31	partly cloudy	none
Lincoln	18 Dec	77	23,394	42	10	28	partly clear	none
Norfolk	18 Dec	55	9,749	7	8	29	cloudy	none
North Platte	18 Dec	75	29,404	9	17	27	clear	none
Omaha	18 Dec	78	26,591	42	15	30	cloudy/clear	none
Ponca S.P.	14 Dec	54	6,171	9	17	27	cloudy/clear	none
Scottsbluff	18 Dec	57	24,191	9	19	29	clear/cloudy	none
Total		149	233,603	198	15	30		

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Greater White-fronted Goose					1	28		4
Snow Goose	2		2			63		
Ross's Goose			1					
Cackling Goose	106		54		4	115		192
Canada Goose	4,157		8,830		5,168	19,614		4,772
Trumpeter Swan	2		26					21
Wood Duck	1					5		
Gadwall			16					216
American Wigeon			26					150
Mallard	10,828	63	4,600	3	4,770	1,129	4	1,820
Blue-winged Teal								
Northern Shoveler								6
Northern Pintail	2				10			12
Green-winged Teal						1		81
Canvasback						2		141
Redhead								166
Ring-necked Duck						2		197
Greater Scaup								65
Lesser Scaup					12			331
Surf Scoter								1
White-winged Scoter								1
Black Scoter								1
Long-tailed Duck								11
Bufflehead								74
Common Goldeneye	1		56		161	10		398
Hooded Merganser			1					25
Common Merganser	12		75		48			1,660
Red-breasted Merganser								16
Ruddy Duck					3			3
Duck sp.	44							
Northern Bobwhite			12			7		8
Ring-necked Pheasant	36	11	2	14	78	1		69
Greater Prairie-Chicken		114	53					12
Wild Turkey	68		12	51	163	257	13	71

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca S. P.	Scottsbluff	Total
Greater White-fronted Goose	1		8				42
Snow Goose	28	1	6	8	1,000		1,110
Ross's Goose							1
Cackling Goose	438	8	5,042	817		170	6,946
Canada Goose	10,055	2,735	4,047	9,606	2	12,464	81,450
Trumpeter Swan							49
Wood Duck	1						7
Gadwall	6		30	1		7	276
American Wigeon			4			36	216
Mallard	1,194	32	10,257	3,688	344	4,389	43,121
Blue-winged Teal				1			1
Northern Shoveler			15	3		15	39
Northern Pintail			20	6		9	59
Green-winged Teal	10		25	36		6	159
Canvasback	5					2	150
Redhead			1				167
Ring-necked Duck		4					203
Greater Scaup	1						66
Lesser Scaup		1		1			345
Surf Scoter							1
White-winged Scoter							1
Black Scoter							1
Long-tailed Duck							11
Bufflehead			10				84
Common Goldeneye	2		418	43	33	59	1,181
Hooded Merganser	1		2	3			32
Common Merganser			500	23	96		2,414
Red-breasted Merganser							16
Ruddy Duck	3	1		4			14
Duck sp.				5			49
Northern Bobwhite	8					cw	35
Ring-necked Pheasant	14	68	1		120	3	417
Greater Prairie-Chicken	1		76		64		320
Wild Turkey	48	5	20	157	32		897

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Common Loon								3
Pied-billed Grebe								14
Horned Grebe								3
Red-necked Grebe								1
Eared Grebe								
Western Grebe								776
Clark's Grebe								3
Double-crested Cormorant								
American White Pelican			1					1
Great Blue Heron	5		cw			1		8
Black-crowned Night-Heron						1		
Bald Eagle	8	2	57	2	40	10		56
adult	2		18	2		9		
immature	1	2	39			1		
unspecified age	5				40			56
Northern Harrier	4	1	11	3	7	8	2	13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3		1		7	1		3
Cooper's Hawk	1		1		1	4		1
Northern Goshawk					1			
Accipiter sp.								
Red-shouldered Hawk								
Red-tailed Hawk	47	8	19	10	95	44	1	36
Ferruginous Hawk				1			1	2
Rough-legged Hawk	11	2	1	8	5	8	5	20
Buteo sp.								
Golden Eagle				2	cw		1	
American Kestrel	5	1	2	2	4	18		25
Merlin	3		cw	cw				1
Prairie Falcon	1		cw	1	cw	2		1
Hawk sp.					1			
Virginia Rail								4
American Coot	cw					8		1,600
Killdeer			1					7
Greater Yellowlegs			1					

