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Notes [September 1989]

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NOTES

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER NEST IN CASS COUNTY. On 2 July 1989 Greg Hertel, Murray, Cass Co., reported an adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in his yard. He thought it had left the area, but Betty Allen and Ruth Green went down on 8 July to look for it, and they finally found it (a male) in Young Memorial Park. The next morning Betty took others down to see it, and found a female on a nest on a 40-foot light pole used to floodlight the ball field. This naturally drew attention of many birders. But about 20 July the birds abandoned the nest and disappeared. A power company lineman brought down the nest, which contained only shell fragments. The nest will be delivered to the State Museum. (This information is taken from Ruth Green's columns in *A Bird's Eye View*, 17: 6:5 and 7:6.) On 16 July Mark Brogie



took these photographs. The one of the nest was taken through a scope. The bird's tail can be seen, perpendicular to the base of the photo-

graph. Ducey's *Nebraska Birds, Breeding Status and Distribution* lists a nest in Clay Co. in 1964 (NBR 33:14)

which was assumed to be successful, although no young were seen (the nest was in an Osage orange); in York (not Platte) Co. in 1959 (NBR 28:56), although again no



young were seen (but the old birds made such a fuss); in 1958 in Gage Co. (NBR 27:19), five young fledged; in Logan Co. in 1944 (NBR 13:50), with newly hatched birds; and, with no further details, Adams and Lancaster counties (NBR 13:21). Also (NBR 3:30), "Mr. Glenn Viehmeyer and his mother, Mrs. George Viehmeyer, report that a male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher spent the summers of 1926 and 1927" (the *Review* was first published in 1933 - Ed.) "among the trees about their residence three miles north of Stapleton. They state that it mated one summer with a female that appeared to them to be an Arkansas" (now Western) "Kingbird." The editor (Myron H. Swenk) added a footnote that in 1921 a female Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, mated with a male Western Kingbird, built two nests in Lancaster Co., both of which were taken over by House Sparrows. (The original report (Swenk and Dawson, *Wils. Bull.* 33:132-3) said only that the

female was "quarreling in a good natured way with a Western Kingbird". This later record probably is the same as the Lancaster record (NBR 13:21) above.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION EAGLE SURVEY. The 1989 NWF Midwinter Eagle Survey resulted in a record number of Bald Eagles observed in Nebraska: 209 along the Missouri River and 907 in the rest of the state, for a total of 1,116. The previous record was 1,114 Bald Eagles reported in 1987. Generally, winter conditions throughout Nebraska were quite mild right until the survey period began, when a major cold front moved through much of the state. Conditions were much milder than in 1988, when 650 Eagles were reported. In some prior years not all Eagles observed on the Missouri River were included, but but totals were "split" with the states sharing a common border. Also, survey coverage on the Missouri varied prior to 1987. The totals for all years have been amended to include all birds observed on the Missouri. In the following tabulation river sites are stretches of the river.

Sites	No	Bald	Gold	To-	Sites	No	Bald	Gold	To-
	Ad	Im	?	Ad Im tal		Ad	Im	?	Ad Im tal
North Pl. R.	6	65	49	0	4	2	120		
Platte River	9	254	105	7	1	0	367		
South Pl. R.	1	9	3	0	0	0	12		
Republican R.	3	61	64	0	3	1	129		
Middle Loup	2	24	2	0	1	0	27		
N. Loup River	1	6	2	0	2	0	10		
Loup River	1	33	6	0	0	0	39		
Snake River	1	3	0	0	0	0	3		
Niobrara R.	5	40	11	0	2	2	55		
Dawes/Sioux	2	0	0	0	1	1	2		
Box Butte	3	1	0	0	2	0	3		
Sheridan Co.	1	3	0	0	2	2	7		
W. Cherry Co.	1	1	0	0	2	0	3		
Valentine NWR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Logan/Blaine	2	2	0	0	0	0	2		
Calamus River	1	3	0	0	0	0	3		
Custer Co.	1	2	0	0	0	0	2		
Buffalo Co.	1	2	0	0	1	0	3		
Holt Co.	1	0	0	0	1	0	1		
Wheeler/Boone	2	4	0	0	2	1	7		
Madison-Dodge	3	3	1	0	0	0	4		
Branched Oak	1	1	0	0	0	0	1		
Clay Co.	1	1	1	0	0	0	2		
Phelps Co.	1	1	2	0	0	0	3		
Harlan/Furnas	2	4	3	0	0	0	7		
Red W-Hitchcock	4	5	0	0	0	1	6		
Enders Res.	1	1	4	0	0	0	5		
Sutherland Res.	1	78	40	0	0	0	118		
Subtotal	62	607	293	7	24	10	941		
Above Soo City	1	75	28	0	0	0	103		
Soo City-Omaha	1	38	14	12	0	0	64		
Omaha-Neb. City	1	13	4	0	0	0	17		
Neb. City-Rulo	1	13	12	0	0	0	25		
Subtotal	4	139	58	12	0	0	209		
Total	66	746	351	19	24	18			
									1150

--- Greg Wingfield, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission,
Rt. 4, North Platte, Neb. 69101

WHOOPIING CRANE REPORT The Grand Island office of the Fish and Wildlife Service reported 12 confirmed (2 of the same birds), 6 probable, and 9 unconfirmed sightings of Whooping Cranes in Nebraska in the spring of 1989. There were only 23 confirmed sightings in the U.S. Confirmed sightings are:

One adult, Hall Co., 24 March-14 April, on the Platte River, 2.5 mi. w. of Wood River bridge T9N, R12W, S23.

