

✓ DINSMORE

Field Reports, Summer season Jim Dinsmore

Rept Annual 2nd
Ames 5/20/11

General--The heavy spring rains that continued on into June left marshes in NW and NC Iowa brim full and created good breeding conditions for many of the marsh species although some nests probably were flooded out.

Below are all observations of my own. Those reported to me by others are on separate page.

- ✓ Double-crested Cormorant 3 at Big Wall Lake, 6 June
- ✓ American Bittern several seen in Ruthven area on 4-6 June
- ✓ Cattle Egret 3 at Barringers Slough on 4 June (with Mike Brown MB)
- ✓ Black-crowned Night-Heron 10+ seen at Barringers Sl on 4 June and a number were watched building nests at Jemerson Sl on 5 June
- ✓ Canada Goose numerous broods seen in Ruthven area on 4-6 June
- ✓ Green-winged Teal a male at Spring Run A on 5 June and another at Waipiti Marsh (s of Ruthven) on 6 June (plus several others by M Brown on the attached page) are more than I usually find in a summer
- ✓ Northern Shoveler one pair at Spring Run on 5 June and 2 males at Waipiti Marsh on 6 June
- ✓ Gadwall a pair north of Deweys Pasture 4 June and another pair at Waipiti M on 6 June
- Redhead and Ruddy Duck both seemed to be quite common in Ruthven area
- ✓ Gray Partridge I saw birds in Clay, Palo Alto and Pocahontas counties on 4 and 5 June
- ✓ Ring-billed Gull 35 seen 2 miles E of Arnolds Park on 5 June
- ✓ Franklin's Gull 5 at Trumbull L on 5 June and 5 s of Ruthven on 6 June
- ✓ Forster's Tern 33+ seen at Jemerson Sl on 5 June (they nested there, see notes on attached page) also 2 at Big Wall Lake on 6 June
- ✓ Black Tern 5 nests at Spring Run A on 5 June
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo general impression is that although they arrived late this year, they are quite common in -central Iowa (hear them often and also seem them fly across road)
- ✓ Willow Flycatcher several seen and heard in Ruthven area on 4-6 June
- ✓ Loggerhead Shrike one seen 4 miles W of Ames on 15 July, one of few I have seen in central Iowa in midsummer (Bruce Ehrsman, ICC tells me he later saw a family group in the same place I saw the bird)
- ✓ Northern Parula 1 calling at Ledges S.P. 4 July (with JPS and SD)
- Yellow Warbler common nester at Trumbull Lake as it has been in past years
- ✓ Yellow-throated Warbler 2 males heard at Ledges S.P. on 4 July (with JPS and SD)
- ✓ Cerulean Warbler several heard at Ledges S. P. on 4 July (with JPS and SD)
- Yellow-headed Blackbird common nesting bird on marshes throughout NW and NC Iowa, birds seemed to be places where I had not seen them before with the good marsh conditions

Bird records reported to Dinsmore from other people. Most are from Mike Brown (MB) a student of mine working on marsh birds. The others are noted with their full names after the species listed

Cattle Egret ✓ at Larsons Marsh on 3 June (Kevin Johnson)
✓ 10 West of Glenwood and 9 west of Forney L in mid-June (Carl Priebe, ICC)
✓ several seen in Onawa area in July (Jon Judson)

I heard several other vague reports of this species this summer and the bird must have been fairly regular this year

Great Blue Heron ✓ colony at West Swan Lake, Emmet Co, have 15 nests, 10 of which had 23 young in early July fide Ron Howing, ICC
✓ another colony (actually two small ones) south of Volga in Clayton Co had 15 and 10 nests on 14 June (fide Rachelle Ridenour)
✓ also was supposed to be colony of about 6 nests near Brighton in Washington Co on 8 June (fide Bob Dolan, ICC)

✓ Canada Goose adults with brood of 4 at Anderson L, Hamilton Co is south of the usual NC nesting range of this species (MB) (on 10 June)

✓ Green-winged Teal a pair at Deweys Pasture on 4 June adds to the records I reported (MB)

✓ Canvasback one pair at Anderson L on 10 June (MB)

✓ Ring-necked Duck a pair on Deweys Pasture 4 June and 1 bird at Anderson L on 29 June both by MB

✓ Hooded Merganser one at Deweys Pasture on 4 June MB

Virginia Rail were widely found in marshes through NC and NW Iowa MB

✓ Spotted Sandpiper nest with 4 eggs found at Union Sl NWR in mid June James Hansen, Erv Klaas one of few nesting records I know of for recent years

✓ Black Tern nests were found at Spring Run and State Line Marsh (Kossuth Co) and young were seen at Deweys Pasture MB

✓ Forsters TERN NESTS seen at Jemmerson Marsh in late June MB

✓ Short-eared Owl one seen at Deweys Pasture on 22 May and 4 June and another at Anderson L on 10 June both by MB

Swamp Sparrow found widely on most marshes through NC and NW Iowa MB

Black-crowned Night-Heron nests and young seen in Jemmerson Sl in late June MB some nests still active in late July although some mortality of young unexplained but perhaps due to extreme heat (fide Myra Niemeier, teaching at Lakeside Lab this summer)

Sorry