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Fall Field Report, August to November 1998

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FALL FIELD REPORT, AUGUST TO NOVEMBER, 1998

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INTRODUCTION

Larry Einemann kindly pointed out that in the Spring Report all his sightings from Pioneer's Park should have been attributed to Wilderness Park at Pioneer's Boulevard (in Lincoln). Larry noted that Pioneer's Park is a manicured Lincoln city park which is not good for birds except for in the vicinity of the embedded Chet Ager Nature Center. This was my (WRS) error; personally I have trouble even finding the Wilderness Park entrances, let alone naming them properly!

Another correction! John Sullivan pointed out that the 2 Summer Tanagers at Indian Cave SP on 10 August, 1997, were not his sighting. In fact, after searching the raw data, I can't find this report; please delete it.

A surprising number of rarities appeared this fall, notably some rare warblers for the Panhandle, including a 1st Panhandle Pine Warbler and a 1st fall state and Panhandle Prairie Warbler, as well as a 1st fall Panhandle Mourning Warbler. A 1st documented Panhandle Blue-headed Vireo and a first documented state fall Hudsonian Godwit were also found. Other outstanding sightings included a 2nd state Long-tailed Jaeger, a 2nd state fall Great Black-backed Gull, 6th-10th (!)

state Little Gulls, a 4th fall (5th state) Red-naped Sapsucker, an 8th state fall Green-tailed Towhee, and a 5th state documented Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco. An observant reader will note that most of these rarities were discovered and documented by the indefatigable Steve Dinsmore, who has advanced our knowledge of Panhandle birds, especially migrants, tremendously in the last 3 years or so.

ABBREVIATIONS

"Routine reports" indicates that while reports were received, no unusual numbers or movements were detected; most such species are non-migratory. "None reported" indicates species of regular fall occurrence which were not reported. ADF: Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City; BOL: Branched Oak L, SRA/WMA, Lancaster Co; CCM: Clear Creek Marshes, west end of L McConaughy, Keith Co; Cem: Cemetery; CLNWR: Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Garden Co; Co(s): County (ies); FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co; fide: reported (and vouching for accuracy) by; FL: Funk Lagoon WPA, Phelps Co; HCR: Harlan Co Res, Harlan Co; L: Lake; LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co; m.ob.: many observers; NC: Nature Center; NM: National Monument; NPNWR: North Platte NWR, Scotts Bluff Co; Res: Reservoir; RWB: Rainwater Basin, an area of natural wetlands in southcentral NE; SP: State Park; SRA: State Recreation Area; WMA: Wildlife Management Area (State); WPA: Waterfowl Production Area (Federal).

GAZETTEER

L Alice: NPNWR, Scotts Bluff Co; L Babcock: Platte Co; Basswood Ridge: WMA, Dakota Co; Black Island: WMA, Cuming Co; Calamus Res: Garfield and Loup Cos; Camp Wakonda: Bellevue; Conestoga L: SRA, Lancaster Co; Crystal Cove L: South Sioux City; Cunningham L: Douglas Co; Deep Well Basin: WMA, Hamilton Co; DeSoto NWR: Washington Co; Eckhardt Basin: WPA, Clay Co; Enders Res: SRA, Chase Co; Gavin's Point Dam: forms Lewis and Clark L; Glenvil Basin: WPA, Clay Co; Harvard Lagoon (formerly Inland Lagoon): WPA, Clay Co; Jack Sinn Marsh: WMA, Lancaster and Saunders Cos; Jensen Lagoon: WPA, Kearney Co; Johnson L: Dawson and Gosper Cos; Keller Park: SRA, Brown Co; Keystone L: below Kingsley Dam, Keith Co; Kingsley Dam: forms LM; Kirkpatrick Basin North: WMA, York Co; Koenig Basin: private basin 1.5 miles south of Harvard Lagoon, Clay Co; LaPlatte Bottoms: Sarpy Co; Lewis and Clark L: Knox Co and South Dakota; Mallard Haven: WPA, Fillmore Co; L Minatare: Scotts Bluff Co; L North: Platte Co; L Ogallala: below Kingsley Dam, Keith Co; Monroe Canyon: Sioux Co; Neale Woods: extreme northeast Douglas Co; Nebraska National Forest: Thomas Co; North Harvard Basin: private basin 3 miles north of Harvard, Clay Co; North Hultine Basin: WPA, Clay Co (formerly Sandpiper WPA); Oliver Res: Kimball Co; Pawnee L: SRA, Lancaster Co; Pibel L: SRA, Wheeler Co; Ponca SP: Dixon Co; Private Basin: 2 miles east of FL in Kearney Co; Red Willow Res: Frontier Co; Rowe Sanctuary: Kearney Co; Schramm SP: Sarpy Co; Sherman Res: Sherman Co; Sinninger Lagoon: WPA, York Co; Smith L: SRA, Sheridan Co; Sowbelly Canyon: Sioux Co; Sutherland Res: Lincoln Co; Theesen Lagoon: WPA, Clay Co; Troester Basin: WPA, Hamilton Co; Wagontrain L: SRA, Lancaster Co; Winters Creek L: NPNWR, Scotts Bluff Co; Wolf L: north Saunders Co; Wood Duck Area: WMA, Stanton Co.

REPORTERS

Elaine Bachel (EB), Lincoln; Laurel Badura (LB), Kearney; Mark Brogie (MB), Creighton; Linda R. Brown (LRB), Lincoln; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Fort Collins, CO; Larry Einemann (LE), Lincoln; Carol Falk (CF), Nebraska City; Laurence Falk (LF), Nebraska City; Ruth Green (RG), Bellevue; Joe Gubanyi (JG), Seward; John W. Hall (JWH), Omaha; Robin Harding (RH), Gibbon; David Heidt (DH), Norfolk; Thomas Hoffman (TH), Omaha; Glen Hoge (GH), Alma; Wanda Hoge (WH), Alma; Helen K. Hughson (HKH), Scottsbluff; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City; Jan Johnson (JJ), Wakefield; Gerry Jorgensen (GJ), Blair; Joel G. Jorgensen (JGJ), Blair; Alice Kenitz (AK), Gering; Clem N. Klaphake (CNK), Bellevue; Lucy Koenig (LK), Scottsbluff; Thomas E. Labeledz (TEL), Lincoln; Babs Padelford (BP), Bellevue; Loren Padelford (LP), Bellevue; Don Paseka (DP), Ames; Janis Paseka (JP), Ames; Kevin Poague (KP), Lincoln; Neva Pruess (NP), Lincoln; Lanny Randolph (LR), Gibbon; Neal Ratzlaff (NR), Omaha; W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Tabor, IA; Jan Small (JSm), Vermillion, SD; John Sullivan (JS), Lincoln; David L. Swanson (DLS), Vermillion, SD; John Tumasonis (JT), Boulder, CO; Mark Urwiller (MU), Kearney; Gertrude Wood (GW), Elmwood.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Pacific Loon: All reports this year came from the west and include singles at Winters Creek L between 31 October and 7 November (SJD), at L Ogallala on 7 November (SJD), at L Minatare on 7 November (SJD), and again at L Minatare from 20 to 27 November. (SJD).

Common Loon: Summer reports are now regular, especially in western NE. This year, 4 appeared at L Ogallala on 20 August (SJD) and another was spotted at HCR on 10 August (GH, WH). Excellent high counts were tallied during the migration, with 27 at HCR on 1 November (JGJ); 22 at L Ogallala/LM on 7 November (SJD); and 19 at Pawnee L on 11 November (JS).

Yellow-billed Loon: Quite a surprise and a significant record for the region was a single in either basic or immature plumage at LM between 8 August and 18 October (SJD, JGJ, WRS, JS, m.ob.). Fortunately, the bird was well-documented, and the occurrence should become only the 2nd record for NE.

Pied-billed Grebe: A localized breeder in the east, 4 adults with 3 young were observed at LaPlatte Bottoms on 4 August (BP, LP). The high count of 860 at L Babcock on 20 September (JS) likely underscores the species' peak migration period.

Horned Grebe: The 6 September sighting of a single at L. Alice was quite early (SJD). The high count was 48 at L Minatare on 30 October (SJD). The last report for the period was of a single at Sutherland Res on 28 November (SJD).

Eared Grebe: The high count was a mere 29 at L Alice on 31 October (SJD). And the latest were counts up to 13 at 4 locations on 28 November (SJD, LR, RH).

Western Grebe: Peak counts included 17,600+ at LM on 18 October (SJD) and 1400 at Sutherland Res on 7 November (SJD, DCE). Good counts for the east, albeit dramatically smaller than the previously-mentioned totals, include 46 at Calamus Res on 8 November (JGJ) and 6 at Pawnee L between 6 and 11 November (BP, LP, JS). Back at LM, 800 still remained on 28 November (SJD).

Clark's Grebe: This species is regular in the west but greatly outnumbered by Western Grebe. At L Minatare, 1 to 3 were found from 19 September to 27 November (SJD); 22 were seen at LM 18 October (SJD); 8 were reported at

Sutherland Res on 1 November (SJD); and a single was at Enders Res on 28 November (SJD).

American White Pelican: The high counts were 2100 at LM on 8 August (SJD) and 1234 at Calamus Res on 7 September (JGJ). And last count was 12 at Sutherland Res on 28 November (SJD).

Double-crested Cormorant: The high count was 1,500 at HCR on 8 November (GH, WH).

American Bittern: August reports--such as a single at Deep Well Basin on 22 August (JGJ)--may identify early migrants, but the one reported at FL on 9 August (GH, WH) was probably summering, as has been noted there in recent years. Otherwise, 10 were found in the RWB between 2 September and 27 October (GH, WH, JGJ, JS), with the latest and highest count being the 4 at FL on 27 October (JS).

Least Bittern: This species may now be quite well established at FL; as many as 7 were found there on 2 August (GH, WH). August reports elsewhere include 2 at Private Basin on 11 August (LR, RH), 3 at LaPlatte Bottoms on 3 August (BP, LP), and a single spotted at Crystal Cove L on 13 August (BFH). Obvious migrants were the singles at HCR on 14 September (GH, WH) and Black Island on 26 September (DH).

Great Blue Heron: A good count was 119 at LM on 20 September (SJD).

Great Egret: As many as 132 were seen at HCR on 9 August (SJD). The last reported were 7 in the eastern RWB on 11 October (JGJ) and a single at LM on 12 October (SJD).

