

FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1984

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WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS (by Jim Sandrock)

Spring 1985 stood in sharp contrast to the same period of the three preceding years. March, April, and May were all notably warmer and more moderate in most areas of the state. March and April were the warmest since 1977, with high temperature recorded both months. The unusual warmth accelerated early spring flowering, and the vegetation developed well ahead of normal.

Not unusually, March had some low temperatures (4 F at Elkader and 5 F at Cresco on the 6th) and high readings (82 F at Burlington and Keokuk). Precipitation, too, showed a wide range, but was especially heavy in the southeast (where Fort Madison recorded the greatest precipitation since 1852 with 6.14 inches during the month). Most of the March snow fell at the end of the month, with 10 inches at Carroll and Sioux City on the 31st. The monthly average snowfall ranged from a trace in the southeast to 10.3 inches in the northwest. In general, however, March 1985 produced less snow and glazing than Iowans have come to expect.

April was the 7th warmest in 113 years of record keeping. Pocahontas, Titonka, Britt, Norwood, Sioux Center, and Cherokee all recorded temperatures of 92 and 93 F during the latter days of the month. While the beginning of April recorded some temperatures in the low teens and some snow cover at that time, the general warm pattern dominated the period.

The overall warm trend continued into May, with temperatures averaging above normal in almost all areas of the state. Precipitation varied greatly, with some areas of the state (southeast, for example) reported as quite dry, while other sectors recorded average or above average moisture.

GENERAL TRENDS

The warm weather was associated with early migration of many species, including record early dates for at least 16 species. There were many more second and third early dates, especially on the weekend of April 27-28 when many passerines were first noted. Waterfowl and gulls moved through the state early and rapidly, so few large concentrations were observed. In many areas of the state, especially eastern Iowa, water levels were low and this was associated with decreased numbers of marsh birds such as bitterns, rails, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Shorebirding, however, was above average with a prolonged migration period. The raptor migration was not concentrated except for a sharp peak in Broad-winged Hawks in late April. Very few accipiters were reported, but falcons numbers were similar to the last few years. Many passerines arrived early, setting record early dates, but, with a few isolated exceptions, the usual "warbler waves" were not evident. Several contributors complained that this was the worst spring migration they had experienced.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

This spring was anticlimactic after 1984, yet there were some good finds. Undoubtedly the most outstanding was the Curlew Sandpiper that stopped briefly at Nashua to be seen and photographed by one observer; the army that arrived the next day was disappointed. Other documented accidentals included Eurasian Wigeon, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Smith's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs. A report of an extirpated species, Trumpeter Swan, will provoke further discussion of when this species should be returned to the active list. Reports, both secondhand, of two accidental species could not be included in this report because no supporting evidence was provided. Casual species reported included Red-necked Grebe, Snowy Egret, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Yellow Rail, King Rail, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Bohemian Waxwing, Lark

Bunting, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented)

In these accounts, "record earliest (or latest)" is used in reference to the dates published in *Iowa Birds* or occurrences since 1982; "early (or late)" means earlier (or later) than the third earliest (or latest) date in *Iowa Birds*; and "first (or last)" is relative to the current year--not a record date.

COMMON LOON: Early: 1 on 27 Mar at Little Wall L. (SD), 3 on 30 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 1 on 2 Apr at L. Ahquabi (JSi); peak: 6 on 8 Apr at Little Wall L. (BPr, MPr, AC); last: singles on 16 May at Dewey's Pasture and Little Wall L. (JR). Fewer were seen than usual and none were reported from eastern Iowa.

PIED-BILLED GREBE: First: 1 on 8 Mar at Willow Sl. (BLW); peak: 23 on 7 Apr at Willow Sl. (BLW).

HORNED GREBE: Early: 2 on 16 Mar at Storm L. (DBi), 1 on 19 Mar at Little Wall L. (SD); peak: 5 on 30 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC); last: 1 on 2 May in Warren Co. (JSi).

RED-NECKED GREBE: 1 was described at Princeton A., Scott Co., on 10 Apr (Gil Sandvich fide PCP).

EARED GREBE: First: 2 on 3 Apr at Anderson L. (JAH); peak: 12 on 27 Apr at Willow Sl. (RCe, FLM); last: 2 on 31 May at IPL Ponds (BLW). There were more reports than for Horned Grebe, but all were from the western half of the state.

WESTERN GREBE: 2 at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 17 May (MMB) were the only ones reported.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Early: 8 on 24 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 49 on 27 Mar in Fremont Co. (RLC), 200 on 30 Mar at Riverton A. (RCe, FLM); peaks: 385 and 550 on 14 Apr in Guthrie (SD) and Mills (BLW) counties; last: 110 on 27 May in Dickinson Co. (SD). In eastern Iowa, singles were at Otter Creek M. on 9 Apr (CT) and Cone M. on 14 Apr (GDW).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: Eastern Iowa numbers may have been down slightly. In western Iowa, 102 were in Guthrie Co. on 4 May (SD) and 350 were in Fremont Co. on 6 May (TB).

AMERICAN BITTERN: Singles were reported from 10 counties and 3 birds from another.

LEAST BITTERN: Reported from Dickinson, Kossuth, Bremer, Greene, and Story counties; 8 were at Jemmerston Sl. on 16 May (JR).

GREAT BLUE HERON: 108 were at Coralville Res. on 23 May (THK); 11 nests were found at Cardinal M. on 25 May (RPB,CAB).

GREAT EGRET: Early: 1 on 27 Mar at Anderson L. (SD), 3 on 28 Mar in Dallas Co. (CT); peak: 11 on 21 Apr in Polk Co. (SD). Reported from 7 other locations.

SNOWY EGRET: A record early bird was at Hendrickson M. on 27-28 Mar (*HZ, *SD); another was at Red Rock Res. on 21 Apr (*SD).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: 2 at Otter Creek M. on 13 Apr (BPr, MPr); 1 in Dallas Co. on 17 Apr (RKM); 1 at Burlington on 20 Apr and 5 (2 ad., 3 imm.) at Burlington on 26 May (Fullers).

CATTLE EGRET: 1-3 were reported from 8 locations and 11 were at Swan L., Johnson Co., on 20 Apr (RJH). This is many fewer than the last two years.

