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## Summer Field Report, June–July 2010

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## SUMMER FIELD REPORT, June-July 2010

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### INTRODUCTION

This summer was marked by continuing high water tables along the Missouri River and good water levels in the eastern Rainwater Basin. As a result, American and Least Bitterns, King Rail, Common Moorhen, and several American Coot nests in Sarpy Co were reported. However, Great and Snowy Egrets were scarce, and Black-necked Stilts were absent from the eastern Rainwater Basin after several good breeding years there.

First breeding records for the state are always exciting; Lesser Goldfinch finally took the plunge this year in Banner Co. Also encouraging were increased reports of Black-billed Cuckoo (9) and both Black-billed Magpie and Black-capped Chickadee. Mountain Plovers are present in southwest Kimball Co in surprising numbers, with excellent conservation work being done there. The group responsible for the effort has an excellent Facebook site (see species account). Significant breeding records were made for Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Strangely, three species of migrant warblers were found in midsummer: Orange-crowned, Nashville, and Blackburnian, as well as a late June White-crowned Sparrow. Dickcissels again made a good showing in the west. Other eastern birds far west included Eastern Wood-Pewee and Summer Tanager. On the other hand, the earliest ever Rufous Hummingbird in the eastern part of the state was in Lincoln. True rarities were few: a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and a summer American Black Duck were probably the best.

### ABBREVIATIONS

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City  
BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co  
Cem: Cemetery  
Co(s): County(ies)  
CLNWR: Crescent L NWR, Garden Co  
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co  
HCR: Harlan Co Res SRA, Harlan Co  
ICSP: Indian Cave State Park, Richardson/Nemaha Cos  
L: Lake  
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co  
LO: L Ogallala (includes contiguous Keystone L), Keith Co  
LPB: La Platte Bottoms, Sarpy Co  
m. ob.: many observers  
NC: Nature Center  
NLB: North Lake Basin WMA, Seward Co

NM: National Monument  
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge  
Res: Reservoir  
RWB: Rainwater Basin, including parts of Phelps, Hamilton, York, Clay, Fillmore,  
and Thayer Cos  
SHP: State Historical Park  
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)  
SP: State Park  
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

Harvard Marsh: WPA, Clay Co  
Jack Sinn: Memorial WMA, Lancaster and Saunders Cos  
Pine Ridge: escarpment in Sioux, Dawes, and Sheridan Cos  
Sandhills: large area of sand-based prairie in north-central Nebraska  
Wildcat Hills: escarpment in Scotts Bluff, Banner, and Morrill Cos

#### OBSERVERS

AC: Anton Curtis, Grand Island  
AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering  
ARy: Allan Reyer, Bellevue  
B&DW: Bruce and Donna Walgren, Casper, WY  
CG: Cory Gregory, Ames, IA  
CH: Candace Havelly, McCook  
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue  
CR: Carolyn Rieke, Lincoln  
D&CN: Don and Colleen Noecker, Albion  
D&JP: Don & Jan Paseka, Ames  
DC: Doug Carroll, Lincoln  
DH: Dave Heidt, Norfolk  
DL: Dave Leatherman, Fort Collins, CO  
ET: Edward Tickle, Lincoln  
G&WH: Glen & Wanda Hoge, Alma  
GG: Gordon Gover, Bridgewater, NJ  
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  
JL: Jeff Lusk, Lincoln  
JLL: Jeanine L. Lackey, Doniphan  
JM: Jeanne Miller, Bennington  
JO: Jim Ochsner, Ogallala  
JP: Jim Petersen, North Platte

JR: Justin Rink, Omaha  
JRi: Juanita Rice, Fairmont  
JWH: John W. Hall, Omaha  
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell  
KP: Kevin Poague, Lincoln  
KS: Kent Skaggs, Kearney  
KSc: Kathy Schwery, Plattsmouth  
L&BP: Loren & Babs Padelford, Bellevue  
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln  
LF: Laurence Falk, Nebraska City  
LJH: Luke J. Hamilton, Lewellen  
LR: Lanny Randolph, Minden  
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton  
MM: Marty Mathieson, Shelton  
NR: Neal Ratzlaff, Omaha  
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings  
PS: Phil Swanson, Papillion  
RE: Rick Eades, Lincoln  
RH: Robin Harding, Minden  
RHo: Robert Hole, Omaha  
S&RW: Susan & Ron Whitney, Lincoln  
SG: Suzanne Gucciardo, Fort Calhoun  
SS: Shari Schwartz, 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

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** Only the 9th for Nebraska, an adult was at Harvard Marsh 6-7 Jun (JGJ, PD). Most of the records are since 2000.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** The only summer straggler reported was at Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ).

**Snow Goose:** A surprising 50 were reported at Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ); high summer count is 92. Few others were reported; singles or small groups are not uncommon in Jun-Jul.

**Canada Goose:** Strangely, this species is not a regular breeder in the RWB, and so 2 broods at NLB 6 Jun were of interest (JGJ).

**Trumpeter Swan:** The southerly breeding pair in Hall Co was successful for the second straight year (TH); other reports of family groups were from the Sandhills as expected.

**Wood Duck:** Routine reports; statewide breeder.

**Gadwall:** Breeding is mostly in the Sandhills, but occasionally in the RWB and elsewhere; 1-2 at Jack Sinn 8 and 23 Jun (LE) were of interest.

**American Wigeon:** Routine reports; breeds uncommonly in the w. Sandhills.

**American Black Duck:** A surprise in summer was a flyover with 2 Mallards at NLB 1 Jul (WF, details). There are fewer than 15 records mid-Jun through mid-Aug.

