

✓ 14pt. all caps.

IOWA

Hum Bird Life

33-26-91,
1963

August was rather cool and wet, September had normal temperatures and was slightly wetter than normal, and October was extremely warm. The monthly average temperature in Des Moines was the warmest in 86 years of records. While the fall migration is probably affected more by weather and food supplies further north than by local conditions there were some unusually early arrivals and, conversely, some late arrivals, or individuals remaining here longer than usual.

As is so often the case, reports of dates and abundance vary from section to section, and also as to species. The general impression is that the warbler waves were not of proportions usually seen, but there were more minor waves, or the birds trickled through.

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans. A Common Loon on Lake Hendricks, near Riceville, was seen on the early date 28 July. (DK). A Horned Grebe on the Des Moines Reservoir on 6 November was largely in breeding plumage. Fifteen Pied-billed Grebes were on Little Wall Lake 26 October. (DP). A Brown Pelican was reported by Mrs. Geo. Wright as having been at Twin Lakes, Rockwell City, from 14 September to the 28th. White Pelicans in four flocks totalling about 250 were seen 7 September, 250 on the 20th, and 150 on 26 October. (EG). At Union Slough there were 50 on 26 October, (JW), and at Sioux City, 150 and 250 on 15 and 29 September. (DH).

Heron. Eighteen Great Blue Herons were seen 26 September, (DH), and a flock of seven was migrating near Ames 21 September. (DP). An adult Little Blue Heron was observed in August. (JW). There were 30 egrets four miles below Bellevue late in October. (MJ). Common Egrets numbering 22 were unusual, and one remained as late as 6 November. Immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons were unusually numerous while one adult was seen in August. (JW).

Union
Sl.

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Geese. Geese were, in the main, thought to be numerous. At Little Wall Lake on 26 October there were 29 Canadas. (DP). Several large flocks went over Des Moines on 28 September, with a number of other reports around that date. There were 100 at Pleasantville also on the same day. (GB). Large flocks were reported throughout October, (Dick K). A few arrived 28 September and peaked at 60 on 26 October. (JW). A flock of 40 White-fronted Geese during the week of 6 October was unusual for Union Slough. A goose shot near Sioux City was identified by a Nebraska Conservation Officer as a Brant. (DH). There were more Snow Geese than usual with some unprecedented landings on farm ponds. (GB). Coralville Refuge had 27 Blue and Snow Geese on 26 October, with reports of flocks passing over for a long period. (FK). At Big Marsh, near Parkersburg, there were 800 evenly divided between Blue and Snow on 20 October and other flocks were seen at Davenport between 3 October and 21. (PP). Early flights of Blue and Snow were seen at Hamburg 28 August and 30, with none until 6 October but the migration continues. They were abundant in mid-October at Lamoni with several flocks every day. (DG). Migration at Sioux City started early in September but flocks were considered smaller than usual. A flock of 5,000 geese and ducks, mostly geese, was observed late on 10 November and identification was uncertain. (DH).

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Ducks. Newspaper stories told of large numbers of ducks on northern lakes and in the eastern part of the state, but from Iowa City, "Population very thin, no large numbers or varieties with most ponds and marshes dried up. Even duck hunters scarce after opening day." (FK). "Hunters say duck population up slightly." (DH). At Little Wall Lake on 26 October there were eight species of ducks, but 50 Mallards was by far the largest number of any species. (DP). Only a small fraction of the number usually seen at the Des Moines Reservoir have been seen thus far. After the fifth annual trip to a number of lakes in north central Iowa on 10 September, the migration seemed early and heavy. (JK). Green-winged Teal were found at Big Marsh, a flock of 150, (PP), a similar number on West Twin Lake, Rockwell City, with 35 Redheads and 80 Ruddy Ducks, and there was another 100 on

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Spencer Co.