GREEN-BACKED HERON: First: 1 at Marshalltown on 23 Apr (MPr).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Early: 1 on 31 Mar at L. Manawa (B.J. Rose fide TB); peak: 16 on 25 Apr in Osceola Co. (MMB); 1-7 at 7 other locations.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Singles were at Burlington on 12 May (Fullers) and in Allamakee Co. on 29 May (SD, JJD).

IBIS: None reported.

TUNDRA SWAN: 1 was early at Cone M. on 3 Mar (THK); others were from widely scattered locations: 3 in Ringgold Co. on 26 Mar (JRL fide JDG), 30 at Saylorville Res. on 7 Apr (SD), 10 at Muskrat Sl. on 9 Apr (JF), and 1 in Guthrie Co. on 14 and 28 Apr (SD, BPr, MPr).

TRUMPETER SWAN: 1 was reported from Clay Co. on 8 Apr (*MMB). Birds from a captive flock in the Minneapolis area are now dispersing in both winter and summer and they are not yet considered wild birds. One of the birds identified by neck band number at Otter Creek M. last December was a 3-year-old female that wintered in Oklahoma and returned to Minnesota via Lincoln, Nebraska, to settle north of St. Cloud, Minnesota, with one other bird (L. N. Gillette letter to THK).

MUTE SWAN: None reported.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: The usual gradient decreasing from west to east was noted with peak count of 550 in Guthrie Co. on 30 Mar. (SD). A few stragglers remained in central Iowa into late April and early May and singles were in Fremont Co. on 26 May (TB) and Mills Co. on 27 May (BLW).

SNOW GOOSE: 3,000 were in Dickinson Co. on 18 Mar (DCH) and 8,575 at Riverton A. on 27 Mar (RLC); 5 lingered at Hendrickson M. on 25 May (PWM).

ROSS' GOOSE: 2 on 9 Mar (TB, BPa) and 1 on 16 Mar (BPr, MPr, SD) at Forney L.; 5 on 27 Mar at Riverton A. (RLC).

CANADA GOOSE: 3,800 at Hendrickson M. on 9 Mar were a large number for that location (PWM); 5 young were there on 25 May (PWM).

WOOD DUCK: 12 small ducklings were at Swan L., Johnson Co., on 13 May (THK).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK: Reported from 4 locations across the state, the farthest west in Woodbury Co. on 30 Mar (BH).

CINNAMON TEAL: None reported.

EURASIAN WIGEON: 3 males and 2 females were reported 7 miles west of Spirit Lake on 1-2 Apr (*LF). Most inland sightings are of single birds. This species has been increasing on the West Coast, but not on the East Coast, the presumed origin of middle-western birds. This species is thought to migrate down the East Coast in fall with some returning through the central flyway and then northeastward via the Great Lakes and a few northwestward toward Manitoba. This report will be sent to the Records Committee.

AMERICAN WIGEON: 400 was a large number at Little Clear L. on 8 Apr (MMB).

CANVASBACK: 2,000 were at the Keokuk Pool on 5 Mar (RCe).

RING-NECKED DUCK: 3 were still at Cardinal M. on 27 May (FLM).

GREATER SCAUP: Many more than usual were reported with 1-15 birds at at least 10 sites, most with diagnostic details. Early: 8 on 2 Mar at Forney L. (TB, BPa), 2 on 3 Mar at Bays Branch (SD, GBr), 2 on 4 Mar at IPL Ponds (TB), 15 on 6 Mar at Willow Sl. (BLW); late: a pair on 6 May at Hendrickson M. (SD); latest record: 3 on 15 May at Forney L. (TB). Another large group was 10 at Little Clear L. on 7 Apr (*JC, *WEJ).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: There was a delayed report of 8 in Washington Co. on 28 Oct 1984 (JPS).

BUFFLEHEAD: First: 1 on 2 Mar at Cone M. (THK).

HOODED MERGANSER: 1-7 were reported from 10 locations during migration. Three broods were seen in Des Moines Co.: 12 on 14 May (RCe) and 9 and 10 on 27 May (Fullers). An adult was in Allamakee Co. on 29 May (SD).

COMMON MERGANSER: Large numbers were seen in western Iowa: 1,000 on 2 Mar at Forney L. (TB) and 400 on 16 Mar in Woodbury Co. (BH).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Female stragglers were seen at 5 sites from 11 to 28 May with the last at Union Slough NWR on 28 May (SD).

RUDDY DUCK: The peak was 500 at Little Clear L. on 4 Apr (MMB).

TURKEY VULTURE: First: 4 on 5 Apr in Dallas Co. (JAH). Singles in Sioux, Osceola, and Dickinson Co. were uncommon (JV, DCH).

OSPREY: First: 1 on 4 Apr in Johnson Co. (TJS); peak: 5 on 27 Apr in Guthrie Co. (SD); last: 1 on 17 May in Buena Vista Co. (DBi).

BALD EAGLE: 40 were in Fremont Co. on 2 Mar (TB). An immature was quite late on 14 May at Coralville Res. (CJB, THK, TJS). Others were seen in many areas across the state. Nest building was observed on Pool 9 opposite Wexford Creek in Allamakee Co. on 30 Mar, but no birds were present on 8 Apr (FL).

NORTHERN HARRIER: 1-6 were seen in 10 counties from 3 Mar to 26 May.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: Singles were reported from 9 counties, 4 in Mar, 2 in Apr, and 3 in May. This low number occurred in spite of our asking regular reporters to record early, peak, and late dates for this species (see COMMENT).

COOPER'S HAWK: 6 birds were reported from 5 counties, 2 in Mar and 4 in Apr.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: 1 ad. on 2 Mar at Oak Grove P. (JV, GJB); 1 ad. on 10 Mar at Saylorville Res. (*SD); 1 (no detail) on 14 Mar in Warren Co. (JSi).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: 1 in Benton Co. on 12 May (FLM); 1 in Louisa Co. on 28 May (PCP); 2 at different sites in Allamakee Co. on 29 May (SD, JJD).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: The only large flocks were seen on 26-27 May with peak of 300 on 27 May in Story Co. (BPr, MPr, RRS). Late May birds were seen at Ames (EM), Allamakee Co. (FLM, SD), and Howard Co. (8 immatures, FLM).

SWAINSON'S HAWK: Birds returned to a long-occupied nest site in Osceola Co. Other sightings were in Pottawattamie, Dickinson, Greene, Franklin, and Black Hawk counties.

