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FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1997

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WEATHER

March was mild, averaging slightly warmer and dryer than normal. April was definitely colder and overall slightly drier than normal. April was the third snowiest on record with heavy snow from the 9th to 12th. The heaviest snow, up to 22 inches, was in extreme southern Iowa on the 10th. Severe thunderstorms and high winds accompanied a low-pressure system on the 5th and 6th. May was one of the coldest on record. North winds prevailed most of the month, and temperatures in the 70s were unusual.

GENERAL TRENDS

This spring was one of the most interesting since I have been writing the Field Reports (since 1979). Although it seemed like spring would never arrive and birding was often dull, the unusual weather patterns were associated with several rarities and many late arrivals and departures, and, surprisingly, some early ones too.

The early warming trend in March provided good waterfowl concentrations. Steve Dinsmore observed over 20 species on many days. The number of reports of Ross's Geese continues to increase, and they are widespread and sometimes linger. I was surprised to see 25 huddled together in the wind near the shore of South Twin Lake on 8 May. There were many reports of Greater White-fronted Geese, suggesting that observers were impressed with the numbers and widespread distribution. More than usual numbers of Cinnamon Teal were seen, but other rare ducks, except for an Oldsquaw, were absent.

Perhaps the most spectacular event of the season was the mid-April snow storm. During and after this storm, Iowa's first and second White-winged Doves appeared, and several Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found along roads. Although there were a few early passerine records, most of the usual early passerines were not to be found in late April.

Early May was like late April, but eventually the migrants had to show up in spite of the northerly winds and lack of stalled fronts. The best fallouts were in northwestern Iowa during the last two weeks of May. Shorebirds were average at best and without rarities. The sparrow migration was late and particularly

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evident in western Iowa with many Clay-colored and Harris's sparrows and large flocks of Chipping Sparrows.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported included Barnacle Goose, White-winged Dove, Great Gray Owl, Vermilion Flycatcher, Black-billed Magpie, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, and Chestnut-collared Longspur. The goose was considered an escapee. The White-winged Doves are the first and the Black-throated Gray is a second state record. The magpies may have nested for the second time in Iowa. The April snow storm and birders looking for them were major factors in finding the Chestnut-collared Longspurs. Lazuli Bunting records have increased in the last three years, and this year one was found as far east as Mason City.

Casual species reported included Red-throated and Pacific loons, Black-necked Stilt, Iceland Gull, and Western Tanager. Some of the rare regular species included Red-necked Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Mute Swan, Cinnamon Teal, Mississippi Kite, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Yellow Rail, Piping Plover, Western Sandpiper, Least Tern, Snowy Owl, Townsend's Solitaire, Prairie Warbler, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Red Crossbill.

Two hybrid Warblers were found—the relatively common Brewster's (Blue-winged x Golden-winged) and the exceedingly rare Sutton's (Yellow-throated x Northern Parula).

Usually I leave out rare species for which there are no reports and widespread common species, most of which are also not reported. This year I have noted some species that were not reported, although the lack of reports does not necessarily mean that no birds were present.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented)

Red-throated Loon: 1 in basic plumage was at Pleasant Creek L. from 13 Apr to at least 10 May (*JLF, *CE, MPr-details, THK-photo)[2nd earliest; record latest]. This is only the sixth spring record.

Pacific Loon: 1 immature was at West Okoboji from 15 Apr to 26 May (*ETH-photo, *LAS, *DCH)[record earliest and latest]. This is only the second spring record.

Common Loon: First: 24 Mar at Big Creek L. (SJD). Last: 21 May at Rice L. in Worth Co. (THK). High count: 18 on 19 Apr at West Okoboji (ETH). There were March sightings at 3 other locations.

Horned Grebe: First: 2 on 12 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Last: 31 May in Dickinson Co. (LAS)[3rd latest]. High count: 15 on 5 Apr at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

Red-necked Grebe: All: 2 on 27 Apr at West Okoboji (ETH) and 2 on 6 to 8 May west of Hubbard in Hardin Co. (MPr, JLF, THK).

Eared Grebe: First: 6 Apr at Green Is. (PCP). From 1 to 5 were reported at 10 other locations across the state.

Western Grebe: All: 2 on 4, 6 May at Amana L. (JLF, THK) and 1 on 12 May at Black Hawk L. (ETH).

American White Pelican: First: 19 on 8 Mar at Heron Bend in Lee Co. (SJD). This species is now regular in all areas of the state with some remaining through the end of the period.

Double-crested Cormorant: First: 26 Mar at McCord Pond in Guthrie Co. (SJD, MPr). High count: 190 on 5 May at Hallett's Quarry in Story Co. (HZ).

American Bittern: First: on 14 Apr at Ames (HZ) and near Luther (Steve Fairbairn fide JJD). From 1 to 2 were reported at 11 locations, which is more than usual.

Least Bittern: May reports were from Fremont Co. (AMJ), Deweys Pasture (Steve Fairbairn fide JJD), Harrier M. (Jane Schuster fide JJD), and Spring Run (Steve Fairbairn fide JJD).

Great Blue Heron: 12 active nests were west of Union in Hardin Co. on 6 May (MPr).

Great Egret: First: 27 Mar in Tama Co. (MPr). Another March bird was at Hawarden in Sioux Co. on the 28th (JV).

Snowy Egret: All: 1 from 17 to 21 May at Smith's Sl. in Clay Co. (Steve Fairbairn fide JJD, THK-photo).