Big Wall Lake. (JK). "More Green-winged than usual." (DH). Wood Ducks are thought to have increased greatly with 1,600 at Union Slough late in September. On 16 November there were still 900 present. On the same date there were about 15,000 ducks, mostly Mallards. (JW). An increase in Wood Ducks was noticed at Sioux City, (DH), and there were 200 at the Lynxville Dam on 29 September. 5,000 ducks of seven species were there 27 October. (DK).

Goshawk sentence after (JW),
A good flight of accipiters after that

Hawks. This group was widely noticed. "A fine flight on 22 September with 126 Broad-winged, 11 Red-tailed, 2 Red-shouldered, 3 Cooper's and 6 Turkey Vultures seen in two hours." (FK). A flight of 200 hawks, principally Red-tailed, with a few Broad-winged and Marsh and Cooper's seen 26 September. (EG). "Two hundred buteos moved over Union Slough on 21 September." (JW). "More immature Red-tailed than in previous years, and first Rough-legged seen on 9 October." (DR). Five Broad-winged and two Red-shouldered were seen at Ames 21 September. (DP). At Akron the first Swainson's appeared 13 September with a few others later. (EB). Another seen near Parkersburg 9 August. (RH). Bald Eagles seen were, 21 October, (RH), an immature 1 October, (JW), and another immature 10 November. (DH). "A good flight of accipiters from 3 October to 6th, the same as last year, with some stragglers on 27 October." (DR). In Pine Hill Cemetery at Davenport 8 Sharp-shinned were banded from 11 September to 16 October. (PP). A migrating Goshawk was watched for 15 minutes on 16 November, (FK), another soared over the Des Moines Reservoir on 2 September, and a third identified at Clarksville on 6 October. (RH).

"Female Marsh Hawks were seen about every day in October with few males." (EB). "At least 9 and perhaps 11 or more were at Big Marsh 20 October." (PP). At Des Moines, 4 were seen 17 and 18 November. The only Ospreys reported were one at Sweet Marsh 17 September, (RH), and another at Des Moines in October. A Peregrine Falcon was seen near Parkersburg 3 August, (RH), and a large falcon, thought to be a Peregrine, was sighted at Spring Lake. (Dick K).

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Sparrow Hawks "were back to normal after a low year in 1962." (DR), and "a heavy flight was observed 16 to 20 September with 8 or 9 to the mile for several days." (EB). A Pigeon Hawk harassed a flock of Blue Jays for 30 minutes on 19 September, but apparently made no attempt to capture one. (EB). "Red-tailed, Marsh, and Sparrow Hawks seen in normal numbers." (DG). "All hawks, other than Red-tailed, were thought to be scarce." (DK).

Pheasants, Partridges. "Not nearly as many Ring-necked Pheasants as were expected from earlier reports." (DH). Gray Partridges had a good nesting year with coveys as large as 8 being flushed. (DR).

Rails, Shorebirds. "A good showing of shorebirds, yellow-legs, Pectorals, 200 peep and 15 Soras on 24 August, but few after that date." 2-3,000 Coots at Coralville Reservoir 27 October, 21 Snipe at Swan Lake 29 October. (FK). 1,600 Coots at Little Wall Lake 26 October, (DP), and "hundreds" at Sioux City in mid-September. (DH). There was a good shorebird migration noticed at Ogden until the area dried up. (Jim K). The situation at Des Moines was disappointing despite the large number of mud flats during the season. Some shorebirds remained unusually late at Credit Island; 1 Least Sandpiper, 4 Dunlins, and 2 Sanderlings were seen 10 November. (PP). On 10 September an estimated 2,500 shorebirds, including 1,500 Stilt Sandpipers, were seen at Union Slough. From 3-500 of this species have been seen in other recent years. (JK). About 5,000 birds of 22 species were present at the peak, with Stilt and Pectoral Sandpipers most abundant, and lesser numbers of Least Sandpipers, Lesser Yellow-legs, White-rumped and Semi-palmated Sandpipers. (JW). Several immature Soras and an adult Virginia Rail were seen in an alfalfa field while mowing. (EB). Sanderlings were observed regularly through September, with as many as 15 present, and one or two Marbled Godwits were seen frequently in August. (JW). An American Woodcock was banded 3 October and another 4 October in Pine Hill Cemetery. (PP). On 10 September West Twin Lake had 5 Northern Phalaropes, (JK), a few days earlier there were 2 to 4 at Ogden, (Jim K), and one had been seen at Union Slough, (JW), and one at Lake Keomah near Oskaloosa on 28 September. (JB)