RED-TAILED HAWK: 28 were migrating across western Iowa on 16 Mar (BPr, MPr, SD). A nest was occupied by 16 Mar at Oak Grove P. (JV).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK: 1 was reported from Cherokee Co. on 28 Mar (*MMB). Documented reports of this species will be sent to the Records Committee until some consensus is reached on what constitutes an acceptable identification of this species.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Last: 1 on 21 Apr in Marion Co. (SD).

GOLDEN EAGLE: 1 ad. was at the usual location in Allamakee Co. on 2 Mar (FLM, RKM). Migrants were documented at Coralville Res. on 10 Mar (*RJH), at Ames on 13 Mar (imm., *SD), and in Lee Co. on 6 Apr (imm., *RCe).

MERLIN: 1 at Ames on 1-3 Mar (*PWM, SD, GBr) is a record early date. Others were at Oak Grove P. on 15 Mar (JV), Cedar Co. on 28 Mar (JF), L. Manawa on 4 Apr (TB, BPa), Lyon Co. on 30 Apr (DJH), and Anderson L. on 1 May (SD).

PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 on 8 Apr at Saylorville Res. (*SD, JJD); 1 on 21 Apr at Goose L., Clinton Co. (PCP); 1 on 28 Apr in Fremont Co. (*FLM, WRS, RCe); 1 on 5 May at Forney L. (RW); and 1 on 7 May at Coralville Res. (*CAK), also seen on 12 May (JF).

PRAIRIE FALCON: 1 was reported from O'Brien Co. on 8 Mar (*DBi).

GRAY PARTRIDGE: 2 each were seen in Johnson Co. on 12 Apr (JF) and Cedar Co. on 4 May (THK). This species continues to expand southward.

RUFFED GROUSE: 2 in Clinton Co. on 1 May (WSB) were south of the normal range of this species.

WILD TURKEY: 3 were seen in Sioux Co. on 2 Mar (JV).

NORTHERN BOBWHITE: None were seen in Sioux Co. (JV) or Story Co. (PWM). This species is now scarce even in southern Iowa.

YELLOW RAIL: 2 birds were at Doolittle Prairie on 28 Apr (*PWM, *JJD, *SD).

KING RAIL: 1 was at Doolittle Prairie on 27 Apr (*MPr) and another at Prairie Rail Trail P. in Story Co. on 22 May (*SD).

VIRGINIA RAIL: The only migrants reported were 2 in Story Co. on 27-28 Apr (BPr, et al.) and 1 in Marshall Co. on 21 May (RRS fide BPr). Three were at the usual nesting area, Dewey's Pasture, on 16 May (JR) and 2 were in Dickinson Co. on 27 May (SD).

SORA: Early: singles on 15 Apr in Hamilton (SD) and Marshall (MPr) counties; peak: 8 on 11 May in Story Co. (SD). Nine were in nesting areas in Clay and Dickinson counties on 16 May (JR).

COMMON MOORHEN: 1 at Spirit L. on 7 May (Ted Eischeid fide DCH); 1 at Iowa City on 24 May (*N&BT, JF); 1 at Otter Creek M. on 25 May (JF); 1 in Allamakee Co. on 29 May (SD, JJD).

AMERICAN COOT: 1,350 were at L. Manawa on 28 Mar (B.J. Rose fide BPa).

SANDHILL CRANE: 1 on 2 Mar at IPL Ponds (*BLW) is the earliest record for this species. Two other singles were also seen in March: Coralville Res. on 21 Mar (JF) and Big M. on 29 Mar (*FLM).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Early: 1 on 21 Apr in Clinton Co. (PCP); peak: 16 on

- 23 May at Coralville Res. (THK); late: 1 on 28 May in Kossuth Co. (SD). From 1 to 10 were seen at 7 other locations from 11 to 22 May.
- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** First: 12 on 29 Mar at Big M. (FLM, RKM); peak: 825 on 7 May in Dickinson Co. (DCH); last: 8 on 27 May in Kossuth Co. (SD). The largest numbers were seen from 25 Apr to 20 May.
- PIPING PLOVER:** 3 were early at IPL Ponds on 14 Apr (BH, BLW). A peak of 11 birds and 6 nests were observed on 28 May (BLW). A migrant was at Bays Branch on 8 May (RKM).
- KILLDEER:** 200 was a large number at Riverton A. on 16 Mar (BPr, MPr, SD).
- AMERICAN AVOCET:** 1 at Rathbun Res. on 30 Apr (RLC); 1 at Willow Sl. on 15 May (BLW).
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS:** Record earliest: 2 on 16 Mar at Riverton A. (by call, SD, BPr, MPr); peak: 82 on 14 Apr in Guthrie Co. (SD); late: 2 on 18 May at Big Creek L. (SD).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS:** First: 1 on 23 Mar in Guthrie Co. (SD); peaks: 365 on 27 Apr in Guthrie Co. (SD), 200 on 7 May in Johnson Co. (THK); late: 8 on 28 May in Kossuth Co. (SD).
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER:** Early: 1 on 14 Apr in Louisa Co. (THK); peak: 3 on 13 May in Johnson Co. (THK); late: 1 on 22 May in Story Co. (SD).
- WILLET:** Early: 1 on 14 Apr at Bays Branch (SD, BPr, MPr), 3 on 19 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK, TJS); peak: 40 on 30 Apr at Bays Branch (RKM); last: 6 on 21 May at Willow Sl. (BLW). More than usual were reported with flocks of 11 or more from 7 locations from 26 Apr to 6 May.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** Early: singles on 20 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RCe, FLM) and Hendrickson M. (PWM).
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Reported from 11 counties with peak of 8 in Greene Co. on 4 May (BPr, MPr, SD). Adults with a 2 inch chick were seen at Ames on 28 May (HZ).
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** First: 3 on 27 Apr in Guthrie Co. (SD); peak: 25 on 9 May in Cherokee Co. (MMB); last: 1 on 25 May in Plymouth Co. (SD). Groups of 2 to 10 birds were reported from 11 widely scattered locations across the state without the usual concentration in southwest Iowa.
- MARBLED GODWIT:** Details were provided for 5 at Amana L. on 25 Apr (CJB), 1 at Nashua on 10 May (FLM), and 4 at Forney L. on 16 May (*BLW). Singles were reported from Bays Branch on 27 Apr (SD) and Barringer Sl. on 16 May (JR).
- RUDDY TURNSTONE:** Early: 2 on 12 May at IPL Ponds (BPa, LPa); peak and last: 9 on 28 May at Union Slough NWR (SD, JJD). Others were 1-4 at 6 locations from 14 to 24 May.
- SANDERLING:** First: 2 on 6 May at Hendrickson M. (SD); peak: 14 on 11 May at Bays Branch (SD, GBr, EM); last: 1 on 24 May at Saylorville Res. (SD).
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER:** No details were given for early birds (The record early date is 11 Apr.) at Riverton A. on 16 Mar (SD) and 30 Mar (FLM, RCe). The next date reported was 20 Apr at Hendrickson M. (PWM). Peak number was 425 at Hendrickson M. on 27 May (HZ).
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** Details were given for 1 at Bays Branch on 8 May (RKM) and 3 at Nashua on 10 May (FLM).
- LEAST SANDPIPER:** Yellow legs were noted on 1 at Riverton A. on 16 Mar (SD), a record early date. Other early sightings were 2 at Hendrickson M. on 28 Mar (SD), 3 at Riverton A. on 30 Mar (FLM, RCe), and 2 at Bays Branch on 30 Mar (SD). One was late at Hendrickson M. on 29 May (PWM).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** Early: 1 on 30 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC); peaks and last: 100 on 18 May in Pottawattamie Co. (TB), 140 on 28 May in Kossuth Co. (SD).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** Early: 20 on 30 Mar at IPL Ponds (*BH), 1 on 30 Mar in Guthrie Co. (SD); peak: 50 on 21 Apr in Fremont Co. (TB); last: 1 on 25 May at Hendrickson M. (PWM). There were reports from 3 other locations from Marshall Co. west.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: Early: 1 on 10 Mar at Bays Branch (EuA, EIA, DT), 1 on 13 Mar at Big Creek L. (SD), 14 on 16 Mar at Riverton A. (SD); peaks: 1,300 on 19 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK), 2,500 on 7 May at Coralville Res. (TJS).

