



The Burrowing Owl

April
2018

A Publication of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

Dedicated to the study, appreciation, and protection of birds

Addition and correction to best birds of 2017

In the February 2018 issue of The Burrowing Owl there was an article listing the best birds of 2017. The article was the newsletter editor's review of the long list of rarities discovered during the previous year. A Vermillion Flycatcher found by Andrew Furman in Phelps County on 25 October was listed #6. However, I overlooked another Vermillion Flycatcher, a female, found earlier in the year by Kent Skaggs at Rowe Sanctuary on 31 March and seen again on 4 April (see photo below, by Kent). Naturally, inclusion of the Rowe Vermillion Flycatcher would cause a re-ordering of the original best birds of 2017, but it's too late to go back. Nevertheless, I am grateful to have the record corrected and to acknowledge the excellent sighting here.



One last nudge – renew your NOU Membership

Most of you receiving this newsletter have renewed your NOU membership for 2018, but there are a few who have not. Life is busy and filling out the membership form and writing a check is just one more thing to do. However, we do not want to lose you and we know you'll miss all the NOU provides. Please find the membership form [HERE](#). Alternatively, use the spring meeting registration form found in the newsletter.

NOU's Next Meeting

Ft. Robinson State Park, May 18–20,
2018

Registration form in this newsletter

New Members

Welcome Bruce Wendorff of Lincoln,
Sam Bennett of Omaha, and Oscar
Sarafian of Lincoln

Moving? - If you are changing addresses or if you become aware of the passing of a member, please let us know by sending a note to Jan Johnson at janbirder@gmail.com.

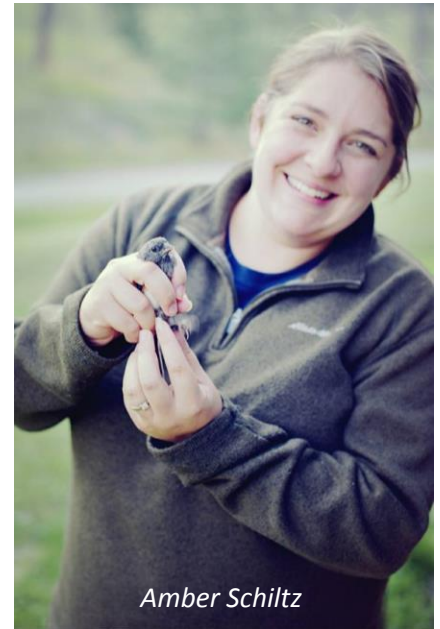
Spring meeting coming up soon!

By Robin Harding

NOU's May birding event in northwestern Nebraska is fast approaching. Friday evening, May 18, we will gather at Fort Robinson State Park to meet up with old and new friends, share stories and make plans for the weekend. Amber Schiltz and Amanda Siliti with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies will be our evening speakers. They will be talking to us about the bird banding project at Chadron State Park.

On Saturday, we will have birding field trips to area hot spots such as Sowbelly Canyon, Gilbert-Baker Wildlife Management Area, East Ash Creek Canyon, Chadron State Park, and Toadstool Park. Our trip leaders are making plans to show you some of the best birding spots with hopes of finding some exciting species. As you know, the weather can have big impact on roads and birds, so some last minute adjustments may be needed. Saturday evening, we will get together to share our sightings, have supper and talk about Sunday field trips. Rick Wright will be our featured speaker and his presentation titled *Brown is Beautiful: Discovering the American Sparrows and their Discoverers*. It will be a fascinating presentation!

The gathering will take place in the Buffalo Barracks on the main campus of Ft. Robinson State Park, which is located just off of Highway 20 west of Crawford. The Buffalo Barracks are an "L" shaped building just up the street from the main lodge. Many people are staying at Ft. Robinson, but motels are also available 4 miles away in Crawford (Hilltop Motel, 308-665-1144), 23 miles away in Harrison (Sage Motel, 308-665-5300) and 28 miles away in Chadron (various options). Cabins also remain available at Chadron State Park (visit [HERE](#) for more details), but be advised it is a 40 minute drive between the two parks. See you at Ft. Rob!



Amber Schiltz



Rick Wright



At the meeting, this wonderful print of Northern Pintails by Rick Rasmussen and donated by Ron and Anne Kruse, will be up for auction



Cassin's Kingbird

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