

FIELD REPORTS

SPRING 1981

Thomas H. Kent, Field Reports Editor

211 Richards Street

Iowa City IA 52240

WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

March continued the warm trend of February with practically no precipitation. April was also unseasonably warm with less than usual rainfall. May was cooler than normal with more normal rainfall. Low water made for good mudflats in April, but the rain in eastern Iowa raised water levels so that shorebirding was poor by late May. However, in southwest Iowa water remained low with good but not extensive shorebird habitat.

GENERAL TRENDS

The warm spring made March waterfowling an anticlimax to February. April brought much better birding than usual with many early records. The warbler migration was more prolonged than usual and viewing was made difficult by the early leafing of trees. The only mild warbler wave noted was May 13 when 24 species were seen in the Iowa City area by Tom Staudt between 6 AM and 6 PM, but on the same day Silcock and Kent could find only 9 species between 3 AM and 8 PM in southwest Iowa.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

In this report you will see many references to early and late records. These are based on data being gathered for a

forthcoming book. The early warm weather coupled with extensive coverage of the state produced many early record dates. Several accidental species were encountered. Thayer's Gull, if accepted by the Records Committee, will be a new species to the state. However, it is likely that more will be discovered soon as Iowa birders are just learning to separate immature Thayer's from immature Herring Gulls. Other accidentals were Arctic Loon, Whimbrel, and Smith's Longspur. Casual species seen were Red-necked Grebe, White-faced Ibis, Ross' Goose, Sandhill Crane, Glaucous Gull, Burrowing Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, Prairie Warbler, and Lark Bunting. The Yellow-throated Warbler was again widely encountered and should be considered regular. Regular species of note were large numbers of Eared Grebes and few Horned Grebes, many Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets, Snowy Egret, King Rail, large numbers of Avocets, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Bewick's Wren nesting, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Common Loon: 2 at L. Macbride (TK) and 1 at Little Wall L. (GoB, GeB) on 4 Apr. are the second earliest date on record. Several lingered into May: 12 May in Taylor Co. (TK, RSi), 14 May at Trumble L., Clay Co. (MBre), and 27 May at Montezuma (DK).

* Arctic Loon: One in breeding plumage appeared on Amana L. on the evening of 28 Apr. in company of a Common Loon (+CB, +MN, +TK). See note by Bendorf.

* Red-necked Grebe: There were two reports of this rare grebe, one

at Waterloo on 12 Apr. (+RMy, +FM, TSJr) and one at Trumble L., Clay Co., on 8 May (+MBre).

Horned Grebe: Scarce this year, only two reports: 3 on 22 Mar. at L. Macbride (TK) and 3 on 18 Apr. at Riverton WA (FM).

Eared Grebe: There were several reports from w. Iowa and one from e. Iowa at Liscomb Lagoon, Marshall Co., from 16-20 May (BPr). The earliest was 11 April. at L. Manawa (BWi), the latest on 21 May at IPL Settling Pond, Pottawattamie Co. (BWi), and the highest count was 18 at three locations in s.w. Iowa on 13 May (RSi, TK).

Western Grebe: Three reports: 1 at Dan Greene S. on 8 May (JD), 1 dark phase bird at Coralville Res. 9-11 May (TK, +MN, m. ob.), and 5-8 at Trumbull L. on 8-14 May (MBre, RC). Notes should be made on dark and light phase birds since this species may be split.

American White Pelican: 700 were noted in s.w. Iowa, 400 at Riverton WA and 300 at L. Manawa on 18 Apr. (FM); 114 were at Sunken Grove on 14 Apr. (RC); and 53 were at Red Rock Res. on 17 Apr. (RT)

Double-crested Cormorant: Early dates were 31 Mar. at L. Manawa (BWi) and 4 Apr. at Swan L., Johnson Co. (TK); 1 was still at L. Manawa on 20 May (TB, BPa, SK). High counts were 250 at Riverton WA on 18 Apr. (FM), 174 at South Twin L., Calhoun Co., on 24 Apr. (RC), 160 at Clear L. on 24 Apr. (RA fide JLH), and 111 at Hendrickson M. on 18 Apr. (JD).

