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Fall 1999 Report

Weather:

Dry conditions and continuing above-normal temperatures were the highlights of this fall season. By the end of the period, still no trace of ice anywhere in northwest Iowa.

Observations:

- Pied-Billed Grebe: Several were at Doon (Lyon Co.) on September 3.
- ✓ - American White Pelican: Last one observed was a single individual at a quarry about five miles south of Sioux Center on November 12.
- ✓ - Double-crested Cormorant: Still many individuals in Sioux County on November 17.
- ✓ - Great Egret: The last one observed was at Hawarden on October 13.
- ✓ - Greater White-fronted Goose: One was with a flock of Canada Geese at Doon on October 15.
- Osprey: One carrying a sizable catfish in its claws was just south of Sioux Center on September 13. Another one was at Hawarden on September 22 and again on September 29.
- Bald Eagle: Migration began in early November. On November 5 an immature was at Doon. On November 12 several adults in Sioux County.
- Cooper's Hawk: Enjoyed a very nice close-up view of one near Hawarden on September 22.
- Rough-legged Hawk: First one observed in Sioux County on November 20.
- ✓ - Pectoral Sandpiper: Last one observed was at Doon on October 22.
- ✓ - Stilt Sandpiper: Six were at the Doon ponds on September 17.
- Common Snipe: At Doon throughout the month of October.
- ✓ - Black-billed Cuckoo: Last one observed near Hawarden on September 22.

- ✓ - Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: First migrant in Sioux Center on September 25.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher: Very good migration. During the last week of August and the first week of September they were in my yard almost every day. On several days as many as three at the same time.
- Loggerhead Shrike: One was near Doon on August 6.
- Barn Swallow: For what it's worth: In the latter half of August I received telephone calls from folks near Oak Grove Park in western Sioux County, reporting literally hundreds and hundreds (if not thousands) of Barn Swallows swarming around their farm yards. One caller said that she had never seen such huge flocks in the 40 years she has lived in the area.
- ✓ - Red-breasted Nuthatch: A very early bird was in my yard on August 29. Present off and on in Sioux Center since then. Three were at a feeder in Sioux Center on September 18 and 21. Several were at Hawarden on September 22. They were plentiful in Sioux County in October, and still common in November. Clearly a major invasion.
- ✓ - Brown Creeper: First migrant observed in Sioux Center on September 25.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet: First observed at Hawarden on October 13.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: The first one observed was in my yard on September 12.
- Eastern Bluebird: A flock of six individuals was west of Doon on October 15.
- ✓ - Swainson's Thrush: One was in my yard on September 18.
- ✓ - Brown Thrasher: One lingering individual was in my yard on November 19 and again on November 27.
- ✓ - American Pipit: Six were at Doon on October 15.
- Warblers: Another lackluster migration. Nothing unusual to report. On September 1 there were a dozen warblers of six species in a single large linden tree along 4th avenue in Sioux Center (Black+White Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Blackpoll, Redstart, Wilson's Warbler, and Canada Warbler). Not so unusual, except that the tree was at the very edge of the road under construction. The warblers practically flirted with the drivers of noisy steam rollers, heavy trucks, and road paving equipment. Last Yellow-rumped Warblers observed on October 22.

- ✓ - American Tree Sparrow: First observed at Hawarden on October 20.
- ✓ - Fox Sparrow: First one in my yard on November 2; last one on November 20.
 - White-throated Sparrow: Remained numerous through the end of the period.
- ✓ - Harris's Sparrow: First migrants were in my yard on October 18. From then on a very conspicuous bird.
- ✓ - Dark-eyed Junco: First migrants arrived in my yard on October 5.
 - Blackbirds: Large flocks of Grackles and Blackbirds came to roost in Sioux Center during last week of August and stayed through the first week of November.
 - Rusty Blackbird: Flocks were east of Rock Valley and at Doon on October 22. Still many individuals in the same area on November 12.
 - Common Grackle: Many individuals lingered through the end of the period.
 - Purple Finch: First one (a female) was at my feeders on November 7. Around Thanksgiving Day (November 25) several pairs appeared at the feeders.
- ✓ - Pine Siskin: The first ones were in my yard on October 24.

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