

*Kern, Sorry about this not being quite finished.
Tom*

FIELD REPORTS

SPRING 1980

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WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

Jun and Jul were unusually warm and dry months. Nesting of some marsh birds may have been affected by the dry conditions.

GENERAL TRENDS

No unusual trends were noted. A few shore birds returned at record early dates (Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Com. Snipe). Unusual dates were noted for several passerines (Swainson's Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, N. Junco). Bluebird reports were encouraging.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Summer reports confirmed spring reports of territorial Yellow-Throated Warblers at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. and Wildcat Den S.P. Reports of two other casual species are pending documentation.

*— Hawk Bunting
Bumming and
nest*

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Common Loon: 2 were on Clear L. in Jun and Jul (MNi fide JD).

→ **Eared Grebe:** 2 were still at Willow, S. on 3 Jun extending the spring record (RMy). ✓

→ Western Grebe: 1 was at Trumbull L., Clay Co. (+JD).

Pied-billed Grebe: Nesting was noted at Willow S. and s. of Council Bluffs in Jun (BWi). One was at Davenport on 29 Jun (PP, MLP).

American White Pelican: Non-breeding birds were numerous at Forney L. again this year: 50 on 11 Jul (RMy, RSi) and 128 on 19 Jul (BWi).

Double-crested Cormorant: Up to 12 summered at Forney L. (m.ob.).

Great Blue Heron: 16 were at Forney L. on 11 Jul (RSi) and 30 at Red Rock Res. on 25 July (GB) but no heronries were found.

→ Cattle Egret: The only one was at Dan Green S., Clay Co. on 5 June (JD).
Little Blue Heron: 6 on 19 Jul Forney L. (Stones)

Black-crowned Night Heron: 7 were at LeClaire, Scott Co. on 4 June (MIP); 20 at Hottes L., Dickinson Co. with 3 nests on 6 Jun (JD) and many at Lost Island M. Palo Alto Co. on 11, 12 Jul.

→ Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 3 were at Forney L. in Jul (Stones fide RSi). 3 at Forney L. on 6 Jun (TB, SK, B P), 1-2 at Willow S. on 16, 21, 26, Jun (BWi, RMy) and 1 at Sweet M. on 30 Jun (RMy, TStJr).
Least B. Heron

American Bittern: 2 at Dan Green S. on 5 Jun and 1 at Big Wall L., Wright Co. in 28 Jun (JD).

→ Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 lingered at Willow S. on 2 Jun (BWi) and 2 at Forney L. on 21 Jun (FM).
lets

Snow Goose: Up to 6 remained at Forney L. compared to 30 last year (m.ob.).

Canada Goose: Numerous breeders were at Dewey's Pasture, Clay

Co. (JD); 6 were at Montezuma, Poweshiek Co. on 26 July (DK).

Hood Duck: 50 were s. of Council Bluffs on 24 July (TB, S K, BP).

Ducks were noted as follows: Am. Wigeon at Willow S.

Ducks: A (B Wi), Gadwall at Willow S. (BWi), Green-winged Teal at Forney L. on 6 Jun (TB, SK, BP) and Coralville Res. on 22 Jul (T K), Black Duck at Dan Green S. on 5 June (JD), Com. Pintail at Forney L. on 6 Jun (TB, SK, BP), N. Shoveler at Willow S. (BWi), Canvasback at Willow S. and Forney L. (BWi, TB, SK, BP), Lesser Scaup at Trumbull L. on 5 Jun (JD), Hooded Merganser in Plymouth Co. on 2 June (DBi), Red-breasted Merganser at Forney L. on 6 Jun (TB, SK, BP) and Ruddy Duck at Willow S. and Forney L. (BWi, TB, SK, BP). 30 were at Mud L., Palo Alto Co. in 5 Jun and a brood was at Lost Island S., Palo Alto Co. on 12 Jul (JD).

VULTURES THROUGH TURKEY

Turkey Vulture: At Elk Rock S.P. a nest with 1 egg was in a chicken house on 27 Apr and a nest with a one-month-old bird was in a cave on 29 Jul (GB). Singles were reported from L.

Coyote's Hawk:

Wapello, Davis Co. on 9 Jun (JD) and Allamakee Co. on 14 Jun (DK).