Cattle Egret: First: 2 May at Colo Ponds (MPr). From 1 to 5 were reported at 5 other locations, which is less than usual.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: First: 9 Apr at Coralville Res. (JLF). From 1 to 5 were reported at 7 other locations.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All: 1 on 26 May in Warren Co. (AMJ).

White-faced Ibis: In contrast to recent years, none were reported.

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Tundra Swan: All: 2 on 3 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD), 2 on 4 Mar near Forney L. with Trumpeters (SJD), 1 on 6 Mar in Mills Co. (SJD), and up to 15 on 26, 27 Mar in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF, RGo).

Trumpeter Swan: All: 3 ad. (2 with green Wisconsin neck collars) and 2 imm. on 3 Mar in Fremont Co. (SJD), 1 ad. and 1 imm. (unbanded) on 22 Mar at Big M. (*MPr, SJD), and 5 on 20 May at Lost Island M. (THK). Others went unreported. — what does this mean?

Mute Swan: All: 1 imm. on 12 Apr at Easter L. in Polk Co. (AB-photo).

Greater White-fronted Goose: First: 15 on 5 Mar at Barringer Sl. (D. Marske fide LAS). Last: 2 on 25 May at South Twin L. (PE). High count: 1,200 on 16 Mar at Dunbar Sl. (SJD). This species was widely reported from 18 locations, with 9 reports of more than 100.

Snow Goose: High count: 30,000 on 31 Mar at Forney L. (BKP/LJP). This figure is likely misleading—earlier in March many more should be present.

Ross's Goose: From 1 to 41 were reported from 6 Mar to 15 May at 22 locations with more than 10 birds at 9 locations. This species has dramatically increased in recent years and is now regular in eastern as well as western Iowa.

Barnacle Goose: 1 on 6 Mar at Green Castle R.A. in Marshall Co. was thought to be an escapee because of a clipped hind toe (MPr, Marshalltown *Times-Republican*, 9 Mar 1997-photo).

Canada Goose: High count: 8,000 on 7 Mar at Dunbar Sl. (RTh).

Green-winged Teal: 6 remained in Dickinson Co. on 31 May (LAS).

American Black Duck: The only reports were of 1 on 5 Mar at Swan L. in Carroll Co. (RTh) and 5 on 22 Mar at Big M. (SJD, MPr). Undoubtedly others went unreported.

Cinnamon Teal: All: 31 Mar at Swan in Marion Co. (AMJ), 10 Apr at Dunbar Sl. (RTh), 19 Apr at Dugout Creek in Dickinson Co. (ETh, LAS), 19 Apr and 2 May at Big Creek L. (PJW), a pair on 20 Apr at Patterson W.A. in Kossuth Co. (MCK), 24 Apr north of Burlington (JLF), and 4 May at South Twin L. (PE). These 8 reports, all males except for the one pair, are more than usual.

Northern Shoveler: 1,500 on 14 Apr at Little Clear L. in Pocahontas Co. (MMB) is an unusually large concentration.

Gadwall: High count: 1,225 on 24 Mar at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

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Canvasback: High count: 33,000 on 8 Mar on Pool 19 in Lee Co. (SJD).

Greater Scaup: Last: a pair on 26 Apr at West Okoboji (LAS). There were 7 reports from March and early April.

Lesser Scaup: High count: 20,000 on 29 Mar on Pool 19 (CE).

Oldsquaw: 1 was at Pleasant Creek L. from 26 Apr to 2 May (MPr, JLF, THK).

Scoters: None were reported.

Bufflehead: High count: 92 on 13 Apr at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

Hooded Merganser: High count: 36 on 16 Mar in Boone Co. (SJD).

Ruddy Duck: High count: 500 on 29 Mar at Black Hawk L. (ETh).

Turkey Vulture: First: 2 on 7 Mar in Warren Co. (AB). There were 4 other March reports.

Osprey: First: 14 Mar at Black Hawk W.A. (PE-details)[3rd earliest]. Other reports were from mid-April to mid-May.

Mississippi Kite: All: 1 from 12 May through the end of the period at Ledges S.P. (PJW, *LH), 1 on 19 May at Greenwood P. in Des Moines (PJW), and 1 on 25 May at Olivet Baptist Church in Clive (PJW).

Bald Eagle: 30 were at L. Manawa in ^{Pottawattomie Co.} (southwestern Iowa) on 6 Mar (BKP/LJP).

Northern Harrier: 2 of 10 seen were feeding on coots on 13 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Cooper's Hawk: Nests were reported from the following counties: Warren (2 locations, JSi), Dickinson (JJ), and ^{Story}Madison (Jane Schuster fide JJD).

Northern Goshawk: All: 1 ad. on 13 Mar in Ida Co. (PE) and 1 on 20 and 31 Mar at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP/LJP).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Reports were from the following counties: Benton (CE), Clay (LAS), Dickinson (LAS, ETh), Polk (PJW), Sac (AB, RTh), and Tama (PJW). Three of these counties are in northwestern Iowa—this species is most often found in eastern Iowa. A bird reported from 26 Apr 1996 (*IBL* 66:102) should have been 26 Mar (SJD).

Broad-winged Hawk: First: 17 Apr in Des Moines (PJW). High count: 6 on 19 Apr at Rock Creek P. (MPr). A nest was found at Walnut Woods in Polk Co. on 12 May (JSi). On 29 May, 2 subadults were

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migrating at Algona (MCK). It is amazing that this common species can cross the state with so few noticed.

