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Fall Field Report, August–November 2016

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FALL FIELD REPORT, August–November 2016

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INTRODUCTION

As usual, there was quite a bit to chew over in the Fall Seasonal Report, although it was generally a pretty uneventful season, especially among waterfowl and shorebirds. The mild fall allowed some good counts to occur, such as the 20+ Surf Scoters, 465 meadowlarks in Garfield Co, and at least 11 White-winged Doves.

First State Records are hard to come by; amazing was an Anna's Hummingbird that showed up in the Manning Family's central Omaha yard. How many pass through the yards of non-birders undetected? Always a mind-boggling thought. A 3rd state record Costa's Hummingbird came to light from photos taken in 2010 through a chance conversation with an experienced birder. Almost as exciting was the 5th state record Canyon Wren which settled at a remote central Sandhills Ranch that required a 3.5 mile sand road trek in. Several happy birders made the trip without mishap, however, enjoying the fine hospitality of Mary Sue Shoemaker. And even more: the state's 9th Curve-billed Thrasher was photographed at Chadron State Park near the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies' banding station. Other less exciting but possibly more significant discoveries were a pair of Lewis's Woodpeckers as far east as Keya Paha Co, a 6th fall record of Hooded Warbler, and a first Panhandle record of Blue-winged Warbler, also at the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies' banding station. Notable rare warblers were a Black-throated Blue and a Pine, both in Omaha.

Other good counts were the 27+ Sabine's Gulls reported, with 6 in a day at each of 3 locations, 31 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on a single day in a Lancaster Co yard, reminding me of hummer feeders I've seen in the west, and 11 Canada Warblers that passed through the east. At the other end of that spectrum were virtually no Pine Siskins, there being only two reports between June and late Nov, and the absence of Red Crossbills away from the Pine Ridge, where they remained in good numbers.

Of concern is the continuing scarcity of Black-billed Cuckoos, the absence of Black-billed Magpies this fall east of Harlan Co, and the current low ebb of Gray Partridge populations in the north and east.

We all know how difficult it is to bird unfamiliar locations that have different species from those we are used to. Regarding use of eBird sightings, there are numerous reports from eBirders unfamiliar with Nebraska that are close to early or late record dates or at edges of distribution ranges, and a few that are pretty obviously incorrect. The latter are usually flagged by eBird's filter system and dealt with by reviewer Sam Manning. I carefully scrutinize eBird records, using as a

guideline whether a given report fits currently-understood spatial and temporal distributions. If not, the report is usually ignored, but sometimes the observer is contacted, although most such reports have already been invalidated by Sam by the time I get to them. Along these lines, a group of us is working on updating the Nebraska eBird filters; this project should be well underway early in the New Year and will hopefully reduce Sam's workload.

ABBREVIATIONS

ad: adult
BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co
CBL: Capitol Beach L, Lincoln
Cem: Cemetery
Co(s): County(ies)
CLNWR: Crescent L NWR, Garden Co
CSP: Chadron SP, Dawes Co
EEDs: expected early dates
ELDs: expected late dates
fem: female
FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co
GPD: Gavins Point Dam area, Cedar/Knox Cos
HCR: Harlan Co Res SRA, Harlan Co
ICSP: Indian Cave State Park, Richardson/Nemaha Cos
imm: immature
Jack Sinn: Jack Sinn Memorial WMA, Lancaster and Saunders Cos;
juv: juvenile
L: Lake
LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co
LNB: Lakes North and Babcock, Platte Co
LO: L Ogallala (includes contiguous Keystone L), Keith Co
LSFM: Little Salt Fork Marsh, Lincoln
LSWNP: Lincoln Saline Wetlands Nature Park, Lincoln
m. ob.: many observers
NC: Nature Center
NM: National Monument
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
NOURC: Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee
Oliver Res: SRA, Kimball Co
Res: Reservoir
PSP: Ponca SP, Dixon Co
RA: Recreation Area
RWB: Rainwater Basin, including parts of Phelps, Hamilton, York, Clay, Fillmore,
and Thayer Cos
Sandhills: large area of sand-based prairie in north-central and northwest Nebraska
SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co

SHP: State Historical Park
SL: Sewage Lagoon(s)
SP: State Park
SRA: State Recreation Area
VNWR: Valentine NWR, Cherry Co
WHNC: Wildcat Hills NC, Scotts Bluff Co
WMA: (State) Wildlife Management Area
WP: Wilderness Park, Lincoln
WPA: (Federal) Waterfowl Production Area

OBSERVERS

ABr: Aaron Brees, Des Moines, IA
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ARy: Al Reyer, Bellevue
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AVe: Alan Versaw, eBird
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BRo: Brett Roberg, eBird
BSt: Barbara Straus, Lincoln
CBa: Carla Barbaro, eBird
CCr: Charlotte Croshaw, Fremont
CNK: Clem N. Klaphake, Bellevue
CTa: Christopher Takacs, eBird
DC: Doug Chapman, eBird
DDo: David Dowell, eBird
DEl: Denise Elmer, eBird
DH: David Heidt, Norfolk
DL: Dan Leger, Lincoln
DMe: David Mehlman, eBird
DSt: Dave Stage, Elkhorn
EA: Edward Allen, Lincoln
EB: Elliott Bedows, Bellevue
EBe: Eric Bents, eBird
EKa: Eddie Kasper, eBird
ERa: Edward Raynor, Lincoln
FKo: Florinus Kooyman, eBird
G&DG: Greg and Deborah Grove, eBird
GKi: Gail King, eBird
GR: Gary Roberts, Fremont
GWa: Glenn Walbeck, eBird
J&GB: Jay & Ginger Belsan, Ogallala

JCu: Jim Cunningham, eBird
JED: James E. Ducey, Valentine
JGJ: Joel G. Jorgensen, Lincoln
JHa: James Haver, eBird
JJ: Jan Johnson, Wakefield
JLe: Josh LeFever, eBird
JR: Justin Rink, Omaha
JRy: Jennifer Rycenga, eBird
JTh: Jason Thiele, eBird
KD: Kathy DeLara, Mitchell
KJM: Kelly J. McKay, eBird
KKa: Karen Kader, Omaha
KS: Kent Skaggs, Kearney
L&BP: Loren & Babs Padelford, Bellevue
LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln
LO: Linda Ollinger, Wilsonville
LR: Lanny Randolph, Minden
LYo: Lowell Young, eBird
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MAv: Mele Avery, eBird
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton
MBe: Michael Beck, eBird
MH: Mace Hack, Omaha
MHe: Melanie Herring, eBird
MKe: Mary Keithler, eBird
MRo: Margaret Rohde, eBird
MSh: Matt Shurtliff, Omaha
MSS: Mary Sue Shoemaker, North Platte
MW: Michael Willison, Lincoln
NDr: Nancy Drilling, eBird
NKo: Nina Koch, eBird
NMo: Nick Moore, eBird
NR: Neal Ratzlaff, Omaha
PD: Paul Dunbar, Hastings
PPe: Patrick Peters, eBird
PR: Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA
R&SW: Ron & Susan Whitney, Lincoln
RD: Roger Dietrich, Yankton, SD
RGo: Ronald Goddard, eBird
RH: Robin Harding, Minden
RKr: Ron Kruse, Grand Island
RMa: Robert Manning, Omaha
RS: Rick Schmid, Omaha
RSa: Rick Sammons, Kearney
RSt: Ruthie Stearns, Lincoln
RW: Rick Wright, Bloomfield, NJ

SKr: Steve Kruse, Lincoln
SLu: Scott Luedtke, eBird
SMa: Sam Manning, Omaha
SMi: Sam Miller, eBird
SMl: Steve Mlodinow, eBird
SQ: Susan Quinn, Nebraska City
SSc: Shari Schwartz, Lincoln
SW: Scott Wessel, eBird
TEL: Thomas E. Labeledz, Lincoln
TG: Tom Gannon, Lincoln
TJW: T. J. Walker, Brady
TLa: Tom Laeser, eBird
TSh: Tyrone Shaw, eBird
TTh: Tom Thomson, eBird
WBe: Wendy Becker, eBird
WF: William Flack, Kearney
WHo: Weldon Hoppe, Colon
WKa: William Kaempfer, eBird

