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# Fall Field Report, August–November 2011

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## FALL FIELD REPORT, August–November 2011

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### INTRODUCTION

Overall, this fall migration was routine (waterfowl, warblers, sparrows), but there were a few unexpected highlights. The flooded Missouri River Valley provided habitat that led to some amazing fall counts: 3000 pelicans, 5700 coots, 338 American Golden-Plovers, and 1200 Pectoral Sandpipers. The 10,000 cormorants at Harlan County Reservoir may not have been affected by the Missouri River flooding, and were a record count also. While we're talking numbers, the martin roost in Omaha topped out at 50,000–55,000, and seasonal totals of 4 Red-necked Grebes and 15 Philadelphia Vireos for the state, 34 Mississippi Kites over Ogallala (it's often hard to find one), and 45 Lesser Goldfinches banded at Wildcat Hills Nature Center were interesting tallies.

Surprising many was the rare occurrence of 4000–5000 Sandhill Cranes lingering late into fall; the reports of 5 Snowy Owls before the end of the period also was a hint of what might follow. Also surprising was the low number of Black-capped Chickadees reported in south-central Nebraska; the NOU meeting held at Audubon Rowe Sanctuary reported chickadees in only one of the 12 counties covered by participants.

And, of course, there is always the weird. Two species of vagrant psittacids were reported, neither a threat to our native birds: a Rosy-faced Lovebird and a Budgerigar. One reporter found a Burrowing Owl on the grounds of an Omaha Lowes store (strange enough), but a subsequent reporter, looking for the owl, turned up a Smith's Longspur in the same place. Maybe I've been trying too hard for the Smith's! And finally, a Rufous Hummingbird appeared in a Lincoln yard in mid-Sep and stayed there all fall until it was captured on 10 Nov and sent to hummingbird heaven at the Henry Doorly Zoo.

### ABBREVIATIONS

ad: adult  
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  
fem: female  
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co  
GPD: Gavins Point Dam, Knox/Cedar Cos  
HCR: Harlan Co Res SRA, Harlan Co  
HL: Holmes L, Lincoln  
imm: immature

juv: juvenile

L: Lake

LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co

LO: L Ogallala (includes contiguous Keystone L), Keith Co

m. ob.: many observers

NC: Nature Center

NM: National Monument

NWR: National Wildlife Refuge

PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co

Res: Reservoir

PSP: Ponca SP, Dixon Co

RWB: Rainwater Basin, including parts of Phelps, Hamilton, York, Clay, Fillmore,  
and Thayer Cos

SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co

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

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

Sandhills: large area of sand-based prairie in north-central Nebraska

#### OBSERVERS

AD: Ann Duey, Scottsbluff

AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering

ARy: Al Reyer, Bellevue

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

BFH: Bill F. Huser, South Sioux City

BG: Bob Gerten, Burwell

BW: Bruce Wendorff, Lincoln

CH: Carr Heaney, Omaha

CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue

CW: Colin Woolley, Portland, OR

D&JP: Don & Jan Paseka, Ames

DL: Dan Leger, Lincoln

DR: Dean Rosenthal, Fairbury

DSt: Dave Stage, Elkhorn

EB: Elaine Bachel, Lincoln

G&WH: Glen & Wanda Hoge, Alma

GJ: Gail Johnson, Warminster, PA  
GN: Greg Neuman, Seward  
GR: Gary Roberts, Fremont  
HKH: Helen K. Hughson, Mitchell  
JC: John Carlini, Lincoln  
JED: James E. Ducey, Lincoln  
JG: Joe Gubanyi, Seward  
JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Lincoln  
JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield  
JLL: Jeanine L. Lackey, Doniphan  
JM: Jeanne Miller, Bennington  
JO: Jim Ochsner, Ogallala  
JR: Justin Rink, Omaha  
JRi: Juanita Rice, Fairmont  
JS: John Schukman, Leavenworth, KS  
JWH: John W. Hall, Omaha  
KC: Kenneth Carnes, Lincoln  
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell  
KS: Kent Skaggs, Minden  
L&BP: Loren & Babs Padelford, Bellevue  
LD: Linda Deeds, North Platte  
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln  
LF: Laurence Falk, Nebraska City  
LJH: Luke Hamilton, Lewellen  
LR: Lanny Randolph, Kearney  
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton  
MC: Mary Clausen, Bellevue  
MCv: Matthew Cvetas, Evanston, IL  
MH: Michael Hague, Chadron and GA  
MUs: Moni Usasz, Lincoln  
NR: Neal Ratzlaff, Omaha  
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings  
PS: Phil Swanson, Papillion  
R&SW: Susan & Ron Whitney, Lincoln  
RB: Rob Bogardus, McCook  
RE: Rick Eades, Lincoln  
RH: Robin Harding, Minden  
RL: Roger Lawson, Curtis  
RM: Robert Manning, Omaha  
RS: Rick Schmid, Omaha  
RSt: Ruth Stearns, Lincoln  
SM: Steve Morris, Grand Island  
SQ: Susan Quinn, Nebraska City  
SS: Shari Schwartz, Lincoln  
TEL: Thomas E. Labedz, Lincoln  
TH: Tim Hajda, Broken Bow  
TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady  
WF: William Flack, Kearney  
WM: Wayne Mollhoff, Ashland  
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** One that summered in Douglas Co was still present 18 Sep (JM); there are very few such reports from the east. Best count was an excellent 1000 in Lancaster Co 26 Oct (WF).

**Snow Goose:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

**Ross's Goose:** Reports were routine for this uncommon fall migrant.

**Cackling Goose:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

**Canada Goose:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

**Trumpeter Swan:** One of the Ravenna breeding pair (see summer report) was still present 18 Sep (LR, RH).

**Tundra Swan:** None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant, perhaps now overlooked, given the more numerous migratory Trumpeters.

**Wood Duck:** An impressive count of 48 at Jack Sinn 4 Aug (LE) was probably a group of adults and hatch-year birds; flocks begin to form in Aug. A similar but westerly group was the 22 at Broken Bow SL 3 Sep (TH).

