

Annotated list of Birds

This is a listing of all species recorded since the Foray was started in 1977 although species not seen in 1978 or whose status has not changed since 1977 will only be listed and the reader referred to the 1977 list (IBL 47:123). As in the 1977 list, some species not recorded on the Foray but which have been recorded in the area in summer are discussed here, being marked with an asterisk.

Although survey routes similar to the Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey Routes were run in 1977, the routes were not 25 miles long. This year, all routes were extended to 25 miles, and an extra route was added. Hopefully numerical data will be comparable from year to year. However relative numbers can be compared between 1977 and 1978 by totalling the numbers seen on the routes each year and ranking them in order of the total number recorded for each species. A change in ranking of a species would indicate a change in its population while populations of other species are unaffected. Absolute numbers of all species may increase in years when conditions are suitable, but such changes would not affect a species' ranking relative to others.

Route totals and the subsequent rankings give a good indication of relative numbers of species in the county, as the habitat makeup of the routes reflects that of the county as a whole. Thus the highest ranking species numerically are birds of farmland, and lowest are woodland birds. However separate rankings have been compiled for Waubonsie State Park, as woodland birds are most threatened in ~~the area~~ ^{Fremont County}, and thus require close monitoring for population changes.

Numerical data is presented in an Appendix.

Participants this year were: Jean Braley, Hazel and Fitzhugh Diggs, Ione Gatscher, John McNeilly, Ruth Phipps, Ross Silcock, Marie Spears, Michael Thompson, and Barb Wilson.

The Foray was very successful, as species accounts show. A total of 134 species was recorded, and breeding evidence was obtained for some interesting species.

Dear Nick,

Here is a copy of the rough draft of the Foray info - was very interesting this year. Anxious to hear how Allamakee Co. came out. Hope this is not too late - I couldn't get all the info. I wanted so went ahead & typed it to get it to you somewhat earlier than last year.
Ross

Double-crested Cormorant: Not recorded (see 1977).

Hared Grebe: Eight were seen at Forney Lake June 2 and two on June 4, all in breeding plumage. Braley and Phipps also saw ^{at Council Bluffs} ~~at~~ Forney Lake later in June ~~4~~. A search for nests ^{June 2-4} was unsuccessful, indicating that these birds may have been late migrants, especially as ~~the nearest breeding area is only about 200 miles further north~~ or possibly non-breeders. However, ~~the birds seemed to be paired and some displaying was seen.~~ The nearest ^{nearest} breeding areas appear to be Cherry County, Nebraska ^(see page 10) and Nicollet County, Minnesota ⁽⁺³⁾. The most recent Iowa breeding seems to have been in 1965-66 in northwest Iowa (see Brown), although possibly breeding were birds seen June 26, 1973 in Calhoun County ^{IBL 47:74} and July 9, 1977 at West ^{IBL 47:59} Okoboji. There is also a June 2-17 record of a bird at Maryville, Missouri (AB 27:875). The nearest reported nesting to Fremont County was over 75 years ago at West Point and Omaha, Nebraska (see Anderson).

Pied-billed Grebe: This species was breeding commonly at Forney Lake. On June 2 and 4 almost complete coverage of the lake yielded 18 nests, all with eggs. Clutch size ranged from 4 to 11, averaging 6.9, although some clutches may have been incomplete. Palmer gives the normal range as 4-7, occasionally 2-10. This species breeds commonly in northwest Iowa (AB 31:1146) and bred at Squaw Creek NWR in 1973 (AB 27:875). It probably breeds anywhere there is suitable habitat. The last two years have been drought years in southwest Iowa, thus precluding breeding.

Great Blue Heron: Despite much searching at Riverton, no nesting colony was found. Braley (pers. comm) stated that it had bred "years ago" at Riverton, and perhaps it has continued to do so. Fourteen were seen there June 3 in breeding plumage and two at Forney Lake June 4.

Green Heron: Only one was seen, that on the Blue Route at Mule Slough near Highway 2. It probably breeds in small numbers, best being considered uncommon. Wilson and Silcock saw 2-4 at Willow Slough in northeast Mills County July 1.

Little Blue Heron: One was seen at Forney Lake June 4 by Silcock and Wilson. First noted by Wilson, it was an adult bird. No others were found there. Its presence at this time is suggestive of breeding, especially as this species is expanding its breeding range northwards. First breeding records were established for South Dakota in 1976 (AB 30:969) and Minnesota in 1972 (AB 26:861).

Cattle Egret: A flock of 14, many in breeding plumage, was at Forney Lake June 4 (Silcock and Wilson). This species also is expanding its breeding range northwards, breeding being first recorded in Minnesota in 1971 (AB 27:871), Wisconsin in 1975 (AB 29:975), and North Dakota in 1976 (AB 30:969).

Great Egret: Four were counted by Braley et al at Riverton June 3 with the Great Blue Herons (see above). They may be breeding with the latter birds in the area. It bred with Great Blue Herons near Council Bluffs in 1959 in a now defunct colony (NBR 28:55).

Black-crowned Night Heron: One adult was seen at Forney Lake June 2 and three were found there June 4, including one dark-plumaged bird, presumably a yearling. There are no known breeding colonies in the area, but it bred near the Great Blue Heron colony south of Council Bluffs (see Anderson) and has bred at Squaw Creek NWR, but is considered "occasional" at the latter ~~IBL~~ (1975 Checklist). It bred commonly in Northwest Iowa in 1976 (IBL 46:82), and Rapp et al noted that it was becoming more common in Nebraska with the construction of large reservoirs.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: Three adult-plumaged birds were found together at Forney Lake June 4 by Silcock and Wilson, and a single bird was flushed by the same observers at Willow Slough in Mills County June 23. These observations suggest breeding in the area. There have been several summer records reported in NBR, especially in the 1960's, when it was also recorded as nesting in Iowa for the first time (see Brown). Actual nest reports are few ^{however} in ~~southeast Nebraska~~, but it was reported as nesting in Wemaha County, IA in 1963 (NBR 32:45) and Sarpy County also in 1963 (NBR 32:9). Up to 14 were present all summer in 1976 at Squaw Creek NWR $\frac{1}{2}$ and a nest was found the same year at Rosendale, Missouri (just north of St. Joseph) (AB 30:962).

