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Van Dyke

### Fall 1990 Report

#### Weather for the Period:

September: Very warm temperatures, with a number of records.

October: Up and down, with little snowfall and above average temperatures.

November: Temperatures generally above normal. On the last day of the month we tied our record of 55 degrees.

- White Pelican: Small flocks of fewer than a dozen were present in various places in Sioux Co. in September and October. Six were still present at Hawarden on October 24.
- Double-crested Cormorant: An immature was still present at Hawarden on November 30.
- Great Blue Heron: A late bird was at Hawarden on November 23.
- Gadwall: One was at Hawarden on November 30.
- Lesser Scaup: One was at Hawarden on November 30.
- Common Goldeneye: The first flock of 8 individuals arrived at Hawarden on November 30.
- Osprey: One was reported 5 miles south of Sioux Center on October 15.
- Bald Eagle: An adult was in western Sioux Co. on November 30.
- Rough-legged Hawk: None observed.
- American Kestrel: Remained throughout the period. On November 30 I saw three along a 10-mile stretch of road in Sioux County.
- Merlin: One individual was in Sioux Center on November 3. (Observed by Tina Van Dyke - no relation - and quite well described: small brownish falcon with striped underparts and barred tail -- Tina was able to rule out a Kestrel). As I have reported earlier, the Merlin is a regular spring and fall migrant in this part of Iowa.
- Peregrine Falcon: An adult was in western Sioux County on October 24. Documentation enclosed.
- Prairie Falcon: In western Sioux County on November 23. Documentation enclosed. Another large falcon, very likely to be this species, was observed by Daryl Vander Kooi at the east edge of Sioux Center on November 22. Daryl hails from Montana and has experience with raptors.

- Greater Yellowlegs: Six individuals were at the gravel pits five miles south of Sioux Center on October 24.
- Black-legged Kittiwake: At Hawarden on November 23. Documentation enclosed.
- Common Nighthawk: Late stragglers were still migrating through this area on October 6.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Last one observed in Sioux Center on October 6.
- Purple Martin: Last ones to leave Sioux Center departed on September 4.
- American Robin: Individuals lingered until November 23.
- Warblers: A very poor season. Maybe the hot weather had something to do with the lacklustre migration. No unusual sightings to report.
- Rufous-sided Towhee: One of the western race ("spotted") was observed by Tina Van Dyke in Sioux Center on October 19.
- Lapland Longspur: Several flocks of about 20 individuals were in Sioux County on November 23. On November 30 I encountered a flock of about 100 birds.
- Common Grackle: Virtually absent in November. However, one individual was in Sioux Center on November 29.
- House Finch: Now a permanent resident of Sioux County.
- Common Redpoll: One individual arrived at my feeders on November 27 and showed itself every day thereafter.
- Pine Siskin: The first migrants arrived in Sioux Center on November 4. However, during the second half of November they were mysteriously absent.

Reported by John Van Dyk

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