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** None were reported of this rare casual summer and fall visitor.
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** One at Oliver Res 5 Sep (MW, ERa, JR) was a summer rarity that far west; another was with Canada Geese in Dodge Co 9 Aug and 15 Sep (CCr, photo).
- Snow Goose:** Few had arrived by the end of the period; best count was only 150, in western Douglas Co 19 Nov (JR).
- Ross's Goose:** Despite the low numbers of Snow Geese, numbers of Ross's Geese were relatively good, at around 10% of the Snow Goose maximum; the best count was the 17 in Keith Co 18 Nov (EKa). Peak fall counts of Ross's and Snow Geese suggest a ratio of 5%.
- Cackling Goose:** Reports were routine of this common statewide migrant.
- Canada Goose:** Reports were routine of this abundant statewide migrant and resident.
- Mute Swan:** The two reports were of single ads, probably the same bird: on 9-10 Oct at Waterford L in area of 150th and Ida (JCu), and 13 Oct 7.5 miles south at Zorinsky L, Omaha, (MHe, photo).
- Trumpeter Swan:** The southernmost known breeding location, near Ravenna, hosted the ad pair and a juv 11 Sep (LR, RH), breeding has occurred here since 2009.
- Tundra Swan:** The only report of this rare migrant was of two at DeSoto NWR, Washington Co, 27 Nov (BP photos).
- Egyptian Goose:** Two were reported, one in Hamilton Co in early summer (JGJ) and one near Garrison, Butler Co, 6 Aug (MB). Also, an older record surfaced

of one at BOL 11 Oct 2014 (MW, photo). There are now 8 reports of free-flying birds, but no clear pattern of occurrence is evident (yet). There are growing populations in parts of North America, notably Florida, where it is on the state list. Current status can be checked at <http://blog.aba.org/2014/08/aba-checklist-committee-adds-egyptian-goose-to-aba-checklist.html> (fide JG).

Wood Duck: Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.

Gadwall: Reports on 2 Aug in Seward Co (CNK) and on 7 Aug in Cuming Co (CNK), if not local breeders, may have been of molt migrants, which can appear Jul-Aug.

American Wigeon: Reports were routine of this common, locally abundant, statewide fall migrant.

American Black Duck: There were no reports of this rare eastern fall migrant.

Mallard: Reports were routine of this abundant statewide fall migrant.

Blue-winged Teal: No details were provided for one reported at Sutherland Res, Lincoln Co, 20 Nov; ELDs are 15-19 Nov.

Cinnamon Teal: None were reported of this rare fall Panhandle migrant.

Northern Shoveler: Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.

Northern Pintail: Reports were routine of this common, locally abundant, statewide fall migrant.

Green-winged Teal: Reports were routine of this common, locally abundant, statewide fall migrant.

Canvasback: Reports were routine of this common, locally abundant, statewide fall migrant.

Redhead: Reports were routine of this common, locally abundant, statewide fall migrant.

Ring-necked Duck: Reports were routine of this common, locally abundant, statewide fall migrant.

Greater Scaup: Reports were routine of this uncommon statewide fall migrant.

Lesser Scaup: Reports were routine of this common, locally abundant, statewide fall migrant.

Surf Scoter: There were 20+ reports from 6 locations 9 Oct-26 Nov, involving a total of at least 16 individuals, a good showing for this species; there were 25+ reported during fall 2013. Best count was 5, at CBL 10 Oct (LE), and LO 25 Nov (BP, photo). High counts are 6-9; EEDs are 4-7 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: At least 7 individuals were reported from 4 locations 11-28 Nov, a typical fall for this species.

Black Scoter: Generally the rarest of the scoters in Nebraska, there were reports of three individuals: one was in the GPD area 12-14 Nov (BFH, JJ), a fem/imm was at Bennington L, Douglas Co, 19-20 Nov (JR, AG, MW photo, SMA photo), and a fem/imm was at CBL 21-26 Nov (LE, JGJ, m. ob.).

Long-tailed Duck: There were two reports of this rare-but-annual fall migrant: two ad fems were at Alma SL 26 Nov (LR, RH), and 4, including at least one ad male, were at BOL 27 Nov (SKr, photo).

Bufflehead: Reports were routine of this common, locally abundant, statewide fall migrant.

- Common Goldeneye:** Reports were routine of this common, locally abundant, statewide fall migrant.
- Barrow's Goldeneye:** There were no reports of this rare but usually annual winter visitor to the North Platte River Valley.
- Hooded Merganser:** The 46 at BOL 17 Nov (LE) was a good count, although highs are 89-321. A juv in Dodge Co 4 Aug (CCr photo) was probably the same bird as an apparently-injured fem that summered there and was photographed as its crest grew, becoming obvious by 5 Oct (RSa photo); whether it hatched locally is unknown. Fall migrants generally arrive in early Oct.
- Common Merganser:** EEDs are 4-7 Oct, and so early were one at GPD 7 Sep (RD), two at Calamus Res, Loup Co, 17 Sep (LR, RH), and two at LO 19 Sep (JGJ). These are probably molt migrants; there is usually a small group that appears in late summer each year at LO. No large numbers were reported by the end of the period.
- Red-breasted Merganser:** Reports were routine of this uncommon statewide fall migrant.
- Ruddy Duck:** Seven, including males in breeding plumage, were in Cuming Co 7 Aug (CNK); males begin to depart breeding locations in early Aug, and so these birds may not have been breeding locally.
- Northern Bobwhite:** A report of 2 at CLNWR 9 Aug (SMi) continues reports there since 1996 of up to 12 birds; reports away from the North Platte River Valley in the Panhandle are rare.
- Gray Partridge:** The only report of this cyclical, currently rare, species was of two that flew across the road 26 Sep in extreme southwestern Cedar Co (MB).
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** Reports were routine of this fairly common, locally common, statewide resident.
- Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Reports were routine of this fairly common northern and western resident.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Reports were routine of this generally uncommon, locally common, resident away from the Panhandle.
- Wild Turkey:** Reports were routine of this common, locally abundant, statewide resident.
- Pied-billed Grebe:** The 155 at BOL 13 Sep (LE) looks like a good count, but highs are 475-860.
- Horned Grebe:** Reports were routine of this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
- Red-necked Grebe:** There were two breeding-plumaged birds at LO 10-27 May, then sightings only of singles through 3 Sep, when two breeding-plumage birds were again reported (MW, ERa, JR), but then sightings again only of a single bird through 17 Oct when it was molting (JGJ, ERa). No evidence was reported for courtship or nesting; these birds may have been migrants or pre-breeding imms, and indeed may not have been the same birds present through summer.
- Eared Grebe:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant central and west, fairly common east.

- Western Grebe:** No high counts were received from LM; peak counts there are in the 35,000+ range by late Sep. The only large count was the 2300 at Sutherland Res, Lincoln Co, 16 Oct (SMI, NMo, DDo).
- Clark's Grebe:** Only the 7th fall record for the east, and rather late, was one at BOL 28 Nov (LE, SKr, details). The 7 records for fall are 11 Oct-6 Dec.
- Rock Pigeon:** Reports were routine of this common statewide resident.
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Reports were routine of this common statewide resident.
- White-winged Dove:** The multiple reports of 11 birds at 6 locations were typical of the last few fall periods. Suggestive of breeding but not proved was the group of 5 present at Wilsonville all summer and into the fall period (LO), and a very fresh juv was photographed at Beatrice 25 Aug (DEI). There are only 6 reported nestings, and only 3 known to have successful outcomes.
- Mourning Dove:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Reports were routine of this common migrant east and central uncommon west.
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** There were only 4 reports of this declining species: singles were in Lancaster Co 7 Sep (LE), Richardson Co 11 Aug (MBe), Pawnee Co 28 Aug (JJ), and Jefferson Co 27 Aug (JJ).
- Common Nighthawk:** One feeding with Franklin's Gulls over Sutherland Res 16 Oct (SMI, DDo, NMo) was rather late; ELDs are 20-24 Oct. Good numbers were seen over Bellevue 30 Aug; 1000 were estimated by one observer (CNK) and 500, but "possibly several thousand" by another (EB).
- Common Poorwill:** There were several reports from CSP through 4 Oct (JLe), rather late; ELDs are 6-9 Oct. Another near Valentine, Cherry Co, 14 Sep (JED) was tardy there. A small nightjar lacking a wing stripe seen before dawn in Lincoln 12 Aug may have been a Poorwill (TEL). There are breeding records for Jefferson Co and one for Lancaster Co.
- Whip-poor-will:** Fall reports are rare as this species is generally silent then; the only reports were of two in southwest Lincoln 13 Aug (fide TEL) and one at PSP 30 Aug (JGJ). ELDs are 20-24 Sep.
- Chimney Swift:** Three over Bellevue 17 Oct (ARy) were rather late; 70 were counted over Omaha 16 Oct (JR). ELDs in the south and east are 24-27 Oct. A good number for the date and location were the 60 using a chimney roost in Brady, Lincoln Co, 23 Sep (TJW); farther west, in the Panhandle, ELDs are 29 Sep (three times).
- White-throated Swift:** One in Scotts Bluff Co 21 Sep (AK) was rather late; ELDs are 29 Sep-3 Oct.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Two of the latest 6 fall sightings on record were this fall: one was at an Omaha feeder 17 Oct, latest ever there (SMa), and another stopped briefly at a Nebraska City oriole feeder 12 Oct (SQ). The only later dates are four during 4-23 Oct. Best count was the 31, an all-time high, in a Lincoln yard set up with multiple video and still cameras that allow continuous documentation and identification of individual birds 6 Sep (R&SW); previous highs were 15-25. Westerly reports are increasing; an imm male was netted at CSP 3 Sep (JLe), and singles were seen at Valentine 31 Aug-11 Sep (JED).

