

## FIELD REPORTS--FALL 1996

Thomas H. Kent

### WEATHER

August was slightly cooler than normal with normal rainfall. September was cooler than normal with below<sup>^</sup> normal precipitation. October had very normal weather until the last few days, when a storm, which lasted into the first of November, brought birds south. November was cold, with only five days above normal, and was wetter than normal except in southeastern Iowa.

### GENERAL TRENDS

The influx of Red Crossbills that began in July continued into August, but diminished after that. Although there were rumors that birds of the coniferous forests of the western mountains were on the move in search of food, it was not until the last day of November that a second such species was found in Iowa—a Pinyon Jay graciously hosted by Gaylan and Lloyd Crim at their feeders.

The early passerine migration was not spectacular with no raving comments about warbler fallouts.

Shorebird migration was also less than spectacular with habitat conditions below average; never-the-less, a number of rare shorebirds were found and some unusual dates established.

Gulls presented themselves in the now-expected varieties and were joined by an unprecedented number of Pomarine Jaegers. Grebes were abundant and widespread, but loons were not. Waubonsie Wildlife Area in the southwest<sup>ern</sup> corner of the state has become the heron center of Iowa. All species of herons were there in large numbers. Least Bitterns at scattered locations were unusually numerous for fall. Waterfowl reports might be considered average at best—perhaps waterfowl and loons moved through more rapidly than usual. ] ?

### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported included Brown Pelican, Great Cormorant, Anhinga, Gyrfalcon, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Jaeger species, Pomarine Jaeger, Black-headed Gull, Mew Gull, Rufous Hummingbird,

and Pinyon Jay. Casual species included Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Red Knot, Red Phalarope, Laughing Gull, California Gull, and Sabine's Gull. There were also a number of birds seen at unusual dates. I was more conservative than usual in evaluating records and referred many to the Records Committee.

Rare regular species of note included Trumpeter Swan, Mississippi Kite, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Snowy Owl, Blue Grosbeak, Spotted Towhee, Henslow's Sparrow, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Great-tailed Grackle is no longer unusual, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow appears to be established in four counties along the lower Mississippi River.

SPECIES DATA (\* = documented)

**Red-throated Loon:** 1 in first-basic plumage was at Red Rock Res. on 27 Nov (\*SJD).

**Pacific Loon:** Birds in basic plumage were reported from Rathbun Res. on 11 Oct (\*RLC)[record earliest], from Saylorville Res. on 5 Nov (SJD—details), and from Red Rock Res. on 3, 7, and 18 Nov (\*AMJ, \*THK, \*JLF, \*CE).

**Common Loon:** First: 2 were at Spirit L. on 7 Aug (DHe, HZ). The next was at Pleasant Creek L. on 20 Sep (MCK). High count: 12 on 9 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Several contributors noted that there were fewer than usual.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** High count: 534 on 11 Sep at L. Manawa (SJD). Two broods were at Harrier M. in Boone Co. on 26 Aug (JJD).

**Horned Grebe:** First: 23 Sep at Cedar L. (SJD). Last: 27 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB). High count: 36 on 24 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD). There were reports from 18 locations with more than 10 birds at 4 locations, which is more than usual.

**Red-necked Grebe:** All: 1 on 30 Oct at Black Hawk L. (PE).

**Eared Grebe:** First: 21 Aug at East Okoboji (ETh). Last: 24 Nov at Terra L. (SJD). High count: 4 on 9 Oct at Little Wall L. (SJD). There were reports from 14 locations with 3 in the eastern half of the state.

**Western Grebe:** First: 2 Sep at Trumbull L. (LAS). Last: 3 on 22 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB). From 1 to 3 were seen at 15 locations with most in the zone from Spirit L. to Red Rock Res.; however, 1 was at Lock

and Dam 18 in Des Moines Co. on 14 Nov (JLF) and a few were in Pottawattamie Co. in southwestern Iowa.

**American White Pelican:** Last: 30 Nov at Saylorville Res. (Scott Rolfes fide SJD). High count: 4,700 at Runnells A. on 5 Sep (SJD). Large flocks were seen from mid-August to early October all across the state.

**Brown Pelican:** An immature bird found by Chuck Fuller spent several days at Lock and Dam 18 in Des Moines Co. and was documented on 4 Nov (\*JLF).

**Great Cormorant:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** High counts: 2,000 on 29 Sep at Clinton (PCP), 2,500 on 2 Oct at Coralville Res. (CE), and 2,100 on 27 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Anhinga:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**American Bittern:** All: 29 Aug at Davenport (PCP) and 29 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Least Bittern:** All: 8 Aug at Goose L. in Clinton Co. (JLF), 13 Aug at Forney L. (SJD) with 3 there on 5 Sep (AMJ), 5 Sep at Otter Creek M. (DLD), and 7 Sep at North Ridge P. in Coralville (CE). This is more than is usually reported in the fall.

**Great Blue Heron:** High count: 556 on 17 Aug at Runnells A. (SJD).

**Great Egret:** Last: 31 Oct in Clay Co. (RR). High counts: 280 on 12 Aug at Waubonsie W.A. (SJD) and 96 on 17 Aug at Runnells A. (SJD).

