

Fall

FIELD REPORTS—Fall 1998

Thomas H. Kent

WEATHER

This fall (September to November) was the 6th warmest in 126 years of record keeping. Precipitation was slightly above normal. August averaged a bit warmer and wetter than normal, but was cooler than normal until the 18th. September was warm and dry. October was the 4th wettest on record with rain falling in three periods: 2-5, 14-17, and 26-29. Temperatures were below normal to the 22nd and above normal after that. November was warmer than normal with average precipitation. A storm with strong west winds gusting to over 50 miles per hour in all areas of the state occurred on the 10th, and it was associated with snow in northwestern Iowa and a record low barometric reading of 28.55 inches at Estherville and Spencer. The rest of the month was mild with temperatures in the 60s and 70s at the end of November.

GENERAL TRENDS

It might have seemed like a normal fall (except for the warm temperatures), but data provided by Iowa's relatively small cadre of dedicated observers proved it to be the most interesting that I have reported on. The average arrival date for 10 common fall warblers that usually arrive in August was 13 August. This average arrival date is more than a week earlier than the last three years (22, 23, and 21 August); however, in 1994 the average date was 15 August. Most of the warblers were first reported on 15 August, and most were reported early by several observers in various locations in the state, which indicates that the migration was extensive and widespread. How did so many observers (Aaron Brees, Dennis Carter, Jim and Steve Dinsmore, Mike Overton, Babs and Loren Padelford, Mark Proescholdt, Lee Schoenewe, Tom Stone, and others) know to look for warblers a week earlier than usual? Could this early migration have been predicted by looking at weather patterns? Black-and-white Warblers arrived early (5 August) and in unusual numbers. Golden-winged Warbler may have been more abundant than usual.

The most dramatic event of the season was the windstorm that swept across the state on 10 Nov and pushed Sandhill Cranes, Whooping Cranes, and Snow Geese from their normal Nebraska route into Iowa.

Northern Harriers were also noted in good numbers following the storm, and the only concentrated duck migration occurred at that time.

The warm conditions following the storm and lasting through the end of the period appear to be responsible for the record late shorebird sightings (American Golden-Plover, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpiper, Ruff, and Long-billed Dowitcher). December reports will extend one of these late dates and add at least two more species to this list.

Other items of interest include the large numbers of American Pipits and Golden-crowned Kinglets, success in identifying fall empidonax flycatchers and meadowlarks by song and call notes, first fall records of Smith's Longspur, and the continued presentation of useful data on hawk migration at Grammer Grove W.A. and Hitchcock N.A. Winter finches were not much in evidence. The warm November has undoubtedly postponed the arrival of many good birds for Bob Cecil's winter report.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported were Clark's Grebe, Ferruginous Hawk, Whooping Crane, Ruff, and Eurasian Collared-Dove. The dove includes a new record as well as continued presence of this species at Grinnell.

Casual species reported were Red Phalarope, Black-headed Gull, California Gull, Burrowing Owl, and Bohemian Waxwing.

An exotic species, *Amazilia* Hummingbird, may be considered the most exciting bird of the period because of the large number of people who saw it and the difficulty in determining its identification and origin.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented)

Red-throated Loon: All: 1 on 13-14 Nov at Mid America Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (*BKP/LJP, BFH), 1 on 25 Nov at L. Macbride in Johnson Co. (*THK, JLF), and 2 (1 probably the L. Macbride bird) on 27 Nov at Coralville Res. (*THK)[3rd latest].

Pacific Loon: All: singles at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. on 31 Oct (*MPr), 15 Nov (AMJ), and 19 Nov (JLF); 1 at Pleasant Creek L. on 1 Nov (CE-details) and 2 there on 4 Nov (JLF).

Common Loon: High counts: 135 on 13 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB), 88 on 14 Nov at Saylorville Res. (BE), and 23 on 1 Nov at Lost Island L. (LAS). Summering birds included 1-2 at West Okoboji from 2 Aug to 20 Sep (JJ, BKP/LJP) and 1 s. of Iowa City on 7 Aug (MCD). A few remained through the end of the fall season.

Pied-billed Grebe: High count: 52 on 14 Nov at Big Creek L. (JJD). A few remained through the end of the period.

Horned Grebe: First: 7 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Last: on 27 Nov with 4 at Rathbun Res. (RLC) and 1 at Red Rock Res. (AB). High count: 25 on 12 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Red-necked Grebe: All (singles): 20, 25 Sep at Sanborn in O'Brien Co. (RGr), 13 Oct at Spirit L. (LAS), and 18 Oct at West Okoboji (JJ).

Eared Grebe: First: 9 Oct at Sanborn (RGr). Last: 11 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Others were reported at Saylorville Res./Big Creek L. on 22, 25 Oct and 3 Nov (AB, SJD) and at Spirit L. on 24 Oct (ETh).

Western Grebe: All: 1 on 7 Sep at Trumbull L. (LAS), 2 on 1, 13 Oct at Spirit L. (ETh, LAS), 1 at Saylorville Res. on 14 Nov (JJD, BE, PJW, AMJ), 1 at Big Creek L. on 14 Nov (JJD), 2 at Red Rock Res. on 15 Nov (AMJ), and 1 at L. Manawa on 23, 26 Nov (BKP/LJP).

Clark's Grebe: A report is referred to the Records Committee.

