

HEARD ON THE IOWA BIRDLINE (319)338-9881
September 15-November 15

Many of the birds previously considered to be rare, have become rather widely reported in the fall. These include the three SCOTER species, SURF, BLACK, and WHITE-WINGED, WESTERN and RED-NECKED GREBES, and PACIFIC and RED-THROATED LOONS. There were fifteen SCOTER reports during the two months, including a hat trick of all three species in Linn County on November 3. Four PACIFIC LOONS were reported across the state, all in a narrow window from October 26-November 3, and RED-THROATED LOONS were at the Saylorville Reservoir and Pleasant Creek Recreation Area in Linn County in November.

The outstanding sightings were a juvenile SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER that John Rutenbeck and Chuck Fuller observed north of Burlington on October 13, and a CLARK'S GREBE found by Chris Edwards and Allen Martin, that stayed at Pleasant Creek Recreation Area from November 12-14. Other exceptional reports were a drake EURASIAN WIGEON that showed up at the visitor's center at DeSoto NWR on November 3, and the RED PHALAROPE reports that came from the upper end of the Saylorville Reservoir from September 19 through October 27. It is not known, but is likely, that there were multiple birds involved. Also unusual were the two HUMMINGBIRDS visiting feeders in Cedar Rapids in November. One was a SELASPHORUS (Sp.), most likely an immature male RUFIOUS, and the other was an immature male RUBY-THROATED or BLACK-CHINNED, most likely a RUBY-THROATED.

Reports of September 24 from Lake Manawa at Council Bluffs included a JAEGER (Sp.) and a BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE. The KITTIWAKE was easy to find there through October 4. YELLOW RAILS were more widely seen than usual, with September and October reports from Snake Creek Marsh in Greene County, the Runnells Area, and Johnson County.

The only other waterfowl report to mention was an OLDSQUAW at Hallett Quarry near Ames on October 31. Shorebirds of note included a RED KNOT at Saylorville from September 28-October 4, and AMERICAN AVOCETS in Polk, Des Moines, and Lee Counties, the latter as late as October 30 at Heron Bend Conservation Area. SNOWY EGRETS were late at Union Slough NWR and in Jasper County in early October, while a SANDHILL CRANE was seen at the Amana Lily Lake on October 30. A SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER was a one-day wonder on October 16 in Dickinson County.

The parade of rare gulls started with up to three juvenile SABINE'S GULLS at the Saylorville Reservoir in late September. First-year CALIFORNIA and adult LAUGHING GULLS were found at the Runnells Area on October 3. Two more juvenile SABINE'S GULLS were spotted at Blackhawk Lake in Sac County, and at least one stayed through mid-October. A MEW GULL appeared at Lake Rathbun on November 4, and a first-year GLAUCOUS GULL was found at Blackhawk Lake on November 12.

Reports of winter visitants included single COMMON REDPOLLS in Polk and Clayton Counties on October 28 and November 11, an EVENING GROSBEAK at Mason City on

November 4, and a pair of VARIED THRUSHES at Waterloo on November 11, and a female VARIED THRUSH at Cedar Rapids on November 11-15.

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