**Snowy Egret:** All: birds were at Waubonsie W.A. from 10 Aug to 25 Sep (LAS, BKP/LJP) with a maximum of 5 birds on 12 Aug (SJD); 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 13 Aug (SJD); and in Lee Co. on 29 Aug, 2 were at Heron Bend and 3 were at Fort Madison (SJD).

**Little Blue Heron:** All: birds were at Waubonsie W.A. from 3 Aug to 25 Sep (PHA/RIA, BKP/LJP) with a maximum of 38 (17 adults, 12 calico, 9 white) on 12 Aug (SJD); 12 (9 adults, 3 calico) were at nearby Sheldon Basin on 3 Aug (PHA/RIA); birds were at Heron Bend in Lee Co. from 22 Aug (SJD) to 1 Sep (CE), with 18 birds on the later date; and 3 were at Cone M. on 5 Sep (JLF).

**Cattle Egret:** Last: 27 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD). High count: 708 on 9 Sep at Waubonsie W.A. (SJD). There were reports of 1 to 19 birds at 6 other locations.

**Green Heron:** Last: 1 adult on 6 Oct at South Twin L. (SJD).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Last: 7 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD). High count: 29 on 11 Sep at Waubonsie W.A. (BKP/LJP). From 1 to 7 were reported at 3 other locations.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** All: birds were at Waubonsie W.A. from 10 Aug to 11 Sep (LAS, BKP/LJP) with a maximum of 10 (6 adults, 4 immatures) on 12 Aug (SJD).

**Ibis species:** All: 1 was noted in the egret roost at Waubonsie W.A. on 11 Sep (BKP/LJP).

**Tundra Swan:** Family groups of 5, perhaps the same, were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Oct (MCK) and Christopherson Sl. on 30 Oct (SJD). By 10 Nov, 14 were at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Details were given for an immature at Saylorville Res. on 25 Nov (SJD) and 2 adults at Ponderosa L. in Poweshiek Co. on 30 Nov (SJD). At the usual location on Pool 9 in Allamakee Co., 250 were noted on 10 Nov (JLF).

**Trumpeter Swan:** All: 3 untagged birds were in Cerro Gordo Co. from 30 Oct to 2 Nov (CJF, MPr); 7 adults with neck bands were at West Okoboji on 17 Nov (SJD); an injured adult with neck band from Union Slough N.W.R. was in Dallas Co. on 19 Nov (SJD); an adult with green neck collar was with an immature at Saylorville Res. on 25 Nov (SJD); and 3 returned to Black Hawk L. on 25 Nov (Mike Mahn fide PE).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** First: 1 at Port Neal on 10 Aug (BFH). High count: 150 at Hitchcock N.A. on 28 Oct (BKP/LJP).

*from summer see change - bird summer then*

**Snow Goose:** First: 1 on 14 Aug at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (JJD). High count: 2,000 on 12 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), which is a very low number.

**Ross's Goose:** First: 7 at Barringer Sl. in Clay Co. on 1 Nov (SJD). From 1 to 4 were seen at 8 other western Iowa locations with the most easterly at Terra L. in Polk Co. on 28 Nov (PJW, \*JTG-photos).

**Canada Goose:** Large flights were noted in central Iowa on 23 and 24 Nov (JJD, SJD).

**Wood Duck:** High count: 68 on 27 Aug at Sweet M. (RLC).

**Green-winged Teal:** High count: 300 on 16 Oct at L. Macbride (THK).

**American Black Duck:** First: 9 Nov in Polk Co. (SJD). High count: 11 on 28 Nov at Dubuque (PE).

**Northern Pintail:** First: 7 on 17 Aug at Tomahawk M. (PE).

**Blue-winged Teal:** Last: 28 Nov at Hallett's Quarry in Story Co. (SJD).

**Northern Shoveler:** High count: 1,000 on 7 Nov at East Okoboji (RTh).

**Canvasback:** A male was at Pool 19 on 29 Aug (SJD) and 3,000 were there on 23 Nov (THK).

**Redhead:** High count: 450 on 30 Oct at West Okoboji (SJD).

**Greater Scaup:** First: a female on 30 Oct at Christopherson Sl. (SJD). There were reports of 1 to 10 birds at 10 locations.

**Lesser Scaup:** High count: 4,500 on 30 Oct at West Okoboki (SJD).

**Oldsquaw:** First: 31 Oct at Lost Island L. (SJD). High count: 9 on 13 Nov at L. Macbride (THK). From 1 to 4 were reported at 5 other locations.

**Black Scoter:** All: 1 male on 4 Nov at Lock and Dam 18 (JLF) and 1 female/immature there on 9 Nov (THK). The only other reports involved 1 female/immature at Saylorville Res. on 16 and 22 Nov (SJD).

