

FIELD REPORTS--FALL 1997

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WEATHER

August was moderately cooler and dryer than normal. September was moderately warmer and slightly drier than normal with the most severe cold front on the 21st to 23rd. October was slightly warmer and moderately drier than normal with a light freeze on the 14th and hard freezes on the 20th and 26th. The warm weather up to mid-October resulted in leaves being retained on trees for several weeks longer than usual—nearly up to Thanksgiving. The cool weather of late October continued through November producing temperatures moderately below average and continued dry conditions. The coldest day in November was on the 16th, and temperatures were above normal after the 25th.

GENERAL TRENDS

The dry conditions produced only fair shorebird habitat, and reports of large waterfowl concentrations were limited to Pool 9 on the Mississippi River. The relatively mild weather in August and September was associated with few outstanding days for warblers. Dennis Carter may have spoken for others when he said, "This was the most uneventful of eight falls that I have spent in Decorah. Warblers arrived later than usual and were generally scarce. Only sparrows were present in average numbers." The most noticeable trend was the influx of northern birds, which began in August with the widespread occurrence of Red-breasted Nuthatches and continued with reports of Purple Finch, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, both crossbills, Common Redpoll, and Pine Grosbeak. It always amazed me that we continue to get many new early and late date records each year. One would expect such occurrences to reach a limit. This fall there were 14 new late dates and 5 new early dates, a ratio that fits with the prolongation of mild weather to mid-October.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species that were reported include Roseate Spoonbill, Eurasian Collared-Dove, White-winged Dove, and MacGillivray's Warbler.

Casual species that were reported include Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, White-faced Ibis, California Gull, Sabine's Gull, and Pine Grosbeak.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented)

Red-throated Loon: All: 1 in basic plumage was at Clear L. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 29 Oct (*CJF)[3rd earliest].

Pacific Loon: All: 1 in basic plumage was at Spirit L. on 2, 5, and 11 Aug (*ETh-photo, *LAS) [record earliest], and 1 in basic plumage was at Saylorville Res. on 21-22 Nov (*BE)[3rd latest].

Common Loon: First: 2 on 2 Aug at Spirit L. (ETh-photo). Last: 26 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (THK). High count: 23 at Coralville Res. and L. Macbride on 8 Nov (CE). Another August bird was at Hallett's Quarry on the 31st (John Synder fide JJD). All other reports were from 25 Oct to 14 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: High count: 250 in Dickinson Co. on 18 Oct (LAS).

Horned Grebe: First: 2 on 27 Aug at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (JLF). Last: 3 on 26 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (JLF). High counts: 17 on 18 Oct at Spirit L. (LAS) and 24 on 8 Nov at Coralville Res. and L. Macbride (CE).

Red-necked Grebe: No reports.

Eared Grebe: All: 17 Sep at Harrier M. (JJD), 1 on 18 and 2 on 25 Oct at Spirit L. (LAS), and 19 Nov at West Okoboji (ETh).

Western Grebe: All: 15 Nov at Black Hawk L. (PE), 17-18 Nov at Spirit L. (ETh, LAS), 2 on 19 Nov at Red Rock Res. (MPr), and 27 Nov at West Okoboji (LAS).

American White Pelican: Last: 15 Nov at Black Hawk L. (PE). High count: 1,400 on 12 Aug at Runnell's WA (SJD). This species is now common across the state.

Double-crested Cormorant: High count: 300 at Rathbun Res. on 20 Sep (TNJ).

American Bittern: All: 4 Aug at Forney L. (SJD), 20-21 Sep at Coralville Res. (CE, MPr, m.ob.), 7 Oct in Warren Co. (AB), 15 Oct at Union Hills in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF), and 16 Nov at Black Hawk M. (Brent Danielson fide JJD)[3rd latest except for winter records].

Least Bittern: All: 2 on 4 Aug (SJD) and 1 on 6 Aug (MPr, THK) at Forney L. and 1 on 13 Aug at Waubonsie WA (JLF).

Great Blue Heron: High counts: 228 on 3 Aug at Union Slough NWR (MCK) and 130 on 5 Aug at Waubonsie WA (THK).

Great Egret: Last: 10 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (JLF). High counts: 303 at Waubonsie WA on 13 Aug (SJD, JJD) and 175 at Saylorville Res. on 12 Oct (DT).

Snowy Egret: Last: 1 in Appanoose Co. on 6 Sep (RLC). High count: 17 (3 ad., 14 imm.) at Waubonsie WA on 14 Aug (SJD). Other reports were of singles at Forney L. on 4 Aug (SJD), Runnells WA on 9 Aug (SJD), and Spring Run in Dickinson Co. on 15 Aug (ETh).

Little Blue Heron: Last: 1 imm. on 11 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BE)[ties record latest]. High count: 28 (17 ad., 7 first year, 4 calico) on 13 Aug at Waubonsie WA (SJD, JJD). The only other location was at Big M. where 2 immatures were seen on 1 Aug (MPr).

