

FIELD REPORTS

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WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS (JPSa)

Spring 1984 continued the year-long pattern of extreme, record-breaking weather phenomena. March produced the most snow--nearly twice the normal expectancy--in almost a quarter century and averaged 5 degrees colder than normal. Blowing snow and glaze over the state, frequent snow cover, and low temperatures (-15 F. at Rock Rapids and Cresco on the 9th) combined with slow evaporation produced an abundance of soil moisture which created frequently muddy conditions, high stream flows, and much standing water.

Cold, cloudy, and windy, April gave Iowans a new meaning for the word "wet." The average 5.76 inches precipitation was the highest in 112 years! A number of western communities received record precipitation amounts for the month: Red Oak with 8.66, Sidney with 8.9, Guthrie Center with 8.72, Sac City with 9.50, and Storm Lake with 8.49 inches. Eastern Iowa received more normal average precipitation, but Independence recorded 2.77 and Vinton 3.84 inches on the 30th. Additional April highlights included the latest substantial snow since 1956 (on the 29th), tornadoes on the 26th, wind speed average of 15 mph, severe storms with hail, damaging winds, and heavy rains across the state on the 26th and 27th. Mud, standing water, and high water in various rivers and streams with some flooding was the rule during April, and these conditions continued long into May, which was wetter than normal and averaged 3.5 F. colder than normal. Only the latter days of the month saw warmer temperatures and some cessation from the wet, cold spring of 1984.

GENERAL TRENDS

Many waterfowl passed through in February producing an unspectacular March (except for rarities). Gulls also moved through early and were more dispersed than usual. The shorebird migration was spread out in time and location, perhaps due to the abundance of water. The Missouri and Big Sioux river valleys were flooded through the end of the period. A few warblers sprinkled in late April, but the first ten days of May were very quite--the spring convention

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produced few birds on May 6-7 and May 10 was a very dull day in Iowa City. A massive influx of passerines occurred on May 11 and the rest of the period was more normal. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins seemed to be more abundant in early May than in April.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Perhaps the unusual weather was responsible for the number of rare birds seen this spring. Barrow's Goldeneye, a new bird for the state which was seen by many, has to be the best, but what about Red-throated Loon, Eurasian Wigeon, and Rock Wren for kickers. Of the other accidentals seen, White-faced Ibis, Smith's Longspur, and Great-tailed Grackle hardly deserve to be considered accidental and Whimbrel may shake that status too. Ten of 16 casual species were seen (all but two being represented by more than one sighting): Red-necked Grebe, Snowy Egret, Surf Scoter, Prairie Falcon, Yellow Rail, King Rail, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Bewick's Wren, and Lark Bunting. Among the exotic species, Ringed Turtle-Dove continues to be present in Davenport and a Ruddy Shelduck at Sweet M. on 12 May had no apparent reason for being there (FLM, RKM).

SPECIES DATA (* = documented)

- Red-throated Loon:** 1 in winter plumage was studied at Cedar L. in Cedar Rapids from 3 to 16 Apr (*CJB, *TJS, *RKM, *FLM, *PCP, *THK). See separate note by Bendorf.
- Common Loon:** 1 at Willow Sl. on 29 Mar (BLW) is the third earliest on record. Other early dates were 3 at Hendrickson M. on 1 Apr (BPr, MPr, HZ) and 1 at Montezuma on 3 Apr (DK). The last of three May reports was at Forney L. on 20 May (THK, et.al).
- Pied-billed Grebe:** 165 s. of Waterloo on 14 Apr (FLM, RKM) is an amazing number.
- Horned Grebe:** The earliest (2), peak (11), and latest (1) were all at Rathbun Res. on 24 Mar, 7 Apr, and 19 May, respectively (RLC).
- Red-necked Grebe:** 1 (I heard that later observers saw two) was seen by many at Little Wall L. on 12 to 14 Apr (*HZ, *JJD, *TJS, *CJB, *THK, *FLM, *RKM, *BPr); 2 others, also in breeding plumage, were at Smith L., Kossuth Co., on 17 Apr (*JC) and Elk L., Clay Co., on 21 May (*MiB). The latter is the latest spring date on record.
- Eared Grebe:** A winter-plumaged bird at Pleasant Valley, Scott Co., on 15 Mar (PCP, LL) is the earliest on record. The peak of W Iowa sightings was 4 at Willow Sl. on 16 Apr (BLW). Other locations were Cedar L. on 8 Apr (*THK), Little Wall L. on 12 Apr (SD), and Ames on 1 May (SD).
- Western Grebe:** 1 was early at Union Sl. on 9 Apr (Joe Fleskes fide JJD); two pair were at Rush L., Osceola Co.,

on 22 May (MiB fide JJD); and 1 was at Swan L., Dickinson Co., on 23 May (MiB fide JJD). Ross Silcock and I were at Rush L., the only known nesting location for this species, on the same day and did not see the birds. This suggests that there may be other pairs in the area that ~~have been~~ overlooked. *could be*

American White Pelican: Pelicans arrived in mid-Apr--31 at Rathbun Res. on 14 Apr (RLC), 40 at Willow Sl. on 14 Apr (BLW), and 30 at Hendrickson M. on 15 Apr (SD). Large flocks were still in N Iowa in late May--100 at Spirit L. on 22 May (THK, WRS) and 100 at Ventura M. on 25 May (JLH). Small numbers were seen in E Iowa--4 at Coralville Res. on 26 Apr (THK), 64 at Otter Creek M. on 28 Apr (TJS, JF), and 3 at Nashua on 13 May (FLM).

Double-crested Cormorant: Flocks of 100-137 were reported from Willow Sl. (BLW), Ames (PM), Hendrickson M. (HZ), and Forney L. (TB, BPa, SK). Six birds on nests n. of Sabula on 25 May (PCP) appear to be the first definite evidence of nesting in the state since 1966.

American Bittern: 1 or 2 were reported from seven sites.

Least Bittern: 1 flushed at Cone M. by Fred Thompson and seen by many on 28 Apr (THK) is the earliest on record. Birds were seen at four other locations, including 5 birds at Forney L. on 23 May (BPa, LPa).

