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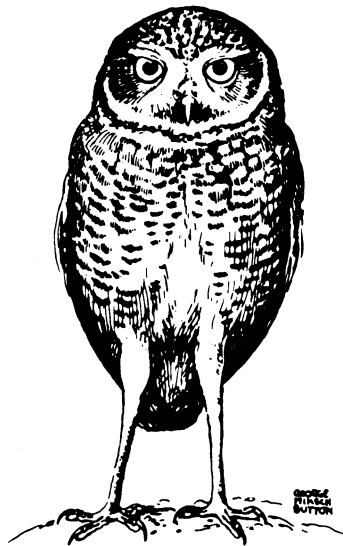
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TABLE OF CONTENTS ON BACK COVER

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Other officers are: President, Mrs. Ruth C. Green, 506 W. 31st Avenue, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005; Vice President, Gary Lingle, 2550 N. Diers Avenue, Suite H, Grand Island, Nebraska 68801; and Secretary, Mrs. C.E. Johnson, 604 S. 22nd St., Apt. 406, Omaha, Nebraska 68102.

THE EIGHTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

The first two thirds of May 1982 were much wetter than usual in Nebraska, and many of the people coming to the meeting drove in rain Friday until they got to within 150 miles or so of Chadron, and after they got home after the meeting encountered rainy weather again. But 21 and 22 May were dry and sunny in the meeting area. There was the usual get-together Friday night, at the meeting headquarters at Camp Norwesca, just south of Chadron State Park. At the business meeting Saturday afternoon the following officers were elected: Mrs. Ruth Green, Bellevue, president; Mr. Gary Lingle, Grand Island, vice president; Mrs. Emma Johnson, Omaha, secretary; Mrs. Jack Shafer, Wood River, treasurer; Dr. Neva Pruess, Lincoln, librarian, and Dr. R. G. Cortelyou, Omaha, editor. It was decided to hold the fall meeting at Halsey if a week end there was available, and to hold the next Annual Meeting at Lincoln. An increase in dues was discussed, but no action could be taken because proper notice had not been given before the meeting. It was suggested that a change in the by-laws on this point be submitted to mail vote. Sixty-seven people registered for the meeting, and 78, including guests and visitors, were at the banquet, after which Les Baylor, S.D. School of Mines, showed slides to illustrate his talk on "Fun with Birds in Photography". The directors decided that the White-tailed Kite (*NBR* 50:10) was the best bird recently reported. Dr. Pruess had brought out from the archives three photographs, one being of those at the Chadron meeting in 1960. Of the 63 in the picture, 10 were present at the 1982 meeting, and two spouses, who were present but not in the 1960 picture, were also at the 1982 meeting.

The official count was 129 species. The count period was restricted to Saturday and to Sunday morning, the area covered Dawes and the northern part of Sioux County. The birds were: Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebes; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons; Mallard, Pintail; Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal; Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Turkey Vulture; Cooper's, Red-tailed, Broad-winged, Swainson's and Ferruginous Hawks; Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Prairie Falcon, American Kestrel, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Bob-white, Ring-necked Pheasant, Turkey, American Coot, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlew; Upland, Spotted, and Baird's Sandpipers; Wilson's Phalarope, Ring-billed Gull; Black Tern; Rock and Mourning Doves; Screech, Great Horned, and Burrowing Owls; Poor-will, Common Nighthawk, White throated Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker; Red-headed and Lewis' Woodpeckers; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers; Eastern, Western, and Cassin's Kingbirds; Great Crested Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Horned Lark; Violet-green, Tree, Rough-winged, Barn, and Cliff Swallows; Blue Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Pinon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Black-capped Chickadee; White breasted, Red-breasted, and Pygmy Nuthatches; Brown Creeper; House and Rock Wren; Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin; Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrush; Mountain Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling; Solitary and Red-eyed Vireos; Black-and-white, Yellow, and Yellow-rumped Warblers; Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Western Meadowlark; Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds; Orchard and Northern Orioles; Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Western Tanager; Rose-breasted, Black-headed, and Blue Grosbeaks; Indigo and Lazuli Buntings; Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Red Crossbill, Rufous-sided towhee, Lark Bunting; Savannah, Vesper, and Lark Sparrows; Dark-eyed Junco; Chipping, Clay-colored, Brewer's, White-crowned, Lincoln's, and Song Sparrows; McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs. . .

Three other species were recorded in the count area on Friday but not on the count days: Northern Phalarope, Short-eared Owl, and House Finch.

And incoming participants recorded 31 additional species Friday on their trips through the Sandhills, many of them from between Whitman and Hyannis: White Pelican, Green Heron, Cattle Egret, American Bittern, Swan sp. (presumably Trumpeter, but too far away to identify), Canada Goose, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Common Snipe; Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs; Willet; Pectoral, White-rumped, Least, and Semipalmated Sandpipers; Long-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, American Avocet; Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls; Forster's and Least Terns; Red-bellied Woodpecker, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Eastern Meadowlark.

Everyone who wanted to go to see the Lewis' Woodpeckers - four - just outside the Park in a portion of the Dead Horse burn. The Cassin's Kingbird was seen by Lee Morris on a power line. It looked similar to a Western but had no white on the sides of the tail, but had a touch of white at the tip. Before he could get more details it flew farther away, but from what he did see, and from the description in the book, he took it for a Cassin's Kingbird.

A CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF MORMON ISLAND CRANE MEADOWS

Introduction

Mormon Island Crane Meadows (MICM) was purchased in December 1979 through a cooperative effort of The Nature Conservancy and The Platte River Whooping Crane Critical Habitat Maintenance Trust. This 2,000 acre preserve provides excellent habitat for spring-staging migratory waterbirds and numerous species of other wildlife. In order to determine sound management practices for the area it was necessary to conduct an intensive inventory of the flora and fauna occurring there. This checklist represents the results of the bird inventory.

Notes on the occurrence of avifauna observed on MICM were recorded from 24 March 1980 to 28 July 1981. A total of 178 species of birds (see Table 1) was observed, which represents nearly 44% of the 405 species recorded in Nebraska (Johnsgard 1980). This diversity is surprising considering the size of the area and the relatively uniform habitat. Sixty-two species are considered either known or probable breeders, which is nearly 31% of the 201 species breeding in Nebraska (Johnsgard 1980). Two species on the federal endangered species list were encountered, the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), as well as one on the state threatened list, the Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*).

Study Area

MICM is located in Hall Co., approximately 2 miles north-northwest of Doniphan, Nebraska. MICM forms the western end of Mormon Island (Figure 1) and is bordered by two channels of the Platte River. The main channel of the Platte bordering MICM was classified as "pristine" by Frith (1974) and is known to host some of the highest densities of roosting Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) along the Platte River (Frith and Faanes 1980). Approximately 1,000 acres of prime wetland meadow habitat are located on the preserve; a habitat type which is rapidly being converted to row crops in the Platte River valley. MICM is in a transition zone between the tall- and the mixed-grass prairies as described by Kuchler (1964). For the purpose of this study, MICM includes that portion of the Mormon Island west of U.S. 281.

