

Tom -
Not a very good carbon -
Going after the Flycatcher at Ames?
I am free on Sunday. Pete

Birds Seen on the Lee County Foray, 1979

Peter C. Petersen

The third Iowa Foray concentrated on Lee County, the most southeastern of Iowa's counties. Adjacent portions of Van Buren County including Shimek State Forest and the vicinity of Farmington, all east of the Des Moines River, were included. The work was done primarily from May 31 through June 10, 1979. Principal ornithological researchers included Darwin Koenig 5/24-6/4, Joe Schaufenbuel 5/24-6/4, Dean Reosa 5/31-6/10, John Bowles 5/1-3, Kathy Fisher 6/1, 3 & 17, Tom Kent 6/9, Mike Newlon 6/9, James Huntington 6/9, and the author 6/1-3. The foray was sponsored by the Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board. A complete published summary will soon be available from the board.

The most intensive work was done in the area of Shimek State Forest. Of the 7929 acres which comprise the forest, 5878 acres are in Lee County and the remainder is in Van Buren County. Four State bird breeding survey routes were run by Koenig and Schaufenbuel. The federal route, No. 001, was run by Fisher. This route has been run 12 of the 13 years that the survey has been conducted in Iowa with 84 species found. Two species were doubtless migrants. ^(Hermit Thrush and Brewer's Blackbird) It runs north to south through the western portion of the county near Shimek Forest. Banding operations in several habitats in the Lick Creek Unit of Shimek Forest were conducted, June 1-3, by Bowles and the author. The various habitats of Shimek Forest and the remainder of Lee County were surveyed for singing males and lingering migrants. The Des Moines and Mississippi valleys were emphasized.

This annotated list of breeding species includes only birds found on the forey. Several other species, especially *C. Screech Owl, Sedge Wren and Logger head Shrike* could be expected to be breeders but were not encountered.

The following terms of status for breeders were used to keep the list basic: Common--impossible to miss in its optimum habitat, fairly common--difficult to miss in its optimum habitat, uncommon--should be found in good habitat, rare--must be searched for even in optimum habitat. Migrants are listed merely as migrants with dates, specific locations and observers are listed if the record is noteworthy.

Double-crested Cormorant--Rare--possibly a non-breeder, June 9 near Montrose (K, MN, JH).

Great Blue Heron--Uncommon

Green Heron--Uncommon

Cattle Egret--Rare-- one seen (Exact location unknown) on June 17 (KF).

Mallard--Fairly Common

Blue-winged Teal--Uncommon

Wood Duck--Fairly Common, female and 6 young seen June 2 at Montrose (PP)

Canvasback--Migrant--single bird near Montrose on June 9 (K, MN, JH)

Ring-necked Duck--Migrant--single male in a pond west of Montrose on June 9 (K, MN, JH).

Lesser Scaup--Migrant--9 seen near Keokuk on June 2 (JB).

Turkey Vulture--Common, especially in Shinnek Forest.

Red-tailed Hawk--Uncommon

Red-shouldered Hawk--Rare, one seen 2 miles west of Keokuk along the

Des Moines River on June 2 (PP)

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American Kestrel--Uncommon

Ruffed Grouse--Rare--reintroduced in 1970, one female seen on June 5,
Donnellson Unit south of Pond 1 (PP) ^{DR}

Bob-White--Fairly Common--should have been common but said by
Fisher to be reduced by the severe winter.
Total on the 1979 federal bird breeding survey
route was 24 versus 56 in 1978.

Ring-necked Pheasant--Common

Turkey--Fairly Common--chiefly confined to Shinek Forest

American Coot--Uncommon--found along Mississippi just northeast of
Fort Madison.

Killdeer--Fairly Common

American Woodcock--Uncommon, chiefly in Shinek Forest--~~seen~~ seen
May 29 and 30 in the forest (JS). Two
newly hatched young found June 2 with parent
at Lick Creek Unit (JS) where a male was banded
early in the morning that day (PP).

Spotted Sandpiper--Uncommon

Pectoral Sandpiper--Migrant, ^{2 seen at} ~~seen at~~ Green Bay ^{Bayou} ~~on June 2 (PP).~~
northeast of Fort Madison on June 2 (PP).

