

## FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1987

ROBERT K. MYERS

### WEATHER

Spring 1987 was, in general, warm and dry, continuing a pattern begun in December 1986. March and April were unseasonably warm with but a few cold days recorded during each month. Precipitation in March was nearly 50 percent above normal, with record amounts recorded in the Northwest (e.g., 5.9 inches at Sioux City). Late March snows amounted to 16 inches at Logan, 15 inches at Denison, and 12 inches at Pocahontas and Castana. Southeast Iowa experienced little or no snow throughout the period. April was unusually warm, dry, and sunny, as was May until late in the month when record rains struck southeast Iowa with catastrophic results. The East and West Nishnabotna rivers and their tributaries flowed well over flood stage as rains deposited up to 5 inches in a twenty-four hour period. Subsequent rains of over 7 inches on 26 May added to the misery. Page, Fremont, Montgomery, and Mills counties were declared disaster areas by the Governor. (Weather data prepared by Jim Sandrock.)

### GENERAL TRENDS

Hot, dry, and windy spring weather produced many comments like "worst migration in years", "no warblers at all", and "what happened to the migrants?". The lack-luster showing by many of our migrants can probably be traced to the lack of weather fronts moving across the state during peak migration times. These fronts will typically bunch up the migrants and hold them down where birders can find them. The warm spring also caused trees to leaf out very early. Add hot, windy days

to fully leafed trees and throw in scattered migrants and you have a recipe for very difficult birding.

Not all contributors were complaining, however. Francis Moore found 24 species of warblers on 14 May, and Jim Sinclair reported 21 warblers on 11 May. These were excellent tallies for this spring. Several observers commented that their year lists were actually of normal numbers to the end of May but were represented by fewer individuals.

#### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

While many of us were yawning and complaining about the ho-hum spring, there were some birders out there finding some very interesting birds. Five accidental species were reported: Barrow's Goldeneye, Mississippi Kite, Black Rail, Great Black-Backed Gull, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow. Reports of accidentals have been referred to the Records Committee for evaluation. Casual species included Red-necked Grebe, Whimbrel, Black-legged Kittiwake, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, Great-tailed Grackle, and House Finch. Other rare but regular species reported included Western Grebe, Snowy Egret, Cinnamon Teal, Oldsquaw, Peregrine Falcon, Yellow Rail, King Rail, Sandhill Crane, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Smith's Longspur.

#### SPECIES DATA

##### \* documented

Common Loon: 1 at Red Rock Res. on 8 Mar (JSi) is a record early date. Others were early on 26 Mar with 1 at Little Wall L. (BPr) and 3 in Appanoose Co. on 26 Mar (RLC). The last was 1 at Rathbun Res. on 31 May (TNJ).



Pied-billed Grebe: The first were in Lucas Co. on 7 Mar (JSi) and at Cone M. on 8 Mar (PW).

Horned Grebe: First report was 1 at New Lake, Woodbury Co., on 27 Mar (\*BL). The peak was 14 at Cedar L. on 4 Apr (TJS). Others were 6 at Pickrel L. on 14 Apr (MMB), 3 in Iowa Co. on 15 Apr (CJB), and 1 at IPL Ponds on 18 Apr (BP, LPa).

Red-necked Grebe: The only report was 1 at Sweet Marsh on 12 May (\*THK, \*FLM). This is the third latest record.

Eared Grebe: All reports were of 1 or 2 birds and were from C and W Iowa. The first was 1 at Hendrickson M. on 23 Mar (NAK). The last was 1 at New Lake on 31 May (FLM, RKM, THK).

Western Grebe: 2 at Marble L. on 8 May (MMB) was the only report.

American White Pelican: 6 at Runnells G.A. on 14 Mar (JSi) are the third earliest. All other reports were between 15 Apr and 23 Apr with peaks of 90 at L. Manawa on 15 Apr (TB) and 100 at Ventura M. on 17 Apr (Dawn Strait fide JLH). ✓

Double-crested Cormorant: First was 1 at Otter Creek M. on 7 Apr (PW). The peak was 100 at Otter Creek M. on 16 Apr (NAK). <sup>TM</sup> Last report was of 6 at Sioux Center on 14 May (JV). The peak of 900 at Red Rock (IBL 57:14) was on 26 Oct, not 14 Oct 1986. ✓

American Bittern: Seven reports of 1 to 4 birds were received from all over Iowa; 1 in Lee Co. on 28 Mar (RCe) is a second early date. One was also early at Otter Creek M. on 16 Apr (JF).

Least Bittern: 1 was at Otter Creek M. on 10 May (THK). Another was reported at Goose L., Clinton Co., on 16 May (PCP). <sup>TM</sup> Last report was 1 at Forney L. on 31 May (BP, LPa).

Great Blue Heron: 1 at Coralville Res. on 2 Mar (PW) was the first; 1 was also early at Princeton M. on 6 Mar (PCP). The rookery just south of Saylorville Res. had 20 active nests in May (RKM).

Great Egret: 1 near State Center on 4 Apr (HZ) was the first. Peaks were 11 at Hendrickson M. on 12 Apr (PM, MPr) and 9 at Coralville Res. on 10 May (THK).

Snowy Egret: Details were supplied for 1 near Albion on 20 Apr (MPr) and for 1 in Fremont Co. on 27 Apr (TB, BPa, LPa).

Little Blue Heron: <sup>me</sup> First report was 1 at Otter Creek M. on 19 Apr (PCP). Others were 1 in Fremont Co. on 25 Apr (BPa, LPa), 3 at Otter Creek M. on 25 Apr (JF), 2 in Fremont Co. on 2 May (TB), and 1 at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 23 May (PCP).