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca S. P.	Scottsbluff	Total
Common Loon							3
Pied-billed Grebe							14
Horned Grebe							3
Red-necked Grebe							1
Eared Grebe			1				1
Western Grebe			1				777
Clark's Grebe							3
Double-crested Cormorant			1				1
American White Pelican				4			6
Great Blue Heron	4		1	3		4	26
Black-crowned Night-Heron							1
Bald Eagle	2	15	9	33	27	6	267
adult	1	10	8		16		66
immature	1	5	1		11		61
unspecified age				33		6	140
Northern Harrier	12		7	8	1	5	82
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9	1		7			32
Cooper's Hawk	5	2	1	3			19
Northern Goshawk							1
Accipiter sp.	2	1					3
Red-shouldered Hawk				1			1
Red-tailed Hawk	71	36	22	146	58	24	617
Ferruginous Hawk							4
Rough-legged Hawk	8	7	2	3	25	4	109
Buteo sp.	4	6					10
Golden Eagle					2		5
American Kestrel	18	8	8	17	2	28	138
Merlin	1	1	1	2			9
Prairie Falcon			1				6
Hawk sp.							1
Virginia Rail							4
American Coot	2	4	39			1	1,654
Killdeer	2						10
Greater Yellowlegs							1

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Wilson's Snipe	1		4					21
Bonaparte's Gull								1
Ring-billed Gull								133
California Gull								16
Herring Gull			1					75
Thayer's Gull								2
Lesser Black-backed Gull								1
Glaucous Gull								
Great Black-backed Gull								
Gull sp.			1					
Rock Pigeon	154		105	19	208	1,684		427
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5		17	102		207	19	143
Mourning Dove	41		2		36	14		38
Eastern Screech-Owl			3	1	2	12		3
Great Horned Owl	5	1	5	1	8	1		4
Barred Owl	cw				7			
Long-eared Owl								2
Short-eared Owl								3
Nothorn Saw-whet Owl					1			
Owl sp.	1							
Belted Kingfisher	4	2	3		2	3		4
Red-headed Woodpecker					4			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	41		3		78	7		9
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2		2			1		
Downy Woodpecker	27	3	12	1	91	23	1	40
Hairy Woodpecker	4	2	5		19	3		13
Northern Flicker	51	5	29	5	135	53		72
Red-shafted								
Red x Yellow-shafted								
Yellow-shafted								
unspecified	51	5	29	5	135	53		72
Pileated Woodpecker					cw			
Loggerhead Shrike					1	1		
Northern Shrike	cw		10	2	2	3		5

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca S. P.	Scottsbluff	Total
Wilson's Snipe			1	1		5	33
Bonaparte's Gull							1
Ring-billed Gull			301			2	436
California Gull						1	17
Herring Gull			65				141
Thayer's Gull			2				4
Lesser Black-backed Gull			1				2
Glaucous Gull			1				1
Great Black-backed Gull			1				1
Gull sp.							1
Rock Pigeon	2,309	424	358	482	47	376	6,593
Eurasian Collared-Dove	42	91	8	3	4	357	998
Mourning Dove	241	1	2	124	3		502
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	1					26
Great Horned Owl	9	4	1	5	1	1	46
Barred Owl	4			5	1		17
Long-eared Owl		1			2		5
Short-eared Owl	1				3		7
Nothorn Saw-whet Owl							1
Owl sp.	3						4
Belted Kingfisher	10	1	4	2	1	8	44
Red-headed Woodpecker				23			27
Red-bellied Woodpecker	70	17	5	136	37	1	404
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4		1	2			12
Downy Woodpecker	157	20	11	161	36	4	587
Hairy Woodpecker	22	9	3	22	15	3	120
Northern Flicker	95	17	11	128	48	16	665
Red-shafted	7		5	2	2		16
Red x Yellow-shafted						4	4
Yellow-shafted	48		6	126	46		226
unspecified	40	17				12	419
Pileated Woodpecker				3			3
Loggerhead Shrike							2
Northern Shrike	3	2	1	1	3	3	35

