

Iowa Field Reports-Fall 1995

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- ✓✓ Red-throated Loon-*1 first-basic on 29 October at Saylorville; *1 adult in basic plumage on 16-17 November at Saylorville
- ✓ Pacific Loon-*1 first-basic on 21 November at Lake Icaria
- Common Loon-1 on 30-31 August at Spirit L.; 1 on 26 September at Little Wall L.; 45 on 7 November at Saylorville
- Pied-billed Grebe-364 on 14 September at Saylorville; 208 on 26 September at Little Wall L.
- ✓ Horned Grebe-12 on 30 October at Little Wall L.
- Eared Grebe-1 on 31 August at Trumbull L.; 1 on 7 October at South Twin L.; 1 on 14 October at Terra L.; 2 on 4 November at Saylorville (+m.ob.); 1 on 18 November at Spirit L. (+JSi); 1 on 22 November at Twelve Mile L.
- Western Grebe-1 on 30 August at Elm L.; 4 on 30 August, 2 on 31 August, 2 on 7 October, 6 on 21 October (+JJD) at Spirit L.; 2 on 31 August at Silver L., Palo Alto Co.; 1 on 28 October at Lake Manawa (+JSi); 1 on 14 September, 1 on 2 November, 3 on 13 November at Saylorville; 1 on 18 November at West Okoboji L. (+JSi); 1 on 21 November at Lake Icaria
- American White Pelican-1,000 on 26 August (+JJD), 3,500 on 2 September (+HZ), 10,000+ on 16-17 September (+JJD), 164 on 4 November (record count for so late) at Saylorville; 400 on 25 September at Maskunkya M., Mahaska Co. (+TS); 3,000 on 27 September at Bays Branch W.A.; 200 on 10 October at Pleasant Creek S.R.A.; single injured birds remained through 30 November at Big Creek L. and below Saylorville dam
- ✓✓ Double-crested Cormorant-1,500 on 1,8 October, 5 through 30 November at Saylorville
- ✓ American Bittern-1 on 27 October at Big Wall L. was my only one all fall
- ✓ Least Bittern-1 on 26 September at Big Wall L.
- ✓ Great Egret-165 on 3 September at Runnells W.A. (+JSi)
- ✓ Snowy Egret-1 adult on 7 August at Waubonsie W.A. [medium-sized white heron with black, dagger-shaped bill, black legs, and yellow feet]
- ✓ Cattle Egret-44 on 7 August at Waubonsie W.A.
- ✓✓ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron-2 immatures on 7 August at Waubonsie W.A.; 1 immature on 9 September at Green Island W.A. (+JJD,HZ) [compared to a Black-crowned Night-Heron, all had longer legs, a stouter, all black bill, finer mottling on the breast, and were grayer overall]
- ✓ White Ibis-*1 juvenile on 6,9 September at the Hawkeye W.A. (photos, +m.ob.)
- ✓✓ Plegadis sp.-1 on 27 September at Bays Branch W.A. was seen only in flight; 1 adult and 1 immature on 25 October at Saylorville [all were dark, medium-sized herons with long, decurved bills, long legs, and some iridescent purple color on the upperparts]
- Tundra Swan-1 immature on 3 November at Saylorville; 1 adult from 17-23 November at Bays Branch
- ✓ Trumpeter Swan-2 adults with orange patagial tags on 26 November at Dale Maffitt Res.
- Swan sp.-4 on 18 November at High L. (fide SJD)
- Greater White-fronted Goose-73 on 13 October at the Hawkeye W.A.; 95 on 25 October at Bays Branch
- Ross's Goose-1 adult on 19 November at Saylorville (+JJD,BE, m.ob.); 1 immature on 22 November at Bays Branch; 8 on 25 November at DeSoto NWR

