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FIELD REPORTS - SPRING 1995

GENERAL TRENDS

The waterfowl migration got off to an early start, and 12 duck species were at Cardinal Marsh on 14 March. However, they did not linger as long as usual. At Cardinal Marsh, this was due to the draining of the main pond for management purposes. This did provide good shorebird habitat; and although more than usual were seen, the hoped-for shorebird bonanza never materialized.

The last two weeks of April and the first nine days in May seemed like Silent Spring with remarkably little passerine activity. No Hermit Thrush were seen and normally common species, e.g. Kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warbler, were scarce.

The first and largest passerine wave of the season finally reached Decorah on 10 May and included 14 warbler species. Many passerines were also found at Effigy Mounds on 13 May. On 23 May, ^{in a cold rain,} a mini-fallout of passerines was found in the sparse woods at Lake Cornelia Park, Wright Co. This included 7 Swainson's Thrush and 10 warbler species.

SPECIES DATA

All Effigy Mounds National Monument records are from Allamakee County. Winneshiek Co. records are from Burr Oak, Cardinal Marsh, Coon Creek Area, and Lake Meyer County Park.

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SPECIES DATA

- ✓ Common Loon: 1 ^{alternate plumage} was on a gravel pit pond in Decorah, 11-15 Apr.
- ✓ Horned Grebe: 5 ^{alternate plumage} were on the Decorah gravel pit pond on 29 Apr.
- ✓ American Bittern: 1 was heard at Cardinal M. on 24 May.
- ✓ Tundra Swan: 15 were found on a farm pond, near Burr Oak on 17 Mar; 8 were still there on 21 Mar.
- ✓ Green-winged Teal: Most were 50 at Cardinal M. on 14 Mar; 38 were at Cardinal M. on 13 Apr.
- ✓ Ruddy Duck: 4 at Cardinal M. on 14 Mar were early.
- ✓ 16 were at Blue Lake, Monona Cr. on 22 May.
- ✓ Osprey: My only record was 1 at Effigy Mounds on 1 May.
- ✓ Northern Harrier: First was a male at Cardinal M. on 14 Mar.
- ✓ American Coot: Peak was 1800 at Cardinal M. on 8 Apr.
- ✓ Semipalmated Plover: First was 1 at Cardinal M. on 27 Apr.
- ✓ Peak was 13 at Cardinal M. on 12 May.
- ✓ Killdeer: Peak was 70 at Cardinal M. on 22 Mar.
- ✓ Solitary Sandpiper: First was 1 at Decorah on 30 Apr., also 3 May Winneshiek Co. records.
- ✓ Willet: 1 was seen at the Burr Oak farm pond, 30 Apr and 3 May.
- ✓ Sanderling: 1 in basic plumage was at Cardinal M. on 6 May.
- ✓ Least Sandpiper: First were 14 at Cardinal M. on 6 May.
- ✓ Peak was 92 at Cardinal M. on 12 May.
- ✓ White-rumped Sandpiper: 6 were at Cardinal M. on 24 May.
- ✓ Pectoral Sandpiper: Peak was 80 at Cardinal M. on 2 Apr.
- ✓ Dunlin: Peak was 14 at Cardinal M. on 24 May.
- ✓ Bengal's Gull: My only record was 10 at Cardinal M. on 27 Apr.

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SPECIES DATA

- ✓ Least Flycatcher: Most was 8 at Lake Cornelia Park, Wright Co. on 23 May.
- ✓ Eastern Kingbird: An unusual concentration of 27 was found on the mudflats at Cardinal M. on 24 May. Most were probably late migrants as only 2 or 3 pairs usually nest here.
- Winter Wren: 2 April records for Winneshiek Co.
- ✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 at Lake Cornelia Park on 23 May was unexpected.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush: more than usual in May.
- ✓ Bell's Vireo: A singing bird at Cardinal M. on 24 May was my first for that locality.
- ✓ Golden-winged Warbler: Singles were at Decorah on 10 and 16 May.
- ✓ Northern Parula Warbler: A singing male was seen at Decorah on 10 May, my first spring record in 6 springs.
- ✓ Black-throated Blue Warbler: A male was seen at close range in the Coon Creek Area of Winneshiek Co. on 11 May.
- ✓ Palm Warbler: Not found until 7 May and very few seen, especially compared to last spring's abundance.
- ✓ American Redstart: Peak was 19 at Decorah on 10 May.
- ✓ Ovenbird: Peak was 17 at Decorah on 10 May.
- ✓ Mourning Warbler: Singles were at Decorah on 15 May and at Lake Cornelia Park on 23 May.
- ✓ Hooded Warbler: A male was seen at Effigy Mounds on 13 May.
- White-crowned Sparrow: Singles were at 3 Winneshiek Co. localities in mid-May.

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- ✓ Harris Sparrow: Singles were reported [^] from Burr Oak and Latte Meyer on 14 May, and both remained for a few days ^{by other observers}
- ✓ Dark-eyed Junco: Last was 1 at Latte Meyer on 2 May.
- ✓ Rusty Blackbird: I usually miss this species in spring but found 8 at Cardinal M. on 22 Mar; they were last seen on 8 Apr.
- ✓ Orchard Oriole: A singing male was seen at Big Wall Lake, Wright Co. on 19 May.

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P.S.: I'll send any additional records, next Wed. Good luck with the arduous job of compiling the Spring Report.

P.O. Box 531
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May 21, 1995

Tom —

✓ On 31 May, I saw a Common Loon,
in alternate plumage, at Cardinal Marsh.

On 25 May, Tex Sordahl and I saw the
following shorebirds at Cardinal Marsh:

- ✓ 3 Semipalmated Plover
- ✓ 2 Least Sandpiper
- ✓ 20 Semipalmated Sandpiper
- ✓ 2 White-rumped Sandpiper
- ✓ 28 Dunlin

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