

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Dear Tom,

I probably won't get in much field time before the end of the month so I will send you this summary of sightings from the Ames area. Most come from a chart I have students fill out as part of their ornithology class. In the past we have usually had these listed in the field reports as "ISU" rather than initials of individuals. A number of the records came from Hank and Linda Zaletel and I have listed their name after these. They may have already sent you these but I wanted to make sure the information did get to you. They probably should be give credit for their records. I tried to screen out any questionable records and I am confident of the id on the ones I am sending you. John Robinson from ISU was also responsible for quite a few of the records here including the Yellow-throated Warbler and I had a Sandhill Crane record from Dave Newhouse. Otherwise it was a fairly dull spring. We had little water and thus few places for water birds. The warblers were late arriving and then went through fast so i had no records for a number of species we usually see. Unless indicated otherwise, the dates here are for the earliest record I have. Most records are from Ames, Ledges State Park near Boone or Hendrickson Marsh south of Colo.

Jim
Dinsmore

5/30/80

Dinsmore-1

JD

Common Loon- I had no reports

Pied-billed Grebe-earliest, 25 March, Hendrickson Marsh

✓ Horned Grebe-1 at Hendrickson M, 1 May was only report I had

White Pelican-I had no reports

✓ Double-crested Cormorant-25 at Hendrickson M on 3 May and 35 there on 13 May

Great Blue Heron- one at Ames 27 March was earliest

Green Heron- 1 on 13 May at Hendrickson M

✓ Cattle Egret- one was seen near Fayette on 12 April, I heard of it second hand but bird was well described

Black-crowned Night Heron- earliest was at Cambridge, seen by Zaletels

✓ Least Bittern-1 at Hendrickson M on 14 May

✓ American Bittern-one at Hendrickson M on 16 May

✓ Whistling Swan- six seen near Ames on 10 April by Zaletels

✓ Canada Goose-15 March at Ames was early date, one still at Ledges S. P 26 May

✓ White-fronted Goose-early date was 26 March at Hendrickson M, still there 19 April

Snow Goose- early date 14 March, Ames, still at Hendrickson M on 19 April

✓ Black Duck - 2 at Hendrickson Marsh on 26 March

Gadwall-15 March, near Ames

Pintail-14 March, near Story City

Green-winged Teal-21 March, Ames

Blue-winged Teal-24 March, Ames

Shoveler-26 March, Hendrickson M

Wood Duck- 21 March, Ames

American Wigeon-16 March, Ames

Redhead-26 March, Hendrickson M

Ring-necked Duck-23 March, Ames

Canvasback-23 March, Little Wall L

Lesser Scaup-17 March, Ames

Bufflehead-26 March, Hendrickson M

Ruddy Duck-23 March, Ames, still at Hendrickson M on 15 May

Hooded Merganser-17 March, Ames

Common Merganser-15 March, Ames

✓ Red-breasted Merganser-23 March, Ames, seemed to be fewer of these this year than in recent past

In general a rather dull year for waterfowl with nothing really unusual or any really large numbers of any species in the area. We had little sheet water in the area so birds didn't stick around very long.

- Turkey Vulture-11 April, Ledges S. P
- ✓ Cooper's Hawk-12 April and 26 April, both at McFarland Park north of Ames
- Sharp-shinned Hawk-2 at Cambridge on 27 March
- ✓ Also have a good report of an active Cooper's Hawk nest in Lucas County
- ✓ Red-shouldered Hawk-have a good report of a pair nesting in Allamakee County with birds incubating as of early May
- ✓ Broad-winged Hawk-early date was 16 April at Ames, only "flight" was 12 seen at McFarland Park on 27 April
- ✓ Bald Eagle-have three reports of birds seen along Des Moines River in Boone Co- 9 March, 15 March and 5 April, the latter of 5 birds; also one at Saylorville L in Polk Co on 23 March
- Marsh Hawk-23 March, Ames
- ✓ Osprey-only report was one at Ledges S. P. on 19 April and another at Hendrickson Marsh on 1 May
- American Kestrel-migrants were showing up by 22 March but numbers didn't seem as high as they were in 1979