- ✓ Green-winged Teal-1 on 22 August at Heron Bend
- ✓ American Black Duck-1 on 24 October at Saylorville
- ✓ Northern Pintail-2,000 on 13 October at the Hawkeye W.A.
- ✓ Blue-winged Teal-900 on 13 September at Saylorville; 1 injured female on 28 November at Ottumwa
- ✓ Gadwall-1,040 on 29 October at Saylorville
- ✓ American Wigeon-660 on 13 October at Saylorville
- Canvasback-a pair on 22 August at Pool 19, Montrose were flightless (molting) and had probably summered; 13,000 on 15 November at Pool 19, Montrose
- Greater Scaup-1 female on 30 October at Little Wall L.; 1 male on 4 November at Hallett's Quarry; up to 4 (2 males and 2 females) on 15-16 November at Big Creek L.; 3 females on 18 November at West Okoboji L. (+JSi); 2 females on 25 November at DeSoto NWR [all were larger than the similar Lesser Scaup with more rounded head profiles and larger bills-the more extensive white at the base of the primaries was seen on several of the birds]
- ✓ Lesser Scaup-7,600 on 2 November at Saylorville
- Oldsquaw-1 adult male on 1 November at Hallett's Quarry (+JJD); 2 immatures, probably males, on 18 November at Spirit L. (+JSi); 1 female on 24 November at Saylorville (+JJD)
- ✓ Black Scoter-1 female or immature on 24 October at Saylorville [a dark brown diving duck with a white throat and chin and all dark wings]
- Surf Scoter-1 female or immature on 7 October at Spirit L.; 1 female or immature on 10 October at Pleasant Creek S.R.A.; 1 female or immature on 18 October at Sun Valley L., Ringgold Co.; 1 female or immature on 30 October at Hallett's Quarry (+JJD); 1 female or immature on 16 November at Saylorville
- White-winged Scoter-1 female or immature on 28 October at Twelve Mile L. (+JSi); 1 adult male and 1 female or immature from 16-24 November at Saylorville; 1 female or immature on 18 November at Spirit L. (+JSi)
- ✓ Common Goldeneye-2 on 4 November at Saylorville (+m.ob.)
- ✓ Common Merganser-8 on 4 November, 4,000 on 27 November at Saylorville (+m.ob.)
- Red-breasted Merganser-1 on 23 October at Hallett's Quarry; 109 on 8 November at Saylorville
- Ruddy Duck-1 on 9 September at Pool 13, n. of Clinton (+JJD,HZ); 1 on 14 September at Saylorville was early for central Iowa
- Osprey-1 on 9 August at Keokuk; 4 on 22 August at Rathbun Res.; 1 on 25 October at Lake Panorama; 1 saw a total of 49 for the fall season which is a record for me
- Bald Eagle-5 on 9 September at Green Island W.A. (+JJD,HZ); 34 (8 ad., 26 imm.) on 16 November at Saylorville
- ✓ Northern Harrier-8 on 20 October in Guthrie Co.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk-1 on 30 August near Sibley, Osceola Co.; 36 on 6 October at Marshalltown
- Cooper's Hawk-1 on 30 August at Spirit L.; 7 on 6 October at Marshalltown
- Northern Goshawk-1 immature on 6 October at Marshalltown; 1 immature on 28 October at Hitchcock N.A. (+JSi,BPa,LPa); 1 immature on 18 November n. of Sioux Rapids, Buena Vista Co. (+JSi); 1 immature on 21 November at Twelve Mile L. [all were very large accipiters, wings were fairly long and broad like a buteo, tail heavily barred and long-all were too large for Cooper's, from which they also differed in general shape]
- ✓ Broad-winged Hawk-1 on 13 October at the Hawkeye W.A.
- Swainson's Hawk-1 immature on 27 September at Saylorville; 1 adult on 3 October at Marshalltown

