

Schmidt

Rod Schmidt
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Dear Mr. Kent,

Greetings from Kossuth County.
I see from your new book Iowa Birds
that there appears to be a void of
information from my county (Kossuth).
I just moved back to Iowa recently,
but I have been able to make a
few observations that may be of worth.

✓ Osprey

May 2 - observed 2 Ospreys
fishing - Kossuth - Portland Twp's Sect 16 & 17.

Bald Eagles

Seem to be more of them this year,
and hanging around for a longer period
of time. Noted pairs, singles, & immatures
from December - February & most of
the Month of March on Buffalo Creek,
(near Union Slough)

Bobolink

Over a dozen territorial males
along Buffalo Creek pasture land
this spring.

Purple Finch

A dramatic increase in Purple
Finches at my feeder this spring.
Had them around all of April & up
✓ till May 3rd counted up to 30
Purple Finches at a time at my station.

T97N, R75W
R.A.Schmidt

1984

Portland
Spring

Early Arrival Dates to my area

Date	Species	number
3/6	Canada Goose	1500
3/6	Bald Eagle	1
3/6	American Crow	3
3/6	Downy Woodpecker	2
3/6	Black-capped Chickadee	5
3/6	Northern Cardinal	1
3/6	Tree Sparrow	14
3/6	Song Sparrow	1
3/6	Dark-eyed Junco	2
3/6	House Sparrow	10
3/8	Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
3/8	Hairy woodpecker	2
3/8	Blue Jay	1
3/8	White-breasted Nuthatch	1
3/24	Mallard	300
3/24	Redhead	2
3/24	Ring-necked Duck	20
3/24	Scaup	30
3/24	Bufflehead	3
3/24	American Coot	10
3/24	Killdeer	4
3/24	Robin	12
3/24	Starling	2
3/24	Red-winged Blackbird	5
3/28	Northern Pintail	20
3/28	Canvasback	1
3/28	Common Goldeneye	1
3/28	Red-tailed Hawk	2
	Tundra Swan	3
4/15	Pied-billed Grebe	4
4/15	White Pelican	8
4/15	Great Blue Heron	2
4/15	Wood Duck	8
4/15	Green-winged Teal	2
4/15	Blue-winged Teal	10
4/15	Northern Shoveler	6
4/15	American Wigeon	4
4/15	Turkey Vulture	2
4/15	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
4/15	Cooper's Hawk	1
4/15	Sandhill Crane	1
4/15	Greater Yellowlegs	15
4/15	Mourning Dove	1
4/15	Northern Flicker	1
4/15	Tree Swallow	6

T97N, R75W
Spring Season

1984

Portland
R.A.Schmidt

Date	Species	Number
4/15	American Crow	2
4/15	Winter Wren	1
4/15	Golden-crowned Kinglet	6
4/15	Yellow-rumped Warbler	6
4/15	Fox Sparrow	5
4/15	Common Grackle	5
4/17	American Kestrel	1
4/17	Brewer's Blackbird	2
4/17	Brown-headed Cowbird	2
4/17	Purple Finch	3
4/18	Double-crested Cormorant	1
4/18	Ring-necked Pheasant	1
4/18	Forster's Tern	2
4/18	Belted Kingfisher	2
4/18	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
4/18	Vesper Sparrow	2
4/18	Western Meadowlark	1
4/18	American Goldfinch	1
4/20	Brown Creeper	1
4/20	White-throated Sparrow	1
4/21	Brown Thrasher	1
4/22	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
4/22	Eastern Phoebe	1
4/22	Hermit Thrush	1
4/24	Purple Martin	1
4/26	House Wren	1
4/26	Harris' Sparrow	1
4/27	Cattle Egret	1
4/27	Bank Swallow	2
4/27	Barn Swallow	8
4/27	Glue-gray Gnatcatcher	1
4/27	White-crowned Sparrow	2
4/27	Yellowheaded Blackbird	10
4/28	Rufous-sided Towhee	1
4/28	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
4/28	Red-headed Woodpecker	1
5/1	Black-crowned Night Heron	3
5/2	Osprey	2
5/2	Swamp Sparrow	1
5/3	Clay-colored Sparrow	1
5/3	Gadwall	6
5/4	Pine Siskin	2
5/3	Solitary Sandpiper	1
5/5	Swainson's Thrush	1
5/5	Chipping Sparrow	12

GREAT EGRET

R.A.Schmidt
1984

Iowa

May 3. Union Twp, Sect 24, of Kossuth County.

Just happened to observe a single Great Egret wading in a flooded grassland near the Black Cat Creek. This is the first one I've seen so far this year. The Black-crowned Night Heron and a Cattle Egret just recently showed up for the season, but the Great Blue Herons have been in the area for several weeks.