- ✓ Bobwhite-several heard at McFarland Park on 26 April

American Coot-24 March, Hendrickson M

- ✓ Sora-19 April, Hendrickson M
- ✓ Sandhill Crane-one seen near Ledges S. P. from 11-18 April, fide Dave Newhouse, Iowa Conservation Commission

As with the waterfowl, the lack of sheet water in this year made this a poor year for shorebirds and there were relatively few around. The best local area was a small pond between Ames and Nevada, will be referred to below as E of Ames

Semipalmated Plover-4 May, E of Ames, Zaletel

- ✓ Killdeer-14 March near Ames was early date, saw fledged young by 26 May at Ledges S.P.
- ✓ Black-bellied Plover-1 E of Ames, 19 May
- ✓ American Woodcock-4 April, Ames
- Common Snipe-24 March, near Story City, one seen at Hendrickson M on 14 May, late
- ✓ Upland Sandpiper-near Hendrickson M, 4 May, Zaletel
- Spotted Sandpiper-3 May, Hendrickson M
- Solitary Sandpiper-3 May, Ames
- ✓ Willet-13 May, Dickcissel L, Boone Co
- Greater Yellowlegs- I don't have any reports
- Lesser Yellowlegs-19 April Hendrickson M
- Pectoral Sandpiper-4 May, E of Ames, Zaletels

- ✓ Baird's Sandpiper-4 May, E of Ames, Zaletels
- Least Sandpiper-4 May, E of Ames, Zaletels
- ✓ Dunlin- 1 May, Ames
- ✓ Long-billed Dowitcher- 4 May, Hendrickson M, Zaletels
- ✓ Short-billed Dowitcher-7 May, E of Ames
- Semipalmated Sandpiper-4 May, E of Ames, Zaletels
- ✓ Hudsonian Godwit- 13 May, Dickcissel L, Boone Co. and 18 May, E of Ames, Zaletel
- ✓ Wilson's Phalarope-1 May, Ames
- Ring-billed Gull-26 March, Hendrickson M, still there on 15 May
- ✓ Forster's Tern- 10 at Hendrickson M on 13 May, early date was 23 April near Colo
- ✓ Black Tern-30 at Hendrickson M on 13 May
- ✓ Yellow-billed Cuckoo-good numbers at Ledges S. P on 26 May
- ✓ Black-billed Cuckoo- several at Ledges S. P. 26 May

Whip-poor-will 28 April, Ledges S. P.

Common Nighthawk- 11 May, Ames

Ruby-throated Hummingbird- Ames, 26 May

- ✓ Chimney Swift-19 April, Boone
- ✓ Belted Kingfisher-14 March Ames but also found some 10 and 28 Feb reports so a few probably wintered in Ames

- ✓ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker- 2 March, Ames, then common for rest of month

Eastern Kingbird-9 May, Ledges S. P.

Great Crested Flycatcher-9 May, Ames

Eastern Phoebe-3 April, Ames

Least Flycatcher-6 May, Ames

Eastern Wood Pewee-15 May, Ames

- ✓ Olive-sided Flycatcher- one at Ames 15 May was only report I had
- ✓ Tree Swallow-5 April, Ames
- Bank Swallow-12 May, Hendrickson M
- ✓ Rough-winged Swallow-19 April, Ledges S. P.
- Barn Swallow-20 April, Boone
- Cliff Swallow-7 May, near Ames
- ✓ Purple Martin-6 April, Ames
- ✓ Red-breasted Nuthatch- one at Ames on 2 March only local record this spring
- House Wren-27 April, Ledges S. P
- ✓ Long-billed Marsh Wren-14 May, Hendrickson M, common
- ✓ Short-billed Marsh Wren-14 May, Hendrickson M, common
- ✓ Carolina Wren- none seen at area of Ledges S. P. where I last saw them in 1977

Gray Catbird-9 May, Ames

- ✓ Brown Thrasher-6 April, Big Creek S. P., Polk Co, Zaletels, this species didn't seem as abundant this spring as in the past

Wood Thrush- 5 May, Ames

- ✓ Hermit Thrush-3 April, Ames, still in Ames as late as 5 May
- Swainson's Thrush- 4 May, Ames
- Gray-cheeked Thrush-15 May,
- ✓ Veery-7 May, Ames, birds heard calling at Ledges S. P. 26 May
- Eastern Bluebird-5 April at Ames, was early date, several at Ledges S.P. 26 May