Swainson's Hawk: First: 2 on 14 Apr in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP). High count: 5 circling north of Forney L. on 15 May (THK). One was on a nest at the usually location south of Allendorf in Osceola Co. on 8 May (THK). Other reports were from 8 locations in western and northern Iowa.

Red-tailed Hawk: Krider's ^H hawks were at Fairfield on 30 Mar (DCP) and Spirit L. on 2 May (ETh). A Harlan's ^H hawk was at Otter Creek M. on 14 Apr (MPr).

Rough-legged Hawk: Last: 17 May at Broken Kettle Grassland in Plymouth Co. (MCK).

Golden Eagle: All: 1 imm. 12 Mar at Smith W.A. in Kossuth Co. (MCK-details) and 1 imm. on 22 Mar at Big M. (SJD-details).

Merlin: All: 5 Mar at Forney L. (SJD), 20 Mar in Emmet Co. (DHe), and 13 Apr at Dunbar Sl. (RTh, ETh). This is fewer than are usually reported.

Peregrine Falcon: All of the 19 reports were from 1 to 19 May.

Gray Partridge: Reports were from Allamakee, Dickinson, Franklin, Marshall, Story, and Worth counties.

Yellow Rail: All: 1 on 9 May south of Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF-details).

Virginia Rail: First: 17 Apr at Otter Creek M. (CE). There were 5 other reports.

Sora: First: 19 Apr at Engeldinger M. in Polk Co. (PJW).

Common Moorhen: All: 2 on 10 May at Pool Sl. in Allamakee Co. (FL) and 1 on 16 May at Forney L. (AMJ).

Sandhill Crane: First: 13 Mar at Black Hawk L. (RTh). From 1 to 7 were reported from 12 locations.

Black-bellied Plover: First: 3 on 6 May at Coralville Res. (JLF). All others were from mid- to late May.

American Golden-Plover: First: 26 Mar east of Glidden in Carroll Co. (SJD, MPr). Last: 20 May in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP). High count: 450 on 17 May in Palo Alto Co. (Steve Fairbairn fide JJD). Many were reported with ^{low} small numbers in April and larger flocks in May.

Semipalmated Plover: First: 19 Apr at Blue L. (PE). High count: 50 on 11 May at Coralville Res. (THK).

Piping Plover: All: up to 4 were at the Power Plant in Woodbury Co. on 17 and 18 May (RLC, MPr, AMJ). None were found at the Power Plant in Pottawattamie Co., perhaps due ^{to} machinery activity.

Killdeer: On 13 Apr, after the snow storm, 204 were counted on roads in Johnson Co., and most were in pairs (THK). Counts of 64 were reported in Cass Co. on 10 Apr (MAP) and in Warren Co. on 11 Apr (AMJ).

Black-necked Stilt: All: 1 at Louisa Refuge in Louisa Co. on 26 Mar (*AS)[record earliest].

American Avocet: First: 12 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC) [ties 2nd earliest]. Last: 30 May at Black Hawk W.A. (RTh)[ties 2nd latest]. High count: 19 on 4 May at Runnells A. (JSi). There were reports from 4 other locations.

Greater Yellowlegs: First: 26 Mar near Gidden (SJD, MPr) and at Lansing (FL). Last: 23 May at Rock Valley (JV).

Lesser Yellowlegs: First: 15 Mar in Warren Co. (AB). High count: 200 on 4 May at Cone M. (THK).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: 26 Apr in Dickinson Co. (ETH).

Willet: First: 10 on 26 Apr at Tomahawk M. (PE). Last: 1 on 31 May at Harrier M. (JJD). There were reports from 6 other locations.

Upland Sandpiper: Reports were from Davis, Dickinson, Iowa, and Story counties.

Hudsonian Godwit: First: 3 on 5 May at Colo Ponds (HZ). High count: 450 on 15 May in Fremont Co. (THK). Last: 3 on 29 May in Dickinson Co. (ETH). This species was common in May this year, especially in western Iowa.

Marbled Godwit: Convincing details were given for 1 on 3 May at Dugout Creek in Dickinson Co. (LAS) and 1 on 6 May in Story Co. (MPr). Marbled Godwit is usually an early migrant, so I have to be skeptical of reports of both godwits at the same location in mid- to late May. Hudsonian Godwits in their varied plumages can easily be mistaken for Marbled Godwits unless the birds are flushed.

How many?

Ruddy Turnstone: First: 10 May at Elk L. in Clay Co. (LAS). Last: 21 May with 5 at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK, THK) and 10 at Rush L. in Palo Alto Co. (MMB). There were 3 each reported from 3 other locations.

Sanderling: First: 5 May at Colo Ponds (HZ). Last: 26 May at Rathbun Res. (RLC). From 1 to 3 were reported at 3 other locations.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: High count: 90 on 18 May in Guthrie Co. (JSi).

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Western Sandpiper: All: 2 on 23 May at Hawarden in Sioux Co. (JV-details).

Least Sandpiper: High count: 1,000 on 11 May at Coralville Res. (THK).

White-rumped Sandpiper: First: 6 May at Colo Ponds (MPr). High count: 200 on 15 May at Riverton A. (THK).

Baird's Sandpiper: All: 9 on 7 Apr at Power Plant in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), 3 on 6 May in Story Co. (MPr), 2 on 8 May at Coralville Res. (CE), and 10 on 11 May at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP).

