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WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

The late spring and relatively cool June was reported to delay nesting by two weeks (JD).

GENERAL TRENDS

Many migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, flycatchers, and warblers lingered into June. It is not clear to what degree the late spring and the extensive coverage of the state contributed to this finding. Darwin Koenig, Joe Schaufenbuel, Ross Silcock and others participated in a state-wide survey of field and woodland birds organized by Dean Roosa producing much needed data on summer species and suggesting that our list of regular nesting species may be greater than expected. The foray in southeast Iowa resulted in many unexpected finds.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

The best bird of the summer was a Western Pewee seen and heard by Joe Schaufenbuel at Elk Lake in Wright County on June 21, a first state record for this species. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher nesting south of Ames reported by Jim Dinsmore and seen by many others appears to be the first nesting record for this occasional vagrant. Spring records of Yellow-throated Warblers were followed by summer records suggesting nesting at Wildcat Den SP, (TS), Lee County (DK) and Lacey-Keosauqua SP, (DK, JS). Other unusual summer findings include an immature Golden Eagle at Coralville R. (NH), a dead White-winged Crossbill near Anita (DP), and a Scaup with two young near Ames (LZ).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

unusual summer?

unusual central Iowa

good #1's

would appreciate this comment or down marking

score

Common Loon: 2 lingered at Forney L. until June 17 (RS, BW); 1 at Cardinal M. June 23 (DK).

Eared Grebe: 1 at Lizard L Pocahontas Co. July 3 (DK).

Western Grebe (BL): 5 at Mud and Trumbell L's Clay Co. June 15 (*JD); 1 at Forney L. until June 17 (RS, BW). *western Iowa*

American White Pelican (BL): 15 in Clay Co. June 14 (JD); 5 at Forney L. until July 8 (RS, BW, TK, TS).

Double-crested Cormorant (BL): 1 to 3 reported from all corners of the state in June and July (DK, BW, JD, TK, TS, HZ); 20, mostly immature at Forney L. June 17 (RS).

Great Blue Heron: good numbers in eastern Iowa with highest county of 35 at Mark Twain N.W.R. July 22 (TK, TS, NH).

Cattle Egret: The only one seen was in southeast Iowa (KF)

Great Egret: Few reported except for 35 at Mark Twain N.W.R. July 22 (TK, TS, NH).

Black-crowned Night Heron (BL): 20 nests washed out at Hottes L., Dickinson Co (JD); singles at Rice L. and Green Island (DK).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: An adult was seen at Mark Twain N.W.R. July 22 at a separate location from 3 unidentified immature night herons (TK, TS, NH); immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported at Green Island July 27 (DK), Willow Slough, Mills Co. July 27 (*BW), and Sunken Cove at Varina July 7 (*RC).

Least Bittern (BL): Only two sightings, 1 at Green Island June 6 and July 24 (DF) and 1 at Willow Slough June 7 (BW). None at usual locations near Ruthven (JD) nor at Forney L. (RS).

American Bittern (BL): 2 at Union S. June 26 (DK); fairly common near Ruthven (JD).

Snow Goose: 1 at Rice L. June 25 (DK); 30 summering at Forney L. (m.ob.)

Canada Goose: Nesting near Ruthven (JD); others at Hendrickson M., Green Island and Mark Twain N.W.R. (DK, TK, TS, NH).

Wood Duck: Good numbers reported from eastern Iowa.

American Wigeon: 1 at Willow S. July 23 (BW)

Gadwall: 1 to 3 at Willow S. all summer (BW)

Green-winged Teal: 1 to 3 at six widely scattered areas (DF, JD, TK).

Mallard: Large numbers nesting in eastern Iowa (PP, TK):

Common Pintail: Probably nesting in Clay Co. (JD).

Canvasback (BL): A late migrant at Montrose June 9 (TK, MN, JH).

