

Carl J. Bendorf
825 7th Avenue
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Fall 1989 Report

Weather for the Period:

September: Mostly normal for temperatures and precipitation.

October: Mostly seasonal temperatures but very dry.

November: Very dry. Temperatures fluctuating but seasonal. On the 28th and 29th the thermometer sank to zero. A two-inch snowfall on the 27th represented all the moisture for the month.

- Double-crested Cormorant: an immature was still present at Rock Valley on November 18.
- Wood Duck: Two pairs were at Rock Valley through the end of the period.
- Lesser Scaup: Several were present at Rock Valley on November 18.
- Common Merganser: a dozen individuals were at Rock Valley on November 18.
- Rough-legged Hawk: The only one observed was in western Sioux Co. on November 18.
- Merlin: One individual observed in Sioux Center on October 3 (documentation enclosed). I see Merlins in our area just about every spring and fall. Documentation seems a bit superfluous.
- Lesser Yellowlegs: the last one seen was at Hospers (Sioux Co.) on September 30.
- Solitary Sandpiper: one was still at Hospers (Sioux Co.) on September 30.
- Common Nighthawk: excellent, at times spectacular migration during the second half of September. (On some days during this period one could see in the sky a steady, uninterrupted flow of individuals of this species for periods as long as twenty minutes.)
- Chimney Swift: last one observed on September 28.

- Ruby-throated Hummingbird: still at a Sioux Center feeder on October 13.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Migrants appeared at their expected time in late September and the first week of October.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher: Much in evidence. Several individuals appeared off and on in Sioux Center during the first two weeks of September.
- Eastern Phoebe: observed in Sioux Center on September 27 and on October 7 near Alton (Sioux Co.).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch: a pair appeared in Sioux Center on August 30 and remained for the period.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Their migration seemed more prolonged and thin than usual.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet: appeared in early October and remained for the period.
- American Robin: Individuals lingered until end of the period.
- Water Pipit: a single individual was just west of Sioux Center on November 11.
- Warblers: Generally another lacklustre season. Individuals trickled through. The best days were October 10-12, when large numbers of Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers moved through Sioux Center.
- Mourning Warbler: One was in Sioux Center on August 27.
- Blue Grosbeak: last one observed in Sioux Co. on September 2.
- Swamp Sparrow: about two dozen birds were migrating along the Floyd River near Hospers (Sioux Co.) on September 30.
- Dark-eyed Junco: Arrived relatively early this fall. First one arrived in Sioux Center on September 28.
- Common Grackle: Because of the mild fall, individuals lingered till end of the period.
- Pine Grosbeak: a single female (with russet around the head, as pictured in the National Geographic Bird Guide, p. 437) was in Oak Grove State Park on November 18.
- House Finch: now seem to be permanent residents of Sioux Co., appearing regularly at various feeders in Sioux Center.

- Common Redpoll: one individual was reported at a feeder on October 18. I did not see the bird myself; the observer, however, is sufficiently competent to distinguish between redpolls and other finches. Other than on this day, the bird was not seen again.
- Pine Siskin: the first migrants arrived in Sioux Center on November 19.

Reported by John Van Dyk

736 East 1st Street
Sioux Center, Iowa 51250

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