American White Pelican: High counts: 10,000 at Runnells W.A. on 7 Sep (AB) and 5,100 at Saylorville Res. on 5 Sep (BE). Birds were present throughout the period and in all areas of the state, but most left by November.

Double-crested Cormorant: High counts: 1,600 at Coralville Res. on 10, 23 Oct (MCD, THK) and 1,325 at Saylorville Res. on 1 Oct (JJD). At Coralville Res. 60 nests were counted on 21 Oct at the west end of the reservoir (THK).

American Bittern: All (singles): 18 Aug at Forney L. (SJD, BKP/LJP), 13 Sep at Chichaqua W.A. in Polk Co. (PJW, JJD), and 27 Sep at Snake Creek M. (PJW, AMJ).

Least Bittern: All: 1 on 8 Aug at Moeckley Prairie in Polk Co. (BE), 1 on 14 Aug at Pool Sl. in Allamakee Co. (MPr), and 2 on 27 Aug at Cardinal M. in Winneshiek Co. (DeC).

Great Blue Heron: High counts: 590 at Red Rock Res. on 15 Aug (SJD), 300 at Rathbun Res. on 15 Aug (TNJ), 180 at Coralville Res. on 22 Sep (THK), and 129 at Moeckley Prairie on 3 Aug (JJD).

Great Egret: High counts: 186 at Forney L. on 18 Aug (SJD, BKP/LJP) and 125 at Coralville Res. on 17 Aug (MCD).

Snowy Egret: Last: 2 on 8 Oct at Forney L. (BKP/LJP)[2nd latest]. High counts: 42 at Forney L. on 18 Aug (SJD, BKP/LJP) and 32 at Riverton A. on 10 Aug (BKP/LJP). The only others were singles at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. on 8 Aug (LAS) and at Runnells W.A. on 15 Aug (SJD).

Little Blue Heron: Last: 7, 9 Sep at Mason City (RGo, CJF—photo). High count: 20 (14 adults, 2 calico, 4 immature) at Forney L. on 18 Aug (SJD, BKP/LJP). Single immatures were in Mills Co. on 6 Aug (PHA/RIA), at Riverton A. on 11 Aug (SJD), and Runnells W.A. on 15 Aug (SJD).

Cattle Egret: Last: 30 Oct at Sanborn (RGr). High count: 211 at Forney L. on 6 Sep (BKP/LJP). From 1 to 4 were also noted in Boone, Cerro Gordo, Harrison, Johnson, and Polk counties.

Green Heron: Last: 7 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Last: 3 imm. on 27 Nov at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (BFH)[record latest except for winter records]. High counts: 23 on 10 Aug at Forney L. (SJD, BKP/LJP) and 11 on 11 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Another late bird was at De Soto N.W.R. on 15 Nov (JJ)[2nd latest]. From 1 to 4 were noted in Clay, Hamilton, Harrison, Johnson, and Polk counties.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Last: 1 imm. on 11 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 9 juv. at Riverton A. on 11 Aug (SJD). Juveniles were also noted at Forney L. on 13, 18 Aug (BKP/LJP, SJD) and at Runnells W.A. on 14 Aug (SJD), and 2 adults were at Riverton A. on 22 Aug (JSi).

Ibis species: All: 1 on 20 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (Richard Levad fide MCK) and 1 imm. on 11 Sep at Diamond L. (MPr—details).

Turkey Vulture: High counts: 60 on 7 Sep at Coralville Res. (CE) and 45 on 22 Aug at Saylorville Res. (PJW). At Grammer Grove W.A., 255 for the fall was a record high for that "hawk watch" (BPr). At Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (another "hawk watch"), 594 were counted (MOr).

Greater White-fronted Goose: High count: 160 on 10 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). One was at Forney L. on 10 Aug (SJD).

Snow Goose: First: 1 on 21 Sep at Diamond L. (MPr). High count: 150,000 on 15 Nov at De Soto N.W.R. (JJ). Large flocks were noted in Sioux Co. on 10 Nov (JV), at Pleasant Creek L. on 11 Nov (THK), and at Saylorville Res. on 14 Nov (PJW, BE). The eastward migration shift of this species into Iowa after the windstorm of 10 November will be documented elsewhere by Jim Dinsmore.

Ross's Goose: From 1 to 6 were noted from 31 Oct to 14 Nov at 7 locations across the state.

Canada Goose: 1,361 small forms at Runnells W.A. on 23 Oct were unusual (SJD).

Trumpeter Swan: All: 2 ad. with orange wing tags and 1 imm. at Amana L. on 18, 21 Nov (MPr, CE) and 4 (3 with green neck bands) at Saylorville Res. on 21 Nov (BE).

Tundra Swan: First: 6 on 4 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 1,000 at Pool 9 on 13, 14 Nov (THK, JLF). From 1 to 9 were noted in Iowa, Marion, and Poweshiek counties.

Gadwall: High count: 346 on 25 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

American Black Duck: From 1 to 5 were noted in Allamakee, Johnson, Marion, and Palo Alto counties.

Blue-winged Teal: High counts: on 16 Aug, 2,000 at Meredith M. in Hancock Co. (JJD) and 1,500 at Union Slough N.W.R. (JJD, SJD).

Northern Shoveler: High count: 120 on Terra L. on 28 Nov. (BE).

Northern Pintail: High count: 310 at Hitchcock N.A. on 11 Oct (BKP/LJP).

