

6/4/80

MOORE

May 30, 1980

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IOWA CITY, IA 52240

Dear Tom:

Enclosed is a compilation of sightings of bird species I thought would be worth noting. Having never turned in a field report before I am hoping the format used will be useful to you in your task of compiling a statewide consensus of the bird species of our state for the months of March, April and May.

### LOONS through BITTERNS

- ✓ 1 Common Loon at George Wyth State Park, Waterloo on May 3  
Observed by myself and Bob Myers.
- ✓ 1 Horned Grebe at George Wyth State Park on April 6 and 2 at Sweet Marsh on April 26
- Pied-billed Grebes were fairly common around the Waterloo area after April 5 through May 26
- ✓ 3 Double-crested Cormorants were seen at George Wyth SP on April 12; 5 at Sweet Marsh on April 26; 3 at Nashua Reservoir on April 27; 4 at Sweet Marsh on May 18
- ✓ 4 Great Egrets at Big Marsh on April 5; 2 at Falls Access on April 23; 1 at Otter Creek Marsh on April 24
- ✓ 3 Black-crowned Night Heron at Sweet Marsh on April 26; 2 at Dudgeon Park near Vinton on May 17; 15 at Otter Creek Marsh on April 24, Observed by myself and Russell Hays.

- ✓ 1 American Bittern at Dudgeon Park on May 17 ; 1 at Otter Creek Marsh on April 24

### WATERFOWL

- ✓ 14 Whistling Swans at Readlyn on April 10

Canvasbacks were not a common sight this spring with the biggest concentration seen of 15 individuals at Sweet Marsh on March 29

Readheads were seen in small groups of 2 to 6 with the largest group of 18 seen at Big Marsh on April 5

- ✓ 1 Oldsquaw at George Wyth S.P. on two successive weekends of April 6 and April 12, 13. Numerous other observers were on hand to view the bird, included were Tom Stone; Tom Stone, Jr.; Bob Myers; Russell Hays. Photographs were taken by me and several others and I will send a copy along to you soon.

- ✓ 1 Hooded Merganser at Sweet Marsh, a female, on May 18, a rather late date

### DIURNAL RAPTORS

Sharp-shinned Hawks were not easy to find this year with the following observed: 18 at Sweet Marsh on April 26; 4 at Nashua on April 27; 1 at Dudgeons Park on May 4

- ✓ 2 Coopers Hawks at Backbone State Park on March 15 ; 1 at George Wyth SP on April 6 at 100 feet ; 8 at Sweet Marsh on April 26

- ✓ 1 Red-shouldered Hawk at Backbone S.P. on March 15 ; 1 at Dudgeons Park on May 4 and again 1 at Dudgeons Park on May 17

- ✓ 1 Broad-winged Hawk at Sweet Marsh on April 19 ; 1 at Falls Access on April 23 ; 600± at Sweet Marsh on April 26 ; 3 at Nashua on April 27 ; 1 at George Wyth SP on May 3 ; 1 at

## Dudgeon Park on May 4

- ✓ 2 Swainson's Hawks are again at Hartman Nature Reserve in Cedar Falls, 1 seen 1 mile west of Tripoli on May 18; 1 at Volga Lake Recreation Area on May 26
- ✓ 1 Osprey at George Wyth SP on April 6; 3 at George Wyth SP on April 26; 1 at Nashua on April 27
- ✓ 1 Merlin at Harpers Ferry on March 15; 1 at Backbone SP on March 15

American Kestrels were in good supply during most of the migration.

On one day with several other observers the following hawks were seen, as noted above, at Sweet Marsh on April 26: 18 Sharp-shinned; 8 Cooper's; 1 Red-tailed; 600± Broadwing; 3 Northern Harriers; 3 Osprey; 6 American Kestrel. A really good hawk day. Observers included Bob Myers; Joe Schaufenbuel; Tom Stone; Tom Stone, Jr.; Russell Hays and several others.

### QUAILS through SHOREBIRDS

- ✓ 3 Common Bobwhite calling at Dudgeon Park on May 4 and May 17

Ring-necked Pheasant were difficult to find during March, April and May with but few heard crowing around Waterloo and places visited by me in NE. and N.C. Iowa.

- ✓ 1 Wild Turkey heard gobbling at Sweet Marsh on May 18 in early A.M.