**Surf Scoter:** All: 1 on 15, 20 Oct at Spirit L. (DHe, ETh).

**White-winged Scoter:** First: 2 on 24 Oct at Red Rock Res. (JLF). From 1 to 2 were noted at 4 other locations.

**Common Goldeneye:** First: 31 Oct at Morse L. in Wright Co. (THK, JLF).

**Bufflehead:** High count: 200 at Spirit L. on 11 Nov (LAS).

**Hooded Merganser:** High count: 131 on 16 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Common Merganser:** First: 3 on 1 Nov at Pine L. (MPr). High count: 13,000 on 27 Nov at Red Rock Res. (SJD).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** High count: 257 on 16 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Ruddy Duck:** High count: 793 on 24 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Turkey Vulture:** Last: 1 injured immature on 9 Nov at Snake Creek M. (JJD) ~~specimen~~. High count: 150 on 30 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).

**Osprey:** First: 14 Sep at Saylorville Res. (PJW). Last: 20 Oct at Saylorville Res. (PJW).

**Mississippi Kite:** All: 1 adult at Des Moines on 17, 27-30 Aug and 2 Sep and 1 immature on 13 Sep (PJW)[ties 3rd latest].

**Bald Eagle:** High count: 62 (21 adult, 41 immature) on 24 Nov along the Des Moines R. in Dallas Co. (SJD).

**Northern Harrier:** High count: 9 on 31 Oct at Barringer Sl. (SJD).

*No specimen - it lived*

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** First: 8 Aug in Lyon Co. (DCH). High counts: 65 and 57 on 30 Sep and 5 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr).

**Cooper's Hawk:** First: 12 Aug at Waubonsie W.A. (SJD). High count: 10 on 5 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (SJD).

**Northern Goshawk:** All: 1 immature on 29 Sep at Algona (MCK—details), 1 immature found dead on 6 Oct in Des Moines by Carol Henderson (PJW—specimen), 1 adult on 24 Nov at West Okoboji (LAS—details).  
to ISA  
^

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 12 birds were reported from 21 Aug to 26 Nov from Benton, Guthrie, Jasper, Polk, Marion, and Marshall counties, with 7 of the birds from the hawk-watch at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr, MPr, SJD, PCP).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** First: 28 Aug at Des Moines (PJW). High count: 63 at Grammer Grove W.A. on 15 Sep (BPr).

**Swainson's Hawk:** All: 1 to 3 at Mason City from 18 Aug to 7 Sep (CJF, PHA/RIA); 21 and 24 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP); 28 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr), 2 Oct at Cedar Falls (SJD), and 25 Oct in Dickinson Co. (DCH).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** High counts: 76 on 7 Oct, 70 on 24 Oct, and 97 on 27 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr). There were reports of 4 Krider's and 3 Harlan's hawks.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** First: 25 Oct in Clay Co. (LAS).

**Golden Eagle:** All: 3 on 2 Oct, 1 on 19 Oct, and 1 on 2 Nov at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr), 1 immature on 28 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (refuge personnel fide MCK), 1 immature on 2 Nov at Barringer Sl. (SJD), and 1 adult on 24 Nov in northeastern Dallas Co. (SJD).

**Merlin:** First: 26 Aug at Dewey's Pasture (LAS). There were 26 other birds reported from 9 Sep to 17 Nov.

**Peregrine Falcon:** First: 1 immature on 29 Aug at Runnells A., probably from Des Moines (SJD). There were 12 other birds reported from 21 Sep to 12 Oct.  
^

**Gyrfalcon:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Prairie Falcon:** An immature female was discovered roosting on the Mid-America Energy building in Davenport on 31 Oct (PCP—details) and was seen on 1 and 2 Nov (JLF, CE).

**Gray Partridge:** Reports were from Cerro Gordo, Dickinson, Marshall, and Polk counties.

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Yellow Rail:** All: 1 on 19 Sep at Snake Creek M. (JLF).

**Virginia Rail:** All: 2 on 11 Aug at Silver L. in Worth Co. (RGo) and singles on 5 Sep at Ventura M. and Zirbel Sl. (RGo).

**Sora:** Last: 2 on 6 Oct at Gordon's M. in Hamilton Co. (SJD).

**Common Moorhen:** All: 5 on 8 Aug at Green Island W.A. (JLF); 2 adults and 2 young and 2 adults building nest on 8 Aug at Silver L. in Dickinson Co. (HZ) and 1 near there on 11 Sep (LAS) and 24 Sep (DCH); and from 3 to 7 including juveniles at Blue L. from 10 Aug to 22 Sep (BFH, RR, SJD).

**American Coot:** High count: 25,000 on 21 Oct at Spirit L. (ETh). There was no shortage of this species at other locations either.

**Sandhill Crane:** All: On 31 Oct, 152 at Barringer Sl. in Clay Co. (SJD) and 30 at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. (Mike Mahn fide PE). Such large flocks are unusual in Iowa.

**Black-bellied Plover:** First: 8 on 13 Aug at Coralville Res. (JLF). Last: 2 on 9 Nov at Amana L. (CE). High count: 9 on 29 Aug at Runnells A. (SJD).

**American Golden-Plover:** First: 1 on 14 Aug near Mason City (RGo). Last: 1 on 2 Nov at Barringer Sl. (SJD). High count: 47 on 6 Oct east of Glidden in Carroll Co. (SJD). Birds were reported from 10 other locations.