Great Blue Heron: 31 at Coralville Res. on 23 May suggests the possibility of a new or enlarged breeding colony (TK).

rare
in e. Iowa

doing
well

Little Blue Heron: Nine reports, an unusual number for spring: two on 11 Apr. at New Albin, Allamakee Co. (FL), 1 on 22 Apr. at L. Manawa (BPa, SK, TB), 1 on 26, 27 Apr. at George Wyth S.P. (FM, RHa, TSJr, RMy), 2 on 29 Apr. at Montezuma (DK), 1 on 5 May near Larrabee (MBre), 1 on 7 May at Marble Rock (PK), 1 on 16 May at Hendrickson M. (SD, GoB, GeB fide JD), 1 on 28 May near Des Moines (CL fide RL), and 1 on 29 May near Croton, Lee Co. (RMy).

Cattle Egret: Nine reports, all singles except as indicated: 11 Apr. at Cone M. (MN, TStau), 12 Apr. at Coralville Res. (TStau), 5 on 16 Apr. in Lucas Co. (BR fide JD), 18 Apr. at New Albin (DK), 18 Apr. at Willow S. (FM), 28 Apr. at Montezuma (DK), 3 May near Cone M. (PP, m. ob.), 11 on 4 May at Indianola (MK fide JD), and 9 May at IPL Settling Pond, Pottawattamie Co. (TB, JG, MG).

rare * Snowy Egret: 1-2 were at Diamond L., Poweshiek Co. from 22-28 Apr. (DK). ^{+TK}

Black-crowned Night Heron: Singles near Nevada and near Boone on 8 Apr. were early (fide JD).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: Five reports: 1 on 5 Apr. at Cone M. (RHo, TStau), 1 on 8 Apr. at Ames (JSb fide JD), 3 on 13 May at Riverton WA (TK, RSi), 1 on 25-26 May in Poweshiek Co. (DK), and 1 on 27 May at Don Williams L., Boone Co. (GoB).

Least Bittern: Early dates were 30 Apr. at Muskrat S. (TK, TStau) and 3 May at Cone M. (RHo, HZ). One was also seen at Goose L., Clinton Co., on 23 May (CB, TStau, TK).

American Bittern: One was early at Big M. on 5 Apr. (RMy).

** photo enclosed*
White-faced Ibis: A dark ibis was spotted at Otter Creek M., Tama Co., on 1 May, but it was not close enough for species evaluation (+BPr, PH, GS, RSo). On 13 May, 14 White-faced Ibis were discovered independently by B. J. Rose and by +Kent and Silcock. See separate note and photo. Later two were seen at Willow S. on 19 May (+BW_i) and two more at Taylor L., Fremont Co., on 21 May (BW_i, RSi, BJR).

Whistling Swan: 2 were at Willow S. on 16 Mar. (BW_i) and 1 at Cone M. on 21-22 Mar. (TK, CB).

Greater White-fronted Goose: 700-800 at Little Clear L. on 1 Apr. was the highest count reported (MBre). Two were late at Hendrickson M. on 14 May (JD).

✓ rare
Ross' Goose: 1-2 were seen at Willow S. on 24 Mar. (+TK, TSh, PP), 26 Mar. (+BW_i), and 28 Mar. (+RM_y).

Canada Goose: 9 were late on 31 May at Hendrickson M. (PM).

American Black Duck: 3 were at Folsom L., Mills Co., on 15 Mar. (TB, m. ob.). One was still at Riverton WA on 20 May (RSi).

Cinnamon Teal: 2 were at Saylorville Res. on 5-8 Apr. (RMO, m.ob.); 1 at Sunken Grove 29 Apr. to 16 May (MBre, +RC); and 1 at Spring Run WMA, Dickinson Co. on 6 May (DH).

Canvasback: 1500 were at Red Rock Res. on 12 Mar. (RT).

Redhead: 400 were at Red Rock Res. on 12 Mar. (RT).

not many records from w. Iowa
Greater Scaup: Up to 8 were seen at L. Manawa and IPL Settling Ponds from 3 Mar. to 2 Apr. (+BW_i, TB, +TK, m. ob.).

Hooded Merganser: A pair was seen s. of Muscatine on 8 May (PP).

VULTURES THROUGH TURKEY

Turkey Vulture: There were seven March reports, the earliest

being 8 Mar. near Runnells, Polk Co. (RT) and 15 Mar. at Ames (JSch fide JD).

normal
Osprey: There were many reports from all areas of the state. Early dates were 4 Mar. on the Upper Iowa R. (BB fide DN), 28 Mar. at Cherokee (MBre) and Springbrook S. P. (RC). Many were noted into May, the latest being 20 May at Marble Rock (PK), 16 May at Coralville Res. (TK), 14 May at Hendrickson M. (JD), and 13 May at Sweet M. (FM, RMy).

