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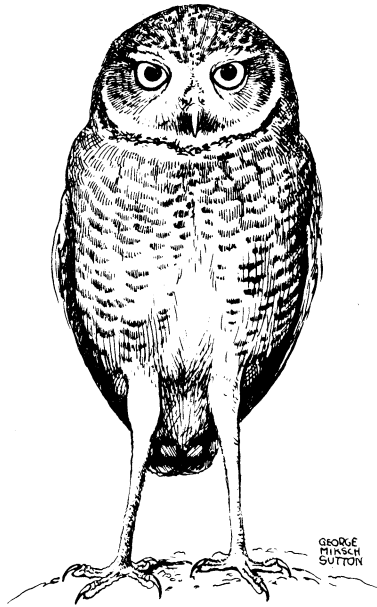
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TABLE OF CONTENTS ON BACK COVER

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1968 CHRISTMAS COUNT

Eighty species were recorded in the 1968 Christmas counts, and two others were recorded as present during the count period but not sighted on the count itself. This is more than the 77 and 1, respectively, in the 1967 counts, which would be increased to 78 and 1 if Meadowlarks had been split, but is less than the 81 and 3 and 86 and 5, respectively, reported for 1966 and 1965. Even after allowing for the fact that last year Scottsbluff did not report the number of individuals, and that no report from Beatrice or Wymore was received this year the individual count was down, 12,326 compared to 17,475. House Sparrows accounted for 3,475 of the drop and Tree Sparrows for 1,375. There were other changes, both up and down, of smaller amounts. Scottsbluff reported 14 Red-shafted Flickers, Kearney and Omaha one each, and all others were reported as Yellow-shafted.

The columns are arranged in an approximate west (left) to east (right) order, with the northernmost point shown first when points are of about the same longitude. The symbol "P" is used to indicate species present during the count period but not observed on the count day.

Greeley. January 1. Fifteen mile diameter circle centered 7 miles north of Greeley on highway 281, to include Greeley, Pibel Lake Recreation Grounds, the Moody farm northwest of Greeley, and points in between. Two miles by foot, 60 by car. 1 PM. to 5 PM. 90% open fields and pastures, 5% mixed woods, 5% pond and stream areas. Breeze from southwest, partly cloudy, 5° to 20°, a foot of snow on the ground, with drifts deeper, rivers and ponds completely frozen except at springs. Scott Moody (reporter), Rev. Keith Bruning.

Hastings, December 28. Fifteen mile diameter circle with center 2 miles south of town on highway 281 and 1.75 miles west. This includes the city with its parks and Parkview Cemetery, Lake Hastings, Crystal Lake, and woodlands along the Little Blue River. 8 AM to 6 PM, clear, 5° to 17°, wind 5 to 15 mph, 23 inches of snow, lakes frozen, many side roads closed. Ten observers in 8 parties, 15 party hours; 6 miles on foot, 82 by car. Mrs. George Anderson, Bill Fink, Miss Geraldine Heartwell, Mrs. William Helzer, Mrs. Ray Horrigan, Mrs. Clifford Kennedy, H. L. Marsh, Burton Nelson, Mrs. O. W. Ritchey (reporter), Mrs. Harold Snyder.

The Thrasher had been staying in Mrs. Anderson's yard all fall and winter, eating at the feeding station. The House Finch was observed carefully for several days. It was identified by Mrs. A. M. Jones, but observed on the count day by Bill Fink.

Kearney. January 2. All points within a 15 mile diameter circle, centered at Platte River bridge south of Kearney, to include Harmon Park, Kearney Cemetery, Kearney Lake, Cottonmill Lake, Fort Kearney State Park and Recreational Area, Platte River, Odessa Bridge, and city streets of Kearney. 8 AM to 4 PM. Clear in the morning, overcast in the afternoon, 12° to 18°, wind SE at 10 mph, 25 inches of snow, river 1% open. Seven observers in one party, total party hours, eight. Laurie Brown, Linda Brown, George W. Brown (reporter), Marian G. Brown, Randy Brown, Ronny Marrow, Barbara Schroder.