Least Bittern: A total of five were flushed at Forney Lake June 2 and 4. Two of these were flushed from a half-constructed nest June 2. A nest with eggs was found at Willow Slough by Wilson also. This species is a common breeder when habitat is suitable in the area.

Snow Goose: Several stragglers were found during Foray. Nine were at Forney Lake June 4, and three were there June 2. One was at Riverton June 3, and five were seen on the Blue Route on the Missouri bottoms June 5. These birds could all fly. Considering the huge numbers of this species which move through the area in migration, some stragglers are expected.

Canada Goose: Three were at Forney Lake with the Snow Geese June 4 and a lone bird capable of flight was at Riverton June 3. Summer records of this species are also not unexpected: it is listed as uncommon at Squaw Creek NWR for the summer period. Individual pairs may nest in this area on occasion: captive flocks have bred in northwest Iowa (see Brown), and a domesticated pair bred at Lincoln, Nebraska (NBR 43:39). Bellrose mentions that E. c. maxima "readily accepted washtubs [as nesting sites]" in northwest Missouri, and Madsen (Audubon, Nov. 1976) stated that E. c. maxima breeds on cliffs along the Missouri between St Charles and Jefferson City, ~~Missouri~~. Apparently the species could be induced to breed in this area if nesting sites were provided.

Wood Duck: A brood of 11 were seen with the hen on the Purple Route June 7. Nest boxes have been erected at Riverton ^{at Forney Lake} by the State Conservation Commission, but no evidence of use was noted.

Gadwall: Two males and a female were seen at Forney Lake June 2, the males competing for the attention of the female while in flight. Nesting has been reported in Lancaster County, Nebraska in 1970 (NBR 39:58) and in 1972 (NBR 43:40). It is an occasional nester in Clay County, Nebraska also (NBR 39:58). It has nested in northwest Iowa in 1939, 1964, 1965, and 1967 (see Brown), and nesting was suspected there in 1977 (IBL 47:99). Thus it appears ^{likely} to be a rare breeder in this area, although nesting has not been recorded at Squaw Creek NWR, where it is considered a rare summer visitor.

Green-winged Teal: A pair was found at Forney Lake June 2, and five were there June 4. Two males were at Riverton June 3. It is listed as rare at Squaw Creek in summer, with no breeding recorded. There is however a previous breeding record for Riverton (see Brown), but no date is given. Brown also cites breeding records in northwest Iowa in 1965 and 1966. Rapp et al consider it a rare breeder in the Sandhills of Nebraska and Bellrose states that it breeds south in small numbers as far as Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas. However the breeding range map given in Bellrose includes no part of Iowa.

Mallard: Some 40 birds were reported during Foray, but no breeding evidence was obtained at that time, probably too early. * However Silcock and Wilson saw a female with brood at Willow Slough July 1.

Common Pintail: Two males were at Forney Lake June 2, and 10 birds were present of both sexes June 4. It is considered rare in summer at Squaw Creek NWR, but breeding has been recorded there. It also breeds

* Some egg fragments were collected from a nest ^{at Forney Lake} fitting the description of a Ruddy Duck nest, but Browning (USMNH - pers. comm.) identified these as Mallard egg fragments. (see Ruddy Duck and Redhead)

fairly commonly in northwest Iowa (see Brown), and a nesting was reported in 1973 from "southwest Iowa", reported by Phipps (IBL 43:74). Cink stated that it breeds commonly in Clay County, Nebraska but he could find only two records of breeding in Lancaster County (NBR 43:40). Bellrose stated that it breeds in some numbers at Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas. Thus breeding could be expected on rare occasions in Fremont County.

Blue-winged Teal: A total of some 25 birds were reported during Foray, but no breeding evidence was obtained, probably because this species is a late breeder.

Northern Shoveler: Four were at Forney Lake June 2 and 8 on June 4, of both sexes. Breeding might be expected in this area on rare occasions, as it is a rare breeding bird in northwest Iowa (see Brown), and there was a report of "several broods" at Rathbun Reservoir in 1975 (IBL 45:92), a rather remarkable record, considering the breeding range outlined in Bellrose. Broods were found in Lancaster County, Nebraska in 1971 and 1972 (NBR 43:40), and Bellrose states that it breeds south to Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas. No breeding evidence was obtained during Foray.

Redhead: Five males and two females were seen at Forney Lake June 2 and a nest was found there containing 7 eggs. The nest fitted the descriptions of Ruddy Duck nests in the literature, yet the greenish glossy eggs were not of that species (Browning, USNMNH; pers. comm.). The nest probably was that of a Redhead, as it is similar to that of the Ruddy Duck, but it may have been built by a Ruddy Duck and the eggs laid in it by a Redhead, a not uncommon practice (see Bent). Courtship was noted among the birds present at Forney Lake, and a female with brood was seen at Willow Slough July 1, found there earlier by Wilson. Brown considers it a common breeding bird in northwest Iowa and Bellrose states that some 200 breed there with a further 60 breeding at Cheyenne Bottoms in Kansas. Phipps cited Priebe's observation of a female with brood at Forney Lake in 1973 (IBL 43:74), and there was an apparent breeding record in southeast Nebraska in 1961, although no details were given (NBR 30:25). It seems likely that the Redhead will breed in Fremont County anytime the habitat is suitable.