- Mallard:** Routine reports; statewide breeder.
- Blue-winged Teal:** Routine reports; statewide breeder.
- Cinnamon Teal:** None were reported; breeds in western parts of the state.
- Northern Shoveler:** Routine reports; breeds mainly in the Sandhills.
- Northern Pintail:** Breeding in the RWB is uncommon; potential breeders were reported without breeding evidence from Phelps (WF), Colfax (D&JP) and Adams (D&JP) Cos.
- Green-winged Teal:** Breeding is rare south of the Platte Valley, with only 2 records since 1987. As many as 12 were still at Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ), likely lingerers, and singles at 5 other locations in the RWB through 14 Jul (JC, SS, WF, JGJ) may have been molt migrants.
- Canvasback:** Routine reports; breeding occurs in the w. Sandhills.
- Redhead:** Small numbers have been found routinely in the RWB in recent years, but there are few records of breeding. The 50 at Harvard Marsh 5 Jul (JGJ) were not unprecedented for the RWB, but no evidence for breeding was noted. About 30 others were found around the RWB 26 Jun-25 Jul (DH, LE, WF, JGJ). A male in Antelope Co 19 Jun was unexpected there (MB).
- Ring-necked Duck:** The only report was of one in Adams Co 7 Jun (PD), a rather late migrant.
- Lesser Scaup:** Latest reported was in the RWB 6 Jun (JGJ); latest dates are around 12 Jun.
- Hooded Merganser:** The usual widespread reports of "females/immatures" (but almost certainly one-year-old non-breeders) were received, a total of about 29 statewide (m. ob.).
- Ruddy Duck:** This species is a rare breeder in the RWB, but suggestive was the presence of a pair at NLB 2 Jun (JGJ) and 8 birds at Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ).
- Gray Partridge:** Rather surprisingly, given the difficulty of finding this species, 350 were harvested by hunters in 2008 (JL). However, peak was in 1987, when according to Nebraska Game and Parks data, a mind-boggling 11,000 were harvested!
- Chukar:** A nest with eggs was found near Grand Island 9 Jun (DC); although these are released or escaped birds, such events sometimes lead to establishment of a breeding population and should be reported.
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Routine reports; this species occurs essentially statewide.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Routine reports; this species occurs in grasslands in the nw half of the state.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Good news in two areas: 4 "almost-grown" young were at SCP 14 Jul (KP), and 8 were booming near Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ). This species continues to do well in the se.
- Wild Turkey:** A first nesting for the observers' farm in Dodge Co was indicated by the 5 adults and 20 young there 25 Jul (D&JP).
- Northern Bobwhite:** Good numbers were reported over the entire range. In se Nebraska: "tons" were in Gage Co (CNK), "lots" were in Saline Co (CNK), and it was "heard often" in Nemaha Co (CNK). Westerly the species is doing well also, with numbers "way up" in Lincoln Co (TJW), and the first in a Scotts Bluff Co yard for several years was seen 1 Jun (KD). One in Pierce Co 19 Jun was noted (MB), as were singles a little north and west in McPherson Co 28 Jul (WF) and Logan Co 29 Jul (WF).
- Common Loon:** None were reported; usually a few non-breeders occur on large western reservoirs.

- Pied-billed Grebe:** Young were reported from NLB 13 Jun (JC, SS) and 5 Jul (JGJ), and also from the ephemeral LPB, which was in good condition this year, on 2 and 16 Jul (L&BP). Breeding can occur statewide with good water conditions.
- Eared Grebe:** Young about 3-4 days old were at Lakeside with about 20 adults 24 Jun (LJH), and another was incubating in Grant Co the same day (LJH).
- Western Grebe:** Routine reports; this species nests in the w Sandhills.
- Clark's Grebe:** The only reports were of one in Scotts Bluff Co 11 Jun (JR, MB) and a pair at LM 26 Jun (KS, JLL); breeding has occurred at the latter location.
- American White Pelican:** Fall migration was underway in mid-Jul, when 40 were at HCR 11 Jul (G&WH) and 50 along the Missouri Valley in se Nebraska 25 Jul (WRS).
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Scarce in the east in midsummer, one was at BOL 23 Jun (LE), and fall movement had begun at HCR with 32 present 11 Jul (G&WH); apparently none bred this year at HCR.
- American Bittern:** Usually rather scarce in the e RWB, although it has bred there, this year about 9 were reported (JGJ, JC, SS, WF).
- Least Bittern:** Due to excellent water conditions in se Nebraska, reports were widespread, with at least 15 found. Notable at an ephemeral wetland were 1-3 at LPB (L&BP, JR), the best count of 3 was seen 21 Jul (JC, SS). Another was at Nathan's L in se Washington Co 19 and 24 Jun (NR, CNK). In the e RWB, NLB also had 1-3 on 15 Jun-21 Jul; the 3 were seen 21 Jul (JC, SS). Harvard Marsh had 3-4 17 Jul (PD), and 4 other locations had singles 5-17 Jul (m. ob.). Northernmost were 2 at Wood Duck WMA, Stanton Co, 6 Jun (WF).
- Great Blue Heron:** About 125 were counted along the Missouri River Valley from Otoe to Richardson Cos 25 Jul (WRS); most were foraging along the receding water edges where high river levels had inundated crop fields.
- Great Egret:** Numbers were far lower than usual; fewer than 30 were reported, with best counts only 9 in se Nebraska 25 Jul (WRS) and 8 at LPB 19 Jun (JR). Most surprisingly, best e RWB count was only 7 (JGJ).
- Snowy Egret:** The only two reported were in Adams Co 7 Jun (PD) and the e RWB 31 Jul (JGJ).
- Little Blue Heron:** None were reported; this is a rare but regular summer visitor.
- Cattle Egret:** Jun numbers as usual were low, with 12 reported (JGJ, WF, DH), but the expected fall influx began in Jul, with 37 at HCR 25 Jul (G&WH) the best seasonal tally.
- Green Heron:** One in Wheeler Co 28 Jul (DH) was northwesterly.
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** As with Great Egret, fewer were reported; none were found at Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ), normally a good spot. The only reports were from Adams Co 7 Jun (PD) and Grant Co 24 Jun (LJH).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** The 4 reports were about normal; single juveniles were in Cherry Co 27 Jun (KS, JLL), the only Jun through mid-Jul record away from the RWB and southeast. The observer's 2nd in the county in 28 years (JG) was in Seward Co 18 Jul. Other reports were from Hall Co 27 Jul (JLL, KS) and Hansen WPA, Clay Co, 25 and 31 Jul (JGJ).
- Glossy Ibis:** Recent years have seen multiple records, but very few in Jun. Of about 45 records in all to date, only 2 were outside the periods 19 Apr-2 Jun and 14 Jul-24 Aug; two may have been nesting with White-faced Ibises 12-14 Jun

2008 at Harvard Marsh (JGJ) and one was very late 5 Oct 2006 (JGJ photo). This summer, an adult in Fillmore Co 24 and 30 Jun (WF, details) became the 3rd Jun record.

