

Draft from May

Field Reports — Summer Season 2005

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WEATHER

June was generally very warm with rainfall about average. Temperatures averaged 73.4 degrees, 3.6 degrees above average with only five days in mid-June averaging less than normal. It was the 14th warmest June on record and the warmest since 1991. Extremes ranged from 45 degrees at Elkader on 16 June to 99 degrees in Sioux City on 23 June; the latter was the highest Iowa temperature reported since August 2003. Precipitation averaged 5.19 inches, 0.55 inches above average, and the 50th wettest June on record. Rainfall was generally greatest in northern and eastern Iowa and least in the southeast. The heaviest rainfall was late in the month when Fort Dodge reported 8.15 inches. For the month, greatest rainfall totals were 10.4 inches at Conrad and 9.78 at Fort Dodge.

July was somewhat warmer and dryer than normal. Temperatures averaged 75.3 degrees, 1.5 degrees above normal. The first week was cooler than normal but temperatures were much higher for most of the rest of the month. Iowa's first 100-degree temperatures since August 2003 came on 23–25 July with 104 degrees at Keosauqua on 24 July the highest. It was an unseasonable 45 degrees at Elkader on 27 July. Overall, it was the 44th warmest July on record. The first half of July was drier than normal with an average of 0.36 inches of rain, 2 inches below normal. The second half of July was much wetter. Overall rainfall averaged 3.2 inches, about 1 inch below average. It was the 49th driest July on record. A severe drought prevailed in eastern and southeastern Iowa. The 10.1 inches of precipitation in Davenport in the first seven months of 2005 is the least since records began in 1872 and less than half the long-term average.

HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

It was a fairly average summer with little in the way of weather extremes. The 100-degree plus weather in late July was the first in several years but came after nesting was over for most species. Flooding and violent windstorms were largely lacking so there is little reason to believe that nesting for most species was adversely affected. Probably the most significant weather event affecting nesting occurred in early May when several days of subfreezing weather probably harmed early nesting species like pheasants, turkeys, and waterfowl.

Likewise, habitat conditions seemed similar to recent years. There is still considerable land enrolled in conservation programs like CRP, especially in southern Iowa but recent federal budget concerns threaten the loss of much of that land in the next few years. To date, people interested in game species have been most concerned about those potential losses. However, birders should realize that such habitat losses could have a major effect on populations of both meadowlarks, Bobolinks, Dickcissels, and other grassland birds in Iowa.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

More Accidental and Casual species were found this summer than usual. Accidental species found were Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Brown Pelican, and

Vermilion Flycatcher. Casual species reported were King Rail, Black-headed Gull, White-winged Dove, and Black-billed Magpie. Other good finds were Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-necked Grebe, White-faced Ibis, and Black-and-white Warbler. Among nesting species, some of the more unusual finds include King Rail and probable nesting by Red-breasted Nuthatch. Among regular nesters, Bald Eagle, Least Tern, and Barn Owl had good years, and Sandhill Cranes seemed to be finding new places to nest. Among several reintroduced species, Trumpeter Swan and Peregrine Falcon had their best years on record while Osprey had a so-so summer.

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Thanks to work by several people, especially Shane Patterson, on the IBA program, I received a huge amount of information about forest birds in particular. I received more reports than ever before for Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged hawks including a number confirming nesting. The same was true for woodland songbirds such as Wood Thrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, and Summer Tanager. Likewise it was a great year for Henslow's Sparrows with reports from 19 counties, the most ever. Several June reports of Least Flycatcher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrows added to the still confusing summer status of this trio. All are probably rare nesting species in Iowa.

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On the other hand, no one mentioned either Brown Creeper or Swainson's Hawk, species that previously had been regularly reported in summer. Likewise, no one mentioned any evidence of nesting for Double-crested Cormorant, Forster's Tern, or Black Tern. A mid-summer report of Alder Flycatcher awaits review by the Records Committee. A report of a possible Hooded Crow, an Old World species, raises issues of both identification and possible captive origin.

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, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **SF** = state forest, **Sl** = slough, **SP** = state park, **WPA** = waterfowl production area, **WA** = wildlife area.

Key to maps: light shading = species present in county, dark shading = evidence of nesting reported (nest, brood, etc.).

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BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: One on 22 Jun at Green Bay Bottoms *Lee* (BO-details) and 1 on 26, 29 Jul at Lake Anita SP *Cass* (*JJD, RIA, PHA, *DTh) are the fourth and fifth reports this year for Iowa. This species has been showing evidence of range expansion for a number of years.

Greater White-fronted Goose: All: 1 on 9 Jun through 30 Jul at Grimes *Polk* (JB, JG) and 1 on 15 Jun in *Kossuth* (MCK).

Snow Goose: 1 or 2 were seen in *Adams, Guthrie, Kossuth, Montgomery, Polk,* and *Story*, about typical for summer (m.ob.).

Mute Swan: All: 1 on 5 Jun at Dudgeon L *Benton* (CJC) and 1 on 12 Jul at Diamond L *Poweshiek* (SSP).

Trumpeter Swan: A total of 23 pairs nested in Iowa this year (RA, PS), a big jump from the 14 nests found in 2004.