Ring-necked Duck: Four males were at Forney Lake June 2, and a male and two females were seen at Willow Slough July 1. No evidence of breeding was noted at either location. It is very rare as a breeding bird in Iowa, Brown citing only one record, that in 1960 in Hamilton County. It has been recorded in summer south of the recognized breeding range on several occasions in Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa without evidence of breeding, although the Squaw Creek NWR Checklist does not list it as a summer bird. Johnsgard shows it breeding from southwest and northcentral Nebraska and central Minnesota northwards.

Lesser Scaup: A pair was at Forney Lake June 2, the only report during Foray. These were probably late migrants as large numbers are often present in this area well into May. It is considered rare in summer at Squaw Creek NWR, but no breeding is indicated. Indeed there are no recent breeding records for Iowa, and the nearest breeding location is probably the Nebraska Sandhills (see Bellrose and Johnsgard).

Ruddy Duck: Four males and two females were at Forney Lake June 2, and a nest was found which appeared to be of this species, with a lone male nearby. However the eggs were not those of this species (see comments under Redhead, above). It breeds regularly in northwest Iowa (see Brown), central Nebraska (Rapp et al), and south to Cheyenne Bottoms in Kansas (Johnston). It bred in Johnson County, Iowa in 1959 and 1960, when increased water levels were apparently conducive to breeding by it and other species, notable Pied-billed Grebe and American Coot (IBL 29:100). These conditions and species were present at Forney Lake this year, so breeding would be expected. A brood was found in Lancaster County, Nebraska in 1972 (NBR 43:41). Late spring migrants are not uncommon in southwest Iowa, however.

However
Browning does
not consider
the eggs to
be Redhead
eggs either
suggesting
Mallard.
The nest
& its location
& the lack of
down does
not
suggest that
of a Mallard
however.

Turkey Vulture: A nest was found this year east of Council Bluffs in the loess bluffs, presumably in Pottawattamie County, (Greer, fide Wilson). This would be a first for this area, even though this species is commonly seen during summer.

Osprey: Two birds were seen at Riverton June 3 by Braley, and Silcock, and McNeilly. They seemed to be paired, and one was carrying what appeared to be a stick or a snake. No nesting site was found by observing the birds however, and they could not be found on subsequent visits. However Braley saw a single bird in southwest Fremont County June 11 soaring south with a Turkey Vulture. This Osprey may well have been one of the Riverton birds, raising the interesting possibility of breeding somewhere in the area, with Riverton merely a feeding place. Carp were abundant and presumably easy to catch at Riverton as the water was very shallow. On the other hand Bent states that the Osprey does not fish shallow water as it tends to be difficult to see fish under muddy conditions. While the AOU Checklist includes the continental United States in the breeding range (in "scattered localities"), Robbins et al show breeding in the interior only as far south as Minnesota and Wisconsin. There ~~is~~ only one, or possibly two, records of breeding in Iowa, both very old, as is the record from Cass County, Nebraska over 75 years ago (see Rapp et al). There are recent reports of single birds in summer at Squaw Creek NWR (AB 26:865) and Red Rocks Reservoir (IBL 42:69), both in late July. In common with the Bald Eagle, this species may be recovering its numbers in recent years and reclaiming former parts of its breeding range.

Mississippi Kite: This species has recently experienced a dramatic range expansion northward, reaching close to Iowa. Prior to 1890 it was considered a casual visitor in the state (see DuMont), but there have been no records since then (see Brown). However Williams stated "The brightest spot in reviewing nesting birds of the Southern Great Plains Region ^{is} the rapidly expanding population of Mississippi Kites" (AB 27:887). Kleen described the first nesting in the Middlewestern Prairie Region: "Mississippi Kites have continued to increase along the Mississippi River as far north as St Louis; the first nest for the Region was located ... at the Kaskaskia State Park, Illinois. ... Another pair was observed feeding newly-fledged young at the Union County State Wildlife Refuge, Illinois, August 5, ..." These Illinois birds are still present in Union County (AB 31:1007), but some habitat destruction may endanger their status as breeding birds (AB 30:962). In Kansas the Mississippi Kite ^{is} "a common resident in the south, west to Morton County and north to Barton County, ..." (Johnston), but it has expanded its range northward, becoming a regular nester at Newton (AB 29:1000) and nesting for the first time at Hays in 1977, where 40 were present on September 14 (AB 32:224). Adults and young were also present at Quivira NWR in Kansas in 1977 (AB 32:224). According to Easterla, the species breeds only rarely in southeast Missouri, being casual elsewhere. The main range expansion therefore appears to be up the Mississippi River Valley and in the Great Plains. Whether the expansion will continue eastward from the Plains and up the Missouri River appears possible, based on recent sightings. Easterla found "at least one adult (possibly two) along Medicine Creek, Grundy County, June 20" (AB 29:978) in 1975. This location is just 40 miles south of Lamoni, Iowa. One was found at St Joseph, Missouri on June 3, 1976 (AB 30:962). In 1965 two birds were found at Fontenelle Forest May 27-30 (NBR 33:49), being only the fifth Nebraska record. Single birds were found in the same area in 1975 and 1976 (AB 29:871 and 31:1017). Nine birds were present in Lincoln County, Nebraska September 19, 1974, where two had been seen in May (NBR 42:74). Thus it seems that Iowa records of this species are imminent, especially in the extreme southwest part of the state.

Northern Harrier: Only one bird was seen during Foray, a brown-plumaged bird near Forney Lake June 7. ^{Saw} The Forney Lake area would seem suitable for breeding, and Silcock ~~noted~~ a brown-plumaged bird there in summer 1975, but no breeding evidence or male birds have been ~~noted~~. Brown noted a decline in breeding birds in Iowa in recent years.

Red-tailed Hawk: See 1977.