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher-23 April, Ames, very common at Ledges S. P. 26 May

- ✓ Golden-crowned Kinglet-14 March, Ames, fairly common through early April and appear to have recovered from their low of a few years ago
- ✓ Ruby-crowned Kinglet-22 March, Ames, common through about 10 May
- ✓ Water Pipit- one seen E of Ames on 4 May by Zaletels
- ✓ Loggerhead Shrike-26 March, near Nevada; 5 April near Ledges S. P.; 7 April near Ames and 20 April near Polk City, Polk Co are my only local records this spring

Solitary Vireo-7 May, Ames

Red-eyed Vireo- 9 May, Ames, common at Ledges S. P. on 26 May

- ✓ Philadelphia Vireo-15 May, Ames

Warbling Vireo-7 May, Ames

In general it was a late year for warblers here. As late as 6 or 7 May it was hard to find much other than Yellow-rumped and a few Black & Whites and Orange-crowned in the woods. Most seemed to arrive around the 10th and for about a week there were lots around. They moved on fast as on 25 and 26 May I saw absolutely no warblers other than those that I would expect to be nesting birds. Also little in the way of unusual or even those less than common species for this area.

Black and White-7 May, Ames

Golden-winged-9 May Ames, also 10 May, Ames

- ✓ Glue-winged - 2 calling on territory at Ledges S. P. 26 May
- ✓ Orange-crowned-23 April, Ames
- Nashville-6 May, Ames
- Northern Parula-6 May, Ames
- Yellow-15 May, Hendrickson M
- Magnolia-15 May, Ames
- ✓ Cape May dead bird at Ames 20 May
- Yellow-rumped-11 April, Ames, still around through 8 May

Black-throated Green- 3 May, Nevada

Chestnut-sided-15 May, Ames

Blackpoll-15 May, Ames

Palm-25 April, Ames

- ✓ Yellow-throated Warbler- I didn't get a documentation form on this but two were seen and heard well at Ledges S. P. in the same area they have been seen in before on 19 April. They were seen by John Robinson, a student of mine who is a good birder and I have no doubt of his identification. I believe the Zaletels also saw them. I looked for them on 26 May but got there too late in the day and couldn't find them.

Northern Waterthrush-6 May, Ames

- ✓ Louisiana Waterthrush-19 April, at Ledges S. P., I also saw them there on 7 and 26 May

Yellowthroat-9 May, Ames

Canada Warbler- 15 May, Ames

American Redstart-7 May, Ames; very common at Ledges S. P. 26 May

Scarlet Tanager-15 May, Ames was the only record I have

Bobolink- 4 May, Ames

W. Meadowlark-15 March, Ames

Yellow-headed Blackbird-13 April, near Ledges S. P.

Red-winged Blackbird-males started arriving here on 15 March

Northern Oriole-29 April, Ames

Rusty Blackbird-22 March, Little Wall L

Common Grackle-17 March, Ames

Brown-headed Cowbird-4 April ~~30 March~~ Ames

Rose-breasted Grosbeak-1 May, Ames

Indigo Bunting-7 May, Ledges S. P.

- ✓ Dickcissel-1 May, Ames

- ✓ Purple Finch and Evening Grosbeak-none reported locally

Rufous-sided Towhee-7 April, Boone

Savannah Sparrow-4 May, E of Ames

Grasshopper Sparrow-14 May, Hendrickson M

- ✓ LeConte's Sparrow-15 May, Hendrickson M

- ✓ Vesper Sparrow-8 April, S of Nevada

Chipping Sparrow-18 April, Ames

- ✓ Clay-colored Sparrow-6 MAY, Boone

Field Sparrow-3 April, Ames

Harris' Sparrow-5 May, Ames, seemed to be few around this spring

White-crowned Sparrow-10 May, Boone

White-throated Sparrow-22 April, Ames

Fox Sparrow-4 April, Ames

Lincoln's Sparrow-14 May, Ames

Swamp Sparrow-19 April, Ledges S. P.

Song Sparrow-15 March, Ames

- ✓ Lapland Longspur-6 March, near Story City, Zaletels