

25 14 pts. Iowa Bird Life 34: 97-101, 1967
FIELD REPORTS

September was cool and with somewhat more than normal rainfall. In Des Moines there were 13 days with measurable precipitation and five days with a "trace." October was mild and extremely dry, Pavenport, for instance, had only .01 inch of rain. The moisture situation militated against an interesting shorebird migration, as many ponds had grown up in grass and weeds so that when rains did come, there were few attractive mudflats. At Union Slough a six-inch rain on 6 September raised the pool levels so that all shorebirds left the area. Practically all contributors thought the migration poor, both as regards shorebirds and passerines, and both Kent and Petersen commented on the lack of definite waves.

Loons, Pelicans. Common Loons were first seen at the Des Moines Impounding Reservoir on 5 November when four were reported. A large flock of White Pelicans was seen near Sioux City on 7 September, with another 250 on 3 October, (DH). The largest number at Union Slough was 21, (PF), but a flock of 170 was at Goose Lake on 23 September, (JF).

Herons. A Great Blue was still at Hawk Creek 1 November, (Dick), and another late one was seen 3 November at Swan Lake, (FK). No Green Herons were mentioned, and few were seen in Polk Co. A Little Blue was reported by Mrs. Berryman as being at Brower's Lake in late August, (DH). Another was seen on three days north of Burlington by Otter Island, (PL). Common Egrets were seen: on 5 September on the Upper Iowa River, (DP), and another at Goose Lake on 6 August, (JF), but four was the largest number at Union Slough, (PF). An immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron was near Des Moines on the late date 11 September and was probably hatched in the area.

Ibis. A White-faced Ibis found at Goose Lake is described in a separate note.

Geese, Ducks. Few geese were reported: only two flocks early in October, (GB); very low numbers, (PF); went through early with large

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flocks 29 September and 1 October. A few White-fronted in the early flock but lots later, according to Wm. Felton, (DH); fewer than usual, went over fast with fine weather, (DG). Wood Ducks were up at Big Wall Lake, (Dic.), and peaked at 1,700 at Union Slough. Quite a few ducks came through early with the geese, but fewer than usual ^{American} Widgeon and Pintail, (Felton-DH).

Wayne Jensen reported large flights on 18 October, Mallard, Gadwall, ^{A.m.} Widgeon and Pintail, but few Canvasback and no Redhead or teal, (DH). Three early Redheads on 7 September at Goose Lake, (DP). The total Union Slough population on 22 October was 12,000, largely Mallard and Pintail. Very few ducks were at the Impounding Reservoir until 5 November when about 100 Lesser Scaups appeared with a few Widgeon, Ruddy, Ring-necked and Hooded Mergansers, along with small numbers of Mallards.

Vultures, Hawks. Turkey Vultures were: more abundant than usual and seen almost daily in September with 23 on the 10th, (DG); seen in numbers the past summer and fall which is unusual, 22 records, some of which may be repeats, (JK); 10 adults and immatures at Ledges, (DP).

An accipiter flight from 6 to 21 September was early and larger than usual. ^{Eleven Sharp-shinned were banded at Davenport between 14 September and 1 November, (CPD).} A big concentration around the 9th, (DR). While removing a netted bird Mrs. Gladys Black had a Sharp-shinned attack a House Sparrow which was enmeshed only six feet from her. The hawk was caught also, and as Mrs. Black was without gloves it was removed at the expense of severely scratched hands. After being caged the Sharp-shinned was exhibited for several days to the school children and then released. Sharp-shinned were seen on 16 and 19 October, and Cooper's on 15 and 18 September, (EB). Red-tailed: seemed to be up, (DP); down with fewer immature, (DR); fewer than usual, (DG); appeared to be an unusual number of immatures this fall, (DH); more in October than in previous years around Des Moines, but few had the red tails of mature birds. There was a wave on 17 October with 20 seen, (FK). A Harlan's was seen on a fence post at very close range on 10 October, (JK). No Red-shouldered were seen, (DR, DP, WHB);