**White-faced Ibis:** In recent years this species has nested almost every year either in the RWB or the Sandhills. This year, 50 adults and 12 nests were found at Harvard Marsh 7 Jun (JGJ), but on 5 Jul 42 adults and 15 nests with eggs were found, suggesting that the earlier nests were flooded (the water was about 18 inches higher) and the birds had re-nested (JGJ).

**Turkey Vulture:** Routine reports were statewide; non-breeding sub-adults occur in numbers statewide, and breeding may occur anywhere.

**Osprey:** Reports between 5 Jun and 15 Aug are few, but have increased in recent years. Two birds sitting on the ground east of Scottsbluff 12 Jun may have been the pair which has attempted to breed at Winters Creek L the past 2 years, but the nest site appeared to be unoccupied (KD). There were 4 other reports involving 5 birds: one in Pierce Co 19 Jun (MB), one between Grand Island and Chapman 19 Jun (PD), one at HCR 20 Jun, the longtime observers' first Jun sighting there (G&WH), and two at LO 26 Jun (KS, JLL).

**Mississippi Kite:** Up to 6 were in Ogallala, a regular summer site, and a nest was noted 4 Jun that may have been restarted by 18 Jul after bad weather (JO, KS, JLL).

**Bald Eagle:** Of interest were the 17 seen along 17 miles of the Platte River between Columbus and Schuyler 19 Jul (JGJ), an indication of the current ubiquity of this species in summer.

**Northern Harrier:** The presence of males in summer is indicative of breeding; one was in Hitchcock Co 3 Jun (TJW).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** The earliest fall arrivals are in mid-late Jul, probably failed breeders. One was in Stanton Co 15 Jul (D&JP, CNK, DH), and a male was in Merrick Co 22 Jul (DH).

**Cooper's Hawk:** A family group of 5 was at Walnut Grove Park, Omaha, 20 Jul (JWH). This species breeds commonly statewide, including within major cities.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** The only report was of 2 seen briefly over Bellevue 26 Jul, identified by their wing crescents (ARy).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** One was seen in North Platte in the area where breeding occurred last year (JP, TJW), but no evidence of breeding was reported. Other sightings in areas where breeding may occur were of 2 in se Washington Co 7 Jun (D&JP), one at FF 18 Jun (L&BP), and an adult at Hummel Park, Omaha, 24 Jun (CNK). Probably early migrants were 2 immatures over Bellevue 31 Jul (L&BP).

**Swainson's Hawk:** Easterly were singles at Eppley Airfield, Omaha, 1 Jun (RHo) and in Lancaster Co 2 Jul (LE), the latter an unusual midsummer record there.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.

**Ferruginous Hawk:** Routine reports were received for this uncommon Panhandle breeder.

**Golden Eagle:** Routine reports were received for this uncommon Panhandle breeder.

**American Kestrel:** Two nests with young near fledging were in Keith Co 15 Jun (TJW).

**Prairie Falcon:** Routine reports were received for this uncommon Panhandle breeder.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Presumably one of the local breeders was taking advantage of the large Purple Martin roost in Omaha 27 Jul (JR), although migrants are passing through at this date as well.

**King Rail:** Two King Rails were at LPB 24 Jul (KSc, photo), one of very few July-early Aug records. Such records are suggestive of breeding, but no evidence was noted.



King Rail, La Platte Bottoms, Sarpy Co, 1 Aug 2010. Photo by Duane Schwery.

**Virginia Rail:** Routine reports were received for this widespread breeder.

**Sora:** Singles at LPB 21 Jul (JED), NLB 21 Jul (JC, SS), and in Sarpy Co 26 Jul (JJ) were all likely migrants; fall movement begins in mid-Jul.

**Common Moorhen:** Two were at NLB 5 Jul (JC, SS) for the only sighting; no young were reported during the period.

**American Coot:** Seven broods were found at NLB 5 Jul (JGJ), and an adult with 2 young was at LPB 2 Jul (L&BP). This is a common breeder wherever suitable habitat exists.

**Sandhill Crane:** The Morrill Co breeding pair arrived in late Mar but had not been seen since Jun (KD).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Last for spring was in Adams Co 7 Jun (PD) and first for fall was an adult in breeding plumage in Hall Co 31 Jul (CNK). These are expected dates.

**American Golden-Plover:** None were reported; Jun and Jul records are rare, as most fall migrants are juveniles which arrive mostly in Sep.

**Snowy Plover:** No information was received from the two sites where young were fledged in 2009. Rising water levels appear to have eliminated suitable habitat for this species at LM.

**Semipalmated Plover:** Last for spring was rather late at CLNWR 13 Jun (CG) and first for fall was in Hall Co 27 Jul (JLL, KS).



**Piping Plover:** Although habitat at LM is limited due to rising water levels, at least one was present 26 Jun (KS, JLL). A new breeding site is Linoma Beach in sw Sarpy Co, where 2 adults and 3 young were seen 12 Jul (JC, SS); breeding at such development sites is increasing along the lower Platte River.

**Killdeer:** Excellent counts, 2nd and 4th-highest for fall, were the 750 in the e RWB 25 Jul (JGJ) and 314 in se Nebraska 25 Jul (WRS).

**Mountain Plover:** Excellent updates on the birds in the sw Panhandle are available at <http://www.facebook.com/MountainPlover>. Following a severe spring storm, it appears that many nests survived or re-nesting occurred, as the last eggs hatched as late as 19 Jul, and about 30 broods out of a total of 109 nests were being tracked as of 12 Jul. Chick survival is estimated at 54%. As of 1 Jul, adults were in 2 groups, failed breeders and those with broods. The presumed failed breeders were in small groups of 5-7 birds as early as 1 Jul, at least 3 weeks before flocks usually form. By 21 Jul these flocks had increased in size to 15-20 birds. As late as 28 Jul, 23 adults were still being tracked. Of those, 14 had young, several of which had reached juvenile stage.