Bald Eagle: On 1 Mar. 25 were at Coralville Res. (CB). On 3 Mar. there were 107 between Davenport and Burlington by aerial survey (PP). On 18 Apr. one was seen at New Albin (TK), a sight where nesting was thought to occur last year (FL).

Northern Harrier: A nest with one egg was found at Hayden Prairie on 30 May (RMy, FM).

Cooper's Hawk: Late dates were 23 May at Yellow River F. (FM, RMy) and 15 May at Elkhart (DMos).

Red-tailed Hawk: A Krider's variant was seen in w. Sioux Co. on 23 Mar. (JV).

Wild recovery
Red-shouldered Hawk: Singles were reported from 7 Mar. to 30 May from Sweet M. (FM, RMy), Coralville Res. (TK), Backbone S.P. (FM), Wildcat Den S.P. (PP), Marble Rock (PK), Yellow River F. (DK), and Davenport (PP).

Broad-winged Hawk: 80 were at Nashua on 26 Apr. (FM, RMy, TSJr).

Swainson's Hawk: 1 or 2 were reported from many areas: 4 Apr. at Sweet M. (FM), 14 Apr. at Cedar Falls (RMy), 18 Apr. at White Pine Hollow (TK), 20 Apr. at L. Manawa (SJ fide TB), 25 Apr. at Muskrat S. (TStau), 13 May in Mills Co. (TK, RSi), and 23

May in Clayton Co. (FM).

Rough-legged Hawk: 2 were at Volga L. on 14 Mar. (FM).

Peregrine Falcon: Documented reports were from Coralville Res. on 26 Apr. (+MN) and 29 Apr. (+TStau), Muskrat S. on 30 Apr. (+TK, TStau), and n.w. Muscatine Co. on 3 May (+TD).

Merlin: One was seen near Ochevedan, Osceola Co., on 17 Mar. (+DH).

Ruffed Grouse: One was found for the first time at Sweet M. on 22 Mar. (RMy, FM). One was at Shimek F. on 28 May (RMy).

At least 6 were heard drumming in Yellow River F. at dawn on 18 Apr. (TK, MM).

Gray Partridge: 1 to 2 on 14 and 25 May were a first for Story Co. (HZ, GoB, GeB). Two were near Castalia, Winneshiek Co., on 31 May (DK).

CRANES THROUGH TERNS

Sandhill Crane: An immature was reported from near Dudgeon L., Benton Co., on 1 May (DV fide DN).

King Rail: One was found in n.w. Marshall Co. (+BPr, RSo, PH, GS).

Virginia Rail: One was late at Hendrickson M. on 25 May (PM).

Sora: One was late at Cardinal M. on 30 May (FM, RMy).

Common Gallinule: Singles were seen at Green I., Jackson Co., on 23 May (TK, TStau) and Montezuma on 27 May (DK).

American Coot: One was at Anderson L., Hamilton Co., on 1 Mar. (MR fide JD).

American Avocet: It must have been a record year for Avocets with reports from 12 localities from 19 Apr. to 25 May. The

largest numbers were 42 on 19 Apr. at McIntosh WA, Cerro Gordo Co. (BO, J&JW fide JLH), 38 on 28 Apr. at L. Manawa (BWi), 16 on 26 Apr. near Forney L. (TB, m. ob.), 9 on 24 Apr. at South Twin L. (RC), and 9 on 2 May at Coralville Res. (CKn, TK, m. ob.). Other sightings were 1 on 6 May at Big Creek L. (MBro, RMo), 1 on 10 May near Carroll (EW, LF), 2 on 11 May at Smith's S., Clay Co. (TN fide DH), 1 on 16 May at Hendrickson M. (GoB, GeB, SD), 1 on 19 May at Saylorville Res. (MBro, RMo), and 5 on 25 May at Cherokee (MBre).

rare Piping Plover: One was seen at Marble Rock on 7, 12 May (PK) and another was seen in Mills Co. on 13 May (RSi, TK).

Lesser Golden Plover: Early dates were 21 Mar. at Cone M. (TK) and 24 Mar. at Willow S. (TK, TSh, PP). Normal to large numbers were reported from all areas of th state in April and the first half of May.

Black-bellied Plover: The only reports were from Coralville Res. on 8 and 17 May (TK).