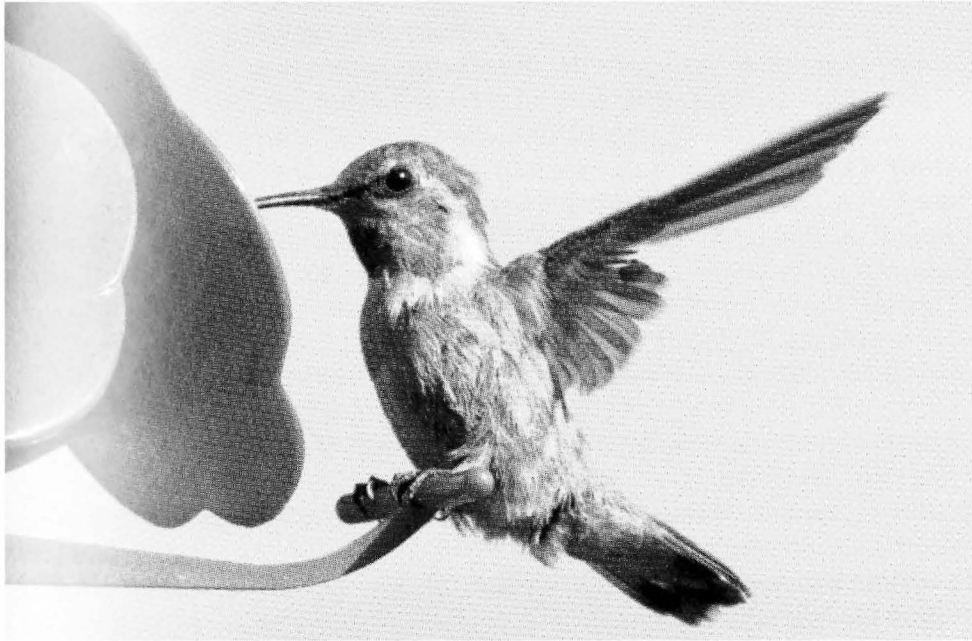
Black-chinned Hummingbird: Although none were confirmed this fall, two birds in a well-known hummer yard in Scotts Bluff Co 12 Aug were thought to be this species, but photos were not obtained (KD, details). An equivocal bird at Rowe Sanctuary was determined by Sheri Williamson to be a Ruby-throated based on primary feather lengths (KS).

Anna's Hummingbird: A first record for Nebraska appeared in an Omaha yard 19 Nov and remained through 9 Dec (SMa, RMa, m. ob.). In fall, Anna's are difficult to age, but Sheri Williamson thought it was a "possible sub-adult female". This was an overdue first state record; there are 19 records for Kansas, South Dakota, and Iowa in the period Aug-Jan.



This probable sub-adult female Anna's Hummingbird, Nebraska's first, attended the Manning family's Omaha feeders 19 Nov-9 Dec 2016, here photographed by Sam Manning 19 Nov 2016.

Costa's Hummingbird: Photographs documented an older, previously unknown record of one that appeared at the Gretna feeder of Ray Zeilinger 16 Sep 2010 and remained through the second week of Oct (DSt), presumably to complete the molt of the heavy flight feathers shown in the picture below.



This Costa's Hummingbird, Nebraska's third, was photographed by Ray Zeilinger at his Gretna, Sarpy Co, feeder 16 Sep 2010; it remained through the second week of Oct.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: A fem in the DeLara yard in Scotts Bluff Co, 28-30 Aug (KD) was the only one reported at an expected location. One returned to a Lincoln, Lancaster Co, yard 15-25 Aug; it had been there 27-29 Jul (JGJ). It is about the 16th record of this species in the east. An equivocal hummer at the Belsan feeder at LM 11 Aug that may have been a hybrid Broad-tailed x Ruby-throated was thought by Sheri Williamson to be most likely a Broad-tailed (J&GB).

Rufous Hummingbird: Oddly, only one was reported, that in the DeLara yard in Scotts Bluff Co 3 Sep (MW, JR, ERa).

Calliope Hummingbird: The only report, finishing out a slow fall for regularly-occurring *Selasphorus* hummers, was of one in the DeLara yard 24-26 Aug (KD).

King Rail: The only report was of one heard in Nance Co 7 Aug (MB); this species is less than annual in summer.

Virginia Rail: Reports were routine of this common fall migrant central, uncommon east and west.

Sora: Reports were routine of this fairly common statewide fall migrant.

- Common Gallinule:** The only report of this rare, less-than-annual, summer visitor was of two birds at La Platte Bottoms, Sarpy Co, 13 Aug; the red bills with yellow tips were seen (MSh).
- American Coot:** The 3500 on a pond in western Sarpy Co 23 Oct (DSt) is impressive, although high fall counts are 6315-17,359.
- Sandhill Crane:** A pair with two colts in northern Brown Co 20 Aug (SW) was at a new breeding location. There have been several confirmed breeding records for the state, but few consistent locations since the first modern breeding occurred in 1999 in the RWB. Best count of migrants was the 1400 over Valentine 21 Oct (JED); the only report from the east was of 80 rather late over Saunders Co 29 Nov (WHO); ELDs are 1-4 Dec.
- Whooping Crane:** Reports of this species are often not publicized due to its federal endangered status. Apparently most over-flew Nebraska this fall to rest in central Kansas (fide JGJ). There were four officially-confirmed Nebraska records involving 28 birds 4-14 Nov, best count the 16 (14 ads, 2 juvs) in Dawson Co 12 Nov (fide JGJ). The only higher fall count is 30-35 at Valentine NWR, Cherry Co, in 2007.
- Black-necked Stilt:** Second-latest on record were the 3 between Ellsworth and Gordon, Sheridan Co, 2 Oct (G&DG, details). An apparent family group of 5-6 was in Dawson Co 26 Aug (BRo fide JGJ); this is a rather late date also, as ELDs are 26-27 Aug.
- American Avocet:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant west and central, uncommon east.
- Black-bellied Plover:** Reports were routine of this uncommon, locally common, statewide fall migrant.
- American Golden-Plover:** A good tally for a rather late date was the 163 near Tamora, Seward Co, 27 Oct (JGJ); late Oct counts are mostly juvs; ads are scarce in the interior in fall.
- Semipalmated Plover:** Reports were routine of this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
- Piping Plover:** Reports were routine of this rare (away from breeding areas) fall migrant east and central rare casual west.
- Killdeer:** The 800 at Conestoga L, Lancaster Co, 1 Aug (LE) was third-highest fall tally on record behind 992 and 1000.
- Mountain Plover:** There were no reports of this uncommon fall migrant in the southwest Panhandle; ELDs are 15-27 Sep.
- Upland Sandpiper:** Reports were routine of this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
- Long-billed Curlew:** There were no reports of this fairly common fall migrant central and west, rare casual east. ELDs are 15-19 Sep.
- Marbled Godwit:** There were no reports of this rare fall migrant west, rare casual elsewhere. ELDs are 7-24 Oct.
- Stilt Sandpiper:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant central, fairly common east and west.
- Sanderling:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Dunlin:** Reports were routine of this uncommon statewide fall migrant.

