

## FIELD REPORTS

Spring 1978

The species marked with \* are on the National Audubon Blue List ( Am. Birds 31:1087, 1977), the Iowa Blue List ( I.B.L.45: 95, 1975), and-or on Dean Roosa's list of endangered, threatened or declining species in Iowa ( I.B.L.46: 40, 1976).

General comments. March was a continuation of the winter, with a major snowstorm just before Easter. April was warmer than average, although it didn't feel so with the excess rain, which established an unwelcome pattern of spoiling weekends. This carried into May, very un-springlike until after the 10<sup>th</sup>, when several days of warm wind from the south were followed by a huge cold front with rain and high winds. The end of May felt more like premature summer. Delayed migration of waterfowl reflected the cold weather early in the season, as did lingering of winter species (including some spectacular ones). Shorebirds were conspicuously sparse in their expected haunts along the edges of large bodies of water (which lacked mudflats), but appeared in good variety at sewage lagoons and puddles left in the fields by the April rains. Some passerines were on schedule, but many bird usually common by early May were still absent on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and the front that hit eastern Iowa on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> caused an incredible fallout of thrushes and warblers. Whereas some contributors complained about a lackluster season, readers of this synopsis will be more impressed by the wealth of unusual observations.

Abbreviations used. L.=lake; M.=marsh; NWR=national wildlife refuge; S.P.=state park.

Some late winter reports of interest. This section deals with observations made before March 1 but reported after the deadline for the preparation of the winter summary. A \*Cooper's Hawk was seen on December 28 (JSt). A dark-phase Ferruginous Hawk, with an all-white tail but an atypical white throat patch, was photographed in early February at De Soto Bend NWR (NHe). A Golden Eagle seen on February 19 e. of the Amana Colonies was documented in considerable detail (MN,RD). A \*Peregrine Falcon at De Soto Bend NWR on February 24 was described (WD). Documentation of the \*Merlin observed on February 7 (see winter report) was provided (BB). Great Horned Owls using hawks' nests are commonplace, but Douglas Harr found one incubating 2 eggs in the nest of a Canada Goose on February 26 (fide GB1). Nine sightings of Snowy Owls in the course of the winter were reported to Gladys Black, all but one from the w.-n.w. part of the state. Documentation of a Varied Thrush seen at Long Grove from January 2 to February 17 was submitted (PF). Eight Bohemian Waxwings (in a flock of 65 Cedars) were seen on February 4 at Winterset

(fide GB1). A young male Yellow-headed Blackbird visited a feeder in Council Bluffs on February 26, and was convincingly described (JG). When the Pine Grosbeaks reported to Gladys Black are added to those that previously had come to our attention, the number of birds seen this winter in Iowa rises above 60 (seen in 9 counties). Yet another Hoary Redpoll was documented and also photographed (Cherokee, February 22-23, MB). A measure of the magnitude of the Com. Redpoll invasion is the belief (GB1) that they reached all 99 counties; Petersen banded 169 out of an estimated 275-300 around his house. Only one Red Crossbill was seen, on December 5 in Waterloo, but 21 White-winged Crossbills, observed mostly in the early part of winter, should be added to those commented on in the winter report (fide GB1) (this species occurred in 13 counties).