Gadwall: From 1-3 were found in early Jun in *Cerro Gordo*, *Hancock*, and *Lucas* (DAk, RLC). Eleven were at *Colo Ponds Story* on 26 Jun (HZ) and 2 were at *Pool SI Allamakee* on 23 Jul (DAk).

Northern Shoveler: All: 2 pairs on 1 Jun at *Colo Ponds Story* (HZ), 3 on 15 Jun at *Maynard Reece WPA Kossuth* (MCK), and a brood of 10 on 25 Jun at *McBreen M Dickinson* (LAS).

Northern Pintail: All: A male on 4, 25 Jun at *Dan Green SI Clay* (LAS).

Green-winged Teal: All: Singles in *Greene*, *Hancock*, *Kossuth*, and *Story* (SJD, DAk, MCK, HZ) and 2 in *Polk* (DTh).

Canvasback: All: 2 on 1 Jun and 1 on 17 Jul at *Eagle L Hancock* (PH, RGo, DAk), 2 on 22 Jun on the *Mississippi R* at *Montrose Lee* (SJD), a female on 12 Jul at *Credit Island Scott* (DAk), and 1 on 13 Jul at the *MidAmerican Energy Ponds Pottawattamie* (JLF).

Redhead: From 1-7 were found in *Cerro Gordo*, *Hancock*, *Kossuth*, and *Polk* (DAk, RGo, MCK, BE). Two broods were seen 26 Jun at *Maynard Reece WPA Kossuth* (MCK).

Ring-necked Duck: All: 3 on 2 Jun near *Iowa City Johnson* (MCD, BSc) and a male on 17 Jul at *Terra L Polk* (BE).

Lesser Scaup: From 1-6 were found in *Cerro Gordo*, *Dickinson*, *Hancock*, and *Kossuth* in northern Iowa (DAk, LAS, MCK), about typical for summer. By far the most was 16 on 22 Jun on the *Mississippi R* at *Montrose Lee* (SJD).

Bufflehead: All: A male on 4 Jun at *Grover's L Dickinson* (LAS) and a male on 15 Jun at *Port Neal Woodbury* (BFH).

Hooded Merganser: Broods were found at *Dunbar SI Guthrie* (SJD, JJD), *Union SI NWR Kossuth* (MCK), *Chichaqua WA Polk* (DTh, DK), *Millgrove Access Poweshiek* (DK), and *Cardinal M Winneshiek* (DK).

Common Merganser: All: A male on 15 Jun at *Port Neal Woodbury* (BFH).

Ruddy Duck: Evidence of nesting was noted at *Spring Run WA Dickinson* (LAS), *Errington M Polk* (BE), and *Colo Ponds Story* (HZ). (Nonbreeding birds) were found in *Dickinson*, *Hancock*, *Kossuth*, *Lee*, and *Pottawattamie* (DAk, RGo, MCK, SJD, JLF).

Gray Partridge: Besides the usual reports from counties in northern and central Iowa (m.ob.), 1 on 2 Jul at *Lost Grove Lake WA Scott* (DR) and a brood on 16 Jul at *Clayton Center Clayton* (DAk) were both east of its usual range.

Ruffed Grouse: Drumming grouse were heard on 11 Jun at *Lucas Unit*, *Stephens SF Lucas* (KLP, SSP), and 16 Jun at *Whitebreast Unit*, *Stephens SF Lucas* (SSP). Grouse feathers were found on 10 Jul at *Pine Creek WMA Allamakee* (SSP, KLP).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: A few sharp-taileds continue to hold on in *Woodbury*. One brood was seen this summer after only 2 birds were found at the lek this spring (Ed Wiener fide JJD).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Prairie-chicken numbers were down this year and no broods were noted, perhaps because of the relatively cold spring (Ed White fide JJD).

Northern Bobwhite: As expected, most reports were from the southern three rows of counties (m.ob.). The northernmost reports were from *Linn* (BSc) in the east and

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Harrison (GLV) in the west. My general impression is that bobwhite made a slight comeback this year.

Common Loon: All: 3 on 21 Jun at Spirit L *Dickinson* (ET) and 1 on 30 Jul at North Twin L *Calhoun* (Todd Burras fide JJD). One of the Spirit L birds was in alternate plumage and calling.

Pied-billed Grebe: Evidence of nesting was noted in Jun at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DeC, brood), Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK, active nest), and Long Pond *Guthrie* (JG, brood).

Red-necked Grebe: All: 1-3 from 1 Jun-31 Jul at Eagle L *Hancock* (RGo, PH, DAK) and 2 adults on 4 Jul at Union SI NWR *Kossuth* (MCK).

Eared Grebe: All: 1 on 15 Jun at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK).

American White Pelican: Pelicans seemed to be everywhere this summer with reports received from 14 counties scattered across much of the state (m.ob.). By early July, some reports involved sizeable groups such as 400 on 5 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (NPB) and 350 on 17 Jul at Union SI NWR *Kossuth* (MCK). The 1,000 on 23 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB) was the first really large group, a high count for so early in migration.