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Gulls, Terns. A Franklin's Gull was seen 6 October. (RH). There was only one flock at Ogden where they are usually seen regularly. (Jim K).

Mr. and Mrs. John Barlow saw 4 Caspian Terns 24 September in Black Hawk Park. (AH). At Lamoni there were 2 on 20 September, (DG), while 14 were present 24 September at Lake Koomah. (SB). A few Caspian and several Forster's Terns were at Union Slough in September, while Ring-billed Gulls, Franklin's Gulls and Black Terns were intermittently common. (JW).

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls. At Lehigh on 20 September there were 2 5-day old young Mourning Doves, and on 14 October 2 young unable to fly seen at Goldfield. (DR). "Compared with other years the number of Mourning Doves netted was way up." Last Yellow-billed Cuckoo banded was 21 September, and Black-billed 30 September. (PP). A late Black-billed was flushed from a cornfield near Ames 12 October. (DP).

Owls, Nighthawks, Whip-poor-wills. A Snowy Owl was seen near Union Slough 7 November. (JW). There have been 5 Short-eared Owls at the Lamoni airport since 16 November, (DG), and 2 were seen 3 November. (Jim K). The surprising number of ~~15~~¹⁶ Saw-whet Owls was banded from 8 October to ~~29~~³¹, with 5 on the 12th. (PP). The last Whip-poor-will banded was on 28 September. (PP). A flock of 100 Common Nighthawks was seen on 2 September, (FK), and 45 went over Des Moines on 10 September. Flocks were seen on 31 August and 1 September near Decorah, and on 13 September at Ames. (DP). The last seen at Davenport was 14 October. (PP).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers. "Very good migration of hummingbirds." (DR). "More than ever seen before and 17 netted." (GB). Nine banded. (PP).

Fifty Yellow-shafted Flickers were seen on 31 August. (FK). "Greatest year for flickers ever seen." (DR). A very large number, considerably more than in any recent year, remained in Des Moines for several weeks. A Red-shafted Flicker was reported by Nick Osness as seen on 21 September. (RH). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were numerous in Des Moines. ~~Five~~^{Eight} were banded. (PP). Several were reported at Sioux City, (DH), and these, with Hairy Woodpeckers, appeared at Ogden for the first time in three years. (Jim K).

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Flycatchers, Horned Larks, Swallows. The flycatcher migration at Davenport was early with peaks on 27 August and 4 Sept. At the same time there have been some unusually late dates; an Eastern Phoebe banded 22 October; the last of 10 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded 13 September; Acadian, 25 September; Traill's, 5 October; and Least Flycatcher, 29 September. (PP). ~~A late Hermit Thrush was seen in Des Moines 17 November.~~ Say's Phoebes which had been located at more than 20 locations around Akron were seen until 29 September. (EB). "Many, many flocks of Horned Larks in northwest Iowa 10 to 13 November." (DH). "Large flocks of swallows, ^{some numbering nearly 1,000,} mostly Cliff, were seen prior to their departure in mid-September." (DK). "Small flight of Cliff Swallows 14 August and three succeeding days." (DG). "Heavy flight of Barn Swallows on 26 September." (DH).

Blue Jays, Nuthatches, Creepers. "Blue Jays above average in early September." (DR). "Flocking as early as 16 September and migrating until 25 October. Still many remaining." (EG). Red-breasted Nuthatches, which were scarce in most areas last year, are mentioned too many times to enumerate. An unusually early arrival was the one at Davenport on 20 August. (PP). Brown Creepers: "Definitely up, good flight 15 to 20 September." (DR); "7 on 19 October;" (DP); "Trees full on two occasions." (GB). One seen on 4 October had a band on its right leg. (AH).