Great Blue Heron: 35 migrating in Mills Co. on 6 Apr were impressive (BLW). Several were seen on nests s. of Otter Creek M. on 14 May (TJS, THK).

Great Egret: The earliest was at Saylorville Res. on 31 Mar (Roger Sedlacek fide JJD). The peak was 10 at Anderson L. on 12 May (SD, GoB, MD).

Snowy Egret: 3 sw. of Albion, Marshall Co., on 27 Apr (*HZ, *JJD) were seen by many and 1 remained until 6 May (BPr); singles were at Coralville Res. on 4 May (TJS, JF, THK), Mill Creek State Park, O'Brien Co., on 12 May (*JEH), and w. of Little Storm L. on 23 May (THK, WRS).

Little Blue Heron: 2 at Otter Creek M. on 28 Apr (RKM); 1 adult in Kossuth Co. on 13 May (RodS); 1 at Riverton A. on 21 May (Don Priebe fide RP); and 1 at Forney L. on 22 May (BPa, LPa).

Cattle Egret: Flocks of 1-20 were widespread across the state in 14 counties, beginning on 11 Apr in Dallas Co. (EuA, ELA) and extending to late May; 115 in the Missouri bottoms sw. of Percival, Fremont Co., on 16 May (THK, WRS) were unusual.

Green-backed Heron: 1 was early in Story Co. on 15 Apr (EM). *EMu ? glotal ck.*

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Flocks of 2-10 were reported from five areas; others went unreported (THK).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 1 at Riverton A. on 27 Apr (FLM); 2 at Forney L. on 22 May (BPa, TB).

White-faced Ibis: Singles were well-documented at Otter Creek M. on 28 Apr (*TJS) and North Twin L. on 1 May

(*LRM).

Tundra Swan: An early swan, probably a Tundra Swan, was photographed in Woodbury Co. on 13 Mar (*JAH). Trumpeter Swans winter in SC South Dakota, so this species should be looked for in Iowa; voice would be the best means to distinguish between the two species at a distance. Impressive numbers of Tundra Swans were seen in NC Iowa this year--200 at Charles City on 29 Mar (Wayne Meyer fide JLH), 130 n. of Clear L. on 30 Mar (JLH, CH, RA), and 20 in Hancock Co. on 31 Mar (Jim Kubichek fide JLH). Two of the birds n. of Clear L. were collared at Mattamuskeet NWR, North Carolina, on 8 Feb 1984. Other locations were 2 in W Fremont Co. on 25 Mar (SD, JPSc) and 1 at Cone M. from 31 Mar to 3 Apr (RJH, GDW).

Mute Swan: 1 at Mud L., Clay Co., from 8 to 16 Mar (*JJD) was unusually far west; other singles at L. Ahquabi on 6 May (RLC) and Amana L. on 23-25 May (CJB, LH) were unusually late. We still have little idea of where these birds are coming from and how many may be escapees.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 6 were in Dallas Co. on 25 Feb (MD) and stragglers were at Colo Ponds on 22 Apr (SD) and Union Sl. NWR on 16 May (Joe Fleskes fide JJD).

Snow Goose: 105,00 were at Forney L. on 23 Mar (TB, BPa); it was impressive to see and hear many of these same birds rise in one flock as an immature Bald Eagle tried to pick a cripple off of the lake on 25 Mar (THK, m.ob.).

Ross' Goose: Up to 3 were at Forney L. on 23, 25 Mar (TB, *THK, *CJB, *PCP) and 1 was at Willow Sl. on 24, 30 Mar (BLW, *FLM, *RKM).

Canada Goose: 15,000 were seen s. of Spencer on 19 Feb (MMB). Adults with young were seen at Muskrat Sl. on 14 May (THK). This species is now a common nester in N Iowa and is being introduced at more and more locations throughout the state.

Wood Duck: On 21 Apr I used a mirror and flashlight to identify a female trapped above the damper in our fireplace and after freeing the bird chased it around the house before catching and releasing it (THK).

Green-winged Teal: 2 nests were found at Union Sl. NWR (Joe Fleskes fide JJD).

American Black Duck: 2 at Red Rock Res. on 10 Mar (RLC); 1 at Anderson L. on 12 May (SD, GoB, MD); 1 at Sweet M. on 14 May (FLM, RKM).

Northern Pintail: 2 lingered at Muskrat Sl. on 26 May (TJS, CJB) and 1 at Waterloo on 30 May (FLM).

Cinnamon Teal: 1 at Riverton on 17 Mar (*EK) is the second earliest on record; others were at Big M. on 19 Apr (RKM, FLM) and 6 May (BPr, et al.), Rathbun Res. on 27 Apr (RLC), Riverton A. on 27 Apr (FLM, RLC), Union Sl. NWR on 18 May (Joe Fleskes fide JJD), and New Albin on 19 May (DK). The latter two are record late dates.

Northern Shoveler: 2 nests were found at Union Sl. NWR (Joe

Fleskes fide JJD).

Gadwall: 1 was still at Waterloo on 30 May (FLM).

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 at Sweet M. was documented from 15 to 17 Apr (*FLM, *RKM, *SPM, *EMa, *THK, *TJS, *PCP, *CJB) for the third definite state record. As expected, it turned up as a spring migrant with American Wigeon and other puddle ducks.

Canvasback: 10 were at Forney L. on 1 Mar (TB, BPa, SK); 1,000 were at the Keokuk Pool on 9 Mar (CJB).

Greater Scaup: 6 were at IPL Ponds on 9 Mar (TB, BPa, SK) and 15 were there on 23 Mar (TB, BPa); 2-4 were at Coralville Res. on 16, 22 Mar (THK); 2 were s. of Iowa City on 1 Apr (TJS, CJB); and 3 were at Goose L., Clinton Co., on 10 May (*PCP), a record late date. The increase in this species is undoubtedly due to observer awareness and increasing ability to identify birds, including females.

Lesser Scaup: An albino was paired with a male at Union Sl. NWR on 6 May (Joe Fleskes fide JJD).