Cattle Egret: 11 reports were received, usually of 1 to 3 birds. The first was 1 near Iowa City on 18 Apr (JF); <sup>me</sup> peak was 6 in Fremont Co. on 27 Apr. (TB); <sup>and</sup> the last was 3 at Rathbun Res. on 14 May (TNJ). The peak of 71 on 2 Aug 1986, at Forney L. (IBL 57:14) was actually 45 near Forney L. and 26 at Council Bluffs.

Green-backed Heron: <sup>me</sup> Only report was 1 near Marshalltown on 23 Apr (MPr). Are we just not reporting this little heron or is it becoming difficult to find?

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Many reports were received. First was 1 at Cone M. on 9 Apr (PCP). <sup>me</sup> Peak and <sup>last</sup> late report was of a rookery containing 25 ~~to 30~~ pairs at Jemmerson Sl. on 28 May (DCH).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: <sup>me</sup> First report was of 3 from Fremont Co. on 27 Apr (TB). Others were 2 at Cone M. on 10 May (THK, FLM), 1 at Otter Creek M. on 10 May (THK, FLM), and 1 in Dallas Co. on 20 May

(MPr). Up to 6 were seen throughout May near Saylorville Res.  
(RKM).

Ibis Species: After a banner year in 1986, including nesting, no reports were received this spring.

Tundra Swan: All reported sightings were from 31 Mar to 7 Apr in C and E Iowa. The peak was 70 at Pool 9, Allamakee Co., on 4 Apr (FL).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Three reports were from E Iowa: 10 at Cone M. on 12 Mar (JF); 1 at Princeton M. on 4 Apr (PCP), and 1 in Appanoose Co. on 26 Apr (RLC).

Snow Goose: Only two reports: 300 at Rathbun Res. on 6 Mar (TNJ), and 4 still in Woodbury Co. on 31 May (RKM).

Ross' Goose: 1 was seen in Cherokee from 28 Apr to 4 May (\*DBi, MMB).

Wood Duck: <sup>me</sup> Largest number was 63 in Iowa Co. on 3 Apr (CJB).

Green-winged Teal: The first and peak was 230 at Cone M. on 20 Mar (TJS).

American Black Duck: 2 were at Hendrickson M. on 4 Mar (MPr) and 2 were at Cone M. on 8 Mar (PW).

Northern Pintail: Young hatched at Ventura M. on 31 May (JLH).

Blue-winged Teal: <sup>me</sup> First report was 1 at Otter Creek M. on 8 Mar (MPr).

Cinnamon Teal: 1 male was seen near Ventura M. from 25 Mar to 2 Apr (JLH). Another male was in Fremont Co. on 26 Apr (BJR, RKM).

Northern Shoveler: One brood and a second nest were found at McIntosh W.A. on 30 May (JLH).

Gadwall: <sup>me</sup> First reports were of 10 at Princeton M. on 6 Mar (PCP) and 20 at Cone M. on 8 Mar (PW); 1 was in Woodbury Co. on 29 May (THK).



American Wigeon: <sup>1st</sup> First reports were 20 at Princeton M. on 6 Mar (PCP) and 1 at Cone M. on 8 Mar (PW); 1 was at Otter Creek M. on 4 May (NAK).

Canvasback: The peak count was 2,500 at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 20 Mar (DCH).

Redhead: <sup>1st</sup> First report was 4 at Princeton M. on 6 Mar (PCP).

Ring-necked Duck: The <sup>1st</sup> early report was 1 at Princeton M. on 6 Mar (PCP). Several were still present in May as shown by 1 in Iowa Co. on 14 May (CJB) and 1 in Woodbury Co. on 29 May (THK).

Greater Scaup: The first were 8 at Liscomb on 4 Mar (\*MPr). Details were given for 1 at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 10 Mar (PCP), 1 at Weise Sl. on 17 Mar (PCP), and 1 in Johnson Co. on 21 Apr (CJB).

Oldsquaw: Only reports were 1 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Mar (EuA) and 1 at Saylorville Res. on 5 Apr (RKM).

White-winged Scoter: 1 was at DeSoto N.W.R. on 14 Mar (\*ASF).

Common Goldeneye: A male was still at Sweet M. on 12 and 14 May (THK, FLM, RKM).

Barrow's Goldeneye: <sup>1st</sup> A report will be reviewed by the Records Committee.

Hooded Merganser: 1 was early at Otter Creek M. on 11 Mar (NAK). A female with 3 young was found at Otter Creek M. on 24 May (NAK). The peak was 9 in Appanoose Co. on 21 Mar (RLC).

Common Merganser: 2 were still at IPL Ponds on 9 May (TB).

Red-breasted Merganser: The most reported were 14 at Pickrel L. on 14 Apr (MMB) and 20 at L. Manawa on 15 Apr (TB); the last were at Coralville Res. on 7 May (JF).

Ruddy Duck: Peak was 45 at L. Manawa on 15 Apr (TB).

Turkey Vulture: 2 in Shimek F. on 5 Mar (JF) are a second earliest record; 1 in Warren Co. on 7 Mar (JSi) and 1 in Lee Co. on 7 Mar (CFP\*) are the third earliest.

Osprey: 7 of 8 reports were of single birds; the peak was 4 at Pine Lake S.P. on 21 Apr (MPr).

Mississippi Kite: A report has been referred to the Records Committee.