**Black-necked Stilt:** After a few years of increasing breeding presence in the e RWB, this year no birds were found there (JGJ), and very few were reported overall. The only breeding reported was at a traditional Sandhills site between mile markers 106 and 107 on Highway 2, where a nest with 2 eggs was located 24 Jun (LJH)

**American Avocet:** Easterly for the date were 4 in the e RWB 4 Jul (JGJ); breeding has occurred in the e RWB, but breeding season reports are few.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** This is a fairly common summering bird statewide; 16 were counted between Grand Island and Chapman 19 Jun (PD).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** First migrant reported was in Lancaster Co 12 Jul (JC, SS), about normal.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** The only report for Jun was in Clay Co 6 Jun (JGJ); returning fall birds appear in mid-Jun, and so this may actually have been an early fall migrant! The last reported this spring was 11 May.

**Willet:** Early fall migrants were somewhat easterly at Jack Sinn 2 Jul (LE) and near Columbus 19 Jul (JGJ). Willets are rare eastward in fall. A juvenile had reached the e RWB by 25 Jul (JGJ), rather early for this age-group.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Rather early was one in Seward Co 29 Jun (LE); fall arrival is a bit later on average than Greater Yellowlegs.

**Upland Sandpiper:** Getting rather late for territorial birds were the 2 in Dodge Co 27 Jul (D&JP); fall movement begins in late Jul.

**Long-billed Curlew:** Breeding takes place early or not at all with this species; a juvenile not yet capable of flight was in Cherry Co 9 Jun (CNK), while the transmitter-wearing female "Bailey" departed Nebraska 12 Jun and flew a mere 360 miles to the Oklahoma Panhandle the same day (JGJ).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Rather late was one in York Co 2-6 Jun (JGJ), the 4th-latest in spring.

**Marbled Godwit:** The only report was of one in Seward Co 22 Jul (CNK). This species is rare in fall in the east; this only about the 27th such record.

**Sanderling:** Rather late was one at CLNWR 7 Jun (JGJ, CG), only the 6th Jun record after 5 Jun.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Last in spring was one at Jack Sinn 8 Jun (LE), rather late. First for fall was one on time in the e RWB 14 Jul (JGJ).

**Western Sandpiper:** There were no reports; fall migrants usually appear in Jul.

- Least Sandpiper:** One at CLNWR 13 Jun (CG) was either the latest ever for spring by 3 days or the earliest ever for fall by 6 days.
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** This late spring migrant was still present in good numbers into Jun: 500 were in the e RWB 2 Jun and 100 were there 6 Jun (JGJ). Last were 6 at Jack Sinn 8 Jun (LE), about a week before the latest dates.
- Baird's Sandpiper:** Last for spring was at NLB 2 Jun (JGJ), and first for fall in the e RWB was on 25 Jul (JGJ), normal dates.
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** Last for spring was in the e RWB 6 Jun (JGJ) and first for fall was there 25 Jul (JGJ), routine dates.
- Dunlin:** None were reported; this species usually tarries into Jun.
- Stilt Sandpiper:** Reports were routine; fall migrants arrive in mid-Jul.
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Arrival was on the early side: 8 were at 2 locations in the e RWB 25 Jul (JGJ, JLL, KS), and was one in Cass Co the next day (CNK).
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** None were reported; one observer expressed surprise at their absence (JGJ). Adults migrate through the state almost exclusively in Jul.
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Second-earliest on record for fall were a surprising 11 at Pintail WMA, Hamilton Co, 14 Jul (JGJ); few appear before the end of the month.
- Wilson's Snipe:** Reports were routine; breeding occurs in most of the nw part of the state and occasionally elsewhere.
- American Woodcock:** None were reported; this species is difficult to find in midsummer.
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Breeding is occasional in the e RWB; 7 birds at Harvard Marsh 6 Jun (JGJ) and 2 at Pintail WMA, Hamilton Co, 14 Jul (JGJ) were suggestive. The 37 in the e RWB 25 Jul (JGJ) probably were migrants.
- Franklin's Gull:** Spring stragglers tailed off in mid-Jun, with 2 immatures at BOL 15 Jun (JC, SS) and 3 birds in Keith Co (TJW). A good count for Jun was the 450 at BOL 8 Jun (LE). First for fall were 7 at HCR 15 Jul (G&WH). Midsummer reports are not uncommon.
- Ring-billed Gull:** The usual few summer stragglers were noted, as expected, all immatures (JM, JGJ, WRS).
- California Gull:** The only reports were from CLNWR, where 2 were present 3 Jun and one on 13 Jun (CG); reports away from LM in midsummer are unusual.
- Herring Gull:** None were reported; usually a few immatures occur at larger reservoirs.
- Least Tern:** Along with Piping Plovers, 1-2 were at Linoma Beach, Sarpy Co, 2 Jun and 12 Jul (JC, SS); good numbers were along the Platte River between Columbus and Schuyler, with 40 counted by kayak 19 Jul (JGJ) and 7 were between Grand Island and Chapman 19 Jun (PD). A good tally was the 10 in Dixon Co 1 Jun (JJ).
- Caspian Tern:** This species is most often reported in early Jun; one was at Linoma Beach, Sarpy Co, 2 Jun (JC, SS). However, there are few reports from mid-Jun to mid-Jul, and so 2 in Antelope Co 19 Jun (MB) were of interest. A molting adult was in Nemaha Co 25 Jul (WRS).