Oldsquaw: Singles were at Willow Sl. on 16 Apr (*BLW), Union Sl. NWR on 18 Apr (Joe Fleskes fide JJD), and Goose L., Clinton Co., on 19 Apr (PCP, LL). The latter two tie previous late dates.

Surf Scoter: A female was at Coralville Res. on 9 Apr (*THK), a second earliest date.

White-winged Scoter: None reported.

Barrow's Goldeneye: The first definite state record was a male at Forney L. from 17 Mar to at least 6 Apr (*MNo, *DT, *ELA, *EuA, *WRS, *CJB, *TJS, *THK, *BLW, *PCP, *RKM, *FLM, *BPr). See separate article by Silcock.

Bufflehead: 2 were late at Swan L., Johnson Co., on 14 May (THK, TJS, WRS).

Hooded Merganser: 1 was at Montezuma by 1 Mar (DK) and peaks were 28 at Rathbun Res. on 11 Mar (RLC), 15 at Coralville Res. on 16 Mar (THK), and 14 at Willow Sl. on 24 Mar (BLW). Females with broods of 12 and 13 were at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 17 May (PCP, LL, DonM) and New Albin on 19 May (DK).

Common Merganser: 1 female lingered at Forney L. on 20 May (THK, WRS).

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 were at Forney L. on 1 Mar (BLW); peaks of 300 and 225 occurred at Forney L. on 1 Apr (B. J. Rose fide TB) and Saylorville Res. on 7 Apr (SD); 2 females lingered at IPL Ponds on 16 May (THK, WRS).

Osprey: Early arrivals were at DeSoto NWR on 24 Mar (SK fide TB) and Ingham L. on 25 Mar (*HW); birds were seen at five locations in May with the latest at Hendrickson M. on 23 May (PM, BPr).

Bald Eagle: 50 were at Forney L. on 1 Mar (TB, BPa, SK) and 25 at Coralville Res. on 24 Mar (THK). The last immature left Keokuk on 9 Apr (RCe); at more northerly locations, immatures were seen at Rathbun Res. (RLC) and Boone Co.

- (SD, JJD) on 14 Apr and New Albin on 19 May (DK).
- Northern Harrier:** 7 were in Polk Co. on 7 Apr (SD); a female was at Hayden Prairie on 28 May (FLM).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 1-2 were reported from five locations from 7 Apr to 14 May.
- Cooper's Hawk:** Singles were reported from 11 locations from 24 Mar to 26 May including 1 killed by hail in Plymouth Co. on 29 Apr (EJB) and an immature stunned by a window on 3 May at Sheldon (DCH).
- Northern Goshawk:** 7 adults and 1 immature were reported in Mar including documentations from Red Rock Res. on 18 Mar (*DT), Big M. on 24 Mar (*FLM), and Big Creek L. on 25 Mar (*BPr); an immature was reported from Mahaska Co. on 1 Apr (DK) and good details were provided for late adults in W Black Hawk Co. on 19 Apr (FLM) and Hickory Hill P. on 20 Apr (TJS).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** March sightings were from the following counties: Story (MiB fide JJD), Jasper (TJS, CJB, THK), Polk (PCP, CLB), Poweshiek (DK), and Muscatine (PCP, LL); 1 was at Cardinal M. on 28 May and others were in Allamakee Co. (DK).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** 4 at L. Macbride on 7 Apr (TJS) are the second earliest record; the peak was 200 in Sioux Co. on 15 Apr (GJB); 1 or 2 remained at Dudgeon P. on 19 May (FLM, RKM), at White Pine Hollow on 20 May (C. and L. Blevins fide PCP), and at Yellow River Forest on 26 May (FLM, RKM).
- Swainson's Hawk:** 3 in Sioux Co., including 1 melanistic bird, on 28 Mar (GJB) are the second earliest on record. Other dark phase birds were seen in Cherokee Co. among a flock of 21 birds on 30 Apr (MMB) and in Woodbury Co. on 4 May (*JAH). Other reports of 1-5 birds from the following counties illustrate the widespread occurrence of this species in W and N Iowa: Fremont, Mills, Pottawattamie, Harrison, Lyon, Osceola, Jasper, Story, Marshall, Hardin, and Bremer. A pair returned to nest in a woods in Osceola Co. even though 60 percent of the woods had been cut down.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** 42 were migrating in Cherokee Co. on 12 Mar (MMB). Krider's Hawks were reported from Mills Co. on 26 Mar (BLW) and Story Co. on 4 Apr (BPr, et al.) and Harlan's Hawk from Cayler Prairie on 10 May (DCH).
- American Kestrel:** On 4 and 9 Apr, 17 and 28 were migrating in central Iowa (BPr, MPr).
- Merlin:** Adults were seen on 7 Apr (*FLM) and 21 Apr (*RKM) at Sweet M. and on 15 Apr e. of Iowa City (*THK).
- Peregrine Falcon:** Sightings from 7 locations included two late dates: EC Delaware Co. on 6 Apr (*CJB); Sweet M. on 15 Apr (*FLM, *RKM) and 12 May (*FLM); Willow Sl. on 24 Apr (*BLW); Riverton A. on 27 Apr (*RLC, *FLM); Otter Creek M. on 29 Apr (*BPr, *MPr) and 14 May (*THK); Hardin Co. on 8 May (*MPr), and New Albin on 12 May (DK).

