

FIELD REPORTS

August through November, 1989

FROM: Pam and Reid Allen (P & R Allen)
1601 Pleasant Street
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

OTHER OBSERVERS: Eloise & Eugene Armstrong (E & E Arm.)
Booneville, Iowa

Stephen J. Dinsmore (Steve D.)
Ames, Iowa

Bery Engebretsen (Bery E.)
Johnston, Iowa

Dennis Thompson (Dennis T.)
Des Moines, Iowa

Robert K. Myers (Robert M.)
Perry, Iowa

Francis Moore (Francis M.)
Waterloo, Iowa

Mark & Beth Proescholdt (M & B Pr.)
Liscomb, Iowa

NOTE: In the "OBSERVER" column, if there is an * after the name, this designates the person who FIRST made the observation.

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS
Pacific Loon	1	10/22	Saylorville Res., Polk Co. Near Lake View, Dam, & Cherry Glen	P & R Allen Steve D.* E & E Arm.

NOTE: Neither Reid nor I feel we can adequately document the sighting of this bird so will give what few skimpy details I can supply. Steve Dinsmore initially found this bird and took us out in his boat to observe it (about 9-10:30 a.m.) It was a small loon (as compared to the Common Loon it was swimming with at times). The head was smaller in size than the Common Loon. The nape and back of the head of the bird was a pale slate grey in color and thereby contrasted with the back of the bird which appeared to be a darker

blackish-brown . The bill was small in size and shape and appeared dark. The chin and throat of the bird was white and this extended under the breast and belly. This particular bird did NOT have any kind of necklace. (I believe there was another Pacific Loon seen on October 23 which did have a necklace.) While sitting in the water, its head was held for the most part horizontally and did not tip it up. Enclosed are three pictures which Reid took. They are not very good, but under a magnifying glass you at least can tell the size differentiation.

Western Grebe 2 10/22 Saylorville Res., Polk Co. P & R Allen
Steve D.*
E & E Arm.

Cattle Egret 4 10/28 Saylorville Res., Polk Co. P & R Allen
Steve D.*

NOTE: Steve spotted them and they flew around and by us with their orange/yellow bills and smaller size which distinguished them from Great Egrets and other smaller herons and egrets.

Tundra Swan 89 11/24 Mississippi R., Pool No. 9 P & R Allen
near Harper's Ferry E & E Arm.
Robert M.
Francis M.
M & B Pr.

Oldsquaw 1 11/18-19 Big Creek S.P., Polk Co. P & R Allen

Black Scoter 1 11/11 Jester S.P., West End P & R Allen
Many others

NOTE: This was a first winter or female plumage scoter with a short bill, dark brown body with light greyish face and dark brown cap and nape. It was first located earlier in day by Steve D.* Viewing it at the same time we did were Robert M., E & E Arm. and others.

Surf Scoter 3 10/8 Saylorville Res., Polk Co. P & R Allen
Off Sandpiper Beach Steve D.*

Turkey Vulture 41 8/31 Lake Red Rock, near Dam P & R Allen

Osprey	1	8/9	Lake Red Rock, near White-breast Area	P & R Allen E & E Arm.
Northern Goshawk	1	11/18	Big Creek S.P., West side near 100th St. boat ramp	P* & R Allen E & E Arm.
Rough-legged Hawk	2	11/18	Saylorville Res., Polk Co. Sandpiper Beach area	P & R Allen Many others

NOTE: One was a light phase and one was a dark phase.

Golden Eagle	1	11/24	Hwy. A-26, west of Lansing	P & R Allen E & E Arm.
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NOTE: this was an immature.

Robert M.
Francis M.
M & B Pr.

Merlin	1	9/9	Saylorville Res., Polk Co. Oak Grove Beach road	P* & R Allen E & E Arm.
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NOTE: Sat in a tree and then flew overhead. In flight could definitely tell it was a falcon; dark brown coloration and size separated it from a Kestrel or Peregrine. Did not have the hood/helmet of a Peregrine.

Peregrine	1	10/1	Saylorville Res., Polk Co. Oak Grove Beach road	P & R Allen
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NOTE: It was a very windy day and the falcon was held up by the wind so it went by us very slowly at about 25-30 feet in front and over head. You could easily see the dark hood/helmet. It was an immature--dark brown above and heavily streaked underparts.

Black-bellied Plover	1	10/1	Saylorville Res., Polk Co. Sandpiper Beach parking lot	P & R Allen
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Lesser Golden-Plover	1	8/27	Brenton Farms Feedlots, n. of Grimes	P & R Allen E & E Arm.*
	41	10/14	Saylorville Res., Polk Co. Oak Grove Beach	P & R Allen Eu* & E Arm.