DUNLIN: Early: 2 on 13 Apr at Otter Creek M. (BPr, MPr); peaks and last: 100 on 21 May at Otter Creek M. (JF), 150 on 28 May in Kossuth Co. (SD).

CURLEW SANDPIPER: One in alternate plumage was photographed at Nashua on 10 May (*FLM) for the first report of this Eurasian species in Iowa. An extensive search the next day failed to relocate the bird.

STILT SANDPIPER: 1-11 were seen at 9 locations from 5 to 28 May.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: 40 in Osceola Co. on 24 Apr (DCH) were a record early date and the first for Doug Harr in northwest Iowa. No others were reported.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: There were many dowitchers reported with details, usually minimal, given for about half the sightings. On 27 Apr 4 short-bills were identified by call when flushed at Bays Branch (SD). A single short-bill was compared with a single long-bill in the same scope field at Cone M. on 5 May (THK, TJS, CJB). Peak numbers were 35 on 11 May at Nashua (THK, FLM), 18 on 11 May in Dickinson Co. (DJH), and 22 on 19 May in Tama Co. (SD). Three were late in Kossuth Co. on 28 May (SD).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: Early: 1 in basic plumage identified by call on 30 Mar at Bays Branch (SD); another on the same day not identified as to species was in Woodbury Co. (BH). Others without detail, but presumably long-bills by date, were 5 on 14 Apr in Guthrie Co. (SD) and 7 on 24 Apr in Story Co. (PWM). Others identified by the solid dark cinnamon belly were 19 on 5 May at Hendrickson M. (HZ), 8 on 8 May in Wayne Co. (RLC), and 10 on 16 May at Willow Sl. (BLW). Counts of 42 and 50 were reported from Mills and Pottawattamie counties on 6 May (TB).

COMMON SNIPE: Peak: 72 on 13 Apr at Iowa City (TJS).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: First: 3 on 10 Mar at Shimek F. (RCe). One flew into a window in Sioux Co. on 6 Apr (JV). Three females with a total of 8 young were flushed at L. Manawa on 26 Apr (Don DeLong fide BLW).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Small numbers were widely reported with a peak of 14 in Dickinson Co. on 26 May (SD).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: 1 on 16 May at Big Creek L. (SD); 1 on 27 May in Clay Co. (SD, JJD); 1 late on 31 May in Cherokee Co. (DBi).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: Early: 1 on 2 Mar in Pottawattamie Co. (TB). Only a few reporters saw migrating birds. Two lingered in Pottawattamie Co. to 30 May (BLW); 230 in Dickinson Co. on 27 May (SD) are less unusual.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: Early: 3 on 28 Mar at L. Manawa (B.J. Rose fide BPa), 1 on 29 Mar at Coralville Res. (TJS); peak: 50 on 21 Apr in Clinton Co. (PCP); late: 1 on 16 May in Pottawattamie Co. (BLW), 1 on 25 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Small numbers were widely reported throughout April.

RING-BILLED GULL: No one reported large numbers as in the past few years. They may have moved north more rapidly with the warm spring.

HERRING GULL: No concentrations were noted. Two lingered at Keokuk on 20 May (JR) and 1 at IPL Ponds on 24 May (*BLW).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: A bird seen briefly, but well, at IPL Ponds, Pottawattamie Co. on 17 May (*RW) will be the second record of this species for Iowa if accepted by the Records Committee. Could this be the same bird that passed south through Iowa last fall?

CASPIAN TERN: Early: 1 on 26 Apr in Johnson Co. (JF), 1 on 26 Apr in Mills Co. (BLW), 1 on 29 Apr in Woodbury Co. (BH); peak: 79 on 16 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Many other sightings were scattered through May.

COMMON TERN: Early: 1 on 20 Apr at Hendrickson M. (PWM), 6 on 21 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SD); others: 2 on 16 May at Big Creek L. (SD), 5 on 16 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 3 on 16 May at Dewey's Pasture (JR), and 1 on 28 May at IPL Ponds (BLW). All reporters described dark primaries.

FORSTER'S TERN: First: 2 on 14 Apr in Guthrie Co. (SD); peak: 62 on 21 Apr in

Polk Co. (SD).

LEAST TERN: Early: 1 on 16 May at IPL Ponds (BLW); peak: 8 on 30 May at IPL Ponds (getting ready to nest according to BLW). Two other locations for this rare species were Willow Sl. on 24 May (BLW) and New L., Woodbury Co., on 25 May (BH).