Snowy Egret: The high counts include 29 at FL on 19 August (SJD), 21 at HCR on 9 August (SJD), and 13 at L Babcock on 30 August (JGJ). The last count was 2 in the eastern RWB on 11 October (JGJ).

Little Blue Heron: As many as 14 were reported in Clay Co between 5 and 13 September (JGJ), marking the season's high count and late date. An additional 7 were tallied at various points south of the Platte River.

Cattle Egret: The high counts were 303 at FL on 19 August (SJD) and 125 near the I-80 Odessa exit, Buffalo Co (LR, RH). The last count was a single at HCR on 8 November (GH, WH).

Green Heron: Routine Reports.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: The high counts were 17 at FL on 19 August (SJD) and 16 at LM 20 on September (SJD). Late were two seen at Johnson L on 3 November (LR, RH), and even later--indeed, record late--were the 3 reported at Cunningham L on 22 November (JS, WRS).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Juveniles of this species invaded the RWB in late summer. At FL, 4 appeared on 19 August (SJD), and 2 were spotted there on 13 September (LR, RH). In the eastern RWB, 13 were found from 15 August to 13 September (JGJ), with a high count of 4 at Glenvil Basin on 15 August (JGJ). Record late was the single reported at Glenvil Basin on 11 October (JGJ).

White-faced Ibis: High counts included 47 at Harvard Lagoon on 5 September (JGJ) and 43 at North Hultine Basin on 19 September (JGJ, GJ). The last reported were 2 at Harvard Lagoon on 25 October (CNK), the 2nd latest date on record.

Turkey Vulture: The high count was 50 to 60 at Gering on 22 September (AK). The 3 at Fairbury on 8 October (GH, WH) were the last reported.

Greater White-fronted Goose: A single appeared at Kissinger Basin on 30 August (JGJ).

Snow Goose: Summering birds in the RWB are now routine; 24 were found in the region between 10 August and 13 September (JGJ, SJD).

Ross' Goose: A single at a small basin in Clay Co between 10 August and 5 September (JGJ) was probably the same bird spotted there in May (see Spring Report).

Canada Goose: Routine reports.

Trumpeter Swan: Routine reports.

Wood Duck: The high count was 109 at NPNWR on 10 September (LK). The last reported was a single at Enders Res on 28 November (SJD).

Gadwall: The high count was 2030 in Lancaster Co on 3 November (WRS).

American Wigeon: The high counts were 391 at NPNWR on 21 October (LK) and 325 in Lancaster Co on 3 November (WRS). The 160 spotted at the Scottsbluff SL on 27 November (SJD) was a good count for late fall.

American Black Duck: The three reports (all with details provided) are the most in any fall in recent memory. Reports included singles at L Babcock on both 22 August (JGJ) and 18 November (JGJ), and at DeSoto NWR on 7 November (JS).

Mallard: The high counts were 31,469 at NPNWR on 17 November (LK) and 20,000 at Sutherland Res on 28 November (SJD).

Blue-winged Teal: The high count was 1500 at L Ogallala on 12 September (SJD); an immature male was also found at L Ogallala on 21 and 28 November (SJD).

Cinnamon Teal: A single was spotted at FL on 19 August (SJD); identification details were provided.

Northern Shoveler: The high count was 281 at the Scottsbluff SL on 27 November (SJD).

Northern Pintail: The high count, a good one for the rather early date, was 424 reported at Sinninger Lagoon on 30 August (JGJ).

Green-winged Teal: The high counts include 4,400+ at LM on 1 November (SJD) and 1000 at CLNWR on 30 August (JT).

Canvasback: Although uncommon anywhere in the state before October, 7 appeared at CLNWR on 30 August (JT), and 2 were spotted at Scottsbluff SL on 28 August (SJD).

Redhead: Uncommon, but not totally unexpected away from the Sandhills in summer and early fall, were a single reported at the North Platte SL on 9 August (SJD, JGJ) and 7 seen in the RWB between 9 and 10 August (JGJ, SJD). The high count was 700 at Winters Creek L on 31 October (SJD).

Ring-necked Duck: An early report noted as many as 12 birds at CLNWR between 30 August and 7 September (JT, SJD). The high count was 405 reported at NPNWR on 6 November (LK).

Greater Scaup: A good count of 19 at L Ogallala on 28 November (SJD) was the only report.

Lesser Scaup: Routine reports.

Surf Scoter: The only report was of an immature at L Ogallala between 31 October and 1 November (SJD).

White-winged Scoter: The only reports were of an immature at L Ogallala on 7 November (SJD) and an adult male at Pawnee L on 11 November (JS).

Black Scoter: Usually by far the most rare and sought after, this scoter was reported most often this year. Reports (all of immature/female types) include a single at BOL on 31 October (JS), a single at Cunningham L on 15 November (JGJ),

a single at Lewis and Clark L between 26 and 28 November (MB, DH), and 3 to 4 at L Ogallala/Keystone L from 27 to 29 November (SJD, JS).

Oldsquaw: A male spotted at Gavin's Point Dam on 21 November (B) and a whopping 9 to 11 birds seen at Keystone L/Keystone canal between 28 and 29 November (SJD, JS) were the only reports.

Bufflehead: The 12 spotted at CLNWR on 7 August (JGJ) was a good late-summer count; a single was also found there on 7 September (SJD). The high counts include 390 at BOL on 20 November (BP, LP) and 205 at L Ogallala on 28 November (SJD).

Common Goldeneye: Unusual was a female seen at L Ogallala on 8 August (SJD) and again on 8 September (SJD, JS). The high count was 730 at Sutherland Res on 28 November (SJD).

Hooded Merganser: The pair spotted at L Alice between 20 August and 6 September (SJD) was early. The high count was 70 at NPNWR on 6 November (LK).

Red-breasted Merganser: The high counts include 44 at L Minatare on 7 November (SJD) and 20 at BOL on 19 November (JGJ).

Common Merganser: Now expected at NPNWR in late summer, 118 were tallied at L Alice on 28 August (BP, LP). Unexpected, however, were the 2 reported at HCR on 30 August (LR, RH).

Ruddy Duck: The high count was 190 at NPNWR on 21 October (LK). Also, 106 were still at Keystone L on 28 November (SJD).

Osprey: Based on this year's numerous reports, the conclusion could be made that this species is doing well at the present time. A stunning 26 were tallied at LM /L Ogallala on 3 October (SJD). Also, 8 were reported at BOL on 9 September (BP, LP) and 6 were seen at HCR on 27 September (JS). The preceding are only the high counts; smaller numbers were found elsewhere. The earliest recorded were 3 at LM/L Ogallala on 20 August (SJD) and a single at HCR on 29 August (GH, WH).

Mississippi Kite: At Ogallala, 2 adults were found soaring over the city on 9 August (SJD, JGJ). A few wandering birds likely invade NE in late summer to early fall every year, presumably from Kansas. One was found in Lincoln on 27 August (EB) and another first-year male was picked up injured in Holdrege on 15 September (Alice Rumery, fide RH, JS).

Bald Eagle: The single adult near Camp Wakonda on 21 September (LP, BP) may have been either a local breeder or an early migrant.

Northern Harrier: Routine Reports.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Excellent was the high count of 41 at Camp Wakonda on 21 September (BP, LP). Another 17 were encountered in 10 different cos across the state from 9 September (GH, WH) through 28 November (LR, RH).

Cooper's Hawk: Early and conceivably a local breeder was the single seen at LaPlatte Bottoms on 10 August (SJD, BP, LP). The high count was 7 at Camp Wakonda on 21 September (BP, LP). An additional 8 were found in 6 cos from 30 August (JGJ) to 18 October (JS, WRS).

Northern Goshawk: None reported.

Red-shouldered Hawk: The only report was from FF, where singles were found on 14 August (BP, LP) and on 25 October (LP).

Broad-winged Hawk: Another superb high count was 55 at Camp Wakonda on 21 September (BP, LP). The only other report came from Basswood Ridge on 12 September (BFH).

Swainson's Hawk: The high counts were 150 roosting in a field near Fontanelle on 25 September (JGJ) and 49 roosting in a field in Fillmore Co on 3 October (JGJ).

Red-tailed Hawk: Routine Reports.

Ferruginous Hawk: Several were found in the far west, but few made it very far east. At least 2 were seen west of Kearney between 15 and 22 November (MU), where the species often occurs in late fall; but other singles made it as far east as Niobrara, Knox Co, on 4 October (MB), eastern Garfield Co on 31 October (JGJ), and Mallard Haven on 19 November (JGJ), and Harlan Co, on 31 October (GH, WH). The high count was 8 in southwestern Sioux Co on 20 November (SJD).

Golden Eagle: Routine reports.

American Kestrel: Routine reports.

Merlin: Well reported this fall, 19 were tallied across the state from 20 August (SJD) through 7 November (JG).

Prairie Falcon: Of the 16 reports, 10 came from the Panhandle between 20 August and 27 November (SJD, JS). The furthest east were singles in Dixon Co on 27 October (JJ), Platte Co on 31 October (JGJ), and at North Harvard Basin on 28 November (JGJ).

Peregrine Falcon: Only 8 birds were reported from 20 August (SJD) to 3 October (SJD).

Gray Partridge: The reports during the last few years indicate no clear trend for this species. In Dodge Co near Ames, 15 were found on 23 August (DP, JP), and another 12 were reported on 31 October (DP, JP).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Routine reports.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: A pair was seen near Gibbon, Buffalo Co, on 11 November (LR, RH). Birds are found away from breeding areas in fall and winter, usually to the southeast of their breeding localities.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: The single spotted 10 miles south of Loup City, Sherman Co, on 8 November (JGJ) was in an area where this species' status is not clearly known.

Wild Turkey: Routine reports.

Northern Bobwhite: In the far west, three were found at the Gering Cem, Scotts Bluff Co, between 12 and 19 September (SJD).

Virginia Rail: The latest and the high count was 4 at CCM on 28 November (SJD). Another was late at L Ogallala on 22 November (JS), although it has been found in that area in December.

Sora: The 8 at Theesen Lagoon on 10 August (JGJ) may either have been breeders or migrants. Rather late were 2 at CCM on 18 October (SJD), and even later was a single spotted there on 31 October (SJD).