Green-winged Teal: High count: 3,000 at Runnells W.A. on 23 Oct (SJD).

Canvasback: Thousands were at Pool 9 on 13 Nov (THK).

Greater Scaup: All: 1 fem^{wt} on 7 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (CE—details), a pair on 7 Nov at Silver L. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS), and 3 on 13 Nov at Spirit L. (*ETh).

Lesser Scaup: High counts: 1,650 on 1 Nov at Rathbun Res. (RLC) and 3,000 on 11 Nov at L₉ Macbride (THK).

Surf Scoter: All: 1 on 25 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD, BE), 3 on 28 Oct at Dog Creek P. in O'Brien Co. (DK), 3 on 28 Oct at Rock Creek P. (JLF), 1 on 14 Nov at Saylorville Res. (AMJ), and 1 on 15 Nov at L. Anita (PHA/RIA).

White-winged Scoter: All: 1 ad. male on 5 Sep at Big Wall L. (*JJD)[record earliest], 1 on 25 Oct (SJD) and 2 on 1 Nov (BE) at Saylorville Res., 1 on 5 Nov at Rock Creek P. (JLF), 1 on 13 Nov at Hubbard (MPr), 1 on 21 Nov at Spirit L. (LAS), and 2 on 22 to 27 Nov at Port Neal (BFH).

Black Scoter: All: 4 at Saylorville Res. on 25 Oct (SJD, JJD) and 1 there on 1 Nov (BE).

Oldsquaw: All: 1 on 21 Nov at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Bufflehead: High counts: 125 on 12 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP) and 325 on 14 Nov at Pool 19 (CE).

Common Goldeneye: First: 11 Nov at Coralville Res. (JLF) and at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Hooded Merganser: High count: 50 on 18 Nov at Coralville Res. (THK).

Common Merganser: First: 1 on 7 Aug at Rathbun Res. (TNJ)[2nd earliest] and 1 on 28 Aug at Pine L. (MPr)[3rd earliest] are only the 2nd and 3rd records from August. Most had not arrived by the end of November.

Red-breasted Merganser: High count: 110 on 8 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Ruddy Duck: High count: 1,000 on 14 Nov at L. Manawa (BFH).

Osprey: First: 14 Aug at Red Rock Res. (SJD). High count: 15 on 1 Sep at Keokuk (RIC).

Mississippi Kite: All: in Des Moines 2 were seen on 18 Aug and 1 on 22 Aug and 9 Sep (PJW).

Bald Eagle: An adult and begging juvenile were noted at Runnells A. on 15 Aug (SJD).

Northern Harrier: High counts: 23 on 11 Nov in Palo Alto, Clay, and Dickinson counties (LAS, MCK) and 14 on 12 Nov at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). A record high number of 67 for the season were seen at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr) and 88 were seen at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: The seasonal counts were 491 at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr) and 456 at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr).

Cooper's Hawk: The seasonal counts were of 162 at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr, highest ever) and 45 at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr).

Northern Goshawk: All: 1 ad. on 11 Sep at Sanborn (RGr)[3rd earliest], 1 imm. on 20 Sep at Jester P. (JSi), 1 on 18 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP), and 1 on 5 Nov at Red Rock Res. (JLF).

Red-shouldered Hawk: All: birds that nested at Hartman Reserve in Black Hawk Co. were seen through the fall (TSt), 1 imm. in Appanoose Co. on 12 Sep (RLC), 1 at a hawk watch in O'Brien Co. on 20 Sep (LAS), 1 in Warren Co. on 27 Sep (AMJ), and singles at Grammer Grove W.A. on 12, 18 Oct and 14 Nov (BPr).

Broad-winged Hawk: Last: singles at Waubonsie S.P. on 8 Oct and at Hitchcock N.A. on 10 Oct (BKP/LJP). High count: 140 on 15 Sep at Hartman Reserve (TSt). The highest daily count at Grammer Grove W.A. was 90 on 23 Sep, which is low (BPr). A fledgling was noted on 4 Aug at Algona (MCK).

Swainson's Hawk: Last: 3 on 10 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). At hawk watches, 109 (including 1 dark morph) were seen at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr) and 3 were seen at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr). The only other report was of 1 ^{west} of Mason City on 25 Aug (CJF).

Red-tailed Hawk: Peak counts at Grammer Grove W.A. were 98 on 18 Oct and 80 on 30 Oct (BPr). Of the 965 seen at Hitchcock N.A., 1 percent were Western light morph and 9 were Western dark morph, 1 Western rufous morph, 9 intermediate dark morph, 10 Harlan's, and 4 Krider's (MOv). Harlan's were also noted at Sioux Center on 4 Nov (JV) and Union Slough N.W.R. on 15 Nov (MCK). A Krider's was seen in Dickinson Co. on 8 Aug (LAS).

Tom - can you clarify - I don't follow these numbers

Ferruginous Hawk: A report ^{is} referred to the Records Committee.

Rough-legged Hawk: First: 4 Oct in Kossuth Co. (MCK). At Grammer Grove W.A., 13 for the season was the highest in the 8 years of hawk watching there (BPr). At Hitchcock N.A., 8 were seen (MOv) ^{or}. Perhaps, hawk watches are not the best location to find this species, and many arrive after the hawk watching season.