BROWN PELICAN: All: One at the north end of Spirit L *Dickinson* from 14-18 Jul (and sporadically through 25 Jul in nearby Minnesota, *ET-photos, *LAS) and a first-year bird on 30, 31 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*SJD, *JJD, *BE, m.ob., photos). These are Iowa's first records since 1999 and the first summer records since 1900. Based on plumage and timing of sightings, these may have involved a single bird, which would be Iowa's tenth record.

Double-crested Cormorant: From 1-20 were found in *Adair, Guthrie, Hancock, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Polk, Scott, Story, Worth, and Wright* (m.ob.). The most was 20 on 2 Jul at Hanlontown M *Worth* (JB). No one mentioned evidence of nesting.

American Bittern: All: Singles on 25 Jun at Welch L *Dickinson* (LAS), 8 Jul at Jensen M *Madison* (RTr), and 28 Jul at Harrier M *Boone* (RIA, PHA, DTh).

Least Bittern: From 1-6 were found in *Clinton, Greene, Guthrie, Johnson, Linn, Polk, Warren, Winneshiek, Woodbury, and Worth* (m.ob.). Nesting was confirmed on 24 Jun at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* when 3 nests with eggs were found (DK).

Great Blue Heron: Small colonies were found in *Fayette, Monona, Polk, and Poweshiek* (DK, GLV). The largest was 15-20 pairs at Geode SP *Henry* (SSP).

Great Egret: The usual individuals or small groups were scattered across Iowa. The largest group noted was 28 on 26 Jun at Goose L *Clinton* (BSc).

Snowy Egret: All: 1 on 26 Jun at Goose L *Clinton* (BSc).

Cattle Egret: All: Two on 28 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh).

Green Heron: From 1-6 were found in 13 counties scattered across the state (m.ob.). This species occurs in small numbers statewide.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: One or 2 were found in *Fremont, Hancock, Lucas, Story, Winneshiek, and Worth* (m.ob.). No one mentioned any evidence of nesting.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All: An adult on 18 Jun at Colyn A *Lucas* (ABr) and up to 6 there 7-14 Jul (RIA, PHA, m.ob.). A juvenile was seen 16, 30 Jul at Jensen M (RTr).

White-faced Ibis: All: 1 on 1 Jun at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (RGo, PH, DAK-details) and 2 on 14 Jun near Spirit L *Dickinson* (NPB).

Plegadis species: All: 2 on 16 Jul at Saylorville Res Polk (JG).

Turkey Vulture: As evidence of the increasing numbers of vultures in Iowa, an amazing 216 were counted on 29 Jul at a roost near Decorah *Winneshiek* (Katie McVey fide Tex Sordahl). Active nests were found on 12 Jun at Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* (SSP, KLP) and 10 Jul in *Warren* (JG).

Osprey: Five territories were occupied this year. Two nests were active at L Macbride *Johnson*; one produced 2 young and the outcome of the other was unknown. Nesting attempts at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk*, Don Williams L *Boone*, and Jester P *Polk* all failed (BEh). In late July, a newly constructed nest was found near Cedar Hills Sand Prairie *Black Hawk* (AlB).

Mississippi Kite: All: An adult on 4 Jun in Des Moines *Polk* (JG).

Bald Eagle: An estimated 190 eagle nests were active in Iowa this year, continuing the growth of recent years. With nests in *Kossuth* and *Story*, 71 counties now have verified nesting records (BEh).

Northern Harrier: A nest near Greenfield *Adair* in early Jul contained 4 yg (Kevin Blazek fide BEh), and another nest was reported near Spirit L in Jun (NPB). Others possibly breeding include a pair on 3 Jun, 1 Jul in *Bremer* (WV), 2 females on 17 Jun at Medicine Creek WA *Wayne* (ABr), and singles on 4 Jul near Colo Ponds *Story* (JJD), 5 Jul in *Winnebago* (RGo), and 17 Jul near Restoration M *Floyd* (JJD).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: All: Singles on 5 Jun near Cardinal M *Howard* (PH-details) and 9 Jul in Des Moines *Polk* (RIC-details) add to the meager summer record for this species.

Cooper's Hawk: Birds were found in 21 counties from throughout Iowa. Nests were noted in *Cerro Gordo* (CJF), *Story* (WO), and *Wayne* (ABr). An adult with 2 yg on 30 Jul at Lake Anita SP *Cass* (JJD, SJD) seems to be the first evidence of nesting in SW Iowa in recent years.

Red-shouldered Hawk: One or 2 were found in *Allamakee*, *Bremer*, *Butler*, *Delaware*, *Fayette*, *Lee*, *Lucas*, and *Monroe* (m.ob.). The only nest reported, at Yellow River SF *Allamakee*, contained 2 young on 7 Jun (DK); most of the other sites probably also had nesting birds. If so, this represents some expansion from its limited Iowa range in recent years.

Broad-winged Hawk: One or 2 were found at 17 different sites in 10 counties, the most found in Iowa in any summer that I am aware of. Specific evidence of nesting came from Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* (active nest, SSP, KLP) and Whitebreast Unit, Stephens SF *Lucas* (adult carrying food, SSP).