Common Moorhen: Exciting was the observation of 2 adults and 5 young on 6 August (BP, LP) and 1 adult and 7 young on 23 August (BP, LP) at LaPlatte Bottoms. The fledged chicks reported in August clearly appeared to be different in age, suggesting that at least 2 broods were produced there (WRS). Rather far west was another juvenile at a small, private basin in Clay Co on 30 August (JGJ)

American Coot: The high count was 5000 at CLNWR on 30 August (JT).

Sandhill Crane: Once again, an adult pair identified as "Greater" Sandhill Cranes accompanied by 2 immatures was found at a small private basin in eastern Clay Co between 16 and 23 August (JGJ). The same situation occurred at the very same basin in August of 1995. This report repeats several sightings of a pair of "Greater" in July of 1996 and mid-May of 1998 in Clay Co. The other big story

for this species was the possibly unprecedented numbers found in the east on or near 11 November after an intense low pressure system passed through the region. The high counts for the east include 1200 in Lancaster Co on 11 November (JS) and 336 near Blair, Washington Co, on 11 November (JGJ).

Whooping Crane: The only report was of 3 on the Platte River east of the Rowe Sanctuary on 25 October (CNK).

Black-bellied Plover: The high counts were 19 adults spotted at L Babcock on 15 August (JGJ) and 17 juveniles tallied there on 2 October (JGJ). As many as 14 lingered into November; the latest reported were a single at LM on 7 November (SJD), 2 at BOL on 7 November (JS), 1 at HCR on 8 November (JGJ), and 5 at L Babcock on 8 November (JGJ).

American Golden-Plover: None was found until 5 September, when an adult and a juvenile were spotted in a mowed hayfield near Sinninger Lagoon (JGJ). The high counts included an excellent 79 at L Babcock on 20 September (JGJ, GJ) and 27 at Koenig Basin on 27 September (JGJ). Rare in the west, 3 appeared at LM on 20 September (SJD); a single was spotted at L Ogallala on 3 October (SJD), and another single was also reported at LM on 17 and 18 October (SJD). Very late, in fact the 2nd latest date on record, was a single seen at Mallard Haven on 18 November (JGJ).

Semipalmated Plover: Small numbers were reported throughout NE. The high count was 8 at L Minatare on 6 September (SJD), and last reported was a single at LM on 3 October (SJD).

Piping Plover: The last reported was a single spotted at LM on 9 August (SJD).

Killdeer: The high count was 324 at L Minatare on 6 September (SJD).

Black-necked Stilt: The adult with a newly-fledged juvenile spotted south of Patterson L, Garden Co, on 7 August (JGJ) is indicative of local breeding. A single, likely a migrant, seen at FL between 15 and 16 August (LR, RH, JS) was a rare find.

American Avocet: The high count was 600 at CLNWR on 30 August (JT). Only last fall, NE had its first November record for this species; but this year, 9 reports totaled 97 birds in November. The November high counts include 41 at HCR on 1 November (JGJ) and 34 at LM the same day (SJD). The last reported were 16 counted at HCR on 8 November (GH,WH) and a single at LM on the very late date of 28 November (SJD).

Greater Yellowlegs: Four groups of birds lingered into November, with the last to leave being the 4 at HCR on 7 November (JGJ) and the 7 at L Babcock on 8 November (JGJ).

Lesser Yellowlegs: The high count was 271 at LM on 20 August (SJD), and the last reported were 33 at L Babcock on 31 October (JGJ).

Solitary Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Willet: Rather rare in the east in fall, 2 were at L Babcock on 15 August (JGJ); one was at Mallard Haven on 15 August (JGJ), and another single was at Sinninger Lagoon on 16 August (JGJ).

Spotted Sandpiper: The high count was 21 at NPNWR on 10 September (LK) and, the latest reported was a single at Oliver Res on 2 October (SJD).

Upland Sandpiper: The high count was 12 near Troester Basin on 10 August (JGJ), and the latest reported were 3 at L Babcock on 13 September (JGJ).

Long-billed Curlew: The last to leave was a single at L Alice on 28 August (SJD, BP, LP).

Hudsonian Godwit: A juvenile at Sinninger Lagoon on 30 August (JGJ) was probably the first documented fall record and only the 4th fall report ever.

Marbled Godwit: Like the Willet, this species becomes increasingly rare in the east. A single was seen at HCR on 4 August (GH, WH), and 2 were located at L Babcock on 24 August (JGJ). The latest were the 2 sighted at Oliver Res on 20 September (SJD).

Ruddy Turnstone: The only report of this rare fall migrant was of a single juvenile at L North on 15 August (JGJ).

Red Knot: Three reports were received, an excellent total, all documented. The first was of a molting adult at LM on 7 August (SJD), followed by an adult at L Babcock on 15 August (JGJ), and a juvenile reported at L Minatare on 12 September (SJD).

Sanderling: The high counts were 44 at LM on 8 September (JS) and 29 there on 3 October (SJD). The latest were the 11 reported at LM on 10 October (SJD).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: The high count was 330 at L Babcock on 22 August (JGJ). The 133 spotted at LM on 20 August (SJD) was a good count for the west. The last reported were 2 at Harvard Lagoon on 25 October; no details were provided, however, for what would be the latest ever recorded in fall.

Western Sandpiper: Fifteen reports totalling 37 birds were noted on 8 August (LR, RH) through 18 October (SJD). The high count was only 4, in northern York Co on 15 August (JGJ) and at LM on 8 September (SJD). The last reported were single basic-plumaged birds at LM on 3 October and on 17 and 18 October (SJD).

Least Sandpiper: The high counts were 112 at LM on 18 October (SJD) and 98 there on 17 October (SJD). The latest count was 31 at LM on 7 November (SJD).

Baird's Sandpiper: The 438 at LM on 8 August (SJD) grew to 1052 by 20 August (SJD). Three November reports included singles at BOL on 1 November (BP, LP, JGJ) and LM on the same day (SJD), and 2 at LM on 7 November (SJD).

Pectoral Sandpiper: The high counts were 433 at L Babcock on 10 August (JGJ) and 327 at Koenig Basin on 15 August (JGJ). Uncommon in the far west was a single located at L Alice on 20 August (SJD). The latest were singles in Clay Co (JGJ) and at BOL (JS) on 7 November.

Dunlin: This fall was perhaps the best ever for Dunlin. Sixteen reports totaling 67 birds were tallied between 11 October (JGJ) and 26 November (JS). The high counts were 25 in Clay Co on 11 October (JGJ) and 8 at BOL on 6 November (BP, LP). The latest count was a single at BOL on 26 November (JS). Rare in the west, a single was recorded at Sutherland Res on 7 November (SJD).

Stilt Sandpiper: The high counts included 440 at L Babcock on 20 September (JS) and 372 at LM on 6 September (SJD). Rather late were the 16 seen at Theesen Lagoon on 25 October (JGJ), the 7 counted at Sinninger Lagoon on 25 October (JGJ), and the 30 tallied at BOL on 26 October (JS).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Twenty-eight reports totaling 247 birds were tallied from 4 August (BP, LP) through 27 September (JGJ). Of the 247 birds, 236 (or 96%) were found in the eastern RWB or immediately north of there at or near L Babcock. The high counts were 45 in a field in Clay Co on 16 August (JGJ); 37 at the sod farm just east of L Babcock on 15 August (JGJ); and 32 near Eckhardt Basin on 22 August (JGJ). Only casual in the Panhandle with as few as 3 previous reports, 3 individuals were seen at L Minatare on 6 September (SJD) and 2 were there on 12 September (SJD). Also rare at LM, a single was recorded there on 12 September (SJD).

Ruff: A juvenile male documented at Kirkpatrick Basin North on 27 September (JGJ) will probably become the 5th state record for NE and the first for the eastern RWB. All 5 records have occurred since 1993.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Juveniles are clearly the most common age group found in the state, and they occur during a tight time period: mid-August through early September. This year, 8 counts totalling 15 juveniles were reported from 16 August (JGJ) through 8 September (JS, SJD). None was found west of LM. The high counts were 4 at L Babcock on 22 August (JGJ) and 3 at LM on 20 August (SJD). The last reported were 2 juveniles seen at LM on 8 September (SJD, JS).

Long-billed Dowitcher: The high counts were 558 at LM on 3 October (SJD) and 303 in the eastern RWB on 11 October (JGJ). Several were found in November, including flocks of 33 at Ayr L (JGJ), 26 in Clay Co (JGJ), 14 at BOL (JS), and 2 at LM (SJD) all on 7 November. The last reported were 5 spotted at Mallard Haven on 19 November (JGJ).

Common Snipe: The high count was 73 at Koenig Basin on 13 September (JGJ). The last reported, but certainly not the last to leave, was a single spotted near Ames on 30 November (JP, DP).

American Woodcock: None reported.

Wilson's Phalarope: The high counts were not spectacular: 150 at Gilled L, Garden Co, on 7 August (JGJ), and 138 at LM on 20 August (SJD). The last reported was a single at LM on 20 September (SJD).

Red-necked Phalarope: An excellent fall for this species, 14 reports were received totaling 44 birds during the period 7 August (JGJ) through 27 September (SJD). Surprisingly, a large number (21) of the birds reported were in the east. The high counts were 6 at L Minatare on 27 September (SJD) and up to 5 at L Babcock between 13 and 16 September (JS, JGJ).

Red Phalarope: A pair of juveniles molting into first-winter plumage was documented at L Babcock on 13 September (JGJ) and will probably become only the 8th state record.

Long-tailed Jaeger: A light or intermediate-phase juvenile documented at LM on 3 October (SJD) will probably become only the 2nd state record.

Jaeger sp.: A dark jaeger was found at LM on 3 October (SJD). The observer believed it was likely a Parasitic, but could not be certain due to poor light conditions and distance.

Laughing Gull: A juvenile was seen at BOL on 3 August (BP, LP), only the 3rd documented summer record.

Franklin's Gull: The high counts were 22,000 at Calamus Res on 7 September (JGJ) and 10,000 at Sutherland Res on 9 August (SJD). Up to 400 remained at HCR on 8 November (JGJ), but none was reported thereafter.