**Gadwall:** The 200+ in Lincoln Co 14 Sep (JJ) were early for a large number; migrants usually appear in mid-Sep in smaller numbers.

**American Wigeon:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

**American Black Duck:** None were reported of this rare but regular fall migrant.

**Mallard:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

**Blue-winged Teal:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

**Cinnamon Teal:** None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant in the west.

**Northern Shoveler:** The 1500 at BOL 8 Nov (JGJ) was a good tally; fall highs are in the 1700-2000 range.

**Northern Pintail:** One in Saunders Co 4 Sep (LE) was a bit early; migrants appear in mid-Sep most years.

**Green-winged Teal:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

**Canvasback:** One in Clay Co 24 Sep (CNK) was rather early; migrants usually arrive in Oct.

**Redhead:** One in Sherman Co 24 Sep (LE) was a bit early; migration usually begins in late Sep.

**Ring-necked Duck:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.

**Greater Scaup:** The only reports were of 2-3 at Oak L, Lincoln, 6-8 Nov (JGJ, LE). This is a rare fall migrant, with far fewer reported in fall than spring.

**Lesser Scaup:** The 2000 at BOL 8 Nov (JGJ) was 2nd-highest fall count on record; high is 3450.

**Surf Scoter:** This was a good fall for this species, with at least 9 reported, all fem/imm types: 2 were in Pierce Co 20 Oct (JJ), 2-3 were at BOL 30 Oct (JGJ, GR), another was near Niobrara 2 Nov (MB), singles (same bird?) were at CBL 11-29 Nov (LE, JGJ), and 2 were at GPD 25 Nov (MB).

**White-winged Scoter:** At least 5 were reported, including an ad male at GPD 26 Nov (BFH); the others were fem/imm types: 1-2 were at CBL 11-28 Nov (JGJ, DL, LE, RSt, EB), one at BOL 16 Nov (JGJ), and one at HL 23-30 Nov (DL, MUs, LE, JGJ, RE).

**Black Scoter:** None were reported, surprising in that this species has been numerous the last few falls.

**Long-tailed Duck:** The only reports were of one at BOL 16 Nov (JGJ) and 6 at GPD 25 Nov (MB); the latter ties the 2nd-highest count on record. High is 11.

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

**Common Goldeneye:** Two in Morrill Co 24 Oct (LJH) were rather early; earliest dates are around 20 Oct.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** None were reported; this is a rare but regular winter visitor in the west.

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

**Common Merganser:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** One at BOL 29 Oct (LE) was rather early, and a good count was the 28 at BOL 20 Nov (JGJ). High fall count is 137.

**Ruddy Duck:** The 1186 in Lancaster Co 29 Oct (LE) was an excellent count. High is 1500. A fem in Hall Co 12 Aug (JLL) was early at a non-breeding location.

**Northern Bobwhite:** Reports were routine for this virtually statewide resident.

**Gray Partridge:** None were reported; this species is currently at a low ebb in numbers.

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

**Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Reports were routine for this fairly common northern and western resident.

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Best count was an impressive 104 in Custer and Lincoln Cos 27 Nov (TJW). Seven in Merrick Co 16 Oct (LR, RH) were a little southeasterly for the Sandhills population, and may have been following this species' well-known propensity for moving southeast in late fall.

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

**Pacific Loon:** Two were reported after being absent from the state the last few falls. Singles were at PL 22-24 Oct (MB, RSt, GR) and at CBL 8 Nov (LE).

**Common Loon:** An injured imm was treated and released at HL 1 Aug and seen there through 21 Aug (JGJ, m. ob.). Summering imms are rare eastward, but regular in the west. Elsewhere, numbers were higher than in most falls; 15 were at BOL 8 Nov (JGJ).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Good numbers were reported, including 190 in Lancaster Co 29 Oct (LE) and 100-120 at Carter L, Douglas Co, 18 Oct (CNK). High counts, however, are 475+.

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

**Red-necked Grebe:** A surprising 4 were reported, all singles; these were at BOL 28-30 Oct (DL, RSt, GR), HL 29 Oct (LE), PL 29 Oct (LE), and LO 3 Nov (KS). This species has been reported more often in recent years.

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

**Western Grebe:** Reports were routine for this fall migrant, which is abundant in the west and uncommon in the east.

**Clark's Grebe:** None were reported for this rare fall migrant.

**Neotropic Cormorant:** There were 2 reports of this casual summer visitor, only the 15th and 16th for the state. One was in Harlan Co 23-24 Sep (CNK, JJ), the other in Sherman Co 23 Sep (LE).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** A near-record 10,000 were gathered at HCR, a favored staging area, 14 Oct (G&WH); high is 12,000, also at HCR.

**American White Pelican:** The severe flooding in the Missouri River Valley provided excellent conditions for waterbirds as the waters receded; a record fall count of 3000 were in eastern Washington Co 19 Sep (NR).

