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SPRING FIELD REPORT, March 2011 to May 2011

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INTRODUCTION

There was a nice mix of interesting phenomena this spring, notably a big influx of migrant warblers. Species that are normally uncommon were reported in good numbers, 30 or more each: Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Palm, and Northern Waterthrush, and species that normally occur in very low numbers approached double digits: Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Cape May, and Bay-breasted. Southeastern species continue to expand in se. Nebraska, notably Cerulean and Kentucky Warblers and Summer Tanager. A few rarities showed up, most spectacular an alternate-plumaged female Red Phalarope, the first such record for Nebraska, which was captured on video by Nebraska Non-Game TV. Other rarities included Brant, Red-throated Loon, Common Crane, Laughing Gull, and Great Black-backed Gull. There were some interesting comments on Tufted Titmouse in Lancaster County related to a previously unnoticed decline in numbers and its virtual absence. Biggest surprise was probably a Hooded Crane in Hall County; evidence suggests it was not a wild bird, but the Records Committee will deliberate the question.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City
BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co
CLNWR: Crescent L NWR, Garden Co
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co
Cem: Cemetery
GPD: Gavins Point Dam, Cedar/Knox Cos
Harvard Marsh: Harvard WPA, Clay Co
HCR: Harlan Co Res, Harlan Co
ICSP: Indian Cave SP, Nemaha and Richardson Cos
Jack Sinn: Jack Sinn Memorial WMA, Saunders and Lancaster Cos
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co
LNB: Lakes North and Babcock, Platte Co
LO: L Ogallala, Keith Co
LPB: LaPlatte Bottoms, Sarpy Co
m.ob.: many observers
NLB: North Lake Basin WMA, Seward Co
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co
PP: Pioneers Park, Lincoln
PRSP: Platte River SP, Cass Co
Res: Reservoir
RWB: Rainwater Basin, a wetland complex in several counties in southcentral and southeast Nebraska
SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)

SP: State Park
WGP: Walnut Grove Park, Omaha
WP: Wilderness Park, Lincoln
WSR: Wind Springs Ranch, s. Sioux Co

OBSERVERS

AD: Ann Duey, Scottsbluff
AJ: Ann Johnson, Norwalk, IA
AK: Alice Kenitz, Gering
AP: Andrew Pierson, Gering
ARy: Al Reyer, Bellevue
B&KG: Bob and Kathi Gerten, Burwell
BF: Bill Fink, San Francisco, CA
BFH: Bill F. Huser, South Sioux City
BW: Ben Wheeler, Ord
CC: Chuck Cooper, Grand Island
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue
CWH: Bill Huntley, Ogallala
D&CN: Don and Colleen Noecker, Albion
D&JP: Don and Jan Paseka, Ames
DG: Diane Gilles, Scottsbluff
DL: Dan Leger, Lincoln
DM: David Martin, Slingerlands, NY
DSt: Dave Stage, Elkhorn
EB: Elaine Bachel, Lincoln
EBr: Ed Brogie, Laurel
ES: Eric Stoiber, Bellevue
ET: Edward Tickle, Lincoln
G&WH: Glen & Wanda Hoge, Alma
GR: Gary Roberts, Fremont
HKH: Helen K. Hughson, Mitchell
J&SK: Jim and Sandy Kovanda, Omaha
JAG: Joseph A. Gyrzbowski, Norman, OK
JC: John Carlini, Lincoln
JG: Joe Gubanyi, Seward
JGH: Jerry G. Hain, Wahoo
JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Lincoln
JGr: Jonas Grundman, Omaha
JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield
JJe: Jim Jenniges, Kearney
JLC: Jill Liske-Clark, Grand Island
JLL: Jeanine L. Lackey, Doniphan
JO: Jim Ochsner, Ogallala
JR: Justin Rink, Omaha
JRi: Juanita Rice, Fairmont;
JT: Jerry Toll, Omaha
JW: Jake Walker, Lincoln
JWH: John W. Hall, Omaha
KC: Kathy Cohen, Beatrice
KCR: Kathleen Crawford-Rose, Bellevue

KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell
KN: Kay Niyo, Golden, CO
KP: Kevin Poague, Lincoln
KS: Kent Skaggs, Kearney
L&BP: Loren and Babs Padelford, Bellevue
LBI: Laurine Blankenau, Omaha
LD: Linda Deeds, North Platte
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln
LF: Larry Falk, Nebraska City
LJH: Luke J. Hamilton, Oshkosh
LR: Lanny Randolph, Kearney
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton
MBB: Mary Bomberger Brown, Lincoln
MW: Matt Walker, Brady
NB: Norma Brockmoller, Winside
NH: Nancy Herhahn, Holdrege
NP: Neva Pruess, Lincoln
NR: Neal Ratzlaff, Omaha
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings
PH: Paula Hoppe, Colon
PS: Phil Swanson, Omaha
R&SW: Ron and Susan Whitney, Lincoln
RD: Roger Dietrich, Yankton, SD
RE: Rick Eades, Lincoln
RH: Robin Harding, Kearney
RS: Rick Schmid, Omaha
RSt: Ruth Stearns, Lincoln
RW: Rick Wright, Little Falls, NJ
SJ: Steve Johnson, Scottsbluff
SK: Sharon Kliewer, Stockham
SM: Steve Morris, Grand Island
SS: Shari Schwartz, Lincoln
SW: Scott Wessel, Wausa
TB: Tim Barksdale, Choteau, MT
TEL: Thomas E. Labeledz, Lincoln
TG: Tom Gannon, Lincoln
TH: Tim Hajda, Broken Bow
TJW: T.J. Walker, Brady
TL: Tucker Lutter, Sioux City, IA
TP: Theresa Pester, Walton
VC: Virginia Clark, North Platte
WF: William Flack, Kearney
WM: Wayne Mollhoff, Ashland
WW: Walt Wehtje, Wood River

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose: A good tally away from the e. RWB was the 2000 in Cuming Co 11 Mar (JJ); 3 stragglers, at least one injured, were at Harvard Marsh 17 May (PD, BF).

- Snow Goose:** Some 500,000 were estimated present at HCR 9 Mar (JGJ), an impressive one-location count. The usual stragglers into May were reported; best count was the 8 at Harvard Marsh 17 May (PD, BF).
- Ross's Goose:** Best counts among the Snows were 155 in Clay Co 16 Mar (LE) and 103 at Jack Sinn 13 Mar (LE).
- Brant:** The 5 documented spring records are of the taxon *Branta bernicla bernicla*, the eastern North American breeder (taxonomy of Brants is in flux, though). Thus a *B. b. nigricans* at Hastings 4-6 Mar (PD) becomes the first spring record of this taxon, a western North American migrant, although there are 3 records for fall.
- Cackling Goose:** Two in the e. RWB 7 May (JGJ) were tardy.
- Canada Goose:** First broods of goslings reported were the two in Sarpy Co 29 Apr (ARY); earliest date on record is 10 Apr.
- Mute Swan:** A pair was at Boys Town Lake, Douglas Co, 5 Mar (JR). Any information on provenance of any Mute Swans in Douglas Co is welcome; as yet breeding has not been reported.
- Trumpeter Swan:** This species is rarely reported from Scotts Bluff Co; one was there 26 Mar (AK). A pair noted at a small playa pond between Colon and Cedar Bluffs 16 Apr (LE) was still present and seen mating on 11 May; no bands were seen (JGH). Successful nesting occurred at a small pond in Buffalo Co in 2009 and 2010 (the latter record was cited incorrectly as Hall County in the Summer 2010 Seasonal Report). It appears that Trumpeters are expanding their breeding range southward.
- Tundra Swan:** This species is a rare migrant through Nebraska mostly in Mar and Nov. The two reports were of 4 in Cedar Co 13 Mar (MB) and 2 in Hall Co 14 Mar (LF).
- Wood Duck:** Three in Lancaster Co 3 Mar (LE) were rather early or might have wintered in the area. Best counts were 60 at FF 18 Mar (PS) and 34 in Cuming Co 24 Apr (LE).
- Gadwall:** Reports were routine for this common statewide migrant.
- Eurasian Wigeon:** One at LPB 14 May (MB) provided the latest date by 12 days of the 30 spring records for Nebraska.
- American Wigeon:** Reports were routine for this common statewide migrant.
- Mallard:** Reports were routine for this abundant statewide migrant.
- Blue-winged Teal:** Earliest were about as expected, on 13 Mar in Sarpy Co (CNK) and the e. RWB (JGJ). An excellent count was the 1000 at Niobrara 16 Apr (MB).
- Cinnamon Teal:** Reports were widespread, more so than usual, beginning with early arrivals somewhat easterly at Harvard Marsh 16 Mar (LE) and in Antelope Co 19 Mar (fide MB). Another easterly bird was at L Wanahoo, Saunders Co, 25-28 Apr (JC, SS, RSt, JR). In all, 24 were reported.
- Northern Shoveler:** Reports were routine for this common statewide migrant.
- Northern Pintail:** The 40,000 at HCR 10 Mar (JGJ) was impressive; high spring counts are 73,000+.
- Green-winged Teal:** Reports were routine for this common statewide migrant.
- Canvasback:** Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide migrant.
- Redhead:** Tardy stragglers away from the breeding range were the 18 at Alma South SL 30 May (GWH).
- Ring-necked Duck:** The 499 in Lancaster Co 15 Mar (LE) was a good count.

