

Fall 1989

Red-throated Loon-\*1 on 8 Nov at Saylorville  
Pacific Loon-\*1 on 22-23 Oct at Saylorville(+RKM,+Eu&ElA,+R&PA); \*1 on 29 Oct at Saylorville(+LPH,+RLC) was seen to fly into the lake  
Common Loon-27 on 16 Oct, 95 on 2 Nov, 1 on 29 Nov at Saylorville  
Horned Grebe-44 on 4 Nov, 2 on 28 Nov at Saylorville  
Eared Grebe-1 on 4 Sep at Morse L.; 1 on 12 Sep at Big Creek; 1 on 8 Oct at Saylorville(+JJD)  
Western Grebe-2 on 16 Oct, 3 on 22 Oct, 1 on 5 Nov at Saylorville(I saw at least 9 individuals between 16 Oct and 5 Nov)  
Am. White Pelican-850 on 4 Sep at Elm L.; 2805 on 10 Sep(+R&PA), 110 on 19 Oct, 2 on 11 Nov, 1 on 23-30 Nov at Saylorville; 1 on 23 Nov at Red Rock Res.  
Double-crested Cormorant-1350 on 24 Sep at Red Rock Res.; 1690 on 5 Oct, 332 on 5 Nov, 3 on 30 Nov at Saylorville  
Great Egret-58 on 4 Sep at Clear L.  
Little Blue Heron-1 imm. on 9 Sep at Saylorville(+BE)  
Cattle Egret-4 on 28 Oct at Saylorville(+R&PA)  
Tundra Swan-2 ad. on 21-22 Nov at Riverton W.A.  
Greater White-fronted Goose-3000 on 28 Oct at Riverton W.A. (Carl Friebe fide SJD)  
Snow Goose-1 on 12 Sep w. of Luther was miles from any water; 80,000 on 20-22 Nov at Riverton W.A.  
Ross' Goose-1 on 15 Oct at Rice L.; 1 on 4 Nov at Saylorville(+BE); 9 on 21 Nov and 1 shot on 22 Nov at Riverton W.A.  
Canada Goose-5000 on 15 Oct at Rice L.; 1 leucistic bird on 28 Nov at Saylorville  
Green-winged Teal-600 on 21 Nov at Riverton W.A.  
Am. Black Duck-1 on 21 Nov at Riverton W.A.; 9 on 30 Nov at Big Creek  
Blue-winged Teal-1 male on 16 Nov at Big Creek  
Gadwall-500 on 23 Oct at Saylorville  
Greater Scaup-3(2M,1F) on 5 Nov, 4(2M,2F) on 11 Nov at Saylorville(identified by white wing stripe extending into the primaries); 3(1M,2F) on 21 Nov and 1 female on 22 Nov at Riverton W.A. (had longer wing stripe, larger size compared to Lesser Scaup); 1 male on 26 Nov at Big Creek(rounder head, larger size as compared to Lesser Scaup)  
Lesser Scaup-3 on 3 Sep at Saylorville; 6000 on 3 Nov at Saylorville  
Oldsquaw-1 female on 28 Oct, 1 female on 4 Nov, 1 female on 11 Nov at Saylorville; 1 male on 5 Nov, 1 imm. male on 18 Nov(+m.ob) at Big Creek  
Black Scoter-2 females or imm. on 16 Oct at Big Creek; 5 females or imm. on 5 Nov(+BE) and 1 female or imm. on 11 Nov(+WO) at Saylorville  
Surf Scoter-1 female or imm. on 5 Oct, 3 females or imm. on 8 Oct(+R&PA), 2 females or imm. on 27-29 Oct(1 collected), 1 female or imm. on 5 Nov at Saylorville; 1 female or imm. on 15 Oct at Rice L.; 1 female or imm. on 16 Oct at Big Creek; 1 female or imm. collected on 2 Nov e. of Ames(fide SJD; the only Story Co. record I know of)  
White-winged Scoter-1 female or imm. on 16 Oct at Big Creek; 3(2 ad. male & 1 imm. male) on 2 Nov at Saylorville(1 collected)  
Hooded Merganser-419 on 3 Nov at Saylorville  
Common Merganser-2 on 28 Oct, 3500 on 26 Nov at Saylorville  
Red-breasted Merganser-41 on 28 Nov at Saylorville  
Red-shouldered Hawk-1 ad. on 30 Nov s.of Polk City(same location as past two winters)

Merlin-1 female or imm. on 9 Sep at Saylorville; 1 female or imm. on 10 Sep at Jester Park; 1 female or imm. on 16,17 Sep at Swan L., Dickinson Co.

Peregrine Falcon-1 ad. on 21 Sep w. of Luther; 1 ad. on 3 Oct at Ames

Prairie Falcon-1 on 22 Nov at Riverton W.A. was buzzing the thousands of ducks and geese for over an hour (large falcon, identified by dark axillars, sandy brown upperparts)

Black-bellied Plover-18 on 15 Oct at Clear L.; 1 on 28 Oct at Saylorville

Lesser Golden-Plover-490 on 12 Oct, 1 on 5 Nov at Saylorville

Piping Plover-1 juv. on 8 Sep at Saylorville(ph.,+BB)

Am. Avocet-4 on 15 Sep at Clear L.; 2 on 28 Sep at Saylorville

Greater Yellowlegs-1 on 9 Nov at Saylorville

Lesser Yellowlegs-1 on 21-22 Nov at Riverton W.A. (identified by small size, short, needle-like bill, and softer call made up of four or five notes)

Ruddy Turnstone-1 on 7 Sep at Saylorville

Red Knot-\*1 on 3 Sep at Saylorville(ph.,+JJD,+Eu&EIA,+RCe)

Sanderling-7 on 16 Sep at Spirit L.; 31 on 24 Sep, 3 on 4 Nov at Saylorville

Western Sandpiper-5 on 3 Sep, 6 on 7 Sep, 1 on 9 Sep, 1 on 28 Sep at Saylorville(ph.,+m.ob.)

