

FIELD REPORTS:

March 1 through May 31, 1998

FROM:

Pam and Reid Allen (P & R Allen)
1601 Pleasant Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265

OTHER OBSERVERS:

Eugene Armstrong
Booneville, IAJim Dinsmore
Ames, IATom Kent
Iowa City, IAMark & Beth Proescholdt
Liscomb, IAHank Zaletel
Nevada, IA

NOTE: In the "OBSERVERS" column, if there is an * after the name, this designates the person who FIRST made the observation.

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS
✓ Common Loon	1	27 Mar.	Dallas Co. - Maffitt Res.	P & R Allen
✓ Eared Grebe	2	5 Apr.	Story & Marshall Co. - Hendrickson's Marsh	P & R Allen
✓ American Bittern	1	3 May	Polk Co. - Saylorville Lake - Sandpiper Beach	P & R Allen
✓ Least Bittern	1	25 May	Freemont Co. - Riverton W.L.A.	P & R Allen
✓ Snowy Egret	1	3 May	Dallas Co. - 1/2 mi. W. of Booneville on F90	Eugene Armstrong* P & R Allen
Note: Eugene called and told us where to look for the egret. We looked in the river just north of the road and there was the Snowy Egret with his "yellow" slippers stalking along in search of food.				
✓ Cattle Egret	7	14 May	Benton Co. - 1-1/2 mi. W of Luzern on E66	P & R Allen
✓ Blue-winged Teal	2	21 Mar.	Appanoose Co. - Rathbun Res.	P & R Allen
✓ Oldsquaw	1	4 Apr.	Kossuth Co. - Union Slough N.W.R.	P & R Allen
Note: The Oldsquaw was swimming and diving with some Buffleheads in a small channel of water next to the middle pool of the slough. It's short bi-colored bill and conspicuously mottled plumage identified the bird for us.				
✓ Hooded Merganser	2	21 Mar.	Clarke Co. - West Lake (near Osceola)	P & R Allen

PAGE 2
 SPRING FIELD REPORTS
 FROM: Pam and Reid Allen

✓ Ruddy Duck	1	1 Mar.	Guthrie Co. - Lakin Slough (north end)	P & R Allen
✓ Virginia Rail	1	1 May	Osceola Co. - Rush Lake	P & R Allen
✓ Piping Plover	2	26 May	Pottawattamie Co. - I.P.L. Ponds	P & R Allen
		Note:	One of the Piping Plovers was sitting on a nest (scrape).	
✓ American Avocet	1	1 May	Dickinson Co. - Kettleesen W.P.A.	P & R Allen
✓ Greater Yellowlegs	1	4 Apr.	Winnebago Co. - Thorpe Park	P & R Allen
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	1	4 Apr.	Winnebago Co. - Thorpe Park	P & R Allen
✓ Willet	17	30 Apr.	Woodbury Co. - Port Neal Road 1/4 mi. S. of Hwy D 51	P & R Allen
✓ Upland Sandpiper	1	10 May	Greene Co. - 2 mi. E. of Churdan on Hwy 4	P & R Allen
✓ White-rumped Sandpiper	17	25 May	Freemont Co. - Waubonsie W.L.A.	P & R Allen
✓ Long-billed Dowitcher	3	17 May	Story Co. - 2 mi. E. of Colo and 1/4 mi. N. of Hwy 30	Hank Zaletel* Jim Dinsmore Reid Allen
		Note:	3rd latest date; "keek" call given in flight.	
✓ Wilson's Phalarope	1	1 May	Dickinson Co. - Kettleesen W.P.A.	P & R Allen
Franklin's Gull	1	1 Mar.	Polk Co. - Big Creek S.P. - off north end of 100th Street	P & R Allen
		Note:	It was surprising to see this alternate plumaged Franklin's Gull in with the Ring-billed Gulls and Herring Gulls. It was easy to see the eye crescents and prominent white tips on the primaries.	
✓ Caspian Tern	3	3 May	Polk Co. - Saylorville Lake - Sandpiper Beach	P & R Allen
✓ Barn Owl	1	25 May	Taylor Co. - Zelbert Freymeyer residence	Z. Freymeyer* P & R Allen
		Note:	Zelbert said there were 2 Barn Owls. We just briefly looked and saw one adult owl sitting on the rafters in the big barn at Zelbert's. Did not want to disturb or flush the owls and did not. Zelbert said he would be looking to see if they were nesting in a week or so.	
✓ Common Nighthawk	1	9 May	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	Pam Allen