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

- Least Bittern:** The only report of this rare summer resident was of one rather late in Clay Co 23 Sep (CNK).
- Great Blue Heron:** Groups of migrants are rarely noted or reported; 26 were flying south over Dakota Co 17 Sep (BFH).
- Great Egret:** Fewer are reported in the west; 2 were in Scotts Bluff Co 4 Sep (KD).
- Snowy Egret:** A total of 14, typical for fall, was reported through 24 Sep (m. ob.), including 8 in Clay Co 15 Aug (JGJ).
- Little Blue Heron:** The only reports of this rare summer visitor were of 1-2 ads at Kissinger Basin WPA, Clay Co, 15 Aug (JGJ) and 28 Aug (LR, RH). Most late summer birds are imms.
- Cattle Egret:** The 250 in Scotts Bluff Co 4 Sep (KD) was a good count; 6 at BOL 29 Oct (LE) were tardy.
- Green Heron:** Singles in Scotts Bluff Co 9 Sep (AD) and Morrill Co 7 Aug (LJH) were westerly, where uncommon.
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** One in a not-often-seen imm plumage was photographed in the eastern RWB 24 Sep (PD). Reports after Aug are few; late dates are in early Oct.
- Glossy Ibis:** Observers may be jaded by the numbers seen in recent years and may not be searching for this species as much; only one was reported, in Clay Co 15 Aug (JGJ).
- White-faced Ibis:** Uncommon in the east in fall, one was in Saunders Co 4 Sep (LE).
- Turkey Vulture:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Osprey:** One in Sherman Co 3 Aug (WF) was likely a young non-breeder. Migrants appear in mid-Aug. The 8 at HCR 16 Sep (JJ) was a good count; high is 26.
- Mississippi Kite:** The population at Ogallala is doing very well; the 8+ nests this summer, along with non-breeding imms, would account for the amazing 34 seen overhead 2 Sep (JO). Elsewhere, reports were widespread, most apparently fall dispersers and migrants, although a juv was well-described in extreme northern Kearney Co 26 Aug (WF); 12 were at a roost in McCook 10 Sep (RB, photo), and about 14 others were reported statewide (m. ob.), including 3 record late near Genoa 1 Oct (SM).
- Bald Eagle:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Northern Harrier:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** One carefully studied in Saline Co 17 Aug (CNK) was rather early. Another was in Nebraska City 2 Sep (LF, SQ).
- Cooper's Hawk:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.
- Northern Goshawk:** None were reported of this rare Panhandle resident and fall migrant.
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** After some signs of increasing numbers in recent years, this fall the only report was of a dispersing bird as far west as Lincoln Co 27 Aug (TJW).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Two ads with a juv at Hummel Park, Omaha, 17 Aug (JR, JED) were suggestive of local breeding, a rare occurrence in the Missouri River Valley. One in Scotts Bluff Co 17 Sep (KD) was only the 12th Panhandle fall record.

- Swainson's Hawk:** Of interest was a fledgling banded in California that was also carrying a transmitter and was seen in the Sioux City area in mid-Sep (fide MC).
- Red-tailed Hawk:** Reports were routine for this common resident and fall migrant.
- Ferruginous Hawk:** One in Kearney Co 23 Sep (D&JP) was about on schedule for fall migrants eastward.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant and winter resident.
- Golden Eagle:** Easterly was a sub-ad over Sarpy Co 23 Oct (L&BP); a few are reported in the Missouri River Valley each fall.
- Crested Caracara:** A convincing report of one seen twice feeding on roadkill in Seward Co 20-21 Aug (GN) has been referred to the NOU Records Committee; it would be a first record for Nebraska if accepted. Probably of significance relative to this report was the sighting of one in Washington Co, Kansas, about 120 miles south of Seward Co, Nebraska.
- American Kestrel:** reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Merlin:** One near Niobrara 24 Aug (MB) was rather early; fall arrival is in mid-Aug. The wintering subspecies in Nebraska, *Falco columbarius richardsonii*, was represented by one near Creighton 2 Nov (MB).
- Peregrine Falcon:** The 4 in Knox Co 8 Oct (MB) was a fall high count.
- Prairie Falcon:** Reports were routine for this uncommon fall migrant eastward.
- Virginia Rail:** Reports were routine for this uncommon fall migrant.
- Sora:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.
- American Coot:** Fourth-highest fall tally on record was the 5700 at Carter L, Omaha, 28 Oct (JED).
- Sandhill Crane:** Most are gone by mid-Nov, and so a major surprise was the presence of large numbers in the central Platte River Valley at least into late Nov; 4000-5000 were lingering in Hall Co as late as 25 Nov (JLL). Their feeding and roosting behavior was similar to that seen during their March stopover (LR, RH). Whether these birds are merely lingering because of mild conditions without snow cover or have returned from their usual wintering areas in the southwest United States due to drought-induced food source reduction there is unclear.
- Whooping Crane:** About 35 were detected as they passed through the state 20 Oct-13 Nov, as expected (fide JGJ).
- Black-bellied Plover:** Two in Scotts Bluff Co 2 Oct (KD) were considered noteworthy for fall.
- American Golden-Plover:** Fewer pass through Nebraska in fall than in spring, and most are juvs, arriving around 1 Sep. A major surprise was the large numbers that appeared in flooded agricultural fields in southeastern Washington Co in late Oct. On 25 Oct a near-record 338 were tallied (JR, JED, CNK), and 150+ were there 28 Oct (NR, JJ). Also on 28 Oct, 152 were in Douglas Co (JED).
- Semipalmated Plover:** The 32 near Niobrara 29 Aug (MB) was a record fall count.
- Piping Plover:** A juv in Platte Co 29 Sep (PD) was rather late, and one in Knox Co 8 Oct (MB) was 4th-latest on record.
- Killdeer:** Best count was a moderate 332 in Douglas Co 28 Oct (JED).
- Mountain Plover:** None were reported of this rare southern Panhandle resident.



**Black-necked Stilt:** The nesting birds at a flooded field in Dakota Co (see summer report) were still present 27 Aug, when an ad and 3 24-day-old juvs were seen (BFH, JJ, LE). Of 2 nests started, one had dried out and the other had 4 eggs by 2 Aug (BFH); the first downy young was seen 6 Aug and 2 in juv plumage were present 6 Aug (BFH). There are only about 15 reports after 11 Aug, and so tardy were one in Scotts Bluff Co 4 Sep (KD), and an adult and 2 juvs in Clay Co 26 Aug (PD). As many as 9 were in Clay Co 15-17 Aug (CNK, JGJ).

**American Avocet:** The 12 near Niobrara 2 Nov (MB) were tardy; there are only 6 sightings after 6 Nov.

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

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

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

**Willet:** Uncommon in the east in fall, the only reports were of 1-2 at BOL 1-11 Nov (LE).

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

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

**Long-billed Curlew:** None were reported; this is often an early-departing westerly fall migrant.

**Marbled Godwit:** None were reported; this is often an early-departing fall migrant.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** The only report of this rare fall migrant, only the 26th in all for fall, was a juv near Niobrara 30 Aug (MB).

**Red Knot:** The only report of this rare fall migrant, about the 30th for the state in fall, was a juv in Knox Co 9 Sep, the veteran observer's (MB) first for the county.

**Sanderling:** Best count was a moderate 85 near Niobrara 8 Oct (MB); high for fall is 179.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** This species is rarely reported after about 10 Oct, and so surprising were up to 6 in southeastern Washington Co 25-27 Oct (CNK, JR, JED) and 8-12 in Cass Co 26-27 Oct (CNK).