(3)

Redhead: A common nester at Ruthven (JD); two early June records in eastern Iowa (PP, RH).

Ring-necked Duck: Six June reports from widely scattered sites.

~~Lesser Scaup: Five June and one July report from widely scattered areas.~~

Hooded Merganser: 1 at Willow S. June 26 (BW); 1 at Green Island July 25 (DK).

Common Merganser: 1 at Mud L. Clay Co. June 28 (JD).

Ruddy Duck: Common nester at Ruthven (JD); reported from four other areas.

Lesser Scaup: Five June and one July report from widely scattered areas. A Scaup with two young ~~were~~ seen at Hickory Grove P. Story Co. (LZ).

VULTURES THROUGH TURKEYS

Turkey Vulture: 50 were seen in southeast Iowa on June 9, the largest concentration being at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (MN, TK, JH).

Cooper's Hawk (BL): 1 at Yellow River F. June 21 (DK).

Red-tailed Hawk: Koenig reports good numbers throughout the state.

Red-shouldered Hawk (BL): Singles seen in Butler and Lee Co's. (DK, PP).

Broad-winged Hawk: Found at six locations in northeast Iowa (JS, DK).

Golden Eagle: An immature reported at the Coralville R. July 28 (*NH).

American Kestrel: Many found in northern half of the state, especially the northeast (JS, DK, RS, DB).

Ruffed Grouse: 1 at Shimek F. possibly heralds successful introduction into southeast Iowa (DR); good numbers in northeast (DK).

Common Bobwhite: Reported as scarce in southeastern Iowa (PP, KF, NH).

Gray Partridge: Continued good numbers in northern Iowa (DK, JD) with southward extension to northern Audubon Co. (RS).

Wild Turkey: Birds found ^{since} last summer on the northern edge of Iowa City still raise questions as to their origin (TS).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

Virginia Rail: Nest at Cardinal M. (DK), other sightings at Rice L. and Muskrat S. (DK, FT).

Sora: Found at Union S. and Cardinal M. (DK).

Common Gallinule: Adults with young at Green Island July 27 (DK); also found at Rice L. and Cardinal M. (DK, JS).

American Coot: Abundant nester in northern Iowa (DK); especially northwest (JD); few in other areas.

American Avocet: 1 at Council Bluffs July 17 (JG, TB, BP, SK).

Hudsonian Godwit: Single late migrants at Ames June 3 (HZ) and Willow S. June 1 (BW).

nesting very unusual in Iowa

scarce

very unusual

Upland Sandpiper (BL): Scattered reports (PP, MN, TK, RS, BW) but largest numbers in south central and northeast Iowa (DK, JS).

Solitary Sandpiper: This species returns in July along with Lesser Yellow-legs and Pectorals; 15 seen at Mark Twain N.W.R. and Cone M. on July 15 (TK, TS, NH).

Willet: A late migrant at Forney L. June 1 (RS).

Wilson's Phalarope: 1 at Big M. on June 14 (DK).

Northern Phalarope: 1 at Green Bayou north of Ft. Madison on June 3 (PP, JS).

Common Snipe: 1 at Rice L. June 25 (DK).

Sanderling: Late migrants at Willow S. June 1 (BW) and Green Bayou on June 2 (PP, JS).

Western Sandpiper: 1 at Willow S. July 23 (BW).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Four early June reports (NH, BW, JS, DK, PP).

Baird's Sandpiper: 1 at Willow S. June 1 (BW).

Stilt Sandpiper: 1 at Green Bayou on June 2 (JS, PP), 1 at Council Bluffs June 10 (JG, TB, BP, SK), and 2 at Cone M. July 22 (TK, TS, NH).

Franklin's Gull: 13 at Ames June 9 (HZ); 1 at Trumbell L. June 14 (JD).

Forster's Tern: Nesting in northwest Iowa (JD).

