

HEARD ON THE IOWA BIRDLINE
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April 1-June 10 1994

Rare birds reported on the Iowa Birdline are considered hypothetical until documented and accepted by the Records Committee.

The best bird reported on the Birdline was a potential first state record. A FISH CROW was found by Kelly McKay and Mike Bornstein along the Mississippi River in the big Timber Area of Louisa County on April 25, and was seen irregularly through May 11. On the same day, David Dankert discovered a male WESTERN TANAGER at Swan Lake in Johnson County. A SPRAGUE'S PIPIT was seen at the Kettleston Area in Dickinson County by Lee Schoenewe and LaVonn Foote.

A PURPLE GALLINULE, discovered by Tom Stone at Sweet Marsh in Bremer County on May 24 was seen by many during the next two weeks. A LARK BUNTING was seen by Chuck Fuller near Burlington on April 29. In Worth County on May 7, an impressive assortment of unusual waterfowl at Silver Lake included RED-THROATED LOON, RED-NECKED GREBE, and WESTERN GREBE. Other RED-NECKED GREBES were reported from Johnson, Carroll, Dickinson, and Clay Counties, while additional WESTERN GREBE reports came from Story, Dickinson, Clay, and Monona Counties.

A hot birding spot this spring was Blue Lake in Monona County, where rare sightings included WHITE-FACED IBIS, RED KNOT, and BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER. Eugene and Eloise Armstrong found a male BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK at Big Creek State Park on May 15 at the same location many were able to view a BLACK SCOTER for a week beginning April 9. Both other SCOTER species were also reported, with SURF in Linn and Marion Counties, and WHITE-WINGED in Winnebago County. A RUFF was the highlight of a Big Day in Linn County on May 14, and the Proescholdts had a SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER at Lake Cornelia in Wright County on May 18.

Other May highlights were a YELLOW RAIL flushed from a dike at Otter Creek Marsh on the 6th, a female RED-NECKED PHALAROPE in breeding plumage at Red Rock Reservoir on the 15th, and a WHIMBREL at the Coralville Reservoir on the 27th. MISSISSIPPI KITES were reported from in Johnson, Boone, and Story Counties on May 14-22. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS were reported