

FIELD REPORTS - FALL 1989

Carl J. Bendorf

WEATHER

August was a little cool and continued the dry pattern of recent months, being the 9th consecutive below average month for precipitation. The only notable severe weather occurred on the 5th when a fast moving thunderstorm complex swept out of Nebraska and cut a wide swath of damage in the central part of the state; wind gusts were 50-80 mph.

September broke the dry spell with heavy rains during the first 10 days. Flooding was widespread early in the month in SW and WC Iowa. The rest of the month was below average in rainfall. This was the coolest September since 1975.

October was a month of wide temperature fluctuations; it was 88 at Glenwood on the 11th but only 12 at Hawarden on the 20th. Very little rain fell statewide and the first measurable snowfall was over NC Iowa on 30-31 October.

November was the driest and 3rd coldest November since 1976. Adding to the chill were wind speeds about 4% above normal. Two large impulses of Arctic air on the 15-18th and 28-29th pulled the average temperatures below normal. On the other extreme, some very mild air snuck in to SE Iowa giving temperatures up to 77 on the 13th at Keokuk.

Mean Temperature and Precipitation with Deviation from Normal

	Temperature, F Mean (Deviation)	Precipitation, inches Mean (Deviation)
August	71.8 (-0.3)	3.58 (-0.52)
September	61.1 (-2.4)	4.74 (+1.32)
October	52.6 (-0.1)	1.88 (-0.42)
November	34.1 (-3.1)	.28 (-1.23)

GENERAL TRENDS

Very dry conditions focused most of the birding activity to larger lakes and reservoirs. Overall, waterfowl migration was very poor except for geese. In contrast, scoters were early and rather numerous. Numbers of migrating hawks were relatively low.

Shorebird migration seemed delayed and nearly all reports came from larger bodies of water (no small wet areas this year). No fewer than 11 shorebird species set some sort of late record this year. Gull migration was dull in total numbers but spectacular in variety.

Vireos were virtually undetected and warblers were found in relatively low numbers although a few species were either early or late. Sparrows were mostly on time. Reports on winter finches were mixed; few were reported but White-winged Crossbills made a big showing.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

An astounding 17 accidental species were reported (plus Jaeger species) during the period with 7 of them being potential additions to the state list. They were Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Black-shouldered Kite, Harris' Hawk, Black Rail, Red Knot, Red Phalarope, Jaeger species, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Common Black-headed Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Royal Tern, and Western Wood-Pewee. Casual species reported included Ibis Species, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, Whimbrel, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, Pine Grosbeak, and House Finch.

SPECIES DATA

* = documented; record early/late dates are given in [].

Red-throated Loon: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Pacific Loon: Reports from two locations will be referred to the Records Committee.

Common Loon: One on 26 Aug at Rathbun Res. (RLC) may have been the same bird that summered there; largest numbers by far were at Saylorville Res. with a peak of 95 on 2 Nov (SD). A single bird at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 26 Nov (DCP) was the only report away from major lakes and reservoirs.

Pied-billed Grebe: The only reports were of 50 on 29 August at L. Manawa (TB) and 80 on 17 Sep at Spirit L. (THK, FLM, RCe).

Horned Grebe: First, peak, and last reports were all from Saylorville Res.: 1 on 8 Oct (BEn), 44 on 4 Nov and 2 on 28 Nov (SD). The only other location with more than several birds was in Warren Co. with 12 on 4 Nov (SJS).

Red-necked Grebe: None reported.

Eared Grebe: Very scarce this fall with only 1-2 reported from 4 central Iowa locations: at Morse L., Wright Co., on 4 Sep and Big Creek L. on 12 Sep (SD); at Ventura M. on 1 Oct (JLW); and at Saylorville Res. on 8-11 Oct and 6 Nov (SD, JJD, AJ, BEn).

Western Grebe: Reported only from Saylorville Res. where the first was found on 13 Oct (BEn, JF); 1-3 were seen through 5 Nov (m.ob.).

American White Pelican: Detected in much smaller numbers than last year; Union Slough N.W.R. held very little water and a peak of only 50 birds stopped here on 22 Aug (MCK); Saylorville Res.

fared better with 2,805 on 10 Sep (SD, RA1, PA1); other peak reports were 560 at Ventura M. on 23 Aug (Ted LaGrange fide JLH), 850 on 4 Sep at Elm L. (SD), and 400 on 15-16 Sep in Dickinson Co. (RLC, et.al.). Singles were still at Red Rock Res. on 28 Nov (BBr, GB) and Saylorville Res. on 30 Nov (SD). These are the two latest records except for wintering records.

Double-crested Cormorant: Reported in average numbers with peaks of 1,690 at Saylorville Res. on 5 Oct (SD), 1,600 at Red Rock Res. on 22 Oct (AJ), and 1,500 in Pottawattamie Co. during the first week of Nov (BPa).

American Bittern: A single bird was n. of Burlington on 3, 7 Sep (JF, THK, RTE); another was in Mills Co. on 12 Oct (DoR).

Great Blue Heron: 94 were chasing the few fish left in very low water at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 Aug (MCK) and 47 were at Ventura M. on 15 Aug (JLH).

Great Egret: Ted LaGrange counted 70 at Ventura M. on 23 Aug (fide JLH); 58 were at Clear L. on 4 Sep (SD); and 60 more were in Des Moines and Louisa counties on 7 Sep (THK, RTE); 18 were still at Runnells Game. A. on 1 Nov (BBr, GB).

