

FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1991

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WEATHER

March was unusually warm and wet overall. It was the second wettest March in 119 years of state records (only 0.06 inch shy of the record set last year). There were several strong windstorms on the 6th, 12-13th, and 22-23rd; but the mean monthly wind speed was only 3% above average. Strong storm systems occurred on the 12th, 17th, 22nd, and 27th. Tornadoes were widespread on the 22nd. Twelve inches of snow fell at Dubuque on the 12-13th.

April went into the record books as the wettest in 119 years; precipitation was almost twice normal. The month started out relatively warm and dry, but after the 8th nearly daily showers and thunderstorms marched across the state for the rest of the month.

May continued unusually warm and wet. The total rainfall was only the 26th wettest on record, but it was sufficient to add greatly to widespread flooding. About one-quarter of Iowa, especially in the east and along the southern and western fringes, received below average rainfall.

Total average rainfall for the spring season was the greatest since 1892. Many of Iowa's major rivers were in nearly continuous flood condition. As a result, usual wetland birding areas were often under water or greatly altered, and nearby fields were inundated. The four major reservoirs were practically filled to capacity.

	Mean Temperature and Precipitation with Deviation from Normal	
	Temperature, F Mean (Deviation)	Precipitation, inches Mean (Deviation)
March	39.4 (+5.5)	4.26 (+2.11)
April	51.9 (+2.6)	5.77 (+2.58)
May	64.6 (+3.8)	5.21 (+1.25)
January-May		16.33 (+5.09)

GENERAL TRENDS

With the open water and warm temperatures, waterfowl and gulls moved through early. Herring Gulls moved through without lingering. Waterfowl made a particularly good showing with all three swans and scoters, more than usual numbers of Cinnamon Teal, Greater Scaup, and Oldsquaw, large numbers of Ross' Geese, and two accidental species (Garganey and Eurasian Wigeon). There were no spectacular concentrations of song birds, although good numbers were found at some locations. By late May there were few lingering migrants. Shorebirds arrived early in March in good numbers in southwest Iowa, but few were reported again until May. Shorebirding was not as good at the reservoirs because of high water, but flooded fields offered alternate habitat. A number of early passerines were found in southeast Iowa by observers who suspected that they might be there, and several unusual warblers were noted in northcentral Iowa.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Potential new species for the state include Garganey and Fish Crow. Other accidentals that were documented include Tricolored Heron, Eurasian Wigeon, Mississippi Kite, Black-shouldered Kite, Black-necked Stilt, Ruff, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Townsend's Warbler, Western Tanager, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow. Casual species (some of which are no longer so casual) include Red-necked Grebe, White-faced Ibis, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, Ferruginous Hawk, Whimbrel, Burrowing Owl, Bewick's Wren, Great-tailed Grackle, and House Finch. Trumpeter Swans from the released Minnesota population were seen. A Gambel's Quail was considered a released or escaped bird.

SPECIES DATA

* = documented, m.ob. = many observers

Common Loon: March sightings included 1 at Saylorville Res. on 16 Mar (BE) [2nd earliest] and 1 at Nashua on 22 Mar (EuA, ElA).

Pied-billed Grebe: 2, presumably breeding, were at Moeckley Prairie e. of Polk City on 31 May (BE).

Horned Grebe: 2 were at Saylorville Res. on 10 Mar (BE) [ties 3rd earliest]; other March sightings were at Badger Creek L. on the 13th (EuA, ElA), at Swan L. in Johnson Co. on the 25th (JLF), and at Cone M. on the 30th (PW).

Red-necked Grebe: Singles were at Pleasant Creek S.P. on 1 Apr (*JLF) [2nd earliest], at Saylorville Res. on 3 Apr (SJD), and at Zirbel Sl. on 7 May (*KLP).

Eared Grebe: The first were 4 at IPL Ponds and L. Manawa on 28 Mar (SJD), and the peak of 19 was at IPL Ponds on 3 May (SJD). There were many other records from the following counties: Cerro Gordo, Greene, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hardin, Linn, Marshall, Osceola, Polk, Scott, Sioux, and Woodbury.

Western Grebe: The only report was of 1 at Lost Island L. on 15 May (SJD).

American White Pelican: The first was at Red Rock Res. on 16 Mar (AMJ); the peak was 403 at Saylorville Res. on 3 Apr (SJD). Up to 200 were seen in various western and central locations through 18 May. Eastern Iowa birds included 5 at Coralville Res. on 25 Mar (JLF), 8 at New Albin on 7 Apr (FL), and 9 at Cardinal M. on 14 Apr. (DC).

Double-crested Cormorant: The first was 1 at Hendrickson M. on 23 Mar (MPR, BPR); the peak was 350 on 20 Apr at Saylorville Res. (AMJ).

American Bittern: 1 was w. of Adel on 2 Apr (AMJ) [3rd earliest]. Other sightings were of 1-3 birds from ten other counties.

Least Bittern: None were reported. It is hard to believe that none were seen.

Great Blue Heron: 2 nests at Woodland Mound Preserve in Warren Co. were still active on 25 May (JSi).

Great Egret: The first were at Cone M. (JLF) and Coralville Res. (THK) on 31 Mar; the peaks were 22 at Riverton A. on 11 May (SJD) and 25 at New Albin on 15 May (THK).

Snowy Egret: 5 at four locations included 2 at L. Paullina in O'Brien Co. on 2 May (Jim Huber fide DBi); 1 at Otter Creek M. on 10 May (THK), 1 along the Raccoon R. in Polk Co. on 14 May (PA,

RA), and 1 at Riverton A. on 17 May (SJD).

Little Blue Heron: An adult flew over Hickory Hill P. on 1 May (JLF) and another was at Lakin Sl. on 10 May (RKM).

Tricolored Heron: A first-year bird at IPL Ponds on 4 May (*JG) would be the second state record.