Loons through Ibises. Single Com. Loons were reported from widely scattered locations. They occurred mostly in April, with an individual in nuptial plumage staying into early May near Iowa City (many observers). Details about a Red-throated Loon observed on April 15 at L.Manawa (EC) have not yet been received. More Horned Grebes were seen than in an average year, some of the higher numbers recorded being 10 on Cedar L., March 20 (FT), 22 in n.e. Iowa, April 8-22 (JSc), and a maximum of 40 on Little Wall L., April 19 (ISU). There was an apparent eastward shift in the migration of Eared Grebes, usually rare in the east and uncommon in the west: 8 on Amana L., May 6 (MN et al.), 6-7 on Goose L., Clinton Co., on May 13 (PP), and 5 in n.e. Iowa on May 12 (JSc) being remarkable numbers for the e. part of the state; 12 at Forneys L. from May 12 on (with evidence for breeding sought, RS) and as many as 56 on Storm L. (May 13, MB) are an indication of their heavy migration through the west. A W.Grebe was observed on May 14 at Marble Rock (PK). \*Am. White Pelicans also moved through the w. half of the state in large numbers, with some of the high counts reported being 100 at Hamburg, April 18 (IG) and 300 on May 6 over L.Manawa (TB). The e. limit of their occurrence was at Red Rock (135 in mid-April, GB1) and Saylorville (7 on May 6, WB). It is a pleasure to be able to report high counts for \*Double-crested Cormorants: e.g., 8 at Ingham L., April 3 (TN), 18 at Coralville, April 20 (NHa), 17 at Cone M., April 30 (TSh et al.), 50 on the Des Moines River s. of Boone, May 9 (ISU), 113 at Riverton on April 28 (RS), about 300 on Lizard L., Gilmore City, April 13 (RC), 50 at George Wyth S.P., Waterloo (TSt, TStJr), May 9, 300 on a borrow pit along I-29 on April 19 (IG), and a maximum of 400 on L.Manawa in early April (EC). An immature at Coralville on May 17 (NHa) was rather late. In contrast, only small flocks of Great Blue Herons were recorded, 8 on April 8 in Allamakee Co. (JB) and 12 at Sabula on April 1 (PP) being tops. Dean Roosa found 4 nests in s. Winneshiek Co. (JSc). Little was said about Green Herons, but

W. coast.

east

west! →

it is discouraging to have none on territory in the Iowa City vicinity. There were 3 sightings of Little Blue Herons: an adult at Cone M., April 16 (MN et al.), one at Virgin L., Palo Alto Co., May 11 (TN), and an adult by the Little Sioux River, May 13 (DB). Cattle Egret sightings have reached the point where they can no longer be reported in detail. Over 60 individuals were seen this spring, from the Mississippi to the Missouri, but most commonly in the s.-central parts of the state, with flocks of 7 near Des Moines, April 16 (AJ) and n. of Promise City, May 29 (CS), 13 in n.e. Polk Co. (ND), and a maximum of 16 at Red Rock on April 14 (GB1). In contrast, very few Great Egrets were seen: scattered singles, with 2 at Springville, April 12 (FT) and 6 from April 9 on in Allamakee Co. (JB). A Snowy Egret at L.Manawa, on April 23, was described in detail (LB), including a puzzling mention of his black feet. One was also seen near Randolph, Fremont Co., on May 16 (RS). The \*Black-crowned Night Heron is another problem species that made a good showing: it was widely distributed, and some of the higher counts were 9 at Sweet M., May 1 (JSc), 5 at Rush L., May 9 (DB), and a maximum of 12 s. of Missouri Valley (RGo). The Yellow-crowned Night Heron, a marginal species for Iowa, was seen mostly along the Mississippi: one in the yard on April 15 (GC), and 8 individuals (including a nesting pair at Sny Magill, Clayton Co., May 7) n. from the Wapsipinicon River to the Minnesota border, April 14-May 30 (JB). Several were also seen away from the river in Benton Co. (JB, JD). Small numbers of Least Bitterns were encountered in suitable habitat, but 10 at Cardinal M., May 29 (TSt). A species causing concern, the \*Am. Bittern, was reported by numerous correspondents, with 6 in n.e. counties (April 29 - May 18, JSc) balanced by 6 in the s.w. (April 23 - May 23, RS); it was judged "fairly common" in the n.w. Great Lakes region, where the hope for a comeback was voiced (TN). ~~Three~~ <sup>Eleven</sup> Plegadis ibises were reported. No attempt was made to identify the species for that seen on April 18 s. of Russell, s.-central Iowa (CS). Those who saw 6 dark ibises at Sweet M., April 26-29 (Larry Farmer, JSc) leaned towards Glossy; 4 birds seen near Churdan, Greene Co. (April 21, DT) were believed to be White-faced, but the description did not include diagnostic field marks. Plegadis ibises observed in spring under favorable viewing conditions should be recognizable as to species (see H. Douglas Pratt, Birding 8:1, 1976).