Peregrine Falcon: Ten territories were active, 7 of which produced 21 young, the most since the reintroduction program began (BEh, PS). Nests that produced young were in *Allamakee* (5 and 2 yg), *Linn* (3 yg), *Louisa* (4 yg), *Polk* (4 yg), *Scott* (1 yg), and *Wapello* (2 yg). Active but unsuccessful territories were in *Des Moines*, *Polk*, and *Scott*. Of most interest was a cliff nest in *Allamakee* that produced 2 yg.

KING RAIL: All: A brood of 8 on 2 Jul at Cumming Wetland *Warren* (JG) is the first in Iowa in several years (Gilliam 2005). One was at Errington M *Polk* on 18 Jun (BE).

Virginia Rail: Away from its usual nesting sites in northern Iowa, 1 was at Long Pond *Guthrie* on 24 Jul (WO) and a downy chick was found near Iowa City *Johnson* in mid-Jul, the first nesting report from that location (JLF, THK).

Sora: All: 1 on 14 Jun near Rock Falls *Cerro Gordo* (RGo) and 1 on 3 Jul at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (DTh).

Common Moorhen: Evidence of breeding came from Long Pond *Guthrie* (JG, DAK) and Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DK). Birds found in *Hancock*, *Lucas*, and *Worth* (RGo, TJ, PH) also may have been nesting.

American Coot: Nesting was evident on 15 Jun at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK), and on 18 Jun a brood was at Errington M *Polk* (BE).

Sandhill Crane: All: 4 on 2 Jun at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DeC), a brood of 2 on 17, 30 Jun near Hogsback WA *Winnebago* (CJF, Robert Schwartz fide JJD), 2 on 26 Jun at Goose L *Clinton* (BSc), 3 on 19 Jul near Iowa City *Johnson* (MHB), 3 on 30 Jul at Sweet M *Bremer* (AlB), and a pair throughout the summer at Wiese Sl *Muscatine* (BO).

American Golden-Plover: All: 1 on 9 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (JJD, SJD) was the first southbound and early.

Semipalmated Plover: Last in spring: 1 on 11 Jun at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (JB). Most: 21 on 1 Jun at Polk City WA *Polk* (ABr). First in fall: 1 on 17 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG). Most: 12 on 30 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD).

Piping Plover: The 10 on 24 Jun at MidAmerican Energy Ponds *Pottawattamie* included some that were nesting (JG). Reports after that mentioned only 1 or 2 birds and gave no indication of nesting success. At Port Neal *Woodbury*, on 15 Jun there were 2 pairs and 1 juvenile and on 4 Jul two broods were seen (BFH).

Killdeer: Very large postbreeding concentrations were found, peaking with 409 on 9 Jul at McCord P *Guthrie* (SJD) and 719 on 30 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD).

American Avocet: A late July cold front apparently brought a wave of avocets into Iowa with 9 at MidAmerican Energy Ponds *Pottawattamie* (JJD), 3 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), and 9 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP), all on 27 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: Last: 1 on 4 Jun at Dugout Sl *Dickinson* (LAS). First: 1 on 12 Jul at Credit Island *Scott* (DAk). One on 21 Jun at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD) was unusually early or summering.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Last: 1 on 12 Jun in *Howard* (PH). First: 4 on 26 Jun at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK). One on 21 Jun at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD) probably summered. This species seemed scarcer than usual this summer.

Solitary Sandpiper: Four on 18 Jun at Terra L *Polk* (BE) were either very late or early fall migrants. First: 1 on 1 Jul at South Sycamore Bottoms *Johnson* (MHB). Most: 15 on 18 Jul at Runnells WA *Marion* (ABr).

Willet: All: 1 on 4 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 1 on 4 Jul at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DeC), 10 on 30 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE), and 16 there on 31 Jul (DTh).

Spotted Sandpiper: Broods were noted at Fox Forest WA *Poweshiek* (SSP) and Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SSP, KLP).

Upland Sandpiper: From 1–5 were found in 13 counties that spanned the state. The only mention of breeding was a brood in *Fremont* (DP).

Ruddy Turnstone: All: 1 on 30 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD, JJD).

Sanderling: All: 1 on 28 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Last: 1 on 21 Jun at McCord P *Guthrie* (SJD). First: 4 on 12 Jul at Credit Island *Scott* (DAk). Most: 48 on 30 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD).

Least Sandpiper: Last: 12 on 11 Jun at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (JB) [third earliest]. Most: 30 on 1 Jun at Polk City WA *Polk* (ABr). First: 1 on 24 Jun at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DK) [ties third earliest]. Most: 182 on 30 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Last: 3 at McCord Pond *Guthrie* and 6 at Dunbar Sl *Greene*, both on 21 Jun (SJD).

Baird's Sandpiper: First: 1 on 2 Jul at Big M *Butler* (PH-details) [second earliest]. The next report was 1 on 13 Jul at Horseshoe Bend *Louisa* (DAk).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Last: 60 on 11 Jun at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (JB). First: 1 on 9 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Most: 581 on 30 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD). One on 21 Jun at Dunbar Sl (SJD) probably summered.

Dunlin: All: 4 on 1 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) and 1 on 1 Jun at Polk City WA *Polk* (ABr).

