

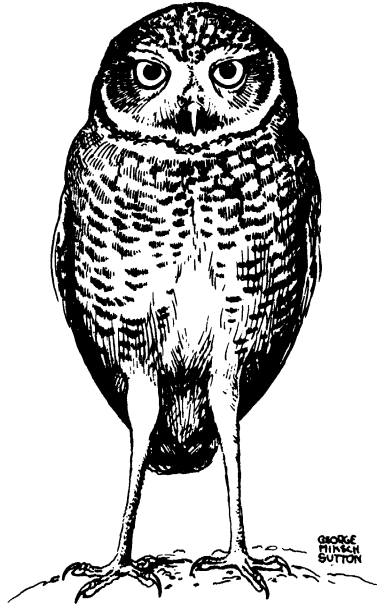
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CONTENTS

Introduction	43
Description of Gage County	43
Check-list of Gage County Birds—Introduction	44
Definitions of Terms	45
Loons; Grebes	45
Pelicans; Cormorants; Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns; Geese	46
Ducks	47
Mergansers; Vultures; Kites and Hawks	48
Eagles and Harriers; Osprey; Falcons	49
Grouse; Quail and Pheasants; Turkeys; Cranes; Rails, Gallinules and Coots; Plovers and Killdeer; Woodcock	50
Snipe, Curlews, Sandpipers, and Godwits	51
Avocets; Phalaropes; Gulls and Terns; Doves; Cuckoos; Barn Owl	52
Typical Owls; Poor-will and Nighthawks; Swifts; Hummingbirds; Kingfishers	53
Woodpeckers; Kingbirds and Flycatchers	54
Larks; Swallows and Martins; Jays, Magpies, and Crows; Chickadees and Titmice; Nuthatchers; Creepers	55
Wrens; Mockingbird, Catbird, and Thrashers; Robin, Thrushes, and Bluebirds	56
Solitaires; Gnatcatchers and Kinglets; Pipits; Waxwings; Shrikes; Starlings; Vireos	57
Warblers	58
House Sparrow	59
Bobolink, Meadowlarks, Blackbirds, and Orioles; Tanagers; Cardinal, Grosbeaks	60
Buntings, Dickcissel, Finches, Redpolls, Siskins, Crossbills, Towhees	61
Sparrows and Juncos	62
Longspurs	63
Hypothetical List	63
Correction List	63
Breeding Birds of Gage County	64
Regular Permanent Residents	65
Migration Tables—Explanation	65
Table 1. Spring Arrival Dates	66
Table 2. Spring Departure Dates	68
Table 3. Fall Arrival Dates	68
Table 4. Fall Departure Dates	69
Acknowledgements	69
Bibliography of Gage County Ornithology	70

THE BIRDS OF GAGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Kent L. Fiala

INTRODUCTION

Bird students have been recording observations in Gage County since the early 1890's. This paper is an attempt to summarize the resulting data and to define thereby the status of each species recorded here.

The first major ornithological observers in Gage County were F. A. Colby and Arthur S. Pearse in the early 1890's. They published a few notes and also reported 98 species to Bruner (1896). Myron H. Swenk then made some important observations during the late 1890's and early 1900's, until he moved to Lincoln after graduating from high school. After Swenk relatively little was published until the late 1930's when Mrs. Floyd Patton of Wymore began reporting her observations, which have continued to the present. Members of the Beatrice Audubon Club have reported since 1951, and my own observations began in 1961. Mrs. Lynn Harden of Blue Springs has made unpublished observations since moving into the county several years ago. Most of the data concerns primarily the southern and central parts of the county.

I was surprised by how much birding activity there has been in Gage County, but disappointed in the comprehensiveness of the resulting data. Occurrence of unusual species and spring arrival dates of all species are fairly well noted. However, until recent years it has not been the practice to publish spring departure dates, nor any fall dates, and little has been published on breeding birds. Most such data is my own, which is mostly restricted to the years 1964 to 1968. Hence my evaluation of each species' status is necessarily somewhat subjective—for example, many of the species classified as migrants have actually been reported only or almost only in spring. Hopefully this paper will serve to show future observers such gaps in knowledge which need to be filled in.

DESCRIPTION OF GAGE COUNTY

This section is largely summarized from U.S. Dept. Agr., 1964.

Gage County is located in the southeastern part of Nebraska, bordering Kansas. It is about 36 miles from north to south and 24 miles from east to west. Beatrice, located in the central part of the county, is the largest town, with a population of over twelve thousand. Wymore, located in the southern part of the county, is the second largest town.

The county lies within the glaciated part of the Great Plains. Its topography ranges from level to very steep, and its elevation ranges between about 1,150 feet and 1,550 feet.

Almost all the county is drained by the Big Blue River. There are a large number of small impoundments, but the only lake is the recently (1969) constructed Rockford Lake, two miles south and one mile east of Rockford. This lake will undoubtedly increase the regularity with which many species of water birds are observed.

At Beatrice, the average temperature is 51.7°F, average annual range in temperature 115°F°, average annual precipitation 27.96 inches, average annual snowfall 24.4 inches, and average relative humidity about 70%. The

average dates of last and first freezing temperatures are 26 April and 13 October respectively. From about 1 October to 1 April the prevailing wind is from the northwest and during the rest of the year from the south.

Gage County is essentially agricultural. The climate and most of the soils are suitable both for growing crops and for livestock. Most of the land is cultivated rather intensively, with the main crops being corn, wheat, oats, sorghums, and alfalfa.

At the time of settlement the county was predominantly tall grass prairie. Now native grass pasture occupies about one fifth of the land. Most of that remaining lies in the southern part of the county where there are sizable cattle ranges. Elsewhere grassland remains as small farm pastures for a few cattle.

Nearly all flood plains, benches, and steep slopes along streams were once forested, but now only about two per cent of farmland is forested. Many trees have been planted in towns, and trees have been planted for wind-breaks on nearly all farms.

There are three major forms of native forest; elm-ash-cottonwood, oak-hickory, and bur oak. The elm-ash-cottonwood form is predominant along the rivers and main creeks. It varies in composition, also including willow, hackberry, black walnut, boxelder, and honeylocust. The oak-hickory form is found primarily along minor streams. It also varies in composition, and includes elm, soft maple, ash, boxelder, black walnut, hackberry, sycamore, coffeetree, willow, cottonwood, black cherry, honeylocust, and mulberry. Stands of bur oak grow on dry exposed slopes along the larger streams. Bur oak also grows with other species at the lower ends of the main tributaries of the Big Blue River. Eastern redcedar is scattered in wooded areas, pastures, and fence rows. Osage orange has been planted in hedgerows, and has spread to some extent into pastures.

The Homestead National Monument, four miles west of Beatrice on Highway 4, is a good, readily accessible place to observe land birds. I have recorded 134 species there.

CHECK-LIST OF GAGE COUNTY BIRDS

Introduction

This list describes the status of the 277 species which have been reported in Gage County. There are numerous unusual published reports which I could neither verify nor disprove but since there has been little collecting in the county, I accepted all sight records with the exception of the highly unlikely Hawk Owl and Carolina Chickadee. This policy and the previously mentioned deficiencies in data have undoubtedly led to some inaccuracy.

I have provided reference to the source of all published reports cited. If there is no reference, the source is the appropriate Spring Migration and Occurrence Report or Fall Record Report, or it is an unpublished record. I have not repeated in the text dates summarized in Tables 1-4.

For information concerning the status of species which might be expected here but have not yet been recorded consult the *Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds* (Rapp, et al., 1958).

The nomenclature and order of arrangement are those of the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds*, 5th edition. I have not treated subspecies.

Definitions of Terms

Frequency of occurrence

Regular—occurring every year or nearly so.

Irregular—reported in about half the years.

Occasional—reported in a few years or only once.

Accidental—reported only once, not likely to occur again.

Abundance

Abundant—occurring in such numbers that a qualified observer in the right habitat might record more than 250 per day.

Numerous—more than 100 per day.

