

Barbara L. Wilson
 Rt 1 Box 41
 Hastings, Iowa 51540

Iowa

WILSON
 Form = Wilson farm, NE Mills Co. ①

Spring 1983

Species	#	Date	Location
Common Loon	1	Apr. 11	Willow Slough Breeding Plumage
"	1	Apr. 24	Riverton I.O.U. "
"	1	May 7	Lake Manawa ^{Pacific} Tanya "
"	1	May 12	Borrow pit at Bartlett Winter Plumage
"	1	May 19	" "
"	1	May 30	Willow Slough - w/Tanya Bray Breeding Plumage
Pied-billed Grebe	peck-50 ⁺	Apr. 22	"
Horned Grebe	1	Apr. 24	Riverton Iowa
Eared Grebe		Apr. 24	Riverton, Willow Slough ^{was the most seen at one time etc.}
"		May 19	Willow Slough. Last seen.
Western Grebe	2	May 19	Forney's Lake ^{I seem dark phase Sunday Tanya Bray, Ross Sisko,}
Am. White Pelican	66	Apr. 16	Willow Slough First seen
"	900	Apr. 24	Riverton
"	15	"	Willow Slough
"	88	Apr. 27	"
"	10	Apr. 30	"
"	1	May 12	Riverton w/Ross Sisko
"	1	May 19	" "
Double-crested Cormorant	25	Apr. 16	Willow Slough First seen
"	250 ⁺	May 19	Forney's Lake ^{T. Bray, R. Sisko, B. Bartlett, S. Karanda}
Least Bittern	1	May 19	Riverton w/Ross Sisko
"	1	"	IPL Settling Ponds "
Cattle Egret	3	May 19	Pacific Junction
G. White-fronted Goose		March 8	Willow Slough Last seen
Green-winged Teal	few	May 19	Riverton "
D. Pintail	2	May 19	Bartlett *lingers
Am. Wigeon	4	"	Willow Slough last seen
Canvasback	92	Mar. 1	Willow Slough
"	135	Mar. 4	"
"	101	Mar. 14	"
"	82	Mar. 19	"
"	57	Mar. 29	"
"	48	Apr. 7	"
"	12	Apr. 11	"
"	2	Apr. 16	"
" Wigeon	2	May 8	" last seen
Greater Scaup	1	Mar 14	"

seen tall of
 feathers look
 phase or not

identified by lone white wing stripe as it flew away from me.

Barbara L. Wilson
 Rt 1 Box 41
 Hastings, Ia.

Spring, 1983
 Iowa

Farm = Wilson Farm, (2)
 NE Mills Co.

Species	#	date	Location	
C. Goldeneye		Mar 19	Willow Slough.	Last Seen
Hooded Merganser	1♀	May 29	Forney's Lake	
"	4♀	May 30	Willow Slough	
Red-breasted Merganser	17	Apr. 11	"	
"	6	Apr. 16	"	
"	8	Apr. 24	"	
Roddy Duck	several	May 30	"	
Turkey Vulture	1	April 11	"	First Seen
Osprey	1	Apr. 20	Mills County - caught fish in farm pond	
"	1	May 4	farm	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	May 18	"	mobbed by starlings
Cooper's Hawk	1	Apr. 16	"	
Suswainson's Hawk	1A	Apr. 15	Mills County	More Suswainson's Hawks than I've seen before in my life.
"	1A	Apr. 16	"	
"	2A	May 3	"	
"	1A	May 6	"	
"	1A	May 8	farm	
"	5A, 1I	May 12	Fremont County	5 adults fly along bluffs in a group; attacked by a pair of Red-tails
"	1A, 2I	May 19	"	

A = adult
 I = immature

First two adults were perched. Identified by hooded pattern, look dark upper parts. The other adults were flying & were identified primarily by wing shape (long, somewhat narrow) + contrast of dark remiges w/ white under wing coverts.

One of the May 19 immatures was present May 12 also.

Both birds were rather pale-headed ~~adult~~ birds, with smudges at sides of upper breast suggesting future adult pattern, + a contrast of cream ~~under~~ under wing coverts + ~~gray~~ gray remiges. One hunched. Both had typical Suswainson's wing shape.

Red-tailed Hawk		April	farm	nest failed, probably due to predation
Am. Kestrel		Apr. 14-21	S.W. Iowa	very common.
"	eg.	8	Apr. 16	in 14 miles of road, Mills Co.
Large falco sp.	1	May 31	3 miles S. of Thurman, Fremont Co.	
Hunting Rock Doves.				(seen with Bob Howe)
				1 1/2 times the length of a dove.
Gray Partridge	pair		located by Eric Nyren in his pasture, NE Mills County.	I saw them Apr. May 16. ♂♀. Staying there; will probably breed.

