

Barbara L. Wilson
 Rt 1 Box 41
 Hastings, Iowa 51540

All sightings on Wilson farm, N.E. Mills
 County, unless noted otherwise.

Species	#	Date	Location
✓ Double-crested Cormorant	40	Sept 29	Lake Manawa, Pottawatomie County
Great Egret	3	Aug 23	Black Hawk lake
Black-crowned Night Heron	fairly common	Aug 20-22	Lower Great Lakes Region
✓ Black Duck	2	Oct 24	DeSoto NWR, Missouri Valley
Lesser Scaup	70	Oct 24	" All identified were Lesser
Hooded Merganser	1♂	"	"
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Sept. 26	very small.
Accipiter	1	Sept 12	} could all be Sharp-shins,
"	1	Oct 10	
"	1	Oct 25	
Red-tailed Hawk	2 adults 1 young	August	} unusually large concentrations on farm. Frequent November sightings here. Why? Some unusual birds seen again + again.
"	6	Nov 18	
"	5	Nov 27	
✓ Swainson's Hawk	1	Sept 18	N.E. Mills County. Immature.
Marsh Hawk	1	Oct 21	DeSoto NWR
	1	Oct 24	S.W. Iowa
	1	Nov 7	Wilson Farm
✓ Osprey	1	Nov 21	DeSoto NWR
Least Sandpiper	25 ^{count}	Aug 21	Lake Park, (Silver Lake)
x ✓ Northern Phalarope	2	"	"
✓ Mourning Dove			2 Young fledge after Sept. 8.
✓ Yellow-billed Cuckoo			4 young, well-grown on Aug 30, left the nest by Sept. 5.
- Chimney Swift		Oct 22	Council Bluffs, Pottawatomie County
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	several	Aug 22	Gull Point State Park, Lake Okoboji
			farm - I see none. A squirrel hunter tells me how he misses seeing them in squirrel season, when he used to see them. His son's never seen one.
Red-headed Woodpecker	normal	August	
	still here	Nov.	Will over-winter if they're still here in November. Many acorns.

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→ = remained until (date of last sighting)

Species	#	Date	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	Oct 10	immatures, quarreling.
Eastern Kingbird		→ Sept 14	N.E. Mills County
✓ Crested Flycatcher		→ Sept 20	
✓ Eastern Pewee		→ Sept 23	
Olive-sided Flycatcher		Aug. 30, 31 Sept 4, 8	
✓ Barn Swallow	2	→ Oct 20	
Cliff Swallow		→ Sept 7	
✓ Blue Jay	140	Sept 26.	Migration peak, approximately. Migration noted Sept 8 → Oct 10.
Blue Jay			
Crow	140	Oct 21	3 miles north of Missouri Valley. A huge flock at the edge of the bluffs. It took off + circled + settled again three times, allowing 3 estimates; 60, 130, 140.
Red breasted Nuthatch see below			
Catbird		→ Sept 26	} unusually conspicuous for fall, several September sightings.
Brown Thrasher		→ Sept 30	
Robin	135	Sept 5	early for so large a number.
Bluebird - see below			migration continues into November.
Cedar Waxwing	2	Aug. 23	Black Hawk Lake
"	3	Aug 25	
"		Oct 21 - end of period	flocks on farm, 20+. Maximum 79, Nov. 21. ↳ individuals
Black+white Warbler		Sept 5 → Sept 26	
Orange-crowned Warbler		Sept 16 → Oct 7	
Nashville Warbler		Sept 8 → Oct 7	
Black-throated Green W.	1	Sept 5	
	1	" 16	
	1	" 19	
Chestnut-sided Warbler		Sept 15 → Sept 19	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	26	Oct 10	unusually many! Swarming in the trees! not present at Oct 7. Some still present Oct. 28.
Orchard Oriole	normal low #	→ Aug 29	

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species	#	date	
x Scarlet Tanager	1	Sept 15	} hard to identify! I don't expect fall tanagers, + these green birds are odd!
"	1	Sept Sept 26	
✓ Dickcissel		→ Sept 8	
x ✓ "	1	Oct. 10	
✓ Evening Grosbeak	♂	Nov 19	Mrs. Pauline Cool of rural Henderson called me + described an unusual bird at her feeder. Well-observed male Evening Grosbeak
Pine Siskin - see below			
Junco		Oct 7	first I see
Tree Sparrow		Oct 21	"
Harris Sparrow		Oct 10	"
White-crowned S.		Oct 10 → 28	
White-throated S.		Oct 7 → 21	
Lincoln's Sparrow		Sept 26 ¹⁶ → Oct 28	
Swamp Sparrow	7	Oct 10	
x Pine Siskin	3	Oct 7	
x Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Sept. 19	
	1	Sept 28	

E. Bluebird. 2 nests continued into August. In one, two
 flightless young were eaten by August 2. A
 woodpecker had spent much time on a neighboring
 fence post, + had enlarged the entrance hole of
 the nest box. I assume it ate the young.
 The second nest had 3 young eaten by
 a predator by August 8. Appropriate ending
 of a disappointing Bluebird season.

x - a description is available upon request. Some other
 descriptions written too.

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Dear Dr. Kent,

It's frustrating to read your weather summaries which are based, inevitably, on conditions in Southeast Iowa. Here it was dry all spring + summer until mid July. Then rain began, saving our crops, but it petered out to occasional showers in mid August. Mr. Moore, District Biologist for S.W. Iowa, says they were able to disk Forney's Lake to bury lead shot this summer, + indeed they ~~had~~ were able to work areas they've never taken equipment in before. The lake has water now only because the game commission is pumping it in. Two farm ponds here are dry, + a well is too - we are hauling water to some hogs. Willow Slough ~~is~~ is probably still dry though the mat of dead smartweed makes it difficult to be sure. Certainly, no waterfowl are ~~going~~ going ^{there.} An area - a small area - northeast of Missouri Valley ~~was~~ was missed by the rains + had corn standing dead in ~~the~~ the fields in August. Conditions here could be summarized as narrowly averted drought. And next year? Hope it rains a lot!

The acorn + hack berry crops are abundant, keeping Red-headed Woodpeckers + Cedar Waxwings busy.

It's ~~been~~ been a fall of ^{few} interesting sightings + long dull stretches. Few waterfowl. No Shorebirds.