Pectoral Sandpiper: First: on 21 Mar with 2 at Hawarden (JV) and 4 at Saylorville Res. (SJD). High count: 1,000 on 11 May at Coralville Res. (THK).

Dunlin: First: 6 Apr at Green Is. in Jackson Co. (PCP)[2nd earliest]. Last: 9 on 27 May at Five Island L. in Palo Alto Co. (DHe). High count: 200 on 15 May at Riverton A. (THK). Several other large flocks were noted.

Stilt Sandpiper: First: 6 May at Amana L. (THK). Last and high count: 26 on 23 May at Dugout Creek in Dickinson Co. (ETh). *already given with Cinnamon Teal* *

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: None reported.

Short-billed Dowitcher: First: 15 on 4 May at Cone M. (THK). Last: 2 on 18 May at Kiowa M. in Sac Co. (MPr).

Long-billed Dowitcher: First: 9 on 26 Apr at Otter Creek M. (MPr). Last: 1 heard on 11 May at Riverton A. in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP).

Common Snipe: First: 3 on 16 Mar at Cone M. (THK). High count: 300 on 11 Apr at Cone M. (THK).

American Woodcock: First: 9 Mar at Rathbun Res. (RLC) and 10 Mar at Bobwhite S.P. in Wayne Co. (AB).

Wilson's Phalarope: First: 2 on 29 Apr in Hardin Co. (MPr). Last: 2 on 20 May at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP). High count: 17 on 7 May at Colo Ponds (HZ).

Red-necked Phalarope: All: 1 on 11, 13 May at Colo Ponds (HZ, MPr), 5 on 15 May and 3 on 20 May at Riverton A. (THK, BKP/LJP), 1 on 23 May at Black Hawk W.A. (PE), and 1 on 30 May near Glidden in Carroll Co. (RTh).

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Franklin's Gull: First: 2 on 21 Mar at Little Wall L. (SJD). High count: 250 on 11 May in Mills Co. (BKP/LJP).

Bonaparte's Gull: First: 26 Mar in Carroll Co. (SJD). Last: 9 on 5 May at Hallett's Quarry (HZ). High count: 125 on 6 Apr at Gomer's L. in Clinton Co. (PCP).

Iceland Gull: A first-year bird was at Red Rock Res. on 19 Mar (*AB-photos).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 reported at Keokuk for 29 Dec 1994 (*IBL* 65:49) should have been 29 Jan 1995 (SJD).

Caspian Tern: First: 10 May at Trumbull L. (LAS). Last: 2 on 27 May at Ingham L. (DHe). High count: 30 on 20 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (THK).

Common Tern: First: 2 on 17 Apr at West Okoboji (ETh-details)[2nd earliest]. Last: 31 May at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (LAS-details). There were 4 other reports from May with details.

Forster's Tern: First: 15 Apr at Rathbun Res. (AB). High count: 77 on 10 May at Trumbull L. (LAS).

Least Tern: All (singles): 18 May at Power Plant ponds in Woodbury Co. (MPr, DCP), 10 May at Silver Maple P. in Plymouth Co. (THK), and 24 May at Power Plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP).

Black Tern: First: 4 May at Montrose in Lee Co. (CE). High count: 2,000 on 15 May in Fremont Co. (THK) and on 16 May at Forney L. (AMJ). These counts are conservative, and this species was common on most large water areas in mid-May.

White-winged Dove: The first record for the state was a bird at Nelson Hoskins's feeder in Ottumwa during the snow storm from 8 to 15 Apr (*NRH-photos). A second bird was found in Le Grand on 28 Apr by Mark Proescholdt and remained until at least 16 May (*MPr, *JLF, *THK-photo, *CE, *PCP, *AMJ). There were also records from Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and perhaps other states this spring.

Black-billed Cuckoo: First: 21 May at Big M. (MPr). There were only 4 other reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: None were reported.

Snowy Owl: All: 4 Mar at Spencer (D. Kanago fide LAS).

Great ~~Gary~~ Owl: A bird was seen at the Cerro Gordo Co. wintering location on 1 Mar. (RGo).

Long-eared Owl: All: 1 found dead on 21 Apr at Ledges S.P. (JJD) and 1 on 24 Apr in Warren Co. (JSi).

Short-eared Owl: All: 1 on 12 Apr near Liscomb in Marshall Co. (MPr).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: 1 on 2 Mar in Boone Co. (SJD) and 1 heard on 27 Mar at Fairfield (DCP).

Common Nighthawk: First: 13 May at Amana L. (CE).

Chuck-will's-widow: All: 2 on 10, 13 May at Big Sand Mound Preserve in Louisa Co. (PCP, FL) and 1 on 15 May at Waubonsie S.P. (THK).

Chimney Swift: First: 29 Apr at Liscomb (MPr) and Fairfield (PCP). High count: 300 on 14 May in Ames (HZ).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: First: 3 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: On 29 May, 2 were at a nest in Spencer in Clay Co. (LAS)[new county nesting record].

Pileated Woodpecker: On 28 Mar, a male was excavating a nest cavity at Ledges S.P. (SJD, JSi). One on 27 Apr at Stephens F. in Lucas Co. (JSi) was out of the usual range (Kent and Dinsmore 1996).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First: 14 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (CE). Last: 31 May at Ledges S.P. (MPr).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: First: 16 May in Woodbury Co. (AMJ). Although generally late, pewees seemed extra late this year.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First: 10 May at Klum L. (PCP). High count: 18 on 25 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). Last: 31 May at Ledges S.P. (MPr).