Golden Eagle: All: 1 imm. at Oak Grove P. in Sioux Co. (*JV), 2 on 11 Nov and 1 on 15 Nov at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr), and 1 imm. on 13 Nov in Allamakee Co. (THK).

Merlin: First: 27 Aug at Coralville Res. (JLF). There were reports from 7 other counties from 7 Sep to 22 Nov.

Peregrine Falcon: High count: 11 on 26 Sep at Effigy Mounds N.M. (Bruce Ehresman fide DeC). There were 11 other reports from 7 counties.

Prairie Falcon: All (singles): 1 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (PHA/RIA—details), 8 Nov in Story Co. (JJD, HZ, details), 11 Nov at Runnells W.A. (AB—details), and 11 Nov at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

Gray Partridge: Reports were from Cerro Gordo, Clay, Emmet, Johnson, and O'Brien counties.

Yellow Rail: All: 1 on 20 Sep s. of Iowa City (MCD) and 4 at Snake Creek M. (MDO, AMJ, m.ob.).

Virginia Rail: Last: 24 Oct at Coralville Res. (CE). An adult with 2 chicks was at Union Slough N.W.R. on 2 Aug (MCK).

Sora: Last: 17 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 19 at Chichaqua P. on 13 Sep (PJW). At Moeckley Prairie in Polk Co., where birds were heard all summer, 2 ad. and 3 juv. were seen on 8 Aug (BE).

Common Moorhen: All: 2 ad. and 7 yg. were at Forney L. on 11 Aug (SJD), and 1 was at Cardinal M. on 2 Sep (DeC).

American Coot: High counts: 2,500 on a sand pit s. of Iowa City on 1 Oct (MCD) and 5,000 at Saylorville Res. on 21 Oct (SJD).

Sandhill Crane: High counts: on 11 Nov, 540 at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP) and 340 in O'Brien Co. (DK). From 11 to 13 Nov, following the windstorm on the 10th, there were reports of 1,325 birds in small to large flocks in Appanoose, Dallas, Johnson, Marion, Marshall, O'Brien, Palo Alto, Polk, Pottawattamie, Story, Warren, Winneshiek, and Wright counties. A more extensive report of this amazing migration shift will be presented elsewhere by Jim Dinsmore. At Cardinal M., 2 birds that summered were last seen on 18 Sep (DeC).

Whooping Crane: 7 or 8 were seen southeast of Plainfield in Bremer Co. on 11 Nov (Dana Dinnes letter to JJD), and 1 was seen southwest of Jester P. in Polk Co. on 12 Nov (Jerry Keys letter to JJD). There were also reports from Wisconsin and Illinois.

Black-bellied Plover: First: 20 Sep at Saylorville Res. (PJW) and Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 22 Nov at Saylorville Res. (PJW). High count: 42 at Runnells W.A. on 23 Oct (SJD).

American Golden-Plover: First: 3 on 11 Aug at Red Rock Res. (MPr). Last: 1 on 29 Nov at Rathbun Res. (RLC)[record latest]. High count: 126 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Sep (JSi).

Semipalmated Plover: Last: 11 Nov near Lost Island L. (MCK)[2nd latest].

Piping Plover: All: 8 Aug at Saylorville Res. (PJW) and 11 Aug at Red Rock Res. (MPr).

Killdeer: High count: 280 in Story Co. on 3 Sep (HZ).

American Avocet: All: 3 on 15 Aug at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP), 4 on 1 Oct at Saylorville Res. (JJD), 22 on 20 Oct at Saylorville Res. (AB), and 1 on 13-14 Nov at Runnells A. (PHA/RIA, AB, MPr)[record latest].

Greater Yellowlegs: Last: 2 on 30 Nov at Runnells A. (AB)[record latest]. High count: 20 on 28 Oct at East Twin L. in Hancock Co. (MPr).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Last: 1 on 18 Nov at Runnells W.A. (AB). High count: 60 on 15 Aug at Rathbun Res. (TNJ).

Willet: All (singles): on 11 Aug at Secret L. in Fremont Co. (SJD), and on 15 Aug at Sheldon Pond in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP) and at Runnells W.A. (SJD)

Spotted Sandpiper: Last: 1 Oct at Fort Atkinson (DeC).

Upland Sandpiper: Last: 17 Sep in Kossuth Co. (JJD). Other reports were from August in Fremont, Jones, and Polk counties.

Marbled Godwit: All: 1 on 13, 15 Sep at Runnells A. (MCK, AB, DCP, JSi).

Ruddy Turnstone: All: 2 at Coralville Res. on 23, 25, 27 Aug and 2 Sep (CE, THK, JLF) and 2 on 2 Sep at Runnells W.A. (MPr).

Sanderling: From 1 to 8 were seen at 8 locations from 11 Aug to 7 Oct.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Last: 7 on 23 Oct at Runnells W.A. (SJD).

Western Sandpiper: All: 1 at Saylorville Res. on 16 Aug (MDO), 2 molting from alt. to basic at Saylorville Res. on 18 Aug (SJD), 2 on 22 Aug in Fremont Co. (JSi), and 1 juv. on 23 Oct at Runnells W.A. (SJD)[3rd latest].

Least Sandpiper: Last: 24 Nov at Runnells A. (AB)[2nd latest]. High count: 154 on 23 Oct at Runnells W.A. (SJD).

White-rumped Sandpiper: All: 1 on 7 Aug at Saylorville Res. (*MDO).