Barbara L Wilson
Rt. 1 Box 41
Hastings, Ia. 51540

Spring 1983
Iowa

farm = Wilson farm,
NE Millco.

(3)

Species	#	Date	Location	
4 ✓ Semipalmated Plover		Apr. 24	Riverton	first seen
✓ Piping Plover	2	May 12	DPL Settling Ponds	seen w/ Ross Silcock
✓ "	2	May 19	"	"
✓ "	1	May 24	"	seen by T. Bray
Suggestive of breeding, is it not?				
Willet		Apr. 23	Riverton	D.O.U.
"		Apr. 24	"	
✓ Sanderling	Several	May 19	S.W. Iowa	seen w/ Ross Silcock
✓ Stilt Sandpiper	50	May 12	Lake Manawa Dredge Ponds	"
✓ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	4	May 19	Riverton	"
56 Dowitcher		May 12	Riverton	
Ross identified these from a distance by white belly + under tail coverts. Other Dowitchers present				
✓ Laughing Gull	1	May 7	IPL Settling Ponds	
See documentation				
✓ Bonaparte's Gull	4	Apr. 30	Willow Slough	
✓ Caspian Tern	2	May 19	S.W. Iowa	w/ Ross Silcock
✓ Common Tern	1	"	W. of Pacific Junction	"
det With a flock of Forster's Terns forced down by a sudden squall, rain. Picked out easily by dark primaries. Breeding plumage. Primaries black, contrasting w/ gray mantle.				
✓ Black Tern		May 7	3 Pottawattamie County	first seen.
late → ✓ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	May 27	Mills County	first seen.
Common Nighthawk		May 16	Willow Slough	"
✓ Chuk-will's Willow		at usual locations w/ S.W. Iowa		
Chimney Swift		May 3	farm	first seen
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	none			as usual.
Red-headed Woodpecker	very low	May	farm	

Census Results - May

#	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
average	12.4	9.7	8.0	10.0	11.0	(3.5)
# of censuses	7	3	2	3	3	4
range	6-21	4-17	6-10	7-15	8-14	2-8

there were no red-heads on the farm last winter, apparently due to lack of acorns. they may be slow to return this spring, or may be inconspicuous because cold weather is keeping the insects down. * Strikingly low numbers, though.

Barbara L Wilson
 Rt 1 Box 41
 Hastings, Ia, 51540

Spring, 1983
 Iowa

Form = Wilson form,
 NE Mills Co. (4)

Species	#	date	location			
Flycatchers as a group	slightly low	May	Farm			
Census results - May						
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
average	10.1	13.3	17.5	14.7	20.6	8.8
# of counts	7	3	2	3	3	4
range	1-23	3-25	17-18	5-20	10-30	0-16

This may reflect a reluctance to sing in cold weather, or an actual shortage of birds.

* Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	May 23	Farm	
* E. Pewee		May 12	Rinerton	first seen
Alder Flycatcher	1	May 27	Farm	
"	1	May 29	"	
"		May 30	Willow Slough	
"	1	May 31	SW Mills Co.	

* identified by ^{song} ~~color~~ (Phee-beer) except the May 29 bird. I hit it with the car. I keyed it out to trails, + it had a ~~distinct~~ distinct eye-ring. (It recovered + was released)

* Willow Flycatcher		May 19	Willow Slough	first seen
Least Flycatcher		May 10	Farm	"
"		May 31	Fremont Co.	last seen
E. Phoebe	1	Apr. 4	Farm	first seen
Crested Flycatcher	1	May 7	Pottawatomie Co.	"
W. Kingbird	1	May 28	Fremont Co. - Missouri floodplain	
E. Kingbird		May 5	Farm	first seen
Tree Swallow		Apr. 19	Willow Slough	"
N. Rough-winged Swallow		Apr. 27	"	"
Bank Swallow		Apr. 27	"	"
Cliff Swallow		Apr. 27	"	"
Barn Swallow ← low #s.		Apr. 24	Rinerton	I.O.U.

* Blue Jay Still in flocks of 6 or 8 as late as May 31. Some breeding is going on but these flocks are also common. S.W. Iowa

T. Titmouse Returned to the farm for the summer. Dr. Charles Crandall of Council Bluffs had none at his feeder last winter - first time he's missed them.

Brown Creeper	1	Apr. 21	Farm	last seen
House Wren		Apr. 29	"	first seen
Sage Wren	1	May 4	Farm	"
	3	May 19	S.W. Iowa	last seen

see page
 Sept 1
 sheet

Barbara L Wilson
Rt 1 Box 41
Hootings, Ia 51540

Spring, 1983
Iowa

Farm = Wilson Farm, (5)
NE Mills Co.