Greater Scaup: Reports were numerous 8 Mar (PD) through 24 Apr (JR), possibly as observers pay more attention to scaup flocks. A total of 95 was reported, 50 of these at LO 23 Mar (TJW). Record high spring count is only 60.

Lesser Scaup: Reports were routine for this common statewide migrant.

Bufflehead: Reports were routine for this fairly common statewide migrant.

Common Goldeneye: Reports were routine for this fairly common spring migrant.

Hooded Merganser: The second- and third-highest spring counts on record were 73 in Lancaster Co 1 Mar (LE) and 68 in one flock in Cass Co 13 Mar (CNK).

Common Merganser: An adult male on the Elkhorn River near Norfolk 23 May (LE) was one of very few records after 20 May. Adult males are rare anytime in May.

Red-breasted Merganser: This species is generally an uncommon spring migrant and is local in its preferred locations. For example, "hundreds" were at L Yankton, Cedar Co, 27 Mar (MB), but considered "exceptional" was the first spring record for the e. RWB, 2 in Clay Co 7 May (JGJ).

Ruddy Duck: Reports were routine for this common statewide migrant.

Northern Bobwhite: Surprisingly, none were found during the period on a Dodge Co farm (D&JP). Noteworthy at the northerly location were 1-2 in n. Antelope Co 17 and 28 May (WF, MB).

Gray Partridge: None were reported; this is a locally distributed resident of ne. NE and s. Sioux Co.

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

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Disappointingly, a lek in McPherson Co had only 6 birds, compared to the 50 there last year (TJW). The small but apparently increasing population in the s. Panhandle was represented by singles in Apr and May (JJ, JGJ).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: One was at the ne. edge of the Nebraska range at Buckskin WMA, Cedar Co, 3 Apr (BFH), where there is a small population. Reports continue to accumulate in the e. RWB, where 2 males were on a lek in Fillmore Co 2 Apr (JGJ). Another bird was seen at a different Fillmore Co location the same day (JGJ), and 5 were at Harvard Marsh 7 May (JGJ). Perhaps related to these observations of this species apparently adapting to mixed-habitat RWB sites was a single in a 15-acre pasture surrounded by row crops in s. Hall Co (JLL). Two leks were found in w. Franklin Co 31 Mar, where distribution is spotty (KS). Most surprising was the report of 2 in Cheyenne Co 12 Apr (JJ); this species is essentially absent from the s. Panhandle, although there is a healthy population in the southwest, extending into Colorado.

Wild Turkey: Best count reported was the 265 in w. Sarpy Co 19 Mar (DSt). Highest counts are 300+.

Red-throated Loon: Only the 4th documented NE record for spring, and by far the earliest was one in Cedar Co 26-27 Mar (BFH, RD photo, MB).

Common Loon: More than usual, 19 were reported 24 Mar (L&BP) through 26 May; the later sightings were of basic-plumaged birds, as expected (D&JP, ET, TG).

Pied-billed Grebe: The 85 at BOL 8 Apr (LE) was a near-record count; high is 100.

Horned Grebe: Like Common Loon, good numbers were reported: 40+ from 20 Mar (JWH) through 18 Apr (TJW).

- Red-necked Grebe:** None were reported; this species is a rare spring migrant.
- Eared Grebe:** One in Hall Co 16 Mar (LE) was rather early.
- Western Grebe:** One in Platte Co 30 Mar (JGJ) was record early for the east by 11 days. Another easterly bird was in Sarpy Co 12 May (NR).
- Clark's Grebe:** There were 5 reports of 6 birds, all westerly: one was at Lakeside 22 Apr (AP), two at CLNWR 11 May (DM), one near Oshkosh on the North Platte River (DM), and 2 at LO 27 (JGJ) and 29 (L&BP) May.
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Arrival was early, with one at BOL 3 Mar (JGJ) and probably the same bird there 9 Mar (LE). There were 6 at HCR 5 Mar (G&WH). Previously, other than occasional winter records, there had only been 4 records earlier than 11 Mar, only 2 of which were for Feb (away from Sutherland Res, Lincoln Co). The 1729 at BOL 8 Apr (LE) was a good count.
- American White Pelican:** The 1000 at HCR 21 Mar (TJW) was a good spring count; 54 arrived there rather early 9 Mar (JGJ).
- American Bittern:** The 7 migrants reported were all in the east (m. ob.). Breeding may occur anywhere in the state, and so not unexpected were two courting at NLB 6 May (JC, SS), with reports of single birds there through 28 May (JG).
- Least Bittern:** Despite some good habitat in the east, there was only one report, that in an unexpected location, Antelope Co, 28 May, the veteran observer's first for that county (MB).
- Great Blue Heron:** Rookeries were occupied in late Mar; 4 rookeries statewide had birds at nests 22-23 Mar (RSt, TJW, WM). Largest rookery was in n. Cass Co, with 94 nests 28 Mar (CNK).
- Great Egret:** Arrival was early: 2 were as far n. as Cedar Co by 17 Mar (JJ) and one was in Lincoln 21 Mar (LE). The 28 in se. Otoe Co 22 May (LF) was an excellent tally; such spring flocks may actually be post-breeding dispersers from Gulf Coast colonies.
- Snowy Egret:** Arrival was early with this species also, with 4 arriving earlier than previous earliest dates: singles were in Lincoln 6 Apr (R&SW) and NLB 8 Apr (JGJ), and two were at BOL 8 Apr (LE). More than usual, 21 passed through statewide through 30 May (L&BP, m. ob.).
- Little Blue Heron:** The only reports of this rare spring migrant were of singles in Lancaster Co 7 May (LE) and 10 May (LE).
- Cattle Egret:** Reports were widespread, but largest flocks were only in the 10-15 range (m. ob.).
- Green Heron:** Northerly and westerly were singles near Broken Bow 1 May (TH) and in Lincoln Co 29 May (TJW).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** One heard and seen flying in Saunders Co 29 Mar (PH) was rather early.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Two reports of single immatures at NLB 24 Apr (JC, SS) and 27 May (LE) may have been the same bird; this is a rare spring visitor.
- Glossy Ibis:** Multiple reports of this species continue, this spring involving 5-6 birds. One to two were at Harvard Marsh with 30-40 White-faced Ibis 17-29 Apr (PD). Singles were in Antelope Co 27 Apr (MB), at Kissinger WPA, Clay Co, 4 May (JGJ) and 17 May (PD, BF), and at Moger WPA, Clay Co, 7-11 May (JGJ). Two birds in Clay Co 7 May were apparent hybrids (JGJ).
- White-faced Ibis:** The 24 at North Platte 9 Apr (TJW) were rather early. Numbers continue to increase; excellent counts were 170 in the e. RWB 7 May (JGJ) and 150+ at North Platte 1 May (VC).

Turkey Vulture: Reports were routine for this common statewide migrant.

