

✓ Brand

Fall 1983 Report

Meteorological conditions: August and early September went without rain but because of the wet spring and early summer, drought conditions did not exist in most parts of NW Iowa. Normal fall weather followed with our first heavy snowfall occurring November 26 and 27.

Species report:

- ✓ American Black Duck, 3 observed Aug. 26 at Sioux-Preme lagoons, Sioux Center
- * Northern Harrier, 1 observed Sept. 10 near Sibley
- ✓ Northern Goshawk, 1 observed Nov. 26 near Pella, see enclosed documentation.
- e ✓ Rough-legged Hawk, 1 first observed Oct 27 near Sioux Center. Several sighted later.
- ✓ Black-bellied Plover, first sighting Sept. 23 at Sioux-Preme lagoons. Three were seen later with the last sighting Sept. 27
- l ✓ Semi-palmated Plover, 2 observed Aug. 15. Juveniles also appeared later and were last seen Sept. 20 at Sioux-Preme lagoons
- l ✓ Killdeer, last seen Nov. 17 Sioux*Preme lagoons
- Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Oct. 5. Only 1 sighting at the Sioux-Preme lagoons is unusual.
- ✓ Willet, 1 observed Aug. 19 at Sioux-Preme lagoons
- ✓ Sanderling 3 observed Sept. 20 at Sioux-Preme lagoons
- ✓ Western Sandpiper, 1 observed Aug 19 at Sioux-Preme lagoons. See documentation.
- l ✓ Least Sandpiper, last observed Oct. 12 at Sioux-Preme lagoons
- e e ✓ Baird's Sandpiper, 2 observed Aug. 15, last observed Oct. 17
- p l ✓ Stilt Sandpiper, present in large numbers, app. 50 Oct. 12, first seen Aug. 5. last observed Oct. 25. Sioux-Preme lagoons
- Long-billed Dowitcher, 2 first observed Sept. 1 and were present until Oct 18 at the Sioux-Preme lagoons. They often fed with the Stilt Sandpipers. They were observed with both binoculars and a high quality spotting scope. Celestron C90. The white wedge up the back was observed. There is no mistaking the identification. As you can see I am very familiar with shorebirds so I feel no further documentation necessary.
- ✓ Wilson's Phalarope, 4 observed Aug. 19 at Sioux-Preme lagoons
- ✓ Red-necked Phalarope, 3 observed Aug. 19 at Sioux-Preme lagoons
- ✓ Franklin's Gull, 20 observed Oct. 2 near Alton
- * Bonaparte's Gull, 5 observed below Sailorville reservoir in central Iowa Nov. 26
- Forster's Tern, 4 observed Aug. 19 at Sioux-Preme lagoons
- l ✓ Black Tern, common at Sioux-Preme lagoons until Aug. 26
- l ✓ Common Nighthawk, 2 still present in Orange City Sept. 27
- l ✓ Chimney Swift, 1 still present in Orange City Sept. 27
- Horned Lark, first large flocking observed Nov 28 following the snowstorm
- l ✓ Purple Martin, 2 observed at Sioux-Preme Sept. 13!
- file ✓ Winter Wren, 1 observed in Sioux Center by Tina Van Dyke Sept. 23
- Eastern Bluebird, 10 observed Sept. 24 near Fairview along the Big Sioux River.
- ✓ Water Pipet, 1 Oct. 7 Sioux*Preme lagoons
- l ✓ Orange-crowned Warbler, 2 still present in Orange City Oct. 16
- e ✓ * American Tree Sparrow, 1 first observed Oct. 9 in Orange City.
- White-crowned Sparrow, 2 first observed Oct. 9, last seen Oct. 16
- Purple Finch, 2 first observed in Orange Nov. 22 and have stayed. Male and female
- Pine Siskin, 1 Nov. 13 in Orange City at finch feeder
- file ✓ Evening Grosbeak, 5 in Sioux Center Nov. 6, reported by Tina Van Dyke.

General notes: Golden-crowned Kinglets appear to be especially common this fall.

The large number of shorebirds reported this fall relates to the complete drawdown of lagoon water this fall exposing a large mudflat area ideal for shorebirds. The peak shorebird migration appeared to be approximately August 19 in terms of both number and diversity. Refilling of the lagoons may have forced an early departure date for some of the shorebirds. Refilling began October 7.

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