

Jim -  
Sorry this is late. My computer's been  
out of commission.  
Dennis

## Field Reports Summer 98

Dennis Thompson  
Johnston, IA

Species	Date	Notes
American Bittern	06/14	1 at Errington Marsh, Polk
Least Bittern	06/27 07/12	1 at main unit of Chichaqua, Polk 1 at Sand Prairie unit of Chichaqua
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	06/26	1 at Chichaqua, Polk. Looked like a 2 <sup>nd</sup> year bird.
Ruddy Duck	07/25	A pair at a marsh in northern Polk. No indication of young.
Northern Harrier	06/13	1 at Walnut Creek NWR acted territorial. Ranger said he knew of one nest at a different part of the refuge
Gray Partridge	07/13	1 at Moeckly Prairie, Polk.
Northern Bobwhite	07/11	1 at Red Feather Prairie, Saylorville, was my first in Polk County in 12 years.
King Rail	06/14	1 calling at Errington Marsh, Polk
Sora	07/25	4 calling at a wetland north of Moeckley Prairie, Polk may indicate breeding.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		I thought they were more common than usual in Polk this summer
Common Nighthawk		Numbers still seem way down.
Willow Flycatcher	06/13	4-5 at Walnut Creek NWR, Jasper. Had more than usual in Polk this summer.
Bank Swallow	06/27	17 at Red Feather Prairie, Polk, probably indicate a colony at Saylorville.
Carolina Wren		1 spent the summer in my yard, Johnston, Polk
Northern Parula	06/28	1 was at Sycamore access below Saylorville.
Dickcissel		The bloody things were everywhere this summer.
Savannah Sparrow	06/27	1 at Red Feather Prairie, Polk

Grasshopper Sparrow		Very common in Polk this summer. At least 8 on territory at Red Feather Prairie.
Bobolink		Most I've ever seen in Iowa. 5 territories at Red Feather, Polk.
Orchard Oriole		3 pairs around Saylorville more than usual for me.
Pine Siskin	06/14	1 at my feeder. I have no idea where it came from, and only saw it once.

Comments: I thought grassland birds were in very high numbers in Polk this summer. Good water levels in the marshes in northern Polk seemed to entice Pied-billed Grebes, Coots, and Soras to stay. I don't normally see them here in the summer.