- Black Tern:** Away from breeding locations, spring migrants are seen well into Jun; as many as 30 were at Jack Sinn 8 Jun (LE) and 5 were at LPB 15 Jun (JR). None were reported between 15 Jun and 21 Jul, when 14 were at LPB (JED) and 20 adults were at North Platte (TJW). Adults usually appear first in fall.
- Forster's Tern:** Reports were during the normal migration period, into early Jun and again in late Jul (JR, G&WH); no reports were received from the breeding sites in the Sandhills.
- Rock Pigeon:** Routine reports were received for this statewide resident.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Routine reports were received for this essentially statewide resident.
- White-winged Dove:** Reports continue apace; although still rare, this species has been reported several times each year for some time now, although breeding records are still few and were lacking this season. Five singles were reported: in Albion on 1 and 6 Jun (D&CN), Grand Island 2 Jun (AC), in Hitchcock Co 3 Jun (TJW), in Lincoln 5 Jul (CR), and at Benkelman 22 Jul (WF).
- Mourning Dove:** Routine reports were received for this statewide summer resident.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Discouraging was a report that only 4 birds were found in the 39 Breeding Bird Atlas blocks checked by the reporters in Jun-Jul (D&JP). Nest-building was noted in Hitchcock Co 2 Jun (TJW).
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** A surprising number of reports was received; best for several years. Nine were reported (m. ob.), mostly in the east, but one was westerly in Lincoln Co 28 Jun (TJW).
- Barn Owl:** By far most common in the southwest, most reports were from there (TJW, KD, AK). Elsewhere, one was in Sioux Co 10 Jun (JR, MB), and another was in Loup Co 26 Jun (TJW), the latter in an area where few are reported.
- Eastern Screech-Owl:** Routine reports were received for this statewide resident.
- Great Horned Owl:** Routine reports were received for this statewide resident.
- Burrowing Owl:** The presence of this species in the e RWB continued with successful breeding at Hultine WPA, Clay Co, where a half-grown fledgling was seen 5 Jul (JC, SS, JGJ). Of 8 found in Scotts Bluff Co 31 Jul, 7 were juveniles (KD).
- Barred Owl:** One near Milford on the Little Blue River 22 Jul (JG) adds to data indicating a population in the Little Blue Valley.
- Long-eared Owl:** Nests are rarely reported, although the species apparently breeds statewide. One was incubating in a cedar shelterbelt in Hitchcock Co 3 Jun; 3 young were near the empty nest 16 Jun, and none were present 26 Jun (TJW).
- Short-eared Owl:** None were reported; breeding occurs mostly in the Sandhills.
- Common Nighthawk:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Common Poorwill:** Showing no desire for sleep, the observer (TJW) ran part of his se Lincoln Co BBS route backwards on 28 Jun from 2.30-5.30 am, counting 14 Poorwills in 11 stops, then running the entire route in the right direction for the regular survey! There is clearly a good population in the cedar canyons in Lincoln Co.
- Chuck-will's-widow:** At least one was at the species' northern outpost at Bohemia Prairie WMA in Knox Co 14 Jun (WF), while a good count of 6 was made at ICSP 30 Jun (WRS, PS, SG).
- Whip-poor-will:** Also at Bohemia Prairie were 2 whips 14 Jun (WF), not unexpected at that location. An excellent count was the 30 at ICSP 30 Jun (WRS, PS, SG).

- Chimney Swift:** Routine reports were received for this essentially statewide breeder.
- White-throated Swift:** One at Wright's Gap, ne Banner Co, 19 Jun (AK) was at the east edge of its range in the Wildcat Hills.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Away from the Missouri River Valley, breeding season sightings are spotty; a male was in Gage Co 15 Jun (JGJ), and a single was at Hastings 19 Jun (LR, RH).
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird:** The first hummer for the season in the observer's yard near Mitchell was this species on 20 Jul (KD); it was the only one reported.
- Rufous Hummingbird:** One in Scotts Bluff Co 14 Jul (AK) was rather early, but expected there. A major surprise was an immature male at a Lancaster Co feeder 28-30 Jul (S&RW). This is about the 22nd record for the east, and the earliest on record there. Most eastern records tend to be later in fall.
- Belted Kingfisher:** Reports were routine for this statewide low-density breeder.
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this species, which breeds statewide except for the Panhandle, where it is scarce.
- Downy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.
- Hairy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.
- Northern Flicker:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** Reports were from the two known regular breeding sites at FF (JR, L&BP) and ICSP (L&BP); reports elsewhere are rare, but one was in extreme se Cass and ne Otoe Cos 18 Jul (CNK), an area with apparently suitable breeding habitat.
- Western Wood-Pewee:** This species appears to be undergoing a slow eastward creep; at least one was in the cedar canyons of se Lincoln Co 18 Jun (TJW), where they are present each year now, and another was in Thomas Co 12 Jun (JR, MB), where summering birds are occasionally reported.
- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** One calling in Dawes Co 10 Jun (JR, MB) was a rare find that far west.
- Acadian Flycatcher:** This species has appeared a little farther west and north recently. Singles were reported at FF 5 Jun (JR) and 16 Jun (L&BP) and were at WP 5 Jun (WRS) and 19 Jun (LE).
- Willow Flycatcher:** Ten were counted along the Platte River between Grand Island and Chapman 19 Jun (PD), and 3 were singing loudly from a power line in the Peru bottoms as late as 25 Jul (WRS).
- Cordilleran Flycatcher:** Not often reported in migration, especially east of the w Panhandle, one was at CLNWR 12 Jun (CG). One at Wright's Gap, Banner Co, 19 Jun (AK) may have been a migrant; the only breeding record for the Wildcat Hills was at the WHNC in 2008.
- Eastern Phoebe:** The 8 in Lancaster Co 8 Jun (LE) was a good tally.
- Say's Phoebe:** This species may be in one of its periodic (20 years or so) eastward moves into ne Nebraska; at least one was at Ashfall Fossil Beds SHP, Antelope Co, 6 and 12 Jun (JJ, MB, JR), and one was in Hooker Co 8 Jun (CNK).
- Great Crested Flycatcher:** One at CLNWR 3 Jun (CG) was apparently still on the move in an area lacking breeding habitat. Reports during the breeding period from urban settings such as Lincoln 11-12 Jun (JGJ) and farm groves in se Lincoln Co, where 3 pairs were found 6 Jun (TJW), suggest an increase in numbers resulting in the occupation of apparently less than optimal habitat (TJW).

