

BRAY

November 29, 1982

Dear Tom,

Just a few notes of explanation.

You may notice a lot of ~~d~~ifferent observers in this report. George Gage is the Refuge Manager at DeSoto Bend, and Dave Menke is an excellent birder on the staff there. Andy Saunders is the Chief Naturalist at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, Omaha. Rick Wright is a fine birder, now at UN-L. Mark Lund and Kelly Clark have been birding for several years, and I believe are careful and accurate. However, as they are not known to me personally, I have only included their sightings when they were also seen by another birder. Mark and Kelly also reported a Northern Phalarope which they flushed and saw the dark rump and tail on October 10 at Lake Manawa. (Oops, make that a Red-necked Phalarope!) The rest of the observers I think you know.

All of the late shorebird sightings were from the new dredge ponds at Lake Manawa. There are four ponds behind high fences and (sometimes) locked gates. So far we have not been thrown out. The rumor is that after the dredging is completed, the dikes will be bulldozed and the ponds covered over. Still, it should be super at least for next spring.

The trip we made to Forneys on August 22 was done by canoe. That probably accounts for the higher numbers of night herons. Forneys is a lot bigger than it looks from the road!

The general feeling among birders here is that this was one of the worst migrations in years. (Without the Ruff, it might have been THE worst!) Almost all numbers of birds were down. I do the Eastern Nebraska report for American Birds, and this fall I had four reports--total of nine birds--of all the brown thrushes! The waterfowl migration was about three weeks late and except for Mallards there were no duck species in numbers.

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Vireos and Warblers also down in numbers, some common species such as Blackpoll and Palm were not seen at all. Savannah sparrows which are usually seen in the hundreds were seen in ones or twos.

On the Plus side, an incredible 23 Com. Loons were seen in one day at Site 11, Omaha. We had two Goshawks in Sarpy County, Ne, in late Oct. We also had four sightings of Connecticut Warbler--all by experienced birders--in Sarpy county in late August. And Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers in Fontenelle Forest on the same day--August 29--rather unusual here. Good numbers of Purple finches arriving in late October but so far no other winter finches.

Don and I and B.J. did see the Ruff--wasn't that great!

Sincerely,

Tanya Bray

P.S. Gull numbers also very low here. We have had no sightings of Bonaparte's Gull yet this fall.

Kelly Clark

CONTRIBUTOR: Tanya Bray

OTHER OBSERVERS: Don Bray, Mark Lund

SEASON: Fall

Loren & Babs Padelford, B.J. Rose

YEAR: 1982

Jim & Sandy Kovanda, Andy Saunders

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

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
✓ Common Loon	8	11-9	DeSoto Bend TB, BP
✓ Pied-billed Grebe	1	11-13	DeSoto Bend, ASO field trip
✓ Horned Grebe "	1	10-31	Lake Manawa ML, KC
✓ " "	1	11-21	Lake Manawa J & SK, m.ob
✓ Eared Grebe	1A Zimm	8-22	Forney's Lake T & DB, L & BP
✓ Am. White Pelican	12	10-14	Lake Manawa TB, BP
✓ " "	150	10-3	Lake Manawa J & SK
✓ Dou-cr Cormorant	1	8-11	Forneys Lake TB, BP
✓ " "	40	10-14	Lake Manawa TB, BP
✓ " "	2	11-13	DeSoto Bend m.ob
✓ American Bittern	3	8-22	Forneys Lake T & DB, L & BP
✓ " "	1	9-10	Forney's Lake TB, BJR
✓ Least Bittern	2-3	8-11 to 8-22	Forney's Lake TB, BP
✓ Great Blue Heron	50	8-11	Forneys Lake TB, BP
✓ " " "	15	8-17	Forneys Lake TB, BP
✓ " " "	35	8-22	Forneys Lake TB, BP
✓ " " "	4	10-14	Lake Manawa TB, BP
✓ " " "	1	10-26	Lake Manawa TB, BP
✓ Great Egret	1-2	8-11 to 8-22	Forneys Lake TB, BP
✓ " "	9	10-3	Lake Manawa S & JK, ML
✓ " "	1	10-25	Forneys Lake AS
✓ Snowy Egret	1	8-13	DeSoto Bend DM
✓ Little Blue Heron	1	8-11	Forneys Lake TB, BP
✓ " " "	2	8-22	Forneys Lake T & DB, B & LP