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Blue Jay	41		11	2	116	40		36
Black-billed Magpie				4				16
American Crow	43	18	1,540	7	198	626	6	21
Horned Lark	213	10	2	312	21	2,124	147	796
Black-capped Chickadee	75	1	8	9	265	6	1	18
Tufted Titmouse					17			
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1		1	2	5	3		8
White-breasted Nuthatch	34	9	16	1	94	13		8
Pygmy Nuthatch				6				
Brown-headed Nuthatch								
Brown Creeper	8		2		11	6		3
Carolina Wren								
Winter Wren					1			3
Marsh Wren								3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3				3	6		4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet								
Eastern Bluebird	24		72		63	16		32
Mountain Bluebird								11
Townsend's Solitaire				9			1	44
Hermit Thrush	2							
American Robin	304	352	5,200	85	671	444	5	977
Northern Mockingbird			2					
Brown Thrasher								1
European Starling	737	141	3,700	360	1,428	1,395	55	774
Bohemian Waxwing							4	
Cedar Waxwing	97		45	25	80	6	26	110
Lapland Longspur	642						3	295
Snow Bunting					18		36	5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4		5		2			17
Spotted Towhee					1			
Eastern Towhee					1			
American Tree Sparrow	476	144	142	36	571	293		206
Clay-colored Sparrow								
Field Sparrow								

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca S. P.	Scottsbluff	Total
Blue Jay	353	46	11	147	85	54	942
Black-billed Magpie		2				12	34
American Crow	145	69	5	89	115	cw	2,882
Horned Lark	110	78	76	13	142	50	4,094
Black-capped Chickadee	236	43	3	332	121	5	1,123
Tufted Titmouse				34			51
Red-breasted Nuthatch	55	2	7	4		3	91
White-breasted Nuthatch	120	27	5	205	73		605
Pygmy Nuthatch						cw	6
Brown-headed Nuthatch	2						2
Brown Creeper	43	7	7	13	3		103
Carolina Wren	6			6			12
Winter Wren	4			3			11
Marsh Wren			1			1	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	83	6	15	12	10	1	143
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			1	2			3
Eastern Bluebird	71	5		175	51		509
Mountain Bluebird							11
Townsend's Solitaire			2			18	74
Hermit Thrush			cw	9			11
American Robin	613	267	3,697	1,533	340	377	14,865
Northern Mockingbird	1						3
Brown Thrasher							1
European Starling	3,265	4,311	3,091	5,007	830	3,647	28,741
Bohemian Waxwing							4
Cedar Waxwing	34	14	154	130	35	28	784
Lapland Longspur	cw	7		131	38		1,116
Snow Bunting	3						62
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9	1	2	2			42
Spotted Towhee	2			1	1		5
Eastern Towhee	1						2
American Tree Sparrow	549	408	56	1,179	503	11	4,582
Clay-colored Sparrow				2			2
Field Sparrow	5						5

	Ames	Beaver Valley	Calamus-Loup	Crawford	DeSoto-Boyer	Grand Island	Harrison	Lake McConaughy
Fox Sparrow					1			1
Song Sparrow	5				13			14
Lincoln's Sparrow								
Swamp Sparrow								
White-throated Sparrow	cw				4			
Harris's Sparrow	4		13		44			3
White-crowned Sparrow					1			33
Sparrow sp.								
Dark-eyed Junco	589	38	212	19	986	284	28	1,016
Slate-colored	589			5			4	
Oregon				1			1	
Gray-headed								
Pink-sided				2			1	
unspecified subspecies		38	212	11	986	284	22	1,016
Northern Cardinal	45		4		186	49		42
Red-winged Blackbird	80	1				36		285
Western Meadowlark			1			80		55
Meadowlark sp.	69				22			110
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1							
Rusty Blackbird	1							6
Brewer's Blackbird						6		2
Common Grackle	1	2	1		1	1		28
Great-tailed Grackle						365		
Brown-headed Cowbird						5		3
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch								
Purple Finch			1		10			2
House Finch	7	27	80	3	13	95	4	234
Red Crossbill				8			7	
Pine Siskin			3	62				96
American Goldfinch	86	13	285	41	105	71	7	325
House Sparrow	237	39	71	40	353	281	46	582
TOTAL SPECIES	60	26	63	37	65	61	24	109
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	19,512	1,010	25,480	1,259	16,478	29,602	423	20,339

