

Fall 1969

AFN notes

IOWA

The migration of thrushes, vireos, and warblers was generally thought poor with the most favorable reports coming from Shenandoah. Iowa City had the best luck with shorebirds; the receding waters of the Coralville Res^{ervoir} leaving mudflats which were attractive to waders through August and September (see longer note).

Grebes, Pelicans, Hérons. Many Pied-billed ^Ggrebes were seen at Rock Creek Lake (MS), except for 2 Horned Grebes on 26 October (LS). Three White Pelicans were at Bay's Branch on 14 October (PDK). Great Blue Herons were numerous at Red Rock Refuge with a peak of 100 plus (GB). As many as 12 were seen in Credit Island Harbor in early October (PCP) and there were occasional sightings at several other locations. Little Blue Herons were observed twice in the Shenandoah area; an immature on 5 August (FMB), and on 20 August (number ?) (RZ), while 2 were at Forneys Lake on 19 July (PDK). Common Egrets were missing this ^{Fall} year at Credit Island (PCP) but at least 30 were at Red Rock in September and October (GB).

Swans, Geese, Ducks. A Whistling Swan was observed on 4 October at De Soto Bend (DMH). The goose migration in the Clear Lake area, with 2000 ^{observed} was thought the heaviest in years. Most were Blue and Snow (MDK). Red Rock Refuge had 7000 of the three varieties by 21 October (GB). Other areas reported smaller numbers having been seen on various September and October dates. The concentrations of ducks were at Coralville with 1000 Mallard and teal on 6 September, and 2-3000, mostly divers, on 18 October (FWK), and at Red Rock where 5000 Blue-winged Teal were seen (GB).

Hawks. Most species were thought scarce (MDK, FWK, DG). A large roost at Red Rock had as many as 200 Turkey Vultures, ^(see article) and a good movement of Sharp-shinned was noticed from 11-15 October (GB). On 11 October 2 Red-shouldered were seen ^{at Blue Lake (DMH)}, while another was observed in Des Moines on 4 October (WmB). Broad-winged were fairly widely distributed, but the only large number reported was near Williamstown on 18 September where 1000 were

seen by Bruce Parker (RH). A Swainson's was noted on 14 September (CFW).

A few Marsh Hawks, usually seen one at a time, ^{er}~~were~~ reported. At Red Rock 3 Golden Eagles were watched killing and eating a crippled or sick Blue Goose, but only 1 immature Bald Eagle was seen (GB). A Peregrine was sighted on 1 and 3 September (GB), and another on 3 October (PDK). Dr. Burk saw a Pigeon Hawk at Beed's Lake on 9 September (RMH). Sparrow Hawks were thought few (GB) and particularly scarce (MDK). There were a few reports of Ospreys (KV, GB, ^{DMH}~~DRH~~, WHB).

Bobwhites, Pheasants. Bobwhite were thought not plentiful, but probably as many as usual (DRH), but considered numerous (EAG). Pheasants were: fewer than usual (MDK), not many (DRH), but lots (EAG).

^{Rails,}
Shorebirds. A King Rail was at Blue Lake on 14 September (DRH). Virginia Rails were seen: 9 September (DG), and 3 and 5 September (RMH, KV, CH). Coots were numerous (MS, GB, MDK). Killdeer were also thought to be abundant (RZ, RMH, GB, ^{DMH}~~DRH~~). Forty Snipe were seen on 10 September (FWK). There were more Greater Yellowlegs than usual (FWK). Good flocks of Dowitchers were seen: 100 on 7 October (FWK), 36 on 11 October and 150 on 24 October (^{DMH}~~DRH~~), and 25-30 on 18 October (RLN). Avocets were seen twice: 3 on 28-29 September (GB), and 2 on 4 October ^(see photo) (FWK). All waders were scarce (DG), and the migration ^{JPR}~~JR~~ generally poor due to a scarcity of mudflats in Story Co. with a similar situation in Polk Co.

gullery-3-7 - Gulls, Terns. A spectacular migration at Red Rock Refuge with many Herring, Ring-billed and Franklin's, with 1000 of the latter feeding on grasshoppers in a wheat field (GB). From 75-100 Herring Gulls were seen on 25 October (KV). Franklin's were also in good numbers with 200 on 12 October (^{DMH}~~DRH~~), and 300 plus following the plow on 22 October (DG). There were more than usual (PK). A Least Tern was seen on 8 August (FMB) while 3 Caspian were seen on 31 August and 1 September and 12 on 15 September (GB).

