

Bruce:

Records Comm, the Results will take some time, but I'll let you know. Ones included in my reports FIELD REPORTS are only the ones that seem SUMMER 1981 reasonable to me,

Thomas H. Kent, Field Reports Editor

211 Richards Street

Iowa City IA 52240

otherwise I don't mention them.
Tom

WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

Temperatures during the summer were normal to slightly cooler than normal. The rains of late May continued through out the period. Water levels were high with little exposed mud flats for returning shorebirds.

GENERAL TRENDS

There were few lingering waterfowl. Shorebird numbers were down, but there were a few late spring and early fall records. There were more reports than usual on flycatchers and warblers.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

There were no accidentals reported other than Ringed Turtle Dove, a species not yet accepted for Iowa. First definitive evidence for nesting was reported for two species: Western Grebe and Yellow-throated Warbler. Other nesting species of considerable note were Eared Grebe and King Rail. There were several other unusual birds for summer but no definitive evidence of nesting: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Eared Grebe: This species does not normally nest in Iowa, but on

28 Jul, 25 adults and 25 young were at Eagle L., Emmet Co.
(Larry Knopf fide JD). Two in breeding plumage were at Little
Clear L. on 19 Jul (WJ fide RC).

Western Grebe: There was a late report of 2 at Mill Creek P.,
O'Brien Co., on 25 May (Mark Phelps fide DH) and 2 were at
Rush L., Osceola Co., on 1 Jun (DH). It was thought that the
latter pair might be nesting and, on 29 Jun, 2 adults were
seen feeding 3 half grown young (TK). This is the first
definite evidence of this species breeding in Iowa. Another
Western Grebe was seen at Swan L., Dickinson Co., on 14 Jul
(H2).

Pied-billed Grebe: 7 nests were found at the power plant ponds
s. of Council Bluffs (BWi).

Double-crested Cormorant: 2 were at DeSoto NWR on 27 Jul (TB et
al).

Great Blue Heron: There were 43 nests with young at Rathbun Res.
(CS). On 31 Jul there were 35 at Red Rock Res. but no
evidence of nesting. Small numbers were seen at other
localities.

Cattle Egret: Singles were seen in n. e. Mills Co. on 24 Jun and
13 Jul (Howard Wilson fide BWi, BWi). These summer dates are
unusual for this species which is usually seen in spring and
fall.

Great Egret: 1 was at Dan Greene S. on 3 Jun (JD).

Snowy Egret: 1 was at Lock 15, Davenport, on 28 Jul (PP).

Black-crowned Night Heron: This species is common in the lakes
region of n. w. Iowa. Singles were also reported from Dudgeon

P. on 5 Jul (RMy) and Waubonsie SP on 25 Jun (BWi).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 2 were at Searsboro, Poweshiek Co., on 2 Jun (DK); 1 at Trumbull L. on 1 Jul (Bob Moats fide DH); and 1 immature in town at Pocahontas on 3 Jul (+RC).

Least Bittern: There were 2 nests at Dewey's Pasture (BJ fide JD). A female on a nest with three young on 26, 30 Jun at West Hottes L. refused to leave even when approached by a hand within several inches (DH, TK). Other sightings were 2 at Montezuma on 9 Jun (DK) and 6 at Sweet M. on 5 Jul (FM).

American Bittern: 2 nests were found at Dewey's Pasture in Jun (RJ fide JD). Other sightings were at Sweet M. on 5, 26 Jul and Silver L., Dickinson Co., on 13 Jul.

Snow Goose: A lone bird at DeSoto NWR on 26 Jul was said to have been present for two weeks (TB).

Canada Goose: Good nesting success continues in n. w. Iowa (JD).

Green-winged Teal: 1 was at Dan Greene S. on 19 Jun (JD).

Common Pintail: 1 was at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 29 Jun (TK).

Canvasback: A female with 7 young was at Garlock S., Dickinson Co., on 23 Jun (DH). One was at Kettleson Hogsback A. on 15 Jul (HZ).

Ring-necked Duck: 1 was at Sweet M. on 5 Jul (FM).

Lesser Scaup: Singles were seen at Eagle L., Emmet Co., on 4 Jun (JD) and IPL Settling Ponds on 9 Jul (TB et al).

Hooded Merganser: Females were seen at Lylah's M., Howard Co., on 21 Jun (FM, RH) and IPL Settling Ponds on 7 Jul (BP, LP).

Buddy Duck: 2 were at Lylah's M. on 21 Jun (FM, RH).

VULTURES THROUGH TURKEY

Turkey Vulture: A nest with 2 young was found in a barn near Seymour on 18 Jun (CS). Concentrations of 40 were at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 6 Jun (JSan) and 24 at Ledges SP on 2 Jun (H2).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 at Amana on 23 Jun was identified by small size and fast flight (CB).

