

Master

FIELD REPORTS

FALL 1982

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WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS (JPSa)

Clouds, haze, and fog characterized the reporting period. The state experienced 10-30 percent less sunshine than normal during the four months. Humidities were high and wind movement less; temperatures were seasonal for the most part, with monthly occurrences of wide variation, e. g., on 3 Aug Des Moines registered 90 F, while on 28 Aug readings reached 39 F at Boone and 40 F at Elkader. Oct maintained this pattern: 15 F at Rock Rapids on 21 Oct; 88 F at Keokuk on 5 Oct. Precipitation was variable across the state, but on the average totaled about 6 inches above normal for the period. Soil moisture levels are the most abundant over Iowa since 1973. The effect of some heavy rains and resulting wet lands undoubtedly affected bird populations. Although Oct was notable for early snows, especially in NW Iowa, and some freezing at mid-month, the period ended with a relatively mild, moist Nov. The year continues its cool, wet pace with temperatures lagging about 2 percent largely due to the unusual Jun weather -- the coolest since 1967.

The high water at Coralville Res. and ponds east of Colo in Story Co. made excellent shorebird habitat for the fall.

Dredging of a pond at L. Manawa produced new shorebird habitat and several late fall records.

GENERAL TRENDS

Some late duck nesting was noted and the second record of nesting of American Wigeon for the state was documented at Willow Sl. No peaks were noted in waterfowl as migration was protracted and delayed by the mild weather. The Northern Goshawk invasion was even more pronounced than last year. Quail and pheasant populations were said to be down due to the wet summer. Shorebird reports were mostly from Coralville Res., near Colo, and L. Manawa where habitat was particularly favorable. An influx of warblers was noted in Hardin Co. on 28 Aug and many passerines migrating on 13-14 Sep were killed at Alleman TV Tower. The migration was thought to be the worst in years in western Iowa (TB). Sparrows were late with a massive influx noted in Hardin and Johnson Cos. on 31 Oct. Winter Finches were notably absent.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

The most unusual bird of the season was the Ruff that appropriately showed up in the hog lot of IOU President Ross Silcock for the second state record. Nearly as rare was the Brown Pelican at Keokuk, a fifth state record. Another female Black-headed-type grosbeak continues the problem of determining whether these birds are hybrids or not. Casual species for the period included Red-necked Grebe, Snowy Egret, Prairie Falcon, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Burrowing Owl. A Lark Bunting was reported for June.

SPECIES DATA

Common Loon: The earliest was 10 Oct at Sayorville Res. (JPSc), the latest 21 Nov at L. Macbride (RJH), and peak of 26 on 31 Oct at L. Macbride/Coralville Res. (TK, CJB); 1-8 were reported from 4 other locations.

Red-necked Grebe: ¹~~one~~ at Lower Pine L., Hardin Co., on 20 Sep (*PH) is the third earliest fall date.

Horned Grebe: The earliest date and peak were 27 at Cherokee on 1 Oct (MBre). The latest was 21 Nov at L. Manawa (BPa, LPa). The peak at Saylorville Res. was 15 on 31 Oct (JD et al.)

Eared Grebe: An adult and 2 immatures were at Forney L. on 22 Aug (TB et al). Other reports of 1-2 were from Sioux Center on 24 Aug (GB fide JV), NW Marshall Co. on 19 Sep ^{RCS} (RS fide BPr), Pine L. on 20 Sep (PH), Cherokee on 7 Oct (DBi), and Saylorville Res. on 10 Oct (JPSc). ✓

Pied-billed Grebe: Two peaks were noted at Willow Sl. with 114 on 15 Sep and 105 on 2 Nov; 9 were present until 8 Nov (BLW).

American White Pelican: Large numbers were reported from many areas with peaks of 500 at Saylorville Res. on 18 Sep (MM), 150 at L. Manawa on 3 Oct (SK, JK), ~~and~~ 150 at Willow Sl. on 18 Sep (BLW), 100 at Forney L. on 5 Sep (BPa, LPa), and 100 in Hardin Co. on 15 Sep (PH). The earliest were 10 at Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 24 Aug (RVH) and latest on 7 Nov at Saylorville Res. (JPSc). Eastern Iowa sightings were 10 on 14 Oct at Amana L. (CJB) and 14 at Coralville Res. on 17 Oct (TK et al). ✓

Brown Pelican: The fifth Iowa sighting for this species was from

the Mississippi R. bridge at Keokuk on 18 Oct by *Elton Fawks.
The record was accepted by the Records Committee.

Double-crested Cormorant: Large numbers were reported from many locations with peaks of 650 at Saylorville Res. on 10 Oct (JPSc), 500 at Coralville Res. on 12 Oct (TJS), 350 at Red Rock Res. on 22 Oct (RT), 42 at Forney L. on 14 Aug (BLW), and 40 at L. Manawa on 14 Oct (TB, BPa). Early dates were 1 at Willow Sl. on 10 Aug (BLW) and 3 at Coralville Res. on 14 Aug (TK).

