

December 2, 1998

Thomas Kent
Fall Field Reports Editor
211 Richards St.
Iowa City, IA 52246

Dear Tom:

How are getting along this fall?

Enclosed are our fall field reports. Hope they might be of some use to you, the Records Committee, or whomever.

Have been missing more birds than ever, but still keep looking anyway! Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,



Pam Allen
1601 Pleasant Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265-2331

FIELD REPORTS:

August 1 through November 30, 1998

FROM:

Pam and Reid Allen (P & R Allen)
1601 Pleasant Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265

OTHER OBSERVERS:

Eloise & Eugene Armstrong
Booneville, IAAnn Johnson
Norwalk, IAJim & Kate Frazier
Illinois

NOTE: In the "OBSERVERS" column, if there is an * after the name, this designates the person who FIRST made the observation.

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS
✓ American White Pelican	55	30 Aug.	Greene Co. - Dunbar Slough (new wetland area on Hwy N58)	P & R Allen
✓ Great Egret	1	6 Aug.	Cass Co. - I-80, Exit 60	P & R Allen
✓ Little Blue Heron	1	6 Aug.	Mills Co. - I-29, Exit 32	P & R Allen
✓ Cattle Egret	1	9 Aug.	Boone Co. - Opposite side of road from Bjorkboda Marsh	P & R Allen
✓ Surf Scoter	1	15 Nov.	Cass Co. - Lake Anita State Park	P & R Allen
✓ Turkey Vulture	1	20 Nov.	Buchanan Co. - 2 miles north of Hwy 20 on Hwy 187	P & R Allen E & E Armstrong
✓ Rough-legged Hawk (dark phase)	1	21 Nov.	Allamakee Co. - Heytman's Landing road Note: This bird was so dark we thought it was a Turkey Vulture when we first saw it.	P & R Allen
✓ Prairie Falcon	1	1 Oct.	Marshall Co. - Grammar Grove S.P. Details: This large falcon sailed overhead as we were counting hawks at Beth Proescholdt's hawk watching site. The black "armpits" really stood out as we viewed this bird.	P & R Allen E & E Armstrong
✓ Yellow Rail	1	27 Sept.	Greene Co. - Snake Creek Marsh Details: Best look at a Yellow Rail we've ever had. The white wing patches were striking and the bird hung up in the air for what seemed like minutes and then plunked back down in the tall grass.	P & R Allen Ann Johnson Jim & Kate Frazier

- ✓ **Sandhill Crane** 1 13 Nov. Warren Co.- Runnells Wildlife Area P & R Allen
Notes: This bird was originally spotted by Eugene and Eloise Armstrong the day before.
- ✓ **American Avocet** 1 13 Nov. Warren Co.- Runnells Wildlife Area P & R Allen
- ✓ **Dunlin** 3 29 Nov. Warren Co. - Runnells Wildlife Area P & R Allen
Notes: Tom, these birds are still being reported as being seen on the 30th so perhaps there will be a new late date during the winter field season.
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 33 4 Sept. Johnson Co. - Babcock Access Rd. P & R Allen
- ✓ **Long-billed Dowitcher** 1 29 Nov. Warren Co. - Runnells Wildlife Area P & R Allen
Notes: Technically this cannot really be called a Long-billed Dowitcher but should have been called Dowitcher Species because this bird did not fly or vocalize as we were watching it. It is a late date for this species (both long-billed and short-billed). It was reported as still being seen on the 30th of November, so again there might be someone who can more readily document this bird as to specific species. Since there is no trespassing on the area, you can't readily go down and flush the bird.
- ✓ **Common Snipe** 2 30 Aug. Greene Co. - Dunbar Slough P & R Allen
(new wetland area on Hwy N58)
- ✓ **Bonaparte's Gull** 1 1 Oct. Polk Co. - Saylorville Reservoir P & R Allen
- ✓ **Common Tern** 1 30 Aug. Sac Co. - Tomahawk Marsh P & R Allen
Notes: This was an immature Common Tern and its very dark shoulder patches showed as it was sitting and when the bird flew the primaries were very dark.
- ✓ **Long-eared Owl** 3 15 Nov. Cass Co. - Lake Anita S.P. P & R Allen
- ✓ **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 1 30 Aug. Greene Co. - 1 mi. east of Snake Creek Marsh P & R Allen
- ✓ **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 1 8 Oct. Marshall Co. - Grammar Grove S.P. P & R Allen
- ✓ **Northern Shrike** 1 21 Nov. Allamakee Co. - 2 mi. north of A26 P & R Allen
E & E Armstrong
- ✓ **Yellow-throated Vireo** 1 8 Oct. Marshall Co. - Grammar Grove S.P. P & R Allen
Notes: We were surprised to hear this bird singing, as were the Philadelphia Vireos which will be noted next. This is a new middle "late" date.
- ✓ **Philadelphia Vireo** 2 8 Oct. Marshall Co. - Grammar Grove S.P. P & R Allen
Notes: Along with their vocalization we got to study one of these two birds as they were sitting in a tree. The yellow throat and belly were distinct. This ties the "early" late date.

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FALL FIELD REPORTS
FROM: Pam and Reid Allen

- ✓ **Pine Warbler** 1 30 Aug. Sac Co. - Blackhawk Lake S.P. P & R Allen
- ✓ **Notes:** This warbler was still in almost alternate plumage, or perhaps the yellow on its chest and throat was so "yellow" that it stood out more, along with the wide white wingbars. There was no streaking on the back of this bird.
- ✓ **Additional note:** Tom, while we were at Blackhawk Lake S.P. and Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area on this day, we've never seen so many Golden-winged Warblers. They seemed to be everywhere, along with many other warblers (around 14 different species).