

Dennis Carter
563-382-3754

P.O. Box 535
Decorah, IA 52101
July 31, 2004

Field Reports - Summer 2003

GENERAL

The heavy rain during June and ^{nearly} July may have had an adverse effect on breeding birds. Waterfowl, except for the ever-increasing Canada Goose, were less numerous than usual at Cardinal Marsh. Bobolinks on nesting territory were gone from Cardinal Marsh by early July. The high water at Cardinal Marsh eliminated most of the shorebird habitat, quite a contrast to recent years. However, conditions were ideal for Yellow-headed Blackbird at Cardinal M., and dozens were present.

SPECIES DATA

- ✓ Pied-billed Grebe: A few at Cardinal M. during the period; a brood was seen on 29 Jul.
- ✓ Green Heron: Up to 4 at Cardinal M. throughout the period.
- ✓ Turkey Vulture: 40 on 15 Jul at Decorah were riding a thermal; they have roosted on a ridge in town in recent years.
- ✓ Gadwall: 1♂ on 4 Jun at New Albin, Allamakee Co.
- ✓ Northern Shoveler: 3♂^{on 4 Jun} at New Albin, Allamakee Co.; 1♂ on 15 Jun at Cardinal M.
- ✓ Am. Black Duck: 1♂ on 4 Jun at New Albin, Allamakee Co.
- ✓ Hooded Merganser: 1♀ im. on 2 Jul at Cardinal M.
- ✓ Ruddy Duck: present through 24 Jul at Cardinal M.; high count: 4♂ 2♀ on 15 Jul with males doing courtship display.
- ✓ Ruffed Grouse: a hen with 6 chicks was seen on 3 Jun, at close range, near Decorah.
- ✓ Sora: present throughout period at Cardinal M.
- ✓ Common Moorhen: 2 adults on 15 Jul at Cardinal M.
- ✓ American Coot: a few adults + juvenile seen at Cardinal M.

Field Reports - Summer 2003

- ✓ Sandhill Crane: 2 adults seen on 29 Jul at Cardinal M.; apparently nesting was unsuccessful.
- ✓ Least Sandpiper: First: 6 on 15 Jul at Fort Atkinson.
- ✓ Ring-billed Gull: 1 on 13 Jun at Fort Atkinson was unexpected.
- ✓ Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 seen on 15 Jul at Cardinal M.; seldom found in recent years.
- ✓ Yellow-billed Cuckoo: present throughout period in Winneshiek Co.
- ✓ Ruby-throated Hummingbird: " " " " " "
- ✓ Red-headed Woodpecker: remains scarce
- ✓ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 on 18 Jul near Decorah (Seed Savers^{Farm}) also found along Miss. River in Allamakee Co. where it nests.
- ✓ Willow Flycatcher: up to 5 birds throughout period at Cardinal M.; also found in Allamakee Co.
- ✓ Yellow-throated Vireo: present in wooded areas in Winneshiek Co. and two seen carrying nesting material on 5 Jun, near Decorah; also found in Allamakee Co.
- ✓ Purple Martin: colonies found in ^(along Miss. River) Allamakee and Winneshiek counties.
- ✓ Sedge Wren: present in Winneshiek Co. throughout period.
- ✓ Wood Thrush: " (in wooded areas)
- ✓ Cedar Waxwing: abundant during Jul in Winneshiek Co.
- ✓ Blue-winged Warbler: found in a few localities in " "
- ✓ American Redstart: " " " " " " " "
- ✓ Ovenbird: " " " " " " " "
- ✓ Scarlet Tanager: " " " " " " " "
- ✓ Eastern Towhee: found in Allamakee and Winneshiek counties.
- ✓ Swamp Sparrow: singing birds throughout period at Cardinal M.
- ✓ Orchard Oriole: 4^{apparently a family group; 1 begging for food.} on 24 and 29 Jul at Cardinal M.

Dennis Carter

7/31/04

Jim -

An addition to my summer field report -



Black Tern - On 29 July, 5 were seen at Ridgeway Sewage Ponds and 20 at Cardinal Marsh (Danny Akers, DC).

Hope you're having a good summer.

Dennis Carter

Sunflowers - Some of the 150 varieties of sunflowers being maintained and distributed by the members of the Seed Savers Exchange. A free 68-page color seed catalog (including membership information) is available by calling 319-382-5990, or write to Seed Savers Exchange, 3076 North Willow Road, Decatur, IA 52701. Please visit our web site at Seedsavers.org.



PHOTO © 1995 BY DAVID CAVAGNARO

POST CARD

James J. Dinsmore
4024 Arkansas Dr.
Ames, IA 50014