Little Gull: It was a big year in the west for this species, with an unbelievable 5 birds found. All were either juvenile or first-winter birds, which begs the question: what is their origin? Reports (all documented) were of singles at LM on 8 September (SJD, JS), at L Ogallala on 8 September (SJD, JS), at LM on 20 September (SJD), at L Minatare on 17 October (SJD), and at Sutherland Res on 1 November (SJD).

Bonaparte's Gull: Quite early was a single reported at L Alice on 20 August (SJD), as was a single spotted at LM on 8 September (JS). The high count was 340 at Gavin's Point Dam on 22 November (JS, WRS).

Ring-billed Gull: The high count was 2,200 at L Minatare on 20 November (SJD).

California Gull: The high count was 64 at LM on 30 August (JS). Other reports include singles at L Minatare on 19 September (SJD), at Oliver Res on 30 October (SJD), and at L Minatare on 31 October and 7 November (SJD).

Herring Gull: Single birds were reported at Johnson L (JS) and BOL (SJD) on 10 August, the only August reports for the season. Very few made it to NE by the end of the period, obviously a result of the warm fall.

Thayer's Gull: Two were reported, a juvenile at L Minatare on 21 November (SJD) and an adult at Sutherland Res on 28 November (SJD).

Glaucous Gull: None was reported, probably because of the warm fall weather.

Great Black-backed Gull: A little bit of a surprise was a first-winter birdseen at Conestoga L on 19 and 20 November (JGJ, JS, BP, LP).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Below Gavin's Point Dam may be the best place to look for this species late in the fall. This year, a remarkable 4 were found there on 22 November (WRS, JS), and 1 to 3 were spotted off and on there through 29 November (MB, JJ, DLS).

Sabine's Gull: Not as many were reported this year as last, but a "slug" of reports nonetheless arrived. Specifically, there were 19 reports totalling 32 birds found 12 September (MB, JG, SJD) through 20 October (JS, WRS). All birds were juveniles except for an adult at BOL from 30 September to 7 October (JS). High counts included 4 at LM on both 12 September (SJD) and 20 September (SJD).

Caspian Tern: The high count was 7 at Pawnee L on 21 September (JS), and the latest counts were 3 at L Ogallala/LM on 3 October (JS) and a single at BOL on 7 October (JS).

Common Tern: A total of 11 reports involving 43 birds was tallied from 7 August (LF, CF) through 17 October (SJD). The high counts were 18 at LM on 7 September (SJD) and 6 at L Minatare on 27 September (SJD). The last count was a single reported at LM on 17 October (SJD).

Forster's Tern: The high count was 69 at LM on 3 October (SJD). Late birds were found at Sutherland Res on 1 November (SJD) and Sherman Res on 8 November (JGJ), both record late dates.

Least Tern: The high counts were 10 at L Babcock on 22 August (JGJ) and 7 at LM on 8 August (SJD).

Black Tern: The high count was 428 at LM on 20 August (SJD), and the last report was of a single at LM between 17 and 18 October (SJD).

Rock Dove: Routine reports.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: The colony centered around the Roger Newcomb residence in Kearney continued, with a high count of 9 birds registered there on 24 September (LR, RH fide Roger Newcomb; m.ob.). A "silly bird" was on a nest in a leafless sycamore there on 23 October (LR, RH). About 2 blocks away, 2 adults and an immature visited a feeder on 29 November (LB). A single was noted on a wire with Mourning Doves 7 miles north of Bradshaw on 22 August (JGJ), only the 3rd record away from Kearney.

Ringed Turtle-Dove: A single, thought by the observer not to be an Eurasian Collared-Dove, was reported in Lancaster Co on 10 August (fide TEL). This "species" is not on the NE list, as there is no established population in the state.

The few scattered records since the early 1970's are apparently of escaped cagebirds.

White-winged Dove: Rather amazing is the persistence of the single bird at Kearney which apparently thinks itself a Eurasian Collared-Dove. This bird, first noted on 8 July, was still present on 29 November (LB). It represents NE's 3rd documented record.

Mourning Dove: Most had departed from most of the state by mid November. Wintering birds are generally limited to the Platte Valley and southeastern NE. The best count was 600 at CLNWR on 30 August (JT).

Black-billed Cuckoo: The last reported were singles spotted at ADF on 1 September (LF, CF) and in Cass Co on 2 September (GW).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: The last reported was one at ADF on 14 September (LF, CF). None was reported west of Saunders and Lancaster Cos.

Barn Owl: Only 2 were reported, singles at Oliver Res on 5 September (DH) and at Gering Cem from 12 to 13 September (SJD). Most depart by early October.

Eastern Screech-Owl: The only report was of one near the western edge of its range at Oliver Res on 29 August and on 12 September (SJD). The nearest Western Screech-Owls to the NE Panhandle are in the Colorado Springs, CO, area.

Great Horned Owl: Routine reports.

Burrowing Owl: The only report was of one at L Minatare on 12 September (SJD); most depart by mid-Oct.

Barred Owl: The only report was of 2 at FF on 10 September (JS). Reporters should pass on any sightings of this species outside the Missouri Valley.

Long-eared Owl: None reported.

Short-eared Owl: The only report was of 3 at Harvard Lagoon on 10 October (JS). Migrants are usually fairly easy to find in fall (October-December) flying at dusk at RWB WMAs and WPAs.

Common Nighthawk: High counts included 107 at Bellevue on 16 September (LP, BP) and 100 at Gering on 19 August (AK). The last reported in the west was in Sioux Co on 16 September (HKH); and in the east, singles were spotted rather late at Norfolk on 7 October (DH) and at Nebraska City on 13 October (LF, CF). At Alma about 50 were hawking with Franklin's Gulls on 27 September (GH, WH).

Common Poorwill: The only report came from Gering Cem on 12 September (MB). Most depart by late September.

Whip-Poor-will: Difficult to detect in fall, one was reported from Nebraska City on 4 September (CF, LF). The latest dates for NE are in mid September.

Chimney Swift: None was reported west of Alma and Kearney. The best count was 92 at Nebraska City on 25 September (LF, CF), and last report was a rather late single seen at Alma on 14 October (GH, WH).

White-throated Swift: Counts at Scotts Bluff NM declined from 29 between 12 and 13 September to 3 on 3 October (SJD). The latter date is the latest for NE except for an undocumented report on 13 October, 1984, in Lincoln Co. There is, however, a Kansas record for 2 November, 1978.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Migrants pass through from mid August through late September, peaking usually in early September; the high count was 10 to 12 at FF on 10 September (JS). The westernmost report was of 1 to 2 at Alma between 24 August to and September--on the latter date, a rather late adult male appeared (GH, WH). The latest report was one at FF on 19 September (JS).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: Two female/immatures were spotted at Bushnell, one each on 8 August (SJD) and 9 August (JS, WRS); both were documented.

Rufous Hummingbird: The only report was of 3 females/immatures at Bushnell on 9 August (JS, WRS).

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Lewis's Woodpecker: None reported.

Red-headed Woodpecker: The latest report in the west came from L Minatare on 3 October (AK); rather late juveniles lingered in southwestern Dixon Co until 24 November (JJ) and northwest of Ames until 13 November (DP, JP). Juveniles are usually the last to leave areas where wintering does not occur.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Westernmost reports include singles at Sutherland Res on 7 November (SJD) and at CCM on 29 November (JS); few are reported farther west.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: The only reports were of singles at Boyer Chute NWR on 20 September (JS) and at NE National Forest, Thomas Co, on 16 October (fide LR, RH). In fall, migrants are recorded farther west than in spring.

Red-naped Sapsucker: An adult male was photographed at Oliver Res on 27 September (SJD) for only the 4th documented fall record for this species, until recently considered conspecific with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The 4 records occur in the period between 13 and 29 September and are from the western Panhandle.

Downy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Northern Flicker: The best counts, indicative of peak fall movement, were excellent, suggesting a strong movement this year: 50+ at Red Willow Res on 3 October (CF, LF) and 40 in Buffalo Co on 24 September (LR, RH). The first "Red-shafted" birds were spotted near Gibbon on 26 September (LR, RH), about normal for first-fall arrivals of this form.

Pileated Woodpecker: Intriguing was a report of one along a wooded stream 2 miles south of Union, Cass Co, on 7 November (Rod Edwards fide LF). Some details were provided. Since 1952, there have been about 6 reports along and near the Missouri Valley in the period from 26 October until winter.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The only report away from the east was rather late at Gering Cem between 12 and 13 September (SJD), where it is a rare but regular migrant between 1 August and 17 September. The remainder of the reports included two at FF (BP, LP), two at ADF (LF, CF), and one at Lincoln (LE) between 18 August and 12 September.

Western Wood-Pewee: Rather late were 2 reported at Wildcat Hills NC on 17 September (AK). The latest NE date is 19 September. The only other report was of 2 spotted west of Bushnell on 5 September (DH).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Three appeared near the western edge of the summer range in the Niobrara Valley at Keller Park on 27 August (DH); another was spotted at HCR on 30 August (LR, RH). The last reported were singles at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, on 12 September (LE) and, rather late, at ADF on 27 September (LF, CF).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: One was reported without details at Neale Woods on 18 September (B). To increase our scanty knowledge of the fall *Empidonax* flycatchers' migration, observers should provide identification details.

Willow Flycatcher: Reports include 2 at FF on 22 August (B) and 2 in southwestern Dixon Co on 30 August (JJ). The preceding dates suggest that these

birds were probably migrants, although this species summers in NE.

Least Flycatcher: Essentially a migrant in NE, the few reports came from the east, ranging from 17 August in southwestern Dixon Co (JJ) through 20 August at Boyer Chute NWR (JS). Banding data indicate that adults pass through very early, often in July, and young birds later, with migration completed by mid September.

Hammond's Flycatcher: Apparently a regular fall migrant through western NE, and possibly as far east as central NE, the only report (documented) was of one seen at Oliver Res on 6 September (SJD). There are now 7 documented fall records, all in the period between 2 and 21 September.

Empidonax sp.: Cautiously not identified to species were some 9 birds in the east in the period from 5 to 10 September (JS, JRH, TH).

Eastern Phoebe: None was reported west of Alma, where the last was seen on 15 September (GH, WH). The latest overall were singles tallied at Boyer Chute NWR on 24 September (BP, LP) and at Wolf L on 25 September (TH).