Mimics, Thrushes. "Catbirds almost entirely lacking." (DR). Ten Robins in Ames on 1 November were the latest seen. (DP). "One of the best migrations." (DR). "Very many seen at Ogden." (Jim K). "Seem to be fewer in numbers." (DH). "Very good flight of Hermit Thrushes." (DR); the latest seen at Davenport was 30 October, (PP); and a late one at Des Moines was 17 November. "Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, good migration." (DR); "More Swainson's than usual but few Gray-cheeked." (DH). ^{Eastern} Bluebirds, "Good migration for third successive year." (DR); numerous reports of flocks in Des Moines, one reliably described as more than a hundred; "One large flock in September." (DH).

Robins

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Veeries arrived in Davenport 28 August with seven banded on 4 September. (PP).

Gnatcatchers, Kinglets, Waxwings. An unusual report is that of two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on 21 September. (DH). "There have been more Ruby-crowned Kinglets than usual but no Golden-crowned." (GB) "Ruby-crowned have been the most numerous migrant present from 20 September to late October." (DK).

One flock of Cedar Waxwings appeared in late September. (Jim K). Another flock was seen early in November by Wm. Youngworth, (DH), and one was seen in Des Moines on 9 November.

Vireos. "A dismal migration, almost totally lacking." (DR). Solitary Vireos were in larger numbers, and Red-eyed were extremely abundant, accounting for a large percentage of the birds seen in the first warbler wave late in September in Des Moines. A Philadelphia Vireo was the "first ^{banded} ever" at Pine Hill Cemetery, (PP), one was Akron on 29 August, and another reported by Wm. Youngworth the next day. (EB). It was also seen at Ogden. (Jim K) Only a few of either Solitary or Red-eyed Vireos were seen at Sioux City, these the last week in September. (DH).

Warblers. "A good and steady number of warblers with no marked waves. From 15 to 29 September 12 species of warblers were seen, including one Connecticut viewed at close range. Some kinglets and Red-breasted Nuthatches and a few Purple Finches included. Myrtles came later in October." (FK). Two Parulas were seen at Ames 13 September, (DP), and both adults and immatures were at Des Moines the first 10 days in September. "An early warbler migration including Bay-breasted and Nashville on 17 August, Black-and-white on the 19th, Blackburnian on the 21st, and Chestnut-sided, Wilson's and Mourning on the 22nd." (DK). "Orange-crowned, good migration 2-5 October," (DR), "Lots on 3 October," (EG). Nashville, fairly numerous in Des Moines through September, and many seen at Hamburg on 15 October, with the last observed on 26 October. "Myrtles almost as good as last year, which was considered remarkable." (DR). "Many Myrtles from 9 September to 3 November," (DP), but the number in Des Moines no greater than average. Three Pine

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Warblers were banded in August and September, (PP), and several of this species made their appearance in Des Moines. A Connecticut was identified at Hamburg. (EG). Canadas on 19 and 20 September were late for that area. (EB). There was ^a warbler flight at Sioux City from 21 to 24 September with few or none seen at other times. (DH).

Blackbirds. Rusty Blackbirds were in numbers 29 October, and on 16 November the biggest numbers of all kinds of blackbirds were moving. (FK). From 2-5,000 Common Grackles roosting at Ames left by 9 November. (DP). An estimated 25,000 Red-winged Blackbirds were at Princeton Marsh 1 November. (PP). A small flock of Brewer's Blackbirds was seen 4 November, (DG), At Ogden there were 15 Brewer's on 14 November, 30 Rusty Blackbirds 11 November and 20 on 12 November. (Jim K). Grackles, Red-winged, etc., at Sioux City were described as being in "tremendous clouds." (DH).