Osprey: Singles in Lincoln Co 25 Mar (KN, photo) and Webster Co 26 Mar (PD) were rather early. There were several encouraging, if unsuccessful, nest attempts. A pair building a nest on a power pole a mile west of Scottsbluff 15 Apr was apparently electrocuted before 1 May (KD). The power company then built a platform and another pair was seen later using it (KD). One bird was on a nest platform west of Winters Creek L 15 May, but the nest was partially destroyed, probably by wind (KD). A pair was building a nest on a platform near Keystone 21 Apr-1 May (JGJ, JJe). The only other nesting for the state was in 2008 in Scotts Bluff Co.

Mississippi Kite: Unexpected were reports away from Ogallala: one was in Saunders Co rather early 22 Apr (RSt), and 1-2 were in Norfolk 21-23 May (MB).

Bald Eagle: Best counts were 160+ at Calamus Res 13 Mar (B&KG) and 144 at BOL 5 Mar (JGJ). These dates indicate peak migration, and are the second- and third-highest for spring.

Northern Harrier: The 41 in the RWB 9 Mar (JGJ) was an excellent count.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: The 5 in the e. RWB 17 Apr (JGJ) was a high spring count.

Cooper's Hawk: Urban nesting was reported in Omaha at a regular site, Walnut Grove Park (L&BP), and in Lincoln at Holmes L (the nest was later abandoned) (LE) and WP (LE).

Northern Goshawk: One in Scotts Bluff Co 30 Mar (SJ, DG photo, fide KD) was the only report of this rare migrant.

Red-shouldered Hawk: The only report was of one in ne Douglas Co 2 Apr (JT). This continues to be a scarce species in Nebraska.

Broad-winged Hawk: There were 24 reported, mostly in the east, 16 Apr (TH) through 21 May (MB, m. ob.), including westerly singles in Kearney 16 Apr (TH) and Hastings 18 May (PD).

Swainson's Hawk: Good numbers were reported statewide, including 300 in the e. RWB 21 Apr, 237 of these at a burn in Fillmore Co (JGJ). The 300 is by far the highest spring count on record: high counts from past years were also RWB counts. One in Hamilton Co 22 Mar (TEL) was rather early.

Red-tailed Hawk: The 2 "Harlan's" red-tails in Saunders Co 20 Apr (CNK) provided a new late date for this form in Nebraska.

Ferruginous Hawk: The only easterly report was of an immature in Dakota Co 30 Apr (BFH).

Rough-legged Hawk: Reports were routine for this fairly common migrant.

Golden Eagle: An immature in Sarpy Co 21 Mar (RW) was the only easterly report; such sightings are rare.

American Kestrel: Reports were routine for this common migrant.

Merlin: Reports were routine for this uncommon migrant.

Peregrine Falcon: The pair at the Capitol Building in Lincoln was seen copulating 26 Mar (SS), and had 3 eggs 21 Apr (JGJ). A nest box in Topeka, Kansas, was occupied this spring by a pair of Capitol Building products, the first recorded away from Lincoln (JGJ). The pair consisted of a male, Boreas, fledged in 2007, and a female, Nemaha, fledged in 2009 (JGJ).

Prairie Falcon: Easterly, where rare, were singles at BOL 1 Mar (LE), in Pawnee Co 6 Mar (RSt), and in Adams Co 26 Mar (RS).

Virginia Rail: One took up residence at WSR as early as 30 Mar and has been heard occasionally since (HKH); it may have overwintered. One in Lincoln Co

9 Apr (TJW) was rather early if a migrant, although wintering is not unexpected in the North Platte Valley.

Sora: Several were reported, with all reports in May from NLB (CNK, JG, ES, JC, SS), where the species probably breeds.

Common Gallinule: No fewer than 3 of this casual species were reported, a reflection of good water conditions. Singles were at Carter L, Douglas Co, 22 Apr (CNK), at Whitehead Saline Wetlands, Lincoln, 25-26 Apr (LE, RSt, DL, JGJ), and at LPB 18 May (BF).

American Coot: Reports were routine for this abundant migrant.

Sandhill Crane: Numbers continue to be good west of the cen. Platte Valley; "thousands" were in Scotts Bluff Co 26 Mar (AK), 2000 were at Lewellen 17 Mar (LJH), and 15,000 were in Lincoln Co 8 Apr (TJW). Easterly, where rare, 5 were at Jack Sinn 3 Apr (TG), 3 flew over SCP 3 Apr (KP), one was in Cuming Co 24 Apr (JJ), and one flew over Colfax Co 21 May (D&JP). Reports from known breeding locations were positive; a pair returned to Kiowa WMA, Scotts Bluff Co, 9 Apr for its third year (KD), and the pair at Facus Springs, Morrill Co, had at least one chick 5 May (KD).

Common Crane: The only report of this species was of one photographed at Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo Co, 25 Mar (fide KS). Although there are only 14 records in all, at least one has appeared each year since and including 2007.



Hooded Crane, Hall County, Nebraska, April 8, 2011. Photo by Mark Urwiller.

Hooded Crane: An obliging Hooded Crane chose to forage in fields next to I-80 in Hall Co with Sandhill Cranes for 17 days, allowing many observers to see this unexpected visitor. It was found 25 Mar (WW, photo CC) and remained until 11 Apr (JLC, NP, EBr, m. ob.; photos). Its provenance will be debated by the NOU Records Committee, although it seems likely it was part of a group that escaped or was released from an Idaho Aviary in 2006; however, these 5 birds, all females obtained from the Bronx Zoo, were banded, whereas the Hall Co bird was not. Hooded Crane breeds in east Asia, near where

Common Cranes breed, and south of the nearest Sandhill Crane breeding locations in ne. Siberia.

Whooping Crane: Reports were received from 27 Mar (VC) through 5 Apr (NH, m. ob.). Large numbers were in the state 2-3 Apr, when 51-56 were present (*Omaha World Herald*), including a group of 19 on the Middle Loup River 2 Apr (BW photo; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=013iKfBOAVw>).

Black-bellied Plover: The 200 in the e. RWB 21 May (JGJ) was an excellent count; best is 588.

American Golden-Plover: One photographed in s. Buffalo Co 12 Mar (JAG) was 2nd-earliest on record; another in Gage Co 22 Mar (LE) was rather early also. Best count was 380 in the e. RWB 7 May (JGJ); best count is 800.



American Golden-Plover, Buffalo Co, 12 March 2011. Second-earliest record.
Photo by Joseph A. Grzybowski.

Snowy Plover: With no exposed sand at LM, reports were scattered and few, with only 5 reported: singles were at LNB 13 Apr (WF, details), Smith WPA, Clay Co, 11 May (JGJ), Hansen WPA, Clay Co, 11 May (JGJ), CLNWR 12 May (DM), and in Cedar Co in early May (JGr).

Semipalmated Plover: The 159 in the e. RWB 7 May (JGJ) was a good count; best is 300, twice.

Piping Plover: Best count was 10, at private sites along the Platte River 26 Apr (JGJ, MBB). At LO, 8 were at the boat launch parking lot 29 May (L&BP) and one, "looking confused", was there 27 May (JGJ); the loss of sandy habitat at a very full LM was no doubt the reason these birds were there. A color-banded bird among 3 in the e. RWB 21 Apr (NR) was the first documented occurrence in the RWB of a bird banded on the Missouri River between GPD and Ponca SP (JGJ). (See photo in *NBR* Vol. 79 No. 1, p. 5.)

Killdeer: Reports were routine for this common migrant.

Mountain Plover: The only reports were, as expected, from s. Kimball Co, where 5 were seen 12 Apr (JJ) and 3 on 31 May (L&BP).

Black-necked Stilt: Easterly reports are increasing; one arrived rather early at LPB 18 Apr (CNK) and stayed through 20 Apr (m. ob.), and 1-3 were near Beemer 21-24 May (GR, JJ). There were several e. RWB reports beginning 29 Apr (PD, JGJ); most were of singles, however. Two were in Wheeler Co 17 May (RSt, EB). Best count was a near-record for spring of 14 at Lakeside 17 May (TH, WM), and there were several other reports from the western half of the state, where the species is expected.

American Avocet: One in Scotts Bluff Co 26 Mar (AK) was rather early. Best easterly count was 52 in Lancaster Co 30 Apr (R&SW).