Cattle Egret: The first were 4 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 May (refuge personnel fide MCK); 1 to 16 were seen at eight other locations in May.

Green-backed Heron: 1 was described at Ames on 6 Apr (Vance Pouton fide JJD)[3rd earliest].

Black-crowned Night-Heron: The first was at Saylorville Res. on 3 Apr (SJD); the peaks were 20 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 14 May (MCK) and 23 at Big Wall L. on 23 May (SJD).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: The only reports were 1 near Perry on 17 May (RKM) and 1 at Zirbel Sl. on 22 May (KLP).

Ibis species: Singles were near Jewell on 8 May (*MPR) and 13 May (AMJ).

White-faced Ibis: 6 (4 with white faces) were at New L. on 30 Apr (SJD); 1 was at Zirbel Sl. on 22 May (*KLP).

Tundra Swan: 28 were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 18 Mar (MCK); 1 was at IPL Ponds on 31 Mar (BKP, LJP, details); and 1 was at Mud L. in Clay Co. on 1 Apr (LAS).

Trumpeter Swan: 2 were at Hendrickson M. from 2 to 10 Mar; one had an orange wing tag numbered 125 (HZ, MPR, BPR, SJD).

Mute Swan: 2 were at Johnston on 30 Mar (DCP, details).

Greater White-fronted Goose: The first were 87 on 3 Mar in Marion Co. (JSi); the peaks were 5,400 in Fremont Co. on 15 Mar and 1,900 at Willow Sl. on 16 Mar (SJD). The only report from eastern Iowa was a lingering bird at West Amana on 10 May (THK). Also lingering were 14 at Riverton to at least 17 May (SJD).

Snow Goose: The peak was 200,000 in Fremont Co. on 11 Mar (SJD).

Ross' Goose: 1,200 in Fremont Co. on 6 Mar, said to represent 4 to 5 percent of the number of Snow Geese (SJD), are easily the most ever reported. Dinsmore also reported other large concentrations with 82 in SW Greene Co. on 10 Mar, 34 on Long Pond in Guthrie Co. on 10 Mar, 41 at Hendrickson M. on 20 Mar, and 104 at Willow Sl. on 23 Mar. Eastern Iowa reports included 2 at Cone M. on 17 Mar (THK) and 1 at Kent P. and Swan L. from 5 to 10 Mar (*JLF, DRP). Lingering birds were 2 at Trumbull L. on 22 Apr (SJD) and 1 at Riverton A. on 17 May (SJD). It is clear from these data and reports from surrounding states that Ross' Geese appear to be on the increase in the Midwest.

Canada Goose: The peak was 2,300 at Saylorville Res. on 4 Mar (BE).

Green-winged Teal: The peak was 1,300 at Riverton A. on 15 Mar (SJD); 1 lingered at Swan L. in Johnson Co. until 11 May (PW).

American Black Duck: A female with 2 young was at Bettendorf on 7 May (PCP). Lingering singles were at Zirbel Sl. on 15 May (THK) and Snake Creek M. on 17 May (JSi).

Northern Pintail: The peaks were 8,000 at Riverton A. on 5 Mar, 3,000 at Forney L. on 6 Mar, and 3,000 at Dunbar Sl. on 16 Mar (SJD). The last was 1 at Forney L. on 13 May (THK).

Garganey: A male at IPS Ponds in Woodbury Co. on 11 May (*JFP, *BFH) will be a first state record if accepted by the Records

Committee.

Blue-winged Teal: The first 2 were at Bays Branch on 5 Mar (SJD).

Cinnamon Teal: Single males were at Riverton A. from 6 to 9 Mar (SJD, m.ob.), at Hendrickson M. on 19 Mar (Marlys Frohwein fide HZ), at Colo Ponds from 14 Apr to 1 May (*JJD, *JLF), and e. of Jewell on 8 May (MPr).

Northern Shoveler: In Sioux Co., the first were on 20 Mar and the peak was 120 on 9 Apr (JV).

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 male at Riverton A. on 6 Mar (*SJD) will be the fourth state record if accepted by the Records Committee.

Canvasback: The first were 70 at L. Manawa on 2 Mar (BKP, LJP); the peak was 2,000 at Montrose on 30 Mar (SJD, THK), and the last was on Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 25 May (THK).

Redhead: 40 were earlier than usual in Sioux Co. on 9 Mar (JV) and were the peak reported. Birds present in the nesting areas of northern Iowa included 30 in NW Iowa on 14 May (THK) and 28 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 26 May (MCK).

Ring-necked Duck: The peaks reported included 130 at Cardinal M. on 28 Mar (DC) and 300 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 16 Apr (MCK). One lingered in Johnson Co. on 27 May (RJH).

Greater Scaup: The first were 3 at Bays Branch on 5 Mar (SJD). The peaks were 50 at Clinton on 21 Mar (PCP) and 22 at IPL Ponds on 28 Mar (SJD). The last were 2 at Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 20 Apr (DRP). From 1 to 9 were detailed from eight other locations across the state.

Lesser Scaup: The peak was 30,000 at Montrose on 30 Mar (SJD).

Oldsquaw: Singles were at Red Rock Res. on 3 Mar (*DS) and Saylorville Res. on 20 Mar (SJD); 1-3 were at Little Wall L. from 25 Mar to 10 Apr (SJD, m.ob.).

Black Scoter: 2 females were at Montrose on 30 Mar (*THK) and 1 was seen the next day (*JLF) [2nd and latest spring record].

Surf Scoter: Single female-types were at Rush L. in Osceola Co. and at Little Wall L. on 15 May (SJD, details).

White-winged Scoter: 2 males were on the Shellrock River in Worth Co. on 3 Apr (JLW, details).

Bufflehead: 64 were on a small lake at Johnston on 30 Mar (DCP); the last were 24 at IPL Ponds on 17 May (SJD).

