



# The Burrowing Owl

November  
2023

A Publication of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

Dedicated to the study, appreciation, and protection of birds

## Holdrege meeting wrap-up

By Robin Harding

Photo by Boni Edwards



The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union held its fall 2023 meeting in Holdrege September 22-24. Members and friends gathered together Friday evening for supper and a presentation by Laurel Badura. Laurel works with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program which is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She discussed habitat conservation on private lands across Nebraska and the benefits of working with private landowners on bird conservation.

I've known Laurel for many years through Audubon mostly. Coincidentally, her husband, Toby, was my supervisor at work for several years. Sometimes, it's a small world.

Saturday morning, we awoke early, eager to go birding. A few members volunteered to guide the others to some nearby hot spots. Paul Dunbar guided a group to Harlan County Reservoir. Bill Flack guided a group to Sacramento-Wilcox Wildlife



Management Area (WMA), Funk Lagoon, Nature's Mosaic and Cottonwood WPA. I guided a group to Johnson Lake, Elwood Reservoir, the J-2 eagle viewing area and the Overton bridge area.

I was worried about the road conditions since we received a much needed rain just before the meeting. We made some last minute adjustments to our field trips. It turned out all right. At Johnson Lake, my group was birding in the recreation area near the dam. We were spread out and looking around. I heard Anne Kruse say, "What was that?" She had seen a bird drop out of a tree and land on the rip rap. When the bird came back up into view, our jaws dropped and we said "What in heck is a Clark's Nutcracker doing here?" Others in the group saw the nutcracker from different perspectives. It was just dumb luck that we were at the right place and the right time to see it.

Tired and hungry, we gathered again for supper and a presentation back in Holdrege, Saturday evening. Rob Bogardus spoke about his research on Tree Swallows. He has been studying aggressive behavior and its relationship with nesting success. We enjoyed it a great deal.

There was a good showing of migrants on this weekend. The most exciting finds were a Parasitic Jaeger at Harlan County Reservoir and the Clark's Nutcracker at Johnson Lake. Other great finds during the weekend were Sabine's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Snowy Egret, Broad-winged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Peregrine Falcon, LeConte's Sparrow, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler. The total species for the weekend was 131. The complete list can be found here: <https://noubirds.org/Meetings/Past.aspx>

Early Sunday morning, we ventured out again to find more birds. We relocated the Clark's Nutcracker and the Parasitic Jaeger. The weather was fine and the accommodations were good. The birding with friends was great!

I hope to see you at the next meeting. It will be in Lincoln next May.



Parasitic Jaeger; photo by Thane Dinsdale



Clark's Nutcracker; photo by Boni Edwards



Photo by Boni Edwards





# New Nebraska Species Since 2000

By Mark A. Brogie

The following list shows species added to the official list of Nebraska birds since 2000. The numbers in parentheses represent the total number of species on the Nebraska list when each species was added.

<b>2000</b> Dusky Flycatcher (442) Arctic Tern (443) Reddish Egret (444) Black Rosy-Finch (445)	<b>2012</b> Hooded Crane (456) Black-chinned Hummingbird (457) Crested Caracara (458)
<b>2001</b> Costa's Hummingbird (446)	<b>2013</b> Hooded Oriole (459)
<b>2002</b> Hermit Warbler (447)	<b>2014</b> Brown Booby (460) Mute Swan (461)
<b>2003</b> No New Species Added (447)	<b>2015</b> No New Species Added (461)
<b>2004</b> Cackling Goose (448; split from Canada Goose)	<b>2016</b> Anna's Hummingbird (462)
<b>2005</b> No New Species Added (448)	<b>2017</b> Pacific Wren (stayed at 462 as Thayer's Gull was lumped with Iceland Gull)
<b>2006</b> No New Species Added (448)	<b>2018</b> Fulvous Whistling-Duck (463)
<b>2007</b> Eurasian Tree Sparrow (449) Zone-tailed Hawk (450) Frigatebird sp. (451) Royal Tern (452)	<b>2019</b> No New Species Added (463)
<b>2008</b> Grace's Warbler (453)	<b>2020</b> Black Phoebe (464) Great Kiskadee (465)
<b>2009</b> Magnificent Frigatebird (453; replaced Frigatebird sp.) Fish Crow (454)	<b>2021</b> Broad-billed Hummingbird (466)
<b>2010</b> Brown-headed Nuthatch (455)	<b>2022</b> Limpkin (467)
<b>2011</b> No New Species Added (455)	<b>2023</b> Western Bluebird (468)* Western Gull (469)*
	*Pending NOURC acceptance



## Christmas Bird Counts – dates and contacts

Christmas Birds Counts (CBCs) are around the corner and there will be a full line-up of CBCs this season. CBCs are always interesting events that seem to always turn up some good birds and a few surprises. Below are the dates and contact information for the CBCs we know about. If you are interested in participating in a CBC, send the appropriate contact a note in an email well in advance of the CBC date.



