

Field Reports of Bird sightings
Spring, 1997

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Species	Number	Date	Location
Common Loon	3	12 April	Big Creek St. Park
Horned Grebe	2	12 April	Big Creek St. Park
	1	19 April	Saylorville Res.
Eared Grebe	3	15 April	Saylorville Res.
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	9 March	Guthrie County
Cinnamon Teal	1 male	19 April	Big Creek S.P.
Ruddy Duck	35	12 April	Big Creek S.P.
Turkey Vulture	1	20 March	Polk County
Osprey	2	19 April	Polk County
	1	6 May	Polk County
	1	8 May	Polk County
Mississippi Kite	1	12 May	Ledges St Park
	This bird was seen briefly, as it sailed through the canyon in the lower part of the park. I only had the bird in view 3-5 seconds; my first impression, based on flight style, was that it was a kite, and the details I saw supported that initial impression. The tail was long and dark; as the bird sailed past it turned its head toward me, and the head was a very pale gray. The bird was fairly low, and because of the angle, I did not get any impression of its wing shape.		
	1	19 May	near Greenwood Park
	1	21-23 May	near Greenwood Park
	3	24 May	near Greenwood Park
These three birds were soaring together directly overhead for 5-10 minutes. These birds, as well as the birds seen on 19 and 21-23 May, were all seen over the Greenwood Park area of Des Moines. 19 May was the first day I was able to bird after the 12th. Kites could well have shown up near Greenwood Park earlier, but I wasn't able to check.			
On the 24th I twice observed a kite in a tree with twigs in its mouth, and on both occasions it moved from that tree into a second tree where the bird appeared to be working on a nest.			
	1	25 May	Olivet Baptist Church
I had checked this site several times; this was the first time I found a kite there.			

(All kites observed were adults.)

Harrier	1	16 March	Pocahontas County
	1	19 April	Polk County
	1	8 May	Polk County
✓ Red-shouldered Hawk	1	23 March	Tama County
	1	19 May	Polk County
Broad-winged Hawk	✓ 1	17 April	near Greenwood Park, DM
	1	19 April	near Greenwood Park, DM
	1	3 May	near Greenwood Park, DM
	✓ 3	8 May	near Greenwood Park, DM
✓ Swainson's Hawk	1	12 May	Guthrie County
✓ Peregrine Falcon	1	19 May	near Greenwood Park, DM
Sora	1	19 April	Engledinger Marsh, Polk County
	Somewhat early. This bird flushed about 6 feet away from me as I walked through Engledinger Marsh. It flew less than 15 feet and dropped back into the vegetation.		
✓ Solitary Sandpiper	1	29 April	Clive Greenbelt, Polk County
✓ Bonaparte's Gull	3	19 April	Big Creek S.P.
✓ Forster's Tern	12	19 April	Big Creek S.P.
✓ Chimney Swift	6	4 May	Polk County
✓ Northern Flicker	12	17 April	Clive Greenbelt, Polk County
✓ Eastern Phoebe	1	17 April	Polk County
✓ Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	8 April	near Greenwood Park
✓ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	16 April	Polk County
✓ Swainson's Thrush	1	2 May	Polk County
✓ Hermit Thrush	1	2 May	Clive Greenbelt
	1	3 May	Clive Greenbelt
	Both these birds were carefully observed--both were seen from the back, and showed good rusty tails.		
✓ Gray Catbird	1	2 May	Clive Greenbelt
✓ Northern Mockingbird	1	29 April	Clive Greenbelt
✓ Orange-crowned Warbler	1	2 May	Clive Greenbelt
✓ Black-and-white Warbler	1	2 May	Clive Greenbelt
✓ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	4 May	Polk County

Clay-colored Sparrow	1	1 May	Clive Greenbelt
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	15 May	Clive Greenbelt
White-crowned Sparrow	1	15 May	Polk County
Harris' Sparrow	1	12 May	Polk County
Lapland Longspur	150	12 April	1/2 mile n. of Big Creek S.P.
Purple Finch	2	1 May	near Greenwood Park