- Cassin's Kingbird:** One at CLNWR 18 Jun (CG) was east of the usual range and out of its expected habitat, surprising at that date.
- Western Kingbird:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Eastern Kingbird:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** As has been the case in recent years, nesting was reported this year also, with sites in Lancaster and Kearney Cos. A single was first seen at BOL 8 Jun (LE, photos 15 Jun ET), and nest-building was underway the same day (JG), but the nest was gone 24 Jun, possibly due to storms (JG). A pair (KS, WF) at a site in Kearney Co since spring (LR, RH, KS, CR) built a nest and the female was incubating by 30 Jun (WF); the nesting apparently failed, however, as no young were present 18 Jul (WF). Two others were reported, singles in Thayer Co 8 Jun (GG) and Johnson Co 8 Jul (LE).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** Numbers appear to be at reasonable levels in Nebraska, despite concern elsewhere in its range. At least 3 pairs with at least one fledged young per pair were in a 5-mile stretch in Dodge Co 15 Jul (D&JP), and "good numbers" were noted in se Cherry Co 9 Jun (CNK).
- Bell's Vireo:** This is another species doing well in Nebraska, especially in the central part of the state, but of concern elsewhere. The "mother lode" was discovered in Nance Co 25 Jul (LR, RH), and a nest was found in Hitchcock Co 2 Jun (TJW).
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** Straggling far to the west was one at CLNWR 12 Jun (CG); this is the first Panhandle record for Jun, and one of only 3 Panhandle records in all, the other two in May.
- Plumbeous Vireo:** Routine reports were received for this species from its breeding range in the northwest.
- Warbling Vireo:** Routine reports were received for this statewide breeder.
- Red-eyed Vireo:** As with Great Crested Flycatcher, observers noted a few in towns (TJW, JR); this may indicate an increasing population, better habitat in towns, etc.
- Blue Jay:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Pinyon Jay:** None were reported. This species is secretive in summer and breeding has been only rarely documented.
- Black-billed Magpie:** The small group in Madison Co along the Cowboy Trail persists; 1-2 were seen there during the period (WF). Numbers are spotty elsewhere, although some signs of recovery include the "first for a while" near Shelton 9 Jun (MM), the observer's first in Custer Co 26 Jun (TH), and the first for this year near where 3 were seen last year in se Lincoln Co 26 Jul (TJW).
- American Crow:** Routine reports were received for this statewide breeder.
- Horned Lark:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Purple Martin:** The large Omaha roost began to reassemble in late Jun; 500 were there 26 Jun (JED) and numbers had built to 12,500 by the end of Jul (JR, JED).
- Tree Swallow:** Two nests, each with 6 eggs, were on schedule in Seward Co 9 Jun (JG).
- Violet-Green Swallow:** Routine reports were received for this uncommon Panhandle canyon breeder.

- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Numerous small flocks totaling about 200 birds were in Nemaha Co 25 Jul (WRS).
- Bank Swallow:** Routine reports were received for this locally common statewide breeder.
- Cliff Swallow:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Barn Swallow:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.
- Black-capped Chickadee:** This species also is recovering from a period of low numbers; the observers' first for 5 years were seen on their farm 30 Jul (D&JP).
- Tufted Titmouse:** Reports received were routine for this se Nebraska resident.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Exciting was the sighting 9 Jul of 5-6 birds, including "raggedy juveniles" at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, (JR). Up to 6 birds had been seen there Jun-Jul of 2008 and 2009 (JR) as well. These sightings suggest that there is a small breeding population becoming established at the cemetery. A single in Albion 6 Jun (D&CN) was a bit late away from a known breeding area.
- White-breasted Nuthatch:** The Rocky Mountain subspecies breeds in the Pine Ridge, east at least as far as the Gordon area, where 2 were found 9 Jun (CNK).
- Pygmy Nuthatch:** Noteworthy was the presence of 7 in the Wildcat Hills canyons south of Redington 18 Jun (LJH); the eastward extent of breeding in the Wildcat Hills is uncertain.
- Brown Creeper:** None were reported; breeding occurs in very small numbers in Sarpy and perhaps Washington Cos, as well as on the Pine Ridge.
- Rock Wren:** Somewhat northeasterly were 2 reported in spring at Ashfall Fossil Beds SHP, Antelope Co, and seen again 6 Jun (MB, JJ). Another was in Hooker Co 8 Jun (CNK). The eastward extent of the breeding range is uncertain.
- Carolina Wren:** Only a few were reported, as might be expected after the tough weather last winter; none were found in Lancaster Co during the period (LE). Interestingly, reports from the edge of the range continued, with singles in Kearney 9 Jul (KS), Doniphan 14 Jul (JLL), and Hall Co, where one was singing persistently 23 Jul (CNK). One in Dodge Co 30 Jul was only the observers' second on their farm (D&JP).
- House Wren:** An indication of how abundant this species is was the count of 62 at WP 26 Jun (LE), 2nd-highest for a summer count.
- Sedge Wren:** Reports between spring migration and fall influx, that is the period 7 Jun-7 Jul, are scarce; there are a few breeding records for this period, however. A small summering group appears to have established at FF, where 1-2 were present at least through 11 Jun (L&BP). Singing birds in Wayne Co 7 Jun (WF) and Gosper Co 25 Jun (WF) were intriguing; the Wayne Co birds may have been migrants, but there are few reports as far west as Gosper Co. The usual fall influx was noted beginning in mid-Jul (m. ob.).
- Marsh Wren:** Southerly reports are few during the breeding season; single birds were reported at Jack Sinn 5-8 Jun (WRS, LE), one was at FF 12 Jun (L&BP), and one was in se Washington Co 19 Jun (NR). This species also has a fall influx; 5 were at Whitehead Saline Wetlands, Lancaster Co, 12 Jul (JC, SS).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** One at CLNWR 27 Jun (KS, JLL) was part of the northward expansion in the west. That at least some of these birds are of the western subspecies *Polioptila caerulea obscura*, as might be expected, is

suggested by tape responses in Hitchcock Co 3 Jun, where at least one bird appeared to respond more strongly to western calls (TJW).

**Eastern Bluebird:** The 60+ in se Cass Co 18 Jul (CNK) must have been quite a sight; impressive also was the 47 fledged from boxes at ADF (LF).

**Mountain Bluebird:** A female in canyons s of Redington 18 Jun (LJH) was at the eastern edge of the Wildcat Hills range.