White-rumped Sandpiper--Migrant, about 10 present at Green Bay ^{ou}
on June 2 (JS, PP), about 30 on June 3
(DK, JS, PP)

Stilt Sandpiper--Migrant, ~~seen at~~ one at Green Bay ^{ou} on June 2 (JS, PP)

Semipalmated Sandpiper--Migrant, over 150 at Green Bay ^{ou} on June 2 (JS, PP)
about 50 on June 3 (DK, JS, PP)

Sanderling--Migrant, one at Green Bay ^{ou} on June 2 (JS, PP).

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Northern Phalarope--Migrant, a female² at Green Bay^{ou} on June 7 (JS,PP)

Caspian Tern--Migrant, 3 at First Miss. Plant, Green Bay Twp. on June 3

(DK,JS,PP)

Rock Dove--Common

Mourning Dove--Common

Yellow-billed Cuckoo--Common, none found than were expected due to caterpillar outbreak, Two were netted in Lick Creek Unit (PP).

Black-billed Cuckoo--Common, see above, four netted in Lick Creek Unit (PP)

Great Horned Owl--Uncommon

Barred Owl--Fairly Common, especially in Shimek Forest and along the two major rivers.

Whip-poor-will--Common

~~Many species of songbirds--common, but especially in Lick Creek~~

Chuck-will's-widow--Rare, one heard west of Pond 2, Shimek Forest on May 30 (DK,JS)

Common Nighthawk--Fairly Common, especially in the towns

Chimney Swift--Common

Ruby-throated Hummingbird--Uncommon, but especially regular in Lick Creek Unit of Shimek Forest.

Common Flicker--Common

Pileated Woodpecker--Rare, restricted to bottomlands along the two major rivers

Red-bellied Woodpecker--Fairly Common

Red-headed Woodpecker--Common

Hairy Woodpecker--Fairly Common

Downy Woodpecker--Fairly Common

Eastern Kingbird--Common

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Western Kingbird--Migrant or straggler, one seen June 9 just North of Croton at edge of Lick Creek Unit (TK, MN, JH).

Great Crested Flycatcher--Common

Eastern Phoebe--Fairly Common

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher--Migrant, two heard in Lick Creek Unit on June 1 and 2 (JS, PP)

Acadian Flycatcher--Rare, several heard in Shimek Forest, one netted in Lick Creek Unit on June 1 (PP). A nest was found on May 29 in nearby Lacey Keesau^u State Park (DK).

Willow--Flycatcher--Fairly Common.

Alder Flycatcher--Migrant, presumably, with one heard June 2 at ~~KICKAPOO~~^u Lick Creek Unit of Shimek Forest (JS).

Least Flycatcher--Migrant, presumably, one heard on June 1, Lick Creek Unit Shimek Forest (JS).

Eastern Pewee--Common

Horned Lark--Common

Tree Swallow--Uncommon, three seen east of Fort Madison on June 3 (PP).
Good breeding habitat is scarce.

^BBank Swallow--Fairly Common

Rough-winged Swallow--Fairly Common

Barn Swallow--Common

Cliff Swallow--Rare, not seen in Lee County but about 20 pair nest under the Des Moines River bridge at Farmington.

Purple Martin--Common

Blue Jay--Common

Common Crow--Common

Black-capped Chickadee--Common--Despite a careful examination of all chickadees seen at close range no Carolina Chickadee was located.

Tufted Titmouse--Common

White-breasted Nuthatch--Fairly Common

House Wren--Common

Carolina Wren--Rare--Probably reduced by several severe winters. One seen and heard on June 3 about 2 miles east of Fort Madison along the Mississippi bluff (PP) and one June 9 at the same location (TK, MN, JH).

Northern Mockingbird--Rare

Gray Catbird--Common, 4 banded at Lick Creek Unit (JB, PP)

Brown Thrasher--Common

American Robin--Common

Wood Thrush--Fairly Common, one banded on June 2 Lick Creek Unit (JB)

Veery--Rare, seems restricted to Lick Creek Unit, Shimek Forest

Eastern Bluebird--Fairly Common, fence post nest with eggs found 2 miles S. W. of Dennellson on June 2 (JS, PP)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher--Fairly Common

Cedar Waxwing--Common

European Starling--Common

White-eyed Vireo--Rare, one pair quite territorial at Lick Creek Unit both banded June 1, recaptured June 2 (JB, PP).

