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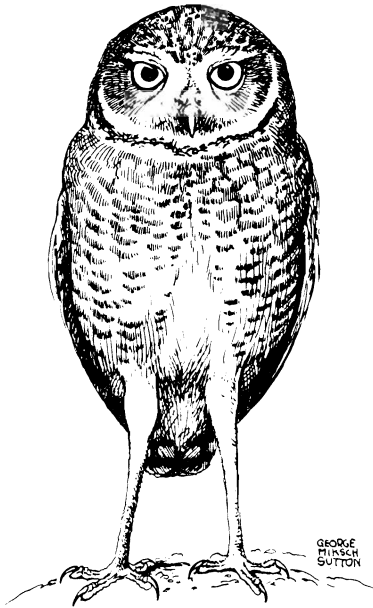
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1973 TREASURER'S REPORT

		Cash	Invest- ments	Accounts Payable	Current Account	Total Assets
Balance 1 January 1973		455.32	2,850.46	221.00		3,084.78
RECEIPTS						
Member- ships	97 Active	\$4	388.00			
	13 Sustaining	6	78.00			
	25 Family Active	6	150.00			
	5 Family Sustain.	8	40.00			
	11 Student	2	22.00		678.00	
Subscrip- tions	22 Direct	4.00	88.00			
	22 Agency	3.50	77.00			
	4 Foreign Agen.	3.75	15.00		180.00	
Miscel- laneous	Field Cards		15.53			
	Revised Check-lists		22.50			
	Supplement to Check-list		.40			
	Review copies		3.00			
	Birds of Black Hills		2.00			
	Birds of Dakota Co.		1.00			
	Loan of color slides		7.00			
	Decals		2.50			
	Interest earned			154.24	208.17	
	Total receipts	911.93	154.24		1,066.17	
EXPENSES						
Review	Printing	699.51		210.13		
	Postage (incl. Newsltr)	60.00			969.64	
Officers' expen- ditures	R. G. Cortelyou	67.17				
	Mrs. Sigvald Jensen	17.75				
	Mrs. Clyde Johnson (Newsletters)	96.42			181.34	
Miscel- laneous	Daily Field Cards (10M)	169.13				
	Occurrence Report forms	56.93				
	Fidelity bond	10.00				
	Corporation fee '73-'74	10.00				
	Membership in QEC	35.00				
	Bank service charges	13.03			294.09	
	Total expenses	1,234.94		210.13	1,445.07	
	Loss for year					(378.90)
	Investments to cash	648.80	(648.80)			
	1972 Accs. Pay. paid	(221.00)		(221.00)		
Total 31 December 1973		560.11	2,355.90	210.13		2,705.88