**Swainson's Thrush:** Last one reported was in Scotts Bluff Co 5 Jun (AK), about on time.

**Wood Thrush:** All reports were from se Nebraska, as expected; one in Butler Co 19 Jul (JGJ) was nw-most. ICSP had 1-2 singing birds as late as 25-26 Jul (WRS, L&BP).

**American Robin:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.

**Gray Catbird:** One in a yard s of Gering 10 Jul was considered a "surprise" there (AK). Summering birds are rare in the west.

**Northern Mockingbird:** There were numerous reports of this now fairly common species in the south; as many as 12 were in a single Breeding Bird Atlas block in Johnson Co 8 Jul (CNK).

**Brown Thrasher:** This species is abundant in se Nebraska; 24 were in a single Breeding Bird Atlas block in Johnson Co 8 Jul (LE).

**European Starling:** Reports were routine for this common statewide breeder.

**Cedar Waxwing:** A flock of 25 was at FF 5 Jun (JR), typical of this species; such late spring flocks are thought to be migrants from the far s part of the winter range. Two were carrying nest materials in Scotts Bluff Co 26 Jun (AK).

**Tennessee Warbler:** Migrants are not uncommon in early Jun; 4 were reported in the east, last in Washington Co 7 Jun (D&JP).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** One became yet another spring straggler taking refuge at CLNWR; the 12 Jun sighting (CG) is the 2nd latest on record.

**Nashville Warbler:** The first Jul record for this species in Nebraska was a male in extreme se Cass Co 18 Jul (CNK); next earliest fall record is 10 Aug and latest in spring is 9 Jun.

**Northern Parula:** A surprise was the 3 at Kelley Creek Park, McCook, 6 Jun (CH), but even more surprising was one at Ash Hollow SHP, Garden Co, 26 Jun (KS, JLL), only the 2nd Jun record for the Panhandle.

**Yellow Warbler:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.

**Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler:** Significantly east of the usual range was a presumed late migrant in w. Cherry Co 10 Jun (JR, MB); breeding occurs east to Dawes Co on the Pine Ridge.

**Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** Another late spring migrant Yellow-rumped was of this subspecies at CLNWR 12 Jun (CG), 2nd-latest on record for spring.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** One in Omaha 13 Jun (JR) was only the 4th state record for Jun to mid-Aug.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Reports were routine, all from the limited range in se Nebraska.

**Cerulean Warbler:** No reports were received; this is a rare summer visitor in the extreme east.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** No reports were received for this uncommon breeder in n Nebraska.

**American Redstart:** Reports were routine for this common breeder in e and n Nebraska.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** A singing male was at FF 5 Jun (JR), one of few known summering sites in the extreme southeast.

**Ovenbird:** Although summering birds are fairly common on the Pine Ridge, one summering at WSR was a surprise; it was the longtime observer's first for summer (HKH). However, this species does breed in "foothill riparian thickets" in Colorado (Andrews and Righter).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Somewhat west of the usual se Nebraska range were singles in Thayer Co 14 Jun (GG) and in s Gage Co 30 Jun (CNK, NR).

**Kentucky Warbler:** None were reported; this is an uncommon breeder in se Nebraska.

**Common Yellowthroat:** Reports were routine for this common statewide breeder.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Rarely reported in the east, one was in Nemaha Co 19 Jun (CNK); only the 9th eastern record since 1981. Reports from the western two thirds of the state were of good numbers: it was "abundant" in Hitchcock Co 3 Jun (TJW), and "everywhere" around HCR 27 Jun (LR, RH).

**Summer Tanager:** Good numbers continue at ICSP, where 5 were counted 26 Jul (L&BP). An adult male in Morrill Co 11 Jun (DL) was only the 10th Panhandle record.

**Scarlet Tanager:** Best count was 2-3 near the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center, Nebraska City, 12 Jul (JC, SS).

**Western Tanager:** Routine reports were received for this Panhandle pinewoods breeder.

**Spotted Towhee:** Towhees at Niobrara SP, Knox Co, 10 Jul were mostly hybrids by song, but most looked like Easterns (RE). One observer (MB) has indicated that most towhees in Knox Co are phenotypic Spottedts, but there is evidence (Scharf 2005, citation available on request) that the mix can indeed change quite quickly from year to year.

**Eastern Towhee:** Singles in Antelope Co 6 Jun (JJ) and at Fullerton 25 Jul (LR, RH) were near the west edge of the summer range.

**Cassin's Sparrow:** Recent years have seen populations north and east of the generally assumed range in sand-sage prairies of the southwest. Two summered at WSR (HKH), one was at CLNWR 2 Jun, where birds have been present in sand-sage or yucca each of the last 3 years (CG), and 1-4 were s of CLNWR 19 and 27 Jun (CG, KS, JLL). In addition, the 7 in sw Kimball Co 11 Jun (JR, MB) was a good count.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Probably scarcest in summer in the sw, interesting survey data provided by TJ Walker from 21 blocks for the years 2006-2010 show a total of only 5 singing males in Dundy, Chase, Perkins, Hitchcock, Hayes, and Frontier Cos. Even in 20 blocks nearer the North Platte River in Lincoln and Keith Cos, only 12 singing males were found (TJW). A single in Perkins Co 22 Jul (WF) may have been a molt migrant, a phenomenon suggested to occur in this species and other passerines (Ted Floyd).

**Brewer's Sparrow:** Few are reported from their remote w Panhandle habitat; 2 were in w Sioux Co 11 Jun (JR, MB).

**Field Sparrow:** Not numerous in the sw, one was in Hitchcock Co 26 Jun (CH).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Good numbers were found during surveys in Dodge Co and ne Nebraska during the summer (D&JP); this species is most common in the north and northwest, but appears to be adapting to agricultural fields in the east.

**Lark Sparrow:** Reports of this common statewide breeder were routine.

**Lark Bunting:** Routine reports were received for this common western breeder.

**Savannah Sparrow:** Arriving fall migrants were rather early singles at ADF 27 Jul (LF) and in Scotts Bluff Co 31 Jul (KD).