Hudsonian Godwit: Normal numbers were reported from 12 locations.

more than usual - early Marbled Godwit: There were more reports than usual and most provided diagnostic details including a record early date of 5 Apr. at Big M. (+FM, +RMy, RHa). Three were at Coralville Res. on 19 Apr. (m. ob.). Others were singles at Keg L., Mills Co., on 29 Apr. (BPa, TB), 9 May at Taylor L., Fremont Co. (RSi), 13-14 May at Little Wall L. (HZ, GoB, GeB), and 19 May at Willow S. (+BWi).

** rare* Whimbrel: This accidental species was seen and described at

Willow S. (+BWi). This is the 12th state record and first since 1973.

Greater Yellowlegs: Early dates were 24 Mar. at Willow S. (TK, TSh, PP) and 27 Mar. at Little Wall L. (JD).

Lesser Yellowlegs: The early date was 24 Mar. at Willow S. (TK, TSh, PP). On 26 Apr. there were 350 at Coralville Res. (MN).

Solitary Sandpiper: A record early date was 5 Apr. at Cone M. (TK) and the third latest on record was 21 May in Johnson Co. (TStau).

Willet: Willets were reported from nine locations from 24 Apr. to 14 May. The highest count was 11 at Keg L., Mills Co., on 29 Apr. (BP a, TB).

Ruddy Turnstone: Reports were from L. Manawa on 14 May (SS fide TB) and 23 May (LP a, BP a, RG fide TB), Willow S. on 30 May (+BWi), and Hendrickson M. on 25 and 30 May (PM, HZ, GoB, GeB).

Wilson's Phalarope: Late date was 30 May at Hendrickson M. (GoB, GeB, HZ) and Cardinal M. (FM, RMy).

Northern Phalarope: Reports were from Willow S. on 11, 19 May (BWi), Marble Rock on 14 May (PK), Coralville Res. on 16 May (TK, TStau), w. of Ames on 19, 21 May (GC fide JD, HZ), and Fremont Co. on 20 May (RSi).

Common Snipe: Late dates were 24 May near Council Bluffs (BP a, LP a) and 21 May at Swan L., Johnson Co. (TStau).

Short-billed Dowitcher: A large flock of 200 unidentified dowitchers were at Sweet M. on 13 May (FM, RMy). Diagnostic details were provided for short-bills seen on 5 May at L.

Sum
#15

Manawa (BPa, SK, TB), 8, 10, 13, 16 May at Coralville Res. (TK, MN, TStau), and 11 May at Willow S. (BWi).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Details were provided for birds seen at Coralville Res. on 8 May (TK), Liscomb Lagoon on 5, 10, 16 May (BPr), and Willow S. on 11, 19 May (BWi).

early
Sanderling: Two on 8 Apr. at Waterloo were two weeks earlier than the previous record date (RMy, TSJr); 14 at Riverton WA on 26 Apr. were also early (RSi). Other sightings were all in late May: 20, 23 May at L. Manawa (BPa, LPa, TB, BJR) and 30 May at Hendrickson M. (HZ).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: One on 11 Apr. at Coralville Res. was early (TK).

Western Sandpiper: Two reports: 26 Apr. at Riverton WA (TB, m. ob.) and 8 May at Coralville Res. (TK).

Need details. MGP
Baird's Sandpiper: Two on 2 Apr. at Willow S. (BPa, TB) were at a record early date. Others were 5 at Keg L. on 3 May (BPa, LPa), 2 at Hendrickson M. on 14 May (JR), and 6 at L. Manawa from 9 to 24 May (TB, m. ob.).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Early and late dates were 21 Mar. at Coralville Res. (TK) and 24 May at L. Manawa (TB). On 4 Apr. 500 were at Coralville Res. (TK).

early
Dunlin: Record early dates were 2 Apr. at Willow S. (BPa, TB) and 19 Apr. at Coralville Res. (CB, TK). On 13 May 40-50 were at Sweet M. (FM, RMy) and on 28 May 45 were at Cardinal M. (DK).

Stilt Sandpiper: One was early at Keg L., Mills Co., on 29 Apr. (BPa, TB). On 23 May there were 28 at Hendrickson M. (PM) and

on 24 May there were 25 at L. Manawa (BPa, LPa, TB).

rare * Buff-breasted Sandpiper: On 26 Apr. 2 were seen near Forney L. (+TB, SK, JaK) and on 12 May 5 were seen in courtship display at Taylor L. in Fremont Co. (TK, RSi).

not seen well Glaucous Gull: A white-winged gull, larger than a Ring-billed, was seen briefly on 22 Mar. at Little Clear L., Pocahontas Co. (+RC). Although Iceland Gull cannot be excluded, it was most likely a Glaucous Gull.