and a pair south of Rock Rapids was reported by George Marsh, (DH). but two were at Wyth Park on 3 October, (RH); [^] There were several large flights of Broad-winged; over 500 seen in a half-hour over Goldfield on 15 September and 125 on 22 September, both preceding a cold front, (DR); a flock estimated at 300 was high over Eagle Lake on 14 September and seen by Joe Kennedy; a small movement and very high on 13 September, (PP). Swainson's was seen on 31 October, (RH), and "the usual sprinkling" of Swainson's and Krider's (EB). Rough-legged first appeared 3 October, an while six were near Des Moines on 31 October and 1 November^{HP} early date, (DR). One in the dark phase was at Ames, 23 October, (DP).[^] Two Bald Eagles were seen at Lynxville Dam on 1 November, (DK), while an immature was at Union Plough from 9 to 18 October. Marsh Hawks: were plentiful, (Dick); but fewer than usual, (DG); and scarce, (WHB). Ospreys were at Waterloo on 1 and 8 September, (RH), and one was seen at Union Slough on the 12th. A Peregrine was at Goose Lake on 20 October, (JF), and a Pigeon Hawk was seen over Goldfield on 21 September, (DR). Sparrow Hawks were: down, (DR); only one seen, (GB); and scarce, (WHB); but 30 were seen in a 10-mile drive, (DH). A noticeable influx of Red-tailed, Rough-legged and Sparrow Hawks through October was noted by Wm. Felton, (DH). There was a good flight of Red-tailed, Marsh, and Sparrow Hawks, (EB).

Pheasants, Cranes. Pheasants were down according to the only report, (Dick). About 25 September George Marsh saw 50-60 Sandhill Cranes flying south just below Sioux City, (DH).

Rails, Plovers, Sandpipers. Some of the comments regarding the shore-birds: few seen as ponds were low and grew up in weeds, leaving no mudflats, (DG); poor, (GB); poor, as not enough water, (JK); almost nothing but Solitaires, (JF); very poor around Des Moines. On three occasions in September and October an unidentified rail was flushed while mowing tall weeds or hay some distance from water or marsh, (DG). Coots were numerous in places, 2,000 on 24 October at Big Wall Lake, (Dick); 600 at Goose Lake, on 16 October, (DP); and lots from early September to late October, (DH). On 24 October there were 42 Killdeer in one field, (GB); and from

28 August to 7 September there were 25 or 30 around Blue Lake, (DH). Union Slough had from six to 12 Woodcock in October. Snipe were missing at Lamoni, but as many as 160 were at Union Slough. No report of migrating Upland Plover was received. At Credit Island there was a good August movement with Pectorals most numerous, considerable numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs, scattering Baird's, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, and some Semipalmated Plovers. Fifteen of the latter were at Goose Lake on 7 September, (DF). Shallow ponds were thickly covered with shorebirds from the end of August to early September, six Marbled Godwits being included, (DH). Eight Hudsonian Godwits on 18 October were a first fall record, (JK). Avocets were seen at Blue Lake on 29 August, (DH), and at a Hawarden sandpit on 3 September by Mrs. and Mrs. Elden Berge, (EB).

SMITH, TERN.

Golden Plover were seen on 14 September in several flooded fields north of Des Moines by Joe Kennedy, (WHB).

Gulls, Terns.

Numerous Franklin's Gulls were seen: 130 on 24 September and 1,500 on the 27th with an estimated 1,000 going over all day on 18 October, (JF); 2,000 on 3 and 4 October, (DH); 75 on 14 September at Garner; and 4 on 8 October, (JK). Two Common Terns on 24 August, and 20 on 23 September were noted, (JK).

Doves, Cuckoos.