Stilt Sandpiper: First: 1 on 2 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (DAk). Most: 7 on 18 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: All: Singles on 31 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP) and Nauman Sod Farms *Johnson* (DP).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Last: 1 on 4 Jun at Dugout Sl *Dickinson* (LAS). First: 1 on 1 Jul at Cardinal M. *Winneshiek* (DeC) [second earliest] and 1 on 4 Jul at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK). Most: 16 on 18 Jul at Runnells WA *Marion* (ABr).

American Woodcock: From 1–3 were found in *Jefferson, Johnson, Webster,* and *Worth* (DiP, CJC, SSP, PH)

Wilson's Phalarope: Two on 4 Jun near Burt *Kossuth* (MCK) and 2 on 20 Jun at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK) probably were nesting. First in fall: singles on 30 Jul at McCord Pond *Guthrie* and Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD, JJD).

Franklin's Gull: All: 6 on 1 Jun at Iowa L *Emmet* (DAk), 5 on 14 Jun, 1 on 18 Jun, and 3 on 27 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG, BE, SJD), and 2 on 16 Jun at Morse L WPA *Wright* (JJD).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: One was reported 16 Jul at its usual hangout at the north end of Spirit L *Dickinson* and was seen sporadically there or nearby in Minnesota through the end of July (*ET, *PHS).

Ring-billed Gull: As is typical, a few were found scattered across Iowa, especially on the larger lakes and rivers. High counts were 28 on 22 Jun on the Mississippi R at Montrose *Lee* (SJD), 26 on 18 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE), and 165 on 18 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (ABr).

Caspian Tern: From 1–6 were found in *Appanoose, Buchanan, Johnson, Polk,* and *Story* (RLC, TS, DP, JB, BE, SJD, WO), typical of the pattern of this species in summer.

Common Tern: All: 4 or 5 on 1 Jun at Crystal L *Hancock* (PH-details, RGo, DAk), 1 on 5 Jun at Port Neal *Woodbury* (BFH), and an adult on 30 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Forster's Tern: From 1–8 were found in *Black Hawk, Greene, Hancock, Jasper, Johnson, Story,* and *Woodbury* (m.ob.). The most reported was 18 on 18 Jun at Spirit L *Dickinson* (ET). No one mentioned any evidence of nesting and presumably all birds were migrants or non breeders.

Least Tern: It was a great year at the MidAmerican Energy Ponds near Council Bluffs *Pottawattamie* with 40 adults and at least 18 of them on nests on 24 Jun (JG), the

most reported there since this colony started in 1984. At Port Neal *Woodbury* 3 adults were seen on 15 Jun (BFH).

Black Tern: There were the usual late migrants in the first half of June with 10 on 15 Jun at Port Neal *Woodbury* (BFH) the most. In July scattered migrants were noted with 25 on 17 Jul at Eagle L *Hancock* the most (PH). No one mentioned evidence of nesting.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Birds were found in *Boone, Cerro Gordo, Fremont, Guthrie, Marion, Marshall, Warren, and Wayne* (m.ob.). One on 1 Jul at Ballyclough *Dubuque* (SSP) seemed to be a new site for the species in Iowa.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Singles on 4 Jul in Kingsley *Plymouth* (*Loren Hansen-photo) and 29–31 Jul in Graettinger *Palo Alto* (*Richard and Lois Weber) add to the growing presence of this species in Iowa.

Black-billed Cuckoo: One to 5 were found in 16 counties (m.ob.). None were reported from south-central, southeastern, or northwestern Iowa. The most was 5 on 16 Jun at Coon Creek WA *Winneshiek* (DK).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: A few were reported from 34 counties from all except northwestern Iowa (m.ob.). The most was 10 on 7 Jun at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (DK) and 4 Jul at Backbone SP *Delaware* (SSP).

Barn Owl: Four nests were reported this season: One with 5 yg in mid-Jun in *Tama* (BEh), one with 4 yg in early July near Chariton *Lucas* (Beth Brown fide BEh), one with 3 yg in mid-Jul near Anamosa *Jones* (Cheryl Cudworth fide BEh), and one with 7 yg in late July near Greenfield *Adair* (Kevin Blazek fide BEh). This is the best year for Barn Owls in Iowa since 2003.

Chuck-will's-widow: One or 2 were heard at the usual site near Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (BSc, JG, DP).

Whip-poor-will: Up to 5 were found in *Fremont, Madison, and Van Buren* (JG, DP, DTh, SSP).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Reported from 18 counties, mostly in eastern Iowa (m.ob.). The most was 14 on 5 Jun at Pikes Peak SP *Clayton* (DAk).

Red-headed Woodpecker: From 1–8 were reported from 16 counties, most in the eastern half of the state (m.ob.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A few were found in *Allamakee, Clayton, Hancock, Kossuth, Lyon, Sioux, and Winneshiek* (m.ob.), all in the northern two rows of counties. Breeding reports included at least 3 broods at Effigy Mounds NM *Allamakee* (DK) and 1 at Pikes Peak SP *Clayton* (SSP).