BLACK TERN: First: 1 on 6 May in Story Co. (SD); peaks: 60 on 15 May in Pottawattamie Co. (TB), 145 on 16 May in Polk Co. (SD), 200 on 16 May in Clay and Osceola counties (JR).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: Singles were reported from only 6 locations from 9 to 19 May in spite of a request for information on cuckoos. It is difficult to believe that there were not many more present.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: Early: 4 on 8 May in Lee Co. (RCe). Birds were reported from only 5 other locations.

COMMON BARN-OWL: 1 was reported in Osceola Co. on 1 Apr (Dave Kuehl fide DCH).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL: An adult and young bird were photographed in Cass Co. on 24 May (SS).

GREAT HORNED OWL: 1 "subarctic" bird was seen in Cherokee Co. on 2 Mar (DBi).

LONG-EARED OWL: 2 were at Big Creek L. on 13 Mar (SD) and 1 was late at Cone M. on 9 Apr (GDW).

SHORT-EARED OWL: Singles were noted from Polk, Story, Guthrie, and Marshall counties to 9 Apr; 1 was late at Oak Grove P. on 28 Apr (GBr, Dan Rankeing fide JV).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: 1 was at Big Creek L. until 13 Mar (SD); another was in Marshall Co. on 24 Mar (BPr, et al.).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK: Early: 3 on 28 Apr in Lee Co. (RCe), 1 on 1 May in Story Co. (SD); peak: 125 on 20 May at Muscatine (GDW).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: None reported.

WHIP-POOR-WILL: 1 was noted in Sioux Co. on 29 Apr (JV).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: 1 was on a nest at Ledges S.P. on 17 May (JR).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: Birds began to return at Ames on 23 Apr (PWM) and Sioux City on 2 May (BH).

PILEATED WOODPECKER: 1 at Nine Eagles S.P., Decatur Co., on 3 May was unusual (*JRL).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: All reports were within 11 days. First: 1 on 10 May in Mills Co. (BLW); peak: 3 on 19 May in Marshall Co. (BPr, et al.); and last: 1 on 21 May in Johnson Co. (JPS).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE: Arrived very early in SE Iowa. Earliest records: 3 on 4 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPS) and 1 on 5 May at Shimek F., Lee Co. (RCe); yet another on 7 May at Ames (PWM) only tied the previous earliest.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: 1 or 2 reported at five E and C Iowa locations from 12 May at Ames (PWM) to 30 May in Marshall Co. (BPr, MPr). At least 1 was present on every visit to Hickory Hill P., Iowa City from 14 through 20 May (TJS, et al.).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: Three early reports all broke the previous earliest record (8 May) with 5 (!) on 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPS), 3 on 3 May at Shimek F., Lee Co. (*RCe) and 1 at Amana Woods on 3 May (CJB). This species is uncommon away from SE Iowa, so a nest with 2 birds in Cass Co. on 1 Jun (BLW) was quite unusual. A bird was out of range in Dickinson Co. on 12 May (DCH).

ALDER FLYCATCHER: As expected, reported in late May from C and E Iowa with the first on 19 May in Marshall Co. (JF, DK) and a peak of 4 on 27 May in Marshall Co. (BPr, MPr). Additional 27 May reports were of singles in Mills Co. (BLW), and Boone Co. (RKM).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Peaks: 8 on 19 May in Tama Co. and 12 on 28 May in Kossuth Co. (SD).

LEAST FLYCATCHER: Peak: 13 were counted on 17 May in Story Co. (JR).

EMPIDONAX SPECIES: First migrants appeared at Sioux City on 22 Apr (JV), an early date for any empidonax.

EASTERN PHOEBE: Early: 2 on 20 Mar in Mills Co. (BLW); peaks: 9 on 6 Apr in Van Buren (JPS) and 6 on 14 Apr in Lee (RCe) counties.

SAY'S PHOEBE: None reported.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER: First: 1 on 28 Apr in Ames (PWM).

WESTERN KINGBIRD: Two reports from Story Co. of singles on 11 May (EM) and on 19 May (*PWM).

PURPLE MARTIN: First: 2 on 2 Apr in Ames (SD); peak: 55 on 15 May in Lee Co. (RCe).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: Early: 1 on 6 Apr at Big Creek S.P. (SD) and 1 on 11 Apr in Plymouth Co. (BH).

CLIFF SWALLOW: Early: 1 on 18 Apr in Iowa City (TJS); 10 were there by 25 Apr (RJH).

BARN SWALLOW: Earliest record: 1 on 16 Mar at Big M. (FLM).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Late: several on 21 May in Sioux Co. (JV) are the third latest on record.

CAROLINA WREN: 1 was in Iowa City on 4 Apr (THK) and another was regularly found in Hickory Hill Park, Iowa City, from 7 Apr through 22 May (TJS, JF, CT); 1 was in Des Moines on 19 May (EIA, EuA).

BEWICK'S WREN: None reported.

HOUSE WREN: Early: 1 on 15 Apr in Ames (JAH), and 2 on 16 Apr in Keokuk (RCe).

WINTER WREN: Reported between 9 Mar and 9 Apr from seven E and C Iowa locations including a peak of 4 on 9 Apr in Lee Co (RCe); 1 was later and west in Sioux Co. on 20 Apr (JV).

SEDGE WREN: Early: 1 on 26 Apr in Story Co. (SD); by 28 Apr 15 to 20 were present in Story Co. (SD, PWM); 1 more in Jones Co. on 4 May (THK) was still early; peak: 14 at Ventura M. by 12 May (DCH) and 12 at Hendrickson M. by 17 May (JR).

