

Schaufersack

May 31, 1978

Joe Schaufersack  
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FIELD REPORT SPRING  
1978

Common Loon-- One seen, on April 8, in Chickasaw Co.

Horned Grebe--Unusually numerous, 22 found between April 8-May 4 without recounting same birds. All were found in N. Iowa most in the N.E.. High counts had 5 at Lock#9 April 15, 4 at Sweet Marsh Apr. 21 and the same number at Nashua (in Chickasaw Co.) on April 22 and Union Slough (Kossuth Co.) May 4.

Eared Grebe--5 found on May 12, in N.E. Iowa, one in Chickasaw Co., and four at Sweet Marsh, Bremer Co..

Pied-billed Grebe--Good numbers in migration, 110 plus were at Sweet Marsh on April 8, numbers are still poor for summering.

Double-crested Cormorant--Few, total of 4 seen Apr. 21 to May 1 all at Sweet Marsh.

Great-blue heron--Four nests were found by Dean Roosa in S. Winneshiek Co., on May 21 well away from any large water.

Cattle Egret--Found twice, one at New Albin (Allamakee Co.) and two at Sweet Marsh, the first on April 15, the latter April 29.

Black-crowned Night Heron--The first and highest count was 9 at Sweet Marsh on May 1.

American Bittern--Were seen from April 29, to May 18, in N.E., total of 6 without recount. Number and locations: May 1, 3 at Sweet Marsh; May 2, 2 at Cardinal Marsh, Winneshiek Co.; May 18, 1 five miles W. of Fayette in Fayette Co.

Ibis species--Six were seen by Larry Farmer on April 26 at Sweet Marsh, I saw the same birds on April 29, see documentation. Most likely Glossy.

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Whistling Swan--Ten were found at Nashua in Chickasaw Co. on April 10.

American Blackduck--Eight were found at New Albin in Allamakee Co. on March 19 and 2 at Lock 9 in Allamakee Co. on March 25.

Canvasback--Good numbers with a high count of 250 at Lock 9 on March 25. Count was made by Darwin Koenig and I.

Osprey--Five seen in N.E. counties April 4, to April 21.

Bald Eagle--An adult was still at Sweet Marsh on May first.

Accipiter species--Ten between April 8 and May 24

Sharp-shinned Hawk--Excellent numbers, 32 from March 31 to May 4. Waves occurred on April 3 at West Union in Fayette Co., and April 8. At both these sites I recorded 11. All sightings took place in North Iowa.

At SWEET MARSH

Red-shouldered Hawk--One was found at Sweet Marsh on May 29 is the only record by me this spring away from Mississippi.

Swainson's Hawk--Good spring movement. Five migrating birds were found between April 2 and April 22 in four N.E. Iowa counties. A nest was found with two adults on April 25 in Fayette Co.. Both birds and nest are still intact at the end of period. The nest has been seen by several observers and will be photographed.

Rough-legged Hawk--A late migrant was seen April 22 in Chickasaw Co.

Golden Eagle--An immature was seen by Alan Branhagen and I on March 26, in Allamakee Co.. See documentation. Alan is from Decorah.

Peregrine Falcon--One was found at Sweet Marsh on April 26. See documentation

Common Bobwhite--High counts at two locations is six at Volga Lake located in Fayette Co. on May 27 and two at Union Grove State Park in Tama Co. on May 1. No other Bobwhites were found and are usually found in small numbers in N.E.

Gray Partridge--Two at St. Lucas on May 30 is a new N.E. record (at least the extreme N.E.) and may have originated from Minnesota.

Virginia Rail--Heard twice at Sweet Marsh, I on April 29, and 2 on May 3.

Black-bellied Plover--One at Sweet Marsh on May 27.

Hudsonian Godwit--One was found in N.W. Dickinson Co. on May 8.

Upland Sandpiper--Seven were found at seven different locations in the N.E. from April 23 to May 29. Two were also found at Sioux City on May 8.

Stilt Sandpiper--One was found at Sweet Marsh on May 14.

Ring-billed Gull--One imm. at Sweet Marsh on May 25.

Franklin's Gull--The only N.E. observation was 8 at New Albin along Miss. in Allamakee Co. on April 15, were seen by Darwin Koenig and I.