Roughlegged Hawk: One was recorded by Diggs and Diggs on the ~~Furnia~~ Green Route June 6 at the base of the loess bluffs between Waubonsie State Park and Hamburg. This is by far the latest Iowa date, as Brown gives May 17 for his latest. However there are ^{these} June records in NBR for Douglas and Sarpy Counties: June 16, 1970; June 17, 1974; and June 29, 1972. These are extremely late records for a species considered unusual in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin in June (AB 29:975).

American Kestrel: Considered fairly common in 1977, this species was hard to find in 1978. Only two separate birds were recorded. The first was a female in Benton Township June 7, probably the same bird reported by Phipps et al on the Blue Route June 5 in the same area. The second was reported by Phipps et al near Hamburg June 2. Two birds were seen together July 18 by Silcock in southeast Fremont County, however.

Common Bobwhite: See 1977.

Ring-necked Pheasant: See 1977.

*Wild Turkey: This species was not seen or heard during Foray, but scratchings were common in Waubonsie State Park, where Silcock had heard birds gobbling in April. Several flocks of up to 40 birds were reported in the loess bluffs area during the winter.

*Common Gallinule: Brown considers this species an uncommon breeding bird in Iowa, with nesting records mainly in the northern two thirds of the State. Iowa is near the northwest edge of the breeding range as outlined in the Aou Checklist: "Breeds from ... central Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska (Cherry County), Iowa, central Minnesota, southern Wisconsin, south ..." Bent gave a similar range boundary, with Omaha as the western limit in Nebraska. However Rapp et al stated that it has bred in several locations in Nebraska since, but mostly in the southeast part. Anderson cites Trostler that it bred in Mills and Pottawattamie Counties in ~~1898~~ Iowa, but not since 1898. However a recent breeding record, and the only recent one, in southwest Iowa was at Lake Manawa in 1959, where birds were present ~~April 30 - May 8~~ with June 2 - September 29, with four chicks seen July 26 (IBL 30:16). While it is listed as rare at Squaw Creek in spring and summer, no breeding has been recorded there. There have been several reports from southeast Nebraska in recent years, but no actual reports of nesting. A "large flock" was at the Harlan County Reservoir May, 1977, and it was stated that they "may be breeding there" (NBR 45:58). There were reports from Douglas-Sarpy Counties June 1-2, 1976; August 12, 1965; and April 26, 1964 (see NBR), the first two possibly relating to breeding birds. It was recorded in Lancaster County March 23-May 15, 1975 and April 27, 1974. Hence it may ~~breed~~ ^{breed} in this area if habitat is suitable, and should be looked for in ~~wooded~~ ^{marsh} ~~and~~ ^{fairly open} areas or amongst American Coots.

American Coot: This species was breeding commonly at Forney Lake this year, where 46 nests, all with eggs, were located, ~~June 7-14~~. The clutch size varied from 1 to 14, with an average of 6.8 eggs. Some of these clutches were probably incomplete. This number of nests indicates a breeding population of some 100 birds. They also nested at Willow Slough in Mills County (Wilson, pers. comm.). As in the case of the Pied-billed Grebe, this species will nest wherever conditions are suitable, although such a sizeable breeding population seems unusual this far south in

Iowa. Brown considers it a common breeding bird in Iowa, "especially in the northern part of the state", and it is listed only as occasional at Squaw Creek NWR, where it also has bred.

Killdeer: A common breeding bird this year.

Lesser Golden Plover: Three were found on a farm pond just east of Riverton June 3, rather late migrants.

Hudsonian Godwit: A single bird was at Forney Lake June 4, seen by Silcock and Wilson, a late date for this species. This exceeds the late date given by Brown for Iowa of June 1, and there are no June dates published in NBR. Indeed the latest dates for southern Minnesota given by Green and Janssen are June 1 and 7, the latter italicized as unusually late.

*Upland Sandpiper: This species was not reported during Foray, ^{although} Getscher reported some in extreme southwest Fremont County earlier in spring, but these could not be located by Phipps et al during Foray. The Purple Survey Route was designed to pass through perhaps the most likely areas where this species might breed in Fremont County, but none were heard or seen June 7 by Silcock, who is familiar with their song from the Flint Hills in Kansas. However they appear to be common breeding birds in the Lamoni area, some 75 miles to the east. (see IBL 30; 31-37). Getscher reported 6-8 seen near Hamburg during the summer in 1964 (IBL 34:65). It also appears to breed in several areas in extreme southeast Nebraska, with nestings reported from Pawnee, Lancaster, Johnson, Otoe, and Douglas-Sarpy Counties since 1972 (see NBR). Nesting was also reported near Jamaica, in west-central Iowa in 1977 (IBL 47:101). It seems likely that a few pairs breed in pasture areas in Fremont County, but there are few large pastures remaining.

Spotted Sandpiper: Three were seen at Forney Lake June 4, but no nest could be located. However Silcock and Thompson flushed a bird on the Blue Route, on the Missouri bottoms June 6, and later in the day its nest was located, ^{by W.D.S.} containing four eggs. One was also recorded on the Green Route June 5 by Phipps et al. While Brown considers it a common breeding bird in Iowa, its nest is not often found.

Wilson's Phalarope: One was reported near the Missouri ^{River} on the Green Route by Phipps et al June 5. Brown gives a late date for Iowa of June 7, although it nests locally but rarely in northern Iowa. ~~Nestings in Slay and~~

It also breeds locally in Kansas (Johnston), and Rapp et al consider it the most abundant breeding shorebird in northcentral Nebraska. ^{There are} two recent June records from northwest Missouri: June 12, 1973 at Squaw Creek NWR (AB 27:876), and ² pairs at Maryville June 20, 1976 (AB 30:963). It is considered uncommon in summer at Squaw Creek NWR, but no breeding has been recorded. June records probably refer to non-breeding stragglers.