Swans through Ducks. A Mute Swan over the Mississippi n. of Muscatine was seen on March 11 (TK, TSh). The only report of Whistling Swans referred to 10 observed at Nashua on April 10 (JSc). Great White-fronted Geese peaked at about 500 on March 31-April 1 (both at Riverton, RS, and Mud L., Clay Co., TN). The only e. record was 14 at Cone M., March 26 (TSh). There were an estimated 750,000 Snow Geese at

Forneys L. on March 26, and 3 were still present at the end of the period (RS). Forty-five Gadwalls at Cone M. on April 16 (MN) were unusual. A Cinnamon Teal was seen near Randolph May 12-13, and a Cinnamon x Blue-winged hybrid at Forneys L. on May 20 (RS). High counts for \*Canvasbacks were 250 at Lock 9 along the Mississippi (March 25, JSc) and 200 in the southwest (April 1, RS); a pair in Pottawattamie Co. on May 13 was late (JG). There were these records of Greater Scaups: one on the Mississippi, near Princeton (March 19, TK, NHa), at least 4, with hundreds of Lesser Scaups, at the Coralville Reservoir (April 20, NHa), and one on April 7 at Little Wall L. (Mark Ryan fide JD). An Oldsquaw was seen at Cone M. on April 9 (MN et al.). One-hundred Ruddy Ducks at Riverton on March 28 was a good count (RS). All three mergansers were widely seen, with concentrations of 28 Red-breasted in a gravel pit s. of Iowa City on April 16 (MN) and 51 on L. Manawa on April 21 (JG).

Diurnal Raptors. The Mississippi Kite has been extirpated from Iowa since 1890. But it breeds again in s. Illinois, and has been recently seen in c. Illinois, Wisconsin and s. Minnesota, so its reappearance in Iowa was not entirely surprising. On May 29, Tom Stone, Jr., 13, informed me over the telephone that he and 7 others had observed a white-headed, black-tailed kite at Cardinal M., near Cresco in n. Iowa. The description given was quite convincing, but written documentation has not yet been received. There were 25-30 Turkey Vultures in a roost at Elk Rock (GB1), and a nest was observed in Mills Co. May 13-20 (JG). \*Sharp-shinned Hawks were widely seen, with 32 counted in the northeast between March 31 and May 4 (JSc), and 12 banded April 2 - May 4 (PP). There were more reports of \*Cooper's Hawks than in past years: one at Muskrat Slough, May 6 (TK, TSh, NHa), one in Cherokee Co., April 2 (DB), another at Riverton, April 1 (RS), 3 at Sweet M., April 8 (TSt Jr), and 4 in Allamakee Co., April 8 - May 13 (JB). The only \*Red-shouldered Hawk away from the Mississippi was one seen at Sweet M. on May 29 (JSc); an immature was encountered near Muscatine on March 31<sup>(TK, TSh)</sup>, and Jim Bednarz, who is working on this species, found 5 nests in n.e. Iowa and 5 additional individuals between March 29 and May 6. He is very pessimistic about the chances of survival of this Buteo in the state. No large kettles of \*Broad-winged Hawks were apparently observed, but the migration through n.e. Iowa, in late April, was considered good (JB). \*Swainson's Hawks made a lot of news this spring. Three nests were found, 2 on April 25 (n. of Cherokee, DB; Fayette Co., JSc), and one on April 29 in Hardin Co., with 3 eggs by May 26 (JB). Five migrants were seen in n.e. counties, April 2-22 (JSc), 4 at Sweet M., April 8, 3 at Hartman's Reserve, April 22 (TSt, TSt Jr), 3 n. of Cherokee, April 18 (DB), and 2 in Fremont Co. April 15 and 20, as well as on the late date of May 13 in Mills Co. (RS). A flock following a disc harrow in Polk Co. on April 24 (GA) and picking up rodents dislodged