MARSH WREN: Early: 1 on 23 Apr in Hamilton Co. (SD); peaks: 25 on 28 Apr in Story Co. (SD), and 16 on 16 May in Clay Co. (JR).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: This species showed a definite peak in early Apr but all were gone by mid-month--8 on 3 Apr in Lee Co. (RCe), 78 on 4 Apr in Story Co. (SD), 12 in Louisa Co. on 6 Apr (RJH), and 9 on 8 Apr in Story Co. (PWM); last: 1 on 15 Apr in Scott Co. (PCP).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: Early: 1 on 26 Mar in Ames (PWM).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: Early: 1 on 10 Apr at Shimek F., Lee Co. (RCe), and 15 on 13 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P (JPS); by 21 Apr a pair was building a nest at Waubonsie S.P. (TB).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD: 6 nests were found during May in Mills Co. (BLW)

VEERY: Appeared as expected during second half of May throughout state; peaks: 5 on 13 May at Ledges S.P. (SD) and 6 on 21 May in Sioux Co. (JV).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: Early: 1 on 26 Apr in Cherokee Co. (MMB) and 1 on 27 Apr in Sioux Co. (JV); appeared later in small numbers at scattered C and E Iowa locations.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: First: 1 on 27 Apr in Sioux City (BH); peak: 7 on 13 May in Ames (PWM); last: 1 on 30 May in Story Co. (PWM). From late Apr to third week of May in Sioux Co. this species outnumbered Gray-cheeked Thrush by 6 to 1 (JV).

HERMIT THRUSH: Most passed through E and C Iowa during early Apr; first: 2 on 4 Apr in Story Co. (SD); peaks: 13 on 7 Apr (PWM) and 9 on 9 Apr (SD) in Story Co.; singles appeared in W Iowa on 7 Apr in Cherokee (MMB) and 24-28 Apr in Sioux (JV) counties.

WOOD THRUSH: 1 was at Sioux City on 30 Apr (BH).

AMERICAN ROBIN: 159 were counted in Decatur Co. on 31 Mar (RCe).

GRAY CATBIRD: Early: 1 in Hickory Hill P. (THK) and 2 at Shimek F. (RCe) on

22 Apr are the second earliest.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD: Reported from Cherokee, Hardin, Tama (*NK), Johnson, and Van Buren counties.

BROWN THRASHER: Early: 1 on 6 Apr in Lee Co. (RCe) ties the second earliest.

WATER PIPIT: Peaks: 25 on 30 Mar at Riverton A. (FLM, RCe) and 40 on 14 Apr in Johnson Co. (GDW). The only other bird reported was from Polk Co. on 21 Apr (SD).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: Some of last winter's birds lingered into March with 2 on 2 Mar in Cherokee Co. (DBi) and 4 on 9 Mar in Story Co. (PWM).

CEDAR WAXWING: 200 on 3 May in Lyon Co. was the "largest concentration seen here" (DCH).

NORTHERN SHRIKE: Singles were at Cone M. on 9-10 Mar (JPS, *THK, CJB); Hendrickson M. on 20 Mar (SD, GBro); and Big Creek L. on 6 Apr (*SD).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: A nest was found on 3 May in Decatur Co. (JRL fide JDG); birds were found at four sites in Mills Co. during May (BLW). Birds were seen in 6 other counties.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: 1 appeared on 20 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (FLM, RCe), 3 were there on 5 May (JPS); 1 was at Hickory Hill P. on 1 May and another in an Iowa City back yard the next day (TJS); single birds were at Pine L. on 8 May (BPr, MPr, RRS) and in Dallas Co. on 12 May (EIA, EuA); and 3 were counted on 15 May at Shimek F., Lee Co. (RCe).

BELL'S VIREO: First: 1 on 7 May at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City (TJS); another was recorded on 18 May at Marshalltown (JR). Other reports were from 4 southeast counties (Lee, Van Buren, Louisa, Johnson), 2 central counties (Polk, Marshall), and 1 southwest county (Fremont).

SOLITARY VIREO: Most of the vireos arrived early this year. Earliest record: 1 on 21 Apr in Fremont Co. (TB); another on 24 Apr at Ames (PWM) tied the previous early date; there were few reports of more than single (solitary?) birds.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: Early: 1 on 28 Apr at L. Ahquabi, Warren Co. (JSi) ties the 3rd earliest.

WARBLING VIREO: Early: 1 at Iowa City (RJH), 1 at Riverton A. (RCe, FLM, WRS), and 4 at L. Ahquabi (JSi) all appeared on 28 Apr to equal the third earliest record.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: This vireo showed up on schedule at eight scattered locations. The first was 1 on 7 May in Iowa Co. (THK); the peak and last were 5 on 21 May in Sioux Co. (JV).

RED-EYED VIREO: Early: 3 on 29 Apr at Shimek F., Lee Co (RCe) were, no doubt, unaware they had tied the 3rd earliest date on record.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: Earliest record: 4 on 22 Apr at Shimek F., Lee Co. (RCe); two 27 Apr reports tie the 3rd earliest: 1 at Nine Eagles S.P. (JRL fide JDG) and 3 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPS). This species was reported from 11 other counties including 2 in the northwest (Cherokee, Palo Alto).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: The three following records of single birds each match the three earliest dates: 30 Apr in Cherokee Co. (MMB), 1 May (TJS), and 3 May (JF) in Johnson Co; peak: 4 in Van Buren Co. on 12 May (RCe); last: 1 on 22 May in Dickinson Co. (DCH), was noteworthy for NW Iowa.

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Early: 2 on 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPS) tied the 3rd earliest record. 1 was also early on 28 Apr at Sioux City (BH); 140 counted on 8 May at Ames (PWM) was a remarkable peak.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Early: 1 on 18 Apr at Ames (EM, PWM) for a 2nd early record; also on the early side were 2 on 21 Apr in Johnson Co. (THK) and 8 on 22 Apr at Ames (HZ); last: "6 birds within 100 yards" on 3 May in Sioux Co. (JV).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Early: 1 on 22 Apr (SD, EM) and 23 Apr (PWM) in Ames; peak: 60 on 6 May at Ames (PWM).

NORTHERN PARULA: Early: 2 at Shimek F., Lee Co. (RCe), and 13 (!) at Lacey-Keosauqua (JPS)--all on 13 April; 1 on 27 Apr at Waubonsie S.P. (FLM, RCe, WRS) was away from S and E Iowa.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: The first was 1 bird on 5 May at George Wyth S.P. (FLM).

CAPE MAY WARBLER: Only three reports this spring and all very early. Single birds on 1 May at Davenport (PCP) and at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City (TJS) tie the earliest date; 1 on 5 May at George Wyth S.P. (FLM) is the 3rd earliest.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: None reported.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: Peaks: 500 on 24 Apr in Cherokee Co. (MMB), and 148 on 27 Apr at Ames (PWM).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: The first was 27 Apr at Ames (PWM).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Early: 7 on 13 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPS) and 1 on 14 Apr at L. Ahquabi (JSi) for 2nd and 3rd earliest dates. Other reports from along the Des Moines River were from Polk Co. and Ledges S.P.; 1 on 5 May was at Wildcat Den S.P. (PCP).