Say's Phoebe: Apparently only a single bird appeared at the outlying southwestern Dixon Co summer location; it was noted in June (see Summer Report) and between 6 and 14 August around vacant buildings 3 miles west and 4.5 miles north of Wakefield (JJ). Three appeared there last year. The last elsewhere was spotted south of Gering on 17 September (AK).

Great Crested Flycatcher: The last reported were 3 at FF on 8 September (BP, LP). Few were reported.

Cassin's Kingbird: Fall aggregations are not unusual, but a good total was the 27 counted in a "loose flock" on 20 September in southwestern Kimball Co (SJD). The last reported were singles (same bird?) rather late in southern Sioux Co between 24 and 25 September (HKH). According to Dick Rosche, most "yellow-breasted kingbirds" seen after about 10 September in the Panhandle are Cassin's.

Western Kingbird: The last seen in the east, and only report, was in Cass Co on 1 September (GW); while in the west, the last reported were one at L Minatare on 19 September (SJD) and two south of Gering on 22 September (AK).

Eastern Kingbird: High counts for this species in fall occur in late August, presumably migrants. This year's best count was a record 60 on 30 August at both CLNWR (JT) and HCR (LR, RH). Most departed by 19 September, when one was spotted at Gering Cem (SJD) and 3 in Madison Co (DH); but a very late bird was seen at Red Willow Res on 3 October (CF, LF).

Loggerhead Shrike: This species is doing well as a breeding bird on the western Great Plains, at least in NE. The best count was 14 in southwestern Kimball Co on 8 August (SJD). November records are few, and such birds should be carefully identified, especially north and west of about Grand Island. Thus, a shrike spotted northwest of Ames on 6 November surprised the observers when it was not a Northern (DP, JP). Even later, but not as unexpected, was a single noted in Lancaster Co on 11 November (LE). Another was reported without details at Kearney on 15 November (B).

Northern Shrike: The earliest was a rather early immature reported north of L Ogallala on 3 October (SJD); few are reported prior to mid-Oct. The best counts included 9 in the Panhandle on 1 November (SJD) and 7 north of Harrison, Sioux Co, on 28 November (JS). One was seen far to the southeast in Cass Co on 30 October (GW).

Bell's Vireo: The last reported were several singing at Calamus Res on 7 September (JGJ), tying the late date in the north, and one in eastern Lancaster Co

on 9 September (BP, LP). Late dates in the southeast are in very early October.

Yellow-throated Vireo: The last of the few reported, all in the Missouri Valley, was at ADF on 20 September (LF, CF). Summering birds occur throughout the Missouri Valley but are less common to the north, where one was seen at Ponca SP on 20 August (JJ).

Plumbeous Vireo: Reports are virtually non-existent away from the western Pine Ridge breeding range, as this form was only recently accorded species status. One was spotted at Oliver Res on 6 September (SJD). The latest dates are between 13 and 17 September.

Cassin's Vireo: Again this year, there were several reports of this species from the Panhandle, indicative of regular fall migrant status there. Reports were of single birds, all at Oliver Res, between 29 August and 2 September (SJD, MB, m.ob.).

Blue-headed Vireo: Most significant was the 1st Panhandle record, an individual photographed on 27 September at Gering Cem (SJD). There are, however, a few documented records for the eastern Colorado plains, mostly in October. Good numbers were reported, some 35 in all, from central NE eastward and from 2 September at ADF (LF, CF) through 18 October at Boyer Chute NWR, a very late date (JS). The best count was 5 at Boyer Chute NWR on 20 September (JS) and in Lancaster Co on 12 September (LE).

Warbling Vireo: The last reports came from the east, 4 birds at Boyer Chute on 20 September (JS) and a single in southwestern Dixon Co on 25 September (JJ). The best count was 12 at Pibel L on 7 September (JGJ).

Philadelphia Vireo: Five were reported, a good total for fall: somewhat westerly was one seen near Alda on 6 September, black lores noted (DH); an excellent total of 3 was reported at FF on 8 September (BP, LP), and one was spotted at FF on 10 September (JS).

Red-eyed Vireo: The best count was 8 at both Krimlofski Tract, Neale Woods, on 13 September (JS, WRS) and Boyer Chute NWR on 20 September (JS). The last reported were singles in southwestern Dixon Co 27 September (JJ) and at Ponca SP on 27 September (JJ).

Blue Jay: Migrants are in evidence between late September and early October, such as the 40 seen at FL on 13 September (LR, RH).

Pinyon Jay: The only report was of 4 in Monroe Canyon on 21 November (SJD).

Clark's Nutcracker: A surprising record was of a single bird at Cedar View on the north shore of LM on 1 November (SJD); no others were reported, even from the usual haunts in the west Pine Ridge.

Black-billed Magpie: Singles were reported further to the southeast than usual, even for fall, when wandering birds are expected east of their summer range. Most unexpected was one at Spiker, central Washington Co, on 25 October, considered the "first modern record" there (GJ, JGJ); and singles were in southeastern Cuming Co on 25 October (LE), and east of Fairbury, Jefferson Co, on 5 November (B).

American Crow: The best count was 760 at Johnson L on 10 October (LR, RH). This species is strongly migratory on the Great Plains, the fall peak usually occurring in late October.

Horned Lark: Estimates of 1000 were made in southeastern Phelps Co on 22 November (LR, RH), at FL the same day (LR, RH), at Johnson L on 28 November

(LR, RH), and at Jensen Lagoon the same day (LR, RH). Maybe the same flock followed the observers around?

Purple Martin: The best count totaled a modest 55 at ADF on 10 August (LF, CF), and the last count was 2 immatures at FL on 22 August (LR, RH). The farthest count to the west was a single spotted at Alma on 20 August (GH, WH).

Tree Swallow: Best counts were 45 in Otoe Co on 21 August (LF, CF) and 42 at Wagontrain L on 1 August (LE), presumably summering birds; peak movement usually occurs in September.

Violet-Green Swallow: The only reports came, as expected, from the Panhandle: presumed migrants were 30 reported south of Gering on 4 August and the 2 there on 23 August (AK), the latter a rather late date.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: The best counts were 93 in Otoe Co on 21 August and 85 there on 23 September (LF, CF). The last reported was a single at Sherman Res on 4 October (LR, RH), tying the latest date away from the east.

Bank Swallow: The best count was an excellent 200 at FL on 15 August (LR, RH). The last spotted was a single at Wood Duck Area on 11 September (DH).

Cliff Swallow: The best count was 500 in southwestern Dixon Co on 30 August (JJ). The last reported were 2 at Sherman Res on 4 October (LR, RH), a rather late date.

Barn Swallow: A record high count of 2700 was made at L Ogallala on 3 October (SJD); and 1000 were seen at CLNWR on 30 August (JT). The last reported were 4 at BOL on 18 October (JS).

Black-capped Chickadee: Routine reports.

Tufted Titmouse: Routine reports.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: As is usual, the first non-resident birds appeared in late August: a single at L Minatare on 28 August (SJD) and 4 at Oliver Res the next day (SJD). The best count was 6 at Oliver Res on 24 September (SJD). The farthest to the southeast reported included a single in Sarpy Co on 20 September (BP, LP) and another at BOL on 19 November (JS).

White-breasted Nuthatch: At the western edge of the breeding range in the Platte Valley, one appeared near Gibbon on 1 August (LR, RH). The singles reported at Smith L, Sheridan Co, on 30 August (JT) and in the NE National Forest, Thomas Co, on 16 October (fide LR, RH) appeared at locations where only small numbers summer.

Pygmy Nuthatch: Routine reports.

Brown Creeper: The 1 to 2 reported at FF between 5 and 10 September (JS) were presumed to be summering birds; but migrants may arrive in late September, and so the single seen at Boyer Chute on 20 September (JS), where breeding is not known to occur, was probably a migrant, albeit rather an early one. Another one was reported in Lincoln on 11 October (LE), a more usual arrival time.

Rock Wren: Reports all came from the western Panhandle. The best count was 8 in southwestern Kimball Co on 12 September (SJD); and the last singles were reported there and at Scotts Bluff NM on 17 October (SJD), the 3rd latest date ever.

Carolina Wren: Reports came from the expected range, north to Sarpy Co, where as many as 5 were seen at FF on 11 October (JS) and west to Lancaster Co, where one was spotted at Wilderness Park, Lincoln, the same day (LE).

Bewick's Wren: One was reported near Alma on 18 October (GH, WH); the details were forwarded to the NOU Records Committee for consideration. This

report would represent only the 12th fall record and 2nd latest ever for the state. There are 2 previous fall reports for Lincoln Co, and a later report on 23 October, 1965, in Douglas-Sarpy Cos.

House Wren: The best count, indicative of peak movement, was 15 at ADF on 23 September (LF,CF). Last was one in southwestern Dixon Co on 25 October (JJ), a rather late date; there are only 8 later reports, none documented, however.

Winter Wren: This species was widely reported this fall, including a western report of a single at Gering Cem on 3 October (SJD)--where it is only a casual migrant--which was likely the Rocky Mountain subspecies *pacificus*, which winters in low numbers on the eastern Colorado plains. The one banded at NE National Forest, Thomas Co, on 8 October (RG), where it is also only casual in occurrence, and another seen at Niobrara on 3 October (MB) were likely the eastern subspecies *hiemalis*, which is a migrant and scarce winter resident in the Missouri Valley. The earliest counts overall were the two 3 October birds noted above, followed by one in southwestern Dixon Co on 5 October (JJ), the Thomas Co bird mentioned earlier, and one spotted at FF on 10 October (B).

Sedge Wren: Birds present in early August may be breeding; such birds were one at Jack Sinn Marsh on 3 August (BP, LP), another at BOL the same day (BP, LP), 4 in the observers' yard on 8 August (LR, RH), and up to 5 at FL between 8 and 10 August (LR, RH). The best count of migrants was 13 at Arbor L on 3 October (LE), and the last count, and 4th latest ever, was 3 on 25 October at Big Daddy's Ornithological Gardens, a strip of abandoned railroad right-of-way in Clay Co being restored by the observer (JGJ).