**Western Sandpiper:** This fairly common fall migrant was reported 3 times: one was photographed near Ashland 15 Aug (MCv), one was in Cass Co 29 Aug (CNK), and 2 were in Lancaster Co 9 Oct (LE).

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

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Although there are a few Nov records, 2 at PL 3 Nov (LE) were rather late.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** The 1200 near Niobrara 27 Aug (MB) was a record fall count, and one in Sarpy Co 16 Nov (LE) was 6th-latest on record.

**Dunlin:** None were reported of this uncommon, often overlooked fall migrant.

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

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Reports were routine for this fairly common east-central fall migrant.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Reports were routine (2 Aug-3 Sep; m. ob.) for this uncommon fall migrant.

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

**Wilson's Snipe:** Migrants begin to appear in fall in Aug, such as the 30 in Clay Co 28 Aug (LR, RH).

**American Woodcock:** Last reported were singles in Dodge Co 26 Oct (D&JP) and at FF 1 Nov (L&BP). Late dates are in mid-Nov.

- Wilson's Phalarope:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Red-necked Phalarope:** Reports from the Missouri River Valley counties are unusual; 2 were in Cass Co 29 Aug (CNK).
- Red Phalarope:** Two were reported at BOL 22 Sep (LE; no details).
- Sabine's Gull:** The 7 reports may have been of the same bird: singles were at BOL 14-15 Sep (JC, SS, LE), CBL 17 Sep (JGJ, JC, SS), and at BOL 27-30 Sep (LE, PD, DL).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.
- Franklin's Gull:** One in Lancaster Co 28 Nov (LE) was late. Dec records are rare.
- Mew Gull:** The only report of this rare winter visitor was of a basic ad at HCR 11 Nov (PD), 2nd-earliest of the 15 fall records.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.
- California Gull:** None were reported; a few are usually at LM if looked for.
- Herring Gull:** First of the season was one at BOL 21 Sep (LE); summer records are rare.
- Thayer's Gull:** A first-year bird was well-studied at BOL 1 Oct (JGJ, details); it is the earliest on record for fall. One to two ads were at CBL 14-18 Nov (LE).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** None were reported; winter visitors often arrive by November.
- Glaucous Gull:** Three arrived in time for the fall report: one was at HCR 24 Nov (KS), and 1-2 first winter birds were at GPD 25-26 Nov (MB, BFH, BG).
- Great Black-backed Gull:** None were reported; winter visitors rarely arrive before December.
- Least Tern:** Reports were routine for this fairly common local summer resident and fall migrant.
- Caspian Tern:** The only report of this uncommon fall migrant was of one in Sherman Co 23 Sep (LR, RH).
- Black Tern:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Common Tern:** The only report of this uncommon fall migrant was of 4 at Niobrara 9 Sep (MB).
- Forster's Tern:** Best count was a moderate 45 at BOL 11 Sep (LE); high counts are in the range 83-95.
- Rock Pigeon:** Reports were routine for this common resident.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Best count reported was the 143 at a grain elevator in Gibbon 18 Sep (LR, RH), indicating when fall flocking begins.
- White-winged Dove:** None were reported since the summer report; the year's total remains at 7.
- Mourning Dove:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident and abundant fall migrant.
- Rosy-faced Lovebird:** The 2nd report for the state of this exotic was of one at a Scottsbluff nursery 16 Sep (KD). See comments under Budgerigar, next.
- Budgerigar:** One was in a Lincoln yard 13 Sep (JGJ), certainly an escape or released bird. This is the 4th report for the state, but there is no likelihood that this species will establish in the wild in the state.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** One at WP 7 Oct (LE) was a bit tardy; latest dates are in late Oct.
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** None were reported; most depart by late Sep.
- Barn Owl:** Reports were, as expected, from southwest Nebraska: 2 were south of Gering 28 Aug (AK), another was in Scotts Bluff Co 17 Sep (AK), and one was in Lincoln Co 2 Oct (LD).

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

**Great Horned Owl:** Occasionally, pale Great Horned Owls appear in Nebraska in winter; one such in Dakota Co 25 Nov (BFH) was likely of the arctic race *Bubo virginianus subarcticus*. Its appearance may be related to the influx of Snowy Owls noted during this fall period.

**Snowy Owl:** By the end of the period there had been several reports, presaging a likely influx of this species during the winter. The first reported was in Saline Co 8 Nov (fide JGJ), 2nd-earliest on record, and others were at Calamus Res, Loup Co, 24 Nov (fide JGJ), near Bassett 25-26 Nov (fide JGJ), in Webster Co 27 Nov (KS, photo), and in Burt Co 28 Nov (fide JGJ).

**Burrowing Owl:** The population at Hultine WPA, Clay Co, is doing well; as many as 12 were there, including several juvs, 2 Aug (JC, SS). A surprise was one near the Lowes Store in Omaha at 10 pm on 12 Oct (DSt, JR).

**Barred Owl:** One at Hebron 23 Sep (LE) was at the west edge of its range.

**Long-eared Owl:** Only 2 were reported, fewer than usual for this uncommon winter visitor; singles were in Dixon Co 1 Nov (JJ) and in Omaha 27 Nov (JWH).

**Short-eared Owl:** Good numbers were at Jack Sinn 11 Nov, when 5 were counted (LE); one was found there 18 Nov (RSt, EB). High counts are 10+.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** None were reported of this uncommon fall migrant and winter visitor.

**Common Nighthawk:** The 156 flying over Omaha 30 Aug (JR) was a good count; high counts are 260+.

**Common Poorwill:** None were reported; departure dates are in late Sep, but fall silent birds are hard to detect.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** As with Common Poorwill, fall birds are difficult to detect, but 2 were at PSP 18 Sep (MB), a rather late date.

