

CONTRIBUTOR: Francis Moore

OTHER OBSERVERS: BM = Bob Myers; RH =

SEASON: Spring

Russell Hays; TS = Tom Stone Jr.

YEAR: 1981

WAS = Waterloo Audubon Society Field Trip.

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

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
✓ Horned Grebe	3	4-18-81	Riverton WMA Horned Grebes were rather scarce this ^{year} more so than prior years.
✓ Red-necked Grebe	1	4-12-81	Martin Marietta Sand Pits, Waterloo (see documentation) ^{BM}
✓ Eared Grebe	1	4-18-81	Riverton WMA
✓ White Pelican	700±	4-18-81	300± at Lake Manawab and 400± at Riverton WMA on same day
✓ Double-crested Cormorant	250±	4-18-81	Largest flock seen this year at Riverton WMA
✓ Little Blue Heron	1 ad.	4-26-81	George Wyth S.P. seen from highway outside park by me Tom Stone Jr. Russell Hays and later Bob Myers.
✓ Cattle Egret	1	4-18-81	Willow Slough
✓	1	5-3-81	with Hogs on highway about 12 mi s.E. of Iowa City on I.O.U. weekend. by me Bob Myers, Pete Peterson, Barb Wilson, Ross Silcock Mary Lou Peterson.
✓ Black-crowned Night Heron	1	4-19-81	adult at Willow Slough
American Bittern			A total of 8 seen this spring from 4/5/81 through 5/13/81
Ducks (in general)			Several of the "migrant" ducks stayed around until the middle of May which is a little unusual in this area.
Osprey	1	4-19-81	Montgomery county
✓	1	5-13-81	Sweet Marsh BM
Bald Eagle	10	3-14-81	Harpers Ferry 8 ad. 2 im. BM, RH, T.S., WAS
	2 im.	4-5-81	Big Marsh WAS
Northern Harrier			A total of 12 seen this spring from 3/7/81

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			to 5/30/81. A nest was found with one egg in it at Hayden Prairie in Howard County on 5/30/81. Both male and female birds were present and watched our presence very closely. BM
Hawks (in general)			A very unspectacular spring migration. Only 10 Sharp-shinned, 1 Coopers and small numbers of Broadwings were seen.
✓ Cooper's Hawk	1	5-23-81	yellow River Forest, BM WAS
✓ Red-Shouldered Hawk	1	3-7-81	Sweet Marsh
	1	3-14-81	Backbone S.P.
✓ Broad-winged Hawk	80	4-26-81	Largest number that was seen in a day at Nashua over Cedar Lake RH, TS
✓ Swainson's Hawk	2	4-25-81	Sweet Marsh
	2	5-10-81	Sweet Marsh
	1	5-23-81	Clayton County along Highway 18
	2		Again nesting at Hartman Reserve Nature Center in Cedar Falls.
✓ Rough-legged Hawk	2	3-14-81	Last ones seen this spring at Volga Lake Rec. Area WAS
American Kestrel			Seen in good numbers through the first part of May.
✓ Ruffed Grouse			1 male drumming at Sweet Marsh at south entrance seen several times throughout period.

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Virginia Rail	1	5-13-81	Observed at close range (20 feet) at Sweet Marsh in open.
✓ Sora	1	5-30-81	1 Sora seen at Cardinal Marsh on May 30 as the latest date this period. BM
✓ American Avocet	1	5-2-81	Seen from Jolly Roger Park on other side of Coralville Reservoir during I.O.U. Weekend Observed through 20x and 40x Bushnell Spacemaster Telescope. BM
Lesser Golden Plover			Small flocks of from 2 to 25 seen around state from mid-April to mid-May.
✓ Marbled Godwit	1	4-5-81	Big Marsh (see documentation) BM, RH, WAS
✓ Hudsonian Godwit	1	4-18-81	Riverton WMA flushed white rump noted
✓	2	4-19-81	Willow Slough flushed white rump noted
✓	1	5-13-81	Sweet Marsh also flushed BM
✓ Upland Sandpiper	7	4-26-81	Mark Sand Prairie near Cedar Falls; RH, TS
✓		5-30-81	Several heard at Hayden Prairie, Howard County; BM
✓ Wilson's Phalarope	1	4-26-81	3 miles W. of Waverly in Bremer Co.; RH, TS.
	2	5-13-81	Sweet Marsh; BM
	5	5-14-81	Big Marsh; B.M.
	3	5-30-81	Cardinal Marsh; B.M.
✓ Dowitcher (sp.)	approx 200 to 250	5-13-81	Sweet Marsh. A large flock of Dowitcher seen at North pool at great distance probably close to 200 yards.; BM.
White-rumped Sandpiper	3	4-18-81	Willow Slough was earliest date seen and seen through end of May at various locations.