Lincoln, December 29. All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centered at 14 and A, (as in previous years). 8AM to 5PM. Clear, becoming cloudy at 10:30 AM. - 2° to 16°, wind NW 5 to 18 mph, 8

- Text continued on page 38

	Scotts- bluff	Kear- ney	Gree- ley	Hast- ings	Lin- coln	Omaha	Total
Canada Goose	20	19	-	-	-	-	39
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	40	40
Blue Goose	-	-	-	-	-	10	10
Mallard	37,800	660	-	-	15	380	38,855
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pintail	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Green-winged Teal	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
American Widgeon	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Canvasback	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Goldeneye	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bufflehead	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Merganser	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	1	-	-	P	1
Red-tailed Hawk	-	2	-	1	19	7	29
Rough-legged Hawk	-	1	-	-	1	9	11
Bald Eagle	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
Marsh Hawk	2	-	-	-	-	3	5
Sparrow Hawk	4	-	-	-	2	5	11
Sharp-tailed Grouse	-	-	5	-	-	-	5
Bobwhite	P	58	5	6	10	63	142
Ring-necked Pheasant	6	6	16	29	9	18	84
Rock Dove	-	-	5	3	-	72	80
Mourning Dove	-	-	-	10	35	89	134
Great Horned Owl	-	1	2	2	3	2	10
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Belted Kingfisher	-	2	-	-	1	1	4
Flicker	23	4	-	1	1	50	79

	Scotts- bluff	Kear- ney	Gree- ley	Hast- ings	Lin- coln	Omaha	Total
Red-bellied Woodpecker	-	1	-	2	1	30	34
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hairy Woodpecker	P	-	-	1	2	7	10
Downy Woodpecker	5	-	-	-	13	63	81
Horned Lark	446	181	1,068	200	4	59	1,958
Blue Jay	11	-	-	4	79	52	146
Black-billed Magpie	26	5	13	-	-	-	44
Common Crow	1	1	22	26	42	28	120
Black-capped Chickadee	27	4	20	12	41	135	239
Mountain Chickadee	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Tufted Titmouse	-	-	-	-	-	18	18
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	-	2	8	30	40
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	-	-	3	6	1	12
Brown Creeper	P	-	-	7	3	3	13
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Mockingbird	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	1	P	1	2
Robin	5	-	-	9	9	4	27
Eastern Bluebird	-	-	-	-	-	P	P
Townsend's Solitaire	P	-	-	-	-	1	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Bohemian Waxwing	15	-	-	-	1	-	16
Cedar Waxwing	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Northern Shrike	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	P	-	P
Starling	4,117	31	170	200	307	340	5,165
House Sparrow	600	112	180	400	2,929	1,245	5,466

	Scotts- bluff	Kear- ney	Gree- ley	Hast- ings	Lin- coln	Omaha	Total
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	50	50
Meadowlark sp.	-	-	12	-	91	-	103
Western Meadowlark	26	47	-	128	-	17	218
Redwinged Blackbird	1,080	-	-	1	11	17	1,109
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	13	13
Common Grackle	-	-	-	27	P	6	33
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	13	17	30
Cardinal	-	5	-	20	22	96	143
Purple Finch	-	-	-	-	6	13	19
House Finch	13	-	-	1	-	-	14
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	20	-	20
Pine Siskin	28	50	-	-	P	4	82
American Goldfinch	50	50	1	7	16	252	376
Rufous-sided Towhee	-	-	-	1	2	4	7
White-winged Junco	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Slate-colored Junco	32	51	34	140	237	361	855
Oregon Junco	46	-	-	20	5	4	75
Tree Sparrow	110	5	34	10	119	150	428
Harris' Sparrow	3	-	6	21	98	30	158
White-crowned Sparrow	2	-	-	-	-	4	6
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Song Sparrow	-	-	-	10	12	32	54
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	75	-	-	75
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Species Reported	38	23	17	33	44	55	80
Present but not seen	4	-	-	-	4	2	2
Individuals reported	44,525	1,298	1,594	1,380	4,205	3,849	56,851

inches of snow cover, still water 100% frozen, streams 75% frozen, roads icy, trees and weeds locally frost covered. Seven observers in 3 parties, total party hours, 20, 11 by car, 9 by foot. Total party miles, 106, 94 by car, 12 by foot. Dr. Esther Bennett, Dr. and Mrs. Howard P. Doole, Ralph Harrington (reporter), Bill Huntley, Dr. Rosalind Morris, Alva C. Strickland.