Great Blue Heron: The largest concentration was 296 at Coralville Res. on 3 Oct (TK).

Green Heron: One at Council Bluffs on 14 Oct (TB, BPa) was the third latest date. Others were late at George Wyth SP on 10 Oct (FM) and Appanoose Co. on 3 Oct (RC).

Little Blue Heron: 1 imm. at Coralville Res. on 7 Aug, 1 Sep (TK, CJB); 1-2 at Forney L. on 11, 22 Aug (TB et al.); 1 ad. at Skunk River Access, Lee Co., on 5 Sep (HW).

Cattle Egret: Large numbers were reported, especially from SW Iowa where 100-150 were at Forney L. from late Aug to early Oct (Robert Kohlsdorf fide JD, m. ob.) and 2 were still there on 20 Nov (*KD). Four at Riverton W.A. on 26 Nov (BB) was a record late date. Coralville Res. area birds were noted from 14 Aug to 28 Sep with peak of 23 on 25 Sep (TK). Other reports were 3 in Marshall Co. on 3 Oct (Mike Brown fide JD), 12 in N. Linn Co. on 5 Oct (George Kramer fide TK), and 1 in Pocahontas Co. on 5 Nov (WJ).

Snowy Egret: One was reported from DeSoto N.W.R. on 13 Aug

(Dave Menke fide TB).

Black-crowned Night Heron: 14 ad. and 7 imm. were at Forney L. on 22 Aug (TB et al.). An imm. was reported from Rock Valley, Sioux Co., on 16 Oct (GB fide JV).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: An imm. was reported from Lewis and Clark SP on 6 Aug (TB), and an ad. from Forney L. on 11 Aug (TB, BPa), and 10 imm. at Forney L. on 17 Aug (TB, BPa) with 1 remaining until 10 Sep. ✓

Least Bittern: Many more than usual were reported for fall: 2-3 at Forney L. from 11-22 Aug (TB, BPa) and singles from Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 6 Aug (RVH), Anderson L. on 9 Aug (HZ), a dazed bird on the street at Okoboji on 10 Aug (treated and released, DCH), Willow Sl. on 8, 25 Sep (BLW), and McCord's Pond, Guthrie Co., on 12 Sep (RL).

American Bittern: 3 were at Forney L. on 22 Aug and 1 was there on 10 Sep (TB et al.).

Whistling Swan: 570 at Lock and Dam 9 on 19 Nov (JR., m. ob.) is a record number for the state. Singles were also noted at DeSoto N.W.R. on 14 Nov (Rick Wright fide TB), at Sweet M. on 19 Nov (CJB), n. of Cherokee in Clay Co. an immature shot on 22 Nov (DBi), ○ and at Bays Branch on 26 Nov (RC). ✓

Snow Goose: Estimates at Riverton W.A. and DeSoto N.W.R. were 150,000 in Nov (BB, CFS).

Ross' Goose: 1 was at DeSoto N.W.R. (Iowa side) on 4 Nov (*JD, SD, MBrown). As of 25 Nov at Riverton W.A., 3 of 950 birds at the check station were Ross' Geese (BB).

American Wigeon: Barb Wilson recorded the ^{Iowa's} ~~state's~~ second nesting ✓

record for this species when a female with 5-7 young were found at Willow Sl. on 7, 16, 18 Aug.

American Black Duck: Early arrivals were at Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 6 Aug (RVH) and Sioux Center on 30 Aug (GB fide JV).

Canvasback: The peak at Silver L., Dickinson Co., was 150 (DCH). On 19 Nov, 60 were at Lock and Dam 9 (JR). No counts were given for the Keokuk pool.

Ring-necked Duck: John Robinson estimated 5,800 at Lock and Dam 9 on 19 Nov.

Greater Scaup: None reported.

Oldsquaw: A female was at Ft. Madison on 17 Nov (*CJB, photos).

White-winged Scoter: 2 males were at Saylorville Res. on 15 Nov (*JPSc).

Common Goldeneye: The earliest date was 18 Nov with 4 at DeSoto N.W.R. (CFS) and 24 at Big Spirit L. (DCH).

Buddy Duck: 1 was still at Lock and Dam 9 on 19 Nov (JR).

Turkey Vulture: 30 were at Coralville Res. on 1 Aug (MN); others remained into early Oct with 2 at George Wyth SP (FM, RKM), 29 at Ledges SP (JD, SD, ^{MD}MR), and 63 at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (RC) on 10 Oct and 1 in Dallas Co. on 16 Oct (RL).

Csprey: 1-2 were reported from 12 localities from 18 Aug at Davenport (PP) to 16 Oct at Rock Valley (GB fide JV).

Bald Eagle: 1-14 reported from many locations across the state with the earliest at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 22 Sep (TJS).

Northern Harrier: A pair with 3 young during the summer were reported from Emmet^{Co.} by Bob Moats. Fall reports were mostly

of 1-2 birds but "good numbers" were found in Sioux Co. in Sep-Oct (JV).

