

Field records: 4/4 through 5/30, 1977

Hérons

gr. blue: 1 4/9 Cone Marsh; 1 4/12 CoR; 2 5/14 Cedar Bluff; 1 5/15 Cone Marsh;
1 5/15 CoR.

great egret: 1 5/15 CoR

bl-cr night heron: 1 ad 5/1 Cone Marsh

y-cr night heron 1 ad 5/13 CoR (mob)

Am. bittern 1 5/1 Cone Marsh

Waterfowl

bufflehead 2 4/12 CoR

red-br merganser 3 4/12 CoR

Hawks

t. vulture 2 4/9 Cone Marsh; 4 4/17 CoR; 1 5/8 CoR; 1 5/14 Cedar Bluff; 2 5/20 CoR

red-t hawk: 11 4/9 Cone Marsh; 3 4/17 CoR; 1 5/1 Cone Marsh; 3 5/8 CoR; 11 5/20
CoR; 1 5/28 CoR; 1 5/29 CoR

br-winged 1 5/8 IC

marsh: 2 ad males + 2 0 4/17-5/8 CoR; 1 0 5/1 Cone Marsh

Rails

sora 1 4/30 HH Park, IC; 8 5/1, 1 5/15 Cone Marsh

Plovers

Am. golden 1 4/12, 29 5/15 CoR

Bl-bellied: 1 5/8, CoR; 2 5/15 Swan Lake

Semipalmated: 2 5/1 Cone Marsh; 2 5/8 CoR; 2 5/15 Cone Marsh; 8 5/20 Swan Lk.

Sandpipers

C. snipe 20 4/9 Cone Marsh

Am. woodcock 1 5/13 River Heights

spotted 10 5/15; 6 5/21 Swan Lake

lesser yellowlegs 100 4/12 CoR; 30 4/17 Swan Lk

pectoral s. 40 4/9 Cone Marsh; 200 4/12 CoR; 20 4/17 Swan Lk; 114 5/1 Cone Marsh;
30 5/15 Cone Marsh; 30 5/15 Swan Lake; 150 5/15 CoR; 50 5/21 Swan Lk

white-rumped s. 3 5/15 Swan Lk; 40 5/21, 20 5/28 Swan Lk.

dunlin 1 5/1 Cone Marsh; 25 5/15 CoR; 5 5/21 Swan Lake

short-b dowitcher 82 5/13 Swan Lake; 20 5/15 CoR

stilt s. 1 5/15 Swan Lk

semipal,ated s. 20 5/15 Swan Lk; 50 5/15 CoR; 60 5/21, 30 5/28 Swan Lk

least s. 150 5/15 Swan Lk; 200 5/15 Sandy beach, CoR; 40 5/21 Swan Lk

Wilson's phalarope 1 female 5/21 Swan Lk

Cuckoos

Arrived about 15 May, two weeks earlier than last year

Hummingbirds

ruby-thr. 2 5/15 Cone Marsh area; 1 5/29 Amana woods

Flycatchers

e. phoebe 4 4/16 Palisades-Kepler SP; 2 4/17 CoR

acadian 1 5/29 Amana woods

alder 2 5/19-5/25 HH park, IC; 1 5/28 CoR; 1 5/29 Williams prairie

Titmice

t. titmouse 1 on nest in box 5/14 Cedar Bluff; 1 5/15 Cone Marsh; 1 5/21 CoR;
1 5/25 IC; 1 5/29 Amana woods

Wrens

short-b. marsh wren 1 4/30 HH park, IC

Thrushes

veery 2 singing 5/29 Amana woods

Vireos

white-eyed: up to 3 singing birds from 5/12 on, in HH park, IC

Bell's: 2 singing birds from 5/13 on, in HH park, IC

yellow-thr. 3 singing birds 5/29 Amana woods

Warblers

prothonotary 1 5/15, in oxbow of Iowa River w of Cone Marsh; 1 5/29 in dry oxbow
at upper end of the CoR

blue-winged: 1 5/8 Cou Falls; 2 5/21 McBride Field Campus; 1 5/29 Amana woods

Kentucky 1 5/4 Cedar Bluff; 1 5/18 HH park, IC

Connecticut 1 5/18, 1 5/19 HH Park, IC; 1 5/21 McBride Field Campus

Mourning 1 5/14 Cedar Bluff; 6 5/17, 2 5/18, 1 5/19, 1 5/25 HH^a Park, IC

yellow-br. chat: 1 and perhaps two birds 5/13 on, in HH Park, IC

prairie 1 singing male 5/21, McBride Field Campus (details attached)

Icterids

orchardoriole 1 imm male, 5/28 Swan Lake

yellow-headed blackbird 18 males, 3 females 5/1 Cone Marsh

Finches

rufous-s towhee: 1 4/17 CoR; 3 males, 1 female 5/8 Cou Falls; 1 pair 5/19 on in
HH park, IC; 1 5/21 McBride Field Campus; 1 5/21 CoR (different
location); 1 5/29 Amana woods

savannah sp. 1-2 singing birds 5/9 on at Sand Point, CoR

Grasshopper sp.: single birds 5/8 and 5/29 at locations of the CoR where in previous
years more had been found; part of the area has been plowed.

LeConte's sp. 1 4/9 Cone Marsh

Vesper sparrow 4 4/9, 1 5/1, 1 5/15 Cone Marsh; 1 5/21 CoR

Lark sparrow: 2 5/29 CoR; 2 5/14 Cedar Bluff

Swamp sparrow 1 singing bird 5/29 in a dry field near the CoR.

General comments

A number of species seemed less abundant than usual this spring, mostly species that pass through the Iowa City area in late April or the early part of May: ruby-crowned kinglet, myrtle and palm warblers were low, and I did not see any of the following: winter wren, golden-crowned kinglet, fox sparrow. Later migrants that seemed low in numbers included magnolia, black-and-white, and Nashville warblers, and Northern waterthrush (the scarcity of the latter may be explainable on the basis of the very dry conditions). Other species missed entirely were bank swallow and eastern bluebird. Species that seemed slightly less abundant than usual included the brown thrushes and most of the other warblers. The early, dense foliage may explain the seeming scarcity of warblers, together with the heat that inhibited song early in the day.

Species that seemed more abundant than normal were turkey vulture, most shorebirds, vesper sparrow, and rufous-sided towhee.

Bell's vireos returned to their usual breeding sites in the Iowa City area (Hickory Hill park, Cou Falls, Williams Prairie). Kent Park was not visited so the status of those birds is not known.

Cliff swallows continue to breed in good numbers on the Iowa City bridges.