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1987 Nebraska Nesting Survey

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Outdoor Education/Recreation, Parks and Recreation Department

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1987 NEBRASKA NESTING SURVEY

Compiled by Dr. Eather V. Bennett

Data on the 1987 nesting season in Nebraska were received from 32 observers and three organizations, reporting on 72 species from 46 counties. Counties on the tabulation are listed in a west to east order, with the northernmost of the approximately equal locations given first. Numbers represent Nest Record Cards; A (for aliment) represents carrying food; C represents colony for which no nest numbers were reported (but 15 individuals were reported); F represents feeding young; N represents nests observed for which no Nest Record Card was submitted; P represents brood patch; X represents a nest built and occupied for a period of time in an incubating mode, but in which no eggs were laid (*NBR* 56:16); and Y represents young observed. Underlined numbers represent nests reported on Colonial Register Forms. GPC in the following paragraph represents Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; WAS represents Wachiska Audubon Society; and WRT represents Wildlife Rescue Team.

Twelve species were reported on 119 North American Nest Record Cards; three species were reported on Colonial Bird Register Forms; and 57 species were reported without cards, for a total of 72 species. The counties, with column numbers in the tabulation shown in parentheses, and the contributors are: Box Butte (5) GPC; Boyd (24) GPC; Butler (38) GPC; Cass (46) GPC; Cedar (36) D. A. Stage; Chase (9) Iola Pennington; Cherry (7) Naomi Brill, R. G. Cortelyou, Jack Shafer, Lona Shafer; Colfax (37) GPC; Dakota (42) Bill Huser, Jerry Probst, Randall Williams; Dawes (4) GPC, Ruth Green; Dawson (19) GPC; Dodge (39) GPC; Douglas (44) Charles Burnett, R. G. Cortelyou, Ellen Davidson, R. F. Ferguson, Alice Rushton, Joan Timmermans, Ione Werthman; Dundy (10) GPC; Frontier (16) GPC; Furnas (21) GPC; Garden (6) Royce R. Huber, Brad McKinney; Gosper (20) GPC; Hall (28) Bill Lemburg; Hamilton (31) Norris Alfred; Harlan (23) GPC; Hayes (13) GPC; Hitchcock (14) GPC; Holt (25) GPC; Howard (27) Bill Lemburg; Kearney (26) Harold Turner; Keya Paha (18) GPC; Keith (8) GPC; Kimball (3) GPC; Knox (32) Lona Schreier; Lancaster (41) GPC, Thomas Labeledz, WAS, WRT; Lincoln (12) GPC, Howard Wyman, Wilma Wyman; McPherson (11) Oona Bassett; Merrick (30) GPC; Nance (29) GPC; Platte (33) GPC; Polk (34) Norris Alfred; Red Willow (17) GPC; Rock (22) GPC; Sarpy (45) R. G. Cortelyou, Ruth Green, Rick Wright; Saunders (40) GPC, Marian Madigan; Scotts Bluff (2) Alice Kenitz; Sioux (1) GPC, Ruth Green, Diana Tomback; Thomas (15) Wm. C. Garthright; Washington (43) George E. Gage; York (35) Norris Alfred.

Game and Parks Commission employees and aides contributed Colonial Bird Register information and 86 Nest Record Cards. These individuals are: John J. Dinan, Michael Dwyer, Joe Gubanyi, Eileen Kirsch, Bob Linderholm, and Greg A. Wingfield. Thirty-two Nest Record Cards were contributed by D. A. Stage.

--- text continued on page 38

| Rock | Harlan | Boyd | Holt | Kearney | Howard | Hall | Nance | Merrick | Hamilton | Knox | Platte | Polk | York | Cedar | Colfax | Butler | Dodge | Saunders | Lancaster | Dakota | Washington | Douglas | Sarpy | Cass | Total Cards |
|------|--------|------|------|---------|--------|------|-------|---------|----------|------|--------|------|------|-------|--------|--------|-------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|---------|-------|------|-------------|
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | C | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 71 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | X | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | N | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 30 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | NY | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 | 25 | 25 | - | - | - | Y | 10 | - | 7 | 5 | - | - | - | 8 | 6 | 8 | 25 | - | - | - | 4 | 4 | 18 | 154 | |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | NY | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| - | 28 | 24 | - | - | - | - | 28 | 17 | - | 17 | 42 | - | Y | - | 37 | 17 | 38 | 60 | - | - | - | 26 | 28 | 39 | 412 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | N | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 53 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | N | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | P | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | NY | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | NY | NY | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | NY | - | - | - | N | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | N | - | N | - | - | - | - | - | N | 26 | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | 26 |