Two adults, Phelps Co., 5-7 April, Sacramento-Wilcox WMA, 2.5 mi. w. of Wilcox, T5N, R17W, S28, NE 1/4, S21, 34.

Two adults, Loup Co. 9-12 April, North Loup River, .5 mi. w. and .25 mi. n. of Almeria, T22N, R19W, S32, 33. Same birds just reported above.

Four adults, Harlan Co., 6-7 April, 2.5 mi. n. of Republican City, T2N, R17W, S15 NE 1/4, SE 1/4.

Two adults and a young, Howard Co., 8-11 April, 1 mi. s. of Dannebrog, Middle Loup River. T13N, R11W, S14, 22.

Four adults, Valley Co., 11-18 April, 3 mi. n. and .5 e. of North Loup, North Loup River, T18N, R13W, S11, 12.

One Adult, Buffalo Co., 16-17 April, 3 mi. w. of N10 bridge, Platte River., T8N, R15W, S16, SE 1/4.

Four adults, Custer Co., 16-17 April, 2 mi. n. and 6 w. of Merna, T18N, R22W, S20, SE 1/4.

Two adults, Buffalo Co., 24 April, 3 mi. n., 1 e., and .5 n. of Riverdale, T10N, R16W, S17, SE 1/4.

Four adults, Sheridan Co., 27 April-1 May, 23 mi. n. and .5 w. of Ellsworth on N27, T28N, R42W, S27, NW 1/4.

Five adults, Sheridan Co., 27-30 April, 29 mi. n. and .25 w. of Ellsworth on N27. T28N, R42W, S3 SW 1/4.

One adult, Garden Co., 23-24 May, 2 mi. sw. of Oshkosh North Platte River, T17N, R44W, S33 SE 1/4.

Probable sightings are:

One adult, Keya Paha/Brown Co. line, 17 April, Niobrara River, just e. of Fairfield Creek.

Five adults, Valley Co., 20 April, 3 mi. s. of Arcadia, Middle Loup River.

Six adults, Custer Co., 20 April, 5.5 mi. ne. of Arnold on N92/70 and .5 n., T18N, R24W, S32.

Two adults, Cherry Co., 22-29 April, 15 mi. n. and 7.5 e. of Mullen, T26N, R31W, S14 SW 1/4.

Two adults, Thomas Co., 24 April, 5 mi. e. of Seneca, RR mile marker 253, Middle Loup River.

Two adults, Dodge Co., 30 April, .2 mi. w. of Hooper on US275, flying.

The unconfirmed sightings are:

One adult in Hall Co., 28 February, s. of Crane Meadows, flying.

One adult, Hall Co., 1 March, along I-80 between Alda and US 281, flying.

Two adults, Hall Co., 17 March, 4 mi. w. of I-80 Wood River interchange.

One adult, Buffalo Co., 17 March, between Odessa and Elm Creek, flying.

Two adults, Lancaster Co., 25, 27 March, 9 mi. w. of Lincoln, n. of I-80, flying.

Four adults, Buffalo Co., 30 March, Shelton I-80 interchange.

Two adults, county uncertain, 7 April, between Shelton, Buffalo Co., and Kenesaw, Adams Co.

Two adults, Lincoln Co., 17 April, Sutherland Reservoir, flying.

Three adults, Thomas Co., 20 April, Middle Loup River, 7 mi. e. of Thedford.

Confirmed, probable, and unconfirmed sightings are defined on NBR 56:79.

There were 137 Whooping Cranes reported at Aransas last winter (118 adults/subadults and 19 young), and a 1986 subadult wintered near Ganado, Tex. During the winter 3 adults and 2 chicks were lost, and on 21 April 1989 a subadult female was found at Aransas in a weakened condition, captured, treated, and sent to the San Antonio Zoo. This left 132 Cranes, one more than last year, available to migrate. The 1986 subadult male which spent last summer at Aransas was still there at the time the report was prepared. About 55 birds left between mid-March and 8 April. Only 2 left between 8 and 15 April, when the winds were predominately northeast, it was overcast and with drizzle over the Texas coast. Between 15 and 22 April 62 birds migrated. *Grus Americanus*, 28:3&4,1, reported that the bird sent to the San Antonio Zoo died of avian tuberculosis. Thirty nests were located in Wood Buffalo National Park, and by late June 21 to 26 chicks were seen. In May, 15 eggs were collected and sent to Patuxet, and of these hatched. The Patuxet flock laid 19 eggs and 9 hatched. This year 2 eggs were left in each of 7 nests at Wood Buffalo, and in at least 6 nests both hatched, but in June a survey found that only one chick survived in each of these nests.