

Spring Report - Fremont Co., Iowa.

Weather: A very heavy hailstorm May 28 killed many small birds in and near Tabor.

Heavy Spring rains left many rainpools and raised water levels in marshy areas, contributing to the conspicuousness of species such as shorebirds and rails (see below).

Notable absence: No Franklin's Gulls were seen this spring, but were common last year. Perhaps related to this was the sighting of only 1 Black Tern this spring (also common last year). Where did they go?

Notes on Blue List species (asterisk) are included.

Eared Grebe: 4 at Riverton Apr 18.

+Pied-billed Grebe: Common migrant: Apr 11 - May 22; max 6 on May 22.

+White Pelican: Larger flocks this year than last: at Riverton, Apr 11 (300) and Apr 18 (325).

+Double-crested Cormorant: At Riverton: 150 Apr 11 and 25 Apr 18.

Common Egret: May 6 at Taylor Lake. (1).

Snowy Egret: May 1 at Taylor Lake. (1).

+Black-crowned Night Heron: At Taylor Lake May 1-6. Max 6 on May 1.

+Yellow-crowned Night Heron: None seen.

+Canvasback: None seen this spring, several last year.

+Cooper's, Sharp-shinned, Merlin, Osprey: None seen.

+Swainson's Hawk: Only 1 seen this spring.

+Marsh Hawk: Not hard to find in migration. Seen Apr 4 and 18.

+American Kestrel: Common migrant here.

+Bobwhite: Sometimes hard to find, but locally common. Not nearly as abundant as Ring-necked Pheasant.

Virginia Rail: Heard Apr 6 and 13 at Taylor Lake.

Sora: Maximum 7 at Taylor Lake May 3.

Common Snipe: Maximum 30 at Riverton Apr 4.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Maximum 150 at Taylor Lake May 1. Abundant this spring.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 at Taylor Lake May 6.

Wilson's Phalarope: At Taylor Lake: 30 May 3 and 75 May 6.

Forster's Tern: 3 at Riverton Apr 11 and 4 at Taylor Lake May 1.

+Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Arrived late (June 6) but common then.

+Barn Owl: Still not recorded here in 18 months.

+Belted Kingfisher: Uncommon here; none seen this spring.

+Red-headed Woodpecker: Abundant summer resident here.

+Hairy Woodpecker: Often hard to find: spring records show 5:1 ratio Dy:Hy.

Eastern Kingbird: Early arrival: Apr 11.

+Tufted Titmouse: Locally common here, especially at Waubonsie State Park.

+Bewick's Wren: Not recorded here in 18 months, but one heard on IOU Field Trip at Princeton, May 16.

+Eastern Bluebird: Sporadic here; only 5 seen this spring.

+Loggerhead Shrike: Fairly common here as a migrant.

Blackburnian Warbler: 1 seen May 13.

+Orchard Oriole: Very common here: first seen May 20 (6).

+Lark Bunting: None seen in 18 months, despite searching.

Ros Ethel.

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Melvern, Ia.

Melvern? 51551