- Merlin-1 male on 30 August near Lake Park, Dickinson Co. [a small, robust falcon, slate gray on upperparts, barred tail, underparts streaked brown, wings pointed-I followed the bird for a couple of miles until it landed on a fencepost-the bird had a shorter tail and longer, more pointed wings than a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a pale face with a dark whisker mark]; 1 female or immature on 18 September at Terra L.; 1 female or immature on 18 September at Muskrat Sl. (+JJD,HZ); 1 female or immature on 14 September at Saylorville; 1 male on 26 September at Big Wall L.; 1 female or immature on 30 September at Saylorville; 1 male and 1 female or immature on 6 October at Marshalltown; 1 female or immature on 20 October at Bays Branch; 1 male on 2 November at Saylorville (Scott Rolfes fide SJD)
- Peregrine Falcon-1 immature on 3 September at Runnells W.A. (+JSi); 1 adult on 27 September at Saylorville; 1 adult on 1 October at Lake Panorama; 1 immature on 3 October at Saylorville; 1 adult on 6 October at Marshalltown; 1 adult on 14 October at Saylorville
- ✓ Prairie Falcon-1 on 7 November at Bays Branch (only a short look at bird in flight-noted typical falcon shape, brownish upperparts, barred tail, black axillars-the bird flew south along the lake and disappeared to the south)
- Gray Partridge-18 on 16 October e. of Gilbert; 2 on 21 October e. of Rockwell City (+JJD); 9 on 17 November near Lake Panorama
- ✓ Ruffed Grouse-2 on 16 September at Stephen's S.F., Lucas Co. (+JJD,JSi)
- ✓ Sora-8 on 26 September at Big Wall L.
- Common Moorhen-1 on 30 August at Union Slough NWR; 5 on 9 September at Green Island W.A. (+JJD,HZ); 3 on 9 September at Goose L., Clinton Co. (+JJD,HZ, +m.ob.)
- ✓ American Coot-14,000+ on 30 October at Little Wall L.
- Sandhill Crane-2 adults and 1 immature on 8 September at Muskrat Sl. (+JJD,HZ; probably a family group); 2 adults on 9 September at Green Island W.A. (+JJD,HZ); 2 adults on 3 October at Saylorville; a flock of 50 on 4 November in NW Sioux Co. (Marty Eby fide SJD)
- Black-bellied Plover-1 on 7 August, 11 on 13 October at Saylorville; 1 on 14 November at Big Creek L. (+m.ob.)
- American Golden-Plover-1 on 29 August, 26 on 20 September at Saylorville; 2 on 9 September at Muskrat Sl. (+JJD,HZ); 30 on 13 October at the Hawkeye W.A.
- ✓ Piping Plover-1 on 30 August at Meinking M.
- American Avocet-6 on 10 October at Pleasant Creek S.R.A.; 6 on 13 October at Cedar L.; 1 on 13 September, 38 on 13 October, 1 on 14 October, 10 on 29 October at Saylorville
- ✓ Greater Yellowlegs-2 on 4 November at Saylorville (+m.ob.)
- ✓ Lesser Yellowlegs-1 on 4 November at Saylorville (+m.ob.)
- ✓ Willet-1 on 24 August at Saylorville
- ✓ Spotted Sandpiper-1 on 3 October at Saylorville
- ✓ Upland Sandpiper-2 on 26 August at Saylorville (+JJD)
- ✓ Whimbrel-*1 juvenile on 27 August at Saylorville (+JSi)
- Ruddy Turnstone-singles on 7, 27 August (+JSi) at Saylorville; 2 on 6, 8, 9 September at the Hawkeye W.A. (+m.ob.)
- ✓ Red Knot-*1 adult on 1 September at Saylorville; *1 juvenile from 29 September-3 October at Saylorville
- Sanderling-13 on 7 August, 56 on 16 September (+JJD), 28 on 1 October, 1 juvenile on 6 November at Saylorville-I saw 20-30 there per trip in September, which is far more than normal; 1 on 9 August at Keokuk

- Western Sandpiper-1 adult on 23 August, 1 adult and 1 juvenile on 27 August (+JSi), 1 adult on 2-3 September (+HZ) at Saylorville; 1 adult on 3 September at Red Rock Res. (+JSi)
- ✓ Baird's Sandpiper-5 on 4 November at Big Creek L. (+m.ob.)
- Pectoral Sandpiper-1,000 on 27 August (+JSi), 1 on 8 November at Saylorville
- Dunlin-23 on 22 October at Saylorville; 1 on 22 November at Twelve Mile L.
- ✓ Stilt Sandpiper-48 on 16 September at Colyn W.A., Lucas Co. (+JJD,JSi)
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper-1 on 7 August at Riverton W.A.; 40 on 27 August (+JSi), 16 on 3 September at Saylorville; 9 on 30 August at Union Slough NWR; 3 on 8 September at Muskrat Sl. (+JJD,HZ)
- Long-billed Dowitcher-26 on 13 October at the Hawkeye W.A.; 1 juvenile on 3 November at Saylorville
- ✓ Wilson's Phalarope-1 on 26 August at Saylorville was the only one I saw in central Iowa this fall
- Red-necked Phalarope-2 on 24 August, 1 on 26 August (+JJD), 1 on 1 September, 1 on 14 September at Saylorville; 7 on 30 August, 2 on 31 August at Spirit L.; 3 on 6 September, 1 on 9 September at the Hawkeye W.A. (+m.ob.)
- ✓ Red Phalarope-*1 first-basic on 19 September at Saylorville; *1 adult in basic plumage on 22-26 October at Saylorville
- Laughing Gull-*1 third-basic on 3 September at Runnells W.A. (+JSi, photos); *1 third-basic on 19-20 October at Saylorville
- Franklin's Gull-3,000 on 30-31 August at the Spirit Lake dump; 2,600 on 7 September, 15,000 on 3 October, 6,000 on 14 October, 1 in alternate plumage from 24-30 November at Saylorville; 40,000+ on 7 October at Spirit L.; 5,000 on 7 October, 10,000 on 21 October (+JJD) at Storm L.; 1,000 on 7 October at South Twin L.
- Bonaparte's Gull-2 on 19 September at Saylorville; 419 on 3 November at Big Creek L.
- ✓ Ring-billed Gull-unusually large numbers were present in August, e.g. 598 on 24 August at Saylorville, which is about a month earlier than normal; 2,500 on 24 October at Saylorville was the first big fall push
- ✓ California Gull-*1 first-basic on 3 September at Runnells W.A. (+JSi, photos)
- ✓ Herring Gull-at least 4 different immatures were at Saylorville beginning on 7 August
- ✓ Thayer's Gull-1 first-basic on 24 November at Saylorville (I will no longer document this species when it occurs at an expected date and location)
- ✓ Iceland Gull-*1 first-basic on 17 November at Saylorville (photo)
- ✓ Glaucous Gull-1 first-basic from 16-27 November at Saylorville
- ✓ Black-legged Kittiwake-*1 first-basic on 19 November at Saylorville (+JJD,BE, m.ob.)
- Sabine's Gull-*1 juvenile on 7-8 September at Terra L. (+m.ob., photos); *1 juvenile on 14,17,20,25,30 September and 1,8 October, 2 juveniles on 19 September at Saylorville
- ✓ Caspian Tern-134 on 13 September at Saylorville; the last were 3 on 4 October at Saylorville, a very early departure date
- Common Tern-1 immature on 2 September (+HZ), 9 adults on 7 September, 13 adults on 8 September, 3 adults on 14 September, 3 adults on 19 September at Saylorville; 2 adults on 7 October at Storm L. [all were typical Sterna terns with dark outer primaries noted on all adult birds, distinct black cap and white forehead noted on immature-several of the birds at Saylorville were heard]
- ✓ Forster's Tern-57 on 30 August at Spirit L.; 4 on 13 October at Saylorville
- ✓ Least Tern-1 immature on 30 August at Big Wall L.

