

Fall 1998 field reports
Jim Dinsmore (JJD)

Note on weather: Numerous students and colleagues mentioned to me the large number of waterfowl, especially Snow Geese that they saw migrating south (or at least trying to) on 10/11 Nov. Those days were highlighted by high winds with winds generally in the range of 30-40 mph with gusts to 60 mph. It was clear that there was a massive migration of waterfowl south as that storm moved across the state. Probably of major importance for waterfowl was the heavy snow that accompanied the storm in the Dakotas and northern Iowa.

- ✓ Common Loon-67 at Saylorville Res., 14 Nov
- ✓ Pied-billed Grebe-52 at Big Creek L., 14 Nov
- ✓ Horned Grebe-3 at Saylorville Res., 14 Nov
- ✓ Western Grebe-1 at Saylorville Res., 14 Nov
- ✓ 1 at Big Creek Lake, 14 Nov

- ✓ Double-crested Cormorant-1,325 at Saylorville Res., Jester Park, 1 Oct
- ✓ 640 at Saylorville Res., 26 Oct

- ✓ American Bittern-1 at Chichaqua W.A., Polk Co., 13 Sept

- ✓ Great Blue Heron-129 at Moeckley Prairie, (near Polk City), 3 Aug

- ✓ Black-crowned Night-Heron-1 at Union Sl. N.W.R. on 16 Aug (with SJD)
- ✓ 1 adult at Dan Green Sl, 17 Aug (with SJD)
- ✓ 2 adults at Anderson L., 5 Sept

- ✓ Blue-winged Teal-1,500 at Union Sl. N.W.R., 16 Aug (with SJD)
- ✓ 2,000 at Meredith M. on 16 Aug (with SJD)

- ✓ Northern Pintail-2 s of Ames, 7 Sept

- ✓ White-winged Scoter-1 adult male at Big Wall L., 5 Sept (doc)

- ✓ Black-Scoter-3 imm/females, Saylorville Res., 25 Oct
(prob same birds seen by Steve Dinsmore earlier in day-he saw four)

- ✓ Prairie Falcon-1 near Ames, 8 November
large falcon seen chasing shorebirds, killed snipe and watched feeding on it; much larger than the snipe and clearly a prairie/peregrine sized bird rather than a Merlin
Studied at length while on the ground and feeding. Bird ca 150 yards away, seen through spotting scope. Overall color a very pale tan/brown. Never could see underwing markings but head markings noted carefully. Mustache stripe quite distinct and faint dark ear patch. There was some light color between back of eye and the ear patch which indicates prairie rather than peregrine. Also the overall pale color was much lighter than the color found on peregrines. Watched from about 2:35-3:00, much of that time bird was perched on ground feeding. Eventually flew away.
- ✓ Yellow Rail-1 at Snake Creek M., 27 Sept (seen in flight, white wing patches clearly seen)
- ✓ Sandhill Crane-3 at Big Wall Lake, 11 Nov (Steve Cordts fide JJD)
- ✓ 4 at Chichaqua W.A., Polk Co., 11 Nov (Jerry Keys fide JJD)
- ✓ 4 at Saylorville Res. 11 Nov (Patty Keys fide JJD)
- ✓ 2 at Ames, 11 Nov (Wolf Oesterreich fide JJD)
- 35 at ??? on 12 Nov (Todd Bishop fide Erv Klaas)
- ✓ 10 over Dallas Center, 12 Nov, Terry Shepherd fide JJD
Tom--I have ca 20 other reports of Sandhill Cranes in Iowa, mostly from 11 Nov including a number of reports of flocks of 50 or more. They were everywhere right after the storm.
- ✓ Whooping Crane--7 or 8 near Plainfield on 11 Nov (Dana Dinnes fide JJD, description enclosed)
- ✓ 1 near Jester Park, Polk Co., 12 Nov (Jerry Keys fide JJD, description enclosed)
- ✓ American Golden-Plover-5 near Ames, 26 Oct
2 near Ames, still there 10 Nov
- ✓ last bird last seen on 13 Nov
- ✓ American Avocet-4 at Saylorville Res., Jester Park, 1 Oct
- ✓ Upland Sandpiper-
1 near Titonka, 17 Sept, (late, seen at 20 feet)