Northern Goshawk: 12 documentations were received for 14 birds, all adults. The first on 22 Sep in Mitchell Co. flew into a window and was injured, but recovered after five days (*JLH). Of the other sightings, 6 were from Oct and 7 from Nov from the following counties: Allamakee, 2 (*FM, *JR, *JPSc), Bremer (*FM, *RKM), Delaware (*CJB), Iowa (*CJB), Johnson, 3 (*CJB, *TK, *TJS), Polk, 2 (*JPSc), Sioux (*GB), Story (*RSB), and Wayne (*FM). There were 5 other undocumented sightings from Polk, Dallas, and Johnson Cos.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Only 3 were seen in Mills Co. from 6 Sep to 28 Oct (BLW) and there were few other reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 1 was at Elkhart from 20 Sep to 31 Oct (DDM); others were in Sioux Co. on 4, 25 Sep (GB, JV) and Johnson Co. on 17 Oct (TK).

Red-tailed Hawk: A Harlan's Hawk was noted at Meridan on 24 Oct (MBre). At Ledges SP, 40 were migrating on 10 Oct (JD).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 was at Yellow River F. on 4 Sep (JPSc).

Broad-winged Hawk: Early dates were 9 Aug in Van Buren Co. (JKS fide JPSa) and 11 Sep in Johnson Co. (TK). Peak numbers were 500-600 n. of Waverly on 18 Sep (RKM) and 40 at Iowa City on the same day (TJS).

Swainson's Hawk: 2 were late on 25 Oct in Lyon Co. (DCH). Others were in Pocahontas Co. on 6 Sep (WJ), Dickinson Co. on 18 Sep (DCM), and Lyon Co. on 20 Sep (DCH).

Rough-legged Hawk: There were scattered reports with the first

on 22 Oct at Coralville Res. (MN).

Golden Eagle: Several adults and immatures were seen in Allamakee Co. on 19-21 Nov during the fall IOU meeting (*FM, *RKM, m. ob.) and 1 was in nearby Winneshiek Co. on 24 Nov (JPSc).

Prairie Falcon: A male adult was found injured at Pisgah, Harrison Co., on 25 Sep (BPa, LPa).

Peregrine Falcon: Apparently different birds were at Coralville Res. on 27 Sep (*MN) and 10 Oct (*RJM, *TK, *MN).

Merlin: 5 documented sightings were 13 and 18 Sep in NE Mills Co. (**BLW), 8 Oct in N. Marshall Co. (*RRS), 10 Oct at Coralville Res. (*MN), and 23 Oct n. of North Liberty (*TK). Another was found dead in Webster Co. on 12 Sep by Richard and Peggy Hay and submitted to Iowa State University (JD).

Gray Partridge: 12 were noted on 30 Oct in NW Marshall Co. (PH fide BPr).

Virginia Rail: 1 was at Nashua on 21 Aug (RKM).

Sora: One found freshly dead by a bus driver at Coralville on 19 Oct (TJS) is the second latest on record. Others were 4 at Forney L. on 5 Sep (BPa, LPa), 1 at IPL Settling Ponds on 10 Sep (TB, BJR), and 8 at Bays Branch on 18 Sep (RC).

Common Gallinule: 1 at Riverton W.A. on 23 Oct (BB) is the latest on record. Another was at Lansing on 13 Aug (JPSc).

American Avocet: Reports included the following: 12 on 21 Aug at Credit L. (LL fide PP), 1 on 29 Aug at IPL Settling Ponds (Alan Grenon fide TB), 1 on 11 Oct at Saylorville Res. (JPSc), 1 on 11-14 Oct at Sioux Center (JV), and 6-10 on 3, 10, 14 Oct

at L. Manawa (TB, m. ob.).

Semipalmated Plover: Coralville Res. birds were seen from 2 Aug to 10 Oct (TK) with peak of 30 on 19 Sep (MN). The last at L. Manawa was on 17 Oct (TB et al.).

Killdeer: The peak at Coralville Res. was 50 on 28 Sep (TK).

Piping Plover: 1 was at Nashua on 21 Aug (RKM).

Lesser Golden Plover: 1-6 were noted at Coralville Res. from 21 Aug-3 Oct (TK, MN); 1 was at Credit I. from 15-31 Aug (PP); 20 at Colo on 17 Aug (HZ), and 25 at Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 17 Sep (RVH).

Black-bellied Plover: 1 at Nashua on 1 Aug (JPSc), 1 at IPL Settling Ponds on 15 Aug (JK, SK), 1 at Colo on 16 Aug (RKM), 1 at Coralville Res. on 19 Aug (CJB), and 4 there on 25 Sep (TK), 1 at Credit I. on 25, 31 Aug (PP). ✓

Marbled Godwit: 1 was at Colo on 15-16 Aug (*FM, RKM, HZ), a third earliest date.

Upland Sandpiper: The only reports were from Palo Alto Co. on 4 Aug (RVH) and Sioux Co. on 7 Aug (DCH).

