

HEARD ON THE BIRDLINE  
July 1-October 15

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

Virtually all the rarities reported on the Iowa Birdline during the summer and early autumn were water-related. A highlight was the three Common Black-headed Gulls (two adults and a juvenile) discovered in the Spirit Lake area by Steve Dinsmore on August 2, which delighted Iowa and Minnesota birders through August 26. Equally impressive was the adult Long-tailed Jaeger reported by Pete Ernzen at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac County on September 4. The next day it was relocated at Black Hawk Lake, where, along with a juvenile Sabine's Gull, it remained for ten days.

The Pacific Loon, found by Steve Dinsmore on July 10 at Anderson Lake in Hamilton County, unusual at any season, but most unusual in summer, was reliable until the first day of waterfowl hunting, September 15. Another Dinsmore find on July 17 was a Fulvous Whistling Duck which was seen by many at Goose Lake in Clinton County for the next week. Other July sightings were Black and King Rails at Stateline Marsh in Kossuth County, and a juvenile Laughing Gull at Rathbun Reservoir.

Early August brought reports of Barn Owls nesting in Taylor County, and a family of Burrowing Owls in Emmet County. August shorebird reports included a Marbled Godwit at Red Rock, and a Red-necked Phalarope at Otter Creek Marsh in Tama County. A Western Grebe was at Trumbull Lake in Clay County August 28-September 5.

Snake Creek Marsh in Greene County featured Sharp-tailed Sparrows from mid September to early October, and two Yellow Rails on September 21. A Parasitic Jaeger paid a passing visit to Saylorville Reservoir on September 22. In mid-October, an Ibis (Sp.) spent six days at Tomahawk Marsh, and a Red-necked Grebe was in Linn County.

Other notable sightings included Snowy Egrets in Lee and Fremont Counties, Little Blue Herons at several locations, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Least Tern and Piping Plover.