Cattle Egret: High count: 100 on 5 Aug at Waubonsie WA (THK). None were reported from other locations.

Green Heron: Last: 11 Oct at Heron Bend in Lee Co. (CE).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: All: up to 6 at Waubonsie WA from 5 to 13 Aug (m.ob.), 1 in Dickinson Co. on 11 Aug (LAS), 2 on 10 Oct at Maffitt Res. (DT), and 1 at Ames on 10 Oct (JJD).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All: 1 imm. on 4 Aug at Waubonsie WA (SJD).

Ibis species: A dark ibis was seen at Black Hawk M. in Sac Co. on 13 Oct (Terry Hulsebus fide JJD).

White-faced Ibis: A dark ibis with a red eye was at Harrier M. on 15 Aug (*ETh).

Roseate Spoonbill: An immature bird was found at Waubonsie WA on 5 August (*SJD-photos) and seen by many others through 13 Aug (*MPr, *THK, *JLF). This is the second Iowa record.

Tundra Swan: First: 5 on 24 Oct at Union Slough NWR (MCK). High count: 1,500 (plus 1,500 in Wisconsin) on 30 Nov above Lock and Dam 9 in Allamakee Co. (CE). Other reports were from Dickinson Co., Clear L., and L. Manawa.

Trumpeter Swan: All: 8 ad. on 10 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (JLF), 1 ad. and 1 imm. on 27 Nov at Cedar L. (JLF), and 2 ad. and 1 imm. on 27-28 Nov at Black Hawk L. (PE, ETh).

Mute Swan: All: immatures were south of Iowa City on 14 Nov (JLF) and at Pleasant Creek L. on 25 Nov (JLF).

Snow Goose: Apparently over-summering birds were noted in August at Forney L., Riverton A., Woodbury Co., Runnells WA, Midwest Energy Ponds in Pottawattamie Co., and Rock Creek SP.

Ross's Goose: All: 1 on 26 Oct at East Okoboji (ETh) and 3 on 2, 12 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Wood Duck: 1 ad. with 8 yg. ^{were} at West Okoboji on 8 Aug (JJ).

Green-winged Teal: High count: 222 on 2 Nov at L. Macbride (CE).

American Black Duck: First: 1 on 1 Sep at DU Marsh in Clay Co. (LAS).

Northern Pintail: 1 was at Harrier M. on 11 Aug (SJD).

Blue-winged Teal: High count: 950 on 5 Sep at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Cinnamon Teal: 1 male on 2 May 1997 was at Dugout Sl. in Dickinson Co. (Rth ^{at Thelen}) not at Big Creek as previously reported (PJW, IBL 67:86).

Northern Shoveler: High count: 300 on 13 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Gadwall: High count: 150 on 27 Sep at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

Canvasback: High count: 10,000 on 29 Oct at Pool 9 in Allamakee Co. (THK).

Redhead: 2 broods were at Grover L. in Dickinson Co. on 6 Aug (SJD).

Greater Scaup: All: 2 on 10 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (JLF), 1 on 16 Nov at Spirit L. (LAS), 1 on 23 Nov at Rathbun Res. (RLC), and 4 on 30 Nov at L. Ahquabi (JSi).

Lesser Scaup: Males were note on 5 Aug at Forney L. and Midwest Energy Ponds and on 9 Aug at Red Rock Res. (SJD).

Oldsquaw: Reports from 30 Oct to 28 Nov were from Spirit L., Union Grove SP, L. Manawa, Cedar L., Saylorville Res., and Three Mile L. in Union Co.

Surf Scoter: All: 2 on 8 Nov at Pool 9 (MPr).

White-winged Scoter: All: 6 on 29 Oct at Clear L. (CJF), 1 on 5 Nov at Rice L. (CJF), 1 on 6 Nov at Lock and Dam 18 (JLF), 5 on 8 Nov at Rathbun Res. (RLC), 2 on 9 Nov at Black Hawk L. (PE), and 2 on 30 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Bufflehead: A female on 13 Aug at Kettleon Hogsback A. (LAS) is one of few summer records and the first August record. High count: 110 on 11 Nov in Dickinson Co. (LAS).

Hooded Merganser: High counts: 40 on 14 Nov at Coralville Res. and L. Macbride (THK) and 70 on 15 Nov at Gray's L. in Des Moines (PJW).

Common Merganser: First: a female on 29 Oct at Rock Creek SP (MPr)[3rd earliest]. High count: 115 on 22 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). ~~The usual large flocks were not reported.~~

Red-breasted Merganser: First: 29 Oct at Rock Creek P. (MPr) and Pool 9 (JLF).

Ruddy Duck: High count: 168 on 13 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Turkey Vulture: High count: 57 on 13 Oct at Coralville Res. (CE).

Osprey: First: 1 Aug at Spirit L. (ETh). Last: 16 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Other August sightings were from Rathbun Res., Mason City, and Fairview Access in Sioux Co.