1973 NEBRASKA NESTING SURVEY

Compiled by Dr. Esther V. Bennett

Data on the 1973 nesting season in Nebraska were received from thirty-four observers, reporting on ninety-one species from thirty-one counties. Counties in the tabulation are listed in a west to east order, with the northernmost of approximately equal locations given first. Numbers represent Nest Record Cards; letters are from NOU Nesting Report forms: Y represents young observed; E represents Cowbird eggs found in other nests; F represents carrying food; M represents carrying nesting material; and N represents nests observed for which no Nest Record Card was submitted. Sixty-nine Nebraska species were reported on 493 North American Nest Record Cards; in addition, out-of-state nests were reported on five cards. The counties (with the column numbers used in the tabulation shown in parentheses) and the contributors were: Adams (18) E. M. Helzer, E. R. Ritchey; Box Butte (3), R. C. Rosche; Cedar (24), Ross Lock; Cherry (7), R. C. Rosche; Cheyenne (4), Ross Lock; Dawes (2), Ross Lock, R. C. Rosche; Douglas (29), R. G. Cortelyou; Dundy (9), Ross Lock, George Nason; Gage (28), Jim M. Nissen; Garden (6), R. C. Rosche; Grant (8), Bob Craig, R. C. Rosche; Greeley (15), Brian C. Moody, Douglas C. Moody; Hall (17), Bill Schleicher, C. W. Shafer; Hamilton (21) Lee Morris; Hitchcock (12), Ross Lock; Howard (16), Bill Schleicher; Lancaster (27), Bryce Anderson, Roseann Anderson, Esther V. Bennett, Sue L. Blackman, Jim Commers, Roger DiSilvestro, Shirley L. Doole, L. H. Heckman, M. M. Hildebrand, Harold Koch, Carol J. Meyers, Don C. Pitcher, Albert Tenhulzen, Carol Thompson, Gig A. Tollefsen; Lincoln (11), Mrs. M. A. Cox, Margaret M. Morton, George Nason; McPherson (10), Oona S. Bassett; Merrick (20), Charles E. Hoger; Nance (19), Charles E. Hoger; Pawnee (31), Jim M. Nissen; Platte (22), Jim M. Nissen; Rock (13), Karl Menzel; Sarpy (36), R. G. Cortelyou; Saunders (26), Carol Thompson; Seward (25) Jim M. Nissen; Sheridan (5), Bob Craig, R. C. Rosche; Sherman (14), Bill Schleicher; Sioux (1), R. C. Rosche; York (23), W. L. Moore, Lee Morris.

Contributors of at least fifteen Nebraska Nest Record Cards included: Roseann Anderson (29), Oona S. Bassett (15), Esther V. Bennett (48); Jim Commers (33), Charles E. Hoger (26), Brian C. Moody (75), Douglas C. Moody (76), C. W. Shafer (36), and Bill Schleicher (27).

The following twenty-four Nebraska species which were reported in 1973 were not reported in the 1972 Nebraska Nesting Survey (*NBR* 41:3): Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, Pintail, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, Long-eared Owl, American Coot, Spotted Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo, Short-eared Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Tufted Titmouse, Swainson's Thrush, Warbling Vireo, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Twelve species reported in the 1972 survey were not reported in 1973: Prairie Falcon, Barn Owl, Eastern Phoebe, Cliff Swallow, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Bell's Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Brewer's Sparrow.

—Text continued on page 10

	Sloux	Daves	Box Butte	Cheyenne	Sheridan	Garden	Cherry	Grant	Dundy	Mohrson	Lincoln	Hitchcock	Rock	Sherman	Grealey	Howard	Hall	Adams	Nance	Merrick	Hamilton	Platte	York	Cedar	Seward	Saunders	Lancaster	Gage	Douglas	Sarpy	Pamnee	Total	Cards
House Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	4	-	N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
Bobolink	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	3,E	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	1,E	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-	9,F	-	4	-	12,E	-	-	-	-	-	2,E	12,E	-	-	-	F	-	39	-
Orchard Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,F	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	-	
Northern Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	7	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	15	-	
Common Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	35,F	-	2,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	44	-	
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Scarlet Tanager	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	
Cardinal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Indigo Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,E	-	-	-	-	2	-	

R. C. Rosche located a Swainson's Thrush nest, the first recorded for Nebraska, on 12 August southeast of Crawford in Dawes County. More details are given in a separate article.

Great Blue Heron Nests were reported from Lincoln and Sheridan counties. W. A. Schleicher reported that a river-clearing project destroyed a nesting area in Hall County, but the birds appeared to be re-locating at a slough on Kempster's Ranch (Howard County). Margaret Morton, North Platte, observed over fifty nests with approximately 110 adults through arrival 5 February and departure 15 August, with an estimate of three young per nest. R. C. Rosche located four nests about thirty miles south of Rushville, Route 250. Concerning Rosche's report, Ross Lock (pers. comm.) stated this was a substantial decrease over past years.

