

612 W. Kirkwood Ave.
Fairfield, IA 52556
(515) 472-7256

The summer was extended, and then it got cold in November. We've still had no shorebird habitat in Fairfield (Jefferson County) this fall, because of pumping Walton Lake full. What used to be a mud flat is submerged.

12/1/89
Records: 60

ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
1	Common Loon	1	11/26/89	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Lake
	The only bird on the lake was this big loon, who swam from the middle of the lake over to the dam where two of us were setting up scopes and looked at us carefully, then returned to the middle of the lake. Traces of its neck patterns were visible.				
2	American White Pelican	50	9/16/89	Hale Slough, Dickenson Co., IA	Lake
3	Green-backed Heron	1	8/9/89	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lake
4	Oldsquaw	1	11/18/89	Big Creek St. Pk., Polk Co., IA	Lake
	A duck with a dark back and dark top of head, white on the cheek, black throat. White on wings. This duck lives under water. It would be up two or three seconds, then down about a minute, then again on the surface only very briefly.				
5	Osprey	1	10/7/89	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lake
6	Bald Eagle (adult)	1	11/20/89	Brinton Woods, Washington Co., IA	Fly Over
	Circling over forest and river.				
7	Northern Harrier	2	9/24/89	Fairfield, IA	Rural Area
	Flapping, gliding, low over plowed fields; wings held in dihedral; white rumps.				
8	Cooper's Hawk	1	10/29/89	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Fly Over
	Big. Flew by, only 20' high. Long rounded tail with white terminal band; head projected well forward of bend of wing.				
9	Rough-legged Hawk	1	10/29/89	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Open Farmland
10	Rough-legged Hawk	3	11/5/89	Livingston Tmbr, Jefferson Co., IA	Rural Area
	Last winter I saw none of these. This fall is more like it was two years ago.				

Diane Porter

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Iowa Seasonal Report, Fall 1989

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11	Northern Bobwhite	15	10/22/89	Railroad Tracks, Fairfield, IA	Trees and shrubs
12	Northern Bobwhite	10	11/12/89	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Roadside
13	Sanderling	7	9/16/89	Spirit Lake, Dickenson Co., IA	Beach
	They were running along the rocky shore of the lake in the frothy bubbles that washed up in the waves. They were light grey above with darker wings, white below. Several had sort of stripes on head. Black bills and legs. One that flew showed conspicuous long white wingstripe.				
14	Pectoral Sandpiper	1	10/21/89	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lake
	One of the few shorebirds, aside from snipes, that showed up at Walton Lake this year. No mud flats.				
15	Common Snipe	12	10/21/89	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lake
16	Common Nighthawk	30	9/19/89	Fairfield, IA	Fly Over
	Flying about over my house in the afternoon.				
17	Common Nighthawk	1	9/30/89	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	Trees
	Sitting lengthwise on branch of maple. The last I saw.				
18	Chimney Swift	830	9/24/89	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
	I may have missed the peak, a couple of weeks ago, but I've been seeing more swifts in the neighborhood the last 2 or 3 days than I've seen all summer. It seems to me the population is down significantly this year.				
19	Chimney Swift	1000	9/27/89	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
20	Chimney Swift	500	10/5/89	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
	Number estimated, not counted. But most years there are lots more at this time.				

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21	Chimney Swift Went down the chimney between 7:05 and 7:15 P.M. This is very late for the peak, according to my records for the last few years.	2291	10/9/89	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
22	Chimney Swift Ten flying UP OUT of the chimney at dusk. This was the last I saw. It almost seemed as if they decided, "What the heck, let's start tonight," and went south.	10	10/12/89	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
23	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	9/29/89	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Trees
24	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	10/3/89	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	Trees
25	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	11/19/89	Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines, IA	Conifer Trees
26	Bank Swallow	2	8/9/89	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	On overhead wires
27	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	9/17/89	Lake Okoboji, Dickenson Co., IA	Conifer Trees
28	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	10/29/89	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
29	Red-breasted Nuthatch Such a delight! There's been one at my feeder on November 3, 6, 7, 24, 25, and 29.	1	11/3/89	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
30	Red-breasted Nuthatch This seems to be the year for red-breasted nuthatches. I had not seen one in Iowa for several years.	1	11/19/89	Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines, IA	Conifer Trees