American Woodcock: One was flushed at Riverton June 3 by Silcock. It was feeding in a swampy spot in a wooded area, and thus a short nest search was unsuccessful. Wilson flushed a bird ~~twice~~ ^{June 9, 1976} from the same area in northeast Mills County in ~~1977~~ ^{summer} 1977, but no nest was found (pers. comm.). An article in the Omaha World Herald July 23, 1977 states that "there are some birds nesting along the Missouri". ~~It is probably an uncommon breeder in riparian areas in the area.~~ The Squaw Creek Checklist does not list it in summer however, although it is listed as a rare spring and fall migrant. At DeSoto NWR it is considered an uncommon migrant, and Rapp et al considered it a rare migrant in the Missouri River Valley, even though Bruner et al in 1904 stated that it bred occasionally in the same area. There have been several June and July records published in NBR for Douglas-Sarpy Counties since 1961, but no nests have been reported. It does appear to be increasing its population in this area, as the Omaha World Herald article noted above states. It seems to be increasing as a breeding bird in Minnesota (AB 27:872), and South Dakota's second nest record was made in Brookings County April, 1972 (AB 26:870).

June records are from D.S. & NWR.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Several were present in a flock east of Riverton June 2 at a farm pond (Phipps and Braley). Brown gives June 3 as the late date for Iowa. There was a report of one June 1, 1963 in Lancaster County, Nebraska (see NBR), ~~and also a July 9, 1955 record at Lake Manawa.~~ ~~The latter is probably an early fall bird, but the next date given in NBR is~~

Western Sandpiper: Phipps and Braley identified a bird of this species among Semipalmated Sandpipers June 2 (See above). Braley (pers. comm.) stated that the bill was long and had a noticeable droop at the tip. The same observer believed that there were ~~5~~ or ~~10~~ more present, but they could not be relocated to verify. A telescope was used at close range and in good light. Brown considers it a rare migrant in Iowa, with a late spring date of May 13. ^{47:4} However records as late as May 26 are given in NBR. Halmi noted (IBL) that "spring records of this species in Iowa are few", and Shickley stated (NBR 36:55) that they are "never common in [Lincoln County, Nebraska], but ... a few [are seen] in spring migration almost every year .." It is listed as rare in spring and fall at Squaw Creek NWR.

Least Sandpiper: One was found with the Semipalmateds (see above) by Silcock et al June 3. At this time there were about 8 Semipalmateds, 20 White-rumped and 15 Baird's. This appears to be a new late spring date for Iowa, as Brown lists June 1 as the latest. However there are records for June 1 and June 3 given in NBR for southeast Nebraska.

White-rumped Sandpiper: This is one of the later spring migrant sandpipers, and as might be expected, was rather common during Foray. Twenty were east of Riverton June 3, but none June 2. Phipps et al reported 10 during the Green and Blue Routes June 5, and Silcock, Wilson, and Thompson found at least 75 at Forney Lake June 4 and 35 June 2. The late date given by Brown for Iowa is June 15.

Baird's Sandpiper: Fifteen were present east of Riverton June 3, and at Forney Lake at least 3 were present June 4 and 5 on June 2. The June 4 date appears to be a new late date for Iowa, as Brown lists ~~June~~ May 30. However there are records for May 31 and June 13 reported in NBR.

Dunlin: Silcock and Wilson found 4 at Forney Lake June 4 in breeding plumage. This also may be a new late spring date for Iowa, as Brown lists June 1. This species also tends to migrate later in the spring than most sandpipers. There is a June 1 record listed in NBR.

Franklin's Gull: Seven were at Forney Lake, including adults and immatures, June 4, and two were counted by Silcock and Thompson on the Blue Route June 6. These were probably all late migrants. Brown gives June 18 as the late spring date for Iowa, but it is listed as occasional in summer at Squaw Creek NWR.

Caspian Tern: One was seen by Phipps et al at an I-29 borrow pit near Hamburg June 2. This species has appeared several times in summer in Iowa, but is rare at this time.

Black Tern: This species was rather common during Foray, but searches revealed no evidence of nesting at Forney Lake or Willow Slough. About 50 were at Riverton June 3, 20 at Forney Lake June 2, but only 2 June 4. "Many" were at an I-29 borrow pit near Hamburg June 2. According to Brown, it breeds commonly in northern Iowa, but it also has bred at Squaw Creek NWR, where it is listed as common in summer. They have been present at both Forney Lake and Willow Slough through at least mid-July this summer.

Rock Dove: Should be listed as a common breeding bird in Fremont County.

Mourning Dove: See 1977.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: See 1977.

Black-billed Cuckoo: See 1977.

Common Screech Owl: Only one was recorded, a bird seen by Thompson just north of Waubesa State Park, June 4.

Great Horned Owl: See 1977.

Barred Owl: See 1977.

* Short-eared Owl: See 1977.

Chuck-will's-widow: Two were heard in the same area just north of Waubonsie State Park June 3 by Silcock. This was to be expected as there have been records from both Page and Mills Counties and several records from southwest Nebraska in recent years. However it is by no means common, and its low numbers may indicate only sporadic ~~annual~~ breeding success. It appears to be regular in the wooded loess bluffs and in woods along the Missouri River and its tributaries in Nebraska, such as the Platte and Elkhorn (see NBR).

Whip-poor-will: This species is abundant as a breeding bird along the loess bluffs in wooded areas. Silcock heard 3-5 at every place he stopped in wooded areas and saw a male singing on the paved road at Waubonsie State Park.

Common Nighthawk: This is a common breeding bird in the county, both in larger towns (Hamburg and Shenandoah) and other areas. Several were heard over the loess bluffs south of Waubonsie State Park June 5.

Chimney Swift: See 1977.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: This species is at best uncommon and alarmingly difficult to find in summer. Only one was recorded during Foray, by Phipps et al in the picnic area at Waubonsie State Park.

Belted Kingfisher: Only one was recorded during Foray, at Hamburg by the bridge over the Nishnabotna River, during the Red Survey Route. Silcock found them in two places near Randolph during June near the West Nishnabotna River, and so they may be present in small numbers along this river.