Snowy Egret: Singles in Fremont Co. on 13 Aug (RKM) and n. of Burlington on 12 Sep (*JF) were the only ones reported.

Little Blue Heron: Single immature birds were seen at Saylorville Res. on 4 Aug (JSi) and 9 Sep (BEn, SD). An adult was at Ventura M. on 3 Sep (JLW).

Cattle Egret: One was at Credit Is. on 25 Oct (PCP); 4 were at Saylorville Res. on 28 Oct (SD, PA1, RA1); another was near IPL Ponds on 30 Oct (BPa, AGG).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 13 were at Badger Creek S.P., Madison Co., on 30 Aug (EuA, E1A).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 12 were reported from Union Slough N.W.R. on 7 Aug (EuA, E1A); 3 immatures were n. of Burlington on 3 Sep (JF).

Ibis species: a single bird was seen flying with Great Egrets on 4 Sep at Ventura M. (JLW details).

Tundra Swan: The usual flock was at Lock and Dam 9 with 96 birds on 24 Nov (MPr, RKM, et.al.); 1 was at Spirit L. on 18 Nov (LaVonne Foote fide DCH) and may have been the same bird found injured nearby on 27 Nov (Tim Waltz, Rory Martinson fide DCH); 2 ad. were at Riverton A. on 21-22 Nov (SD).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Only two reports with 24 on 23, 29 Oct at Runnells Game A. (AJ) and an amazing 3,000 at Riverton A. on 28 Oct (Carl Priebe fide SD).

Snow Goose: 2 "blue-phase" birds were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 7 Aug (MPr, et.al.); 550,000 birds at De Soto N.W.R. on 27 Nov was considered a very large number (George Gage and refuge staff fide JLH).

Ross' Goose: 1 on 15 Oct was found at Rice L. (SD) [2nd earliest]; another single was picked out by size from a flying Snow Goose flock at Saylorville Res. on 4 Nov (SD, BEn, MPr); 9 birds at Riverton A. on 21 Nov (1 shot on 22 Nov) (SD) were more expected.

Canada Goose: Rather large numbers stopped in NC Iowa during Oct with 5,000 on the 15th at Rice L. (SD) and a combined 21,000 at several locations in Worth Co. on the 27th (Greg Hanson fide JLH).

Wood Duck: 20 were seen in Dickinson Co. on 17 Sep (RLC); two pair were still in Sioux Co. on 30 Nov (JVD).

Green-winged Teal: 600 were at Riverton A. on 21 Nov (SD).

American Black Duck: The peak report was of 9 on 30 Nov at Big Creek L. (SD).

Gadwall: 500 were at Saylorville Res. on 23 Oct (SD), and 125 were at Rathbun Res. on 4 Nov (RLC).

Canvasback: This species normally gathers by the thousands in the Keokuk Pool but almost none were seen here during Nov (RCe). The only other mention was of 4 on 6 Nov and 10 on 26 Nov at IPL Ponds (TB).

Greater Scaup: 1-4 birds were seen at Saylorville Res. from 3-11 Nov (PCP, et.al.); 3 were picked out at Riverton A. on 21 Nov (SD); 3 more were at Red Rock Res. on 23 Nov (AJ); and 4 were at Credit Is. on 24 Nov (PCP, et.al.); 1 was still on Big Creek L. on 26 Nov (SD).

Lesser Scaup: First were 3 at Saylorville Res. on 3 Sep; 6,000 birds were estimated to be there on 3 Nov (SD), and 1,000 were at Rathbun Res. the next day (RLC).

Oldsquaw: Single female and male birds were detected between 28 Oct and 18 Nov at Saylorville Res. and Big Creek L. (SD, m.ob.); 1-2 birds were reported from IPL Ponds from 29 Oct (*BPa/LPa) through 19 Nov (AGG); 1 more was in Mills Co. 23-27 Nov (DoR; BPa).

Black Scoter: All three scoters showed up very early this year. The first Black Scoters were 2 at Big Creek L. on 16 Oct (SD) [record earliest]. Other birds showed up at nearby Saylorville Res. on 28 Oct (AJ) with a peak of 5 on 5 Nov (SD, BEn); 1 lingered through 11 Nov (SD, m.ob.). Single birds were also found at IPL Ponds on 29 Oct (*BPa/LPa), Coralville Res. on 30 Oct (JF), L. Manawa on 31 Oct (TB, BPa), and Red Rock Res. on 6 Nov (AJ). All reports were of female or immature birds.

Surf Scoter: 1-3 were at Saylorville Res. from 5 Oct [ties 2nd earliest] through 5 Nov (SD, m.ob.); single birds were found at Rice L. on 15 Oct (SD), Big Creek L. on 16 Oct (SD), L. Manawa on 31 Oct (TB, BPa), and near Ames on 2 Nov (fide SD). All were apparently female or immature birds.

White-winged Scoter: 2 were at Badger Creek S.P. on 15 Oct (EuA, ElA) [third earliest]; also on the early side was 1 female or immature at Big Creek L. on 16 Oct (SD); 11 birds at Clear L. on 30 Oct (JLH) is a large number for Iowa. Between 30 Oct and 19 Nov from 1-3 birds were found at Coralville Res. (JF), Saylorville Res. (SD), IPL Ponds (DoR, m.ob.), and in Linn Co. (*RPI).

Common Goldeneye: The peak was 800 on 23 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AJ).