R. C. Rosche reported observing in Sheridan County twenty-four active nests of Eared Grebes from 26 July to 1 August, and two active nests of American Avocets on 12 June. Of interest were the observations of R. C. Rosche of the following broods; five Western Grebe, five Pied-billed Grebe, nine Mallard, four Gadwall, four Pintail, ten Blue-winged Teal, three Shoveler, two Ruddy Duck, three Sharp-tailed Grouse, one Ring-necked Pheasant, twenty-nine American Coot, four Killdeer, three Long-billed Curlew, two Upland Sandpiper, one Spotted Sandpiper, two Willet, and one Wilson's Phalarope.

Only active nests should be reported on the Nest Record Cards. Information pertaining to sighting of adults with young, of birds carrying food, etc. should be submitted on a separate list with species and county information.

Anyone who has found, or expects to find, an active nest is invited to obtain cards to use in reporting. Cards, instruction sheets, and Laboratory of Ornithology Nest Survey Newsletters may be obtained from Dr. Esther V. Bennett, 600 So. 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68510. Completed cards should be returned to Dr. Bennett by 1 October 1974 for the information to be included in the annual report. If persons wish to send information after that date it will be appreciated and sent to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, but it will not be possible to include it in the state summary.

— *Park Naturalist, Lincoln*

1973 CHRISTMAS COUNT

Ninety-four species were reported in the 1973 Christmas Count from seven localities, and two other species were reported as present during the count period, but not recorded on the count itself. Probably some of the birds reported as "Meadowlark sp." were Eastern Meadowlarks, and if so the count would be one higher. The figures for the 1972 Count, on the same basis used above, were eighty-two seen and two present at seven localities. The total of 65,739 is below the 70,853 reported last year, in spite of the 10,000 unidentified blackbirds and the like reported from Omaha this year. The Mallard count at Scottsbluff was 30,000 less this year than last; the Snow Goose count was up 6,000 this year, at Omaha; Horned Larks, Starlings, House Sparrows, and Red-winged Blackbirds (excluding the "Blackbird sp.") were each up about 1,400; Tree Sparrows were up about 1,100 and Harris' Sparrows up about 600. Whitney, Kearney, and Grand Island did not report this

—*Text continued on page 14*

	Scotts- bluff	Craw- ford	Gree- ley	Hast- ings	Lin- coln	Omaha	Peru	Total
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Canada Goose	112	-	-	-	-	157	-	269
Canada x White-fronted?	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	5,910	-	5,910
Mallard	16,000	-	-	-	23	315	-	16,338
Pintail	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	6
Green-winged Teal	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
American Wigeon	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Common Goldeneye	4	-	-	-	-	15	-	19
Common Merganser	400	-	-	-	-	2	-	402
Goshawk	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Red-tailed Hawk	5	-	H	3	27	32	-	67
Swainson's Hawk	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rough-legged Hawk	5	2	-	-	1	H	-	8
Golden Eagle	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	4
Bald Eagle	4	-	-	-	-	8	-	12
Marsh Hawk	1	-	H	2	15	6	-	24
Osprey	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Merlin	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
American Kestrel	3	-	2	-	12	29	-	46
Greater Prairie Chicken	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	9
Sharp-tailed Grouse	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	H
Bobwhite	12	-	H	30	37	86	H	165
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	13	3	10	13	16	H	56
Turkey	-	H	-	-	-	-	-	H
American Coot	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
Killdeer	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2