Common Merganser: The peak was 5,600 at Saylorville Res. on 9 Mar (SJD); the last was at Hawarden on 9 May (JV).

Red-breasted Merganser: The first was a female at Saylorville Res. on 2 Mar (SJD, details); the peak was 436 at Saylorville Res. on 3 Apr (SJD); and the last was a female at Zirbel Sl. on 15 May (THK).

Ruddy Duck: The first was at Saylorville Res. on 12 Mar (SJD); the peak was 2,200 at Montrose on 30 Mar (SJD).

Turkey Vulture: The first was at Sabula on 10 Mar (JLF).

Osprey: 1-2 were reported from six locations from 13 Apr to 9 May.

Kite species: 3 documented reports will be referred to the Records Committee.

Bald Eagle: High counts include 60 ad. and 49 imm. at Riverton A. on 5 Mar (SJD), 72 on 10 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE), and 129 at Red Rock Res. on 10 Mar (AMJ). A nest at Green Island found on 3 Apr contained 2 young on 8 May and 1 young on 16 May (PCP); 2

adults were seen near a nest at New Albin on 15 May (THK).
Northern Harrier: 1 was w. of Sioux Center on 29 May (JV).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: Only a few were reported. The last was at Shimek F. on 15 May (DRP).
Cooper's Hawk: A nest was found at Iowa 4-H Camp in Boone Co. on 21 Apr (SJD). There were reports of 1-3 from eleven other locations.
Northern Goshawk: 1 imm. was at Saylorville Res. on 22 Mar (SJD, details); an adult was in Shimek F. in Lee Co. on 31 Mar (*RIC, THK details); and another adult was at Saylorville Res. on 6 Apr (SJD, details).
Red-shouldered Hawk: Reports were from Bremer, Dallas, Hardin, Marion, and Sioux counties.
Broad-winged Hawk: The first were 4 on 17 Apr in Boone Co. (SJD); the peak was 12 on 25 Apr in Appanoose Co. (AMJ); and the last migrants were 9 on 9 May in Grundy Co. (MPr). A nesting pair was in Stone P. on 11 May (BFH).
Swainson's Hawk: The first was at Waubonsie S.P. on 25 Mar (BKP) [2nd earliest]. From 1 to 5 were reported from Dallas, Hardin, Harrison, Kossuth, Marion, Marshall, Montgomery, Pottawattamie, Polk, Sioux, and Woodbury counties. A pair returned to a traditional nesting site south of Allendorf in Osceola Co. on 25 Apr (DBi).
Red-tailed Hawk: On 25 Mar, 93 were over Algona (MCK) and 68 were at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP).
Ferruginous Hawk: A report is referred to the Records Committee.
Rough-legged Hawk: 1 was seen on 20 May in Kossuth Co. (MCK, details) [record latest].
Golden Eagle: An imm. was at Coralville Res. on 30 Mar (JLF); an adult was kettling with Swainson's Hawks north of Missouri Valley on 8 Apr (*AMJ); and an imm. was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 28 Apr (*THK, *RIC) [3rd latest].
American Kestrel: 35 were seen over 135 miles in central Iowa on 20 Mar (MPr).
Merlin: Singles were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 24 Mar (MCK), near Newton on 11 Apr (AMJ), at Otter Creek M. on 26 Apr (JLF), near Ocheyedan on 7 May (DCH, details) [3rd latest], and near Marengo on 18 May (PW) [record latest].
Peregrine Falcon: The first was at Saylorville Res. on 4 Apr (Scott Rolfes fide SJD), and the last was near West Branch on 19 May (JLF) [2nd latest]. There were 9 other reports.
Prairie Falcon: 1 was seen well in Clay Co. on 7 Mar (*DBi).
Gray Partridge: 2 near Riverton on 12 Mar (SJD) were close to the Missouri border.
Northern Bobwhite: Reported as doing well in Sioux Co. (JV).
Gambel's Quail: A relatively tame bird in Iowa City on 14 Apr (THK) roamed the city for several weeks. Its origin was unknown, but it is assumed to be a released or escaped bird.
Yellow Rail: None were reported.
King Rail: The only report was of 1 at Cone M. on 8 May (PCP).
Virginia Rail: 1-4 were reported from Otter Creek M., Zirbel Sl., Moeckley Prairie, and Union Slough N.W.R.
Sora: The first were 3 at Dunbar Sl. on 6 Apr (SJD) and 1 at Cone M. on 7 Apr (DRP). An incredible 55 were seen (more heard) at

Union Slough N.W.R. on 7 May (MCK).

Common Moorhen: 1 was at Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 20 Apr (DRP) [2nd earliest]. Five other locations had 1-2 birds.

American Coot: The peaks were 800 at Cardinal M. on 16 Mar (DC), 1,300 at Little Wall L. on 2 Apr (SJD), and 3,500 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 16 Apr (MCK).

Sandhill Crane: Single adults were in SW Greene Co. on 10 Mar and in NW Fremont Co. on 23 Mar (SJD); 3 birds were at Green Island on 22 Apr (EuA, ElA).

Black-bellied Plover: The peak was 8 on 11 May at Riverton A. (SJD).

Lesser Golden-Plover: The first were in Guthrie and Greene counties on 22 Mar (SJD), and the last were 83 in Greene Co. on 27 May (PA, RA). Flocks of up to 200 were reported on many days.

Semipalmated Plover: 2 were reported on a baseball diamond in Algona on 1 Apr (MCK) [record earliest].

Piping Plover: 3 birds and a nest were found at IPL Ponds on 10 May (SJD); 3 ad. were at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. on 13 May (BFH, JFP); and 1 bird was at Riverton A. on 11 May (SJD).

Killdeer: 310 and 500 were counted at Riverton A. on 6 and 28 Mar (SJD).

