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Summer Field Reports: IOWA 2001

Paul Hertzel
240 12th St. SE
Mason City, IA 50401

641
515 423-5285
phertzel@rconnect.com
hertzpau@niacc.cc.ia.us

Common Loon	1	3-6 June	Cerro Gordo: an apparently first-summer bird at a small pond
Pied-billed Grebe	N 5	13 July	Cerro Gordo: a brood at Blue Teal Basin
American Wh Pelican		throughout	Cerro Gordo: at Ventura Marsh and Clear Lake high count: 236 on 12 June
American Bittern	1	24 June	Cerro Gordo: 1 calling in the morning at Zirbel Slough
Least Bittern	1	16 June	Cerro Gordo: Zirbel Slough
American Black Duck	1	3 June	Cerro Gordo: a single bird at McIntosh Wildlife Area. see (1).
Northern Shoveler		1 June	Cerro Gordo
Gadwall	N	6 June	Cerro Gordo a brood at McIntosh Wildlife Area
Redhead	5	1 - 6 June	Cerro Gordo
Ruddy Duck	3	1 June	Cerro Gordo
Common Merganser	1	1 June	Cerro Gordo: a lone female still at Clear Lake
Osprey	1	1 June	Cerro Gordo: A flyby at Clear Lake
Swainson's Hawk	2	31 July	Cerro Gordo: a pair of juveniles perched in a tree near where adults were seen in the spring.
Gray Partridge	4	4 July	Cerro Gordo
Virginia Rail	1	1 June	Hancock Co.
	6	4 July	Cerro Gordo: At least six adults giving alarm calls and running in front of me as I walked through the sedge at Union Hills WMA.
American Coot	N	4 July	Cerro Gordo: What appeared to be at least two distinct broods at Union Hills WMA.
Semipalmated Plover	2	26 July	Polk Co: at Sandpiper beach
	3	29 July	Cerro Gordo

Piping Plover	1	23 July	Pottawattamie Co: at Mid-America, one maybe two birds
Lesser Yellowlegs	27	13 July	Cerro Gordo
	10	29 July	Cerro Gordo
Solitary Sandpiper	3	13 July	Cerro Gordo
Sanderling	5	26 July	Polk Co: at Sandpiper Recreation Area beach
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	1 June	Cerro Gordo
	5	26 July	Polk Co
	12	29 July	Cerro Gordo
Least Sandpiper	33	13 July	Cerro Gordo
	12	26 July	Polk Co
	5	29 July	Cerro Gordo
White-rumped Sandp	1	26 July	Polk Co
Pectoral Sandpiper	10	26 July	Polk Co
	10	29 July	Cerro Gordo
Stilt Sandpiper	6	26 July	Polk Co
	19	29 July	Cerro Gordo
American Woodcock	1	6 June	Cerro Gordo: At Lime Creek Conservation Area
Ring-billed Gull	11	1 June	Cerro Gordo
	20	3 June	Cerro Gordo
	12	11 July	Cerro Gordo
Franklin's Gull	3	12 June	Cerro Gordo
Caspian Tern	1	26 July	Polk Co: at Sandpiper beach
Least Tern	1	23 July	Pottawattamie Co: at Mid-America
Black Tern		1- 6 June	Cerro Gordo: a few at Ventura
		23 July	Greene Co: a few out across a marsh as I drove by
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		26, 28 June	Cerro Gordo
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		3 June	Cerro Gordo
Willow Flycatcher		24 June	Cerro Gordo: at least 6 singing individuals at Zirbel S.
Purple Martin N		throughout	Cerro Gordo nested in houses along Clear Lake

Loggerhead Shrike	2	8 July	Cerro Gordo: 2 adults
Sedge Wren		throughout	Cerro Gordo: seemed unusually scarce
Marsh Wren		throughout	Cerro Gordo: seemed unusually common
Wood Thrush		26 June	Cerro Gordo: singing birds at Holland Woods
Blue-winged Warbler	1	3 June	Cerro Gordo: a male singing in semi-open habitat
Yellow-rumped Warbler		3 June	Cerro Gordo: a bright male bird. See (2)
Cerulean Warbler		3 June	Cerro Gordo: a male singing in dense woods.
American Redstart	1	12 June	Cerro Gordo
Ovenbird	1	13 July	Cerro Gordo singing in woods near Mallard Marsh
Scarlet Tanager	1	28 June	Cerro Gordo: singing at Lime Creek
	1	8 July	Cerro Gordo: along the Winnebago River
Blue Grosbeak	1	3 July	Cerro Gordo: a single male at Lime Creek. Others reported seeing a pair.
Henslow's Sparrow		throughout	Cerro Gordo: fewer than last summer at the same field
Bobolink		throughout	Cerro Gordo: Common, but still fun to report. What a song.
Great-tailed Grackle			Cerro Gordo: we had our first county record in the spring, but the birds did not remain at that location. Then Rita G. encountered a few summer birds (July?) 1 mile north. Berry Engebretsen reported them nesting in Polk Co., a first county record, I think.
Red Crossbill	1	17 July	Cerro Gordo: an orangish (first year?) male visited a feeder in Ventura. See (3)

Notes.

1. American Black Duck at McIntosh Wildlife Area, a small marsh adjacent on the north to Clear Lake. This bird had no plumage characteristics to make me suspect it was a hybrid. It was first found May 31, and continued to be seen at the marsh for about the first week of May. Rita Goranson may have a later date in her notes.
2. Yellow-rumped Warbler. Because of the late date, I made a sketch at the location. It's just a scribble, but it shows the bird had the important marks.
3. Male Red Crossbill at Ventura. Description: Large-headed finch with prominent crossed bill, slightly larger and noticeably bulkier than nearby House Finches. Fed by clinging to screened, cylindrical feeder. Head, back, rump, underparts a washed-out burnt reddish-orange. Orangish cast to plumage suggests first summer male. Wings and tail solid gray-black, no discernible wing bars. Tail was strongly notched. Forehead and crown appeared lightly streaked, in direction of bill, auricular area had a wash of gray. Eye dark, bill was gray-black, legs seemed gray but with a warm tone depending upon the angle. Viewed from about 200 feet through 8-power

binoculars, bright sunny day, though bird and feeders were in strong shade. I first heard of the bird on July 15.

Of course, there were many other birds seen during the summer months. Below is a list of nesters.

Common nesters (confirmed) :

Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Mallard
American Kestrel
Ring-necked Pheasant
Killdeer
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Great Horned Owl
Chimney Swift
Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Kingbird
Tree Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Blue Jay
American Crow
House Wren
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
European Starling
Field Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle

June 3, 2001

Haugen Wildlife Area, Cerro Gordo Co,

Yellow-rumped Warbler!



Bird sang rattle song directly above me. I had to move away to get a better look.