

RR1, Tabor, Iowa
July 11.

Dear Mr Kleen,

I have recently moved here from North Carolina where I was an active birder and regular contributor to American Birds. I am managing a hog operation here in extreme southwest Iowa and have been and intend to continue birding this interesting area intensively. If you have any ~~areas~~ ^{problems} that need clarification regarding birds in this area let me know and I will try to help.

Following are some observations made this spring: (All Fremont County)

Eared Grebe: Only 1 seen: Apr 26.

White Pelican: At Forney Lake: 30 on May 4; 2 on May 14.

Common Egret: 2 seen May 25.

Am. Bittern: 1 seen at Taylor Lake May 6.

White-fronted Goose: Regular in small flocks during goose migration. Last seen Apr 6 at Forney Lake (50).

Snow Goose: 2 still present Forney Lake May 25. None since.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Only 1 seen: May 4. No Cooper's seen.

Broad-winged Hawk: Surprisingly, none seen.

Swainson's Hawk: 17 seen Apr 20, 13 of these within an area of a few hundred square yards, sitting on fence posts - obviously a migrating flock.

Falcons: None seen, except for Am. Kestrel (common in winter, but ~~seen~~ ^{only 2} seen during May.

Shorebirds: An incredible influx on May 18 at Forney Lake. There were considerable mudflats exposed and light for observation was perfect. All observations were made with 8x40 binoculars and Balscope Sr telescope at distances of mostly a few yards but up to 100 yards. I have seen all the species listed before, either in North Carolina or in Kansas (at Cheyenne Bottoms).

<u>Semipalmated Plover</u> :	6	<u>Least Sandpiper</u> :	50 ⁺
<u>Killdeer</u> :	5	<u>Dunlin</u> :	35 ⁺
<u>Am. Golden Plover</u> :	3	<u>Long-billed Dowitcher</u> :	50 ⁺
<u>Blackbellied Plover</u> :	2	<u>Stilt Sandpiper</u> :	2 ⁺
<u>Spotted Sandpiper</u> :	1	<u>Semipalmated Sandpiper</u> :	40 ⁺
<u>Greater Yellowlegs</u> :	5	<u>Western Sandpiper</u> :	5 ⁺
<u>Lesser Yellowlegs</u> :	3	<u>Buffbreasted Sandpiper</u> :	1 ⁺
<u>Pectoral Sandpiper</u> :	300	<u>Hudsonian Godwit</u> :	35 ⁺
<u>White-rumped Sandpiper</u> :	100	<u>Sanderling</u> :	3 ⁺
<u>Baird's Sandpiper</u> :	75 ⁺	<u>Wilson's Phalarope</u> :	100

+ : see notes below

Long-billed Dowitcher: Identified as LBD by barred sides and extremely long bills. The reddish underparts extended to the undertail coverts. Although looked for, no SBD were identified.

Stilt Sandpiper: Two were feeding with LBD up to their bellies in the water. Eyebrow stripe and barred underparts were clearly

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: ^{see n.} A surprise: only 1 was present, standing quietly by itself in shallow water. The ploverlike profile, eye-ring, and overall buffy plumage were noted characteristics.

Sanderling: These were identified by their pale plumage and their feeding action - very active, staying close to the water's edge.

Peep: Western Sandpiper: Only 5 were positively identified. Similar to the Semipalmated, but differentiated as follows: 1. longer bill with decided droop; 2. richer brown coloration; also more ~~extensive~~ extensive brown, especially in the bend-of-wing area, where the Semi is very pale; 3. call: high-pitched, and when flushed in the presence of White-rumped Sandpipers, the absence of the white rump confirms Western (the calls of the latter two are similar).

Least Sandpiper: Yellow legs.

Baird's Sandpiper: Black legs; long-bodied appearance due to long wings; richer brown plumage than White-rumped without the spotty flanks of the White-rumped; almost like a small Pectoral.

Mockingbird: Only one seen in period: near Waubonsie State Park, Apr 20.

Bay-breasted Warbler: A male at Agency, Iowa, May 11.

Kentucky Warbler: Two singing at Waubonsie S/P/ May 25.

Wilson's Warbler: Considered uncommon in western Iowa by Brown (1971).
Seen (all males) May 8 (3); May 23 (1).

Meadowlarks: About 5:1 western:eastern in Fremont Co.

Orchard Oriole: Also considered uncommon by Brown. Seen May 4-20, peak 5 on May 8 and 14. Apparently the Missouri Valley is a migration route for this species.

Warbler migration was
unimpressive - few
migrant species seen -
I expected more (maybe too much!)

Yours sincerely,
W. Ross Silcock.

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