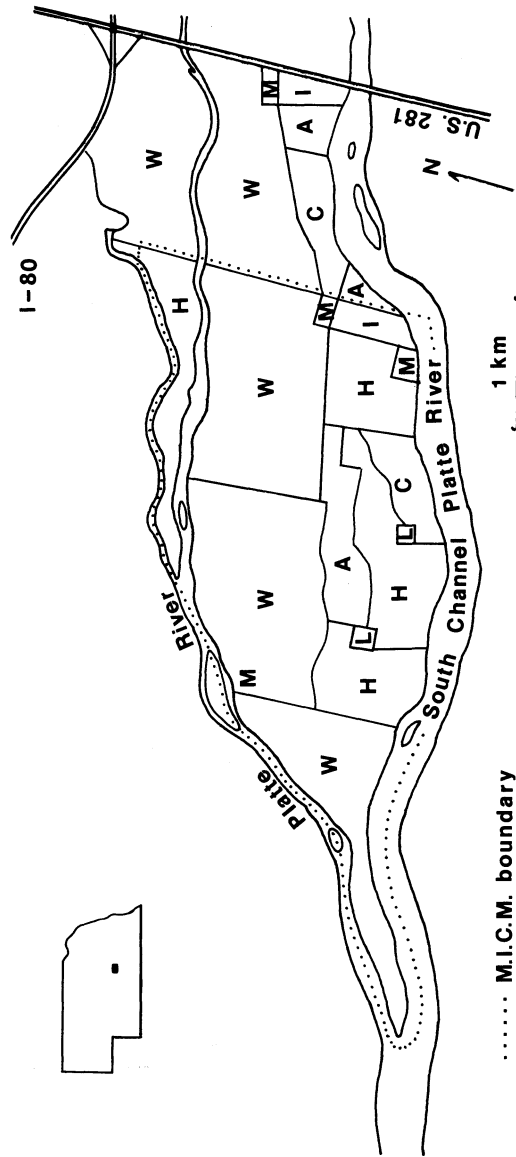
To determine habitat use by birds on MICM, 15 habitat types were designated. A brief description of the habitat types and their associated plant species follows

Fields

- A Alfalfa — A planted hay crop dominated by the legume alfalfa. Mowed each year. Approximately 103 acres (5%).
- C Corn — A planted crop. Dominant species: corn (*Zea mays*), sandbur (*Cenchrus longispinus*). Approximately 57 acres (3%).
- F Fencerow — Fence lines, and the uncut grasses, forbs, and shrubs which often border them. Dominant species: marijuana (*Cannabis sativa*), goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), sweet clover (*Melilotus* spp.), American plum (*Prunus americana*), rough-leaved dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*).
- H Hay — Native hay fields dominated by grasses. Mowed each year. Dominant species: smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*), redtop (*Agrostis stolonifera*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). Approximately 556 acres (29%).

¹ The Platte River Whooping Crane Habitat Maintenance Trust, 2550 North Diers Avenue, Suite H. Grand Island, Nebraska 68801.

² Rt. 1, Box 302B, Buffalo, Minnesota 55313.



- I Idle — Small patches of unmowed, ungrazed, and uncultivated land, often dominated by tall forbs. Dominant species: giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*), false sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), sunflower (*Helianthus* spp.), Russian thistle (*Salsola Kali*). Approximately 29 acres (2%).
- W Wetland meadow — Grazed grasslands with ribbons of wetland species in intermittent relic channel areas. Dominant species on mesic sites: sedges (*Carex* spp.), bulrush (*Scirpus* spp.), spikesedge (*Eleocharis* spp.), switchgrass, prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*). Dominant species on xeric sites: little barley (*Hordeum pusillum*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Japanese brome (*Bromus japonicus*), downy brome (*Bromus tectorum*). Approximately 1,010 acres (53%).
- River
- K Riverine island — Island in the Platte River dominated by woody vegetation. Dominant species: willow (*Salix* spp.), cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*).
- B Riverine sandbar — Open sandbars in the river channel lacking woody vegetation. Dominant species: cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), lovegrass (*Eragrostis* sp.).
- R River channel — The flowing channels of the Platte River, or the general physical area.
- Woods
- S Riparian shrubland — Shrubs and small trees which border the island, without an overstory. Dominant species: willow, rough-leaved dogwood, Russian olive, false indigo, red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*).
- O Riparian woodland (overstory) — Narrow strips of woodland which border much of the island. Dominant species: cottonwood, American elm, (*Ulmus americana*), green ash, boxelder (*Acer negundo*). Approximately 29 acres (2%).
- U Riparian woodland (understory) — The understory of the woodlands mentioned above. Dominant species: willow, false indigo, rough-leaved dogwood.
- L Woodlot — Two woodlots are present on the preserve. Dominant species on the western woodlot: cottonwood, green ash, mulberry (*Morus alba*). Dominant species on the eastern woodlot: cottonwood, green ash, boxelder, honey locust (*Gleditsia tricanthos*). Woodlots combined approximate 11 acres (.6%).
- Other
- M Manmade structures — One farmstead and two barn sites are present on the preserve. Approximately 7 acres (.4%).
- P Sandpit — Excavated pit which holds water permanently.
- T Seen in flight, or habitat otherwise undetermined.

Definition of Terms

Seasons

- Spring — 1 March to 20 May, 1980 and 1981
 Summer — 21 May to 15 August, 1980 and 1981
 Fall — 16 August to 30 November, 1980 only
 Winter — 1 December 1980 to 28 February 1981 only.

Occurrence

- 1 Permanent resident — Present throughout the year, though the population may vary.
- 2 Summer resident — Present during summer, presumably breeding, but migrating out of the area for part of the year.
- 3 Summer visitor — Occurs during the summer but does not nest on MICM.
- 4 Winter visitor — Present during winter months.
- 5 Spring Migrant — Transient during spring.
- 6 Fall Migrant — Transient during fall.
- 7 Straggler — Occurring subsequent to normal departure dates.
- 8 Vagrant — Species which tend to stray at certain times of the year, and are not endemic.

