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STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

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PUBLISHERS OF

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FIELD REPORTS EDITOR

DR. THOMAS KENT
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Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear Bruce,

I forgot to enclose photos of Sum's
Longspur in my Iowa report.

Also, ignore the 18 Apr record of
Swainson's Thrush at the request of the
contributor.

Tom Kent

FIELD REPORTSSPRING 1982

Thomas H. Kent, Field Reports Editor
211 Richards Street
Iowa City, IA 52240

WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

(by James P. Sandroek)

The first quarter of this calendar year provided a strong contrast to warm, dry 1981. January-April 1982 averaged more than 9° colder with over three times as much snow and nearly three times as much water equivalent as the similar period in the previous year. The month of May continued the wet trend. Rain began to fall over Iowa on 4 May and occurred almost daily until the end of the month.

The weather for the reporting period 1 March-31 May can be best summarized with simple adjectives: cold, wet, miserable. March was cloudy, wet, and windy and produced moderate to heavy snowfalls across the southern two-thirds of the state, while snowfall amounts were light in most northwest and north central counties. There was a cold, snowy pattern from 2-10 March, but the latter three weeks produced temperatures above normal on most days. Almost all the precipitation during this time was in the form of rain. Early snow melt and heavy rains at mid-month caused occasional minor flooding on some Iowa streams. Mt. Ayr and Clarinda had 3.48 inches rain and 2.90 inches rain respectively on 19 March. Temperatures covered a wide range: -13° at Cascade and Anamosa and -11° at Atlantic on 6 March, while on 30 March, warm, dry southwest winds, gusting in excess of 50 mph. drove temperatures up to 70° at Keokuk and 68° at Waterloo.

The month of April, in which the state averaged almost eight inches, was the second snowiest April in a 92-year-long record. Despite April's very warm start (85° at Missouri Valley, 84° at Red Oak), the month averaged 4° colder than normal. The bitter cold accompanied by blizzards, snowstorms, and snowcover took place 3-11 April. Record low temperatures were reported on 6 April at Des Moines (10°), Sioux City (12°), and Waterloo (-4°) and at Clinton on 7 April (7°). Substantial snowfalls on 5-6 and 7-8 April increased the month's snowfall to record amounts in parts of Iowa, including Des Moines with 15.6 inches. Substantial rains fell 15-16 April with amounts to 3-4 inches in southwest Iowa. Little rain fell during the last two weeks of April and temperatures slowly moderated.

The month of May, however, received the rain normally experienced for April. By 19 May, the average rainfall of 4.23 inches had been attained, and the final days of the month brought the total precipitation well above average, making this month perhaps the wettest May since 1959. Rain in Woodbury County ranged from 3.5 inches to 9 inches during one week in mid-May, while at Hamburg in Fremont County the Nishnabotna River was reported five feet above flood stage on 21 May because of the heavy rains. Only east central and southeast Iowa remained relatively dry.

The irregular weather patterns during the reporting period had a tremendous effect on migrating birds. Ponds and marshes were covered with ice until late March which hindered the observation of resting, feeding waterfowl. The cold weather and the rains in the usual warbler migration "window" seemed to confuse the birds as much as the birders. High water caused by rains covered many mud flats and sandy beaches earlier than usual, thus reducing the time available for observing shorebirds.

More observers are commenting on weather and habitat. We continue to rely on your observations for accurate pictures of these phenomena. Reports were generalized and incorporated in the above. Special thanks are due Douglas Harr, Beth Proescholdt, and Barbara L. Wilson for their reports on both weather patterns and specific details. All observers are encouraged to continue to include comments on weather and habitat conditions.

GENERAL TRENDS

March birding was not out of the ordinary, but April produced some unusual trends, including early snows that concentrated regular migrants and aided in finding longspurs. There were record early dates for seven species of warblers, most after the rain of 15-16 Apr, but both waterthrushes were found on 2 Apr. The warbler migration was prolonged to the end of May with few indications of waves except for May 5-6. Shorebirding was generally poorer than usual because of high water levels, especially in May. Record numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs were seen following the mid-April warming trend.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species included White-faced Ibis, Black Rail, Burrowing Owl, Hoary Redpoll, Smith's Longspur, and Chestnut-collared Longspur. All except the latter are pushing for casual or possibly regular status. Casual species included Snowy Egret, Ross' Goose, Sandhill Crane, King Rail, Yellow Rail, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Bohemian Waxwing, Prairie Warbler, Lark Bunting, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Common Loon: Early dates were 7 Apr at L. Manawa (BJR fide TB) and 9 Apr at Red Rock L. (RT). Late dates were 13 May at Pleasant Creek Res. (PW), 12 May at L. Pahoja, Lyon Co., and 11 May in Pocahontas and Buena Vista Cos. (TK, WRS, TStau).

Horned Grebe: There were seven reports from 20 Mar at Lock 9 (JSb) to 12 May at L. Pahoja, Lyon Co. (TK, WRS, TStau).

*fewer
than
usual
TK*

Eared Grebe: Eastern Iowa reports were from L. Macbride on 17 Apr (CJB, MN) and Muskrat S. on 10 May (TK et al). Early date was 13 Apr at Cherokee (MBre) and Saylorville Res. (JSb) and late date 31 May at Willow S. (BLW).

→ Western Grebe: 2 at Rush L., Osceola Co. on 30 Apr (DBi); 1 at Amana L. on 8 May (LH fide CJB); and 2 dark phase at Akron, Plymouth Co. on 12 May (TK, WRS, TStau).