(18)

Cuckoos, Owls, Nighthawks, Hummingbirds. Cuckoos were thought abundant (RZ, RMH). An early Short-eared Owl was seen 22 October (DG). Flocks of Nighthawks were observed on 5 September, 200 (RMH) and 150 (GB). A good migration was noticed in Des Moines (JK, CG). Hummingbirds seemed numerous (PK).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Swallows. Red-shafted Flickers were seen: in Mills Co. on 7 April, and 24 October in Warren Co. (PDK), and at Hamburg in October. Yellow-shafted Flickers have been scarce (EG). There was a good movement of flickers in Des Moines, while they were plentiful at Mason City (MDK). ^{Sapsuckers were more numerous (LS).}

* On 10 September a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was observed by Dean Dalzell, Game Mgr. at Sweet's Marsh (RMH). A Phoebe on 17 October was rather late (FWK). Ten were sighted on 28 September (RMH). * On 1 September a large flock of Eastern Kingbirds was seen flycatching over Red Rock Lake (GB).

Swallows were seen in numbers, the last, mostly Tree and Barn, were on 11 October (FWK). Thousands of all species, including many Cliff, were seen daily from 14 August to 1 September. Barn and Tree predominated for the next ten days (GB). From 7-900, mostly Cliff, were seen on 6 September (KV). Purple Martins seemed fewer (^{DMH} ~~DBH~~), and were numerous for a few days only (GB).

Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens. Reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches came from a number of areas but there is no indication of an invasion such as occurred last year. On 25 October the "trees were full of Brown ~~Creepers~~" (EG). Two pairs of Carolina Wrens (EG) are the only ones reported. Many Long-billed Marsh Wrens were seen (PK).

Thrushes, Kinglets. All reports of Robins mentioned large populations but the migration of others of the family, except bluebirds, appears to have been negligible. Bluebirds were in good numbers (FWK, ^{RMH} ~~RM~~, MDK). Both species of kinglet were numerous (FWK, CFW, MDK). Ruby-crowned predominated (JR, PCP), but a wave on 24 October was mainly ^{Golden} ~~Orange~~-crowned (JK).

Vireos, Warblers. Although not a fall item, a White-eyed Vireo seen on 12 May in Lucas Co. is noteworthy (PDK). To judge from reports, there

was no noticeable movement of vireos. A few Solitary were seen (DMH, MDK, WHB). There is wide variation in the reports of the warbler migration: very poor (DMH); warblers rarely seen (MDK); and few in September, but a wave on 11-13 October, mostly Myrtles (FWK). Davenport had several waves in September (PCP), while many warblers were banded in both September and October (WdeL). Myrtles were numerous for several days at the end of September (CFW).

Blackbirds, Finches. A flock of about 20 Brewer's Blackbirds was seen on 22 October (DG). The finch and sparrow migration was thought late with the first flocks of White-throats, White-crowned and Juncos appearing on 17 October (FWK). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak on 29 September was rather late (WdeL). A Blue Grosbeak was banded in Page Co. on 20 September (DW). and one had been seen in Marion Co. last May (PDK). Pine Siskin reports are: 35 on 29 Oct. 200 on 26 October (LS) a few (RLN), and a flock of 80-90 (RMH). Crossbills have been a surprise; a White-winged at Ames late in August (JPR), and 2 others with 22 Red-winged at Nevada (Steve Hanselman, fide JPR). Red-winged appeared at Indianola with 8 or 10 on 31 August (DLW) and stayed until 23 October when 14 were seen (PDK). A flock of 200-250 stayed for about 10 days in Estherville early in September (CFW). On 29 October 6 were seen (LS). A number of towhees, included 2 of the spotted race, were banded in October (WdeL). LeConte's Sparrows were seen on 14 and 20 October (PDK), while 24 were netted at Jefferson (JPR). Tree Sparrows have been scarce (RZ, LS) but the Clay-colored was seen on 15 October (RZ). Harris' Sparrows were thought few (WdeL, CFW), but numerous at Blue Lake on 25 October (DMH). White-throated were abundant (RZ) with a good movement (MDK), but very few (CFW). Several Fox Sparrows were two weeks early (PK), but there were none (WdeL). Lincoln's Sparrows were numerous at Shenandoah (RZ, WdeL).

Contributors: Mrs. Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Wm. Boller, Des Moines; Mrs. F. M. Braley, Shenandoah; Mrs. W. deLong, Shenandoah; Mrs. E. Getscher, Hamburg; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Mrs. Catherine Griffith, Des Moines; Mrs. D. M. Hanna, Sioux City; R. M. Hays, Waterloo; M. D. Keeler, Mason City; F. W. Kent, Iowa City; Jeffrey Kern, Des Moines; P. D. Kline, Indianola; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; R. L. Nickolson, Sioux City; P. C. Petersen, Jr.,
LILLIAN SERBOUSEK, CEDAR RAPIDS;
Davenport; J. P. Rod, Ames; Mildred Stewart, Grinnell; Mrs. Donald Walters, Essex; Mrs. K. Velie, Cedar Falls; C. F. Wolden, Wallingford; D. L. Woods, Indianola, Mrs. Ruth Zollars, Shenandoah. Woodward H. Brown, 4815 Ingersoll Ave. Des Moines, Iowa 50312.