Relative Abundance

- A Abundant — Present in such numbers that large numbers are likely to be seen daily during the proper season and in appropriate habitats.

text continued on page 34

Table 1. continued

| Species | Status | | | | | | | | Fields | | | | | River | | | Woods | | | Other | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|-------|---|---|-------|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | A | C | F | H | I | M | K | B | R | S | O | U | L | M | P | T |
| Osprey | - | - | - | - | R | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Prairie Falcon | - | - | - | U | R | R | - | - | - | - | * | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Peregrine Falcon | - | - | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * |
| Merlin | - | - | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| American Kestrel | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | * | * | * | - | * | - | - | - | - | * | - | P | * | - | - |
| Greater Prairie Chicken | - | - | O | R | R | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bobwhite | C | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | K | * | K | K | - | K | - | - | - | K | - | * | K | * | - | - |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | C | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | K | * | * | K | - | K | - | - | - | * | - | * | * | - | - | - |
| Sandhill Crane | - | - | - | A | U | - | - | - | * | * | - | * | - | * | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sora | - | R | - | R | - | - | - | - | * | - | * | - | * | - | K | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| American Coot | - | Z | - | Z | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - |
| Semipalmated Plover | - | - | - | U | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Piping Plover | - | C | - | O | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | K | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Killdeer | - | C | - | C | C | - | - | - | K | - | * | - | K | - | K | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| American Golden Plover | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ruddy Turnstone | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Common Snipe | - | - | - | C | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Upland Sandpiper | - | A | - | A | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | K | - | K | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Spotted Sandpiper | - | C | - | C | C | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | K | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Solitary Sandpiper | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Greater Yellowlegs | - | - | - | U | U | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | - | O | - | C | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Willet | - | R | - | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | - | - | - | U | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | - | - | - | A | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Baird's Sandpiper | - | O | - | A | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Least Sandpiper | - | O | - | A | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dunlin | - | - | - | O | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | - | O | - | C | U | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Western Sandpiper | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Long-billed Dowitcher | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Stilt Sandpiper | - | O | - | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Marbled Godwit | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hudsonian Godwit | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * |
| American Avocet | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Wilson's Phalarope | - | R | - | U | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | P | - | * | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Herring Gull | - | - | - | Z | - | Z | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ring-billed Gull | - | - | - | U | - | U | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Franklin's Gull | - | - | R | U | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Forster's Tern | - | - | - | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Table 1. continued

| Species | Status | | | | | | | | Fields | | | | | River | | | Woods | | | Other | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|-------|---|---|-------|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | A | C | F | H | I | W | K | B | R | S | O | U | L | M | P | T |
| Menslow's Sparrow | - | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Le Conte's Sparrow | - | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Vesper Sparrow | - | - | - | - | C | A | - | - | - | * | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lark Sparrow | - | - | R | - | U | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dark-eyed Junco | - | - | - | U | U | C | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | * | - | * | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tree Sparrow | - | - | - | A | U | A | - | - | - | * | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | * | * | - | - | - |
| Chipping Sparrow | - | - | - | - | F | R | - | - | * | * | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | * | * | - | - | - |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | - | - | - | - | C | R | - | - | - | * | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Field Sparrow | - | U | - | - | U | U | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | P | - | * | - | - | - | - |
| Harris' Sparrow | - | - | - | U | U | C | - | - | - | * | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | * | - | - | - | - |
| White-crowned Sparrow | - | - | R | - | U | U | - | - | - | * | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | * | - | - | - | - |
| White-throated Sparrow | - | - | - | - | R | R | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | * | - | - | - | - |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | - | - | - | - | U | - | - | - | - | * | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Swamp Sparrow | - | - | - | - | R | - | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Song Sparrow | - | - | R | U | C | C | - | - | - | * | - | * | - | - | - | - | - | * | - | * | - | - | - | - |

C Common — Present in such numbers that several are likely to be encountered daily during the proper season and in appropriate habitats.

F Fairly common — A few are likely to be seen daily during the proper season and in appropriate habitats.

U Uncommon — A few are likely to be seen each year by visiting the appropriate habitats.

R Rare — Two or less sightings in any season.

L Local — A species which has very narrow niche requirements, hence it is not uniformly distributed throughout a variety of habitats.

O Occasional — Not observed every year.

Z Accidental — Unlikely to be seen (out of its usual range).

Our terminology has been modified slightly from Johnsgard (1980).

Breeding status

K Known breeder — A species for which definite evidence of nesting in this habitat on MICM has been observed.

P Probable breeder — A species occurring on MICM in this habitat during its normal nesting season, although no nests or dependent young were observed.

* Non-breeder — A species observed in this habitat outside the normal nesting season, or for which the habitat is not suitable for nesting.

Methods

Daily observations included notes on the date, time, hours of observation, weather conditions, species, number of individuals, and habitat use. For analysis of the birds' use of MICM, sightings were grouped by species for each season. A total of 136 days of observation was recorded from March 1980 to July 1981. The distribution of observation days was:

| | 1980 | 1981 |
|--------|------|------|
| Winter | -- | 23 |
| Spring | 14 | 34 |
| Summer | 14 | 16 |
| Fall | 35 | -- |

Mist-netting and banding was used to supplement daily observations. This was especially useful for species which were secretive or difficult to identify. Twelve-meter mist-nets were placed in strategic locations. One net-hour was the operation of one 12-meter net for one hour. Captured birds were identified, aged (if possible), and banded with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service metal leg bands. Banding operations resulted in the capture of 336 individuals of 45 species (Table 2). The observation or capture of an individual bird was recorded as one sighting.

Table 2. Birds banded on MICOM.

| Species | 1980 Spring | | Fall | | Spring | | Total | Species | 1980 Spring | | Fall | | Spring | Total |
|------------------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|------------------------|-------------|--------|------|-----|--------|-------|
| | Summer | Winter | Summer | Winter | Summer | Winter | | | Summer | Winter | | | | |
| Rough-legged Hawk | - | 1 | 2 | - | 3 | - | - | Yellow Warbler | 8 | 8 | - | - | - | 16 |
| Spotted Sandpiper | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | Yellow-rumped Warbler | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | Northern Waterthrush | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Baird's Sandpiper | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | Common Yellowthroat | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | 6 |
| Least Sandpiper | - | - | - | 20 | 20 | - | - | American Redstart | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Dunlin | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | Northern Oriole | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 3 |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | - | - | - | 7 | 7 | - | - | Brown-headed Cowbird | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | 3 |
| Common Flicker | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | American Goldfinch | 4 | 9 | 56 | - | - | 69 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | Savannah Sparrow | - | - | 10 | - | - | 10 |
| Downy Woodpecker | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | Grasshopper Sparrow | - | - | 6 | - | - | 6 |
| Eastern Kingbird | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | Le Conte's Sparrow | - | - | 3 | - | - | 3 |
| Willow Flycatcher | 1 | 6 | - | - | 7 | - | - | Vesper Sparrow | - | 6 | - | - | - | 6 |
| Least Flycatcher | 8 | - | - | - | 8 | - | - | Dark-eyed Junco | - | 5 | - | - | - | 5 |
| Rough-winged Swallow | 10 | - | - | 3 | 13 | - | - | Tree Sparrow | - | - | 14 | 31 | - | 45 |
| Barn Swallow | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | Chipping Sparrow | 5 | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Blue Jay | - | 1 | - | 3 | 4 | - | - | Clay-colored Sparrow | 5 | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 2 | - | 4 | - | 6 | - | - | White-throated Sparrow | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| House Wren | 1 | - | - | 7 | 8 | - | - | Lincoln's Sparrow | - | - | 7 | - | - | 7 |
| Gray Catbird | - | 3 | - | 5 | 8 | - | - | Swamp Sparrow | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| American Robin | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | Song Sparrow | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | 3 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | Total Species | 18 | 10 | 18 | 3 | 14 | 45 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | Total Individuals | 55 | 38 | 151 | 35 | 57 | 236 |
| Warbling Vireo | 1 | 4 | - | - | 5 | - | - | Net Hours | 25 | 33 | 94 | 25 | 53 | 230 |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | - | 28 | - | - | 28 | - | - | Birds/net hour | 2.2 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.5 |
| Nashville Warbler | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | Species/net hour | .72 | .30 | .19 | .12 | .26 | .19 |