Pileated Woodpecker: Reported from 19 counties (m.ob.), all east of Interstate 35 except for birds at Wanata SP *Clay* (LAS) and Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (PH). An active nest was found at Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* (SSP, KLP).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: All: Singles on 1 Jun at Thorpe P *Winnebago* (DAk), 4 Jun at Croton Unit, Shimek SF *Lee* (MHB), and 4 Jun at Coralville Res *Johnson* (CJC).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Last: 1 on 5 Jun in *Cerro Gordo* (PH).

Acadian Flycatcher: Reported from 24 counties (m.ob.), most of which are east of Interstate 35. By far the most reported was 25 on 15–16 Jul at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (SSP). Evidence of nesting was noted for *Clayton, Dubuque, Fayette, and Louisa* (SSP, KLP).

Alder Flycatcher: Singles on 1 Jun at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MPr), Thorpe P *Winnebago* (PH), and Myre SI *Winnebago* (DAk) were typical late migrants. Willow Flycatcher: From 1–10 were found in 15 counties covering most of the eastern half of Iowa (m.ob.).

Least Flycatcher: The summer status of this species in Iowa remains confusing. One or two were found 1–5 Jun in *Butler*, *Clayton*, *Webster*, *Kossuth*, and *Worth* (DAk, SSP, MCK, RGo). In each of the first three counties, observers thought that at least one bird was acting territorial. Singles on 15 Jun at Big Sioux WA *Sioux* (RIA, PHA), 19 Jun at Sawmill Hollow *Harrison* (BKP, LJP), 2 Jul at Big M *Butler* (PH), 11 Jul at Sweet M *Bremer* (AIB), and 27 Jul at Elk Creek M *Worth* (RGo) may all have been nesting birds.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER: The male found in May near Coon Rapids *Guthrie* remained there through the end of the season (*JB, *DAk, m.ob.).

Western Kingbird: Besides western Iowa where it is expected, several strayed east. In *Polk*, they nested at the state capitol (JG, ABr) and Saylorville Res (Scott Rolfes fide SJD) and singles were seen in West Des Moines (RLC, PHA, RIA). One on 1 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) was probably a late migrant as was one far east at Long Grove *Scott* on the same date (SFI). Two or 3 on 28 Jul near Cooper *Greene* (RIA, PHA, DTh) were east of its usual range.

Loggerhead Shrike: From 1–4 were found in 21 counties spanning most of Iowa (m.ob.). Broods were noted in *Madison* (JG) and *Warren* (RTr).

White-eyed Vireo: One or 2 were found in *Black Hawk*, *Jefferson*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, *Lucas*, *Muscatine*, *Polk*, and *Warren* (m.ob.). This is more than are reported most years.

Bell's Vireo: From 1–20 were found in 20 counties in all except north-central and northwestern Iowa (m.ob.). Broods were found in *Clayton* (DAk) and *Polk* (DTh). This species remains an uncommon and local species across much of Iowa.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Up to 13 were reported from 33 counties, mostly in the eastern half of the state (m.ob.). Reports from *Kossuth* (MCK) and *Pottawattamie* (MOr) were the furthest northwest and west. This species seems to be reasonably common in suitable habitat, especially in eastern Iowa.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE: All: Two nests at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* probably were successful (Scott Moats fide JJD); magpies have nested there for several years. One was seen there 14 Jun (PHA, RIA).

Purple Martin: This species probably occurs in every Iowa county although I believe that numbers are reduced from a few decades ago. It would be interesting to see if some systematic sampling would confirm that prediction. The largest colony reported was 75 birds near Drakesville *Davis* (SSP).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: One or 2 that had used a Sioux City feeder since Nov 2004 were joined by a third bird on 11 Jun. One of the birds fed another, suggesting there was a successful nest nearby. The birds were last seen on 11 Jul (JLV). This is apparently Iowa's third nesting record (Schirck 2005 [second nesting record]).

Carolina Wren: Reported from 13 counties east of Interstate 35 and north to *Jackson* and *Black Hawk* (m.ob.). The only report from west of that was 1 on 10 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (WO). Broods were noted in *Davis* (JJD), *Lee* (SSP), *Muscatine* (SSP, DAk), and *Warren* (JG, AJ).

Bewick's Wren: Two on 2 Jun (JLF) and 1 on 15 Jul (MPr) as usual were at the junkyard near Argyle *Lee*.

Sedge Wren: Most reports were from northern Iowa and showed the typical pattern — active in early June, silent for the rest of June and much of July, and then active again in late July (m.ob.). The southernmost reports were from *Jefferson* (DiP) and *Audubon* (LJP, BKP).

Marsh Wren: Generally underreported, observers noted this species as far south as *Guthrie* and *Johnson* (JG, CJC).

Veery: From 1–5 were found in *Allamakee*, *Clayton*, *Dubuque*, *Hancock*, *Lucas*, *Marshall*, *Warren*, and *Webster* (m.ob.). By far the most reported was 16 on 4 Jul at Backbone SP *Delaware* (KLP, SSP). Evidence of nesting was noted at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (SSP), Bixby SP *Clayton* (SSP), Backbone SP *Delaware* (SSP, KLP), and White Pine Hollow *Dubuque* (SSP, KLP).

Swainson's Thrush: All: Singles on 1 Jun at Mallard M *Cerro Gordo* (PH, DAK) and 2 Jun at Smith WA *Kossuth* (MCK).