**Chimney Swift:** One in Lincoln 12 Oct (LE) was tardy; most depart by mid-Oct.

**White-throated Swift:** Last reported was in Scotts Bluff Co 8 Sep (AK); most depart by mid-Sep.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Best yard count was an excellent tally of 14 in Lincoln 21 Sep (R&SW). Reports were widespread; farthest west was one in Lewellen 9 Sep (LJH). Early arrivals where breeding was not noted were 1 Aug in Lincoln (MUs), 5 Aug in Bennington (JM), and 6 Aug in Hall Co (JLL). Breeding does occur in the Missouri River Valley and so the 1 and 5 Aug dates may be of local breeders.

**Calliope Hummingbird:** None were reported of this rare fall migrant in the western Panhandle; there were no Jul reports either.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird:** The only report was of a fem near Mitchell 7 Aug (KD); this is an uncommon fall migrant in the Panhandle.

**Rufous Hummingbird:** There were only 3 reports, one of which involved an easterly imm which appeared at the observer's Lincoln feeder 13 Sep and remained until 10 Nov, when it was captured, its identity confirmed as a Rufous, not an Allen's, and transferred to the Henry Doorly Zoo Insect Pavilion (JGJ). Surprisingly, this is the 5th record for Nov, all from the east. The 2 additional reports included one at an expected location, WSR, 15 Aug (HKH), and a possible in Lincoln 19 Aug, described as having "distinct brown coloration" (RE).

**Belted Kingfisher:** The 6 in Lancaster Co 4 Sep (LE) tied the high count; at least some were likely a family group.

- Lewis's Woodpecker:** None were reported; this is an uncommon fall migrant or wanderer in the west.
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** There are only 3 records after 2 Oct in the north-central, so 9 in Knox Co 8 Oct (MB), one in Dixon Co the same day (JJ), and singles in Boyd and Knox Cos as late as 14 Nov (JGJ) were unexpected.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker:** This species continues to consolidate in the Panhandle; a male and fem together in a Mitchell yard 18 Sep was the first time the observer had seen a pair together there (KD).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Reports from the west are more numerous in fall; one was at WHNC 3 Oct (AK).
- Red-naped Sapsucker:** None were reported; this is a rare fall migrant in the western Panhandle.
- Downy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this common statewide resident.
- Hairy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide resident.
- Northern Flicker:** Rather early for a "red-shafted" flicker in the east was one in Omaha 21 Sep (JR); there are 6 eastern dates 17-24 Sep.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** Only one was reported away from the usual lower Missouri River Valley locations: one was along the Little Blue River west of Fairbury 13 and 19 Nov (DR fide JGJ). Such out-of-range sightings are likely of young birds dispersing; such movements can lead to establishment of a breeding population.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Reports were routine for this uncommon fall migrant.
- Western Wood-Pewee:** One banded at WHNC 23 Sep (CW) was rather late; last dates are in late Sep.
- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Three in Lancaster Co 7 Oct (LE) were rather late; there are only 5 records after 8 Oct. The 13 at FF 16 Sep "mostly in one group" (JR) was an excellent count (high is 25).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** One was photographed in the observer's yard in Papillion 28 Aug (PS). Only a few are identified each fall.
- Acadian Flycatcher:** None were reported; this is an uncommon summer resident in the southeast, mostly departing by early Sep.
- Willow Flycatcher:** Reports were routine for this uncommon summer resident; most depart by early Sep.
- Least Flycatcher:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.
- Hammond's Flycatcher:** None were reported of this rare Panhandle fall migrant.
- Dusky Flycatcher:** None were reported of this rare Panhandle fall migrant.
- Cordilleran Flycatcher:** Few are found during migration; one banded at Chadron SP 13 Sep (MH) was easterly.
- Eastern Phoebe:** One at ADF 24 Oct (LF, SQ) was rather late; there are only 6 dates for Nov and one for Dec.
- Say's Phoebe:** The observer's first for several years in Dixon Co was seen 25 Aug (JJ); there have been occasional sightings in the area since the late 1990s. Also easterly was one in Buffalo Co 23 Sep (CNK). One in Scotts Bluff Co 5 Oct (B&DW) was rather late.
- Great Crested Flycatcher:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Cassin's Kingbird:** Reports were routine for this fairly common Panhandle summer resident.
- Western Kingbird:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

**Eastern Kingbird:** Migration must have been underway in Lincoln 27 Aug, when "hundreds" were noted (TEL).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** No reports were received; only one nesting was noted during summer.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** Departure dates can be unclear due to the overlapping arrival of Northern Shrikes; however a Loggerhead in Scotts Bluff Co 4 Sep was confirmed by photo (KD). Late dates in the west are in late Sep, but few are documented.

**Northern Shrike:** Eleven had arrived by the end of the period; earliest was in Otoe Co 1 Nov (CNK), later than usual.

**Bell's Vireo:** One in Thayer Co 23 Sep (LE) was tardy; late dates are in early Oct.

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

**Plumbeous Vireo:** The only report was of one banded at WHNC 8 Sep (CW), about on time for a migrant; late dates are in mid-Sep.

**Cassin's Vireo:** None were reported of this uncommon fall Panhandle migrant.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** One in Omaha 25 Aug (L&BP) was rather early. Only the 6th Panhandle record was of a hatch-year bird banded at WHNC 16 Sep (CW).

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

**Philadelphia Vireo:** This species showed well in the east, with 12 reports involving 15 birds (m. ob.); earliest was in Bellevue 20 Aug (ARy) and last were 2 in WP 5 Oct (RSt), rather late.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

**Pinyon Jay:** This species can be elusive in late summer and early fall; none were reported.

**Blue Jay:** This species often moves southward in fall, usually peaking in numbers around 25 Sep. Likely such a movement was the 100+ in Harlan Co 24 Sep (JJ).

**Black-billed Magpie:** This species continues to make a slow recovery from depressed numbers in the last few years in various parts of its range. Considered noteworthy was the observer's first in Knox Co for 5+ years on 9 Sep (MB), a flock of 12 in Scotts Bluff Co 11 Sep (AD), and 5 near Broken Bow 5 Sep (TH).

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

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

**Purple Martin:** The Omaha roost peaked at an amazing 50,000-55,000 birds 27 Aug (JR, JED); a "dramatic drop" in early Sep resulted in only 4000-5000 present 5 Sep (JR) and only 5 were seen 12 Sep (JR). A good non-roost tally was the 4000-5000 on wires in Douglas Co 21 Aug (RM).