~~✓~~ 1 Virginia Rail at Sweet Marsh on May 18

- ✓ 1 Yellow Rail at Sweet Marsh on May 18 at same spot, to within several feet of the spot, where one was seen by Bob Myers and at same place one was seen last year. Documentation enclosed.

- ✓ 1 Common Gallinule at Dodgeon Park on May 17. Observed by several other people including Tom Stone; Tom Stone Jr.; Bob Myers.

American Coots were very common throughout the spring migration.

- ✓ 10 Lesser Golden Plovers at Dodgeon Park on May 4; 50+ 3 miles East of Dakota City on way to Spring 100 Convention on May 9; 6 at Sweet Marsh on May 18
- ✓ 6 Black-bellied Plover at Jager Slough on May 11, after 100 Spring Convention had broken up, at approx. 4:00 P.M.
- ✓ 3 Upland Sandpipers at Mark Sand Prairie on April 26; 8 at Hayden Prairie on May 24
- ✓ 1 Willet at Sweet Marsh on April 19
- 1 White-rumped Sandpiper at Sweet Marsh May 18
- ✓ 2 Baird's Sandpipers at Sweet Marsh on May 18
- ✓ 2 Dunlin at Nashua on April 27; 1 at Sweet Marsh May 18
- ✓ 3 Hudsonian Godwits at Sweet Marsh on May 18; up to 10 had been seen there a few days earlier
- ✓ 1 Wilson's Phalarope at Sweet Marsh April 26

### GULLS through SWIFTS

- ✓ 5 Common Terns at Sweet Marsh on May 18 which I watched very carefully until sure they were not Forster's Terns.
- ✓ 12 Caspian Terns at Sweet Marsh on May 18
- 8 Black Terns at Sweet Marsh on May 18; 3 at Cardinal Marsh, Cresco on May 24

✓ 3 Long-eared Owls at George Wyth SP on April 6

✓ 1 Short-eared Owl at Sweet Marsh on March 29

### WOODPECKERS through THRUSHES

Red-headed Woodpeckers continue to show strong numbers in our part of the state.

Hairy Woodpecker is either seen or heard on nearly every trip to the field in our area.

Eastern Phoebe's started showing up around April 5 with 1 seen at Big Marsh on April 5; 1 at George Wyth SP on April 6; 2 at Sweet Marsh on April 11; 1 along the Waterloo Greenbelt on April 20; 1 at Cardinal Marsh on May 24; 1 at Volga Lake on May 26

✓ 1 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Dudgeon's Park on May 17

✓ 3 Alder Flycatchers singing at Volga Lake on May 26

15+ pairs + Purple Martins returned to Black Hawk County Park in Cedar Falls this season with 100+ pairs returning to the Nashua Reservoir area.

✓ 2 Winter Wrens at George Wyth SP on April 6; and 1 at George Wyth SP on April 13

✓ 1 Sedge Wren at George Wyth SP on May 3; 2 at Dudgeon Park on May 17; 3 at Sweet Marsh on May 18; 6 singing males at Hayden Prairie on May 24; 2 at Cardinal Marsh on May 24

✓ 1 Marsh Wren at Dudgeon Park on May 17; 3 at Sweet Marsh on May 18; 2 at Cardinal Marsh on May 24

1 Eastern Bluebird at Yellow River Forest on March 15; 1 at Big Marsh April 5; 2 at George Wyth SP on May 6; 1 at

Sweet Marsh on May 18, a female.

### GNATCATCHERS through VIREOS

- ✓ A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were building a nest at Dudgeon Park on May 17
  - ✓ 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets at George Wyth SP on March 9; 10 at George Wyth SP on April 6;
- Ruby-crowned Kinglets were common during their migration period with a late comer at Sweet Marsh on May 18
- ✓ 3 Water Pipits at Nashua on April 27
  - ✓ 1 Bohemian Waxwing at the Grace Leinen Residence in Cedar Falls feeding on High-bush Cranberry fruit on March 9 along with 13 Cedar Waxwings. Observed by me and Russell Hays for approx. 20 minutes at 50' to 75' with 7X35mm binoculars and a 20X Bushnell Spacemaster telescope. Very cooperative bird by somewhat of a loner as he stayed some distance from the Cedar Waxwings.
  - ✓ 30+ Cedar Waxwings at Volga Lake on May 26 for a late date for a flock of this species.
  - ✓ 1 Northern Shrike on county road CTX 2 miles s.w. of Elkport Clayton County on March 8 viewed at leisure with 20X Bushnell Spacemaster telescope at approx. 60-75 yards. for approx. 10 minutes.
  - 2 Loggerhead Shrikes in Fremont Co. on March 22.
  - ✓ 1 White-eyed Vireo at Dudgeon Park on May 4 and, possibly the same bird, at Dudgeon Park on May 17 at a different location
  - 1 Bell's Vireo, located by song, at Dudgeon Park on May 17