Barrow's Goldeneye: This accidental species has been popping up the past few years in SW Iowa and this year one male was seen at IPL Ponds on 12-15 Nov (*AGG, BPa/LPa details).

Hooded Merganser: A big movement was detected during early November with up to 419 counted at Saylorville Res. on 3 Nov (SD, et.al.); 38 at L. Manawa on the same date were more than usual (BPa). On 5 Nov 147 were still at Saylorville Res. (SJS) and 60 were on L. Macbride (THK).

Common Merganser: The peak number was 3,500 at both Red Rock Res. on 23 Nov (AJ) and at Saylorville Res. on 26 Nov (SD); 1-2 present all fall were still lingering at Rathbun Res. on 30 Nov (RLC).

Red-breasted Merganser: The peak report was 60 at L. Macbride on 5 Nov (THK).

Turkey Vulture: The last was 1 on 22 Oct at Saylorville Res. (AJ).

Osprey: 8 were counted between Camanche and Sabula on 24 Sep (PCP).

Black-shouldered Kite: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Bald Eagle: 1 imm. was near a summer nest site in Jackson Co. on 11 Aug (PCP); the peak report was 3 ad. and 7 imm. at the Runnells Game A. on 25 Oct (JSi).

Northern Harrier: 10 were seen at Rathbun Res. on 5 Nov with 7 in one field (JSi, AJ).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Adding to a handful of summer records, an immature bird seen briefly at close range and heard calling in Hardin Co. on 16 Jul was near the site of single adults on 5, 18 May (*DJC). A total of 120 birds was reported in 44 hours of counting at Grammer Grove between 19 Sep and 4 Oct with a peak of 35 on 28 Sep (BPr, et.al.); 8 were at Stone P. on 14 Oct (BH).

Cooper's Hawk: 28 birds were counted in 44 hours of observation at Grammer Grove between 19 Sep and 4 Oct with a peak of 7 on 28 Sep (BPr, MPr); only single birds were reported elsewhere.

Northern Goshawk: 1 was at L. Okoboji on 16 Sep (RLC) [ties 3rd earliest]. Other single birds were at Badger Creek S.P. on 5 Oct

(EuA, ElA); at Big Creek L. on 18 Nov (PAI, RAI); and an adult at Rathbun Res. on 25 Nov (THK, FLM, RCe).

Harris' Hawk: An adult bird was observed s. of Blairstown, Benton Co., on 10, 14 Sep (*JF, *THK photo); the Records Committee will probably focus on whether this was a genuine vagrant from its normal range.

Red-shouldered Hawk: An adult returned on 30 Nov to the same location near Polk City for the third consecutive winter (SD) and was the only one reported.

Broad-winged Hawk: Detected in relatively small numbers this fall: the peak of 120 on 13 Sep in Jones Co. was one of the only kettles seen all season (MCK); daily observations totaling 44 hours between 19 Sep and 4 Oct at Grammer Grove yielded only 25 birds (BPr); 50 birds in a kettle over Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City at 9:30 a.m. were completely gone 15 minutes later (CJB).

Swainson's Hawk: Singles were reported from 6 western and central Iowa locations.

Red-tailed Hawk: 32 were counted between 19 Sep and 4 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr); 36 were seen in SE Iowa on 25 Nov (THK, FLM, RCe). Details were given for the following singles: Krider's type birds on 8 Oct at Runnells Game A. and 16-17 Oct in Warren Co. (AJ), and Harlan's type birds on 9 Nov in Tama Co. (MPr) and on 25 Nov in Marshall Co. (MPr, BPr). Another bird in Polk Co. on 12 Nov was judged a Harlan's or dark phase (AJ).

Golden Eagle: Immature birds were at White Pine Hollow on 25 Oct (*MR), in Cherokee Co. on 28 Oct (*DBi), and at De Soto N.W.R. on 4 Nov (BH details). The usual 1-2 birds were seen in Allamakee Co. in late November (m.ob.).

American Kestrel: Only one was seen during 44 hours from 19 Sep to 4 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr); 20 were reported from SE Iowa on 25 Nov (THK, FLM, RCe).

Merlin: 1 was in Warren Co. by ~~30 Aug~~ (AJ details) [2nd earliest]; 1-2 were reported from 16 other widespread locations between 5 Sep and 28 Nov (m.ob.). Complete documentation of records after the 1st week in Sep are not necessary but some details of identification are very helpful.

Peregrine Falcon: 1 imm. bird at L. Manawa on 29 Aug was thought to be from the nearby Omaha re-introduction project (TB, BPa); 1-2 birds were reported from at least 10 locations between 2 Sep and 27 Oct (m.ob.), all in central Iowa.

Prairie Falcon: Single birds were seen periodically at Saylorville Res. from 9 Oct to 3 Nov (EuA, ElA, BEn details, *JF); 1 was in Dallas Co. on 14 Oct (*RKM); and 1 at Riverton A. on 22 Nov spent over an hour buzzing the thousands of ducks and geese (SD details); yet another was in Hardin Co. on 28 Nov (MPr).

Gray Partridge: One came to a backyard feeder near Iowa City on

15 Nov (JF).

Northern Bobwhite: 8 were in Stone P. on 8 Oct (BH); 15 were found at Fairfield on 22 Oct and 10 were in Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 12 Nov (DCP).

Black Rail: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Virginia Rail: 4 ad., 2 juv., and 3 black chicks were observed in 100 yards of channel at Union Slough N.W.R. on 15 Aug (MCK); another was at IPL Ponds on 8 Nov (DoR) [3rd latest].