Bill Huntley and Ralph Harrington had two good views of the Mockingbird, in a wooded, weedy draw with a tiny stream of partly open water. It was in the company of three Robins and two Purple Finches. There was a large cedar tree along with much tangled growth which probably provided food and shelter.

Omaha. December 28. All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centered at Offutt Lake (about 3 miles north of the junction of the Platte and Missouri Rivers), to include Fontenelle Forest, Lake Manawa (Iowa) State Park, portions of the Platte and Missouri Rivers. Deciduous growth 30%, fields and pastures 45%, roadside 20%, water 5%. 7 AM to 5PM. Clouds 50% to 100%, 17° to 23°, and wind NW 5 to 10 mph. Crusted snow, waters frozen except for fastmoving rivers and springs. 20 observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 38; Curtis D. Abdouch, Lennart Y. Berg, Grover Bramel, Micheal Haddix, C. E. Heaney, Jr., Ann Hodgson, Bill Latka, Jr., Bill Latka III, Douglas C. Latka, Steven B. Latka, Glenn H. LeDioyt, James M. Malkowski,

Jack O. Phillips, Marie J. Pluta (reporter), Robert Sharpe, Roger Sharpe, E. Thomas Stacey, Rachel Stanford, Carl H. Swanson, Richard Walker, Jr.

The Townsend's Solitaire was seen twice for about 2.5 minutes total time, in an eastern red cedar in Bellevue Cemetery, by Curtis Abdouch, James Malkowski, and Ann Hodgson. Behavior as well as color and markings observed. It was darker than those seen in the past.

Scottsbluff. December 27. All points within a 15-mile diameter circle centered on the bridge across the North Platte River at South Broadway, to include Scottsbluff and Gering. Pastures 25%, deciduous growth 35%, hilly terrain 10%, water 25%, conifers 3%, town 2%. 7 AM to 4:30 PM, Cloudy in the morning, sunny in the afternoon. 23° to 27°. Wind NW at 5 to 18 mph, 3 inch snow cover. River and drainage ditches open, lakes and ponds mostly frozen. Six observers in 2 parties. 132 miles by car, 3 by foot. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Banghart, Lydia E. Bolz, Mrs. J. J. Brasher, Roy Witschy, Mrs. Roy Witschy (reporter).

The Bufflehead was on a pond close to the road, in company with the Merganser and the Goldeneye. None of them flew so that they were easily observed. Mountain Chickadees have been in Scottsbluff since October. The White-winged Juncoes were feeding beneath an evergreen tree on the Scottsbluff National Monument grounds.

COMMON EIDER RECORD FOR NEBRASKA

A Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima sedentaria*) was shot sometime between 29 November and 2 December 1967 by Roger Guenther on Maloney Canal between Maloney and Sutherland, Lincoln County, Nebraska. The head and one foot

of this duck were brought in to the Department of Zoology, University of Nebraska by Nebraska Fish and Game Department personnel and furnished evidence for identification of this individual. I skinned these parts which now bear a University

of Nebraska State Museum number (UNSM #ZM-12341). Dr. Paul A. Johnsgard took this specimen with him to the Field Museum of Natural History to determine its subspecies by using their comparative collections. On the basis of size, frontal process shape, head coloration and range he identified the specimen as the interior race of the Common Eider, *S. m. sedentaria*, established by Snyder in 1941 (Occ. Pap. Roy. Ontario Mus. Zool, no. 6).