Common—about 1-100 per day. Could probably be found on any given day during the time it occurs.

Uncommon—about 0-10 per day. Likely to be found only intermittently during the time it occurs.

Rare—about 0-10 per year. Also may include species seen in flocks of limited distribution. Usually applied to migrants.

Local—having limited habitat or occurring in too small numbers to make use of all habitat. Usually applied to residents.

Seasonal occurrence

Residents

Permanent resident (or resident)—as a species may be found at any time of the year, although the same individuals may not be present at all times.

Summer resident—present throughout the summer. Most summer residents probably breed here.

Winter resident—present throughout the winter.

Migrants (or transients)

Passing through enroute from winter range to summer range, or vice versa.

Visitants

Present for a short time only, other than in migration.

Species Accounts

GAVIIFORMES

Gaviidae

Common Loon—*Gavia immer*

Occasional rare migrant. Only one record, 13 May 1962, by Harden.

PODICIPEDIFORMES

Podicipedidae

Red-necked Grebe—*Podiceps grisegena*

Occasional rare migrant. Only one record, 19 April 1966, by Harden.

Horned Grebe—*Podiceps auritus*

Occasional rare migrant. There are three reports in April.

Eared Grebe—*Podiceps caspicus*

Occasional rare migrant. Most dates are in late April or early May. Probably more regular than the number of reports indicates.

Pied-billed Grebe—*Podilymbus podiceps*

Regular uncommon migrant. Swenk's (1933) statement concerning its breeding here is incorrect.

PELECANIFORMES**Pelecanidae****White Pelican—*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos***

Occasional rare migrant. Dates are in April, May, September, and October. Swenk (1934) reported it as a "more or less common migrant."

Phalacrocoracidae**Double-crested Cormorant—*Phalacrocorax auritus***

Occasional rare migrant. There are three published reports in April, one in October.

CICONIIFORMES**Ardeidae****Great Blue Heron—*Ardea herodias***

Regular uncommon to rare migrant and at least occasional local summer resident. Has been reported as late as 26 November.

Green Heron—*Butorides virescens*

Regular uncommon to rare migrant and local summer resident.

Little Blue Heron—*Florida caerulea*

Occasional rare visitant. Patton (1939) reported two immatures in late July 1938. There are also reports in April in 1962 and 1964.

Common Egret—*Casmerodius albus*

Occasional rare post-breeding summer visitant. Swenk (1901) reported one on 12 July 1900 seven miles east of Beatrice. I also saw one north-east of Beatrice on an unrecorded date, which I believe was in August.

Black-crowned Night Heron—*Nycticorax nycticorax*

Occasional rare migrant. Swenk (1901) reported one killed 1 May 1900. Individuals were also reported 20 May 1952, and 24 April 1968.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron—*Nyctanassa violacea*

Occasional rare migrant and summer visitant. Swenk (1902 c) collected an immature male two miles east of Beatrice 19 July 1901. I photographed an adult at the Homestead National Monument 15 April 1967.

Least Bittern—*Ixobrychus exilis*

Occasional rare migrant. The only report is that by Colby in Bruner (1896), which gives no details. May be more regular than the lack of observations indicates.

American Bittern—*Botaurus lentiginosus*

Occasional rare migrant. There is one report in mid-April; two in early May.

ANSERIFORMES**Anatidae****Canada Goose—*Branta canadensis***

Regular uncommon to rare migrant. Has been reported on two Christmas counts.

White-fronted Goose—*Anser albifrons*

Occasional migrant. Probably more regular and common than the few observations indicate.

Snow Goose—*Chen hyperborea*

Regular uncommon to rare migrant.

Blue Goose—*Chen caerulescens*

Regular uncommon to rare migrant. The "Blue" and Snow Geese are now generally considered conspecific color phases of the Snow Goose, *Chen caerulescens*.

Mallard—*Anas platyrhynchos*

Regular uncommon to rare migrant. Possibly a local summer resident, although there are no published reports.

Gadwall—*Anas strepera*

Occasional rare migrant. There are four reports in late March and early April, one in early May.

Pintail—*Anas acuta*

Fairly regular uncommon to rare migrant.

Green-winged Teal—*Anas carolinensis*

Fairly regular uncommon to rare migrant.

Blue-winged Teal—*Anas discors*

Regular uncommon to common migrant and at least occasional local summer resident.

Cinnamon Teal—*Anas cyanoptera*

Occasional rare migrant. There are three reports: 2 April 1964, 15 April 1962, and 1 May 1958.

American Widgeon—*Mareca americana*

Fairly regular uncommon to rare migrant.

Shoveler—*Spatula clypeata*

Fairly regular uncommon to rare migrant.

Wood Duck—*Aix sponsa*

Occasional rare migrant and local summer resident. First dates range from early April to late May.

Redhead—*Aythya americana*

Occasional rare migrant. First dates range from early March to early April.

Ring-necked Duck—*Aythya collaris*

Occasional rare migrant. First dates range from early March to mid-April.

Canvasback—*Aythya valisineria*

Occasional rare migrant. First dates range from mid-March to mid-May. There is one October report.

Lesser Scaup—*Aythya affinis*

Regular uncommon migrant.

Common Goldeneye—*Bucephala clangula*

Only one record, three seen at Rockford Lake, 31 March-5 April 1970.

Bufflehead—*Bucephala albeola*

Occasional rare migrant. First dates range from early March to late April.

Oldsquaw—*Clangula hyemalis*

Occasional rare migrant. One female was seen on 25-29 November 1968 (Fiala, 1969).

Ruddy Duck—*Oxyura jamaicensis*

Occasional rare migrant. First dates range from late March to late April.

Hooded Merganser—*Lophodytes cucullatus*

Occasional to irregular rare migrant. First dates range from early March to early May. There is one November report. Formerly an occasional rare breeder—Swenk (1902 c) reported a female with young on the Big Blue River in July 1900.

Common Merganser—*Mergus merganser*

Occasional rare migrant. Dates are in April, March, and November.

Red-breasted Merganser—*Mergus serrator*

Occasional rare migrant. Patton (1938) reported two females 26 March 1938. There is also a report on 8 April 1958. (Patton, 1959).

FALCONIFORMES

Dr. C. W. Hepperlin of Beatrice studied the birds of prey of Gage County during the years 1958-1961. Usually beginning about 20 September and working until some time in December, he drove a total of 11,697 miles in 522 hours, and counted 3,030 birds of prey. This includes 237 unidentified individuals and 5 Great Horned Owls. His other totals are included with the species accounts.

Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture—*Cathartes aura*

Irregular rare migrant and possible summer resident or visitant. Dates range from 20 April to 11 June. There is only one record before 1962, although Colby reported it (Bruner, 1896). Apparently it is becoming more regular or has been overlooked.

Accipitridae

Swallow-tailed Kite—*Elanoides forficatus*

Only one record. Swenk (1937) recalled that his first serious ornithological observation was of a pair flying over his home at Beatrice on 4 September 1897. Probably never very common, now absent from most of its former range.

Goshawk—*Accipiter gentilis*

Occasional rare winter visitant. One was reported on the 1951 Christmas Count. It has also been seen at Wymore on 11 February 1966 and 4 January 1970.

Sharp-shinned Hawk—*Accipiter striatus*

Irregular winter resident and migrant.

Cooper's Hawk—*Accipiter cooperii*

Irregular rare migrant and occasional winter resident. Most dates are in April. Hepperlin counted nine.

Red-tailed Hawk—*Buteo jamaicensis*

Regular local to common resident Hepperlin counted 1,651.

Red-shouldered Hawk—*Buteo lineatus*

Irregular rare migrant and winter resident. Hepperlin counted one.

Broad-winged Hawk—*Buteo platypterus*

Occasional rare migrant—only one report, on 1 May 1953.

Swainson's Hawk—*Buteo swainsoni*

Occasional uncommon to rare migrant. Most reports are in mid-April to mid-May. Has bred at least once, near Blue Springs in April 1963. Hepperlin counted 11.