Herring Gull: Several immatures lingered at Coralville Res. with one remaining until 17 May (TK).

*** Thayer's Gull: A new bird for the state has to be the best bird of the season! It was seen by many (+RSi, +TK, +PP, +RMy, m. .ob). See note by Silcock. Documentations and many photos by B. J. Rose, Petersen, and Kent will be submitted to the Records Committee for evaluation.

Ring-billed Gull: On 9 Mar. there were 1200 at L. Manawa (BWi). On 15 May 50, mostly immatures, lingered at Coralville Res. where there were abundant fish in shallow water.

Franklin's Gull: Early and late dates were 18 Mar. at L. Manawa (TB) and 25 May at South Twin L., Calhoun Co. (RC).

Bonaparte's Gull: Early and late dates were 31 Mar. and 5 May at Red Rock Res. (RT).

early Forster's Tern: A record early date was 12 Apr. at Coralville Res. (TStau fide TK). Another early date was 18 Apr. at Little Wall L. (GoB, GeB, HZ).

more than usual Common Tern: Five reports: 1 at Bettendorf on 11 May (TK, CB, PP, RSi), 1 in Fremont Co. on 12 May (TK, RSi), 4 at Red Rock

Res. an 16 May (RT), 1 at L. Manawa on 20 May (BP_a, SK, TB, BJR), and 1 at Willow S. on 21 May (BW_i, RS_i, BJR).

Caspian Tern: There were three late sightings: 4 at Montezuma on 25 May (DK), 38 at South Twin L. on 25 May (RC), and 5 at Hendrickson M. on 30 May (GoB, GeB, HZ).

Black Tern: One at L. Manawa on 29 Apr. (BP_a, TB) was a record early date.

Ringed Turtle Dove: One at Davenport on 6 May was described to Petersen by phone (George Russell fide PP).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Burrowing Owl: A migrating bird landed south of Ames on 1 Apr. and was seen by many (+TK). See note and photo by Zaletel.

Saw-whet Owl: Fred Leshner "called out" a Saw-whet Owl near New Albin, Allamakee Co., on 11 Mar.

Chuck-will's-widow: These were reported from the same locations as in previous years: Waubonsie SP (RS_i, TK, BW_i), n. w. Mills Co. (TB, JG, MG), and Shimek F. near the ranger station (Wayne Fahlbrugge fide RMy).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: As usual, there were only a few scattered sightings.

Common Flicker: A red-shafted one was seen in Des Moines on 12 Apr. (RL).

Pileated Woodpecker: One in Des Moines at Ashworth P. on 13 Mar. was quite unusual (RL).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: One was still at Ames on 3 May (JD) and a pair were at Stone P., Sioux City, on 31 May (RS_i).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH STARLING

Western Kingbird: Central Iowa records were from Pleasantville, Marion Co., on 1 May (+RT) and Dunbar S., Greene Co., on 14 May (TK).

rare photo enclosed
 X Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: An immature was sighted near Amana on 26 Apr. (+CB, +TK, +MN). See note by Bendorf. Another was reported near Clarinda (Ernest Borthwick fide RP).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The following sight records were provided without identifying details: 13 May at Ames (JSb fide JD), 22 May at Ames (JR), and 2 on 30 May at Davenport (PP). Although this species has been frequently netted in migration by Petersen, few are identified in the field. The Records Committee has designated this as a species for which details (not full documentation) should be provided (see Iowa Bird Life 50:73, 1980).

Acadian Flycatcher: Individuals were noted from the Amana Woods on 19 May (CB) and n. e. Mills Co. on 28, 29 May (BWi) as well as more usual locations.

Alder Flycatcher: One was reported without detail from Ledges SP on 24 May (GoB, GeB). Hearing "fee-bee-o" is required for identification of this species.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Late dates were 25 May at Iowa City (MN) and 29 May in n. e. Mills Co. (BWi).

early
Rough-winged Swallow: Record early dates were 4 Apr. at Coralville Res. (TK) and 8 Apr. in s. e. Polk Co. (RT).

Purple Martin: One was early at Elkhart on 23 Mar. (DMos).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Late dates were 16 May at Iowa City (TStau) and 14 May at Des Moines (RT).

Brown Creeper: One was at Iowa City on 1 May (TStau) and another at Waubonsie SP on 26 Apr. (RSi).