Black-necked Stilt: 1 was at Synder's Bend in Woodbury Co. from 6 to 14 Apr (*BFH, *JLF, *BKP/LJP, *TEB/WRS).

American Avocet: 2 were at Riverton A. on 8 Apr [record earliest] and 11 May (SJD).

Greater Yellowlegs: The first was at Forney L. on 7 Mar (SJD, details) [2nd earliest]. The peaks were 28 at Riverton A. on 27 Mar (SJD) and 56 in Kossuth Co. on 4 May (MCK).

Lesser Yellowlegs: The first was at Riverton A. on 15 Mar, and the peak of 530 was there on 11 May (SJD).

Willet: The first was at Red Rock Res. on 27 Apr (JSi); the peak was 35 at Colo Ponds on 1 May (HZ, JLF); and the last was in Clinton Co. on 8 May (PCP).

Upland Sandpiper: The first was in Polk Co. on 20 Apr (BE). Others were reported from Cherokee, Iowa, Kossuth, and Story counties.

Whimbrel: 1 was at IPS Ponds in Woodbury Co. on 13 May (*JFP).

Hudsonian Godwit: The first were 16 at Riverton A. (SJD) and 11 at St John's W.A. in Harrison Co. (AMJ) on 8 Apr [3rd earliest]. Peaks of 25 were noted at Forney L. and Lakin Sl. on 13 May (THK). The last were 2 in Grundy Co. on 19 May (MPr, BPr).

Marbled Godwit: The first were 2 at McCord Pond on 6 Apr (SJD, details) [3rd earliest]. In addition to five singles at various locations, 7 were north of Marshalltown on 23 Apr (MPr, BPr), and 6 were at Forney L. on 11 May (SJD).

Ruddy Turnstone: Reports were of 5 at Riverton A. on 11 May (SJD), 3 at Pleasant Creek L. on 18 May (PW), and 12 at Colo Ponds on 28 May (HZ).

Sanderling: The peak was 3 at Riverton A. on 12 May (THK).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: The peak was 308 at Riverton A. on 11 May (SJD).

Western Sandpiper: Details were given for 2 at Moeckley Prairie on 5 May and 2 in Warren Co. on 12 May (AMJ).

Least Sandpiper: The first was at Lakin Sl. on 22 Mar (SJD,

details); 68 were at Colo Ponds on 8 May (HZ).

White-rumped Sandpiper: The first were in Polk Co. on 4 May (PA, RA, AMJ); the peak was 124 at Riverton A. on 11 May (SJD); and the last were 18 at Colo Ponds on 28 May (HZ).

Baird's Sandpiper: 2 were at Riverton A. (and 4 more at McPaul) on 11 Mar (*SJD) [record earliest], and 400 were there on 27 Mar (SJD).

Pectoral Sandpiper: The first were 2 at Riverton A. on 6 Mar (SJD). The peaks were on 11 May with 345 in Fremont Co. (SJD) and 450 at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Dunlin: 41 were at Riverton A. on 11 May (SJD) and 51 were at Colo Ponds on 24 May (HZ).

Stilt Sandpiper: 53 were at Riverton A. on 17 May (SJD).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 were at Moeckley Prairie on 11 May (AMJ), and 1 was north of Bayard in Greene Co. on 26 May (RKM) [record latest].

Ruff: 1 north of Bayard in Greene Co. on 26 May (*RKM, *MJ) will be the fourth state record if accepted by the Records Committee.

Short-billed Dowitcher: The first were 15 at Runnell's A. on 2 May (AMJ, details). Many more were reported through 12 May with a peak of 300 at Riverton A. on 11 May (SJD).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 8 in basic plumage were heard at Willow Sl. on 23 Mar (SJD) [ties record earliest]. Others were seen through April and early May with 16 still at Riverton A. on 11 May (SJD, details).

Common Snipe: The peak was 49 at McCord Pond on 6 Apr, and the last was at Dunbar Sl. on 17 May (SJD).

American Woodcock: The first was on 7 Apr at Wexford (FL). One displayed in Cherokee Co. on 17 May (DBi).

Wilson's Phalarope: 1 male was at Riverton A. on 28 Mar (*SJD) [2nd earliest]. The peak was 170 at New L. on 30 Apr (SJD).

Red-necked Phalarope: Singles were at Moeckley Prairie on 15 May (EuA, ELA), at Colo Ponds on 21 May (HZ), and near Palo on 29 May (JLF, THK).

Franklin's Gull: The first was in Fremont Co. on 7 Mar (BKP). Peaks were 400 in Woodbury Co. on 18 Apr and 550 at IPL Ponds on 30 Apr (SJD).

Bonaparte's Gull: The first was at Saylorville Res. on 22 Mar (SJD). The peak was 377 at Montrose on 30 Mar (SJD). The last were 4 at Ruthven sewage pond on 14 May (THK).

Ring-billed Gull: Birds moved in by early March and reached a peak of 50,000 at Saylorville Res. on 21 Mar (BE); 100 lingered at Spirit L. on 13 May (THK).

Herring Gull: Most moved through early. The most reported was 53 at Saylorville on 22 Mar, and 3 imm. lingered there on 17 May (SJD).

Thayer's Gull: 2 first-year birds were at Red Rock Res. on 14-15 Mar (*AMJ, *DCP).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: An adult in alternate plumage was at Sabula on 10 Mar (*JLF), and another was photographed at Runnell's W.A. on 31 Mar (PA, RA).

Glaucous Gull: 2 first-winter birds were at Saylorville Res. on 17 Mar (SJD).

Caspian Tern: The only reports were from Saylorville Res. area

and Clear L. from 12 to 17 May.

Common Tern: 3 reports that included details were from Red Rock Res. on 2 May (SJD), Clinton Co. on 8 May (Brian Blevins fide PCP), and Riverton A. on 11 May (SJD).