Rough-legged Hawk—*Buteo lagopus*

Regular uncommon to rare migrant and local winter resident. Hepperlin counted 112.

Ferruginous Hawk—*Buteo regalis*

Occasional rare visitant. There is one report on 17 January 1964, and Harden recorded one on 10 September 1962. Patton has also seen it at Blue Springs on an unrecorded date.

Golden Eagle—*Aquila chrysaetos*

Occasional rare winter visitant. Swenk (1901) reported one shot west of Beatrice in October 1899. Patton (1951) reported four between Beatrice and Blue Springs on 28 November 1950, and Harden recorded one on 27 April 1967.

Bald Eagle—*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Occasional rare winter visitant and migrant. Wondra (1937) reported one at Blue Springs on 22 November 1936. There are also reports in March in 1954 and 1956 and April 1967. Hepperlin counted three. Rapp, et al. (1958) report that it nested along Indian Creek in the late 1870's and early 1880's. Pearse reported it as breeding at Rockford (Bruner, 1896), but this report was apparently questioned as Bruner, et al. (1904) stated that there were no definite breeding records in the state.

Marsh Hawk—*Circus cyaneus*

Regular local resident, probably more common in winter. Status as breeder uncertain. Hepperlin counted 499.

Pandionidae

Osprey—*Pandion haliaetus*

Occasional rare migrant. One was reported on 9 May 1953, and Patton (1959) reported two on 23 April 1958.

Falconidae

Prairie Falcon—*Falco mexicanus*

Occasional rare winter visitor or resident. One frequented the county courthouse from late November 1967 to early March 1968 (Fiala, 1968), returned for the same time period in the subsequent winter (Fiala, 1969), and was seen again in the third winter. Hepperlin counted one.

Peregrine Falcon—*Falco peregrinus*

Occasional rare winter visitor or resident. One was reported on the Wymore Christmas Count in 1965. Hepperlin counted four.

Pigeon Hawk—*Falco columbarius*

Occasional rare migrant. One was reported 29 March 1958. Hepperlin counted one.

Sparrow Hawk—*Falco sparverius*

Regular local resident. Hepperlin counted 496.

GALLIFORMES**Tetraonidae**

Greater Prairie Chicken—*Tympanuchus cupido*

Was probably common in the late 1800's. R. S. Sharpe (pers. comm.) notes that a small but persistent population is located in southwest Gage County. The presence of booming grounds suggests that nesting occurs.

Phasianidae

Bobwhite—*Colinus virginianus*

Regular common permanent resident.

Ring-necked Pheasant—*Phasianus colchicus*

Regular common permanent resident. Swenk (1901) reported one in 1900, at which time it was quite rare.

Meleagrididae

Turkey—*Meleagris gallopavo*

No longer occurs. Was common along the Big Blue River in territorial days (Bruner, et al., 1904).

GRUIFORMES**Gruidae**

Whooping Crane—*Grus americana*

No longer occurs. The only report is that by Colby in Bruner (1896), which gives no details.

Sandhill Crane—*Grus canadensis*

Rare migrant. Harden has recorded small flocks several times in March.

Rallidae

Sora—*Porzana carolina*

Occasional migrant. It has been reported in May four times and once in late April.

Purple Gallinule—*Porphyryla martinica*

Accidental. Harden and Patton observed one on 28 March 1962.

Common Gallinule—*Gallinula chloropus*

Occasional rare migrant. Bruner (1896) quotes Aughey as reporting one was sent to him from Beatrice in September 1872.

American Coot—*Fulica americana*

Regular uncommon to common migrant.

CHARADRIIFORMES**Charadriidae**

Semipalmated Plover—*Charadrius semipalmatus*

An occasional rare migrant. There are three reports, in late April and early May.

Killdeer—*Charadrius vociferus*

Regular uncommon to common migrant and local summer resident.

Scolopacidae

American Woodcock—*Philohela minor*

Occasional rare migrant. The only report is that by Colby in Bruner (1896) which gives no details.

Common Snipe—*Capella gallinago*

Fairly regular uncommon to rare migrant. One was also reported on the 1958 Wymore Christmas Count.

Long-billed Curlew—*Numenius americanus*

Occasional rare migrant—only one report, on 8 May 1952.

Eskimo Curlew—*Numenius borealis*

There are no records from Gage County, but it seems quite certain that it did formerly occur here. See Swenk, 1915.

Upland Plover—*Bartramia longicauda*

Reported in only a few years, but probably a fairly regular rare migrant and local summer resident.

Spotted Sandpiper—*Actitis macularia*

Fairly regular uncommon to rare migrant.

Solitary Sandpiper—*Tringa solitaria*

Fairly regular uncommon to rare migrant. In fall migration occurs as early as July, but has also been seen in October.

Willet—*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*

Occasional rare migrant. All dates are from late April to early May.

Greater Yellowlegs—*Totanus melanoleucus*

Regular uncommon migrant.

Lesser Yellowlegs—*Totanus flavipes*

Regular uncommon migrant.

Pectoral Sandpiper—*Erolia melanotos*

Occasional uncommon to rare migrant. All dates are in late March to mid-May.

White-rumped Sandpiper—*Erolia fuscicollis*

Occasional migrant. Only two reports, both in early May.

Baird's Sandpiper—*Erolia bairdii*

Occasional migrant. There are three reports in early May and one in early April.

Least Sandpiper—*Erolia minutilla*

Regular rare migrant.

Dunlin—*Erolia alpina*

Occasional rare migrant. Harden has recorded it twice in mid-May.

Dowitcher, sp.—*Limnodromus*

Occasional migrant—two reports in early May, one in early April.

Stilt Sandpiper—*Micropalama himantopus*

Occasional migrant—two reports in early May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper—*Ereunetes pusillus*

Occasional migrant. Dates are from late April to mid-May. Probably more regular than the number of reports indicates.

Western Sandpiper—*Ereunetes mauri*

Occasional migrant. First dates range from late April to mid-May.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper—*Tryngites subruficollis*

Occasional rare migrant. The only reports are those by Pearse and Colby in Bruner (1896), which give no details.

Hudsonian Godwit—*Limosa haemastica*

Occasional rare migrant. Patton (1945) reported four in 1944. There are also reports on 16 May 1961 and 18 May 1968.

Sanderling—*Crocethia alba*

Occasional rare migrant. Harden recorded it on 4 May 1967.

Recurvirostridae

American Avocet—*Recurvirostra americana*

Occasional rare migrant—only one report, on 3 May 1968, by Harden.

Phalaropodidae

Wilson's Phalarope—*Steganopus tricolor*

Irregular migrant. First dates range from late April to mid-May.

Laridae

Herring Gull—*Larus argentatus*

Occasional rare migrant. Dates range from March to May, plus one in early June.

Ring-billed Gull—*Larus delawarensis*

Occasional rare migrant. There are two reports in March and two in May.

Franklin's Gull—*Larus pipixcan*

Regular uncommon migrant. One individual was also seen in February, 1965.

Sabine's Gull—*Xema sabini*

Occasional or accidental migrant. Swenk (1902 c) captured a member of a small flock on 2 September 1899.

Forster's Tern—*Sterna forsteri*

Occasional rare migrant—only one report, on 1 May 1956.

Common Tern—*Sterna hirundo*

Occasional rare migrant. There are four reports in April.

Least Tern—*Sterna albifrons*

Occasional rare migrant. Dates are in May.

Black Tern—*Chlidonias niger*.

Irregular rare migrant and possible summer resident. All spring dates are in May, except one in June. It has also been seen in early August, apparently migrating.

COLUMBIFORMES**Columbidae**

Rock Dove—*Columba livia*

Regular common to numerous permanent resident.

Mourning Dove—*Zenaidura macroura*

Regular numerous to abundant migrant and summer resident. Probably fairly regular as a local winter resident.

CUCULIFORMES**Cuculidae**

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—*Coccyzus americanus*

Regular uncommon migrant and local summer resident.