**Semipalmated Plover:** Last: on 6 Oct near Glidden (SJD) and at Port Neal (RR). High count: 25 on 7 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Piping Plover:** At breeding locations, 2 juveniles were at Port Neal on 4 Aug (BFH) and 2 adults and 1 juvenile were at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 22 Aug (BKP/LJP). An immature was at Waubonsie W.A. on 12 Aug (SJD). Single migrants were at Saylorville Res. on 21 Aug (SJD) and DU Marsh<sup>marsh</sup> in Clay Co. on 24 Sep (LAS)[record latest].

-write out for clarity

**Killdeer:** High count: 535 on 5 Sep at Maskunk M. in Mahaska Co. (SJD).

**American Avocet:** Last: 2 Nov at Rathbun Res. (RLC). High counts: 13 on 22 Sep at Port Neal (RR) and 14 on 27 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD). There were reports from 4 other locations.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Last: 3 on 12 Nov at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** High count: 110 on 29 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Last: 10 Oct at Diamond L. (MPr). High count: 13 on 21 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Willet:** All: 1 on 22 Aug at State Line M. (DHe) and 2 on 25 Sep at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Last: 27 Nov at Little River R.A. in Decatur Co. (\*SJD)[record latest except for 1<sup>st</sup> winter record].

**Upland Sandpiper:** High counts and last: 30 at 7 Cities Sod Farm in Scott Co. on 27 Aug and 6 Sep (PCP).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** All: 5 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK—details) and 26 Oct at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (\*SJD, JJD)[2nd latest].

**Marbled Godwit:** All: 22 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK—details).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** All: 4 on 8 Sep at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), 1 on 11 Sep at Christopherson Sl. (DHe), and 1 on 29 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Red Knot:** 1 basic and 1 molting to basic were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 25 Aug (\*MCK).

**Sanderling:** First: 10 Aug in Hardin Co. (JSi). Last: 16 Nov at Rathbun Res. (TNJ—details)[record latest]. High count: 36 on 24 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Western Sandpiper:** Adults with some retained alternate plumage were noted at Waubonsie W. A. on 13 Aug and at Saylorville Res. on 21 Aug and 4 Sep (SJD) and a juvenile was at Saylorville Res. on 5 Sep (SJD).

**Least Sandpiper:** Last: 3 Nov at Spirit L. (SJD). High count: 432 on 21 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Last: 12 Nov in Warren Co. (JSi). High count: 30 on 7 Aug at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP). From 1 to 4 were reported at 6 other locations across the state.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Last: 9 Nov at Rathbun Res. (TNJ). High count: 785 on 21 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Dunlin:** First: 5 on 16 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 1 on 10 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD). High count: 43 on 27 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).



**Stilt Sandpiper:** Last: 1 injured bird on 26 Oct at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (SJD—details)[2nd latest]. High count: 162 on 17 Aug at Runnells A. (SJD).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** First: 3 on 4 Aug at Port Neal (BFH). Last: 10 on 20 Sep at Rathbun Res. (TNJ). High count: 41 on 5 Sep at Runnells A. (SJD). There were reports from 15 locations across the state, a very good showing for this species.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Last: 1 juvenile on 11 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 16 on 17 Aug at Runnells A. (RLC). Very few were reported.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** First: 9 on 22 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Last: 1 on 31 Oct at Barringer Sl. (SJD). High count: 21 on 19 Oct at Tomahawk M. (PE). Very few were reported.

**Common Snipe:** High count: 40 on 31 Oct at Barringer Sl. (SJD).

**American Woodcock:** All: 12 Oct in Monroe Co. (SJD).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Last: 20 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (\*MCK)[record latest by over 3 weeks]. Only 2 others were reported.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** First: 7 Aug at Coralville Res. (JLF)[3rd earliest]. Last: 27 Sep at Hubbard in Hardin Co. (MPr). There were reports of 1 to 3 from 8 other locations, including photos of 1 at Saylorville Res. on 11 Aug (RIA/PHA).

**Red Phalarope:** All: 1 basic <sup>in plumage</sup> on 13, 14 Oct at Saylorville Res. (\*JLF, PHA/RIA—photos, \*SJD, \*CE) and 1 basic on 3 Nov at Spirit L. (\*ETH—photos, \*LAS)[3rd latest]. Another report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Jaeger species:** An immature bird, probably a Pomarine Jaeger, was at Spirit L. on 17 Nov (\*SJD).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** Iowa was part of an unusual Midwestern invasion of this species. At Saylorville Res., 1 intermediate phase juvenile from 10 to 22 Nov was joined by a <sup>possible</sup> dark phase subadult from 11 to 16 Nov and by a second intermediate phase juvenile on 22 Nov (\*SJD—photos, JJD). At Red Rock Res., dark and intermediate phase juveniles were present on 16 Nov and these were present with a subadult on 30 Nov (\*SJD). These jaegers were seen at Red Rock Res. by many observers <sup>possibly</sup> through the end of the period (\*JLF, \*THK, \*CE, \*RLC).