Common Flicker: See 1977.

* Pileated Woodpecker: This species has become rather common in the eastern and southeastern quarter of Iowa in recent years (see IBL). It also appears to be expanding its range northwards up the Missouri River Valley. Easterla lists it as an uncommon permanent resident in southern Missouri, but Piala cites a record of two near St Joseph, ~~with~~ no date is given (see NBR 39:3). Johnston (1960) stated that it had been recorded in 9 counties in eastern Kansas, but in 1965 he added that most Kansas records were in winter and called it a rare and local resident, with nest records from Linn and Cherokee Counties only. However it was considered to be increasing in Linn County, Kansas in 1974 (AB 29:80), and one had been present since 1972 in Neosho County Kansas at least through early 1975 (AB 29:709). There are only 6 published records for southeast Nebraska, but five have been since 1952 and four since 1969. Except for one undated record in 1970, all have been between October 26 and February, confirming Johnston's statement above that in this area it may be a casual winter visitor. Habitat is probably the greatest barrier to its movement into southwest Iowa. check Phipps (pers. comm.) stated that Priebe had seen one near Red Oak, Iowa in an area which is being developed as a park area by the State of Iowa.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: See 1977.

Red-headed Woodpecker: See 1977.

Hairy Woodpecker: See 1977.

Downy Woodpecker: See 1977.

Eastern Kingbird: See 1977.

Western Kingbird: This is a fairly common breeding bird on the Missouri floodplain and rare in upland areas. Five were reported on Survey Routes, all in bottomland areas, but Silcock saw one near Strahan in southeast Mills County July 1.

Great Crested Flycatcher: See 1977.

Eastern Phoebe: See 1977.

* Say's Phoebe: See 1977.

* Acadian Flycatcher: Not recorded during Foray this year, and also not present at Waubonsie State Park later in June, in contrast to last year. However Phipps found one in a brushy area at Forney Lake June 16.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: One was reported by Phipps et al (seen and heard) on the Bridle Trail at Waubonsie State Park June 2. One, probably the same bird, was heard in the same area by Silcock, Wilson, and Thompson June 5. Because of the late date and the presence of Eastern Pewees, great care was taken in identification. Silcock et al did not see the bird, but the call was heard several times and compared with calls of the Pewees, some of the latter singing partial songs, which could be confused with the single upward-slurred note of the Flycatcher. When both are heard the call of the latter is noticeably different in quality. Brown gives a late date for Iowa of June 3, but late migrating Empidonaces do not seem to be unusual (see Alder Flycatcher in 1977 and Least Flycatcher this year). Indeed, there are three June records for this species: NBR gives June 7 and 18 dates in Lancaster and Cass Counties respectively, and there is a June 29 date reported by Getscher (IBL 39: 62), the latter extremely late.

Willow Flycatcher: See 1977.

* Alder Flycatcher: See 1977.

Least Flycatcher: One was heard by Wilson in a small patch of cottonwoods at the Missouri River bridge to Nebraska City June 4. It was calling vigorously, and was recorded again June 6 by Silcock and Thompson on the Blue Route. However it was absent June 7 and also July 8, indicating that it was a transient. Brown considers it a rare breeding bird in Iowa, citing two records from northern Iowa and a record of a "possible resident" in northwest Iowa. At DeSoto NWR it is listed as common, and indicated as a breeding bird. To confirm this, I wrote to Dr Grube, Professor of Biology at Dana College, Blair, Nebraska in 1975. He replied: "Least Flycatchers can be heard in the forested area, especially on the east side of the lake. My guess is that they are more common during the breeding season than Wood Pewees." (emphasis mine). The Fontenelle Forest Checklist lists it only as a migrant however, and there is no mention of its breeding in Dakota County, Nebraska by Stephens and Youngworth (1957). The latter paper however does state that Aughey took specimens in Dakota County in June and July, and Rapp et al state that it is a "rare breeder in the eastern quarter of the state". Short (NBR 33:3) noted that it was "nowhere common in the state" as a breeder, "even along its eastern border." It was considered a "summer resident" at Plattsmouth NWR in 1964 however (NBR 33:17), and was present through June 28, 1974 in Douglas-Sarpy Counties and throughout summer in 1973 (see NBR). Thus the evidence suggests that this species may breed rarely in this area and at times commonly, as at DeSoto NWR.

Eastern Pewee: See 1977.

* Olive-sided Flycatcher: See 1977.

Horned Lark: Common as a breeding bird on the Missouri floodplain.

Tree Swallow: Again present and breeding at Riverton (see 1977).

Bank Swallow: Appears to be fairly common as a breeding bird in the loess bluffs, but more local than the Rough-winged Swallow.

Rough-winged Swallow: See 1977.

Barn Swallow: See 1977.

Cliff Swallow: As in the case of the Bank Swallow, may be common locally, but can be easily missed. Two large colonies were found this year: one on the Missouri River bridge near Nebraska City (at least 15 nests could be seen, but much of the bridge structure could not be seen from the riverbank (Silcock and Thompson estimated some 90 birds present June 6) and the other on a concrete bridge between the East and West Nishnabotna Rivers near Riverton, where 74 nests were counted June 4. The declining colony found last year at Payne Junction was defunct this year.

Purple Martin: See 1977.

Blue Jay: See 1977.

American Crow: See 1977.

Black-capped Chickadee: See 1977.

* Carolina Chickadee: See 1977.

Tufted Titmouse: See 1977.

White-breasted Nuthatch: See 1977.