Black-billed Cuckoo—*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

Regular uncommon to rare migrant and local summer resident.

STRIGIFORMES**Tytonidae**

Barn Owl—*Tyto alba*

Occasional, status uncertain. Reported by Pearse in Bruner (1896). The E. A. Fialas of Beatrice photographed an injured one near Barneston in late 1946 or early 1947. Patton reported one in April 1963.

Strigidae

Screech Owl—*Otus asio*

Irregular local resident.

Great Horned Owl—*Bubo virginianus*

Regular local permanent resident.

Snowy Owl—*Nyctea scandiaca*

Occasional rare winter visitor. Reported by Swenk (1902 b) in January 1892 and 17 December 1898.

Burrowing Owl—*Speotyto cunicularia*

No longer occurs. The University of Nebraska State Museum has a specimen collected at Beatrice on 24 March 1895 by F. A. Colby. Pearse and Colby (Pearse, 1896) found two colonies of about 20 birds each later that year. This apparently was unusual.

Barred Owl—*Strix varia*

Occasional, status uncertain. There are two summer, one fall, two winter, and one spring records. Probably more regular than the number of reports indicates.

Long-eared Owl—*Asio otus*

Occasional winter resident or visitant. Possibly an occasional local summer resident.

Short-eared Owl—*Asio flammeus*

Occasional winter resident or visitant. Possibly a migrant, as there are four first dates in March and April. H. A. Kline considered them common in the 1880's, reporting them in winter, and apparently also found them nesting here. (Wade, 1883).

Saw-whet Owl—*Aegolius acadicus*

Occasional rare winter visitant or resident. Swenk (1901) shot one near Beatrice on 7 December 1900.

CAPRIMULGIFORMES**Caprimulgidae**

Poor-will—*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*

Amos Pyfer of Lanham, in a letter to Lawrence Bruner now in the NOU files, reported the capture of a specimen in the spring of 1895. The species is now absent from its former range in eastern Nebraska.

Common Nighthawk—*Chordeiles minor*

Regular uncommon to common summer resident.

APODIFORMES**Apodidae**

Chimney Swift—*Chaetura pelagica*

Regular numerous to abundant migrant and summer resident.

Trochilidae

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—*Archilochus colubris*

Regular rare migrant and at least occasional local summer resident. Possibly most common as a fall migrant.

CORACIIFORMES**Alcedinidae**

Belted Kingfisher—*Megasceryle alcyon*

Regular uncommon migrant, local summer resident and occasional local winter resident.

PICIFORMES**Picidae**

Yellow-shafted Flicker—*Colaptes auratus*

Regular common permanent resident.

Red-shafted Flicker—*Colaptes cafer*

Occasional, status uncertain. It is the practice in Nebraska to lump the flickers because of the great amount of hybridism. Nearly all flickers in Gage County appear to be pure Yellow-shafted, while most "Red-shafted" Flickers I have seen were obviously hybrids. Pearse (1896) considered the Red-shafted more common in winter than the Yellow-shafted then.

Red-bellied Woodpecker—*Centurus carolinus*

Regular common to local permanent resident.

Red-headed Woodpecker—*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

Regular common migrant and summer resident and occasional local winter resident.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—*Sphyrapicus varius*

Fairly regular rare migrant and local winter visitor or resident.

Hairy Woodpecker—*Dendrocopos villosus*

Regular local permanent resident.

Downy Woodpecker—*Dendrocopos pubescens*

Regular common permanent resident.

PASSERIFORMES**Tyrannidae**

Eastern Kingbird—*Tyrannus tyrannus*

Regular common to numerous migrant and summer resident.

Western Kingbird—*Tyrannus verticalis*

Regular common migrant and summer resident. Swenk (1901, 1938) apparently considered it rare around 1900. In 1938, he remarked that it was common but had been particularly unknown 30 years before.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—*Muscivora forficata*

Occasional local summer resident. The only definite breeding record is in 1958 (Sturmer, 1959 a), in late July and early August. There are records in six different years, as early as 2 May and as late as 5 October, the only fall record.

Great Crested Flycatcher—*Myiarchus crinitus*

Regular fairly common but local summer resident.

Eastern Phoebe—*Sayornis phoebe*

Regular fairly common migrant and local summer resident.

Trail's Flycatcher—*Empidonax traillii*

Occasional rare migrant and local summer resident, recorded 24 May 1965, 23 May 1969, and in two locations in June 1970. All were the "weebee" song type.

Least Flycatcher—*Empidonax minimus*

Regular uncommon migrant. Also, I heard one on 6 June 1970.

Eastern Wood Pewee—*Contopus virens*

Regular local summer resident.

Olive-sided Flycatcher—*Nuttallornis borealis*

Occasional rare migrant. There are two reports in spring, 18 May 1952 and 29 April 1962, and one in fall, 16 September 1967.

Alaudidae**Horned Lark—*Eremophila alpestris***

Resident, regular but very local in summer, numerous to abundant in winter.

Hirundinidae**Tree Swallow—*Iridoprocne bicolor***

Fairly regular uncommon to rare migrant. Has possibly been a local summer resident.

Bank Swallow—*Riparia riparia*

A fairly regular uncommon to rare migrant and at least occasional local summer resident.

Rough-winged Swallow—*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

Fairly regular uncommon migrant and local summer resident.

Barn Swallow—*Hirundo rustica*

Regular very common migrant and summer resident.

Cliff Swallow—*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Irregular uncommon to rare migrant. It has been reported in eight years since 1959, but never before then, indicating it is increasing in regularity, or was overlooked before then. The four spring arrival dates are in late April and May, the fall migration dates in August and early September.

Purple Martin—*Progne subis*

Regular migrant and local summer resident, common where houses are provided.

Corvidae**Blue Jay—*Cyanocitta cristata***

Regular common permanent resident.

Black-billed Magpie—*Pica pica*

Occasional rare winter visitant. Reported at Blue Springs, in the winter of 1952-53.

Common Crow—*Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Regular common permanent resident.

Paridae**Black-capped Chickadee—*Parus atricapillus***

Regular common permanent resident.

Tufted Titmouse—*Parus bicolor*

Regular local permanent resident, possibly less common in winter.

Sittidae**White-breasted Nuthatch—*Sitta carolinensis***

Regular common permanent resident.

Red-breasted Nuthatch—*Sitta canadensis*

Irregular local winter resident or visitant, reported as early as late November and as late as early April.

Certhiidae**Brown Creeper—*Certhia familiaris***

Regular uncommon winter resident or visitor.

Troglodytidae**House Wren—*Troglodytes aedon***

Regular common migrant and summer resident.

Winter Wren—*Troglodytes troglodytes*

Irregular local winter visitor or resident. There are reports as early as late November and as late as mid-April, but most are in February.

Bewick's Wren—*Thryomanes bewickii*

Occasional rare migrant and local summer resident. Dates range from early April to mid-May. Dr. Hepperlin (pers. comm.) has found it nesting once.

Carolina Wren—*Thryothorus ludovicianus*

Occasional rare migrant. There is one record in late March, three in late April and early May, one in early June (possibly breeding) and one each in August, late September, and October.

Long-billed Marsh Wren—*Telmatodytes palustris*

Occasional rare migrant—only one report, on 5 May 1947.

Short-billed Marsh Wren—*Cistothorus platensis*

Occasional rare migrant—only one record, on 22 August 1970.

Mimidae**Mockingbird—*Mimus polyglottos***

Regular uncommon to rare migrant, fairly regular local summer resident, and at least occasional local winter resident.

Catbird—*Dumetella carolinensis*

Regular common migrant and summer resident.

Brown Thrasher—*Toxostoma rufum*

Regular common migrant and summer resident. Has also been reported on three Christmas Counts.

Turdidae**Robin—*Turdus migratorius***

Regular numerous migrant and summer resident, and at least occasional local winter resident.

Wood Thrush—*Hylocichla mustelina*

Irregular rare migrant. Patton has also found it nesting.

