

IOU FIELD REPORTS FORM

Date filed: June 3, 1997

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Season: Spring

Year: 1996

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Other Observers: Lee Schoenewe & Ed Thelen & Tim Waltz
 (* listed with sightings noted below)

General Notes: Spring of 1997 was generally cool in northwest Iowa, with May being the 2nd coldest May on record. April saw may subfreezing mornings, snowmelt was late and leaf-out of trees was very late. Precipitation for the period was below normal, but wetlands remained at or above normal levels due to winter snomelt and last fall's precipitation. Most bird migration, especially neotropicals, generally was about a week behind normal. Excellent numbers of migrating sparrows. Warbler numbers seemed not as abundant and definitely later than usual.

Species	No.	Date	Notes
✓ Pacific Loon	1	4-15-97	On West Okoboji Lake, Dickinson Co. (See Doc.)*
Snow Goose	3	late May	1 white and 2 blue phase on marsh south of Silver Lake, Dickinson Co., were staying very late.
✓ Swainson's Hawk	1	4-30-97	Along Rock River, West end of Sioux County.
Cooper's Hawk	1(?)	May	At least one bird sighted periodically throughout month, Kettleon Hogsback WMA, Dickinson Co.
Am. Golden Plover	Numerous	May	Many flocks of 5-30+ birds seen across entire NW region throughout month.
Clay-colored Sparrow	Abundant	mid-May	Abundant on migration, perhaps most I've seen.
Lincoln's Sparrow	Numerous	mid-May	Good numbers on migration, appears to be more than usual.
Lapland Longspur	Abundant	late March	Many flocks observed; largest were est. @ 5000 (Lyon Co., 3-25-97) & 3000 (Osceola Co., 3-25-97) Other longspurs may have been present but could not be identified. ✓
Bobolink	1	4-29-97	A very early individual seen at Kettleon Hogsback WMA, Dickinson Co. ✓