	Scotts- bluff	Craw- ford	Gree- ley	Hast- ings	Lin- coln	Omaha	Peru	Total
Common Snipe	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Mourning Dove	7	-	1	6	120	27	H	161
Screech Owl	H	2	-	-	7	-	-	9
Great Horned Owl	-	3	H	1	7	2	H	13
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Long-eared Owl	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
Belted Kingfisher	1	1	-	1	-	2	-	5
Common Flicker	26	6	-	10	24	140	H	206
Red-bellied Woodpecker	-	-	-	2	6	63	H	71
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	27
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hairy Woodpecker	2	6	-	3	10	6	H	27
Downy Woodpecker	8	4	4	9	73	162	H	260
Horned Lark	160	58	160	3,200	738	218	-	4,534
Blue Jay	11	2	-	25	225	112	H	375
Steller's Jay	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Black-billed Magpie	42	22	6	1	-	-	-	71
Common Crow	14	55	21	137	214	265	-	706
Pinon Jay	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Black-capped Chickadee	24	42	16	56	121	356	H	615
Tufted Titmouse	-	-	-	-	5	47	H	52
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	8	-	8	21	81	H	118
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	7	-	1	7	1	-	16
Pygmy Nuthatch	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Brown Creeper	1	1	1	1	-	9	-	13
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	-	-	3	H	3
American Robin	33	11	-	34	98	41	H	217
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Eastern Bluebird	-	1	-	-	-	2	H	3

	Scotts- bluff	Craw- ford	Gree- ley	Hast- ings	Lin- coln	Omaha	Peru	Total
Townsend's Solitaire	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	8
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	2	9	13	-	24
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cedar Waxwings	-	-	-	20	266	40	H	326
Northern Shrike	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Starling	474	80	15	1,650	1,460	1,543	-	5,222
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
House Sparrow	591	132	95	2,300	3,725	1,674	H	8,517
Meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	324	463	120	H	907
Western Meadowlark	5	4	5	-	7	-	-	21
Red-winged Blackbird	-	1	-	-	159	1,317	-	1,477
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	2	-	91	-	93
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Common Grackle	H	-	-	12	73	201	-	286
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	46	48	-	94
Blackbird sp.	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
Cardinal	-	-	-	36	156	211	H	403
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Evening Grosbeak	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	12
Purple Finch	-	2	-	-	5	12	-	19
House Finch	70	4	-	-	-	-	-	74
Common Redpoll	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Pine Siskin	80	622	-	-	53	1	-	756
American Goldfinch	80	91	11	6	176	121	H	485
Red Crossbill	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	44
Rufous-sided Towhee	H	-	-	1	2	2	-	5
Dark-eyed Junco	15	87	8	90	473	951	H	1,624
Tree Sparrow	23	62	44	300	1,898	410	-	2,737
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Harris' Sparrow	H	-	-	630	382	34	H	1,046

	Scotts- bluff	Craw- ford	Gree- ley	Hast- ings	Lin- coln	Omaha	Peru	Total
White-crowned Sparrow	H	-	-	-	6	-	-	6
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Song Sparrow	-	1	7	1	9	39	-	57
Lapland Longspur	-	7	200	300	-	-	-	507
Species Reported	43	39	18	36	49	66	22	94
Present but not seen	6	1	4	-	-	1	-	2
Total individuals	18,297	1,414	608	9,215	11,193	25,012	-	65,739

year, but Crawford, Greeley, and Peru did report this year and not last year, which kept the total number of localities the same each year.

The columns are arranged in an approximate west (left) to east (right) order. The symbol "H" is used to indicate a species present during the count period but not observed on the count day, except that it is used for all entries from Peru, which did not submit actual figures.

Crawford, 22 December. A fifteen-mile diameter circle with its center at the southeast corner of the town, to include parts of the White River valley and the pine ridge at Fort Robinson State Park, Cochran State Wayside Area, Ponderosa Wildlife Management Arena, and Crow Butte. Pine forest 30%, residential 30%, open prairie 20%, riparian woodland 20%. 6:15 AM to 4:45 PM. Clear in morning, partly cloudy in afternoon; 23° to 50°; wind SE, 0 to 5 mph; 2 to 6 inches of snow cover; water partly open; wild food crop good. Two observers in 2 parties, total party-hours 15, 5 on foot, 9 by car; total party-miles 138, 5 on foot, 133 by car. Dorothy and Richard (compiler) Rosche.