Hermit Thrush—*Hylocichla guttata*

Occasional rare migrant. There are three records, all in April.

Swainson's Thrush—*Hylocichla ustulata*

Regular uncommon to common migrant. The only fall report is in late September.

Gray-cheeked Thrush—*Hylocichla minima*

Fairly regular rare to uncommon migrant.

Veery—*Hylocichla fuscescens*

Occasional rare migrant. There are four reports from Beatrice between 1951 and 1956, all in May, and one from Wymore on 30-31 August 1970.

A report of one from Blue Springs in 1944 apparently was in error.

Eastern Bluebird—*Sialia sialis*

Regular uncommon migrant, and a local summer resident and winter resident.

Wheatear—*Oenanthe oenanthe*

Accidental winter visitant. Patton and Harden reported five about four

miles east of Wymore on 4 January 1970. (Patton, 1970). There are no other Nebraska records.

Townsend's Solitaire—*Myadestes townsendi*

Occasional local winter resident or visitant. Swenk (1901) collected a female here on 28 March 1899. There are also reports in February or March in 1951, 1952, and 1953.

Sylviidae

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—*Poliophtila caerulea*

Occasional rare migrant and local summer resident. There are five reports in late April and May and two in June, plus one in September. Patton has seen them nesting near Barneston.

Golden-crowned Kinglet—*Regulus satrapa*

Regular local winter resident and migrant.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet—*Regulus calendula*

Regular uncommon migrant and occasional rare winter visitor or resident.

Motacillidae

Water Pipit—*Anthus spinoletta*

Occasional migrant. There are three reports in May, and one in April. Could be more regular than the number of reports indicates.

Sprague's Pipit—*Anthus spragueii*

Occasional migrant. There are two reports in late April.

Bombycillidae

Bohemian Waxwing—*Bombycilla garrulus*

Occasional rare winter visitant. There are two reports in January, one in 1899 and one in 1901 (Swenk 1901, 1902 b).

Cedar Waxwing—*Bombycilla cedrorum*

Regular uncommon migrant and winter visitor, less common in winter. Occurs at irregular dates from the first of September to the end of May.

Laniidae

Northern Shrike—*Lanius excubitor*

Occasional rare winter resident or visitant.

Loggerhead Shrike—*Lanius ludovicianus*

Regular common migrant and local summer resident. Irregular local winter resident.

Sturnidae

Starling—*Sturnus vulgaris*

Numerous to abundant permanent resident. First appeared in Nebraska in 1930 The first report from Gage County was 5 January 1935. (Ager, 1935). First reported at Blue Springs in 1938 (Patton, 1939).

Vireonidae

White-eyed Vireo—*Vireo griseus*

Occasional rare migrant. There are two records in early May and one in late April.

Bell's Vireo—*Vireo bellii*

Irregular local summer resident.

Yellow-throated Vireo—*Vireo flavifrons*

Occasional rare migrant—only one report, 19 May 1954.

Solitary Vireo—*Vireo solitarius*

Occasional rare migrant. Records are in May, September, and October.

Red-eyed Vireo—*Vireo olivaceus*

Regular fairly common migrant and summer resident.

Philadelphia Vireo—*Vireo philadelphicus*

Occasional rare migrant. Two reports in late April, one in late May, and one in September.

Warbling Vireo—*Vireo gilvus*

Regular common migrant and summer resident.

Parulidae**Black-and-white Warbler—*Mniotilta varia***

Regular rare migrant. Fall dates are in early September.

Prothonotary Warbler—*Protonotaria citrea*

Occasional local summer resident—only one record. Patton (1945) found a flock of six or seven in August, 1944 at Blue Springs. A dead bird was also found. They were assumed nesting because of their presence at that season.

Golden-winged Warbler—*Vermivora chrysoptera*

Occasional rare migrant—only one report. On 5 May 1965 I saw one, although identification was based primarily on the song.

Tennessee Warbler—*Vermivora peregrina*

Regular very common migrant.

Orange-crowned Warbler—*Vermivora celata*

Regular uncommon to common migrant. The only fall date is in mid-September.

Nashville Warbler—*Vermivora ruficapilla*

Irregular uncommon migrant. Probably more regular than the number of reports indicates. Fall dates are in September.

Parula Warbler—*Parula americana*

Occasional rare migrant—only one report, 14 May 1953.

Yellow Warbler—*Dendroica petechia*

Regular common migrant and probably a fairly regular local summer resident. May breed mostly in the southern part of the county. Swenk (1938) remarked that in June 1938 pairs "seemed to inhabit every thicket" in southern Gage County.

Magnolia Warbler—*Dendroica magnolia*

Fairly regular rare migrant. The only fall date is in October.

Black-throated Blue Warbler—*Dendroica caerulescens*

Occasional rare migrant—only two reports, 30 April 1961 and 5 May 1967.

Myrtle Warbler—*Dendroica coronata*

Regular common migrant.

Black-throated Green Warbler—*Dendroica virens*

Occasional rare migrant—two spring records, 4 May 1963 and 15 May 1965, both single males; two fall records, several seen 9-11 September 1967, and one bird on 5 September 1970.

Blackburnian Warbler—*Dendroica fusca*

Occasional rare to uncommon migrant. Dates range from 9 to 23 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler—*Dendroica dominica*

Occasional rare migrant. Reported 7 May 1953 and 11 April 1954. Since there were no Yellowthroats reported in those years, it is possible this is the result of the confusion of the names. However, the species could be expected here.

Chestnut-sided Warbler—*Dendroica pensylvanica*

Occasional rare migrant—only three reports, 3 September 1966, 25 May 1968, and 23 May 1969.

Bay-breasted Warbler—*Dendroica castanea*

Occasional rare migrant. Dates are in May.

Blackpoll Warbler—*Dendroica striata*

Regular uncommon migrant.

Palm Warbler—*Dendroica palmarum*

Occasional rare migrant—only one record, by Harden on 1 May 1966.

Ovenbird—*Seiurus aurocapillus*

Occasional migrant and local summer resident. There are five records in early to mid-May, and one in early September. Patton has found it nesting.

Northern Waterthrush—*Seiurus noveboracensis*

Occasional rare or uncommon migrant. There are six reports in early May, plus one in September.

Louisiana Waterthrush—*Seiurus motacilla*

Occasional migrant. There are three reports in early May.

Kentucky Warbler—*Oporornis formosus*

Occasional rare migrant—only one report, 10 May 1953.

Mourning Warbler—*Oporornis philadelphia*.

Irregular rare migrant. All dates are in May except one in September.

Yellowthroat—*Geothlypis trichas*

Regular common migrant and summer resident.

Yellow-breasted Chat—*Icteria virens*

Occasional rare migrant and local summer resident. All arrival dates are in late April through May. Swenk (1940) stated that its breeding areas extended up the Big Blue River about to Beatrice. There are no recent summer records.

Hooded Warbler—*Wilsonia citrina*

Occasional or accidental migrant—only one report, 19 May 1957.

Wilson's Warbler—*Wilsonia pusilla*

Irregular uncommon migrant. All dates are in late May or early September.

Canada Warbler—*Wilsonia canadensis*

Occasional rare migrant—only three records, 23 May 1969, 1 June 1950 and 9 September 1967.

American Redstart—*Setophaga ruticilla*

Regular uncommon to fairly common migrant and possibly a very local summer resident.

Ploceidae

House Sparrow—*Passer domesticus*

Abundant permanent resident.

Icteridae**Bobolink—*Dolichonyx oryzivorus***

Occasional migrant. There are five reports in May.

Eastern Meadowlark—*Sturnella magna*

Meadowlarks as a genus are regular common to abundant residents, less common in winter. Both species are probably resident, but one may be more common than the other depending on habitat or season.

Western Meadowlark—*Sturnella neglecta*

See Eastern Meadowlark.

Yellow-headed Blackbird—*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

Regular uncommon to rare migrant.