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✓ Dunlin	40-50±	5-13-81	Largest flock seen during period at Sweet Marsh; B.M.
Gulls and Terns			Several Gulls and Terns seen during period ✓ 1 Franklin's Gull seen 4-18-81 at Riverton WMA otherwise mostly Ring-billed and a few Herring and Bonaparte's
✓ Caspian Tern	1	5-13-81	Sweet Marsh; B.M.
Black Tern	1	5-10-81	Sweet Marsh
	1	5-12-81	Greenbelt Lake Waterloo Greenbelt Seem to be more scarce than usual
✓ Belted Kingfisher			Easy to find and seem to be in good numbers around our area of Iowa in right habitat.
Empidonax Flycatchers			Found by call at Yellow River forest on 5-23-81 were Acadian, Willow, Alder and Least. WAS
Swallows			in good numbers in regular breeding areas.
Tufted Titmouse			are very abundant in Southern and Eastern part of the State.
✓ Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	3-7-81	A late date at Sweet Marsh; B.M.
✓ Winter Wren	1	5-10-81	A late migrant? at Sweet Marsh; T.S.
✓ Bewick's Wren	possibly 2	5-2-81	North boundary of Hickory Hills Park, Iowa City, Johnson County, (see documentation)

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SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
✓ Northern Mockingbird	2	5-3-81	Near Wildcat Den S.P. during I.O.U. Weekend.
Eastern Bluebird			Appeared to be more plentiful during migration than in past few years.
Cedar Waxwing			Large flocks still around at end of May around Waterloo area.
✓ Water Pipit	1	4-26-81	Nashua; the only one I saw or heard this year. spring.
Wood Warblers			No large "waves" encountered during the spring migration. Fairly easy to find most of the species though of which I found (through the end of May) 31 species in Iowa.
✓ Prothonotary Warbler	3	5-17-81	Dudgeon Park, Benton Co.; B.M., T.S., R.H.; WAS.
✓ Worm-eating Warbler	1	5-3-81	Wildcat Den S.P. <small>Pete Peterson, Mary Lou Peterson, Ross Silcock, Bob Myers, Darwin Keenig, Barb Wilson</small>
✓ Golden-winged Warbler			Numerous from the first to about the middle of May.
✓ Blue-winged Warbler		5-23-81	Very common at Yellow River Forest
✓ Cerulean Warbler		5-23-81	Very common at Yellow River Forest
✓ Louisiana Waterthrush	1	5-16-81	Nine Eagles S.P. Decatur Co.
✓ Kentucky Warbler	1	5-3-81	Wildcat Den S.P. <small>Darwin Keenig, Ross Silcock, Barb Wilson.</small>
✓	1	5-23-81	Yellow River Forest; B.M., R.H.
✓ Connecticut Warbler	1	5-13-81	Sweet Marsh heard at close distance but never got a good look at it; B.M.
✓	1	5-24-81	Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Cedar Falls

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SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
			Very good look at 15 feet.
Mourning Warbler	1	5-17-81	Dudgeon Park; B.M.
✓	2	5-24-81	Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Cedar Falls
✓ Yellow-breasted Chat	1	5-23-81	Yellow River Forest; B.M.
✓ Hooded Warbler	1	5-3-81	Wildcat Den S.P. Seen by me, Darwin Koenig, Barb Wilson and Ross Silcock during I.O.U. Field trip.
✓ Brewer's Blackbird	1	5-10-81	dark-eyed female seen at Sweet Marsh; T.S.
✓ Scarlet Tanager	12+	5-13-81	Peak of about 12 or 14 seen at Sweet Marsh; B.M.
✓ Summer Tanager	2	5-15-81 5-16-81	male and female at Slip Bluff county park in Decatur Co.
✓ Red Crossbill	3		three Red Crossbills have been seen through- out the period and were still coming to Randy Betsworth's feeder in Waterloo the last week in May 2 ♂ + 1 ♀ seen
✓ Henslow's Sparrow	3	5-30-81	Hayden Prairie (see documentation); B.M.
✓ Le Conte's Sparrow			A peak count of 15 or 16 birds at Sweet Marsh on 4-25-81, R.H.; B.M.; T.S., WAS
White-crowned Sparrow			More White-crowned Sparrows were seen this year than usual.
✓ Lark Bunting	1 ♂	5-13-81	about 1 mile East of Sweet Marsh on gravel road. (see documentation) I took some good photographs of the bird and will send them to you when I get the reprints back. Hopefully next week; B.M.

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) 2. Number 1
3. Location Big Marsh near Parkersburg, IA (Butler County)
4. Date: 4-5-81 5. Time Bird Seen: 10:00 a.m. to 10:01 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):
Large sandpiper with extremely ~~long~~ and heavy bill (at its base), compared to other shorebirds. Bird was seen briefly but I am sure of identification because the upper tail coverts were about the same coloration as the rest of the bird, a buffy-brown color not white as in the Hudsonian Godwit. The bill was long and slightly recurved with a heavy looking base. As the bird flew over I noticed a cinnamon color in the underwing linings as it flared slightly to its left. A large shorebird with long slender bill, dark legs and ~~and~~ a buffy-brown rump and upper-tail coverts.
7. Description of voice, if heard: Not heard
8. Description of behavior: flying low from South to North at Big Marsh near Parkersburg, IA.
9. Habitat - general: Marsh
specific: Shallow and mostly drained marsh
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Hudsonian Godwit has white upper-tail coverts and no cinnamon in the under-wing linings.
11. Distance (how measured)? approximately 75 feet 12. Optical equipment: 7x35 B+L Binoculars
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Sunny; Sun at backs as we faced West while watching bird fly over, flying from South to North, excellent light
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Have seen very few Marbled Godwits previous to this sighting and have seen probably no more than 35 or 40 Hudsonian Godwits since 1967 ~~when~~ when I started keeping lists.
15. Other observers: Bob Myers, Jody Hines, Antoinette Camarata, Russell Hays.
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Russell Hays, Bob Myers
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Robbins' Birds of North America; Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds, East. Field guides used to make sure of identification, I already had basic field marks noted and wanted to see illustration of the bird that I knew I had seen.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 days.