White-rumped Sandpiper-1 on 15 Oct at Clear L. (a large peep, flushed repeatedly to show white rump)

Pectoral Sandpiper-1 on 9 Nov at Saylorville

Dunlin-1 on 23 Nov below Red Rock Res. dam

Stilt Sandpiper-38 on 4 Sep at East Twin L.; 1 on 12 Oct at Saylorville

Buff-breasted Sandpiper-6 on 7 Sep at Saylorville; 1 on 24 Sep at Saylorville

Short-billed Dowitcher-2 juv. on 9 Sep at Saylorville(salmon underparts, dark spots on flanks, tu-tu-tu call)

Am. Woodcock-1 on 6 Nov at Ames

Red-necked Phalarope-1 on 4 Sep at East Twin L.; 2 on 16-17 Sep at Sandbar Sl., Dickinson Co.

Franklin's Gull-8900 on 10 Oct, 200 on 3 Nov, 2 on 29 Nov at Saylorville; 6000 on 15 Oct at Clear L.

Common Black-headed Gull-\*1 on 2 Nov at Saylorville

Bonaparte's Gull-71 on 8 Oct at Saylorville

Little Gull-\*1 ad. on 8 Oct at Saylorville(+R&PA)

Ring-billed Gull-600 on 21 Sep, 2200 on 8 Nov, 5100 on 30 Nov at Saylorville

Herring Gull-3 on 16-17 Sep at Spirit L.; 1100 on 30 Nov at Saylorville

Thayer's Gull-\*1 1st-winter bird on 28 Nov at Saylorville

Glaucous Gull-2 1st-winter birds and 1 2nd or 3rd-winter bird on 28-30 Nov at Saylorville

Caspian Tern-381 on 12 Sep and 1 on 16 Oct at Saylorville

Common Tern-1 ad. on 3 Sep, 1 ad. on 9 Sep, 3 ad. on 12 Sep, 2 ad. on 23 Sep, 2 ad. on 29 Sep, 1 ad. on 8 Oct at Saylorville; 1 ad. on 17 Sep at Spirit L. (Trickle Sl.)-(all birds had dark shoulder bar, dark cap, and dark primaries)

Forster's Tern-83 on 12 Sep at Saylorville; 1 ad. and 1 juv. on 29 Oct, 1 juv. on 2 Nov at Saylorville

Common Barn-Owl-1 on 21 Sep near Gowrie, Webster Co. had been present all summer



Long-eared Owl-2 on 18 Nov at Big Creek  
Short-eared Owl-1 on 18 Nov at Big Creek  
N. Saw-whet Owl-1 on 19 Oct at Big Creek  
Common Nighthawk-300 on 18 Sep in Polk Co.  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-3 on 30 Sep at Ames(+LPH)  
Tree Swallow-6000 on 24 Sep at Red Rock Res.  
Red-breasted Nuthatch-4 on 10 Sep at Ames  
Swainson's Thrush-3 on 30 Sep at Ames(+LPH)  
Hermit Thrush-1 on 30 Sep at Ames(+LPH)  
Wood Thrush-1 on 30 Sep at Ames(+LPH)  
Water Pipit-3 on 17 Sep at Spirit L.; 55 on 21 Oct at Saylorville; 4  
on 20 Nov at Riverton W.A.  
Cape May Warbler-1 on 10 Sep at Ames; 1 on 23 Sep at Saylorville  
Yellow-rumped Warbler-1 on 3 Nov at Ames  
Savannah Sparrow-1 on 16 Nov at Big Creek; 1 on 18 Nov at Saylorville  
LeConte's Sparrow-4 on 17 Sep at Trickle Sl.; 19 on 14 Oct at  
Saylorville  
Lapland Longspur-6 on 16 Oct at Saylorville; 2000 on 28 Nov s. of Ames  
Rusty Blackbird-1 on 15 Oct at Clear L.

Other observers:

R&PA-Reid & Pam Allen  
Eu&EIA-Eugene & Eloise Armstrong  
BB-Bart Ballard  
RCe-Bob Cecil  
RLC-Ray Cummins  
JJD-Jim Dinsmore  
BE-Bery Engebretsen  
LPH-L. Paul Hertzell  
RKM-Bob Myers  
WO-Wolfgang Oesterreich

Comments: The scoter migration through central Iowa was the best ever and was noticeably on the early side. Several were shot, so I didn't feel it was necessary to detail all of the sightings. Gull numbers, especially Bonaparte's, were extremely low at Saylorville this fall, except that large numbers of Ring-billed and Herring gulls showed up the last three days on Nov. The shorebird and warbler migrations were also very poor in central Iowa. The fall has been quite mild, with Saylorville still mostly open on 30 Nov.