

Newton

Dear Vernon:

Here are our spring migration records. Hope the typing increases legibility.

Question: is there anything in print about the breeding status of the Trail's flycatcher complex in the northern midwest? As far as I can figure it, the birds around here in brushy pastures are all we-be-o's. Certainly they do not sound at all like the birds that I have seen and heard in New England and Washington State, which said fitzbeu. (I realize that this is just the reverse of what a lot of the literature says, which adds to my confusion.)

A book that you might be interested in: F and T Kent of Iowa City have computer coded and published in book form all of their field records for the last 25 years. Most of the book is ~~of the form of~~ detailed seasonal abundance charts for each species, year by year. There are also about 200 of F Kents photographs. You can get copies from F.W. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52240. It goes for \$7.50.

Ans.
6 July 74

Best regards,

Mike. Newton
128 Grove St.
Iowa City, Ia.
52240

Field records-- Spring migration 1976

Most records are joint records of M C Newlon and C S Newlon

If others saw the bird, their names are given in parentheses.

If someone else first found the bird and showed it to us, the person who should be given credit for the sighting is also indicated in parentheses.

herons

b-c night 2 5/1 Cone Marsh

Am bittern 1 heard 5/1 Cone Marsh (heard previous week by M Glasson, R. DeCooster)

Vultures, hawks.

turkey vulture 18 5/8 at various points in Johnson and Louisa Cos (MN, N Halmi, T Kent, T. Shires); 2 5/9 Cedar Bluff, Cedar Co (m.ob.)

sharp-shinned hawk: 1 5/17 Iowa City (N Halmi)

r.t. hawk; a pair resident from 5/8 on in a large tract of woodland north of the Coralville Reservoir.

r-l. hawk: a late bird 4/11 Coralville Reservoir.

osprey only record 1 4/23 at the rt 218 bridge on the Skunk River

Rails

Virginia 1 5/1 Cone Marsh

Sora 6 5/1 Cone Marsh

Shorebirds

Until about 4/20 the Coralville reservoir was very low and the extensive mudflats attracted large numbers of birds; by 4/23 the heavy rains that came in late April had filled up the Reservoir and completely covered the flats; however several small ponds that had been dry since the previous summer were filled up, and held smaller numbers until about the first of May.

Plovers

semipalm 2 4/18 Coralville Reservoir (N Halmi)
piping 2 4/18 Coralville Reservoir (N Halmi)

Sandpipers

1. yellowlegs est. 250 Coralville Reservoir 4/18

pectoral: est. 400 4/10; est 200 4/18 Coralville Reservoir.

white-rumped 2 5/20-23 Coralville Reservoir (credit to M. Glasson; m.ob.)

Baird's: 6 4/18 Coralville Reservoir

dunlin: 1 4/18, 6 5/23 Coralville Reservoir

Wilson's Phalarope: up to 5 4/30-5/8 Iowa City (m.ob.); 2 4/23 pond near Coralville Res.

Gulls, terns.

r-b gull 2 5/8 Coralville Dam (N Halmi, T Kent, T Shires)

tern, Forster's 1 5/8 Lake MacBride (N Halmi, T Kent, T. Shires)

tern, black 1 5/8 Swan Lake (N Halmi, T. Kent, T Shires)

cuckoos -- did not show up in any numbers until around 5/27

owls

screech: a small grove of maples in a posture s of the Coralville Reservoir held up to 4 adults and up to 3 imm birds (m.Ob.)

gr. horned: a pair resident at the s edge of the Coralville Reservoir fledged 2 young, for the second year in a row (m. ob.)

barred: a pair at Cedar Bluff, Cedar Co. raised two young (credit J Fuller; m.ob)

Woodpeckers

pileated: 1 4/10 Coraville Reservoir

red-headed: common in suitable habitat; to 10-20 a day. No evidence of a decline over the three seasons that I have been in the area.

Flycatchers

phoebe: a pair nested under an iron bridge ^{m B. rd F} north of the Coralville Reservoir*

acadian 1, singing, seen 5/22 Palisades-Kepler St. Pk., Linn Co. (R. DeCoster)

yellow-bellied: 4 5/21 Iowa City

alder: 3-4 singing birds 5/30 Iowa City; 4-6 birds 5/31 Coraville Resevior area, many singing. Some showed evidence of being territorial; made search for nests but have not yet succeeded in finding one. Most birds were in wet brushy pastures, not far from small streams or ditches; one was in a willow thicket by a beaver pond.