Red-winged Blackbird—*Agelaius phoeniceus*

Regular common to abundant migrant and summer resident and at least occasional local winter resident.

Orchard Oriole—*Icterus spurius*

Regular fairly common migrant and local summer resident.

Baltimore Oriole—*Icterus galbula*

Regular common migrant and summer resident.

Bullock's Oriole—*Icterus bullockii*

Occasional visitor or summer resident. There are two reports in June, in 1954 and 1957, plus one in May 1955.

Rusty Blackbird—*Euphagus carolinus*

Fairly regular uncommon or rare migrant and occasional local winter resident.

Brewer's Blackbird—*Euphagus cyanocephalus*

Occasional to irregular migrant and possible local winter resident. First dates range from late February to early May.

Common Grackle—*Quiscalus quiscula*

Regular common to abundant migrant and summer resident. In fall becomes locally very abundant in flocks. An irregular local winter resident.

Brown-headed Cowbird—*Molothrus ater*

Regular common to abundant migrant and summer resident. Occasional local winter resident.

Thraupidae**Scarlet Tanager—*Piranga olivacea***

Occasional to irregular rare migrant and possibly a local summer resident.

There are five reports in May, two in June and one in September.

Summer Tanager—*Piranga rubra*

Occasional rare migrant. The only record is 12 May 1954.

Fringillidae**Cardinal—*Richmondia cardinalis***

Regular common permanent resident.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—*Pheucticus ludovicianus*

Regular common migrant and summer resident.

Black-headed Grosbeak—*Pheucticus melanocephalus*

Occasional summer resident. Patton (1927) reported a male on 18 July 1927.

Blue Grosbeak—*Guiraca caerulea*

Irregular rare migrant and local summer resident. First dates range

from early May to June. Swenk (1902a) stated that it was "a fairly common summer resident" around Beatrice around 1900. He found at least one pair with young.

Indigo Bunting—*Passerina cyanea*

Regular common migrant and summer resident.

Lazuli Bunting—*Passerina amoena*

Occasional rare migrant—only two records, 18 May 1952 and 14 May 1965.

Dickcissel—*Spiza americana*

Regular common to numerous migrant and summer resident.

Evening Grosbeak—*Hesperiphona vespertina*

Occasional local winter visitor. During the winter of 1961-1962 it was especially common.

Purple Finch—*Carpodacus purpureus*

Occasional migrant and winter visitor. Dates range from late December to mid-April.

House Finch—*Carpodacus mexicanus*

Accidental winter resident or visitant. Reported on Christmas Counts: 40 in 1955, 10 in 1957. Eastern Nebraska is out of their usual range, so these may have been misidentified.

Pine Grosbeak—*Pinicola enucleator*

Occasional or accidental winter visitant or resident. Two reported on Christmas Count, 1951. Harden recorded one 2 February 1962.

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch—*Leucosticte tephrocotis*

Accidental winter visitor. Patton (1945) reported a flock on 2 November 1944.

Common Redpoll—*Acanthis flammea*

Occasional or accidental winter visitant—only two records. Swenk (1901) reported a flock of 200-300 on 20 February 1899. One was seen on 25 January 1969.

Pine Siskin—*Spinus pinus*

Irregular uncommon to fairly common migrant and winter resident or visitant. First dates range from early February to late April. There are also five winter reports. Probably most common in late April and early May.

American Goldfinch—*Spinus tristis*

Regular common resident.

Red Crossbill—*Loxia curvirostra*

Occasional rare migrant and winter visitor. There are three records in winter, plus one in April and one in May. Some also summered here in 1966 (Sturmer, 1967), arriving in June and remaining until October. Juveniles were seen, but it could not be determined whether nesting took place before or after arrival of the flock.

Rufous-sided Towhee—*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

Regular uncommon migrant and irregular local winter resident. Has been reported as a summer resident. During the time that the Spotted Towhee was recognized as a separate species (*P. maculatus*), it also was frequently reported.

Lark Bunting—*Calamospiza melanocorys*

Occasional local summer resident. I saw several in three different locations in the summer of 1968, and in one of these and two other locations

in June 1970. Others have reported the species to Patton but the dates are not known. Pearse (1896) considered it a common breeder then.

Savannah Sparrow—*Passerculus sandwichensis*

Irregular migrant. Arrival dates range from late March to early May, most being in April. Has been reported in winter, in 1955 and on the 1952 Christmas Count.

Grasshopper Sparrow—*Ammodramus savannarum*

Regular common migrant and summer resident. Was reported on the 1950 Beatrice Christmas Count.

Baird's Sparrow—*Ammodramus bairdii*

Occasional rare migrant. The only record, by Harden, is on 11 May 1965.

Henslow's Sparrow—*Passerherbulus henslowii*

Occasional rare migrant—only two reports, one in late April 1951 and one in early October 1966.

Vesper Sparrow—*Pooecetes gramineus*

Fairly regular uncommon to rare migrant. Reported on Christmas counts in 1951, 1956, and 1958.

Lark Sparrow—*Chondestes grammacus*

Regular uncommon migrant and local summer resident.

Slate-colored Junco—*Junco hyemalis*

Regular common to numerous winter resident.

Oregon Junco—*Junco oreganus*

Occasional rare winter visitor.

Tree Sparrow—*Spizella arborea*

Regular numerous to abundant winter resident.

Chipping Sparrow—*Spizella passerina*

Regular uncommon to common migrant and local summer resident. Has been reported in winter.

Clay-colored Sparrow—*Spizella pallida*

Regular common migrant.

Field Sparrow—*Spizella pusilla*

Regular uncommon to rare migrant and local summer resident. Has been reported in winter.

Harris' Sparrow—*Zonotrichia querula*

Regular common to numerous winter resident. Also, I saw a single adult on 6 June 1966.

White-crowned Sparrow—*Zonotrichia leucophrys*

Regular uncommon to rare migrant and at least occasional winter resident. The only fall report is in late October.

White-throated Sparrow—*Zonotrichia albicollis*

Regular uncommon to rare migrant, and at least occasional local winter resident.

Fox Sparrow—*Passerella iliaca*

Irregular migrant. First dates range from late March to mid-May. Was also reported on 1951 and 1955 Christmas Counts and in January 1959.

Lincoln's Sparrow—*Melospiza lincolnii*

Regular uncommon migrant.

Swamp Sparrow—*Melospiza georgiana*

Occasional rare migrant and winter visitant. The only reports are for the winter of 1948-49, and on 2 May 1961.

Song Sparrow—*Melospiza melodia*

Regular common migrant and local winter resident.

McCown's Longspur—*Rhynchophanes mccownii*

Occasional winter resident or visitant.

Lapland Longspur—*Calcarius lapponicus*

Fairly regular common winter resident and migrant.

Chestnut-collared Longspur—*Calcarius ornatus*

Occasional migrant and winter resident—only two reports. One is on 15 February 1956, the other is for winter through 10 May 1964.

Hypothetical List

This list includes those species which have been reported in Gage County, but which were, or very probably were, misidentified. The status of the species in Nebraska is taken from Rapp, et al. (1958).

Black Duck—*Anas rubripes*

Reported on 19 March 1949 by Patton, who now believes it was incorrectly identified. Considered a rare migrant in Nebraska.

European Widgeon—*Mareca penelope*

A flock was reported on 18 March 1944 (Patton, 1945). Patton now considers this a possible misidentification. The species is considered accidental in Nebraska.

White-tailed Kite—*Elanus leucurus*

Reported by Pyfer on 14 March 1893 (Bruner, 1896) but this was later considered incorrect (Bruner, et al. 1904). There are no other Nebraska records.

Hawk Owl—*Surnia ulula*

Sturmer (1955) reported one in January 1955. This now appears to have been incorrect. The species is considered accidental in Nebraska.

Acadian Flycatcher—*Empidonax virescens*

Reported on 2 May 1949 by Patton, but since identification was based on sight, she does not consider it definite. Considered a rare summer resident in eastern Nebraska.