**Laughing Gull:** A juvenile was at Runnells A. in Marion Co. on 17 Aug (\*SJD-~~photo~~<sup>photo</sup>, \*RLC), and another, possibly the same bird, was at Red Rock Res. on 5 Sep (SJD).

**Franklin's Gull:** High counts: 33,500 on 30 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SJD) and 15,000 on 24 Sep at Trumbull L. (LAS). Individuals in basic plumage lingered at Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 21 Nov (THK) and at Red Rock Res. on 30 Nov (SJD).

*yes  
had it  
labeled  
incorrectly*

**Black-headed Gull:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Last: 28 Oct at Dubuque (PE). High count: 2,000 on 2 Oct at Rathbun Res. (TNJ).

**Mew Gull:** An adult in basic plumage was at Saylorville Res. on 29 Nov (\*SJD).

**Ring-billed Gull:** High count: 40,000 were counted as they came in to roost at Red Rock Res. on 27 Nov (SJD).

**California Gull:** 2 reports are referred to the Records Committee.

**Herring Gull:** High count: 3,000 at Red Rock Res. on 27 Nov (SJD).

**Thayer's Gull:** There were reports of 17 birds from 7 locations, making it likely that some birds were reported more than once. Three birds were early (third earliest or earlier) but are not cited because of lacking or insufficient details.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** A bird in first-basic plumage was at Red Rock Res. on 27 Nov (\*SJD).

**Glaucous Gull:** All: 1 on 23 Nov and 2 on 24 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD, JJD) and 1 on 30 Nov at Red Rock Res. (SJD). All were first-year birds.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** An adult was at Lock 13 in Clinton Co. on 29 Sep (\*PCP)[2nd earliest].

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** All (both first-basic): 1 at Coralville Res. on 24 Nov found by Ken Lowder was also seen on 25 Nov (\*CE, THK—details) and 1 at Red Rock Res. on 30 Nov (\*SJD).

**Sabine's Gull:** All: 1 juvenile on 2 Oct at Spirit L. (\*ETH—photo), 1 juvenile on 6 Oct at Black Hawk L. (\*PE), and 1 adult on 24 Oct at Red Rock Res. (\*JLF).

**Caspian Tern:** First: 2 on 18 Aug at Saylorville Res. (PJW). Last: 1 on 17 Oct at Smith's L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK). High count: 32 on 19 Sep in Boone Co. (JJD, SJD).

**Common Tern:** None were reported.

**Forster's Tern:** Last: 1 immature on 4 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD)[3rd latest]. High count: 31 on 13 Aug at Riverton A. (SJD).

**Least Tern:** At the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co., there were 2 adults and 3 young on 2 Aug, 8 adults and 2 young on 13 Aug, and 1 bird on 22 Aug (BKP/LJP). On 10 Aug, 1 bird was at Port Neal (BFH) and on 13 Aug, 1 juvenile was at Riverton A. (SJD).

**Black Tern:** Last: 2 on 29 Sep at Dan Green Sl. (LAS). High count: 175 on 22 Aug at Heron Bend in Lee Co. (SJD).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Last: 9 Sep at Diamond L. (MPr).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Last: 30 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).

**Snowy Owl:** All: 1 at Davenport on 15 Nov (PCP) and 1 to 3 at Coralville Res. from 19 to 30 Nov (JLF, many observers).

**Short-eared Owl:** All (singles): 13 Oct at Cayler Prairie (RR), 27 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC), 31 Oct at Barringer Sl. (SJD), 2 Nov near Spencer (LAS), and 22 Nov in Emmet Co. (DHe).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** All: 1 hit a window and survived at Marshalltown on 15 Nov (Betty Savage fide MPr).

**Common Nighthawk:** Last: 9 Oct at Fairfield (DCP). High count: 110 on 22 Sep at Cedar Rapids (DLD).

**Chimney Swift:** Last: 3 on 13 Oct at Ames (PM). High count: 5,050 counted as they entered a chimney on 17 Sep at Fairfield (DCP). On 10 Oct, there were 1,000 at Fairfield, but none were there the next evening (DCP).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Last: 8 Oct at Ames (Jeanne Edwards fide SJD).

**Rufous Hummingbird:** A male was seen at a feeder on the north side of Spirit L. on 21, 22, and 23 Aug (\*ETH-photo, \*LAS, \*JLF).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** An immature was south of Bellevue in Jackson Co. on 6 Aug (PCP).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** First: 7 Aug at Hale's Sl. in Dickinson Co. (DHe). Last: 6 Oct at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 4 on 4 Sep at Big M. (MPr).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Last: 1 Oct at Sweet M. (SJD). High count: 15 on 29 Aug in Guthrie Co. (RLC). Another October bird was reported without details.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** First: 15 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 11 Sep at Liscomb (MPr).

High count: 6 on 23 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). There were 5 other reports.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** The only report was of 3 on 3 Aug near Stone City in Jones Co. (CE).

**Willow Flycatcher:** 1 on 15 Sep at a nesting area at Union Slough N.W.R. was identified by lack of eye ring and whit call (MCK)[3rd latest].

**Least Flycatcher:** First: 24 Aug at Ames (JJD) and in Warren Co. (AMJ). Last: 24 Sep at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK).