Species	#	date	location
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Apr. 13	Farm
"		Apr. 14	"
"	1	Apr. 16	"
"	1	Apr. 18	E. Mills Co.
"	4	Apr. 19	Farm
"	1	Apr. 21	"
"	1	Apr. 21	"
Ruby-crown Kinglet		Apr. 11	Farm
"	2	May 4	"

Eastern Bluebird numbers down slightly compared to last year, though this year I have 6 more boxes up, to bring the total number to 40. (Last year was an excellent year for Bluebirds)

	# of boxes	nests begun Apr.-May	nests begun, Apr	# of ^{complete} clutches	clutch size
1981	?	6	3	4	5,5,5,5
1982	34	14	9	9	6,6,6,5,5,5,5,5
1983	40	13	6	5	5,5,5,5,2

There are as many nest starts as ~~last~~ last year, but in more boxes. ~~More~~ Fewer nests begun in April, + more nests failed early. None have large (6 egg) first clutches.

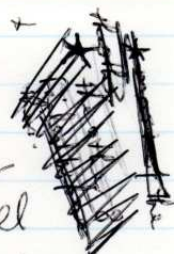
May reflect effects of cold weather. (last year May was wet, but April was good. this year its all been cold). Might be a return to normal after a good year.

Am. Robin the only ² complete clutches I know of one small-3 eggs + 1 egg.

Veery	1	May 12	Waubesaie	^{documentation available on request}
Gray Cheeked Thrush		May 7	Pottawatomie Co.	First seen
"		May 26	Farm	last seen
Swainson's Thrush		May 6	E. Mills County	first seen
"		May 30 27	Farm	last seen
Wood Thrush		May 12	S.W. Iowa	first heard
Blue Gray Gnatcatcher	1	May 2	Farm	first seen
"	1	May 31	SW. Mills Co.	last seen
G. Catbird		May 12	Pottawatomie Co.	first seen
B. Thrasher	3	Apr. 21	Farm	"

Loggerhead Shrike I know of several probable nest sites. the population is at least as good as ever.

Gnatcatcher X



Barbara L Wilson
Rt 1 Box 41
Hastings Ia 51540

Spring 1983
Iowa

farm = Wilson Farming
NE Mills County (6)

Species	#	Date	Location	Notes
White-eyed Vireo	1	May 30	NW Fremont Co.	seen by Bob Howe
X	1	May 31	"	I went + saw it
See documentation				
Yellowthroated Vireo	2	May 12	Waubensie Park	
Red-eyed Vireo	2	May 6	E. Mills County	first seen
Philadelphia Vireo	1	May 12	Fremont Fremont County	
X	1	May 19	"	
"	1	May 27	Farm	
Warbling Vireo		May 7	Pottawatomie County	first seen
Tennessee Warbler		May 7	"	" "
"	common	May 12	S. W. Iowa	
"	very common	May 19	"	
"	2 3	May 31	S. W. Mills Co.	last seen
Orange-crowned Warbler		May 2	Farm	first seen
"	common	May 12	S. W. Iowa	
"		May 19	River town	last seen
Nashville Warbler		May 7	Pottawatomie County	first seen
"		May 19	S. W. Iowa	last seen
Yellow Warbler		May 6	Farm	first seen
Chimney Swift Warbler	#			
Magnolia Warbler		May 12	S. W. Iowa	first seen
"		May 23	Farm	last seen
Yellow-rumped Warbler		April 25	"	first seen
"	common	May 18	willow slough, etc.	
"		May 19	S. W. Iowa	last seen
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	May 12	Mane Mantle Woods	
"	1	May 19	Waubensie Park	
Blackburnian Warbler	1	May 18	Farm	
"	3	May 19	Mantle Woods	
Palm Warbler	1	May 7	Pottawatomie County	
"	1	May 8	Willow Slough	
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	May 19	Waubensie Park	
Blackpoll Warbler		May 7	Pottawatomie County	
" " "		May 23	Farm	
Blackpoll Warbler		May 7	Pottawatomie County	first seen
"		May 26	Farm	last seen
Am. Redstart		May 12	S. W. Iowa	first seen
W. Waterthrush				
W. Waterthrush			territorial at Waubensie	May 12, 19, as usual.

Barbara L Wilson
Rt. 1 Box 41
Hastings, Ia. 51540

Spring, 1983
Iowa

Form = Wilson form. (1)
NE Mills Co. (7)