Marsh Wren: The one reported at the cattail marsh recently (re-?) established near LaPlatte Bottoms in Sarpy Co on 4 August (BP, LP) shows how quickly new habitat can be occupied. Summering birds were at FL until 15 August (LR, RH), indicating the beginning of fall movement. No high counts were reported, although most reports occurred in September, suggesting peak movement. The six reported at L Ogallala on 27 November (JS) were presumably planning (?) on overwintering.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Earliest to arrive was one at L Ogallala on 3 October (SJD), and the best count was 19 seen there on 28 November (SJD). This species commonly lingers into winter, especially in the southeast.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Reports were numerous, with arrival early and departure late. The earliest spotted was a single on 2 September in Antelope Co (DH); but another spotted near Alda the same day, one at Neale Woods on 10 September (B), 2 at FF on 12 September (JS), and as many as 10 at Krimlofski Tract, Neale Woods, on 13 September (JS, WRS) were rather early at those latitudes, suggestive of a strong early push southward. This species normally moves southward across the state slowly in fall. The best counts were 20 at Camp Wakonda on 21 September (BP, LP) and 17 at Boyer Chute NWR on 20 September (JS). Few are reported after early November in the north and west, but this year there were several: 3 to 4 were seen at L Ogallala between 28 and 29 November (SJD), and singles appeared at Oliver Res and Sutherland Res on 7 November (SJD).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: A recent development, which continued this fall, is the number of sightings in the Panhandle. As many as 6 were reported at Stage Hill Road, Scotts Bluff Co, on 20 August (SJD), where at least 3 summered; 1 to 2 were spotted at Oliver Res between 29 and 30 August (SJD); one was seen south of CLNWR on 7 September (SJD), and one was reported south of I-80, Exit 1 on 12 September (SJD). In the east, previous late dates were September 10, 11, and 12,

with exceptional dates of 25 September and 11 November (the latter undocumented); but this fall alone, there were 3 such reports: one was at FF on 15 September (B); one was at Bellevue on 15 September (BP, LP), and one was very late and rather far north in southwestern Dixon Co on 27 September (JJ).

Eastern Bluebird: This species also was widely reported and in large numbers, including 200 between Center and Niobrara on 3 October (MB), and an amazing 50 about as far west as one can get in NE, at Wildcat Hills NC on 17 October (fide AK). Also, 50 were reported at HCR on 15 November (LR, RH).

Mountain Bluebird: The only reports came from the breeding range in Sioux and Kimball Cos. The best count was 133 in southwestern Kimball Co on 13 October (SJD), and the last count, rather late, came from southern Sioux Co on 5 November (HKH). None was reported to the east. Departure from the breeding range is usually completed by early November.

Townsend's Solitaire: The earliest count was 2 at Scotts Bluff NM between 12 and 13 September (SJD); and farthest east were the 2 reported northwest of Kearney on 24 October (fide TEL) and a single spotted 5 miles south of Kearney on 15 November (Charlie Chase fide LR, RH). Earliest dates in the east occur in mid November, and so the eastward movement of potential wintering birds was about on schedule. There were "numerous" reports south of Gering (AK), and 6 were seen at NE National Forest, Thomas Co, on 10 October (RG).

Veery: None reported.

Swainson's Thrush: The best count was 4 at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, on 20 September (LE), where the earliest appeared on 5 September (LE); and the last one was spotted in southern Sioux Co on 10 October (HKH).

Hermit Thrush: Of interest were reports of the Rocky Mountain subspecies *auduboni* in the Panhandle: 2 were spotted at Oliver Res on 23 October, and another was reported there on 1 November (SJD); the latter is the latest Panhandle date for Hermit Thrush. To date, the few records of *auduboni* in NE come from the Panhandle in the period between 12 October and 1 November, although there are about 9 additional Panhandle reports of Hermit Thrush in the period from 23 September to 20 October, likely all *auduboni*. In the east, the earliest sighting was a single at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, on 1 October (B); and last was reported at ADF on 27 October (LE).

Wood Thrush: None reported.

American Robin: Good numbers were noted this fall, including 350 at NE National Forest, Thomas Co, on 16 October (LR, RH), 200+ at Wood Duck Area on 9 October (DH), and 200 at FL on 30 August (LR, RH). Fall flocks can appear as early as late July.

Gray Catbird: The last spotted in the west was rather late, at L Ogallala on 3 October (SJD); there are only 5 Panhandle dates between September and October. In the east, the latest reports were singles at FF (B) and in Bellevue (BP, LP) on 17 October.

Northern Mockingbird: The best count was 5 in Kimball Co on 7 August (B). This species is more numerous in the west, where the western subspecies *leucopterus* occurs.

Sage Thrasher: About 6 were reported (JS, SJD, BP, LP), all from Kimball Co, in the period from 8 August to 6 September, typical for this species.

Brown Thrasher: The best count was 11 at ADF on 22 September (CF, LF), indicative of peak movement. The last reported were singles at Pibel L on 31

October (JGJ), rather late for the location, and at BOL on 31 October (LE).

Curve-billed Thrasher: The report of one in Douglas Co on 13 August (B) came without details or any further information and would appear to be a misidentification.

European Starling: The best count was 2000 feasting on berries on 3 November south of Gering; observers were warned to park carefully (AK).

American Pipit: Reports occurred statewide, with 2 spotted in Lancaster Co (B) on 17 September and a single noted at Sutherland Res (SJD) on 7 November, normal dates for fall migration in this species. The best count was 68 at LM on 3 October (SJD).

Sprague's Pipit: None reported.

Bohemian Waxwing: A few flocks appeared on the Pine Ridge at the end of the period: 419 were reported in Monroe Canyon on 21 November (SJD), and 254 were counted in 2 flocks in Monroe and Sowbelly Canyons on 28 November (JS).

Cedar Waxwing: The best count was 151--reduced as the observer watched to 150 by a Sharp-shinned Hawk--in Fremont on 3 November (DH).

Tennessee Warbler: All reports came from the Missouri Valley. The earliest report was one at FF on 22 August (JS), and the last another single at FF on 13 September. Unexpected was one in the observers' yard in Bellevue on 24 October (BP, LP), the 4th latest ever.

Orange-crowned Warbler: This statewide migrant (one of few) appeared first on 29 August at Oliver Res, a single (SJD), and last was spotted at ADF on 24 October, also a single (CF, LF). These dates outline the normal migration period. The best counts were excellent: 36 at FF on 11 October (JS) and 32 at L Ogallala on 3 October (SJD).

Nashville Warbler: Only a casual migrant in the Panhandle, the 6th fall record there was one at Oliver Res on 27 September (SJD). Otherwise, westerly were singles spotted near Gibbon on 24 September (LR, RH), at Calamus Res on 19 September (JGJ), and at NE National Forest on 16 October (fide LR, RH). The earliest reported were 2 rather early at FF on 22 August (JS); the best count was 12 there on 12 September (JS); and the last count was one at Bellevue on 24 October (BP, LP).

Northern Parula: Most unexpected was only the 2nd fall Panhandle record, an adult male at the Gering Cem on 6 September (SJD). The first was a specimen collected on 12 September, 1919! The few additional reports come from the Missouri Valley, where even there it is rare in fall. The last reported were a surprising 4 birds seen on 13 September, 2 at Krimlofski Tract, Neale Woods, and singles at FF and Neale Woods (JS, WRS). Other reports were of singles at FF on 7 September (B) and on 12 September (JS).

Yellow Warbler: The last reported were 3 at Black Island on 26 September (DH).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Only the 10th record west of Lancaster Co was one seen at Calamus Res on 19 September (JGJ). The few other reports came from the Missouri Valley, the earliest at FF on 5 September (JS) and the last one in Bellevue on 20 September (BP, LP).

Magnolia Warbler: One of the more likely "eastern" warblers to appear in the Panhandle, but only the 7th fall Panhandle record, was an adult male spotted in northeastern Morrill Co on 6 September (SJD). The other reports were from the Missouri Valley, the earliest one at FF on 8 September (BP, LP), and last one at

ADF on 27 September (CF, LF). The best count was 6 at Krimlofski Tract, Neale Woods, on 13 September (JS, WRS).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: The only report of this casual migrant was of a male at Calamus Res on 19 September (JGJ). There are about 50 fall reports in all, about one-third of these from the Panhandle.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: The only *auduboni* reported were one at Oliver Res on 6 September (SJD) and 2 at NE National Forest on 8 October (RG). Surprisingly, the first date is the 3rd earliest away from the breeding range, and the 2nd the 3rd latest. Although not identified as such, the one spotted in southern Sioux Co on 17 October (HKH) may have been of this subspecies. Data are limited, however, since this species has for some time been considered conspecific with "Myrtle" Warbler. Otherwise, the earliest was one at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, on 6 September (LE), and the best count was the 100+ reported in southwestern Dixon Co on 27 September (JJ). A few were still present at the end of the period in the south and east.

Black-throated Green Warbler: To the West were 3 at Pibel L on 19 September (JGJ), where it is only casual in fall. Elsewhere, the earliest count was 3 at FF on 12 September (JS), and the latest count was 3 there on 11 October (JS). The best count was 5 at Krimlofski Tract, Neale Woods, on 13 September (JS, WRS).

Townsend's Warbler: As many as 3 (JS) were spotted at Oliver Res between 29 August and 24 September (SJD, JS, MB)--the latter date is the 5th latest ever. An adult male was at CLNWR on 7 September (SJD). There are now about 30 fall reports for this species, apparently at least a rare fall migrant in the Panhandle.

Blackburnian Warbler: Only the 5th Panhandle record was an immature male seen in southwestern Sheridan Co on 7 September (SJD). Only 4 others were reported, all in the Missouri Valley: the earliest was record early at Bellevue on 13 August (BP, LP); one was at FF on 22 August (JS); another was there on 11 September (CNK); and the last one was seen at Bellevue Cem on 17 September (BP, LP).

Yellow-throated Warbler: The only report was of 2 at Krimlofski Tract, Neale Woods, 13 September (JS, WRS). Few are seen after August.

Pine Warbler: Amazing was the presence of an adult male (singing, no less!) in pines at Oliver Res between 29 August and 13 October (SJD, m.ob.). This is the 1st Panhandle fall report of about 25 in all for the state. Another was reported without details at Fort Atkinson, Washington Co, on 7 September (JRH). Reports of this species in NE are generally poorly-documented; indeed, there are no acceptably-documented spring records.

Prairie Warbler: A major find was the first documented record of the (now) 3 fall reports for the state: an immature male spotted at Gering Cem on 6 September (SJD). There is only a single fall record for the eastern Colorado plains (Andrews and Righter).