Spotted Sandpiper: The 21 at Holmes L, Lincoln, 30 Apr (LE) was a good count.

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

Greater Yellowlegs: Three at Rowe Sanctuary, Buffalo Co, 9 Mar (JLL) were rather early.

Willet: Reports were widespread, including in the east, where it is uncommon; best count was from the east, 44 at Oak L, Lincoln, 30 Apr (R&SW, photo).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Rather early was a single at L Zorinsky, Omaha, 12-13 Mar (JWH, JR).

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

Whimbrel: More than usual were reported, 13 birds in 5 reports 6-21 May (m. ob.). Five flew over Seward Co 14 May (PD), and 5 were in the e. RWB 21 May (JGJ). Elsewhere, singles were in Clay Co 6 May (PD) and 12 May (PD), and at NLB 14 May (JG).

Long-billed Curlew: Earliest reported was "Bailey", the female whose transmitter is still working after two years. She left her wintering area in ne. Mexico 29 Mar and arrived in the w. Sandhills of Nebraska 1 Apr (JGJ). There were additional scattered westerly reports of 12 birds (m. ob.).

Hudsonian Godwit: Best count was 277 in the e. RWB 7 May, third-highest on record, including 103 at Freeman Lakes WPA, York Co, (JGJ). All reports were from the e. half of the state, as expected.

Marbled Godwit: One in Custer Co 8 Apr (BW) was rather early. Best counts were the 48 in Harlan Co 13 Apr (G&WH) and 19 in Knox Co 19 Apr (MB); high is 277.

Ruddy Turnstone: Reports were about average, with 12 birds reported in the e. half of the state 7-21 May (JGJ, LE, BFH, D&JP, JGr).

Sanderling: Reports were routine for this fairly common migrant.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: The 1750 in the e. RWB 7 May (JGJ) was an excellent total; high one-day tally is 3500.

Western Sandpiper: Only two of this rare spring migrant were reported: singles in Clay Co 29 Apr (PD) and Lancaster Co 14 May (LE).

Least Sandpiper: Third-earliest on record were 2 at L Zorinsky, Omaha, 13 Mar (JR). A record high spring count was the 950 in the e. RWB 7 May (JGJ).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Reports were routine for this abundant spring migrant.

Baird's Sandpiper: The 8 in the e. RWB 13 Mar (JGJ) were rather early. The 1300 in the e. RWB 7 May (JGJ) was third-highest on record; high is 6400.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Reports were routine for this common spring migrant.

Dunlin: Dunlin is generally a late spring migrant, with Apr records mostly in the last week of the month, and so 4 at NLB 2 Apr (RSt, EB) were 4th earliest on record. Best count was the 45 in the e. RWB 7 May (JGJ).

Stilt Sandpiper: One in basic plumage 12 May in Clay Co (PD) was unexpected; such birds may be one-year-olds that usually remain on the wintering areas rather than migrate.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: The reports were in the period 7-21 May from the narrow e.-cen. migration corridor; best count was a moderate 180 on 10 May (JGJ).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Apr records are rare; earliest documented records are 20, 25, and 26 Apr. There were 2 such reports this spring: 3 at NLB 24 Apr (JC, SS; details) and 5 in se. Washington Co 29 Apr (JT). Elsewhere, sightings were as expected, 32 birds 7 May (JGJ) through 21 May (JGJ), all from the east except for one in Morrill Co 15 May (KD).

Long-billed Dowitcher: One in the e. RWB 13 Mar (JGJ) was third-earliest on record. The 2100 in the e. RWB 7 May (JGJ) was an excellent count; high is 4750.

Wilson's Snipe: Winnowing was first heard 20 Mar in Antelope Co (MB), likely a bird that wintered nearby; usually this territorial sound indicates onset of breeding, but this would be a very early date. Egg dates for Nebraska are in May-Jun. Winnowing was heard also at NLB 10-15 May (JGJ, JC, SS), where breeding likely occurs.

American Woodcock: Reports were numerous for this species, with at least 26 reported, earliest the 4 at BOL 11 Mar (JC, SS). Second-highest count on record was the 8 around the entrance to Boyer Chute NWR, Washington Co, 15 Mar (JR). Singles at Hastings 12 Mar (PD, photo) and near Gibbon 22 Mar (RW) were westerly.

Wilson's Phalarope: Reports were routine for this abundant spring migrant.

Red-necked Phalarope: Easterly, where rare, were singles at LPB 16 May (CNK) and Plainview SL 21-23 May (WF, KD, LE).

Red Phalarope: Only Nebraska's 3rd spring record, 17th overall, was an adult female in York Co 21 May (JGJ, video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSShOOQbv674>).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Rarely reported in spring, and only the 3rd such record, a juvenile was at LM 27 Mar (PD).

Bonaparte's Gull: Reports were routine for this fairly common spring migrant.

Laughing Gull: The only report of this rare migrant was of a first-year bird at LO 27 May (JGJ). This is only the 5th documented spring record, 19th overall.

Franklin's Gull: Reports were routine for this abundant spring migrant.

Ring-billed Gull: Best count was an impressive 8000 at LM 27 Mar (PD), although high counts are 19,000+.

California Gull: Recent years have seen scattered reports away from LM; the only report from there was of 2 on 27 Mar (AJ). Elsewhere an adult and a first-year bird were at Johnson L, Gosper/Dawson Cos, 13 Mar (JAG). HCR hosted an adult 13 Mar (JAG), a single on 15 Mar (G&WH), and 2 birds 24 Apr (G&WH, details), and a single was in Scotts Bluff Co 26 Mar (AK).

Herring Gull: One at LO 27 May (JGJ) was rather late; this is a rare species in Jun.

Thayer's Gull: Apart from an apparent juvenile at HCR 26 Mar (PD), last reported were 3 adults and 4 juveniles at LM 23-29 Mar (PD, TJW, AJ). The count of 7 on 27 Mar (PD) ties the spring high count.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: The now-expected small number of migrants passed through. An adult and a 2nd-year bird were at HCR 10 Mar (JGJ), and an adult (same bird?) was still there 23 Apr (KS), a rather late date. A first-year

bird was at GPD 27 Mar (MB) and another first-year was in Dakota Co 2 Apr (BFH). LM hosted 3 adults and a 2nd-year bird 27 Mar (PD), for a spring total of at least 8 birds.

Glaucous Gull: None were reported; this species has become less numerous in recent years, perhaps as it has been able to winter farther northward.

Great Black-backed Gull: The 2 juveniles at HCR 26 Mar (PD) were a surprise; one was still there 31 Mar (KS). This is the 6th documented spring record, 26th overall.

Least Tern: Likely migrants were singles reported from non-breeding areas at BOL 15 May (LE) and Harvard Marsh 27 May (PD). The latter is only the 6th spring record from the RWB.

Caspian Tern: None were reported; this is an uncommon spring migrant.

Black Tern: Reports were routine for this common spring migrant.

Common Tern: By far a record spring tally for this uncommon late spring migrant was the 32 at LO 27 May (JGJ); 2 were reported there 29 May (L&BP).

Forster's Tern: The 90 in Otoe Co 30 Apr (JGJ) was a good count; high is 228. Peak migration for this species is about a month earlier than Common Tern.

Rock Pigeon: Reports were routine for this common resident.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Reports were routine for this common resident.

White-winged Dove: Three were reported, as this species edges toward being of regular occurrence in the state. Singles were in Ogallala 1-3 May (fide CWH), near Broken Bow 18 May (TH), and in Knox Co 21 May (TJW, MW).

Mourning Dove: One in Scotts Bluff Co 18 Mar (KD) was early for the west.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Reports were routine for this late-arriving fairly common spring migrant.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Encouraging were the 4 reports of 6 birds: one was rather early in Omaha 7 May (LBI), 3 were at FF 13 May (LE), and singles were in Dakota Co 21 May (BFH) and Cuming Co 21 May (GR).

Barn Owl: One arrived rather early in Scotts Bluff Co 15 Mar (AK), and one had returned to the nest site near Winnetoon by 19 Apr (MB).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Young appeared in a nest hole in the observer's sw. Dixon Co yard 25 May and fledged 2 days later (JJ).

Great Horned Owl: Reports were routine for this common resident.