Doc. pending, wrote for it

total: 10

Total: 26, high

by the blades duplicated an incident related by Bent, as pointed out by Woody Brown. Rough-legged Hawks lingered into late March (RC, PK, HZ, LZ). An immature Golden Eagle seen on March 26 n. of Waukon was documented (JSc). The peak count of Bald Eagles at Red Rock was 15 in March (GB1); some were still along the Mississippi in n.e. Iowa in mid-April (JB). The migration of \*N. Harriers was poor compared with last year's at Sioux Center (JV) and in the Iowa City area (NHa); it was rated fairly good from March 20 on at Cherokee (DB) and going from good in April to poor in May in the Great Lakes region (TN). \*Ospreys, no more than 5 seen by any observer, occurred all over the state in April, and as late as May 13 (JG); the total count for the state was at least 26 birds. Documentation was received for a \*Prairie Falcon seen on May 1 at the ISU beef farm (PH), and for a Peregrine Falcon at Sweet M. on April 16 (JSc) as well as one in Waterloo, May 11 (TSt Jr); no particulars as to time and place were provided concerning a female seen feasting on a Flicker (DMs). Details about a \*Merlin observed at Ames on March 20 (EJ) were reported, and have been promised for another seen on March 19 in Fremont Co. (RS); none are available for a third bird found at Weld L. on April 4 (DH). Once again, reports about \*Am. Kestrels are contradictory: common in late March s. of Iowa City (12 counted on a round trip to Wapello, TK, NHa), "very abundant" during the same period in the Cherokee area (DB, MB), "very common" in April in the Great Lakes region (TN), but "rare" in May, "regular" at Pine Hill Cemetery but "scarce" elsewhere (PP), up from 1977 (DMs), but "few and far between" in the west (JG). Two nests were found near Cherokee (DB) and one s.e. of Marion (FT).

Quails through Sandpipers. The few comments received indicate that Com. Bobwhites may be reduced in numbers, but the Ring-necked Pheasant population is healthy. Gray Partridges continue to do well in the northwest (RC, DB), and appeared for the first time in n.e. Iowa on May 30 (at St. Lucas, JSc) - these may have wandered down from Minnesota. Wild Turkeys are becoming common (flocks up to 40) in s.w. Iowa in early Spring (RS). Six Sandhill Cranes flew over I-29 on May 11 (IG). No \*King Rails were reported. Virginia Rails were unusually conspicuous in the marshes of e. Iowa in the first half of May (Cone M., Muskrat Slough etc.) (TSh, PP, TK, NHa). Some 10 were flushed and blown around by high winds at Cone M. on May 13 (TSh, TK, NHa). Soras were downright abundant (about 25-30 at Cone M. on May 13) in the same places, and also in the Great Lakes region (TN). As described in a separate note (TK), Yellow Rails (2, maybe 3) were present at Cone M. April 30 - May 6. Because they were remarkably easy to flush and remained "staked out" for so long, several area birders got to see them well. Iowa's third Purple Gallinule, an injured bird found in Ames on May 22, is now a specimen in Dr. Dinsmore's freezer, and will no doubt wind up in the ISU museum. A Com. Gallinule was observed at Waterloo on May 2 (TSt, TSt Jr,

doc.

docs.  
1 uncorr.

1 doc.  
2 uncorr.

