

Dec. 1



Dear Vern:

Here is a summary of the highlights of the fall season in the Iowa City area.

Com. Loon: 10 on the Coralville Reservoir Nov. 9 was an unusually high number for this location.

Double-crested Cormorants: 1 on Coralville Reservoir (CR) Oct. 23-25; 3 *ibid.* in dead trees Nov. 7.

Sharp-shinned Hawks: singles Sept. 20, 24, 27, Oct. 7 (no Cooper or goshawk)

Osprey: around CR Sept. 12-27 (probably one bird, several sightings)

Com. Gallinule: (not common here) by CR Sept. 14.

Shorebirds: migration near I.C. best in state - Des Moines dry, Davenport too wet.

Piping Plover: seen by T. Shives Aug. 2 CR

Am. Golden Plover: up to 3 Sept. Aug. 9 - Oct. 1 CR

Black-bellied Plover: up to 4 Sept. 13 - Oct. 26

Upland Sandpiper: only observation of year near CR Aug. 9

Willet: (rare in fall, usually few) - counted 20 Aug. 2, 47 Aug. 9; (T. Shives the same day, later in the evening, counted 100+ as they flew over) CR

Stilt Sandpiper: flock of 30 at Cone Marsh the peak on Aug. 31

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 4 near CR on Aug. 2

Marbled Godwit: 1 *ibid.*, same day (NH, m.ob.)

N. Phalarope: 5 individuals (total) CR, Conestoga Aug. 16 - Sept. 8.

Franklin's Gulls (many in spring): 4 in W plumage on L. Macbride Nov. 1.

Caspian Terns: up to 12 on L. Macbride CR Sept. 14-20.

Carolina Wren: 3 are known to be in residence in I.C.; I heard one, others saw 2 *ibid.*; one regularly visits

Fred Kent's feeder.

Water Pipits in small numbers were regular S of the CR most of Oct.

Cape May Warbler, rare in Iowa in fall (Brown has 3 previous records in his annotated list), were remarkably common Sept. 7-24: I saw 5 individuals, M. Newton 1 more some 20 miles away; imm. and well-marked ♀♀.

The winter finch story is mixed, but already better than the miserable '74/'75 Utah tale of woes. Evening Grosbeaks seen by Marilyn Glosom and others since Nov. 9 (may be 1 roosting flock of 6-8); Purple Finches scarce; no Com. Redpoll, Pine Siskin yet; 6-7 White-winged Crossbills on U. of Iowa medical campus Nov. 25 (making it 5 years in a row that these were seen in I.C.), but no Red Crossbills; Lapland Longspurs (singles) seen by M. Newton early in Oct. and by both of us on Oct. 27; Snow Buntings present since Nov. 1, with a flock of 30 S of CR on Nov. 25.

In summary, no great rarities, but, at 213 for '75, I am 3 ahead of the '74 total of 210, and perhaps a few more to come. (Took my eyes off the scene Nov. 11-15 to all 29 sites in Puerto Rico.)

Sincerely

Mike

Halma  
Rt. 6 Box 182

Jowa City, Iowa 52240