

May 31, 1995

Thomas H. Kent
211 Richards St.
Iowa City, IA 52246

Dear Tom:

Enclosed are our Field Reports for the Spring reporting period.

At your convenience, could you please send us along another "updated" list of your early and late dates. The last one you sent us was through February of 1992.

Heard your "Big Year" is going along great and you will be at **400!** in no time (that is not a "typo," either). We'll let Macklin Smith know when you reach that plateau.

Sincerely,

Pam

Pam Allen
1601 Pleasant Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265-2331

P.S. Tom - photo dupes not developed yet = can't pick up until Monday. Will send them to you Monday.

FIELD REPORTS

March 1 through May 31, 1995

FROM:

Pam and Reid Allen (P & R Allen)
1601 Pleasant Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265

NOTE: In the "OBSERVERS" column, if there is an * after the name, this designates the person who FIRST made the observation.

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS
---------	-----	------	----------	-----------

✓ American White Pelican	22	24 March	Marion Co., Swan bottoms	P & R Allen
--------------------------	----	----------	--------------------------	-------------

✓ Cinnamon Teal	1	24 March	Warren Co., Hwy 316, 1-1/2 miles South of Des Moines River (pond on West side of road)	P & R Allen
-----------------	---	----------	--	-------------

NOTE: This breeding-plumaged male duck was observed by many others and I have included reference to it here in case no one else reports the sighting. Should further details be needed, please let me know.

✓ American Woodcock	1	25 March	Cass Co., Lake Anita S.P.	P & R Allen
---------------------	---	----------	---------------------------	-------------

NOTE: We practically scared the wits out of ourselves when this Woodcock exploded in front of us as we were walking down a small ravine.

✓ Tree Swallow	1	25 March	Cass Co., Lake Anita S.P.	P & R Allen
----------------	---	----------	---------------------------	-------------

✓ Great-tailed Grackle	✓ 5	25 March	Guthrie Co., Long Pond	P & R Allen
	✓ 2	19 April	Story Co., Tieg's Marsh	P & R Allen
	✓ 1	10 May	Polk Co., Engeldinger Marsh (also called Ankeny Ponds)	P & R Allen

NOTE: The first 5 listed were 4 males and 1 female--chasing each other and calling in that "click-clacking, raucous" manner. The 2 sighted at Tieg's Marsh were copulating, and the 1 bird in Polk Co. was a male.

✓ Osprey	1	1 April	Scott Co., 1/8 mile South of Wildcat Den State Park	P & R Allen
----------	---	---------	---	-------------

Great Egret	✓ 1	2 April	Madison Co., Badger Creek	P & R Allen
	✓ 22	19 April	Hamilton Co., Anderson Lake	P & R Allen

✓ Dunlin	4	8 April	Polk Co., Just East of Hwy 17 Bridge on Des Moines River	R Allen* P Allen
----------	---	---------	--	---------------------

NOTE: 2nd early date; these four plump shorebirds with their down-curving bills were all in various plumages, with the black "belly" patches showing on only two of the birds.

✓ Swainson's Hawk	5	16 April	Fremont Co.	P & R Allen
-------------------	---	----------	-------------	-------------

NOTE: These five birds were scattered around the county, but that is the most we have seen in one day.

Page 2
Spring Field Reports
Pam and Reid Allen

Piping Plover 1 16 April Pottawattamie Co., IPL Ponds (or Midwest Resources settling ponds) P & R Allen

✓ Marbled Godwit 4 16 April Fremont Co., Sheldon Basin P & R Allen

NOTE: These birds drifted in on their cinnamon-buffy wings and were softly calling "Godwit" back and forth to each other. There were no black and white rump markings.

✓ Eared Grebe 2 30 April Monona Co., South of South Blue Lake about 1 mile P & R Allen

✓ White-faced Ibis 7 30 April Monona Co., South Blue Lake P & R Allen

NOTE: These birds were first discovered earlier by Pete Ernzen. Also, enclosed is a photograph of one of these birds, taken by Reid.

✓ Purple Martin 1 30 April Shelby Co., I-80 at Shelby Exit P & R Allen

✓ Lincoln Sparrow 1 30 April Polk Co., 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines P & R Allen

✓ Willet 1 2 May Polk Co., south Engledinger Marsh P & R Allen

NOTE: This bird was first discovered by Eugene and Eloise Armstrong.

✓ Eastern Kingbird 1 6 May Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. P & R Allen

✓ Black Tern 2 7 May Hamilton Co., Anderson Lake P & R Allen

✓ Common Moorhen 2 11 May Hamilton Co., Anderson Lake P & R Allen

NOTE: These two birds with their bright red bills were on opposite ends of the lake.

✓ American Avocet 1 11 May Polk Co., south Engledinger Marsh P & R Allen

NOTE: A picture of this breeding-plumaged Avocet taken by Reid is enclosed.

✓ Hudsonian Godwit 4 11 May Story Co., 1-1/2 miles North of main Colo Ponds on old #30 P & R Allen

NOTE: Three of these birds were in breeding plumage and one was still in the process of moulting. Their white rump patches and black tail bands stood right out as they flitted around the edge of this flooded field.

✓ Laughing Gull 1 11 May Polk Co., below dam at Saylorville Res. P & R Allen

NOTE: This is the first breeding plumaged Laughing Gull we have seen in Iowa. This bird was first seen by Gordon Brown on the day before and was seen flying over the two ponds just East of the spillway. Reid and I saw the bird sitting on a rock pile out in the channel below the spillway. Documentation enclosed.

Page 3
Spring Field Reports
Pam and Reid Allen

✓ Common Nighthawk	1	11 May	Dallas Co., I-80 at Waukee/ Booneville Exit	P & R Allen
✓ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	13 May	Boone Co., Holst Forest	P & R Allen
✓ Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	13 May	Boone Co., Holst Forest	P & R Allen

NOTE: Eugene and Eloise Armstrong and Dennis Thompson discovered this bird on May 12. How we were lucky enough to relocate it in the long string of pine trees is a miracle we will never understand. It was not calling and we just happened to look up at a tree and there it was--too bad we didn't get to see the Pine Warbler they had seen there also!

✓ Mississippi Kite	2	13 May	Polk Co., Windsor Heights, 73rd Street; Olivet Church	P & R Allen
---------------------------	---	--------	--	-------------

NOTE: One of these birds was first seen by Jane Clark, Clive, on the day before. When we went to look for the bird, we were happy to see two of them sitting in the same tree together. Document enclosed.

Sanderling	3	21 May	Pottawattamie Co., IPL Ponds (or Midwest Resources settling ponds)	P & R Allen
-------------------	---	--------	--	-------------

✓ Bell's Vireo	1	21 May	Fremont Co., Sheldon Basin	P & R Allen
✓ Blue Grosbeak	2	21 May	Fremont Co., 1/2 mile south of Bartlett	P & R Allen

✓ Western Kingbird	4	29 May	Polk Co., State Capitol Bldg., Des Moines	P & R Allen
---------------------------	---	--------	--	-------------

NOTE: A half-completed nest was being worked on by one pair of the birds. The other two birds were calling from a short distance away to the east of the Capitol bldg.