RH). The only \*Piping Plovers reported were 2 at De Soto Bend NWR on May 2 (RGo). As usual, Lesser Golden Plovers moved through in flocks [the largest consisting of 200 birds, May 14, near Oelwein (TSt, TSt Jr, RH)], and Black-bellied Plovers as widely scattered singles. Ruddy Turnstones occurred in several locations: 3 s. of Iowa City, May 17-19 (NHa et al.), one on May 17 at Little Wall L. (JD, ISU), another at Little Clear L., May 13 (RC), and one near Randolph, May 23 (RS). \*Upland Sandpipers were seen in moderate numbers: 2 pairs on territory in Johnson Co. from April 23 on (TK et al.), 3 pairs near Seymour, since April 12 (CS), 1 in Dickinson Co., May 9 (DH), 1 at Sweet M., April 30, 4 at Hayden Prairie, May 29 (TSt, TSt Jr) and 6 near Ames, April 19 - May 22 (JD, ISU). Willetts were observed by several people, mostly in small flocks [2 on May 16 at Little Wall L., ISU, 12 by the Coralville Reservoir, April 29, TK, 11 at Waterloo, April 24, (TSt Jr), and 7 at Amana L., May 7, NHa, TSh). White-rumped Sandpipers were much in evidence, but nobody could rival the count of 1000+ obtained at Riverton on May 20 (RS). Baird's Sandpipers were much harder to find: one at Roger's Crossing, May 20 (FT), 3 at Princeton M., May 13 (PP), 7 at Ankeny Pond, May 14, and 13 at Tieg's M., May 13 (HZ). The high count for Long-billed Dowitchers was 60+ at Princeton M., May 13 (PP). Stilt Sandpipers occurred sporadically, with one each at Roger's Crossing, May 13 (FT), and Sweet M. May 14 (JSc), 3 each at Cherokee, May 8 (DB), s. of Iowa City, May 11 (NHa et al.) and Little Clear L., May 13 (RC), and up to 21 in Fremont Co., May 9 (RS). Two Western Sandpipers were seen at close range near Iowa City May 19-20 (NHa, TSh). No date was supplied for the 3 Buff-breasted Sandpipers observed near Seymour (CS). The rare Marbled Godwit was seen n. of Missouri Valley (2 on April 10, 2 on May 15, RGo) and s. of Iowa City (3 on May 11, TK, TSh, one May 25-27, for a new late date, Carl Bendorf et al.) Reports of Hudsonian Godwits were unusually numerous: singles in n.w. Dickinson Co., May 8 (JSc), at Ankeny, May 14 (HZ), n. of Story City, May 11 (JD), at Cherokee, May 11 (DB), and s. of Iowa City, May 17 (NHa), 4 at L. Harmon, Worth Co., May 8 (JD), 3 s. of Iowa City, May 11 (TK, TSh), 9 at Alburt<sup>rn</sup> Slough, May 11 (FT), and a high count of 12 in Fremont Co., May 12 (RS). Sanderlings, rare in the spring, were seen at Little Clear L., May 13 (3, RC) and in Fremont Co., peak count of 12 on May 14 (RS). The only Am. Avocets mentioned were 4 at Dan Green Slough, Clay Co., May 11 (TN). Wilson's Phalaropes were very common, as witnessed by such high counts as 75 in Fremont Co., May 11 (RS) and, on the same day, 250 at the Cherokee sewage lagoon (DB). Three N. Phalaropes were observed May 9 - 11 near Randolph (RS), and 2 at Sweet M. on April 30 (TSt Jr, RH).