The interior race of the Common Eider breeds in Hudson Bay from Cape Fullerton south into James Bay. As the most southern, central breeding race of the Common Eider, it is the race most likely to be recorded inland. This specimen, however, constitutes the first published record of this subspecies in the central United States as well as the first record of the species for Nebraska. The American Ornithologist's Checklist of North American Birds lists *S. m. sedentaria* as "casual southward (one record, Niagara River)". A specimen of *S. m.*

nigra was taken in the Missouri River bottoms near Sioux City, Iowa (P. Dumont, Wilson Bull., 46:203, 1934). As Dumont states, this specimen might be claimed as Nebraskan, instead of Iowan as it was in his note.

Somateria mollissima has been recorded in the adjacent states of: South Dakota (S. S. Vishner Auk, 29:535, 1912); Colorado (A. H. Felger, Auk, 26:282, 1909; W. H. Bergtold, Auk, 49:346, 1932); and Kansas (F. H. Snow, Auk, 9:198, 1892). Although the South Dakota record is for *S. m. borealis*, the Colorado records for *S. m. dresseri*, and Kansas record for *S. m. nigra* as is the Iowa record mentioned earlier, all of these records were published before the addition of *S. m. sedentaria* as a new subspecies in 1941. Additional inland U. S. records of the species are from Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Montana.

—D. Jean Tate, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York.

1968 NEBRASKA NESTING SURVEY

Compiled by Dr. Esther V. Bennett

Data on the 1968 Nesting Season in Nebraska were received from 33 observers, reporting on 80 species from 21 counties. Counties in the tabulation are listed in a west to east order, with the northernmost of approximately equal locations given first. N represents nests observed; Y represents young observed; F represents birds observed carrying food; E represents eggs, NM represents birds observed carrying nesting materials; (all from NOU Nesting Report forms), and numbers represent Nest Record Cards. Sixty nine species were reported on 1,516 North American Nest Record Cards.

The counties (with column numbers on the tabulation shown in parentheses) and the contributors were: Adams (11) Mrs. Ford Graham, Carrie C. Hansen, Geraldine A. Heartwell, Mrs. William Helzer, Mrs. Clifford Kennedy, Mrs. Doris Mahoney, Mrs. O. W. Ritchey, Elwin Turner, Harold Turner, Bernice Welch; Cass (21) Mrs. Sigvald Jensen; Clay (12) Elden and Ruth Percival; Custer (7) Mrs. Eva Mae Kieborz; Dawes (1) Doris Gates, Leta M. Neeland; Dawson (8) Ray S. Wycoff; Dodge (15) Larry C. Holcomb; Douglas (19) R. G. Cortelyou, Larry C. Holcomb,

- Text continued on page 45

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
Killdeer	Y	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1,Y	-	1	N,Y	-	-	6
Long-billed Curlew	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upland Plover	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	2,N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
American Avocet	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wilson's Phalarope	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rock Dove	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	11,N,Y	-	3	1	17	Y	-	-	2	2	30,N,Y	2	1	1	8	30	1	-	165	-	-	274
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Great Horned Owl	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Burrowing Owl	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chimney Swift	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flicker	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	1	-	1,N	3,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	F	-	-	5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	1	2,Y	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	Y	-	-	5
Hairy Woodpecker	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Downy Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Eastern Kingbird	1,F	-	-	-	3	Y	-	-	-	2	3,Y	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	12

	Daves	Sheridan	Garden	Hooker	McPherson	Lincoln	Custer	Dawson	Kearney	Grealey	Adams	Clay	York	Jefferson	Dodge	Lancaster	Gage	Johnson	Douglas	Sarpy	Cass	Total Cards
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
Western Kingbird	3	-	-	-	2	Y	-	-	-	1	2,Y	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Great Crested Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	7
Say's Phoebe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Eastern Wood Pewee	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Western Wood Pewee	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Horned Lark	1,F,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,Y	-	-	Y	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Rough-winged Swallow	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barn Swallow	F	-	-	-	27,N,Y	-	-	-	-	1	15,N,Y	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	51
Cliff Swallow	3,F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Purple Martin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Blue Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	-	-	9
Black-billed Magpie	-	-	-	-	-	N,Y	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
House Wren	1	-	-	-	-	Y	-	1	-	-	2,Y	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	8
Catbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2,Y	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	12	1	-	19