**Grasshopper Sparrow:** This species is doing well in all types of grassland in Nebraska; about 30 were present in a 160-acre prairie in Pawnee Co 5 Jun (WRS), and “dozens” in Nance Co 25 Jul included many young (LR, RH).

**Baird’s Sparrow:** Following sightings of singing birds in May, none were found 1 Jun 2010 (B&DW) in the same area of extreme ne Sioux Co; none were found in Jun 2009 after several singing birds were found in May in the same area.

**Henslow’s Sparrow:** Checks of two prairies in Pawnee Co 5 Jun found 11 singing birds; 5 were in a 3rd year post graze area west of Burchard L WMA (WRS), and 6 were on the north ridge of Pawnee Prairie WMA, also 3rd-year post graze (WRS). At both prairies, none were found in 1st and 2nd year post graze grassland.

**Song Sparrow:** Probably least numerous in summer in the southwest and Panhandle, singles were in Gosper Co 24 and 25 Jun (WF), and at HCR 26 Jun (LR, RH).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Reports were from areas of cen. Nebraska where this species is known to occupy cattail marshes: good numbers were along the Loup River in Loup Co 26 Jun (TJW) and 3 were at Marsh Wren WMA, Howard Co, 17 Jul (LR, RH). Wet meadows are also used; 2 were in such habitat near Milburn 26 Jun (WF).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Rather late was a black-lored adult at CLNWR 18 Jun (CG, photo); it seems most likely on geographic grounds that this was a Rocky Mountain bird of the subspecies *Zonotrichia leucophrys oriantha*.

**Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco:** No reports were received for this fairly common Pine Ridge breeder.

**McCown’s Longspur:** No reports were received for this fairly common western Panhandle breeder.

**Chestnut-collared Longspur:** No reports were received for this fairly common western and northern breeder.

**Northern Cardinal:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide (rare in the Panhandle) breeder.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Westerly for the date were 2 in Loup Co 26 Jun (TH, WM); only the 3rd mid-Jun through Jul report for the Loup River drainage.

**Black-headed Grosbeak:** An “apparent influx” of presumed late migrants involved 6 birds at Fairmont 10 Jun (JRI); this is somewhat east of the usual migration and summering ranges.

**Blue Grosbeak:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.

**Lazuli Bunting:** Easterly sightings involved a male in se Lincoln Co 19 Jul at the same place one was located in 2009 (TJW), and in Hitchcock Co a phenotypically pure-looking male and two hybrids with white abdomens, one with wing bars, were present 3 Jun with numerous Indigo Buntings (TJW). Some of the latter birds were likely migrants. Young were being fed in ne Banner Co 19 Jul (AK).

**Indigo Bunting:** Reports were routine for this statewide breeder.

**Dickcissel:** This species was again prominent in the west, as has been the case in the last few years. It was “another good year” in se Lincoln Co (TJW), and numbers were increased over the previous 2 years at CLNWR (CG). Westerly singing birds were in the Wildcat Hills 19 and 26 Jun (AK) and s. of Gering 20 Jun-20 Jul (AK), and 1-2 were in Grant Co 24-25 Jun (LJH). As might be expected when numbers are up in the west, the se had good numbers as well: 125 were in se Nebraska 25 Jul (WRS), 58 were in Lancaster Co 2 Jul (LE), and 55 were in Johnson Co 19 Jun (LE).

**Bobolink:** Numbers appeared to be increasing in the far se; 15 were in a Breeding Bird Atlas block in Johnson Co 8 Jul (LE) and a pair was in Pawnee Co 5 Jun (WRS). A surprising 10 were at SCP 20 Jul (KP), likely migrants. Fall flocks form early; a non-vocal flock of 7 was in sw Phelps Co 19 Jul (WF).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** This species is distributed locally in the Sandhills; one was singing in Grant Co 29 Jul (WF).

**Western Meadowlark:** Routine reports were received for this common statewide breeder.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Numbers increase in the se in summers with wet conditions, as this year. LPB hosted 1-2 during the period (SS, JC, JR, L&BP), and 6 were at Jack Sinn 5 Jun (WRS).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** During the last 3 years Scotts Bluff Co has had a few sightings in summer, but this year evidence that the breeding range has extended sw of the Wildcat Hills was found on the Murray L BBS route, which had its first ever record of the species 22 Jun, involving birds at 5 stops, with adults carrying food at two of the stops (KD, AK). Another was carrying food at WHNC 19 Jun (AK).

**Common Grackle:** Reports were routine for this common to abundant statewide breeder.

**Great-tailed Grackle:** The observer's first for the Sandhills was one at Lakeside 24 Jun (LJH), while 1-2 in Perkins and Chase Cos 22 Jul (WF) were noteworthy there.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** Reports were routine for this common statewide breeder.

**Orchard Oriole:** Reports were routine for this common statewide breeder.

**Baltimore Oriole:** Phenotypically pure birds occur in the w Panhandle, mostly as spring migrants; 2 were in a Scotts Bluff Co yard 1 Jun (KD) and another was in the same county 5 Jun (AK).

**Bullock's Oriole:** It has been shown recently that males leave early on molt migration for the sw United States; by 31 Jul the several birds in the observer's yard were females and juveniles (KD).

**House Finch:** No reports were received; numbers may be declining, and reports of summering birds would be welcome.

**Red Crossbill:** Reports were from the usual haunts, Wildcat Hills (LJH, AK) and the Pine Ridge (JR, MB). Only about 7 in all were reported.

**Pine Siskin:** Last to depart the observer's Scotts Bluff Co yard were later than usual on 5 Jun (KD).

**Lesser Goldfinch:** Reports continue for this species, which appears to have expanded into w Nebraska. Possibly Nebraska's first breeding record was of an adult pair at Wright's Gap, ne Banner Co, 19 Jun apparently feeding at least one young bird inside a bush; the young bird was not visible but could be heard "cheeping" (KD, AK). Two were in the observer's Mitchell yard 1 Jun (KD), and a male was in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co 11 Jun (JR, MB).

**American Goldfinch:** Reports were routine for this common statewide breeder; breeding often doesn't get underway until Jul.

**House Sparrow:** Along with House Finch, this town-dweller may also be declining in numbers, as in Nebraska City (LF).