Red-tailed Hawk: Reports from Louisa, Johnson and Linn Counties (MN, TSh).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Nesting near Effigy Mounds N.M. was facilitated by an altered schedule for construction of a nearby bridge with one bird apparently fledged (Tim Mason fide TM, JD). Other sightings were in Clayton Co. on 31 May (LS fide JD) and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (FM, RMy).

Broad-winged Hawk: An adult and immature were at Ledges S.P. on 20 Jun (JR fide JD) and 1 was at Manti Woods, Fremont Co. on 21 Jun (FM). *(and on 10 at White Pine Hollow (Stones))*

American Kestrel: Reports were from Poweshiek, Fremont, Johnson, Fayette, Clinton and Davis Counties (m.ob.)

CRANES THROUGH TERMS

Sora: 2 were at Sweet M. on 28 Jun and 19 Jul (FM, RMy) and 1 at n.e. Mills Co. on 12 Jul (BWi).

→ **King Rail:** 1 at Cone M. 22 Jul Carol Newton - 1st in 10 years
→ **Common Gallinule:** 1 was at Willow S. on 9 Jul (BWi). 1 on 6 Jul at Union S. (Stones)

American Coot: Nesting was common in the Iowa Great Lakes region (JD) and a nest was found in Boone Co. (LC fide JD), but 100 at Forney L. failed to nest because of low water (RSi).

→ **American Avocet:** 1 at Credit I. on 17 Jul (MLP, CS) was the second earliest date.

→ **Semipalmated Plover:** 2 at Coralville Res. on 12 Jul (MN) and 4 at Cone M. on 18 Jul (RDe) exceeding the previous early date of 27 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: Reports were from Cherokee, Davis, Iowa and Johnson Counties (m.ob.) as well as many in s.w. Iowa (FM).

→ **Greater Yellowlegs:** 1 at Coralville Res. on 13 Jul (TK) exceeded the previous early date of 23 Jul; 8 were there on 26 Jul (MN).

Lesser Yellowlegs: The first were noted on 6 Jul at Coralville Res. (MN) and 8 Jul in Mills Co. (BWi); the largest concentration was 30 at Cone M. on 13 Jul (RDe).

Solitary Sandpiper: 1 on 29 Jul at Coralville Res (TK) tied the third earliest date; peak was 71 at Cone M. on 13 Jul (RDe).

Wilson's Phalarope: 1 at Silver L., Dickinson Co. in late Jun and early Jul may have been breeding (EM, RJ fide JD). The only migrant was at Cone M. on 23 Jul (TK).

American Woodcock: One lit within two feet of Francis Moore at Wabonsie on 21 Jun and one was killed by hail at the Wilson farm in Mills Co.

Common Snipe: 1-2 at Cone M. on 13, 18, 23 Jul (RDe, TK) all exceeded the previous early date of 3 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 8 in breeding plumage were studied in detail at Coralville Res. on 12 Jul (MN) and were present on 13, 19, 22 Jul (MN, TK).

Long-billed Dowitcher: One was identified by call s. of Council Bluffs on 24 Jul (TB, SK, BP). A breeding plumage bird was at Coralville Res. on 3 Aug (MN).

→ **Sanderling:** One was seen near Waterloo, on 26 Jul (+FM, RMY)

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 at Coralville Res. on 12 Jul (MN) was one day later than the record early date; 28 were there on 26 Jul.

Least Sandpiper: 70 at Coralville Res. on 12 Jul (MN) were the earliest and peak numbers.

→ **White-rumped Sandpiper:** 7 lingered at Forney L. until 6 Jun (TB, SK, BP).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Birds at Willow S. on 8 Jul (BWi) tied the second earliest date; 205 were peak numbers at Cone M. on 18 Jul (RDe).

Stilt Sandpiper: 1 at Cone M. on 13 Jul (RDe); peak of 9 at Coralville Res on 19 Jul (MN).

→ *Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1 at Cone M. 22 Jul Canal Newton*

Ring-billed Gull: 1 at Smith's S., Clay Co. on 5 Jun and 3 at Little Wall L. on 28 Jun (JD).

