

NOTES TO FIELD REPORTS
SPRING 1984FRANCIS L. MOORE
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SNOWY EGRET - 3 birds seen approx. 1/2 mi S. of Albion, Marshall County while on my way to S.W. Iowa on 4/27/84. The three birds were much smaller than the Great Egret next to them. All three were white and had breeding plumes on backs. The bill on all of the birds was black and I noticed that all the birds had yellow feet and black legs as they walked and fed in the little marshy area they were in.

RUDDY SHELDUCK - 1. This bird flew past us while on one of the Eastern dikes at Sweet Marsh. Bob Myers and Russell Hays was with me. We had no idea what species it was when we first saw it. The bird was a reddish brown on the breast, belly, back and upper and lower undertail coverts. The head was white and the neck was white with a tinge of reddish color to it suggesting a female. The wings were dark gray to blackish with large white patches in the entire upper wing covert area. The call was a short br-rr-rr-rr-t type of call. After getting back to the car and looking at the National Geographic Field Guide we were not as excited as we thought we would have been if it would not have appeared as though the bird were an escapee. These notes are to help substantiate the sighting and help to keep track of possible feral birds within the state.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK - 1. I was coming back to Waterloo after going to see a Cinnamon Teal at Big Marsh on 4/19/84. About 5 mi. W. of Cedar Falls on U.S. Hwy 20 I noticed a large hawk sitting on a fence post along the S. side of the highway and figured it was a Red-tailed Hawk. As I got to within about 50 yards of the bird I saw that it was a ^NGoshawk and started to slow down, the bird then flew directly at me and almost hit the passenger side window of my vehicle. I then flew down a fence row and landed on another fence post about 50 yards down on the North side of the highway. The bird had a bold white eyestripe, a dark gray back and wings, an almost clear breast with some faint light gray barring on it and the undertail coverts hung down from the bird. The tail was long

and narrow with several darker bars on it. I have documented so many N. Goshawk in the last two or three years that I thought I would just make notes on this particular bird.

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1. This bird was at the south entrance at Sweet Marsh on 5/12/84. The steel-blue back and black mustache mark in front of the eye indicated this bird was an adult. Since we had seen an adult bird at approximately the same location on 4/15/84 Bob Myers and I figured it was probably the same bird, therefore I am only making note of it in this way.

PEREGRINE FALCON - 1. This bird was also seen at the South entrance at Sweet Marsh at the same location as the bird seen on 5/12/84 but this time the date seen was 5/14/84, therefore I am almost certain that this was the same individual bird as the one on 5/12/84 if not the same one as seen on 4/15/84. It was an adult as described above.

COMMON TERN - 1. This particular bird was seen flying and at rest at Cedar Lake, Nashua in Chickasaw Co. It was in the vicinity of 3 Caspian Terns. The size difference was very noticeable with this bird being quite a bit smaller than the Caspians. The noticeable features of this particular bird was the darkness of the bird (as compared to the Forster's Terns I had been seeing) in the primaries and somewhat darker coloration of the bird overall. No voice was heard but I feel that (with the darker coloration which showed in flight and at rest) ~~that~~ this bird was a Common Tern and not a Forster's Tern.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - 1. Bob Myers and I were checking a plum thicket for American Woodcock; I had just stopped to look at some whitewash on the ground when a small owl flew beside me and hit me on the shoulder as it flew away. Bob had just walked by it and was in front of me. It flew about 30 or 40 feet ahead and landed in a plum tree. We both got very good looks at it at that time. It was an adult

N. Saw-whet Owl. After stopping by Barb Wilson's house and telling her about the owl she said that it was the first live record for Mills Co. as far as she knew. She had found a dead N. Saw-whet Owl before this but did not know of any records of a live bird in Mills Co. Both Barb Wilson and Ross Silcock and probably others got to see the bird.

SUMMER TANAGER - 1. I was going North out of Waterloo on Wagner Road when a yellowish-green bird flew across the road in front of me and landed in a small tree close to the road. I decided to stop and take a look at the bird. The bird was seen on 5/11/84 only. It was a first year male that had quite a lot of small red splotching over most of the body. It was definitely a tanager species with a very pale ~~to~~ whitish bill. The bird did not have dark wings or tail. The wings and tail were about the same color as the yellowish-green color of the body.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - 1. I was at Hayden Prairie, Howard County on May 28, 1984. I had walked over almost all the prairie listening and looking for Henslow's Sparrows and was about to get back to my vehicle when I heard the "t-slick" call of a Henslow's coming from some fairly tall grass on the North side of the prairie close to the road. I heard the "t-slick" call a total of 5 times as I walked toward it but the bird stopped singing and I could not get it to fly by walking to where I thought it was. I never saw the bird but know the call well.