Greater Yellowlegs: The first were noted at Coralville Res. on 7 Aug (TK) but the main migration was there from 10 Oct to 7 Nov with a peak of 15 on the latter date (MN).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 30-50 were noted at Coralville Res. from 31 Jul-3 Oct and 1 lingered until 31 Oct (MN), a second latest date. Diagnostic details were provided for birds at Forney L. on 21, 29 Jul (TB).

Solitary Sandpiper: The last were seen at Coralville Res. on 11 Sep (TK) but 1 lingered at Ames on 26 Sep (PM) and 3 Oct

(JPSc) for a second latest date.

Billet: 1 was at Nashua on 14 Aug (JPSc).

Ruddy Turnstone: 1 was at Coralville Res. on 12 Sep (CJB, MN, RJH).

Wilson's Phalarope: 1 at Coralville Res. on 19 Sep (TK, CJB, MN) is the second latest. There were 3 at Lewis and Clark SP on 7 Aug (TB), 1-5 at Colo on 1-17 Aug (HZ), and 1 at Larson M. on 12 Sep (HZ).

Northern Phalarope: 1 at Cherokee on 7 Oct is a second latest date. Others were at Coralville Res. on 28 Aug, 1 Sep (MN, m. ob.), Sioux Center on 24 Aug-2 Sep (GB fide JV), and Rock Creek SP on 7-11 Sep (JPSc).

American Woodcock: 1 was at Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 23 Oct (RVH) and 2 at Coralville Res. on 31 Oct (TK, CJB).

Common Snipe: The peak noted at Coralville Res. was 48 on 17 Oct (MN, TK).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 1-3 Juveniles were detailed at Coralville Res. on 14, 21, 28 Aug, 11 Sep (TK) and 21, 28 Aug (MN).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1-6 Juveniles were detailed at Coralville Res. from 27 Sep to 7 Nov (MN, TK), the last being nearly completely moulted to basic plumage and a record late date.

Sanderling: 4 at Colo on 22 Aug (PM), 6 at George Wyth S.P. on 15 Sep (RKM), 2-5 at Coralville Res. on 18, 19, 26 Sep (TK, CJB), 2 at Sioux Center on 24 Sep (JV), and 1 at Saylorville Res. on 29 Oct (JPSc), a second latest date.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Record late dates were 21 Nov at L.

Manawa (SK, JK, m. ob.) and 23 Oct at Coralville Res. (MN).

Western Sandpiper: Convincing details were provided for 3 at Forney L. on 25 Jul (TB), 1 at Coralville Res. on 11 Sep (TK), and 2 at Rock Creek S.P. on 7 Sep (JPSc). Several others were reported.

Least Sandpiper: 1 at L. Manawa on 23 Nov is a record late date (TB, BJR, EPa). Peaks at Coralville Res. were 150 on 5 Sep (TK) and 70 on 27 Sep (MN) with the last on 17 Oct (TK, MN).

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 at Credit I. on 15 Aug (PP, MLP) is the earliest date of 6 records for this rare fall migrant. The bird was flushed to see the white rump.

Faird's Sandpiper: 2-5 at L. Manawa on 31 Oct, 18, 21 Nov (BPa, m. ob.) were the latest ever by several weeks. Others included 11 in Dickinson Co. on 3 Aug (DCH), 1-6 at Coralville Res. on 27, 28 Sep, 3 Oct (TK, MN), 2 at Colo on 16 Aug (HZ), 6 at Sioux Center on 30 Aug (GB fide JV) and 3 on 21-22 Sep (JV), 2 at Rock Creek S.P. on 11 Sep (JPSc), and 1 at Ames on 26 Sep (JPSc).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 at L. Manawa on 21 Nov (TB et al.) is the second latest. Peak at Coralville Res. was 600 on 19 Sep (MN) and latest on 7 Nov (TK, MN).

Dunlin: 1-2 at L. Manawa on 21 Nov (TB et al.) are the second latest. Coralville Res. birds arrived on 25 Sep, peaked at 40 on 23 Oct, and were last seen on 6 Nov (TK).

Stilt Sandpiper: 1 at Coralville Res. on 23 Oct (MN) set a record late date. Peaks were 35 at Rock Creek S.P. on 7-11 Sep (JPSc) and 30 at Coralville Res. on 9, 19 Sep (MN).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 9 were described at IPL Settling Ponds on 10 Sep (TB, BJR).

Buff: The bird of the season was spotted by IOU President W. Ross Silcock on a hog waste disposal pond at Mar-I-War Farms 4 miles e. of Iabor in Fremont Co. and was seen by many from 8-12 Sep (*WRS, *TB, *TK, *JPSc, *BLW) and photographed (BJR, TK). The sighting was reviewed and accepted by the Records Committee.

Herring Gull: 2 at Bettendorf on 12 Aug were very early (PP).

Ring-billed Gull: Peaks were 1500-2000 at Coralville Res. on 21 Nov (RJH) and 1000 at Saylorville Res. on 31 Oct (JD).

Franklin's Gull: 1 was very late at Coralville Res. on 27 Nov (TK); 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 11 Nov (JPSc).