**Eastern Phoebe:** Last: 2 on 27 Oct near Stone City (CE).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** Last: 29 Sep at L. Ahquabi (JSi).

**Western Kingbird:** All: 3 on 4 Aug at Port Neal (BFH), 3 on 7 Aug in Emmet and Dickinson counties (DHe), 3 on 21 Aug at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), and 1 on 5 Sep in Harrison Co. (AMJ).

**Eastern Kingbird:** Last: 3 Oct at Coralville Res. (JLF)[3rd latest]. High counts: 48 on 29 Aug in Guthrie Co. (RLC) and 26 on 11 Sep coming to roost at Waubonsie W.A. (BKP/LJP).

**Horned Lark:** High count: 2,550 on 21 Nov in Osceola Co. (SJD).

**Barn Swallow:** Last: 2 on 24 Oct at Red Rock Res. (JLF). High count: 2,000 on 21 Sep at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

**Pinyon Jay:** An immature bird appeared at the feeder of Gaylan and Lloyd Crim in rural Boone Co. on 30 Nov (\*JJD, \*MPr, \*THK-photo). This is the second Iowa record and apparently only the second record east of Nebraska.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** First: 11 Aug at Ames (Karen Craft fide JJD). There were 6 reports from September and 2 from October.

**Brown Creeper:** The first migrants were noted on 26 Sep at Diamond L. (MPr) and Fairfield (DCP).

**Carolina Wren:** There were reports from Johnson, Marshall, and Polk counties, which must greatly under represent the occurrence of this species.

**House Wren:** Last: 19 Oct at Cedar Rapids (CE).

**Winter Wren:** First: 15 Sep at Grammer Grove (MPr). High count: 7 on 8 Oct at McLamarrah P. in Scott Co. (PCP).

**Sedge Wren:** Last: 2 on 21 Sep at Snake Creek M. (MPr). High count: 16 on 6 Aug singing at Hayden Prairie (DeC).

**Marsh Wren:** Last: 1 on 26 Sep at Diamond L. (MPr).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** First: 23 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE)[3rd earliest]. Last: 30 Nov at Iowa County P. (SJD—details). One with a mostly white head and large ruby crown was in Iowa City on 13 Nov (THK).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Last: 18 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

**Veery:** All: 31 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr) and 6 Sep at Parker's Woods in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** All: 2 on 2 Sep at Ames (PM) and an October report without details.

**Swainson's Thrush:** First: 27 Aug at Sioux Center (JV). Singles were seen on 23 Sep at Cedar Rapids (DLD) and 24 Sep at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). A very late bird was identified by lack of red in tail and well-defined spectacles on 14 Nov in Des Moines (\*RIC)[ties latest].

**Hermit Thrush:** First: 5 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 30 Nov at Kettleon-Hogsback A. (ETh).

**Wood Thrush:** A window-kill occurred at Iowa City on 29 Sep (THK).

**Gray Catbird:** Last: 28 Nov at Saylorville Res. (PJW).

**American Pipit:** First: 23 Aug at 7 Cities Sod Farms in Scott Co. (PCP)[3rd earliest]. Last: 7 Nov at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD). High count: 20 on 8 Oct at Christopherson Sl. in Dickinson Co. (ETh). There were 10 other reports.

**Northern Shrike:** Only 1 was reported. — date ?

**White-eyed Vireo:** All: 5 Aug at Huron Is. in Des Moines Co. (PCP) and 7, 9 Sep at White Wildlife Preserve in Cerro Gordo Co. (AMJ, RGo).

**Solitary Vireo:** First: 1 Sep at Ames (PM). Last: 16 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK) and Fairfield (DCP). High count: 8 on 14 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

date ?  
location

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Last: 1 singing on 22 Sep in Boone Co. (SJD). On 7 Sep, a young bird was following a parent at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK).

**Warbling Vireo:** Last: 28 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr–details)[record latest]. Another was at Saylorville Res. on 25 Sep (SJD).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** First: 16 Aug at Decorah (DeC). Last: 29 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). High count: 12 on 15 Sep at Iowa City (CE).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Last: 9 Oct at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). Adults were still feeding young on 1 Sep at A. A. Call S.P. (a cowbird, MCK) and L. Ahquabi (JSi).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** First: 27 Aug at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (LAS) and Pine L. in Hardin Co. (MPr). Last: 22 Sep at Liscomb (MPr). There were reports from 7 locations.

**Tennessee Warbler:** First: 24 Aug at Backbone S.P. (MPr). Last: 21 Oct at Fairfield (DCP). High count: 16 on 10 Sep at L. Meyer (DeC).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** First: 10 Sep at Fairfield (DCP). Last: 12 Nov at Iowa City (THK). High count: 17 on 28 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

**Nashville Warbler:** First: 23 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 23 Oct near Spirit Lake (ETh). High count: 16 on 15 Sep at Ames (SJD).