Winter Wren: One was late at Sweet M. on 10 May (PM, TSJr).

first one for some time
 **Bewick's Wren: Before my plea for information was printed in the last issue of Iowa Bird Life, James Huntington discovered one singing in his backyard near Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on Apr. 17. Later two were seen and were shown off to members attending the IOU convention. They nested in the eave of a shed and fledged three young about the end of May.

Carolina Wren: There were no reports.

early
Marsh Wren: Two were at Little Clear L. on 17 Apr. (RC) set a record early date. One at Cone M. on 25 Apr. was also early (TK).

Sedge Wren: One at Muskrat S. on 30 Apr. (TK, TStau) tied the record early date.

Northern Mockingbird: The 14 reports were equally divided among Apr. and May. The two most northerly were from n. Marshall Co. on 24 Apr. (BPr, MPr, RSo) and Oak Grove SP, Sioux Co. (JV). The latter was the first sighting in 8 years for Van Dyk.

rare
 **Townsend's Solitaire: One was seen on 29 Mar. n. of Redfield, Dallas Co. (+RC).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Two were present at a record early date of 5 Apr. at Sunken Grove (RC). Other early dates were 19 Apr. at Ames (PM) and 23 Apr. at Ledges SP (HZ).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Early and late dates were 1 Apr. at Ames (NR fide JD) and 21 May at Coralville Res. (TStau). The

latter was described in detail and is the second latest date.

Water Pipit: Four reports: 3 on 11 Apr. at Sweet M. (RMy), 1 on 26 Apr. at Nashua (FM), 2 on 6 May in Osceola Co. (DH), and 2 on 8 May at Coralville Res. (TK).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireo: One was at Sunken Grove on the record early date of 5 Apr. (+RC). Another Apr. sighting was at Iowa City on 20 Apr. (TStau). Other locations were Amana Woods on 9 May (TStau, CB, TK), Montezuma on 20 May (DK), Shimek F. on 28 May (RMy), and Effigy Mounds on 30 May (DK).

Solitary Vireo: Six was an unusual number for 16 May at Iowa City (TK).

Philadelphia Vireo: A number were reported with a peak of 7 at Sunken Grove on 16 May (RC).

Black-and-white Warbler: Two on 5 Apr. at Sunken Grove (RC) represent the second earliest date on record.

Prothonotary Warbler: Singles were at Ames on 6 May (BR fide JD), Marshall Co. on 25 May (MPR fide BPr), and L. Manawa on 21 May (SJ, SS fide TB).

Worm-eating Warbler: A territorial male was heard and seen by many at Wildcat Den SP from 3 to 25 May (m. ob.). Others were found at Yellow River F. on 24 May (RMy) and Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 28 May (RMy). One was documented from Waterworks P., Des Moines for 5 May 1980 (+MBro).

Golden-winged Warbler: Record early dates were at Waterloo on 30 Apr. (RMy) and Amana Woods on 1 May (+CB). Several reporters commented on the large numbers of Golden-wings this year.

Reports from w. Iowa included 2 in Mills Co. on 9 May (LPa, BPa, BWi), 3 in Cherokee on 13 May (MBre), and 3 in Dickinson Co. on 13 May (DH).

Blue-winged Warbler: One was at Ruthven on 8 May (JD).

Tennessee Warbler: Two at Ames on 27 Apr. (JR) were early.

early Orange-crowned Warbler: One at Ames on 19 Apr. (JR) was a record early date.

Nashville Warbler: One at Ames on 25 Apr. (JR) was early.

early Northern Parula Warbler: One in s. e. Polk Co. on 9 Apr. (RT) was a record early date. Another early date was 2 May at Swan L., Johnson Co. (TStau).

just #'s Cape May Warbler: Eight at Sweet M. on 13 May (RMy) were an unusually large number. A female in the top of a Norway spruce in Iowa City proved to be a difficult identification problem (TK, TStau). The other reports were from w. Iowa: Carroll on 13, 14 May (EW) and Dickinson Co. on 9 May (DH).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: No reports.

Black-throated Green Warbler: An early date was 22 Apr. at Ames (NR fide JD).

early Cerulean Warbler: Record early dates were 27 Apr. at Amana Woods (TStau) and 29 Apr. at Ames (JSb fide JD).

early Blackburnian Warbler: A record early date was 29 Apr. at Ames (JSb fide JD). Another early date was 2 May in Johnson Co. (JR).

early Yellow-throated Warbler: One arrived at Roberts Riverside P. on the Des Moines R. n. of Keosauqua on the early date of 11 Apr. (+JSan) and was still singing there from the top of sycamores

at the end of May. Other reports were from Ledges SP on 20, 23 Apr. (JR, HZ), Wildcat Den SP on 5 May (CS fide PP) but not other dates, Marble Rock on 20 May (PK), and Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 27 May (RMy).