Acadian Flycatcher: Away from the usual location^s in eastern Iowa, 1 was at A. A. Call S.P. on 25 May (MCK-details) and 1 was at Swan L. in Carroll Co. on 28 May (RTh).

Alder Flycatcher: First: 20 May at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP). A few others were reported through the end of the period.

Willow Flycatcher: In spite of the many empidonax flycatchers present in late May, the only Willow reported was in Woodbury Co. on 18 May (MPr).

Least Flycatcher: First: 1 May in Kossuth Co. (MCK). High counts: 50 empids assumed to be mostly Least from Woodbury to Lyon counties on 19 May (THK) and 23 identified by call at A. A. Call S.P. (no pun intended) on 25 May (MCK). If, indeed, most of the small flycatchers are Least, this species is a very common migrant in Iowa.

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Eastern Phoebe: First: 9 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC)[record earliest]. The next was on 19 Mar in Guthrie Co. (MPr).

Vermilion Flycatcher: A male was seen on 24 May at Holstein in Sac Co. (*CLR). This would be the fourth record for Iowa and the third from spring.

Great Crested Flycatcher: First: 3 May at Fairfield (DCP).

Western Kingbird: First: 8 May in Carroll Co. (RTh). The most easterly bird was in Johnson Co. on 10 May (JLF, THK). Others away from the western edge of the state were in Boone, Dickinson, and Sac counties.

Eastern Kingbird: First: 20 Apr west of Creston in Union Co. (RTh)[2nd earliest]. The next was on 4 May in Lee Co. (CE).

Horned Lark: A fledged juvenile was being fed by its parents in Johnson Co. on 13 Apr when there was 6 inches of snow on the ground (THK).

Purple Martin: First: 22 Apr at Sioux Center (JV).

Tree Swallow: First: 2 on 21 Mar at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: First: 2 on 24 Apr at Otter Creek M. (MPr).

Bank Swallow: First: 20 on 19 Apr at Twelve Mile L. in Union Co. (RTh).

Black-billed Magpie: A pair was found in the Loess Hills of west-central Plymouth Co. in early May and first documented on 8 May (*JLF, *THK). They were seen by many at the I.O.U. meeting from 16 to 18 May. They made frequent visits to a thicket where there appeared to be a nest.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: A wintering female was at Sioux Center until 21 Mar (JV). There was 1 report from April and 3 from May with the last on 20 May at Ames (HZ).

Brown Creeper: 2 at Grammer Grove W.A. on 16 May (BPr) were late.

Carolina Wren: The only reports were from Fremont and Appanoose counties. Although likely under reported, this species was absent from many of its usual locations and the population appears to be down.

Bewick's Wren: None were reported.

House Wren: First: 15 Apr in Mahaska Co. (AB). No others were reported until late April.

Winter Wren: May reports were from Emmet Co. on the 3rd (DHe), L. Ahquabi on the 3rd (JSi), A. A. Call S.P. on the 8th (MCK), and Effigy Mounds on the 10th (DeC). The first 3 of these were likely migrants, but the last was singing in an area of the state where this species has been known to nest.

Sedge Wren: None were reported.

Marsh Wren: First: 4 May at Fairfield (DCP).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Last: 2 on 19 Apr at Rock Creek P. (MPr).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 30 Mar at Coralville Res. (DLD). Last: 24 May at Kettleston Hogsback A. (ETh). High count: 15 on 5 May at Hickory Hill P. (THK).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: First: 26 Apr in Jones Co. (CE). A nest was found on 14 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (CE).

Townsend's Solitaire: All: 1 was at L. Ahquabi on 12, 13 Apr (JSi, *AMJ).

Veery: First: 9 May at Moorehead P. (PE).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: First: 3 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). High count: 7 on 23 May in Van Buren Co. (RLC).

Swainson's Thrush: First: 27 Apr at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). High count: 46 on 15 May at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK). Four other early arrivals were noted from 30 April to 2 May. There were 5 other reports of 13 to 30 birds. This species is especially noticeable in northwestern Iowa, where it seems to be concentrated by the isolated parks, groves, and farmsteads.

Hermit Thrush: First: 3 on 3 Apr at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 4 May at Dudgeon L. (MPr). There were 5 other reports from early May.

Wood Thrush: First: 4 May at Dudgeon L. (MPr).

American Robin: 300 were on the roads in Johnson Co. on 13 Apr after the snow storm (THK).

Gray Catbird: First: 2 May at Clive (PJW).

Northern Mockingbird: 1 at Dugout Creek in Dickinson Co. on 29 May (ETh) was unusually far north. Other reports were from Greene, Marshall, Muscatine, and Polk counties.

Brown Thrasher: First: 30 Mar in Wayne Co. (AB).

American Pipit: First: 16 Mar at Snake Creek M. (SJD). Last: 18 May in Woodbury Co. (MPr)[2nd latest].

From 1 to 6 were at 5 other locations in April and May.

Cedar Waxwing: Although this species is not generally reported because it is common, this year none were reported and none were seen by some active birders.

Northern Shrike: All: 12 Mar at Hickory Grove P. (MPr-details) and 7, 13, and 15 Mar at different locations in Sioux Co. (JV).

Loggerhead Shrike: There were the usual scattered reports.

