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19 October 1998

Thomas H. Kent  
211 Richards St.  
Iowa City, IA 52246

Dear Tom;

I'm submitting these sightings now, because I'll be in Texas until at least 30 November 1998. Sorry I don't have much to report, but I haven't been in Iowa much this season. If you would like any additional information, documentation, etc. on any of these sightings, please ask. I'll provide what I have as soon as possible.

Yours truly;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Overton", written in black ink.

Mike Overton

### Iowa Field Reports Fall 1998

( Note: very low water levels at Saylorville Reservoir in mid-August had exposed more shorebird habitat than I had seen there for several years.)

- ✓ **Yellow Rail:** 4 on 27 Sept., Greene co., Snake Creek Marsh
- ✓ **Sanderling:** 4 on 16 Aug., Polk co., Saylorville Reservoir, Sandpiper Rec. Area
- ✓ **Western Sandpiper:** 1 ad on 16 Aug., Polk co., Saylorville Reservoir, Sandpiper Rec. Area  
details follow
- ✓ **White-rumped Sandpiper:** 1 ad on 7 Aug., Polk co., Saylorville Reservoir, Sandpiper Rec. Area  
documentation follows
- ✓ **Baird's Sandpiper:** 1 ad on 16 Aug., 6 on 19 Aug., Polk co., Saylorville Reservoir, Sandpiper Rec.  
Area
- ✓ **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 3 on 19 Aug., Polk co., Saylorville Reservoir, Sandpiper Rec. Area
- ✓ **Red-necked Phalarope:** 1 basic ad on 16 Aug., Polk co., Saylorville Reservoir, Sandpiper Rec. Area
- ✓ **Common Tern:** 1 1st basic on 19 Aug., Polk co., Saylorville Reservoir, Sandpiper Rec. Area  
details follow
- ✓ **Philadelphia Vireo:** 1 on 15 Aug., Boone co., Ledges State Park
- ✓ **Golden-winged Warbler:** 1 female on 15 Aug., Boone co., Ledges State Park
- ✓ **Nashville Warbler:** 2 on 15 Aug., Boone co., Ledges State Park
- ✓ **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 1 1st basic female on 15 Aug., Boone co., Ledges State Park
- ✓ **Blackburnian Warbler:** 3(2 imm, 1 ad) on 15 Aug., Boone co., Ledges State Park
- ✓ **Black-and-White Warbler:** 2 ad on 15 Aug., Boone co., Ledges State Park
- ✓ **Grasshopper Sparrow:** 1 on 27 Sept., Greene co., Snake Creek Marsh
- ✓ **LeConte's Sparrow:** 35+ on 27 Sept., Greene co., Snake Creek Marsh
- ✓ **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 6 on 27 Sept., Greene co., Snake Creek Marsh
- ✓ **Lincoln's Sparrow:** 5 on 27 Sept., Greene co., Snake Creek Marsh
- ✓ **Bobolink:** 1 on 27 Sept., Boone co., Harrier Marsh
- ✓ **Rusty Blackbird:** 2 on 27 Sept., Greene co., Snake Creek Marsh

**Western Sandpiper:** Tip of bill distinctly thinner than rest of bill and slightly downturned. Strongly colored rufous crown, auriculars, and scapulars. Distinct whitish supercilium.

**Common Tern:** Observed on sandbar with Forster's Terns and in flight. Bill dark. Forehead white, nape black extending forward on sides of head to eyes. Upperwing with strong blackish carpal bar and tips of outer primaries; secondaries darker than coverts. Underwing with broad black trailing edge to outer primaries and narrow black leading edge to P1.