Bay-breasted Warbler: One was early at Ames on 6 May (NR fide JD). One was at Manti Woods in s. w. Iowa on 21 May (BWf, RSi, BJR).

Blackpoll Warbler: One was early at Ames on 30 Apr. (LE fide JD).

Pine Warbler: None reported.

rare Prairie Warbler: One was singing at Grammer Grove P., Marshall Co., on 20 May (+BPr, RSo). The findings will be referred to the Records Committee because there are so few documented sightings and no specimen, photograph, or tape recording of this species.

Palm Warbler: One at Ames on 19 Apr. (JR) was a record early date.

early Louisiana Waterthrush: One on 4 Apr. at Ames (+JR) was a record early date. Another was at White Pine Hollow on 18 Apr. (TK). Other locations were Waterloo, Lacey-Keosauqua SP, Shimek F., Nine Eagles SP, and Ledges SP.

Connecticut Warbler: Several were at Hickory Hill P. from 17 to 23 May (m. ob.). Other locations were Sweet M. on 13 May (RMy, FM), Shenandoah on 19 May (JB fide RP), Yellow River F. on 23 May (RMy), and Cedar Falls on 24 May (FM).

Yellow-breasted Chat: One was early at Iowa City on 3 May (IOU field trip). Others were near Cone M. on 11 May (TK, PP, RSi,

CB), Coralville Res. on 16 May (TStau), Red Rock Res. on 16 May (RT), and Yellow River F. on 23 May (FM).

of Hooded Warbler: Three reports: Ames on 26 Apr. (+PM, GoB, GeB), w. of Coralville on 28 Apr. (JHu, TK), and Wildcat Den SP on 3 May (BW_i, DK, FM, RSi).

Wilson's Warbler: One was early at Ames on 3 May (JD).

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH BUNTINGS

Bobolink: One was at Webster City on 3 May (RC).

Orchard Oriole: Reports were 28 Apr. to 12 May n. of Montpelier, Muscatine Co. (PP), 6 May at Ames (HZ), and 16 May at Cherokee (MBre).

Northern Oriole: One was early at Ames on 24 Apr. (JR).

Brewer's Blackbird: Reports were from Cone M. on 21, 23 Mar. (TK, MN), Ames on 25 Apr. (DO fide JD), and Sweet M. on 10 May (dark eyed female, FM, TSJr).

Summer Tanager: In addition to the usual birds at Waubonsie, a pair was found at Slip Bluff SP, Decatur Co., on 15, 16 May (FM).

Blue Grosbeak: Ronald Harms submitted excellent photos of one at Laurens, Pocahontas Co., taken on 13 May. Another was found at Shimek F. on 29 May (RMy).

Dickcissel: The first appeared in Mills Co. on 30 Apr. (BW_i).

Evening Grosbeak: Wintering birds were last seen in Shenandoah on 20 Apr. (RP).

K Pine Grosbeak: The one previously reported at State Center was seen by visitors on 8 Mar. (BK_n, CK_n, TSh +MN, +TK).

Pine Siskin: A fledgling was noted in Ames in early May (JSb

fide JD). Many lingered with late dates as follows: 22 May at Des Moines (RL), 19 May at Davenport (PP), 13 May at Iowa City (TStau), and 12 May at Ames (JR).

late
Red Crossbill: A male and two females stayed at Waterloo until May 31 (Randy Betsworth fide RMy, FM).

White-winged Crossbill: Wintering birds were last seen at Shenandoah on 6 Apr. (RP) and at Fairmont Cemetery in Davenport on 28 Apr. (PP).

**** 2nd most easterly state record*
Lark Bunting: A male was seen e. of Sweet M., Bremer Co., on 13 May (+FM, +RMy). This is only the second record from this far east in the state.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Early dates were 10 Apr. at Hamburg (IG) and 19 Apr. at Hendrickson M. (GoB, GeB).

Henslow's Sparrow: Three were at the usual location at Hayden Pr. on 30 May (+FM, +RMy).

LeConte's Sparrow: Early and late dates were 11 Apr. at Cone M. (MN) and 15 May at Coralville Res. (TK, TStau). Peak count was 15-16 at Sweet M. in mid-Apr. (RMy, FM, RHa, TSJr).