Cooper's Hawk: 1 was reported from Yellow River F. on 27 Jun (DK) and another from central Allamakee Co. on 3 Jul (JSb).

Red-tailed Hawk: 6 nests were found in Cherokee Co. (DBi).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 was at Sweet M. on 26 Jul (FM).

Broad-winged Hawk: 1 was in Poweshiek Co. on 11 Jun and 3 at Yellow River F. on 27 Jun (DK).

Swainson's Hawk: A pair used the same nest for the fourth year in a row in Osceola Co. (DBi). Other reports were from Emmet Co. on 4 Jun (JD, RJ), Chickasaw Co. on 5 Jun (TK, TStau), Fayette Co. on 14 Jul (JSb) and Goldfield on 31 Jul (RC).

American Kestrel: Many were present in Davenport (PP) and 11 were seen w. of Hudson, Grundy Co., on 26 Jul (RMy).

Ruffed Grouse: 1 was at Shimek F. on 7 Jun (DK).

new location - introduced

CRANES THROUGH TERNS

King Rail: An adult with 2 young was photographed at Dewey's Pasture on 22 Jun (RJ fide JD). Perhaps there is still some hope for this species in Iowa. *< 3 reports in last 10 years*

Sora: 1 was at Sweet M. on 6 Jul (RMy).

Common Gallinule: 1 was at Little Clear L. on 19 Jul (RC).

Lesser Golden Plover: 8 at Sweet M. on 26 Jul (FM) were the third earliest date for this species.

Upland Sandpiper: An increase was noted in Wayne Co. where they were said to be fairly common (CS).

Greater Yellowlegs: 1 was seen on 26 Jul w. of Hudson, Grundy Co. (RM) for the second earliest fall date.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 was in Dickinson Co. on 1 Jul (TK) to tie the third earliest date.

Solitary Sandpiper: 4 in Plymouth Co. on 29 Jun (TK) tie the third earliest date. Singles were at Sweet M. on 5 Jul (FM) and Mills Co. on 13 Jul (BWi).

✓ Millet: 14 on the Missouri R. at Wilson Island SP on 28 Jun (TK) represent the earliest fall date. Singles were seen at IPL Settling Ponds on 6, 9 Jul (BF, LP).

Spotted Sandpiper: A large concentration of 17 were at Sweet M. on 5 Jul (FM).

Wilson's Phalarope: 2 were at Cardinal M. on 5 Jun (TK, TStau) and 1 was at Hendrickson M. on 6 Jun (PM).

American Woodcock: 1 was at Willow S. on 26 Jun (BWi).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 30 were still at Hendrickson M. on 6 Jun (PM), the second latest spring date.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 was at Hendrickson M. on 6 Jun (PM), also the second latest spring date.

Baird's Sandpiper: 3 were at Hendrickson M. on 6 Jun (PM), the latest spring date on record.

Dunlin: 1 was at Cardinal M. on 5 Jun (TK, TStau), the second latest date.

Ring-billed Gull: 20 were still at Dan Greene S. on 3 Jun and 8 were at Trumbull L. on 5 Jun (JD).

Franklin's Gull: 81 were at Dan Greene S. on 3 Jun (JD).

Forster's Tern: Egg laying was just underway at several nests on West Hottes L., Dickinson Co., on 30 Jun (TK, DH). The nesting colony had more Forster's than Black Terns. On Jul 26 there were 6 Forster's Terns at DeSoto NWR (TB et al).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 1 was on a nest on the early date of 31 Mar at Seymour (CS).

We don't know where these come from.
Ringed Turtle Dove: There were undocumented reports of Ringed Turtle Dove from Clinton in May (Mrs. Van Nieuwenhupe) and Bettendorf on 12 Jun (W. Miller fide PP).

Chuck-will's-widow: 2 were near the Ranger Station at Shimek F. on 13 Jun (FM) and 3-5 were at Waubonsie SP on 25, 27 Jun (BWi, FM).

Whip-poor-will: A nest with 2 young was found at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 6 Jun (DK).

✓ ? ↑
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: There were more reports than usual. Many were at Hamburg (IG). Koenig saw 13 during the period, 5 near Marquette on 21 Jun. Others were seen at Cherokee (DBi), Shimek F. (FM), and Volga L. (FM).

Belted Kingfisher: Numbers were increased at Waterloo (FM).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 were at Pikes Peak SP on 14 Jun (DK) and a pair was at Stone P., Sioux City, in early Jun (BSi fide TK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH STARLING

normal
Western Kingbird: All reports were from counties on the western border with 15 seen on 29 Jun from DeSoto NWR to Gitche

Manitou Spr (TK).

Eastern Phoebe: 7 were at Marquette on 21 Jun (DK). Singles were at Lacey-Keosauqua SP and Shimek F. (JSan).