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
Brown Thrasher	2	-	-	-	1	NM	-	-	-	1	5,Y	-	-	1	1	4	3	2	17	-	37	
Robin	2,Y	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	1	3,Y	3	-	1	20	1	8	2	44,Y	-	1	86
Wood Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
Eastern Bluebird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Y	Y	-	-	-	2
Loggerhead Shrike	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	3
Starling	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	3,F,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Bell's Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Yellow Warbler	2,N,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	10
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
Yellowthroat	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
House Sparrow	2	-	-	-	9	Y	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	14
Meadowlark sp.	F,Y	-	1	-	3,F	N,Y	-	-	-	-	8,N,Y	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	17
Redwinged Blackbird	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4,N,Y	-	-	-	-	4	14	2	513,Y	-	-	546
Orchard Oriole	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	Y	-	-	7
Bullock's Oriole	2,F,Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Common Grackle	-	-	1	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	8,Y	-	-	2	11	2	-	-	47	-	-	71
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	-	-	4	10,Y	-	1	-	2	2	8	-	124	-	-	151

Robert Sharpe; Gage (17) Kent Fiala; Garden (3) Joseph M. Hyland; Greeley (10) Scott M. Moody; Hooker (4) Oona S. Bassett; Jefferson (14) Kent Fiala; Johnson (18) Ruth R. Sorenson; Kearney (9) Robert Sharpe; Lancaster (16) Esther Bennett, Howard and Shirley Doole, Ellis Greiner, David Rodgers; Lincoln (6) Mrs. M. A. Cox, Gail M. Shickley; McPherson (5) Oona S. Bassett; Sarpy (20) R. G. Cortel-you; Sheridan (2) Doris Gates; and York (13) Lee Morris.

Larry C. Holcomb completed 1,043 Nest Record Cards, an outstanding total for one individual. Other contributors who completed 20 or more cards are: Harold Turner, 100; Oona S. Bassett, 90; Kent Fiala, 61; Leta M. Neeland, 40; Scott Moody, 26; Ellis Greiner, 22; Joseph M. Hyland, 22; and Robert Sharpe, 20.

Additions in 1968 to the previous lists of nesting species (*NBR* 34:41, 35:29; 36:35) bring the total to 129 species for the four-year period of 1965-1968, from 37 Nebraska counties. Species not previously reported for Nebraska from 1965 to date on North American Nest Record Cards or NOU Nesting Report forms are: Common Merganser, Prairie Falcon, Sora, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Belted Kingfisher, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Warbler, Yellowthroat, and Indigo Bunting.

Of the preceding species, the Common Merganser is the only species not recorded by Rapp, et al (*Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds*, 1958) as being either a breeder or a summer resident. Mrs. Eva Mae Kieborz reported having seen the male and female Common Mergansers in the spring months at Victoria Springs Recreation Area. On July 27 and 28, Mrs. Kieborz and her husband observed a female with six ducklings; on August 2, a female with four ducklings; and on August 3, three lone ducklings. It was as-

sumed that all were from one nesting. The presence of the Common Merganser adults and at least five ducklings was confirmed by John Shulenberg, Superintendent of Victoria Springs Recreation Area (personal communication, Charles Wolfe, E. B.).

Harold Turner (Adams County) reported two broods of Burrowing Owls with observations of three young in each brood. Leta Neeland (Dawes County) reported sighting a hybrid male Baltimore-Bullock's Oriole carrying food June 9 through July 10. Mrs. Neeland's two Cliff Swallow cards represented two colonies of more than 50 nests.

Thirteen species which were reported in 1966 but not in 1967 were again reported in 1968. These were: Great Blue Heron, Swainson's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Greater Prairie Chicken, Burrowing Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Chimney Swift, Eastern Wood Pewee, Western Wood Pewee, Whitebreasted Nuthatch, Brewer's Blackbird, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Lark Sparrow.