A good crop of Mourning Doves with 100 per mile on some gravel roads, (DG); At least normal numbers around Des Moines; but, down from '63, (PP); and, scarce, (GB). Yellow-billed Cuckoos numerous and a young in nest on 11 August, but very few Black-billed, (WHB). Cuckoos plentiful, (GB).

Owls.

A Barn Owl reported by Mrs. Hewett at Jesup, (RH). The colony of Burrowing Owls left about 15 October, (EB). An early Long-eared, assumed to be a resident, was seen 21 September, (EB). Others were; seen in late September, and one banded 29 October, (PP); one at Goose Lake on 20 October, (JF). Only three ~~Short-eared~~ ^{Sau-whet} were banded in October while 16 were banded

Found 26 September in Fremont Co. by Jim Rising of the University of Kansas.

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the same month a year ago, (PP). Two Short-eared found on 1 November by Dr. and Mrs. Laude were considered early, (FK).

Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds. Seven Whip-poor-wills were banded on 11 September, two on the 12th, and the last on the 13th, (PP). A flock of 50 migrating Nighthawks was seen on 4 September, (DG); about 25 were seen on each of the 17th and 19th of September, (WHB). Migration of Chimney Swifts described as "big" with 200 seen entering a chimney at one time, (GB). Hummingbirds were fewer than 1963, (GB); seven were banded with the last on 16 September, (PP).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Swallows. Yellow-shafted Flickers down, (DR); but thought up in Des Moines. Sapsuckers, fewer, (JF); ~~MAINT~~ ~~MAINT~~ but up, with 15 banded against 8 in 1963, (PP). Hairy Woodpeckers up, (Dick). A Western Kingbird was seen 14 September, (DR). A good migration of Eastern Kingbirds at Des Moines. The last Eastern Phoebe was banded 18 October, a late date; Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were up, with 33 banded; Acadian, 13 banded, up; Traill's, 20 banded, average; but only one Olive-sided Flycatcher, (PP). One of the latter remained at Jefferson from 25 August to 16 September, (JF), but few were seen at Des Moines. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher west of Onawa was reported by Mrs. Coberly but no date mentioned, (DH). At least 350 Bank Swallows were noted on 12 August, (PP), and more than 1,000 Cliff Swallows were seen on 14 August, (DC).

Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens. Red-breasted Nuthatches down, (PP) with none reported at Des Moines. Brown Creepers plentiful, (GB), and way up, (PP). Four Winter Wrens banded in September and October, (PP), and one on 16 September was very early, (JK). A Bewick's was seen on 2 September, (JF).

Mimics, Thrushes. One Mockingbird was recorded in Des Moines on 19 October. Catbirds were plentiful, (GB); up, with ¹⁶⁰27 banded, (PP). The migration of thrushes; very poor except for Robins and Bluebirds,

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the latter as common as ever seen, (JF). Robins fewer, (GB); very plentiful, (DH); and, excellent migration, (DR). Lots of Robins, few Swainson's, and few, if any, Hermit or Gray-cheeked, (WHB). Bluebirds: up, (GB); one flock of 12-15, (DH); more than 30 seen on 26 July, (DG); continue to improve in numbers with a good flight 24 October, (DR). Hermit Thrushes last seen 15 October, an early date, Swainson's also left early with last seen 28 September. Gray-cheeked way down, but Veerys five ~~XXXXX~~ banded 26 and 28 August, (PP).

Kinglets, Pipits. More Golden-crowned than in 1963, (GB).

Ruby-crowned up with 217 banded, 25 in one day on 10 October, (PP). A wave of Ruby-crowned on 26 September, (JK). A Water Pipit found at Big Marsh 31 October, (RH); about 30 seen daily after 20 October while plowing, (DG).