Forster's Tern: The first were in Sioux Co. on 14 Apr (JV).

Least Tern: 1 returned to IPL Ponds on 21 May (BKP), and 2 were there on 29 May (EuA, ElA).

Black Tern: The peak was 200 in NW Iowa on 13 May (THK).

Black-billed Cuckoo: The first was on 5 May at Hickory Hill P. (DRP).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: The first was on 11 May in Linn Co. (PW).

Burrowing Owl: 1 in early Apr in Kossuth Co. was last found on 19 Apr (MCK). In Johnson Co., 1 appeared very briefly near the Greencastle airport on 8 Apr (*JLF).

Barred Owl: An adult was feeding 2 fledglings on 30 Apr at Fairfield (CAA).

Long-eared Owl: Four reports were of 1 at Fairfield on 6 Mar (DCP), 1 at Kettleson Hogsback on 9 Mar (LAS), 2 near Algona to mid-April (MCK), and 1 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 17 Apr (KLP).

Short-eared Owl: Three reports of singles were from Badger Creek S.P. on 27 Mar (EuA, ElA), w. of Spencer on 14 Apr (LAS), and in Grundy Co. on 23 Apr (MPr).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Three reports of singles were at Mason City on 8 Mar (RG), Coralville Res. on 30 Mar (JLF), and Ledges S.P. up to 4 Apr (SJD).

Common Nighthawk: The first was on 30 Apr in Van Buren Co. (SJD).

Chuck-will's-widow: 5 were at the usual location at Waubonsie S.P. on 11, 12 May (SJD, THK).

Whip-poor-will: 1 was singing in Boone Co. on 19 Apr (SJD).

Chimney Swift: The first was in Iowa City on 15 Apr (DRP).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The first was in Shimek F. in Lee Co. on 28 Apr (THK).

Red-headed Woodpecker: The first arrived in Woodbury Co. on 10 Apr (BFH) and in Winneshiek Co. on 14 Apr (DC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Reports were from 30 Mar to 4 May, except for 1 at Decorah on 30 May (DC), which could be nesting.

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 was in Mason City on 5 Apr (CF, RG).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 6 reports of 1-3 birds were from 13 to 26 May.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The first was heard in NC Iowa at A. A. Call S.P. in Kossuth Co. on 4 May (MCK) [ties 2nd earliest]; the second was reported from SE Iowa at Fairfield on 8 May (DCP).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1-7 were reported from 6 locations from 18 to 28 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: In addition to the usual birds in SE Iowa, birds were heard at Macbride Nature Recreation A. on 25 May (THK) and A. A. Call S.P. on 26 May (MCK).

Alder Flycatcher: 1 was singing at Shimek F. in Lee Co. on 15 May (JLF, DRP) [ties 3rd earliest]. Others were reported from six locations to 28 May at Liscomb (BPr).

Willow Flycatcher: 1 on 13 May at Fairfield (DCP) was the only report.

Least Flycatcher: The first and last were at Hickory Hill P. on 4 and 14 May (DRP).

Eastern Phoebe: The first was in Van Buren Co. on 21 Mar (RLC). Birds first appeared at four other locations on 24-25 March.

Great Crested Flycatcher: The first was in Linn Co. on 1 May (PW).

Western Kingbird: The only birds away from the Missouri River valley were near Prairie City in Polk Co. on 21 and 27 May (JLF, JJD).

Horned Lark: An albino, all white except for a grey chest band, was at Fairfield on 8 Apr (DCP).

Purple Martin: The first was 1 on 21 Mar in Johnson Co. (DRP) [3rd earliest]; 1 on 12 Apr in Sioux Co. was early for NW Iowa (JV).

Tree Swallow: The first were 2 on 22 Mar at the Saylorville Res. (SJD); the peak was 1,200 at Cardinal M. on 1 May (DC).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: The first was on 15 Apr in NE Iowa at Decorah (DC).

Bank Swallow: The first were 2 on 20 Apr in Johnson Co. (DRP).

Cliff Swallow: The first were seen on 22 Apr over the Iowa R. in Johnson Co. (DRP).

Barn Swallow: The first was on 8 Apr at Lewis and Clark S.P. (AMJ).

Blue Jay: Large numbers were migrating through the Iowa City area on 10-13 May (DRP).

Fish Crow: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Tufted Titmouse: The only report was of 16 pairs in Van Buren Co. on 13 Apr (RLC).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Singles were at Iowa City on 30 Apr (JLF) and 5 May (DRP) and in Sioux Co. on 7 May (JV).

Brown Creeper: 1 was at Iowa City from 18 to 21 Apr (DRP).

Carolina Wren: Ten reports described a total of 17 birds, mostly in S and C Iowa. Noteworthy were 5 at the Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 28 Apr (THK, RIC, RT). Farthest north was 1 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 22 May (JLW).

Bewick's Wren: Reports were from 3 locations in southern Iowa: 1-3 were at the Croton Unit of Shimek F. from 28 Apr to 4 May (THK, RIC, RT, SJD, RLC); 1 was singing at Aspen Grove Cemetery in Burlington on 27 Apr (*JLF); and 1 was at Shenandoah on 8 May (*JBB).

House Wren: This species was early over the state, but 1 on 7 Apr at Davenport was especially so (Brian Blevins fide PCP) [ties record earliest].

Winter Wren: Up to 8 individuals were at the Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 31 Mar (THK, RIC). The last was 1 on 11 May at Credit Island in Davenport (PCP).

Marsh Wren: The first was 1 on 26 Apr at Otter Creek M. (JLF).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: The first were 4 on 29 Mar in Marion Co. (JSi).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: The first was 1 on 6 Apr in Iowa City (DRP). A peak of 80 was recorded at A. A. Call S.P. on 4 May (MCK). The last was 1 on 17 May at Dunbar Sl. (SJD).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: The first was 1 on 19 Apr at Wildcat Den S.P. (PCP). A peak of 28 was in Lee/Van Buren counties on 28 Apr (RLC).