Mississippi Kite: The 21 May 1997 sighting at Greenwood P. in Des Moines was followed by sightings of 1 bird on 21 to 23 May and 3 birds on 24 May (PJW, IBL 67:86). Up to 2 were seen regularly at 137 51st St. in Des Moines until 5 Aug (PJW).

Bald Eagle: High count: 72 on 27 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr). *That is a lot of eagles for an area at*

Northern Harrier: 2 ad. and 2 imm. at Hayden Prairie in Howard Co. on 16 Aug may indicate nesting there (CRN). *an interim location in the 1970s*

Sharp-shinned Hawk: First: 1 was found dead beneath a power pole and holding a House Sparrow at Algona on 13 Aug (MCK). High count: 115 on 5 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr).

Cooper's Hawk: First: 1 imm. at Spirit Lake on 26 Aug (ETh).

Northern Goshawk: All: 28 Sep at Waterman Creek in O'Brien Co. (LAS), 16 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (*RGo), 5 Nov at Mason City (JLW), 8 Nov at Pool 9 (MPr), and 30 Nov at Spirit L. (LAS).

Red-shouldered Hawk: All: 4 were at Grammer Grove W.A. on 27 Oct and 10 were sighted there during the fall (BPr). *Another was at L. Macbride on 13 Nov (JLF)*

Broad-winged Hawk: First: 14 Aug near Mason City (CJF). Last: 28 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 1,500 including 2 flocks of 500 at Coralville Res. on 20 Sep (BPr, m.ob.).

Swainson's Hawk: All: 2 ad. and 1 imm. north of Mason City on 14 Aug (CJF), 1 on 27 Sep at Stone SP (BFH), 22 on 28 Sep along the Little Sioux R. in Clay Co. (LAS), 16 north of Boone on 30 Sep (Mike Havlik fide JJD), and 4 on 14 Oct and 5 in late Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr).

Red-tailed Hawk: High count: 118 on 19 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr). Krider's hawks were noted near Sioux Center on 12 Sep and 1 Oct (JV).

Rough-legged Hawk: First: 22 Oct in Emmet Co. (MCK).

Golden Eagle: All: 1 on 13, 1 on 19, and 3 on 27 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr); 2 on 29 Oct at Mallard M. in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF); 1 on 21 Nov and 1 on 30 Nov in Allamakee Co. (JLF, CE); and 2 on 23 Nov at Clay Banks A. in Cerro Gordo Co. (*RGo, CRN, CJF).

American Kestrel: 20 were along 5 miles in Sioux Co. on 11 Aug (JV).

Merlin: First: 2 on 13 Aug at Mallard M. in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF-details)[record earliest]. Last: 19 Nov at Hawarden (JV). Singles were reported at 10 other locations from 6 Sep to 4 Nov.

Peregrine Falcon: Singles were reported from 12 locations from 3 Aug to 17 Oct (m.ob), and 4 were seen at Grammer Grove W.A. on 27 Sep (BPr).

Gray Partridge: Birds were reported from Cerro Gordo, Grundy, Fayette, Marshall, and Sioux counties.

Ruffed Grouse: Singles were seen at Yellow River F. on 29 Oct and 30 Nov (JLF, CE).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: A report is referred to the Records Committee.

Wild Turkey: A female was flushed from a nest with 17 eggs in a farm field in Cerro Gordo Co. on 20 Oct and incubated for 3 more days before abandoning the nest (CRN).

Northern Bobwhite: 1 heard on 24 Aug at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. was a first local sighting for Pete Erzen.

Yellow Rail: All: 1 at Sedan Bottoms (a new area) in Appanoose Co. was found on 28 Sep (RLC) and it or another was there on 19 Oct (RLC, TNJ).

King Rail: All: 1 at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. on 27 Aug (LAS).

Virginia Rail: All: 2 on 14 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Sora: Last: 28 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 22 on 14 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Common Moorhen: All: 1 ad. with 4 half-grown young at Forney L. on 6 Aug (THK).

American Coot: At Grover L. on 6 Aug, 178 plus many broods were seen (SJD, LAS). High count: 50,000 on 15 Oct at Spirit L. (ETh).

Sandhill Crane: All: 1 (more heard) on 21 Aug at Otter Creek M. (MPr), 4 on 23 Aug at Big M. (MPr), and 11 to late Oct at Sweet M. (Darin Siefken fide JJD).

Black-bellied Plover: First: 5 Aug at Riverton A. (SJD). Last: 6 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 8 on 15 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

American Golden-Plover: First: 5 Aug at Riverton A. (SJD). Last: 20 on 25 Oct in Pocahontas Co. (JV). High count: 157 on 3 Oct at Hubbard (MPr).

Semipalmated Plover: Last: 28 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 97 on 9 Aug at Runnells WA (SJD).

Piping Plover: All: 1 at Midwest Energy Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 8 Aug (PE) and 1 to 3 at Saylorville Res. on 10, 11 Aug (PHA/RIA, BE, DT, SJD).