Sanderling	1	8/6	Saylorville Res., Polk Co. Oak Grove Beach	P & R* Allen
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	3	11/11	Saylorville Res., Polk Co. Oak Grove Beach	P & R* Allen Robert M. E & E Arm.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	7	8/5	Brenton Farms Feedlots, n. of Grimes	P & R Allen E & E Arm.*
Red-necked Phalarope	1	8/16	IPL Ponds, near I-29 & Bellevue, Neb.	P & R Allen E & E Arm.
Little Gull	1	10/8	Saylorville Res., Polk Co. Sandpiper Beach area	P & R Allen Steve D.*

NOTE: See documentation and photo attached. The photo is not the best, but I believe Steve has some better photographs.

Lesser Black- backed Gull	1	8/19	Saylorville Res., Polk Co. Sandpiper Beach	P & R Allen Bery E. Dennis T.
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NOTE: I believe the first observation of this bird was made by Robert Cecil (Des Moines) at about 9:30 a.m. We saw this bird about 10:15 a.m. and observed it for about 15-20 minutes, both from the parking lot at Sandpiper and down at the beach area. This was a gull which was still in summer adult non-breeding plumage; white head, yellow bill with red gonyx spot, pale eye, yellowish-grey legs, grey-black over mantle and saddle to wingtips which extended beyond the tail of the bird as it was sitting and standing on the sand. The gull was mixed in with some Ring-billed Gulls and size-wise was almost the same size, being just a little larger, but definitely not as large as a Great Black-backed Gull or even a Herring Gull.

Black Tern	180	8/5	Brenton Slough, n. of Grimes	P & R Allen E & E Arm.
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NOTE: These were observed quite late in the afternoon and the next day there were 0 present at this location.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1-5 thru 10/1	8/27	1601 Pleasant St., W.D.M.	P & R Allen
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NOTE: The last to leave was a single immature bird.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1 9/24 Jester S.P., Polk Co. P & R* Allen

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 1 8/27 Ledges S.P. P & R Allen
Eu* & E Arm.

NOTE: This bird had a good yellow throat and belly.

Western Kingbird 1 8/5 Off of Hwy. 44 on gravel P & R Allen
road east of Bay's Branch. Eu* & E Arm.

NOTE: This bird was sitting on an electrical wire and let us sit and study him for quite some time. It was a kingbird with white outer tail feathers, greyish cap and mantle; greyish brown wings, greyish-white throat and upper breast; and light yellow belly.

Red-breasted Nuthatch 1 9/10 Saylorville Res., Polk Co. P & R* Allen
Oak Grove Beach road
2 " W. of Hwy. 17 bridge near P & R Allen
Saylorville Wildlife Area
4 " State Forest Nursery, Ames P & R Allen

Carolina Wren 2 8/4 121-30th St., D.M. P & R Allen

NOTE: This was a pair who were actively tending a nest with 3 eggs. The 3 birds fledged on 8/20.

1 11/17 1601 Pleasant St., W.D.M. Pam Allen

Sedge Wren 1 10/14 Saylorville Res., Polk Co. P & R Allen
between Oak Grove and Eloise Arm.
Cherry Glen

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2 9/10 West of HWY. 17 bridge near P & R* Allen
Saylorville Wildlife Area

Hermit Thrush 1 10/21-22 1601 Pleasant St., W.D.M. Pam Allen

Wood Thrush 1 10/1 1601 Pleasant St., W.D.M. Pam Allen

Golden-winged Warbler 1 8/27 Ledges S.P. P & R Allen

Cape May Warbler 1 9/24 Jester S.P. P & R Allen

NOTE: This was a "good one" with predominant streaking on breast, white wing splash and yellow-ochre face, eyeline and cheekpatch of olive-grey.

Common Yellowthroat 1 10/4 1601 Pleasant St., W.D.M. Pam Allen

American Tree Sparrow 5 10/22 Waterworks Park, D.M. P & R* Allen

LeConte's Sparrow 1 10/22 Waterworks Park, D.M. P & R* Allen

NOTE: This sparrow, with its short, sharp tail, very light stripe down crown of head, broad golden-ochre stripe above eye and same colored band across breast with a grey-brown cheek patch sat patiently on the top of a small weed while we watched him (from a distance of about 14 feet).

White-winged Crossbill 7 11/24 Yellow River Forest S.P. P & R Allen
near the Sawmill E & E Arm.

NOTE: Bob Myers and Francis Moore found Robert M.*
these birds and we all watched them Francis M.*
and photographed them for a long time. M & B Pr.