

12/3/80

Rt 1 Box 41

Hastings, Ia 51540

Nov 24, 1980

WILSON

Thomas Kent
Field Reports Editor
211 Richards St.
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is my fall report. It's been an exciting season in terms of late Dickcissels, ~~but no~~ and so forth, but no real ^{rarities} rarities. I hope ~~some one~~ ^{some one} reports the Snowy Owl + Prairie Falcon from De Soto Bend. Also, the Omaha binders report many winter finches all ready.

Good weather + hunters have kept water birds away from Willow Slough.

In migration seasons I get ~~am~~ excited by when things come + leave. I've tried to be ~~careful~~ selective in reporting to you, but probably wasn't selective enough.

The only documentation is for a Bay-breasted Warbler. If you want descriptions of other birds, say so; there are descriptions of several late ones in my notes.

Corrections of Spring IBL: the alder Flycatcher were at ~~the farm~~ Not Willow-Slough (only a 3 mile difference).

Somebody probably saw a Le Conte's Sparrow at Willow Slough 15 May, but it wasn't me.

A couple reports from Willow Slough, ^{last fall} were sent on to American birds and listed as Willow Slough INDIANA. Apparently there is such a place, but the regional editor should be reminded that Iowa is a different place.

Thank you!

Oh, yes. Can a young Savannah Sparrow have a yellow face + a narrow band of streaks across the breast? I saw ~~one~~ odd sparrow. Thanks.

— Barb Wilson.

Sorry about sending the Tuffed Duck report. The more I learn about that observer the more I realize there probably wasn't one.

WILSON

 CONTRIBUTOR: Barbara L Wilson

 OTHER OBSERVERS: Dan Cain

 SEASON: Fall

 YEAR: 1980

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

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Dry all fall, + mild except for snow in late October. Therefore the geese + ducks were late.			
✓ Horned Grebe	1	October Sept 9, 10	Willow Slough (= WS hereafter)
✓ Eared Grebe	1	Sept. 7	" "
Pied-billed Grebe		August	2 active nests - WS
✓ "	212	Sept 9	high count at WS, migration
✓ "		Between Nov. 10-17	last dates at W.S. Ice formed on the Slough + the ones that couldn't leave died.
✓ White Pelican	89	Sept. 1	Willow Slough
✓ "	240	Sept. 16, 17	(Sept. 17 we flushed the whole damn flock off the slough while night-lighting grebes - by permit)
✓ "	10	Sept 30	The big flock was eating bullheads - some keepers for fishermen. They had trouble with the spines.
✓ "	17	Oct 15	"
✓ Double-crested Cormorant	2	Sept. 1	"
"	3	Sept 3	"
"	2	Sept 9	"
✓ "	51	Sept 16	"
"	2	Sept 17	"
"	2	Sept 30	"
✓ "	1	Oct 4	"
Green Heron	1	Sept 1	"
✓ Great Egret	2	Sept 17	"
✓ Black-crowned Night Heron		Sept 1 - Sept 17	Willow Slough
Snow Goose			willow Slough. The cripple present all summer was eaten by a predator the night before the goose season opened, according to Dan Cain, local game warden.
"	12	Sept. 30	willow Slough - migration starts
Canvasback	3	Nov. 6	W.S.
Rough-legged Hawk	1	Nov 23	Wilson Farm, NE Mills County - first

CONTRIBUTOR: Barb Wilson **WILSON**

OTHER OBSERVERS: Dan Cain, game warden of Mills + Montgomery County.

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Bob White			Highest ever but though a smaller increase than elsewhere because of initially good population - from Dan Cain
R-n Pheasant			high population - Dan Cain. see Rybarczyk, WB, et al. 1980, "Upland Wildlife Seasons + Reasons", Iowa Conservationist, November issue, page 4-5. (# of game birds)
Killdeer		Nov 18	last. farm Wilson farm, NE Mills County
Black-bellied Plover	1	Oct 31	Came in repeatedly to hunter's duck W.S. & decoys, + was repeatedly disappointed when it tried to land on the water.
Common Snipe	2	Nov 17	Willow Slough
"	10	Nov 20	"
Northern Phalarope	2	Aug 16	"
"	4	Aug 17	" we bumped one with the boat while nightlighting grebes. Tiny thing! (+ unhurt)
Black Tern		→ Sept 7	" last date
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		→ Sept 30	farm, NE Mills County last date
Black-billed Cuckoo			
Red-shafted Flicker	1	Oct 28	Wilson farm, NE Mills County
"	1	Nov 3	Wilson Island Park (near Desoto Bend)
"	1	Nov 6	Willow Slough
Western Kingbird			In 4 summers of looking at for shrikes on telephone wires, I have never seen a Western Kingbird in this (eastern) half of the county. This August, FIVE. Dr. Sharpe says they should be here, but I've never seen them.
"	1	Aug 21	Wilson farm, NE Mills County
"	1	Aug 24	NE Mills County 5 Central Polk + Boone County
"	1	Aug 25	Ben Wilson farm, NE Mills County
"	2	Aug 26	NE Mills County
Olive-sided Flycatcher		Aug 13 - Sept 8	Total 6 birds Wilson farm, NE Mills County
Brown Creeper	1	Oct 6	was at Wilson farm, NE Mills County
"	1	Nov 23	"

No good Sandpiper habitat at all.