Palm Warbler: Only a casual fall migrant anywhere in the state, with about 20 reports prior to this fall, there were a surprising 4 reports. One was seen in Cass Co on 15 September (GW); 2 were at BOL on 20 September (JS); one was there on 11 October (LE); and another appeared in northern Lancaster Co on 17 October (LE). The latter reports were the 5th- and 3rd-latest ever.

Bay-breasted Warbler: The earliest of the 8 birds reported were 2 at FF on 5 September (JS), and the last 3 were at Krimlofski Tract, Neale Woods, on 13

September (JS, WRS). The latter number also marks the best count.

Blackpoll Warbler: Generally less numerous than Bay-breasted in fall, this fall proved no exception, with only 4 reported; but surprisingly, 2 of these came from the Panhandle, only the 8th and 9th there. One of these was at CLNWR on 7 September (SJD) and the other at Oliver Res on 24 September (SJD). The only eastern report was of 2 at ADF on 20 September (CF, LF).

Cerulean Warbler: None reported.

Black-and-white Warbler: The earliest report for this statewide migrant was in Cass Co on 18 August (GW). The best count was a record 14 at Krimlofski Tract, Neale Woods, on 13 September (JS, WRS); and the latest report was a single spotted at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, on 16 September (BP, LP).

American Redstart: All reports appeared to be of migrants, as the earliest was in Cass Co on 1 September (GW). The best count was 12+ at Krimlofski Tract, Neale Woods, on 13 September (JS, WRS), and last count was of one rather late at ADF on 27 September (CF, LF).

Ovenbird: The latest was one reported at Basswood Ridge on 12 September (BFH).

Northern Waterthrush: Two arrived very early: the one at Crystal Cove L on 7 August (BFH) tied the earliest ever, and the other, at Bellevue on 8 August (RG), was the 3rd-earliest. Few were reported, however; the latest was one at FF on 12 September (JS).

Louisiana Waterthrush: None reported.

Kentucky Warbler: None reported.

Connecticut Warbler: None reported.

Mourning Warbler: Unexpected was the first Panhandle fall record, a male north of I-80, Exit 1 in Kimball Co on 29 August; it was compared to an adjacent MacGillivray's Warbler (SJD, BP, LP). Tying the 2nd-earliest ever was an immature seen at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, on 22 August (WRS). Only 2 others were reported in the east: an immature male was spotted at Crystal Cove L on 1 September (BFH), and a single was seen in southwestern Dixon Co on 25 and 27 September (JJ).

MacGillivray's Warbler: Eight birds were reported, all in the Panhandle.

The earliest were 5 at Oliver Res (SJD) and one north of I-80, Exit 1 on 29 August (SJD, BP, LP); another was seen at Oliver Res on 6 September (SJD), and the last reported was a single at CLNWR on 7 September (SJD).

Common Yellowthroat: The last reported were 2 at Oliver Res on 13 October (SJD), and the best count was 9 at Arbor L on 3 October (LE).

Wilson's Warbler: The earliest were 3 reported at FF on 22 August (JS). The best count was 14 at Oliver Res on 24 September (SJD), and the last report was of a male north of I-80, Exit 1 on 18 October (SJD).

Canada Warbler: Only a rare migrant, there were an excellent 6 birds reported, all in the Missouri Valley. The earliest was at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, on 22 August (WRS), and the last was seen at FF on 12 September (JS).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Only 3 were reported, all in the Panhandle. The last reported was one at Gering Cem on 19 September (SJD).

Summer Tanager: There are few fall reports, most from Schramm SP, the only known breeding location. An immature was there on 20 August (JS). Away from Schramm SP, there are only 3 reports ever; thus the one singing at Camp Brewster, Sarpy Co, on 15 September (BP, LP) was very unusual.

Scarlet Tanager: The last reported was a female at Camp Brewster, Sarpy Co, on 15 September (BP, LP).

Western Tanager: The last reported were 2 at Scotts Bluff NM on 27 September. (SJD).

Green-tailed Towhee: Only the 8th fall record ever, one was identified north of I-80, Exit 1 on 19 September (SJD). The previous 7 records came in the period from 6 September to 16 October.

Spotted Towhee: The best counts were amazing: 60 were near Gibbon on 10 October (LR, RH), and 40 were reported in northern Lancaster Co on 17 October (LE), indicative of peak movement. The first reported in southeastern NE away from the breeding range were the 2 at BOL on 3 October (LE).

Eastern Towhee: The latest count was one at FF on 25 October (BP, LP).

American Tree Sparrow: The earliest reported was one near Gibbon on 11 October (LR, RH), and the best count was an amazing 1000 in southern Kearney Co on 28 November (LR, RH).

Chipping Sparrow: Summering birds are least numerous in southcentral and southwestern NE; thus of interest are reports from the Gibbon area of summering birds (LR, RH). Migrants appear in late August, and so the one seen at Alma on 20 August (GH, WH) may have been an early migrant rather than a summering bird. The latest reported was one near Gibbon on 25 October (LR, RH). No large counts were reported.

Clay-colored Sparrow: The earliest report was one at L Minatare on 28 August (SJD, BP, LP). The best count was 100 at CLNWR on 30 August (JT), and the latest report was of one in southwestern Dixon Co on 25 October (JJ).

Brewer's Sparrow: Excellent counts were 42 in southwestern Kimball Co on 29 August (SJD) and 38 in western Banner Co on 6 September (SJD). Last reported were 6 in southwestern Kimball Co on 24 September (SJD).

Field Sparrow: In the west, and one of only about 20 fall records for the Panhandle, were 2 spotted in southwestern Sheridan Co on 30 September (LR). The last reported were 3 at ADF on 29 October (LF, CF).

Vesper Sparrow: Amazing were the 542 counted along 14 miles of gravel road in southwestern Kimball Co on 24 September; 272 were in the same area on 27 September (SJD). The last reported were 4 near Lowell on 25 October (LR, RH) and 2 in southeastern Cuming Co the same day (LE).

Lark Sparrow: The last reported was one near Homer on 13 September (JJ). There were few reports.

Lark Bunting: Rather far east was a female seen at FL on 4 August (GH, WH). The best count was 200 at CLNWR on 30 August (JT). And the last reported was an immature male spotted in southwestern Kimball Co on 2 October (SJD).

Savannah Sparrow: The earliest reported was one in northern Lancaster Co on 5 September (LE). The best count was 110 near Lowell on 25 October (LR, RH), and the last one was at ADF on 11 November (LF, CF).

Grasshopper Sparrow: The last reported was one at NE National Forest, Thomas Co, on 16 October (fide LR, RH), a rather late date.

Le Conte's Sparrow: Numbers were high this fall, with several good counts: 40 were at Jack Sinn Marsh on 27 October (BP, LP), also the latest date; 20-30 were in southwestern Dixon Co on 25 October (JJ); 24 were north of Ames on 3 October (DP, JP, JS; WRS); and 22 were reported at the Ornithological Gardens in Clay Co on 11 October (JGJ). The earliest count was 3 at Jack Sinn Marsh on 21

September (JS) and one at BOL the same day (JS). Migrants are mostly reported from the Missouri Valley; this year, however, one was spotted as far west as Rowe Sanctuary on 25 October (CNK), and several reports came from the RWB.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Although a rare migrant, there were 7 reports involving about 9 birds, all in the east. The earliest report was of one at Jack Sinn Marsh on 21 September (JS). The best count was 3 at Cracker Barrel Marsh, Lincoln, on 25 September (KP), and latest report was rather late at Arbor L on 23 October (LE).

Fox Sparrow: There were many reports west to Cherry Co on 16 October (fide LR, RH) and to Gibbon on 24 October (LR, RH). The earliest report was of one at Niobrara on 3 October (MB). The best count was an excellent 32 at Boyer Chute NWR on 8 October (JS). Stragglers are often reported into December, and one was seen at FF on 27 November (B).

Song Sparrow: An excellent count of presumed summering birds was 35 at FL on 2 August (LR, RH). The best count, indicative of peak movement, was 40 in Buffalo Co on 25 October (LR, RH). Many remain into December. Reports from the Panhandle are few, even during migration; one sparrow was reported south of Gering on 3 October (AK), and as many as 10 were seen at CLNWR on 30 August (JT); and one was at Smith L the same day (JT). The song sparrow is not known to breed at the latter locations.

Lincoln's Sparrow: The earliest reported were singles in southwestern Kimball Co and north of I-80, Exit 1 on 6 September (SJD) and another single in southwestern Dixon Co the same day (JJ). The best count was 75 in southwestern Dixon Co on 27 September (JJ). And the last reported were 2 in Bellevue on 26 November (BP, LP), a rather late date.

Swamp Sparrow: The two birds seen at a marsh in southwestern Dixon Co on 1 August (JJ) suggest breeding, which can be expected at cattail marshes in northern NE. There are few breeding locations known in southern NE; FL is one, and 1 to 2 birds were present between 10 and 15 August (LR, RH). The first migrants reported were an immature at Oliver Res on 27 September (SJD) and a single bird in Cass Co on 28 September (GW). Swamp Sparrows often linger into December; 4 were spotted at FF on 27 November (B) and one was seen at L Ogallala the same day (JS).

White-throated Sparrow: The earliest reported were 2 at Boyer Chute NWR on 20 September (JS). The best count was 32 at FF on 11 October (JS). A tan-striped individual was seen near Gibbon on 11 October (LR, RH); this form and intermediates with the more familiar white-striped morph occur randomly throughout the species' range.

Harris' Sparrow: The first to appear were 2 in southwestern Dixon Co on 27 September (JJ). The best counts were 100 at Niobrara on 3 October (MB) and 95 in southeastern Cuming Co on 25 October (LE). Most reports are from the eastern and central parts of the state; westernmost reports were of one at L Ogallala on 18 October (SJD) and 11 at Sutherland Res on 7 November (SJD).