Baird's Sandpiper: Last: 12 Nov at Runnells W.A. (AMJ). There were 8 other reports of 1 to 6 birds.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Last: 19 Nov at Coralville Res. (JLF). High counts: 459 on 11 Aug at Riverton A. (SJD) and 200 on 15 Aug at Red Rock Res. (TNJ).

Dunlin: First: 10 on 20 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 3 on 30 Nov at Runnells W.A. (AB). High count: 61 at Runnells W.A. on 11 Nov (AB).

Stilt Sandpiper: Last: 4 on 29 Oct at Runnells W.A. (AB)[record latest]. High count: 48 on 11 Aug at Secret L. (SJD).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: First: 7 on 2 Aug at Maynard Reece W.A. in Kossuth Co. (MCK). Last: 6 on 20 Sep at Saylorville Res. (JSi). High counts: 100 on 22 Aug at Riverton A. (JSi) and 135 on 1 Sep at Red Rock Res. (AB). There were 27 reports from 11 locations, which is more than usual.

Ruff: 1 juv. male was at Runnells W.A. on 23 Oct (*SJD)[record latest].

Short-billed Dowitcher: High count: 25 juv. on 13 Aug at Coralville Res. (THK).

Long-billed Dowitcher: First: alt. adults on 11 Aug at Riverton A. and Secret L. in Fremont Co. (SJD). Last: 1 on 29 Nov at Runnells W.A. (PHA/RIA)[record latest]. High count: 123 on 23 Oct at Runnells W.A. (SJD). At Coralville Res., 3 remained until 19 Nov (JLF)[ties 3rd latest].

Common Snipe: First: 13 Aug at Coralville Res. (THK). High count: 150 on 27 Sep at Blue Wing M. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS).

American Woodcock: All: 1 in Appanoose Co. on 31 Oct. initial,

who saw this?

Red-necked Phalarope: All: 1 on 15, 16 Aug at Coralville Res. (MCD, CE), 1-2 at Saylorville Res. on 16 Aug, 8, 11-13 Sep (MDO, m.ob.), and 1 at Red Rock Res. on 2 Sep (MPr).

Red Phalarope: 1 at Coralville Res. on 7 Oct (*THK--photo).

Franklin's Gull: High count: 60,000 at Rathbun Res. on 11 Oct (TNJ). Large numbers were also reported at other locations and a few lingered until the end of the period.

Black-headed Gull: All: At Spirit L. in Dickinson Co., singles were seen on 11, 15 Oct (*LAS, *ETh) and 2 were seen on 8 Nov (*ETh).

8/11-15

Bonaparte's Gull: First: 1 juv./basic on 16 Aug at Kettleton Hogsback A. (SJD, JJD). High count: 464 on 23 Oct at Red Rock Res. (SJD).

Ring-billed Gull: At Red Rock Res., numbers were 876 on 14 Aug and 3,500 on 23 Oct (SJD).

California Gull: All: 1 first-year at Red Rock Res. 5, 8, 26 Oct and 4 Nov (*AB)[3rd earliest] and 1 ad. at Spirit L. on 8 Nov (*LAS).

Thayer's Gull: All: 1 ad. at Saylorville Res. on 4 Nov (AB—details)[ties 3rd earliest], 1 first-year at Saylorville Res. on 6 Nov (AB), 1 second-year at Saylorville Res. on 14 Nov (BE), and 1 first-year at Runnells W.A. on 21 Nov (AB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: All: 1 imm. on 4 Nov at Saylorville Res. (*LAS) and 1 ad. on 8 Nov near the Dickinson Co. landfill (*LAS, *ETh).

Sabine's Gull: All: 1 juv. on 25 Oct at Saylorville Res. (*SJD)[3rd latest].

Black-legged Kittiwake: All: 1 imm. on 22 Nov at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (BFH) and 1 imm. on 30 Nov at Ottumwa (AB—photo).

Caspian Tern: Last: 10 Oct at Hallet's Quarry in Story Co. (HZ). High count: 50 on 21 Sep at Red Rock Res. (AB).

Common Tern: All: 1 first-basic on 19 Aug at Saylorville Res. (MDO—details) and 1 imm. on 30 Aug at Tomahawk M. (PHA/RIA—details).

Forster's Tern: Last: 18 Oct at Pleasant Creek L. (CE). High count: 83 on 15 Aug at Red Rock Res. (SJD).

Least Tern: All: 1 ad. on 15 Aug at Red Rock Res. (SJD) and 1 ad. on 23 Aug at Coralville Res. (CE—details).

Black Tern: Last: 30 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 84 on 17 Aug at Kettleon Hogsback A. (SJD).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 1 was seen and heard at Willow Creek P. in Osceola Co. on 20, 29 Aug and 1 Sep (*BKP/LJP, LAS, *ETh—photos). The Grinnell birds remain into their second year, with 5 seen on 12 Nov (MPr).

Mourning Dove: Birds fledged at Ames on 27 Sep (JJD), and an imm. was seen at Mason City on 16 Oct (JLW).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Last: 23 Oct in Story Co. (HZ).

Barn Owl: All: 5 yg. were banded near Allerton in Wayne Co. in early Sep. (Bruce Ehresman fide JJD).

Great Horned Owl: On 15 Nov a "tundra" owl was seen at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Burrowing Owl: All: an ad. was at a nest hole e. of Larchwood in Lyon Co. on 30 Aug (Doug Harr fide JJD).