- ✓ Black Tern-250 on 22 August at Pool 19, Montrose
- ✓ Long-eared Owl-1 on 25 October in NW Guthrie Co. (Jon Judson fide SJD)
- ✓ Short-eared Owl-1 on 19 November at Bob Pyle M., Story Co.
- ✓ Common Nighthawk-2 on 11 October at Cedar Rapids
- ✓ Whip-poor-will-1 singing on 8 September at the Wapsi River EE Center, Clinton Co. (+HZ)
- ✓ Pileated Woodpecker-1 on 18 November at A.A. Call S.P. (+JSi)
- ✓ Olive-sided Flycatcher-4 on 7 September (+JSi), 1 on 30 September (large flycatcher, very large, heavy bill, white throat and breast with incomplete dark brown bib across center of breast) at Jester Park
- ✓ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher-1 on 10 September at Jester Park (identified by solid yellow throat, breast and belly, extensive orange color on lower mandible)
- ✓ Willow Flycatcher-1 singing on 24 August at Saylorville
- ✓ Least Flycatcher-singles singing on 26 August (+JJD), 29 August at Saylorville, and 31 August at Spirit L.
- ✓ Western Kingbird-3 on 7 August in SW Fremont Co.
- ✓ Red-breasted Nuthatch-numerous in NW Iowa on 31 August with 5 at Silver L., Palo Alto Co. and 4 at Sunken Grove L., Pocahontas Co.; 23 on 10 September at the State Forest Nursery in Ames; widespread in central Iowa by early September
- ✓ Carolina Wren-we had one roosting in our garage from 8-15 November (+JJD); one was at a feeder in our neighborhood in August-September (George Brown fide SJD)
- ✓ Winter Wren-1 on 17-18 October at Saylorville; 1 on 22 October in NE Dallas Co.; 1 on 4 November at Big Creek S.P. (+m.ob.)
- ✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher-1 on 30 August at Myre Sl.; 1 on 31 August at Trumbull L.
- ✓ Veery-1 migrating at night on 7 September at Ames; 1 on 9 September at Eagle Point Park, Clinton (+HZ)
- ✓ Gray-cheeked Thrush-1 on 8 September at Jester Park; 1 migrating at night on 17 September over Ames
- ✓ Swainson's Thrush-12 migrating at night on 7 September over Ames
- ✓ Northern Mockingbird-1 on 9 September near Goose Lake, Clinton Co. (+JJD,HZ)
- ✓ Brown Thrasher-1 on 22 November at Twelve Mile L.; 1 fresh roadkill on 26 November near Promise City, Wayne Co.
- ✓ American Pipit-1 on 17 September, 200+ on 18 October at Saylorville
- ✓ Northern Shrike-1 immature on 18 November at Deweys Pasture (+JSi)
- ✓ Solitary Vireo-1 on 30 August at Pilot Knob S.P.
- ✓ Philadelphia Vireo-1 on 31 August at Mini-Wakan S.P.; 3 on 7 September at Jester Park (+JSi)
- ✓ Red-eyed Vireo-33 on 8 September at Jester Park
- ✓ Blue-winged Warbler-1 on 30 August at Pilot Knob S.P.; 1 on 16 September at Stephen's S.F., Lucas Co. (+JJD,JSi)
- ✓ Golden-winged Warbler-1 on 30 August at Pilot Knob S.P.; 1 on 19 September at the Wapsi River EE Center; 1 on 25 September at Luckenbill Woods, Des Moines Co. (+TS)
- ✓ Tennessee Warbler-10 on 9 September at Eagle Point Park, Clinton (+JJD,HZ)
- ✓ Nashville Warbler-10 on 31 August at Mini-Wakan S.P.
- ✓ Chestnut-sided Warbler-11 on 30 August at Pilot Knob S.P.; 20 on 8 September at Jester Park
- ✓ Cape May Warbler-1 on 30 August at Pilot Knob S.P.; 6 on 9 September at Eagle Point Park, Clinton (+JJD,HZ); 1 on 9 September at Green Island W.A. (+JJD,HZ)
- ✓ Black-throated Blue Warbler-1 male on 8 September at Jester Park

