

Spring Migration, 1963 * AFN

March was a warm month, and April was unusually warm for nearly three weeks when it turned unseasonably cold. May remained cold for most of the month. What started to be an early spring turned out to be a late one. The migration in Des Moines was generally poor, with few if any waves.

Flocks of 150 White Pelicans were seen by Mrs. Helen Peasley at Brenton's Slough, and Goose Lake, Hamilton Co. in April.

Great Blue and Green Herons have been almost nil.

There was a good flight of waterfowl on 24 March, except for Redheads, which were few, and the absence of Canvasbacks.

There were no flights of shorebirds despite an abundance of mud flats.

Cuckoos seemed more numerous - and about evenly divided between the two species. Usually the Yellow-billed predominates.

There was a good migration of Redheaded Woodpeckers.

Wood Thrushes were scarce. A Gray-cheeked on 23 May at Sioux City was late. (Mrs. Hanna). Bluebirds seemed more plentiful than usual.

Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos were down, and Yellow-throated few. Solitary was up.

There was no warbler wave, and most species down. Tennessee in usual numbers. Mrs. Peasley had a Connecticut which is rare here. A Kentucky was seen and heard singing for three weeks in May.

A Pine Siskin on 18 May was late. Towhees, very few. Mrs. Hanna had a late Gambel's Sparrow at Sioux City on 22 May. Eldon Bryant at Akron had a Sharp-tailed Sparrow on 29 May.

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