Burrowing Owl: Two had returned to a nest site at WSR by 2 Apr (HKH), and two colonies in the e. RWB continue: 5 birds were at a small prairie-dog town near Hultine WPA, Clay Co, 7 May (JGJ), and 4 were at Clark Lagoon WPA, Kearney Co, 31 May (JGJ).

Barred Owl: A pair had returned to its nest box in w. Douglas Co by 18 Mar; no eggs were present (DSt). An adult with 4 young was at WP 10 May (LE), and 2 fledglings were seen at FF 15 May (JR).

Long-eared Owl: One in Johnson Co 6 Mar (RSt) was probably a winter visitor, as was one near Stockham 9 Apr (SK, photo). Mid- to late Apr sightings may be of potentially nesting birds, although one in a plum thicket in Sarpy Co 29 Apr (ARy) was in unlikely nesting habitat.

Short-eared Owl: This species is nomadic rather than migratory; the 6 reports of single birds were scattered statewide through the period (MB, WF, LJH, KD).

Common Nighthawk: One in Boone Co 1 May (D&CN) was rather early for the location.

Common Poorwill: One heard in Lincoln Co 12 Apr (LD) was earliest ever by 10 days. This species is a common summer resident of the cedar canyons in Lincoln Co.

- Chuck-will's-widow:** Two were rather early at ICSP 29 Apr (JR), where a small population is located.
- Eastern Whip-poor-will:** Earliest reported were 4 at ICSP 29 Apr (JR); earliest dates are in mid-Apr.
- Chimney Swift:** Reports were routine for this common summer resident.
- White-throated Swift:** Reports were routine for this fairly common western summer resident.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** The hummingbird arrival stakes were led by one in Bellevue 1 May (KCR). Singles in neighboring Lincoln Co yards 10 and 11 May (VC) were at the w. edge of expected spring migrants, albeit rare there.
- Belted Kingfisher:** This species is the king of "routine reports"; it occurs statewide, mostly year-round, usually in single-digit numbers.
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this fairly common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this fairly common resident.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** An immature in Custer Co 20 Mar (WF) was westerly, while 2 at FF 1 May (ARy) were on the late side. Most move through in Apr and there are few May dates.
- Downy Woodpecker:** Intriguingly, perhaps suggestive of some migratory movement, a very rare yellow-naped Downy returned to the same Scotts Bluff Co site where it was seen last year in Feb (AD, photos).
- Hairy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine for this fairly common resident.
- Northern Flicker:** Reports were routine for this common migrant and summer resident.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** An exciting discovery of a pair in either Thurston Co, NE, or Woodbury and Monona Cos, IA, in Apr (TL) documents the northward expansion of this species' Missouri River Valley range. The most recent opinion is that the location of this pair's nest site is just barely in IA (TL).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** As expected, most of the 7 reports were from the east, but 2 were at Oliver Res 30-31 May (L&BP, JGJ); this species is rare in the Panhandle.
- Western Wood-Pewee:** Continuing at the e. end of the species' Platte River Valley range for the 5th year was one near North Platte 22 May (TJW). One in Dakota Co 21 May was heard but not seen by a veteran observer (BFH).
- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Reports were routine for this common eastern migrant and summer resident.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** The 3 reports were about as expected for this low-density migrant: singles in Antelope Co 21 May (KD), at WP 25 May (DL), and in sw. Dixon Co 30 May (JJ).
- Acadian Flycatcher:** The 5 reports were from 2 locations only recently occupied by this species. At FF, single birds, possibly the same bird, were found 13 May (LE) and 25 May (JC, SS), and 2 were present 26 May (JR, PS). WP had a single bird singing 24-26 May (DL, LE).
- Alder Flycatcher:** Good numbers were detected passing through in the second half of May, the expected time window. Earliest were 3 at FF 12 May (JR).
- Willow Flycatcher:** One in Otoe Co 3 May (LF) was a day later than the record early date.
- Least Flycatcher:** Earliest reported was one rather early in se. Washington Co 29 Apr (JT).
- Cordilleran Flycatcher:** two were reported in Sowbelly Canyon 15 May (RSt, EB).

- Eastern Phoebe:** Reports were routine for this fairly common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Say's Phoebe:** One as far e. as Washington Co 1 May (JT) was only the 6th record from se. NE.
- Great Crested Flycatcher:** Five at ICSP 30 Apr (JR) and one in Dundy Co 17 May (TJW) were rather early at their locations; arrival is later in the west.
- Cassin's Kingbird:** Reports were routine for this Panhandle spring migrant and summer visitor.
- Western Kingbird:** Earliest reported were noted 29 Apr at 4 locations statewide and were prominent in the east: 11 were at Eppley Airfield, Omaha, 29 Apr (JT), and one in sw. Dixon Co 7 May beat Eastern Kingbird to the area (JJ).
- Eastern Kingbird:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** There were reports from two locations, but no indication of nesting by the end of the period. One was at SCP 27 Apr (KP), and a lone bird appeared 4 May (LR, RH) in Kearney where nesting occurred last year, but at the end of the period was apparently still alone (WF, PH).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** "Dozens" had arrived in the w. Sandhills by 22 Apr (AP). Early dates are somewhat unclear due to the presence of Northern Shrikes, but one in Antelope Co 17 Mar was considered unusually early by the veteran observer (MB).
- Northern Shrike:** Last reported was in Cherry Co 19 Mar (B&KG), as expected.
- White-eyed Vireo:** Following last year's unexpected 3 reports were 2 this year. Singles were in Seward 11 May (JG) and at WP 21 May (JC, SS).
- Bell's Vireo:** One near Broken Bow 11 May (TH) was rather early for that location, as was one in Dundy Co 17 May (TJW).
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** The 8 at FF 5 May (JT) and 6 at ICSP 30 Apr (JR) were excellent counts.
- Plumbeous Vireo:** The good number of reports were all from the sw. Panhandle; at least 8 birds were reported 27-31 May (JGJ, L&BP).
- Blue-headed Vireo:** All reports were from Merrick Co (D&JP) eastward (m. ob.); earliest were the 3 at ICSP 30 Apr (JR).
- Warbling Vireo:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Philadelphia Vireo:** The 8 reports were more than usual; all were singles in the east, 11 May (CNK) through 26 May (LE, m. ob.).
- Red-eyed Vireo:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Pinyon Jay:** None were reported; this is an uncommon western resident.
- Blue Jay:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Black-billed Magpie:** Two in Lincoln Co 9 Apr (TJW) and 3 groups of 9-15 in Custer Co 20 Apr (TH) were in areas where sightings have been few recently. Easterly was one in Stanton Co 21 May (LE).
- American Crow:** Like Black-billed Magpie, some parts of the state have had few crows; 12 in Scotts Bluff Co 10 Mar were the "first for months" (AK).
- Horned Lark:** It was pointed out (TJW) that by 15 Mar Horned Larks are on territories in pairs and that flocking birds at this time are likely to be Lapland Longspurs.
- Purple Martin:** Reports were routine for this fairly common spring migrant and summer resident.

Tree Swallow: Arrival was rather early, with 3-4 at Wehrspann L, Sarpy Co, 20 Mar (JR, JT) and 2 at HCR 21 Mar (TJW). "Hundreds" were at FF the next day (PS).

Violet-green Swallow: None were reported; this is an uncommon spring migrant and summer resident in the Panhandle.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Two in Lincoln 3 Apr (LE) were rather early.

Bank Swallow: Two in Lancaster Co 3 Apr (LE) were earliest on record by 3 days.

Cliff Swallow: Arrival in the east was much earlier this spring; 2 were at Jack Sinn 13 Apr (CNK), while 2 arrived in Scotts Bluff Co 6 May (AD).

Barn Swallow: Two in Lancaster Co 3 Apr (LE) were rather early.

Black-capped Chickadee: Reports were routine for this common resident.