Caspian Tern: Reports from four widely scattered areas in June and early July.

late rare

many late shore birds

unusual in summer

PIGEONS THROUGH KINGFISHERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (BL): Reported as fairly common to numerous by many observers.

Black-billed Cuckoo (BL): About half as numerous as Yellow-billed (DK).

Barn Owl (BL): Two young were fledged at Ross Silcock's farm in southwest Iowa on July 31. The adults and Ross' hospitality were appreciated by many observers.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (BL): Hummingbirds are uncommon in Iowa in the summer; only four observers reported them (DK, JG, NH, HZ).

Belted Kingfisher: Scarce (JS), but not as scarce as hummingbirds.

rare

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Red-headed Woodpecker (BL): Numerous, not deserving of Blue List status in Iowa.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 at Green Island July 26 (DK).

Hairy Woodpecker (BL): Surprisingly, Koenig who covered large areas of Iowa found Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers in equal numbers.

*annual
southeast IA*
X

Western Kingbird: 1 eastern Iowa sighting at Shimek F. June 9 (*MN, TK, JH).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: First evidence of nesting in Iowa July 30 south of Ames (*JD).

Eastern Phoebe: Several pairs nest at Wildcat Den S.P. (TS, TK); otherwise scarce.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 at Shimek F. June 2 (JS, PP).

Acadian Flycatcher: Reports from many areas in eastern Iowa (DK, JS, PP, TS, TK, MN, JH).

Willow Flycatcher: Common near Ruthven (JD); also at several sites in eastern Iowa (JS, DK).

Least Flycatcher: Numerous reports suggest possible nesting of this species: Shimek F. June 1 (JS), Trumbell L. June 15 (JD), Yellow River F. June 21 (DK), Clayton Co. July 12 (DK), Volga L. July 7, 22 (JS).

X Western Pewee: First state record from Wright Co. (north central Iowa) by *Joe Schaufenbuel.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Late records at Coralville R. June 6 (RH) and Union Grove S.P. June 11 (JS).

Purple Martin (BL): Appear to be on the increase (DM, TS, FT).

JAYS THROUGH STARLINGS

Brown Creeper: 1 at Dolliver S.P. June 30 (JS).

Seems unusual

Winter Wren: Reported at three areas in northeast Iowa in late June (DK).

Carolina Wren: Only report from north of Ft. Madison (PP).

Marsh Wren: Common in Ruthven area (JD); not reported from other areas.

This surprised me

Veery: Reports from ten locations from early June to early July suggest likely widespread nesting of this species.

Eastern Bluebird (BL): Although reported from many areas most observers consider numbers to be reduced.

Loggerhead Shrike: Scattered reports in small numbers.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireo: Reports from Shimek F. (PP, JB), Iowa City (TS, TK), Vinton (JS) and five other localities (DK).

Bell's Vireo (BL): Found in many localities in southeastern Iowa (DK, TS, TK, MN).

Warbling Vireo (BL): Considered reduced in Cherokee area (DB).

Black-and-white Warbler: 1 at Shimek F. June 9 (TK, MN); a singing male at Volga L. July 7 (JS).

more than expected

Worm-eating Warbler: 15 of this rare species were found at Shimek and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. during the Foray (PP et al).

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 in Lee Co. June 2 (KF).

Tennessee Warbler: 1 at Shimek F. June 1 (JS, DK).

Nashville Warbler: A late spring migrant at Shimek F. June 5 (JS) and early fall migrant at Volga L. July 22 (JS).

rare

Northern Parula Warbler: A nest found at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JS, DK); other sightings in Lee Co., Wapsipinicon S.P. and Monticello (JS).

Yellow Warbler: Reported as common in northern Iowa (DK, JD); appear reduced in southern Iowa (m.ob.)

Cerulean Warbler: Many sightings in eastern Iowa (DK, JS, PP, HZ, TK, TS).

Blackburnian Warbler: 1 at Shimek F. June 3 (DK, DR).

