

2003 Summer Report  
Dennis Thompson

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Pied-billed Grebe 6/29 Chichaqua, Polk 4 Female with 3 young.

Little Blue Heron 7/24 below the dam, Saylorville 1 Juvenile

Green Heron 6/7 Polk City W.A., Polk 1 In suitable nesting habitat.

Northern Shoveler 6/7 Chichaqua, Polk 1 Gone by the next week.

American Wigeon 6/11 Crystal Hills WMA, Hancock 1 Male

Canvasback 6/11 Crystal Hills WMA, Hancock 3 2 males/1 female

Lesser Scaup 6/11 Crystal Hills WMA, Hancock 2 Pair

Hooded Merganser 6/8 Chichaqua, Polk 1 Female, but never saw any nesting activity.

Northern Harrier 6/11 Hayden Prairie, Howard 3 2 males/1 female. A pair came up from the same vicinity, with the male being very aggressive and territorial.

Cooper's Hawk 7/15 Des Moines, Polk 1

American Kestrel northern Polk co. Seemed to have good nesting success in the agricultural parts of northern Polk county.

Wild Turkey Saylorville, Polk Several broods below the dam and around the lake.

Northern Bobwhite 7/6 Neal Smith NWR, Jasper 2 Nice to hear a couple back in my old stomping grounds.

American Coot 6/10 Cleghorn WA, Howard 13 13 nests were at Cleghorn in the Turkey River floodplain.

Many nests were also at Harmon Lake, Winnebago and Myre Slough.

Black Tern 6/8 Saylorville, Polk-2

6/10 Cleghorn WA, Howard-11

6/10 Harmon Lake, Winnebago-6 The first two sightings were migrants. The Harmon Lake birds appeared to be nesting, although I can't prove it.

Black-billed Cuckoo None

Yellow-billed Cuckoo Polk many As opposed to Black-billeds, were regularly seen and heard..

Common Nighthawk Johnston, Polk ~6 A few more than past few years in Johnston.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird Johnston, Polk 3 2 females and a male at my feeders this summer.

Red-headed Woodpecker Numbers still seem low.

Eastern Wood-Pewee Another species that seems much less common than 15 years ago.

Willow Flycatcher 6/8 Polk City WA, Polk-1

6/10 Cleghorn WA, Howard-1

6/11 Hayden Prairie, Howard-6

6/11 Harmon Lake, Winnebago-1

7/6 Neal Smith NWR, Jasper

Cleghorn WA, Howard-6

As you can tell, pretty common this summer.

Bank Swallow June below Saylorville dam ~15 Small colony below the dam.

Carolina Wren 6/18-19 Johnston 1 Brief visitor to my yard.

Sedge Wren Red Feather Prairie, Polk 3-10+ Bottomed out at 3 territories in mid-June. Increased to double digits by mid-July.

Cedar Waxwing Fairly regular around Saylorville and my yard this summer.

Bell's Vireo Red Feather Prairie, Polk My regulars were present in May, but absent this summer.

Magnolia Warbler 6/1 Saylorville, Polk 2

Dickcissel Numbers seemed down a little bit in Polk, but still common. Practically absent during my trip to northern Iowa in early June.

Eastern Towhee Polk Several around Saylorville.

Savannah Sparrow 6/11 Hayden Prairie, Howard 3

Grasshopper Sparrow Not quite as common in Polk this summer..

Henslow's Sparrow

Red Feather Prairie, Polk-5

Chichaqua, Polk-15+

Neal Smith, Jasper-5

There were times when I had more Henslow's than Grasshopper Sparrows on an outing. One location at Chichaqua had 10 singing birds on a very windy day in a relatively small area of a restored grassland.

Bobolink □ Very common on my swing through Howard, Winnebago and Hancock in early June. On the other hand, nearly absent in my usual Polk county spots.

Yellow-headed Blackbird □ 6/10 □ Cleghorn WA, Howard □ 20+ □ Surprised to see that many in NE Iowa. That wetland reminded me of a prime pothole in NC Iowa.

Great-tailed Grackle □ early June □ Chichaqua, Polk □ 3

Orchard Oriole □ □ Saylorville □ □ Several around the lake, which is encouraging. □ □