

Burns

Vern - this came after I finished typing my report. Items of possible interest are in orange. *nick*

FIELD REPORT - FALL - AUGUST 1 through NOVEMBER 30, 1977

Reporter: Gene Burns, P.O. Box 32, Jamaica, Iowa 50128 (Reporting initials - GeB).

Area Covered: My regular census area for my Christmas Bird Count in Guthrie, Dallas and Greene Counties, plus McCords Pond west of Bayard (Guthrie Co), Riverside Park at Coon Rapids (Carroll Co), and various back roads from Jamaica to Templeton (Carroll Co). A few observations were made while surveying several counties in northwest Iowa for Pete Peterson for "Birding Areas of Iowa" articles for the Iowa Bird Life magazine.

Weather: After a prolonged drought in the summer, the rains finally came and during the fall period more rain than usual was received.

Habitat Conditions: Because of the above mentioned rainfall, Lakin Slough, Long Pond, Bays Branch, and the surrounding small streams are again full and back to normal.

Species Observed: August - 90, September - 100, October - 89, November - 39.

Specific Comments: None.

Extraordinary Sightings: ~~None.~~ American Flamingo observed Oct 6 at Blackhawk Lake near Lake View (Sac Co) apparently an escapee.

Uncommon Sightings: None.

Nest Records: American Goldfinches found nesting in early September near the golfcourse at Coon Rapids. My attempt to find another Blue Grosbeaks nest near Templeton as mention in my Summer Field Report was unsuccessful.

Field Reports:

- (1) Loons thru Cormorants: A Common Loon observed at Swan Lake (Carroll Co) Aug. 29. Horned Grebe at Bays Branch (Guthrie Co) Oct. 12 and an Eared Grebe there Oct. 16. Pied-billed Grebes in good numbers at McCords Pond (Guthrie Co) in August, September and October.
- (2) Herons thru Geese: Great Blue Herons observed during Aug, Sept and Oct at McCords Pond, ~~Bays~~ Bays Branch and Lakin Slough (All in Guthrie Co). ~~Also~~ Also several Green Herons seen at all of the above 3 places and they seemed to be somewhat more numerous than the same period last year. A Cattle Egret observed at Bays Branch (Guthrie Co) Sept. 18th. A Great Egret

total: 44

observed at McCords Pond (Guthrie Co) Sept. 20. My observations of Canada Geese and Snow Geese were much less than in previous Fall observations. Reason unknown.

- (3) Ducks: Duck observations were also down considerably from previous fall sightings especially at McCords Pond (Guthrie Co). Wood Ducks did seem to be in good numbers this year though.
- (4) Vultures, Hawks: Turkey Vultures in good numbers just South of Coon Rapids (Guthrie Co). Coopers Hawks in very good numbers this season (mostly immatures) and observed in various places in my area. 2 in my back yard area on 3 different occasions. Red-tailed Hawks seem about in the same numbers as last year. Broadwinged- Hawk observed West of Jefferson Sept 11. ~~Mar/21/11~~ Northern Harriers in good numbers this season in my area. Osprey observed Sept 15 at Lake Panorama (Guthrie Co). American Kestrels in about the same numbers as previous ~~XXXXXX~~ fall season, and there was an unusually good number passed through during about 3 days of their migration.
- (5) Turkeys thru Coots: Coots ~~XXXXXX~~ in great numbers at McCords Pond (Guthrie Co) in Sept. Also several Sora Rails observed at Bays Branch on Sept 17. (Guthrie Co).
- (6) Shorebirds: The various shorebirds seen in good numbers during Aug, Sept. and Oct. at Bays Branch (Guthrie Co). but no unusual sightings made.
- (7) Gulls, Terns: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Herring Gull Sept 24, Bays Branch, again Oct 20 same area. Ring-billed Sept 4, again Oct 3, Franklins Gull Oct 3 and Bonaparte's Oct 3 all in the Bays Branch and Lake Panorama area (Guthrie Co). Black Terns Aug 16 and Oct 2 Bays Branch. ~~Exp~~ Caspian Tern Sept 20 Bay Branch area (Guthrie Co).
- (8) Doves thru Woodpeckers: Morning doves seem less plentiful. More observations of Yellowbilled Cuckoo than usual. Nest observed several days near Dedham (Carroll Co). My observations of ~~XXXX~~ Owls not as ~~XXXXXX~~ numerous, especially the Great-Horned and considerably less on the Barred, however have observed several Screech Owls. (I have been trying to capture one that visits our back yard regularly (red phase) so I can band him. My wife and I received our banding permits about a month ago. Woodpeckers about in the same numbers and the Red-bellied may have increased some in population in my area. However I did not make a single sighting of any Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

- Cliff Swallows
are my
banding
project
initially*
- (9) Flycatchers thru Crows: Cliff Swallows in good numbers in my area and many Tree Swallows stayed around Bays Branch quite late this year. Blue Jays in good numbers, especially at my feeding station at home.
- (10) Titmice thru Wrens: Black-capped Chickadees numerous, several White-breasted Nuthatches at my feeding station, also our Red-breasted Nuthatch returned again this year on Oct. 5th and is seen several times a day at our feeding area. He is especially fond of suet this year.
- (11) Mimics thru Shrikes: No Golden-crowned Kinglets observed in my area yet. My Loggerhead Shrike population seems to be down in numbers.
- (12) Vireos, Warblers: Bell's Vireo Observed at ~~Rixx~~ Riverside Park near Coon Rapids (Carroll Co) on Aug. 24 and again on Sept 7. Philadelphia Vireo Observed in same area on Aug 24 and again on Sept 2. Connecticut Warbler observed in same area on Sept 3. Of course many observations of the various more common Warblers in my various area's.
- (13) Blackbirds, Tanagers: Rusty Blackbird observed in my backyard Nov. 26 and I am attempting to mist net or trap him so I can band him and of course several Grackles are feeding in our yard at the feeding station daily.
- ~~14~~ (14) Finches, Sparrows: Purple Finches at our feeding station Oct. 26. Dickcissels seemed to be down in numbers this year. Harris's Sparrows in good numbers just west of Dawson (Dallas Co). No Snow Buntings observed as yet.