The Steller's Jay first came to the Rosche's feeder on November 9. It traveled, primarily alone, within a three to four block area of their house, and could be found with little effort every day. The Eastern Bluebird had been in the area since at least November 20, subsisting mostly on the very abundant juniper berries. Purple Finches were first noticed in the area December 21, all brown-plumaged individuals. The ones seen on the count were brought closer by "squeaking". The type of breast streaking, well defined head markings, call notes, and general brown coloration ruled out Cassin's Finches, and very prominent white eye stripes, call notes, and wide breast streakings and general profile ruled out female House Finches.

Greeley, 29 December. An area from 5 miles west of Greeley to Greeley and to Pibel Lake, 15 miles north. Area includes windbreaks, open fields, and roadsides. Clear, wind calm, 10° to 20°, lake frozen, heavy cover of snow. Two observers in one party. Party-miles 44, 4 on foot, 40 by car. Douglas and Brian (compiler) Moody.

Hastings, 15 December. A fifteen-mile diameter circle with its center south of town, 1.5 miles south of Highway 6 and .5 miles east of Highway

281, to include city parks, Parkview Cemetary, Crystal Lake Recreation Grounds, field and pastures, woodlands along the Little Blue River, and lagoons west of Glenvil. Partly cloudy, wind from NW 3 to 10 mph, 8° to 20°, ponds and lagoons frozen, river open, 2 to 6 inches of snow. Twelve observers in 7 parties (plus 10 at feeders). Party-hours 21, 6 on foot and 15 by car; party-miles 193, 5 by foot and 188 by car. 8 AM to 4:30 PM. Miss Geraldine Heartwell, Mrs. Wm. Helzer, Mr. and Mrs. George Janko, Miss Helen Kucera, Burton Nelson, Mrs. O. W. Ritchey (compiler), O. W. Ritchey, Mr. and Mrs. David Rose, Miss Bernice Welch, and Mrs. Ronald Whitaker.

Kearney's count was set for 27 December, and was postponed from day to day because of the weather until school began and it was given up for lack of time.

Lincoln, 16 December. A fifteen-mile diameter circle, centered on Cod-dington and A streets. Deciduous woods 40%, coniferous woods 5%, lakes and marshes 15%, fields and pastures 30%, bushy draws 10%. 8 AM to 5 PM. Light snow in the morning, becoming partly cloudy to mostly clear in afternoon. 8° to 26°, wind calm to 10 mph SSE, one to three inches snow cover, lakes mostly frozen, creeks open. Seventeen observers in 8 parties; total party hours 69, 36 on foot, 33 by car; total party miles 465, 50 on foot, 415 by car. Bryce Anderson, Dave and Cindy Cochran, Shirley Doole, Daryl and Margaret Giblin, Everett and Mildred Gross (of Crete), Ralph Harrington (compiler), Norma Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morley, Rosalind Morris, John and Mable Ott, Ken Reitan, Hazel Scheiber.

An attempt was made to get better coverage this year by getting more people out and dividing up into smaller (and so more) groups, enabling each party to cover an assigned area more thoroughly. Each participant was provided a map which outlined each party's area so there would be no overlapping. Each area was kept within the limits of a party's ability to cover thoroughly in an eight-hour period. The results were a moderate increase over the average number of species seen, but a great increase in individuals seen. Some of the more unusual species, such as Long-eared and Barred Owls, Towhee, and White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows may not be as unusual as were thought, but rather just overlooked.