Bald Eagle: 11 reports received spanned all of Iowa. Peak count was 63 at L. Manawa on 2 Mar (BP<sub>a</sub>, LP<sub>a</sub>). Four including an adult on a nest were found at Pool 9 on 4 Apr (FL); 2 adults and 2 immatures were seen at a nest near Bellevue on 19 May (PCP).

Northern Harrier: There were several May sightings. A nest was found at Williams Prairie, Johnson Co. (Bud Gode fide THK); 2 found at Hayden Prairie on 25 May (FLM) also indicated probable nesting.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: <sup>1st</sup> First report was 1 at LeClaire on 6 Mar (PCP). Peak count was 10 at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 14 Apr (PCP). There were few reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 4 were found in three locations in Stevens F. on 12-14 Apr (DRe). All exhibited nesting behavior and 2 nests were found. Two were found at Waubonsie S.P. on 18 Apr (BP<sub>a</sub>, LP<sub>a</sub>), and 1 was at Boone Co. on 20 Apr (MPr).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 was seen at Credit Island on 10 and 11 May (PCP) <sup>1 and</sup> 1 was at Sweet M. on 12 May (THK, FLM). A late winter report was 2 at Coralville on 28 Feb (TJS).

Broad-winged Hawk: There were few reports: 4 were at Big Creek S.P. on 20 Apr (MPr) <sup>^</sup> and 23 in Marshall Co. on 27 Apr (BPr).

Swainson's Hawk: <sup>me</sup> First report was 2 in Mills Co. on 17 Apr (BLW).

Others included 2 at Big M. on 18 Apr (MPr), 1 at Riverton A. on



21 Apr (BPa, BJR), 2 in Lyon Co. on 30 Apr (DCH), and 2 in George Wyth S.P. at a nest on 12 May (THK, FLM).

Rough-legged Hawk: The last were 2 at Otter Creek M. on 12 Apr (NAK).

American Kestrel: 22 were found in 2.5 hrs. in Marhsall Co. on 18 Mar (MPr). A partial albino was found in Marshall Co. on 11 Apr (MPr).

Merlin: 1 was early near Sioux Center on 27 Mar (\*JV). Other reports were 1, with details, at Otter Creek M. on 11 Apr (FLM), 1 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Apr (\*MPr), and 1 at Grammer Grove P. on 3 May (\*MPr).

Peregrine Falcon: 1 was reported with details near Cedar Rapids on 7 Mar (Bart Ballard fide SD). Two very late reports were 1 in Madison Co. on 23 May (EuA) and 1 at Bay's Branch on 24 May (EIA). These are first and second late dates.

[Bob, were the late dates documented. If not, I think we should all adopt the policy of not recording new record dates of somewhat difficult to identify species without convincing

evidence. tk] *[Tom - I talked to Gene A. about the two sightings. He was positive about the ID but he said if they had to be documented to leave them out. I included them because I believe the Armstrongs can ID Peregrines but a policy is a policy so leave them out if you like]*

Wild Turkey: 11 were reported in Allamakee Co. on 4 Apr (FL).

Northern Bobwhite: Several reports were from NW Iowa: 5 were calling in W Sioux Co. on 2 May (JV) and 2 were in NW Lyon Co. on 27 May (DCH). One was found in Page Co. in early May incubating a nest containing 16 quail and 4 pheasant eggs (BLW).

Yellow Rail: <sup>W</sup> Only report was 1 at Snake Creek M., Greene Co., on 5 May (RKM). Details were included.



Black Rail: A report is referred to Records Committee.

King Rail: 1 was heard at Otter Creek M. on 10 May (\*THK, FLM).

Another was heard near Weise Sl. on 11 May (\*PCP).

Virginia Rail: 10 (1 adult and 9 young) were seen at Big Wall L. on 23 May (MPr).

<sup>pe</sup>  
Sora: Peak was 17 at the Marion St. M. in Marshalltown on 23 Apr (MPr).

Common Moorhen: 1 was at Princeton M. on 11 May (PCP); another was at Forney L. on 31 May (BP<sub>a</sub>, LP<sub>a</sub>).

American Coot: 1 partially albino coot was first noted at Lakin Sl. on 28 Mar (RKM).

Sandhill Crane: 2 were reported from Ventura M. on 15 Apr (Ted LaGrange and Toobl Von Ehwegen fide JLH).

Black-bellied Plover: Most were seen between 11 May and 14 May. The peak was 25 in Ames on 12 May (ASF).

Lesser Golden-Plover: 1 at Runnells G.A. on 14 Mar (JSi) is a second earliest; 1 at Cone M. on 20 Mar (TJS) ties the third early date.

Peak was 700 at Goose L., Clinton Co., on 11 May (PCP).

Semipalmated Plover: The first was at Amana L. on 21 Apr (CJB). <sup>pe</sup> Peak was 40 at Otter Creek M. on 17 May (NAK).

Piping Plover: IPL Ponds had 2 nests this spring (BLW); 1-3 were seen at Saylorville Res. during May (MPr, RKM). Three at IPL Ponds on 3 Aug 1986 (IBL 57:16) were actually seen on 2 Aug.

Killdeer: First spring report was 55 at Cone M. on 4 Mar (TJS). A late winter report had 1 in Sioux Co. on 26 Feb (JV).

American Avocet: <sup>pe</sup> Only report was 1 at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 8 May (MMB).

*What about these in Wading Co?*

Tom: Although I knew those birds were there, no one reported them and I didn't personally see them. So I left them out. Perhaps we could include a sentence such as: "Several were seen at the IPS Ponds near Sioux City throughout May (misc.)."