Tufted Titmouse: One at WP 26 May was the active observer's first there in 5 years (LE), and another Lincoln resident has not seen titmice in Lancaster Co for the last few years (RE). Information from Gage Co notes that titmice were common at a long-time active feeder in Beatrice until a few years ago when they disappeared along with chickadees (KC). Thus it appears this species, which is at the edge of its range in Lancaster Co, was affected, along with chickadees, by West Nile Virus, and is just beginning to reappear. It was suggested (TEL) that the low numbers at best in Lancaster Co may have masked the decline and/or disappearance of titmice. The most recent observations, some a few years ago, have been in the winter (JC, SS); the 8 specimens in the University of Nebraska collection have fall and winter dates (TEL). Titmice were regular breeders in small numbers in Lancaster Co, at least prior to 2001 (*Birds of Nebraska*).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: There were several reports into late May, which is not unusual for this species, but out-of-range nesting is unexpected. Thus surprising was an apparently mated pair checking a woodpecker hole in an Omaha yard 7 May (RS). Also of interest were 2 in Lutheran Cem, Norfolk, 23 May (LE).

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

Pygmy Nuthatch: Reports were routine for this common Ponderosa Pine resident.

Brown Creeper: Reports were routine for this fairly common winter visitor and locally distributed summer resident.

Rock Wren: Only the 10th spring report from the east was of 2 at an Omaha feeder 4-5 May (fide NR; photo). These easterly reports are in the period 11 Apr-20 May.

Carolina Wren: Reports away from the Missouri River Valley were few. One to two were singing in a Lincoln yard 18 Mar through at least 21 Apr (RE), and another was at WP 11 May (LE). Westerly, but at a known location, was one near Alma 21 May (G&WH, TJW). Adults with a fledgling were at FF 12 May (JR) and 4, likely a family group, were there 15 May (L&BP).

Bewick's Wren: The only report of this rare casual species in NE was of one near the KS line in Gage Co 22 Mar (LE). This is the 18th spring report since 1980, and earliest on record by 2 days.

House Wren: One at FF 5 Apr (RS) was rather early; there are no confirmed Mar dates. Such Mar dates may be of misidentified Winter Wrens. Arrival in the west is about a week later on average; first reported there was 30 Apr at Brady (TJW).

- Winter Wren:** One at PRSP 3 May (JC, SS) was a bit tardy; latest dates are around 10 May.
- Sedge Wren:** Reports were routine for this fairly common spring migrant.
- Marsh Wren:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Rather early nesting activity included a pair tending a nest at WP 1 May (TEL) and an active nest at FF 7 May (RS).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Reports were routine for this fairly common spring migrant.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Rather late were one in the east at Bellevue 26 May (L&BP) and in the west 2 in Kimball Co 28 May (JGJ).
- Eastern Bluebird:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Mountain Bluebird:** Migrants were on the move by mid-Mar, including 9 in Morrill Co 11 Mar (LJH), 7 at L Alice, Scotts Bluff Co, 12 Mar (AK), and one near North Platte 12 Mar (VC, photo).
- Townsend's Solitaire:** Reports were routine for this common winter visitor to the west.
- Veery:** There were 3 reports involving 4 birds, about a normal spring for this uncommon migrant. Two were at WP 14 May (JGJ), and singles were in Hall Co 14 May (SM) and Platte Co 21 May (D&JP).
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** This was a good spring for this uncommon migrant, with 14 reported from 30 Apr (LE) through 26 May (LE, m. ob.). All were in the east.
- Swainson's Thrush:** Migration peaks later in the west, where an amazing 150 were tallied 28 May in Kimball Co (JGJ); high count is 272 at FF 11 May 2002. One at ADF 19 Apr (LF) was rather early.
- Hermit Thrush:** Reports were routine for this fairly common spring migrant in the east.
- Wood Thrush:** One was incubating at FF 12 May (JR), about on time.
- American Robin:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Gray Catbird:** Reports were routine for this fairly common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Northern Mockingbird:** One in Johnson Co 15 Mar (CNK) was likely a rather early migrant; midwinter reports are rare.
- Brown Thrasher:** One in Lincoln 3 Apr (LE) was rather early, while earliest in the west did not arrive until 3 May, at Bridgeport (LJH). One in Scotts Bluff Co 18 Mar had wintered there (KD).
- European Starling:** Reports were routine for this abundant spring migrant and summer resident.
- American Pipit:** Reports reflected the protracted spring migration period, with sightings from 17 Mar (JGJ) through 15 May (SM, m. ob.). The 45 at LPB 27 Mar (CNK) was a good count; high is 100.
- Sprague's Pipit:** Although a regular migrant, this species is elusive. A good place to look is SCP, where 4 were found 30 Apr (RSt) and another on 1 May (KP).
- Cedar Waxwing:** Flocks seen during the last 10 days of May are likely long-distance migrants; a "small flock" was in Rock Co 29 May (LR, RH).
- Lapland Longspur:** Largest numbers are reported Feb-Mar; this spring 5000+ were in Cuming Co 11 Mar (JJ) and "thousands" were in Knox Co 13 Mar (MB). High counts are 6000+.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: Reports were routine for this fairly common spring migrant and summer resident in the west and north.

Smith's Longspur: The only reports of this rare spring migrant were of one in Knox Co 2 Apr (MB) and 25 at Burchard SRA, Pawnee Co, 9 Apr (TB). These are the 16th and 17th spring reports for this species.

McCown's Longspur: Reports were routine for this fairly common western Panhandle migrant and summer resident.

Ovenbird: The 9 at ICSP 30 Apr (JR) and 8 at FF 15 May (JR) were excellent counts. High one-person count is 14.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Good numbers, a minimum of 14, were reported from the expected locations for this edge-of-range breeder, including best counts of 3 from Ponca SP, Dixon Co, 10 Apr (L&BP), PRSP 24 Apr (JC, SS), and FF 1 May (RSt). By 17 May there were 3-4 territories established along Stone Creek in PRSP (JC, SS). Away from such locations reports are few. ADF in Nebraska City has potential breeding habitat; singles were there 20 Apr (LF) and 13 May (LF). Singles at Neale Woods, Omaha, 28 Apr (NR) and along Happy Hollow Boulevard in Omaha 19 May (JR) may have been searching for breeding territory.

Northern Waterthrush: This usually fairly common statewide spring migrant was actually common this spring, with 41 reported; best counts were only moderate, with 6 at FF 1 May (RSt) and 5 there 5 May (L&BP). One was very early 17 Apr at WP (DL, details); perhaps we are incorrectly assuming that very early waterthrushes are Louisianas.

Golden-winged Warbler: This may have been the best spring on record for this species, with at least 10 reported. At least 3 were at FF 4-19 May, including at least 2 males and a female (CNK, GR, PD, m. ob). Elsewhere, 3 were at Hummel Park, Omaha, 9 May (RS), and singles were at WP 8 May (JC, SS), at ICSP 8 May (JGJ), in Polk Co 12 May (D&JP), and in Bellevue 12 May (L&BP).

Blue-winged Warbler: More than usual were reported; often none are found. The 4 reports were from the Missouri Valley, including 2 at Basswood WMA, Dakota Co, 21 May (BFH), and singles at Holmes L., Lincoln, 30 Apr (LE), Hormel Park, Fremont, 8 May (GR, details, not hybrid), and FF 14 May (PD, "looked pure").

Black-and-white Warbler: Numbers were about as expected for this statewide migrant, best count a moderate 10 at FF 1 May (RSt). One in sw. Dixon Co 26 May (JJ) was rather late for an eastern migrant.

Prothonotary Warbler: The two reports were from unexpected locations, one each in Fremont 16 May (GR) and Colfax Co 21 May (D&JP). Flooding may have moved birds from expected locations like FF and ICSP.

Tennessee Warbler: The 90+ at FF 12 May (JR) was an excellent count; high is 96. This species is rare in the Panhandle, thus significant were the 3 reports involving 4 birds: singles were at Bushnell Cem 28 May (JGJ) and at Gotte Park and Kimball City Park, both in Kimball, 30 May (L&BP). The City Park bird was joined by another bird a day later (L&BP). There are fewer than 50 Panhandle reports.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Numbers were about average for this species, with no large counts reported. A single of the western subspecies *Vermivora celata orestera*, with bright yellow underparts, was in Kimball Co 28 May (JGJ). Most Orange-crowneds in NE are the duller *V. c. celata*, with brightest yellow in the undertail coverts.