Species reported in the 1967 nesting season which were not reported in 1966 included: Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Gadwall, Pintail, Shoveler, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Virginia Rail, Willet, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, Short-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Bank Swallow, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Warbling Vireo, American Redstart, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Seventeen of these 25 species were reported from Garden County in 1967. Hopefully, in 1969 more observers can report from Crescent Lake and other Garden County areas. Joseph M. Hyland was the only person reporting from there in 1968.

Appreciation is expressed to all contributors for their excellent cooperation in 1968. Much valuable information is being accumulated through the diligent and faithful efforts of NOU members.

New, revised, cards are now avail-

able for the 1969 nesting season. Anyone wishing to cooperate may obtain cards by writing to Dr. Esther Bennett, 600 South 33rd, Lincoln, Nebraska 68510.

Cards for 1969 should be mailed to reach Dr. Bennett by October 1.

THE SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

On May 17, 1969, the Sixty-eighth Annual Meeting was held in the Auditorium of the North Platte Experiment Station. Mr. James Adams, president of the Tout Bird Club gave a welcome to which Mr. Glenn H. LeDioyt, president of NOU, responded. The official program consisted of:

Study of Wildlife Problems in National Parks, and Predator and Rodent Control in the United States (summarized from reports of the Special Advisory Board for the Secretary of Interior), Dr. John C. W. Bliese, Kearney State College, Kearney.

Status of Pesticide Inventory on Wildlife, Bill Baxter, Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln.

Prolonged Incubation Behavior in Birds, Dr. Larry C. Holcomb, Creighton University, Omaha.

How Well Do We Know Nebraska Birds? William F. Rapp, Jr., Crete (a taped presentation engineered by C. W. Huntley, Crete).

Parasitic Jaeger from Western Nebraska, and Behavior of Young Loggerhead Shrikes, Doris B. Gates, Chadron State College, Chadron.

Bird Distribution in Relationship to Habitat Types on the Nebraska National Forest, Leonard Sisson, Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln.

Observations on Purple Martins, Ralph Harrington, Lincoln.

Slide Collection for N.O.U. Library, Gail Shickley, North Platte.

The officers elected at the business meeting were: Dr. Larry C.

Holcomb, Omaha, President; Dr. Mildred (Mrs. Everett W.) Gross, Crete, Vice-President; Dr. Neva (Mrs. Ken) Pruess, Lincoln, Secretary; Mrs. Sigvald Jensen, Weeping Water, Treasurer; Kent Fiala, Beatrice, Custodian; and Dr. R. G. Cortelyou, Omaha, Editor.

At the banquet, held at the Country Club, Dr. Ronald Ryder of Colorado State University discussed the ecology and conservation of the wildlife of the high plains under the title "Birds, Bison, and Beef".

One hundred and thirteen species were reported from the field trips on May 18: Eared and Pied-billed Grebes; Great Blue and Green Herons; Common Egret, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup; Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed, Swainson's, Marsh, and Sparrow Hawks; Greater Prairie Chicken, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot.

Killdeer, Long-billed Curlew, Upland Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, White-rumped and Semipalmated Sandpipers, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope; Ring-billed and Franklin's Gulls, Black Tern, Rock and Mourning Doves; Barn, Great Horned, and Burrowing Owls; Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker; Red-headed, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers; Eastern and Western Kingbirds; Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern and Say's Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee sp., Horned Lark.

Bank, Rough-winged, Barn, and Cliff Swallows; Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, Eastern Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling; Bell's, Red-eyed, and Warbling Vireos; Orange-crowned, Yellow, and Myrtle Warblers; Ovenbird, Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, Yellow-headed and Redwinged Blackbirds, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Rusty and Brewer's Blackbirds, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird.