- Prairie Falcon:** 1 was reported from 2 miles e. of Lester, Lyon Co., on 9 Mar (*DCH) and another from Forney L. on 25 Mar (*PCP).
- Gray Partridge:** A pair were out of range in NE Iowa Co. on 12 May (CJB, TJS, THK).
- Wild Turkey:** 5 were at Blue Grass, Scott Co., on 1 May (PCP, LL).
- Northern Bobwhite:** Those commenting on this species indicated low numbers.
- Yellow Rail:** Singles were reported from UNI Prairie on 27 Apr (*RY), Doolittle Prairie on 6 May (*JM), Ventura M. on 9 May (*JLH), and McIntosh Sl. on 14 May (*JLH).
- King Rail:** 1 was identified by large size at Ventura M. on 11 May (*JLH); 1 was heard well before daybreak at Otter Creek M. on ~~12 May~~ (CJB, TJS, THK); and 1 tried to elude Ross Silcock by sneaking across the road ^{between} at Dewey's Pasture on 22 May, but was spotted and photographed (THK).
- Virginia Rail:** Few were seen this year, with a peak of 2 at Doolittle Prairie on 12 May (SD, GoB, MD); only 1 was found at Dewey's Pasture on 23 May in several hours of tramping (THK, WRS).
- Sora:** 1 was early on 10 Apr at Anderson L. (JJD); 10 at Pickeral L. on 11 May (MMB) was the most reported.
- Common Moorhen:** Seven locations were more than usual: Marshalltown on 1 May (MPr fide BPr); Mt Auburn, Benton Co., on 11 May (FLM, RKM); Otter Creek M. on 14 May (TJS, WRS, THK); Waterloo on 14 May (FLM, RKM); Forney L. from 15 May to 28 May (WRS, m.ob.); Ankeny Ponds on 15 May (DDM); and Colo Ponds on 23 May (HZ, BPr).
- Sandhill Crane:** 1 was in Keokuk Co. on 5 Apr (DK); 1-3 were seen in Kossuth Co. on 15 Apr (RodS) and 21 Apr and 3 May (Joe Fleskes fide JJD), and 2 that tried to fly undetected over the IOU spring convention at L. Ahquabi on 6 May made too much noise and were spotted (*LPa, BPr).
- Black-bellied Plover:** The first, in basic plumage, was seen on 11 May n. of Waterloo (FLM). The peak of 14 at Ankeny Ponds on 23 May (MD) was one of several record late dates; others were 4 at Colo Ponds on 23 May (PM, BPr), 1 at Yager Sl. on 25 May (MMB), and another in basic plumage n. of Waterloo on 28 May (FLM).
- Lesser Golden-Plover:** Many reports illustrated a normal migration pattern for this abundant species, but Hank Zaletel at Colo Ponds spotted the first (11 Apr), last (29 May), and peak number (707 on 14 May).
- Piping Plover:** IPL Pond birds were present by 25 Apr (TB, BPa), peaked at 10 on 28 May (BLW), and had 3 nests on 25 May--but one was destroyed by 30 May (BLW). In central Iowa, 1 was at Otter Creek M. on 28-29 Apr (TJS, m.ob.), and 1-3 were at Hendrickson M. on 12, 14 May (SD, EM).
- American Avocet:** 7 at L. Manawa on 14 Apr (Phil Swanson

fide TB) set an early record and 2 in SW Fremont Co. on 25 May (Carl Priebe fide BLW) tied the latest date. Others included 20 at Albion, Marshall Co., on 2 May (HZ, BPr), 1 at Sioux Center on 26 Apr (GJB), 2 at Riverton A. on 28 Apr (FLM, WRS), and 1 at Otter Creek M. on 28 Apr (RKM).

Greater Yellowlegs: 1 was early at IPL Ponds on 23 Mar (TB, BPa); a peak of 25 occurred at Sioux Center on 14 Apr (GJB); and late birds were identified in NW Cedar Co. on 14 May (THK, WRS, TJS) and at Sioux Center on 21 May (GJB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 were early on 25 Mar at Riverton A. (SD, JPSc); a peak of 100 occurred near Otter Creek M. on 14 Apr (THK, CJB, TJS); and late birds were identified in Fremont Co. on 28 May (BLW) and n. of Waterloo on 30 May (FLM).

Solitary Sandpiper: 1 was late at Hendrickson M. on 23 May (PM).

Willet: There were many more than usual from ten locations. The earliest were 6 at Hendrickson M. on 23 Apr (HZ); a peak of 64 were at IPL Ponds on 26 Apr (BLW); and the last 1 was at Cooper M. on 25 May (PM).

Upland Sandpiper: 1-7 were reported from 10 counties, which represents only a sample of this uncommon but widespread species.

Whimbrel: 1 was seen at Hendrickson M. on 12-13 May (*SD, *MMB) for the second year in a row at this location.

Hudsonian Godwit: Reports from 10 locations were spread from 2 to 28 May with a peak of 67 at Colo Ponds on 11 May (HZ). SW Iowa, which usually has the highest counts, managed only 60 on 16 May in the Missouri bottoms of Fremont Co. (THK, WRS).

Marbled Godwit: More than usual were seen with 6 at Colo Ponds on 14 Apr (BPr, m.ob.), 3 in SW Hamilton Co. on 23 Apr (Ted Eischeid fide JJD), 1 in NE Mills Co. on 24 Apr (*BLW), 1 n. of Waterloo on 2 May (*FLM), and 2 at Big M. on 2 May (BPr, et al.). The early migration of Marbled Godwits as compared to Hudsonians was quite striking this year.

Ruddy Turnstone: 2 at Hendrickson M. on 14 May (EM); 25 at Ankeny Ponds on 19 May (EuA, ELA); 6 at Willow Sl. on 20 May; and 8 in SW Fremont Co. on 24 May (THK, WRS).

Sanderling: 1-2 were seen at 4 locations and 23 were at Rathbun Res. on 19 May (RLC); the latest n. of Waterloo on 30 May was in basic plumage (FLM).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 seen well at Colo Ponds on 14 Apr (THK, CJB, TJS) is a second early date.

Western Sandpiper: None reported.

White-rumped Sandpiper: A peak of 100 were reported from SW Fremont Co. on 23 May (THK, WRS).

Baird's Sandpiper: 20 in Fremont Co. on 16 May (THK, WRS) probably under represent the commonness of this species

in W Iowa. The E and C Iowa records are more typical--1 at Colo on 22 Apr (SD, GoB) and 1 there on 23 May (PM), 3 at Otter Creek M. on 29 Apr (PCP, GI), 3 in N Madison Co. on 23 May (MD), and 1 at Nahant M. on 24 May (PCP).

Pectoral Sandpiper: No migration peak was noted.

Dunlin: 150 were at Sweet M. on 12 May (FLM, et al.) and 100 were at Goose L., Clinton Co., on 17 May (PCP, LL, DonM).

