

Field Reports-Spring 1991

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- ✓ Common Loon-1 on 17, 20 Mar, 18 on 3 Apr at Saylorville
- ✓ Eared Grebe-1 on 28 Mar at IPL Ponds(+TEB); 3 on 28 Mar at Lake Manawa(+TEB); 19 on 3 May at IPL Ponds; 9 on 15 May at Rush L., Osceola Co. (could be nesting); 1 on 16 May at Big Creek; 1 on 16-17 May at Dunbar Sl.
- ✓ Red-necked Grebe-1 on 3 Apr at Saylorville (large grebe, bright rufous-colored neck, long, heavy, yellowish bill, white throat and cheek, and dark mantle and wings)
- ✓ Western Grebe-1 on 15 May at Lost Island L.
- ✓ Am. White Pelican-41 on 22 Mar, 403 on 3 Apr at Saylorville; 275 on 27-28 Mar at Riverton W.A. (+TEB)
- ✓ Double-crested Cormorant-3 on 28 Mar at Riverton W.A. (+TEB); 17 on 28 Mar at Lake Manawa (+TEB)
- ✓ Great Egret-22 on 11 May at Riverton W.A. (+DLR, BJR, WRS)
- ✓ Snowy Egret-1 on 17 May at Riverton W.A. (+LPH) (small, white heron-bill slender and black, legs also black with yellow feet)
- ✓ Cattle Egret-16 on 16-17 May near Polk City
- ✓ Black-crowned Night-Heron-1 on 3 Apr at Saylorville; 23 on 15 May at Big Wall L.
- ✓ White-faced Ibis-6 on 30 Apr at New L. (medium-sized, dark herons with distinctive decurved bill, body color dark iridescent purplish, broad white border around base of bill clearly evident on four of the birds)
- ✓ Trumpeter Swan-2 on 9 Mar at Hendrickson M. (one with wing tag 125)
- ✓ Greater White-fronted Goose-930 on 10 Mar in Guthrie Co.; 5400 on 15 Mar in Fremont Co.; 1900 on 16 Mar at Willow Sl.; 166 on 6 Apr in SW Greene Co.; 14 on 17 May at Riverton W.A. (+LPH)
- ✓ Snow Goose-an estimated 60,000 on 6-7 Mar, 200,000+ on 11-12 Mar, and only 9000 on 23 Mar in Fremont Co.; large numbers were in central Iowa again this year with 12,000 on 10 Mar at Long Pond, Guthrie Co.
- ✓ Ross' Goose-hundreds were in SW Iowa during March-sample counts of the large flocks on Snow Geese were turning up about 4-5% Ross' Geese; 1200 on 6 Mar in Fremont Co.; 82 on 10 Mar, 4 on 6 Apr in SW Greene Co.; 34 on 10 Mar at Long Pond, Guthrie Co.; 1 on 20 Mar at Runnell's W.A., Marion Co.; 41 on 20 Mar at Hendrickson M.; 104 on 23 Mar at Willow Sl.; 2 on 22 Apr at Trumbull L.; 1 on 11, 17 May at Riverton W.A. (+RWS, DLR, BJR, LPH) (with Snow Geese-identified by smaller bill, shorter neck, smaller size)
- ✓ Green-winged Teal-1300 on 15 Mar at Riverton W.A.
- ✓ Northern Pintail-8000 on 5-7 Mar at Riverton W.A.; 3000 on 6 Mar at Forney L.; 3000 on 16 Mar at Dunbar Sl.
- ✓ Blue-winged Teal-2 on 5 Mar at Bays Branch
- ✓ Cinnamon Teal-1 male on 6, 11 Mar at Riverton W.A. (+WRS); 1 male on 1 May at Colo Ponds
- ✓ Eurasian Wigeon-*1 male on 6 Mar at Riverton W.A. (+Eu&EIA, WRS)
- ✓ Canvasback-1200 on 17 Mar at Saylorville; 2000 on 30 Mar at Montrose