Omaha, 15. A fifteen-mile diameter circle with its center at Offutt Air Force Base Lake, to include Fontenelle Forest, Plattsmouth Game Refuge, Lake Manawa (Iowa) State Park, and portions of the Missouri and Platte Rivers. Pastureland and cultivated fields 60%, woodland 35%, water 5%. 7 AM to 5 PM. Mostly cloudy, 2 to 3 inches of fresh snow cover, water partly open, 8° to 19°, wind from N 10 to 24 mph. Forty observers in 11 parties; total party-hours 85, 36 hours on foot, 49 by car; total party-miles 414, 41 by foot, 373 by car. Rose Anderson, William Bayer, Stephen Bellinghiere, Elsie and Tanya Bray, Dan Cassidy, Hal Chase, Marjorie Clayton, Evelyn Conrad, Doris Coppersmith, William Fiske, Harold Gifford, Mary Herberg, Carr and Mike Heaney, Clyde and Emma Johnson, Teta Kain, Paul and Vance Kaminski, Carolyn Kiper, Jack and Lorraine Kiscoan, Glenn LeDioyt, Robert LoPresti, Marian Meier, Cathy Nelson, Patricia Nicol, Albert Petersen, Marie Pluta, Tony Salado, Kenneth Seger, and Melba Wigg (compiler), all of Omaha; Graham Chisholm, Ruth Green, James Malkowski, Inez Nuland, and Morris Peters of Bellevue; Janet Greer of Council Bluffs and Roger Sharpe of Pacific Junction, Iowa.

The hybrid goose was as large as a large race Canada Goose, light gray on side of face, large red bill, white face like a White-fronted Goose, reddish pink legs, and all other markings like those of a Canada Goose. Three of the Goshawks had been observed in the area for several weeks before the count day. The Hermit Thrush was seen from all sides and from within 10 feet. The contrast of the rufous tail and the olive-brown back was seen, as was the flicking of the tail. The mixed blackbird flock was seen near dusk as they came in to roost in a large swamp and marsh area that had open water. Because of the poor light and the distance from the car it was impossible to estimate the number of each species, but Rusty and Red-winged Blackbirds, Grackles, and Starlings were identified. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen from about 15 feet for about a minute. The Field Sparrow was in view for several minutes and all the field marks were seen.

Peru. Because of the cold weather and the road conditions Mrs. Mowery, Auburn, and Miss Heywood, Peru, did not make a formal count, but in a letter dated 7 January Miss Heywood listed the birds which she saw at her feeder. She lives on a farm and feeds the birds milo, whole corn, coconut, black walnuts, sunflower seeds, and suet, and has heated water available. The symbol "H" was used because no actual count was given.

Scottsbluff, 15 December. A fifteen-mile diameter circle centered on the bridge across the North Platte River at South Broadway, to include Scottsbluff and Gering. 7 AM to 4 PM. Clear, 19° to 43°, wind NW at 7.5 mph. Mrs. M. A. Banghart, Lydia E. Bolz, Mrs. J. J. Brashar, Mrs. David Hughson, Mrs. LeRoy Kenitz, James F. McCole, Roy Witschy (compiler), and two feeder watchers. The Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen roosting in a tree by a house just north of the city. The Common Grackles had been patronizing a feeder all winter, and the Rufous-sided Towhee had been at the Witschy's feeder spasmodically since November.

CANYON WREN IN NEBRASKA

For the year 1972 I neglected to send in a migration report to the Nebraska Bird Review. There were at least two birds in Dawes County that should have been reported because either they are rare or they have not been reported in the area before.

On 11 April 1972 a Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*) was seen in King's Canyon at the spot known as "The Cliffs". My class followed the bird around for probably 20 minutes, seeing it at close range a number of times. It was not singing.

On 2 March 1972 a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found in Wilson Park in Chadron. Again, students had ample opportunity to see it and learn the field marks.

Possibly of less interest but not often reported are a Solitary Sandpiper, 7 May; an Ibis, 18 May; and a Solitary Vireo, 31 May. The Vireo was in Chadron State Park.

—Doris Gates, Chadron

Miss Gates is rather modest in her presentation, for this seems to be the first published record of the Canyon Wren in Nebraska, although its range includes the eastern front of the Rockies, and goes as far east as Spearfish Canyon, South Dakota (*A.O.U. Check-List*).