Stilt Sandpiper: The peak was 10 in Clay Co. on 23 May (THK, WRS).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 were at Ankeny Ponds on 19 May (EuA, ELA) and 31 were flying over Forney L. on 20 May (B. J. Rose fide TB). Eldon Bryant writes that this species is more than casual in the fields of Plymouth Co.; the birds fly rapidly, close to the ground, and are difficult to approach.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Good details were provided on dowitcher sightings this year. All with details will be listed: 2 at McCausland on 1 May (PCP, MLP), 2-10 at Hendrickson M. on 10, 12, 15, 17 May (PM, SD), 1-7 at Colo Ponds on 11, 15 May (BPr, MPr, PM), 40 at Goose L., Clinton Co. on 15 May (PCP), and 1 in SW Fremont Co. on 24 May (THK).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 each at Riverton A. on 25 Mar (SD, JPSc) and Willow Sl. on 29 Mar (RKM) were identified by call (I presume they were in basic plumage); alternate plumage birds were 10 at Otter Creek M. on 28 Apr (TJS), 9 at Colo Ponds on 28 Apr (HZ), 1 at McCausland on 1 May (PCP), and 1 at Hendrickson M. on 10 May (PM).

American Woodcock: 1 was displaying while there was snow on the ground in Plymouth Co. from 27 Mar on (LF).

Wilson's Phalarope: The first were at Colo Ponds on 22 Apr (SD, GoB); the peak of 400 in SW Iowa on 28 Apr (FLM, WRS) must have been impressive; 2 were still at Marble Rock on 25 May (PK).

Red-necked Phalarope: 3 were at Yager Sl. on 22 May (THK, WRS), 1 at Hendrickson M. on 25 May (HZ), 2 in Fremont Co. on 28 May (BLW), and 1 at IPL Ponds on 30 May (BLW).

Franklin's Gull: The first were at L. Manawa on 23 Mar (TB); small numbers lingered into May with 3 at Amana L. on 25 May (CJB).

Bonaparte's Gull: The first were at Marshalltown on 3 Apr (MPr fide BPr); the peak number reported was 20 at Cedar L. on 7 Apr (SD, MD); and 10 immatures on the Mississippi River in Louisa Co. on 29 May (PCP) were the latest ever by two weeks.

Ring-billed Gull: Gulls moved through early this year and were mostly gone by mid-Apr; the peak was 1,000 at Saylorville Res. on 24 Mar (SD, MD, JJD). A few first summer birds were widely scattered through May.

Caspian Tern: A record early bird was at Coralville Res. on 21 Apr (THK, TJS). Small numbers occurred across the

state throughout May except for 79 at Rathbun Res. on 19 May (RLC).

Common Tern: This difficult species was reported as follows: 1 at L. Macbride on 4 May (TJS, THK, JF); 1 n. of Waterloo on 8 May (RKM); 7 at Otter Creek M. on 14 May (TJS, THK, WRS); and 16 at Rathbun Res. on 19 May (RLC).

Forster's Tern: 50 were at Ventura M. on 19 May and 3 nests had been found by 28 May (JLH).

Least Tern: 1-2 were at IPL Ponds on 25, 28 May (TB, BLW) and near Blencoe, Monona Co., on 30 May (BLW). An E Iowa record will be referred to the Records Committee.

Black Tern: Large numbers were seen as represented by 200 at Anderson L. on 12 May (SD, GoB, MD) and 100 at Nashua on 13 May (FLM).

Ringed Turtle-Dove: Davenport observers continued to see this species throughout the period (fide PCP).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Few were reported, the first at Ledges S.P. on 12 May (BPr, MPr, PH).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Few were reported, the first at Ledges S.P. on 12 May (BPr, MPr, PH).

Common Barn-Owl: 1 was seen by many at Red Rock Res. during the IOU meeting on 5 May (*SD). In Boone Co. on 30 May an unbanded bird was captured in a barn with captive breeders (*BE).

Barred Owl: A fledgling was seen at Credit Is. on 28 Apr (PCP, MLP). One was seen near Sutherland in O'Brien Co. on 26 May (GJB).

Long-eared Owl: 3 were at Big Creek L. on 25 Mar (BPr, MPr).

Short-eared Owl: 1 in Black Hawk Co. on 12 Mar (DK); 1 at Larson M. on 23 Apr (PM); and 1 e. of Riverton A. on 28 Apr (FLM, WRS).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 at Big Creek L. on 24 Mar (HZ); 1 at Orange City on 28 Mar (GJB); and 1 at Willow Sl. on 30-31 Mar (RKM, FLM, m. ob.).

Common Nighthawk: The earliest was at Keokuk on 2 May (RCe).

Chuck-will's-widow: 3 at Waubonsie S.P. on 16 May (THK, WRS) were the only ones reported.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 3 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 27 Apr (JPSa) tie the second earliest.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Several were still in Cherokee on 21 May (DBi).

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 was at Grammar Grove P., Marshall Co., on 4 May (BPr, et al.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Peak was 5 on 26 May in Mills Co. (BLW).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Birds were recorded at Ames on 24, 27 and 28 May with peak of 7 (all heard) on 27 May (PM). Other reports were from Johnson Co. on 18 and 22 May (TJS) and Davenport on 21 May (PCP).

Acadian Flycatcher: 1 was at Ames on 28 May (PM). Others

were reported from 3 usual E Iowa haunts.

Alder Flycatcher: 1 was early at Weise Sl. on 17 May (PCP, LL, DonM); 3 birds were in Iowa City on 22 May (TJS). Reports from C Iowa included 23 May at Pine L. (BPr, et al.) and 2 in Marshall Co. on 25 May (BPr).

Willow Flycatcher: The peak was 10 at Muskrat Sl. in Jones Co. on 26 May (TJS).

Least Flycatcher: This species showed up on record early dates with singles at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 27 Apr (JPSa) and ~~28 Apr~~ at Cone M. (THK).

Say's Phoebe: Birds were present last year, but none could be found in usual location in Plymouth Co. this May; however, a severe hail storm in late April killed several birds in the area and could have affected the phoebes (EJB).