May 22, East Fork of the Des Moines flood plane
T07N R28W, Sect. 17. *Observed 5 Great Egrets*

dates

Date	Species	#
5/5	Green-backed Heron	1
5/5	Sora	1
5/5	Northern Waterthrush	1
5/5	Spotted Sandpiper	1
5/7	Black Tern	6
5/8	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
5/10	Eastern Kingbird	1
5/10	Whip-poor-will	1
5/11	Yellow Warbler	2
5/11	Palm Warbler	1
5/11	American Golden Plover	18
5/11	Common Yellowthroat	1
5/11	Chimney Swift	1
5/12	Gray Catbird	1
5/12	Rough-winged Swallow	4
5/13	Little Blue Heron	1
5/13	Bobolink	1
5/13	Northern Oriole	1
5/13	American Redstart	1
5/12	Cliff Swallow	2
5/17	Indigo Bunting	3
5/19	Great-crested Flycatcher	1

R.A.Schmidt
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✓ LITTLE BLUE HERON

Iowa

July 13, Buffalo Creek Sta. T97N, R28W, sect 16.

I was down working around my pond when I saw a rather largeish looking Green-backed Heron approach. I thought little of it other than I thought it was a little bit big for the usual Green-backed Herons that had been frequenting my pond the past two years. I pulled out my binoculars, and to my amazement I saw that it was not a Green-backed Heron. It was the first Little Blue Heron I have ever seen in Iowa, and I sure never expected to ever see one at my little farm pond.

It was unmistakable. It was definitely smaller than a Great Blue Heron. It had a purplish head and neck, with a blueish gray body and wings. It had a pale bluish beak with a black tip. Under the wings it was dark. There was no trace of a white throat stripe as in a Louisiana Heron or a great blue. It lacked the browner head and pinkish bill and rough outline of a Reddish Egret. It was in all aspects a Little Blue Heron. I am personally familiar with the species and all similar American species both from my North Dakota experience, and from my winter spent in the Everglades of Florida.

It was all alone, and I got to observe it for 10 minutes at 20 meters with 8X binoculars. I tried to sneak away to get my camera, but it flew off over my place and into the river slough area behind my grove.

I was unable to relocate it to get a photograph.

Latter in the day I saw it fly up from behind my grove and head southerly. I had seen what I commented to be a large, overly large green-back earlier, and I believe that it had been indeed this Little Blue Heron. I had only seen it previously from $\frac{1}{4}$ mile distance and never really paid it any attention other than to think about the larger size. I may yet get a photo, as I feel the bird may have been successful enough at my pond to make it a habit as long as it stays

LITTLE BLUE HERON

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Iowa

May 13 continued (Buffalo Creek Sta.)

While at the pond I watched this Little Blue Heron (adult Plumage) hunt around the shallow water edge of the pond similar to the behavior of Green-backed heron hunting, or like the Louisiana Herons hunted in the Glades. It did not wade in and stand like Great Blues often do.

May 14, Buffalo Creek Sta.

The Little Blue Heron was again feeding at my pond ~~after~~ I got off work at 19:00 hrs. I managed to get a distant photo of it as it flew away. Likely not a photo of any worth.

May 16, Buffalo Creek Sta.

Little Blue Heron is still in the area, though the flood waters of Buffalo Creek are receding almost into the channels and oxbows now.

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CATTLE EGRET

Iowa

J. Schmidt

IOWA VERTEBRATES

w/ early arrival

dates

April 27, 3 mi. NNE of Algonia, Kossuth Cty, Union Twp. Sect 13.

While driving to work this morning I saw a single Cattle Egret in breeding (rust-buff crown and back) plumage in a flooded pasture near the road.

May 2, Portland Twp, T97N, R28W, Sect 17.

Spotted a Cattle Egret near the road hunting both in the flooded pasture and in the adjacent road ditch. Drove home and got my camera and returned to photograph it. The bird was reasonable cooperative and I should have good documentary shots, and maybe a publishable one for the newspaper. While I photographed the bird, it ate a large volume of food. It consumed several toads (one very large specimen took five minutes to swallow). Also noted were several minnows, what appeared to be a small snake, and may items too small and quickly swallowed to identify. The egret was white with a buffy-rust crown, and buffy-rust back. Its bill was yellow, w/ red at the base (but the red was likely blood from the many frogs and toads.) After the egret was observed to successfully feed for a while, it took a break and rested for 15 min. Then it defecated and went back to feeding.

May 3 Cattle Egret seen feeding in same place as yesterday.

Photo showed "pink legs."

Species	Date	#
Green-backed Heron	5/5	1
Sora	5/5	1
Northern Waterthrush	5/5	1
Spotted Sandpiper	5/5	1
Black Tern	5/7	6
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/8	1
Eastern Kingbird	5/10	1
Whip-poor-will	5/10	1
Yellow Warbler	5/11	2
Palm Warbler	5/11	1
American Golden Plover	5/11	18
Common Yellowthroat	5/11	1
Chimney Swift	5/11	1
Gray Catbird	5/12	1
Hough-winged Swallow	5/12	4
Little Blue Heron	5/13	1
Bobolink	5/13	1
Northern Oriole	5/13	1
American Redstart	5/13	1
Cliff Swallow	5/12	2
Indigo Bunting	5/17	3
Great-crested Flycatcher	5/19	1