Veery: The first was 1 on 5 May in Clay Co. (LAS).

Swainson's Thrush: The first was 1 on 29 Apr at Fairfield (DCP).

Peaks were 23 at A. A. Call S.P. on 13 May (MCK) and 25 on 18 May at Cedar Falls (RLC). The last was 1 on 27 May in Sioux Co. (JV).

Hermit Thrush: The first was 1 on 3 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ). The peak was in Clay Co. with 25 on 13 Apr (LAS). The last lingered into May with 1 at the Coralville Res on 4 May (*THK) and 2 at A. A. Call S.P. on 7 May (MCK, no details).

Wood Thrush: The first was 1 on 2 May at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (JLF). A total of 8 were at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 11 May (DC), and 12 were singing at Matsell Bridge in Linn Co. on 21 May (PW).

American Robin: Migration in NW Iowa in late Feb was considered early (JV).

Varied Thrush: The only report (no details) was of a female in a Mason City backyard on 23 Mar (CF).

Northern Mockingbird: This species was widely reported with 10 observations of 12 birds, but all were from the southern half of the state.

Brown Thrasher: The first was 1 on 7 Apr at Cone M. (DRP).

Water Pipit: Two reports included 12 at Riverton A. on 11 Mar (SJD) and 2 in Sioux Co. on 4 May (JV).

Bohemian Waxwing: 2 were at Cherokee on 24 Mar (DBi) [3rd latest].

Northern Shrike: Singles were at Hendrickson M. on 9 Mar (BPr, MPr, details) and 29 Mar (ElA, EuA), at Union Slough N.W.R. on 16 Mar (MCK), at Big Creek S.P. on 17 Mar (SJD, details), and at Willow Sl. on 23 Mar (SJD, details).

Loggerhead Shrike: The first in NW Iowa was on 5 Apr in Sioux Co. (JV). A nest in Johnson Co. had 3 fledglings on 30 May (RJH).

White-eyed Vireo: This species was widespread in southern Iowa, producing 13 reports of 22 birds. The first was 1 on 23 Apr at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (ElA, EuA). That location may have the greatest concentration for this species also, as 5 were there on 28 Apr (THK). The only report from northern Iowa was a single at Sweet M. on 16 May (THK).

Bell's Vireo: The first was 1 on 10 May at Coralville Res. (JLF); 11 were in Woodbury Co. on 11 May (BFH).

Solitary Vireo: The first was 1 on 2 May at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DC). Peaks were on 8 May with 15 at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK) and 20 at the Ledges S.P. (AMJ).

Philadelphia Vireo: The last was 1 on 19 May at Cedar Falls (DCP, details).

Blue-winged Warbler: There were 10 reports scattered across the state, with the first on 2 May at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (JLF). A Brewster's hybrid singing a blue-winged's song was at Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 2 and 15 May in the same area where 1 was seen last spring (*JLF). Another Brewster's was at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 5 May (DRP, details).

Golden-winged Warbler: Eleven reports described 1-3 birds, with the first on 29 Apr at Lakin Sl. (ElA, EuA) [3rd earliest] and the last on 17 May at McCord Pond in Guthrie Co. (SJD).

Tennessee Warbler: The first was 1 on 25 Apr singing at Hickory Hill P. (JLF).

Orange-crowned Warbler: The first was 1 on 20 Apr in Boone Co. (SJD).

Nashville Warbler: The peak was 19 at A. A. Call S.P. on 7 May (MCK).

Northern Parula: The first was 1 on 2 May at Wildcat Den S.P. (PCP). There were 5 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 20 May (JLW).

Yellow Warbler: The first was 1 on 28 Apr at Otter Creek M. (DRP).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: One observer thought there were more than usual this spring (JC). The last was 1 in Sioux Co. on 26 May (JV).

Magnolia Warbler: The peak was 15 on 20 May in Clay Co. (LAS).

Cape May Warbler: The first was 1 on 4 May in Johnson Co. (THK). The most popular bird was one seen at the I.O.U. meeting in Cedar Falls on 18-19 May (m.ob.). Others were singles at Little Wall L. on 8 May (MPr) and Sweet M. on 18 May (AMJ); 2 were at McCord Pond on 17 May (SJD).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: The only report was a male on 6 May at Union Grove S.P. (MPr) [ties 2nd earliest].

Yellow-rumped Warbler: It would appear that marshes are the place to see this species, as the first were 2 on 7 Apr at Cone M. (DRP); the peak was 144 at Cardinal M. (DC); and the last was 1 on 17 May at Dunbar Sl. (SJD).

Townsend's Warbler: A singing male of this western species was at Stone P. in Sioux City on 11 May (*BG). This would be a third state record.

Black-throated Green Warbler: The first was 1 on 2 May in Polk Co. (PA, RA). A peak of 8 was at A. A. Call S.P. on 4 May (MCK). The last was on 17 May in Johnson Co. (DRP).

Yellow-throated Warbler: This species is an early migrant, but this year 2 were even earlier than usual: a singing male at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 5 Apr (RIC) [record earliest] and 1 at Ledges S.P. on 6 Apr (*SJD) [2nd earliest]. Later, 5 were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. and near Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 28 Apr (RIC, THK). Unusually far north were 2 at Trumbull L. in Clay Co. on 4 May (*LAS). Singles were also seen at L. Ahquabi S.P. on 9 May (AMJ) and Fairfield on 14 May (DCP).

Pine Warbler: Singles were at Woodland Mounds Preserve in Warren Co. on 9 May (*JSi), at Cedar Falls on 19 May (*RIC), and at the Eldora Cemetery on 19 May (ElA, EuA).