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the following people for providing field notes and assistance during this study: Fred Deines, John Cochnar, and Mike Wetovick. Funds were provided through contract with The Nature Conservancy. Connie Stroman helped type the manuscript. Craig Faanes critically reviewed the manuscript.

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Four new species have been observed on the study area after the completion of the above article and prior to 27 May 1982:

Cinnamon Teal, accidental spring migrant, wetland meadows, one observed in March, 1982.

Short-eared Owl, rare winter visitor and spring migrant, two observed in hay 19 December 1981, one observed in wetland meadow 4 March 1982, and one observed in alfalfa 11 March 1982.

Cedar Waxwing, rare winter visitor, two observed in riparian shrubland 9 November 1981.

Pine Siskin, rare winter visitor, five observed in an idle area 19 December 1981.

BOOK REVIEWS

Stories About Birds and Bird Watchers, Edited by Mary Beacum Bowers, 234 pp., illustrated, Antheneum. \$12.95.

This very readable collection of short, general interest articles could be subtitled "The Best of Bird-Watchers' Digest". The 38 pieces included all appeared in that journal during its first years, and since BWD is itself a reprint publication, almost everything initially saw print elsewhere. The editor has chosen well and has arranged the stories covering a considerable range of topics and styles, into six general categories. Six double page drawings and a number of smaller ones, by artist Bob Hines, make it an attractive book which would be a fine gift for a birding friend. The book has reposed on my kitchen table all week, and I've worked my way through it, one piece at a time, with great satisfaction.

—Neva Pruess

Audubon Society Handbook for Birders, Stephen W. Kress, 322 pp. illustrated, Charles Scribner's Sons. \$17.95.

This is an extremely useful book, packed with practical information. Both basic and advanced techniques of field identification are covered in two well illustrated chapters. Another covers everything you need to know about binoculars and spotting scopes. Photography and recording are also allotted a chapter. One can hope that everyone who will ever again lead a bird walk or present a slide program will first read the three pages of suggestions on each of these activities.

Over half of the book is an extensive source listing for educational programs, research programs welcoming amateurs, organizations, periodicals, books, and publications. These begin with North American listings and proceed to state and Canadian provincial items. Some information on international tours and world bird literature is included.

The longest chapter in the book is "Building a Birdwatcher's Library", which gives around 500 annotated listings of books, references, and regional publications. This must be used as a starting point for inquiries, since addresses are given but no prices are listed. In this era of escalating costs this is probably a valid approach, but it would be helpful to know if one was considering a \$2 or \$20 item. Also keep in mind that these lists get outdated. For Nebraska our

out-of-print Rapp *et al* checklist is given; the new Johnsgard checklist is not included. Three lengthy appendices give sources for: (1) binoculars, cameras, recording equipment, feeders, teaching aids; (2) bird book retailers; (3) government agency publications, both U.S. and Canada. The latter includes many free publications and a complete listing of refuge leaflets and bird lists for national wildlife refuges.

All in all a very helpful book, especially for the beginning or traveling birder.

Neva Pruess

A HOARY REDPOLL IN DODGE COUNTY

On 5 February 1982 I observed and photographed a Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) at the bird feeders of Mike Manning. Mike lives approximately 3 miles north of Ames, Dodge Co., Nebraska (R-7-E, T-18-N, sec. 28). This bird was first seen, by Mike, on 3 February, in a mixed flock of approximately 300 American Goldfinches (*Carduelis tristis*), 50 Pine Siskens (*Carduelis pinus*), and 6 Common Redpolls (*Carduelis flammea*). The bird was seen repeatedly by me, Mike Manning, Bob Manning, and John Manning. Normally the flock would start feeding about 7:30 AM and feed on and off until nearly 3:30 PM. The Hoary Redpoll was noticeably lighter and much less streaked than the Common Redpolls. This was very easy to see when the birds were feeding next to each other. Roberts (1974), writing of the Hoard Redpolls, states: "differs from our common redpoll in being generally more hoary, less streaked below, in having the rump unstriped and the undertail coverts pure white without central dark streaks". Bent (1965) states: "the hoary redpoll often associates with the common redpoll in winter flocks and is distinguished from the latter at such times by its frosty appearance". Bent further states that the Common Redpoll is "streaked with sepia and clove-brown above with white wing edgings; rump paler but also streaked. The species *flammea* may be told by its brownish tone, since most feathers have a buff edging, and by the streaked rump; the congeneric *hornemanni* group have frosty-white edging, and an unstriped rump for the most part." Ridgway (1901) states of the Common Redpoll: "the rump is never white." Based on these characteristics and the bird field guides, Peterson and the Golden Field Guide, I determined that the bird was a Hoary Redpoll.



— Photographs
by Rick Manning



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 Robbins, C.S., Bertel Brunn, Herbert S. Zimm, and Arthur Singer, 1966. Birds of North America, A Guide to Field Identification. pp. 298-299.
 Roberts, T.S., 1974. A Manual for the Identification of the Birds of Minnesota and Neighboring States. Univ. of Minn. Press. Revised Ed. pp. 701-702.

— Rick Manning, Dept. of Biology,
University of Nebraska at Omaha,
Omaha, Nebraska 68182.

(See NBR 44:35 for a comment on the trickiness of Hoary Redpoll identification. Ed.)

1981 NEBRASKA NESTING SURVEY

Compiled by Dr. Esther V. Bennett

Data on the 1981 nesting season in Nebraska were received from 14 observers, reporting on 62 species from 25 counties. Counties in the tabulation are listed in a west to east order, with the northernmost of approximately equal locations given first. Numbers represent Nest Record Cards; Y represents young observed; C represents Cowbird eggs found in other nests; N represents nests observed for which no Nest Record Card was submitted; and E represents eggs or egg fragments observed.

