

Spring Migration Report from Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock.

March 1 to May 31.

Our weather pattern was the same as other areas in the state, such that it seemed to trigger an early migration for some species, though ~~xxxx~~ it seemed like I waited for a long time for some, as a Phoebe for instance. It seemed like a good migration period as far as ~~xxxxx~~ number of species was seen but not as far as numbers of birds within the ~~xxxxxxx~~ species.

Thanks to the two ponds south of town, near the river, put in when the new sewer system was established for Marble Rock I saw 17 different species of ducks this spring. I walked down there nearly every morning during the season. Most numerous were the Lesser Scaup and a female Lesser Scaup is still here, but I don't see any male now. I was surprised to see as many Ring-necks as I did. When watching only the river for ducks I was thankful to see just a few ^{Ring Neck} for my list, probably saw 20 or more this year. Many species such as Gadwall, Widgeon, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser and Canvasback were seen just a few times and then just a few birds. I saw a Ruddy Duck once, it was a female. There were quite a lot of Bufflehead and they were here longer than most species. Was surprised to find a pair of Pintail down there on April 5 and again on the 17th. Saw several Redheads on several different days. And I had quite a lot of records for the Green-winged Teal. Shovellers were among those that were more numerous and came more often up through May 4 and then I saw the species again on May 22. Couldn't complain about the number of ~~xxxx~~ Mallard or Wood Duck. Of course the Wood Duck nest in this locality. Blue Winged Teal were quite numerous and I suspect they may be nesting in the area. But I didn't see many ducks on the river except for the fact that the Wood Ducks seemed to prefer the river to the lagoon ponds. But the biggest thriller didn't light on pond or river, he just flew over as I stood watching for birds at the pond the morning of April 22. The dark plumage and white markings on head and duck shape and flight couldn't be ~~identified~~ called anything except a Surf Scoter. It was a new one for my life list. I fear all this about ducks hasn't given you much of an idea as to their abundance in spring migration. *Geese were seen going over about as usual into early*

The ponds also were a help in observing shorebird migration. Killdeer of course were numerous. I saw a few Greater Yellow-legs and more lesser Yellowlegs. There was quite a flock of ~~xxx~~ Semipalmated Sandpipers here during most of May and this morning (June 1) I found three or four still there. Recorded Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers. The Spotted were comparatively numerous and are still here. Saw Pectoral Sandpipers several times, quite a few one morning. Saw one Bairds once with

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I know that when I see the ^{Field} ~~Season~~'s report in the "Iowa Bird Life" that there will be others I will wish I had mentioned as I now have 164 on my ~~of~~ 1977 list. So will put a few down that might be ~~of~~ ^{of} interest, such as a Caspian Tern ~~on April~~ April 10, a Mockingbird on April 18, a Common Egret on April 21. ~~xxx~~ an Eared Grebe on May 21, and the fact that ~~Indigo~~ Indigo Buntings are numerous again this year, probably some I have seen and heard will go on north.

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