PINE WARBLER: The only report was 1 on 29 Apr in Scott Co. (*WAB).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: None reported.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: Uncommon in NW Iowa, 1 was in Sioux Co. on 20 May (JV); late: 3 on 27 May at George Wyth S.P. (FLM) tied the 3rd latest.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: Earliest record: 1 on 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPS).

CERULEAN WARBLER: Earliest record: 1 on 22 Apr at Shimek F., Lee Co. (RCe); peaks: 3 on 2 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPS); and 4 on 15 May at Ledges S.P. (BPr, MPr, RRS). Other C Iowa records were 1 on 18 May at Grammer Grove P., Marshall Co. (BPr); and another on 12 May at Pine L. (BPr, MPr). The only other report was from Allamakee Co.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Early: 1 on 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPS) is the 2nd earliest date; 6 were noted on 12 May in Benton Co. (FLM). Birds were seen in 5 other eastern counties.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: This species made a strong movement with records from ten locations. Besides expected spots (Amana Woods, Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., and White Pine Hollow) there were the following reports: 1 on 2 May in Scott Co. (Don Moeller fide PCP); 1 singing for 15 minutes in an Iowa City backyard on 4 May (CJB); another on 4 May at Ames (PWM); 1 on 8 May at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City (JF); 1 on 17 May (JR) and 24 May (SD) at Ledges S.P.; 1 on 19 May at Pine L. (BLW, JR, CJB); and 2 on 20 May in Appanoose Co. (RC).

OVENBIRD: Early: 1 on 20 Apr was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (FLM, RCe) and 3 birds were present the next day (JPS).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: Early waterthrushes in April are usually Louisianas, but a pattern of early arrival was clear for this species. Early: 1 on 18 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPS) was a 3rd earliest date; also early were 1 on 20 Apr at Ames (PWM) and 1 on 25 Apr at Iowa City (TJS). It is important to carefully note details of April waterthrushes.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: The Mississippi Flyway Express delivered yet another record (3rd earliest) to Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. with 2 birds on 6 Apr (JPS); on 4 May a nest was observed under construction (CT). Other birds showed up again at Amana Woods and Ledges S.P.; 1 was at the Coralville Res. on 23 Apr (TJS), and 2 were at L. Ahquabi on 28 Apr (JSi).

KENTUCKY WARBLER: 3 on 24 Apr at Shimek F., Lee Co. (RCe), and 1 on 27 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPS) are earliest records.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: The eight reports of single birds in twelve days, all from E and C Iowa, illustrate the late and narrow migration interval of this species. The first was on 15 May at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City (TJS); and the last was on 27 May at Ames (PWM).

MOURNING WARBLER: 1-3 birds found in 11 counties ranging from 13 May in Sioux (JV) to 30 May in Story (PWM) with a peak of 7 on 25 May in George Wyth S.P. (FLM).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT: Early: 2 on 22 Apr at Shimek F., Lee Co. (RCe) is a 2nd earliest date.

HOODED WARBLER: Returned on 3 May for the fifth consecutive year to the

Amana Woods (CJB); 3 singing males were found on 14 May (CJB, THK, TJS).

WILSON'S WARBLER: After first arriving on 13th, up to six a day were seen during the latter half of May in Sioux Co. (JV); the last was 27 May at Iowa City (RJH).

CANADA WARBLER: Early: 1 on 9 May in Marshall Co. (BPr, RRS) is the 3rd earliest; also seen from 15 May to 28 May in eight other counties including single birds in NW Iowa: 21 May in Sioux (JV), and 22 May in Dickinson (DCH).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Early: 3 on 8 May at Shimek F., Lee Co. (RCe) tied the third earliest.

SUMMER TANAGER: Early: On 28 Apr singles were at Waubonsie S.P. (FLM, RCe, WRS) and in Appanoose Co. (RC) for a 3rd earliest date. Two other locations were in Lee and Van Buren counties.

SCARLET TANAGER: Early: 1 on 27 Apr at Waubonsie S.P. (FLM) is a 2nd earliest record date.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: Early: A single bird on 24 Apr at Fort Madison (RCe) ties the 2nd earliest.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: A migrating male bird was studied at the Coralville Res. on 13 May (*THK).

BLUE GROSBEAK: Early: A male on 9 May at Hickory Hill P., Iowa City (*CAK) was a 3rd earliest date and was far east of its usual W Iowa range.

INDIGO BUNTING: Earliest record: 1 on 27 Apr at Riverton A. (FLM); early: 1 on 29 Apr at Shimek F., Lee Co. (RCe) is the third earliest date.

DICKCISSEL: 1 at a feeder on 16 Apr in Iowa City (Donna Sandrock fide JPS) is the 2nd earliest spring record; could this bird have wintered? Other early birds were in Sioux Co. (BH) and Fremont Co. (FLM, RCe, WRS) on 28 Apr.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW: Last: 1 on 14 Apr in Sioux Co. (JV).

CHIPPING SPARROW: Peak: 100 on 13 May in at Sioux City (BH).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Early: 1 on 19 Apr in Sioux Co. (JV); last: 1 on 16 May at Barringer Sl. (JR).

VESPER SPARROW: Earliest record: 1 on 7 Mar in Story Co. (*PWM); early: 1 on 24 Mar at Coralville Res. (THK). Also early were 4 on 30 Mar at Willow Sl. (FLM, RCe).

LARK SPARROW: The first was 1 on 4 May in Story Co. (BPr, MPr); 4 were in Lee Co. on 20 May (JR). Birds were seen in 9 other scattered counties.

LARK BUNTING: A male was described in Lyon Co. on 16 May (Nina Harr fide DCH).

SAVANNAH SPARROW: Early: 1 on 16 Mar in Mills Co., and 1 on 17 Mar in Polk Co. (EuA, EIA, DT); also a bit early was 1 on 21 Mar in Sioux Co. (JV); peak: 10 on 14 Apr in Johnson Co. (THK).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: 1 was early on 21 Apr in Sioux Co. (JV).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: None reported.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: 1-3 were in Story Co. from 20 Apr to 11 May (SD, PWM, BPr, MPr). Singles were in Johnson Co. on 1 May (TJS) and at Sweet M. on 13 May (FLM, RKM, RCe).