Fifty-five species were reported on North American Nest Record Cards. The counties, with column numbers on the tabulation shown in parentheses, and the contributors were: Antelope (18) Marvyl Lockwood; Banner (3) Ross Lock, G.A. Wingfield; Box Butte (5) G.A. Wingfield; Cass (24) Jim Ducey; Dawes (4) G.A. Wingfield; Douglas (22) Tanya Bray, R.G. Cortelyou, Jim Ducey, C.E. Johnston, E.D. Johnson, Gladys Johnson; Franklin (15) Harold Turner; Frontier (13) G.A. Wingfield; Gage (21) Jim Ducey; Grant (8) Ross Lock; Hall (17) R.G. Cortelyou; Howard (16) R.G. Cortelyou; Johnson (25) Jim Ducey; Keith (9) G.A. Wingfield; Lancaster (20) Jim Ducey, Norma G. Johnson; Lincoln (12) G.A. Wingfield; McPherson (11) Oona Bassett; Morrill (6) Alice Kenitz, G.A. Wingfield; Perkins (10) G.A. Wingfield; Red Willow (14) G.A. Wingfield; Sarpy (23) R.G. Cortelyou, Jim Ducey; Saunders (19) Jim Ducey, Father Hoffman, Gladys Johnson; Scottsbluff (2) Alice Kenitz, Ross Lock; Sheridan (7) Ross Lock; Sioux (1) Ross Lock, G.A. Wingfield.

Persons contributing over 20 cards were: Jim Ducey-222, Norma G. Johnson-40, G.A. Wingfield-37, Ross Lock-28, Alice M. Kenitz-28, Gladys Johnson-23.

The following 28 Nebraska species which were reported in 1981 were not reported in the 1980 Nesting Survey (*NBR* 49:8): Mallard, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora, Killdeer, Screech Owl, Long-eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Bank Swallow, Black-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, Wood Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Starling, Warbling Vireo, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch, Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

Twenty-four species reported in the 1980 survey were not reported in 1981: Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Trumpeter Swan, Blue-winged Teal, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin, American Kestrel, Gray Partridge, American Coot, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Rock Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Burrowing Owl, Common Nighthawk, Western Wood Pewee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Rock Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo and Summer Tanager.

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

Anyone who has found, or expects to find, an active nest is invited to write for North American Nest Record Cards to use in reporting the nest. Each nest requires a separate card, except for colonial nesting species, which require a separate card for each visit to the site.

The North American Nest Record Card Program Newsletter No. 29, Spring 1981, states: "Since May, 1980 the North American Nest Record Card Program has received almost 9900 nest-record cards from more than 639 contributors. Both the number of contributors and cards has risen significantly from the period May 1979-May 1980, and the quality of information has increased as well. While all cards submitted to the Nest Record Card Program contain some usable information, those describing nest contents for two or more visits during the course of the breeding season are those ultimately of most value. This year our contributors did an excellent job of returning nest cards both correctly completed and containing information for more than one visit.

The North American Nest Record Card Program greatly appreciates the effort and hard work of both Regional Centers and individuals, whether your contribution was large or small. We send a hearty "thank-you" to everyone who submitted cards."

--text continued on page 42

| | Sioux | Scots Bluff | Banner | Lawes | Box Butte | Morrill | Sheridan | Grant | Kelth | Perkins | Mohrson | Lincoln | Frontier | Red Willow | Franklin | Howard | Hall | Antelope | Saunders | Lancaster | Gage | Douglas | Saxpy | Cass | Johnson | Total | Cards |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------|--------|-------|-----------|---------|----------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|----------|------------|----------|--------|------|----------|----------|-----------|------|---------|-------|------|---------|-------|-------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | | |
| Mallard | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - |
| Wood Duck | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | N | N | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 7 | |
| Swainson's Hawk | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | N | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 3 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | |
| Golden Eagle | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 16 | | |
| Prairie Falcon | 3 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | |
| Bobwhite | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | 1 | 1 | Y | - | 2 | 4 | |
| Sora | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| Piping Plover | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | 5 | |
| Killdeer | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | |
| Least Tern | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | 1 | - | 5 | |
| Mourning Dove | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 19 | N | 3 | - | - | 17 | 68 | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | |
| Barn Owl | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 24 | |
| Screech Owl | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | N | - | - | - | - | Y | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| Great Horned Owl | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| Long-eared Owl | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| Belted Kingfisher | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | N | - | - | - | |
| Common Flicker | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | Y | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | Y | - | 2 | - | 1 | 4 | |

| | Sloux | Scotts Bluff | Banner | Daves | Box Butte | Morrill | Sheridan | Grant | Kelth | Perkins | McPherson | Lincoln | Frontier | Hed Willow | Franklin | Howard | Hall | Antelope | Saunders | Lancaster | Gage | Douglas | Sarpy | Cass | Johnson | Total Cards |
|------------------------|-------|--------------|--------|-------|-----------|---------|----------|-------|-------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|------------|----------|--------|------|----------|----------|-----------|------|---------|-------|------|---------|-------------|
| Downy Woodpecker | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 1 |
| Eastern Kingbird | - | 1,Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 14 |
| Western Kingbird | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3,Y | 4 | - | - | - | 6 | 2 |
| Eastern Phoebe | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Horned Lark | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bank Swallow | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Rough-winged Swallow | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3,Y | - | - | N | - | - | 3 |
| Barn Swallow | - | 1,Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | 1,N | 1 | - | - | 28 | 30 |
| Blue Jay | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2,N | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 |
| Black-billed Magpie | - | 1 | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Common Crow | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,N,Y | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 |
| White-breasted Nuthch. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| House Wren | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 5 | - | 5 | - | - | - | 12 |
| Gray Catbird | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2,N | 4 | - | - | - | 1 | 7 |
| Brown Thrasher | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3,G,Y | 1 | 2 | - | - | 4 | 10 |
| American Robin | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | - | 1,N,Y | Y | - | - | 17 |
| Wood Thrush | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Eastern Bluebird | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | 3 | - | - | - | 3 |
| Loggerhead Shrike | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| Starling | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1,Y | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Warbling Vireo | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Y | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| House Sparrow | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |

Cards, instruction sheets, and Laboratory of Ornithology Nest Survey newsletters may be obtained from Dr. Esther V. Bennett, 1641 Devoe Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska 68502.

— Assistant Superintendent Outdoor Education/Recreation,
Parks and Recreation Department, Lincoln, Nebraska.