- ✓ 1 Philadelphia Vireo at Dodgeon Park on May 17; 1 at Sweet Marsh on May 18
- 2 Warbling Vireo at Dodgeon Park on May 4; 4 at Dodgeon Park on May 17; 3 at Sweet Marsh on May 18; 2 at Cardinal Marsh on May 24; 5 at Volga Lake on May 26
- 1 yellow-throated Vireo at Dodgeon Park on May 17

### WARBLERS

- 1 Black-and-white Warbler at George Wyth SP on May 3; 2 at Dodgeon Park on May 4; 4 at Dodgeon Park on May 17
- ✓ 3 Prothonotary Warblers at Dodgeon Park on May 17, seen also by Tom Stone; Tom Stone, Jr.; Bob Myers, Russell Hays. from distance of approx 15 feet. There appeared to be two territorial males at one sight.
- 2 Northern Parula Warblers at Dodgeon Park on May 4, 1 at Sweet Marsh on May 18
- 1 Yellow Warbler at George Wyth SP on May 3; 3 at Dodgeon Park on May 17; 2 at Sweet Marsh on May 18
- ✓ 1 Cape May Warbler at Dodgeon Park on May 17
- 1 Cerulean Warbler at Dodgeon Park on May 4; 1 at Dodgeon Park on May 17
- 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler, a female, at Volga Lake on May 26; a fairly late date which could point to the possibility of nesting.
- 2 Mourning Warblers at Dodgeon Park on May 17
- 1 Canada Warbler at Dodgeon Park on May 17

- 6 American Redstarts at Dodgeon Park on May 17; 3 at Sweet Marsh on May 18; 4 at Cardinal Marsh on May 24; 6 at Volga Lake on May 26

BLACKBIRDS through SPARROWS

- 10 singing male yellow-headed Blackbirds at Sweet Marsh on May 18; 4 pairs at Readlyn on April 26; 1 pair at Cardinal Marsh on May 24 due to the Conservation Commission keeping the marsh at a low water level during the summer. Such a shame to waste good habitat.

Bobolinks are well established at Nayden Prairie if the number of singing males that frequent the area is any indication.

- ✓ 5 Singing male Dickcissels along the boulevard to the Waterloo airport on May 26; 3 or 4 pairs at Mark Sand Prairie on May 18. Otherwise not many found.
- ✓ A Rufous-sided Towhee nest found at Volga Lake on May 26 with 4 eggs.
- ✓ 1 singing male Henslow's Sparrow at Nayden Prairie on May 24
- ✓ 1 Vesper Sparrow at Big Marsh on April 5; 2 at Sweet Marsh on April 19; 2 at Waterloo Greenbelt on April 20; 2 at Sweet Marsh on April 26; 2 at Nashua on April 27; 1 at George Wyth SP on May 3; 4 at Dodgeons on May 4; 2 at Nayden Prairie on May 24; 1 at Volga Lake on May 26
- ✓ 4 Lark Sparrows at Dodgeon Park on May 4; 6 at Dodgeon Park on May 17
- 3 White-crowned Sparrows at George Wyth SP on May 3; 1 at Sweet Marsh on May 18
- 2 Lincoln's Sparrows at Sweet Marsh on May 18



I hope what you just read through isn't overwhelming to you. I felt that as long as I was going to send you a field report I might as well make it as complete as I could. I have tried to include my observations on species that are blue listed or might have some merit in being listed in this report.

Hopefully I have a format that you can use for your regional report to the National Audubon Society and for Iowa Bird Life. If more documentation is needed on those species included in this report please let me know; my address is below.

Most of the dates I have listed for my sightings were in conjunction with a field trip of the Waterloo Audubon Society; or on a date that I was afield with some one else so there could possibly be duplication of sightings with some of the people I was with at that time.

Those that would be reporting that I would have been with would have been Bob Myers, Tom Stone, Tom Stone, Jr. and Joe Schaufenbuel.

If you would like to have my future reports in a format different than that set forth here please let me know and I will be happy to change to something you can work with easier. Thank you for considering my report.

Sincerely,

Francis L. Moore

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