* Brown Creeper: Although the AOU Checklist gives the southern edge of the breeding range for this species as "south to southeastern Nebraska (Red Cloud, Lincoln, Omaha), southern Iowa (Blakesburg, Davenport),..." there is no mention of breeding in the state of Nebraska by Rapp et al. Brown considered it a rare breeding bird in Iowa, with one record of an adult feeding a young bird in Boone County in central Iowa. Brown also gives some summer records, but no further breeding evidence. It is listed as a migrant ~~only~~ in the Fontenelle Forest Checklist. However it has recently been discovered breeding in Fontenelle Forest, the first nest being found in 1975, although birds carrying food had been seen during the nesting period in 1974 and 1975 (NBR 33:80). ~~A Nest~~ was also reported in the 1977 Nesting Survey in NBR for Sarpy County, ~~and in 1977~~ when three nests were found (NOU Newsletter) (NBR 45:37). Cortelyou cites ~~some~~ old records of breeding in the area which is now Fontenelle Forest for June 1877 (see Bent). Thus this species could breed in Fremont County, in particular Waubonsie State Park, but a careful check of likely areas with trees whose bark was loose did not indicate the presence of any birds during Foray. Silcock found one at Waubonsie State Park on the late date of April 22 this year however, indicating that breeding habitat may be available there.

House Wren: See 1977.

* Carolina Wren: See 1977. A published report of breeding in Fremont County

~~Bentley~~ is of an adult feeding a young bird near Shenandoah May 23, 1959 (IBL 30:18).

* Bewick's Wren: This species is common in southern Missouri and ^{southern} Kansas (see Easterla and Johnston), but becomes rare further north. At Squaw Creek NWR it is rare, as at Fontenelle Forest. The AOU Checklist gives its breeding range as north and west to eastern Oklahoma, northeastern Kansas (Manhattan, Lawrence), southeastern Nebraska (Otoe County), central Missouri, southern Iowa (Des Moines, Iowa City, Davenport),..." Thus it appears to breed north in the Missouri River Valley into Nebraska, but is absent from south-central Iowa. Brown describes it as an uncommon breeding bird in Iowa, mostly in the southeastern part of the state, becoming numerous around Keokuk. Rapp et al consider it an uncommon ~~breeder~~ summer resident and breeder in the southeastern part of ~~the state~~ ^{Nebraska}. There is one published record of breeding in Fremont County: a bird nested under the custodian's porch ^{at Waubonsie} in 1959 (IBL 30:18). A pair was found in Lewis, Cass County, Iowa in 1956 carrying nesting material, but was not seen after April 27 (IBL 26:85). ^{Over the last} ten years there ~~has been~~ have been spring and fall records ^{only} from Lancaster County ~~and~~ in NBR, and no reports of summer birds. Fiala states that a nest had been found in Gage County, Nebraska (NBR 38:56). Hence it appears that this species is a rare summer resident in this area, but is not present every year.

* Sedge Wren: See 1977.

Northern Mockingbird: This species was present in fair numbers this year, whereas none were found in 1977. Five were reported on Survey Routes, all but one on the Purple Route in extreme southeastern Fremont County. As this area was not covered in 1977, they may have been there then also. No nesting evidence was obtained, but it probably breeds. The other sighting was of a bird which had been present all spring in Benton Township, and counted on the Blue Route.

Gray Catbird: See 1977.

Brown Thrasher: See 1977.

American Robin: See 1977.

Wood Thrush: See 1977.

Eastern Bluebird: Not reported in 1977, but this year were found on Survey Routes. Also two were seen by Phipps et al near Waubonsie State Park. These sightings indicate that more birds may have been present this year in the county. Wilson reported that a pair used one of her nest boxes in northeast Mills County (pers. comm.).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Also not found in 1977, but Phipps et al discovered two birds at the north end of the picnic area at Waubonsie State Park June 2. Although they were watched for some time, no nest or breeding evidence was found. Wilson saw one at the overlook area at the park June 5, also seen by Silcock and Thompson. This bird was probably one of the two seen by Phipps et al, as these two places are only about 100 yards apart. This species is rare and irregular in Fremont County.

Cedar Waxwing: Four were reported by Phipps et al June 5 on the Green Route south of Waubonsie State Park along the loess bluffs and a flock of 16 was found by Wilson et al June 5 at Waubonsie State Park. These were probably migrants, especially the flock of 16, but breeding is a possibility in the area (see Bent). Immatures should be looked for late in summer, as their presence almost surely indicates breeding. The immature plumage is lost in September (see Bent), and so southward-migrating birds would not be in the immature plumage.

Loggerhead Shrike: This species was common in the county this year. A total of 9 was reported on survey routes and several broods were found by Wilson and Silcock. Nest success appeared good, as fledged broods mostly seemed to have three birds. Taking the number of miles covered into account, extrapolation to the total miles in the county (with some adjustment for Interstate highway and wooded areas) indicates a breeding population of some 36 pairs in the county. This information will be published separately.

European Starling: See 1977.

*White-eyed Vireo: See 1977.

Bell's Vireo: See 1977.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Only two singing males were found: both in the north bridle trail area of Waubonsie State Park. The singing bird present near the Custodian's house was absent this year.

*Solitary Vireo: See 1977.

Red-eyed Vireo: See 1977.

Warbling Vireo: Probably best considered common, rather than fairly common, as stated last year. Some 43 were reported on survey routes.

Black-and-white Warbler: Silcock et al heard songs in two places in Waubonsie State Park, but as the singing birds could not be seen, the identification is in doubt. However their presence is likely based on the observations made in 1977.

Prothonotary Warbler: Three singing males were found by Braley and Silcock near the boat ramp at Riverton June 3. They were all in one fairly small area, and no others were seen that day. However Wilson saw one in another area at Riverton in the south part of the Riverton Game Management Area June 7. Thus there appear to be a few birds present in suitable habitat at Riverton, presumably breeding.

*Worm-eating Warbler: See 1977.

*Blue-winged Warbler: See 1977.

Yellow Warbler: See 1977.