	Lincoln	Norfolk	North Platte	Omaha	Ponca S. P.	Scottsbluff	Total
Fox Sparrow	2				1		5
Song Sparrow	21		4	34		6	97
Lincoln's Sparrow				2			2
Swamp Sparrow				6			6
White-throated Sparrow	29			7			40
Harris's Sparrow	57	12	7	74	3	1	218
White-crowned Sparrow					2	112	148
Sparrow sp.	39						39
Dark-eyed Junco	1,024	237	154	991	458	333	6,369
Slate-colored	362	234	139	991	457	119	2,900
Oregon	28	3	13		1	30	77
Gray-headed						1	1
Pink-sided			2			10	15
unspecified subspecies	634					173	3,376
Northern Cardinal	253	44	13	244	32	1	913
Red-winged Blackbird		17	510	6	810	946	2,691
Western Meadowlark		80	6				222
Meadowlark sp.	39			8	18	3	269
Yellow-headed Blackbird							1
Rusty Blackbird							7
Brewer's Blackbird				CW			8
Common Grackle				CW		2	36
Great-tailed Grackle				CW			365
Brown-headed Cowbird		2		2	1		13
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch						10	10
Purple Finch	23			4	1	1	42
House Finch	263	50	51	21	46	120	1,014
Red Crossbill	1					3	19
Pine Siskin	109	1	14	4	2	44	335
American Goldfinch	372	79	124	165	88	142	1,903
House Sparrow	522	410	35	267	355	251	3,489
TOTAL SPECIES	77	55	75	78	54	57	149
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	23,394	9,749	29,404	26,591	6,171	24,191	233,603

2010-11 CBC Participants

Ames Jamie Eades, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Jan Johnson, Richard Johnson, Clem Klaphake, Dan Leger, Wayne Mollhoff, Greg Nelson, Don Paseka (compiler), Janis Paseka, Gary Roberts, Jerry Toll (13)

Beaver Valley Belle Esau, Colleen Noecker, Don Noecker (compiler) (3)

Calamus-Loup Mark A. Brogie, Kathi Gerten, Robin Harding, David Heidt (compiler), Bette Klaphake, Clem Klaphake, Lanny Randolph, Duane Wolff (8)

Crawford Bruce Walgren (compiler), Donna Walgren (2)

DeSoto-Boyer Elliott Bedows, Ruth Bentzinger, Laurine Blankenau, Matt Boren, John Carlini, Suzanne Gucciardo, Jim Kovanda, Sandy Kovanda, Catherine Kuper, Sue Mattix, Veronica Mecko, Jim Meyer, Greg Nelson, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Sandy Reinken, Justin Rink, Gary Roberts, Shari Schwarz, Jerry Toll, Steve Van Riper (21)

Grand Island Gordy Backer, Tony Curtis, Dan Glomski, Blake Hatfield, Bob Hausmann, Michele Kock, Ron Kruse, Anne Kruse, Ray Kusak, Connie McCartney (compiler), Jim Meyer, Steve Morris, Vicki Orr, Patricia Smith (14 + 4 feeder watchers)

Harrison Bruce Walgren (compiler), Donna Walgren (2)

Lake McConaughy Mary Bomberger Brown, Stephen Dinsmore (compiler), Keith Dyche, Luke Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Robin Harding, Alice Heckman, Bill Huntley, Bette Klaphake, Clem Klaphake, Rodger Knaggs, Kay Niyo, Lanny Randolph, Neal Ratzlaff, Al Reyer, Mary Sue Shoemaker, Ross Silcock (17 + 14 feeder watchers)

Lincoln Colleen Babcock, Elaine Bachel, Bob Boyce, Molly Boyd, Linda R. Brown (compiler), Mary Bomberger Brown, Deb Davidson, Barbara J. DiBernard, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Joe Gubanyi, Sue Guild, Mathew Hansen, Robin Harding, Julie Huddle, Paul Johnsgard, Allison Johnson, Michelle Johnson, Joel Jorgensen, Kristin Kasperek, Tim Knott, Thomas E. Labedz, Daniel Leger, Dwain Leonhardt, James Lionberger, Ruth Lionberger, Bruce Mellberg, Linda Plock, Kevin Poague, Kathy Putensen, John Quinn, Lanny Randolph, Ken Reitan, Jessica Ripke, Jules Russ, John Sens, Ruth Stearns, April Stevenson, Ned Stringham, Chris Thody, Moni Usasz, Carol Wagener (42)