- Blackburnian Warbler-7 on 30 August at Pilot Knob S.P.
- ✓ Palm Warbler-1 on 14 September at Jester Park
- ✓ Bay-breasted Warbler-10 on 10 September at the State Forest Nursery in Ames
- ✓ Blackpoll Warbler-1 on 16 September at Stephen's S.F., Lucas Co. (+JJD,JSi)
- ✓ Ovenbird-6 on 10 September at the State Forest Nursery in Ames
- ✓ Mourning Warbler-1 on 30 August at Pilot Knob S.P.; 1 on 8 September at Jester Park; 1 on 9 September at Eagle Point Park, Clinton
- ✓ Scarlet Tanager-2 on 30 August at Pilot Knob S.P.; 1 on 31 August at Mini-Wakan S.P.; 1 on 16 September at Stephen's S.F., Lucas Co. (+JJD,JSi)
- ✓ Blue Grosbeak-1 on 7 August in SW Fremont Co.
- ✓ Dickcissel-1 on 7 October at Spring Run W.A.
- ✓ Clay-colored Sparrow-1 on 21 September at Rathbun Res. (+TS)
- ✓ Lark Sparrow-1 on 23 August at Big Creek S.P.
- ✓ Henslow's Sparrow-1 singing on 22 August at Lake Sugema W.A.
- ✓ Lapland Longspur-1 on 14 October at Saylorville
- ✓ Snow Bunting-2 on 17 November at Saylorville; 1 on 25 November at DeSoto NWR
- ✓ Yellow-headed Blackbird-unusual were 1 on 1 September and 2 on 7 September (+JSi) at Saylorville; 2 on 9 September at Green Island W.A. (+JJD,HZ)
- ✓ Rusty Blackbird-1 on 19 October at Saylorville; 100 on 28 October at Twelve Mile L. (+JSi)
- ✓ Great-tailed Grackle-1 male on 30 August at Big Wall L.
- ✓ Northern Oriole-40 on 7 September at Saylorville
- ✓ Bullock's Oriole-*1 male on 3 September at Red Rock Res. (+JSi)
- ✓ Purple Finch-1 on 10 September at the State Forest Nursery in Ames
- ✓ White-winged Crossbill-7 on 27 November in West Des Moines
- ✓ Pine Siskin-3 on 17 October at Saylorville

Other Observers

Jim Dinsmore (JJD)
 Babs Padelford (BPa)
 Loren Padelford (LPa)
 Tim Schantz (TS)
 Jim Sinclair (JSi)
 Hank Zaletel (HZ)

Comment

Several aspects of the fall migration deserve mention. The shorebird migration through central Iowa was very good, although the majority of the birds were Pectoral Sandpipers. However, lingering shorebirds were scarce, possibly due to the cold snap in early November. Waterfowl numbers were excellent as anticipated because of good breeding habitat conditions in the northern Great Plains. The main waterfowl movement across much of the state occurred on 2-3 November. Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, and American Wigeon were especially abundant this year. It was a good fall for birds like Western Grebe, Northern Pintail, American Avocet, Sanderling, Franklin's Gull, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Pipit, and Purple Finch.