

MYERS

CONTRIBUTOR: Robert K. Myers

OTHER OBSERVERS: usually with Francis Moore

SEASON: Spring

or other members of Waterloo Audubon Soc.

YEAR: 1981

WEATHER/HABITAT: describe any unusual features at bottom of page

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
✓ Red-necked Grebe	1	4-12-81	Sandpit in Waterloo - with Francis Moore
✓ Little Blue heron	1	4-27-81	Wyth Lake - George Wyth St. Park - Falladalt - m.v.b.
✓ Cattle egret	1	5-3-81	north of Cone Marsh - Francis Moore - Pete Peterson - Ross Sikock
✓ American bittern	many unusual new	first on 4-5-81	first at Big Marsh - at least 12 later -
✓ Ross's goose	1	3-28-81	Willow Slough (Mills Co.)
✓ Red-shouldered hawk	several sightings	first 3-7-81	first and later at Sweet Marsh - almost every trip to Dudgeon Lake yields 1 or 2 also sightings at
✓ Swainson's hawk	several sightings	first 4-14-81	nesting again at Hartmanns Nature Center - Big Marsh + Sweet Marsh
✓ Ruffed grouse	1 March 14 March 22 May 28	March 14 March 22 May 28	Yellow Riv. Sweet Marsh - our first sighting at Sweet Marsh
✓ Wild turkey	many	first 3-14-81	all over state (Yellow Riv. - Lacey - Keosauqua - Shimek Forest - Vinton area, etc.) ^{Waubesaie}
✓ American Osprey	1	5-2-81	Coralville Res.
✓ Marbled Godwit	1	4-5-81	Big Marsh (Butler Co.)
✓ Sanderlings	2	4-8-81	Sandpit in Waterloo with Tom Stone Sr. - spring plumaged
✓ Thayer's Gull	1	3-28-81	Lake Manawa
Bewick's Wren	1 maybe 2	5-2-81	Iowa City
✓ Mockingbirds	1	5-3-81	Muscatine Co.
	1	5-9-81	Riverton Wildlife Area
Bluebird	Many	first on 3-7-81	at Sweet Marsh - Many more sightings from all over state (maybe coming back?)
✓ Waterpipits	at least 3	4-11-81	Sweet Marsh
✓ White-eyed vireo	2	5-28-81	Both at different spots in Shimek Forest - I watched one sitting ^(singing) over Yahr at obviously on nesting ground
✓ Prothonotary warbler	1 at least 4	5-9-81 early May	Riverton Dudgeon Lake Area n. of Vinton
✓ Worm-eating warbler	1 1 1	5-3-81 5-24-81 5-28-81	Wild Cat Den - Pete + Mary Lou Peterson Yellow River Lacey - Keosauqua
✓ Golden-winged warbler	Many	first at 4-30-81	Waterloo at Greenbelt - at least 12 sightings - many more than usual
✓ Cape May warbler	8	5-13-81	Sweet Marsh - 5 ♂'s in one small tree! + 3 in other places
✓ Louisiana water thrush	1 2 2	5-4-81 5-27-81 5-28-81	Waterloo Greenbelt Keosauqua St. Pk. Shimek Forest - Probable breeding pairs
✓ Connecticut warbler	1	5-13-81	Sweet Marsh - Francis Moore
	1	5-23-81	Yellow River Forest - best bet possible - 10' in open + singing for ^{short time} short
✓ Yellow-throated warbler	at least 3	5-27-81	Lacey - Keosauqua St. Pk. - one of the easiest "hard" birds in the state to find

Early spring + leaves

CONTRIBUTOR: Robert K. Myers

OTHER OBSERVERS: _____

SEASON: Spring

YEAR: 1981

WEATHER/HABITAT: describe any unusual features at bottom of page

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Warblers in general			I had a good spring with 32 sp. so far but never got into many big waves. Best was May 13 at Sweet Marsh. There were too many leaves. I missed Bl-throated Blue, Pine, Prairie, and my ultimate goal the Hooded.
✓ LeConte's sparrow	Moms	First on 4-5-81	at Big Marsh - we had 15 or 16 one day in mid April at Marsh ^{Sweet}
✓ Lark Bunting	1	5-13-81	Sweet Marsh
The last few will be out of order as I put the list together on May 28 thinking I would add no more.			
✓ Blue grosbeak	1	5-29-81	Shimek Forest along Des Moines Riv. (Lee Co.)
✓ Little Blue heron	1	5-29-81	on Des Moines Riv. near Croton, Ia. ^{Full} adult
✓ Henslow's sparrow	3	5-30-81	Hayden Prairie with Francis Moore
			Note: On this trip to Hayden, Francis + I flushed a ♀ Northern Harrier off her nest. Nest had one egg and both adult birds flew over us yelling. After we left one bird returned to nest.
			Also Note: [✓] The ranger at Shimek Forest, Wayne Fahlbragge told me he frequently hears Chuck-will's-widows calling in the evening from his house at the forest headquarters.
			Also Note: [✓] Randy Betsworth, from Waterloo, still has 3 red crossbills (2♀ + 1♂) coming to his feeder as of the morning of 5-31-81