Greater Yellowlegs: The first was at Runnells G.A. on 21 Mar (JSi).

Lesser Yellowlegs: <sup>me</sup> First were 2 at Cone M. on 20 Mar (TJS). The peak was 1,500 at Riverton on 9 May (BPa, LPa).

Solitary Sandpiper: 4 were a little early in Marshalltown on 23 Apr (MPr).

Willet: 2 were at Amana L. on 26 Apr (THK, CJB), 1 was at Sweet M. on 12 May (THK), and 2 were at Clear L. on 6 May (Ted LaGrange fide JLH).

Spotted Sandpiper: Peak count was 12 in Iowa Co. on 14 May (CJB).

Upland Sandpiper: Eight reports listed 1 to 6 birds. Peak counts were 5 at South Amana on 6 May (JF) and 6 in Sioux Co. in mid-May (JV).

Whimbrel: 1 was in Fremont Co. on 25 and 26 Apr (\*MPr, RKM, BPa, LPa, BJR (photos)).

Hudsonian Godwit: <sup>me</sup> First report was 1 at Coralville Res. on 9 May (PW). Peak numbers were 17 at Rush L., Palo Alto Co., on 16 May (MMB) and 15 at Bay's Branch on 11 May (JSi).

Marbled Godwit: <sup>me</sup> Only report was 1 at Bay's Branch on 11 May (JSi).

Ruddy Turnstone: The first were 2 at Cone M. on 14 May (THK). The peak was 29 at Saylorville Res. on 31 May (EM).

Sanderling: <sup>me</sup> Only reports were 1 at Saylorville Res. on 20 May (MPr) and 2 at Bay's Branch on 22 May (RKM). The peak of 49 on 11 Sep 1986 (IBL 57:16) was at Saylorville Res., not Big Creek L.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 10 were still in Plymouth Co. on 31 May (THK).

Western Sandpiper: Three reports were received with details: 2 at Otter Creek M. on 6 May (MPr), 1 at Credit Island on 15 May (PCP), and 2 at Credit Island on 19 May (PCP).



**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Peak counts were only 10 at Credit Island on 15 May (PCP) and 10 at New Lake on 31 May (THK). This species is often reported by the 100's in SW Iowa.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Most reports were from mid-May. The first was 4 in Fremont Co. on 25 Apr (MPr). The peak was 35 at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 12 May (DCH).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 1 at Cone M. on 7 Mar (PW) is the third earliest. Others were early with 66 at Cone M. on 20 Mar (TJS) and 16 at Runnells W.A. on 21 Mar (JSi).<sup>re</sup> Peak was 500 at Riverton<sup>A.</sup> on 9 May (BPa, LPa).

**Dunlin:** All reports were from mid-May, but few were reported; three reports of singles plus one report of 8 at Cone M. on 11 May (JF) were all that were received.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** 1 was in Appanoose Co. on 16 May (RLC) and another at Credit Island on 17 May (PCP).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** None were reported.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 4 identified by call at McCausland on 30 Apr (PCP) are a third earliest record. Peak was 25 at Sweet M. on 12 May (THK). Almost all reports were supported by details.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Details were provided for 1 at Runnells on 26 Apr (JSi) and for 4 at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 9 May (JV).

**Common Snipe:**<sup>re</sup> First report was 18 at Cone M. on 22 Mar (THK). The peak was 40 at Otter Creek M. on 19 Apr (PCP).

**American Woodcock:** 2 at Willow Sl. on 1 Mar ties the second earliest date. Others were also early with 2 at Newton on 6 Mar (BPr) and 1 at Lansing W.A. on 7 Mar (FL). One was found on a nest at Nine Eagles S.P. on 20 Apr (Arlidine Nelson fide JDG).

Wilson's Phalarope: No reports received.

Red-necked Phalarope: None reported.

Franklin's Gull: Peak was 20 at Little Wall L. on 20 Apr (MPr); 1 was still in Kossuth Co. on 29 May (RLC) and 18 were in E Pottawattomie Co. on 31 May (CJB, RJH, THK).

[I neglected to report 18 in E Pottawattomie Co. on 31 May that we saw on the way back from the IOU meeting--CJB, RJH, THK. Do you want to add them? tk]

Bonaparte's Gull: Details were given for 1 at Keokuk on 17 Mar (RCe), a second earliest record. Most were seen in early to mid-April, but the peak of 15 in Appanoose Co. was on 11 May (RLC). An immature on 11 Aug 1986 at Saylorville Res. (SD, MPr, MDx) was extremely early (addition to Fall 1986 Report).

Ring-billed Gull: 750 were reported from L. Manawa on 20 Mar (TB). The fall peak at Saylorville Res. (IBL 57:17) was 8,000, not 6,000.

Herring Gull: 1 at IPL Ponds on 9 May (TB) and 1 at Credit Island on 10 May (PCP) were somewhat late.

Great Black-backed Gull: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 1 <sup>immature</sup> was seen at Cone M. on 12 Mar (\*JF). Another was <sup>immature</sup> reported but not documented.

[Shouldn't the age of the bird be given?] Yes

Caspian Tern: 11 were early at Coralville Res. on 29 Apr (JF). The peak was 22 at Saylorville Res. on 9 May (MPr).



Common Tern: Details were provided for 3 at Credit Island on 19 and 23 May (PCP) and for 3 at Sweet M. on 23 May (FLM).

Forster's Tern: 2 at Cedar L. on 10 Apr (PW) <sup>provide</sup> the second earliest date; 100 were reported from Jemmerson Sl. on 28 May (DCH) with some nesting. The peak of 82 at Saylorville Res. (IBL 57:18) was on 24 Aug<sup>1986</sup>, not 22 Aug.