Long-eared Owl: All: 1 was near Irvington in Kossuth Co. on 20 Oct (MCK), 1 was at East Okoboji on 3 Nov (ETh), and 3 were at L. Anita on 15 Nov (PHA/RIA).

Short-eared Owl: All: 2 in Warren Co. on 27 Oct (JSi, AB) and 4 in Wayne Co. on 7 Oct (AB).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: 1 at Algona on 7 Nov (MCK) and 1 in the Amana Woods on 16 Nov (JLF).

Common Nighthawk: Last: 6 on 15 Oct at Des Moines (PJW). Another was at Spirit L. on 13 Oct (LAS).

Whip-poor-will: Last: 2 on 10 Sep at Stone S.P. (BFH).

Chimney Swift: Last: 5 on 15 Oct at Des Moines (PJW). Only small numbers were at Fairfield this year, and the last were seen on 7 Oct (DCP).

Amazilia Hummingbird (*Amazilia amazilia*): A strange hummingbird showed up at the feeder of Carole and Donald Stolz about 2 Sep. It was observed and photographed by many during the I.O.U. fall meeting (*THK—photos, Donald Stolz—photo). It was later determined to be a South American species, most likely the subspecies resident in western Peru, and it was learned that a bird of this species had disappeared from the Des Moines Botanical Center in late summer.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Last: 14 Oct at Iowa City (JLF).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: First: 2 at Cardinal M. on 31 Aug (DeC). Several were reported in September.

Northern Flicker: 50 were migrating at Iowa City on 21 Sep (THK).

Pileated Woodpecker: Reports were from Johnson, Lucas, Marshall, and Polk counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First: 15 Aug at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP). Last: 13 Sep at Saylorville Res. (MPr).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: An adult was feeding a fledgling at L. Ahquabi on 8 Sep (JSi).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: There were 9 reports with the first and last at Grammer Grove W.A. on 15 Aug and 19 Sep (MPr).

Alder Flycatcher: Singing birds were found at Grammer Grove W.A. on 15 and 26 Aug (MPr)[3rd latest].

Willow Flycatcher: All: 2 singing in Wayne Co. on 24 Aug (AB), 1 singing at Runnells A. on 7 Sep (AB), and 1 calling on 20 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK—details)[3rd latest].

Eastern Phoebe: Last: 1 at Red Rock Res. on 11 Nov (AB—details)[second latest except for winter records].

Western Kingbird: All: 2 on 14 Aug in Woodbury Co. (JJ) and 2 on 2 Sep in O'Brien Co. (RGr).

Loggerhead Shrike: 1 was a bit far north at Waterman Creek in O'Brien Co. on 22 Nov (LAS).

Northern Shrike: First: 22 Oct in Clay Co. (LAS). There were 6 other reports.

Bell's Vireo: Last: 2 on 22 Aug at Riverton A. (JSi).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Last: 1 singing on 8 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (PHA/RIA)[2nd latest].

Blue-headed Vireo: First: 28 Aug at Mill Creek S.P. (LAS). Last: 10 Oct at Storm L. (MPr).

Warbling Vireo: Last: 22 Sep at L. Ahquabi (AB).

Philadelphia Vireo: First: 15 Aug at Ledges S.P. (MDO). Last: 8 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (PHA/RIA)[ties 3rd latest].

Red-eyed Vireo: Last: 6 Oct in Johnson Co. (MCD).

American Crow: Roost counts in Ames increased from 253 on 6 Sep to 5,300 on 27 Nov (JJD).

Purple Martin: Last: 1 on 30 Aug at Coralville Res. (THK). High count: 900 at Spirit L. on 16 Aug (SJD, JJD).

Tree Swallow: Last: 2 at Pleasant Creek L. on 5 Nov (JLF, MCD).

Bank Swallow: High count: 400 at Runnells W.A. on 15 Aug (SJD).

Barn Swallow: Last: 1 at Pleasant Creek L. on 7 Nov (CE)[3rd latest].

Red-breasted Nuthatch: First: 25 Aug at Algona (MCK). There were 3 reports from August, 3 from September, and 2 from October, indicating that this was not an invasion year.

Brown Creeper: First: 20 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK).

Carolina Wren: Reports from 9 counties included several that were unusually far north: at Hartman Reserve in Black Hawk Co. (TSt), at Mason City in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo, CJF), and at West Okoboji in Dickinson Co. (LAS, MCK).

Winter Wren: First: 21 Sep at L. Meyer in Winneshiek Co. (DeC). There were 6 reports from September.
High count: 10 on 7 Oct in Mason City (RGo).

Sedge Wren: Last: 19 Oct at Maynard Reece W.A. (MCK).

Marsh Wren: Last: 18 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First: 21 Sep at Stephens F. in Lucas Co. (AB)[ties 3rd earliest]. There were 5 other reports from September. Large numbers were noted in October: 35 on the 9th at Sioux Rock Access (JV), 20 on the 18th in Appanoose Co. (RLC), and 90 on the 18th at Fairfield (DCP).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 21 Aug at Mason City (JLW)[3rd earliest]. Last: 2 Nov at Sioux Center (JV). High counts: 25 on 21 Sep at Iowa City (THK) and 30 on 18 Oct at Fairfield (DCP).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Last: 12 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AMJ)[2nd latest]. Another at Grammer Grove W.A. on 8 Oct (PHA/RIA) was also late [3rd latest].