The following notes from Rick Wright, 401 Kountze Memorial Drive, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005, were not available to Dr. Bennett at the time she made up the 1981 Nesting Survey. They are for the summer of 1981, and cover most of Dawes Co., and Sioux Co. south to the Niobrara. Pied-billed Grebes bred on several local ponds; Great Blue Herons first definite young 31 July; Gadwall bred; Blue-winged Teal first brood 25 June; Swainson's Hawk probably bred; Prairie Falcon bred in at least 3 places; American Kestrel 3 nests at Fort Robinson; Sharp-tailed Grouse half-grown young 20 July; Turkey first poults 19 June; American Coot bred on several ponds; Upland Sandpiper no chicks observed but almost certainly bred; Mourning Dove up to 3 nestings per female; Yellow-billed Cuckoo present, presumed nesting; Burrowing Owl a persistent pair west of Harrison probably nesting; Poor-will road-killed young 12 and 13 August; Common Nighthawk fledged young by 17 June; Red-headed Woodpecker young fledged by 1 August; Lewis' Woodpecker 3 pair probably nesting in Chadron State Park; Say's Phoebe nesting at Chadron and at Harrison; Western Pewee carrying nesting material early June; Horned Larks abundant breeding species; Tree Swallow fledged young 13 July; Rough-winged Swallow probably breeding; Barn Swallow fledged young by mid-July; Cliff Swallow nesting on cliffs of Niobrara, bridges; Blue Jay fledged by 19 July; Pygmy Nuthatch carrying food 12 June; House Wren common breeder; Marsh Wren (sic, presumably Long-billed) common breeder in Niobrara marshes; Rock Wren a family group 16 July; American Robin common breeder; Cedar Waxwing common and probably bred; Loggerhead Shrike common breeding assumed but no proofs; Red-eyed Vireo common breeder; Yellow-breasted Chat fledged young 9 July; Western Meadowlark 2 nests destroyed by tourists; Red-winged Blackbird abundant breeder Orchard Oriole common breeder; Northern Oriole very common breeder; Brewer's Blackbird nesting in windbreaks; Western Tanager local breeder; Black-headed Grosbeak abundant breeder; Pine Siskin young fledged by 4 July; Vesper Sparrow nest with eggs 29 May; Lark Sparrow nest with eggs in late May; Brewer's Sparrow young by mid-July.

And Ida May Heywood, Peru, Nebraska 68421, reports that a Canada Goose nested along a drainage ditch west of Peru.

POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF FISH-EATING BY A WILD LESSER SANDHILL CRANE FROM THE CENTRAL PLATTE VALLEY, NEBRASKA

Myra Mergler Niemeier¹ and Paul E. Niemeier²

Abstract

Centrarchid fish scales, probably those of the Green Sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*), were found in the crop of a Lesser Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis canadensis*) from the Central Platte Valley, Nebraska, in March, 1976. Scales were primarily from age class II fish. Fish total length was estimated at 100.60 mm.

Introduction

Wild Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) are highly opportunistic feeders. Information on the wild foods of Sandhill Cranes has been provided by Nelson (1887), Hammerstrom (1938), Manning *et al.* (1956), Madsen (1967), Harvey *et al.* (1968), Lewis (1976), Guthery (1976), Littlefield (1976), Boise (1977), Mullins and Bizeau (1978), Lewis (1979), and Reinecke and Krapu (1979). Early reports of food types were summarized by Walkinshaw (1949).

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Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011

Evidence for fish-eating by a *captive* Sandhill Crane has been cited by Conover (1926), Bartlett and Bartlett (1975), and by Boise (1977). Walkinshaw (1949) stated that his captive Sandhill Crane refused to eat fish and reported that an acquaintance in Huron, Ohio kept Sandhill Cranes to which he fed fish, but these birds eventually died. Walkinshaw also noted that Audubon never observed Cranes eating fish in the wild.

Boise (1977) and Lewis (1979) reported probable fish consumption by wild Cranes. Boise reported evidence of the Ninespine Stickleback (*Pungitius pungitius* L.: Gasteroidea) in the diet of the Lesser Sandhill Crane (*G. c. Canadensis*) in Alaska. Lewis (1979) reported finding scales from the Shad (Clupeidae), Minnow (Cyprinidae), and Sucker (Catostomidae) in the gizzards of Lesser Sandhill Cranes on the North Platte River in Nebraska.

Methods

A crop analysis was performed on a Lesser Sandhill Crane carcass (exposed culmen length, 9.5 cm; length of tarsus, 20 cm; length of middle toe with claw, 8.5 cm; length of closed wing, 52 cm). The specimen was collected and eviscerated for autopsy 27 March 1976 near Gibbon, Buffalo Co., Nebraska, by Nebraska Game and Parks personnel. The carcass remained frozen until it was examined by the authors. The esophagus was excised, emptied, and rinsed with 50% ethyl alcohol. Plant and animal materials were separated by washing, and were examined under a dissecting microscope. These components were oven-dried at 64°C for approximately 15 minutes and displacement volumes of the components were determined. Fish scales were identified to family using Lagler's (1947) scale key. Total length of the fish from which the scale were derived was calculated using regressions and correction factors from Sprugel (1955) and Carlander (1977), respectively.

Results

The content of the crop is described as follows: 25.000 ml or 99.467% whole corn kernels, 0.1 ml or 0.398% broken corn and kernel parts, trace (less than 0.001 ml) Lepidoptera larva, and 0.034 ml or 0.135% ctenoid fish scales. Total contents equalled 25.134 ml in volume.

The ctenoid fish scales (N=29) were identified as those of the family Centrarchidae, probably *Lepomis cyanellus*, using Lagler's (1947) key and by comparison with known Green Sunfish scales.

A sample of 14 of the 29 scales (those with clear foci) showed an average anterior radius of 1.6 mm. A plot of fish standard length on total anterior scale radius for *L. cyanellus* by Spreugel (1955) yielded the following linear relationship:

$$L_s = 4.75 \text{ mm} + 1.176818 S$$

where L_s = Standard Length

4.75 mm = Intercept on Length Axis

1.176818 = Regression Coefficient

S = Total Anterior Scale Radius (Corrected for Magnification)

The standard length of the fish was found from this relationship and converted to total length by using a correction factor (1.2) from Carlander (1977) as follows:

$$L_s = 4.75 \text{ mm} + 1.176818 (67.2 \text{ mm})$$

$$L_s = 83.83 \text{ mm}$$

$$\text{Total Length} = 83.83 \text{ mm} (1.2) = 100.60 \text{ mm}$$

The majority of scales appeared to be in age class II, with others in age class I (K.D. Carlander, pers. comm.). These scales were similar in diameter to known *L. cyanellus* scales of the same year classes.

Discussion

Because the gizzard and other organs were excised at the time of collection, we were unable to determine whether the soft parts and bones of the fish, if consumed, had been in the gizzard. Whatever their origin, the eating of entire fish or fish scales attached to other objects resulted in the presence of these scales in this crane's esophagus. If the presence of these scales is a result of *intentional* consumption of fish, then it may also be evidence for a resource that is exploitable by an opportunistic feeder such as the Sandhill Crane. Green Sunfish are known to occur in the Middle Platte Basin (Bliss and Schainost, 1973). This is the first known report of possible consumption of a centrarchid by a wild Sandhill Crane.