Killdeer: High counts: 232 on 5 Aug at Riverton A. (SJD), 217 on 9 Aug at Runnells A. (SJD), and 130 on 1 Sep at Fort Atkinson in Winneshiek Co. (DeC).

American Avocet: First: 5 Aug at Dunbar Sl. (MPr). Last and high count: 12 at Union Slough N.W.R. from 12 Oct to 2 Nov (MCK). From 1 to 3 were reported at 4 other locations.

Greater Yellowlegs: Last: 14 Nov at Hawarden (JV).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Last: 10 Nov at Bacon Creek in Woodbury Co. (BHF). High count: 260 on 24 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Solitary Sandpiper: Last: 2 on 28 Sep at L. Macbride (THK). High count: 17 on 9 Aug at Runnells A. (SJD).

Willet: All: 1 on 10 Aug at Saylorville Res. (PHA/RIA, BE) and 2 on 12 Aug at Red Rock Res. (MPr, SJD).

Upland Sandpiper: Last: 31 Aug in Dallas Co. (MPr). Others were seen in Dickinson, Fremont, Marshall, and Osceola counties.

Hudsonian Godwit: All: A flock of 26 in basic plumage were at Saylorville Res. on 9 Aug (*SJD-photo).

Marbled Godwit: All: 1 on 14 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK-details) and 2 on 5 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK-details).

Ruddy Turnstone: All: 1 on 9 Aug at Midwest Energy Ponds (PE), 1 on 10 Aug and 6 Sep at Saylorville Res. (PHA/RIA, BE, MPr), and 2 on 12 Aug at Red Rock Res. (MPr, SJD).

Sanderling: First: 2 each on 10 Aug at Saylorville Res. (BE) and Dunbar Sl. (ETh). Last: 20 Sep at West Okoboji (ETh). Up to 3 were at 4 other locations.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: High count: 276 on 12 Aug at Runnells WA (SJD).

Western Sandpiper: First: 2 molting ad. on 9 Aug at Runnells WA (SJD). Last: 1 juv. molting to basic on 22 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (*MCK)[3rd latest]. Other singles were at Runnells WA on 12 Aug (SJD, MPr) and Welch L. in Dickinson Co. on 13 Sep (LAS).

Least Sandpiper: Last: 26 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 87 on 5 Aug at Riverton A. (SJD).

White-rumped Sandpiper: All: 2 were at Coralville Res. on 6 Oct (*THK). They were found by James Huntington on 2, 5, and 8 Oct.

Baird's Sandpiper: First: 2 on 11 Aug near Sioux Center (JV). Last: 2 on 12 Sep at Doon in Lyon Co. (JV). High count: 11 on 6 Sep at Saylorville Res. (MPr).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Last: 16 Nov at L. Anita (PHA/RIA). High count: 1,137 (SJD) and 1,500 (THK) on 5 Aug at Riverton A.

Dunlin: First: 3 on 28 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 3 on 14 Nov at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (THK, JLF). High count: 22 on 19 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Stilt Sandpiper: Last: 6 on 26 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BE)[2nd latest]. Other rather late birds were 1 on 19 Oct at Runnells WA (JSi) and 4 on 22 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High counts: 124 on 12 Aug at Runnells WA (SJD) and 142 on 28 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: All: 5 on 3 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK), 7 on 5 Aug (SJD) and 4 on 13 Aug (JLF) at Riverton A., 5 on 13 Aug at little Swan L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS), and 1 on 14 Aug at sod farm near Mason City (CRN).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Last: 10 on 5 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK). High count: 16 on 26 Aug at Coralville Res. (THK).

Long-billed Dowitcher: First: 1 alt. on 9 Aug at Runnells WA (SJD). Last: 1 on 12 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 82 on 19 Oct at Runnells WA (JSi).

American Woodcock: 1 was in Polk Co. on 21 Oct (BE).

Wilson's Phalarope: Last: 17 Oct at Coralville Res. (*THK, *RGo)[record latest by almost 3 weeks]. Only 3 others were reported, all in August.

Red-necked Phalarope: First: 1 1st basic on 7 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Last: 3 on 18 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). From 1 to 6 were reported at 5 other locations.

Franklin's Gull: Last: 3 on 8 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High counts: 20,000 on 13 Sep and 11 Oct in Dickinson Co. (LAS), 30,000 on 4 Oct at Saylorville Res. (JJD), and 40,000 on 16 Oct at Red Rock Res. (AB). An unusual fall concentration in eastern Iowa was 2,000 at L. Macbride on 9 Oct (THK).

Bonaparte's Gull: First: 1 in basic plumage at Kettleson Hogsback A. on 6 Aug (LAS, SJD). High count: 62 on 23 Oct at Hallett's Quarry (HZ). Only small numbers were reported.

Ring-billed Gull: 560 were in Dickinson Co. on 6 Aug (SJD); otherwise, numbers were not reported for the usual large fall concentrations.

California Gull: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Herring Gull: First: A first-summer bird was at Saylorville Res. on 11 Aug (SJD).

