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Kent

Spring 1979 (March 1 - May 28) T. H. Kent

General Comments: Heavy snow and late spring produced excellent waterfowl conditions. There was flooding west of Cone Mts. and high water levels at the Covalville Reservoir backing water up to Elgin on the North and Amasa on the west. Waterfowl stayed longer and in larger numbers than I have seen before. I saw 18 species of ducks on 3-18, 19 on 3-25 and 3-31 and 20 on 4-7. On 3-31 there were also 3 species of geese and 1 species of Swan.

A second favorable weather pattern occurred in May with cold weather continuing until May 8. May 9 and 10 brought strong warm south winds and many warblers. A cold front on May 11 stopped and held the warblers. Late warblers were seen in good numbers until May 20. We saw 24 warbler species on May 10 and 28 on May 12.

I saw **236** species during the period, 183 species during the week of May 9 through May 15, and 141 species on May 12.

The late season also delayed shorebirds. Good flocks and uncommon species were best seen after May 15. There were 200 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 8 Semipalmated Plovers, and 5 Sanderlings at Amasa Lake on May 29.

TS = Tom Shives
CB = Carl Bendorf
RH = Rick Hallis

Common Loon: Good numbers from 4-7 (Macbride) to 5-10 (Amana)

Eared Grebe: 5 at High Amana 5-19 = CB, RH

American White Pelican: 50 at Forney's L. and Riverton WLR 5-15 = TS

Double-crested Cormorant: Good numbers. 1 at Ely 4-7 (early),
24 at Cone Marsh 4-29 (high), 1 at Cone Marsh 5-9 (late)

Cattle Egret: 2 at Amana 4-22, up to 8 at Cone Marsh 5-5, 5-9, 5-10 = TS

Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 at Muskrat Slough 4-22, 3 at Cone Marsh 5-5,
10 at Riverton WLR 5-14 + 5-15

Least Bittern: 1 at Muskrat Slough 5-12 = TS

American Bittern: 1 at Swan L 4-20, 3 at Swan L 4-25, 1 at Swan L 4-28,

6+ in eastern Iowa 1 at Cone Marsh 4-29, 2 at Cone Marsh 5-5, 1 at Cone Marsh 5-9,
2 at Cone Marsh 5-10, 1 at Muskrat Slough 5-12, 1 at Forney's L 5-15

Whistling Swan: 11 at Hoosier Creek 3-31 many others saw it, Fred Thompson showed

Greater Whitefronted Goose: 2 at Cone Marsh 3-31 (seen earlier by Neelans), ^{then to me} stayed until 4-2

Snow Goose: Good numbers - 130 at Mark Twain R. 3-18, 150 at Cone Marsh 3-25

Canada Goose: Good numbers - 700 at Mark Twain R 3-18, 500 at Cone Marsh 3-25

Gadwall: Lingered late in many locations 1 at Otter Creek R 5-26,
30 at Forney's L. 5-15, 8 at Muskrat + Amana 5-12, 4 at Swan L 5-11 etc

American Black Duck: 2 at Babcock Lake Area 5-19 (late) = CB, RH

Canvasback: normal numbers 150 NE Iowa 3-23 + 3-24, 60 Cone M. 3-25
100 at Coralville R. areas 4-7, 50 at Cone M 4-8

Greater Scaup: 20 at LeClaire 3-10, 6+ at Gutenberg 3-23 + 3-24,

3 at Hoosier Creek (Coralville Reservoir) 4-7 see documentation,

see also article accepted for probable June publication in IBL

by ~~_____~~ Kent & Shires.

Lesser Scaup: Very large numbers on many areas of Coralville Reservoir
3-31 to 4-22 5000+ on 4-7

Buffhead: Lingered late on Swan L until 5-12

Common Goldeneye: Many stayed late at Swan L and Horner Creek area up to 4-15

Hooded Merganser: larger than usual numbers at many locations, 19 at Cone in + Conville Reservoir areas on 3-31

Red-breasted Merganser: larger than usual numbers, 100 on Conville Reservoir 4-7

Common Scoter: 1 female at Cone Marsh 3-31 found by Newton, see documentation

Turkey Vulture: 1 on 3-18 (early)

also Noel + Max Brown

Osprey: normal numbers from 4-9 to 5-10 (late)

Cooper's Hawk: 1 at Swan L on 4-17, 1 at Palisades on 5-19

LE CB, RH

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 at Swan L 2-25 (found by Newton + DeCuster) also seen by TS

Merlin: 1 at Sugar Bottom 3-11, 1 at Cone Marsh 4-21 (see documentation)

LE TS

Common Bobwhite: very few seen or heard

Wild Turkey: 4 at Amana on 4-14 CB, RH

Virginia Rail: hard to find 1 at Sycamore slough 5-4 + 5-6, 1 at Muskrat on 5-12

American Avocet: 1 at Riverton WLR 5-15 TS

Piping Plover: 1 at Amana 5-3 (found by Carl Bendorf), 1 at Amana L 5-19 (with Carl Bendorf + Kirk Hollis)

Lesser Golden Plover: 24 at Amana 4-14, 100 at ~~Muskrat~~ Slough 5-12

CB, RH

TS (Fred Thompson also saw them)

Black-bellied Plover: 1 at Riverton 5-15, 8 at Amana 5-19, 9 at Babcock L. 5-22

TS

CB, RH

Hudsonian Godwit: 2 at Amana 4-14 (early), 100 at Riverton 5-15

CB, RH

TS

Upland Sandpiper: 1 at Oxford area 5-29 (seen previously 43 by Carl Bendorf)

Ruddy Turnstone: 1 at Riverton 5-15, 3 at Babcock 5-23, 7 at Amana 5-24

TS

others, who?