- ✓ Sanderling-2 at Saylorville Res (Sandpiper Beach), 12 Sept
- ✓ Least Sandpiper-3 near Ames, 18 Oct
- ✓ Pectoral Sandpiper-1 near Ames, 10 Nov (had been present for several days)
- ✓ Dunlin-3 near Ames, 26 Oct;
✓ 1 still present on 4 Nov
- ✓ Buff-breasted Sandpiper-1 s of Ames, 7 Sept
- ✓ Common Snipe-3 at Crystal Hills W.M.A., 16 Aug (with SJD)
- ✓ 1 s of Ames, 7 Sept
- ✓ 18 near Ames, 8 Nov
- ✓ 1 near Ames, 1 Nov, (last date one seen) 7
- ✓ Red-necked Phalarope-2 at Saylorville Res., 12 Sept
- Franklin's Gull-2,000 at Kettleon W.P.A. on 16 Aug
- ✓ 2,200 at Kettleon W.P.A. on 17 Aug (with SJD)
- ✓ Bonaparte's Gull-1 at Kettleon W.P.A. on 16 Aug (with SJD)
- ✓ 2 there on 17 Aug (with SJD)
- ✓ Ring-billed Gull-65 at Moeckley Prairie, 3 Aug
- ✓ Caspian Tern-45 at Saylorville Res., 12 Sept
- ✓ 20 on 1 Oct
- ✓ Mourning Dove-young seen leaving nest in Ames, 27 Sep (very late)
- ✓ Barn Owl-nest near Allerton (s of Corydon) had five young that were banded in early Sept, (Bruce Ehresman fide JJD)
- ✓ Burrowing Owl-east of Larchwood, 30 Aug (Doug Harr fide JJD) adult and nest burrow (I have copy of photo of the bird, taken by Harr)
- ✓ Short-eared Owl-1 seen near Humeston, 22 Nov (Brent Danielson fide JJD, bird described well to me)

- ✓ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher-1 in northern Emmet Co., 16 Aug (with SJD)
- ✓ American Crow-253 entering roost at Ames, 6 Sept
- ✓ 5300 entering roost at Ames, 27 Nov
- ✓ Purple Martin-900 at north end of Spirit L. 16 Aug (with SJD)
- ✓ Red-breasted Nuthatch-1 in Ames, 2 Sep
- ✓ Carolina Wren-1 near Huxley, 22 Aug (Ken Wiggers fide JJD, heard and seen, details)
- ✓ Sedge Wren-several still singing at Harrier M., 27 Sept
- ✓ American Pipit-1 near Ames, 20 Sept
- ✓ 33 at Saylorville Res, 22 Oct (with SJD, JSi)
- ✓ 3 at pond near Ames, 13 Nov
- ✓ 30 at Colo Ponds, 11 Nov
- ✓ Cedar Waxwing-a young bird just out of the nest in Ames on 9 Sep seemed awfully late for nesting activity
- ✓ Cape May Warbler-1 at Tuttle L., Emmet Co. on 16 Aug (with SJD)
- ✓ Pine Warbler-1 at Ledges S.P., 7 Sept
- ✓ Le Conte's Sparrow-1 at Snake Creek M., 27 Sept
1 at Saylorville Res., 22 Oct (with SJD, JSi)
- ✓ Bobolink-1 at Harrier M., 27 Sept
- ✓ Great-tailed Grackle-1 at Harrier M., 27 Sept
- ✓ Brewer's Blackbird-20 (counted) near Ames, 6 Nov
(good, leisurely study through scope, males showed distinct purplish glossy color, yellowish eye, no hint of rusty on plumage, females distinctly dark-brown eye)
- ✓ Red Crossbill-1 female in Ames, 2 August, (Steve Maloy fide JJD)
- ✓ Pine Siskin-1 near Boone, 20 Aug, (Karl Jungbluth fide JJD)