American White Pelican: 4 were at Amana L. on 30 Mar (CJB) for the third earliest date on record. Peak count was 180 at Saylorville Res. on 13 Apr (JSb). Late dates were 65 at Willow S. on 26 May (BLW) and 15 at Sioux Center on 22 May (JV).

Double-crested Cormorant: There were two record early dates: 6 at Cone M. on 21 Mar (TStau) and 1 at L. Manawa on 24 Mar (BJR fide TB); 4 at Lock 13 on 27 Mar (PP) were also early. Peak counts were 600 in Fremont Co. on 24 Apr (WRS, RKM, FM), 350 at Saylorville Res. on 13 Apr (JSb), and 101 at Red Rock L. on 13 Apr (RT). Several were present at Hendrickson M. (BP, MP) and DeSoto NWR (JR) on 31 May.

Green Heron: 1 was in NE Mills Co. on 17 Apr (BLW).

Little Blue Heron: 1 at L. Manawa on 11 Apr (PS fide TB) ties the third earliest date. Others were 30 Apr in Louisa Co. (imm, +TStau, JH), 1 May at Amana L. (adult, photos, TK, CJB, TStau, JH). 8 May at Ames (adult, +JR, RKM, FM), 9 May at Amana L. (LH fide CJB), 19 May at Willow S. (BLW).

Cattle Egret: 1 Story Co. 23, 30 Apr (JR), 2 Waterloo 7 May (RKM), 1 South Twin L., Calhoun Co., 11 May (TK, WRS, TStau), 1 Fremont Co., 13 May (RP), 1 Dewey's Pasture, 16 May (RJ fide JD), 5 Warren Co., 20-27 May (RT), 4 New Albin, 22 May (DK), and 1 New Albin, 30 May (FM).

1 East
2 West

Seems to
be doing
very well
the

a few
more
than
usual

more than usual
Snowy Egret: 1 at L. Manawa on 1 May (+PB fide TB); 1 at New Albin on 30 May (+ FM).

Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 was reported from L. Manawa on 24 Mar (Ruth Green fide TB), a record early date. A rookery established at Rush L., Osceola Co., in 1981 was flourishing with 43 birds present (DHa).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 3 were at Otter Creek M. on 26 Apr and 1 May (RKM, FM) and 1 at Lansing on 22 May (DK).

fewer reported
Least Bittern: Only three were reported: Cone M. on 18 May (JPS, JH), Hendrickson M. on 22 May (SD, KD fide JD), and Cardinal M. on 31 May (RKM, FM).

fewer
American Bittern: 1 caught, photographed, and banded at ~~Waise~~ ^{Wiese} S. on 10 Apr (PP, LB, LL) is the third earliest date.

→
White-faced Ibis: 2 in breeding plumage were at Forney L. on 13-18 May (+TK, +RP, m. ob.). *2nd year in this location - probably part of great plains population.*

Mute Swan: 2 were reported at Princeton M. on 11 Apr (Henry Braunlich fide PP).

Whistling Swan: 8 were at Big Spirit L. on 7 Apr (DHa) and 65 at New Albin on 10 Apr (JSb).

Greater White-fronted Goose: 225 were at Cone M. on 27 Mar (PW, FT); 3 were late at Forney L. on 16 May (BR, LP).

Snow Goose: 2000 was a large flock for eastern Iowa at Cone M. on 27 Mar (PW, FT); 1 lingered at Hendrickson M. until 23 May (PM).

↑
Ross' Goose: 1 was documented at Willow S. on 28 Mar (+FM); others were reported from DeSoto NWR on 17, 18 Mar (TB, BR, BJR) and W. of Shenandoah on 3 Apr (RP).

people now looking for + feeding this species in S.W. Iowa.

American Wigeon: 600 were at Little Clear L., Pocahontas Co., on 1 Apr (MBre); 2 were at Willow S. on 31 May (BLW).

American Black Duck: 6 at Riverton WA on 20 Mar were considered unusual for spring (WRS); 1 paired with a drake Mallard was seen at Iowa City on 7 May (TK).

Cinnamon Teal: 1 was at Big M. on 5 Apr (RKM, FM, RuH).

Canvasback: 1000 were at Little Clear L., Pocahontas Co., on 1 Apr (MBre).

Greater Scaup: 5 s. of Council Bluffs on 5-13 Mar (TB, m. ob.); 1 near Shenandoah on 20 Mar (WRS); 1 s. of Council Bluffs on 28 Mar (+FM); 4 at L. Macbride on 28 Mar (TK) and 1 there on 31 Mar (+CJB); 9 at Lansing on 10 Apr (+JSb); and 4 at Nashua on 12 Apr (+JSb).

Lesser Scaup: 10,000 were noted on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. on 10 Apr (JR) and 5,000 at Coralville Res. on 14 Apr (TK). A pair was still at Willow S. on 31 May (BLW).

Oldsquaw: 1 was at Willow S. on 22 Mar (BLW).

White-winged Scoter: 1 was at Saylorsville Res. on 8 Apr (+JSb) and 1 at Booneville, Dallas Co., on 22 Apr (+RMO).

Common Goldeneye: 1000 were noted on the Mississippi R. at Burlington on 9 Mar (CJB). Late females (2 each) were at Forney L. on 14 May and SE Clay Co. on 11 May (TK, WRS, TStau).

