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Carter - entered

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FIELD REPORTS-SUMMER 2003

As usual, most of my birding activities centered on Cardinal Marsh. High water levels at the main pond were apparently ideal for nesting birds; Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, and Yellow-headed Blackbird produced young there. The first small pond on the east side of the marsh had good shorebird habitat throughout the period.

Ellen Bell is a welcome addition to the limited list of competent local birders. She and her husband moved to the area last spring and live in a house overlooking Cardinal Marsh.

SPECIES DATA: All records from Winneshiek Co., unless ^{otherwise} noted.

Common Loon: 1 in alternate plumage was on Lake Meyer from 3 to 12 Jun (Larry Reis)

Pied-billed Grebe: Present throughout the period at Cardinal Marsh; at least 2 broods of young were seen in Jul.

Least Bittern: 1 at Cardinal M. on 12 Jul.

Green Heron: at Cardinal M., throughout the period

Black-crowned Night Heron: an immature at Cardinal M. on 29 Jul (Ellen Bell).

Northern Shoveler: 1 at Cardinal M. on 8 Jun (Ellen Bell).

Ring-necked Duck: 1 at Cardinal M. on 4 Jun.

Ruddy Duck: 4 males at Cardinal M. on 4 Jun and 1 male on 29 Jun; probably breeds here every year but young not seen.

Northern Harrier: 1 male near Postville, Allamakee Co. (Festina BBS) on 16 Jun; also 1 male near Fort Atkinson on 24 Jun (Larry Reis).

Common Moorhen: 1 at Cardinal M. on 29 Jun (Larry Reis).

American Coot: 20 on 4 Jun at Cardinal M.; at least 3 broods of young were seen there during Jul.

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Sandhill Crane: found at Cardinal M., throughout the period; 2 adults and 1 immature bird were seen on 24 Jul.

Semipalmated Plover: 1 ^{Last:} at Cardinal M. on 8 Jun (Ellen Bell).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: 3 at Cardinal M. on 4 Jul.

Most: 8 at Cardinal M. on 30 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Last: 20 at Cardinal M. on 8 Jun (Ellen Bell); Most: 34 at Cardinal M. on 4 Jun (DC).

Least Sandpiper: First: 20 at Cardinal M. on 4 Jul.

Dunlin: Last: 1 at Cardinal M. on 8 Jun. (Ellen Bell).

Black Tern: 2 at Fort Atkinson sewage ponds on 11 Jul were unexpected; 11 were seen at Cardinal M. on 30 Jul.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: present at Cardinal M.; no Black-billed were found.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Two active nests were found in Winneshiek Co. (Seed Savers Heritage Farm and Willowglen Nursery) during July; also seen at Yellow River Forest, Allouahee Co.

Red-headed Woodpecker: remains scarce, found only in widely scattered localities.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 at Corn Creek WMA, Winneshiek Co. on 21 Jun.

Willow Flycatcher: at least 4 singing individuals at Cardinal M., throughout the period.

Yellow-throated Vireo: present in wooded areas, Larry Reis saw recently fledged young at Lake Meyer.

Carolina Wren: First found at Willowglen Nursery, near Burr Oak, last summer; a pair has taken up residence there, and a nest with eggs was found on 12 Jul; adults were feeding young in the nest during the last week in Jul (DC, Lee Zietke).

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Sedge Wren: at least 4 singing birds at Cardinal M, throughout the period.

Wood Thrush: found in wooded areas in Winneshiek Co.; also at Yellow River Forest, Allamakee Co.

Cedar Waxwing: Most: 30 (flycatching) at Ridgeway sewage ponds on 18 Jul.; numerous this summer.

Blue-winged Warbler: Adults and a recently fledged young bird were seen at Coon Creek WMA on 21 Jun.; also adults and young at Willowglen Nursery on 21 Jul.

Northern Parula: Lee Zietke and I saw a singing male at Willowglen Nursery on 25 Jul.

Cerulean Warbler: A singing male was seen at Coon Creek WMA on 21 Jun.

Ovenbird: present in heavily wooded areas.

American Redstart: found in wooded areas.

Scarlet Tanager: a few found in wooded areas.

Eastern Towhee: found in a few localities in Winneshiek Co.; also at Yellow River Forest, Allamakee Co.

Grasshopper Sparrow: A singing bird was seen at Cardinal M. on 13 Jun.

Swamp Sparrow: 3 or more singing birds at Cardinal M.

Dickcissel: not seen until mid-June and scarce this summer.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: several pairs nested at the main pond at Cardinal Marsh.

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