**** rare*
Sharp-tailed Sparrow: One was reported from Upper Ledges at Lost L. on 23 May (+GoB). Because of the rarity of this species, the documentation will be referred to the Records Committee.

Lark Sparrow: Locations noted by reporters were w. Johnson Co. (CB), Red Cedar MA, Muscatine Co. (JLK), s. of Muscatine (PP), Elkhart (DMos), and s. of Tieg's S., Story Co. (GoB, GeB).

Northern Junco: One was banded in Des Moines on 9 May (RL).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Dates were from 26 Apr in Iowa City (TStau) to 13 May at Pleasantville (RT). One was banded in Des

Moines on 4 May (RL).

Swamp Sparrow: One was noted in Fremont Co. on 21 May (BWi).

rare this year Lapland Longspur: Four were at Lizard L., Pocahontas Co., on 21 Mar. (RC), an unusual record this year.

3rd state record in last 50 years. ~~Smith's~~ Longspur: A flock of 100 were reported from Johnson Co. on 11 Apr. (+TK, +MM). See separate article by Kent. This record will be referred to the Records Committee for evaluation.

+ = documented

CONTRIBUTORS

Carl Bendorf, Iowa City; Tanya Bray, Omaha NE; Marion Brewer, Cherokee; Margret Brooke, Des Moines; Gordon Brown, Ames; Raymond Cummins, Pocahontas; James Dinsmore, Ames; Tim Dwyer, Muscatine; Ione Getscher, Hamburg; James L. Hansen, Clear Lake; Ronald Harms, Laurens; Douglas Harr, Larchwood; Rick Hollis, Iowa City; Thomas Kent, Iowa City; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Darwin Koenig, Montezuma; J. L. Konefes, West Liberty; Rene Laubach, Des Moines; Fred Leshner, LaCrosse WI; Paul Martsching, Ames; Richard Mooney, Des Moines; Francis L. Moore, Waterloo; Dean Mosman, Elkhart; Robert K. Myers, Waterloo; David A. Newhouse, Boone; Michael Newlon, Iowa City; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb; John Robinson, Ames; James Sandrock, Iowa City; Ross Silcock, Malvern; Thomas Staudt, Iowa City; Robert Thornburg, Pleasantville; John Van Dyk, Sioux Center; Eva Wiedemeyer, Carroll; Barbara Wilson, Hastings; Hank Zaletel, Ames;

OTHER OBSERVERS

Ron Anderson (JLH); George Brown (GoB); Gay Crim (JD); Steve Dinsmore (JD); Lee Ellis (JD); Lucille Fast (EW); Marge Graf (TB); Janet Greer (TB); Phyllis Harris (BPr); Russell Hays (FM); James Huntington (TK); Stephanie Jamison (TB); Bernie Knight (TK); Cal Knight (TK); James Kovanda (TB); Sandra Kovanda (TB); Michelle Kreidler (JD); Christyma Laubach (RL); Mike Mulier (TK); Tom Neal (DH); Bill Ohde (JH); Dennis Orcut (JD); Babs Padelford (TB, BWi); Loren Padelford (TB, BWi); Mark Proscholdt (BPr); Bill Robbins (JD); Nick Rodenhouse (JD); B. J. Rose (TB, BWi, RSi); Mark Ryan (JD); Bill Rybarczyk (JD); Sylvia Sallquist (TB); Joe Schaefer (JD); Joe Schaufenbuel (JD); Clark Scott (PP); Garnita Seward (BPr); Thomas Shires (TK); Ramona Sommerlot (BPr); Tom Stone Jr. (FM); Jim & Jan Walter (JLH); Dave Van Waus (DN);

COMMENTS

This spring was an outstanding season. Undoubtedly this was in part due to more birds being present early and an unusual number of accidentals and casuals, but it must also have been due to the excellent coverage of the state by Iowa birders (and those from Omaha too!). Thirty six contributors submitted a pile of paper including 60 documentations of unusual sightings. It was difficult to select and cull the many records down to the size of this report. Without some much needed help from Rick Hollis and Carl Bendorf, I might still be compiling and typing. It was nice to have a number

of new contributors. They provided much needed coverage from Des Moines, Muscatine County, and Marshall County as well as other areas. And thanks to Fred Leshner for tripping down to northeast Iowa from LaCrosse.

I am still working on a long-winded set of guidelines and information for contributors as advertised on the back cover of the last issue and this one. Please give me a little more time, as I would like to have a few people review it before putting it out for consumption. In the meantime, I can supply reporting and documentation form sheets.