Hooded Merganser: 2 were early s. of Council Bluffs on 13 Mar (TB, m. ob.).

Red-breasted Merganser: 100 were at Red Rock Res. on 13 Apr (RT); 8 were late at Pleasant Creek Res. on 13 May (PW, FT); and late females were at Forney L. on 14 May (TK, WRS, TStau) and Rock Valley on 8 May (JV).

VULTURES THROUGH TURKEY

Turkey Vulture: The earliest was in Floyd Co. on 23 Mar (PW).

Osprey: 3 were seen along the Big Sioux R. in Lyon, Sioux, and Plymouth Cos. on 12 May (TK, WRS, TStau). *late!*

Bald Eagle: Counts by air along the Mississippi R. from Davenport to Burlington were 113 on 3 Mar, 217 on 10 Mar, 150 on 17 Mar, and 4 on 24 Mar (PP). In western Iowa, 25 were at DeSoto NWR on 14 Mar (MM) and one lingered south of there in Pottawattamie Co. to the quite late date of 2 May (BP, LP). An immature was also late on 22 May at New Albin (DK, JSb), an area where nesting may occur.

Northern Goshawk: Details were given for one at Bays Branch on 11 Apr (RC) and another was reported from Sweet M. on 10 Apr (+FM, RKM, RuH).

Not many Sharp-shins reported - can't tell if seen or not.
Cooper's Hawk: There were 9 reports from 18 Mar to 11 May.

Red-tailed Hawk: *need details, Ed.* Harlan's Hawks were reported from Dickinson Co. on 23 Apr (DHa) and Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 24 Apr (JPS) and a probable Krider's Hawk from Mills Co. from 13 Mar to 10 Apr (BLW).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Reports were from Sweet M. on 22 Apr (FM), Dudgeon P. on 23 Apr (FM), and Lansing on 22 May (DK) and 30 May (FM).

Broad-winged Hawk: Individuals were noted at Ames on 14 May (JD), at Wildcat Den SP on 25 May (CJB), and at Ledges SP on 28 May (CJB).

normal
Swainson's Hawk: Early dates were 9 Apr at Amana (CJB) and 10 Apr in Sioux Co (JV). A pair was at a nest in Osceola Co. on 25 Apr for the fourth year (DBi) and another pair returned for nesting at Cedar Falls (FM). Other reports were from Lyon, Monona, Pottawattamie, Mills, and Polk Cos.

Rough-legged Hawk: 2 were late in Davis Co. on 18 Apr (FM).

Golden Eagle: Undocumented reports were from Winneshiek Co. on 20 Mar (imm, JSb, AB), Forney L. on 22 Mar (ad., MM), and Larchwood, Lyon Co., on 12 Apr (DHa). *normal location*

Peregrine Falcon: The only reported sighting was s. of Colo, Story Co. on 9 May (+PM).

Merlin: 1 was seen in e. Winneshiek Co. on 11 Apr (+JSb). There were two other undocumented reports. Falcons other than American Kestrel must be documented to be included in these reports.

American Kestrel: Migration peaks were noted as follows: 50 in Fremont Co. on 20 Mar (WRS), 19 in Guthrie Co. on 25 Mar (RC), 27 in Lyon, Osceola, and O'Brien Cos. on 31 Mar (DHa), and abundant in Sioux Co. on 1-14 Apr (JV). A nest in a Wood Duck house with 2 young was found at DeSoto NWR on 28 May (JR). *seems to be doing OK*

Ruffed Grouse: 1 was out of range at George Wyth SP on 11 Apr (FM).

Common Bobwhite: Counts in NE Mills Co. were greatly reduced (BLW). *Still down in areas*

Gray Partridge: There were two reports from Story Co.: s.e. of Colo on 8 May (BP, MP, RSo) and n. of Ames on 23 May (JD). *small area (a little)*

Wild Turkey: 1 was in NE Mills Co. on 26 Mar (BLW).

CRANES THROUGH TERNS

Sandhill Crane: 250 were reported s. of Inwood, Lyon Co., on 10 Apr (Dick Tellier fide DHa). *unusual for Iowa, no documentation*

King Rail: 1 was reported from the same location as last year at Dewey's Pasture (RJ fide JD). *reliable - This species appears to be nearly gone from Iowa.*

Virginia Rail: 1 on 17 Apr at Dewey's Pasture, Clay Co., is a record early date (RJ fide JD). On 23 May 1 was at Muskrat S. (TK).

Sora: Early dates were 16 Apr at Iowa City (TK), 17 Apr at Dewey's Pasture (RJ fide JD), and 21 Apr at L. Manawa (PB fide TB). Peak counts were 30 at Hendrickson M. on 2 May (PM) and 20 at Iowa City on 7-8 May (JPS).

Yellow Rail: 1 was seen at Muskrat S. on 1 May (+CB, +TK).

Black Rail: 1 was flushed at Hendrickson M. on 24 Apr and 1 May (++)PM).

Another was heard briefly at Sycamore S. in Iowa City at 7 AM and 11 PM on 6 May (+TStau) and said to have been seen during the day (JF fide TStau).

Common Gallinule: Reports were from Johnson Co. on 2 May (TStau), Sweet M. on 14 May (RKM, FM), and New Albin on 22 May (DK).

American Avocet: 9 at Amana L. on 18 Apr (CJB) ties the second earliest date. Other reports were 25 at Coralville Res. on 25 Apr (CJB), 4 at Shenandoah on 30 Apr (RP), 1 at Lost Island L. on 1 May, and 1 at Riverton WA on 13-14 May (WRS, TStau, TK).