**Tree Swallow:** A record fall count was the 1000 at BOL 15 Sep (LE). Many molting birds were among the 500-600 in Saline Co 17 Aug (CNK).

**Violet-green Swallow:** None were reported for this fairly common Panhandle summer resident.

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

**Bank Swallow:** The 500 mostly young birds at CLNWR 11 Aug (WM) was an excellent fall count for the west.

**Cliff Swallow:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

**Barn Swallow:** The 3000 in Platte Co 29 Sep (PD) was an excellent count; high is 10,000.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** As with Black-billed Magpie, recovery from depressed numbers in recent years is still slow in a few parts of the state. The observer's first since the "West Nile summer" was in her Scotts Bluff Co yard 28 Sep (AD), and, amazingly, this species was reported in only one county (Buffalo) out of 12 covered during the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union meeting in south-central Nebraska 23 Sep (m. ob.).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Birds appear in mid-Aug away from breeding areas, but most movement is in Sep; 29 were in a small area of Brown Co 6 Sep (D&JP).

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

**Pygmy Nuthatch:** The 15 at Wright's Gap, Banner Co, 19 Aug (JGJ) were at the eastern edge of the range in the Wildcat Hills.

**Brown Creeper:** Evidence is scanty for breeding at Chadron SP; one banded there 19 Sep (MH) may have been a resident or an early fall migrant.

**Rock Wren:** Singles in Clay Co 23 Sep (MB) and Kearney 21 Sep (TH) were easterly; these are the 12th and 13th fall sightings from this part of the state.

**Carolina Wren:** Rather late were a nest with 4 eggs at Fontenelle Forest 4 Aug (RS) and the 4 young that fledged from a Bellevue nest 14 Aug (ARy).

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

**Winter Wren:** One in Lincoln 5 Sep (DL, details) was 3rd-earliest on record; arrival is usually in late Sep.

**Sedge Wren:** This species breeds in Nebraska in late summer on occasion; 6 birds, including 2 probable juvs, were in Richardson Co 28 Aug (JSC). One was in Lincoln 15 Nov (KC, details). This is the 3rd record for Nov; there is a specimen dated 20 Nov.

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

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** There are several records over the last 20 years in the HCR area; 2 were below the HCR dam 21 Aug (LR, RH).

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

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** One in Brown Co 6 Nov (WF) was rather late for the north; last dates there are 7-8 Nov.

**Eastern Bluebird:** What appears to be only the 2nd record of breeding in the southern Panhandle (south of Wildcat Hills) was an ad and a juv at Oliver Res, Kimball Co, 19 Aug (JGJ). An impressive concentration was the "hundreds" at Nine Mile Prairie, Lancaster Co, 17 Sep (JM); high counts are 200-300.

**Mountain Bluebird:** Reports were routine for this fairly common summer visitor, fall migrant, and winter visitor in the west.

**Townsend's Solitaire:** Easternmost were 2 near North Platte 9 Oct (LD).

**Veery:** None were reported of this rare fall migrant.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** None were reported; this rare fall migrant is seldom seen outside the Missouri Valley.

**Swainson's Thrush:** Numbers were lower than usual; a veteran observer in Lancaster Co reported only 2 for the fall season (LE).

**Hermit Thrush:** The only report was of 2 in Lincoln 25 Oct (JGJ); most migrants are found late Sep through Oct.

**Wood Thrush:** A rather late breeding was an ad with a newly-fledged young bird at FF 11 Aug (CNK). Two imms there 14 Sep (JR) may have been migrants or locally-fledged birds.

**American Robin:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

**Gray Catbird:** One in Sherman Co 10 Oct (WF) was rather late for that location, as was one in Lincoln 25-27 Nov (RE). Reports after mid-Nov in the east are rare.

**Northern Mockingbird:** A rather late breeding was the ad with 3 juvs at Oliver Res, Kimball Co, 19 Aug 2011 (JGJ).

**Sage Thrasher:** None were reported of this rare Panhandle fall migrant.

**Brown Thrasher:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.

**European Starling:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.

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

**Sprague's Pipit:** Reports are increasing, possibly as observers work out where and how to find this species. There were 5 reports, including 2 counts of 12, one in Phelps Co 24 Sep (JJ) and the other at SCP 12 Oct (LF, SQ). Elsewhere, one was in Kearney Co 23 Sep (CNK), one was at a Lowe's store in west Omaha 13 Oct, where the observer was searching for a reported Burrowing Owl (JR), and one was at SCP 26 Oct (LE).

**Cedar Waxwing:** Best count was an excellent 150 in Hall Co 11 Nov (TJW); high fall counts are 200+.

**Lapland Longspur:** Reports were routine for this abundant winter resident.

**Chestnut-collared Longspur:** None were reported of this common western fall migrant.

**Smith's Longspur:** This species is difficult to find; it prefers short patchy grass but can be frustratingly inconsistent in its occurrences. A good find was the 11 in mowed 4-5 inch prairie near Talmage 1 Nov (CNK), only about the 21st fall record.

**McCown's Longspur:** Apparently on the move were the 13 in southern Sioux Co 24 Sep (HKH); small flocks appear around mid-Sep.

**Snow Bunting:** There were only 2 reports of this late-arriving winter resident: 2 were rather early in Douglas Co 28 Oct (JED, photo) and 3 were in Platte Co 11 Nov (SM). Most do not arrive until Nov.

**Ovenbird:** One at WP 7 Oct (LE) was rather late; there are only 5 later dates on record, through 11 Nov.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** None were reported; this species is rarely noticed in fall, most leaving before Sep.

**Northern Waterthrush:** Only 6 were reported, those in the expected period 5-15 Sep (JR).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Only the 13th fall report for this species was one in Lancaster Co 15 Sep (LE).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.

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

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Good numbers were noted statewide, including 14 at WP 7 Oct (LE) and 11 in Omaha 12 Oct (JR). One at WSR 18 Aug (HKH) was early; such early migrants in the west are likely the Rocky Mountain subspecies *Oreothlypis celata orestera*.