Eonaparte's Gull: Peaks were 150 at Red Rock Res. on 6 Nov (RT) and 120 at Coralville Res. on 7 Nov (TK).

Forster's Tern: 1 was late at Coralville Res. on 12 Oct (TJS).

Common Tern: Details were satisfactory for 3 seen at Decatur Bend on 2 Jun 1982 (JPSc), a record late spring date, and for 8 on 11 Aug and 1 on 22 Aug at Forney L. (TB et al.).

Little Tern: 1 was at Willow Sl. on 7 Aug (BLW).

Caspian Tern: There were numerous sightings from 5 Sep at Saylorville Res. (RL) to 20 Sep at Pine L. (PH) with peak of 50 at Saylorville on 18 Sep (RL) and 46 at Coralville Res. on 11 Sep (TK).

Flack Tern: Willow Sl. residents left by 28 Sep (BLW), a second latest date for the state. Peaks of 18 were noted at Colo on 1 Aug (HZ) and Forney L. on 22 Aug (TB et al.).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 was at Ames on 5 Oct (PM).

Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 was seen at Coralville Res. on 3 Oct (TK).

Burrowing Owl: 2 adults and 3 nearly adult-sized young were found at Sioux Center on 2 Aug (*DCH).

Long-eared Owl: 1 was at Sweet M. on 14 Nov (PM, RKM).

Short-eared Owl: 2 were in Pocahontas Co. on 30 Oct (RVH) and 1 at LeMars on 4 Nov (MBre).

Saw-whet Owl: 2 were at Waterloo/Cedar Falls on 13, 19 Nov (RKM, m. ob.).

Whip-poor-will: 1 was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 5 Aug (JPSa).

Common Nighthawk: 100 were at Clear L. on 1 Oct (JD). Last dates include a recording tying 15 Oct at Sioux Center (JV), ~~and~~ 6 Oct at Ames (PM) and Iowa City (RJH), 22 Sep at Laurens (RVH), and 19 Sep in NE Mills Co. (ELW). ✓

Chimney Swift: Late dates noted were 12 Oct in Mills Co. (BLW), 11 Oct at Ames (JPSc), 6 Oct at Council Bluffs (CFS), and 23 Sep at Iowa City (RJH).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Only 4 reporters mentioned this species. One was late on 10 Oct at Iowa City (RJH).

Common Flicker: A Red-shafted Flicker was at Willow Sl. on 20 Oct (BLW).

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 were at Grammar Grove in Marshall Co. on 28 Aug (BPr, MPr, RRS).

Red-headed Woodpecker: 204 were along the Chariton River bottoms on 2 Oct (RC) while the last were seen in Mills Co. on that date, apparently due to lack of acorns (BLW). Schaufenbuel

found none in North and Central Iowa after early Oct.

Eastern Kingbird: The last were noted on 19 Sep in Van Buren Co. (JPSa) and 18 Sep in Mills Co. (BLW).

Western Kingbird: 1 was at Sioux Center on 3 Aug (GB fide JV).

Great Crested Flycatcher: The last dates were 16 Sep at Ames (PM) and 15 Sep in Mills Co. (BLW).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 was banded at Des Moines on 28 Aug (RL); 1-2 were at Davenport on 28 Aug-1 Sep (PP, MLP), and 1 at Ames on 3, 7, 11 Sep was heard singing on the 11th (JPSc).

Acadian Flycatcher: 1 was still singing at Backbone S.P. on 16 Aug (JPSc).

Alder Flycatcher: 1 said "fee-bee-O" at Forney L. on 17 Aug (TB, BPa).

Least Flycatcher: Migrants were heard at Tripoli on 10 Aug (JPSc) and Forney L. on 11 Aug (TB, BPa).

Eastern Pewee: Late migrants were seen at Ames on 13 Oct (*PM), at Lacey/Keosauqua S.P. on 10 Oct (JPSa), and in Mills Co. on 2 Oct (BLW). ✓

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The last dates were 19 Sep at Coralville Res. (MN) and 18 Sep at Ames (PM) and Mills Co. (BLW).

Tree Swallow: 2,000 were at Swan L., Johnson Co., on 17 Aug (JPSc).

Barn Swallow: The last dates were 22 Oct at Polk City (JPSc) and 21 Oct at Mills Co. (BLW).

Blue Jay: 120 were migrating in Iowa City on 25 Sep (RJH).

Tufted Titmouse: None were found at Ames (PM) and only 2 were seen in NE Mills Co. (BLW).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Migrants appeared on 22 Sep in Ames (PM, JPSc) and Des Moines (CML) and at Sioux Center on 12 Oct (JV). They were more common than White-breasted Nuthatches at Sioux Center (JV), but elsewhere numbers did not compare with 1981.

Brown Creeper: The first appeared at Davenport on 23 Sep (PP) and Sioux Center on 30 Sep (JV).

House Wren: The latest was 13 Oct at Ames (PM).

Winter Wren: The earliest was 25 Sep at Pine Hill Cemetery (PP).

Carolina Wren: None reported.