Band Fall
Dive site
rep. Desoto Bend
Hill

unusually high number large number

Omaha ornithology prof.

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OTHER OBSERVERS: _____

 SEASON: Fall
Tanya Bray

 YEAR: 1980

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SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
H. Sedge Wren		Aug 1-5	Perhaps longer too Willow Slough + NE Mills County, Singing
E. Bluebirds	mid	October	^{a few} Flocks of 8-12, NE Mills County
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Oct 14	Wilson farm, NE Mills County
"	1	Nov 6	"
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		Sept 13 - Oct 15, Nov. 1.	" Numerous.
Orange-crowned Warbler		Sept 23 - Oct 14	Wilson farm, NE Mills County
Nashville warbler		Sept. 8 - 30	"
Yellow-rumped Warbler		Sept 23 - Oct 31	"
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	Sept 23	"
Blackburnian Warbler	1	Sept. 8	"
Canada Warbler	1	Aug 27	"
Rusty Blackbird		Oct 28 - Nov. 12	Nov. 24 Unusually numerous on the farm. Over 50% of Blackbirds. Flocks of a few hundred at times
✓ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	Sept 23	Wilson farm, NE Mills County last date
Purple Finch		Oct 10 - Nov 3	Nearly abundant in in Omaha. " More sightings than usual.
✓ Blue Blue Grosbeak	2	Sept 2	Willow Slough
Am. Goldfinch			more numerous than last year for sure
Dickcissel Grasshopper Sparrow		→ Aug 12	Wilson farm, NE Mills County
"	1	Oct 4	"
✓ "	1	Oct 14	"
Grasshopper Sparrow		→ Aug 13	"
✓ "	1	Nov. 5	Willow Slough
✓ Le Conte's Sparrow	1	Oct 15	Wilson farm, NE Mills County. Found by Tanya Bray Seen by Babs
✓ Junco		Sept 30	" arrived Padelford + Sandy Kovanda
Tree Sparrow		Oct 28	" "
Chipping Sparrow		Oct 15	" last Date.

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Harris Sparrow		Oct 6	Wilson farm, NE Mills County ^{arrived}
Am Fox Sparrow		Oct 8 + Nov 3	" at least 7 birds. Unusually high number
Lincoln's Sparrow		Sept 23 - Nov 1	"
Field Sparrow	1	Oct 28	" last date

badly out of order:

Red-headed Woodpecker.

All but 2-3 (adults) left the farm. A good acorn crop is holding the population in Fontelle Forest, Omaha, however

Sharp-shinned Hawk

1 Oct 28

Hunting sparrows. This immature is barely larger than a Robin. Wilson farm, NE Mills Co.

✓ Bell's Vireo

Aug 28

Willow Slough. Least song.

Cedar Waxwing

November

Large flocks eating a large juniper berry crop along the bluffs.

Shrike

few, as usual

Least Tern

None, early August, Willow Slough, where usually a migrant or two is seen. Perhaps I missed them; I was there every day but for short periods of time.

The Nov. 3 Red-shafted Flicker looked odd. Wing linings salmon. Crown + nape tan. Face + throat gray except for a tan triangle from base of bill to behind eye, and tan moustaches.

Sparrow migration was as spectacular as a movement of little brown birds could be. Good variety + large numbers.

Birds present in unusually large numbers: W. Kingbird, Rusty Blackbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Fox Sparrow, Purple Finch, Am. Goldfinch, Red-shafted Flicker.

Late: Greese + ducks

Missing: ^{Wilson's Phalarope - none.} Sandpipers. (No habitat). I missed thrushes + saw few warblers, but I spent little time outside when they would be here. I'm surprised there weren't more eared + ~~the~~ Horned Grebes, but then the hunters have discouraged my watching water fowl in fall before. Are they common in fall?

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Red billed Grebe	31	Aug 2	Willow Slough
"	20	Aug 4	"
"	15	Aug 6	"
"	16	Aug 22	"
"	59	Aug 25	"
"	78	Aug 27	"
"	136	Sept 1	"
"	85	Sept 2	"
"	132	Sept 7	"
"	212	Sept 9	" The high number remained for a few days
"	63	Sept 16	"
"	67	Sept 17	"
"	70	Sept 30	"
"	52	Oct 4	"
"	66	Oct 9	"
"	52	Oct 15	"
"	18	Oct 28	"
"	7	Oct 31	"
"	7	Oct Nov 5	"
"	8	Nov 6	"
"	9	Nov 10	"
"	0	Nov 17	" ice on slough. One found ^{dead}

Interesting trivia on grebe migration.