- Nashville Warbler:** Reports were widespread in the east, best count 8, at FF 7 May (JR). Only the 7th and 8th Panhandle records were singles at Kimball City Park, Kimball, 28 May (JGJ) and at Bushnell Cem 31 May (JGJ).
- Connecticut Warbler:** The single report, about par, for this rare spring migrant was of one "singing and glimpsed" at WP 26 May (LE). There are still fewer than 50 spring records for the state.
- MacGillivray's Warbler:** As expected, the 6 reported birds were from the Panhandle 27-31 May (JGJ, L&BP). The best count of 4 at Bushnell Cem 28 May (JGJ) ties the high.
- Mourning Warbler:** One in Dodge Park, Omaha, 3 May (L&BP) was rather early. Reports were as expected west only to Adams and Hall Cos, where singles were found 26 May (PD) and 27 May (WF) respectively.
- Kentucky Warbler:** This edge-of-range species has become more common in recent years in the lower Missouri River Valley. Most reports are from established locations, including counts of 4 from ICSP 8 May (JGJ), FF 14 May (PD), and Schramm SP 14 May (D&JP). Increased reports from FF have occurred only in the last 2-3 years. Elsewhere, unexpected were singles at WP 11-27 May (LE, m. ob.), and as far n. as Antelope Co 18 May (WF); these are only the 12th and 13th records away from the Missouri River Valley.
- Common Yellowthroat:** Reports were routine for this common statewide migrant.
- Hooded Warbler:** This is a rare spring edge-of-range overshoot migrant that may appear anywhere in the state, as was the case this spring. There were 6 reports that probably pertain to only 4 birds: singles were at WGP 10 May (J&SK), at FF 14 and 21 May (fide CNK, L&BP), at North Loup SRA, Howard Co, 19 and 25 May (RSt, EB, LR, RH), and at WSR 31 May (HKH).
- American Redstart:** The 30 in sw. Dixon Co 21 May (JJ) was an excellent count. High is 46.
- Cape May Warbler:** Generally only a rare casual spring migrant like Blue-winged Warbler, although with records statewide, this species appeared in unusual numbers, with 5 reports. These 5 add to only 21 spring reports since 1982. Singles were in Seward 16 May (JGJ), Hastings 17 and 20 May, possibly the same bird (PD), Madison Co 21 May (LE), and at Bushnell Cem 30 May (L&BP), which was the 6th spring Panhandle record.
- Cerulean Warbler:** This was a good spring for this edge-of-range species, rare in NE. Three singing males were located: 2-3 at FF 9 May (KS) through 28 May (RSt, m. ob.) and one at Neale Woods river trail, se. Washington Co 5 and 9 May (JT, RS).
- Northern Parula:** Only the 16th Panhandle record were 1-2 at Gotte Park, Kimball, 30-31 May (L&BP). Westerly were a male near North Platte 9 May (TJW), a female at the same place 11-16 May (TJW), and a single at Hastings 7 May (PD). Northerly was one in Boone Co 2 May (D&CN). The 20 at ICSP 30 Apr (JR) was the 2nd-highest spring count on record.
- Magnolia Warbler:** Like Chestnut-sided, this species put on quite a showing, with 32 reported, all 8-31 May (m. ob). Continuing the surprising sightings of "eastern" warblers in Kimball were 1-3 at Kimball City Park 31 May (L&BP, JGJ) and one at Gotte Park 31 May (JGJ). As was the case for Chestnut-sided, these are the 17th and 18th Panhandle records.
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** Although a regular spring migrant, this species is rare in spring, and so the 7 reported were surprising. Singles were at WP 11 May (LE) and FF 12 May (JR). Two were counted in Sarpy Co 14 May (fide CNK), and

singles were at Hastings 21 May (PD), in Madison Co 21 May (LE), and in Douglas Co 29 May (D&JP), a rather late date.

Blackburnian Warbler: This species, like Chestnut-sided and Magnolia, is usually an uncommon spring migrant but, like those species, put on a good showing this spring. The 29 reported 5-31 May (m. ob.) included an excellent 6 on the Sarpy Co Spring Count 14 May (fide CNK). The 14th and 15th spring Panhandle records were both rather late: 1-2 were at Kimball City Park, Kimball, 28-31 May (JGJ, L&BP), and one was at Bushnell Cem 31 May (L&BP).

Yellow Warbler: Although not near record counts, which are 100+, some good counts were reported: 33 at FF 14 May (L&BP), 27 in Lancaster Co 10 May (LE), and 26 at Hastings Cem 26 May (PD).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Usually only a few are reported, but this spring 31 appeared, including the 17th and 18th Panhandle records, one at Bushnell Cem 28 and 31 May (JGJ) and one at Gotte Park, Kimball, 30 May (L&BP). Westerly was a male in Dundy Co 17 May (TJW). The Sarpy Co Spring Count tallied 6 on 14 May (fide CNK).

Blackpoll Warbler: Normally a fairly common statewide migrant, this species was widely-reported in above-average numbers, including moderate counts of 12 at Hastings 18 May (PD) and 11 at FF 11 May (LE).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Another rare casual spring migrant, the only report, and only the 4th spring Panhandle record, was of a female in Sioux Co 15 May (RSt, EB).

Palm Warbler: This was another species with a great showing: 34+ of this usually uncommon spring migrant were reported, including excellent counts of 10+ at FF 6 May (ARy) and 6 there 1 May (RSt). One at Bushnell Cem 30 May (L&BP) was 2nd-latest on record and only the 10th spring Panhandle record.

Pine Warbler: This rare casual spring migrant has been reported only 21 times, and only 6 of these were documented. Thus one at HCR 17 Apr (LR, RH, G&WH; details) was unexpected, and only the 7th documented.

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler: There were several reports, more than usual, and all were from the w. half of the state with the exception a "stunning male" at Verdigre 4 May (MB). Earliest were the 2 in Grant Co 21 Apr (WF), and best counts were 12 at Kimball City Park, Kimball, 31 May (L&BP) and 9 at Bushnell Cem 28 May (JGJ), 2nd and 3rd-highest spring counts on record.

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: Early dates in the south may be of wintering birds, but 3 at Long Pine SRA, Brown Co, 21 Mar (CNK) were at an unlikely overwintering location. Best counts were only moderate (highs are 200+): 67 in Lancaster Co 2 May (LE), 55 at FF 23 Apr (JR), and 52 there 6 May (ARy).

Yellow-throated Warbler: All reports were of 1-3 at FF beginning 10 Apr (L&BP, m.ob.), tying the 4th-earliest date.

Black-throated Green Warbler: Considering the huge numbers of Chestnut-sided and Magnolia warblers reported, the scarcity of this species was surprising. The 4 reports were of singles at ICSP 30 Apr (JR), in sw. Dixon Co 11 May (JJ), at Fremont 16 May (GR), and of 2 at FF 14 May (PD). There are few Apr records.

Canada Warbler: Reports were of 7 birds, about average: singles were at FF 6 May (KCR), tying 2nd-earliest on record, and 17 May (PS), in Douglas Co 18 May (TP), and in York Co 21 May (JGJ). Two were in Dixon Co 21 May (JJ), and one was at WP 25 May (DL).