**Northern Parula:** First: 3 on 13 Sep at Yellow Smoke P. in Crawford Co. (SJD). Last: 29 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). High count: 4 on 16 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Yellow Warbler:** Last: 28 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE)[3rd latest]. Other September records were 2 on 12 Sep at Saylorville Res. (JSi) and 1 on 22 Sep at Liscomb (MPr).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** First: 20 Aug in Parker's Woods in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo). Last: 2 on 30 Sep at Fairfield (DCP). High count: 27 on 31 Aug at Ames (PM).

**Magnolia Warbler:** First: 25 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 7 Oct at Fairfield (DCP). High count: 11 on 2 Sep at Ames (SJD).

**Cape May Warbler:** All: 15 Sep at Ames (PM), 19 Sep at Wolf Creek R.A. in Grundy Co. (SJD), and 13 to 30 Nov at a feeder in Indianola (JSi)[record latest].

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** All: 14 Sep at Saylorville Res. (DT) and 8 Oct at McLamarrah P. in Scott Co. (PCP).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** First: 31 Aug at Dunbar Sl. (RR). Last: 17 Nov in Buena Vista Co. (JJD, SJD).  
High count: 75 on 13 Oct at Ames (PM).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** First: 1 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 8 Oct at Marshalltown (SJD).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** First: 17 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 23 Sep in Winneshiek Co. (DeC).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** All: 1 at Red Rock Res. on 15 Aug (JLF) and 2 there on 27 Aug (AB); 1 in northeastern Warren Co. on 5 Sep (SJD).

**Pine Warbler:** All: 25 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SJD—details), 28 Sep at Liscomb (\*MPr), and 29 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (\*MPr).

**Palm Warbler:** First: 3 on 9 Sep at Cardinal M. (DeC).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** First: 25 Aug at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). Last: 28 Sep at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DeC). High count: 8 on 16 Sep at Jefferson County P. (SJD).

**Cerulean Warbler:** All: 3 Aug near Stone City in Jones Co. (CE).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** First: 20 Aug in Cerro Gordo and Marshall counties (RGo, MPr). Last: 6 Oct at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 12 on 8 Sep at McIntosh Woods S.P. (SJD).

**American Redstart:** Last: 6 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (MPr).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** All: 3 on 4 Aug in Warren Co. (JSi).

**Ovenbird:** 1 was in a yard in Carroll from 11 Sep to 18 Oct (EBW)[record latest except for <sup>two</sup> 2 winter records].

**Northern Waterthrush:** First: 15 Aug at Anderson L. in Hamilton Co. (HZ).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** An adult was feeding 2 fledglings on 3 Aug near Stone City in Jones Co. (CE).

**Kentucky Warbler:** All: 27 Aug at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (LAS).

**Mourning Warbler:** First: 23 Aug at Parker's Woods (RGo) and Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 14 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

**Common Yellowthroat:** Last: 12 Nov in Warren Co. (JSi).

**Wilson's Warbler:** First: 21 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 29 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).

High count: 20 on 27 Aug at Rock Valley (JV).

**Canada Warbler:** First: 17 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 22 Nov<sup>Correct ??</sup> at Ames (PM). High count: 6 at three locations. Sep

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** All: 8 Sep at White W.A. in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF—details, BPr).

**Scarlet Tanager:** There were 8 reports from 15 to 29 Sep, more than usual. A basic-plumaged male was at the Iowa City feeder of Dick and Nancy Lynch in late November and was photographed on the 21st. (JLF, THK-photo).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Last: 4 Oct at Decorah (DeC).

**Blue Grosbeak:** All: A male was feeding a young bird on 4, 7 Aug at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. and was still there on 21 Aug (BKP/LJP); 1 was north of Missouri Valley on 23 Aug (RR).

**Indigo Bunting:** Last: 2 on 13 Oct at Coralville Res. (DLD).

**Dickcissel:** A basic-plumaged male was at Hallett's Quarry<sup>^</sup> in Story Co. on 28 Nov (\*SJD)[2nd latest except for <sup>here</sup> 2 winter records].

**Eastern Towhee:** 1 was at a feeder in Johnston on 30 Nov (DT).

**Spotted Towhee:** All: 1 male 25 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SJD)[2nd earliest], 1 female on 7 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD), and 1 on 28 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

**American Tree Sparrow:** First: 5 on 10 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK)[3rd earliest].

**Field Sparrow:** Last: 26 Oct at Red Rock Res. (MPr).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Last: 29 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD—details).

**Lark Sparrow:** Last: 29 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ)[2nd latest except for <sup>o^</sup> 1 winter record].

**Savannah Sparrow:** Last: 2 on 6 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 120 on 27 Aug in Clay Co. (LAS).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Last: 2 on 6 Oct at Gordon's M. in Hamilton Co. (SJD).



**Henslow's Sparrow:** Singing birds were noted on 1 Aug at Goose L. in Clinton Co. (Pete Melde fide JJD), on 11 Aug at Pleasant Creek L. in Linn Co. (DLD), on 15 Aug at L. Sugema in Van Buren Co. (Pete Melde fide JJD), and on 22 Aug in northeastern Wayne Co. (SJD).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** First: 2 on 21 Sep at Snake Creek M. (MPr). Last: 3 on 4 Oct at Hendrickson M. (JV).