CONTRIBUTOR: Tanya Bray

Andy Saunders

SEASON: FallOTHER OBSERVERS: Rick WrightYEAR: 1982Loren & Babs Padelford, B.J. RoseJim & Sandy Kovanda, Don Bray

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

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
✓ Cattle Egret	1	8-17	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ " "	9	8-22	Forneys Lake T & DB, L & BP
✓ " "	4	9-10	Forneys Lake TB, BJR
✓ " "	100+	9-27	near Pacific Junction, AS (Mills County)
✓ " "	2	10-25	Forneys Lake AS
✓ Green-backed Heron	10	8-11	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ " " "	3-4	8/17-22	Forneys Lake T & DB, B & BP
✓ " " "	1	10-14	Missouri River, C.B., Ia. TB,BP
✓ Black-cr Night Heron	3A 5imm	8-11	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ " " " "	1 A 1 imm	8-17	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ " " " "	14 A 7im	8-22	Forneys Lake TB,BP, DB,LP
✓ " " "	1im	9-10	Forneys Lake BJR, TB
✓ Yellow-cr N.Heron	1 im	8-6	Lewis & Clark S.P. TB (MONONA COUNTY)
✓ " " "	1 A	8-11	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ " " "	10 im	8-17	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ " " "	7 im	8-22	Forneys Lake T & DB L & BP
✓ " " "	1 im	9-10	Forneys Lake TB, BJR
✓ Tundra Swam	1	11-14	DeSoto Bend RW
✓ Snow Geese	150, 000	11-13	DeSoto Bend m.ob
Waterfowl			The only notable facet of the
			Waterfowl migration was the lack of any numbers and the late
			arrival of most ducks. Nothing unusual.
✓ Hooded Merganser	1F	Nov 9	DeSoto Bend TB, BP
✓ " "	2M 2F	11-18-- 11-26	IPL Settling Ponds TB,BP m.ob
✓ Osprey	1	10-3	Lake Manawa J & SK

Kelly Clark
Don Bray

CONTRIBUTOR: Tanya Bray

OTHER OBSERVERS: George Gage

SEASON: Fall

Loren & Babs Padelford, B.J. Rose

YEAR: 1982

Jim & Sandy Kovanda, Mark Lund

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

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
✓ Bald Eagle	2 im	11-9	DeSoto Bend TB,BP
✓ " "	3A 7im	11-13	DeSoto Bend m.ob
✓ " " "	1 A	11-21	Lake Manawa J & SK
✓ Merlin	1	10-25	Forneys Lake AS
✓ " "	2	1st wk Nov	DeSoto Bend GG
✓ Sora	1	8-11-- 8-22	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ " "	1	9-10	IPL Settling Ponds TB,BJR
✓ Black-bel Plover	1	8-15	IPL SETTTLING PONDS, (Flushed) J & SK
✓ Semi. Plover	1	10-14 10-17	Lake Manawa TB,BP,ML, KC
✓ American Avocet	10	10-3	Lake Manawa J & SK
✓ " "	6	10-10	Lake Manawa ML
✓ " "	7	10-14	Lake Manawa TB,BP
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	8-7	Lewis & Clark S.P. TB
" "	2-4	8-11-- 8-22	Forneys Lake TB,BP
" "	3	9-10	Ross Silcock's TB,BJR
Solitary Sandpiper	2	8-17	Forneys Lake TB,BP
" "	1	8-22	Mills County T & DB, L & BP
Spotted Sandpiper	1	8-7	Lewis & Clark S.P. TB
✓ " "	1	8-22	Mills County T & DB, L & BP
Semiplmated Sandp	1	8-17	Forneys Lake TB,BP
" "	1	9-10	Ross Silcocks TB,BJR
✓ " "	1	11-21	Lake Manawa J & SK, m.ob
✓ Western-Sandpiper	30+	9-10	Ross Silcocks TB,BJR
Least Sandpiper	6	8-17	Forneys Lake TB,BP
" "	3	9-10	Ross Silcocks TB,BJR
✓ " "	1	11-23	Lake Manawa TB,BJR,BP

CONTRIBUTOR: Tanya BrayOTHER OBSERVERS: Don BraySEASON: FallLoren & Babs PadelfordYEAR: 1982B.J. Rose, Jim & Sandy KovandaWEATHER/HABITAT: describe any unusual features at bottom of page Mark Lund, Kelly Clar