Say's Phoebe: A family of 4 were photographed and recorded near the Eldon Bryant farm in w. Plymouth Co. on 29 Jun (TK). At present there are only one or two nesting sites in this area (EB fide TK).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 was identified by sight and song at Shimek F. on 7 Jun (DK).

Acadian Flycatcher: 1 was at Amana woods on 25 Jun (CB). The ones reported from n. e. Mills Co. on 28, 29 May in the Spring Report were Alder not Acadian Flycatchers (BWi).

Willow Flycatcher: This species was widely reported from many areas of the state.

Alder Flycatcher: 2 were heard at Shimek F. on 13 Jun (FM) and 1 was heard at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 12 Jul (+JSan). These sightings in s. e. Iowa do not fit the concept of this being a northern species.

Least Flycatcher: 2 adults and 3 fledglings were at Sweet M. on 5 Jul (+FM); 5 were near Marquette on 21 Jun (DK); and several were at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 28 Jun (JSan).

Purple Martin: There were 10 colonies in the Elkhart area with 40 pairs in one colony (DMos). At L. Manawa on 20 Jul, 206 were seen in one tree (BWi).

Brown Creeper: 1 was n. of Keosauqua on 19 Jun (JSan).

Sedge Wren: 25 were at Hayden Prairie and Cardinal M. on 5 Jun (TK, 1Stau).

only
regular
low
silt

very
unusual

We don't
know
distribution
of this
species
in Iowa

seen
to be
regular
in small
numbers

unusual for
s. Iowa

Northern Mockingbird: A nest with 4 young was found near Searsboro, Poweshiek Co., on 27 May (DK). One was in Plymouth Co. on 20 Jun (LF) and another at Shimek F. on 27 Jun (JSan).

seems to be regular
Veery: 11 were at White Pine Hollow on 20 Jun (DK). One of a pair sang after hearing a tape of its call in the Amana woods on 27 Jun (CB). Other locations were Yellow River F. (DK) and Ledges SP (HZ).

Eastern Bluebird: There were 21 nests in the Elkhart area (DMos). Scattered other reports suggest that Bluebirds are holding their own.

quite a recovery in last few years
Loggerhead Shrike: It looks like shrikes are making a recovery from the years when they disappeared as nesters in many areas. Five pair were seen in Poweshiek Co. (DK), three pair in Fayette Co. (JSb), and several in Story and Boone Cos. (PM, HZ).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireo: Reports from early and mid-Jun were from Shimek F. (FM), Lacey-Keosauqua SP (DK) and Montezuma (DK).

Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 was singing at Cherokee on 27 Jun (DBi). *W. Iowa*

✓ Black-and-white Warbler: I don't know how to interpret the three sightings of this species in Iowa in summer. Are they migrants or possible nesters? Singles were seen at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 6 Jun (DK, JSan), n. of Waubonsie SP on 13 Jun (RMy), and in Iowa City on 19 Jul (JF).

Prothonotary Warbler: 2 were at Riverton WA on 27 Jun (FM) and 1 at Dudgeon P. on 5 Jul (RMy).

Worm-eating Warbler: Sightings were at Shimek F. on 7 Jun (DK) and Amana woods on 21 Jun (+CB).

Blue-winged Warbler: June sightings were from Shimek F., Lacey-Keosauqua SP, n. of Marquette, and Yellow River F. (DK, FM). This regular summer resident may be on the decline. It would be useful to search for other nesting localities next year.

✓ Tennessee Warbler: A singing bird near Decorah, Allamakee Co. on 3 Jul (JSb) was quite unusual.

Northern Parula Warbler: This species appears to be a summer resident in the Lacey-Keosauqua SP area (DK, FM, JSan) but has not been reported from other areas of the state.

Yellow Warbler: There are two encouraging reports: 20 nests found in a short time at Trumbull L. and Smith's S. (JD) and 49 individuals n. of Marquette on 21 Jun (DK).

Cerulean Warbler: 10-12 were at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (JSan).

✓ Yellow-throated Warbler: A nest with young at Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 6 Jun (DK) is the first nesting record for this species in Iowa and a recording made n. of Keosauqua at Roberts Riverside Park on 1 Jun (TK) is the first tangible evidence (There are no specimens or photographs). The latest date was 19 Jul n. of Keosauqua (JSan).

Louisiana Waterthrush: A pair were feeding small fledglings at Shimek F. on 13 Jun (FM). Seven were noted at White Pine Hollow on 20 Jun (DK). Other locations were Lacey-Keosauqua SP and Pikes Peak SP (DK).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Locations of sightings were Shimek F. (DK, FM), Lacey-Keosauqua SP (DK), Pleasantville (RT), Poweshiek

Co. (DK), Dudgeon P. (FM, RMy), and Marquette (DK).