Semipalmated Plover: There were two record early dates: w. of Shenandoah on 3 Apr (numerous; RP) and 6 s. of Forney L. on 7 Apr (TB et al).

Piping Plover: Reports of this blue-listed species were from Council Bluffs on 17 Apr (BA, LP), Hickory Grove P., Story Co., on 21-22 Apr (HZ, JR), DeSoto NWR on 22 Apr (BA, LP), Riverton WA on 24 Apr (RKM, FM, WRS), and Coralville Res. on 24 Apr (JPS, JH).

Lesser Golden Plover: 2 were at Cone M. on 13 Mar (TStau), a record early date. The peak count was 700 on 7 May in Scott Co. (PP).

Black-bellied Plover: 1 at Trumbull L., Clay Co., on 25 Apr (RC) is the third earliest on record. On 11 May 4 were seen in Calhoun Co. (TK, WRS, TStau), and on 13 May 5 were in Linn Co. (PW, FT).

more than usual

Hudsonian Godwit: 3 s. of Forney L. on 7 Apr (TB et al) represents the second earliest date. There were numerous other reports with peak count of 41 in Greene and Calhoun Cos. on 11 May (TK, WRS, TStau) and latest date of 23 May e. of Colo (PM).

doing well in low
Marbled Godwit: Following the trend of the last two years, this species continues to be reported from widely scattered localities in small numbers (1-5). An Apr 3 record early date w. of Shenandoah included observation of the cinnamon wing lining (RP). S. of Forney L. 2 were flushed on the third early date of 7 Apr (TB et al). Others were 2 at Hendrickson M. on 17 Apr (HZ), 2 at Coralville Res. on 22 Apr (TStau, TK, see photo), 1 s. of Council Bluffs on 24 Apr (+RKM, FM, WRS), 1 at Little Wall L. on 1 May (JR, JSb), 5 in Story Co. on 2 May (PM), 1 w. of Shenandoah on 7 May (RP), 1 at Coralville Res. on 13 May (PW, FT), and 1 at DeSoto NWR on 19 May (JR).

probably no change
Upland Sandpiper: It is difficult to evaluate isolated reports of this species, but they were most frequently mentioned from NW Iowa counties: Emmet (DHe), Pocahontas (RC), Lyon (DHa), Osceola (DHa), and Sioux (JV).

Greater Yellowlegs: 2 in Harrison Co. on 23 May represent a record late date (JR).

→ Lesser Yellowlegs: The early April snow storms may have held back the migration of this species producing massive influxes of 1,100 at Riverton WA on 24 Apr (WRS) and 700 (counted) at Coralville Res. on 19 Apr (TK) and 1000 (estimated) there on 24 Apr (PW).

Solitary Sandpiper: Singles were early in Story Co. on 16 Apr (JR) and on 18 Apr at Princeton M. (PP).

Willet: 1 s. of Forney L. on 7 Apr (TB et al) is a third earliest date.

Other reports: 22 Apr, 1 at Nashua (FM); 26 Apr, 2 w. of Shenandoah (JB fide RP); 27 Apr, 4 at Cherokee (MBre) and 6 at Iowa City (TStau); 30 Apr, 18 at Cherokee (DBi); 1 May, 7 at Amana L. (CJB et al) and 4 at Little Wall L. (JR); and 3 May, 1 at Amana L. (LH fide CJB).

Spotted Sandpiper: 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 18 Apr (JPS) is the second earliest record. Another was early at Hendrickson M. on 25 Apr (JR).

Ruddy Turnstone: 1 at Cherokee on 1 Jun (MBre) and 1 at Hendrickson M. on 31 May (BPr, MPr) are the second and third latest dates. Others were 1 w. of Shenandoah on 13 May (BWA fide RP), 4 at Riverton WA on 14 May (TK, WRS, TStau), and 1 at Hendrickson M. on 22 May (SD, KD fide JD).

Northern Phalarope: 3 were e. of Colo on 23 May (PM) and 1 s. of Cherokee on 30 May (MBre), the latter representing the third latest record.

American Woodcock: 1 was early at Orange City ^{on 17 Mar} (GB fide JV). Nests with 4 eggs were found in Washington Co. on 24 Apr (RHo) and Martin Access, Cherokee Co., on 1 May (DBi). The latter hatched on 15 May. Three downy young were at Amana on 5 May (RHo).

Dowitcher sp.: 1 was at Hendrickson M. on 10 Apr (PM) and 3 were at Ingham L. on 23 May (DHe) for early and late dates. Peak count was 100 w. of Shenandoah on 6 May (JB fide RP). Unless I am convinced of species identification by details provided, dowitchers will be reported as Dowitcher sp. See Iowa Bird Life 50:59-68, 1980 for details.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 was seen in Hardin Co. on 1 May (JR) and 11 were in SE Clay Co. on 11 May (TK).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 was at Coralville Res. on 22 Apr (TStau) and 3 at Riverton WA on 1 May (BLW).

Sanderling: 2 s. of Council Bluffs on 24 Apr (RKM, FM, WRS) represent the third earliest record. Another was seen at Riverton WA on 13 May (TK, WRS, TStau).

Western Sandpiper: 2 were reported from Nashua on 2 May (FM).

*no detail
but good
observer*

White-rumped Sandpiper: 100s were at Riverton WA on 13-14 May (TK, WRS, TStau).