Thayer's Gull: A first winter bird was at Spirit L on 9 Nov (*LAS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: All: A second-basic bird was at Coralville Res. from 8 to 17 Oct (*JLF, *THK, *CE).

Glaucous Gull: All: 1 first-basic on 22 Nov at De Soto N.W.R. (AB).

Great Black-backed Gull: All: A first-basic bird was at West Okoboji on 8 Nov (*LAS)[3rd earliest].

Sabine's Gull: All: 1 juv on 7 Sep at Saylorville Res. was chased off by a Peregrine Falcon (*BE); another juv. was at Coralville Res. on 9 Oct (*THK, *JLF, *CE).

Caspian Tern: First: 6 Aug at Kettleson Hogsback A. (LAS). Last: 3 on 27 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 49 on 19 Sep at Hendrickson M. (HZ).

Common Tern: All: 1 imm. on 8 Oct at Big Creek L. (JJD-details).

Forster's Tern: Last: 5 on 18 Oct at Spirit L. (LAS). High count: 26 on 6 Aug at Spirit L. (SJD).

Least Tern: All: 1 on 5 Aug at Riverton A. (THK), 1 ad. and 1 juv. on 9 and 13 Aug at Midwest Energy Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (PE, SJD), 2 ad. feeding 3 juv. on 16 Aug at Saylorville Res. (BE), and 1 on 31 Aug at Harrier M. (PHA/RIA-photo).

Black Tern: Last: 2 on 5 Sep at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (THK). High count: 133 on 16 Aug at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: From 1 to 5 were reported from the north side of Grinnell in Poweshiek Co. from 30 Aug through the end of the period (*JLF, *THK, *MPR, *CE, *RIC). The birds were found on 29 Aug by Fritz Brock, a visitor from Allentown, Pennsylvania, who was playing golf and heard the birds. Nearby home owner William Smith recalled hearing the doves since the time of Larry Stone's article on the White-winged Doves in late April and his golfing partners often mentioned hearing owls when they were hearing the doves (THK). Although the first record for Iowa, this species is showing up in many northern states and its population is rapidly expanding. Sometime in September or October, Marshalltown birders found a dead bird along the road and gave it to the Marshall County Conservation Board (MPR).

White-winged Dove: 1 came to a feeder at Fort Dodge from 21 to 24 Sep and was photographed (letter and photos from Diana J. Hultine). This is the third Iowa record for this species, all in 1997.

Mourning Dove: 2 fledged from a nest in Ames on 17 Sep (JJD).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Last: 28 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK). Only 3 others were reported.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Last: 29 Sep at L. Ahquabi (AB). High count: 12 on 28 Aug in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and on 31 Aug at Wanata SP in Clay Co. (LAS).

Eastern Screech-Owl: A light phase bird, possibly *Otis asio maxwelliae*, was at Sioux Center in early Nov (JV). A red phase bird found dead at the Orleans Fish Hatchery in Dickinson County on 26 Nov had been banded on 3 Mar 1997 0.75 miles to the west.

Long-eared Owl: All: 1 on 3 Nov at Mason City (CJF).

Short-eared Owl: First: 22 Oct in Emmet Co. (DHe). Three other reports were from Polk and Dickinson counties.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: No reports.

Common Nighthawk: Last: 2 on 8 Oct in Fairfield (DCP). High counts: 200 on 22 Aug at Algona (MCK), 100 on 4 Sep in West Des Moines (HZ), and 150 on 6 Sep at Spencer (LAS).

Whip-poor-will: 1 was at Waubonsie SP on 5 Aug (MPR).

Chimney Swift: Last: 4 on 18 Oct at Des Moines (PJW). High count: 3,200 on 8 Sep at Fairfield with the last 2 there on 17 Oct (DCP).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Last: 2 on 18 Oct at West Okoboji (JJ).

Belted Kingfisher: 18 were at Waubonsie WA on 4 Aug (SJD).

Pileated Woodpecker: Birds were reported from Appanoose, Marshall, and Tama counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First: 10 Aug at Dunbar Sl. (ETh). Last: 24 Sep in Jones Co. (THK). There were 15 other reports of 1 to 5 birds.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: An adult was feeding 2 young on 13 Sep in Sac Co. (PE). Last: 28 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: All: 17 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE), 23 Aug at Big M. (MPr), and 26 Aug at Coralville Res. (THK).

Willow Flycatcher: All: 1 on 11 Aug at Oak Grove P. (JV) and 1 heard on 14 Sep in Marion Co. (RLC).

Western Kingbird: All: 5 Aug in southwestern Fremont Co. (MPr).

Eastern Kingbird: Last: 24 Sep at Waubonsie WA (BKP/LJP). High count: 25 on 30 Aug in Dickinson Co. (ETh).

Purple Martin: Last and high count: 34 on 16 Aug at West Okoboji (JJ).