Western Kingbird: 1 in Dallas Co. (EuA, ELA) and 2 in Fremont Co. (FLM, WRS) on 28 Apr were very early; 1 at Red Rock Res. on 5 May (TJS) was away from ^{the} usual SW Iowa range.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 1 was in Wayne Co. on 4 May (Robert Jackson fide JJD). An adult was killed by a cat on 8 May at Milford in Dickinson Co. and another was seen by the landowner (DCH).

Purple Martin: 1 on 6 Apr was ~~described as~~ ^{the} latest local first arrival date ever (DDM).

Cliff Swallow: Arrived in Iowa City very early this year with 3 on 23 Apr (TJS) and 10 on 26 Apr (RJH).

Barn Swallow: New third earliest records were from Cedar L. (SD, MD) and Cone M. (MCN) on 7 Apr.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: The peak was 5 in Scott Co. on 11 May (PCP); 1 at Swaledale on 19 May (LG) was very late.

Brown Creeper: The latest report was from White Pine Hollow on 20 May (L. and C. Blevins fide PCP).

Rock Wren: The first report since 1958 for this accidental species came from NW Woodbury Co. on 21 May (*THK, *WRS). See separate article.

Carolina Wren: 1 was in Hickory Hill P. Iowa City from 24 Apr to 11 May (TJS, THK). Another showed up in SW Iowa at Waubonsie S. ~~(P.)~~ on 22 May (TB, BPa).

Bewick's Wren: Reports of this casual species included singles at Oakville, Louisa Co., on 2 May (PCP), and at Waubonsie S. ~~(P.)~~ on 24 May (*TB, *BPa). An additional record from 1983 was of a bird seen ^{late} Jun and Jul near Wapello in Louisa Co. (*BO).

Winter Wren: The peak was 7 at Iowa City on 20 Apr (TJS).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 15 were in Appanoose Co. on 15 Apr (RLC); 1 was late on 2 May in Ames (PM).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 on 29 Apr at Elkhart, Polk Co., was described as first ever local record (DDM). Nesting birds were reported from Waubonsie S. ~~(P.)~~ (TB, BPa, SK) and from Johnson Co. (TJS).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: 4 at Ames on 28 May (PM) were late.

- Swainson's Thrush:** First arrival was 27 Apr in Van Buren Co. (JPSa); 1 at Cardinal M. on 28 May (FLM) was late.
- Hermit Thrush:** The peak was 12 at Ames on 12 Apr (PM).
- Varied Thrush:** The bird wintering in Fairmont Cemetery, Davenport, stayed until 19 Apr (Bill LaFrenz fide PCP), a second latest date.
- Gray Catbird:** Singles arrived early in Story Co. on 29 Apr (EM) and in Mills Co. on 30 Apr (BLW).
- Northern Mockingbird:** The only reports were from Muscatine and Cherokee Counties during May.
- Water Pipit:** 30 were noted at Doolittle Prairie on 8 Apr. (EMu); 5 were late on 11 May in Scott Co. (PCP).
- Northern Shrike:** 1 was reported from Cherokee on 13 Mar (MMB).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** 2 adults and a nest with 4 eggs were discovered on 5 May in Warren Co. (SD, MD).
- White-eyed Vireo:** Reports came from 4 locations: Scott Co. on 28 Apr (PCP, MLP), Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 12 May (JPSa), near Cone M. on 19 May (TJS, CJB), and Poweshiek Co. on 24 May (DK).
- Bell's Vireo:** 1 at Forney L. on 2 May (TB, BPa) ties the 2nd earliest record. Another at Ames on 5 May (*PM) was also early.
- Solitary Vireo:** This species was found both coming and going at Ames (PM) with 1 early on 27 Apr, a peak of 10 on 10 May, and 1 on 28 May to tie the 2nd latest date.
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** 1 at Ames on 28 Apr (SD) ties the 3rd earliest.
- Warbling Vireo:** 1 in Iowa City on 26 Apr (TJS) ties the 2nd earliest, and 2 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa) ties the 3rd early date.
- Philadelphia Vireo:** Reports were from C and EC Iowa from 12 May at Ames (SD, MD, GoB) to 26 May at Ames (PM).
- Red-eyed Vireo:** A single bird at Ames on 27 Apr (PM) is a 2nd early record date.
- Blue-winged Warbler:** A 2nd early record bird showed up at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 28 Apr (JPSa); 5 were at same location on 20 May (RLC).
- Tennessee Warbler:** 2 were early migrants at Ames on 28 Apr (PM).
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** 9 were still at Ames on 15 May (PM).
- Nashville Warbler:** 2 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 27 Apr (JPSa) were very early; 12 were still at Ames on 18 May (PM).
- Northern Parula:** 15 arrived at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. by 27 Apr (JPSa); SW Iowa reports were 2 in Mills Co. on 21 May and 1 in Fremont Co. on 28 May (BLW).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 2 at Ames on 28 May (PM) were late for migrating birds.
- Magnolia Warbler:** The last report was from Ames on 28 May (PM).

Cape May Warbler: All reports were from 10 to 17 May with single birds in Johnson (TJS), Marshall (MPr), Bremer (RKM, FLM, RuH) and Hardin (BPr, MPr) counties.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: The first was at DeSoto NWR on 7 Apr (GJB). A bird of Audubon's race with a yellow throat was noted at DeSoto NWR on 26 Apr (TB, BPa, SK). In general, the peak migration was late and most arrived with the other warblers after 10 May (THK). ✓

Black-throated Green Warbler: A 2nd early record date was set with 1 at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 14 Apr (PCP, CBl). Other early reports were 4 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa) and 1 in Iowa City (TJS) on 27 Apr.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Reports included the usual spots in Van Buren and Boone Counties; 1 was also in Polk Co. on 22 May (MD). This species is regular along the Des Moines River valley.

Pine Warbler: Documented reports were 1 early bird in Marshall Co. on 28 Apr (*BPr), 1 at L. Macbride on 4 May (*THK, *TJS), and a new record late date in Ames on 24 May (*PM). Another bird was in Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 5 May (JPSa).

