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FIELD REPORTS - SPRING 1997

GENERAL TRENDS

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✓
Few shorebirds, other than yellowlegs, were seen because of the lack of mudflats. The passerine migration was late again this year due to the unrelenting cold weather and strong north winds. A few examples of late arrival dates in Winneshiek County are E. Wood Pewee on 23 May, Gray Catbird on 9 May, Warbling Vireo on 14 May, and Red-eyed Vireo on 19 May. The first widespread movement of passerines was not noted until 12 May. A good variety of warblers was found from then until nearly the end of the month. No large waves of migrants were noted, and their occurrence was checked. Some localities seemed devoid of birds while others (out of the wind) held many migrants. Vireos were scarce and quite late.

During May, feeder watchers were delighted with the appearance of many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Baltimore Orioles, and even Scarlet Tanagers. Waterfowl migration peak (16^{↑ duck} species) was on 17 Apr. at Cardinal Marsh.

SPECIES DATA

All records, except where noted, are from Winneshiek County and include the following localities: Burr Oak (Willowglen Nursery and Winter's Pond), Decorah, Cardinal Marsh, and Lake Meyer County Park.

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SPECIES DATA

- ✓ American White Pelican: The only report was a flock of 14 at Cardinal Marsh on 16 May (Lee Zieke).
- ✓ Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 was seen at Cardinal Marsh on 1 May.
- ✓ Blue-winged Teal: High count: ~~130~~¹³⁰ at Cardinal Marsh on 15 May.
- ✓ Northern Shoveler: High count: 60 at Cardinal Marsh on 17 Apr.
- ✓ Cooper's Hawk: 1 was seen at Decorah on 16 May.
- ✓ Sandhill Crane: 5 were fly-overs at Cardinal Marsh on 24 Apr.
- ✓ Greater Yellowlegs: Peak was 20 at Cardinal Marsh on 29 Apr.
- ✓ Solitary Sandpiper: First: 1 at Decorah on 30 Apr.
- ✓ Most and last: 4 at Burr Oak on 17 May.
- ✓ Least Sandpiper: My only record: 14 at Cardinal Marsh on 15 May.
- ✓ Bonaparte's Gull: On 3 May, 14 were at Fish Farm Mounds Pond (New Albin), Allamakee Co. and 11 on a gravel pit pond in Decorah.
- ✓ Whip-poor-will: 1 was seen at Cardinal Marsh on 15 May.
- ✓ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 10 were found at Effigy Mounds, Allamakee Co. on 10 May.
- ✓ Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 were heard and seen at Decorah on 20 May.
- ✓ Empidonax: Many, mostly silent, were seen from 12 to 25 May. High count: 16 at Cardinal Marsh on 19 May. Only Least was heard singing.

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SPECIES DATA

- ✓ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 was seen at Decorah on 25 May.
- ✓ Winter Wren: First: 2 at Lake Meyer on 9 Apr. One was singing at Effigy Mounds, Allamakee Co. on 10 May.
- ✓ Gray-checked Thrush: more than usual.
- ✓ Solitary Vireo: First: 1 at Lake Meyer on 12 May.
- ✓ Last: 1 at Decorah on 21 May.
- ✓ Philadelphia Vireo: A singing bird was seen at Decorah on 31 May. A singing Red-eyed Vireo was seen nearby for comparison.
- ✓ Golden-winged Warbler: First: 1 at Lake Meyer on 12 May.
- ✓ Last: 1 at Decorah on 29 May.
- ✓ Orange crowned Warbler: Last: 1 at Decorah on 16 May.
- ✓ Northern Parula: More than usual. Last: 1 at Burr Oak on 21 May.
- ✓ Yellow Warbler: High count: 32 at Cardinal Marsh on 19 May.
- ✓ Chestnut-sided Warbler: Last was 1 in Winneshiek Co. on 30 May (Susan Anderson).
- ✓ Cape May Warbler: I missed this species. Tex Sordahl saw 6 in an apple tree in his yard in Decorah on 18 May.
- ✓ Blackburnian Warbler: Several reports during the third ^{to fourth} weeks in May. I saw 2 feeding in a plowed field at Cardinal Marsh on 19 May.
- ✓ Blackpoll Warbler: Last: a singing male at Decorah on 29 May.
- ✓ Palm Warbler: Most even in 1 season for me. First: 9 at Decorah on 1 May.
- ✓ High count: 40 at Cardinal Marsh on 15 May. Last: 6 at Cardinal Marsh on 19 May.

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SPECIES DATA

✓ Prothonotary Warbler: A female at Lake Meyer on 12 May was only my third individual for Winneshiek Co. Larry Reis saw two along the Upper Iowa River at Lime Springs, Howard Co. on 17 May.

✓ Wilson's Warbler: First: 2 at Decorah on 11 May.

Canada Warbler: Five found in Winneshiek Co., from 19 to 29 May.

✓ Summer Tanager: I closely observed a female at the feeders (at oranges) at Willow Glen Nursery, Burr Oak, Winneshiek Co., on 17 May. According to Lindsay Lee and Lee Zieck, it had been present since 6 May and was not seen after the 17th. The bird was a rich gold-orange color with gray wings, tail, and bill. In contrast to Scarlet Tanager, it had no olive in the plumage. I had previously seen this species in North Carolina. One of the observers ^(Sue Zieck) on the 17th, had seen the species in Texas, a few weeks earlier. This is my first record for NE Iowa, but I note that it has recently been reported each spring in SE Minnesota.

✓ Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 were at Cardinal Marsh on 15 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: I found the most ever in 1 season.

✓ First: 1 at Decorah on 1 May. High count: 5 in Winneshiek Co.

✓ on 15 May. Last: 1 at Burr Oak on 17 May.

✓ White-throated Sparrow: Last: 1 at Decorah on 29 May.

Harris' Sparrow: I had several reports, far more than usual, of birds at feeders during May.

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Correction: My Decora
Philadelphia Vireo record was 2
for 16 Sept., not 16 Aug. as
reported in your Fall 1996 Report.

SPECIES DATA (continued)

Olive-sided Flycatcher: More than usual. First:
1 at Effigy Mounds (south unit), Clayton Co. on 17 Aug.

Eastern Wood Pewee: Last singing birds were 2
at Decora on 24 Sep.

American Pipit: First were 6 at Winter's Pond,
near Burr Oak, Winneskiel Co. on 23 Sep; 5
were seen at the same location on 28 Oct.

Solitary Vireo: 1 was seen at Cardinal Marsh on
9 Sep, 1 at Effigy Mounds on 28 Sep, and 2 at
Decora on ~~28~~ 30 Sep.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 was seen at Decora on 23 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: 1 was at Lake Meyer, Winneskiel
Co. on 10 Sep and 1 at Decora on 16 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: Last were 3 at Effigy Mounds on 28 Sep.

Sedge Wren: 16 singing birds were found at
Hayden Prairie, Howard Co., on 6 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: 2 were seen at Cardinal
Marsh and 1 at Decora on 9 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: High count: 16 at Lake Meyer on 10 Sep.

Northern Parula Warbler: 1 at Decora on 16 Sep.

Blackburnian Warbler: Unusually numerous.

First: 1 at Decora on 23 Aug. Last: 4 at Burr
Oak on 23 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 1 at Decora on 27 Aug.

Last: 1 at Effigy Mounds on 28 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: First: 2 at Decora on 27 Aug.

High Count: 8 at Decora on 13 Sep.