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FIELD REPORTS - SUMMER 1998

GENERAL TRENDS

I spent more time than usual birding this summer, including weekly visits to Cardinal Marsh. Water levels remained high at Cardinal and this locality had an unusual variety of waterbirds.

SPECIES DATA

All records are from Winneshiek Co., unless otherwise noted, and general comments refer to this county.

Least Bittern: Present at Cardinal Marsh throughout the period; most were 3 seen on 2 Jul.

Great Blue Heron: The large colony near Bluffton held at least 50 young birds in early June (Lindsay Lee).

Mallard: 50 were at Cardinal M. on 3 June and a few broods were noted later; number present had increased to 94 on 27 Jul.

Northern Shoveler: A male was seen at Cardinal M. on 3 Jun and 3 males and a female on 10 Jun; none later.

Hooded Merganser: 2 females were seen at a Burr Oak farm pond on 5 and 7 June; a female was seen at Cardinal M. on 10 Jun.

Ruddy Duck: Records from Cardinal M. included a male on 22 Jun, 2 males on 8 Jul, and a pair on 15 Jul. No evidence of nesting was noted.

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Northern Harrier: Singles were seen at Cardinal M. on 15 Jul and at Hayden Prairie, Howard Co. on 18 Jul.

Cooper's Hawk: Present at Lake Meyer Cr. Park in June (Larry Reis); also 1 seen at Effigy Mounds Nat. Mon., Allamakee Co. on 20 Jun.

Broad-winged Hawk: An adult was seen at Effigy Mounds, Allamakee Co. on 25 Jul.

Common Moorhen: 1 was seen at Cardinal M. on 15 Jul.

American Coot: 22 adults and 3 juveniles were at Cardinal M. on 2 Jul; at least 3 broods were found there, later in Jul.

Sandhill Crane: Two, apparently a non-breeding pair, were at Cardinal M. throughout the period. I had only a few spring records for this locality.

Upland Sandpiper: Larry Reis found singles near Spillville in June and near Decorah in Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: A flock of 18 was at a Burr Oak farm pond on 5 Jun, and 8 were still there on 7 Jun.

Least Sandpiper: First returning birds ~~was~~ at Fort Atkinson Sewage Ponds on 23 Jul.

Baird's Sandpiper: A single was at Fort Atkinson Sewage Ponds on 23 and 30 Jul.

Caspian Tern: 1 (also observed by Darwin Koenig) was at Cardinal M. on 3 Jun.

Forster's Tern: 1 was at Cardinal M. on 15 Jul.

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Black Tern: 4 were seen at Cardinal M. on 3 Jun and 9 at the Burr Oak farm pond (Winters Pond) on 12 Jun.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: A few were found in Winneshiek Co.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 were seen at Lake Meyer, Co. Park on 7 and 30 Jul.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: A late individual was seen at Cardinal M. on 10 Jun.

Willow Flycatcher: Singing birds (up to 6) were at Cardinal M. throughout the period; also found in Allamakee Co.

Cliff Swallow: The large colony at Bluffton was deserted but smaller colonies of a few dozen each were found at bridges throughout Winneshiek Co.

Sedge Wren: A few singing birds were at Cardinal M.; also 8 at Harden Prairie, ^{Howard Co.} on 18 July, and my first record for Effigy Mounds, Allamakee Co. on 25 July.

Wood Thrush: A few were found in wooded areas in Allamakee and Winneshiek counties.

Bell's Vireo: A male was singing on territory at Cardinal M. to 15 Jul, when 2 very agitated individuals were present.

Blue-winged Warbler: 1 found at Coon Creek, Winneshiek Co.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: A singing male was seen at Willowglen Nursery, Burr Oak, Winneshiek Co. on 5 Jun.

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American Redstart: fewer than usual
Ovenbird: A few were found in wooded areas in Allamakee and Winneshiek counties.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 seen at Lake Meyer Co. Park on 23 Jul was my first for Winneshiek Co.

Scarlet Tanager: widespread in wooded areas in Winneshiek Co.; also found at Effigy Mounds, Allamakee Co.

Dickcissel: unusually numerous and widespread in Winneshiek Co.

Swamp Sparrow: Up to 5 singing males were at Cardinal M., throughout the period; also 2 at Lake Meyer Co. Park.

Bobolink: numerous this summer

Yellow-headed Blackbird: The population of about 40 breeding pairs at Cardinal M. was the largest that I have found there during the 9 summers that I have birded this area.

Orchard Oriole: Present at Lake Meyer Co. Park, as usual; 6 seen there on 7 Jul.

I hope you've had some good summer birding.

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