Palm Warbler: The first were 12 on 26 Apr in Sioux Co. (JV).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Singles were reported from Waubonsie S.P. on 11 May (SJD), Polk Co. Greenbelt on 13 May (JC), and Riverview Cemetery at Algona on 13 May (MCK).

Blackpoll Warbler: There were eleven reports, almost all of multiple birds. The peak was 20 in Clay Co. on 19 May (LAS). They were considered more common this year (THK).

Cerulean Warbler: The first were 2 on 28 Apr at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (RIC, THK); 5 were singing at their usual nesting area at Saylorville Res. on 18 May (BE); and 4 were at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 25 May (DC).

Black-and-white Warbler: A large number of 11 was at A. A. Call S.P. on 4 May (MCK); the last was 1 at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 17 May (DRP).

American Redstart: 21 were at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 11 May (DC).

Prothonotary Warbler: The first was 1 on 9 May at Dudgeon L. (JLF). Others were singles at Riverton A. on 11 May (SJD) and 14 May (BKP), and 1 at the Saylorville Res. on 16 May (SJD).

Worm-eating Warbler: It was a banner year for this species with reports from 6 locations. The first were 2 on 28 Apr at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (RIC, THK); also in SE Iowa was 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 15 May (JLF, DRP) and 1 at Davenport on 10 May (Brian Blevins fide PCP). Farther from its expected range was 1 at Grammer Grove P. in Marshall Co. on 15 May (MPr), and most unusual was 1 singing at A. A. Call S.P. on 13-14 May (MCK).

Ovenbird: 7 were singing in a one mile stretch on the west side of Saylorville Res. on 18 May (BE).

Northern Waterthrush: The peaks were 5 at Pilot Knob S.P. on 6 May (DC) and Effigy Mounds N.M. on 9 May (DC).

Louisiana Waterthrush: A very early bird on 30 Mar was at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (SJD) [record earliest]; 3 were at the Ledges S.P. on 12 May (MPr).

Kentucky Warbler: The first were 2 on 2 May at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (JLF) and 2 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF). Six other reports of single birds were scattered, with 1 in Woodbury Co. on 11 May notable because of its NW Iowa location (BFH).

Connecticut Warbler: This secretive late migrant is being seen more often in the state. There were 9 reports from throughout, with the first on 10 May at Davenport (Brian Blevins fide PCP) and the last 2 on 24 May at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City (JLF). Details were provided for singles at Grammer Grove P. on 11 May (BPr, MPr) and Fin and Feather Lake in Cerro Gordo Co. on 15 May (JLW).

Mourning Warbler: 2 on 4 May at A. A. Call S.P. were unusually early (MCK details) [ties record earliest]. The peak was 4 in Mahaska Co. on 19 May (RLC), and the last was on 30 May in Fremont Co. (BKP). One observer considers them uncommon in NW Iowa, so 1 in Sioux Co. on 26 May is notable (JV).

Common Yellowthroat: The first were singles on 28 Apr at Otter Creek M. (DRP) and in Clarke Co. (AMJ).

Hooded Warbler: A singing male was at Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 28 Apr (THK, RIC) where it was seen through 25 May (m.ob.). Others were a female at Shenandoah on 10 May (JBB), 1 at Holst Forest in Boone Co. on 15 May (RKM), and 1 at A. A. Call S.P. on 21 May (MCK).

Wilson's Warbler: The peak was 6 on 13 May at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City (DRP), and the last was 1 on 25 May in Polk Co. (JC).

Canada Warbler: The first was 1 on 10 May at Dudgeon L. (THK); the peak was 12 on 20 May in Sioux Co. (JV); and the last was 1 on 27 May at Hickory Hill P. (DRP).

Yellow-breasted Chat: An early bird was at Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 28 Apr (THK, RIC) [ties earliest]. Others were 1 at Cone M. on 5 May (THK) and 3 there on 20 May (JLF); 1-2 at Hickory Hill P. from 5 May through 29 May (JLF, DRP); 1 at Manti Woods on 11 May (SJD); and 1 at Matsell Bridge in Linn Co. on 11 May (PW).

Summer Tanager: Reports from regular locations included 2 at Waubonsie S.P. on 11 May (SJD) and 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 15 May (JLF, DRP). Other singles were at Lamb's Grove on 11 May (GJB), at Stone S.P. on 11 May (BFH), and at Big Creek S.P. on 12 May (*MPr).

Scarlet Tanager: The first was 1 on 2 May at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (JLF). A female was seen carrying nesting material at

A. A. Call S.P. on 26 May (MCK).

Western Tanager: A male in alternate plumage was photographed at Red Rock Res. on 7 May (TS-photo, *AMJ, *JLF).

Northern Cardinal: A male singing in Sioux Center was considered unusual in NW Iowa away from the major river valleys (JV).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: The first were single birds on 28 Apr at Amana Woods (DRP) and at a feeder in West Des Moines (JC). The peak was 10 at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 11 May (DC).

Blue Grosbeak: The first was on 11 May in Fremont Co. (SJD). Other singles were near Forney L. on 13 May (THK), near Croton in Lee Co. on 15 May (JLF, DRP), in a Des Moines backyard on 15 May (PA, RA, details), in Sioux Co. on 20 May (JV), and in O'Brien Co. on 24 May (DCH).

Indigo Bunting: The first was 1 on 28 Apr at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (THK).

Dickcissel: The first was a singing male on 2 May in Lee Co. (JLF).

Rufous-sided Towhee: There were 4 on 31 Mar at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (THK). A bird of the spotted race was in a Des Moines backyard on 3 May (PA, RA).

American Tree Sparrow: If the record late reports are an indication, this species must have enjoyed the late spring weather: 1 was at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. on 14 May (BFH, details) [2nd latest], and 1 was at Sweet M. on 18 May (*AMJ) [record latest].