total:  
21

total:  
32+

total:  
24

total:  
29

date?  
total:  
8

total:  
33

Gulls through Flycatchers. The only significant note about Franklin's Gulls was the occurrence of 8 on April 15 in the extreme n.e. corner of the state (JSc). An

unusually massive flight of Com. Terns (estimated 60-70 birds, PP) moved n. along the Mississippi on May 13. Two \*Little Terns were over L. Manawa on April 22 (RGr). A newcomer to the Blue List, the \*Black Tern, was widely encountered in large numbers (flocks over 100 birds being seen), in sharp contrast to its poor showing during the last 2 years. Let us hope this is not just a flash in the pan. The reports on \*cuckoos, viewed together, don't indicate any further decline. A Long-eared Owl at St. Lucas May 18 - 19 was very late (JSc). The last date for \*Short-eared Owl sightings is April 19, Seymour (CS). A Saw whet Owl was in Burlington (dates?) (C & JF), and another from March 23 to 28 at Ledges S.P. (HZ, MG). Once again, very few Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen -- none by the 19 observers reporting through Janet Greer. A Pileated Woodpecker is in residence on Credit Island (PP). Iowa observers must be pleased with the removal of the Red-headed Woodpecker from the Blue List: our population seems to be highly migratory but sturdy. An albino Downy Woodpecker seen in Mills Co., April 27, was described in detail (BW). E. Kingbirds seem less common around Iowa City than in past years. W. Kingbirds were common at Akron (EB), and 18 were seen by w. observers (JG). Two birds somewhat e. of the normal range (on May 11, one at Jewell, the other at the ISU beef farm) were documented (JD, PH). Little was written about the E. Phoebe: this impresses me as a bad sign. As usual, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were elusive in the field whereas 12 were banded May 18 - 24 (PP). Ten Acadians banded (May 11 - 23) was considered a good count (PP), but none were on territory at Wildcat Den S.P., where they were very vocal in 1977. Empidonax migration was described as excellent in Sioux Center (JV). The Alder, believed to be a migrant through Iowa, was still at Decorah on May 31 (JSc). Olive-sided were few, or migrated across the state fast.

*doc.* Swallows through Vireos. Cliff Swallows in Iowa are no longer blue-listed, in agreement with the consensus that they are doing well. Reports about \*Purple Martins, from east to west, are also favorable. Lingering Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen on May 17 at Iowa City and May 19 at Davenport (PP). Winter Wrens were scarce, with one at Davenport April 1-15 (PP), another in the Amana Woods on May 6 (MN), and a third at Union Grove S.P., April 23 (TSt Jr, RH). There is an ominous silence from most quarters about Carolina Wrens. Only at some Iowa City residences have they been regular. It seems likely that 2 harsh winters in a row wiped out most of the population. A "good movement of Marsh and Sedge Wrens" on May 15 (PP) is the only positive comment about these species. As usual, single N. Mockingbirds were reported from around the state, with no obvious geographical pattern. One in the s.w. corner was welcomed as a rarity (RS). A Varied Thrush in Des Moines vanished before

it could be seen by experienced birders (WB, DMO). Another, in Cedar Falls most of the winter, did not come to general attention until mid-March, when numerous observers from out of town saw it (TSt, JSc, FT et al.). It was photographed, and last seen on April 5 (TSt Jr). After 2 years of shortage of migrant Cathartes thrushes, it was a delight to find scores of them in a driving rain at Wildcat Den S.P. on May 13, with Veeries unusually common (TK, TSh, PP, NHa). All reports from the field and concerning the rate of occupancy of nesting boxes indicate that the newly-acquired Blue List status of the \*E. Bluebird is, alas, fully deserved. The Townsend's Solitaire mentioned in the winter report (JSc) stayed until March 26. The paucity of Golden-crowned Kinglets continues: for examples, none were seen by 20 w. birders this spring. This species is as much a casualty of the rough winters that came back-to-back as the Carolina Wren. The only substantial number of Water Pipits seen was 15 at Roger's Crossing on May 2 (FT). A Sprague's Pipit observed at close range n.w. of Missouri Valley <sup>on April 11</sup> was documented (RGo). Eight Bohemian Waxwing at Cherokee, seen until March 1, barely made it into the spring report (DB). The last of 3 N. Shrikes <sup>doc.</sup> was seen n. of Waukon on March 25, and documented (JSc). As usual, \*Loggerhead Shrikes were widely reported, but in small numbers, and common only in the southwest (RS). <sup>5</sup> Nests were found at Red Rock, 2 of 3 active at the end of May (GB1), Fremont Co. (2, RS), and Lawler, Chickasaw Co., May 29 (one, JSc). If anything, this species seems to be losing ground in most of Iowa. White-eyed Vireos were back on territory at Hickory Hill Park, Iowa City, for the fourth year in a row. One at Cherokee on May 11 (DB) was testing the limits of its range. Viewed collectively, the reports on \*Bell's Vireo suggest that it is stable in suitable habitat. No systematic search seems to have taken place for \*Warbling Vireos, a species added last year to the Blue List. Some w. observers (DB, JG) feel it has not declined. My personal impression is that it has in the Iowa City area.