| | Sioux | Scotts Bluff | Kimball | Dawes | Box Butte | Garden | Cherry | Keith | Chase | Dundy | McPherson | Lincoln | Hayes | Hitchcock | Thomas | Frontier | Red Willow | Keya Paha | Dawson | Gosper | Furnas | |
|-------------------|-------|--------------|---------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|--------|----------|------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | |
| Blue Jay | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Clark's Nutc. | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| American Crow | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bl-cap. Chick. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carolina Wren | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| House Wren | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| E. Bluebird | - | N | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| American Robin | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Brown Thrasher | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | N | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cedar Waxwing | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Europ. Starling | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Prothonotary Wrb. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| No. Cardinal | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dickcissel | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Vesper Sp. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Red-wing. Blkb. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Common Grackle | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Br-headed Cowb. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Orchard Oriole | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | N | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Northern Oriole | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Red Crossbill | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pine Siskin | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Am Goldfinch | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| House Sparrow | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nest Cards | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Individuals | 14 | - | 4 | 2 | 8 | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | 14 | 8 | 17 | - | 2 | 5 | - | - | 3 | 2 | |
| Species | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | |
| Colonial Cards | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Individuals | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 67 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 5 | - | - | |
| Species | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | |
| No Nest Cards | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 3 | 3 | - | 1 | - | 3 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Total Species | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |

The following 33 Nebraska species which were reported in 1987 were not reported in the 1986 Nesting Survey (NER 55:30): White-faced Ibis, Trumpeter Swan, Snow Goose, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, American Kestrel, Wild Turkey, Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Franklin's Gull, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Clark's Nutcracker, American Crow, Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Dickcissel, Vesper Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

Twenty-eight species reported in the 1986 survey were not reported in 1987: Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Harrier, Golden Eagle, Killdeer, American Avocet, Common Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Lewis' Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Cassin's Kingbird, Bank Swallow, Black-billed Magpie, Mountain Bluebird, Solitary Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Blue Grosbeak, Chipping Sparrow, McCown's

| Rock | Harlan | Boyd | Holt | Kearney | Howard | Hall | Nance | Merrick | Hamilton | Knox | Platte | Polk | York | Cedar | Colfax | Butler | Dodge | Saunders | Lancaster | Dakota | Washington | Douglas | Sarpy | Cass | Total Cards |
|------|--------|------|------|---------|--------|------|-------|---------|----------|------|--------|------|------|-------|--------|--------|-------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|---------|-------|------|-------------|
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | NY | - | - | 1 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | NY | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | NY | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | N | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | NY | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | Y | - | N | N | - | - | 1 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | N | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | P | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 32 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 119 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 12 |
| 1 | C | 56 | 49 | - | - | - | 38 | 22 | - | 24 | 47 | - | - | 45 | 23 | 46 | 85 | - | - | - | 30 | 32 | 57 | 637 | |
| 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | |
| - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 10 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | 4 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 28 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | - | 57 |
| 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 29 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 72 | |

Longspur, and Western Meadowlark.

Anyone who sees evidence of nesting, young, or adult birds carrying nesting material, food, or fecal sacs, can submit the information without the use of a special form. The information should be easily separated by species and county. This information will be included in the Nebraska Nesting Survey by letters rather than by numbers.

Anyone who has found, or expects to find, an active nest is invited to request Nest Record Cards to use in reporting the nest. Each nest requires a separate card, except for colonial nesting species, which require either a separate card for each visit to the site or the use of the Colonial Bird Register forms.

Send your Nest Record Card requests and completed cards to Dr. Esther V. Bennett, 1641 Devoe Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68506.

(NOU is one of four organizations listed by *Birdscope* (2:1) as having contributed continuously to the nest record program since its start in 1965. Approximately 300,000 cards have been accumulated by the program. The four organizations, and the number of cards contributed, are: Brooks Bird Club (W. Va.) 11,525;

Detroit & Oakland Audubon Societies (Mich) 9,961; Kentucky Ornithological Society 3,766; NOU 8,940. The 1967 Nebraska Nesting Survey (*NBR* 36:35) was compiled by Dr. Bennet, as have the subsequent ones, and she has been the Nebraska contact for the Nest Card program during that period. --- *Ed.*)