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Pectoral Sandpiper	10	8-17-- 8-22	Forneys Lake TB,BP,LP,DB
" "	6	9-10	Ross Silcocks TB,BJR
" "	1	10-7	DeSoto Bend TB, BP
" "	1	10-26-- 11-21	Lake Manawa TB,BP, J &SK m.ob
Dunlin	10	10-26	Lake Manawa TB,BP
" "	1-2	11-7-- 11-21	Lake Manawa TB,BP,S &JK, m.ob
Stilt Sandpiper	1	8-7	Lewis & Clark S.P. TB
Buff-br Sandpiper	9	9-10	IPL Settling Ponds TB,BJR
(Completely buff underparts, white wing linings with dark crescent at wrist)			
RUFF	1	9-10	Ross Silcocks T &DB, BJR
(documentation sent to Ross)			
Wilson's Phalarope	3	8-7	Lewis & Clark S.P. TB
Baird's Sandpiper	2	10-27-- 10-31	Lake Manawa ML, KC
" "	5	11-18	Lake Manawa BP. TB
Franklin's Gull	1	8-22	Forneys Lake T &DB, L &BP
" "	3	10-14	Lake Manawa TB,BP
Ring-billed Gull	8	8-22	Forneys Lake T &DB, L &BP
" "	1	8-31	IPL Settling Ponds BP, TB
" "	4	9-10	Forneys Lake TB,BJR
" "	20	10-14	Lake Manawa TB,BP
" "	8	11-13	DeSoto Bend m.ob
" "	200	11-18	Lake Manawa & IPL TB,BP
Herring Gull	1	11-18	Lake Manawa TB,BP
" "	2	11-23	IPL Settling Pond TB,BJR,BP

CONTRIBUTOR: Tanya BrayOTHER OBSERVERS: Don BraySEASON: FallLoren & Babs PadelfordYEAR: 1982

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

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
✓ Common Tern	8	8-11	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ " "	1	8-22	Forneys Lake T &DB, L &BP
(Field marks noted were very dark wing tips, eye line with partial cap, shorter tail, bright red bills, voice clear kee-ar)			
✓ Forster's Tern	1	8-31	IPL Settling Ponds TB,BP
Black Tern	5	8-11	IPL Settling Ponds TB,BP
✓ " "	18	8-22	Forneys Lake T &DB, B &LP
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	8-6	Lewis & Clark S.P. TB
✓ " "	1	8-17	Lake Manawa BP,TB
Yellow-bld Cuckoo	1	8-7	Lewis & Clark S.P. TB
✓ " "	sev.	8-11-- 8-17	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ Barred Owl	1	8-17	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ Olive-sd Flycatcher	1	8-17	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ Alder Flycatcher	1	8-17	Forneys Lake, TB,BP (fee-bee-0 heard)
✓ Least Flycatcher	1	8-11	Forneys Lake TB,BP (Che-bec heard)
✓ Cliff Swallow	500	8-22	Mills County T &DB, L &BP
✓ Sedge Wren	1	8-7	Lewis & Clark S.P. TB
✓ " "	1-2	8-17 8-22	Mills County T &DB, L &BP
✓ Marsh Wren	6	8-7	Lewis & Clark S.P. TB
✓ " "	1	8-11	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ " "	3	8-22	Forneys Lake T &DB, L &BP
✓ Bell's Vireo	1-2	8-11-- 8-22	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ Warbling Vireo	1	8-6	Lewis & Clark S.P. T.B.
✓ " "	1	8-22	Forneys Lake TB,BP
✓ Scarlet Tanager	1	8-11	Forneys Lake TB,BP

ORCHARD ORIOLE NESTS

While camping at Lewis & Clark State Park, Monona County on August 6-8, I observed two Orchard Oriole nests. Both were in the campground.

The first was in a small Green Ash, approx. 10 feet up. Both male and female were feeding young.

The second was in a medium sized Box Elder--approx. 15' up. On August 7, the female was feeding young in the nest and carrying off the fecal sacs. The young were calling--a churring note. On August 8, there were still young in the nest(I believe 2) and a fledging cowbird on a nearby branch. When the female approached with food, the cowbird would begin calling insistently. However, in 9 out of 10 trips that I observed, the female first fed the young in the nest. No male was seen near this nest.

Tanya Bray