Finches, Sparrows. Evening Grosbeak: One was seen at Sioux City 30 October, (DH); one at Pleasantville 11 November, (GB); and three at Des Moines 11 November. Purple Finch: the first banded was 13 September, (PP); three at Des Moines 11 September were very early. Red Cross-bill: very early arrival at Davenport with 12 on 30 August, remaining a week; two seen on 4 November, (PP); "A couple" by Youngworth, (DH); One on Ames campus 24 October, (DP).

White-winged Crossbills: two at Davenport 3 November, (PP). Towhees: Up in numbers, (PP). Savannah Sparrows: lots of young migrating, (EB). Le Conte's: on 13 and 15 October and three on 26th, (EB); one on 6 October by Margaret Nagel, (RH); a small flock at Des Moines Reservoir 19 October. Henslow's: several found at Des Moines Reservoir by Albert Berkowitz, 19 October. Slate-colored Junco: unusually large numbers reported from Davenport, Pleasantville, and Des Moines. Oregon Junco: seen on 10 October and 3 November. (EB). White-winged Junco: reported by ^{MRS. DARRELL HANNA} ~~Russell Hays~~ as having been seen by Mrs. Glenn Berryman. Tree Sparrows; late in arriving on 2 November. (FK). Field Sparrows: still at Davenport 21 November. (PP).

Bairds' Sparrows here.

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Harris' Sparrows: good numbers at Iowa City, (FK); fewer, (GB); not seen until 3 November, (DR); at least usual numbers at Des Moines.

White-crowned Sparrows: very scarce with only one seen, (EB); not many reported from Des Moines. White-Throated Sparrows: excellent migration 3 to 20 October, mostly immatures with adults few and later, (DR);

large numbers, (GB); probably fewer than normal in Des Moines; first appeared at Ames 29 September, increasing until last week in October. (DP).

Fox Sparrows: more than usual until 2 November, (FK); only two records, 20 October and 27 October, (EB); more than usual at Des Moines; more than ever noted before, (GB); fewer than normal, (DR). Lincoln's Sparrow;

more than usual, (GB); but fewer in Des Moines. Lapland Longspurs: 12 seen 17 November, (DG); a small flock 3 November near Des Moines seen by Elizabeth Peck; a number by Wm. Youngworth in November, (DH); 600 or more at the

Davenport Airport, ^{on 2 November} (PP). Baird's Sparrow: this rare species was identified by Eldon Bryant while mowing alfalfa. It was thought several other birds seen at the same time might have been Baird's.

John Bowles, Oskaloosa;

Contributors: Mrs. Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Eldon Bryant, Akron; Paul Doerder, Boone; Mrs. Edwin Getscher, Hamburg; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Annette Haffner, Cedar Falls; Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Sioux City; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Myrle Jones, Bellevue; F. W. Kent, Iowa City; Jim Keenan, Ogden; Joe Kennedy, Des Moines; Dick Knight, Ames; Darwin Koenig, Castalia; Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Davenport; Dean Roosa, Goldfield; John E. Wilbrecht, Union Slough. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll, Des Moines, Iowa 50312.



Photographic Service

7 EAST MARKET • IOWA CITY

Dear Pete,

Enclosed fall list. One I sent Woody with additions.

Also an analysis of my count which I made for a meeting at C.R.-- and then did not go because of a nasty snow. Dad go up last Sat. to Vanes for supper and showing of his latest movies, which are up to his usual good standards. They reported Evening Grosbeaks there for a week. And one reported here in town, as well as the western Towhee in same place as last winter. Hope I can get a shot of it.

Also enclosed a owl picture. Some lady down in the country knew I was interested so one day she bought me one in a box. So Tom and I got it out in a place near the park and shot pictures of it in color, black & white, color slides and stereos. Should have had a band to put on it. So if you need any pictures of a Horned Owl --we have them.

Kind of thinking of doing our count on the 21 st. When you doing yours? Harold Ennis is going west for the holidays, and would like if any group could do his area. C.R. group going on the 28 th.

Any eagles ?

Jack