**Nashville Warbler:** This species appeared in much higher numbers than usual, including best counts of 21 at WP 21 Sep (LE) and 15 there 15 Sep (LE). Primarily an eastern migrant, westernmost were 2 in Howard Co 18 Sep (LR, RH) and one in Merrick Co 2 Oct (LR, RH).

- MacGillivray's Warbler:** The only reports were of singles in Sioux Co 24 Sep (HKH) and Scotts Bluff Co 2 Oct (KD), the expected timing for fall migration.
- Mourning Warbler:** Reports were routine for this fairly common eastern fall migrant.
- Kentucky Warbler:** None were reported; this species is rarely noted in fall, but departure dates are in early Sep.
- Common Yellowthroat:** One in Otoe Co 25 Oct (LF, SQ) was rather late; there are only 5 later dates.
- American Redstart:** One at ADF 28 Sep (LF, SQ) was rather late; last dates are around 1 Oct.
- Cape May Warbler:** Only the 7th fall record was a first-year male at BOL 11 Sep 2011 (LE, details).
- Cerulean Warbler:** An imm male was record late in southwest Dixon Co 24 Oct (JJ, details); this is another wood-warbler species rarely reported in fall, especially from the northeast at such a late date. The previous latest date was 19 Sep.
- Northern Parula:** Reports were routine for this uncommon fall migrant.
- Magnolia Warbler:** One in Lincoln 28 Aug (JC, SS) was rather early.
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** Reports were routine for this uncommon fall migrant.
- Blackburnian Warbler:** There were 7 singles reported 21 Aug-21 Sep (L&BP, LE, JR, AK), a good showing for this uncommon fall migrant. Surprising was the one in Scotts Bluff Co 17 Sep (AK), only the 8th Panhandle report for fall.
- Yellow Warbler:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** None were reported of this rare fall migrant.
- Palm Warbler:** One was reported on eBird by Andrew Furman in Omaha 29 Sep.
- Pine Warbler:** One photographed in Lancaster Co 2 Oct 2010 (R&SW) was omitted from the appropriate report.
- Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler:** Reports were routine, in the period 7-26 Sep in the Panhandle (CW). Two were in Omaha 21 Aug (JR, details). The latter report ties the early date for this species in fall, and is the first record for the east.
- Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** This species is prone to lingering late in fall, and so one on 11 Nov in Hall Co (TJW) was not unexpected, although only the 7th record later than mid-Sep, as well as being westerly.
- Townsend's Warbler:** None were reported of this fairly common fall Panhandle migrant.
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** This species was present in good numbers, with 15 reports involving 17 birds, all from the east. One at FF 4 Aug (RS) was earliest on record by 19 days.
- Canada Warbler:** The 6 reports were in the narrow period 22 Aug-5 Sep (L&BP, JR), typical of this species in fall.
- Wilson's Warbler:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** Reports were routine for this uncommon western fall migrant.



- Spotted Towhee:** One in Nance Co 7 Aug (LR, RH) was easterly for the date; most towhees in that part of Nebraska are of mixed Eastern-Spotted heritage.
- Eastern Towhee:** One in Sherman Co 10 Oct (WF) was westerly; as noted under Spotted Towhee, most towhees in that part of Nebraska are of mixed Eastern-Spotted heritage. A nest at BOL with one nearly-fledged young 4 Sep (LE) was a rather late nesting attempt.
- Cassin's Sparrow:** None were reported, despite the summer influx; this species leaves the breeding areas very early and there are few dates even for Aug.
- American Tree Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common winter resident.
- Chipping Sparrow:** Good numbers were banded at WHNC, where this species is a common summer resident and at times an abundant fall migrant; 245 were banded 31 Aug-10 Oct (CW). An excellent eastern count was the 150+ at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, 21 Sep (JR). Few linger into late Nov, but this fall singles were in Lincoln 21 Nov (RSt), Bellevue 26 Nov (ARy), and Omaha 27 Nov (CH).
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Brewer's Sparrow:** None were reported; apparently few observers venture into the remote habitat of this western Panhandle species.
- Field Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this fairly common eastern and central summer resident.
- Vesper Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Lark Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Lark Bunting:** There fewer than 10 reports from eastern Nebraska in fall; one was in Clay Co 23 Sep (PD).
- Savannah Sparrow:** Evidence that migration, or at least dispersal, can start in early Aug was provided by the presence of one at a McPherson Co site 9 Aug where none were found earlier (WM), and the apparent departure by 10 Aug of 12 of 14 birds seen earlier at a summering site near Hay Springs (WM).
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** Rather late were singles in York Co 13 Oct (WF) and Jack Sinn 16 Oct (JC, SS). There are only 6 dates after 18 Oct.
- Henslow's Sparrow:** There were more reports than usual. Reports from locations where breeding is likely were of 1-2 at SCP 1-20 Aug (GJ, RSt) and 3 in Conservation Reserve Program grassland in Richardson Co 28 Aug (JS). One at Alexandria Lakes WMA/SRA, Jefferson Co, 22 Sep (LE) was a likely migrant, as was one rather late at Little Salt Fork Marsh, Lincoln, 16 Oct (JC, SS, LE). Latest dates are 20-30 Oct.
- LeConte's Sparrow:** One near Talmage 1 Nov was rather late; there are only 3 later dates, through 9 Nov. Another, in Lancaster Co 26 Oct (LE), was also tardy.
- Nelson's Sparrow:** The 3 reports (3 birds) were as expected in the period 2-16 Oct, all in Lancaster Co (JC, SS, LE).
- Fox Sparrow:** One in Cass Co 30 Sep (WF) was early; early dates are 17-20 Sep.
- Song Sparrow:** The 40 in Hamilton Co 14 Aug (LR, RH) suggests a healthy local population; migration generally begins later in Aug.
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** Best count was a moderate 30, in Dixon Co 28 Sep (JJ); high count is 100.
- Swamp Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this fairly common fall migrant.
- White-throated Sparrow:** Early arrival dates on record are 14-15 Sep, and so this fall's arrival was pushing early, with singles at FF 16 Sep (JR), North Platte 18 Sep (TJW), and Chadron SP (MH, banded).