Wood Thrush: Reported from 30 counties, all within its expected range (m.ob.). The only reports from western Iowa were from *Fremont*, *Monona*, and *Pottawattamie* (JG, MPr, GLV, MOr). The only evidence of nesting was in *Warren* (SSP).

Northern Mockingbird: Reports from *Appanoose*, *Decatur*, *Fremont*, *Iowa*, *Louisa*, *Lucas*, *Madison*, and *Wayne* (TJ, SSP, WO, DP, JG, DTh, ABr) were all within its usual range. A nest near Cherokee (DBi) was far from where this species is expected in summer in Iowa, and singles on 2 Jun in *Plymouth* (BFH) and 23 Jul in *Boone* (WO) were on the fringes of its usual range.

Blue-winged Warbler: From 1–7 were found in *Allamakee*, *Boone*, *Clayton*, *Hardin*, *Lucas*, and *Winneshiek* (DK, SSP, MPr, DAK, KLP, DeC). As expected, most reports came from northeastern Iowa.

Tennessee Warbler: All: 1 on 1 Jun at Algona *Kossuth* (MCK).

Northern Parula: Found in 23 counties, mostly in eastern Iowa (m.ob.) but west to *Harrison* (LJP, BKP) and *Fremont* (MPr, LJP, BKP). A brood was found at Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* (SSP, KLP).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: More reports than most years with most seemingly territorial males. Records included 1 or 2 on 1, 23 Jun, 2 Jul at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (PH, RGo, JB), 3 males on 7 Jun at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (DK), 1 on 8 Jun near Highlandville *Winneshiek* (DK), 1 male on 16 Jun at Whitebreast Unit, Stephens SF *Lucas* (SSP), and 2 males and a female on 16 Jun at Coon Creek WA *Winneshiek* (DK).

Magnolia Warbler: Last: 1 on 1 Jun at Thorpe P *Winnebago* (DAK, RGo, PH).

Yellow-throated Warbler: From 1–3 were found in 11 counties, mostly in eastern Iowa north to *Delaware* and *Dubuque* and west to *Boone* (m.ob.).

Cerulean Warbler: From 1–6 were found in 17 counties, mostly in eastern Iowa (m.ob.) but as far west as *Guthrie* and *Webster* (SSP, SJD). At least 13 were present at Effigy Mounds NM *Clayton* (DAK).

Black-and-white Warbler: All: A male on 9 Jun at Lucas Unit, Stephens SF *Lucas* (SSP) and 1 on 19 Jun in *Jefferson* (DiP) were singing and appeared territorial.

American Redstart: Reported from 22 counties in eastern and central Iowa (m.ob.), it apparently was one of the most abundant woodland species as evidenced by 41 on 2 Jun at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (SSP), 51 on 21 Jun at Springbrook SP *Guthrie* (SSP), and 46 on 4 Jul at Backbone SP *Delaware* (SSP).

Prothonotary Warbler: Reported from 15 counties, most near the Mississippi R or major tributaries including the Cedar and Des Moines rivers (m.ob.). One on 26 Jun near Algona *Kossuth* (MCK) was the most isolated occurrence. A brood was found at Wickiup NA *Linn* (DP).

Worm-eating Warbler: As usual, *Lee* was the hotspot for this rare species with reports from both Croton and Lick Creek units of Shimek SF (JLF, MHB, MPr, SSP). Away from there, singles were found on 4 Jun at Woodland Mounds *Warren* (SSP), 12 Jun at Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* (SSP, KLP), and 18 Jul at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MOr). Adults were seen feeding what appeared to be a young cowbird on 18 Jun at Croton Unit, Shimek SF *Lee* (MHB).

Ovenbird: Reports came from 23 counties (m.ob.); only reports from *Boone*, *Clay*, *Decatur*, *Hancock*, and *Kossuth* were west of Interstate 35 (MPr, SSP, LAS, RGo, MCK). A nest was found at Sand Creek WA *Decatur* (SSP).

Northern Waterthrush: Last: 1 on 1 Jun in *Cerro Gordo* (RGo, DAK) (ties second latest).

Louisiana Waterthrush: From 1–6 were found in 17 counties (m.ob.); only the usual birds at Ledges SP *Boone* (MPr) were west of Interstate 35. Reports of nesting included 2 broods at Brush Creek Canyon *Fayette* (DK) and 1 at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (SSP).

Kentucky Warbler: From 1–6 were found in 11 counties, all east of Interstate 35 (m.ob.). Evidence of nesting included a female with 2 yg at Cairo Woods *Louisa* (SSP), a female carrying food at Whitebreast Unit, Lucas SF *Lucas* (SSP), and an active nest at Cedar Bluffs RA *Muscatine* (MCD).

Mourning Warbler: Last: 1 on 2 Jun at Smith WA *Kossuth* (MCK).

Hooded Warbler: All: 3 on 3 Jun at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (SSP), 1 on 23 Jun at Fish Farm Mounds *Allamakee* (DK), and 1–3 on 2, 15, 18 Jul at Donnellson Unit, Shimek SF *Lee* (CRE, MPr, SSP).

