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## Notes--*Nebraska Bird Review* (March 1982)

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Tanya Bray

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## NOTES

CATTLE EGRETS. Neil Dankert and I saw ten to twelve Cattle Egrets 21 September 1981 on the "Prairie Dog Waterfowl Production Area", south of Axtell. They were among cattle on the small privately-owned portion in the southwestern part of the area. They were seen about 5:45 PM.

— *David L. Jenson, 404 W. 26th St. #3, Kearney, Nebraska 68847*

WHO TAKES CARE, ETC? On 12 June 1981 I saw a duck that I took for a female Redhead on Carter Lake, where I expected to see only Wood Ducks. On 2 July I saw 6 broods of Wood Ducks — 1 of 2, 2 of 5, 1 of 8, and 2 of 10 — on Carter Lake, and then a group of over 20 young ducklings with what I presume was the same Redhead — I was looking down at them from a

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small bridge and I could see the broad blue bill, with parallel sides and rounded tip. These small ducklings moved through a couple of broods of larger ducklings, and every once in a while I would see one of the larger ducklings rush at one of the smaller ones, which had no difficulty in keeping out of reach. Other than the participants in these rushes, no duck, not even the presumed mother seemed to take notice of the rushes. I noticed the rushes only after they started, but I assume they were the result of too close an approach. A little later I saw the big brood reassembled and c "f by itself, with the presumed mother maybe 10 to 15 feet away. When I got home I checked Kortright's pictures of downy young and realized (I remembered the eye stripes) that they probably were puddle ducks, not diving ducks. One of the people I talked to about the incident was B.J. Rose, of Ducks Unlimited. He saw them the next day, and counted them at 25, said they were Wood Ducks, were about 5 days old, and that the hen with them then was a Wood Duck. It was 16 July before I got back to Carter Lake, and then I saw no sign of the

big brood. I saw only one brood — of 7, with a Wood Duck in charge, and they looked to be about the right age to have been of the big brood. I did not see the Redhead again, through August.

— R.G. Cortelyou, 5109 Underwood Ave., Omaha, NE 68132

**THAYER'S GULL AT COLUMBUS.** On 4 December 1981 B.J. Rose, of Omaha, found a first-year Thayer's Gull in with a flock of Herring Gulls on Lake North.

**MINDEN NOTES.** On 22 April 1981 I saw a Swamp Sparrow in town. In July I saw a young Great Horned Owl in Franklin Co., on Thompson Creek, two "loops" across from where it had been hatched. On 13 August I saw a group of Cliff Swallows, and what I suspect were Savannah Sparrows, and I saw the Savannahs through early September, as well as Grasshopper Sparrows. In early August a group of Purple Martins were in the downtown area, but none have been noted recently. On 2 September I heard and then saw what I took to be a Carolina Wren. A

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lone Great Blue Heron was seen 7 September in Franklin Co. On 3 October I saw a rather late Western Kingbird in Kearney Co. On 16 October I stirred up some grass sparrows, the first one I took to be a Le Conte's and the others Savannahs. On 9 October I found a few Savannahs, a male Prairie Chicken, and Sprague's Pipits, all in Franklin Co. I heard Sandhill Cranes 13 October and again on 16 October. My cousin reported seeing a Golden Eagle east of Holstein recently (written 26 October).

— *Harold Turner, P.O. Box 333, Minden, Nebraska 68959*

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER. I saw a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 4 July 1981 at Verdon Lake, Richardson Co.

— *Tanya Bray, 9708 Grover, Omaha, Nebraska 68124*