A NEBRASKA SWAINSON'S THRUSH NEST

The accompanying photograph by Dorothy J. Rosche depicts the nest and two eggs belonging to a Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) that was found on August 12, 1973 along West Ash Creek about 10 miles southeast of Crawford, Dawes County, Nebraska at an elevation of about 4500 feet above sea level.

The nest was located in riparian woodland in the upper reaches of a canyon where large Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) trees towered above on the slopes. A 12-foot Common Chokeberry (*Prunus virginiana*) near a road edge held the nest in its main branches about four feet above the ground. Besides the chokeberry, other dominant vegetation included Boxelder (*Acer negundo*), Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), grape (*Vitis* sp.), and clematis (*Clematis* sp.).

On August 12 the nest contained one well advanced fledging thrush that was judged to be ready to leave the nest at that time. It was not until a subsequent visit on August 15 when the young was gone that the two cold eggs could be seen in the nest. The nest and remaining eggs were collected and can now be found in the State Museum at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

Nesting of the Swainson's Thrush in the northwestern Nebraska pine ridge has long been presumed, based primarily on Hudson's statement (1939) about having collected a female with enlarged ovaries on 17 June 1938 in Squaw Canyon, Sioux County, about 44 airline miles northwest of the West Ash Creek site. Therefore, the above photograph and described observations of an actual nest are apparently the first known for the State of Nebraska.

Literature Cited

- Hudson, G.E. 1939. Some ornithological results of a six-weeks' collecting trip along the boundaries of Nebraska. *Nebraska Bird Review*, VII:4-7
—Richard C. Rosche, 305 Elm Street, Crawford, NE 69339

ANOTHER BLACK-THROATED SPARROW IN NEBRASKA

At 4:30 p.m. 4 December 1973, just after a severe storm, a strange bird appeared on our patio in west Omaha, feeding with the Juncoes. I knew then that it was the same bird I had observed the week before at the back of our lot. At that time I had noticed only the black throat patch and thought it probably was a Harris' Sparrow, since I didn't see it clearly. But with a good view it looked like a bird we had seen near Las Vegas last May. After observing it carefully for some minutes and noting the white stripe above the eye and another below the eye, both radiating from the base of the dark bill, the black, diamond-shaped throat patch, and its size, which was smaller than the Juncoes, I consulted both Peterson and Robbins, Bruun and Zim and determined that it was indeed a Black-throated Sparrow. My husband, who had come home early because of the storm, noted through his binoculars the partial white eye ring below the eye.



The bird seemed sluggish and had difficulty in maintaining its balance. It would frequently extend one wing and drag it in order to remain upright. It remained on the patio for about half an hour, eating the fine bird seed I had thrown out there. The next three days it was there feeding every time I looked out, which was about twelve times a day. After that we saw it less frequently, but it was still coming in several times a day two weeks after it was first sighted, but it didn't stay long at a time. It was observed as early as 7:30 and as late as 5:15. After that first evening it seemed to be livelier and on 7 December, about 4 p.m., Ruth Green and I heard it singing in clear, tinkling notes. It was sitting about three feet off the ground in a forsythia bush at the time. It seemed to be tamer than the Juncoes and would remain on the patio feeding after they had startled at something and flown away. It always fed on the ground, never at the feeder.

After an article about the bird appeared in the Omaha World-Herald many people wrote or called to say they had seen such a bird. Usually, after I questioned them closely, it would appear that they had mistaken something else for it, but I believe that one lady, who lives fairly close to us, may have sighted the same bird. Many people came to see the bird, and it usually was very cooperative and appeared promptly. On 17 December Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, of Hamburg, Iowa, caught the bird in mist nets and banded

and photographed the bird (including the photograph used with this article). The bird was last seen 6 February 1974.

The first record of the Black-throated Sparrow in Nebraska apparently is that made by the Rosches, now of Crawford, on 26 June 1972 in Toadstool Park, Sioux County (*NBR* 40:72) and this seems to be the second.