CB

Sanderling: 2 at Amana on 5-18, 5 at Amana L. 5-29

CB, RH

CB

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 at Amana 5-5, 100+ at Riverton 5-15, 1 at Otter Creek Marsh 5-26

Baird's Sandpiper: 1 at Amana 5-5, 1 at Riverton 5-15, 2 at Babcock 5-19, 4 at Babcock 5-22

TS

Stilt Sandpiper: 1 at Babcock 5-23

Ring-billed Gull: more than usual - 250 at Amana 4-11, 35 still at Babcock on 5-11

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 200 at Amana L 5-29 (late) = CB

Western Sandpiper: 2 at Riverton 5-15, 10 at Babcock 5-19, 2 at Babcock 5-22 + 5-23

before 3/11

Franklin's Gull: more than usual 1 at Amena ^{found by CB} on 4-11, 5 at Amena on 4-14,
13 near North Liberty on 4-15, 12 at Babcock on 5-11, 8 at Riverton 5-15
1 at Amena 5-19

Bonapart's Gull: 1 at Amena 4-11, 2 at Amena 5-3 = TS

Common Tern: ^{all = TS} 1 on 5-5, 1 on 5-10 at Lone Marsh, 1 at Riverton 5-15

Black Tern: large numbers at many sites 150 on 5-12, 500+ at Foman's Lake 5-15

Caspian Tern: 1 at Amena 5-10, 1 at Amena 5-19
^{found by Fred Thompson}

Yellow + Black-billed Cuckooz - usual numbers

Long-eared Owl: 1 at Swan Lake area 3-26

Short-eared Owl: 3 at Mark Twain on 3-18 = TS, CB

Eastern Kingbird: 1 near Lake Macbride 4-22 (early) = TS, CB

Western Kingbird: 2 in Fremont County 5-15 TS

Eastern Phoebe: 3 pair at Wildcat Den, few elsewhere

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 at Hickory Hill 5-17 (singing) (see documentation)

Acadian Flycatcher: 1 at Palisades 5-19, 1 at Wildcat Den 5-20
^{CB, RH} ^{TS}

Willow Flycatcher: 1 at Riverton 5-15, 1 at Hickory Hill 5-18
^{TS}

Alder Flycatcher: 1 at Riverton 5-15, 1 at Roundlea + 1 at Sweet's Marsh 5-26
^{TS} ^{TS}

Purple Martin: more than last year - easy to find in many locations

Sedge Wren: 5 in NE Iowa 5-26 (Roundlea, Sweet's Marsh, Otter Creek Marsh) = TS

Eastern Bluebird: 2 at River Heights 3-11, 2 at Swan L area 3-26, 5 on 3-31,
1 on 4-7, 1 on 4-28 plus several nesting pairs near Wildcat Den 4-29 -

Golden-crowned Kinglet: more than last year 1 at Corviller R. 4-1, 2 at ^{total:}
Hickory Hill 4-7, 1 at Amena 4-14, 1 at Hickory Hill 4-15 ^{5 (low)}

Water Pipit: 2 at Corviller R 3-24, 15 at Cone Marsh 3-25, 1 near Swan L 4-21
^{TS, NH} ^{- bird club}

Loggerhead Shrike: 1 near North Liberty 4-7, 1 near Swan L 4-15, 1 near Market S. 4-22,
1 on 4-29 (site not recorded), 3 South Central Iowa 5-14 ^{total: 7}

Bell's Vireo: usual numbers, many sites

White-eyed Vireo: 1 at Hickory Hill by 4-26 (seen earlier by someone else)

Philadelphia Vireo: 1 at Hickory on 5-11, 1 near Cone Marsh 5-12
^{= MN} ^{= TS}

high no.
for spring

Worm-eating Warbler: 1 seen and heard at Wildcat Den on 5-10
and 5-12^{=TS}, 1 seen and heard at Hickory Hill 5-13

Cape May Warbler: more than usual 1 at Wildcat Den on 5-6^{=CB},
1 on 5-9, 1 on 5-12

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 at Hickory Hill on 3-25 (early)

Louisiana Water Thrush: 1 at Wildcat Den on 5-6, 1 at Pelosee on 5-19
^{=CB, RH}

Connecticut Warbler: 1 at Pelosee 5-19 = CB, RH

Yellow-breasted Chat: 2 at Babcock L area 5-11

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1 at Wildcat Den 5-12 (see documentation)

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 1 at Amara 4-11 (early), regular at Cone Marsh and Muskat, Abundant at Finner's L., common at Cardinal Marsh, Sweet Marsh, Other Creek Marsh **in suitable habitat**

Brewer's Blackbird: Small flock (about 12) at Cone Marsh from 3-18 to 3-31
^{others saw them}

Summer Tanager: 2 at Walton's state park 5-15 = TS

Blue Grosbeak: 1 in Fremont County 5-15 = TS

Dickcissel: fewer than usual

Even Grosbeak: 9 at Amara on 3-17 (these all winter but took about 15 trips to see them)

Pine Siskin: About Medical Laboratories into late May

Grasshopper Sparrow: may be fewer, hard to tell

Heuslow's Sparrows 2 singing at Hayden Prairie on 5-26 = TS

Le Conte's Sparrow: 2 at Cone Marsh 4-21 = TS

Lark Sparrow: not able to find

Vesper Sparrow: scattered sightings

Clay-colored sparrow: 2 at Hickory Hill on 5-2