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Ponca S. P. Verne Cummings, Jeff Fields, Bill Huser (compiler), Tucker Lutter, Jerry Probst, Paul Roisen, Jerry VonEhwegen, Jennifer Wolff, Tyler Wulf (9)

Scottsbluff Kathy DeLara, Dean Drawbaugh, Phyllis Drawbaugh, Ann Duey, Luke Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Charlotte Herrell, Alice Kenitz (compiler), Ruben Siegfried (9)

A Late-season Breeding Record for the Summer Tanager in Nebraska

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The breeding range of the Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) is well documented and expands across the southern U.S. extending northward to New Jersey and west along and south of the Great Lakes to the eastern edge of the Great Plains (Terres 1991; Robinson 1996). In Nebraska the species is generally confined to the Lower Missouri and Platte River Valleys where it occurs locally (Sharpe et al. 2001). Because the species exists in relatively low numbers across southeastern Nebraska, there are few breeding and nesting records for the state. Fewer than 10 breeding records, including one historical account have been described for Nebraska (Ducey 1988, Mollhoff 2001, Sharpe et al 2001, Mollhoff 2004). Due to the limited number of documented reports, our understanding of the breeding distribution and nesting ecology of the Summer Tanager in Nebraska is incomplete. Here I describe a late-season breeding effort by the Summer Tanager in southeastern Nebraska and provide comments on nesting behavior.

On **11 June, 2010** a singing male Summer Tanager was observed along the Missouri River Valley in Nemaha County, Nebraska, just north of the town of Brownville and within a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement study site. This sighting was the first and only for this species within the study area until early

August, despite 7 site surveys conducted in the interim. On 3 August a female Summer Tanager was observed in the initial stages of nest building. The female was repeatedly observed carrying nesting material to a distal branch of an American basswood (*Tilia americana*) approximately 9 meters above ground. A male was present and remained nearby in the upland forest area, often singing but providing no assistance to the female. On 5 August the site was again visited, but flood waters from the Missouri River had inundated the area beneath the nest tree preventing close inspection of the nest site. However, the nest tree was observed for approximately two hours without seeing any tanager activity. Flood waters did not recede until 11 August, at which time the male and female were again sighted but remained separated. At one point the male was observed feeding a nearly full-grown fledgling while the female was away. The male was quite vocal with the tanagers' characteristic call note, as was the female, who would respond from across a small backwater slough. When the female returned, the male, female and fledgling all flew into the upland forest where I lost sight of them. This observation seemed to be in clear conflict with my prior assumptions about the status of the nesting attempt. I had anticipated finding a fully constructed nest with the female somewhere in the egg-laying or incubation phase. On this date I could not see a constructed nest where I had observed the nest-building activity on 3 August.

Trying to resolve exactly what had transpired, I again returned to the site on 13 August. Approaching the tree from the opposite direction, I immediately spotted the female sitting on the nest. The female flushed from the nest and stayed away approximately 10 minutes. When she returned she was obviously agitated by my presence and scolded me for some time before moving away from the nest site. On her second return the male was with the female and would frequently vocalize with characteristic call notes. With the male following, the female slowly made her way back to the nest tree. The male repeatedly vocalized until the female was once again on the nest at which time he ceased calling and flew back into the upland forest. This behavior is consistent with the male deliberately driving the female back to the nest if she is incubating, as described by Potter (1985). I monitored the nest site again on 20 August and observed the female sitting on the nest and the male calling occasionally from the upland forest. On 25 August the female was again sitting on the nest but briefly left between 0812 - 0817 hours. I remained on site for approximately 2.5 hours surveying for other bird species but did not see the female again exit or enter the nest site. The male was observed momentarily chasing two other unidentified birds as well as aggressively preening on a dead branch near the nest tree for approximately 10 minutes. On 26 August the female was observed feeding young for the first time. She made several visits back and forth to the nest at 1025, 1039, 1044, 1110, and 1135 hours and would always vocalize prior to flying to the nest. The male was not observed assisting the female and was absent from the area, although he had been present the day before. On 27 August the female was observed feeding the young, making several visits at 0739, 0749 and 0759 hours. The female continued to periodically feed the young during the three hours the site was surveyed. The only time the female did not vocalize was when she flew directly to the nest and brooded the young. The male was not observed. On 30 August the female fed the young, making several visits at 0705, 0708, 0714, 0729, 0732 and 0738 hours. At least two young were visible in the nest. The male was not observed. On 31 August the female was observed feeding the young