Sora: 1 was in Montgomery Co. on 12 Nov (DoR, BJR) [3rd latest].

American Coot: Several moderate concentrations were reported: 900 were at Spirit L. on 17 Sep (RCe, THK, FLM) and 800 were in Warren Co. on 31 Oct (SJS).

Sandhill Crane: 3 were at Otter Creek M. on 20 Sep (MPR, BPr); this would be early for migrants. One imm. was at Rush L. on 25 Oct (DCH); a single bird was near Spirit L. on 14, 19, Nov (fide JLN) and another was seen standing on ice in Guthrie Co. on 24 Nov (Jon Judson fide JJD).

Black-bellied Plover: Peak reports were all from mid-Oct with 110 at Spirit L. (DCH) and 25 at Dan Green Sl. (MMB), all on the 11th, and 18 at Clear L. on the 15th (SD). Only 1-2 were reported elsewhere.

Lesser Golden-Plover: The peak report was 490 on 12 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SD).

Semipalmated Plover: 64 birds were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 Aug (MCK); a bird at Red Rock Res. on 28 Nov (*BBR) was the record latest by over 3 weeks.

Piping Plover: 1 was at the usual location at IPL Ponds on 13 Aug (RKM); a juv. was at Saylorville Res. on 8 Sep (SD, BB).

American Avocet: The largest numbers were in SW Iowa in August with 12 at Forney L. on the 13th (RKM) and 15 at IPL Ponds on the 27th (TB, BPa, LPa).

Greater Yellowlegs: An amazing 176 at Runnells Game A. on 29 Oct were distinguished from Lessers by their longer upturned bills and their call notes (AJ).

Lesser Yellowlegs: On 6 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R., 2,000 birds were estimated to be present (MCK); 100 were at Runnells Game A. on 12-13 Aug (AJ). A bird still at Riverton A. on 21-22 Nov was identified by small size, short, needle-like bill, and soft call note (SD) [2nd latest].

Solitary Sandpiper: 86 were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 Aug (MCK) and 50 were at Runnells Game A. on 12 Aug (AJ); 1 was still at Saylorville Res. on 11 Oct (AJ) [ties record latest].

Willet: 2 at Red Rock Res. on 26 Aug (MPR, et.al.) and 1 the next day at Saylorville Res. (JJD, BEn) were the only reports.

Spotted Sandpiper: A bird lingered in Warren Co. until 31 Oct (SJS details) [third latest].

Upland Sandpiper: 1 near De Soto N.W.R. on 9 Aug (BPa, RW, TB) was the only report.

Whimbrel: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Ruddy Turnstone: The only report was of 1 at Saylorville Res from 4 to 7 Sep (BEn, m.ob.).

Red Knot: 1 still partly in alternate plumage was at Union Slough N.W.R. on 31 Aug (*MCK); 1-2 birds were observed by many at Saylorville Res. from 2 to 6 Sep (*RCe, *SD, *JJD, *RKM, *AJ, *JF, *MPR, *MT).

Sanderling: All reports were from central and western Iowa with a peak of 25 at Saylorville Res. on 5 Sep (BEn); 1 lingered there until 11 Nov (RAI, PAI) [record latest].

Western Sandpiper: Reports peaked during the first week in Sep; 22 birds at Runnells Game A. on the 3rd (JSi details) is a large number for Iowa.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Unusual in fall, 5 were in Cerro Gordo Co. on 4 Sep (JLW details) and 1 was at Clear L. until 15 Oct (SD details) [ties 2nd latest].

Baird's Sandpiper: The only report of more than a few was 27 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 31 Aug (MCK); 1 stayed at IPL Ponds until 12 Nov (BPa/LPa details) [3rd latest]; 2 more tarried until 26 Nov at Saylorville Res. (BEn details) [record latest].

Pectoral Sandpiper: Union Slough N.W.R. held 5,000 birds on 6-7 Aug (MCK, EuA, EIA).

Dunlin: The peak was 13 on 9 Nov at Runnells Game A. (AJ); the last was 1 at Red Rock Res. on 26 Nov (THK, RCe, FLM).

Stilt Sandpiper: 420 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 15 Sep (MCK) is a very large concentration for Iowa; 10 were still at Saylorville Res. on 28 Oct (AJ details) [record latest].

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: There were more reports than usual with a peak of 26 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 4 Sep (MCK); 1 at Saylorville Res. on 24 Sep (SD) might have been the same one still there on 13 Oct (BEn) [ties record latest].

Short-billed Dowitcher: The peak was 20 juv. birds at Coralville Res. on 20 Aug (THK); 1 repeatedly called "tu-tu-tu" at Union Slough N.W.R. on 15 Sep (MCK) [ties 2nd latest].

Long-billed Dowitcher: 80 birds, presumably this species by date, were at Spirit L. on 11 Oct (DCH); 44 were "keeking" on 17 Oct in Warren Co. (SJS) and 63 birds (juv. feather patterns seen on closer ones) were at Runnells Game A. on 29 Oct (AJ); 1 juv. was still at L. Macbride on 11 Nov (THK details) [3rd latest].

Common Snipe: 60 were observed in Kossuth Co. on 8 Oct (MCK) and 23 more were in Warren Co. on 27 Oct (SJS).