Franklin's Gull: 20 at Forney L. on 6 Jun (TB, SK, BP), 1 immature at Willow S. on 2 Jul and 1 adult on 5 Jul (BWi), 1 s. of Council Bluffs on 3 Jul (BWi) and 2 at Cherokee on 29 Jun (DBi).

Forster's Tern: 1 at Forney L. on 6 Jun (TB, SK, BP), several (probably nesting) in Clay and Palo Alto Cos. on 5-6 Jun (JD), 1 at Sweet M. on 19 Jul (FM) and 8 at Coralville Res. on 26 Jul (MN).

→ **Common Tern:** 1 at Sweet M. on 19 Jul identified by wing pattern and call compared to Forster's seen and heard at the same location (FM, RMy).

→ **Little Tern:** 1 at Forney L. on 6 Jun (TE, BP, SK).

→ **Caspian Tern:** 1 near Montezuma on 17 Jun (DK), an unusual date.

Black Tern: Up to 30 were at Willow S. (EWi).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

→ **Barn Owl:** Seen twice in s. Mills Co. (RSi).

→ **Chuck-will's-widow:** Up to 8 were at Waukenssi S.P. on 11, 21 Jul (RSi, RMy, FM) and 1 was heard near Montezuma, Poweshiek Co. (+DK). More extensive surveys are needed to determine the occurrence of this species in Iowa.

✓ **Common Nighthawk:** Several observers noted decreased numbers, but qualitative surveys are needed to monitor changes.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: A few were seen: 7 at Red Rock Res. (GB), 1 all summer at Elkhart (DMos) and 1 on 9 Jun at Hamburg (IG).

Belted Kingfisher: Several were seen and thought to represent increases (FM, BWi, RSi). One nested at Hamburg (IG).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 at Klondike on 1 June (DK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH STARLING

Eastern Kingbird: The low spring numbers at Cherokee became normal by summer (DBi).

Western Kingbird: Usual reports from s.w. Iowa; a nest in Woodbury Co. (CW).

Eastern Phoebe: Reports from Lacey-Kecksauqua S.P. (TK, CB), s. Iowa (FM), Coralville Res. (TSh), Palisades Kepler S.P. (TSh) and a nest near Pleasantville (GB).

→ *Say's Phoebe: West Plymouth Co. n.w. Iowa (same) 4 Jul*
Hillow Flycatcher: Jun and Jul reports from Fremont, Mills, Story, Clay, Johnson and Bremer Counties.

Alder Flycatcher: 1 was reported from Gitchee-Manitou S.P. on 5 Jun (RSi).

Least Flycatcher: 1 calling at Smith's S., Clay Co. on 12 Jul (JD).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 at Oak Grove P., Sioux Co. on 5 Jun (RSi).

Purple Martin: There were 8 colonies with fewer birds than last year at Elkhart (DMos).

Tufted Titmouse: 1 was at Gitchee-Manitou S.P., Lyon Co. (RSi), a northerly location.

Northern Mockingbird: Reports were from Lyon Co. on 4 June (RSi), Davis Co. on 14-15 Jun (FM), and Iowa Co. on 28-29 Jun (two locations TSh, TK).

→ **Swainson's Thrush:** 1 at Davenport on 27 Jul was a month earlier

than previously recorded (MLP).

Veery: Summer reports similar to last year: 31 May and 15 Jun Hickory Hill P., Iowa City (RDe, TSh), 28 Jun at Brushy Creek Canyon, Fayette Co. (FM, RMy), 29 Jun near Montezuma (DK), 1 Jul at Palisades Kepler S.P. (TSh), and 2 at Yellow River F. on 19 Jul (DK). *Many at water hole below 10 Jun (Strom)*

Eastern Bluebird: Apparently a good year for Bluebirds: 23 nests at Cherokee (more than ever DBi), twice as many as last year at Elkhart (DMos), readily found in s. Iowa (FM), 16 in Poweshiek Co. (DK), 15 in Lee Co. in a few hours (TK, CB), 5 pair at Red Rock Res. (GB), and 4 pair in Mills Co. (BWi).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Common at L. Wapello, Davis Co. (JD).