Yellow-breasted Chat: From 1–3 were found in 12 counties, mostly east of Interstate 35 and south of Interstate 80 (m.ob.).

Summer Tanager: From 1–5 were found in *Decatur*, *Fremont*, *Henry*, *Lee*, *Lucas*, *Polk*, and *Van Buren* where it is expected (m.ob.). One in June and July at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (TS) and 1 on 10 Jun at Ledges SP *Boone* (WO) were both at the fringes of its normal range.

Scarlet Tanager: A few were found in 32 counties throughout Iowa indicating that reasonable numbers occur wherever large forests are found (m.ob.). Patterson's high count was 18 on 15–16 Jul at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (SSP). Broods or adults attending broods were noted in *Allamakee* (SSP), *Clayton* (SSP), *Hancock* (JB), and *Jones* (SSP).

Eastern Towhee: From 1–12 were found in 22 counties, mostly in the eastern half of Iowa (m.ob.). No one reported the species from western Iowa where it is common. The most was 18 on 15–16 Jul at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (SSP). Evidence of nesting included an active nest at Woodland Mounds *Warren* (SSP) and females carrying food in *Hardin* and *Jones* (SSP).

Clay-colored Sparrow: All: Singles on 1 Jun at Crystal L *Hancock* (RGo, PH, DAK), 25 Jun and 16 Jul at Welch L WPA *Dickinson* (LAS), and 10 Jul in Bluffton Twp *Winneshiek* (SSP, KLP). All were singing males.

Lark Sparrow: As is typical, a few were found in 12 counties scattered across Iowa. A nest with eggs at Runnells WA *Polk* (DK) was the only evidence of nesting reported.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Reported from 14 counties that covered much of Iowa (m.ob.). This species continues to be reasonably common in suitable habitat.

Henslow's Sparrow: With reports of as many as 11 birds from 20 counties (*Allamakee, Appanoose, Black Hawk, Cerro Gordo, Decatur, Hardin, Iowa, Jefferson, Johnson, Kossuth, Lee, Linn, Madison, Polk, Ringgold, Scott, Van Buren, Warren, Wayne, and Worth*) (m.ob.), this species has shown a dramatic comeback from just a few years ago when few observers were finding it.

Northern Cardinal: An active nest north of Ocheydan *Osceola* (Richard Bremer fide DH) seems to be a first for this northwestern Iowa county.

Blue Grosbeak: Besides the usual birds near Iowa's western border, a stray was found 5 Jun at Fort Dodge *Webster* (TJ). In eastern Iowa, 1 on 2 Jun near Argyle *Lee* (CRE) and 1 on 17 Jul at Heron Bend A *Lee* (SSP) may have been of the eastern subspecies.

Dickcissel: Although few commented, Dickcissels seemed to be abundant throughout Iowa this summer (m.ob.).

Bobolink: Opinions were mixed but most observers considered Bobolinks fairly common this summer.

Western Meadowlark: One singing on 6 Jul near Arlington *Clayton* (SSP) was east of where this species normally is found. In parts of northwestern *Scott*, where their ranges overlap, Westerns outnumbered the more expected Eastern Meadowlark (WMZ).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: One on 2 Jun near Iowa City *Johnson* (BSc) and a colony at Hamlin Garland M *Mitchell* in mid-Jul (JJD) were somewhat out-of-range.

Great-tailed Grackle: All: 4 on 6 Jun at Otter Creek M *Tama* (MPR), 13 on 11 Jun at Coulter M *Franklin* (ABr), and 2 on 30 Jul at Jensen M *Madison* (RTr). Either this species was underreported or it has disappeared from some of its traditional nesting sites.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Cowbird brood parasitism was noted for the following species: Yellow-throated Vireo at Mossy Glen Preserve *Clayton* (SSP), Red-eyed Vireo at Effigy Mounds NM *Allamakee* (SSP) and Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (SSP), Ovenbird at Joy Springs Camp *Clayton* (SSP) and Thousand Acre Unit, Stephens SF *Monroe* (KLP, SSP), Scarlet Tanager at Pictured Rocks P *Jones* (SSP), Northern Cardinal at Woodland Mounds *Warren* (SSP), and Indigo Bunting at Pictured Rocks P *Jones* (SSP).

Orchard Oriole: Reported from 16 counties from throughout Iowa (m.ob.). The only mention of breeding were broods at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DeC) and in *Jefferson* (DiP).

Pine Siskin: All: 1 on 23 Jun in Fairmont Cemetery *Scott* (WMZ) and 1 on 2 Jul at Garnavillo *Clayton* (DAk).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: All: 1 on 27 Jun at Blackhawk Bottoms WMA *Des Moines* (SSP) and 12 on 15 Jul at Montrose *Lee* (MPR). Both sites are close to the Mississippi R.

COMMENT

I received about 1,900 reports from about 60 people this summer, both records for the summer season. Most of the reports this year were submitted on the web site. This

saves me considerable time for which I am grateful. More importantly, when you submit the data, you eliminate the possibility of errors occurring if I were to enter the data into the database. However you provided information, I can only pass on my thanks for your efforts. Without all of you, this report would not be possible.

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