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FIELD REPORT - SPRING 1999

GENERAL TRENDS

Waterfowl migration peaked about 30 March. Most species were present in smaller numbers than usual and left early.

Shorebird habitat is quite limited in Winneshiek County and verged on non-existent this ^{because of high water.} spring. I saw only 6 species.

Passerines arrived early, in contrast to last year's "silent spring." Early arrival dates were set for six or more species of warblers. Empidonax flycatchers and thrushes were scarce. In general, passerine migration was lack luster. No large waves or fallouts were noted, and the migration was mostly over by 22 May. On 18 May, I found all six species of vireos on the Winneshiek Co. list at Cardinal Marsh. Sparrows (other than White-throated) were present in low numbers, and Harris' Sparrow was not found.

SPECIES DATA

All records are from Winneshiek County.

Pied-billed Grebe: very few

✓ Eared Grebe: 1, in alternate plumage, was at Cardinal Marsh on 13 May.

✓ White-faced Ibis: 2, in breeding plumage with conspicuous white strip at the base of the bill, were found at Cardinal M. on 3 May, the first record of this species for Winneshiek Co.

SPECIES DATA

- ✓ Greater White-fronted Goose: High count: 9 at Cardinal M. on 13 Apr.
- ✓ Tundra Swan: High count: 30 at Cardinal M. on 23 Mar.
- ✓ Redhead: High count: 22 at Cardinal M. on 30 Mar.
- ✓ Ring-necked Duck: High count: 200 at Cardinal M. on 30 Mar. Last: a male and 3 females at Cardinal M. on 30 May.
- ✓ Ruddy Duck: Last: a pair at Cardinal M. on 30 May.
- ✓ Osprey: Last: 1 at Lake Meyer on 24 May.
- ✓ Merlin: 1 was seen at Cardinal M. on 30 Mar.
- ✓ Sandhill Crane: 2, probably the same individuals that summered last year, were at Cardinal M., throughout April and May.
- ✓ Caspian Tern: 4 were at Cardinal M. on 18 May.
- ✓ Ferster's Tern: First: 1 at Burr Oak on 24 Apr. High count: 16 at Cardinal M. on 3 May.
- ✓ Olive-sided Flycatcher: My only record was 1 at Cardinal M. on 25 May.
- ✓ Bell's Vireo: 1 was singing at Cardinal M. from 18 May through the end of the period.
- ✓ Blue-headed Vireo: Last: 1 at Cardinal M. on 18 May.
- ✓ Philadelphia Vireo: 1 was seen at Cardinal M. on 18 May.
- ✓ Cliff Swallow: High count: 200 at Burr Oak on 8 May.
- ✓ Golden-winged Warbler: 1 was seen at Burr Oak on 14 May.
- ✓ Northern Parula: My only record was 1 at Decora on 7 May.
- ✓ Cape May Warbler: 1 was seen at Cardinal M. on 13 May. It is rare here in spring.
- ✓ Blackburnian Warbler: Last: 1 at Burr Oak (Willow Glen Nursery) on 28 May.

SPECIES DATA

- ✓ Palm Warbler: High count: 12 at Cardinal M. on 3 May.
- ✓ Mourning Warbler: Last: 1 at Burr Oak (Willowglen Nursery) on 28 May.
- ✓ Canada Warbler: First: 3 at Decorah on 16 May.
- ✓ White-crowned Sparrow: Last: 1 at Cardinal M. on 25 May.
- ✓ Dark-eyed Junco: A pink-sided type Oregon Junco was seen at Lake Meyer on 2 Mar.
- ✓ Rusty Blackbird: First: 2 at Cardinal M. on 30 Mar.
- Baltimore Oriole: Exceptionally numerous, including many at feeders.

Addendum:

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Doug Mullen, an experienced observer, saw and videotaped one in his yard at Lansing, Allamakee Co. on 23 Apr.

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