—*Marian Meier, Omaha*

NOTES

WHISTLING SWAN CYGNETS IN ROCK COUNTY. On 9 November 1973 two Whistling Swan cygnets were illegally killed in Rock County. The birds were taken on a lake approximately five miles south and two and one-half miles east of Bassett. I identified the birds. According to Kortwright's *Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America* the feet of Whistler cygnets are dusky while Trumpeters are yellowish to olive. The bill on Whistler cygnets is reddish flesh color to purple with a dusky tip while the Trumpeter bill is black with a flesh-colored ridge down the middle.

—*Ken Robertson, Game Commission, Bassett*

HAWK CONCENTRATION AT VALENTINE. Bill Rhodes, Superintendent of the Valentine Fish Hatchery, phoned me on the evening of 29 September 1973 regarding a mass movement of buteos onto the Hatchery on that date. Birds started moving in about noon, and by 5:30 PM there were 1,500 to 2,500 (Bill's estimate) soaring in the hatchery vicinity. Also, about 200 Turkey Vultures were in the same area, most of which moved in on the same day. Bill also observed about 500 buteos near the Buffalo Bridge on the east end of Fort Niobrara Refuge, which birds were presumably separate from those reported above. Conservation Officer Elvin Zimmerman estimated 2,000 birds in the hatchery area as a conservative minimum.

I arrived at the Hatchery at 7:05 AM on 30 September (sunrise 7:38). There was heavy fog present and visibility was poor until after 9:00 AM. About 500 buteos were roosting immediately adjacent to the Hatchery buildings, with hundreds more across Minnechaduza Creek, and as far as about 500 yards upstream and 200 yards downstream from the buildings. Because of poor visibility and some birds moving out before 9:00 I made no attempt at a total estimate.

From a sample of 163 birds 122 (75%) were Swainson's Hawks, and 41 (25%) were Rough-legged Hawks. This may be a biased species sample, since I identified only about 20% of what I saw within reasonable distance, and did not attempt to identify the dark-phase birds or those of more questionable plumage.

Bill Rhodes advised that the majority of the hawks left at about 1:15 PM on 30 September, headed south. About 200 birds remained until after 3 PM, and then they also went south.

—*Karl Menzel, Game Commission, Bassett*

We left Valentine about noon 30 September and the fog began to lift in about half an hour. As soon as the sky was somewhat cleared the hawks began to leave. We talked about the hawks, falcons, owls, and an Osprey that we saw that day and how many there had been all that week. Jack had seen two flocks of about fifty milling over town on Saturday (29 September). We had seen Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, one or two, over

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our canyon all week. I would say that for about ten days there were many more hawks around the country than we usually have.

—*Billie Coupland, Valentine*

YELLOW RAIL. I kicked up a Yellow Rail 30 April 1973 in the wet field at the end of Calhoun Street in Bellevue. I got a very brief look at it, but the white patches at the back of the wings were perfectly clear. I had almost stepped on it. It flew off only about forty feet and dropped into a patch of grass. Unfortunately, it flew over a patch of water too deep for me to wade without filling my boots, so I didn't follow. I went around, but by the time I got to the location there was no sign of the bird. I noticed some buffy, but like all rails it seemed darker than I would have expected; the size was small and there were Soras and a Virginia Rail for comparison in the area. The size, the rail shape and manner, and above all the white patches convinced me that I had Yellow Rail.

—*Thomas A. Hoffman, Rome, Italy*

(Father Hoffman sent this note as a supplement to Cink's article on the Yellow Rail in Nebraska (*NBR* 41:24) but it also corrects the date given in the Spring Migration Report and adds the Sora to it for Sarpy County, and the Virginia Rail for Sarpy County and for the state (*NBR* 41:50 and 56).

CORRECTION TO 1973 INDEX. The entry for Wolfe, Gertrude 13 (*NBR* 41:88) should have been for Wood, Gertrude 13.