White-eyed Vireo: All: 10 May at Klum L. in Louisa Co. (PCP), 11 and 26 May in Warren Co. (AMJ, JSi), and 28 May at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. (PE). The latter was far from its normal range. This species was not found at some of its usual locations in southeastern Iowa.

Bell's Vireo: The only report was from Riverton A. on 20 May (BKP/LJP).

Solitary Vireo: First: 23 Apr at Spirit Lake (ETh)[3rd earliest]. Last: 30 May in Cerro Gordo, Johnson, Marshall, and Sioux counties (RGo, THK, MPr, JV)[ties 2nd and 3rd latest]. This early migrant was mostly found after 10 May this year.

Yellow-throated Vireo: First: 3 May at Croton Unit (CE).

Warbling Vireo: First: 4 May in Lee Co. (CE).

Philadelphia Vireo: First: 11 May in Warren Co. (AMJ). Last: 31 May in Dickinson, Sioux, Story, and Winneshiek counties (LAS, JV, PWM, DeC)[ties 2nd and 3rd latest]. Most of the reports were after 20 May. A report from 16 Aug 1996 (*IBL* 67:24) should have been 16 Sep (DeC).

Red-eyed Vireo: First: 2 on 3 May at Croton Unit (CE). All other reports were after 18 May, which suggests that this species was late, at least for some observers.

Blue-winged Warbler: First: 2 on 3 May at Croton Unit (CE). A Brewster's hybrid was found in Lee Co. on 10 May (RLC). There were 5 reports from northwestern Iowa in late May with 1 at Oak Grove P. in Sioux Co. on 29 May, which was as a state and county bird for John Van Dyk.

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 3 on 11 May in Johnson Co. (CE). Last: 30 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK) and Pine L. (MPr)[2nd and 3rd latest]. From 1 to 2 were reported at 7 other locations.

Tennessee Warbler: First: 5 May at Fairfield (DCP). Other reports were from 11 to 31 May, with 6 reports on the 31st.

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 27 Apr at Coralville Res. (DLD). Last: 29 May at Oak Grove P. (JV)[2nd latest]. High count: 11 on 10 May in Warren Co. (AMJ).

Nashville Warbler: First: 4 May at Dudgeon L. (MPr). Last: 30 May at Algona (MCK) and Lake View (PE). High count: 30 on 13 May at Dudgeon L. (CE).

Northern Parula: First: 25 Apr at L. Macbride (JLF).

Yellow Warbler: First: 3 on 7 May at Rock Creek P. (MPr). High count: 32 on 19 May at Cardinal M. (DeC).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 10 May at Dudgeon L. (MPr). High count: 21 on 25 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK).

Magnolia Warbler: First: 11 May in Johnson Co. (CE) and at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). High count: 15 on 25 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK).

Cape May Warbler: First: 10 May in Lee (RLC) and Dickinson (ETh) counties. Last: 2 females on 29 May at Algona (MCK-details)[record latest]. Females migrate later than males, are hard to identify, and hide in the tops of conifers; however, they didn't escape Matt Kenne. High count: 6 on 18 May at Decorah (Tex Sordahl fide DeC). There were 2 other reports, both from warbler-watcher Mark Proescholdt.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: None were reported. This species is much more likely in Iowa in fall.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 2 Apr in Johnson Co. (THK). Last: 2 on 21 May at Big M. (MPr). High count: 40 on 2 May at Ames (PWM). With the late spring, yellow-rumps lingered longer than usual.

Black-throated Gray Warbler: A female was found by James Huntington and seen by Carol Thompson and John Cordell at a woods owned by Jim Fuller near Cedar Bluff in Cedar Co. on 10 May (*JH). If accepted, this will be the second record for Iowa.

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: 3 May at Croton Unit (CE). Last: 30 May at Lake View (PE). High count: 10 on 24 May in Dickinson Co. (ETh).

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Blackburnian Warbler: First: 11 May at Carroll (RTh). Last: 31 May in Boone, Dickinson, Ida, and Warren counties (MPr, LAS, PE, AMJ). High count: 10 at Moorehead P. on 28 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler: First: 20 Apr at Ledges S.P. (R. Sarno and D. Schmitz fide JJD). Others away from the regular locations at L. Macbride and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. were 1 at Pine L. in Hardin Co. on 29 Apr and 13 May (MPr) and in Warren Co. on 11 May (AB). A Sutton's Warbler (Yellow-throated Warbler x Northern Parula hybrid) was described at L. Ahquabi on 5 May (*JSi).

Pine Warbler: All: 20 April at Muskrat Sl. (CE-details)[2nd earliest], 26 Apr at Mason City (*CJF), and 14 May at Ames (JJD-details).

Prairie Warbler: All: 1 on 6 May and 2 singing males on 10 May at L. Macbride (CE).

Palm Warbler: First: 27 Apr at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 31 May at Prairie L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS)[record latest]. Other late birds were on 21 May were at Dudgeon L. (MPr) and Kettleon Hogsback A. (ETh). High count: 40 on 15 May at Cardinal M. (DeC). This species was definitely late this year.

Bay-breasted Warbler: First: 24 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 31 May at Kettleon Hogsback A. (LAS)[ties 2nd latest].

Blackpoll Warbler: First: 10 May at Ames (PWM). Last: 31 May at Prairie L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). *See Palm Warbler*

Cerulean Warbler: First: 4 May at Croton Unit (CE). Unusual records from western and northern Iowa were singles on 11 May at Swan L. in Carroll Co. (RTh), 21 May in Cass Co. (MAP-details), and 28 May at Moorehead P. (PE).