Baird's Sandpiper: 2 s. of Council Bluffs on 24 Mar (TB, BP, BJR) is a record early date and 8 w. of Shenandoah of 3 Apr (RP, MSp) is the third earliest date. Others were 4 s. of Council Bluffs on 7 Apr (TB, BPa, BJR), 3 e. of Colo on 24 Apr (JSb), 6 at Coralville Res. on 10 May (TK et al), 55 in Muscatine and Clinton Cos. on 13 May (PP, JH), and 6 at Credit I. on 15 May (PP).

need details - Ed.

Dunlin: 3 s. of Forney L. on 7 Apr (TB et al) and an unstated number at L. Manawa on 13 Apr (BLW) are the second and third earliest on record. Other early ones were 2 in winter plumage at Coralville Res. on 22 Apr (TStau). Peak counts were 50-60 at Ingham L. (DHe) and 125 at Colo (HZ) on 23 May.

Glaucous Gull: A second year bird at L. Manawa on 19 Mar (+RKM) stayed until 24 Mar (TB, m. ob.).

Ring-billed Gull: The migration of this species was well delineated with early date of 20 at L. Manawa on 13 Mar (TB, BPa), peaks of 500 at L. Manawa on 23 Mar (TB, BPa), 1900 in Marion and Polk Cos. on 27 Mar (JR, JSb), several thousand at Saylorville Res. on 28 Mar (JD), 1100 counted in Johnson Co. on 28 Mar (TK), and 3 late immatures in Linn and Jones Cos. on 23 May (TK, CJB, TStau).

*seem to
be more
& more
every
year.*

Franklin's Gull: The earliest was at L. Manawa on 20 Mar (BPa, LP), peak was 118 near Ruthven on 25 Apr (RC), and latest was at L. Manawa on 5 May (BPa, LP).

Bonaparte's Gull: 1 at Lock 13 in breeding plumage on 20 Mar (PP) is a record early date.

Forster's Tern: 4 at L. Manawa on 13 Apr (TB, BPa, BJR) are the second earliest record. Singles were early at Hendrickson M. on 16 Apr (JR) and Cedar L. (PW) and Dewey's Pasture on 17 Apr (RJ fide JD).

Common Tern: Details were given for 1 on the second latest date at Cardinal M. on 31 May (RKM, FM). Others with details provided were 4 at Pickerel L., Buena Vista Co., on 11 May (TK, WRS, TStau), 11 at Davenport on 21 May (PP), and 1 at Cardinal M. on 31 May (FM, RKM).

Caspian Tern: The earliest and latest were singles at Hendrickson M. on 1 and 24 May (PM) and 4 at Lock 15 on 24 May (PP).

Black Tern: 1 at Coralville Res. on 1 May (CJB et al) is the third earliest.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 was early on 10 May at Wildcat Den SP (PP).

Snowy Owl: Reports in Story Co. 2 miles n. of Gilbert on 24 Mar (Steve Lekwa fide JD) and 2 miles w. of Nevada on 25 Mar (+DR) could have been the same bird.

Burrowing Owl: 1 was photographed s. of Archer, O'Brien Co., on 13 Apr (RC, RHarms--photo).

Long-eared Owl: Late birds were in Johnson Co. in late Apr (TStau) and Oak Grove P., Sioux Co., on 14 May (GB fide JV). A nest has been followed since 21 Apr in Winneshiek Co. (RPB, CAB).

Short-eared Owl: 1-7 were at Hayden Pr. from 3 Mar to 24 Apr (RPB, CAB, DK). Others were at Riverton WA on 27 Mar (FM), L. Manawa on 17 Apr (BPa, LP), and DeSoto NWR on 22 Apr (TB, BPa).

Saw-whet Owl: 1 was at George Wyth SP on 27 Mar (RKM).

Chuck-will's-widow: The only report was of 3 at the well-established location at Waubonsie SP on 14 May (TK, WRS, TStau).

new
R. on
usual.
possibly
ok.

Common Nighthawk: 1 was at Ames on 7 May (JD).

Chimney Swift: The early date was 15 Apr at Council Bluffs (BLW).

Common Flicker: A Red-shafted Flicker was seen at Cherokee on 23 Apr (MBr).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 were reported at Cherokee on 20 May and said to be nesting (DBi). One at Davenport on 7 Mar may have been overwintering (PP). *no details*

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH STARLING

Western Kingbird: Central Iowa records were from Greene Co. on 11 May (TK, WRS, TStau) and NE Polk Co. on 24 May (+DMos).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 1 was seen at Waubonsie SP on 24 Apr (+WRS, +RKM, +FM).

a lot for one area
Eastern Phoebe: Barb Wilson surveyed 18 old bridges in Anderson Township of Mills Co. and found 10 new Phoebe nests, 8 of which had eggs on 8 May. New bridges, which are being built at a slow rate in Mills Co., are unsuitable for nesting.

Say's Phoebe: 2 birds were seen and heard from the road at the Plymouth Co. nesting site (TK, WRS, TStau).

better way?
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: There were seven sight records, all with good details, including 3 heard from 17 to 28 May from Louisa, Scott, Johnson, Story, and Boone Cos. (PP, MLP, TStau, PM, CJB).

Acadian Flycatcher: In addition to the usual locations at Lacey-Keosauqua SP, Amana Woods, and Palisades-Kepler SP, 1 was heard at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 17 May (TK, TStau), 1 was at Waterloo on 14 May (FM, RKM), and 1 was at Yellow River F. on 23 May (FM, RKM).