Carolina Chickadee—*Parus carolinensis*

Nine were reported on the 1950 Christmas Count. However, the birds were reported as identified by sight, not considered a reliable method. There are no other records of the species in Nebraska.

Cape May Warbler—*Dendroica tigrina*

Reported at Blue Springs (Patton, 1945). Patton now considers this a misidentification. The species is considered accidental in Nebraska.

Correction List

This list includes reports of observations which appeared in the Nebraska Bird Review under Gage County, but which were actually made in adjacent areas. There are, however, valid Gage County records of these species. Only corrections concerning unusual species are listed.

Common Loon—23 April 1961 and September 1963—in Kansas.

White-fronted Goose—9 March-10 April 1964—in Jefferson County.

Goshawk—3-17 January 1964—in Jefferson County.

Pigeon Hawk—19 February-15 March 1964—in Jefferson County.

Greater Prairie Chicken—resident in 1962 and 1964—probably refers to those at Burchard Lake, Pawnee County.

Breeding Birds of Gage County

The following is a summary of the species which nest fairly regularly in Gage County. An "L" indicates the species breeds only locally. An "A" indicates an assumption of nesting based on presence of adult birds; no such mark indicates nests have actually been observed.

L	Green Heron		Black-capped Chickadee
LA	Red-tailed Hawk	L	Tufted Titmouse
LA	Marsh Hawk	A	White-breasted Nuthatch
L	Sparrow Hawk		House Wren
LA	Greater Prairie Chicken	L	Mockingbird
	Bobwhite		Catbird
	Ring-necked Pheasant		Brown Thrasher
L	Killdeer		Robin
L	Upland Plover	L	Eastern Bluebird
	Rock Dove	L	Loggerhead Shrike
	Mourning Dove		Starling
L	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	L	Bell's Vireo
LA	Black-billed Cuckoo	A	Red-eyed Vireo
L	Great Horned Owl		Warbling Vireo
	Common Nighthawk	L	Yellow Warbler
	Chimney Swift	A	Yellowthroat
L	Belted Kingfisher		House Sparrow
	Yellow-shafted Flicker		Eastern Meadowlark
L	Red-bellied Woodpecker		Western Meadowlark
	Red-headed Woodpecker		Red-winged Blackbird
LA	Hairy Woodpecker	L	Orchard Oriole
	Downy Woodpecker		Baltimore Oriole
	Eastern Kingbird		Common Grackle
	Western Kingbird		Brown-headed Cowbird
L	Great Crested Flycatcher		Cardinal
L	Eastern Phoebe		Rose-breasted Grosbeak
L	Eastern Wood Pewee		Indigo Bunting
L	Horned Lark		Dickcissel
L	Rough-winged Swallow		American Goldfinch
	Barn Swallow		Grasshopper Sparrow
	Purple Martin	LA	Lark Sparrow
	Blue Jay	L	Chipping Sparrow
	Common Crow		

These species have or probably have nested here, but not regularly. Some have not been known to nest more than once. For details concerning unusual see species accounts.

	Great Blue Heron	A	Bank Swallow
A	Blue-winged Teal		Bewick's Wren
	Wood Duck		Wood Thrush
	Hooded Merganser		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
	Swainson's Hawk		Ovenbird
	Bald Eagle	A	Yellow-breasted Chat
	Screech Owl	A	American Redstart
	Burrowing Owl		Blue Grosbeak

A	Short-eared Owl	A	Rufous-sided Towhee
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird		Lark Bunting
	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		Field Sparrow
A	Traill's Flycatcher		

Regular Permanent Residents

Red-tailed Hawk	Horned Lark
Marsh Hawk	Blue Jay
Sparrow Hawk	Common Crow
Greater Prairie Chicken	Black-capped Chickadee
Bobwhite	Tufted Titmouse
Ring-necked Pheasant	White-breasted Nuthatch
Rock Dove	Starling
Great Horned Owl	House Sparrow
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Eastern Meadowlark
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Western Meadowlark
Hairy Woodpecker	Cardinal
Downy Woodpecker	American Goldfinch

Migration Tables

I compiled the Spring Arrival table from the Annual Cooperative Migration and Occurrence Reports of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, plus my unpublished 1964 records. Reports began in 1947 and are continuous from 1949 to 1968. In 1952 through 1954 there were separate reports from Blue Springs and Beatrice, making a total of 26 reports. I also included the few dates reported before 1947. The Spring Departure table is based almost exclusively on my 1964-1968 records, and the fall tables on my 1964-1967 records.

There were several problems in attempting to define a representative migration date. An "arrival" date may be the date one individual is seen, well ahead of the arrival of most individuals, as for example the extreme case of the Catbird reported arriving 17 February 1957, or even those reported on 1 April. In inconspicuous or scarce species a late "arrival" date may represent the date it is finally seen after having been present for some time, for example June arrival dates for the Cuckoos. There are corresponding problems with departure dates. In addition, in some migratory species such as the Mourning Dove, Robin, and Song Sparrow, there are some resident individuals, and it is difficult to separate observations of these. For example, does an arrival date of mid-February for a Robin represent a late observation of a winter resident or an early migrant?

I have listed, for regular species only, the earliest, median, and latest dates, which can be interpreted in light of the above problems. In Table 1, for species for which I suspected some arrival dates represented late observations of wintering birds, I have listed the latest date considered as such and the total number of winter dates, if more than one. I used the arbitrary criterion of a 14 day gap in the dates to make this distinction. Except in some late migrating species, June arrival dates are excluded. Tables 2-4 include only species for which there are at least three dates, unfortunately excluding many regular species.

Table 1. Spring Arrival Dates

Species	Earliest	Median	Latest	Number	Winter Dates
Pied-billed Grebe	3 Mar	9 Apr	12 May	12	
Great Blue Heron	10 Mar	19 Apr	21 May	16	
Green Heron	10 Mar	5 May	28 May	18	
Canada Goose	1 Mar	20 Mar	12 May	17	
Snow Goose	5 Mar	22 Mar	7 May	14	
Blue Goose	9 Mar	22 Mar	7 May	10	
Mallard	26 Feb	24 Mar	4 May	22	
Pintail	18 Feb	17 Mar	29 Apr	9	
Green-winged Teal	9 Mar	31 Mar	24 Apr	13	
Blue-winged Teal	9 Mar	4 Apr	26 Apr	23	
American Widgeon	1 Mar	14 Apr	25 May	11	
Shoveler	11 Mar	7 Apr	1 May	16	
Lesser Scaup	8 Mar	3 Apr	10 May	16	
American Coot	4 Mar	20 Apr	17 May	17	
Killdeer	1 Mar	22 Mar	22 Apr	26	
Common Snipe	28 Mar	25 Apr	14 May	15	
Spotted Sandpiper	9 Apr	7 May	18 May	14	
Solitary Sandpiper	5 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	9	
Greater Yellowlegs	17 Mar	17 Apr	8 May	16	
Lesser Yellowlegs	25 Mar	22 Apr	19 May	22	
Least Sandpiper	18 Mar	26 Apr	19 May	14	
Franklin's Gull	29 Mar	23 Apr	17 May	25	
Mourning Dove	25 Feb	18 Mar	3 Apr	12	11 Feb-13
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	9 Apr	29 May	15 Jun	26	
Black-billed Cuckoo	23 Apr	1 Jun	15 Jun	19	
Common Nighthawk	10 Mar	14 May	5 Jun	22	
Chimney Swift	10 Mar	20 Apr	30 Apr	25	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	12 Apr	16 May	31 May	18	
Belted Kingfisher	17 Mar	12 Apr	15 May	19	3 Mar-4
Red-headed Woodpecker	16 Apr	6 May	16 May	15	29 Mar-11
Eastern Kingbird	12 Apr	30 Apr	16 May	25	
Western Kingbird	20 Apr	6 May	25 May	25	
Great Crested Flycatcher	1 May	11 May	27 May	19	
Eastern Phoebe	20 Mar	6 Apr	9 May	25	
Least Flycatcher	10 Apr	7 May	19 May	14	
Eastern Wood Pewee	4 Apr	15 May	1 Jun	16	
Tree Swallow	3 Apr	30 Apr	20 May	14	
Bank Swallow	17 Apr	8 May	20 May	10	
Rough-winged Swallow	16 Apr	29 Apr	15 May	13	
Barn Swallow	11 Apr	29 Apr	25 May	24	
Purple Martin	26 Mar	6 Apr	14 May	26	
House Wren	25 Mar	21 Apr	9 May	25	
Mockingbird	24 Apr	4 May	28 May	16	
Catbird	1 Apr*	5 May	18 May	23	
Brown Thrasher	3 Apr	24 Apr	16 May	25	