between 0700 and 0930 hours. The male was again not observed. By 1 September the nestlings had fledged. The female was observed feeding at least one fledgling approximately 50 meters uphill from the nest site in the forested bluff. When discovered, the fledgling was on the ground but was observed to flutter high enough to perch in a small understory sapling approximately 1.5 meters above ground. On 2 September the female was heard eliciting call notes approximately 300 meters south of the nest site and approximately 50 meters uphill from the base of the bluff, possibly communicating with the fledglings. The female was last heard on the study site on 10 September calling from the forest understory but I was unable to visually confirm activity.

There are inconsistencies regarding the period between hatching date and nest fledging reported in the literature. Terres (1991) states that age of nest departure "not reported", Bent (1958) reports a 12 day interval and Alsop III (2001) describes the period as 13 - 14 days. Direct nest surveillance by Potter (1985) provides a nest departure date of 9 days and Fitch and Fitch (1955) report fledging by young tanagers as early as 7 days. Presuming my notes on a possible hatch date of August 25 are correct, the tanagers may have left the nest at 7 days of age. It should be noted however, that without direct inspection of the nest contents, confirmation of the exact hatch date was not possible. Based on my observations it appears that 2 young were fledged from the nest.

The observations provide compelling evidence for a record of double-brooded behavior by a Summer Tanager pair. This is based on the following synopsis. No tanagers other than the single pair observed were found on the study site or in the general vicinity, thus all observations are believed to be linked to a single breeding pair. The seasonality of this late nesting effort also suggests a second brood attempt or at the very least a renesting effort following a failed nest. Observation of the male feeding a nearly full grown fledgling prior to the August nesting period provides evidence on its own merit. Coincidentally, Mengel (1965) reported a similar scenario resulting in his suggestion of a possible double-brood effort in Kentucky. Rosenberg et al. (1991) found double-brood behavior to be common in Summer Tanager populations along the Lower Colorado River Valley. Summer Tanagers are thought to be monogamous during the breeding season and the likelihood that the feeding of young was a result of a previous pairing with a different mate is limited.

Based on a review of available literature, this may be the latest seasonal nesting effort by Summer Tanagers documented for North America. Corman and Wise-Gervais (2005) cite an observation of a fledged young being fed on 11 September in Arizona but no indication of possible age. Fitch and Fitch (1955) stated Summer Tanagers may attend young in excess of 3 weeks following nest departure. Thus the potential nest fledging date for the Arizona observation could be as early as 20 August.

Finally, given the males attendance throughout the incubation period, his sudden disappearance prior to the nest hatching date is inexplicable. Whether this event was related to direct or indirect mortality, or issues regarding physiology or individual behavioral traits cannot be answered. Interestingly, a field report in the Arkansas Audubon Society database by Janine Perlman, describes a nest fledging

without the assistance of the male for the previous 2 weeks. Feeding of the female by male Summer Tanagers during incubation has been reported by Potter (1985) however, this behavior was not seen by the pair under observation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Joel Jorgensen and Wayne Mollhoff for kindly reviewing the manuscript and offering helpful suggestions. I thank the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska Natural Resources Conservation Service and Ducks Unlimited for their support.

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Book Review

Wild Birding Colorado: The Big Year of 2010 by Cole Wild
in collaboration with Nick Komar

by Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA

Nebraska birders might remember seeing reports posted to NEBirds a few years back by Cole Wild, a native Coloradan whose mother's family is from Nebraska. Cole took up birding at age 19, spurred by an earlier high school environmental science class that required identification of 100 species of birds. As with many of us, a brightly-plumaged bird, in this case a Western Tanager, resulted in "the birdwatching gene" in Cole suddenly being "switched to the ON position". Soon after, Cole went on a "what the heck, I'll try it" field trip to see a Kelp Gull at Loveland Reservoir in November 2003, even though he had little idea what a Kelp Gull was and didn't know any Colorado birders. Several of Colorado's top birders were on the field trip, and later that day asked Cole to join them for additional birding, with the result that Cole was hooked.