Loggerhead Shrike: This species appears to be well established in s. Iowa (RSi, RMy, FM) with scattered reports from central counties (Marion, Mahaska, Poweshiek, Johnson).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireo: Resident in Iowa City (TSh) and near Montezuma (DK).

Bell's Vireo: Numerous reports from widely scattered areas.

Solitary Vireo: 1 at Hamburg on 16 Jul exceeds the previous early report by at least a month.

Prothonotary Warbler: Reports are from Riverton W.A. and Dudgeon P. (RMy, FM).

→ **Worm-eating Warbler:** Heard at Wildcat Den S.P. on 14 Jun (TSh).

Blue-winged Warbler: Early Jun sightings were from Macbride Field Campus and Coo Falls in Johnson (RDe) and Lacey-Keosauqua S. P. (RM).

Tennessee Warbler: 1 at Sweet M. on 28 Jun (FM, RMy) is an odd date.

Northern Parula Warbler: Well established at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. in s.e. Iowa with 3-6 heard from 5-14 Jun (RMy, FM, TK CB) and 1 in n.w. Iowa at Kroger Tract in Lyon Co. (RSi).

Yellow Warbler: Several nests were found at Smith's S., Clay Co. on 5-6 Jun (JD). A pair was at Pleasantville (GB).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Reports continue at Wildcat Den S.P. (RDe, TSh) and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RMy, FM). *+ White Pine Mtn (Shms)*

Ovenbird: 2 were found in n.w. Iowa at Kroger Tract, Lyon Co. (RSi).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Reported from usual locations at Wildcat Den S.P. (RDe) and Waubonsie S.P. (FM).

Kentucky Warbler: Reported from usual locations at Wildcat Den S.P. (RDe), Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (FM), Waubonsie S.P. (RMy) and from Coralville Res. (TSh).

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1-2 were reported from Willow S. (RMy), Lee Co. (TK, CB), Marion Co. (GB), Mahaska Co. (DK) and Sweet M. (FM, RMy). The Willow S. bird was the first in Mills Co. since 1961 according to Silcock.

Canada Warbler: A female at Waubonsie S.P. on 21 Jun (FM) is a unique date.

American Redstart: Good numbers were reported from Mills Co. (BWi), n. Linn Co. (TSh) and Palisades-Kepler S.P. (TSh).

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH BUNTINGS

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Greatly decreased numbers were reported at usual nesting sites (FM) with few at Forney L. where

hundreds usually nest (RSi). Some were seen in upland areas of Mills Co. away from cattail marshes (RSi).

Red-winged Blackbird: A flock of 5,000 were at Cone M. on 25 Jul (TK, TSh).

Orchard Oriole: Reports were from Fremont, Woodbury, Davis, Poweshiek, Polk and Scott Cos.

Scarlet Tanager: 1 was found in n.w. Iowa in Lyon Co. on 5 Jun (RSi).

Summer Tanager: 1 at Storm L. on 15 Jun was unusual (EGC).

Blue Grosbeak: Usual reports from Mills and Fremont Cos.

Leak Bunting: 2 reports from Fremont Co - not documented.

Savannah Sparrow: 1 was in Sioux Co. on 3 Jun (RSi).

Vesper Sparrow: Regular in s. Iowa (FM, RSi).

Lark Sparrow: 6 along Des Moines R in Lee Co. (TK, CB), 1-2 in Davis Co. (FM), Pleasantville (GB), and Dudgeon P. (FM).

Northern Junco: A late bird was singing near Cherokee on 7 Jun (DBi).

Swamp Sparrow: This species was very common in the Iowa Great Lakes region (JD) and at Sweet M, Dudgeon P. and Big M. (FM).

+ = documented

CONTRIBUTORS

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OTHER OBSERVERS

COMMENTS

Fall field reports will not be published until March 1981 because the December issue will be the index. Nevertheless, reports need to be in on time to the regional editor of American Birds. Reporting dates are as follows: fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--Dec 1; winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--Mar 1; spring (Mar, Apr, May)--Jun 1; and summer (Jun, Jul)--Aug 1. Reports not received by the seventh will not be included except for very unusual findings which will be included in the subsequent season. Late reports will, however, be recorded for future reference. I would like to encourage documentation of birds seen on unusual dates.