

## IOWA

for N.S. Halimi - March 1 - May 31, 1978  
from Rich DeCoster

5 June 1978

present address: Dept. of Physics  
U. of Iowa  
353-4422

future (permanent) address: (after about August 31, 1978)  
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Double-crested cormorant: none seen

Black-crowned night heron:

1 at Cone Marsh, Louisa Co., April 30, 1978.

4 (2 ad; 1 im, + one in between), Otter Creek Marsh,  
TAMA County, May 6, 1978.

Am. Bittern: 1 at Otter Creek Marsh, May 6.

(late) Gadwall: 1 ♂ + 1 ♀ at Swan Lake, Johnson Co., May 17  
1 ♂ at Swan Lake, May 28

(late) N. Shoveler: 2 pairs seen in Swan Lake vicinity on May 17  
and a pair (1 ♂, 1 ♀) at Swan Lake on 28 May.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 in Heckoy Hill Park, Iowa City,  
on ~~the~~ April 8 and another there on May 9.  
A third accipiter (species) was over Coraville  
Dam on March 29.

Broad-winged Hawk: no large kettles seen. ~~seen~~  
One or two seen on most trips to HHP the first half  
of April, with a maximum "Kettle" of four birds.

American Kestrel: 1 in HHP on March 22 + 4 in  
vicinity of Cone Marsh on March 23 were the  
only ones seen. And an earlier one on CoR  
on March 11.

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→ yellow rail - one seen at Cone Marsh on April 30.  
Bird was flushed twice from hayfield & once from unplowed cornfield & white trailing  $\frac{1}{3}$  edge of inner wing was observed in good sunlight & at good angle.  
Bird seen by other observers.

Roddy turnstone: one bird seen at ~20 yards at "Sycamore Street Marsh" (~1 mile south of U.S. 6 & Sycamore St. in Iowa City) on May 18. Harlequin pattern unmistakable. Reported to me by R. Hollis.

Marbled Godwit: one bird seen at "Sycamore Street Marsh" on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Large size, long upturned bill made it a godwit & the lack of white rump & darkly banded tail eliminated Hudsonian. Reported to me by R. Hollis.

Cockoos: Both species arrived in large numbers on 18 May & have been common ever since at HHP & at various Coralville Reservoir points.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds: only 2 seen this spring. Both males.

Eastern Phoebe: ~~only~~ only 2 seen; 1 at HHP on April 8 and 1 at Palisades-Kepler State Park, May 20.

Loggerhead Shrike: 1 several miles southeast of Hills on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Seen at close range (15-25 yards) with scope. Dark lower bill, mask resting above ~~eye~~ bill, & clear breast easily seen. Bird had general aspects of loggerhead, appearing darker & smaller than a northern.

White-eyed Vireo - (rare breeding bird) returned to HHP on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Later in month 2 heard at same time (in HHP).

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Bells vireo: Did not appear in HHP until May 12.  
At least 3 singing males heard in HHP later in May.  
A ~~minimum~~ <sup>minimum</sup> of 5 singing males were seen & heard  
~ 1 miles NE of Swan Lake early in the morning  
of May 27<sup>th</sup>. Will check this area again.

Philadelphia vireo:

1 just north of Swan Lake, May 17<sup>th</sup>  
1 in HHP on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Warblers: I didn't have much luck with these despite  
many hours spent in HHP. The best day was on  
May 17 when I went to area just north of Swan  
Lake, but nothing spectacular. Best warbler during  
spring was worm-eating warbler (found by others  
on previous day) at Cone Marsh on ~~May~~ April 30.  
Two Cerulean warblers were seen & heard at  
their standard location at Palisades - Keppeler State  
Park on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Yellow-headed blackbirds were at Swan Lake (4 each  
on May 17 & May 27 but none could be located  
on May 28<sup>th</sup>). The colony at Otter Creek Marsh  
was doing well on May 6.

Dickcissel: no dickcissels have yet been seen; but I've  
not been out ~~much~~ since May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Common Redpoll: Last seen at feeder were 3 on 19 March.  
5 were seen at Cone Marsh on March 22.

Pine Siskin: Common in May, with 10 (counted) seen in  
Oakland Cemetery on May 13<sup>th</sup>, feeding on dandelion seeds  
& competing with chipping sparrows for tombstone perches.  
Last heard in my neighborhood on 24 May.

Clay-colored sparrow - one, non-singing bird seen in HHP  
on May 11