

## **Fuller, Jim**

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**From:** Fuller, Jim [james-fuller@UIOWA.EDU]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 1998 9:11 AM  
**To:** BIRDCNTR@LISTSERV.ARIZONA.EDU  
**Subject:** IOWA RBA: 5/18/98

IOWA RBA (319) 338-9881 for 5/18/98

**Birds Mentioned:**

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK  
COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL  
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE

Mississippi Kite

White-winged Crossbill

Prairie Warbler

Little Blue Heron

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Peregrine Falcon

Yellow-throated Warbler

Cerulean Warbler

Broad-winged Hawk

Virginia Rail

Alder Flycatcher

Hudsonian Godwit

American Golden Plover

Trumpeter Swan

American Bittern

Eared Grebe

Franklin's Gull

Cattle Egret

Black-bellied Plover

Sanderling

Wilson's Phalarope

Least Tern

Ruddy Turnstone

Connecticut Warbler

To skip the recording and leave a message, just press the star at any time. The week's highlights include BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK, COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL, and BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE in the northwest, MISSISSIPPI KITE and WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL in the central, PRAIRIE WARBLER and LITTLE BLUE HERON in the southeast, and BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER in the north-central.

At the IOU Spring meeting at Ames, field trips on the 16th and 17th produced 148 species, with some of the best birds seen at Ledges State Park, which included MISSISSIPPI KITE, PEREGRINE FALCON, YELLOW-THROATED and CERULEAN WARBLERS, and BROAD-WINGED HAWK. The KITE was seen on the 17th sitting in a dead snag near the walkin campground. Other highlights were VIRGINIA RAIL, ALDER FLYCATCHER, HUDSONIAN GODWIT, AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER, and TRUMPETER SWAN.

In the northwest the BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac County was reported by a number of observers on both the 16th and 17th. Tomahawk Marsh is along county road M-68 about 3 miles north of Lake View, and the bird was spotted on the west side of the road along the north shoreline of the marsh by looking northwest, and around an island by looking south from the north road. Other birds at Tomahawk

included AMERICAN BITTERN and EARED GREBE. In Dickinson County, an adult COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL in alternate plumage was seen on the 17th with FRANKLIN'S GULLS around the swan pen at the Kettleon Waterfowl Production Area just west of West Okoboji Lake. In Plymouth County, the BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE pair has a nest in the same location where they nested last year. From Westfield, go south about two miles on hiway 12, and then go east 1.4 miles on 234th Street to where there is a yellow rope on a fence gate, and then look on the hillside to the north. Remember that this is private property, so please stay on the road.

In the central in Polk County, the immature WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL was still residing in the back yard of Pam and Reid Allen in West Des Moines as of the 16th. In Benton County, 7 CATTLE EGRETS were in a field along county road E-66, about one and a half miles west of Luzerne on the 14th.

In the southeast in Johnson County, the PRAIRIE WARBLER was still singing at Lake MacBride State Park on the 15th. Look around the sailboat storage enclosure area, either on the hillside to the south, or in the grown over field to the east of the entrance to the area. At the Hawkeye Wildlife Area on the 16th, there were 18 species of shorebirds seen east of the end of the Babcock access road. They included HUDSONIAN GODWIT, AMERICAN and BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS, SANDERLING, RUDDY TURNSTONE, and WILSON'S PHALROPE, and on the 14th an AMERICAN BITTERN was along Greencastle Avenue north of the Swan Lake Road. In Des Moines County at the Casey-Barrow Mississippi River access about ten miles north of Burlington, two adult LITTLE BLUE HERONS and 3 RUDDY TURNSTONES were spotted on the 17th, while a LEAST TERN was there on the 14th. In Louisa County, an AMERICAN BITTERN was at Cone Marsh on the 16th.

In the north-central in Cerro Gordo County, both BLACK-THROATED BLUE and CONNECTICUT WARBLERS were found at Parker's Woods in Mason City on the 15th. In Wright County, an HUDSONIAN GODWIT and a hundred AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER were in a field along hiway 69 about a half mile south of 250th Street on the 16th.

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