

Silvick

Fall report - Fremont Co., Iowa and nearby areas.

Dear Vern,

I enjoyed meeting you at Council Bluffs, and especially your fall warbler quiz - I'm glad one is not forced to identify everything irrevocably that quickly in the field!

We had a good early wave of warblers, but spotty and drawn-out thereafter. (I often wonder how you can make sense out of everyone's apparently obligatory comment on warbler migration). Sparrows moved in in good numbers towards the end of the period, but waterfowl moved through fairly rapidly, as the warm weather suddenly turned to 6° - 10° weather in a few days. All water is frozen here now, except the Missouri, of course.

Common Loon 9 (all in sight at once) at L. Manawa, Oct 30.

{ Horned Grebe = 35 on L. Manawa and borrow pits on I-29 in Pottawattamie Co. Oct 16. Appears to peak two weeks or so before Eared Grebe. On Oct 16 only  
Eared Grebe 2 of the latter were seen, but on Oct 30 24 were counted on L. Manawa, with no Horned.

Pied-billed Grebe 6, including 2 in juvenal plumage, on Taylor L., Sept 18; very probably breeds there.

Blue-winged Teal 8 present on farm pond all Aug and Sept to the 18th. (counted in flight- blue wing patches). Apparently bred there. The species nests at De Soto Bend NWR 'on occasions' (Ronald L. Bell, Asst Refuge Mgr) but did not do so in 1976.

Lesser Scaup Est. 3000 L. Manawa and borrow pits Oct 30.

Sharp-shinned Hawk Only accipiter seen: one at De Soto Bend NWR Oct 16.

Rough-legged Hawk: First (and Only ) one this fall: Nov 26.

Marsh Hawk: First seen this fall Sept 18; *only 3 seen to end of period.*

Virginia Rail One at Taylor L. Sept 18 - probably migrant.

Upland Sandpiper Two seen this fall: Aug 6 and 24 (the latter a late date for Iowa, according to Brown, who gives Aug 14). Both sightings within a mile and a half of each other in pasture areas where breeding could be possible. Will check closely next summer.

Bonaparte's Gull 11 at L. Manawa, Oct 30.

Red-headed Woodpecker Extremely abundant this summer and fall  
- over 50 seen Sept 4.

Long-billed Marsh Wren Singing at Taylor L., Sept 18.

Bell's Vireo Singing at Taylor L., Sept 18. This is the third  
likely breeding site I have found them at in Fremont Co.

Pine Warbler One seen Sept 4. See attached documentation.

Canada Warbler One seen Sept 4 near Randolph.

Rusty Blackbird Common migrant late this fall - eg 150 Nov 21.

Song Sparrow Singing at Riverton Aug 8, where it almost certainly  
breeds.

*I hope you can read my busy typing - my  
writing is even worse.*

*Ross Silcock*