Least Tern: 3 pairs were back at IPL Ponds this spring; 1 was seen at New Lake, Woodbury Co. on 31 May (RKM).

Black Tern: The first was at Cone M. on 3 May (THK).

Black-billed Cuckoo: The first was at Hickory Hill P. on 10 May (JF); 3 were seen at Sioux Center on 30 May (JV).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Only 2 reports received: 2 in Marshall Co. on 19 May (BPr) and 1 at Ledges S.P. on 20 May (MPr).

Common Barn-Owl: Details were provided for 1 in Sioux City on 12 Apr (DET).

Long-eared Owl: 2 were found in Marshall Co. on 1 Mar (MPr); 1 was still present on 8 Apr (MPr).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 was at Pine Lake S.P. on 3 Mar (MPr) and another stayed at Hickory Hill P. until 9 Apr (JF).

Common Nighthawk: <sup>First</sup> of season were 3 at Otter Creek M. (NAK) and 1 in Keokuk (John Cecil fide RGe) on 4 May.

Chuck-will's-Widow: Birds were back in their usual SW Iowa areas with 1 in Fremont Co. on 9 May (TB).

Chimney Swift: The first were 10 at Belle Plaine on 19 Apr (PCP).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Cecil reported that many were seen this spring with peak of 8 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 12 Apr.

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 was found in Marshall Co. on 14 Mar (MPR) and another was in Benton Co. on 12 May (THK). A dead, pin-feathered ✓ young of this species was found along Mississippi R. in SE Iowa on 28 Mar (RCe). This would indicate they can be very early nesters.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 4 reports of single birds were from C Iowa between 13 and 22 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Details described 1 on 25 May, 2 on 27 May, and 1 on 30 May at Brookside P. (PM).

Acadian Flycatcher: 2 were found at Shimek S.F. on 7 May (RCe) and several were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 13 May (JF).

Alder Flycatcher: 14 were identified by call from C and E Iowa between 18 and 29 May.

Least Flycatcher: <sup>re</sup> First was 1 at Brookside P. on 2 May (PM).  
^

Eastern Phoebe: Several were quite early with 1 in Ames on 19 Mar (EM) and 3 at Pine Lake S.F. on 24 Mar (MPR).

Western Kingbird: 1 was near Quimby on 23 May (MMB). Several were found in and around Sioux City at the Spring IOU meeting on 29-31 May (RKM).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Details were received for 1 in Boone Co. on 17 May (DRe).

Purple Martin: Several reports suggested they were somewhat later than usual this spring.

Tree Swallow: 1 was quite early at Coralville Res. on 21 Mar (FLM, THK). Others were also early with 20 at Lock 13 on 27 Mar (PCP) and 1 at Cone M. on 27 Mar (PW).



Northern Rough-winged Swallow: A peak of 100 was at Otter Creek M. on 4 May (NAK).

Cliff Swallow: 20 arrived in Iowa City on 28 Apr (RJH).

Barn Swallow: The first was in Poweshiek Co. on 1 Apr (CJB).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 wintering bird was still at an Iowa City feeder on 15 Apr (JF). The last report was 1 in Marshall Co. on 6 May (BPr).

Brown Creeper: 1 was acting territorial in Des Moines Co. on 14 May (PCP).

Carolina Wren: 1 was at Iowa City on 19 Mar (THK); 1 was at Lacey-Keosauqua on 11 Apr (JPS, RCe); and 1 was in Shimek F. on 16 Apr (RCe).

Winter Wren: 12 birds were reported from eight locations, beginning on 21 Mar. One at Wildcat Den S.P. on 15 May (PCP) is a record late date for a migrant.

[Pete told me he had a singing male and saw another bird, presumably a female. Did he not report that? tk] *[He reported the pair on 26 Apr but all of his May dates were of single ~~birds~~ Terr. ♂'s including the one on 15 May as the late date.]*

Sedge Wren: The only report was of 4 at Ventura M. on 5 May (JLH).

Marsh Wren: 2 were at Otter Creek on 28 Apr (NAK).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Details were supplied for 1 in Linn Co. on 12 May (PW), the second latest date.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 at Shimek F. on 22 Mar (RCe) ties the second early record.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: A bird at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 11 Apr (JPS, RCe) is a third earliest record; 2 were building a nest at Wildcat Den S.P. on 26 Apr (PCP).

Eastern Bluebird: Several observers thought nesting was up this spring. Brewer had 20 of 75 boxes with either eggs or fledged young and Bierman had 45 young fledge.

Townsend's Solitaire: 1 was at Milford from 7 Feb to 18 Apr (JOr <sup>⊖</sup>) photos, DCH, \*LvF).

Veery: The first was at Brookside P. ~~in Ames~~ on 4 May (PM).

Gray-cheeked Thrush:

2 were noted in Marshall Co. on 3 May (MPr). Several reports suggested a good migration for this species.

Swainson's Thrush: 1 at Brenton Sl., Polk Co., on 11 Apr (JSi) is a new record early date; 1 in Shimek F. on 20 Apr (RCe) ties the second early date. The peak was 13 at Brookside P. ~~in Ames~~ on 15 May <sup>there</sup> (PM) and the last was 1 ~~at Brookside~~ on 31 May (PM).