Chipping Sparrow: This species arrived earlier than usual. The first was 1 on 30 Mar in Lee Co. (SJD, details) [2nd earliest]. On 1 Apr, 2 were in Allamakee Co. (DC) and 1 was in Johnson Co. (JLF) [tie 3rd earliest].

Clay-colored Sparrow: This species was widely reported during its narrow migration window. The first was on 24 Apr at Ames (JJD). The peak was 52 at Brown's L. on 5 May (BE).

Field Sparrow: The first were 2 on 26 Mar at Big Creek S.P. (SJD).

Vesper Sparrow: The first was 1 on 16 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD, details).

Lark Sparrow: Quite early were 2 on 20 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ) [3rd earliest]; 2 were in W Sioux Co. where they are considered uncommon on 20 May (JV).

Grasshopper Sparrow: The first was on 24 Apr in Johnson Co. (JLF).

Le Conte's Sparrow: Early were 1-2 birds on 30-31 Mar at Cone M. (PW, THK, JLF) [ties 3rd earliest]; 2 were at Brenton Sl. in Dallas Co. on 14 Apr (JSi), and 3 were at Lakin Sl. on 13 May (THK).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 was at Zirbel Sl. on 15 May (THK) and 1 was at Snake Creek M. on 26 May (RKM).

Fox Sparrow: The first was 1 on 10 Mar at Bays Branch (SJD).

Lincoln's Sparrow: The first was 1 on 14 Apr at Sioux Center (JV), and the last was 1 on 17 May at Ledges S.P. (SJD).

White-throated Sparrow: The peak was 500 in a wood lot in O'Brien Co. on 30 Apr (JV).

Harris' Sparrow: The only report was of 2 in Warren Co. on 10 May (AMJ).

Dark-eyed Junco: The last was 1 on 4 May in an Iowa City yard (THK).

Lapland Longspur: A large flock of 2,000 was in Fremont Co. on 15 Mar (SJD). Other reports were 250 near Colo on 16 Mar (HZ), 1,000 in Grundy Co. on 24 Mar (BPr, MPr), and 15 near Cone M. on 7 Apr (AMJ, DRP).

Smith's Longspur: A flock of 30-50 was in the usual location near Cone M. from 25 Mar to 7 Apr (PW, JLF, AMJ); 100 were n. of Lone Tree on 30 Mar (THK).

Snow Bunting: A male in breeding plumage was at Cardinal M. on 21 Mar (DC).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: The first was a male on 21 Mar near Ames (Bert Geisler fide JJD, details); 30 in Adams Co. on 17 Apr were thought to be in an unexpected location (AMJ).

Rusty Blackbird: Peaks were 200 on 6 Mar in Kossuth Co. (MCK) and 225 at Long Pond in Guthrie Co. on 22 Mar (SJD).

Brewer's Blackbird: A female on 16 Mar at Riverton A. was described (SJD, details). Other reports were 25 on 30 Mar at Cone M. (PW), and 6 in Kossuth Co. on 21 Apr (MCK).

Great-tailed Grackle: They arrived early this year with 2 near Missouri Valley on 30 Mar (BFH) [record earliest] and 1 at Lakin Sl. on 6 Apr (SJD) [3rd earliest]. Up to 4 birds were seen at Lakin Sl. through 19 May. (m.ob.). Other reports were 3 at Riverton A. on 14 May (BKP), 6 pairs at Goose L. in Greene Co. on 17 May (SJD), and a male at Dunbar Sl in Greene Co. on 17 May (JSi).

Brown-headed Cowbird: The first for Sioux Co. was on 27 Mar (JV).

Orchard Oriole: The first was 1 on 28 Apr in Johnson Co. (JLF). This species is more common in the west, as 13 were in Fremont Co. on 11 May, (SJD), and 10 were there on 13 May (THK); 10 were in Sioux Co. on 20 May (JV). A male with nesting material was in Jefferson Co. on 16 May (CA).

Northern Oriole: The first was on 25 Apr at Sioux Center (JV).

Purple Finch: The last were 2 on 4 May at Fairfield (DCP).

House Finch: They were described as still increasing in Sioux Co. (JV) and common to abundant at Ames (JJD).

Red Crossbill: There were 12 at a Cherokee feeder on 20 Apr, and 2 were still there on 22 May (DBi).

White-winged Crossbill: The only report was 1 at a Mason City feeder on 4 Mar (RG).

Common Redpoll: The only report was 1 at Spencer on 2 Mar (LAS).

Pine Siskin: A number were on the ISU campus in Ames through mid Apr (JJD); 1 was at a West Des Moines feeder on 19 Apr; and 200 were in Aspen Grove Cemetery in Burlington on 27 Apr (JLF). Singles were at an Algona feeder on 8 May (MCK) and in a Des Moines backyard on 14 May. The last was 1 on 19 May in Davenport (PCP)

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Some of the birds from the winter enclave n. of Burlington were still present this spring; 1-2 were seen on 28 Apr and 11 May (THK).

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COMMENT

The database for the spring report included 1334 records from 43 contributors and 9 others who sent documentations only. There were 65 documentations involving 36 species. There were a surprizing number of new early and late dates, perhaps because several observers continue to look for them in appropriate places.

There were a number of new contributors, and the increased coverage of northern and western Iowa was particularly noteworthy. More rare birds than ever were reported this spring, and most were well documented. Some rarities reported to the I.O.U. Birdline, however, were not reported upon further and will be lost to the record books. These include sightings of at least six accidental species and ten other rare species. One bird was photographed but not documented (Lesser Black-backed Gull); some may not consider the photograph diagnostic without description of the leg color.

Several reports of birds that would be record early or late dates and for which no details or documentation were provided were left out of this report because of the possibility of confusion with another species. Most contributors recognized unusual dates and provided details or documentation.

Most contributors provided adequate information, but some omitted details, such as their name and address, from their report or documentations.

In this report we only cited the individuals who contributed the report, not the others who were present.