Tree Swallow: Last: 2 on 29 Oct at Pleasant Creek L. (JLF, THK). High count: 5,000 on 7 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Cliff Swallow: High count: 5,000 on 7 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

American Crow: At the Ames roost, numbers increased from 493 on 31 Aug to 3,300 on 22 Nov (JJD).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: First: 8 Aug at Ida Grove (PE). There were reports from 5 other locations in August and by September this species was widespread in the state.

Carolina Wren: Reports were from 2 locations each in Des Moines and Iowa City and from Effigy Mounds NM with comments about their having been gone for months to several years.

House Wren: Last: 18 Oct at Coralville Res. (CE), Ringgold WA (PHA/RIA), and Fairfield (DCP).

Winter Wren: First: 24 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Sedge Wren: Last: 9 Oct at Coralville Res. (CE). Birds were singing on 11 Aug in Sioux Co. (JV) and 16 Aug at Hayden Prairie (CRN).

Marsh Wren: Last: 8 Nov in Wayne Co. (AB)[3rd latest except for winter records]. High count: 37 on 21 Sep at Snake Creek M. (AB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First: 27 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (Kevin Healy fide MPr).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 10 Sep at Sioux Center (JV).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: All: 2 Aug at L. Macbride (BFH) and 6 Sep at Sioux Center (JV).

Townsend's Solitaire: All: 1 on 30 Nov at Shellrock Greenbelt in Cerro Gordo Co. (CRN).

Veery: 2 reported.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: None reported.

Swainson's Thrush: 4 reported.

Hermit Thrush: First and last: Iowa City yard on 7 Oct and 15 Nov (THK).

Wood Thrush: All: 6 Aug at Waubonsie SP (MPr) and 1 young on 31 Aug at Springbrook SP (MPr).

American Robin: High count: 2,000 on 26 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Varied Thrush: None reported.

Gray Catbird: Last: 19 to 30 Nov at suet feeder near Calmar (Susan Anderson fide DeC). High count: 40 on 2 Aug at L. Macbride (BFH).

Northern Mockingbird: Most unusual was 1 on 7 Nov at Oak Grove SP in Sioux Co., where there is only 1 report since 1960. Other birds west of Riverton in Fremont Co. on 5 Aug (SJD) and at Ledges SP on 29 Nov (David Edwards fide JJD) were also at unusual locations for fall.

Brown Thrasher: Last: 28 Oct at Mason City (RGo).

American Pipit: First: 3 on 9 Sep at Runnells WA (AB). Last: 1 on 28 Nov at Greenfield L. in Adair Co. (JSi). High count: 100 on 2 Nov in Cerro Gordo Co. (CRN). There were 10 other reports of 1 to 12 birds.

Bohemian Waxwing: All: 1 on 8 Nov in northeastern Allamakee Co. (RIA) and 1 on 19 Nov in Dickinson Co. (ETh).

Cedar Waxwing: Large numbers were seen (THK) but only one flock was reported.

Northern Shrike: All: 23 Nov at Colo (HZ), 26 Nov at Hawarden (JV), and 30 Nov in Allamakee Co. (CE).

Loggerhead Shrike: Birds were reported from 7 Aug to 15 Nov from 7 locations.

Bell's Vireo: All: 1 on 7 Aug at Riverton A. (MPr).

Blue-headed (Solitary) Vireo: First: 31 Aug at Wanata SP (LAS). Last: 21 Oct at L. Ahquabi (AB).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Last: 27 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (Kevin Healy fide MPr).

Warbling Vireo: Last: 26 Sep at A. A. Call SP (MCK)[ties 2nd latest]. Other relative late birds were 1 heard at Diamond L. on 15 Sep (MPr) and 1 at L. Ahquabi on 23 Sep (AB).

Philadelphia Vireo: First: 22 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 3 Oct at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).

Red-eyed Vireo: Last: 22 Oct near Spirit Lake (ETH)[3rd latest].

Blue-winged Warbler: Last: 2 on 7 Sep at Moorehead P., where a Brewster's hybrid was seen on 6 Sep (PE). There were 3 others reported.

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 24 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 27 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr)[ties 2nd latest]. There were 7 other reports of 1 to 3 birds.

Tennessee Warbler: First: 16 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 8 Oct at L. Ahquabi (AB).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 28 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 19 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr) and Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 12 on 28 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

Nashville Warbler: First: 31 Aug in Dallas Co. (MPr). Last: 2 Nov at Cedar Rapids (DLD).

Northern Parula: Last: 4 Oct at Moorehead P. (PE).

Yellow Warbler: Last: 6 Sep in Dallas Co. (MPr) and Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 22 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 27 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

Magnolia Warbler: First: 23 Aug at Big M. (MPr). Last: 28 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr) and Moorehead P. (PE).

Cape May Warbler: All: 7 Sep at Martin's Access in Cherokee Co. (PE) and 28 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: All: 15 Sep at Macbride NRA (CE) and 27 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 13 Sep at South Twin L. in Calhoun Co. (PE). Last: 30 Nov at L. Ahquabi (JSi). High count: 175 on 19 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: 31 Aug at Springbrook SP (MPr). Last: 3 Oct at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).