Cerulean Warbler: 1 at Oakville, Louisa Co., on 2 May (PCP) ties the 3rd early record date.

Black-and-white Warbler: The latest report was 1 at Ames on 26 May (PM).

Prothonotary Warbler: Noted at 6 locations in C and E Iowa from 4 to 15 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: Reports were from usual locales at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Amana Woods, and Wildcat Den S.P. Other records were 28 Apr in Ames (PM) and 20 May in Iowa City (TJS).

Louisiana Waterthrush: The peak was 6 at Ledges S.P. on 12 May (SD, GBro, MD); other locations were Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa), Wildcat Den S.P. (PCP), Amana Woods (CJB), Hickory Hill, Warren Co (MCN), Dudgeon P. (FLM, RKM), and Nashua (FLM). G.B

Kentucky Warbler: Noted at 5 locations after 12 May including 1 in Waubonsie S.P. on 22, 24 May (TB, BPa).

Connecticut Warbler: All reports were from E Iowa: 1 in Cedar Co. on 12 May (JPSa), 1-2 in Iowa City from 20 to 27 May (TJS, THK), and 1 in George Wyth S.P. on 27 May (FLM).

Mourning Warbler: 1 in Appanoose Co. on 13 May (RC) was the earliest this year. Others were 24 May at Waubonsie S.P. (BPa, TB), a peak of 4 on 27 May at George Wyth S.P. (FLM), and the last on 28 May with 2 at Ames (PM) and 2 in Marshall Co. (BPr, MPr).

Hooded Warbler: 1-2 were back in the Amana Woods after 12 May (CJB, FLM, RKM). An excellent color photo was taken of 1 of 2 males at Ames on 28 Apr (*JAH). Two reports came from 18 May with 1 at Sweet M. (RKM) and 1 at Wildcat Den S.P. (CJB).

- Wilson's Warbler:** 2 were late migrants in Ames on 27 May (PM).
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** 1 discovered during IOU convention in Warren Co. on 5 May (MCN) turned out to be a 2nd early record date. Reports from seven C and E Iowa locations ranged from 13 May at Hendrickson M. (BPr, MPr) to 26 May at Yellow River F. (FLM, RKM).
- Summer Tanager:** An immature bird showed up at a suet feeder in Storm Lake on 30 Apr and stayed for 4 days (*MrsPT). Also in NW Iowa, there was an immature male near Spirit L. on 12 May (DCH). Another frequented the IOU convention headquarters at Lake Ahquabi S.P. on 4-5 May and was seen by many (JJD, HZ, SD). Other reports were 3 May at Davenport (Gary Inhelder fide PCP), 10 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 11 May in Black Hawk Co. (FLM), and up to 6 in Waubesa S.P. on 24 May (TB, BPa).
- Blue Grosbeak:** None reported away from Fremont Co.
- Indigo Bunting:** The 2nd early record date of 28 Apr was tied twice: 2 females at Preparation Canyon (BPa, LPa) and 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa).
- Rufous-sided Towhee:** A female of the spotted race banded during winter in Mills Co. was last seen 9 May (BLW).
- Chipping Sparrow:** The peak was 100 in Ames on 10 May (PM).
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** 7 were in with flock of 100 Chipping Sparrows in Ames on 10 May (PM); 1-3 were noted in Iowa City on 11 May (TJS, THK), and several appeared in Hamilton Co. on 12 May (SD, GoB, MD).
- Lark Sparrow:** Noted at 8 locations with 12 in SW Iowa on 28 Apr (FLM, WRS) and 8 at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 17 May (PCP, LL, DonM).
- Lark Bunting:** An extensive search turned up 1 male in SW Sioux Co. on 24 May (*THK, *WRS).
- Savannah Sparrow:** 2 reports tie for the new 2nd earliest record: 1 in NE Mills Co. from 17 to 20 Mar (*BLW) and another at Rathbun Res. on 17 Mar (RLC).
- Henslow's Sparrow:** There were three reports for this rare species: 6 males in Sperry Township, Clayton Co., on 20 May (*DE), 2-3 singing birds in Warren Co. on 26 May (*DE), and 1 heard at Hayden Prairie on 28 May (FLM).
- Le Conte's Sparrow:** 1-3 were at 9 scattered locations including late birds on 14 May at Sweet M. (FLM, RKM), and Muskrat Sl. (TJS, THK, WRS).
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** A delayed report from 29 May 1978 at Cardinal M. (*FLM) ties the 2nd latest.
- Fox Sparrow:** First report was 15 Mar at Saylorville Res. (SD); 1 at Red Rock Res. on 6 May (THK, CJB) was a record late date by almost 2 weeks.
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** Record 2nd and 3rd early dates were 14 Apr in Mills Co. (BLW) and 20 Apr in Iowa City (TJS). The last report was 20 May in Fremont Co. (THK, WRS).
- White-throated Sparrow:** First migrant was 1 Apr in Ames (PM) and the last was 26 May at Muskrat Sl. (TJS, CJB).