Eastern Bluebird: High count: 75 on 22 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Veery: All: 30 Aug at Coralville Res. (THK).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: All: 12 Sep at Walnut Creek N.W.R. (AB).

Swainson's Thrush: First: 19 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr)[ties 3rd earliest]. Last: 10 Oct at Decorah (DeC—details). Details or documentation should be provided for thrushes seen after September, except for Hermit.

Hermit Thrush: Last: 10 Nov at Spirit L (ETh).

Wood Thrush: Last: 29 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

American Robin: High count: 300 on 24 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

Gray Catbird: Last: 29 Nov in Warren Co. (JSi).

Northern Mockingbird: All: 9 Aug at Liscomb in Marshall Co. (BPr) and 20 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK).

Brown Thrasher: Last: 22 Nov at Mason City (RGo).

American Pipit: First: 4 on 13 Sep at Saylorville Res. (MPr). Last: 3 on 13 Nov at Ames (JJD). High counts: 113 on 23 Oct at Runnells W.A. (SJD) and 100 on 5, 8 Nov at Coralville Res. (THK). There were

22 reports from 10 locations, which is more than usual. Birds at Coralville Res. often landed in several fallen trees (JLF, THK).

Bohemian Waxwing: All: 1 on 21 Nov at Spirit L. (LAS—details).

Cedar Waxwing: A nest contained 3 yg. on 21 Aug at L. Meyer (DeC). Fledged yg. were seen on 9 Sep at Ames (JJD).

Blue-winged Warbler: All: 16 Aug at Decorah (DeC) and 4 Sep at Stephens F. (AB). [?] — county?

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 15 Aug at Ledges S.P. (MDO) and at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 17 Sep at Red Bird Farm in Johnson Co. (MCD). There were 13 reports of this species.

Tennessee Warbler: First: 4 on 13 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 2 on 9 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 23 Aug at L. Ahquabi (AB)[3rd earliest]. Last: 23 Oct at Runnells W.A. (SJD).

Nashville Warbler: First: on 15 Aug, 2 at Ledges S.P. (MDO) and 2 at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 10 Oct at Storm Lake (MPr).

Northern Parula: Last: 26 Sep at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DeC).

Yellow Warbler: Last: 6 Sep at Liscomb (MPr).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 15 Aug at Ledges S.P. (MDO), Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr), and Des Moines (PJW). Last: 30 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK).

Magnolia Warbler: First: 15 Aug at Liscomb (MPr). Last: 6 Oct at Indianola (JSi).

Cape May Warbler: All: 1 imm. female on 16 Aug at Tuttle L. in Emmet Co. (SJD, JJD), 2 females on 2 Sep at Mason City (JLW), 1 on 2 Sep at Red Rock Res. (AB), and 2 on 8 Sep at Liscomb (BPr).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: All: 1 female on 3 Sep at Red Bird Farms (MCD—details), 1 on 3 Sep at Hartman Reserve (TSt), 1 imm. female on 7 Sep in Clay Co. (LAS), 1 male on 22 Sep at L. Ahquabi (AB), and 1 male on 11 Nov at a feeder eating sunflower hearts in Mason City (*ESM)[2nd latest]. ^{in Johnson Co.}

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 31 Aug at Cardinal M. (DeC). Last: 8 on 24 Oct at Kent P. (THK). High count: 75 on 30 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK). [^]

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: 15 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr)[3rd earliest]. Last: 9 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK).

Blackburnian Warbler: First: 3 on 13 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 1 on 18 Oct at West Okoboji (JJ).[ties 2nd latest].

Yellow-throated Warbler: All: 1 on 10 Aug at L. Macbride (MCD).

Pine Warbler: All: 30 Aug at Black Hawk L. (PHA/RIA—details), 31 Aug at Hartman Reserve (TSt), and 7 Sep at Ledges S.P. (JJD).

Palm Warbler: Last: 15 Nov at Otter Creek P. in Warren Co. (JSi)[3rd latest].

Bay-breasted Warbler: First: 6 Aug at Hartman Reserve (TSt)[3rd earliest]. Last: 27 Sep at Decorah (DeC).

Blackpoll Warbler: All: 5 on 16 Aug at Spirit L. (LAS)[ties record earliest], 25 Aug at Woodland Mounds Preserve (AB), and 31 Aug at Cardinal M. (DeC).

Black-and-white Warbler: First: 5 Aug at Iowa City (JLF). Last: 29 Sep at L. Ahquabi (AB). High count: 24 on 17 Aug at Sunken Grove L. (SJD). There were 9 reports of 1 to 6 birds in the first three weeks of August.

American Redstart: Last: 29 Sep at Burr Oak (DeC).

Prothonotary Warbler: All: 1 male singing at Coralville Res. on 10, 19 Aug (THK, JLF) and 1 at Sanborn in O'Brien Co. on 1 Sep (RGr).

Ovenbird: Last: 16 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (AB).

Northern Waterthrush: First: 12 Aug at Burr Oak (DeC). Last: 7 Oct at Mason City (RGo)[ties 3rd latest].

Connecticut Warbler: All: 15 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr—details) and 17 Aug at Hartman Reserve (TSt). These are record earliest dates. Some have questioned the occurrence of this species in Iowa in fall (it migrates to Connecticut!), and the identification is difficult—even specimens have been misidentified. Proescholdt's view was brief, and he expressed some uncertainty.