White-crowned Sparrow: There are 2 field-identifiable groups which occur in NE: the eastern, black-lored group, subspecies *leucophrys*, and the western, pale- (actually greyish)-lored group, subspecies *gambelii*. Some authorities consider Rocky Mountain black-lored birds, subspecies *oriantha*, separate from eastern black-lored birds, subspecies *leucophrys*; interestingly, their breeding ranges do not overlap. It is generally thought that *oriantha* and *leucophrys* are not separable in the field (Rising 1995: "The Sparrows of the United States and Canada" Dunn et

al 1995: Birding 27:182). However *orianta* would be expected to migrate through the Panhandle and *leucophrys* through the eastern half of NE with little or no overlap (*gambelii*, the pale-lored form, occurs in migration statewide). In midwinter, few White-crowned Sparrows remain in NE--most are reported from the Platte Valley southward and in the east. In the east, wintering White-crowns are a mix of *gambelii* and *leucophrys*, but further west most are *gambelii* (Dunn et al 1995). The only observer mentioning subspecies was Ruth Green, who indicated that White-crowns banded by her at NE National Forest, Thomas Co, between 8 and 10 October included the 3 forms *gambelii*, *orianta*, and *leucophrys*. At that location and date, all 3 might indeed occur, although *orianta* should be by far the rarest, based on its breeding and wintering ranges (Dunn et al 1995) and the assumption that it could be identified, even in hand. *Oriantha* and *leucophrys* differ in degree only (Rising 1995): *orianta* has a darker bill and greyer underparts, and so birds appearing to have these features may well indeed be *orianta*; but where one draws the line seems certainly problematic. Back to the bulk of the reports: the earliest in the west was one in Long Canyon, Banner Co, on 6 September (SJD), while in the east, the first reported were 3 in southwestern Dixon Co on 27 September (JJ). This difference is intriguing, as *orianta* is said to be a later spring and earlier fall migrant than *gambelii* (and *leucophrys*?). The best count was 50 at Johnson L on 10 October (LR, RH). None was reported after 31 October, when one was seen near Gibbon (LR, RH).

Dark-eyed Junco: Despite some 45 previous NE reports, only the 5th documented sighting of "Gray-headed" Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*) was recorded at Scotts Bluff NM on 12 September (SJD). This is a rather early date, although the only other documented fall record for NE was on 2 October, 1977. Many Dark-eyed ("Pink-sided") Juncos can appear grey-headed and reddish-backed, but "pure" *caniceps* have no trace of pinkish coloration on their flanks. G.M. Sutton collected several juncos which appeared to be *caniceps* in Oklahoma, but none proved to be *caniceps* when examined in the hand (Sutton 1975: NBR 43:66). The earliest "Slate-colored" Junco was spotted near Gibbon on 24 September (LR, RH); a report from southern Sioux Co on 16 September (HKH) did not specify form, and may have been "White-winged" Junco. The earliest "Oregon" Juncos in the east were reported at Wolf L on 31 October (TH). The best count (form unspecified) was 100 at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, on 31 October (LE).

McCown's Longspur: Clearly indicative of peak movement was the amazing count of 1230 in southwestern Kimball Co on 13 October (SJD). There were no later reports.

Lapland Longspur: The earliest report was of a large flock of 1000 northwest of Wakefield on 11 November (JJ). Another good count was 500 seen at Jensen Lagoon on 28 November (LR, RH).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: An excellent count of migrants was 753 in southwestern Kimball Co on 13 October (SJD), indicating peak movement. The earliest migrant was one spotted at Oliver Res on 19 September (SJD). Migrants totalling 53 were noted in Scotts Bluff Co on 27 September (SJD). If correct, the undocumented report of 2 near I-80, Exit 1 on 29 November (B) would establish a very late date.

Snow Bunting: The only report was of 3 at Pawnee L on 7 November (JS).

Northern Cardinal: Routine reports.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Most departed by 20 September, when one was reported at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln (LE), but an immature lingered near Gibbon until 11 October (LR, RH), a rather late date. An interesting mix of grosbeaks frequents the Gibbon area; both Rose-breasted and Black-headed summer there, along with intermediates (LR, RH). One of 2 birds in the observers' yard on 29 August had reddish axillars and a yellowish breast, while the other appeared to be a "pure" Rose-breasted (LR, RH).

Black-headed Grosbeak: The last reported was one at Alma on 27 September (GH, WH), a rather late date. Alma is located at about the eastern edge of the breeding range in the Republican Valley.

Blue Grosbeak: The last recorded were 3 in southwestern Dixon Co on 16 September (JJ). A territorial family group of 2 adults feeding 3 young was seen at Bushnell Cem on 29 August (SJD).

Lazuli Bunting: The only report was of the 5th latest ever, an immature male at L Ogallala on 3 October (SJD). A specimen at the Hastings Municipal Museum, collected on 13 October, 1916, is the latest on record.

Indigo Bunting: The latest was a male seen at Niobrara on 3 October (MB), a rather late date. An immature was in the observer's yard on 27 September, also a rather late date, and may be the same individual still present there at the time of this writing, 25 December (JJ).

Dickcissel: The best count was 29 in southwestern Dixon Co on 1 August (JJ), probably summering birds. The latest reported was an immature seen near Gibbon on 13 September (LR, RH).

Bobolink: Most depart by the end of August; there are usually few fall reports, as was the case this year. The 12 seen in Lancaster Co on 24 August (B) and the 10 counted at Wagontrain L on 29 August (LE) were the only ones reported.

Red-winged Blackbird: The best count was 4000, at both FL on 8 August (LR, RH) and Rowe Sanctuary on 24 October (LR, RH).

Eastern Meadowlark: The last identified Eastern Meadowlark was one singing in northern Lancaster Co on 28 November (LE). This is a record late date for an Eastern Meadowlark; the latest specimen for NE is 18 November, 1931, from Lancaster Co. While a few probably winter in extreme southeastern NE, there are no documented midwinter records.

Western Meadowlark: The best count was an excellent 2000 at CLNWR on 30 August (JT), presumably summering birds. The count of 300 near Gibbon on 25 October (LR, RH) seems indicative of fall movement.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: The best count was 3000 at CLNWR on 30 August (JT), presumably summering birds. A few linger rather late; for instance, 4 were reported at FL on 22 November (LR, RH) and 2 were seen at CCM on 29 November (JS).

Rusty Blackbird: The earliest reported was one in southwestern Dixon Co on 25 October (JJ), and best count was 40 northwest of Ames on 17 November (DP, JP), although "large numbers" were noted in Seward Co after the very strong winds of 10 November (JG). As expected, the reports all came from central and eastern NE. Lingering into December is not uncommon.

Brewer's Blackbird: The earliest reported away from the breeding range were the 20 seen at Theesen Lagoon on 25 October (JGJ) and at least one at Rowe Sanctuary the same day (CNK). "Large numbers" were noted in Seward Co after

very strong winds on 10 November (JG). Rare in eastern NE, one was spotted at Conestoga L on 20 November (BP, LP); overwintering is rare for this species.

Common Grackle: The best count was 500 at both Scottsbluff on 1 October (AK) and southwest of Roca on 14 November (LE).

Great-tailed Grackle: An excellent count at a summering location was the 344 at a roost at FL on 19 August (SJD). Flocks form in early August, and some movement begins then. A flock of 115 in Otoe Co on 21 August (LE) and another of 36 near Offutt Air Base, Sarpy Co, on 22 August (BP, LP) may have been on the move. As many as 125 were noted at Offutt Air Base L on 3 November, and 57 were still there on 13 November (BP, LP). In recent years, a few have been noted into December. A single male was still at Kiowa Springs on 21 November (SJD), where a small breeding colony was established in 1998.

Brown-headed Cowbird: The best count was 2000 in Phelps Co on 20 September (LR, RH); 1038 were reported in southeastern Cuming Co on 25 October (LE). The latest reported were 12 at FL on 28 November (LR, RH); this species does not normally linger into December in any numbers, except in the southeast.

Orchard Oriole: The last seen was one near Alda on 6 September (DH). Few were reported.

Baltimore Oriole: Near the western edge of the summer range, a male appeared at Smith L, Sheridan Co, on 30 August (JT). The last reported were 2 at FL on 13 September (LR, RH).

Bullock's Oriole: The only report was of one at the eastern edge of the breeding range at CCM on 30 August (JT).

Gray-crowned Rosy-finch: A flock of 55 had returned to the cliff roosting site north of Henry on 21 November; 200+ were reported there between 27 and 28 November (SJD, JS). These birds roost in holes in the cliffs as well as in Cliff Swallow nests and are not visible after about 2:30 pm.

Purple Finch: Surprisingly, none had been reported by the end of the period.

Cassin's Finch: The only report was of one at Wildcat Hills NC on 25 September (fide AK); no details were provided. This would be a very early fall arrival date.

House Finch: Feeder watchers in the Scottsbluff area thought that numbers were much reduced from previous years (fide AK). The best count was 75 recorded at Wyuka Cem, Lincoln, on 20 September (LE).

Red Crossbill: A few birds appeared early at locations far removed from the breeding range: 1-3 were seen at Alma between 4 August and 6 October (GH, WH), and 5-10 appeared in Kearney from 23 September to 29 October (LR, RH). "Several" were seen near Halsey between 8 and 16 October (RG, fide LR, RH), and one was reported at L Ogallala on 18 October (SJD). "Hundreds" were also reported in canyons north of Harrison on 28 November (JS).

White-winged Crossbill: The only report came from west of Scottsbluff on 27 September (fide AK); no details were provided. This would be a very early fall date.

Common Redpoll: None reported.

Pine Siskin: Over the years there have been many isolated breeding records, mostly early, in April to May, with the birds departing by the end of June. Fall arrival generally occurs in September, but the many July through August records may be of birds that bred in or near NE. Likely to be such birds were 3 at an

Elmwood feeder on 4 August (GW). Possibly also fitting this pattern, but more likely fall arrivals, were singles spotted at FL on 30 August (LR, RH) and Republican City the same day (LR, RH). Siskins were widespread after mid-September in the Panhandle (SJD); 143 were seen at Oliver Res on 30 November (SJD). However, except for the Elmwood birds mentioned above, none appeared in the east until 25 October, when one was spotted in southwestern Dixon Co (JJ).

American Goldfinch: The best count was 200 at CLNWR on 30 August (JT).

Evening Grosbeak: A rather early bird was banded on 8 October at NE National Forest, Thomas Co (RG). Early arrival dates in the west and central are at the end of September. No others were noted until the end of the period: one was spotted at Scotts Bluff NM on 27 November (SJD), and 20 were in Sowbelly Canyon on 28 November (JS).

House Sparrow: A good count at a location not normally thought of as House Sparrow habitat was 80 recorded at CLNWR on 30 August (JT).