

HEARD OVER THE IOWA BIRDLINE
Summer and Fall

Reports to the Birdline described here are unrecorded and as yet not accepted. All rare bird sightings should be documented and reported to the Field Reports Editor or the Records Committee.

October was the month of vagrants, as a pair of birds with only two previous state records made an appearance. While tending a bluebird trail in Cherokee County, Marion Brewer and Vernon Bierman discovered a LEWIS' WOODPECKER near Washta on Oct. 14, and it stayed in the area through the 18th. At Rathbun Reservoir, Jim Sinclair and Rick Trieff found a female VERMILLION FLYCATCHER on Oct. 25.

Lake Rathbun was also the site for a RED PHALAROPE (Nov. 8-10) found by Tom Kent. Another sighting of this species was reported by Tim Schantz at Red Rock Reservoir on Sept. 19. Red Rock produced other exciting birds, with a juvenile LAUGHING GULL (July 18-Aug. 9), a MISSISSIPPI KITE (Sept 1), and RED-THROATED and PACIFIC LOONS (Nov. 7-8). As many as three PACIFIC LOONS were at Rathbun (Nov 6-7). A TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE was reported from the Loess Hills in Fremont County on Nov. 11.

KING RAILS were close to the Mississippi River. At Green Island Wildlife Area in Jackson County, a single adult, as well as a family group afforded many a close observation the first two weeks in July, and up to five birds were on a river sandbar north of Burlington (Aug. 16-Sept. 6).

All unusual owl reports were of road-killed individuals. SNOWY OWLS were found near Nevada (Nov. 5) and Decorah (Nov 6), and a BURROWING OWL in Pochahontas County (Sept. 11).

The PRARIE WARBLER first identified at Shimek State Forest in Lee County in May was still present into July, and a BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER at Yellow River State Forest thrilled many at the IOU fall meeting (Sept 12-13). A YELLOW RAIL was also a first for a large percentage of the participants on the IOU fall field trip to Snake Creek Marsh in Greene County on Sept. 20.

Jim Fuller