Mourning Warbler: First and last: 15 Aug and 5 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Common Yellowthroat: Last: 13 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Wilson's Warbler: First: 2 on 15 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 18 Sep at Pine L. (MPr).

Canada Warbler: First: 15 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 2 on 13 Sep at Lenon Mill in Dallas Co. (BKP/LJP).

Scarlet Tanager: Last: 29 Sep at L. Ahquabi (AB).

Spotted Towhee: All: 2 on 7 Oct at Rock Valley in Sioux Co. (JV).

Eastern Towhee: Last: 8 Oct at Mason City (RGo).

American Tree Sparrow: First: 18 Oct at Port Neal (BFH).

Chipping Sparrow: Last: 7 Nov at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

Field Sparrow: Last: 5 Nov s. of Iowa City (MCD).

Vesper Sparrow: Last: 2 on 17 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Savannah Sparrow: Last: 2 on 4 Nov in Kossuth Co. (MCK). High count: 36 on 17 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Last: 27 Sep at Snake Creek M. (MDO).

Le Conte's Sparrow: First and high count: 40 on 27 Sep at Snake Creek M. (AMJ, m.ob.). Last: 7 Nov in Wayne Co. (AB).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: First: 20 Sep at Bjorkboda M. in Hamilton Co. (MPr) and at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Last: 11 Oct at Maskunky M. in Mahaska Co. (MPr). High count: 6 on 27 Sep at Snake Creek M. (MDO).

Fox Sparrow: First: 27 Sep in Palo Alto Co. (LAS). Last: 1 at a feeder on 12 Nov at Sioux Center (JV). High count: 18 on 7 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Lincoln's Sparrow: First: 12 Sep at Spirit L. (ETh). Last: 6 on 17 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Swamp Sparrow: High count: 50 on 17 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

White-throated Sparrow: First: 11 Sep at Burr Oak (DeC).

Harris's Sparrow: First: 20 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Many were present at Sioux Center on 10 Nov after the blizzard (JV).

White-crowned Sparrow: First: 2 on 20 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK)[2nd earliest].

Dark-eyed Junco: First: on 16 Sep, 10 at Algona (MCK) and 1 at East Okoboji (RTh)[tie 3rd earliest].

ETh ?

Lapland Longspur: First and high count: 60 on 19 Oct and 1,000 on 25 Oct at Maynard Reece W.A. in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Smith's Longspur: All: 2 on 7 Oct and 100 on 25 Oct at Maynard Reece W.A. in Kossuth Co. (*MCK) establish the occurrence of this species in fall in Iowa.

Snow Bunting: First: 28 Oct at Coralville Res. (JLF). From 1 to 11 were noted at 8 locations.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: High count: 10 at Coralville Res. on 22 Sep (THK).

Blue Grosbeak: Last: 2 Sep n. of Forney L. (BKP/LJP). Other reports were from 2 locations in Fremont Co. on 15 Aug (BKP/LJP), Willow Creek P. in Osceola Co. on 20 Aug (BKP/LJP), and O'Brien Co. on 28 Aug (LAS).

Indigo Bunting: Last: 29 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK).

Dickcissel: Last: 3 Oct s. of Iowa City (MCD).

Bobolink: Last: 13 Oct at Cardinal M. (DeC). Another was at Harrier M. on 27 Sep (MDO, JJD).

Eastern Meadowlark: On 18 Oct, the song and call of 2 were heard s. of Iowa City (MCD).

Western Meadowlark: On 21 Nov, the call of 1 was heard s. of Iowa City (MCD).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Last: 1 male at Smith L. in Kossuth Co. on 29 Sep (MCK).

Rusty Blackbird: First: 2 on 24 Sep at Cardinal M. (DeC)[ties record earliest]. Also early were 2 at Snake Creek M. on 27 Sep (MDO).

Brewer's Blackbird: Convincing details were given for 20 at Ames on 6 Nov (JJD).

Great-tailed Grackle: All: 10 on 21 Sep at Spirit L. (ETh), 1 on 27 Sep at Harrier M. (JJD), 1 on 19 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK), and 1 on 15 Nov in Warren Co. (JSi).

Orchard Oriole: All: 4 on 13 Aug at Forney L. (BKP/LJP).

Purple Finch: First: 11 Sep at Des Moines (CJF). Very few were reported.

Red Crossbill: All: 1 female on 2 Aug at Ames (Steve Maloy fide JJD) and 8 on 19 Nov at Grinnell (JLF).

Pine Siskin: First: 20 Aug near Boone (Karl Jungbluth fide JJD). Another was at Algona on 25 Aug (MCK); otherwise, there were only a few reports from October and November.

COMMENT

The database comprised 32 reports and 27 documentations (of 20 species). I entered 1,452 bird sightings into a database, which is up from 1,200 for the fall season of 1997.

I first began compiling the Field Reports for summer season of 1979. Since then the amount and quality of data has steadily improved. Many species that we strived to document then have long since become regular. It is amazing to me that we continue to find new birds to search for and a season like this fall's that provides many new record early and late dates. After 20 years of the enjoyment and learning from the data provided by many dedicated Iowa birders, it is time for me to retire and turn this opportunity over to others. I will continue to report for the spring and fall seasons of 1999 unless someone else wants to start before then.

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