Marsh Wren: 1 at Cooper's M., Story Co., on 31 Oct (*SD, KD) was a second latest record; 2 were at Doolittle Prairie, Story Co., on 30 Oct (JPSc).

Sedge Wren: 2 at Doolittle Prairie on 30 Oct (JPSc) are the second latest on record; 1 was in Dallas Co. on 4 Oct (RL) and the last were seen in Mills Co. on 18 Sep (BLW).

Northern Mockingbird: None reported.

Gray Catbird: Last dates were 2 Nov at Sioux Center (JV), 31 Oct at Orange City (JV), 10 Oct at Coralville Res. (RLH), 3 Oct at Ames (PM), and 25 Sep in Mills Co. (BLW).

American Robin: 150 were migrating in Johnson Co. on 31 Oct (CJB, TK).

Swainson's Thrush: 33 were picked up at the Alleman TV tower on 13-14 Sep (JD) where they were the second most common species. One was late at Ames on 13 Oct (PM).

Eastern Bluebird: Numbers appeared to be higher than usual: "best fall since 1977" (DDM); "seen on every field trip in Sep-Oct" (RJH); 30 in Van Buren Co. on 17 Oct (JPSa); 26 in

one flock in Johnson Co. on 31 Oct (CJB, TK); etc.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Several were late: 3 at Iowa City on 22 Sep (TJS), 1 at Lacey~~/~~Keosauqua S.P. on 19 Sep (JPSa), 1 at Ames on 17 Sep (PM).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 132 at Brookside P., Ames, from 23 Sep-2 Nov (PM), abnormally large numbers at Sioux Center beginning on 12 Oct (JV), 10 in NE Mills Co. from 5 Oct-24 Nov (2 most seen in previous falls, BLW), and 8 in NW Johnson Co. on 3 Oct (JCB, TK) are a sample of apparently increased numbers.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 500 in Ames from 15 Sep-27 Oct, swarms (largest number ever) in Sioux Co. from late Sep to early Oct, 15 on 17 Oct at Coralville Res. (TK).

Water Pipit: There were many reports from 12 Sep in Johnson Co. (CJB, RJH) to 8 Nov at Saylcrville Res. (JPSc) with peak of 27 at Coralville Res. on 12 Oct (TJS).

Northern Shrike: Details were provided for an immature at Big Creek S.P. on 13 Nov and an adult in NE Winneshiek Co. on 21 Nov (JPSc).

Loggerhead Shrike: Only a few were mentioned.

White-eyed Vireo: 2 at Ottumwa on 26 Sep set a record late date (RC). One observed at Oak Grove S.P., Sioux Co., on 31 May is quite unusual for NW Iowa (Ken Hollinga fide JV).

Bell's Vireo: Aug and early Sep sightings were from SW Iowa at Forney L. (TB, BPa), Willow Sl. (BLW), Keg L. (BPa, LPa), and DeSoto N.W.R. (BPa, LPa).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Late dates were 3 Oct at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa) and 21 Sep at Ames (PM).

Solitary Vireo: 2 at Ames on 27 Oct (*PM) are a third latest date.

Red-eyed Vireo: 4 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 16 Oct (JPSa) are the third latest; 2 were at Ames on 5 Oct (PM) and 1 at Laurens on 2 Oct (RVH). At the Alleman TV Tower on 14 Sep 133 were killed.

Philadelphia Vireo: Late dates were 3 Oct at Ames (*PM) and Sioux Center (JV), 26 Sep at Ottumwa (RC), and 25 Sep at Des Moines (RL).

Black-and-white Warbler: 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on ??? (JPSa) was the latest ever; another was late at Ames on 13 Oct (PM). 30 Oct ✓

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 at Ottumwa on 12 Sep (RC) was the only one mentioned.

Blue-winged Warbler: A Brewster's hybrid was reported from George Wyth S.P. on 11 Sep (FM, BKM). Blue-wings were at Ottumwa on 29 Aug (RC), Ames on 15 Sep (PM), and Turkey Creek W.A., Cass Co., on 16 Sep (RC^H). ✓

Tennessee Warbler: 60 at Ottumwa on 26 Sep were noteworthy (RC); 1 was late at Pettitt W.A., Cass Co., on 23 Oct (RCM).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Late birds were at Coralville Res. on 31 Oct (TK, CJB) and Laurens on 29 Oct (RV^H). ✓

Nashville Warbler: 328 were found at Ames from 5 Sep to 13 Oct (PM).

Northern Parula Warbler: First and second record late dates were 16 Oct at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City (JPSa) and 10 Oct at Ames (*PM). At Ames, 13 were found from 29 Aug-10 Sep (PM).

Yellow Warbler: 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 2 Oct (JPSa) ties

the second latest date.

Magnolia Warbler: 1 in NW Johnson Co. on 14 Aug (CJB, MN, TK) is a second early date.