Warblers through Blackbirds. In several parts of the state, warbler migration was late but great. Reporters from the northwest exulted over 13 species (DB, JV), "waves" in the southwest drew hallelujahs (RS), but, of course, things were best in the east. For example, 2 Iowa City birders (TK, NHa) each saw 34 species. Teamed up with Tom Shires, they recorded 27 on a horrible rainy day (May 13) at Wildcat Den S.P., Credit Island, and w. of Cone M. Credit Island, with warblers seeming to fall out of the clouds, was reminiscent of High Island, Texas! A somewhat extralimital nesting of the Prothonotary Warbler was observed in Brenton's Slough, Polk Co. (DMO). The Cedar Rapids Audubon group found an early Worm-eating

Warbler at Cone M. (April 29), which stayed to be seen by several Iowa City birders the next day. One singing on May 27 in s.-central Greene Co. (DMs) was clearly out of the normal range. The same holds for 2 Blue-winged Warblers singing in Ledges S.P. on May 29 (JD). There was apparently no dearth of \*Yellow Warblers. In fact, Janet Greer, speaking for w. birders, called them abundant, and found the Blue List status of the species incomprehensible. Single Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen s. of Iowa City (May 6, TK, TSh, NHa) and, unexpectedly, in Mills Co. (May 13, TB). Cerulean Warblers are established at Wildcat Den S.P. and Palisades Kepler S.P. (TSh, FT et al.). Dr. Van Dyk points out that the Black-burnian Warbler is not rare or even uncommon in his part of the state. The Yellow-throated Warbler, unquestionably rare, was seen in 2 places: Credit Island, May 13 (PP and Elton Fawks), and Ames, May 4 (GF) and 9 (EJ). Documentations were received for all these sightings. A singing Prairie Warbler was heard in a field next to Wildcat Den S.P. on May 28 (NHa). Territorial Louisiana Waterthrushes were seen and heard at Wildcat Den and Ledges S.P. (2 and 3, respectively, TK et al., JD). Kentucky Warblers are regular at the former location, and were therefore no surprise (May 12 on, TSh et al.); the 4 in Mills Co., May 13, were more unusual (RS). The rare Connecticut Warbler was seen in a number of places: one each on May 18 in Cedar Rapids (FT) and Iowa City (TK), one on May 11 at Ames (ISU), and 2 in Fayette Co., May 18 and 21 (JSc). Mourning Warblers were reported from several locations across the state, in surprising numbers. Records of \*Yellow-breasted Chats were few: one at Wildcat Den S.P., May 13, a migrant (TK et al.), and one in Cedar Rapids on May 24 (FT) believed a breeder. Two Hooded Warblers were banded, May 14 and 16 (PP), and one seen and heard at Wildcat Den S.P., May 12-13 (TK, TSh, NHa). Canada Warblers were unusually common in eastern Iowa (TSh et al.) and at Waterloo, May 12-20 (TSt, TSt Jr). There are not enough data to clarify the status of the \*Am. Redstart, whose distribution seems very uneven. The abundance of suitable habitat has worked in favor of the Yellow-headed Blackbird: re-established at Muskrat Slough, continuing at Cone M. back at Ankeny Ponds (DMs), breeding colonies at Storm L., Rush L., Little Spirit L., Silver L. in the northwest (DB, TN), abundant at a marsh in Pocahontas Co. (RC) and in the southwest (RS), hundreds at Sweet M., and over 50 nests counted at Cardinal M. (TSt, TSt Jr). Orchard Orioles have drawn attention in the Iowa City area (5 singing males at the end of period, NHa), in the west, where first-year males are conspicuously common (JG), and at Des Moines (2 present), where they are usually rare (ND). Brewer's Blackbirds (2 on March 28, IG) are more to be expected in the southwest than at Sweet M., where 15 were recorded on April 25 (JSc).

