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STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

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PUBLISHERS OF

Iowa Bird Life

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

FIELD REPORTS EDITOR

DR. THOMAS KENT
211 Richards Street
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Dear Mike;

Nov. 30, 1984

Here is my fall report. It is strong on shorebirds, rather weak otherwise.

Some plumage details follow:

• Black throated (I believe Carl documented - I saw the same birds the same day - dark brown diving ducks with grey side of head below eye - seen on channel of Miss. 1 mi. N. De Claire on 10/26, at 1:45 + 2:50 PM, with Mary Lou 2nd time, sun behind obs., range about 200 yards, 40x scope.

Merula - first bird seen by about 75 people, I think Tom & I was documenting - he saw it first - range 75-100 yards in flight & perched, I used a 20x scope. O.C. sky about 1:30 PM. 9/8 Pointed wing, streaked below, larger than Red-tail, barred tail & believe you saw it. Second bird seen N. of Tabula 9/23 in flight, tail barred, wings pointed, streaked below, no good way to judge size - 12:30 P.M., 20x scope, also seen by Brian & I.

Peregrine Falcon seen along Iowa shore of Miss. R. on 9/25 about 7:45 A.M. Bird flew over at about 50 yards + gained alt. Viewed for about 1 min. from boat, 10x binocs. Plumaged facial pattern, large size judge by nearly blue face, wing pointed, barred below, no sign of dark in area of axillars.

Western Gull - 1 on 9/3, 3 on 9/5. Nest located at 1/3 bird - C. 7:00 AM with semi's wing seemed rusty at shoulder, bill longer + heavier at base than semi's - range 30-40 yards - 40x scope O.C. sky. On Sep. 5 saw 3 which seemed longer + heavier billed than semi's, but rusty not seen. 9:15, p. cloudy 30-40x scope (7.

Buff-breasted sandp - 8/28 - (C.F.); clear 7:35 AM - range 50 yards
10x binoculars + 30-45x scope. Saw very buff bird with
white underwing fly in + land in dryer area of mud
scope revealed uniform buff below, white eyering, spangling
along neck + side of chest, back scaly, bill black, narrow,
legs yellow. My first bottle record.

Sh-le Doves - seen frequently in Aug + early Sep -
some heard, little barring on side of breast which
was usually very pale. Nothing really looked suspiciously
like a Long-bill. I can't swear to every bird, but sure
didn't hear a Leg-bill call.

Common Tern - 6 on Sep. 25 near Calville, on channel of
Miss^{iss}ippi in boat. Birds in 2 groups, 2 + 4, seen from 75-150'
10x binoculars. Mantle uniform medium grey all the
way to wing tips - O.C. shy, seen at 7:40 + 8:30 A.M.
Ypl-bell. Flight - observed very yellow below + yellowish
wing-bars on all 3, seen at 15-40', 10x binoculars.

Red Knot - documented fully. - scatt. Copies already
sent to members of Chesapeake Council.
W. Kingbird - 5 mi. S. Lumburg ^{Apr. 9/9} - white throat, yellow belly,
tail black, white outer feathers

General Comments - Credit Island was excellent for
shorebirds, 21 species in 10 days. Good warbler movements
on Sep. 2, 9, ^{14, 23, 30} 14, 23, 30. Good fall for siskin, banded
27 on 11/21, no banded birds among 11 remain 11/22, home, Humboldt
in Quad Cities.

Four of us will be in D.C. for Ch. Court 12/15 -
same area unless we hear otherwise. Are you coming
down for 2.C. court on 12/16? Doing up notes on them,
Dec. 23, could use help. Calville on Dec. 21, a Friday.

I assume you will want Field Reference set as
Jim did. Just get it to me as soon as you can.

So long
Pete

also seen
by M.L.,
A. Barber,
F. Moore,
B. Myers,
et al