Cape May Warbler: 2 were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 3 Oct (JPSa) and 2 at Ames State Nursery on 26 Sep (JPSc).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: It was a banner fall for Black-throated Blues topped by the State's first specimens from the Alleman TV Tower on 14 Sep (JD, JPSc). Others were at Davenport on 31 Aug (PP, MLP, LL), Yellow River F. on 4 Sep (JPSc, DK), Ames on 9 Sep (FM), Waterloo on 11 Sep (FM, RKM), n. of Waverly on 18 Sep (RKM), Colo on 25 Sep (HZ), Des Moines on 2 Oct (RDM, EA, MDx).

Black-throated Green Warbler: 32 were seen at Ames from 9 Sep to 5 Oct (PM). One at Sioux Center on 30 Sep was unusual (JV). The last was at Lacey~~Keosauqua~~ S.P. on 9 Oct (JPSa). ✓

Blackburnian Warbler: 14 were at Ames from 1 Sep to 2 Oct (PM) and 1 was late at Lizard L. on 10 Oct (WJ).

Yellow-throated Warbler: On 11 Sep a stunned bird was on the sidewalk of Charlotte and Dick Scott at Seymour and their photos are the first of this species for Iowa. There is no specimen. The last date in Van Buren Co. was 10 Aug (JPSa).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 20 were seen at Ames from 29 Aug to 2 Oct (PM); on 3 Oct 1 was at Des Moines (CML) ^{ag} 3 were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. ~~on 17 Aug (JPSa)~~, the second latest date. ✓

Bay-breasted Warbler: A record-tying early bird was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 17 Aug (JPSa); 30 were at Ames from 29 Aug to 23 Sep (PM). ✓

Blackpoll Warbler: 30 were at Ames from 9-23 Sep (PM).

Pine Warbler: 1 was reported from George Wyth S.P. on 16 Sep (FM).

Prairie Warbler: The one report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Ovenbird: 32 were killed at Alleman TV Tower on 13-14 Sep, the third most common species (JD). At Ames, 19 were seen from 29 Aug to 29 Sep (PM).

Northern Waterthrush: 1 was at West Okoboji L. on 22 Aug (CFS).

Kentucky Warbler: 1 was at George Wyth S.P. on 3 Sep (FM).

Connecticut Warbler: Reports were from Grammar Grove S.P. on 28 Aug (BPr, MPr, RRS) and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 2 Oct (JPSa).

Mourning Warbler: Reports were from Grammar Grove S.P. on 2 Sep (BPr, RRS) and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 4 Sep (JPSa).

Common Yellowthroat: 2 at George Wyth S.P. on 10 Oct (FM, RuH) were late.

Wilson's Warbler: Several were at Sioux Center on 13, 14 Oct (JV); the last were at Ames on 3 Oct (PM).

Canada Warbler: 20 were seen at Ames from 22 Aug to 21 Sep (PM); 1 was at Davenport on 17 Aug (PP) and 2 were at Atlantic on 20 Aug (RCH, DHu).

American Redstart: 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 16 Oct (JPSa) is the second latest. The last were seen at Ames on 2 Oct (PM).

Bobolink: 15 were at Larson M. on 12 Sep (HZ).

Orchard Oriole: Two nests with young were found at Lewis and Clark S.P. on 6-8 Aug (TB).

Northern Oriole: Last dates were 9 Sep at Ames (PM) and 6 Sep in

NE Mills Co. (BLW).

Brewer's Blackbird: Flocks of 12-30 were well described in N Polk Co. on 10, 13 Nov (JPSc).

Scarlet Tanager: There were several Oct records: 2 Oct at Laurens (RVH) and Sioux Center (JV), 5 Oct at Ames (PM), and 8 Oct at Davenport (PP), and 9 Oct at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa).

Summer Tanager: A male and two females were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 18 Sep (JPSa) and a winter-plumage bird was described at Davenport on 7 Oct (PP, MLP).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Late dates were 10 Oct at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RC), 3 Oct at Ames (PM), and 30 Sep in NE Mills Co. (BLW).

Black-headed Grosbeak: Another female was reported, this time from Elkhart, Polk Co., on 23 Nov (*DDM). The Records Committee has been unable to decide whether the four females reported early this year are Black-headed Grosbeaks or hybrids. They plan further study of the matter.

Blue Grosbeak: 1 was still singing at Forney L. on 22 Aug (TB, BPa); another was reported from Cherokee on 11 Sep (MBre).

Indigo Bunting: The last were noted on 3 Oct in Story Co. (JPSc) and Johnson Co. (CJB, TK).

Dickcissel: An 18 Oct date in NE Mills Co. (BLW) is the second latest on record.

Evening Grosbeak: None reported.

Purple Finch: Few were reported. The earliest was on 11 Sep at Ames (JPSc).

House Finch: The bird previously reported at Perry was seen on 1-2 Aug (*FM, *JPSc).

Common Redpoll: None reported.

Pine Siskin: The only report was from Ames on 1 Nov (JPSc).

American Goldfinch: 3 young were ready to fledge on 29 Sep in O'Brien Co. (DCH), an unusually late date.

Red Crossbill: None reported.

White-winged Crossbill: None reported.