Bonaparte's Gull--Two observations; 5 at Sweet Marsh on Apr. 9. and 8 at New Albin on April 15, the latter were seen by Darwin Koenig also.

Black Tern--Unusually large numbers with 90 counted at Sweet Marsh on May 10 and 85 in S.E. Chickasaw Co. on May 12.

Long-eared Owl--One was flushed from a Red Cedar grove on two consecutive mornings May 18 and 19 in St. Lucas.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird--Poor numbers in migration. However the second sighting of spring was a female with a nest at St. Lucas. Six were counted in Allamakee Co. on May 31 were probable nesting birds. The nest at St. Lucas was first discovered on May 21.

Belted Kingfisher--Often seen as a migrant but no change from last year as a summer resident.

Red-headed Woodpecker--Started moving in late April with a heavy push between the 10th and 20th <sup>May</sup> and is once again common in the N.E.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher--Responded readily at Sweet Marsh on May 25 and at Volga Lake on May 27 to taped calls.

Alder Flycatcher--Responded to tape first on May 25 at St. Lucas and then were found regularly almost anywhere in suitable habitat throughout the N.E. with 2, still at Decorah on May 31, which were heard by Alan Branhagen also.

House Wren--An early one was found on April 15 at Lock 9, Allamakee Co. was seen by Darwin Koenig also.

Gray-cheeked Thrush--An early one was found at Yellow River Forest on April 15 was also seen by Darwin Koenig.

Eastern Bluebird--No improvement as a migrant or a breeder but the decrease is leveling off

Townsend's Solitaire--Was last seen on March 26 in it's haunts in Allamakee Co. was recorded there by Alan Branhagen also.

Water Pipit--Appeared in several parts of the state over an extended period of time in generally small numbers. Four found in N.E. from April 28 to May 14 all were singles. A flock of three was found in Dickinson Co. on May 8.

Northern Shrike--Three were found in Allamakee and Winneshiek Counties in March with the last date being a new late record for the state. See documentation. loc.

Loggerhead--Three found: 1 at Nashua in Chickasaw Co. on April 16. One at Allison in <sup>May 16</sup> Butler Co. and Koenig found one 4 miles S.W. of Lawler in Chickasaw Co. that I checked, under his urgency and found a freshly built nest with no eggs and one adult present, on May 29.

Black and White Warbler--An early one at Echo Valley State Park April 24, the park is located in Fayette Co.

Northern Parula Warbler--One at St. Lucas on May 21.

Blue-winged Warbler--Six found at Volga Lake in Fayette Co. on May 27.

Golden-winged Warbler--Six found at five widely separated locations in N.E. between May 15 and May 18.

Cape May Warbler--Three seen all at Sweet Marsh one on May 15 and a male and a female there on May 18.

Connecticut Warbler--Seen twice in Fayette Co., one at St. Lucas on May 18 and one near West Union on May 21.

Yellow-breasted Chat--Seen twice in Fayette Co., one at St. Lucas May 12 and one at Volga Lake May 27.

Orchard Oriole--Seen on two occasions. Three at Lock 9 in Allamakee Co. on May 17, and one in Volga Lake, Fayette County May 27.

Brewer's Blackbirds--Hard to find in the N.E., were located on April 25 at Sweet Marsh Bremer Co., about 15 seen in an isolated flock.

Evening Grosbeak--A flock of 21, all females, was at a feeder N.E. of Decorah, by Alan Branhagen and I on March 26.

Purple Finch--Three observations were made at St. Lucas in May with the last on May 15.

Pine Siskin--This species lingered extensively in the area and probably nested. The last flock seen was 5 at St. Lucas on May 11. The last one seen was two on May 26 in St. Lucas.

Common Redpoll--Large flocks (80 or more) were recorded in the N.E. still on March 20 but then rapidly dwindled with the last record of one at St. Lucas on April 1st.

Henslow's Sparrow--Three found. One at St. Lucas on April 26 and two at Volga Lake in Fayette Co. on May 27.

Lark Sparrow--Three were found in Allamakee Co. on May 5.

Lapland Longspurs--This species did not linger as it did last year with its final appearance on the 16th of April at Sweet Marsh.

Joe Schaufubael