[Bob, I would be inclined to use editorial prerogative to strike the April records of Swainson's Thrush unless they are documented and can pass the Records Committee. The likelihood of these being Hermit Thrushes is so high, that records such as this are meaningless unless very well substantiated. In the past I have required strong evidence for Swainson's Thrush in April or October. tk] *[I believe either of the two observers can ID a Swainson's Thrush in April or May, however no doc's were received (observers probably didn't think doc. was necessary) so feel free to strike the records.]*

Hermit Thrush: The first was in Appanoose Co. on 12 Apr (RLC).

Wood Thrush: The first was in Amana Woods on 30 Apr (CJB).



American Robin: 350 were noted in Iowa Co. on 4 Apr (THK). One carrying nesting material in Iowa City on 10 Apr (RJH) may have been an early nester. Many robins died as a result of the blizzard in SW Iowa on 28 Mar (BLW).

Northern Mockingbird: Reported from Madison, Boone, Van Buren, Louisa, Appanoose, and Page counties.

Brown Thrasher: 1 at Shimek F. on 4 Apr is the second earliest.

Water Pipit: 1 was at Cone M. on 10 May (THK, FLM) and 4 were there on 11 May (JF). The peak at Big Wall L. on 25 Oct 1986 (IBL 57:19) was actually 71 birds, not 17.

Cedar Waxwing: 52 were seen near Larrabee on 28 May (MMB).

Loggerhead Shrike: The first report was 1 at Red Rock Res. on 8 Mar (JSi); 13 others were seen across Iowa. Three birds and 2 nests were found in Plymouth Co. on 31 May (THK).

White-eyed Vireo: 7 reports contained this species. A few were north of their normal range with 1 at Sweet M. on 12 May (THK, FLM) and 1 at Clear Lake on 31 May (JLH).

Bell's Vireo: Reported in good numbers from C, SW, and NW Iowa.

Solitary Vireo: The peak of 26 in Ames (IBL 57:20) was on 30 Sep, not 30 Aug.

Blue-winged Warbler: 1 banded at Shimek F. on 20 Apr (RCe) is the record earliest. Another was early at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 25 Apr (JPS).

Golden-winged Warbler: 8 of the 10 reported this spring were found on 2-3 May. The other 2 were on 5 and 10 May.

Tennessee Warbler: The first were 4 at Brookside P. on 2 May (PM) with the peak of 73 there on 11 May (PM); 1 was still singing in Woodbury Co. on 30 May (RKM).

Orange-crowned Warbler: The first was at Brookside P. on 23 Apr (PM); the peak at Brookside P. was 11 on 5 May (PM).

Nashville Warbler: 1 at Shimek F. on 20 Apr (RCe) is the second earliest. Others were early with 1 at Brookside P. in Ames on 26 Apr (PM) and 1 at Pine Lake S.P. on 28 Apr (MPR). The peak was 29 at Brookside P. on 2 May (PM).

Northern Parula: 9 were the first and peak at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 17 Apr (JPS); 1 was at Waubonsie S.P. on 9 May (TB).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 2 were at Brookside P. on 4 May, with peak of 8 there on 25 May (PM).

Cape May Warbler: All reports: 1 at Credit Island on 11 May (PCP), 1 at Ledges S.P. on 11 May (JSi), and 1 at Sweet M. on 14 May (FLM, RKM).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: The only report was of a singing male at George Wyth S.P. on 12 May (FLM).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: This species was somewhat late arriving this year. The first were 17 at Shimek F. on 10 Apr (RCe), and the peak was 63 at Brookside P. on 4 May (PM).

Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 was at Shimek F. on 22 Apr (RCe).

Blackburnian Warbler: Only 4 were reported--all in May. Several observers remarked on their scarcity.

Yellow-throated Warbler: While birds were back in their traditional Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Ledges S.P., Walnut Wood S.P., and Van Buren Co.

homes, several observers thought their numbers were down. The first report was of 5 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 17 Apr (JPS).

Pine Warbler: The only report received was not legible. Neatness does count! One found dead at Alleman on 4 Oct 1986 is now a specimen at Iowa State University (SD).

Palm Warbler: Good numbers appeared in early May with 14 at Marshalltown on 4 May (MPR).

Bay-breasted Warbler: This was a hard warbler to come by this spring. A total of 4 were counted at Brookside S.P. from 9 to 23 May (PM). The only other report was 1 at Amana Woods on 10 May (FLM, THK).

Blackpoll Warbler: 1 was early at George Wyth S.P. on 2 May (FLM); the peak was 5 at Brookside S.P. on 11 May (PM). A report of 1 on 21 Aug 1986 in Des Moines (IBL 57:21) was submitted by (SD).

Cerulean Warbler: 10 were reported from five SW, SE, C, and EC locations beginning on 3 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: The first was at Brookside P. on 20 Apr (PM).

Prothonotary Warbler: The peak was 12 in Des Moines Co. on 14 May (PCP).

Worm-eating Warbler: All reports: 1 at Weise Sl. on 11 May (PCP), 1 at Saylorville Res. on 15 May (RKM), and 2 at Shimek F. on 25 May (RCe).

Ovenbird: 3 were a little early at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 26 Apr (JPS).

Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 were at Shimek F. on 8 Apr (RCe). Reports were received from the usual spots such as Ledges S.P. and from new

? local<sup>s</sup> such as Stephens F.



Kentucky Warbler: Reports were from Waubonsie S.P. on 9 May (TB), Ledges S.P. on 13 May (MPr), and ~~a peak of 4 at~~ Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 13 May (JF). *↑ granular not nmt, ? need peak*

Connecticut Warbler: All reports: 1 at Sweet M. on 14 May (FLM, RKM), 1 in Marshall Co. on 15 May (BPr), 1 at Ledges S.P. on 20 May (MPr), and 1 at Hickory Hill P. on 20 May (TJS).