Species	#	#	Date	Location	
✓ Connecticut Warbler		1	May 26	farm	
see documentation					
Mourning Warbler		1♂	May 19	Manti Wood	first seen
✓ "		1♂	May 31	S.W. Mills Co., Singing	last seen
C. Yellowthroat			Apr. 30	farm	first seen
Wilson's Warbler					
✓ Canada Warbler		1	May 18	farm	
✓ Summer Tanager		1♂	May 19	Waubonsie	
Scarlet Tanager		1♂	May 12	Waubonsie	
Scarlet Tanager "		1♂	May 31	S.W. Mills Co.	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			May 8	farm	first seen
Blue Grosbeak		1♂	May 19	Fremont Co.	
"		3♀	May 31	SW Mills Co.	
Indigo Bunting			May 7	Pottawatomie Co.	first seen
Dickcissel			May 4	farm	"
Rufous-sided Towhee			May 8	"	"
Am. Tree Sparrow			Apr. 24	Fremont Co.	last seen
Chipping Sparrow			Apr. 28	farm	first seen
Clay-colored Sparrow		1	Apr. 28	farm	"
✓ "		1	May 19	Riverton	last seen
Field Sparrow			Apr. 21	farm	first seen
Vesper Sparrow			May 4	"	"
Lark Sparrows			May 5	"	"
Savannah Sparrow			Apr. 28	farm	"
"			May 19	Riverton	last seen
Grasshopper Sparrow			May 4	farm	first seen
Lincoln's Sparrow			Apr. 27	farm	" "
" "			May 16	"	last seen
White-throated Sparrow			Apr. 28	"	first seen
"			May 21	"	last seen
Harris Sparrow			May 19	Fremont Co.	" "
Dark-eyed Junco			Apr. 24	" " farm	" "
✓ Smith's Longspur		± 25	Mar. 20	NW Montgomery Co.	seen w/ Russ S. Kock
Bobolink			May 6	farm	first seen
Rusty Blackbird			April 23	Fremont Co.	last seen
Orchard Oriole			May 7	Pottawatomie Co.	first seen
Northern Oriole			May 5	Mills Co.	" "
Purple Finch		2	Apr. 9-11	farm	

Barbara L Wilson
Rt. 1 Box 41
Hasting, Ia. 51540

Spring, 1983
Iowa

farm = Wilson farm,
NE Mills Co.

(8)

Born Swallow numbers are low on farm this year

Census results, May

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
average	31.8	22.3	27.5	24.0	15.7	14.7
# of counts	7	3	2	3	3	4
range	8-64	13-31	27-28	8-46	11-19	11-16

Last year, I thought the usual # of swallows was present, but the cold weather kept them quiet during my early morning censuses. They may actually be low this year, though it's impossible to distinguish between low #'s & low activity in normal #'s in simple transect censuses

~~March~~

June 1, 1983

Dear Mr. Kent,

If spring began in February, February weather extended into mid-April. I don't know if people appreciated the weather for the S.O.V. meeting, but it had just turned nice, + many birds arrived that weekend, while some winter visitors (eg. Tree Sparrow, Junco) left. Late April + May have been cold + wet. Mainly cold. Actually, this resulted in some fine birding. In mid-May we had awful weather while it was good south of us, so the birds came up here + stopped. If one could ~~see~~ bird without freezing, one saw good birds. Ross + I saw an unprecedented ~~to~~ 18 species of Warblers on May 19.

The cold weather has had detrimental effects on some birds. Counts of species requiring flying insects (Red-headed Woodpecker, flycatchers, Swallows) are all down. (My census technique can not distinguish between birds that aren't here + birds that are here, but are hidden away out of the wind + saying nothing.) Two early migrants (Robin, Bluebird) seem to be nesting unsuccessfully or laying small clutches, though more data is needed. With Bluebirds, it may be simply a case of returning to normal after the great breeding success last year. Yellow-billed Cuckoos did not return until late. (Omaha birders noticed this too.)

Note a southward range extension for Gray Partridge.

~~For two unusual species~~ I document sightings of Laughing Gull + Connecticut Warbler. In both cases, I'm sure the birds looked like these species but I'd like to know more about the limits of variation of Franklin's Gull + Mourning Warbler.

It's been an interesting season, + I hope you'll forgive the fact that ~~the~~ my enthusiasm has led to another long report. It's in new checklist order. ~~Is that OK?~~

Burb Wilson

Barbara & Wilson
RT 1 Box 41
Hastings, Ia 51540

Spring 1983
Iowa

Other Observers

Ross Silcock, Malvern, Ia
Tanya Bray, Omatia, NE
Babs + Loren Padelford, Bellevue, NE
Eric Nyren, Henderson, Iowa
Charles Crandall, Council Bluffs, Ia.
Bob Howe, Des Moines, Ia.

Big Day

On May 19, 1983, Ross Silcock + I crisscrossed Southwest Iowa + found 148 species of bird! Ross is still frustrated by the close approach to 150, but I think it was great! We saw lots of good birds.

Note on Censuses

Usually - almost always - census results show no change. I mean, ~~if~~ if the 1983 data for may average 9.2 Yellow throats, then there have been 7.9 to 12.0 ~~in~~ past years. A few results are really different, + are ~~also~~ included here. What I'm trying to say is that ~~the~~ census results that look different are different, even if understanding why is a problem.