Signature: Francis L. Moore Address: 264 Western Avenue

Date: 4/7/81 City, State: Waterloo, IA 50701

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) 2. Number 1 (possibly 2)
 3. Location Just past North boundary of Hickory Hills Park, Iowa City, IA (Johnson County)
 4. Date: 5/2/81 5. Time Bird Seen: 8:30 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):
Dark brown cap with white eye-stripe; brown, ~~black~~ unstreaked back; wings same color as cap and back. Tail seemed long for a wren and the two outer tail feathers looked fringed because of the white spotted edging on them. Belly and breast was a very clean grayish white color. As it sang from a brush pile it also showed the white fringing on its tail feathers by throwing its tail from side to side in quick jerky motions.
 7. Description of voice, if heard: When first heard I thought it was a short winded Song Sparrow with a weak trill on the end, which later turned out to be the Bewick's Wren.
 8. Description of behavior: Wren like; flitting from brush pile to junk pile when pursued too closely and when singing threw head back and sang from open perch.
 9. Habitat - general: Junk yard and brush piles near Graveyard abutted by wooded ravine.
specific: mostly seen in brush piles in ravine or at lip of ravine.
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
House Wren has gray-brown color on breast and belly; Carolina Wren has white eye-stripe but is buffy color on the belly and lacks the white-fringing on the tail; Winter Wren is brown on the breast and belly.
 11. Distance (how measured)? 25 to 50 feet at closest point. 12. Optical equipment: 7x35mm BTL Binoculars
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Bright, Sunny; At one point sun to my left while bird perched on brush pile sun fully on bird as it sang and jumped from perch to perch in brush pile. Many other angles also seen.
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have a lot of experience with House Wren, Marsh Wren and Sedge Wren, and have had numerous encounters with Winter Wren and Carolina Wren (in Virginia)
 15. Other observers: Barb Wilson, Bob Myers, Ross Silcock and many others
 16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Barb Wilson, Bob Myers, Ross Silcock, and many others.
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Robbins' Birds of North America, Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds, East. Just reinforced what I had noted about behavior and coloration.
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 3 days
- Signature: Francis L. Moore Address: 264 Western Avenue
Date: 5/5/81 City, State: Waterloo, IA 50701

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) 2. Number 3 (at least maybe more)
3. Location Hayden Prairie (Howard County) State Preserve
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):
Light colored bill and legs, with "flat looking" head and two dark stripes on each side of its ~~head~~^{crowns} with a lighter colored median stripe. Back and wings have a bright rufous color to them. Tail looks short and reddish colored. Sides and ~~breast~~ breast streaked with dark brown to black. Lower breast and belly clear buffish color. Throat clear buffish color also. This species is so easy to find when present and singing that I don't quite understand why a documentation during its breeding season is needed. Easily distinguishable because of its coloration also. This species seems to be very selective of its habitat and are very easy to find at Hayden Prairie, which is probably the only reliable place in Iowa to find them.
7. Description of voice, if heard: Short and unmusical 2 syllable note "tse-slick" type of call
8. Description of behavior: Sang from low perch and flew unsteadily and wobbly to a new perch in short weeds or trees at approach. Very shy acting, hard to approach very closely.
9. Habitat - general: low lying, wet, prairie.
specific: along side of slope facing South east wet ~~type~~ type of prairie with scattered shrubs, trees and weeds.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Grasshopper sparrow does not have streaked breast and olive-green on the hind neck. Olive-green hind neck also is good field mark as compared to LeConte's and Sharp-tailed which do not have this coloration on their necks and they also have orange on face, this species does not.
11. Distance (how measured)? 40-50 feet at closest point 12. Optical equipment: 7x35 mm B+L Binoculars
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Sun at my back, as I watched bird, facing West and North West. Sun bright and fully on bird as I watched him sing and fly.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have seen this species the past three years at Hayden Prairie and once at Big Marsh. Have also seen many Grasshopper, LeConte's and Sharp-tailed (in Virginia) Sparrows and know them quite well.
15. Other observers: Bob Myers
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Bob Myers
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
No field guide or book needed since I know this species and its song quite well from previous experience with this species.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 8 Hours
- Signature: Lanard L Moore Address: 264 Western Avenue
- Date: 5/30/81 City, State: Waterloo, IA 50701