- ✓ Greater Scaup-3 males on 5 Mar at Bays Branch (identified by larger size as compared to Lesser Scaup, rounder head, white stripe extending into primaries); 22 on 28 Mar at IPL Ponds (+TEB) (larger than Lesser Scaup, rounder heads, saw longer wing stripe on some of them)
- ✓ Lesser Scaup-30,000 on 30 Mar at Montrose
- ✓ Oldsquaw-1 female on 20 Mar at Saylorville; 1 male on 25-31 Mar, 1 male and 2 females on 2 Apr at Little Wall L.
- ✓ Surf Scoter-1 female or imm. on 15 May at Rush L., Osceola Co.; 1 female or imm. on 15 May at Little Wall L. (both birds were dark brown, had dark wings, showed two white spots on the face, and had a heavy, dark bill)
- ✓ Bufflehead-24 on 17 May at IPL Ponds
- ✓ Hooded Merganser-4 on 3 Mar at Saylorville
- ✓ Common Merganser-1700 on 3 Mar, 5600 on 9 Mar at Saylorville
- ✓ Red-breasted Merganser-1 female on 2 Mar (slimmer and smaller than female Common, breast washed with buff, shaggier crest), 436 on 3 Apr at Saylorville
- ✓ Ruddy Duck-1 on 12 Mar at Saylorville; 2200 on 30 Mar at Montrose
- ✓ Bald Eagle-109 (60 ad., 49 imm.) on 5 Mar at Riverton W.A.; 50 (32 ad., 18 imm.) on 5 Mar at Lake Manawa; 59 (16 ad., 43 imm.) on 17 Mar at Saylorville
- ✓ Northern Goshawk-1 imm. on 22 Mar at Jester Park (identified mainly by size, almost that of a Red-tailed Hawk-size too large for even the largest female Cooper's); 1 ad. on 6 Apr at Saylorville (large accipiter, blue-gray mantle and wings, white underparts)
- ✓ Cooper's Hawk-territorial birds and a nest on 21 Apr at the Iowa 4-H Camp, Boone Co.; another territorial pair was s. of the 4-H Camp on 20-21 Apr; 1 on 17 May NW of Boone (+LPH)
- ✓ Broad-winged Hawk-4 on 19 Apr at the Iowa 4-H Camp
- ✓ Peregrine Falcon-1 ad. on 4 Apr at Saylorville (Scott Rolfes fide SJD); 1 ad. on 30 Apr e. of Sloan
- ✓ Gray Partridge-2 on 12 Mar near Riverton W.A.
- ✓ Sora-3 on 6 Apr at Dunbar Sl.
- ✓ Common Moorhen-2 on 15 May at Big Wall L.
- ✓ American Coot-1300 on 2 Apr at Little Wall L.
- ✓ Sandhill Crane-1 ad. on 10 Mar in SW Greene Co.; 1 ad. on 23 Mar SW of McPaul, Fremont Co.
- ✓ Black-bellied Plover-8 on 11 May at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Lesser Golden-Plover-2 on 22 Mar at Lakin Sl.; 1 on 22 Mar in SW Greene Co.; 57 on 27 Mar, 64 on 28 Mar at Riverton W.A. (+TEB)
- ✓ Piping Plover-3 birds and a nest on 10 May at IPL Ponds; 1 on 11 May at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Killdeer-310 on 6 Mar, 500 on 28 Mar (+TEB) at Riverton W.A.
- ✓ American Avocet-2 on 8 Apr (large shorebird, recurved bill, buffy head and neck-unmistakeable) and 2 on 11 May (+WRS, DLR, BJR) at Riverton W.A.
- ✓ Greater Yellowlegs-1 on 7 Mar SW of Forney L. (larger than a Killdeer, bill longer than length of head and distinctly upturned); singles on 11 Mar at Riverton W.A. and near McPaul; 28 on 27 Mar at Riverton W.A. (+TEB); 1 on 17 May at Riverton W.A. (+LPH)
- ✓ Lesser Yellowlegs-1 on 15 Mar at Riverton W.A. (in company of Greater-noted smaller size, shorter, straighter bill, and softer, 3-syllable call); 18 on 28 Mar at Riverton W.A. (+TEB); 530 on 11