Willow Flycatcher: 1 was at Squaw Creek P., Linn Co., by 13 May (PW, FT).

Alder Flycatcher: Birds with the fee-be-o song were reported from Yellow River F. on 22 May (RKM, FM) and Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 26-30 May and first recording for the state made on the latter date (JH, JC, TK). Others heard, but song not described, were from NE Mills Co. on 28 May (BLW, and Lansing WA on 29 May (JSb), and Volga River RA on 30 May (FM, RKM).

Least Flycatcher: 1 was still in NE Mills Co. on 28 May (BLW).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Several were reported from 9 to 31 May.

Tree Swallow: 20 Mar records from Riverton WA (RKM) and Hendrickson M. (PM) are the second earliest records.

Rough-winged Swallow: 13 Apr birds in w. Mills and Pottawattamie Cos. (BLW) are second earliest records; 5 at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 18 Apr (JPS) were also early.

Barn Swallow: A record early bird was at Riverton WA on 20 Mar (RKM). Other early ones were 17 Apr in SW Iowa (BLW) and 18 Apr in Boone and Greene Cos. (JR).

Cliff Swallow: Iowa City birds appeared on 24 Apr (RHo), a second earliest date.

Purple Martin: Early arrivals were at Saylorville Res on 28 Mar (MR fide JD) and Sioux Center on 1 Apr (JV). Several died in the April snow storms in Polk Co. (DMos).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: As usual, a number were seen in the first week of May and the following were reported from the second week: 14 May at George Wyth SP and Sweet M. (RKM), and 12-13 May in Ames (JD, PM). Much more outstanding was 1 on 30 May in Cedar Rapids, a record late date (PW).

Carolina Wren: 1 was seen at Hickory Hill P. on 14 May (RHo) and probable one was at Sioux Center on 20 May (JV). Apparently neither were heard.

This species should make a return to Iowa over the next few years.

heather
very
well
described

Marsh Wren: One was early at Otter Creek M. on 26 Apr (FM).

Sedge Wren: 1 was at Willow S. on 25 Apr (FM), a record early date.

Northern Mockingbird: Late Apr and May reports were from the following counties: Story (JR, PM), Johnson (JPS, JH), Muscatine (PP), Sac (LK), Louisa (JPS), Sioux (TK, WRS, TStau), Iowa (CJB), Mills (AS fide TB), and Marion (RT).

American Robin: Robins were trapped in the April snow storms with over 1000 huddled along roads in Iowa Co. on 4 Apr (TK, CJB, LH).

Varied Thrush: One at Waterloo on 11 Apr (+RKM, +FM) is the second latest date.

Wood Thrush: 1 at Davenport on 24 Apr (MLP fide PP) is the second earliest date; 1 was at Ft. Defiance SP in NW Iowa on 20 May (DHe).

Swainson's Thrush: ~~One arrived in NE Mills Co on the record early date of 18 Apr (BLW).~~
delete at request of observer

Eastern Bluebird: 35 were at St. Lucas on 16 Mar (JSb).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 at Ledges SP on 14 Apr (JR) is the second earliest date. Other early arrivals were 1 at Wildcat Den SP on 17 Apr (LB fide PP) and 5-10 at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 18 Apr (JPS). Nest building was noted at Grammar Grove P. on 14 May (BP). One at Waubesa SP on 15 May was considered unusual (WRS).

? not reported. Golden-crowned Kinglet: There were only three reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 at Davenport on 25 May (PP) tied the second latest date.

Water Pipit: 1-3 were noted from six localities from late Mar to early May.

Bohemian Waxwing: 1 was at Cherokee on 12 Mar (+DBi).

Northern Shrike: 1 at Cone M. on 9 Mar was heard (CJB); 1 on 23 Mar at Willow S. in SW Iowa (detail, BLW) was unusual. NE Iowa birds were last seen on 21 Mar (JSb) and 22 Mar at Sweet M. (details, RKM).

Loggerhead Shrike: Nests were noted at Otter Creek P., Tama Co., on 1 May (RKM) and w. of Tiffin, Johnson Co., from 18 Apr to late May (CJB).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireo: 1-2 at George Wyth SP on 14 May (RKM, FM), w. of Coralville on 17 May (TStau), Volga L. on 18 May (JSb), Sigourney on 20 May (JPS), Monona Co. on 23 May (JR), and Hickory Hill P. on 27 May (TStau).

Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 was in Emmet Co. on 17 May (DHe).

Solitary Vireo: 1 in Ames on 24 Apr (PM) ties the record early date.

Black-and-white Warbler: Early and late dates were 24 Apr at Dolliver SP (JR) and 30 May at Amana (RHo).

Prothonotary Warbler: 1 at Otter Creek M. on 26 Apr (FM) was a record early date; 1 was noted at Marble L.. Dickinson Co. on 25 May (LF fide DHa).

Worm-eating Warbler: Unusual locations were Ames on 19 May (PM), Pine L., Hardin Co., on 13 May (BPr, RS) and Yellow River F. on 23 May (RKM, FM).

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 on 26 May at Amana (TStau) is the second latest record.

Blue-winged Warbler: 1 was at Ledges SP on 29 May (JD).

Tennessee Warbler: 1 at Waterloo on 21 Apr (FM) was a record early date.

Northern Parula Warbler: Singles at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 18 Apr (JPS) and Ames on 19 Apr (JD) were second and third early dates.

