

Summer Field Reports: IOWA 2000

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Common Loon	1	5, 17 June	Cerro Gordo: apparently first summer bird persisted at a small city lake for the month of June.
Least Bittern	1	17 June	Cerro Gordo: at <i>Union Hills</i> (Tony Hertzel)
Great Egret	21	31 July	Cerro Gordo: in same pool at <i>Union Hills</i>
Bl-cr Night Heron	1	24 June	Cerro Gordo
American White Pelican	2	31 July	Cerro Gordo: at <i>Zirbel Slough</i>
Canada Goose N			Cerro Gordo: widespread breeding
Wood Duck N		throughout	Cerro Gordo: nested
Mallard Duck N			Cerro Gordo: widespread breeding
Ruddy Duck		throughout	Cerro Gordo: summered at <i>Zirbel Slough</i>
Ring-necked Pheasant N		throughout	Cerro Gordo: widespread breeding (family groups flushed)
Killdeer N	5	17 June	Cerro Gordo: nested at <i>Zirbel Slough</i>
	100+	31 July	Cerro Gordo: at <i>Zirbel Slough</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	1	31 July	Cerro Gordo: <i>Union Hills WMA</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	12	31 July	Cerro Gordo: <i>Zirbel Slough/Union Hills</i>
Solitary Sandpiper	3	31 July	Cerro Gordo: <i>Zirbel Slough/Union Hills</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	2	31 July	Cerro Gordo
Upland Sandpiper	1	8 July	Cerro Gordo
Semipalmated Sandpiper	15	31 July	Cerro Gordo: <i>Zirbel Slough/Union Hills</i>
Least Sandpiper	20	31 July	Cerro Gordo: <i>Zirbel Slough/Union Hills</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper	25	31 July	Cerro Gordo: <i>Zirbel Slough/Union Hills</i>
Stilt Sandpiper	6	31 July	Cerro Gordo: <i>Zirbel Slough/Union Hills</i>
Short-b Dowitcher	8	31 July	Cerro Gordo: <i>Union Hills WMA</i>
American Woodcock	1	25 June	Cerro Gordo
Ring-billed Gull	3	31 July	Cerro Gordo: one juvenile at <i>Zirbel Slough</i>
Rock Dove N		throughout	Cerro Gordo: nested in <i>Mason City</i>
Mourning Dove N		25 June	Cerro Gordo: nest with eggs
<i>Selasphorus</i> Hummingbird	1	20 July	Cerro Gordo: see details (1)
Willow Flycatcher	2	24 June	Cerro Gordo: at <i>Zirbel Slough</i>
Tree Swallow N		throughout	Cerro Gordo: nested
Cliff Swallow N		throughout	Cerro Gordo: nested

Barn Swallow N	throughout July 18	Cerro Gordo: nested Floyd Co: nest
Sedge Wren N Marsh Wren	throughout throughout	Cerro Gordo: fledglings at <i>Walch WMA</i> Cerro Gordo: summered at <i>Union Hills</i>
American Robin N Gray Catbird N	throughout 25 June	Cerro Gordo: nested Cerro Gordo: nest with eggs
European Starling	throughout	Cerro Gordo: nested
Common Yellowthroat N	throughout	Cerro Gordo: fledglings at <i>Walch WMA</i>
Henslow's Sparrow N 10+	1 June - 21 July 18 July	Cerro Gordo: see details (2) Floyd Co: 1 bird singing at <i>Rockford Fossil & Prairie Park</i>
Lark Sparrow	25 June	Cerro Gordo: reported by others to have nested at <i>Lime Creek</i>
Bobolink N	throughout 25 June	Cerro Gordo, Floyd Cerro Gordo: fledglings at <i>Mason City</i>
Orchard Oriole 3	8 July	Cerro Gordo
House Sparrow N	throughout	Cerro Gordo: nested

- (1) A single bird was seen briefly while it fed from a feeder at Rita Goranson's home in Mason City 20 July, 2000. The bird had an obvious rufous wash to its sides, and iridescent flecks on its throat. I did not get a definitive look at the tail. The appearance was too brief to get a photo. A nest was found about a block south that is thought to have been used by the same bird. The nest is about 15' off the ground on a single, downward-sloping branch of a maple tree. Two separate videos were shot of an adult attending fledglings at this nest, one by the homeowner, and another by a relative of the homeowner. I viewed the homeowner's tape on a tiny 2" screen, and it appears to me it could provide good documentation but needs to be studied on a larger screen.
- (2) Henslow's Sparrows were discovered in a field on the SE side of Mason City in May. Rita Goranson and I made it a summer project to document the presence of these birds. We walked the field frequently, nearly always encountering adults. At no time during the summer did we find Grasshopper Sparrows in this field. Other birds present were Bobolinks (nested), Sedge Wrens, Red-winged Blackbirds, Ring-necked Pheasants (nested), and Song Sparrows at the margins. Twice we staked areas nearby singing Henslow's and carefully walked the grass searching for a nest, but we were not successful. On 25 June we flushed an adult bird who flew about 200 yards to the north. Shortly after, two additional sparrows flushed from the same general area and flew directly west, with the short, labored flight of fledglings. We flushed them several more times, and each time their flight behavior suggested juvenile birds, but from the brief looks we could only say they were Henslow's Sparrows--large bill, flat head, rich chestnut wings. The birds appeared paler than the adult, and we could not see any streaking below. We returned on 26 June and took photos of an adult and of a probable juvenile from a great distance. The photos are not conclusive. On July 21 we flushed two similarly plumaged birds from a different area. They flew short distances, dropped into the grass and then immediately began calling in high, single notes. We flushed one bird to a nearby weed patch where it sat up long enough to obtain a photo. It is my opinion that this photo shows a juvenile Henslow's Sparrow. Enlargements are being made.