After a few years of being mentored by other top Colorado birders, Cole felt that by 2010 he was up to a Colorado Big Year and an attempt to break the record of 391 set by Andrew Spencer. His decision was helped by his rather boring job as a lab technician and the difficulty of finding a girlfriend interested in birds, a familiar complaint among young male birders! This book is Cole's account of his 2010 Big Year, which turned out to be a great success, with 412 species counted.

As an aficionado of twitching books (*The Big Year* by Mark Obmascik, *The Big Twitch* by Sean Dooley, *The Biggest Twitch* by Alan Davies and Ruth Miller), I was happy to review Cole's book at the request of collaborator Nick Komar. The PDF file I was sent consisted of 146 pages, which I read at one sitting. For me, it was an exciting page-turner, but then I'm hooked on birding, too! The book is a month-by-month description of Cole's birding trips throughout Colorado, a vast and varied birder's paradise. Of course, a book like this can be read as I did in one sitting, when one becomes engrossed in the chase, but at times I sat back when the competitiveness of birding popped up in my mind and I questioned a few of Cole's sightings. My Records Committee experiences might have come into play here, too. In the end, of course, Cole broke the old record by 21 species and the magical 400 mark by 12, several species more than the few questionable sightings I noticed.

As with other twitching books, the vicarious fun to be had is hard to resist, and I recommend the book for this reason to other birders and especially to those from neighboring states like Nebraska who might be interested in Colorado birding.

The book (ISBN 9781432771034) is available from Outskirtspress.com, Amazon.com, and Espresso Book machines, and retails for \$19.95.

The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America

by Donald and Lillian Stokes

Reviewed by Tim Hajda, Broken Bow

Don and Lillian Stokes are well known for their nature guides that cover a variety of subjects, from hummingbirds and beginner shorebird identification to reptiles and amphibians. Their original pair of *Stokes Field Guide to Birds: Eastern Region* and *Western Region* have remained popular among North American birders since their appearance in 1995. They were illustrated with photographs instead of the traditional paintings used in most field guides. The authors' latest book, *The Stokes Guide to Birds of North America* is essentially an entirely new and much-improved version of these two guides. Instead of being split into two books, this new guide covers all of North America in one volume.

Size Considering the scope and the fact that all 815 pages are glossy and photo-filled, it's understandably quite large and heavy. It isn't the type of guide that you'd want to lug around with you owing to this factor.

Layout Birds are organized taxonomically and are in a column format. Most of the 854 species included are given a full page or two to themselves, though many are given half-pages; however, none feel particularly under-illustrated. The pages are thoughtfully organized, with all photos placed at the top of the page in a visually-pleasing "block" and the text in one section at the bottom of the page. The very small range maps are placed at the bottom of the page for easy reference.

Illustrations The highlight of this guide is the sheer abundance of good quality photos. More than 3,400 are included, which far surpasses any other available photo guide. Most are comfortably large and the overall quality of the photos is superb. In my opinion, this factor alone places it far ahead of all other available photo guides. It's a visual feast if you like looking at bird photos, though it's debatable whether or not the photos are superior to a good illustration-based field guide.

Text The text is thorough, with descriptions of shape, most plumages, flight, habitat, subspecies, and hybrids. The common name, scientific name, body length, and ABA Code are also included. Unfortunately I find the writing style dry and boring. It's heavy on the adjectives and abbreviations. But as I mentioned before, a list of subspecies and hybrids that occur or have occurred in North America is included, which is something valuable that you rarely see in a field guide.

Photos or Paintings? It's often debated whether photographs or illustrations make a better field guide. I prefer an illustration-based guide over a photo guide, but I'm not against photo guides and I definitely don't like all painting-based guides. Birds are infinitely variable, and I feel that a painting by a highly-skilled artist can better convey what a bird looks like "on average" than a photograph can. In the end, it's whatever works best for you, and don't limit yourself to just one field guide. Better yet, get out into the field where you can learn the birds the best way: with hours of observation and note-taking.