- Baird's Sandpiper:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Least Sandpiper:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Rare westward, 4 were at Swanson Res, Hitchcock Co, 25 Aug (JGJ).
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant central and east, uncommon west.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant central and east, uncommon west.
- Western Sandpiper:** Reports were routine of this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** The only reports were of singles in Dakota Co 6 Aug (PR) and 13 Aug in Saunders Co (JGJ). Most fall sightings are of juvs.
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Rather late were 4 in Seward Co 9 Nov (JGJ) and 6 in Butler Co 11 Nov (LE); ELDs are 13-19 Nov.
- Wilson's Snipe:** Migrants appear in mid-Aug, usually in small flocks, behavior unexpected for local breeders; five flew over LaPlatte Bottoms, Sarpy Co, 14 Aug (JR, TG). The flock of 67 at Todd Valley Wetlands, Saunders Co, 4 Nov (JGJ) was 4th-highest on record in fall; high counts are 72-200.
- American Woodcock:** Only the 3rd Panhandle record was of one along the White River in Sioux Co 13 Oct (SLu fide JGJ). One in Loup Co 1 Oct (NR) was westerly.
- Spotted Sandpiper:** Reports were routine of this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
- Solitary Sandpiper:** Reports were routine of this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
- Greater Yellowlegs:** ELDs are 17-18 Nov, and so noteworthy were two at Todd Valley Wetlands, Saunders Co, 17 Nov (JGJ), and 2-5 at Tamora WPA, Seward Co, 10-11 Nov (TG, LE). The 46 in Butler Co 4 Nov (JGJ) was a good count; high fall counts are 56-63.
- Willet:** This species is rare in the east in fall; there are only 22 reports in the east overall after 31 Aug. The 3 reports this fall were of singles: 5 Aug (LE) and 5 Sep (SKr) at BOL, and 3 Aug at SCP (TG).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** One at Tamora WPA, Seward Co, 11 Nov (LE) was rather late; ELDs are 16-19 Nov.
- Wilson's Phalarope:** The 12 birds in basic plumage at Todd Valley Wetlands, Saunders Co, 28 Oct (SQ) were latest on record by 6 days; previous ELDs were 20-22 Oct.
- Red-necked Phalarope:** ELDs are 13-14 Oct; one at LO 16 Oct (ERa) was 3rd-latest on record for fall, later dates 24 and 31 Oct.
- Red Phalarope:** The 17th for fall in Nebraska was a single at BOL 22-27 Sep (MB, LE). The 17 records are 1 Aug-24 Nov.
- Sabine's Gull:** This species showed well this fall, with at least 27 individuals reported 17 Sep-16 Oct statewide; best count was 6, at LNB 19 Sep (NR), at BOL 27 Sep (LE), and at GPD 26 Sep (MB). As expected, all birds with ages reported were juvs. Expected date range for the species is 2 Sep-21 Oct.

- Bonaparte's Gull:** Reports were routine of this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
- Laughing Gull:** Nebraska's 24th overall was a juv at BOL 1 Aug (LE). This species is a less-than-annual summer visitor to Nebraska.
- Franklin's Gull:** Huge numbers occur in fall; best estimate was 34,000 at Sutherland Res 16 Oct (SML, DDo, NMo). High counts for fall are 84,000-300,000.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Reports were routine of this abundant statewide fall migrant.
- California Gull:** Reports away from LM, where regular in fall, were an ad and a 2nd-year at Swanson Res, Hitchcock Co, 16 Oct (SML, NMo, DDo), and 2 ads at Maloney Res SRA, Lincoln Co, 28 Nov (TJW).
- Herring Gull:** Rather early were two at LM 16 Sep (JGJ); EEDs are 13-16 Sep, almost all of which are imms until mid-Oct when ads arrive.
- Thayer's Gull:** A first winter bird at GPD 12-26 Nov (BFH, DC, NDr, RD) was the only report. EEDs are 1 Nov (three times).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Reports were routine of this uncommon statewide fall migrant.
- Glaucous Gull:** None were reported of this uncommon statewide fall migrant; EEDs are 14-16 Nov.
- Great Black-backed Gull:** One at GPD 15-24 Nov (DC, MB) was the 16th fall record; there are about 37 records in all for Nebraska, although occurrence is less-than-annual.
- Least Tern:** Reports were routine of this fairly common fall migrant east and central, rare west.
- Caspian Tern:** Reports were routine of this uncommon statewide fall migrant.
- Black Tern:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Common Tern:** One at Swanson Res, Hitchcock Co, 16 Oct (SML, DDo, NMo, details) was rather late; previous ELDs were 14-17 Oct.
- Forster's Tern:** The 120 at BOL 6 Aug (MW) was a good count; previous highs were 106-369.
- Red-throated Loon:** One was at GPD 11-14 Nov (RD, BFH, JJ), the 21st documented fall record of this less-than-annual migrant.
- Pacific Loon:** There were two reports of this regular but rare fall migrant: one at GPD 24 Nov (MB) and two at BOL 28 Nov (LE).
- Common Loon:** The summering bird at Verdon L SRA, Richardson Co was reported through 26 Aug (SQ); reports in the east in summer are less than annual. Imms are expected in summer in the western half of the state, however; one was at Enders Res SRA, Chase Co, 29 Aug (WF).
- Double-crested Cormorant:** Large numbers stage at Calamus Res SRA, Loup/Garfield Cos; estimates on 2 Oct were of 5000 (ERa) and 4000 from a boat (TJW), and an actual count the same day was of 3351 (KJM). High count on record for the reservoir is 7500, and high for the state 12,000 at HCR.
- American White Pelican:** The 3000 estimated at Calamus Res SRA, Loup/Garfield Cos, 2 Oct (ERa) tied the record high for the second time. The three estimates of 3000 occurred 8 Sep-8 Oct.
- American Bittern:** Reports were routine of this uncommon statewide fall migrant.

- Least Bittern:** There were no reports of this uncommon fall migrant in the east; ELDs are 23 Sep (three times).
- Great Blue Heron:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Great Egret:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant east and central, rare west.
- Snowy Egret:** One at Oak Park L, Lincoln, Lancaster Co, 15-22 Oct (MW, BSt, m. ob.) was rather late; ELDs are 22-25 Oct.
- Cattle Egret:** Reports were routine of this uncommon, locally common, fall migrant east and central, rare west.
- Green Heron:** Somewhat northwesterly was one northwest of Merritt Res SRA, Cherry Co, 6 Aug (JTh).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Reports were routine of this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** This species occurs annually but rarely through Aug, but none were reported this Aug or later.
- White-faced Ibis:** There were numerous reports after the previous ELDs of 15-20 Oct; there are now sufficient reports from this and previous falls to re-establish the ELDs as 11-13 Nov. Tardy birds this fall were one near Colon, Saunders Co, 4 and 11 Nov (RSa, JGJ); 11 were there 28-29 Oct (SQ, ERa, MW). Fifteen dark ibis, reported as *Plegadis* sp., were at Tamora WPA, Seward Co, 27 Oct (JGJ).
- Turkey Vulture:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Osprey:** Two of the three nests that fledged young last year in Scotts Bluff Co fledged two juvs each this year (KD); a nest attempt near Mitchell was unsuccessful, as it was last year (KD). One appeared rather early in Sarpy Co 8 Aug (L&BP); EEDs away from breeding locations were 12-13 Aug, but this report and others prior to this fall re-establish EEDs as 8-9 Aug. One at Holmes L, Lincoln, 29 Nov was photographed (SKr); it is the 4th-latest record with details, latest with photo documentation. The three later records are 4, 11, and 19 Dec.
- Mississippi Kite:** Intriguing reports of only sub-ads present all summer in Omaha were followed by a report of a juv with an ad in the same area 29 Aug; no nest has been found in that area yet (RS). At this date, however, these may have been migrants, as there is a noticeable fall movement from north of Nebraska in late Aug-early Sep, as documented by Hitchcock Hawk Watch, Pottawattamie Co, Iowa data. Rather amazing, especially as to provenance, was the kettle of 75 over South Sioux City, Dakota Co, 6 Sep (PR). Additional eastern reports were of a juv over Lincoln 4 Sep (JGJ) and a single over Omaha 8 Sep (EB).
- Bald Eagle:** Reports were routine of this uncommon statewide breeder and common statewide fall migrant. Migrants usually arrive towards the end of the Fall reporting period; earlier reports of birds other than ads are of non-breeding imms.
- Northern Harrier:** Most reports in Aug are from the north and west, where most reports of breeding originate, and so one in Webster Co 10 Aug (GWa) was unexpected. The next easterly report was 10 Sep in Saunders Co (KKa).

- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Reports were routine of this uncommon, locally common, statewide fall migrant.
- Cooper's Hawk:** Reports were routine of this uncommon, locally common, statewide fall migrant.
- Northern Goshawk:** There were no reports of this rare statewide fall migrant.
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** One or two imms were over WP 15-17 Sep (SKr photo, ERa, LE); this species is a rare but annual fall migrant in the east.
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Singles were westerly, an increasingly regular occurrence in recent years, at Brady, Lincoln Co, 23 Sep (TJW), and LO 17 Oct (ERa photo).
- Swainson's Hawk:** A rare dark morph was reported 1 Oct in Garfield Co (KJM); this is only the 5th report of this form for Nebraska.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** A rather early *Buteo jamaicensis harlani* was in Garfield Co 1 Oct (KJM); EEDs for this subspecies are 27-30 Sep. The taxonomic status of *B. j. kriderii* is uncertain; some authorities consider it a pale morph of eastern *B. j. borealis* rather than a subspecies. In Nebraska it probably breeds occasionally in the northwest and occurs elsewhere in winter, but is rare at any time and can be difficult to separate from pale Red-tailed Hawks (eastern *B. j. borealis*). EEDs for this form are poorly-documented, but appear to be in the range 11 Oct-15 Nov. One in Lancaster Co 24 Nov was well-described (M&CVB).
- Rough-legged Hawk:** Reports were routine of this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
- Ferruginous Hawk:** Easternmost was one in Loup Co 30 Nov (PR), where it is uncommon in fall.
- Golden Eagle:** Reports were routine of this uncommon resident west, and uncommon fall migrant west and central, rare east.
- Barn Owl:** Reports were routine of this uncommon fall migrant west and central, rare east.
- Eastern Screech-Owl:** Reports were routine of this common resident east and central, uncommon west.
- Great Horned Owl:** Reports were routine of this common statewide resident.
- Snowy Owl:** There were no reports of this rare statewide winter visitor; EEDs are 11-12 Nov.
- Burrowing Owl:** One photographed in Burt Co 17 Sep (EBe) was one of only 7 recent reports from the east, all apparent fall migrants in the period 17 Sep-27 Oct.
- Barred Owl:** Reports from the Republican River Valley continue as this species consolidates in the Little Blue River drainage and moves farther west; one was in Nuckolls Co 21 Sep (WF).
- Long-eared Owl:** There were no reports of this uncommon statewide fall and winter visitor. EEDs are 21-26 Oct.
- Short-eared Owl:** The only report was of one flushed from grassland south of Gordon in Sheridan Co 23 Aug (DMe); this species likely breeds in the area.
- Northern Saw-whet Owl:** There were no reports of this rare northwest breeder and uncommon fall migrant statewide.

- Belted Kingfisher:** Fall movement, when weather conditions are severe, is discernible mid-late Sep; thus 4-5 at BOL 8-19 Aug (SKr, LE) are suggestive of family groups.
- Lewis's Woodpecker:** Reports continue from a site below Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, that has been occupied since 2010 and is the only known current regular site for this species; 4 were there 4 Sep (MW, ERa, photos). Rarely encountered east of the Panhandle, only the 4th such record was of two in the Keya Paha Co portion of the Niobrara Valley Preserve 29 Sep; according to the observer, "There are a lot of cottonwood snags and other dead trees in the area following the big wildfire of 2012. The woodpeckers were moving together 'flycatching' from snag to snag". (MH).
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** Two in Cherry Co 28 Sep (JED) and one in Garfield Co 30 Sep (GR) were tardy; ELDs in the north are 30 Sep-2 Oct.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Approximating the west edge of the current range were singles near Lewellen 26 Nov (BP) and at Valentine NWR, Cherry Co, 6 Aug (MAv).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** A juv was at Fort Robinson SHP, Dawes Co, 13 Oct (JGJ, TJW); this species is rare in fall in the Panhandle. Note that a juv sapsucker in the Panhandle after Sep is a Yellow-bellied, as Red-naped molt out of juv plumage by Sep.
- Red-naped Sapsucker:** There were three reports of this rare but annual fall Panhandle migrant; one was at Oliver Res SRA, Kimball Co, 19 Sep (JGJ), one was at Coffee Park, Sioux Co, 18 Sep (RW), and 2 were in West Ash Canyon, Dawes Co, 19 Sep (RW).
- Downy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine of this common resident east and central, fairly common west.
- Hairy Woodpecker:** Reports were routine of this common resident west, fairly common central and east.
- Northern Flicker:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Pileated Woodpecker:** Two at Fremont Lakes SRA, Dodge Co, 30 Oct (PPe) were the farthest west to date in the lower Platte River Valley. This species is gradually expanding its range north and west from extreme southeast Nebraska.
- American Kestrel:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Merlin:** Reports were routine of this uncommon statewide fall migrant.
- Peregrine Falcon:** Reports were routine of this locally uncommon (translocated) breeder Omaha and Lincoln, and uncommon statewide fall migrant.
- Prairie Falcon:** Rare in the east, there were two reports of singles, in Madison Co 21 Oct (WF) and Richardson Co 11 Nov (JRy).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Usually rare westward, there were several reports this fall: one was at LO 22 Aug (JGJ photo), one in Dundy Co 3 Sep (WKa), one at Gering Cem, Scotts Bluff Co, 3 Sep (MW, ERa, JR), 4 in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 4 Sep (MW, ERa), and one in Lincoln Co 23 Sep (JHa). The presence of 4 together 4 Sep is interesting in that it has been suggested that breeding might occur on the Pine Ridge (Richard Rosche).
- Western Wood-Pewee:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant west, locally rare central, rare casual east.

- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** There were reports from the western limits of the summer range in the Niobrara River Valley at Fort Niobrara NWR, Cherry Co, 6 Aug (NKO) and in the Platte River Valley in Lincoln Co 29 Aug (WBe, CBa). In both areas there is overlap with Western Wood-Pewee.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Reports have increased in recent years, possibly as observers are looking harder at *Empidonax* flycatchers. There were 6 reported 12 Aug-28 Sep. The 12 Aug sighting at Indian Cave SP (MBe) was rather early; EEDs are 8-12 Aug. The 28 Sep report, at Memphis Lakes SRA (CNK), was rather late; ELDs were 23-26 Sep, although this report and others indicate a readjustment of ELDs to 4-6 Oct.
- Acadian Flycatcher:** The only report was of one calling at ICSP 12 Aug (MBe); this species is a common summer resident there. ELDs are in mid-Sep.
- Alder Flycatcher:** There were no reports of this uncommon fall migrant east and central; ELDs are 6-12 Sep.
- Willow Flycatcher:** Reports were routine of this uncommon statewide fall migrant.
- Least Flycatcher:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Hammond's Flycatcher:** There were three reports of this rare but annual fall Panhandle migrant. Two were in Sowbelly Canyon 4 Sep (MW, ERa), and singles were at Rock Creek SRA, Dundy Co, (SML, NMo) and Gotte Park, Kimball, 5 Sep (MW, ERa, JR).
- Dusky Flycatcher:** There was one report of this species, also rare but annual in fall in the Panhandle. One was well-described near Exit 1 on Interstate 80 in Kimball Co 5 Sep (MW, JR, ERa).
- Cordilleran Flycatcher:** The only report of this uncommon Pine Ridge breeder was of two at a breeding location, Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 4 Sep (ERa, MW).
- Eastern Phoebe:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant east and central, uncommon west.
- Say's Phoebe:** This species is less-than-annual in the east; singles at PSP 25 Sep (JJ) and in Adams Co 16 Sep (PD) were only the 12-13th such records.
- Great Crested Flycatcher:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant east and central, rare west.
- Cassin's Kingbird:** This species is less than annual east of the Panhandle, and so one at Venango, Perkins Co, 28 Aug (WF), although as far west as it could get without being in the Panhandle, was noteworthy. This is the 5th record east of the Panhandle, the others were from Keith, Lincoln (2), and western Cherry Cos.
- Western Kingbird:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant east and central, uncommon east.
- Eastern Kingbird:** One in Garfield Co 1 Oct (RKR) was rather late; ELDs are 2-3 Oct.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** The only report was of one in Pawnee Co 19 Aug (JWa), despite several reports, including two of nesting, during summer. This species apparently departs nesting locations by mid-Aug and becomes more difficult to find, as there are only 21 reports after 12 Aug.
- Loggerhead Shrike:** This species continues to struggle in the east; of 18 reports received, only two were from the east, 10 Aug Webster Co (GWa) and 5 Sep

BOL (TG). More encouraging were the westerly reports; 10 were counted in the southwest 24-28 Aug (NR).