- May at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Hudsonian Godwit-16 on 8 Apr at Riverton W.A. (large shorebirds, bill slightly upturned, reddish-brown underparts with darker barring, flushed to show white rump and white wing stripe); 26 on 11 May at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
 - ✓ Marbled Godwit-2 on 6 Apr at McCord Pond (large, brownish shorebirds, bill long, bicolored, and slightly upturned, cinnamon wing linings seen in flight); 6 on 11 May at Forney L. (DLR and BJR only); 1 on 11 May at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
 - ✓ Ruddy Turnstone-5 on 11 May at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
 - ✓ Sanderling-1 on 11 May at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
 - ✓ Semipalmated Sandpiper-308 on 11 May in Fremont Co. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
 - ✓ Least Sandpiper-1 on 22 Mar at Lakin Sl. (small, brownish peep, yellow/green legs, very thin, short bill); 1 on 28 Mar at Riverton W.A. (+TEB)
 - ✓ Baird's Sandpiper-*2 on 11 Mar at Riverton W.A.; *4 on 11 Mar w. of McPaul; 1 on 15 Mar at Riverton W.A.; 400 on 27-28 Mar at Riverton W.A. (+TEB)
 - ✓ White-rumped Sandpiper-124 on 11 May in Fremont Co. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
 - ✓ Pectoral Sandpiper-2 on 6 Mar at Riverton W.A.; 2 on 7 Mar near Forney L.; 60 on 27 Mar at Riverton W.A. (+TEB); 345 on 11 May in Fremont Co. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
 - ✓ Dunlin-41 on 11 May at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
 - ✓ Stilt Sandpiper-53 on 17 May at Riverton W.A. (+LPH)
 - ✓ Short-billed Dowitcher-300 on 11 May at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, DLR, BJR) (most identified by softer "tu-tu-tu" call note, although we did see the paler, salmon-colored underparts and spotting on the flanks on some birds)
 - ✓ Long-billed Dowitcher-basic-plumaged birds identified by sharp "keek" call included 8 on 23 Mar at Willow Sl. and 14 on 27 Mar, 16 on 28 Mar at Riverton W.A. (+TEB); 16 on 11 May at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, DLR, BJR) (identified by darker reddish-brown underparts, prominent barring on flanks, darker appearance to tail due to wider dark bars, and by sharp "keek" call notes)
 - ✓ Common Snipe-49 on 6 Apr at McCord Pond; 1 on 17 May at Dunbar Sl. (+LPH)
 - ✓ Wilson's Phalarope-*1 male on 28 Mar at Riverton W.A. (+TEB); 170 on 30 Apr at New L.
 - ✓ Franklin's Gull-1 on 22 Mar at Saylorville; 400 on 18 Apr in Woodbury Co.; 550 on 30 Apr at IPL Ponds
 - ✓ Bonaparte's Gull-1 on 22 Mar at Saylorville; 377 on 30 Mar at Montrose
 - ✓ Ring-billed Gull-800 on 2 Mar, 2400 on 9 Mar, 26,000+ on 17-26 Mar at Saylorville
 - ✓ Herring Gull-53 on 22 Mar, 3 young birds on 17 May at Saylorville
 - Glaucous Gull-2 1st-w birds on 17 Mar at Saylorville
 - ✓ Iceland/Thayer's Gull-*1 on 14 Mar below Red Rock dam, seen on 3 Apr at Saylorville
 - ✓ Caspian Tern-19 on 17 May at Saylorville (+LPH)
 - ✓ Common Tern-1 ad. on 2 May at Red Rock Res. (primary shafts black, unlike translucent primaries of a Forster's Tern); 1 on 11 May at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, DLR, BJR) (also identified by darker primary shafts)
 - ✓ Black-billed Cuckoo-1 on 11 May at Waubonsie S.P. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)