Blackburnian Warbler: First: 23 Aug at Big M. (MPr). Last: 24 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Yellow-throated Warbler: All: 2 Aug at L. Macbride (BFH) and 11 Sep at Red Rock Res. (AB).

Pine Warbler: All: 6 Sep at Martin's Access in Cherokee Co. (PE) and 2 on 7 Sep at Spencer (LAS).

Palm Warbler: First: 3 Sep at Decorah (DeC). Last: 17 Nov at Shenandoah (JMB/MT)[ties record latest]. Another late bird on 24 Oct was at Medicine Creek WA in Wayne Co. (AB)[3rd latest].

Bay-breasted Warbler: First: 21 Aug at A. A. Call SP (MCK). Last: 27 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 11 on 4 Sep at A. A. Call SP (MCK).

Blackpoll Warbler: All: 1 on 7 Sep and 2 on 17 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE) and 1 on 29 Sep at Muskrat Sl. (CE).

Cerulean Warbler: All: 1 on 10 Aug at Ledges SP (SJD).

Black-and-white Warbler: First: 21 Aug at Algona (MCK). Last: 27 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

American Redstart: High count and last: 26 on 28 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Ovenbird: Last: 4 Oct at Amana Woods (CE)[3rd latest]. Another was at Grammer Grove W.A. on 27 Sep (MPr).

Northern Waterthrush: First: 13 Aug at Jemmerson Sl. (LAS). Last: 6 Sep in Dallas Co. (MPr).

Kentucky Warbler: All: 28 Aug in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Connecticut Warbler: All: 31 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE), 6 Sep at Saylorville Res. (MPr-details), and 8 and 24 Sep at Bacon Creek in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Mourning Warbler: First: 13 Aug at Jemmerson Sl. (LAS). Last: 21 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

MacGillivray's Warbler:

Common Yellowthroat: Last: 9 Oct at Diamond L. (MPr).

Wilson's Warbler: First: 6 Aug at Spirit L. (SJD-details)[record earliest]. Last: 28 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). High count: 32 on 31 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE).

Canada Warbler: First: 21 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 10 Sep in Jasper Co. (MPr).

Scarlet Tanager: Last: 2 on 28 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

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Blue Grosbeak: Many were seen in August all over Sioux Co. (JV). In Fremont Co., 1 was near Bartlett on 13 Aug (SJD).

Indigo Bunting: Last: 30 Nov in Davis Co. (PHA/RIA-details)[record latest].

Dickcissel: Last: 4 on 14 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Spotted Towhee: All: 1 Oct at Saylorville Res. (AB), 5 Oct near Ledges SP (Mark Widrlechner fide JJD), 11 Oct at West Okoboji (LAS), 6 Nov at Cone M. (JLF), and 9 Nov at Clive (JC).

American Tree Sparrow: First: 22 Oct at Mason City (RGo).

Chipping Sparrow: High count: 45 in Appanoose Co. on 27 Sep (RLC).

Field Sparrow: Last: 2 on 28 Nov at Heron Bend (CE).

Vesper Sparrow: Last: 17 Oct in Sioux Co. (JV). High count: 100 migrating with Horned Larks on 12 Sep in Sioux Co. (JV).

Lark Sparrow: Last: 2 on 14 Sep in Marion Co. (RLC)[2nd latest].

Savannah Sparrow: Last: 9 on 6 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Last: 14 Sep in Marion Co. (RLC).

Le Conte's Sparrow: First: 13 Sep at Welch L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). Last: 11 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB). High counts: 18 on 4 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 15 on 18 Oct at McBreen M. in Dickinson Co. (LAS).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: First: 11 on 14 Sep at 3 locations in Kossuth Co. (MCK)[ties 3rd earliest]. Last: 18 Oct at McBreen M. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). Other reports were from Coralville Res., Snake Creek M., and Bjorkboda M.

Fox Sparrow: First: 1 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Lincoln's Sparrow: First: 13 Sep at Saylorville Res. (MPr). Last: 12 Nov at L. Meyer in Winneshiek Co. (DeC).

White-throated Sparrow: First: 11 Sep at Mason City (RGo).

Harris's Sparrow: First: 30 Sep at L. Ahquabi (AB). High count: 18 on 30 Oct at Red Rock Res. (AB).

Dark-eyed Junco: First: 19 Sep at Steamboat Rock (MPr).

Lapland Longspur: First: 45 on 26 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 1,500 on 2 Nov in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Snow Bunting: First: 2 on 2 Nov in Dickinson Co. (LAS). The only other report was 1 on 15 Nov in Tama Co. (MPr).

Bobolink: Last: 2 on 19 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC)[2nd latest]. There were 2 at Harrier M. on 17 Sep (JJD).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 2 were at Rathbun Res. on 16 Aug (TNJ).