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31	Brown Creeper	1	9/30/89	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	Trees
32	Carolina Wren Going "chortle DEE, chortle DEE." Conspicuous white eyebrow, rusty underparts. In the rocky ledge of the stream by the bridge at Ely Ford.	2	11/12/89	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream
33	Cedar Waxwing Eating cedar berries	50	10/4/89	Cemetery, Fairfield, IA	Cedar trees
34	Northern Shrike Jay-sized, long-tailed, grey-and-white bird w/ white wing patches flew before the car & perched first in a dead tree and then on telephone wire. Black mask did not meet over upper mandible; eye divided - lower half in the mask, upper half out. Upper breast faintly barred. Beak noticeably hooked, but without a loggerhead for comparison, I couldn't go by it.	1	11/20/89	Brinton Woods, Washington Co., IA	Open Farmland
35	Bell's Vireo Two singing males. The last I saw.	2	8/7/89	Railroad Tracks, Fairfield, IA	Trees and shrubs
36	Solitary Vireo The last I saw.	1	9/30/89	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	Trees
37	Yellow-rumped Warbler Eating juniper berries	2	10/7/89	Jefferson Co., IA	Rural Area
38	Yellow-rumped Warbler Seen three days in a row in my yard: Oct 28-30.	1	10/28/89	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Trees
39	Palm Warbler	1	10/3/89	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	Trees
40	American Redstart	1	8/20/89	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	Woods

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41	Wilson's Warbler With a yellow body and a black cap	1	8/20/89	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	Woods
42	Summer Tanager Heard going "Tick-a-tuck" at the place where you walk into the Croton Unit of Shimek State Forest by a bridge. I did not see the bird.	1	8/4/89	Shimek SF, Croton Unit, Van Buren Co., IA	Deep Woods
43	Rufous-sided Towhee Black hood, white breast, red flanks, black back WITH WHITE SPOTS. On 10/14 I saw two, a male and a female, in the same place, also with white spots.	1	10/13/89	Railroad Tracks, Fairfield, IA	Trees and shrubs
44	Chipping Sparrow Last I saw. Grey rumps; crowns variously rusty or striped; no stickpin.	8	10/26/89	Cemetery, Fairfield, IA	
45	Field Sparrow White eyering; pink bill and feet. Last I saw.	2	10/22/89	Railroad Tracks, Fairfield, IA	Trees and shrubs
46	Vesper Sparrow Last I saw. White eye ring. I didn't see white outer tail feathers in flight because bird flew into sun, but I still think it was a vesper. Streaks on breast, belly clear; short notched tail; wing bars, chestnut shoulder.	1	11/11/89	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Roadside
47	Savannah Sparrow Bathing and preening in edge of lake.	5	10/29/89	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lake
48	Lincoln's Sparrow The last I saw.	1	10/13/89	Railroad Tracks, Fairfield, IA	Trees and shrubs
49	Swamp Sparrow	2	10/13/89	Railroad Tracks, Fairfield, IA	Trees and shrubs
50	White-throated Sparrow Up high in conifers.	1	9/30/89	Cemetery, Fairfield, IA	Conifer Trees

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51	White-crowned Sparrow Pink bill, grey throat, buffy crown with brown stripes; erect posture.	1	10/14/89	Railroad Tracks, Fairfield, IA	Trees and shrubs
52	Dark-eyed Junco The first this fall.	5	9/30/89	Cemetery, Fairfield, IA	Trees
53	Common Grackle Last I've seen.	2	11/5/89	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
54	House Finch	4	10/4/89	Cemetery, Fairfield, IA	Trees
55	White-winged Crossbill Three - two males and one female - flew from treetop to cone-laden treetop. The female had a sort of greenish breast with faint, indistinct stripes. I saw that her bill was crossed at the tips. The males were bright rosy pink, with black wings and white wingbars.	3	11/19/89	Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines, IA	Conifer Trees
56	White-winged Crossbill After adding white-winged crossbill to my life list yesterday in Des Moines, I came home and looked the next morning in Fairfield's cemetery. I found one male immediately. Subsequent searching during the next ten days revealed no more for the fall season.	1	11/20/89	Cemetery, Fairfield, IA	Conifer Trees
57	Pine Siskin		10/14/89	Railroad Tracks, Fairfield, IA	Trees and shrubs
58	American Goldfinch Goldfinches have begun fall moult. Some are all patchy again.	5	9/22/89	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
59	American Goldfinch A really rather motley speckledness prevails. Here's one with the mantle mostly olive, nape mostly yellow with dark spots, crown mostly dark with yellow spots. I would be interested to learn what dates people notice the goldfinches' molts beginning and ending in various parts of the state.	1	9/29/89	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
60	American Goldfinch Goldfinches completely finished with molt. All olive drab now.	1	10/5/89	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder