

Field Reports — Summer 2004

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WEATHER

June was cool and dry. Temperatures averaged 67.3 degrees, 2.5 degrees below average, and rainfall averaged 3.48 inches, 1.16 inches below average. It was the 27th coolest and 33rd driest June in 132 years of records. It was cool early in the month, warm from 5 through 16 June, and cool the rest of the month. No stations reported 90 degree readings after the 12th. The warmest days were 7 and 8 June with 95 degrees at Spencer on the 7th the month's high. The 25th was the coolest day with lows of 39 at Grinnell and Fayette, the lowest late June temperatures in Iowa since 1992. There was little rainfall through 9 June but statewide about 2.4 inches fell from 10-16 June. Almost 4 inches fell in Sac City and Rockwell City on the 16th. The rest of the month was dry. Most severe weather occurred on 11 June with 22 tornadoes; 4 more were reported on 16 June.

July was cool and somewhat wet. Temperatures averaged 70.7 degrees, 3.1 degrees below average and rainfall averaged 4.43 inches, 0.18 inches above average. It was the 11th coolest and 40th wettest July on record. It was cool throughout the month. The highest temperature was 95 at several stations on the 19th and 20th, matching the highs recorded in June. The low temperature was 43 at Osage on the 8th. It was Iowa's coolest July since 1992. Most rain fell early in the month with an average of 3.17 inches through 11 July.

HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

There is little to report that seemed out of average relative to habitat conditions. The heavy rain in May (see Kenne 2004) resulted in numerous flooded fields in early June, leading to numerous reports of shorebirds, herons, and other wetland birds away from their usual haunts. Those areas dried up rapidly and, by the end of June, little flooded field habitat remained. Most lakes, rivers, and marshes remained full so in general there was little shorebird habitat until some late July rains provided some habitat for southbound birds.

Other habitats in Iowa seemed to be fairly normal for summer. There was little flooding of lowland timber and various grassland habitats likewise seemed to be fairly normal.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

This was the most interesting summer, bird wise, in several years with two Accidental species, Swallow-tailed Kite and White-winged Dove, reported. In addition, a report of a Baird's Sparrow, if accepted, would be a first for Iowa. Other species that are unusual for summer that were reported include American Black Duck, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, a grebe trio (Eared, Red-necked, and Western), White-faced Ibis, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Black-necked Stilt, White-rumped Sandpiper, Le Conte's Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, and Pine Siskin changed

Among the nesting birds, two species, Pine Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow, were added to the list of documented nesting species for Iowa. Other unusual species that might have been nesting but for which no documentation was gathered include Mississippi Kite, Short-eared Owl, Black-billed Magpie, and Black-and-white Warbler. Several nesting species that have been of conservation concern had fairly good years. Bald Eagle and Sandhill Crane nesting populations in Iowa continued to increase. Piping Plovers nested at both Council Bluffs and Sioux City, and the Least Terns colony at Council Bluffs was the largest it has been in several years. Iowa's only Ring-billed Gull colony was active, and several small colonies of Black Terns were located. Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to show up at new locations in the state. Surely within a few years they will have been reported from virtually all of Iowa (see Cecil 2004). Among reintroduced species, both Trumpeter Swans and Peregrine Falcons had fairly good years as they moved slowly toward reestablishment goals. Broods of both Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie-Chickens were seen, indicating continued success for those small populations. Although several nesting attempts by Ospreys were reported, no nests were successful this summer versus two successful nests in 2003.

Among the more usual nesting species, it appeared that grassland species had a good year with Dickcissels seemingly everywhere and Upland Sandpipers, Henslow's Sparrows, and Bobolinks also having a good year. Likewise, I received numerous reports of some woodland species such as Wood Thrush, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager as well as several species more typical of brushy or edge habitats such as Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-breasted Chat, and White-eyed Vireo. Much of this was due to the interest in the Important Bird Areas program. Amazingly, for some of these species, I received more reports than I received during the Breeding Bird Atlas project in the late 1980s.

Unlike last year, few spring migrants lingered into June but southbound shorebirds were back by late July. One of the mysteries of the summer involved American White Pelicans. The world's largest colony of that species, with about 14,000 pairs, mysteriously deserted its nesting site at Chase Lake in North Dakota early in summer. The whereabouts of those birds made the national news, and Iowans wondered if some of them would show up here. Iowa seemed to have its usual groups of summering pelicans, especially in northern Iowa. However, the appearance of 2,500 pelicans in mid July along the Mississippi River in northeastern Iowa was unprecedented and raises suspicions on the origin of those birds. One suspects that fewer juvenile pelicans should be seen in Iowa in the upcoming fall migration.

Along with all of the good news, a few areas of concern persisted. Only a single Swainson's Hawk was reported, no one reported evidence of nesting by Black-crowned Night-Herons or Forster's Terns, only a single Barn Owl nest was reported, and no King Rails or Bewick's Wrens were reported. Are these species slipping away with little notice?

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Casual or Accidental species. * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of observers are listed at the end of article. Abbreviations used: A = area, L = lake, m. ob. = many observers, M = marsh, NA = nature area, NWR = national wildlife refuge, P = park, R = river, Res = reservoir, SF = state forest, Sl = slough, SP = state park, WPA = waterfowl production area, WA = wildlife area.

Snow Goose: As usual a few lingered into summer: 2 (1 white, 1 blue morph) on 6 Jun near Spencer *Clay* (KLP), 3 on 6 Jun at Errington M *Polk* (BE), and 2 (blue morph) on 23 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (JJD).

Trumpeter Swan: The nesting population inched up from last year with 14 active nests, 8 of which were successful. Inopportune heavy rains flooded out several nests in northern Iowa (DHo). In 2003, 12 of 13 nests were successful.

Gadwall: From 1-9 were found in *Allamakee*, *Dickinson* (brood, LAS), *Emmet*, *Kossuth*, *Story*, *Polk*, and *Worth* (m. ob.). A brood on 18 Jul at Errington M *Polk* (DT) was unusually far south, and an adult on 10 Jul at Lakin Sl *Guthrie* (CJC) was the only report from south of I-80.

American Wigeon: One on 6, 12 Jun at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (MCK) was the only report.

American Black Duck: A male on 4 Jun at New Albin *Allamakee* (DeC) is the first summer report since 2002.

Northern Shoveler: From 1-3 were found in *Allamakee*, *Dickinson*, *Polk*, *Story*, and *Winneshiek* (DeC, SSP, BE, HZ). The only evidence of breeding was 2 broods at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ) and a nest at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (DT).

Northern Pintail: All: 1 on 20 Jun at Grover's L *Dickinson* (LAS) and 2 on 27 Jun at Errington M *Polk* (BE).

Green-winged Teal: Two on 27 Jun at Errington M (BE) and a brood at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ) were the only reports.

Canvasback: All: 1 on 10 Jun at Ingham L *Emmet* (SSP, KLP) and 3 adults and a brood on 3, 5 Jul at Eagle L *Hancock* (MPr, PH, AB).

Redhead: In northern Iowa, 1-8 were in *Clay*, *Dickinson*, *Hancock*, *Kossuth*, and *Osceola* (brood, AB) (SSP, KLP, LAS, CJF, MCK, AB). In central Iowa, 2 lingered until 21 Jun at Colo Ponds (HZ).

Ring-necked Duck: All: a pair on 2 Jun at Welch Lake WPA *Dickinson* (JJD) and 1 on 24 Jul at Cheever L *Emmet* (LAS).

Lesser Scaup: All: Singles on 20 Jun at Elk Lake WPA *Clay* (LAS) and 27 Jun at Union Slough NWR (MCK).

Bufflehead: A male on 6 Jun at Littlefield P *Audubon* (RIA, PHA) is the first summer report since 2001.

Hooded Merganser: Reported in *Butler* (brood, DK), *Clay* (brood, SSP, KLP, LAS), *Clayton* (brood, DAK), *Dallas* (brood, BE), *Jackson*, *Kossuth* (broods, LAS), *Louisa*, *Polk* (brood, BE), *Story*, *Tama*, and *Winneshiek* (brood, DK).

Common Merganser: All: 1 from 17 Jun-24 Jul at Port Neal *Woodbury* (BFH) and 1 on 19 Jun at Twelve Mile L *Emmet* (LAS).

Ruddy Duck: As in 2003, Ruddy Ducks seemed to be everywhere with peak counts of 40 on 6 Jun at Union Slough NWR (MCK) and 30 throughout the period at Colo Ponds (HZ). Other reports came from *Cerro Gordo*, *Clay* (brood, AB), *Emmet* (brood, LAS), *Fremont*, *Hancock* (brood, PH, AB), *Osceola* (brood, AB), *Polk* (brood, AB), *Winnebago*, *Winneshiek*, *Worth*, and *Wright* (m. ob.).

Gray Partridge: All reports were from north of I-80 in *Allamakee*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Clay*, *Clayton*, *Dickinson*, *Hancock*, *Kossuth*, *Marshall*, *Osceola*, *Polk*, *Story* (broods, LDa, HZ), and *Webster*. Singles in late July in *Allamakee* and *Clayton* (DAK) were in NE Iowa where this species historically has been uncommon.

Ruffed Grouse: A brood near Decorah on 3 Jun (DeC) is the first brood reported in summer in more than 20 years. In NE Iowa, Koenig noted singles in *Allamakee* and *Winneshiek* while 1 on 1 Jun at Stephens SF *Monroe* (AB) was the only report from southern Iowa.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: In spring, 6 birds were attending 4 leks in central *Woodbury*. This summer, 3 broods were found in the area, indicating continued reproduction by this small population (EW).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Five broods were noted: 2 (one with 10 young) in June on private land in *Ringgold* and 3 more on 10 Jul on the Kellerton WA *Ringgold* (Mel Moe fide BEh).

Northern Bobwhite: From 1-4 were found in *Harrison*, *Plymouth*, and *Woodbury* in the west (GLV, CJC, BFH) and *Johnson*, *Muscatine*, and *Scott* in the east (MCD, JLF, DGR).

Common Loon: All: 1 basic adult on 20 Jun, 17, 18 Jul (LAS, AB) and 2 basic adults on 24 Jul at Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS).

Pied-billed Grebe: Other than 1 on 10 Jun at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MOr) and several broods at Errington M and Chichaqua WA *Polk* (BE, DT), all reports were from north of highway 30 and included reports of breeding at Eagle L *Hancock* (PH, MPr) and Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ).

Red-necked Grebe: All: 2 from 1 Jun -5 Jul at Eagle L *Hancock* (RGo, PH, CJF, MPr, AB), 1 on 12 Jun at Union Slough NWR (MCK), a pair on 9, 10 Jun at Cheever L *Emmet* (SSP, KLP), and 2 on 5 Jul at East Twin L *Hancock* (AB).

Eared Grebe: All: 2 from 3-10 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ, JJD, MCD).

Western Grebe: All: 1 on 1 Jun at Ventura M *Cerro Gordo* (RGo, PH), and 1 adult on 5, 8 Jul at East Twin L *Hancock* (AB, SSP).

American White Pelican: A few probably summered such as 24 on 11 Jun at Ventura M (RGo), 12 on 19 Jun at Green Island WA *Jackson* (MCD), 444 on 20 Jun at Marble L *Dickinson* (LAS), and 200 on 26 Jun at Otter Creek M *Tama* (BSc, MCD). By mid July, southbound birds were evident including 2,300 on 14 Jul at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (DAk), 300 on 19 Jul at Union Slough NWR (MCK), and 2,500 on 30 Jul at Coralville Res *Johnson* (MCD).

Double-crested Cormorant: Most: 87 on 14 Jul at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (DAk), 36 on 4 Jul at Union Slough NWR (MCK), and 28 on 15 Jul at Pool 10 *Clayton* (DAk). From 1-8 were found on numerous other wetlands around the state. The only nesting activity reported was 38 nests at Coralville Res (MCD).

American Bittern: All: Up to 6 on 16 Jul at Errington M *Polk* (RT, BE, AB, DT) and 2 on 3 Jul at Eagle L *Hancock* (PH, MPr).

Least Bittern: As in 2003, I received numerous reports of this secretive species. From 1-6 were found in *Allamakee, Emmet, Fremont, Guthrie, Hancock, Jackson, Johnson, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Warren, and Winneshiek* (m. ob.).

Great Blue Heron: Several colonies were noted including those at Big Creek L *Polk* (BE) and Jensen M *Madison* (RT).

Great Egret: From 1-10 were found on numerous wetlands during June. The only large post-breeding concentration was 190 on 28 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (RD).

Cattle Egret: Most: 24 on 19 Jun at Moeckley Prairie *Polk* (BE) and 8 on 1 Jun at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* (RGo). Elsewhere, 1-3 were seen in *Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Story, Tama, and Wright* (RGo, PH, JJD, HZ, AB, MPr). The last report was on 7 July.

Green Heron: From 1-6 were found on numerous wetlands scattered across Iowa.

Black-crowned Night Heron: From 1-3 were found in *Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Kossuth, Polk, Warren, and Woodbury* (JB, PH, MPr, AB, RGo, MCK, DK, BFH). Most were single birds, and none of the reports suggest nesting. Has this species disappeared as a nesting species in Iowa?

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: All: A first-summer bird on 6, 8 Jun at Moeckly Prairie *Polk* (BE, RIA, PHA, DT) and 2 adults on 13 Jul at Rathbun WA *Wayne* (AB).

White-faced Ibis: One made a brief appearance on 9 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ, JJD-details, 3rd latest).

Osprey: Osprey nesting attempts at L Macbride *Johnson* (2 attempts), Red Rock Res *Marion*, and Spirit L were all unsuccessful. Pairs at Don Williams L *Boone* and Saylorville Res were working on nests at the end of the period, almost certainly too late for this year. The introduction program continued with 23 hatched young released or close to release at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (5 yg), Don Williams L (4 yg), Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (4 yg), Saylorville Res (5 yg), and Wickiup Hill *Linn* (5 yg) (PS).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: One on 3-5 Jun just north of Iowa City (*JSc, *JLF, *CE, *AB, *MCD, m. ob.) was the first since 2000 and only the third recent record for Iowa.

Mississippi Kite: All: 3 on 20, 22 Jun (JGi, AB) and 2 on 10 Jul (MPr) were all on the south side of Des Moines near where kites nested in 2003.

Bald Eagle: Eagles continue to increase with 27 new nests reported this year and a conservative estimate of 175 active nests in Iowa (BEh). Three counties (*Adams, Henry, Poweshiek*) had their first nests this year raising the total to at least 67 counties that have had eagle nests in modern times.

Northern Harrier: Singles on 10 Jun *Clay* (SSP, KLP), 12 Jun at Diamond Lake WA *Dickinson* (SSP), 15 Jun near Britt *Hancock* (JJD), 19 Jun *Wayne* (AMJ), 19 Jun at Dugout Creek WA *Dickinson* (LAS), 2 on 23 Jun at Kellerton WA *Ringgold* (MPr), and 2 from 26 Jun to 14 Jul *Wayne* (AB) all could have been breeding. No one provided evidence of a nest or brood.

Cooper's Hawk: Birds were noted in 16 counties spanning most of the state. Nests were seen at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (CJF, RGo, PH), Jemmerson Sl *Dickinson* (SSP), Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (JGi), and Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (BFH, GLV).

Red-shouldered Hawk: All: Singles in *Allamakee, Black Hawk, and Clayton* (DK, JJD, DAK). One on 3 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (MPr) was away from where it is expected in summer.

Broad-winged Hawk: Birds were found in 16 counties across much of Iowa. The only evidence of breeding was a nest at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (AB) and a recently fledged young at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MOr).

Swainson's Hawk: One on 18 Jul near Spencer *Clay* (AB) was the only report. This species has become very rare in summer in Iowa.

Golden Eagle: One found entangled in a fence in late June near Smithland *Woodbury* (KK, photo) is the second summer record for this species.

Merlin: A female (taiga race) on 11 Jul at Algona *Kossuth* gave Kenne a leisurely view (MCK-details). Merlins have nested in several states to our north and west and might do so in Iowa as well.

Peregrine Falcon: It was a good year with 9 occupied territories. Pairs in Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Des Moines, and *Louisa* fledged a total of 13 young although several died soon thereafter. Three other pairs occupied territories (Des Moines, Burlington, *Wapello*) but didn't lay eggs. Most disappointingly, pairs that occupied natural cliff nest sites in *Allamakee* both produced eggs but fledged no young (PS).

Virginia Rail: Besides 8 on 9 Jun at Eagle L *Hancock* (RGo), 1 or 2 were found on wetlands in *Guthrie, Hancock, Johnson, Kossuth, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Polk, Winnebago, and Worth*. One on 12 Jun at Long Pond *Guthrie* (JGi) was the only report south of I-80.

Sora: Up to 7 were seen in *Clay, Guthrie, Hancock, and Winneshiek* (SSP, KLP, JGi, RGo, DeC, DAK), all at sites where this secretive species is expected.

Common Moorhen: From 1-4 were found in *Clinton, Guthrie, Hancock, Jackson, Story, Warren, and Winneshiek* (m. ob), the most reports in several years. Broods were noted at Eagle L *Hancock* (MPr, PH) and Colo Ponds *Story* (Wolf Oesterreich fide JJD).

American Coot: This seemed to be a good year for coots with broods noted at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ) and Errington M *Polk* (BE, DK), both at the southern edge of its Iowa breeding range.

Sandhill Crane: Cranes are gradually expanding their range in Iowa. A conservative estimate was about 16 pairs and 66 individuals (PS).

Black-bellied Plover: All: 1 on 3 Jun at Errington M *Polk* (RT).

American Golden-Plover: All: 1 on 1 Jun in *Hancock* (RGo, PH) and 2 on 20 Jun near Bancroft *Kossuth* (MCK).

Dunlin: All: 9 on 6 Jun at Long Pond *Guthrie* (RIA, PHA) and 1 on 17 Jun at Port Neal *Woodbury* (BFH, record latest).

Stilt Sandpiper: First: 1 on 18 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP). Most: 17 on 29 Jul at Ada Hayden P in Ames (SSP, KLP).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: First: 4 on 28 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CJC, RD).

Short-billed Dowitcher: First: 1 on 5 Jul at Muskrat Sl *Jones* (BSc).

Wilson's Snipe: All: 1 on 5 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (JJD) was south of where this species usually is expected to nest whereas 1 on 6 Jun at Maynard Reece WA *Kossuth* (MCK) was at the edge of its expected nesting range.

American Woodcock: All: 1 still displaying on 1 Jun at Fin-Feather L *Cerro Gordo* (RGo, PH) and 2 on 1 Jul at Brown's L *Woodbury* (BFH).

Wilson's Phalarope: A juvenile on 18 Jul at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ) where a male was seen on 9, 10 Jun (JJD, HZ) was suggestive of local nesting. One on 25 Jul at Polk City WA *Polk* (BE) and 3 on 28 Jul near Sexton *Kossuth* (MCK) were the only migrants noted.

Franklin's Gull: 400 at Ventura M *Cerro Gordo* (MCK) and 250 w of Spirit L *Dickinson* (JJD), both on 2 Jun, were probably late migrants. At least some of the 237 at Spirit L (LAS) and 8 at Polk City WA *Polk* on 19 Jun (BE), 10 on 24 Jun at MidAmerican Energy Ponds *Pottawattamie* (MPr), and 22 at Mason City *Cerro Gordo* and 46 in *Emmet* on 27 Jun (PH) probably summered. Southbound birds arrived in mid July with 800 on 16 Jul at the landfill near E Okoboji L *Dickinson* (LAS).

Ring-billed Gull: On 2 Jun at least 175 adults were at Meinking M *Dickinson*. Two well feathered juveniles were visible on an island there where they have nested previously, and several other adults appeared to be nesting (JJD). A few ringbills were found scattered across the state from mid June to mid July. An amazing 4,500 were found on 14 Jul on Pool 9 of the Mississippi R *Allamakee* (DAK), the largest summer concentration on record. Perhaps a nesting colony to the north failed, causing these birds to move south earlier than usual.

Herring Gull: All: 2 on 6 Jun at Pool 13 in Clinton *Clinton* (PVN), 1 third-winter bird on 12 Jul at Guttenberg *Clayton* (DAK) and 4 adults on 15 Jul at Dubuque (DAK).

Caspian Tern: One or 2 were found scattered across Iowa from early June to mid July. The most was 7 on 17 Jun at Port Neal *Woodbury* (BFH) and 7 on 24 Jun at MidAmerican Energy Ponds *Pottawattamie* (MPr).

Common Tern: All: 4 on 1 Jun on Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH-details, RGo).

Forster's Tern: As many as 10 were found during June and early July in *Bremer*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Hancock*, *Pottawattamie*, *Woodbury*, and *Worth* (m. ob.) but no one reported evidence of nesting. Reports after mid July from *Dickinson*, *Harrison*, *Kossuth*, *Pottawattamie*, and *Woodbury* (m. ob.) were probably southbound migrants with 20 on 30 Jul at Spirit L (PH) the most.

Least Tern: At Port Neal *Woodbury* on 17 Jun and 24 Jul, 12 adults but no young were seen (BFH). At MidAmerican Energy Ponds *Pottawattamie* on 20 Jun, 26 adults and 5 young (in 3 nests) were seen, the most in several years. A number of the adults were sitting on additional nests, presumably with eggs or small young (AB). The only migrant reported away from the Missouri R was 1 on 22 Jul at Ada Hayden P in Ames (KJH).

Semipalmated Plover: First: 1 on 18 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP). Most: 6 on 29 Jul at Ada Hayden P in Ames (JJD).

Piping Plover: At the MidAmerican Ponds *Pottawattamie* on 10 Jul, 10-12 plovers were seen including 3 or 4 chicks (BSc). At Port Neal *Woodbury*, on 17 Jun, 6 adults and 9 fledglings were present and on 25 Jun, 8 adults were seen (BFH). Elsewhere, singles were found on 29 Jul at Ada Hayden P in Ames (SSP, KLP) and on 30, 31 Jul at Hawkeye WA (MCD, KN, DP, RIA, PHA).

Killdeer: The most was 131 on 5 Jul at Saylorville Res (DK).

Black-necked Stilt: All: 1 on 5-10 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ, JJD-details, MPr-details, MCD) was unexpected.

Greater Yellowlegs: Last: 1 on 4 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (JLF). First: 1 on 22 Jul at Big M *Butler* (MCK). Most: 11 on 29 Jul at Ada Hayden P in Ames (SSP, KLP).

Lesser Yellowlegs: One on 17 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* and 2 there on 27 Jun (HZ, MPr, BPr) may have been summering. Two on 30 Jun at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DK) seem to be the first southbound birds, and 210 on 28 Jul near Sexton *Kossuth* (MCK) were by far the most.

Solitary Sandpiper: First: 2 on 11 Jul near Bancroft *Kossuth* (MCK). Most: 9 on 25 Jul at Polk City WA *Polk* (BE).

Willet: One on 11 Jul in SE *Boone* (MPr, BPr) was the only report.

Spotted Sandpiper: Reports from *Allamakee*, *Clayton*, *Ida*, *Johnson* (brood, JSc), *Louisa*, *Polk*, *Story*, and *Winneshiek* (m. ob.) were all probably of breeding birds.

Upland Sandpiper: Reports from 22 counties encompassed most of the state except the NE corner (m. ob.). This species continues to be uncommon but present, even in heavily farmed regions; e.g., 6 on a Breeding Bird Survey route in intensively farmed *Kossuth* and *Hancock* (JJD).

Marbled Godwit: One on 26-27 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ, MPr-details) was the only report.

Sanderling: All: 16 on 1 Jun at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH, RGo).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: One on 25 Jun at Port Neal *Woodbury* (BFH) defies definition. Three on 12 Jul at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ) were the first southbound birds and 15 on 29 Jul at Ada Hayden P in Ames were the most (SSP, KLP).

Least Sandpiper: One on 16 Jun at Colo Ponds (HZ) and 2 on 24 Jun at MidAmerican Energy Ponds *Pottawattamie* (MPr) defy easy definition. The first southbound was 1 on 4 Jul near Maynard Reece WA *Kossuth* (MCK), and 54 on 25 Jul at Polk City WA *Polk* (BE) were the most.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Last: 11 on 20 Jun at Dewey's Pasture *Clay* (LAS) and 2 on 25 Jun at Port Neal *Woodbury* (BFH) were unusually late. One on 29 Jul at Ada Hayden P in Ames (SSP/KLP-details) was early.

Baird's Sandpiper: Last: 1 on 6 Jun at Welch L WPA *Dickinson* (LAS) was very late. Singles on 16 Jul at Kindlespire P *Clay* (LAS), 20 Jul in *Clay* (AB) and 22 Jul at Big M *Butler* (MCK) were the only southbound birds.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Singles on 17 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ), 20 Jun at Dewey's Pasture *Clay* (LAS), and 27 Jun at Errington M *Polk* (BE) were either late spring stragglers or summering birds. One on 5 Jul at Muskrat Sl *Jones* (BSc) was the first southbound bird and 160 on 28 Jul near Sexton *Kossuth* (MCK) were the most.

Black Tern: Terns were found in all but extreme southern Iowa throughout June; at least some of those in early June undoubtedly were late migrants. The most reported was 50 on 3 Jul at Eagle L *Hancock* (PH, MPr). On 4 Jul Brees found eggs and/or young at Harmon Lake WA and Thorpe P *Winnebago*, and Eagle L *Hancock*. By mid July, migrants were evident, mainly in the northern half of the state (e.g., 30 on 24 Jul at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury*, GLV and 22 on 29 Jul at Cardinal M *Winneshiek*, DAK).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: This species continues to consolidate its range in Iowa. Reports of 1 on 13 Jun at Traer *Tama* (CE), 1 on 13 Jun at Marengo *Iowa* (CE), 2 on 25 Jun in Stanton *Montgomery* (AB), 3 on 12 Jul in Randall *Hamilton* (AB, AMJ), and 1 on 22 Jul near Coulter *Franklin* (MCK) all seem to be new county records. From 1 to 5 birds were found in Carroll in *Carroll*, Ventura in *Cerro Gordo*, Hamburg in *Fremont*, Fairfield in *Jefferson*, Algona in *Kossuth*, Pleasantville in *Marion*, Albia in *Monroe*, Des Moines in *Polk*, Milo in *Warren*, and Allerton and Corydon in *Wayne*, all counties with previous records.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: One found on 28 Jun in Ottesen *Humboldt* (*Jacob Newton) was seen the next day (Eloise/Eugene Armstrong—details fide JJD) but not after that. One made a brief appearance on 29 Jun at the Proescholdt yard in Liscomb *Marshall* (*MPr, BPr).

Black-billed Cuckoo: From 1-3 were reported in 18 counties covering all except NW Iowa (m. ob.). This is the most reported in recent years.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Reported from at least 20 counties statewide (m. ob.), this species seems much more common than the previous one.

Barn Owl: A nest at Otter Creek M *Tama* apparently fledged at least a few young, the only known successful nest this year (BEh).

Short-eared Owl: One seen in late Jun and again on 22 Jul on a private grassland west of Bancroft *Kossuth* (RHa) was the only report.

Chuck-will's-widow: Up to 2 were heard at the usual listening (listing?) stop near Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (AB, MPr, MCD, BSc, RIA, PHA).

Whip-poor-will: Besides reports from usual sites in *Cherokee*, *Fremont*, and *Linn* (AB, MCD, BSc), 1 on 1 Jun along the *Winnebago* R *Worth* (PH, RGo) seemed to be at a new site.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Few comments but apparently still fairly common; the most was 22 at the feeders at Pikes Peak SP *Clayton* (DAK).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Only Hertz mentioned any concern about this species which is still widespread in Iowa.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Most reports came from the three northeastern-most counties where Koenig found 20 during the summer. Elsewhere, reports included 2 on 6 Jun at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (GLV), 2 on 8 Jun at Martin Access *Cherokee* (AB), 1 on 9 Jun at A.A. Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK), and 3 on 22 Jun in Spencer *Clay* (LAS).

Pileated Woodpecker: Reported from *Allamakee*, *Black Hawk*, *Clayton*, *Fayette*, *Lee*, *Lucas*, *Monroe*, and *Polk* (m. ob.) where it is expected. The only report from west of I-35 was 1 on 10 Jun at Dolliver SP *Webster* (AB), filling in a gap between the upper and lower reaches of the Des Moines R where it has become established in recent years.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Last: 1 on 4 Jun at Sweet M *Bremer* (DWM).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: One on 2 Jun at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MPr) was the only lingering migrant.

Acadian Flycatcher: From 1-12 were reported in 18 counties. Only the reports from near Ledges SP *Boone* (KJ), Pilot Knot SP in *Hancock/Winnebago* (m. ob.) (RGo, CJF), and Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MOr) were west of I-35.

Alder Flycatcher: Last: 2 on 3 Jun at *Algona Kossuth* (MCK), 1 on 6 Jun near *Elkader Clayton* (DAK), and 1 on 12 Jun at *Spring Run WA Dickinson* (KLP).

Willow Flycatcher: I received reports from 16 counties (m. ob.), all from north of I-80 except for 1 on 3 Jun at *Banner WA Warren* (MPr) and 1 on 10 Jul at *Hitchcock NA Pottawattamie* (MOr).

Least Flycatcher: One on 3 Jun at *Algona Kossuth* (MCK), 2 on 9, 10 Jun at *Cheever L Emmet* (SSP, KLP), and 1 on 20 Jul at *Rush L Palo Alto* (AB) were probably late/early migrants. Singles on 6 Jun at *Marquette Clayton* (DAK), on 15 Jun, 2 Jul at *Elk Creek M Worth* (JJD, CJF), 15 Jun at *Eagle L Hancock* (CJF), and 2 on 6 Jun at *Guttenberg Clayton* (DAK) all hint of local breeding.

Western Kingbird: Away from the western border where this species is expected, all reports were from *Polk* where several pairs were present at the State Capitol (MPr, JGi, BE, JJD) and a brood was at *Terra L* in *Johnston* on 10 Jul (DT). In *Pottawattamie* on 10 Jul, 27 were at *Hitchcock NA* and 13 at *MidAmerican Energy Ponds* (MOr).

Loggerhead Shrike: Reported from 13 counties, mostly from south of highway 30 (m. ob.).

White-eyed Vireo: One or 2 were found in *Des Moines, Johnson, Lee, Lucas, Polk, and Warren* (AB, CE, MCD, CJC, RIA, PHA, AMJ, DK, RT), more reports than most recent years.

Bell's Vireo: With 48 reports, one of the most reported species. It was found in 24 counties that covered all except the NE corner of Iowa (m. ob.).

Yellow-throated Vireo: This species continues to be fairly common in all but NW Iowa.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE: A few were seen in June at *Broken Kettle Grasslands Plymouth* (Scott Moats fide JJD), the site of most recent reports.

Purple Martin: I received reports of colonies from throughout Iowa with strongholds seeming to be along the *Mississippi R* (e.g., 80 on 10 Jul at *Lansing Allamakee*, DAK) and near some of Iowa's larger lakes (e.g., 100 on 1 Jun at *Clear L Cerro Gordo* [PH]). I believe that this species is less common now than a decade or two ago but material in this report is not detailed enough to document any change. Anyone interested in a project?

Tufted Titmouse: One on 8 Jul at *Rutland Humboldt* (SSP) must be near its northern range limit along the *Des Moines R*.

Brown Creeper: One on 26 Jun at *Klum L Louisa* (CE) was the only report.

Carolina Wren: One or 2 were found in *Cerro Gordo, Fremont, Johnson, Lee, Lucas, Marshall, Pottawattamie, Story* (nest, KL), *Warren*, and *Winneshiek* (m. ob.), about typical of recent years.

Sedge Wren: Sedge Wrens seemed to be fairly common in suitable grassland habitat; e.g., 80 were found on 2 Jun at *Hanlontown SI Worth* (SSP).

Marsh Wren: Outside of the *Des Moines Lobe* where it is expected, as many as 17 were found at *Bakewell's Pond and Pool SI Allamakee* (DAK), *Goose L Clinton* (PVN), *L Macbride and Hawkeye WA Johnson* (CE, DP), *Hitchcock NA Pottawattamie* (MOr), *Otter Creek M Tama* (CE), and *Brown's L Woodbury* (BFH).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One on 5 Jun at Wanata SP *Clay* (SSP, KLP) and 3 on 19 Jul at A.A. Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK) were at the edge of its usual Iowa range.

Veery: One or 2 were found at Brush Creek Canyon *Fayette* (DK), Pilot Knob SP *Hancock/Winnebago* (RGo, CJF), Beam Woods *Jones* (CE), Stephens SF *Lucas* (AJ), Grammar Grove WA *Marshall* (MPr), and Chichaqua WA *Polk* (DK), more than most recent summers.

Swainson's Thrush: One on 2 Jun at Liscomb *Marshall* (MPr, BPr) was the only report.

Wood Thrush: With 49 reports, the most reported species. It was reported from 25 counties (m.ob.), even reaching remote Gitchie Manitou State Preserve *Lyon* with 1 or 2 singing there on 26 Jun, 2 Jul (RIA, PHA, SSP, KLP). A nest in *Boone* (LDa) was a rare find.

Northern Mockingbird: From 1-3 were found in *Iowa, Louisa, Madison, Polk, Pottawattamie, and Wayne* (brood, AB) (DP, DAK, MCD, MPr, JLF, CJC, AMJ, DK, DT, MOr, AB).

Cedar Waxwing: Traveling birders Brees, Koenig, and the Pattersons all commented on the abundance of waxwings this summer.

Blue-winged Warbler: From 1-5 were found in *Clayton, Clinton, Henry, Lee, and Winneshiek* (DAK, PVN, AB, CE, DeC).

Tennessee Warbler: Last: 1 on 3 Jun at Algona *Kossuth* (MCK) and 1 on 5 Jun at Wanata SP *Clay* (SSP, KLP). One on 2 Jul at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (RGo) is a puzzling date.

Northern Parula: From 1-4 were found in 10 counties. Other than 1 on 24 Jun at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (MPr) and 1 on 21 Jul at De Soto NWR *Harrison* (LJP, BKP), all reports were in SE Iowa or near the Des Moines R north to Boone.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: All: singles on 1 Jun at Eagle L *Hancock* (PH) and at A.A. Call SP *Kossuth* (RGo) were probably late migrants. Two on 16 Jun at Coon Creek WA *Winneshiek* (DK) and 3 (1 carrying food) on 17 Jun at Yellow River SF (DK) were probably nesting.

Magnolia Warbler: All: 2 on 13 Jun at Iowa City (JBB) were late.

Yellow-throated Warbler: From 1-4 were found in *Allamakee, Boone, Clayton, Des Moines, Johnson, Lee, Louisa, Van Buren, and Warren* (m. ob.), all in eastern Iowa or along the Des Moines R valley where this species is regular. The only evidence of breeding was a brood on 30 Jun at Welter P *Des Moines* (AB).

Pine Warbler: A family group including an adult male and 4 juveniles was found on 5 Jul at the Donnellson Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* and was seen through 12 Jul (*RD, *MCD, *CE, m. ob.). This is the first report of nesting for this species in Iowa and the first summer season report.

Cerulean Warbler: From 1-10 were found in *Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Fremont, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine, Van Buren, and Washington* (m. ob.). Birds at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock/Winnebago* (RGo, CJF, GLV) were at the edge of its usual range.

Black-and-white Warbler: All: A singing male on 1 Jun at Stephens SF *Monroe* (AB), a female on 3 Jun at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (MPr), and 1 on 26 Jun at Klum L *Louisa* (CE) were all suggestive of breeding birds.

American Redstart: Widely reported with most reports from east of I-35. Koenig found 45 in *Allamakee* and 60 in *Clayton* during the period, an indication of how common this species is in suitable habitat.

Prothonotary Warbler: From 1-7 were found in *Allamakee, Clayton, Davis, Jackson, Lee, Louisa, Lucas,* and *Van Buren* where it is expected (m. ob.). Singles on 6 Jun at *Algona Kossuth* (MCK) and 13 Jun at *George Wyth SP Black Hawk* (CE) were somewhat outside its usual range.

Worm-eating Warbler: All: Singles on 2 Jun, 2 Jul at *Shimek S.F., Croton Unit Lee* (AB), 5 Jun at *Brinton Timber Washington* (CE, CJC), and 27 Jun at *Shimek SF, Farmington Unit Lee* (CE).

Ovenbird: Reported from 15 counties encompassing much of Iowa (m. ob.).

Louisiana Waterthrush: From 1-4 were found in *Boone, Fremont, Henry, Lee, Monroe,* and *Van Buren* (m. ob.). Birds at *Hacklebarney Woods Montgomery* (AB), *Fox Hills WA Wapello* (AB), *Pammel SP Madison* (AB), and *Stoney Hollow Rd Des Moines* (AB) all seemed to be at new sites for this species.

Kentucky Warbler: I received more reports for this species than ever before, presumably because of interest from the Important Bird Area project. From 1-5 were found in 15 counties (m. ob.), nearly all either in the southern three rows of counties or within two counties of the Mississippi R.

Mourning Warbler: All: 1 on 2 Jun at *Grammer Grove WA Marshall* (MPr).

Hooded Warbler: All reports came from either *Yellow River SF Allamakee* (DK, CE, DAK) or the *Donnelson Unit of Shimek SF Lee* (CE, MCD, CJC, MPr).

Wilson's Warbler: One on 1 Jun at *Eagle L Hancock* (PH) was the only report.

Canada Warbler: All: 1 on 1 Jun at *Stephens SF Lucas* (AB).

Yellow-breasted Chat: One or 2 were found in *Lee, Louisa, Van Buren,* and *Wayne* (AB, CE, MPr, MCD, BFH, AMJ). The only reports outside of southern Iowa were 1 on 9, 22 Jun at *Sioux City* (GLV, BFH) and 1 on 25 Jun at *Yellow River SF Allamakee* (DK).

Summer Tanager: Most reports were from well-known sites in *Fremont, Lee, Van Buren,* and *Warren* (m. ob.). One on 1 Jun at *Cardinal M Winneshiek* (EB) was far from its usual range, and 1 on 16 Jun at *Stephens SF, Unionville Unit Davis* (AB) was at a new site for the species.

Scarlet Tanager: Reported from 18 counties from throughout Iowa (m. ob.). *Koenig* found 37 in *Allamakee* during the summer, suggesting that it is fairly common in some parts of Iowa.

Eastern Towhee: Presumably underreported, towhees were noted in six counties, mostly in NE Iowa (m. ob.).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Three nests in *Dickinson* are the first documented nests for Iowa (EH) (see note on page ?). Other reports were singles on 10 Jun at *Cayler Prairie* and *Freda Haffner Kettlehole Dickinson* (SSP), 3 on 19 Jun at *Anderson Prairie Emmet* (LAS), 3 on 26 Jun at *Gitche Manitou State Preserve Lyon* (RIA, PHA), 1 on 19 Jul at *Westfork WA Palo Alto* (AB), and 1 on 24 Jul at *Kindlespire P Clay* (LAS).

Lark Sparrow: Also underreported, from 1-4 were found in *Adair, Clayton, Fremont, Hardin, Louisa, Madison, Muscatine, O'Brien, Plymouth, Polk, Poweshiek,* and *Warren* (m. ob.).

Grasshopper Sparrow: As many as 20 were reported from sites in about 25 counties covering most of Iowa except the NE corner (m. ob.).

BAIRD'S SPARROW: A report of this elusive sparrow will be reviewed by the Records Committee.

Henslow's Sparrow: Reported from 17 counties, from the Missouri to the Minnesota borders and as far west as *Emmet*; most reports were east of I-35 (m. ob.). This species seems more widespread and abundant

in Iowa than was thought just a few years ago, probably because people are looking for it, are more familiar with its habitat, and have learned its "song".

Le Conte's Sparrow: Three singing males were reported on 5, 6 Jun in a brome field in *Clay* (SSP/KLP-details, recording). This is the first summer report of this species in Iowa.

Swamp Sparrow: All reports were from north of I-80 where this species is most likely to be found.

Harris's Sparrow: One on 2 Jun in Norwalk *Warren* (AMJ) is the first summer report since 2001 and only the fourth on record.

Blue Grosbeak: The only reports away from the western border were singles on 2, 6 Jul in Carroll (RTh), 16 Jul at Waterman Creek A *O'Brien* (LAS), and on 16 Jun in *Cherokee* (LAS).

Dickcissel: Common to abundant this summer although I thought that they were hard to find in extreme NE Iowa.

Bobolink: With reports from numerous counties and no one indicating that it was scarce this year, this species continues to be fairly common in suitable grasslands throughout Iowa.

Western Meadowlark: Three on 6 Jun near Volga and 1 on 19 Jun near Garnavillo, both in *Clayton* (DAk), were at the eastern edge of its Iowa range.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Yellowheads seemed common and were reported from a number of sites outside of their stronghold in north-central and northwestern Iowa.

Great-tailed Grackle: Besides reports from established sites in *Hancock, Polk, Story, and Warren* (CJF, BE, HZ, MPr), 2 on 3 Jun in *Osceola* (SSP), 3 on 12 Jun at L Macbride *Johnson* (CE), and 1 on 24 Jun at MidAmerican Energy Ponds *Pottawattamie* (MPr) were at sites where it is not established.

Orchard Oriole: With reports from 10 counties including all four corners of the state (m. ob.), this species is statewide in distribution but more abundant in the west.

Pine Siskin: One on 15 Jul at L Meyer *Winneshiek* (DeC, Larry Reis) is the first Iowa summer report since 2000.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: All: 5 on 22 Jun near Burlington *Des Moines* (MPr).

COMMENT

This summer I received more than 1500 sightings from more than 50 people, the most in 21 years. Obviously, all of those reports could not be listed in this report and in many cases, space issues precluded me from acknowledging all of the sightings for a species. Be assured that all reports are important in compiling this summary of the summer season. To all of you, my sincerest thanks for making this report possible and my apologies if I overlooked someone.

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