Wilson's Phalarope: The peak report was of 16 birds on 22 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Red-necked Phalarope: Peak number was 9 birds on 22 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Red Phalarope: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Jaeger species: 2 strong-flying all brown gull-shaped birds with white at the base of the primaries were briefly seen as they passed over Algona on 29 Oct (*MCK).

Laughing Gull: Something pushed a few into Iowa this fall: a juvenile bird was well studied at Red Rock Res. from 19 Aug (*BH) through 26 Aug (*EuA/EIA, *JF, *PCP, *AJ, *THK photo, *RCe); another was found at IPL Ponds on 27 Aug (*BPa/LPa); 2 birds, a 2nd year and a juv., were discovered n. of Burlington on the Miss. R. on 9 Sep (*THK photo). These would be the first state records.

Franklin's Gull: Large numbers again passed through central and western Iowa; 3,000 were at Clear L. on 15 Sep (THK, FLM, RCe) and 6,000 were there a month later on 15 Oct (SD); 2,000 were at L. Manawa on 13 Oct (BPa, AGG); 8,900 were at Saylorville Res. on 10 Oct and 2 were still there on 29 Nov (SD).

Little Gull: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Common Black-headed Gull: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Bonaparte's Gull: This species showed up early but was very scarce after that; 1 was at Bays Branch on 5 Aug (AJ details) [record earliest]; the peak was only 71 at Saylorville Res. on 8 Oct (SD).

Ring-billed Gull: The biggest concentration was again at the central Iowa reservoirs: at Saylorville, 600 on 21 Sep increased to 2,200 by 8 Nov and 5,100 at the end of the period on 30 Nov (SD); 5,000 more were at Red Rock on 18 Nov (TB, et.al.); and 1,500 at Credit Is. on 24 Nov (PCP) was the largest number elsewhere.

California Gull: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Herring Gull: 500 were at Credit Is. on 24 Nov (THK) and 1,100 had congregated at Saylorville Res. by 30 Nov (SD).

Thayer's Gull: Single 1st winter birds were described from IPL Ponds on 29-30 Oct (*AGG, *BPa) and 5 Nov (*WRS); at Red Rock Res. on 6 (*AJ) and 8 (*BPr) Nov; at Credit Is. on 24 Nov (*PCP); and at Saylorville Res. on 28 Nov (*SD); 2 more 1st winter birds were seen at Lock and Dam 19 on 24-25 Nov (*RCe).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Reports from 2 locations will be referred to the Records Committee.

Glaucous Gull: A 1st year bird was at Red Rock Res. on 18-19 Nov (BPa/LPa details, TB, RLC) [record earliest]; up to 3 birds, 2 1st winter and 1 2nd or 3rd winter, were at Saylorville Res. on 28-30 Nov (SD, RKM).

Sabine's Gull: Single juv. birds were detected at two unexpected locations within a 2 day span: 1 was in Fremont Co. on 24 Sep was sitting along the roadside picking on a road-killed Barn Swallow (*JMB) and another was at Diamond L. in Poweshiek Co. on 25 Nov (*DK).

Caspian Tern: The peak was 381 on 12 Sep at Saylorville Res. and the last was there on 16 Oct (SD); 80 were on the Mississippi R. n. of Burlington on 9 Sep (THK photo, RTe).

Royal Tern: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Common Tern: Only a few were reported with the first 1 on 5 Aug at Bays Branch (AJ details); the peak was 3 ad. on 12 Sep at Saylorville Res. and the last was 1 juv. there on 8 Oct (SD details).

Forster's Tern: Peak reports were 97 on 20 Aug (AJ), 83 on 12 Sep (SD) at Saylorville Res.; and 46 in Lee Co. on 30 Sep (RCe); 1 juv. on 2 Nov was at Saylorville Res. (SD) [3rd latest].

Least Tern: Single birds were at Bays Branch on 4 Aug (JSi), at Red Rock Res. on 2 Sep (RLC), and at Clear L. on 3 Sep (Curt Nelson fide JLW).

Black Tern: 200 were at Brenton's Sl., Polk Co., on 5 Aug (EuA, EA, PA1, RA1); 50 were in Des Moines Co. on 7 Sep (THK, RTe).

Common Barn-Owl: 1 in Webster Co. on 21 Sep had been there all summer (SD).

Long-eared Owl: The only report was of 2 at a regular spot: Big Creek L. on 18 Nov (SD).

Short-eared Owl: One was picked up dead (but not very fresh) in Fremont Co. on 11 Aug (DoR).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: The first was 1 on 19 Oct at Big Creek L. (SD); 2 were at Coralville Res. on 29 Oct and another was in Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 23 Nov (JF); 4 were discovered in Hardin Co. on 26 Nov (MPR, BPr).

Common Nighthawk: 300 in Algona on 26 Aug comprised "the biggest flocks I've ever seen" (MCK); the migration through Sioux Co. during the 2nd half of Sep was "spectacular" (JVD); 300 were seen in Polk Co. on 18 Sep (SD).

Whip-poor-will: 2 were still in Stone P. on 19 Sep (BH, JP).

Chimney Swift: 2,291 birds were counted in 10 minutes going down the Fairfield High School chimney; this was considered locally a

late date for a peak number (DCP).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 fledglings on 9 Aug in Story Co. were a front page photo story in a local newspaper (HZ); up to 7 birds at one time were seen in a Boone Co. yard from 16 Aug to 23 Sep (SL).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Peak movement may have been at the end of Sep with 3 birds in both Lee Co. (RCe) and Story Co. (SD, LPH) on the 30th.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 3 were at Grammer Grove 2-9 Sep (MPr, BPr); the last was 1 in Algona on 26 Sep (MCK).