- ✓ Barred Owl-8 on 11 May in Fremont Co. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Northern Saw-whet Owl-1 through 4 Apr at Ledges S.P.
- ✓ Common Nighthawk-1 on 30 Apr near Stockport, Van Buren Co.
- ✓ Chuck-will's-widow-5 on 11 May n. of Waubonsie S.P. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Whip-poor-will-1 was singing on 19 Apr at the Iowa 4-H Camp
- ✓ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-2 on 30 Mar at Croton Unit, Shimek S.F.
- ✓ Alder Flycatcher-2 on 17 May at Ledges S.P. (calling fee-bee-o) (+LPH)
- ✓ Tree Swallow-2 on 22 Mar at Jester Park
- ✓ Bank Swallow-2 on 21 Apr at the Iowa 4-H Camp (dull brown swallow, noted distinct brown band across belly)
- ✓ Bewick's Wren-1 singing on 1 May at Croton Unit, Shimek S.F.
- ✓ Carolina Wren-2 after 6 Apr at Ledges S.P.; singles on 11 May at Waubonsie S.P. and Manti Woods (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Ruby-crowned Kinglet-2 on 17 May at Dunbar Sl.
- ✓ Northern Mockingbird-singles on 11 May e. of Riverton W.A. and near Percival (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ American Pipit-12 on 11 Mar at Riverton W.A.
- ✓ Northern Shrike-1 through 17 Mar at Big Creek; 1 on 23 Mar at Willow Sl. (both were identified by larger, more strongly hooked bill, whiter rump, and less distinct face mask)
- ✓ Bell's Vireo-1 on 11 May at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Golden-winged Warbler-1 on 17 May at McCord Pond, Guthrie Co. (+LPH)
- ✓ Orange-crowned Warbler-1 on 20 Apr at the Iowa 4-H Camp
- ✓ Northern Parula-singles on 11 May at Waubonsie S.P. and Manti Woods (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Yellow Warbler-1 on 2 May at Walnut Creek NWR, Jasper Co.
- ✓ Cape May Warbler-2 on 17 May at McCord Pond
- ✓ Yellow-rumped Warbler-1 on 17 May at Dunbar Sl.
- ✓ Yellow-throated Warbler-*1 on 6 Apr at Ledges S.P.
- ✓ Bay-breasted Warbler-1 on 11 May at Waubonsie S.P. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Blackpoll Warbler-6 on 11 May in Fremont Co. (+WRS, DLR, BJR); 6 on 17 May at McCord Pond (+LPH)
- ✓ Prothonotary Warbler-1 on 11 May at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, DLR, BJR); 1 on 16 May below Saylorville dam
- ✓ Louisiana Waterthrush-1 on 30 Mar at Croton Unit, Shimek S.F. (heard and seen well-noted the yellowish lores and eyeline to eliminate Northern, as does the song); 2 on 6 Apr at Ledges S.P.; 1 on 11 May at Waubonsie S.P. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Kentucky Warbler-1 on 11 May at Waubonsie S.P. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Mourning Warbler-1 on 11 May at Waubonsie S.P. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Common Yellowthroat-2 on 1 May at Croton Unit, Shimek S.F.
- ✓ Hooded Warbler-1 on 1 May at Croton Unit, Shimek S.F.
- ✓ Yellow-breasted Chat-1 on 11 May at Manti Woods (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Summer Tanager-2 on 11 May at Waubonsie S.P. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Blue Grosbeak-1 on 11 May s. of Bartlett (+WRS, DLR, BJR)
- ✓ Chipping Sparrow-1 on 30 Mar at Montrose (singing in town-also noted rufous cap, white eyeline, clear gray underparts); 4 on 6 Apr at Ledges S.P.
- ✓ Field Sparrow-2 on 26 Mar at Big Creek
- ✓ Vesper Sparrow-1 on 16 Mar n. of Riverton W.A. (white outer tail feathers seen, as well as pale eyering and streaked underparts)
- ✓ Fox Sparrow-1 on 10 Mar at Bays Branch
- ✓ Lincoln's Sparrow-1 on 17 May at Ledges S.P. (+LPH)

- ✓Lapland Longspur-2000 on 15 Mar near Thurman, Fremont Co.
- ✓Yellow-headed Blackbird-1 male on 3 Apr at Anderson L., Hamilton Co. (Gordon Brown fide SJD)
- ✓Rusty Blackbird-225 on 22 Mar at Long Pond, Guthrie Co.
- ✓Brewer's Blackbird-1 female on 16 Mar at Riverton W.A. (noted grayer body plumage than a Rusty Blackbird, as well as dark eye)
- ✓Great-tailed Grackle-1 male on 6 Apr at Lakin Sl.; at least 6 pairs on 17 May at Goose L., Greene Co.
- ✓Orchard Oriole-13 on 11 May in Fremont Co. (+WRS, DLR, BJR)

Other Observers

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Comment: On 11 May, a Big Day in Fremont County turned up 26 species of shorebirds and 21 species of warblers (SJD, WRS, DLR, BJR).