

FIELD REPORTS

SPRING 1977

Abbreviations used: S.M. - Sweet Marsh; Y.R.F. - Yellow River Forest.

Horned grebe: Three appeared at S.M. through the period, two on the marsh Apr. 2, another there on Apr. 19 till the 22nd.

- * Double-crested cormorant: Thirteen found in N.E., one at Cardinal Marsh on Apr. 17, found twice at S.M., six on Apr. 23, three on May 5, one at George Wyth Lake on May 1, the last record of spring was two at West Union May 23.
 - * Black-crowned night heron: Three found at S.M., two on Apr. 19, one on May 7.
 - * American bittern: Five found, four of which records came from S.M. and all of these were believed to be different individuals, those are, one there on Apr. 23, another on Apr. 30, two on May 1. A lone bird was found two miles N.E. of St. Lucas on May 12.
- Whistling swan: Nine were on the Wapsie Ponds which is near the Wapsie Valley Comm. School on Apr. 2 and 3. Another sighting was that of a lone, imm., swan the S.M. on Apr. 27 till May 3.
- White-fronted goose: Three flocks appeared on S.M., six on Mar. 20, ten there on Apr. 10, the last sighting was a flock of sixteen on Apr. 16.
- Redhead: An albino of this species, believed to be a female was at S.M. on Apr. 20.
- * Canvasback: Good numbers were found this spring, the best concentration was 2000-2500 at Lock#9 on Mar. 19.
 - * Sharp-shinned hawk: Seven found in N.E., one at Lock#9 on Mar. 12, one at S.M. on Apr. 14, a pair at S.M. on Apr. 30, one at S.M. and one at West Union on May 5, one at St. Lucas on May 8.
 - * Red-shouldered hawk: Individual birds were found at S.M. on three occasions during the period, March 26, Apr. 3, and Apr. 14. The hawk may nest at S.M..
 - * Swainson's hawk: Three found in N.E., one at Waucoma on Apr. 10, two were at West Union on May 4.
 - * Osprey: One at St. Lucas on Apr. 29.
 - * Piping plover: One was found at Waucoma on Apr. 11 till the 13.
 - * Upland sandpiper: Six found in N.E., one at Jackson Junction on Apr. 13, one at St. Lucas on Apr. 20, two at Mark's Sand Prairie on May 1, one at Hayden Prairie on May 22, one at Calmar on May 29.

Willet: A flock of Willets was observed at S.M. on May 1, the flock was also seen by Tom Stone Jr. and Tom Stone Sr. and was estimated to contain twenty-five to thirty birds.

Baird's sandpiper: A total of twenty-five were found at Union Grove Lake on the I.O.U. field trip, on May 15, with many observers seeing them.

Forester's tern: A total of eight occurred on S.M. in April, one on Apr. 16 and 17, three on Apr. 20, four on Apr. 30.

? * Black tern: Fourteen were found at S.M., four on May 3, ten on May 5.

* Yellow-billed cuckoo: Four were found in N.E. through the period, one two miles E. of St. Lucas on May 25, one was at S.M. on May 29, one at St. Lucas on May 29, one at Y.R.F. on May 30.

* Black-billed cuckoo: Five found, all were single birds, S.M. on May 21, at Volga Lake Recreation Area on May 27, Guttenburge on May 28, S.M. on May 29, Y.R.F. on May 30.

Blue jay: Migrating, or what appeared to be migrating jays were found on May 5, with a flock of fifteen at St. Lucas, and a group of eighteen at S.M.. Why they were considered migrating was because they were in tight formation, at a good height (250 feet or more), and heading in a N.W. direction.

Water pipit: one at S.M. on March 30.

White-eyed vireo: An early sighting occurred at Echoe Valley State Park on Apr. 18, this was also the only record of spring.

Philadelphia vireo: This uncommon vireo had a good spring migration with a total of four found, one at St. Lucas on May 5, one at St. Lucas on May 8, two were found by me on I.O.U. field trip to Union Grove Lake, on May 15.

Golden-winged warbler: Two found, one at S.M. on May 3, one at St. Lucas on May 8.

Yellow-rumped (audubon X myrtle) hybrid warbler: I do not know what to call this warbler since the two variations are lumped under one species. What I will say is that a warbler was found at Echoe Valley S.P., on May 4, looked like what was formerly called a "myrtle" with a distinct yellow throat, it had no other characteristics of the western form. If it is a valuable sighting I will let you decide.

Cerulean warbler: Two found at St. Lucas on May 8.

* Henslow's sparrow: Two were found at Hayden Prairie on May 29.

Lapland longspur: Three at S.M. on Apr. 30, were thought late.

* -Is species on Blue List.

Joe Schaufhauser

June 5, 1977

Dear Mr. Halmi:

Here are some late records as well as some sightings forgotten on my first report.

- Su* Green-winged teal: One male at Sweet Marsh on June 4, was thought late.
- Su* Rough-legged hawk: Eight or more were found roosting at Backbone S.P. on Feb. 20, although this record does not fall into the spring period I feel it should be mentioned.
- Su* Virginia rail: One was flushed on Apr. 28, five were heard there on May 3, and two were still calling on June 4, all this at Sweet Marsh.
- Su* Semipalmated plover: Four on June 5, at Sweet Marsh were thought late.
- Su* Semipalmated sandpiper: Twenty on June 5, at Sweet Marsh were thought late.
- Su* Acadian flycatcher: Seven were found 3 miles S.E. of St. Lucas on June 4.
- Su* Least flycatcher: One at Meyer Lake on June 4, was thought late, and one has been found at Sweet Marsh since May 7, is thought to be a possible breeding bird, all though no nest or mate have been found. It is still present at Sweet Marsh to date.
- Winter wren: Only one seen this spring at Meyer Lake on Apr. 15.
- Su* Veery: Four have been found singing since the end of May 3 miles S.E. of St. Lucas, they were still present on June 3, but only three were found on June 4, they are very loyal to certain areas and are believed breeding, thick undercover makes nest locating difficult.
- Eastern bluebird; Still decreasing only one pair located.
- Su* * Bell's Vireo: A singing Bell's was found at Sweet Marsh on June 4, but could not be found there the next day.
- Su* Prothonotary warbler: A pair has been at Sweet Marsh since May and are possible breeders.
- * Yellow warbler: Was found at seven locations, the most was ten at Sweet Marsh.
- Su* Curelean warbler: One found 3 miles S.E. of St. Lucas on June 4.
- Su* Blackburnian warbler: A singing male was seen 3 miles S.E. of St. Lucas on June 5, was rather late.
- Su* Louisiana waterthrush: As many as four found June 3 and 4, 3 miles S.E. of St. Lucas.
- Su* Kentucky warbler: Two singing individuals found on June 5, 3 miles S.E. of St. Lucas.
- Su* Swamp sparrow: Is found singing in four locations, the most being 35 at Sweet Marsh on June 5, so is certainly a breeding bird in N.
- * BLUELIST

Joe Schaufubel