Mourning Warbler: This species was present in ~~good~~ good numbers beginning on 9 May. *?*

Hooded Warbler: Singles were at Hickory Hill Park, on 10-11 May (JF, CJB), Ledges S.P. on 11 May (RKM), and Davenport on 11 May (AB).

Wilson's Warbler: While none were reported, the species was present in C. Iowa areas in good numbers in mid-May (RKM).

Canada Warbler: Very few were reported.

Yellow-breasted Chat: ~~1 at Ledges S.P. on 3 May (THK) ties the earliest~~  
~~seen~~; 1 was ~~seen~~ early in Shimek F. on 5 May (RCe); <sup>9</sup> others were reported throughout May mostly from southern locations.

[The bird at Cone M. (Louisa Co.) was seen on 13 May, not 3 May-- see my report/tk]] *[Sorry about that, but what's worse is that the date was 14 May]*  
*[I really goofed.]*

Summer Tanager: Other than the normal SE Iowa locations, singles were in Greene Co. on 8 May (RKM), at Hickory Hill P. on 17 May (\*TMS), and at Woodland Mounds, Warren Co., on 23 May (JSi).

Scarlet Tanager: The first was at Amana Woods on 30 Apr (CJB); <sup>pe</sup> peak was 8 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 8 May (JPS).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: The first was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 25 Apr (JPS).

counties on ~~the~~ W Iowa border.  
Blue Grosbeak: All reports were from ~~the~~ Iowa.

[W Iowa is pretty big--shouldn't you say counties on the western border. I usually ~~cite~~ cite any not in border counties/tk]

Clay-colored Sparrow: The first was at Brookside P. on 29 Apr (PM); peak <sup>re</sup> was 6 at Hickory Hill P. on 3 May (CJB).

Field Sparrow: The first were 3 at Lansing W.A. on 4 Apr (FL).

Vesper Sparrow: The first were 1 in Johnson Co. on 5 Apr (THK) and 2 at ~~Lake~~ Manawa on 15 Apr (TB).

Lark Sparrow: The peak was 8 at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 23 May (PCP).

Le Conte's Sparrow: The first were 5 at Cone M. on 11 Apr (PW). Other reports were 3 at Doolittle Prairie on 29 Apr (MPR) and 2 at Cone M. on 3 May (THK).

Fox Sparrow: Only a few were mentioned. Two at Saylorville Res. (IBL 57:22) were on 27 Sep 1986, not 29 Sep.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 at Riverton ~~X~~A. on 28 Mar (Dan Nivens fide SD) is record early date; 2 were also early (third early date) at Lost Nation on 12 Apr (FCP). A peak of 50 was counted at Dunbar Sl. on 1 May (RKM).

White-crowned Sparrow: 1 was still at Otter Creek M. on 18 May (NAK), and another remained in Appanoose Co. on 16 May (RLC).

Harris' Sparrow: The peak was only 3 at Ledges S.P. on 2 May (MPR).

Dark-eyed Junco: 260 at Hickory Hill P. on 8 Apr (TJS) may reflect a migration peak.

Lapland Longspur: Several large flocks were noted: 2,000 in Marshall Co. on 15-22 Mar (MPr), 1,000 at Cone M. on 27 Mar (PW), and 2,000 in Iowa Co. on 4 Apr (THK).

Smith's Longspur: Up to 300 were at Cone M. between 31 Mar and 15 Apr (PW, JF, THK, CJB, PCP, \*MPr). Others reported with details were 6 near Dysart on 14 Mar (FLM), 1 in Iowa Co. on 4 Apr (THK), and 12 near Bay's Branch on 17 Apr (RKM).

Snow Bunting: 1 was at Sweet M. on 7 Mar (FLM).

Red-winged Blackbird: 100,000 in Lee Co. on 22 Mar was considered a conservative estimate (RCE).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 10 were at Otter Creek M. by 26 Apr (CJB). At least 75 were at Goose Lake, Clinton Co., on 11 May (PCP).

Rusty Blackbird: Two reports were received: 10 at Cone M. on 5 Apr (CJB) and 100 at Princeton M. on 6 Apr (PCP).

*Park h.R.*  
Brewer's Blackbird: Details were given for 3 at Hickory Hill ~~Park~~ on 4 Mar (JPS) and for 3 at Cone M. on 20 Mar (TJS).

Common Grackle: An estimated 200,000 were in Lee Co. on 22 Mar (RCE).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 1 fledged from a bluebird box with 1 young bluebird in Mills Co. on 1 May (BLW).

Northern Oriole: 1 in Iowa City on 19 Apr (PCP) is a record earliest. Another was also early in Ames on 27 Apr (PC).

Purple Finch: 20 were in Liscomb on 8 Apr (MPr) and 3 were at Waubonsie S.F. on 21 Apr (BPf, BJR).

[unusual?] [Maybe a little unusual but I wouldn't get excited about the 20 until May or the 3 until mid-May. - even in SW Ia]



House Finch: Details were provided for 1 in Iowa City on 3 Mar (RJH) and another there on 29-30 Mar (JF); 7 in Davenport on 2 May (PCP) consisted of adults and young in or near a nest; 2 were in Linn Co. on 17-18 May (PW).

Red Crossbill: The two reports were of 2 in Dallas Co. on 26 Mar (RKM) and 15 in Ames on 18 May (EM).

Common Redpoll: 1 was still in Davenport on 6 Mar (PCP).