- Wilson's Warbler:** Four in Kimball Co 27-28 May (JGJ) were rather late.
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** There were a surprising number of easterly reports, likely strays from the west, although the eastern subspecies, generally considered extirpated from the w. edge of its range in NE, should not be ruled out. Singles were east to Madison Co 21 May (JJ), Stanton Co 21 May (TJW, MW), and Dixon Co 24 May (JJ).
- Green-tailed Towhee:** More than usual of this rare Panhandle migrant were reported, at least 4 and likely 6. One at WSR 28-30 Apr (HKH) was rather early, one was in nw. Sioux Co 16 May (TH, WM), 1-2 were at Oliver Res 28-31 May (JGJ), and singles were near Exit 1 on I-80 28 and 31 May (JGJ, L&BP).
- Spotted Towhee:** One in Madison Co 23 May (LE) was rather late; most leave the east by mid-May.
- Eastern Towhee:** An interesting report was of an "apparently pure" Eastern Towhee in FF 25 Mar that was giving only Spotted Towhee calls (RW). Over most of NE after spring migration there are all sorts of combinations of these two species.
- American Tree Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common winter visitor and spring migrant.
- Chipping Sparrow:** One at Hastings 26 Mar (PD) was rather early.
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** One in Kimball Co 30 May (L&BP) and 3 there 31 May (JGJ) were rather late; there are only 2 records for Jun.
- Brewer's Sparrow:** The only reports were from expected locations for this western Panhandle migrant and summer resident: 3 were in nw. Sioux Co 16 May (TH, WM) and one was in Morrill Co 23 May (LJH).
- Field Sparrow:** Singles at ADF 22 Mar (LF) and in Douglas Co 24 Mar (RS) were rather early.
- Vesper Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Lark Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Lark Bunting:** Easterly were one in Custer Co 11 May, the observer's first in the county for spring (TH), and another in Antelope Co 18 May (WF). "Thousands" were in Kimball Co 30 May (L&BP), by far a record spring estimate; previous high was 300.
- Savannah Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant.
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Baird's Sparrow:** None were found in ne. Sioux Co where singing birds had been located the past 2 springs (TH, WM).
- Henslow's Sparrow:** The only reports were of a migrant with other sparrows in Saunders Co 20 Apr, a rare find at a rather early date (CNK) and one at SCP, a reliable summer location, 1 May (JW).
- LeConte's Sparrow:** None were reported; this is a fairly common eastern spring migrant.
- Nelson's Sparrow:** The only report was of one in Saline Co 11 May (LE). This is a fairly common late spring migrant, but takes effort to find.
- Fox Sparrow:** Good numbers continue to be reported; best count was an excellent 18 in Lancaster Co 3 Apr (LE); high is 25. One in a Winside yard 7 Mar had wintered there (NB).
- Song Sparrow:** One was carrying nest material at NLB 28 May (JG).

- Lincoln's Sparrow:** Earliest was one in the observer's Lincoln yard 17 Mar, which must have suited the bird as it stayed for a month (JGJ). The 38 in Lancaster Co 2 May (LE) was an excellent count; high is 44.
- Swamp Sparrow:** One was early in Antelope Co 20 Mar (MB); such early birds may have wintered, but it seems unlikely at this location. The 14 at FF 23 Apr (JR) was a good count; high is 25.
- White-throated Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common winter visitor and spring migrant.
- Harris's Sparrow:** One in Scotts Bluff Co 6 May (AD) was westerly, where rare.
- White-crowned Sparrow:** Three in Kimball Co 31 May (JGJ) were rather late; there are 10 dates in Jun.
- Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco:** None were reported; this is an uncommon spring migrant and summer resident in the northwest.
- Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco:** A "Cassiar" Junco, *Junco hyemalis cismontanus*, thought to be a stable hybrid between "Slate-colored" and "Oregon" Juncos, was photographed in Omaha 22 Mar (PS). There are fewer than 10 documented records for the state.
- Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco:** Last "Pink-sided" was at North Platte 29 Mar (TJW), about as expected, although there are few departure dates for this form.
- Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco:** A surprise was the 2 at WSR 8-9 May (HKH); this is the 10th overall documented record.
- Summer Tanager:** This species continues to be reported in good numbers in the se., as it expands and consolidates its range. Best counts were 9 at ICSP 8 May (JGJ) and 7 at FF 5 May (JR); highs are 11+. Nesting was underway at FF 7 May (RS). Along with this expansion have come extralimital reports: this year 3, all first-year males. One was in Lincoln Co 9 May (TJW), one was in Wheeler Co 17 May (RSt, EB), and a third was in Lincoln Co 22 May (LD).
- Scarlet Tanager:** Although not apparently expanding its breeding range in NE, numbers of migrants at least are increasing. Excellent counts of 7 at Schramm SP 14 May (D&JP), 6 at FF 12 May (JR), 6 at Ponca SP 21 May (JJ), and 5 at ICSP 8 May (JGJ) were received.
- Western Tanager:** Excellent counts were received, including a record 12 at Bushnell Cem 28 May (JGJ) and 7 at Gotte Park, Kimball, 30 May (L&BP).
- Northern Cardinal:** Reports continue from Scotts Bluff Co where a small number are established: a pair was in the observer's Mitchell yard 5 Mar (KD), 2 were near McGrew 15 Apr (AP), and 3 were at Bridgeport 11 May (LJH).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** The 5 reports for the period 11-31 May were all from North Platte westward (m. ob.); such reports in spring are uncommon. Rather late were singles at Oliver Res 30 May (L&BP) and Bushnell 31 May (JGJ). There are 8 westerly Jun reports.
- Black-headed Grosbeak:** Reports were routine for this common western migrant and summer resident.
- Blue Grosbeak:** Reports were routine for this fairly common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Lazuli Bunting:** The usual clutch of easterly migrants was detected: one in Gretna 10-11 May (fide NR), up to 3 at Hastings 15-20 May (PD), and one at Aurora 21 May (JGJ).
- Indigo Bunting:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Dickcissel:** The 50+ in Otoe Co 17 May (CNK) was an excellent count; high is 76.

- Bobolink:** One in se. Nebraska 30 Apr (JGJ) was rather early.
- Red-winged Blackbird:** Reports were routine for this abundant spring migrant and summer resident.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** One was singing as far w. as North Platte by 24 Mar (TJW), a little earlier than previous arrival dates at the location.
- Western Meadowlark:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Earliest arrivals are often single males with Red-winged Blackbirds; one such was in York Co 12 Mar (RSt, EB).
- Rusty Blackbird:** Only 11 were reported: 2 in Dixon Co 7 Mar (JJ), one in Cuming Co 11 Mar (JJ), and 8 in Washington Co 15 Mar (JJ).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** Migrants can be numerous eastward, such as the 100 at a burned area in Fillmore Co 17 Apr (JGJ).
- Common Grackle:** Reports were routine for this abundant spring migrant and summer resident.
- Great-tailed Grackle:** This species now occurs statewide, except perhaps for some Sandhills areas. Two were in the w. Sandhills 22 Apr (AP).
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Two in Scotts Bluff Co 9 Apr (KD) tied the 6th earliest arrival date there; arrival in the west is much later than in the east.
- Orchard Oriole:** Reports were routine for this common spring migrant and summer resident.
- Bullock's Oriole:** The 12 in one Kimball Co bush 28 May (JGJ) was an excellent count; high is 18.
- Baltimore Oriole:** Earliest was one about on time in Lincoln 29 Apr (JGJ), followed by 22 birds at 7 locations the next day (m. ob.). Best count was 28 at FF 13 May (LE).
- Purple Finch:** Last reported after an average winter was in Bellevue 29 Apr (ARy), one of 3 present the day before (ARy).
- Cassin's Finch:** The only report of this rare Panhandle winter visitor was of 2 in Kimball Co 12 Apr (JJ).
- House Finch:** Reports were routine for this common winter visitor and summer resident.
- Red Crossbill:** The 4 reports were from the Panhandle, including 2 flocks suggestive of local breeding: 25 were in Sheridan Co 17 May with "several" begging juveniles (TH, WM) and 50 were at Chadron SP, Dawes Co, 30 May including 25 begging juveniles (PD).
- Common Redpoll:** A surprise in a "down" year for the species were the two reports of singles. One was in a Lincoln yard 7 Mar (R&SW, photo), and another was in a Hastings yard 27 Apr (PD, photo), 2nd-latest on record.
- Pine Siskin:** There was a surprising number of reports from the east of small numbers well into May, but no indication of nesting. However, "possibly" nesting westward were 2 in Ogallala 21 May (JO). Latest in the east were one in sw. Dixon Co 26 May (JJ), at least 2 in Norfolk 22-23 May (D&JP, LE), and singles in Antelope Co 21 May (KD) and Madison Co 21 May (LE).
- Lesser Goldfinch:** This species appears to be establishing itself in the Panhandle; the only report was of 1-3 at WSR 8-9 May (HKH).
- American Goldfinch:** Best count was 200 in Hastings 27 Apr (PD); high is 300.
- Evening Grosbeak:** After a long absence from the state, this species has reappeared, albeit in unpredictable places. A male and 3 females were at Halsey National Forest, Thomas Co, 11 Apr (TH).
- House Sparrow:** Reports were routine for this common resident.