Western Wood-Pewee: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: 2 ad. were feeding a young bird on 9 Sep at L. Ahquabi (JSi).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1-2 birds were seen at Grammer Grove on 18, 27 Aug and 10 Sep (MPr, BPr); 1 was at Ledges S.P. on 27 Aug (PAI, RAI); another was in Warren Co. on 28 Aug (AJ); and 2 were near Liscomb on 31 Aug (BPr).

Alder Flycatcher: 1 bird was calling "fee-bee-o" at Union Slough N.W.R. on 1 Aug (MPr, BPr); 2 more were also calling at De Soto N.W.R. on 9 Aug (TB, BPa, RW); a single bird was in Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 11 Aug (JF).

Willow Flycatcher: The last was 1 in Mills Co. on 4 Sep (DoR).

Least Flycatcher: Only a few singles were reported.

Western Kingbird: A bird was in Warren Co. on 5-7 Aug (*AJ); another was in Guthrie Co., also on 5 Aug (EuA, ElA, PAI, RAI).

Eastern Kingbird: 30 birds were flocking in Marion Co. on 23 Aug (THK).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: A bird was reported in Washington Co. on 6 Aug (Chris Caster fide JF). It is not known whether this was a different bird from the one near Crawfordsville this summer.

Tree Swallow: 4,000 were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 Aug (MCK) and 6,000 were at Red Rock Res. on 24 Sep (SD); 1,000 were reported from Runnells Game A. on 8 Oct (AJ).

Cliff Swallow: About 275 birds roosted on wood shingles of farm buildings in Cass Co. on 27-28 Aug (MPe).

American Crow: At least 5,000 birds were in the traditional Ames roost in late Nov (JJD).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: More reports than usual started with 2 in Sioux Co. on 30 Aug; the peak was 10 in Kossuth Co. on 15 Sep (MCK).

Carolina Wren: 3 birds fledged from a nest in Polk Co. on 20 Aug

(PAI, RAI); the recovery of this species continues with reports of 1-3 birds from the following additional counties: Scott, Van Buren, Lee, Mills, Dubuque, Jasper, Johnson, and Allamakee.

Sedge Wren: 45 singing birds were counted on 23 Aug in a restored prairie next to Saylorville Res. (JJD); 1 was still at L. Manawa on 26 Oct (TB) [3rd latest].

Golden-crowned Kinglet: The first were 2 at Grammer Grove on 23 Sep (MPr, RCe, JCe); the peak was 30 in Kossuth Co. on 21 Oct (MCK).

Eastern Bluebird: Several observers commented on the relative abundance this fall: 18 were in Plymouth Co. on 24 Sep (BH); 57 were counted in Polk and Warren counties on 7 Oct (AJ); 26 were in Kossuth Co. on 24 Oct (MCK); and 14 in Iowa City on 28 Oct were all in one small tree (CJB).

Townsend's Solitaire: 1 was eating fruit in Scott Co. on 13 Oct (Catherine Beeks details fide PCP) [2nd earliest].

Thrushes: All the regular species were reported in the usual small numbers but were mentioned by more observers than in recent years.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: The last were 2 in Brookside P. on 13 Oct (PM).

Swainson's Thrush: The peak was 4 on 9 Sep at Grammer Grove (MPr).

Hermit Thrush: The first was 1 in Ames on 30 Sep (SD, LPH); 1-2 mentioned from 5 other locations through 29 Oct.

Varied Thrush: 2 reports of single birds: at Ames on 25 Nov (George Clark details fide JJD) and at Pleasantville on 29 Nov (EuA, ElA).

Northern Mockingbird: Single birds were at Riverton A. on 13 Aug (RKM) and in Benton Co. on 10 Sep (CJB, THK, JF).

Water Pipit: The peak report was 55 birds on 21 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SD).

Northern Shrike: 1 was already in Cherokee Co. by 1 Oct (DBi details) [record earliest]; 2 were at Badger Creek S.P. on 10 Nov and 2 more were at Big Creek L. on 17 Nov (EuA, ElA); 1 was in Washington Co. on 20 Nov (DCP details).

Solitary Vireo: The peak was 20 in Brookside P. on 9 Sep (PM); very few others were mentioned.

Warbling Vireo: 12 were at Red Rock Res. on 2 Sep (RLC); the last was still singing on 26 Sep in Warren Co. (AJ).

Philadelphia Vireo: The only reports were singles at Grammer Gr. on 27 Aug and 9 Sep (MPr, BPr).

Red-eyed Vireo: Very few reports with a peak of 12 on 4 Sep at

Grammer Grove (MPr, EuA, EIA).

Golden-winged Warbler: Detected at only two locations with 1-3 birds at Grammer Grove on 18, 27, Aug and 4 Sep (MPr, et.al.); 1 was at Ledges S.P. on 27 Aug (PA1, RA1).

Tennessee Warbler: Mentioned at only three locations with a peak of 5 on 2 Sep in Warren Co. (AJ).

Orange-crowned Warbler: The first was 1 on 27 Aug in Warren Co. (AJ); "numbers" moved through Sioux Co. 10-12 Oct (JVD).

Nashville Warbler: The peak was 6 on 2 Sep in Warren Co. (AJ).