Brewer's Blackbird: 12 including 4 dark-eyed females were at Christopherson Sl. on 26 Oct (LAS) and a male and female were in Cerro Gordo Co. on 2 Nov (CRN-details).

Great-tailed Grackle: Last and high counts: on 4 Sep, 16 including immatures at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (ETh) and 30 at Waubonsie WA (BKP/LJP). Other county locations were of 2 on 6 Aug east of Glidden in Carroll Co. (SJD) and 8 on 18 Aug in feedlots south of Granger in Dallas Co. (MPr).

Common Grackle: High count: 2,500 on 19 Oct in Linn Co. (DLD).

Orchard Oriole: All: 2 on 18 Aug at Saylorville Res. (MPr) and 1 on 30 Aug at Liscomb (MPr).

Baltimore Oriole: Last 12 Oct at Sioux Center (JV).

Pine Grosbeak: All: 1 at Holstein in Ida Co. on 5 Nov (*CLR).

Purple Finch: First: 2 Sep near Spirit Lake (ETh). There were September reports from 4 other locations as well as scattered reports in October and November.

House Finch: Birds with eye disease were reported in Sioux Center (JV).

Red Crossbill: All: 4 on 9 Oct at Burlington (JLV).

White-winged Crossbill: First: 1 on 7 Nov at Algona in Kossuth Co. (MCK). High count: 120 on 16 Nov in Lake Park in Dickinson Co. (LAS). There were 16 reports from Allamakee, Clay, Dickinson, Kossuth, and O'Brien counties, all of which are in the northern 2 rows of counties.

Common Redpoll: First: 11 Nov at West Des Moines (PHA/RIA). Other reports were from Dallas, Dickinson, Hardin, Lyon, and Union counties.

Pine Siskin: First: 13 Sep at Mason City (CJF). High count: 100 on 26 Nov at Fairmont Cemetery in Davenport (JLF, THK). Numbers were greatly increased from last year, but most did not show up until late October.

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Evening Grosbeak: All: 1 imm. male on 13 Sep at Iowa City (Julie Hayek-details)[3rd earliest], 2 on 30 Oct near Boone (Karl Jungbluth fide JJD), and 3 Nov at Sioux Center (JV).

COMMENT

The database comprised 30 reports and 35 documentations (of 19 species). I made 1,183 entries into the database, which did not include 17 added from 3 reports received after the database had been printed. All reports were received by 6 December except for 3 that were received on the 10th. The amount of data is down about 20 percent from last year.

Determining which records to include in the report is always agonizing for me. Of first concern are reports of Accidental and Casual species. All such reports are ignored if they are not documented. I mention the details (date, place, observer) only if I think there is no or minimal possibility that the Records Committee will not accept the record; otherwise, I say, "A report will be referred to the Records Committee." Some of these reports are accepted and published in the report of the committee. It should always be emphasized that non-accepted reports do not mean that the identification was incorrect.

Of second concern are reports of rare and difficult to identify species that are accompanied by minimal or no details, and I cannot always tell how well they were seen. My concern is accentuated if the date is unusual. Examples from this fall's data were of the following species: Horned Grebe (early), Little Blue Heron (late), Prairie Falcon (often hard to see well), King Rail (can be confused with Virginia), Thayer's Gull (adults may be more difficult than immatures), Swainson's Thrush (late), Warbling Vireo (late, how identified), Brewster's Warbler (easy but no detail), Pine Warbler (how reliable is a negative field mark—unstreaked back), Connecticut Warbler (very difficult to be sure on fall birds), Clay-colored Sparrow (hard to distinguish from Chipping in fall), Lark Sparrow (easy, but late and no details), Bobolink (late, should be in drab plumage), and Brewer's Blackbird (a species that presents a lot of difficulty for me—hard to see well, confusing plumages). These are my personal reactions; others might have different concerns. In this as well as previous reports, I have made my best judgment. Birds left out are most likely correct, just not beyond some doubt in my mind. The list above is small compared to the many rare birds for which good details were given. I sometimes include the word "details" after an observer's initials, but only if I think this might be of particular importance to include in the literature.

Of third concern is what data are important enough to include in the report for the more common regular species. There is no way we can know everything about the birds present in the state during a given season. We can only know what is observed, and these data fall into several categories: active observers who report lots of sightings including early and late dates, active observers who report only the most interesting findings, less active observers who report interesting findings, and active observers who do not report. For migrants that are frequently reported, I have found that the easiest way to present the data and to describe the migration is to give first and last dates and high count(s) and sometimes additional comment. These data are often dull but may be useful to: (1) those readers who are only moderately familiar with Iowa birds, (2) the editors and readers of *Field Notes* who may compare the pattern in Iowa with that in other states, and (3) future researchers of migration patterns in Iowa. The problem for me arises when the amount of data is so small that the pattern may not be well represented. The more common the species, the more likely the data is minimal, e.g., for many of the common warblers. When I do not mention high count or first or last date, it is likely that the data submitted was minimal *and not unusual.*

Comments, suggestions, and corrections are welcome.

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