

**FIELD REPORTS**

August 1 through November 30, 1990

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, IA

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

Bery Engebretsen (Bery E.)  
 Johnston, IA

Ann Johnson (Ann J.)  
 Norwalk, IA

Kenneth Lowder (Ken L.)  
 Iowa City, IA

Robert K. Myers (Bob M.)  
 Perry, IA

Hank Zaletel (Hank Z.)  
 Colo, IA

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 Nov.	Jester Park	Ann J.* P & R Allen E & E Arm.
DETAILS: Observed from a distance of about 1 mi. from 12:10 - 12:45 P.M. Smaller billed than Common Loon; dark head which extended below eyeline and around side and down neck; chin strap or necklace visible.				
Western Grebe	1	11 Nov.	Big Creek Spillway	P & R Allen Steve D. Bery E.

American Bittern	2	11 Sept.	Colo Ponds, 2 mi. E. of Colo on old Hwy.30	Hank Z. P & R Allen
Little Blue Heron	2	19 Aug.	Polk City Wildlife Area	P & R Allen
DETAILS: Both were immatures.				
Cattle Egret	10	3 Sept.	Moeckly Prairie area	P & R Allen
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	11 Sept.	Colo Ponds; 2 mi. E. of Colo on old Hwy 30	Hank Z. P & R Allen
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1	11 Sept.	Colo Ponds; 2 mi. E. of Colo on old Hwy 30	Hank Z. P & R Allen
Mute Swan	1	13 Oct.	1 mi.N of Red Rock Dam	P & R Allen
DETAILS: Probably an escapee; juvenile plumage and distinctly recognized as Mute Swan by "crook in neck" pose and downward tilt of head. No bands, numbers and no evidence of wing-clipping.				
Surf Scoter	1	17 Nov.	Lake Anita State Park	P & R Allen
DETAILS: 1st winter male with distinct bill coloration and patches. Observed from a distance of 50-80 yards with scope.				
White-winged Scoter	1	17 Nov.	Lake Anita State Park	P & R Allen
DETAILS: Winter plumage with white wing patch and facial patches. Observed from a distance of 50-80 yards with scope.				
Turkey Vulture	1	30 Oct.	2 mi.E of Booneville	P Allen
DETAILS: Large black vulture flying in typical fashion with wings in a dihedral.				
Merlin	1	29 Sept.	Lakin Slough	P & R Allen
	1	30 Sept.	Intersection of G76 and Hwy 69 in Warren Co.	P & R Allen
Ruffed Grouse	1	24 Nov.	Yellow River Forest	P & R Allen
DETAILS: Exploded up from ground perch about 10 feet in front of us. We were walking down a trail from the old fire tower. Flew into tall stand of pine trees. The short, fanned and dark band on tail really stood out. This was a life bird for us and				

we were both glad to get such a good look.

Ruddy Turnstone	1	19 Sept.	Saylorville Res. Sandpiper Beach	P & R Allen Ken L.
Red Knot	2	3 Sept.	1 mi.W of Huxley on E63	Steve D.* P & R Allen
SEE DOCUMENTATION ATTACHED				
Sanderling	29	19 Sept.	Saylorville Res. Sandpiper Beach	P & R Allen Ken L.
Western Sandpiper	1	3 Sept.	Saylorville Res. Cherry Glen	P & R Allen
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	24	16 Sept.	Saylorville Res. Sandpiper Beach	Steve D. P & R Allen
Red-necked Phalarope	1	11 Sept.	3 mi.E of Hwy 65 & 150 yds.N of New Hwy 30 near Story/Marshall Co. line	P & R Allen
DETAILS: Short, needle shaped black bill. Very dark patch curving from eye downward. Prominent light streaking/shading on back.				
California Gull	1	19 Sept.	Saylorville Res. Sandpiper Beach	P & R Allen Ken L.
SEE DOCUMENTATION ATTACHED				
Glaucous Gull	1	25 Nov.	Red Rock Res.	P & R Allen
DETAILS: Observed below dam at Red Rock. First or second winter plumage. Bill was quite pink/flesh colored. Gull was larger than Herring Gull and basically creamy white all over with a little brown mottling. Photographs enclosed were taken 25 Nov. and 3 Dec.				
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	10 Nov.	Jester Park	Ann J.* E & E Arm. Bob Myers P & R Allen
DETAILS: Observed 400-600 yds N of Boat Ramp from about 11:20-11:45 A.M. Immature winter plumage; black collar band over nape/back of neck; when flying showed large black "W" pattern across wings.				
Common Nighthawk	59	16 Sept.	1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen



Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1-5 12 Sept. 1601 Pleasant St., WDM P & R Allen  
with last one seen on 5 October

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 1 3 Sept. Brenton Slough P & R Allen

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 1 30 Sept. Ray & Evelyn Wright P & R Allen  
Residence; 1st house N of Lovilla, IA on Hwy 5

DETAILS: Male bird w/very long tail; "pearly" grey head and upper breast; salmon-peach colored flanks & deep red-salmon underwing patches. CARL: I hope someone checked with the Wrights who were keeping very accurate records as to the length of stay of the birds (we did not see the female). To our knowledge, the bird was present after October 27, but the Wright's would have the exact date of departure. (Pam)

Winter Wren 1 29 Sept. 1601 Pleasant St., WDM P & R Allen

Northern Shrike 1 4 Nov. Little Wall Lake P & R Allen  
DETAILS: Eye mask did not extend above eye; bird paler grey than Loggerhead Shrike.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1 29 Sept. Snake Creek Marsh P & R Allen

DETAILS: Grey nape; bright ochre eyebrow and breast band; large darkish-brown stripe above eyebrow and grey center head stripe; white streaking on upper back.

Dark-eyed Junco 1 29 Sept. Snake Creek Marsh P & R Allen

December 4, 1990

Carl J. Bendorf  
845 Cypress Ct.  
Iowa City, IA 52245

Dear Carl:

Enclosed are Field Reports for period of August 1 through November 30, 1990. We certainly missed seeing a lot of the "rare" visitors to our state. Hope they make another appearance in future years.

Hope you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and great birding in 1991.

Sincerely,

*Pam*

Pam Allen  
1601 Pleasant Street  
West Des Moines, IA 50265