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FIELD REPORTS - SPRING 1998

GENERAL TRENDS

This will be a short report as spring birding was by far the slowest of the 4 springs I've spent here. Waterfowl migration was good and prolonged with a peak of 16 duck species at Cardinal Marsh on 26 March. Shorebird habitat was mostly absent due to high water and just a handful were seen. The passerine migration was far more invisible than visible. By 1 May, species were late in returning and no real movement of thrushes, vireos, and warblers was ever noted. I found only 15 species of warblers, what one could normally find in a good day. I missed several expected passerine species. The last obvious migrant that I saw was a Wilson's Warbler on 26 May. Only White-throated Sparrow was abundant.

SPECIES DATA

All records are from Winneshiek County, unless otherwise noted.

- ✓ Common Loon: One was seen at Lake Meyer on 1 May.
- ✓ Horned Grebe: Singles were seen on 10 and 11 Apr.
- ✓ Redhead: A male and two females were still at Cardinal Marsh on 27 May.
- ✓ Bufflehead: More than usual, e.g. 27 at Cardinal M. on 5 Apr.
- ✓ American Bittern: One was seen at Cardinal M. on 18 Apr and one along the Mississippi River at Effigy Mounds Nat. Mon., Allamakee Co. on 20 Apr.

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SPECIES DATA

- Osprey: Scarce this spring; I saw only two.
- ✓ Cooper's Hawk: 1 at Cresco, Howard Co. on 20 May.
 - ✓ Sandhill Crane: 2 were seen at Cardinal M. on 27 May.
 - ✓ Wilson's Phalarope: 2 were found near Lake Cornelia, Wright Co. on 18 May.
 - ✓ Forster's Tern: High count: 30 at Cardinal M. on 6 May.
 - ✓ Eastern Wood Pewee: First: 2 at Decorah on 15 May.
 - ✓ Loggerhead Shrike: One was seen near Bjorkboda Marsh, Hamilton Co. on 17 May.
 - ✓ Bell's Vireo: A singing bird was seen at Cardinal M. on 27 May.
 - Yellow-rumped Warbler: A few were seen 3-17 Apr.
 - ✓ My only other record was 14 at Cardinal M. on 6 May.
 - ✓ Bay-breasted Warbler: A male was seen at Decorah, where it is rare in spring, on 15 May.
 - ✓ Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 were seen at Cardinal M. on 14 May, my only record.
 - ✓ White-crowned Sparrow: 2 were at Lake Meyer, 27 Apr - 12 May.
 - ✓ Harris' Sparrow: 1 was at Lake Meyer on 6 May (Larry Reis).
 - ✓ Dark-eyed Junco: An Oregon type bird was seen at Decorah on 1 Mar.
 - ✓ Common Redpoll: 2 spent most of March at Lake Meyer, last seen on 29 Mar.
 - ✓ Pine Siskin: 6 were at Decorah on 23 Apr.

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