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, specifically Mr. James Hurt, for supplying the *G. canadensis* carcass, and Dr. Kenneth D. Carlander for affirmation of scale identification and scale age and for reading the manuscript. Ms. Mary Nims typed the manuscript.

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WILSON TOUT, SECRETARY

Wilson Tout was secretary of the North Platte Bird Club from 1940 to 1944, and members looked forward to his reading of the minutes. They were hardly the kind most organizations would expect. Recently I was able to get copies of Mr. Tout's minutes and two, selected more or less at random, are given below:

NOVEMBER 16, 1940

The North Platte Bird Club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Tout with 14 members present. Mr. Webster called the meeting to order upon a nod from Mrs. Webster. The minutes of the last meeting were read amid general disapproval and the secretary was warned to suppress trivial incidents in future minutes. The secretary was afraid of losing the job so agreed to be more careful in the future.

Yarn did not arrive in time so one knitter twiddled her thumbs and looked bored but the other kept right on. Someone said she knitted two sweaters during the meeting but that was denied by someone else who said it wasn't a sweater she was working on.

Mr. Weakly was the program chairman but Miss Heler gave most of the program. It was on English Sparrows and everyone thought it was going to be a bore but they got fooled. Miss Heller told how the young sparrows leave home as soon as they reach maturity for they have to make room for the next brood. Their roaming is the chief method of getting into new territory. Mr. Weakley said English Sparrows chase other birds and someone else said they get blamed for things they do not do. Mrs. Tout said English Sparrows are the smartest birds she has to deal with.

Mr. Weakley said large numbers of sparrows are sometimes killed by storms and he told of a hard rain which killed hundreds of sparrows in the courthouse yard here. Art thought this should be a healthy place for sparrows if raid was their worst enemy.

Mr. Webster suggested serving sparrow pot-pie to the N.O.U. the next time it meets here as something appropriate and new. Miss Moon said there were no sparrows in Chadron park and Mr. Glandon asked the members how they would like to hold the next N.O.U. meeting there, and everyone voted for Chadron park.

The membership committee proposed the name of Leland Olson of Stapleton for membership and he was unanimously elected by the young ladies and also by the older members. He came through with the dues in fine shape.

Mr. Hollman did not take an active part in the meeting but kept to a dark corner. He explained that he was going hunting the next morning and he always kept warmer if he had a beard so he had not shaved.

The program committee for the next meeting was announced and Mr. Webster said that if the chairman did not want to act, he could get someone else to do so. The business meeting hung on until everyone got weary. These minutes are about to do the same.

— *Wilson Tout, Secretary*

MARCH 10, 1944

The North Platte Bird Club met at the home of Arthur McCabe with 15 members present. The business meeting was held as usual but did not amount to much as there was no business. The reading of the minutes was dull and so were the minutes but they got by and were approved.

A little spice was injected into the proceedings when the members answered roll-call by telling about the birds they had seen. It should be real interesting to a layman to hear such a roll-call. He would realize for the first time how many kinds of birds can be seen here by the 10th of March by 15 trained bird watchers.

Then they got to talking about hawks and how hard they are to identify and Mr. Welch said he called all of them Swainson's and he thought he was right about 9 out of 10 times.

Someone suggested an early morning hike for the club but the matter was dropped when it was mentioned that you can't really take an early morning hike now under war time.

Miss Jensen gave a thrilling description of a dog-catcher at work and it was highly enjoyed and probably had some connection with bird study but the secretary did not catch it.

Mrs. Cotterell reviewed a new book entitled "Bird Watching" which she got from the public library. She did such a good job of reviewing the book that it is not necessary for the members to read it. The other number on the program was a review of an article on "Counting Birds" by Miss Jensen. This was given so vividly that one member reported later that her husband counted birds all night in his sleep.

After announcing plans for the anniversary meeting, the folks left for home.

— *Wilson Tout, Secretary*

The North Platte Bird Club was organized 7 April 1934 and is still active after 48 years, but under the name of Tout Bird Club. The name was changed in 1954 to honor Mr. Tout. Eleven people became members at the first meeting by paying dues of 25¢. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Tout and Rebecca Tout, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Weakley, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hollman, Frances Kimball, Ruth Moon, Mrs. Carl Collister, and Mrs. A.H. Bivans. Mr. and Mrs. Tout were the last surviving charter members of NOU, both were bird banders, and both were active in NOU. Mrs.

Tout was president in 1941-42. Mr. Tout was a teacher, and was Superintendent of Schools in North Platte in 1920 when he purchased the *Lincoln County Tribune* and became its editor.
— Doris Gates, Rt. 1, Box 25, Chadron, Nebraska 69337

NOTES

GOSHAWKS. Four times this past winter I found a Goshawk within a square mile area along the Platte River, near Morse Bluff in northwest Saunders Co. On 3 January 1982 I observed a large buteo-sized hawk alight in a tree about 100-130 yards from me. There was a thin overcast, and the bird was directly east of me in the early morning light, but I could not note the accipiter silhouette. In general, observation conditions were not ideal. It was almost -15°, wind was calm, and humidity high, and both my glasses and my 10-power binoculars tended to steam up very quickly. To add to my problems, the bird took off as I approached and flew directly toward me, at which point the strap on my binoculars broke and tangled in an awkward way, and a Merlin burst out of the woods and flew over in almost the opposite direction. I could not note all the field marks but, as the first bird flew over me, the accipiter shape and flight pattern, the very lightly mottled, almost white underparts, the long barred tail, and the large size identified the bird to my satisfaction — my first Goshawk in 35 years of birding!

On 13 February I got another look. I found the bird, a large silhouette in a cottonwood in the early morning light on a cloudy day. This time it flew away to the west. I saw the accipiter shape as it perched, and the very light underparts, and as it flew away, the light blue-gray back and barred tail.

On 11 March I finally got the look I wanted. As I emerged from a wooded area I saw an erect, I thought crow-sized or smaller, bird perched in a tree on the far side of a pasture, about 150 yards away from me. Again it was cloudy, about mid-morning. As I cautiously approached, the bird seem very preoccupied and more and more field marks became apparent: light underparts (too light for Cooper's Hawk), a striking white eye line. I was able to approach within 50 feet. I could see the orange iris of the eyes and the details of the delicate mottling on the breast and belly. I took one more step, and the weeds exploded with half a dozen Pheasants. The first one which the hawk chased beat him to a large pile of bulldozed cedar trees and disappeared; then the hawk disappeared after a second Pheasant across the rather uneven terrain and I lost sight of it. There was no question about the identification, but even up close this third bird seemed considerably smaller than the first two. Perhaps the first two were females and the third a male.

