



The Burrowing Owl

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Dedicated to the study, appreciation, and protection of birds

After two-year COVID delay, NOU meets in Gering

It had been a while. Prior to this year the last time the NOU held an in-person meeting was in Imperial, September 2019. At that time, the plan was to hold the next meeting in Gering, May 2020. Then there was COVID. The meeting was cancelled in 2020 with the intent of moving the meeting back one year to May 2021. COVID was still an issue in 2021 and the meeting was cancelled, again. On our third attempt, we were finally able to meet on the weekend of 22-24 May. The meeting was a success. Weather was a little cool for late May (but sounds nice during our current July heat) with even a few flakes of squall-associated snow on Saturday morning. However, it was otherwise pleasant and there was a nice diversity of western species to enjoy. Evening speakers included Nathan Pieplow, famous for his book on bird vocalizations, on Friday and Eric Grunwald with the National Park Service (Scotts Bluff National Monument) on Saturday. A complete summary of the meeting and a full list of species seen will follow in an upcoming issue of the *Nebraska Bird Review*.

NOU's Next Meetings

Fall Meeting: Schramm Park State Recreation
Area, 21-23 Oct 2022

Spring Meeting: Valentine, 5-7 May 2023
(tentative)

New Member

Joel Strafelda, Omaha — Welcome!



Fall meeting primer

The Fall NOU meeting will be later than usual this year, 21-23 October, and it will be based at Schramm Park State Recreation Area. The park is located on Highway 31 in Sarpy county and can be reached via Exit 432 on I-80 and then heading south on Highway 31 about 6 miles. Schramm is on the north side, across from the Platte River. Getting information out about lodging options in this newsletter is a priority so that people have adequate time to make reservations before options fill up, especially if they are interested in staying at the Mahoney Lodge. This information was also shared via email earlier in the year. Thanks to Ruth Stearns for assembling it. **Registration and additional meeting details will be provided in the next newsletter.**

LODGING OPTIONS: Several choices are available within less than 15 miles of Schramm State Park.

At Exit 426 in Cass County is Mahoney State Park Lodge (<http://outdoornebraska.gov/lodging-2/>; 402-944-2523). This would be a great setting, and is just 13 miles to Schramm: park sticker required. The downside is there is no breakfast available at the lodge in the off-season. Rooms do have a coffee maker, mini fridge and microwave. Up the interstate heading towards Schramm there is a McDonalds at I-80 Exit 432, which is a good option for those not packing a breakfast.

Four room types available: ranging from \$90 to \$105 per night. All have two queens. Standard park side is \$90 per night, standard riverside is \$95 per night, loft park side is \$100 per night, and loft riverside is \$105 per night. The loft rooms have a small living area with a sofa bed, and upstairs are two queens. All rooms have a mini fridge, microwave and coffee maker. Again, no breakfast is available on site.

We cannot set aside rooms at a State Park without committing the funds up front, so if you are interested in Mahoney State Park Lodge, we urge you to make arrangement soon.

Additional options are below: Some of these are basic accommodations and budget friendly.

I-80 exit 432: closest hotel to Schramm is Super 8 at 14355 NE-31 in Gretna, (by outlet mall). Phone is 402-332-5188. Rooms start at \$65. Light breakfast, coffee maker in room and 6 miles to Schramm.

I-80 exit 439: next interchange east towards Omaha (exit 439) is the Holiday Inn Express & Suites. Rooms at \$142.49 per night. Address is 16175 Stevens Pointe. Phone: 402-504-3716. Breakfast included and about 13 miles to Schramm.

I-80 exit 440: Moving east up the interstate (exit 440) towards Omaha, is the Countryside Suites 9477 S. 142nd St. Omaha, NE 402-884-2644. Rooms start at about \$70, free breakfast and about 14 miles from Schramm.

I-80 exit 440: At the same interchange is Quality Inn & Suites – at about \$89 per night. Address is 9505 S. 142nd St. Phone: 402-764-9006. Free continental breakfast, fridge and microwave in room per website and located about 14 miles to Schramm.

Again, registration and additional meeting details will be provided in the next newsletter.



Remembering Lanny Randolph

Long-time NOU member Lanny Randolph of Minden passed away Friday, June 17, 2022 at his home surrounded by family.

Lanny LeRoy Randolph was born July 18, 1951 in Kearney, NE to John S. and Wynona Y. (Worley) Randolph. He attended Kearney High School, graduating with the class of 1969. He then attended Kearney State College. In 1970, Lanny enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged in 1973.