Rufous-sided Towhee: Several late ones were reported: 3 Nov at Willow Sl. (spotted race, BLW), 31 Oct at Little Clear L. (WJ) and NW Johnson Co. (TK, CJB), 23 Oct in Iowa City (TJS).

Lark Bunting: There was a late undocumented report from 8 miles west of Sioux Center on 19 Jun (GB fide JV).

Savannah Sparrow: 65 were at Doolittle Prairie on 30 Oct (JPSc).

Henslow's Sparrow: 1 was found in mid-Jun at Cayler Prairie, Dickinson Co., by Peter Lowther during a breeding bird census.

LeConte's Sparrow: 1-14 were at Doolittle Prairie from 3 Oct to 7 Nov (JPSc); 1-3 were reported from four other sites in Oct.

Northern Junco: The earliest on 25 Sep were at Estherville (HW) and NE Mills Co. (BLW).

American Tree Sparrow: The earliest was at Sioux Center on 16 Oct (JV).

Chipping Sparrow: 3 were at Ames on 30 Oct (PM).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Large numbers were in Sioux Co. in mid-Oct (JV). The only other report was 1 at Ames on 10 Oct (PM).

Field Sparrow: 28 Oct was the last date in NE Mills Co. (BLW).

Harris' Sparrow: The first was seen in NE Mills Co. on 16 Oct

(BLW); 10-15 were at Sunken Grove from 31 Oct-3 Nov (WJ).
None were mentioned in E Iowa.

Lapland Longspur: 4 were at Doolittle Prairie on 3 Oct (JPSc, SD), 100 at Larson M. on 10 Nov (PM), and several flocks of 25-150 in NC Iowa on 16 Nov (DBi).

Snow Bunting: At Saylorville Res. there was 1 on 29 Oct and 12 on 15-16 Nov (JPSc).

* = documented

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(BPr); Dennis Thompson (RL); Rick Wright (TB).

COMMENTS

I have delayed switching to the new checklist names and order
until the first issue of next year. Please continue to use the
new checklist for field reports.

There were many excellent reports this fall with 45
documentations of unusual sightings and early or late dates.
Particularly appreciated are new reporters and Iowa Conservation
Commission personnel who relay reports through Bob Howe and
others. Some of the new names for this period were Bob Barrett,
Richard Bennett, Gordon Brand, Bob Moats, Gary Nelson, Bob
Sheets, and Harold White. A number of observers provide
longitudinal data on migration from one or more localities.

Shorebirds were followed independently and weekly at Coralville Res. by Newlon and Kent. Warblers and other passerines were followed on what appeared to be a daily basis at Brookside Park in Ames by Martsching. Sandrock continues to provide record warbler and other passerine dates from his SW Iowa weekend hideout in Van Buren Co. Wilson has been the most consistent provider of detailed migration data from her SW Iowa farm and Willow Sl. in NE Mills Co. Schaufenbuel covered more territory than anyone else in central and NE Iowa. Bray and associates from Nebraska always provide much needed data from W Iowa. Harms and Jardine have taken over Pocahontas Co. from Cummins who has moved to Centerville and is already sending in record shattering dates from southcentral Iowa. Several observers routinely serve as funnels for data from other observers: Bray from the Council Bluffs area, Dinsmore from Ames and Iowa State University students and former students, Harr from NW Iowa, Howe, Roosa, and Newhouse from the Iowa Conservation Commission, Petersen from the Quad Cities area, Proescholdt from Hardin and Marshall Cos., and Myers and Moore from the Waterloo area. Birders such as Hensley at Atlantic are opening up previously unreported territory. Other faithful contributors who provide the backbone of data for the Field Reports include Bendorf, Bierman, Brewer, Hollis, Koenig, Laubach, Mosman, Schlemmer, Silcock, Staudt, Thornburg, and Zaletel. The many others who report on a less regular basis provide many of the more unusual findings and are equally appreciated.

Contributors have been very good about getting their reports to me by the first of the month. Documentations and details on unusual birds continue to improve the quality of the data on Iowa birds.

I would like to make one change in the reporting procedure. Please list all secondhand reports separately at the end of your report or on a separate report form. This will allow me to be more accurate in giving credit for the observations. As before, I expect that contributors will report only those secondhand observations that have been verified by asking appropriate questions. Under "Other Observers" on the report form list only those who birded with you during the period.

The manuscript for The Birds of Iowa by Dinsmore, Kent, Koenig, Petersen, and Roosa has been completed and is in the process of being evaluated for publication. With this task done, it will be possible to better define which species should be reported and when, and, perhaps, to develop more detailed report forms for those who bird most intensively. Some categories that might be used to classify species for reporting include the following: (1) ALL -- report all sightings; (2) DOC -- document all sightings; (3) DET -- provide details of identification observed for all sightings; (4) ELP -- early, late, and peak dates; (5) PK -- peak dates and numbers; (6) T/M -- total individuals seen per month; (7) T/C -- total individuals seen per county; and (8) UNU -- report only if unusual dates, numbers, or locations. I am working on a list that will define usual and

unusual dates. Now would be a good time to send me your ideas and suggestions for improving the reporting process.