Swallows

cliff: colony on the bridges over the Iowa River at Iowa City continues to maintain itself - about 150 occupied nests 6/3.

a colony of 2-300 nests located on a limestone cliff across the Cedar River from Palisades - Kepler ST. Pk. in Linn Co. (5/22)

XIXEES

Wrens.

long-billed marsh 2 5/1 Cone Marsh; 1 5/8 Coralville Reservoir (N Halmi, T Kent, T Shires)

short billed marsh 1 5/8 Coralville Reservoir (N Halmi, T Kent, T Shires)

Thrushes

eastern bluebird 1 3/20 Cone Marsh; 1 5/9 Cedar Bluff (m. ob.)

Waxwings

cedar: many flocks around 5/23-5/31; seen on almost every field trip. max 21 5/31

Vireos

White-eyed 1 5/2-5/5 Iowa City

Bell's: 2 singing Iowa City 5/19-5/30; at least 3 birds at Coralville Reservoir area in a brushy field 5/23 on (credit C S Newlon)

Warblers

warbler migration thought generally good around here, though there were no tremendous waves. Noteworthy were the scarcity of bay-breasted and the relative abundance of Cape May, Mourning, Connecticut, and Canada.

Prothonotary: from 5/13 on, up to 3 birds present at a beaver pond on a small stream flowing into the north side of the Coralville Reservoir, just west of the rt 218 bridge. First observation by N Halmi, T Shires, T Kent. On 5/23 a pair was observed visiting a woodpecker hole in a dead willow, standing in several feet of water. English sparrows took over this hole. On 5/31 the pair was observed visiting another similar hole, and the female was seen carrying grass in her bill. The third bird is a male which is so far not paired. Seen by many observers.

Yellow: common in willows near water, probably more so than last year.

Cape May: 1 5/12 Iowa City; 2 5/15 Davenport; 1 5/23 Coralville Reservoir

Cerulean: 1 singing male, 5/22 Palisades -Kepler St. Pk., Linn Co. (R DeCoster)

Bay-breasted: 1 5/23 Coralville Reservoir (m ob)

La. Waterthrush: 1 singing (seen only fleetingly) 5/22 Palisades-Kepler St. Pk.
(R DeCoster)

Kentucky 1 6/6-6/7 Coralville Reservoir area (credit to R. DeCoster)
Connecticut: 1 5/22 Palisades-Kepler St. Pk

Mourning: 1 5/21 Iowa City; 4 5/22 Palisades-Kepler St. Pk. (R DeCoster)

Yellow-breasted chat: 1 5/23 on, in brushy field on north side of the Coralville Reservoir. (credit J. Taylor, R. Vane) (m ob).

Warblers

Hooded: 1 ~~singing~~ singing male 5/27 Coralville Reservoir. (They are quite scarce around here; my first record, and F and T kent only saw one in 25 years.)

Canada: 1 5/22 Palisades-Kepler St Pk (R DeCoster); 1 5/23 Coralville Reservoir; 1 5/28 Iowa City, killed on window (credit R Hollis)

Icterids

My impression was that there were fewer migrant grackles and redwings around this year than last, though the numbers of breeding birds seem about the same.

Yellow-headed blackbird 5-6 5/8 Cone Marsh (N Halmi, T Kent, T Shires). They did not return to the pond in Iowa City at which they were found last summer, as the water level was too low (the pond dried up in mid-May).

Finches

pine siskins were around in large numbers in April and early May. last bird seen 1 5/11 Iowa City.

Sparrows

grasshopper: remain in good numbers in suitable psature habitat. No evident decline in the three years that I have birded this area.

clay-colored: 1 5/1 Cone Marsh

Harris's: up to 4 present 4/10 through 5/8 Coralville Reservoir (m ob); 2 5/5 Iowa City (N Halmi)

(As of 5/23, Henslow's sparrows had not yet returned to the field where they have been found the previous two years.)