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Marbled Godwit 2. Number 1
3. Location Big Marsh
4. Date: 4-5-81 5. Time Bird Seen: 10:00 AM to 10:01 AM
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
- 1.) size - large - somewhat bigger than greater yellowlegs
 - 2.) bill - very long (big) - seemed slightly upturned
 - 3.) color - basic light or buffy brown - slightly darker cross barring on breast back ~~was~~ ^{tail} were also light brown (NO WHITE RUMP)
 - 4.) dark legs
 5. I was so busy checking the bird's rump that I missed the cinnamon wing linings that Francis got.
7. Description of voice, if heard: —
8. Description of behavior: flying north
9. Habitat - general: Big Marsh —
specific: north side of marsh heading up West Fork Riv.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Hudsonian godwit has white rump
11. Distance (how measured)? 75 feet
12. Optical equipment: 7X35 BtB Roof prisms
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Sunny - bird was flying north - we were facing west - sun was behind us - excellent lighting
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
15. Other observers: Francis Moore - Russ Hays - Antoinette Camarota - Jody Hines
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes - Francis + I both yelled "godwit!" when we first saw bird
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Francis Moore + Russ Hays
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Peterson - Field Guide To Birds
Robbins - Birds of North America
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? a week or little more
- Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.
- Date: 4-15-81 City, State: Waterloo, Iowa 50701

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Bewicks Wren 2. Number 1 (maybe 2)
 3. Location Iowa City (near Hickory Hill Park)
 4. Date: 5-2-81 5. Time Bird Seen: 8:38 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.
 6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
 1. size - a little larger than house wren with much longer tail
 2. Brown back + wings + top of head ^{+ neck} (no obvious markings)
 3. lighter (whitish) below (throat-neck-breast + belly)
 4. Very prominent white stripe over eye
 5. Tail was edged in white with black dots
 6. dark eye
 7. Description of voice, if heard: - somewhat like song sparrows - ended on high trill
 8. Description of behavior: Constantly moving from one place to another with tail cocked up -
 9. Habitat - general: It kept flaring tail out and jerking the tail around
Dense wooded ravines near Hickory Hill Park
specific: Deep ravines lined with junk
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
The other wrens do not have the white on the tail nor the same song
 11. Distance (how measured)? 25' - 50' stepped off
 12. Optical equipment: B+L 7x35's
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Bright - many different angles
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have seen house, winter, sedge + marsh and this was obviously different
 15. Other observers: Francis Moore, Ross Silcock, Barb Wilson - and many others
 16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Bird had previously been identified by other Iowa City birders
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
I checked - Peterson - Field Guide To Birds
+ - Robbins - Birds of N. America
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? Immediately
- Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvio Ave.
Date: 5-7-81 City, State: Waterloo, Iowa - 50701

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Henslow's sparrow 2. Number 3
3. Location Hayden Prairie
4. Date: 5-30-81 5. Time Bird Seen: 8:30 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
- 1) size - faintly small sparrow about same as grasshopper sparrow
 - 2) shape - very ~~chunky~~ chunky - big headed - wide neck - head seems flat topped with not much slope down to bill. - bill is large
 - 3) color - brownish overall - reddish on wings - head is very obviously olive colored. - breast is faintly striped especially across upper part - head has stripe through crown - basic color of breast + belly is white
7. Description of voice, if heard: Best likeness is like back - "ssl-lick" - we always use call to locate birds then stalk them down.
8. Description of behavior: Singing from higher perch then diving into grass - flies erratically
9. Habitat - general: Faintly wet prairie
specific: higher part of prairie with taller grass (part that hadn't been burned off)
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Grasshopper sparrow does not have olive head or the call
11. Distance (how measured)?
Closest was probably 30'-35'
12. Optical equipment:
B&L 7X35s Photos were also taken with 300 + 400mm lenses
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Bright sunny skies - excellent light - best looks were facing east with sun at our backs
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
I have seen Henslow's here many times and am very familiar with the call.
15. Other observers: Francis Moore
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Francis Moore
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Did not need any
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? same day
- Signature: Robert Z. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.
- Date: 5-30-81 City, State: Waterloo Iowa 50701