Black-and-white Warbler: First: 30 Apr at Liscomb (MPr).

American Redstart: High count: 45 at Christopherson Sl. in Dickinson Co. on 24 May (ETh).

Prothonotary Warbler: First: 1 May north of Iowa City (JLF).

Worm-eating Warbler: All: 2 on 4 May at Croton Unit (CE) and 1 on 10 May at Klum L. in Louisa Co. (PCP).

Ovenbird: First: 27 Apr at Stephens F. in Lucas Co. (JSi).

Northern Waterthrush: First: 25 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK, JLF). Last: 31 May at Prairie L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). Other late birds were at Algona on 30 May (MCK) and Kettleon Hogsback A. on 29 May (ETh).

Louisiana Waterthrush: First: 26 Apr at Palisades-Dows in Linn Co. (CE). Aside from birds at the usual locations at Croton Unit, Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., and Ledges S.P., 1 was at Moorehead P. in ~~Ida Co.~~ on 19 May where it has been encountered in previous years (PE).

Kentucky Warbler: First: 3 May at Croton Unit (CE).

Connecticut Warbler: First: 10 May at Klum L. in Louisa Co. (PCP). The 6 others reported were all from 23 to 31 May and 3 of these were in northwestern Iowa, with the last on 31 May at Prairie L. in ~~Dickinson Co.~~ (LAS). *See Robin Warbler?*

Mourning Warbler: First: 18 May (3 locations). Last: 31 May (5 locations). High count: 13 on 25 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). There were many reports this year.

Hooded Warbler: None were reported.

Wilson's Warbler: First: 2 on 7 May at Fairfield (DCP). Last: 31 May at Ames (PWM), Ledges S.P. (MPr), and Prairie L. in ~~Dickinson Co.~~ (LAS)[ties record latest].

Canada Warbler: First: 20 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr). High count: 11 on 25 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK).

Yellow-breasted Chat: All: 13 May at Dudgeon L. (CE), 24 May at Indianola (JSi), and from 23 to 29 May in Marshalltown (MPr). None were found at some usual locations in southeastern Iowa.

Summer Tanager: All: 1 female at a feeder in Burr Oak in Winneshiek Co. from 6 to 17 May (DeC).

Scarlet Tanager: First: 2 on 14 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (CE).

Western Tanager: All: 3 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (*JLF) and 8 to 13 May at Ames (*KH, *JJD)[3rd latest].

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: First: 26 Apr at Croton Unit (RIC, THK). Most did not appear until mid-May.

[A flock of 18 on 20 Mar near Sutherland in O'Brien Co. (*TW) is totally unprecedented in the Midwest.] *← really Mar?*

why in []?

Blue Grosbeak: There were no reports away from the western edge of the state.

Lazuli Bunting: All (single males): 18 May in west-central Plymouth Co. (*JSi), 18 May at Stone S.P. in Woodbury Co. (*AMJ), 18 to 22 May at Mason City (*ESM), and 23 to 29 May at the rural home of Annie and Walter Leich north of Glenwood in Mills Co. (*THK-photo). This number is unprecedented. There are only 8 previously accepted records. Five of the birds, include the latter two above, were at feeders.

Indigo Bunting: First: 7 May at Fairfield (DCP). Most did not appear until mid-May.

Dickcissel: First: 3 on 10 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Eastern Towhee: First: 4 on 29 Mar at Croton Unit (CE).

Spotted Towhee: Last: 19 May at Hidden Bridge A. in Lyon Co. (THK)[ties latest]. Other May reports were from Woodbury Co. on the 16th (AMJ) and Clay Co. on the 10th (LAS). One at Riverton A. on 5 Mar (SJD) may have wintered. April records were from Carroll, Greene, and Story counties.

American Tree Sparrow: Last: 5 on 20 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Chipping Sparrow: First: 1 Apr at Liscomb (BPr). High count: 150 on 15 May in flocks along the road at the base of the Loess Hills in Fremont Co. (THK). On 19 May, 31 were on a driveway in Shenandoah (MT, JB). The migration appears to have been late and more evident than usual.

Clay-colored Sparrow: First: 1 May at Clive (PJW). Last: 20 May in Hardin (MPr) and O'Brien (THK) counties. High count: 34 on 10 May in Clay Co. (LAS). There were more reports and I personally saw more than ever before. Although the ^{greater} highest numbers were in western Iowa, there were 7 reports from eastern Iowa.

Field Sparrow: First: 29 Mar in Monona Co. (PE).

Vesper Sparrow: First: 4 Apr in Sioux Co. (JV). On 13 Apr, after the snow storm, 21 were noted in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 30 in Johnson Co. (THK).

Lark Sparrow: First: 1 May in Poweshiek Co. (MPr).

Savannah Sparrow: First: 20 Mar at Snake Creek M. (SJD).

Henslow's Sparrow: All: 12 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC)[3rd earliest].

Le Conte's Sparrow: First: 28 Mar at Harrier M. (SJD, JSi). Last: 16 May in Woodbury Co. (AMJ).

Nelson's
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Sharp-tailed Sparrow: All: several on 18, 19 May at Dewey's Pasture in Clay Co. (Steve Fairbairn fide JJD).

Fox Sparrow: First: 4 Mar at Davenport (PCP). Last: 19 Apr at McFarland P. in Story Co. (PWM).