- *Cerulean Warbler: Not found again in 1978. However a singing male was present at Fontenelle Forest this spring (pers. comm. from Loren Padelford).
- *Ovenbird: Despite a thorough search, none were found during Foray in Waubonsie State Park. Last year at least two were heard. Silcock heard one singing in the park earlier in spring however. Apparently the numbers of this species in Waubonsie State Park are very low.
- Louisiana Waterthrush: A pair was found by Silcock et al June 5 on the Bridle Trail in Waubonsie State Park where a pair was seen feeding a young bird in 1977. However none were found in the main part of the park this year. Thus the small colony persists.
- Kentucky Warbler: None were found at Waubonsie State Park, but two were heard by Silcock June 3 in the ~~south~~ damp woods in the south part of Riverton Game Management Area. Breeding has not been proven in this area, despite the presence of singing males each year.
- Common Yellowthroat: See 1977.
- *Yellow-breasted Chat: See 1977.
- Canada Warbler: A single singing male was seen by Silcock June 3 in the woods at the south end of Riverton Game Management Area. It was carefully observed for some 20 minutes at close range in good light as it foraged in the leaves about 15 feet from the ground. The song was atypical in that it was slower than those heard previously by me, and I was surprised to see a male Canada Warbler in full breeding plumage: yellow underparts with a well-marked black neckline, greenish upperparts with darker cap and yellow eyering and spectacles. The songs I have heard previously in the mountains of North Carolina, where it breeds, were much faster. Perhaps this bird was a first-year male, somewhat dis-oriented, although Brown gives a late date for Iowa of June 3 also.
- American Redstart: This year a pair was found by Thompson, again in the woods at Riverton. All field marks were noted on the male, and then a female was noticed nearby, June 7. No breeding evidence was seen. This is the only Foray record in two years of this species in Fremont County although it presumably breeds. Indeed, Silcock found two singing males and possibly three in riparian woods (mostly cottonwoods) alongside the Missouri River July 8. No females were seen however. Short stated (NBR 29:17) "... the species has a very spotty distribution [in Nebraska] ... it can be considered common perhaps in portions of the Missouri Valley Region ..." (emphasis mine).
- House Sparrow: See 1977.
- Bobolink: Seemingly fairly common this year in suitable habitat, the latter also common due to a wet spring. Four were reported on the Purple Route June 7, and it was also present southeast of Shenandoah June 2 in its customary location (Phipps et al). Silcock and Wilson also found several between Shenandoah and Farragut, and Wilson found a nest in northeast Mills County.
- Eastern Meadowlark: See Western Meadowlark.
- Western Meadowlark: A total of 99 Eastern and 247 Western were reported on Survey Routes, a ratio similar to last year's.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird: Present in abundance at Forney Lake and in small numbers at Riverton, along I-29 and in most areas where water and emergent vegetation occurred together. Four were reported on Survey Routes. Many nests were found by Silcock, Wilson, and Thompson at Forney Lake, most with eggs, but some with young, and many empty nests.
- Red-winged Blackbird: See 1977.
- Orchard Oriole: See 1977.
- Northern Oriole: See 1977.
- Common Grackle: See 1977.
- Brown-headed Cowbird: See 1977.
- Scarlet Tanager: See 1977.

Summer Tanager: Three males were found at Waubesaie State Park June 5 by Silcock, Wilson, and Thompson. One of these was definitely on territory and singing, and the other two were noticed due to their antagonistic behaviour. Of these two, one was a young male as his plumage was not completely red. All these birds were seen in the area between the overlook and the picnic area.

Northern Cardinal: See 1977.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: See 1977.

Blue Grosbeak: Three were recorded on Survey Routes on the Missouri floodplain, where they are regular, and a singing male was located in an upland area east of Hamburg June 4 by Silcock and Wilson.

Indigo Bunting: See 1977.

Dickcissel: See 1977. A nest under construction was found by Wilson June 7.

American Goldfinch: See 1977.

Rufous-sided Towhee: See 1977.

* Lark Bunting: This species is regular in summer as far east as Lincoln County in Nebraska, becoming only a casual summer resident further east. In southwest Minnesota it is not present every year as a summer resident, but may be common at times in spring migration. Brown notes that most Iowa records are during spring migration and from the western and central parts of the state, but gives two summer records from Akron, which might be expected based on the Minnesota information above. However in southwest Iowa it is rare, being listed as casual in northwest Missouri by Easterla. There are ~~two~~ records of its occurrence in *summer* in southwest Iowa, one of these in Fremont County: a male and two females were seen June 21, 1970 one mile north of Percival (IBL 41:61). The other record ~~two birds~~ ^{is of} "two birds" in summer of 1969 west of Creston, ~~and March 28, 1970 14 miles southwest of Creston in Adams County~~ (IBL 40:52).

Grasshopper Sparrow: See 1977.

Vesper Sparrow: See 1977.

Lark Sparrow: Several were recorded on survey Routes in upland pasture areas, indicating that it is not necessarily limited to dry areas.

Chipping Sparrow: See 1977.

Field Sparrow: See 1977.

Swamp Sparrow: Two birds were reported by Diggs and Diggs June 7 in southeast Fremont County on the Purple Route. Brown states that it is a common breeding bird in northern Iowa, and as far south as Muskrat Slough in eastern Iowa. It is listed as Occasional in summer at Squaw Creek NWR, and has bred there. Rapp et al consider it a "locally rare summer resident" in northern Nebraska, and Johnston does not mention breeding in Kansas. Easterla lists it as a former casual summer resident in northern Missouri. The AOU Checklist gives its breeding range as "south to eastern Nebraska (Neligh), northern Missouri (St Charles County), northern Illinois, ...". Hence breeding might occur in southwest Iowa on rare occasions. The birds could not be found by Silcock July 8, suggesting that they were late spring migrants, or perhaps a pair searching for suitable breeding habitat. Such did not appear to exist at the place where they were found.

Song Sparrow: See 1977.