Northern Parula: 1 at Grammer Grove on 4 Sep (MPr, EuA, EIA) and another in Warren Co. on 19 Sep (AJ) were the only ones reported.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: The peaks were 8 on 24 Aug in Kossuth Co. (MCK) and 10 at Grammer Grove on 9 Sep (MPr).

Magnolia Warbler: Mentioned at only two locations with a peak of 3 on 27 Aug at Grammer Grove (MPr, BPr).

Cape May Warbler: Singles were in Dallas Co. on 2, 10 Sep (RKM), in Mason City on 5 Sep (JLW), in Ames on 10 Sep (SD), and at Saylorville Res. on 11 Sep (RKM) and 23-24 Sep (SD, PA1, RA1); 2 birds were enjoyed by the fall IOU conventioners at High L. 15-17 Sep (EuA, et. al.); 5 birds were reported from Warren Co. on 18 Oct (SJS).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: An adult male was in Marshall Co. on 27 Aug (RRS details) [3rd earliest]; other adult males were at Saylorville Res. on 9 Sep (BEn), Mason City on 14 Sep (JLW), and in Perry on 18 Sep (RKM).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: The peak report was 100 on 22 Sep in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 was in Kossuth Co. on 13 Aug (MCK) [ties 2nd earliest].

Blackburnian Warbler: 1 was in Warren Co. on 12 Aug (AJ details) [ties 3rd earliest].

Pine Warbler: 1 at Saylorville Res. on 6 Aug (*RKM) [record earliest] broke the previous record by 18 days; other singles were in Warren Co. on 27-29 Aug (*AJ) [ties 3rd earliest] and at Brookside P. on 10 Sep (PM details).

Palm Warbler: 1-2 reported at 4 locations.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 was in a Booneville yard on 4 Aug (EuA, EIA) [record earliest]; 20 were counted in Brookside P. on 27 Aug (PM); 1 was near Iowa City on 23 Oct (JF) [2nd latest].

Blackpoll Warbler: 2 were in Kossuth Co. on 20 Aug (MCK) [3rd earliest].

Black-and-white Warbler: The peak reports were 11 on 9 Sep at

Brookside P. (PM) and 10 on 13 Sep at Grammer Grove (MPr).

Prothonotary Warbler: A male bird was at Grammer Grove on 9 Sep (MPr details) [2nd latest].

Ovenbird: The peak was 15 on 9 Sep at Brookside P. (PM).

Connecticut Warbler: 1 was at Perry on 2 Sep (RKM details); another was at Grammer Grove on 13 Sep (MPr details).

Mourning Warbler: 1-2 reported from 6 locations.

Hooded Warbler: A summering bird in Lee Co. was still present on 5 Aug (RCe).

Wilson's Warbler: The peak report was 6 on 23 Aug at Algona (MCK).

Canada Warbler: The peak number was 6 on 2 Sep at Brookside P. (PM).

Summer Tanager: 4 were still in Mills Co. on 16 Sep (DoR).

Blue Grosbeak: A male bird stayed in Mills Co. until 16 Sep (DoR).

Dickcissel: Single birds were coming to feeders in Scott Co. on 13 Nov (PCP) and Marshalltown on 24 Nov (Betty Savage details fide BPr).

Chipping Sparrow: 28 were in a yard near Booneville on 24 Aug (EuA, EA); 8 were in Fairfield on 26 Oct (DCP details).

Vesper Sparrow: 25 were counted in Dickinson Co. on 17 Sep (THK, FLM, RCe).

Savannah Sparrow: 36 were at Rathbun Res. on 14 Oct (RLC).

LeConte's Sparrow: The first were 2 on 16 Sep at Dewey's Pasture (MCK, JJD, HZ) and 2-4 on 16-17 Sep in Dickinson Co. (RLC, et. al.); the peak was 19 on 14 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SD).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Single birds were found at Hendrickson M. on 27 Sep (HZ details) and Coralville Res. on 29 Sep (JF).

Fox Sparrow: 18 at Rathbun Res. on 4 Nov (RLC) were the most reported.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 was already at Grammer Grove on 4 Sep (MPr details, EuA, EA) [ties 2nd earliest]; 12 were at Saylorville Res. on 30 Sep (BEn) and 13 were in Warren Co. on 29 Oct (SJS).

White-crowned Sparrow: 2 were relatively early on 25 Sep near Booneville (EuA, EA).

Harris' Sparrow: More common as a migrant in western Iowa, 1 was a little unexpected in NE Iowa at Cresco on 7 Oct (MPe).

Lapland Longspur: The first were 6 on 16 Oct at Saylorville Res.

(SD); the only concentrations were 600 on 24 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK) and 2,000 s. of Ames on 28 Nov (SD).

Snow Bunting: They came early this year: 2 on ~~20 Oct~~ were in Humboldt Co. (DBi) [ties record earliest; 5 on ~~22 Oct~~ were at Coralville Res. (JF) [2nd earliest]; and 13 on 26 Oct were at Saylorville Res. (AJ, EuA, EIA). The largest number was 40 in Madison Co. on 29 Nov (EuA, EIA).

Eastern Meadowlark: 1 was singing in Mills Co. on 29 Oct (DoR).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 1 was reported from Red Rock Res. on 1 Nov (BBR, GB).

Rusty Blackbird: 60 in with other icterids were studied at close range on ~~26 Sep~~ at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK details) [record earliest].

Brewer's Blackbird: 2 were carefully observed on ~~30 Sep~~ at Mason City (JLW details) [ties 2nd earliest].