Lincoln's Sparrow: First: 12 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Last: 31 May at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (LAS)[record latest]. Other late birds were in Mason City on 30 May (CJF)[ties 2nd latest] and 29 May at Dugout Creek in Dickinson Co. (ETh).

White-throated Sparrow: Last: 29 May at Decorah (DeC).

White-crowned Sparrow: Last: 17 May at McFarland P. in Story Co. (PWM).

Harris's Sparrow: Last: 31 May at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (LAS)[record latest]. Another was late on 30 May at Oak Grove P. in Sioux Co. (JV)[ties 2nd latest]. High count: 45 on 12 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). This species was seen in many locations in western Iowa in mid-May and at a few locations in eastern Iowa.

Dark-eyed Junco: Last: 29 Apr at Pine L. (MPr).

Lapland Longspur: Last: 90 on 20 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 20,000 on 15 Mar at Harrier M. (SJD). There were 8 reports of 1,000 or more from mid-March to mid-April as well as many other reports from all areas of the state.

Smith's Longspur: All: 2 on 28 Mar in Carroll Co. (SJD), 31 on 11 Apr in Warren Co. (AB-photo), 1 on 26 April at Tomahawk M. in Sac Co. (PE), and 5 on 27 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (*MCK).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: All: 16 on 10 Apr east of Sutherland in O'Brien Co. (*DK) and 1 on 12 Apr at Grover's L. in Dickinson Co. (*LAS, *ETh-photo). Two other reports were undocumented.

Snow Bunting: Last: 14 Mar in Hardin Co. (MPr). High count: 800 on 1 Mar in Dickinson Co. (LAS).

Bobolink: First: 29 Apr at Kettleon Hogsback A. (DCH).

Red-winged Blackbird: High count: 25,000 on 13 Mar at Otter Creek M. (SJD).

Eastern Meadowlark: First: 10 on 8 Mar in Lee Co. (SJD). Four reports from northwestern Iowa were unusual: In western Sioux Co., 1 was heard and seen next to a Western Meadowlark on 17 Mar, a first county record for John Van Dyk. At Copp Prairie in Kossuth Co., 2 were singing on 27 Apr (MCK). At Gitche Manitou State Preserve in the extreme northwestern corner of Iowa, 1 was heard on 19 May

(THK). In Dickinson Co., north of the Okoboji golf course, 1 was heard on 29 May (LAS). On the breeding bird atlas study (Jackson et al. 1996), Eastern Meadowlarks were present in each of these counties except for Sioux County.

Western Meadowlark: The first was singing in Sioux Co. on 17 Mar (JV).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: First: 12 Apr at Harrier M. (JJD) and Forney L. (BKP/LJP). By 18 Apr, 23 were at Dunbar Sl. (RTh), which is early.

Rusty Blackbird: Last: 29 Apr at Otter Creek M. (CE)[record latest].

Brewer's Blackbird: All: 1 female on 6 Apr at Goose L. in Clinton Co. (PCP), 1 female on 13 Apr near Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK-details), 5 males on 13 Apr in a field with buffalo near Benedict in Kossuth Co. (MCK), 16 males and 2 females on 20 Apr at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (LAS-details).

Great-tailed Grackle: First: 16 Mar at Dunbar Sl. (SJD). Many were reported from the following counties: Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Dickinson, Fremont, Greene, Guthrie, Monona, Pottawattamie, Tama, and Warren.

Common Grackle: 1 wintering at a feeder in Sioux Center stayed until 8 Mar (JV).

Orchard Oriole: First: 3 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF). Others were from Allamakee, Jefferson, Johnson, and Warren counties. Birds in western Iowa are not usually reported.

Northern Oriole: First: 5 May at Liscomb (BPr).

Purple Finch: Last: 9 May at Ames (JJD). There were only 6 reports from 9 Mar to 9 May, which fits the general impression that they were scarce.

Red Crossbill: All: 2 on 19 Mar near Polk City (SJD), 1 on 21 Mar at Jester P. (SJD), up to 14 at Ida Grove from 13 Apr to 10 May (PE), 4 on 2 May at Ames (Dave Edwards fide HZ), and 6 on 27 May north of Glenwood (THK).

Pine Siskin: All: 1 or 2 in Mar and 1 on 2 May at Sioux Center (JV) and 2 on 27 May at the feeders of Annie Leich north of Glenwood (THK) and a fledged young there on 25 May (Annie Leich fide THK).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: All: at Muscatine, 1 on 18 Apr (THK) and 2 on 13 May (FL), and 10 in Louisa Co. on 10 May (PCP).

COMMENT

The data comprised 35 reports and 35 documentations (of 18 species). I made 1,520 entries into a computerized database, which is 25 percent less than last spring. Perhaps the decrease was due to fewer birding days due to the cold April and May.

The documentations were of high quality and a number of rare birds were documented by individuals who are not regular reporters. It is nice to see an influx of active younger birds. I would put 9 in that category (although it is all relative), with many from northwestern Iowa, an area of the state that used to have few contributors to the Field Reports. I recommend late-May birding in northwestern Iowa.

Σ assume

The two new books on Iowa's birds (*Birds in Iowa* by Kent and Dinsmore and *The Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas* by Jackson et al.) were useful to several observers and in writing this report. There were a surprising number of new early and late dates, and many of these were carefully detailed by contributors. The maps in both books were useful in identifying new county records. For example, I could tell that the Eastern Meadowlark that I heard at the extreme northwestern corner of Iowa was not unprecedented.

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