Lanny was a jack of all trades and held several jobs over the years with the City of Kearney, Kearney State College and most recently with AIM Environmental.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Robin Harding of Minden; brothers, Gary (Lea) Randolph of Plano, TX, Ray (Lanna) Randolph of Kearney and John (Robin) Randolph of Bayfield, CO; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Many of us were aware that Lanny had health challenges for some time, so it meant a great deal to many members that Lanny powered forward and attended the NOU meeting in Gering. Evidence of this is the poem "In memory of Lanny" that was contributed by Anne Kruse (right). The NOU meant a lot to Lanny and memorials were suggested to be sent to the Nebraska Ornithologist Union. Rest in Peace, Lanny.

In Memory of Lanny

The memories are many of birding trips,
With Robin and Lanny, learning fun little tips.
They honed their skills and were willing to share,
As they searched out the birds, both familiar and rare.

We knew we'd see them no question at all,
At EVERY NOU meeting in the Spring or the Fall.
Lanny's health was fading but not his resolve,
Determined to see the bird no matter what's involved!!

We now say goodbye to Lanny our friend,
Sounds pretty final but I know it's not the end.
He'll be smiling down as we carry on,
He'll be birding in Heaven each morning at dawn!

Editor's Note: This remembrance borrows heavily from the full obituary posted [HERE](#)



Lanny Randolph (right) and Robin Harding



Cool Owl Facts for Kids

Part 1:

If you've ever seen this nighttime animal before, you know that the owl has big, curious eyes and each makes their own unique 'hoot' sound. Owls are most famous for their wise appearance, because their eyes are intelligent appearing and they stare so intensely.

Owls can be found in all different types of habitats, and every continent except Antarctica. You can find owls in many places, from forests and deserts to mountains and prairies. Of the nineteen species of owls found in North America, eight species of owls are found in Nebraska and nest here, including: Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Northern Saw-whet Owl. In winter we often are treated to seeing a Snowy Owl. They live in the far north in the frigid tundra. No matter where they live, owls are most active at night. This is called being nocturnal.

Owls use many ways to build their nests. Most owls do not go through the trouble of making their own nest. They use an old tree cavity or another bird's old nest. Old hawk nests are often used by Great-horned Owls.

Most owls like to eat insects, small mammals (like rabbits, squirrels, bats, mice) and other smaller birds. They may also eat larger woodchucks, weasels, and even cats. The owl first captures the prey and then crushes it with its powerful talons. The prey is then either eaten whole or ripped apart, depending on the size of the meal. After this the pieces that can't be digested such as fur and bones, are compacted into a pellet and spat out. They rarely drink water getting most of the liquid they need from what they eat. However, owls do go to water to take a bath.

1. Northern Saw-whet Owl (top left)
2. Eastern Screech Owl (top)
3. Great Horned Owl (top)
4. Short-eared Owl (middle)
5. Burrowing Owl (middle)
6. Barn Owl (bottom)
7. Long-eared Owl (bottom)
8. Barred Owl (bottom)





Owls



Circle the names and words about owls in the wordsearch.

Y K O E W S C R E E C H Q U O O S
S M M A B L N Y Z H I X G M H T E
Q Q F X F R O O W S U G T B E B W
A K M V G K R N W C A S M Z K M F
U N C E C P T A G Y B O Z L W X R
G N J C X J H I P E I K H X B J B
F C Z Q M D E S J T A W I B F H M
A S N L A Y R V W Z O R S D D T O
H M L S T Q N S X X M R E Z S O H
T K H H Y O H F I E A P E D W C J
N L Z G R E A T G R A Y S I T H K
F B U R R O W I N G G G P C W A M
X S H E M W K R H A D M E T H Q B
O R T A Y L Z K P E A Y C I J C D
F E A T H E R S I L E N T Y S Q I
P L L H B S A W W H E T A H L I V
A F O O A E B G Q Q X N C J Q O W
Z R N R R V A D L K P L L Y E M O
N K S N R P R K R E J C E P I L I
P P A E E T N A J U L H D V P Q L
M U M D D J J W P G C B U L C X W
J X A V U F R P V U D F T Q B Y C



Barn
Burrowing
Feathers
Long Eared

Barred
Great Gray
Northern Hawk
Silent

Talons
Beak
Elf
Great Horned

Owl
Saw Whet
Snowy



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