- Harris's Sparrow:** Rare in the Panhandle, one was banded at Chadron SP 4 Oct (MH).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** Fall arrival can be early; early dates are 25 Aug-2 Sep, and so one in Lincoln Co 20 Aug (RL) was not too unexpected, but it is the earliest on record for fall. This species winters in some numbers in the west but is primarily a migrant in the east, where last reported was at BOL 14 Nov (LE).
- Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco:** The only report was of one banded at Chadron SP 27 Sep (MH); this species breeds in low numbers at that location. Migrants are usually not noted until early Oct away from breeding areas.
- Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco:** Reports were routine for this common winter resident.
- Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco:** One banded at WHNC 30 Sep (CW) was rather early; early arrival dates in the west are 26-27 Sep. The only "Pink-sided" Junco reported was in Lincoln Co 12 Oct (WF), an expected date.
- Summer Tanager:** Reports continued from Sarpy and Douglas Cos (JR, CNK, L&BP) and Lancaster Co, where a male was in Lincoln 1 Aug (JRI) and a single was at WP 3 Sep (LE).
- Scarlet Tanager:** Reports were routine for this uncommon eastern fall migrant.
- Western Tanager:** Reports were routine for this uncommon western fall migrant.
- Northern Cardinal:** At least one bird continues near the western edge of the North Platte Valley range at Bridgeport, with sightings of singles there 9 Aug and 24 Oct (LJH). A late nesting in Lincoln had a "very young" fledgling with ads 5 Sep; the fledgling was still in the same yard 20 Sep (JGJ).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Reports were routine for this common eastern summer resident.
- Black-headed Grosbeak:** Reports were routine for this common western summer resident.
- Blue Grosbeak:** A fem in Scotts Bluff Co 28 Sep (AD) was rather late. Last dates are 3-5 Oct.
- Lazuli Bunting:** One banded at WHNC 26 Sep (CW) was rather late; most depart by mid-Sep. There are only 5 records for Oct. Easterly was one at Jeffrey Res, Lincoln Co, 20 Aug (RL), only the 8th fall record away from the Panhandle.
- Indigo Bunting:** A rather late nesting was indicated by ads feeding 2 fledged young at FF 11-21 Aug (CNK, L&BP).
- Dickcissel:** An ad fem at Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo Co, 21 Oct (KS) was rather late; last dates are 27-30 Oct.
- Bobolink:** As many as 35 were apparently molting at Hultine WPA, Clay Co, 2-7 Aug (JC, SS, LF, SQ, LE); this species molts in cattail wetlands prior to migration. A group of 39 was in York Co 7 Aug (JJ), likely also molting.
- Red-winged Blackbird:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Last singing was heard in Lancaster Co 23 Oct (LE); movements of this species are poorly known going into winter, but most apparently leave the state.
- Western Meadowlark:** Last singing was heard in Lancaster Co 3 Nov (LE); this species does indeed winter in varying numbers in southeastern Nebraska, but movements are dictated by weather conditions more so than a strict migration schedule.

- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Reports were routine for this common fall migrant.
- Rusty Blackbird:** Reports were all in Nov for this late-migrating species. There were 5 reports 3-26 Nov with a total of 18 birds from central and eastern Nebraska as expected (LE, JR, TJW, LR, RH, JC, SS).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** This species migrates uncommonly through the east, but the 60 at Jack Sinn 26 Oct (WF) was a larger flock than usual.
- Common Grackle:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.
- Great-tailed Grackle:** Two in Ogallala 18 Nov (JO) were tardy for that westerly location, and 10 were still as far north as Burwell 13 Nov (LR, RH).
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Reports were routine for this abundant fall migrant.
- Orchard Oriole:** A fem in Seward Co 26 Sep (JG) was rather late; departure is usually completed by 26-27 Sep, and there are 5 records for Oct.
- Bullock's Oriole:** Reports were routine for this fairly common western summer resident.
- Baltimore Oriole:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch:** None were reported of this western Panhandle winter visitor; early arrival dates are around 1 Nov.
- Purple Finch:** Westerly was one at Bridgeport 20-21 Oct (LJH). An imm at PSP as early as 17 Sep (BFH, MB) was a surprise; it is one of only 4 records earlier than 20 Sep.
- Cassin's Finch:** Occurrences of this species in Nebraska are enigmatic, although essentially restricted to the Panhandle. It may occur at any time of year and probably breeds in the state on occasion. This fall, a "young" bird was banded at WHNC on the early date 8 Sep (CW), and another on 16 Sep (CW). These records are suggestive of nesting in or very close to Nebraska.
- House Finch:** Reports were routine for this common resident.
- Red Crossbill:** Easterly was one in Lincoln 18-19 Oct (BW fide JC, SS); Oct is the month with most records away from the Panhandle. Breeding probably occurs in the Wildcat Hills, but evidence is scanty. Supportive, though, was the recapture of 3 AHY (after hatch year) and 2 HY (hatch year) birds there during Sep-Oct (CW). In all, a total of 153 crossbills were banded Sep-10 Oct (CW). At Chadron SP, 33 were banded 19-26 Sep (MH). Breeding may occur at the latter location, but evidence is lacking.
- Common Redpoll:** The only one that arrived early enough for the Fall report was at a Bellevue feeder 27 Nov (L&BP).
- Pine Siskin:** Numbers banded at WHNC were surprisingly low; only 44 were tallied Sep-10 Oct (CW). Elsewhere, few were reported, with only singles at 3 locations: 24-25 Oct in Dixon Co (JJ), 24 Oct in Pierce Co (JJ), and 19 Nov in Omaha (JR). An exception was the "piles" near Doniphan 6 Nov (JLL).
- Lesser Goldfinch:** This species is fast becoming a regular summering species in the Panhandle. An amazing 45 were banded at WHNC Sep-10 Oct (CW), and the 7-8 in southwest Kimball Co and Banner Co 19 Aug led the observer to describe the species as "this decade's Blue-gray Gnatcatcher" (JGJ), following the latter species' rapid influx into the Panhandle starting in the late 1990s. At WHNC, only 6 Lesser Goldfinches were caught in 2010, and none in 2009 or 2008 (CW).
- American Goldfinch:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident and fall migrant.
- House Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common resident.