

HEARD ON THE BIRDLINE
June 15-September 15

All reports are considered hypothetical until submitted to and approved by the Records Committee.

For the third consecutive year, a bird that represented a first record for the state, appeared the first week in September. Following the REDDISH EGRET of 1993 and the LONG-TAILED JAEGER of 1994, a juvenile WHITE IBIS was discovered at the Hawkeye Wildlife Area on September 5 by James Huntington. The bird was subsequently seen by many as it stayed through the 16th. Another rarity which spent almost a week at the same location was a REEVE first reported by Tom Kent on August 21. There were also from 1-3 RED-NECKED PHALAROPES at the same spot for almost a month, beginning in mid-August.

The other outstanding September sightings were all gulls. An adult LAUGHING GULL and a first-year CALIFORNIA GULL were found near Swan on September 3 by Steve Dinsmore and Jim Sinclair, and a juvenile SABINE'S GULL was reported by Denny Thompson at Terra Lake in Johnston on September 6. Another LAUGHING GULL was at the Saylorville Reservoir on August 13.

Summer nesters in June and July that created news were PRAIRIE WARBLER at Lake MacBride, MISSISSIPPI KITE in the Des Moines area, and BEWICK'S WREN in Iowa County. LEAST TERNS and PIPING PLOVERS once again were found nesting at utility generating station settling ponds near Council Bluffs and Sioux City.

Additional shorebird reports that raised eyebrows were a juvenile SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER at the Coralville Reservoir on July 29, RED KNOTS at Rathbun Reservoir on July 22 and August 13, and a MARBLED GODWIT near Burlington on July 14 and 28. Unusual in July were WESTERN GREBES at Fisher Lake in Polk County, and Harrier Marsh in Boone County.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS were in southeast Iowa in June, and along with SNOWY EGRETS and LITTLE BLUE HERONS were at the Waubonsie Wildlife Area east of Nebraska City in July and August. SNOWY EGRETS were also at Union Slough NWR on September 14. An unusually large number of BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER reports came from various eastern Iowa locations in late August and early September.

Jim Fuller