Cardinal, Black-headed and Blue Grosbeaks, Lazuli Bunting, Dickcissel, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Lark Bunting; Grasshopper, Vesper, Lark, Tree, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, White-crowned, White-throated, and Swamp Sparrows.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen near the Experiment Station that same day, but after the count, and 20 additional species were seen in the area within 5 days before or after the count (May 13 to 23): Snowy Egret, Pintail, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Sharp-shinned and Rough-legged Hawks, Piping Plover, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Baird's Sandpiper, Dowitcher sp., Stilt Sandpiper, Northern Phalarope; Forster's, Common, and Least Terns; Common Nighthawk, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Veery, Bullock's Oriole. And a Scarlet Tanager had been seen May 6.

NOTES

CATTLE EGRET. I had a Cattle Egret in one of my pastures. We first noticed it May 29, 1969. It stayed about a week that I know of, but I haven't seen it since (through June 29). It fitted Peterson's description perfectly. It wasn't too

large, looked white with orange pink bill, and showed considerable buffy brown on head, breast, and back. It didn't have the long, slender neck of the Common Egret, but did stretch its neck as it darted under the cattle while feeding. I saw it perched on a cow's back more than once, while the cow was lying down. It was funny to watch it duck the cow's switching tail and walk back and forth. I saw it perched on a post in the water in the middle of the pond a few times, also.

(A September 11, 1965, report of Cattle Egret near Holstein was given in *NBR* 34:76. Ed.)

—Lee Morris, *Benedict*

CURVE - BILLED THRASHER.

On March 22, 1969, I received a letter from Mrs. Stanley Neel of McCook, Nebraska. She wrote that for several weeks there had been a bird feeding in their farmyard which resembled a Curve-billed Thrasher more closely than anything she could find in her guide book, and she wondered if it would be possible for it to be found this far from its normal range. From Mrs. Neel's comments about the bird I thought she probably was correct in her identification, and two days later I drove to McCook in the hope of seeing it.

It was a very cold and windy morning, and when I arrived at the Neel home they said they had not seen the bird that morning. After looking through a shelter belt we returned to the house and continued watching through the window. In about 30 minutes I noticed a large bird in the midst of some House Sparrows, all of them feeding where some grain had been spilled on the ground. The long, decurved bill, red eye, grayish brown color, and faintly spotted breast identified the bird as a Curve-billed Thrasher, which I had often seen in Arizona.

After satisfying myself as to the

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1968 Christmas Count	34
Common Eider Record for Nebraska	38
1968 Nebraska Nesting Survey	39
The Sixty-eighth Annual Meeting	46
Notes	47
In Memoriam - Francis Lee Jaques	48

identity of the bird, Mrs. Neel and I walked into the yard in an attempt to get closer to it. The Thrasher stopped feeding and flew into a tree, perching about seven feet from the ground, but it did not seem very alarmed by our presence and allowed us to walk to within 20 feet of it, and did not fly while we observed it from that distance.

The Neel home is on a farm about six miles northeast of McCook, and is on dry tableland, but with some deep ravines in the area. Mrs. Neel said that they first noticed the Thrasher about the middle of January and that it had been feeding there on most days since then. At the time the bird appeared Nebraska was experiencing bitter cold and stormy weather, but the bird apparently had had ample shelter and food, and at the time I saw it appeared to be healthy. When feeding in the yard it stays with a flock of House Sparrows.

Several Curve-billed Thrashers were reported at North Platte in the spring of 1936, and one of that

group was collected (*Revised Checklist of Nebraska Birds*, Rapp et al, 1958:21). I find no reference to this species in the *Nebraska Bird Review* since that date.

Mrs. Neel wrote that the Thrasher was singing April 4, but disappeared soon after that date.

—Gail M. Shickley, North Platte

In Memoriam

Francis Lee Jaques, an Honorary Member of NOU since 1960, died at his home in St. Paul, Minnesota, July 24, 1969. He would have been 82 years old September 28. Mr. Jaques was a well-known wildlife artist who numbered among his works backgrounds for exhibits at the University of Nebraska and the Iowa State Museum. As a boy he lived in Kansas, and crossed Nebraska in a covered wagon about 1903 when his family moved to Minnesota. More detailed information on his life and works will be found in *NBR* 32:29.