8/4/92

Though shorebird habitat is hard to find in the state at this time, the shore bird migration has begun. This week's highlights are the continued presence of LAUGHING GULL at Red Rock, and AMERICAN AVOCETS at Salorville Lake.

In the south-central, the juvenile LAUGHING GULL was seen again August 1 and 2, at the Red Rock Reservoir in Marion County. It has been see both below the Red Rock dam and at the swim beach above the dam at the north end. Look for a smaller and darker bird than any of the RING-BILLED GULLS.

Also in the center of the state, Mark Prescholt found 3 AVOCETS, 10 FORSTER'S TERNS, and 1 LEAST TERN at Sandpiper Recreation Area on the east side of Saylorville Lake on the first, as well as f shore bird species at the Meckley pasture just 1.5 miles E of Polk City. There is a gravel road from which you can scope the field. Birds included GREATER and LESSER YELLOWLEGS, PECTORAL SANDPIPERS, kill dues one DOWITCHER SPECIES, and BLACK TERNS.

Other recent sightings include an OSPREY and FORSTER'S TERNS at the Lake Macbride causeway on the first, 4 BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS at the south IPL pond and 130 WHITE PELICANS over LAKE MANAWA on the 31st, and 4 BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS in Marion county on the 31st (for more information call Tim Schantz at (515) 627-5935.

3 BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS also were seen on the 29th 13 miles N of Burlington. To find them take the first road off HW 99 S of Kinsgston, which is 72nd Ave., go east 2 miles, then turn N and look in the firld on the W side after you get by thr farm house.

2 BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS and a SANDERLING were at the N overlook beach at Red Rock on the 28th.

From last week's report:

In the southeast in Des Moines County, two SNOWY EGRETS were flybys on the 23rd, and on the 24th they were feeding with a LITTLE BLUE HERON at Casey-Barrow Public Landing on the Mississippi River ten miles north of Burlington. None of these birds were seen on the 26th, but there was an immature NIGHT HERON (Sp.) and a CASPIAN TERN. In the northeast in Jackson County, no KING RAILS were found at Green Island Wildlife Area on the 25th, but there were two LEAST BITTERNS, two families of COMMON MOORHENS, three HOODED MERGANSERS, a BALD EAGLE, and a WILLOW FLYCATCHER. The location where the family of four KING RAILS had been seen by many observers is reached by going east from the village of Green Island to Fish Lake Road, where you go north to a bridge which is almost at the end of the road. The rails were 100 yards west of there on the north side of the dike.

In the northwest in Kossuth County, an ACADIAN FLYCATCHER and an immature BROAD-WINGED HAWK were at Ambrose Call State Park near Algona on the 25th, and in flooded fields east of West Bend, there were 500 shorebirds, including two LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER and a WESTERN SANDPIPER on the 26th.

In the north-central in Cerro Gordo County, four LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES, a pair of ORCHARD ORIOLES, and a family of EASTERN MEADOWLARKS were at the north end of Wilkinson Park in Rock Falls on the 26th. In Worth County, the family of WESTERN GREBES and quite a few BLACK TERNS were at Silver Lake, and dozens of WHITE PELICANS were at Rice Lake on the 26th.

In the central in Tama County, the family of four SANDHILL CRANES was at Otter Creek Marsh on the 25th. They were at the usual location, which is south of where R Street and county road E-66 intersect about 1.1 miles southeast of hiway #30.

In the sortherst in Justice County, no kind strains were read at Green bland Wildlife Area en the 25th, but there were two IEAST BUTERNS, we complete of COMMON MOORTHANS, gaps HOODED MEROAMSTER, parallel end a WILLOW HI YOATCHER The incention where the funity of four KING RAILS had been seen by interny observers is searched by poing cast from the villers of Green latend to Hob Late Road, where yes go north to a bridge which is strated to Hob Late Road, where yes go north to a bridge which is annot only be and it the road. The rails ware Hor works were of there are the north side of the diffe.

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In the compating Tama County, the family of four SANDHILL, CRAMES was at Other Creak Marsh on the 25th. They were at the mural facilities, which is south of where R Second and county road P-06 intersect about 1.1 miles courteast of blway #30.