Pine Siskin: Reports were received from all over Iowa of birds still present in May. The last was of 1 in Sioux City on 30 May (RJH).

American Goldfinch: 61 were at the feeders in Mills Co. on 9 Mar (BLW).

Evening Grosbeak: 1 was at Marshalltown on 4 May (Betty Savage fide BPr).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: 2 in West Branch from 16 Mar to the second week of April (\*SV, \*CJB, \*THK, \*JPS, \*CJB, \*JF, \*TJS, \*PCP, \*FLM) are the first reported in Iowa.

[I change last date based on a letter from SV/tk)] DK

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Eloise Armstrong (Booneville); Eugene Armstrong (Booneville); Ann Barker (Davenport); Carl J. Bendorf (Iowa City); Dick Bierman (Cherokee); Tanya Bray (Omaha, NE); Marion M. Brewer (Cherokee); Robert Cecil (Keokuk); Raymond L. Cummins (Centerville); Steve Dinsmore (Ames); Andrew S. Fix (Ames); \*LaVonne Foote (Spirit Lake); James Fuller (Iowa City); J. Donald Gillaspey (Lamoni); Douglas C. Harr (Larchwood); James L. Hansen (Clear Lake); Richard J. Hollis (Iowa City); Thomas N. Johnson (Centerville); Thomas H. Kent (Iowa City); N. A. Kubik (Tama); Nancy Kurrle (Ames); Sharon Laub (Rippey); Fred Lesher (La Crosse, WI); \*Bob

✓  
Livermore (Sioux City); Paul Martsching (Ames); Francis L. Moore (Waterloo); Robert K. Myers (Perry); Jan Ortmeier (Milford); Babs Padelford (Bellevue, NE); Loren Padelford (Bellevue, NE); Peter C. Petersen (Davenport); \*Christopher F. Pilliod (Warsaw, IL); Beth Proescholdt (Liscomb); Mark Proescholdt (Liscomb); Doug Reeves (Boone); B. J. Rose (Omaha NE); James P. Sandrock (Iowa City); \*Thomas M. Schulein (Iowa City); Jim Sinclair (Indianola); Thomas J. Staudt (Iowa City); Dale Stone (Hinton); Douglas E. Trapp (Sioux City); John Van Dyk (Sioux Center); Pete Wickham (Cedar Rapids); Barbara L. Wilson (Hastings); and Hank Zaletel (Ames).

COMMENT

I would like to thank all contributors for their excellent reports this spring. Well written reports make the compilation much easier. Potential problems with field reports might be alleviated by considering some basic guidelines.

1. Reports must be complete--a sighting must include species name, location, date of observation, number of birds, and name of observer. Incomplete reports usually cannot be used.
2. Species must be listed in correct taxonomic order.
3. Species requiring documentation or details must have this included if the sighting is to be used.
4. The report must be legible. If I can't read it, I won't use it.
5. The report must be mailed to the proper editor on time. For example, reports received after June 7 this spring were not included. This may seem strict but the time schedule for the article is tight and a deadline is needed.

did BJ  
actual  
Send a  
report.  
If so,  
this would  
be a  
record  
first  
occurrence!

Almost all contributors follow these guidelines. By working together we can produce a substantiated, accurate record of Iowa's birdlife.



6-30-87

Tom -

Thanks for your help  
with the Spring Report.

The Report of the  
Records Committee for 1986  
looks fine to me.

I have to get to  
work on the rest of  
the feedback notes.

Thanks again)

Bob

BSR  
Tom - This is a copy of BJS's report. IT was sent in with  
the PadelRond's reports.

Sightings by B.J. Rose - Spring 1987

Com. Loon - 1 - 5/22 - Forney's (DR)

Horned Grebe - 1 - 4/23 - IPL

Bittern - 4 - 4/23 - Fremont Co.

Grt. Egret - 3 - 4/23 - Fremont Co.

Cattle Egret - 1 - 4/26 - Fremont Co.

Blk.Cr.Nt.Heron - 12 - 4/23 - Fremont Co.

Yellow cr.nt.heron - 1 - 4/26 - Fremont Co.

X Cinnamon Teal - 1 - 4/26 - Fremont Co.

Osprey - 1 - 4/23 - Fremont Co.

1 - 5/22 - Fremont Co.

Merlin - 1 - 4/26 - Fremont Co.

Sora - 6 - 4/23 - Fremont Co.

Com. Moorhen - 1 - 5/25 - Forney's (DR)

Wilson's Phalarope - 10 - 4/23 - Fremont Co.

Whimbrel - 1 - 4/26 - Fremont Co. (photos)

Caspian Tern - 1 - 5/25 - Fremont Co.

Blk.billed Cuckoo - 8 - 5/25 - Pony Creek - (DR)

Pileated Woodpecker - 2 - 5/25 - Pony Creek - (DR)

Yellow-bellied Fly. - 1 - 5/25 - Riverton - (DR)

Mockingbird - 1 - 5/22-5/25 - Pony Creek (DR)

Philadelphia vireo - 1 - 5/25 - Forney's (DR)

Blackburnian Warb. - 1 - 5/25 - Pony Creek (DR)

Black & White Warb. - 1 - 5/25 - Pony Creek (DR)

Kentucky Warb. - 1 - 5/25 - Pony Creek (DR)

Yellow br. chat - 1 - 5/25 - Pony Creek (DR)

Black head. Grosbeak - 1 female - Pony Creek (DR)  
(no details)

(DR) = Doug Rose was an additional observer on these  
sightings.