- Ames** – 14 Dec; Contact: Don and Janis Paseka, [paseka76@gmail.com](mailto:paseka76@gmail.com)  
**Harlan County** – 14 Dec; Contact: Joel Jorgensen, [joel.jorgensen@nebraska.gov](mailto:joel.jorgensen@nebraska.gov)  
**Ponca** – 14 Dec; Contact: Bill Huser, [billfhuser@gmail.com](mailto:billfhuser@gmail.com)  
**Scottsbluff** – 15 Dec; Contact: Kathy DeLara, [renosmom@charter.net](mailto:renosmom@charter.net)  
**Kearney** – 15 Dec; Contact: Jacob Cooper; [cooperj2@unk.edu](mailto:cooperj2@unk.edu)  
**Lincoln** – 16 Dec; Contact: Jason St. Sauver. [jstsauver@audubon.org](mailto:jstsauver@audubon.org)  
**North Platte** – 16 Dec; Contact: T.J. Walker, [thomas.walker@nebraska.gov](mailto:thomas.walker@nebraska.gov)  
**Norfolk** – 16 Dec; Contact: Dave Heidt, [heidtdw@gmail.com](mailto:heidtdw@gmail.com)  
**Grand Island** – 16 Dec; Contact: Anne Kruse, [gramsrakruse@gmail.com](mailto:gramsrakruse@gmail.com)  
**Omaha** – 17 Dec; Contact: Bob Wells, [rcwells@cox.net](mailto:rcwells@cox.net)  
**Seward/Branched Oak** – 18 Dec; Contact: Joe Gubanyi, [Joseph.Gubanyi@cune.edu](mailto:Joseph.Gubanyi@cune.edu)  
**Beaver Valley** – 21 Dec; Contact: Jason Thiele, [jason.thiele@nebraska.gov](mailto:jason.thiele@nebraska.gov)  
**DeSoto** – 29 Dec; Contact: Kellie Hayden, [xxkhaydenxx@gmail.com](mailto:xxkhaydenxx@gmail.com)  
**Calamus-Loup** – 30 Dec; Contact: Dave Heidt, [heidtdw@gmail.com](mailto:heidtdw@gmail.com)  
**Lake McConaughy** – 30 Dec; Contact: Stephen J. Dinsmore, [cootjr@iastate.edu](mailto:cootjr@iastate.edu)  
**Crawford** – 30 Dec; Contact: Kathy DeLara, [renosmom@charter.net](mailto:renosmom@charter.net)  
**Harrison** – 31 Dec; Contact: Kathy DeLara, [renosmom@charter.net](mailto:renosmom@charter.net)  
**Lower Platte River** – 5 Jan; Contact: Joel Jorgensen, [joel.jorgensen@nebraska.gov](mailto:joel.jorgensen@nebraska.gov)

### NOU's Next Meetings

Spring Meeting: Lincoln, 3-5 May 2024

125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Fall Meeting: McCook, September 2024

(tentative)

### New Members

Mike and Eunice Penry, Brady; Robert Bogardus, McCook;

Laura Solkey, Aurora, NE



# There is still time! NOU t-shirt design contest

Win  
Cash!!!

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union (NOU) will be celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2024. To celebrate this milestone, the NOU will be printing a commemorative t-shirt that will be available for purchase with proceeds going to support the organization.

**Winning Prizes:** The winning designer will be awarded a lifetime membership to NOU, a \$300 prize and a t-shirt with their winning design. Second place will receive a 5-year free membership to the NOU and third place will win a 1-year free membership.

**Specifications:** Any design submitted must include the words "Nebraska Ornithologists' Union." Designs must also include the words "125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" or "1899-2024" or reference the organization's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Designs are also encouraged to include one or more native Nebraska bird species. Designs should include original artwork and designs. Imagination and creativity are encouraged!

**Submissions:** Designs may be submitted in .jpg, .png or other similar formats to [nebraska.ornithologists.union@gmail.com](mailto:nebraska.ornithologists.union@gmail.com). Individuals may also use commercial t-shirt design websites (e.g., printify.com, customink.com, 4imprint.com) to design t-shirts. Submissions should also be accompanied with the name of the designer, address, email address and a daytime phone number. **You do not need to be an NOU member to submit a design.**

**Deadline:** Submissions must be received by **30 November 2023**.

Winning designs will be selected by the NOU Board. The selected winning design may require minor modifications following its selection as the winner to meet budgetary and design constraints. Any modifications will be done in coordination with the winning designer.



Send questions to [nebraska.ornithologists.union@gmail.com](mailto:nebraska.ornithologists.union@gmail.com)



## The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Board

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