Northern Shrike: Singles in Garden and Keith Cos 18 Oct (TG) were rather early; ELDs were 20-21 Oct and have been adjusted to 17-20 Oct. Another was rather early in Dixon Co 22 Oct (BFH).

Bell's Vireo: One in Scotts Bluff Co 7 Sep (TLA) was tardy; ELDs in the Panhandle were 5-7 Sep, now 7 Sep (three times). Also tardy at the westerly location was one in North Platte 13 Sep (TJW).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Reports were routine of this fairly common fall migrant east, rare casual central.

Cassin's Vireo: The only report of this uncommon western fall migrant was of one in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 4 Sep (ERa, MW).

Blue-headed Vireo: The only report away from the east was of one in Holt Co 1 Oct (KJM). Surprisingly, this is only the 5th fall report in the central; there are more Panhandle reports, a total of 9.

Plumbeous Vireo: One at Oliver Res, Kimball Co, 19 Sep (JGJ) was rather late; ELDs are 22-24 Sep. The count of 7 in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 4 Sep (MW, ERa) was a new fall high count.

Philadelphia Vireo: Reports were routine of this uncommon fall migrant east, rare central rare casual west.

Warbling Vireo: One at CSP 14 Sep (JLe) was tardy; ELDs in the west are 14-16 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: Reports were routine of this common fall migrant east and central, uncommon west.

Pinyon Jay: The only two reports were from unexpected locations; 5 were seen distantly in southeast Lincoln Co 30 Oct (TJW, details). There are a few similar reports Oct-Nov in the North Platte River Valley in previous years. A single, unusual for this species, was reported at L Minatare, Scotts Bluff Co, 12 Aug without details.

Blue Jay: Reports were routine of this common fall migrant east and central, fairly common west.

Black-billed Magpie: Easternmost was one near Naponee, Harlan Co, 23 Oct (LR, RH). The only other reports away from the Panhandle were of 1-2 at Red Willow Res in southeast Frontier and southwest Red Willow Cos 15 Oct (ASh) and one in Hooker Co 27 Aug (GKi). An encouraging report from Scotts Bluff Co was of 2 ads and 6 juvs at the "Magpie Location" east of Scottsbluff 2 Aug (KD); elsewhere in Scotts Bluff Co singles were at Scotts Bluff NM 17 Sep (RGo) and along High Line Road 22 Oct (KD). Singles only were reported at CSP, but on several occasions, 1 Aug-8 Oct (JLe, AJo), in Deuel Co 27 Aug (ABr), and in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 12 Aug (TJW).

American Crow: Large flocks are rare in the Panhandle; the 100 in southeastern Garden Co 26 Nov (BP) was the 2nd-highest fall count on record there, after the 400 in Dawes Co in 2000. Elsewhere, high counts are 2000-3000; good counts this fall were the 1000 in Lincoln Co 31 Oct (AVe) and 900 near Valentine 21 Oct (JED).

Horned Lark: Reports were routine of this abundant statewide fall migrant.

- Purple Martin:** The regular roost in mid-town Omaha apparently shifted a short distance north; 5000 were estimated 20 Aug (JT), but no other reports were received of the roost. A good non-roost estimate was the 1000 over Offutt Base L, Sarpy Co, 13 Aug (ARy). There are only 6 reports in northeast Cherry Co, all since 2002; this summer 37 were counted in Valentine 18 Aug (JED), suggesting establishment there, the westernmost known location in the Niobrara River Valley.
- Tree Swallow:** Rather late were up to 6 in Lancaster Co 28-29 Oct (EJa, TG, NR); ELDs are 31 Oct (three times). The 1225 at BOL 13 Sep (LE) was a new record high fall count; previous highs were 750-1000.
- Violet-green Swallow:** ELDs are 25-29 Aug, with only 3 reports for Sep; this fall up to 7 were in Scotts Bluff Co 17-21 Sep (AK, KD).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Bank Swallow:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Cliff Swallow:** The 24 in York Co 30 Sep (RSt) were rather late; ELDs are 4-7 Oct.
- Barn Swallow:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Black-capped Chickadee:** Recovery from the apparent West Nile Virus effects continues; one in the observer's Dixon Co yard 19 Oct was the first there for 2 years (JJ).
- Tufted Titmouse:** The only reports away from the Missouri River Valley counties were of singles in Johnson Co 5 Aug (SQ) and in the Beatrice City Park, Gage Co, 28 Aug (JJ); there are several records for nearby Homestead NM as long ago as 1962.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** First arrivals in the east and first away from the Panhandle were singles at different locations in Omaha 10 Sep (JR, TEL). Reports were widespread but in average numbers through the period.
- White-breasted Nuthatch:** In areas of the state where breeding birds are absent or very few, such as the Panhandle south of the Pine Ridge and the western Sandhills, wintering birds arrive in Sep; one was in Bushnell, Kimball Co, 6 Sep (FKo).
- Pygmy Nuthatch:** Good numbers were detected in the CSP area; 25 in groups of 4-8 were counted in Chadron Creek WMA 1 Sep (JLe), and 9 were banded at CSP where none were banded a year ago (JLe).
- Brown Creeper:** One at CSP 8 Sep (JLe) likely summered there, although there are very few summer records in the area; migrants appear by mid-Sep.
- Rock Wren:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant west and west-central, rare east-central, rare casual east.
- Canyon Wren:** Nebraska's 5th documented record was of one at a central Cherry Co ranch 28 Oct-30 Nov (MSS, PD, JJ, JGJ photo, MW photo).
- House Wren:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Winter Wren:** Reports were routine of this uncommon fall migrant east, rare casual elsewhere.
- Sedge Wren:** Rather late were one at WP 1 Nov (EJa) and two at LSWNP the same day (SKr photo). Two heard at Oliver Res 5 Sep (MW, JR, ERa) were in the same area as one found 7 Sep 2015 by the same observers.



This Canyon Wren, Nebraska's fifth, was at Shoemaker Ranch, central Cherry Co, 28 Oct-30 Nov 2016, here photographed by Joel Jorgensen 20 Nov 2016.

Marsh Wren: One at Holmes L, Lancaster Co, 29 Nov (EJa) was rather late; ELDs for non-wintering birds are 21-24 Nov.

Carolina Wren: Reports were from the expected southeastern range, except for one that took up residence this 22 Jul at North Platte and was still present 7 Nov (TJW).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: By far the latest documented record for the state was one at LO 25 Nov (BP photo); previous latest was one in Dundy Co 11 Oct 2015. Fewest records are in the north-central, but numbers are increasing in northeastern Cherry Co; 1-2 were at Fort Niobrara NWR 6-7 Aug (NKO, MAV).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Reports were routine of this fairly common statewide fall migrant.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: One at FF 5 Aug (RS) was 2nd-earliest on record in the south and east; EEDs there are 2-5 Sep. There is a specimen taken 29 Jul 1920 in Lancaster Co.

Eastern Bluebird: Reports were routine of this common fall migrant east and central, uncommon west.

Mountain Bluebird: Flocks may form by early Sep on the breeding grounds; 25 were in West Ash Canyon, Dawes Co, 4 Sep (MW, JR, ERa). Easterly reports were of one in Merrick Co 23 Oct (JGJ photo), 3 in Franklin Co 30 Oct (LR, RH), and 5 in Gosper Co 13 Nov (LR, RH).

Townsend's Solitaire: Reports were routine of this common fall migrant west, uncommon central, rare casual east.

