

Jim Dinsmore 7/14/79

General comments - water levels in Ruthven area were high and marsh conditions excellent.

The cold springs put much of nesting at least two weeks behind schedule for most species

Pied-billed Grebe - nestings commonly around Ruthven although didn't seem as common as in 1978

Western Grebe 1 on Mud Lake, Clay Co 15-16 June, 4 on Trumbull Lake, Clay Co
15 June - documentation attached

White Pelican - 2 on Mud Lake and 13 on Trumbull Lake, Clay Co on 14 June

Double-crested Cormorant - 2 flew over Deweys Pasture, Clay Co on 28 June

American Bittern and Green Heron - both fairly common in Ruthven area and seen often

↳ a small colony of Green Heron near Deweys Pasture, Clay Co

Least Bittern - didn't see any in Ruthven area but may not have been in enough marshes

Black-crowned Night Heron - colony at Hottes Lake, Dickinson Co, had 15-20 nests with eggs starting to hatch on 15 June. On 28 June all nests were flooded and colony apparently, was deserted. High winds may have been cause but high water made nests more precarious and less well-anchored this year than in past. Colony was smaller than in 1977 or 1978 to start with

Canada Goose, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Redhead and Ruddy Duck all common nesters in Ruthven area although very few broods seen by 28 June. This is much later than when most broods start appearing

Pintail - 2 at Dan Green Slough, Clay Co 14 June

Green-winged Teal - 3 at Dan Green Slough, Clay Co - 14 June

} few prob nested in area

Ring-necked Duck - 2 ♂, 1 ♀ on Mud Lake, Clay Co, 27 June

Lesser Scaup - 2 on Little Wall Lake, Hamilton Co 17 June

Common Merganser - 1 ♀ seen well on Mud Lake, Clay Co on 28 June

Gray Partridge - fairly common in great lakes region, 1 pair with 12 downy chicks seen at Diamond Lake, Dickinson Co on 28 June

Sora and Virginia Rail - former heard commonly in Ruthven area, nest of latter found north of Ruthven in Palo Alto Co. on 15 June

Amer Coot - very abundant nesting bird on virtually all marshes in NW Iowa

Amer. Woodcock - 1 flushed near Trumbull Lake, Clay Co on 15 June

hadn't seen any movement of shorebirds into flooded fields of Ruthven area by end of June

Ring-billed Gull - 2-6 birds seen several times near Ruthven from 15-29 June

Franklin's Gull - 1 on Trumbull Lake, ^{Clay Co} on 14 June

Forster's Tern - small colonies found at Hottes Lake, Dickinson Co, and Dan Green Slough, Clay Co. Prob also nesting at Rush Lake, Palo Alto Co, Round Lake, Clay Co, and Eagle Lake, Hancock Co. Nesting was unusually late with eggs just being laid by late June

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Caspian Tern - 1 at Dewey's Pasture, Clay Co on 14 June; 7 on Hallett's Quarry just north of Ames, Story Co on 29 June

Black Tern - seen commonly on marshes of NW Iowa but nesting seemed to be unusually late with no nests found by mid June

Willow Flycatcher - common around marshes near Ruthven

Least Flycatcher - 1 heard calling near Trumbull Lake, Clay Co on 15 June. Acted territorial and may have stayed to nest

Long-billed Marsh Wren - common in Ruthven area

Yellow Warbler - common nester in woods around Trumbull Lake, Clay Co

Yellow-headed Blackbird - common nester in great lakes region

Brown-headed Cowbird - seemed to be everywhere when I did bird surveys for Dean Roose. Seen on nearly every stop

Veery Sparrow - common in open fields around Ruthven

Swamp Sparrow - common in marshes in Ruthven area