Bell's Vireo--Rare, one on Federal route June 3 and one June 9 (TK, MN, JH)

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Yellow-throated Vireo--Fairly Common

Red-eyed Vireo--Common, one netted at Lick Creek Unit on June 2 (PP)

Warbling Vireo--Common ~~Highly abundant in the Lick Creek Unit~~

Black-and-white Warbler--Migrant--one on June 9 (TK, MN, JH).

Prothonotary Warbler--Uncommon, found along the Des Moines River near Keokuk including the oxbow now south of the river just west of the Route 61 bridge.

Worm-eating Warbler--Rare, up to 50 at Lick Creek Unit, one west of Keokuk on June 2 (JS, PP) and one on the Federal route on June 3 (KF). In nearby Lacey Keosauqua State Park a total of 8 were found (JS, DK).

Golden-winged Warbler--Migrant--one seen and heard on June 3 along Federal route just west of Argyle (KF).

Blue-winged Warbler--Uncommon, 2 banded on June 2 at Lick Creek Unit (JB)

Tennessee Warbler--Migrant, one seen in Shinek Forest on June 2 (DK)

Nashville Warbler--Migrant, one seen in Shinek Forest, Van Buren Co. on June 1 (JS, DK)

Northern Parula--Uncommon, nest found in ^{Lacey Keosauqua St. Park} Unit on June 1, first recorded Iowa nesting (DK, JS) ^{May 29}

Yellow Warbler--Fairly Common

Cerulean Warbler--Uncommon, ^{generally concentrated} especially in Shinek Forest. On June 9 a total of 10 were found (TK, MN, JH).

Blackburnian Warbler--Migrant, one on June 2 (DK) and June 3 (DR)

Yellow-throated Warbler--Rare, one west of Keokuk along the Des Moines River on June 2 (DK). Four found in Van Buren County at Lacey Keosauqua State Park (DK And JS)

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✓ Chestnut-sided Warbler--Migrant (probably), 2 at Lick Creek Unit on
June 1 (JS).

Ovenbird--Fairly Common, 2 banded on June 1, Lick Creek Unit (PP)

✓ Louisiana Waterthrush--Uncommon, 3 banded Lick Creek Unit on June 1 and
2 (PP and JB). A Nest was found on May 24
in Shinek Forest (DK).

Kentucky Warbler--Fairly Common

✓ McGurning Warbler--Migrant, one singing on June 1, paint Creek Unit (JS)
and one June 9 (EK, MW, JH).

Common Yellowthroat--Common

Yellow-breasted Chat--Uncommon, one banded on June 3, Lick Creek Unit (PP)

✓ Hooded Warbler--Rare, one on June 1, Lick Creek Unit (JS).

American Redstart--Uncommon, one banded, Lick Creek Unit on June 2 (JB).

House Sparrow--Common

Bobolink--Fairly Common

Eastern Meadowlark--Common

Western Meadowlark--Uncommon, maximum on Federal route, any year,
was one. Only one found June 1-3 throughout
county (PP).

Red-winged Blackbird--Common, 2 banded, Lick Creek Unit (PP, JB)

Orchard Oriole--Uncommon

Northern Oriole--Common

Common Grackle--Common, one banded, Lick Creek Unit on June 2 (PP)

Brown-headed Cowbird--Common, 3 banded, Lick Creek Unit on June 2 (PP)

Sea Plet Tanager, Fairly Common, especially Shinek Forest

Northern Cardinal--Common

Rose-breasted Grosbeak--Common, 4 banded Lick Creek Unit on June 2 (PP, JB)

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Blue Grosbeak--Rare, one south of Vincennes on June 2 (DK)

Indigo Bunting--Common, 4 banded ⁱⁿ Lick Creek Unit on June (PP, JB)

Dickcissel--Common, slight decrease on Federal route in recent years.

American Goldfinch--Common

Rufous-sided Towhee--Common, one banded Lick Creek Unit on June 3 (PP)

Savannah Sparrow--Rare, one near Keokuk airport on June 2 (PP) and one
along Federal route on June 3 (KF)

Grasshopper Sparrow--Common

Vesper Sparrow--Fairly Common

Lark Sparrow--Uncommon, found in sandy areas

Chipping Sparrow--Common

Field Sparrow--Fairly Common

White-throated Sparrow--Migrant, one along Federal route on June 3 (KF)

and one at Lick Creek Unit on June 9 (TK, MN, JH)

Song Sparrow--Fairly Common, especially along Mississippi River.