Yellow Warbler: A 24 Apr bird at Riverton WA (WRS, RKM, FM) tied the earliest date.

*Downs
help
in Iowa,
probably
def increase
in last few years.*

Magnolia Warbler: 1 was reported from Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 18 Apr (+JPS), a record early date.

Cape May Warbler: There were 5 reports from 13-16 May, all from eastern Iowa except for 1 at Ames on 13-14 May (PM).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 at Des Moines on 31 Mar (CL fide RL) is the third earliest date. Another was early at Ames on 7 Apr (JD).

Cerulean Warbler: They were common at Lacey-Keosauqua SP by 2 May (JPS), tying the third earliest date.

Blackburnian Warbler: 2 were seen in Emmet Co on 22 May (DHe).

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1 arrived at Ledges SP on 14 Apr (JR), a second early date, and stayed for many to see at the IOU Convention on 9 May. On 18 Apr Jim Sandrock found 13 *most seen in one area of Iowa* at Lacey-Keosauqua SP and Roberts Riverside P. n. of Keosauqua, the best sites for this species in Iowa. Another was seen in Walnut Woods SP s.e. of Des Moines on 3 May (MBro, CS).

Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 was reported at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 18 Apr (+JPS), two weeks earlier than the previous early date.

Pine Warbler: 1 was seen for 30 minutes in SE Linn Co on 27 Apr (WN), a third early date.

Prairie Warbler: 1 was at Lansing WA on 23,24,30 May (+RKM, +FM).

Palm Warbler: 1 was at Lizard L. on 24 Apr (RC) for a third early date.

Northern Waterthrush: 1 at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 2 Apr (TStau) was a record early date.

Need details, BWP.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 at Ledges SP on 2 Apr (+JR) documented another record early date. Others were at usual locations except for 1 at Dolliver SP, Webster Co., on 24 Apr (JR).

Kentucky Warbler: This species did not arrive early, but was much more widespread than usual with records from Monona Co. on 23 May (JR), Sunken Grove, Pocahontas Co., on 15 May (RC), Ames on 4, 18 May (JSb, PM, HZ), George Wyth SP on 14 May (FM, RKM), Amana on 14 May (CJB), and Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 30 May (TK, JH, JC).

Connecticut Warbler: There were seven reports from 12 May at Ames (HZ) to 25 May at Grammar Grove SP (BP, RS).

Mourning Warbler: 1 was early at Amana on 9 May (LH fide CJB).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Eastern Iowa reports were from Iowa City, Squaw Creek P., Dudgeon L., Waterloo, and Yellow River F.

Hooded Warbler: Reports were from Liscomb, Marshall Co., on 5 May (BP) and Ames on 7 May (HZ). *note in Iowa*

American Redstart: 1 was early at Springbrook SP on 3 May (RL).

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH BUNTINGS

Brewer's Blackbird: There were eight reports but only two with identifying details: 2 on 26 Mar in NE Mills Co. (BLW) and 6 on 27 Mar at Cone M. (TK, m. ob.)

Summer Tanager: There were three unusual northern records: a first-year male on 5, 6 May in SE Linn Co. (WN, m. ob.), a female at the same location on 16 ^{May} MY (WN), and 1 on 16 May in N. Marshall Co. (RS fide BPr). The more usual southern records were at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JPS), Camp Wesley Woods, Warren Co. (CL fide RL), and Waubonsie SP (WRS, TStau, TK).

Black-headed Grosbeak: A female ^{at Amana on 10 May} with a buffy-chestnut throat and breast, relatively narrow streaking, and white eye stripe was 5 on a scale of 0 (Rose-breasted) to 8 (Black-headed) (+WRS, +TK, CB, TStau).

Another ♀ Black-headed reported, but not enough details to tell if a hybrid.

Blue Grosbeak: 1 in NE Mills Co. on 8 May (BLW) ties the second earliest date.

Evening Grosbeak: The only report was a late pair at Wellman on 2 May (+RE)

Purple Finch: Late dates reported were 1 May at Pine L. (NS fide BPr) and 4 May at Ames (PM).

Hoary Redpoll: Photos were submitted of one at Laurens, Pocahontas Co., on 2 Mar (RC, RHarms--photos). These will be reviewed by the Records Committee. *photos look convincing to me/TK*

Common Redpoll: A number of contributors noted last dates with many extending to late Mar and two into Apr: 1 Apr at Pocahontas (RC, WJ) and 8 Apr at Davenport (PP). The latter is the second latest date.

Pine Siskin: Pine Siskin were common with many reports into mid-May with some still present at a feeder in Iowa City on 31 May (TK) and the last in Davenport on 27 May (PP). A nest with 3 eggs at Davenport on 27 Apr was later predated (BB fide PP) and a nest with eggs was found in Ames in early May (JD).

Red Crossbill: Nest building was noted at Greenwood P. in Des Moines on 22-25 Apr but ^{the nest} was destroyed on 30 Apr (MBro). This would have been the first Iowa nesting of crossbills. Other reports were 2 at Iowa City on 27 Mar (JPS, DJS) and 7 remaining at Cherokee until 15 May (DBi).

White-winged Crossbill: 3 were at Ingham L. on 14 Mar (DHe, HW), 1 at Shenandoah on 18 Mar (RP), and 2 at Iowa City on 17 Apr (TK).

Lark Bunting: A male seen W of Tabor, Fremont Co., on 4 May (+RP).