loc. }  
total: 5

*uncom.* Finches, Sparrows. A Lazuli Bunting was seen on May 14 in Waterloo (TSt Jr). This remains to be supported by the necessary detailed written documentation. It was a surprise to see the \*Dickcissel on the Blue List, but this spring they seem indeed less abundant than in the past (NHa, GB1, JG). The late date for Evening Grosbeaks was May 3 (CS, PK), and for Purple Finches May 15 (JSc). One of the winter's prize finds, a Gray-crowned Rosy Finch at the feeder of Mrs. Sharon Ladeburg in Oelwein (second state record, first seen in 1883), fortunately stayed into the second half of March, for it was not publicized until Mrs. Ladeburg overcame her diffidence and wrote to Gladys Black. The bird was then seen by many birders from all over the state, and repeatedly photographed. A Hoary Redpoll near Iowa City, March 10, was documented (TK). Com. Redpolls lingered until late March at Red Rock (GB1) and Iowa City (TSh), and were last seen on May 1 at Cherokee (DB). Pine Siskins stayed through most of May in several places: Iowa City (TSh), St. Lucas (JSc), Ames (JD) and Des Moines. In the latter 2 locations nesting or attempted nesting occurred (see longer note by Margaret Brooke). Sparrow migration was dull this spring. Little of documentary value can thus be said about the state of the \*Grasshopper Sparrow. A Baird's Sparrow was singing on May 16 at Marble Rock (PK), and the song was compared with that on the Cornell cassette. The identification is therefore apparently reliable, but if verbal documentation is required for any sparrow in Iowa, it is Baird's! Three LeConte's were seen at Cone M. on April 30 (TK et al.), and a \*Henslow's on April 26 at St. Lucas and on May 27 near Volga L. (JSc). \*Vesper Sparrows seem to be common only in the northwest (DB, JV); 30 at Georg Wyth S.P., Waterloo, on April 1 were considered very unusual (TSt Jr). Lark Sparrows have been hard to find around Iowa City. Clay-colored Sparrows were "common, as usual" at Sioux Center (JV), but the 8 or 9 birds seen in the Louisa-Johnson-Linn Co. area April 26 - May 12 (TK, NHa et al., FT) were better than par for this (eastern) course. A large flock (200) of Lapland Longspurs, in advanced molt, seen on March 25 in s. Johnson Co., was considered remarkable (TK, NHa). Some were seen as late as April 16 farther north (JSc). There was still a large flock (300 + birds) of Snow Buntings in Clay Co. on March 14 (DB).

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Field Reports Editor's note. There has been a remarkable increase in the number, length and quality of contributions. This gratifying development inevitably requires more abstracting of material submitted if the summary is not to get out of hand. But this, in turn, is time-consuming, and the deadline is inflexible. Therefore, early submission of reports is urgently requested (by August 5 for the summer). More documentation forms than ever have been received. Yet, some crucial ones were not submitted in time to be attached to the report to Am. Birds. I hate to see important contributions relegated, anonymously, to their "uncorroborated" category, often irretrievably. Documentation forms are most useful if prepared immediately after the sighting, when the memory of details is still fresh, and should therefore be available when the time for reporting comes around. N. H.