- White-crowned Sparrow:** 1 at Larchwood on 28 Apr was the first at that feeder in 12 years (DCH). Another was late in Pottawattamie Co. on 20 May (THK, WRS).
- Harris' Sparrow:** Passed through Cherokee Co. in big numbers with 60 on 9 May (MMB) and 40 on 14 May (DBi).
- Dark-eyed Junco:** The last was in Ames on 6 May (PM).
- Lapland Longspur:** Reported in large numbers in C and EC Iowa with 1,000 in Grundy Co. on 7 March (BPr), 1,000 in Hardin Co. on 14 Mar (BPr), and 1,300 in Muscatine and Johnson counties on 18 Mar (THK). In Story Co., 500 were noted on 15 Apr and the last 1 was still there on 22 Apr (SD, GoB).
- Smith's Longspur:** This species might jump straight from accidental to regular on the Iowa list with the following records: 2-10 on 29-31 Mar in Montgomery and Page counties (*RKM), 30-70 on 19 Apr in Johnson Co. in same location as last year (*THK, *TJS), 30-40 on 22 Apr in Story Co. (*SD, *GoB), and 30 very late birds in Johnson Co. on 7 May (*TJS).
- Snow Bunting:** The 1 bird in Butler Co. on 24 Mar (FLM) probably didn't realize it was the 3rd latest on record.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Single birds during May in Floyd (PK), Plymouth (THK, WRS), and Clay (MMB) counties were in NC and NW Iowa where Western Meadowlarks predominate.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 1 showed up early in Clinton Co. on 19 Apr (PCP, LL); 10 were near Ankeny on 15 May (DDM); and 50 females were still migrating at Forney L. on 24 May (THK, WRS).
- Rusty Blackbird:** 1 female at Cone M. on 28 Apr (THK) and 2 at New Albin on 21 Apr (DK, JPSc) are the 2nd and 3rd latest.
- Brewer's Blackbird:** 10 at IPL Ponds on 11 Mar (*BP, LPa) were the first this year; 10-12 were at Cone M. on 31 Mar-1 Apr (THK, CJB, TJS), and the last were 30 at Willow Sl. on 14 Apr (BLW).
- Great-tailed Grackle:** This advancing species of the Southwest made a big leap eastward in Iowa--a pair was found at Finn Pond in Greene Co. on 17 May (*MiB); a nest there contained four young on 31 May (JJD). A male at Riverton A. on 15 May (*THK) was in same area that birds nested last year.
- Orchard Oriole:** 2 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 27 Apr (JPSc) are the 2nd earliest record. Reports came from 8 other scattered locations with a high of 10 in Cherokee Co. on 13-20 May (MMB).
- Northern Oriole:** 1 on 28 Apr in Keokuk (RCe) was early.
- Purple Finch:** Northwest Iowa observers were impressed by 30 in Kossuth Co. on 3 May (RodS) and 17 at Larchwood on 7 May (DCH); 3-5 were still in Sioux Co. on 11 May (GJB).
- Pine Siskin:** Small numbers lingered through May at various locations; 8 were still at Fairmount Cemetery in Davenport and had been seen carrying nesting materials in

late Mar and early Apr (GH fide PCP).

Evening Grosbeak: 1 in Middle Amana on 12 May (Leroy Trumpold fide CJB) is a 2nd latest date; another was at Liscomb until 9 May (BPr). Other May sightings were a male in Davenport on 5 May (GH fide PCP) and 1 in Keokuk on 1 May (fide RCe).

CONTRIBUTORS

* = documentation only)

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COMMENT

More data was received ~~than ever before~~ ^{additional} from 38 contributors (who were aided in the field by 16 other observers) and 21 additional persons who contributed documentations of rare sightings. ~~In addition~~ ²¹ there are 'fide' reports from 21 observers. I might not have survived the season if it were not for the help of Carl Bendorf in compiling the data and writing the report. This was facilitated by our having similar home computers. The contributors were also of enormous help, as all had their reports to me by June 3.

.il 3; We entered ~~about 1,300~~ ^{1,084} sightings (about 80 percent of that submitted) into the computer for sorting, and this produced 25 pages of data in small type. The 116 documentations, involving 40 species, exemplifies the seriousness of Iowa birders. We were glad to hear from new contributors Robert Cecil of Keokuk, Eric Munson of Ames, and Rod Schmidt of Burt (that's in Kossuth Co. near Union Sl. NWR).

.il 3; The total number of species seen in 1983 (see last report) can now be corrected to ~~xx~~ ²⁹¹. Say's Phoebe was seen in its usual location by Eldon Bryant and a Ferruginous Hawk record was accepted by the Records Committee (see report in this issue).

.il 3; This report ends my fifth year as Field Reports Editor. Nick Halmi told me, as he turned the job over to me, that I would get tired of it. He was right if he meant that the task is large and must be done under pressure in a short period of time--I have ceased looking forward to doing the next report. He was wrong if he meant that it would get boring--each period brings interesting new information and enjoyable communications from friends all over Iowa. I have also enjoyed working with Regional Editors for .bd; American Birds

Vernon Kleen and Bruce Peterjohn.

.il 3; In spite of the enjoyment the task has brought me, I decided in March that it would be best not to continue to the point that the job became overburdening and my efforts stereotyped. My feeling that there were plenty of others willing and capable of compiling the Field Reports was confirmed when our editor, Pete Petersen, was able to line ^{up} the following to take over.

.sk;		
.br;	summer:	Jim Dinsmore
.br;	fall:	Mike Newlon
.br;	winter:	Ross Silcock
.br;	spring:	Tom Kent
.sk;		

.il 3; Looking back over five years of Field Reports, I see that the volume of information has increased ~~and the number of contributors listed~~ ^{has steadily risen from an average of 32 per report in 1980 to 45 in 1983.} A number of species are being found with more regularity because observers know where and how to find them. The number of birds seen in Iowa by various individuals (as published in .bd; Birding) has risen rapidly and 10 species have been added to the state list.

.il 3; Some of the more challenging aspects of the Field Reports for me have been the development of systems for handling and analyzing large amounts of data, learning how to provide camera-ready manuscript (thus eliminating proof-reading and the cost of type-setting), learning about the birding areas of Iowa, and trying to get to know as many of the contributors as

possible. Making decisions about which data to include will invariably displease some, especially if there is an element of doubt concerning identification. I thank all of you who have tolerated my skeptical manner and apologize for omissions based on my ignorance of the importance of some sightings. I would like to thank Pete Petersen for asking me to do the Field Reports, letting me do it the way I desired, and providing helpful suggestions. My greatest thanks must go to the contributors, who make the Field Reports from their field reports and who ^{also} make good friends.

.il 3; I hope the new crew will bring new innovations to the Field Reports and a continued increase in contributors.

.il 3; Mail summer reports by August 1 to:

.sk; James J. Dinsmore
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.br; Iowa State University
.br; Ames, Iowa 50011

Jim Sandbrook's weather analysis has ~~not only~~ made this information more complete and saved me a lot of effort. Donna Sandbrook, Carl Bendorf, Rich Hollis and

Tom Standt have helped with typing the compiling of data.

generously helped by typing several reports.