

IOU FIELD REPORTS FORM

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Season: Spring Year: 1999

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Other Observers: None

General Notes: Spring of 1999 was early but cool in northwest Iowa. There were few, if any, freezing temperatures after late April, and green-up was approximately 10 days ahead of normal. After a dry winter and early spring, precipitation increased through April and May, leaving the region 3-4" above average precipitation for this time of year. Some migratory bird species appeared earlier than would be expected, while others seemed to be right on schedule. Warbler migrations were particularly good in early-mid May (17 species at Kettleon Hogsback WMA, Dickinson Co. on May 14-15).

| <u>Species</u> | <u>No.</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------|--|
| ✓ Great Blue Heron | ~50 | 5/21 | ~24 active nests in rookery at Kettleon Hogsback WMA, Dickinson Co. |
| ✓ Great Egret | 1 | 4/6 | First migrant of season observed at Rush Lake, Osceola Co. |
| ✓ Turkey Vulture | -- | all | Becoming extremely common throughout northwest Iowa. |
| ✓ Snow Goose | 17 | 5/24 | A very late flock observed at Rush Lake, Osceola Co. |
| ✓ Gray Partridge | -- | all | Appear to be staging a very good comeback in region. |
| ✓ Upland Sandpiper | 1 | 5/22 | Near Hartley, O'Brien Co.—first heard this season. |
| ✓ American Woodcock | 2 | 4/29 | A pair flushed along NE shore of Hottes Lake, Dickinson Co. |
| ✓ Herring Gull | 1 | 3/30 | An early sighting at Silver Lake, Dickinson Co. |
| ✓ Black-billed Cuckoo | 1 | 5/21 | First of season heard calling near Inwood, Lyon Co. |
| ✓ Blue-headed Vireo | 1 | 5/15 | First of season observed at Kettleon Hogsback WMA, Dickinson Co. |
| ✓ Black-billed Magpie | 1 | 4/25 | Was quite far east of western Iowa border range, at Kettleon Hogsback WMA, Dickinson Co. |
| ✓ Sedge Wren | -- | May | Abundant around Dickinson Co. wetland meadows. |
| ✓ E. Bluebird | many | 5/20 | Numerous in broken woodlands by Big Sioux River NW of Inwood, Lyon Co. |
| ✓ Black-thr. Green Warbler | 2 | 5/14 | Kettleon Hogsback WMA, Dickinson Co. |
| ✓ Ches.-sided Warbler | 4+ | 5/15 | " " " |
| ✓ Blackburnian Warbler | 1 | 5/15 | " " " |
| ✓ Palm Warbler | 9+ | 5/4 | Christopherson Slough WMA, near Superior, Dickinson Co. |
| ✓ Ovenbird | 1 | 5/9 | 1 st of season seen at Larchwood, Lyon Co. |
| ✓ Spotted Towhee | 2 | 5/5-11 | 1 each at two locations in and near Larchwood, Lyon Co. |
| ✓ White-crowned Sparrow | 1 | 5/2 | 1 at Larchwood, Lyon Co., was unusual for area. |