- Veery:** The only reports of this rare fall migrant were from the east; singles were in Omaha 14 and 19 Sep (JR).
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** One was seen in good light conditions at WP 9 Sep (LE); this species is less than annual in fall, as noted by the observer, with about 35 records in all for the state.
- Swainson's Thrush:** One in Omaha 26 Aug (JR) was rather early; EEDs are 24-25 Aug.
- Hermit Thrush:** Reports were routine of this uncommon fall migrant east and west, rare central.
- Wood Thrush:** No details were provided for one at FF 22 Oct; one was photographed in Boone Co 21 Oct 2012.
- American Robin:** Reports were routine of this abundant statewide fall migrant.
- Gray Catbird:** One at CSP 2 Oct (JLe) was rather late for the west, where ELDs are 7-9 Oct.
- Curve-billed Thrasher:** An ad apparently of subspecies *Toxostoma curvirostre oberholseri* was photographed at CSP 7 Oct (JLe); this is the 9th record for Nebraska. Both *T. c. oberholseri* and *T. c. palmeri* have occurred in the state.
- Brown Thrasher:** An unusual sight was a loose group of 8 apparently migrating 10 Sep in Hastings (PD).
- Sage Thrasher:** Reports were routine of this uncommon fall Panhandle migrant, accidental central.
- Northern Mockingbird:** Reports were routine of this uncommon fall migrant west, south, and east, rare elsewhere.
- European Starling:** Reports were routine of this common statewide resident and abundant statewide fall migrant.
- Cedar Waxwing:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Northern Red Bishop:** A fem on the University of Omaha campus 27 Sep (SMa) was a surprise; there are no known established populations closer than Houston, Texas and southern California.
- House Sparrow:** A good count was the 321 in Platte Co 2 Oct 2016 (KJM).
- American Pipit:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Sprague's Pipit:** Best count of this uncommon statewide fall migrant was 11 at Fort Niobrara NWR, Cherry Co, 23 Sep (CNK). High fall counts are 12-56.
- House Finch:** Reports were routine of this common statewide resident.
- Purple Finch:** The 22 in southeast Washington Co 27 Oct, mostly fems and imms (JR), was a good count. Fall high counts are 25-40.
- Red Crossbill:** There was little movement eastward; all but one of the numerous reports were from the Panhandle at expected locations, CSP, Sowbelly Canyon, West Ash Canyon, and Wildcat Hills NC (JLe, MW, ERa, TJW). Best day count in the Panhandle was the 20 in West Ash Canyon, Dawes Co, 4 Sep (ERa, MW), but best overall count was the one report away from the Panhandle, 55 in Valentine 24 Nov (JED).
- Pine Siskin:** This species was essentially absent in the state from early Jun until the end of the fall period, when singles appeared in Bellevue 23 Nov (ARy) and in Valentine 24 Nov (JED). None were banded at CSP during the fall, whereas several were banded in the previous two falls (JLe).

- Lesser Goldfinch:** Reports were routine of this uncommon summer visitor in the Panhandle; summer visitors depart by mid-Sep.
- American Goldfinch:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Lapland Longspur:** One at Ashfall Fossil Beds SHP, Antelope Co, 16 Sep (MRo) was rather early; EEDs are 9 Oct (three times).
- Chestnut-collared Longspur:** There were no reports of this common fall migrant west, uncommon central, rare east.
- McCown's Longspur:** There were no reports of this common, locally abundant, fall migrant west, rare casual elsewhere.
- Snow Bunting:** The three at LNB 21 Nov (JGJ) arrived just in time to make the Fall Report. EEDs are 26-27 Oct.
- Ovenbird:** Reports were routine of this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** The only report was from Rock Creek Station SHP, Jefferson Co, where 4 of the 7 summer territories still contained single birds 17 Aug (SSc). Most depart by Sep.
- Northern Waterthrush:** Reports were routine of this fairly common fall migrant east and central uncommon west.
- Golden-winged Warbler:** Until this year there had been only 28 fall records in all, leading to less-than-annual status. This year there were four: a male was at FF 6 Sep (RS), a fem in Cedar Co 6 Sep (MB), a male in Knox Co the same day, the observer's first for this and Cedar Cos (MB), and a male in Omaha 10 Sep (JR).
- Blue-winged Warbler:** A major surprise was one at CSP 28 Aug (JLe details); this is the first Panhandle record and only the 15th fall record for Nebraska.
- Black-and-white Warbler:** Reports were routine of this fairly common statewide fall migrant.
- Tennessee Warbler:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant east and central, rare casual west.
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** One at Agate Fossil Beds NM, Sioux Co, 26 Aug (LYo) was rather early; EEDs are 22-24 Aug. Such early migrants in the west may be the early-migrating western subspecies *Oreothlypis celata orestera*, although all banded birds at CSP were expected eastern *O. c. celata* (JLe).
- Nashville Warbler:** One at Oliver Res, Kimball Co, 5 Sep (MW, JR, ERa) was the 20th fall Panhandle record, followed by the 21st, one at CSP 7 Sep (JLe). Westerly was one in Dundy Co 9 Oct (WKa, MKe, TTh).
- MacGillivray's Warbler:** Reports were routine of this uncommon fall migrant west and west-central, rare casual east-central.
- Mourning Warbler:** Reports were routine of this fairly common fall migrant east, rare casual central and west.
- Kentucky Warbler:** There were no reports of this rare eastern fall migrant; ELDs are 19-23 Sep.
- Common Yellowthroat:** Good counts were 12 each at Maskenthine L, Stanton Co, 5 Aug (DH) and Conestoga L, Lancaster Co, (EA). Highs for fall are now 12-45.
- Hooded Warbler:** Only the 6th fall record for the state, all since 2000, was a HY fem in Omaha 12 Sep; key identification feature was its white tail spots (JR).

- American Redstart:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant east and central, uncommon west.
- Northern Parula:** Since Nebraska breeders are at the northwest edge of the species' range, it is difficult to identify individuals as migrants. However, reports away from known breeding locations late Aug-Sep are likely migrants: at least 3 of various age classes and genders were in central Omaha 14-25 Sep (JR) where breeding is unknown, two were at Hormel Park, Fremont, Dodge Co, 10 Sep (ERa, JGJ), one at Doane College, Saline Co, 9 Sep (JGJ), and one at Elmwood Park, Omaha, 17 Sep (SMa). ELDs for this species are 2-4 Oct.
- Magnolia Warbler:** Reports were routine of this fairly common fall migrant east, uncommon central, rare casual west.
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** Oddly, there was only one report of this species which is usually fairly common in fall. A fem was at a Bellevue feeder 21 Sep (L&BP).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** Reports were routine of this uncommon fall migrant east, rare casual central and west.
- Yellow Warbler:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Reports were routine of this fairly common fall migrant east, uncommon central, rare casual west.
- Blackpoll Warbler:** This species is less-than-annual in fall, but, oddly, occurs statewide. Of the three reports received, bringing the all-time state total of fall records to 53, one each were from Lancaster, Greeley, and Keith Cos: 6 Sep Greeley Co (RH), 14 Sep WP (LE), and 19 Sep LO (JGJ photo).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** The only report of this less-than-annual fall migrant was of a single male in central Omaha 14 Sep (JR, photo).
- Palm Warbler:** This species is a rare fall migrant in the east, less than annual elsewhere. Thus significant was one well-studied at CSP 14 Sep (JLe), the 10th fall Panhandle record. The total of 6 reports is unusual; 5 others were from the east: singles were in Dixon Co 22 Sep (JJ), at BOL 27 Sep (LE), at Holmes L, Lincoln, 27 Sep (ERa), 28 Sep at Memphis Lakes SRA, Saunders Co (CNK), and rather late in Sarpy Co 15 Oct (RS). ELDs are 17-20 Oct.
- Pine Warbler:** A HY bird was carefully identified in Elmwood Park, Omaha, 23 Sep (SMa, photo). Although reports have increased in recent years, this species is still of less-than-annual occurrence in the state.
- Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler:** The 100 at Prairie Queen RA, Sarpy Co, 19 Oct (MSh) was a good count; previous highs were 100+-129. Normally departing the north and west by late Oct, singles in Wheeler and Garfield Cos 20 Nov (JGJ) were noteworthy.
- Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler:** Reports were routine of this fairly common fall migrant west, uncommon central, rare casual east.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** There were no reports of this uncommon fall migrant east, less-than-annual elsewhere. ELDs are 13-15 Sep.
- Townsend's Warbler:** Reports were routine of this fairly common fall Panhandle migrant, rare casual elsewhere.
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** Westerly was one in Red Willow Co rather early 26 Aug (WF); EEDs are 23-25 Aug. There were numerous reports in the east, but only one other report in the central, one at Calamus Res, Loup Co, 2 Oct (RS).