Henslow's Sparrow: Reports were from Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 25 Apr (+MAS) and Cone M. on 30 Apr and 10 May (+TStau et al).

LeConte's Sparrow: Reports from eight localities in Apr and early May.

*Still
at our
feeder
11 June*

*not many
low records
of this
species.* Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 3 were well-studied and sang at Muskrat S. on 23, 24

May (+TK, TStau, +CJB, m. ob.)

Vesper Sparrow: 6 were at Amana in a snow storm on 3 Apr (CJB, LH, TK).

A migration peak occurred on 9 Apr when snow drove 75 to roadsides in Johnson and Louisa Cos. (TK).

Lark Sparrow: 1 was early on 21 Apr in Cherokee Co. (MBre).

Northern Junco: The latest date was 30 Apr at Pocahontas (RC).

Chipping Sparrow: The earliest was 14 Apr at Ledges SP (JR).

Fox Sparrow: 1 on 7 Mar in Ames was early (PM).

Lincoln's Sparrow: The latest was 27 May at Ames (PM).

Song Sparrow: A migration peak of 50 was noted at Iowa City on 24 Apr (TStau).

Lapland Longspur: There were many reports from late Mar to late Apr with peak of 1000 in Johnson Co on 27 Mar (TK et al) and latest of 50 in Story Co. on 25 Apr (PM).

best place Chestnut-collared Longspur: James Huntington found a male in breeding plumage in NW Muscatine Co. near the Johnson Co. line on 4 Apr (+JH) for the first well-documented record for Iowa. The record was accepted by the Records Committee. There are several old reports, all prior to 1939, but none are sufficiently detailed for positive identification.

*impressive
photos* Smith's Longspur: There were nine reports from six counties, seven in EC Iowa, two in central Iowa, and two in SW Iowa for this species which has been seen only three times in the last 50 years: 6 on 21 Mar, 4 miles n. of Red Oak, Montgomery Co. (+RKM); 30+ on 27 Mar n.e. of Lone Tree on the Johnson-Muscatine Co. line (+MN, +RHo, +TK, see photos); 7 on 28 Mar 2 miles n.w. of Red Oak (+FM); 200 on 30 Mar n. of Lone Tree (+TStau); 1 in flock of 50-60 on 1 Apr e. of Polk City, Polk Co. (+JSb); 16 and 9 on 6 and 9 Apr s. of Nichols, Muscatine Co.,

(+TD, AH); 3 on 10 Apr n. of Bettendorf, Scott Co. (+PP, m. ob.);
 50 on 16 Apr in NW Muscatine Co. on the Johnson Co. line (+CJB, +TK)
 which had been there since 4 Apr (JH) and possibly since 27 Mar (TK);
 and 2-3 on 18 Apr at Larson's M., Story Co. (+PM).

Snow Bunting: Several were seen in Howard Co. on 9 Apr (RAB, CAB).

+ = Documented.

CONTRIBUTORS

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COMMENTS

Perhaps the greatest success of the season was the Smith's Longspur survey even though only two groups conducted a formal survey as outlined in the December issue. Others were obviously out looking at longspurs in late March to mid-April as there were nine sightings reported. We do not know how many looked and did not find them. The findings suggest that this species may be a regular migrant through Iowa, but it is also possible that this was an unusually good year for longspurs. More Lapland Longspurs than usual were reported, and a Chestnut-collared Longspur was a great bonus to the Smith's Longspur search. This intense early spring longspur search should be continued at least until we define the frequency of Smith's Longspur and, it is hoped, find more Chestnut-collared Longspurs. Carl Bendorf, Lanny Haldy, and I attempted to survey fields near Amana in a snowstorm at 30 degrees with a 30 mph wind on 3 Apr and

lasted six minutes before retreating to the car, so my hat is off to the Laurens group (Ray Cummins, Judy Carlson, Rita Dewall, Dr. and Mrs. Ron Harms, Wallace Jardine, Philip Nowack, Joyce Rigby, and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Sernett) who braved similar winds on 4 Apr to find 2 House Sparrows at the Laurens Airport and 19 Flickers, 1 Pheasant, 3 Kestrels, and some waterfowl at Reese's Pasture. The Davenport group in two parties covered much of Scott Co. by car and sampled small areas by foot on 10 Apr. The first party (Peter Petersen; Lewis, Corey, and Brian Blevins; Don and Jean Moeller; Jerry and Marilyn Aanes; Dick Hazel) found 3 Smith's Longspurs but the second party (Dr. and Mrs. Robert Graham; Larry and Judy Linder) was not so lucky.

Although the Smith's Longspur survey was the most targeted effort of the spring, other findings suggest group activities that could expand our knowledge of Iowa birds. For example, April birding in SE and SW Iowa produced a number of early records. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow is another species that might be found to be regular if marshy edge habitat could be surveyed in late May. Three were found at Muskrat Slough on 23 May in a single targeted effort to find this species. Two Black Rail sightings suggest the need to better define the status of this species in Iowa, but we will have to find an easier way of locating it, if it's there at all.

My thanks to the many individuals who contributed excellent reports, including several new ones. My job is getting harder, so there must be more coming in. Rick Hollis contributed an evening for compiling data and without this and Donna Sandrock's typing I would be sunk. There were a few important sightings reported to the birdline that were not reported to me or had insufficient documentation. Everyone who sees an accidental, very rare, or very early or late bird should make field notes and submit a documentation in order to further our knowledge of Iowa rarities.