Vireos, Warblers. The vireo migration was: poor, (DR); but, good, ~~(JK)~~ with a big wave on 15 September for three days, (JF). Yellow-throated had a late nest at Coralville with young banded 8 August, (PP). Solitary were up, (PP-WHB), and very common, (JF). Red-eyed were down a little, (PP); and many fewer than last year, (WHB). A Red-eyed eating Mountain Ash berries was reported, (RH). Philadelphia were thought way up, (PP); and a few were seen at Hamburg, (EG). A Warbling banded on 26 September was a "first" for the fall season, (PP). The best warbler migration appears to have been at Jefferson where it was called very good, with a very large wave from 15 to 17 September with 16 species including Black-throated Blue, Golden-winged, and Blue-winged. Another wave was from the 27th to 29th. From Sioux City the comment was very few, and nothing out of the ordinary except an injured immature Cape May found by Bob Nickolson, (DH). Other reports: fairly normal, no noticeable peaks, (PP); good migration, (GB); poor, except Myrtles, (DR); a few Myrtles, Pine, Yellow and Palm, (JK). First arrivals

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were on 17 August, an average date, but more numerous than usual with Black-and-white, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Nashville, Wilson's and Canada. A small wave occurred on 31 August, (DK). A wave through Ames on 6 September included Black-and-white, Canada, and Wilson's with Golden-winged. A positive identification of a Cerulean on 3 October, (DP). Tennessee, down; Orange-crown, up; Nashville, up; Magnolia, down; Myrtle, a little up. A Louisiana Water Thrush on 21 August and a Yellow-breasted Chat on 28 September were the first ever banded in the fall, (PP). A Black-throated Blue in Des Moines was seen for several days beginning 18 September. A very late Nashville on 18 October. A wave of Myrtles on 3 October, with very few before or after that date, (WHB).

Blackbirds. Seem to be down, (PP). A mixed flock of 6,000 at Big Wall Lake, (Dick). A flock of 200 Rusty at the Impounding Res. on 22 October, (WHB); 40 at Goose Lake 16 October, (DP); and 2 on 30 October, (PP). About a dozen Brewer's closely following the plow the last 10 days of October, (DG); and seen for three days early in October, (JK). Tremendous numbers of blackbirds with thousands of grackles seen flying to and from a roost, (DH).

Sparrows, Finches. Cardinals fewer, (GB); a nest found on 18 September with several young, one still downy, (EG). A pair of Blue Grosbeaks seen in mid-August acted as though nesting, (DH). Indigo Bunting down, (PP), but in usual numbers at Des Moines. Purple Finches first seen on 28 September were late and fewer in numbers. A Pine Siskin on 9 October at Des Moines was early. Goldfinches: fewer, (GB); average, (PP); numerous, (WHB); definitely up, (Dick). Lark Buntings seen on 26 July and 28 August were assumed to be females but on the latter date could be fall males, (EB). Savannah Sparrows were numerous, (EB). Two LeConte's Sparrows were at the Impounding Res. and two near Indianola on 25 October, (HP). on 1 November, and one on the 5th, (WHB); A Baird's Sparrow was reported

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from Brower's Lake by Mrs. Berryman, (DH). Chipping Sparrows up, (RR). Field Sparrows down, (PP). This is a Harris' Sparrow year! More than 1963, (GB); best in three years, (Dick); good migration, (DR); hundreds reported by several observers, (DH); many, (EB); most ever seen, (JF); saw 20 at several places, (FK); very numerous, (WHB). White-throated Sparrows good and early, (DR), usual numbers, (WHB); but, fewer, (GB). Fox Sparrows best in three years, (Dick); but seem fewer, (WHB). Lincoln's Sparrows good, (DR). An early date for Lapland Longspurs was 20 September when four were seen at close range near Lawler, (RH).

Corrigendum. Field Reports, XXXIV-45 stated that a pair of Canada Geese are reported nesting at Goose Lake near Jewell. Subsequent observations failed to disclose such nesting activity.

Reports from Goose Lake, (JF) refer to the Greene Co. location, and those from (DP and Dick) refer to the lake near Jewell.

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