- Canada Warbler:** Rare in fall, even in the east, there were an amazing 11 reports, all in the east 31 Aug-25 Sep, involving a total of 14 birds (m. ob.).
- Wilson's Warbler:** The 40 in Sowbelly Canyon, 4 Sep (MW, JR, ERa) was a good count; high counts for fall are 70-81.
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** Reports were routine of this uncommon, locally common, fall migrant west, west-central, and north, east to Knox Co, rare casual elsewhere.
- Green-tailed Towhee:** The only report of this rare Panhandle fall migrant was of two in southwestern Kimball Co 17 Sep, "twice as many as I'd ever seen at a time in the state" (RW).
- Spotted Towhee:** Reports from the north decline markedly into Oct; the last sighting in Valentine was 9 Oct (JED).
- Eastern Towhee:** Reports were routine of this rare fall visitor away from known breeding areas.
- American Tree Sparrow:** Reports were routine of this abundant statewide fall migrant.
- Chipping Sparrow:** Of interest was the recapture at CSP of one that was banded there as an ad in 2010 (JLe); quite an old Chipping Sparrow!
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** The 300 estimated at West Ash Creek, Dawes Co, 4 Sep (MW, JR, ERa) was a record fall count, technically higher than the "hundreds" reported twice in previous years.
- Brewer's Sparrow:** The only report of this uncommon-in-fall Panhandle migrant was of one photographed in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 4 Sep (MW, ERa).
- Field Sparrow:** The 69 counted in Garfield Co 2 Oct (KJM) was 2nd-highest fall count on record; previous highs were 30-100.
- Vesper Sparrow:** One at Bennington L, Douglas Co, 29 Nov (JR) was rather late; ELDs are 3-4 Dec.
- Lark Sparrow:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Lark Bunting:** Reports were routine of this abundant fall migrant west and west-central, uncommon east-central, rare casual east.
- Savannah Sparrow:** Reports were routine of this common, locally abundant, statewide fall migrant.
- Grasshopper Sparrow:** One at BOL 19 Oct (LE) was rather late; ELDs are 19-21 Oct.
- Henslow's Sparrow:** The only report was of two at SCP 11 Aug (EJa), a known summer location. ELDs are 23-25 Oct.
- Le Conte's Sparrow:** Previous ELDs were 7-10 Nov, and so several reports of lingerers were of interest: one was at Prairie Queen RA, Sarpy Co, 12 Nov (AG), two were photographed at LSFM, Lancaster Co, 14 Nov (M&CVB), and one was photographed in Douglas Co 26 Nov (SMa). These dates, plus other previous late dates, adjust the ELDs to 12-14 Nov. The 35 at Prairie Queen RA, Sarpy Co, (RS) was a good count; highs for fall are 40-158.
- Nelson's Sparrow:** ELDs are 24-25 Oct, although there are three later dates through 7 Nov; a new late date was set by one at Prairie Queen RA, Sarpy Co, 12 Nov (AG, details). Marshes, even in the southeast, are usually frozen by this date, but not this year.

- Fox Sparrow:** The 15 at FF 2 Nov (CNK) was a good count; previous fall highs were 12-32.
- Song Sparrow:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant east and east-central, fairly common west-central, uncommon west.
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** The 30+ in a Dixon Co yard 27 Sep (JJ) was a good count; fall highs are 50-100.
- Swamp Sparrow:** The 35 at LSFM, Lancaster Co, 9 Oct (MW) was a new fall record high; previous highs were 24-30.
- White-throated Sparrow:** One at CSP 19 Sep (JLe) was first reported and rather early; EEDs are 13-14 Sep.
- Harris's Sparrow:** Westerly, where rare, were up to 20 at LO 16-17 Oct (ERa), and 3 were in Lincoln Co 30 Oct (TJW). The 99 at BOL 31 Oct (LE) was a good count, but fall highs are 250-1000.
- White-crowned Sparrow:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant west and west-central, fairly common elsewhere.
- Dark-eyed (slate-colored) Junco:** Reports were routine of this common statewide fall migrant.
- Dark-eyed (Cassiar) Junco:** The only report was of a male photographed in an Omaha yard 23 Nov (SMA). Present knowledge suggests this form is an uncommon statewide fall migrant and winter visitor.
- Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco:** Reports were routine of this abundant fall migrant west, common central, uncommon east.
- Dark-eyed (pink-sided) Junco:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant west, uncommon west-central, less-than-annual east-central and east.
- Dark-eyed (white-winged) Junco:** Reports were routine of this fairly common Pine Ridge resident, and rare fall migrant west and west-central, rare casual elsewhere.
- Summer Tanager:** This species has only recently spread to Lancaster Co. First reported in WP in 2011, there are about 6 records since but no evidence of nesting; only 3 of the reports were of pairs. This year at WP, a pair was in the "same mature stand of oak trees as last year" (SSc), and one was still present 14 Sep (LE). Rather late was a fem in a Bellevue yard 21 Sep (L&BP); ELDs are 29-30 Sep.
- Scarlet Tanager:** Reports were routine of this uncommon fall migrant east, less-than-annual central and west.
- Western Tanager:** Reports were routine of this uncommon fall migrant west and west-central, less than annual east-central and east.
- Northern Cardinal:** In the north, this species occurs regularly west to northeast Cherry Co; there were 5 reports of single birds in the area during the period (MAv, JTh, JED, CNK). It is rare in the Panhandle with most reports from the North Platte River Valley; 1-2 were near the river in Scotts Bluff Co 9 Oct and 26 Nov (KD). Noteworthy also was a report of two in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, 12 Oct (TJW); reports are slowly increasing on the Pine Ridge.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant east, rare central, less-than-annual west.
- Black-headed Grosbeak:** Reports were routine of this common fall migrant west and central, less-than-annual east.

- Blue Grosbeak:** As suggested by the observer, a fem feeding four large juvs 22 Sep in Lincoln Co was a "very late successful nesting event" (TJW).
- Lazuli Bunting:** One in Loup Co 1 Oct (DL) was rather late; ELDs are 25-26 Sep, but there are 6 later dates through 12 Oct, the last a specimen.
- Indigo Bunting:** Rare in fall in the Panhandle were singles at Scotts Bluff NM, Scotts Bluff Co, 8 Aug (CTa) and at CSP 14 Sep (JLe).
- Dickcissel:** The 40 in southeast Sherman Co with a Bobolink flock 4 Sep (LR, RH) and 35 at Hickory Ridge WMA, Johnson Co, 5 Aug (SQ) were new high counts; previous fall highs were 23-33. One in Loup Co 2 Oct (WM) was tardy for the northerly location.
- Bobolink:** Third-latest on record was one in Rock Co 1 Oct (DH); ELDs are 26-27 Sep. The afore-mentioned mixed flock with Dickcissels in Sherman Co 4 Sep contained 40 Bobolinks (LR, RH).
- Red-winged Blackbird:** Reports were routine of this abundant statewide fall migrant.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Establishing ELDs for this species after singing ceases is difficult; current ELDs are 27 Oct-1 Nov based on calls or songs and a specimen 18 Nov. One was singing and calling at LSFM, Lancaster Co, 14 Nov (M&CVB).
- Western Meadowlark:** The 465 in Garfield Co 2 Oct (KJM) was a record fall count; previous highs were 200-300.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Reports were routine of this common, locally abundant, statewide fall migrant.
- Rusty Blackbird:** Rare as far west as the Panhandle, still a good westerly find were the 5 along Pawnee Rd, Lincoln Co, 27 Nov (BP, photo). The 51 at Wagon Train SRA, Lancaster Co, 4 Nov (LE) was a good count; fall high counts are 85-150.
- Brewer's Blackbird:** The 600 at Sutherland Res, Lincoln Co, 16 Oct (SMI, DDo, NMo) was a good tally; high counts for fall are 1000-3000.
- Common Grackle:** High fall counts are 100,000 three times, all in late Sep-early Oct; a fourth 100,000 estimate was made in Lincoln Co 13 Oct, a "migrating flock stretching for 2+ miles" (TSh). Three of these four 100,000 estimates were from Lincoln Co.
- Great-tailed Grackle:** By late Nov essentially all are in the southeast and Platte River Valley west to Keith Co; one in Lincoln Co 27 Nov (BP) was within the current winter range, but a rare sighting that far west for the date.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** Best count reported was the 1000+, including both genders, at LaPlatte Bottoms, Sarpy Co, 20 Oct (L&BP); high fall counts are 2500-12,000.
- Orchard Oriole:** A fem/imm in Dixon Co 27 Sep (JJ) was rather late; ELDs are 26-27 Sep.
- Bullock's Oriole:** Reports were routine of this fairly common fall migrant west and extreme west-central, rare casual elsewhere central and east.
- Baltimore Oriole:** Rather late was a fem in FF 5 Oct (CNK); ELDs in the east and central are 2-5 Oct. The last westerly report was of one in Chase Co 29 Aug (WF); farther north and west, in the Panhandle, ELDs are 3-6 Sep.