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: 1 was in Wayne Co. on 8 May (RC); 2 were in Story Co on 18-19 May (*PWM, *SD).

FOX SPARROW: Peak: 13 on 4 Apr at L. Manawa (TB).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: First: several on 15 Apr in Sioux Co. (JV); 6 were seen on 20 Apr in Johnson Co. (RJH).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Last: 1 on 19 May at Pine L. (JR).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Outnumbered the usually more common White-throated Sparrow in Sioux Co. during second week of May (JV); last: 1 on 16 May in Mills Co. (BLW).

HARRIS' SPARROW: Last: 1 on 16 May in Cherokee Co. (MMB). This species is common in W Iowa as evidenced by the flocks of 10-20 reported moving through Sioux Co. during Apr and May (JV).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Seen in good numbers during Mar with peaks of 3,000 in

NW Iowa on 8 Mar (JV), and 2,500 in C Iowa on 24 Mar (BPr, MPr). Last: 1 bird on 14 Apr in Johnson Co. (THK).

SMITH'S LONGSPUR: Only four reports: 120 on 23 Mar in Polk Co. (EM); 2 on 30 Mar in Story Co. (*PWM); 2 on 13 Apr in Johnson Co. in same field as last several years (TJS, THK); and a late group of 120 on 23 Apr at Saylorville Res. (*SD).

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR: 2 males were seen on 20 Mar near Hendrickson M., Story Co. (*SD, *PWM). This species apparently occurs in very small numbers in with the migrating flocks of Lapland Longspurs.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Earliest record: 1 on 7 Apr at Sweet M. (FLM); Sioux Co. migrants first appeared on 21 Apr (JV); 1 on 8 May at Cooper M. was only one seen in Story Co. by Martsching.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: Several flocks of 100 appeared by 16 Mar in Sioux Co. and some birds were still present on 31 Mar (JV); last: on 14 Apr with 2 in Johnson (THK) and 1 in Story (EM) counties.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: Details were given for 3 on 20 Mar at Otter Creek M. and 6 on 5 Apr at Anderson L. (SD).

ORCHARD ORIOLE: Described as "very common" in Fremont Co. with large numbers seen during the second half of May (TB). Birds were seen in 7 counties away from the western edge of the state.

NORTHERN ORIOLE: Earliest record: 1 on 23 Apr at Shimek F., Lee Co. (RCe). A female came to a feeder in Cass Co. from 26 Nov 1984 to 2 Feb 1985 and on 29 May 1984 a photo was taken at the same feeder of an apparent adult male Baltimore X Bullock's hybrid (SS).

HOUSE FINCH: A female conveniently made a one day appearance on 28 Mar at Jim Fuller's feeder in Iowa City (*JF, *THK, *TJS); a male with Purple Finches was studied on 12 Apr at Burlington (*JF, ChF).

RED CROSSBILL: Late: 18 to 23 were regular at two Cherokee Co. feeders until last seen on 25 May (DBi); 5 were present on 23 May at Sioux City (BH). Other lingerers included 1 seen by many at the IOU meeting at Marshalltown on 19 May (FLM et al.); 17 were at Ames on 17 Apr and 1 was there on 12 May (EM).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: Last: 1 on 12 Apr in Des Moines Co. (JF); 2 were still in Story Co. on 4 Apr (SD); and 12 were in Polk Co. on 17 Mar (RC).

COMMON REDPOLL: The only report was of 2 still in Sioux Co. on 17 Mar (JV)

PINE SISKIN: On 31 May many were still in Des Moines (JSi) and 3 were coming to a feeder in Cherokee Co. (DBi). Reports came from six other counties after 15 May including an adult feeding a full size young bird on 18 May in Marshalltown (THK). One was flushed from a nest at Ames on 11 May (EM). Nest building was noted at Hawarden (JV).

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OTHER OBSERVERS

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COMMENTS

A record amount of data was received in spite of what many thought was a poor season. We entered data for 1,474 sightings into our computers for checking of dates, sorting, and printing--up from 1,084 for the same season last year. Part of the increase was due to report forms that were distributed to 32 regular reporters (1 returned by the post office). The forms, which asked early, peak, and late dates on selected migrants and county locations for several uncommon summer residents, were returned by 15 of 25 of those who got the form and submitted a report. We believe that a fair amount of information was available from these forms that would have otherwise gone unrecorded. There were mixed opinions as to the merits of the forms, and the amount of work recording the data was certainly increased. Some states, such as Minnesota, have very long reporting forms specifically designed for each season. We hope this experiment will provoke more discussion--let us hear your ideas on improving the reporting process.

The quality of the data was generally good. Reporters seem to be aware of unusual species and dates and the need to provide descriptive data in these instances. Unfortunately, we still have accidental and casual species reported without any description from those who saw the bird. We can only encourage those who receive such reports to ask the primary observers to put their observations down on paper. Another frustrating problem for editors of field reports is deciding who saw the bird. We strongly encourage contributors to list all secondhand reports (those birds that they did not see themselves) on a separate (8 1/2 X 11) piece of paper. One other point about quality of data--observers should develop the habit of taking notes during or immediately after viewing a rare bird. Do you carry paper and pen while birding? Of 25 documentations of accidental and casual species this spring, notes were made immediately for 7, within an hour for 3, within a day for 9, from 2 to 11 days for 5, and at an unrecorded time for 1.

For the past few years a summary of the previous year's birds have been presented in this section of the report. The data for 1984 now appears to be complete. The 309 species seen tops the old record of 300 seen in 1981 and is 18 species greater than for 1983. Only two of the 276 regular species were missed (Say's Phoebe, Townsend's Solitaire), and all of the 16 casual species were found. The 19 accidental species included Red-throated Loon, White-faced Ibis, Bean Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Black Scoter, Barrow's Goldeneye, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Black-necked Stilt, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Ruff, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, *Selasphorus sp.*, Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Western Tanager, Smith's Longspur, and Great-tailed Grackle. Five of these species represent the first accepted record for the state (Bean Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Black-necked Stilt, Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Selasphorus sp.*). It is clear that some of the casual species should be moved to regular status and several of the accidentals also need to be moved up.

Summer field reports (June and July) should be mailed by August 1 to James J. Dinsmore, Dept. of Animal Ecology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011.