*also a 17 Feb date

Species	Earliest	Median	Latest	Number	Winter Dates
Robin	28 Jan	15 Feb	15 Apr	15	15 Jan-10
Wood Thrush	29 Apr	8 May	15 May	9	
Swainson's Thrush	27 Apr	9 May	29 May	18	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	30 Apr	8 May	29 May	16	
Eastern Bluebird	17 Feb	30 Mar	30 May	21	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	29 Mar	15 Apr	15 May	13	27 Feb-4
Loggerhead Shrike	13 Mar	29 Mar	20 Apr	22	
Red-eyed Vireo	5 May	12 May	18 May	10	
Warbling Vireo	1 Apr	4 May	20 May	20	
Black-and-white Warbler	28 Apr	6 May	18 May	15	
Tennessee Warbler	23 Apr	7 May	17 May	20	
Orange-crowned Warbler	20 Apr	1 May	14 May	14	
Nashville Warbler	1 May	5 May	13 May	8	
Yellow Warbler	20 Apr	4 May	20 May	25	
Magnolia Warbler	30 Apr	17 May	25 May	12	
Myrtle Warbler	16 Apr	1 May	15 May	25	
Blackpoll Warbler	29 Apr	8 May	19 May	19	
Yellowthroat	8 Apr	6 May	15 May	18	
American Redstart	1 May	8 May	1 Jun	17	
Yellow-headed Blackbird	9 Apr	24 Apr	15 May	17	
Red-winged Blackbird	11 Mar	20 Mar	12 Apr	14	28 Feb-11
Orchard Oriole	2 Apr	6 May	17 May	24	
Baltimore Oriole	20 Apr	4 May	15 May	25	
Common Grackle	10 Feb	15 Mar	15 Apr	23	15 Jan-3
Brown-headed Cowbird	26 Feb	27 Mar	12 May	24	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	12 Apr	3 May	13 May	25	
Indigo Bunting	3 May	16 May	22 May	18	
Dickcissel	28 Apr	4 May	19 May	26	
Pine Siskin	12 Apr	26 Apr	12 May	8	26 Mar-3
Rufous-sided Towhee	4 Apr	23 Apr	25 May	12	10 Mar-9
Grasshopper Sparrow	8 Apr	1 May	7 May	18	
Vesper Sparrow	22 Mar	11 Apr	25 Apr	14	24 Feb
Lark Sparrow	12 Apr	29 Apr	27 May	15	
Chipping Sparrow	7 Apr	28 Apr	20 May	19	
Clay-colored Sparrow	12 Apr	5 May	13 May	20	
Field Sparrow	28 Mar	25 Apr	13 May	17	
White-crowned Sparrow	10 Mar	27 Apr	27 May	18	10 Feb-4
White-throated Sparrow	6 Apr	29 Apr	16 May	10	
Lincoln's Sparrow	5 Apr	23 Apr	6 May	9	
Song Sparrow	6 Feb	15 Mar	7 Apr	15	22 Jan-10

Table 2. Spring Departure Dates

Species	Earliest	Median	Latest	Number
Canada Goose	24 Mar	27 Mar	12 Apr	3
Blue-winged Teal	16 Apr	4 May	13 May	3
Franklin's Gull	10 Apr	29 Apr	13 May	6
Least Flycatcher	15 May	20 May	28 May	5
Brown Creeper	18 Mar	7 Apr	10 Apr	6
Swainson's Thrush	22 May	27 May	1 Jun	5
Gray-cheeked Thrush	13 May	15 May	17 May	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4 Apr	12 Apr	23 Apr	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	23 Apr	7 May	22 May	4
Black-and-white Warbler	1 May	7 May	28 May	5
Tennessee Warbler	19 May	21 May	28 May	5
Orange-crowned Warbler	5 May	13 May	17 May	5
Nashville Warbler	9 May	13 May	14 May	5
Yellow Warbler	19 May	22 May	28 May	5
Myrtle Warbler	2 May	5 May	8 May	6
Blackpoll Warbler	7 May	22 May	25 May	5
American Redstart	17 May	28 May	30 May	3
Slate-colored Junco	7 Apr	12 Apr	16 Apr	5
Tree Sparrow	27 Mar	4 Apr	16 Apr	6
Clay-colored Sparrow	4 May	13 May	16 May	5
Harris' Sparrow	1 May	8 May	13 May	5
White-throated Sparrow	18 Apr	4 May	7 May	3
Lincoln's Sparrow	1 May	7 May	16 May	5
Song Sparrow	22 Apr	26 Apr	7 May	5

Table 3. Fall Arrival Dates

Species	Earliest	Median	Latest	Number
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	18 Aug	20 Aug	27 Aug	3
Brown Creeper	8 Oct	13 Oct	25 Nov	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	11 Oct	23 Oct	28 Oct	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	16 Sep	9 Oct	16 Oct	3
Myrtle Warbler	2 Oct	16 Oct	28 Oct	4
American Redstart	1 Sep	5 Sep	9 Sep	3
Slate-colored Junco	16 Oct	18 Oct	21 Oct	4
Tree Sparrow	15 Oct	2 Nov	13 Nov	4
Harris' Sparrow	22 Oct	24 Oct	27 Oct	4
Lincoln's Sparrow	23 Sep	10 Oct	22 Oct	4
Song Sparrow	2 Oct	13 Oct	27 Oct	4

Table 4. Fall Departure Dates

Species	Earliest	Median	Latest	Number
Killdeer	5 Oct	18 Oct	19 Oct	4
Mourning Dove	16 Oct	17 Oct	21 Oct	3
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	31 Jul	5 Sep	9 Sep	4
Common Nighthawk	9 Sep	15 Sep	3 Oct	3
Chimney Swift	6 Oct	8 Oct	10 Oct	4
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	20 Aug	31 Aug	8 Sep	3
Belted Kingfisher	17 Sep	7 Nov	20 Nov	3
Red-headed Woodpecker	9 Sep	13 Sep	21 Sep	4
Eastern Kingbird	20 Aug	26 Aug	30 Aug	3
Western Kingbird	31 Jul	12 Aug	16 Aug	3
Great Crested Flycatcher	26 Aug	5 Sep	9 Sep	3
Eastern Wood Pewee	3 Aug	13 Aug	4 Sep	3
Barn Swallow	10 Sep	24 Sep	26 Sep	4
Purple Martin	19 Aug	20 Aug	5 Sep	3
House Wren	16 Sep	18 Sep	30 Sep	4
Catbird	9 Sep	16 Sep	23 Sep	4
Brown Thrasher	9 Sep	22 Sep	5 Oct	4
Robin	29 Oct	27 Nov	5 Dec	4
Eastern Bluebird	24 Oct	29 Oct	5 Nov	3
Red-eyed Vireo	26 Aug	10 Sep	16 Sep	3
Warbling Vireo	4 Aug	8 Sep	16 Sep	4
Yellowthroat	4 Aug	8 Aug	12 Sep	3
Baltimore Oriole	9 Sep	10 Sep	15 Sep	4
Common Grackle	31 Oct	12 Nov	27 Nov	4
Brown-headed Cowbird	16 Sep	20 Oct	5 Nov	4
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6 Aug	3 Sep	16 Sep	4

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