

IOWA BIRD LIFE report for Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, 1976.
Rich DeCoster, 628 Reno St., Iowa City, Ia. 52240

Vultures, Hawks

Turkey Vulture: 2 at Kent Park, 10/16; 1 at Sugar Bottom, 10/17.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: total of 22 seen, 8/29 to 10/5. Maximum seen was twelve between 11:00 and 12:00 on 10/4 at McBride Field Campus.

Cooper's Hawk: none seen

Red-tailed Hawk: total of 15 seen, 9/1 to 11/14.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 adult, Hickory Hill, 10/15/76. Seen in good sun angle as it circled several times overhead. Observed: salmon-orange wing lining and body, buteo shape with tail rather long, alternating light and dark tail banding with light narrower than dark.

Broad-winged Hawk: Several large flocks were of interest.

Hickory Hill, 9/18, 20 seen mostly perched in tress ¹² early morning. Later the same morning Mike Newlon saw about 200 in H.H.

Hickory Hill, 9/22, 80 plus counted forming kettles about 9:30 a.m. Before this time many birds were seen perching in trees in the park.

Rough-legged Hawk: none seen

Marsh Hawk: total of 15 seen at various CoR points between 8/28 and 11/13. All were of female-immature type plumage.

Peregrine Falcon: 1 seen at Sand Point 9/27. The bird had been seen the previous day by the Newlons.

American Kestrel: total of 6 between 8/28 and 10/3.

Pectoral Sandpiper: late date; 3 seen at Sand Point, 11/13. One had a bad leg.

Black-legged Kittiwake: Seen at Coralville Docks the day after you found it. I had a good look as it flew by several times at a couple hundred feet in good sunlight and sun-obs-bird angle. Quite clearly saw dark transverse mark across nape, very dark wing coverts, and dark band across what appeared to be indented tail.

Eastern Bluebird: numerous between 10/16 and 10/28. Several at Kent Park, 10/16; 7 at Sugar Bottoms, 10/23; a flock of 20 in Hickory Hill, 10/27; 4 on road to Coralville Docks, 10/28.

Northern Shrike: 1 adult seen in Hickory Hill, 11/06. An overcast day but bird seen at 30 feet (paced) at sun-obs-bird angle of 170 deg. The bird was quite curious and in staring at me made it easy to see that the mask did not meet above the eye. Other points: light coloration above, scaling on breast, light color of basal portion of lower mandible, and I judged the bird to be larger than a loggerhead.

(also Mike Newlon

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White-eyed vireo: one, sometimes two, was seen in Hickory Hill between 8/28 and 9/9.

Orchard Oriole: late date, 1 female type plumage in Hickory Hill on 9/9. (previous late date 8/26)

Rufous-sided towhee: total of 11 in H.H..10/2-10/8. 5 on 10/2; 1, 10/3; 2, 10/5, and 3, 10/8.

Also one showed up at my feeder today(12/3), an immature generally brownish bird above, rufous sided, blackish tail, and a ring of black between breast and brown head. Dark streaking on lighter brown back. Folded wing shows whitish edge of primary area, buffier but still light wing coverts, and three buffy spots along scapulars. So perhaps of spotted variety. I'm really not familiar with immature towhee plumages.

LeConte's Sparrow:The large group found by Mike Newlon at Sand Point. I counted a minimum of 22 on 9/27, 15 on 9/29(slides taken), and 8 on 10/9. Also on 9/27 I found one up near the parking area at Sand Point.

2 seen at Kent Park on 10/16 and 1 at Hickory Hill on 11/07.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 at Sand Point, 9/27. Found by Newlons on 9/26.

Snow Bunting: Flock of about 60 at Sugar Bottom, 13 and 14 November. Flock of 7 at Coralville Docks on 13 November.

Same?
(very doubtful)

Rich DeCosta

3 December 1976