Conclusion All in all I think that *The Stokes Guide to Birds of North America* is a beautiful, well-organized photo guide that is superior to its photo guide competitors. I don't think that it has outdone the best illustration-based guides, but it would make a nice addition to a birder's library as a desk reference.



Whimbrel, Moger WPA, Clay Co., 12 May 2011. Photo by Paul Dunbar.



Red-headed Woodpecker, Prairie Loft Center west of Hastings, Adams Co., 2 Aug 2009. Photo by Paul Dunbar.



Immature male Northern Cardinal undergoing first pre-basic molt, Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 24 July 2010. Photo by Keith Lacy.



Atypical Ring-necked Pheasants between Sargent and Taylor, Custer Co., 17 Oct 2010. Photo by Bob Gerten. (Multiple subspecies exist in the wild along with the occasional captive-bred Ring-necked Pheasant.)



First Nebraska Brown-headed Nuthatch (found by Larry Einemann, 8 Nov 2010), Holmes Lake, Lincoln, Lancaster Co. Photo taken 13 Nov 2010 by Phil Swanson.

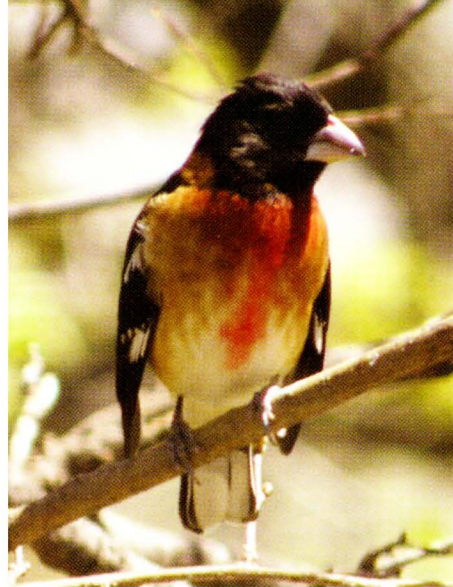
Ruby-throated Hummingbird on nest, Hormel Park, Fremont, Dodge Co., 5 June 2011. Nest found by Gary Roberts and photographed by Ken Shuster.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 30 Dec 2010. Photo by Susan Ropp (taken in blizzard) and submitted by Ann Duey.



Palm Warbler, Fontenelle Forest, Bellevue, Sarpy Co., 3 May 2011. Photo by Phil Swanson.





Hybrid Black-headed/Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Bellevue, Sarpy Co., 2 May 2011. Photos by Babs Padelford. This bird exhibits traits of both species: the ochre flanks, rump and collar of a Black-headed with the pink wedge on the breast, white on the belly, and extensive black on the head, throat and chin of a Rose-breasted. Hybrids can show a range of traits between two species, depending on genetics and the generation of the individual bird.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on nest and on wire, west side of Country Club Lane, north of 24th St., Kearney, Buffalo Co., 30 June 2010. Photos by William Flack.



Plegadis sp. Ibis, near Gavins Point Dam, Cedar Co., 2 Dec 2010. Photo by Karla Zeutenhorst.



Cooper's Hawk in the photographer's yard, Omaha, Douglas Co., 15 Dec 2010. Photo by Eric Scholar.



Black-crowned Night-Heron in drainage ditch near beef packing plant, Grand Island, Hall Co., on the Grand Island Christmas Bird Count, 18 Dec 2010. Photo by Steve Morris.

The Nebraska Bird Review is published quarterly by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc., as its official journal, and is sent to members not in arrears of dues. Annual subscription rates (on a calendar-year basis only): \$15 in the United States, \$18 in Canada and \$30 in all other countries, payable in advance. Single copies are \$4 each, postpaid, in the United States, \$5 in Canada, and \$8 elsewhere. Send orders for back issues to Anita Breckbill, NOU Librarian, c/o Music Library, WMB 30, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0101 (or at the email address listed below).

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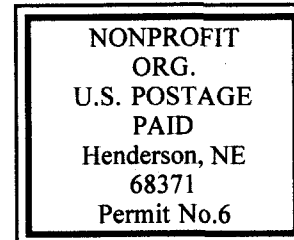
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