✓ Acadian Flycatcher	1	19 May	Henry Co. - Geode S.P.	P & R Allen
			Note: This bird was calling "wick-up" frequently while we observed it.	
✓ Western Kingbird	1	May 9	Polk Co. - State Capitol Grounds	P & R Allen
			Details: These birds have been nesting on the State Capitol grounds for about 5 years and it's always good to see them back again. On May 9, we observed only one Western Kingbird. This large flycatcher had a bright lemon-yellow belly, light gray head, chest, throat and nape. The wings as well as the tail was dark and the tail was bordered with white outer feathers.	
✓ Black-billed Magpie	2	30 Apr.	Plymouth Co. - 234th St. - east of Hwy12.	P & R Allen
			Details: These two birds were back at the same location where they nested and raised young last year. The male was quite active in calling to the female who was looking for a nesting site. We observed the birds for about 1/2 hour. Description: Strikingly large crow-sized bird with a very long tail and huge white "windows" in the wings. Black head, bill, nape and throat with dark greenish-blackish-blue tail and secondaries. White belly; black legs.	
✓ Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	3 Apr.	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	Pam Allen
✓ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	15 Apr.	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	11 Apr.	Lee Co. - Shimek Forest (Croton)	P & R Allen
	1	11 Apr.	Van Buren Co. - Lacey-Keosaqua S.P.	P & R Allen M & B Proescholdt
✓ Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	12 May	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Swainson's Thrush	1	12 May	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Hermit Thrush	1	12 Apr.	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Wood Thrush	1	6 May	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Northern Mockingbird	1	28 Mar.	Adams Co. - 1-1/2 mi. E of Lake Icaria on N 53	P & R Allen
✓ Blue-headed Vireo	1	5 May	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Warbling Vireo	1	5 May	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Tennessee Warbler	1	2 May	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Orange-crowned Warbler	1	23 Apr.	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	Pam Allen

PAGE 4
 SPRING FIELD REPORTS
 FROM: Pam and Reid Allen

✓ Yellow-throated Warbler	1	11 Apr.	Van Buren Co. - Lacey-Keosauqua S.P.	M* & B Proescholdt P & R Allen
	2	9 May	Polk Co. - Walnut Woods S.P.	P & R Allen
		Note: Watched female building a nest.		
✓ Prairie Warbler	1	19 May	Henry Co. - Just west of entrance to Mud Creek Pk.	P & R Allen
		Note: Documentation enclosed. We were glad to find this bird had returned to the same location again this spring.		
✓ Ovenbird	1	6 May	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Louisiana Waterthrush	1	11 Apr.	Lee Co. - Shimek Forest (Croton)	P & R Allen
✓ Mourning Warbler	1	20 May	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Wilson's Warbler	1	21 May	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Blue Grosbeak	1	26 May	Freemont Co. - On west side of the gravel road at Secret Lake	P & R Allen
		Note: We learned something new this year. The female Blue Grosbeak sings just as well as the male. This female was calling from the top of a small shrub for about 10 minutes.		
✓ Chipping Sparrow	1	6 Apr.	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Lincoln's Sparrow	1	2 Apr.	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Dark-eyed Junco	1	19 Apr.	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
✓ Lapland Longspur	150	1 Mar.	Polk Co. - Hwy 415 just east of Hwy 17	P & R Allen
		Note: There were hardly any Horned Larks in with this group of longspurs.		
	500-600	1 Mar.	Guthrie Co.- Long Pond	P & R Allen
✓ White-winged Crossbill	1	2 thru 21 May	Polk Co. - 1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
		Note: Sets late dates. Documentation and photographic slides enclosed. Also observed by Tom Kent on 17 May.		
✓ Eurasian Tree Sparrow	2	10 Apr.	Des Moines Co. - Allen Green Refuge	P & R Allen

June 1, 1998

Thomas Kent
Spring Field Reports Editor
211 Richards St.
Iowa City, IA 52246

Dear Tom:

Really glad you got to see the White-winged Crossbill. Another lady whose name is Betty (don't know last name) came by on the next Tuesday and also saw the bird about the same time you did. We last saw the bird in the yard on Thursday, May 21 at 6:45 a.m.

Enclosed are our spring field reports. Hope they might be of some use to you, the Records Committee, or whomever! Photos are also enclosed (all of the White-winged Crossbill).

Good Birding!

Sincerely,



Pam Allen
1601 Pleasant Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265-2331