Common Grackle: 1000 in Warren Co. on 2 Nov (SJS) was the only flock reported.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 250 birds, all males, were in Woodbury Co. on 4 Sep (BH).

Northern Oriole: 1 was at a Marshalltown feeder on 18-21 Nov (Betty Savage fide BPr); another showing characters of Bullock's race was in Scott Co. on 29 Nov (Mrs. H. Wood Miller details fide PCP).

Pine Grosbeak: A female bird with russet around the head was in Sioux Co. on 18 Nov (JVD).

Purple Finch: The peak was 30 on 22 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BEn).

House Finch: 1-3 birds were reported in Mills, Boone, Johnson, Cherokee, Jasper, Marshall, Pottawattamie, and Sioux counties. They were undoubtedly also seen elsewhere. Are there any particular locations where they have not yet arrived?

White-winged Crossbill: Starting with 5 birds in Perry on 17 Nov (RKM), this species popped up everywhere. The peak report was 12 in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines on 18 Nov (RKM, RCe). Over the next 9 days up to 8 were reported from the following additional locations: Urbandale, Marshall Co., Story Co., Fairfield, Council Bluffs, Liscomb, and Waterloo (m.ob.).

Common Redpoll: 1 was in Sioux Co. on ~~18 Oct~~ (fide JVD) [2nd earliest]; the only other report was of 2 in Boone Co. on 10 Nov (SL).

Pine Siskin: They were widely reported with a peak of 70 in Algona on 10 Oct (MCK).

Evening Grosbeak: The only report was 2 near Algona on 11 Nov (RodS, MCK).

CONTRIBUTORS

*=documentation only

Pam Allen (West Des Moines); Reid Allen (West Des Moines); Eloise Armstrong (Booneville); Eugene Armstrong (Booneville); *Louise Augustine (Chillicothe, IL); Carl J. Bendorf (Iowa City); Dick Bierman (Cherokee); *Jean M. Braley (Shenandoah); Tanya Bray (Omaha NE); Marion M. Brewer (Cherokee); Beth Brown (Osceola); Robert Cecil (Des Moines); *David J. Conrads (Cedar Falls); Raymond L. Cummins (Centerville); James J. Dinsmore (Ames); Steve Dinsmore (Ames); Bery Engebretsen (Johnston); James Fuller (Iowa City); Alan G. Grenon (Omaha, NE); Douglas C. Harr (Larchwood); James L. Hansen (Clear Lake); Bill Huser (S. Sioux City, NE); Ann Johnson (Norwalk); Matthew C. Kenne (Algona); Thomas H. Kent (Iowa City); *Darwin Koenig (Montezuma); *Cal & Bernie Knight (Iowa City); Sharon Laub (Rippey); Paul Martsching (Ames); Robert K. Myers (Perry); Babs Padelford (Bellevue NE); Loren Padelford (Bellevue NE); Marietta Petersen (Walnut); Peter C. Petersen (Davenport); *Randall Pinkston (Iowa City); Diane C. Porter (Fairfield); Beth Proescholdt (Liscomb); Mark Proescholdt (Liscomb); *B.J. Rose (Omaha, NE); Doug Rose (Glenwood); *Mark Rouw (Des Moines); W. Ross Silcock (Tabor); Jim Sinclair (Indianola); Ramona R. Sommerlot (Union); Sue J. Spieker (Norwalk); John Stravers (Pella); Mike Thomas (Des Moines); John Van Dyk (Sioux Center); Jan L. Walter (Mason City); Hank Zaletel (Colo).

OTHER OBSERVERS

Bart Ballard (Ames); Gladys Black (Pleasantville); John Cecil (Des Moines); L. Paul Hertzell (Ames); Richard W. Huser; Ken Lowder (Iowa City); Francis L. Moore (Waterloo); Wolfgang Oesterreich (Ames); Jerry Probst (Sioux City); B. J. Rose (Omaha NE); Rod Schmidt (Burt); Richard Tetrault (Iowa City); Rick Wright (Omaha, NE).

COMMENTS

Most reports were very well done and, overall, the documentation was excellent. A number of the the early and late records were not accompanied by any description of the bird or circumstances. These birds at the fringe of their seasons are noteworthy and should be supported by some details of the identification. A full documentation is usually not necessary but please include enough detail to indicate you were aware of the unusual date and were careful with the identification. For a general guide to expected dates, refer to Kent (1988).

Very few photos were submitted and I would like to encourage more of you to begin carrying your camera whenever you go out in the field. As the old proverb says, "the palest ink is better than the best memory", even a poor photo can greatly support a written documentation and good photos are always considered for publication.

I entered a total of 1,375 individual records into my computer from 46 observers; 73 documentations were received for 30 species. Just for fun, I sorted all the records entered for the fall season from 1986 through 1989 (a total of 4,506) by day of the week. The breakdown is below with the percentage of the total (rounded):

Sunday	1,050	23%
Monday	516	11%
Tuesday	454	10%
Wednesday	462	10%
Thursday	466	10%
Friday	500	11%
Saturday	1,058	23%

Nearly half the records were generated on the weekends; the rest of the week was pretty evenly divided with a little more activity on Mondays and Fridays. I was surprised at how symmetrical the results were. This is a small illustration of the effect of observer activity on bird records.

REFERENCES CITED

Kent, T.H. 1988. Early and Late Dates Updated, Iowa Bird Life 58:7-14.

845 Cypress Ct.
Iowa City, IA 52245