On 3 April I saw one again. This time it was after some Wood Ducks, but my presence may have put it off, because it disappeared and the Wood Ducks settled on a pond.

I cover the same relatively small area each time I visit. There were 6 visits in November, and early December, 4 each in January and February, and 3 in March. The only other occasion when I have reason to believe I caught a glimpse of a Goshawk was on 10 March, the day before the third sighting described above.

Other interesting sightings in the same place: Great Blue Heron on 13 and 20 February and 10 March, and Townsend's Solitaire on 21 March.

— T.A. Hoffman, S.J., Creighton University,
Omaha, Nebraska 68178

RAINWATER BASIN NOTES. We have lots of water in our basins for the first time in three years, and we have had more geese than I've seen in years, and they stayed longer than usual - to 15 April, which is about two weeks longer than they usually remain in the area. We had four Snow Geese and one White-fronted Goose that stayed until 10 May. We haven't had an unusually large number of shorebirds but I have seen a pretty good variety lately. There are lots of Buff-breasted Sandpipers now, and I saw several Golden Plovers today (13 May 1982). I saw two Whimbrels and lots of Soras lately. I have seen very few warblers so far - too cold and wet, I guess.

—Lee Morris, R. 1, Box 14, Benedict, Nebraska 68316

WOODCOCK. An American Woodcock was discovered 15 March 1982 only half a block from a residence in the extreme eastern edge of Peru, on a path made by clearing brush in a slightly wooded area on a hillside. The path is 6 to 8 feet wide. About 6 PM the bird was seen

strutting in a small area of the path, with its wing lowered until they almost touched the ground and its head and neck extended forward, much as a Prairie Chicken does in its dance. At 30-second intervals he issued a raspy squawk, after a while he made a spiral upward flight until he was almost out of sight in the dusk, and then he made a rapid drop, as he did so there was a whistling sound caused by his rounded wings. When he reached the ground he resumed his strutting. The whole procedure continued until dark. Only once was a second Woodcock, thought to be the mate, seen in the area.

The same area of the path was always used, and the time of the starting of the dance varied only when cloudy skies caused the dance to start earlier. The bird flew from the bottom lands of the Missouri River up a ravine. The bird seemed to be very tame and was not alarmed by the viewers' flashlights. Sometimes this chubby bird can be seen feeding around a small pond and even in the mud of a mud puddle in the bottom lands.

— *Ida May Heywood, Peru, Nebraska 68421*

HORNED OWL, AND OTHER YORK COUNTY ITEMS. I saw my first Prairie Falcon 10 November 1981. We have lots of Eastern Bluebirds in the Platte Valley north of Hordville. I also saw a Northern Shrike a few days ago (written 17 November). On 24 October, while I was traveling past a pasture, I noticed a large bird beside a light pole. I stopped to investigate and found it to be a Great Horned Owl, clutching a partly-eaten Pheasant rooster. The Owl showed slight burn marks on one wing, and it was obvious that it had been electrocuted. Its talons were still set on the rear of the Pheasant, whose head and part of the breast had been eaten. The power line is REA and has two wires. These usually pose no danger to hawks and owls because there is considerable distance between the wires. However, the added length of the Pheasant hanging from the Owl's talons, with the Owl's wings extended evidently allowed contact with both wires. I held the Owl up for a picture and its talons were set so tight that the weight of the Pheasant didn't dislodge it.

— *Lee Morris, Rt. 1, Box 14, Benedict, Nebraska 68316*

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD. On 5 October 1981 we observed a hummingbird sitting on the back step of our house. It appeared to be a male Broad-tailed. Apparently it was very cold (temperature was 45°, and it was windy) or very tired, because we observed it as closely as three feet. It would fly up to the pink cannas nearby, feed briefly, and then return to the step.

—*Jeanne Dueker, Star Rte 2, 61-A, Chadron, Nebraska 69337*

CROWS AT HOLDREGE. Holdrege had an unusual number of Common Crows roosting in and near the town early this (1982) year, much more than residents can remember seeing in the past. Estimates of the number of birds range up to 100,000. No reason for the concentration is apparent. Their numbers dropped with the good weather at the end of February, but a snow storm early in March brought them back in about the original numbers.

BIRD-BANDING. During 1981 I banded 55 species for a total of 1,976 birds. Purple Finches (373) and Pine Siskins (357) accounted for 730 of this number. With the exception of about 5 of each which were banded in my yard, all of these were banded at the home of Melba Wigg, in western Sarpy Co. One of the Purple Finches banded on 28 February was recovered on 20 April at Yorktown, Saskatchewan, Canada, which is about 1,000 miles almost due north of this part of Nebraska.

Another long-distance recovery for me this year was a Common Grackle, banded 11 May 1979 and recovered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in May of 1981.

—*Ruth C. Green, 506 W 31st Avenue, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005*

On 16 June 1981 I netted and banded an immature male Blue Grosbeak at Chet Ager Nature Center, Lincoln. No other Blue Grosbeaks were seen in the area from then until 7 August, when I netted the same bird again. The only other one I have ever seen there was a mature male banded 18 May 1977.

—*Mabel B. Ott, 2718 South 33rd St., Lincoln, Nebraska 68506*

Jane Dunlap, Norfolk, banded a Blackpoll Warbler with an active brood patch. This was on 29 July. A Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco she banded in March 1979 was recovered in Ogden, Utah in March 1981.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| The Eighty-first Annual Meeting | 26 |
| A Check-list of the Birds of Mormon Island Crane Meadows | 27 |
| Book Reviews | 36 |
| A Hoary Redpoll in Dodge County | 37 |
| 1981 Nebraska Nesting Survey | 38 |
| Possible Evidence of Fish-eating by a Wild Lesser Sandhill Crane from the Central Platte Valley, Nebraska | 42 |
| Wilson Tout, Secretary | 44 |
| Notes | 46 |

BULLSNAKES. On 4 July 1981 we observed a 4-foot bullsnake at the base of a pine in which Wrens had nested in a box made from a hollow log. We believe the snake ate the little Wrens as only an hour before we had seen the male and female feeding them and could hear their calls. This wasn't our first experience with bullsnakes in our nest boxes. In May 1980 we observed three bullsnakes (two of them in less than one hour) in a week's time trying to go in a Red-breasted Nighthatch's nest, 15 feet up in a pine. Unfortunately, after we returned from being gone for the day, we discovered the nestbox was quiet and a very full bullsnake asleep by the house. We wondered why the snakes all chose the same box, when three or four others also contained nests.

—Jeanne Dueker, Star Rte 2, 61-A, Chadron, Nebraska 69337

FALL FIELD DAY, HALSEY NATIONAL FOREST, 2 and 3 OCTOBER
1983 ANNUAL MEETING, LINCOLN