✓ Canada Warbler: An exciting find was 3 singing males at White Pine Hollow on 20 Jun (DK). This apparently is the first summer record for this species.

American Redstart: 41 were counted n. of Marquette on 21 Jun (DK).

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH BUNTINGS

Orchard Oriole: 2 adults and 2 young were noted at Kettleson Hogsback A. on 19 Jul (HZ). In Poweshiek Co., 8 males were located (DK). There were 4 sightings in n. e. Iowa (JSb). Other locations were Pleasantville (RT) and McFarland P., Story Co. (HZ).

Summer Tanager: A first year male was singing on 1 Jun at Lacey-Keosauqua SP (TK). Other sightings were n. of Keosauqua on 14 Jun (JSan) and Waubonsie SP on 13 and 27 Jun (RMy, FM).

Blue Grosbeak: Reports were from Hospers, Sioux Co. (DBi), w. Plymouth Co. (LF), Willow S., Mills Co. (BWi), and Fremont Co. (RMy, FM). Eldon Bryant told me that there are about 1 pair per square mile in his area e. of Akron, Plymouth Co. I saw 5 there in a few hours on 29 Jun (TK).

note Pine Siskin: 1 was late in w. Plymouth Co. on 8 Jun (LF).

Savannah Sparrow: 2 in Fremont Co. on 27 Jun were considered unusual (FM, RSi).

Henslow's Sparrow: Hayden Prairie remains the only known regular location for this species. One was photographed and recorded their on 5 Jun (TK, TStau).

Lark Sparrow: A nest with nearly fledged young was found in n.

e. Mills Co. on 9 Jul (EWi). Eleven, mostly juveniles, were there on 30 Jul (BWi). One was at Ledges SP on 22 Jun (HZ).

✓ Clay-colored Sparrow: A singing bird was identified at Volga L. on 11 and 26 Jul (+RMY, FM). This is apparently only the second summer record for this species.

+ = documented

CONTRIBUTORS

Carl Bendorf, Iowa City; Dick Bierman, Cherokee; Tanya Bray, Omaha NE; Raymond Cummins, Pocahontas; James Dinsmore, Ames; Larry Farmer, Westfield; Jim Fuller, Iowa City; Ione Getscher, Hamburg; Douglas Harr, Larchwood; Thomas Kent, Iowa City; Darwin Koenig, Montezuma; Paul Martsching, Ames; Francis L. Moore, Waterloo; Dean Mosman, Elkhart; Robert K. Myers, Waterloo; David A. Newhouse, Ecene; Babs Padelford, Omaha; Peter Petersen, Davenport; James Sandrock, Iowa City; Charlotte Scott, Seymour; Joe Schaufenbuel, St Lucas; Robert Thornburg, Pleasantville; Barbara Wilson, Hastings; Hank Zaletel, Ames;

OTHER OBSERVERS

Don Bray (TB); Wallace Jardine (RC); Rex Johnson (JD); Jim Kovanda (TB); Sandy Kovanda (TB); Loren Padelford (BP); Jody Sandrock (JSan); Tom Staudt (TK); *Ross Silcock (TK, FM).*

COMMENTS

The summer season is the purest of the seasons. It encompasses two months in the heart of the nesting period. The only significant migration is for shorebirds at the

beginning and end of the period, and migrating shorebirds are easily distinguished from the few resident species in this group. There are a few summer stragglers, but not as many as during the winter season.

The major goal of the summer report is to capture more knowledge of breeding birds in Iowa. Gathering this information is not as easy, and perhaps not as much fun for many, as looking for migrants. After a busy spring of birding, it is hard to push oneself into the marsh or fight through the underbrush and mesquitos of the deep woods to look for the uncommon and rare breeding birds. Breeding Bird Surveys are easier and provide valuable data on open country birds and the more common species. As I see it, the information that is most lacking on breeding birds in Iowa relates to the distribution and frequency of uncommon nesters, especially those in marshy and deep woods habitats.

This summer most of the regular reporters managed to get in some birding and provided new data on nesting species. Most exciting were the addition of Western Grebe and Yellow-throated Warbler to the list of birds that have definitely nested in Iowa and the first evidence of King Rail nesting in Iowa in many years. Perhaps more significant were the many observations of Empidonax flycatchers and warblers. In the past few years it has become evident that Least Flycatcher, Veery, and Yellow-throated Warbler regularly nest in Iowa. Will someone find the nest of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Alder

Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warbler, Canada Warbler or Clay-colored Sparrow?

We have a lot to learn about breeding birds in Iowa. We need to undertake the tedious task of finding nests of uncommon birds in specialized habitats and gathering information on nesting and departure dates. I commend those who have provided so much data this summer during the "slow" season.