

IOWA RBA: (319)338-9881 Update for 7/23/98 @ 11 PM

We are saddened to report that GLADYS BLACK, the grand lady of Iowa birding passed away at her apartment in Pleasantville on July 19. A memorial service is planned at the Mason Funeral Home in Pleasantville at 2 PM on July 25. A memorial fund is being established at the Pleasantville State Bank.

Birds Mentioned:

LAUGHING GULL

Yellow-breasted Chat

Virginia Rail

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL

Red-necked Grebe

In birding news from the 23rd, in the southeast a juvenile LAUGHING GULL was found on the Mississippi River in Lee County. To look for this bird, from hiway 61 just north of Wever, take county road X-50 to near its end by a grain elevator on the river. There are a number of gulls on islands there, but this bird was seen flying over the river near the elevator.

In the northeast in Winneshiek County, a YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT was seen near the Nature Center at Lake Meyer County Park south of Calmar.

In the northwest in Worth County, a family of five VIRGINIA RAILS was observed in the marsh on the north side of the gravel road that runs along the north side of Silver Lake. We also have belated reports from Dickinson County, where on the 18th, the family of five RED-NECKED GREBES was still present on the Jemmerson Slough complex, as seen from the gravel road which is a mile north of hiway 9 along the north side of the marsh, and the adult BLACK-HEADED GULL was also seen in the swan pen at the Kettleson Waterfowl Production Area.

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IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 Update for 7/20/98 @ 9 PM

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Birds Mentioned:

Sandhill Crane

Least Bittern

Pileated Woodpecker

Caspian Tern

In ~~birding~~ ^{20TH IN THE} news from the northeast in Winneshiek County, two SANDHILL CRANES and two LEAST BITTERNS were sighted at Cardinal Marsh.

In the southeast, two PILEATED WOODPECKERS were seen in Jefferson County at McCoon's Access to the Skunk River on the 19th. In Johnson County, a CASPIAN TERN was seen at the S & G Quarry along the Sand Road at the south edge of Iowa City.

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Birds Mentioned:

Common Back-headed Gull
Franklin's Gull
Least Bittern
Ruddy Duck
Northern Harrier
Common Moorhen
Bell's Vireo
Stilt Sandpiper
Cattle Egret
Upland Sandpiper
Pileated Woodpecker
Bald Eagle
Trumpeter Swan (Released)

To skip the recording and leave a message, just press the star at any time. The heat has seemingly put a damper on birding activities, because few reports were received. There do seem to be a lot of shorebirds where there is proper habitat. The best bird this week is the BLACK-HEADED GULL in Dickinson County.

In the northwest, the adult BLACK-HEADED GULL continues to be seen in Dickinson County. It was observed loafing with FRANKLIN'S GULLS the evenings of the 12th, 13th, and 14th between 8 and 8:30 PM in the swan pen at the Kettleston Waterfowl Production Area, which is just west of Big Spirit Lake, along a gravel road that runs west from hiway 276 near the Marble Beach Access.

In the northeast in Winneshiek County, sightings at Cardinal Marsh on the 15th included LEAST BITTERN, 2 RUDDY DUCKS, NORTHERN HARRIER, COMMON MOORHEN, and a pair of BELL'S VIREOS.

In the central in Story County, six STILT SANDPIPERS were sighted in a wet field near Zearing on the 16th, and a CATTLE EGRET has been at the Colo Ponds the past ten days. Go two and a half miles east of Colo on county road E-41 and the bird has been in the first pond thereafter on either the north or south side of the road.

In the north-central in Cerro Gordo County, an UPLAND SANDPIPER has been seen regularly just south of 330th and Lark sitting in the road or on metal fenceposts just past a little bridge.

In the southeast in Louisa County, a PILEATED WOODPECKER was observed on the 16th a mile north of hiway 99 along the access road to the Mark Twain NWR that leaves hiway 99 near Toolesboro. An immature BALD EAGLE was also sighted there. The five released TRUMPETER SWANS with green neck bands can still be seen at Cone Marsh.

A Hooded Merganser's young, IN PART. AND A PRO. WARBLER were

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