? extension of range or ? missed before

Yellow-throated Warbler: Following the sighting of 4 at Lacey-Keosauque S.P. in late May, 1 was found in Lee Co. June 2 (DK). The singing male found at Wildcat Den S.P. in May was still present on July 1 (TS).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 2 at Shimek F. June 1 could be late migrants (JS), but a pair at Volga L. July 7 may indicate nesting.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Koenig found 19 in eastern Iowa.

Kentucky Warbler: Koenig found 50 in eastern Iowa.

Mourning Warbler: Reported from Shimek F. June 1 (JS) and June 9 (MN), Wapsipinicon S.P. June 4 (JS) and White Pine Hollow June 19 (DK).

late

Yellow-breasted Chat: Koenig report 18 from eastern Iowa.

Hooded Warbler: Singing males at Shimek F. June 1 and Volga L. July 7 (JS).

Canada Warbler: Single at Bellvue S.P. June 5 and White Pine Hollow June 19 (DK).

late

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH SPARROWS

Orchard Oriole: Small numbers reported from many areas (DK, DB, HZ, LZ, TK, MN, JH).

Blue Grosbeak: Singles in Lee Co. June 1 and Harrison Co. July 20 (DK).

Dickcissel (BL): Newlon reported an increase on federal survey routes, Peterson a decrease, but changes are difficult to judge from individual reports. The state-wide survey should establish a better baseline for judgement.

Pine Siskin: Young fledged from a nest a few feet over a busy sidewalk on the Medical Campus in Iowa City on June 14 (TS,TK).

White-winged Crossbill: Dorothy Parker documented a dead bird found near Anita, Iowa, on July 24. *unusual*

Vesper Sparrow: Reported as decreased in Des Moines and Davenport areas (WB, PP) and common near Ruthven (JD).

Lark Sparrow: Reported from Lee, Louisa, Muscatine and Linn Co's (TK, PP, FT).

White-throated Sparrow: Late migrants in Lee Co. June 3 and June 9 (KF, TK, MN).

Swamp Sparrow: Reported as common in northern part of state.

BL = blue list * = documented

OBSERVERS AND *CONTRIBUTORS

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*Dick Bierman, Cherokee; John Bowles; Tanya Bray, Omaha, NE; *Woodward Brown, Des Moines;
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COMMENTS

When Peter Petersen asked me to become a Field Reports Editor, I agreed to do so with the provision that I could try some new ideas and use a Comments section to discuss topical issues. Under the leadership of Woody Brown and Nick Halmi, the Field Reports has stimulated Iowa's most active birders to carefully document and share their findings. I was impressed by the number and quality of reports received for the summer season.

You have already seen my first new idea - a new format. After reviewing the style of Field Reports from eleven other state journals and discussing the issues with Pete Petersen, I came up with the present format. My goals were to make bibliographic citations from the Field Reports easier and clearer, to provide

(8)

distinct sections for general information and comments, and to make it easier to find and review data on specific species. I have attempted to use conventions for punctuation and abbreviations that will save space without requiring the reader to look up abbreviations. Your comments and suggestions will be appreciated.

My biggest shock in taking over the Field Reports editing was to learn the complexity of the task. Let me share a few of the problems you can help me with. One of my jobs is to send the Field Reports and your individual reports to the Regional Editor of American Birds fifteen days after the close of the season. This gives me a very short time to collate and analyze the observations, write the report, engage a secretary to type, and duplicate your reports (a copy is kept on permanent file for future use by Iowa birders). So I ask you to mail your results on the first day of the month following the end of the period so that I receive them no later than the seventh day of the month. Since I have to collate and copy the reports, it will be much appreciated if you use 8½ x 11 white paper and black ink (colored paper and blue ink do not copy well). I have made a form sheet for my own reports. If you would like a copy, send me a self-addressed stamped envelope. Please send me your suggestions for improving the Field Notes. Let me know about errors and omissions so they can be corrected.