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** First: 2 on 21 Sep at Snake Creek M. (MPr). Last: 1 on 26 Oct at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (SJD)[record latest]. Other reports of 1 to 5 were from Iowa, Tama, Hamilton, and Clay counties from 22 Sep to 12 Oct.

**Fox Sparrow:** First: 23 Sep at Diamond L. (MPr). High count: 24 on 26 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** First: 3 on 14 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 1 on 10 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 20 on 20 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**White-throated Sparrow:** First: 23 Sep at Diamond L. (MPr).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** First: 28 Sep at Mason City (CJF).

**Harris's Sparrow:** First: 29 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). High count: 20 on 10 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** First: 2 Oct at Sioux Center (JV).

**Lapland Longspur:** First: several flocks of 400 on 10 Oct in Clay and Palo Alto counties (RR). High count: 5,000 on 9 Nov at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD). Large flocks were seen in north-central and northwestern Iowa from 28 Oct to 17 Nov.

**Smith's Longspur:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Snow Bunting:** First: 2 on 2 Nov at Barringer Sl. in Clay Co. (SJD). High count: 170 on 21 Nov in Osceola Co. (SJD). Many were reported with most in northern Iowa, but 3 were at Rathbun Res. by 10 Nov (TNJ).

**Bobolink:** Last: 2 on 4 Oct at Harrier M. (JJD, SJD).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Last: 2 were heard in Appanoose Co. on 6 Oct (RLC).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Last: 1 female on 22 Sep in Boone Co. (SJD).

**Rusty Blackbird:** First: 3 on 5 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** There were <sup>four</sup> reports with varying amount of detail, including <sup>three</sup> that would be record early dates. I find this species difficult to identify in Iowa, and even more difficult based on descriptions. ] Not clear

The one documented report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Great-tailed Grackle:** Last: 3 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AMJ). Reports of 1 to 25 birds were from the following counties: Boone, Clay, Fremont, Greene, Marion, Monona, and Pottawattamie.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** A flock of 6,000 on 6 Oct at Dunbar Sl. contained no Shiny Cowbirds (SJD).

**Orchard Oriole:** All: a second-year male was seen in Cass Co. on 3 Aug (MAP).

**Baltimore Oriole:** A immature male was at the feeder of Dick and Nancy Lynch in Iowa City from mid-November though <sup>30 Nov</sup> ~~16 December~~ (JLF, THK, SJD).

**Purple Finch:** First: 10 Oct near Spirit Lake (ETH). Only a few were reported with most in November.

**Red Crossbill:** The July invasion continued into August with 6 immatures at Shenandoah on the 4th (MT), 2 at Indianola on the 7th (Daryl Howell fide JJD), 2 immatures from the 7th to 12th near Spirit Lake (ETH), 10 to the 10th at Algona (MCK), and 3 on the 19th at Iowa City (Cherry Sparks fide THK). Later fall birds included 9 on 26 Oct at Big Creek L. (SJD), 1 on 30 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr), and 2 on 25 Nov near Spirit Lake (ETH). <sup>3 Nov 12 in Area</sup>

**Pine Siskin:** First: 4 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Only a few were reported in October and November.

**American Goldfinch:** Subjectively, numbers seemed to be increased, but 650 on 2 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC) is an extraordinary number.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** This species was found south of Muscatine in Muscatine Co., north of Oakville in Louisa Co., and north of Burlington in Des Moines Co. on 22 Nov and southwest of Fort Madison in Lee Co. on 24 Nov (THK, RIC), suggesting that <sup>it</sup> ~~this species~~ is now established in the four most southerly counties that border the Mississippi River. ^

#### COMMENT

The database comprised 36 reports and 60 documentations (of 31 species). I made 1,461 entries into a computer database. Although more species were documented than last year, there were fewer documentations. This may be due in part to the fact that a number of rare birds were seen briefly and were not relocated by others. Most of the rarities were well documented. There were a number of excellent

documentations for record early and late birds; however, the lack of or sketchy details on not-so-rare birds (e.g., Thayer's Gull, Brewer's Blackbird) that were unusually early or late provided the most frustration in decision making to me.

I thank contributors for getting their reports to me in a timely fashion. Several contributors indicated that they had checked their dates for errors. Welcome to Aaron Brees and Russell Reisz, and thanks to Eva Wiedemeyer for the Ovenbird report.

CONTRIBUTORS \* = documentation only

Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Aaron Brees (AB), Corydon; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; \*Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ames; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Peter Ernzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; \*Jacob T. Gilliam (JTG), Norwalk; Rita Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Douglas C. Harr (DCH), Larchwood; Dennis Henrickson (DHe), Estherville; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City, NE; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Thomas N. Johnson (TNJ), Mystic; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Paul Martsching (PM), Ames; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; Russell Reisz (RR), Missouri Valley; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Ed Thelen (ETh), Spirit Lake; Dennis Thompson (DT), Johnston; Marie Tiemann (MT), Shenandoah; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Phil J. Walsh (PJW), Des Moines; Eva B. Wiedemeyer (EBW), Carroll; and Hank Zaletel (HZ), Nevada.