

Janet Greer

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Green

1978 FALL REPORT

- Common Loon--1 Nov. 11--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co.--Barb Wilson with Ross Solcock
- 1 Nov. 11--Iowa Power & Light Settling Basin--Pottawattamie Co.--Barb Wilson with Ross Silcock
- 5 Nov. 19--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co.--Loren Padelford

NOTE: These sighting are certianly fewer than usual--however, I think the warm weather fooled us and we were not birding waterfowl very well this fall.

Western Grebe--1--Nov. 23--Lake Anita--Cass Co.--Loren Padelford

Horned Grebe--2--Oct. 19--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co.--Tanya Bray et al.

White Pelican--1--Nov. 9--DeSoto NWR--Harrison Co.--Tanya Bray et al.
 200 plus--Sept. 19--Willow Slough--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson
 100--Sept. 15--soaring over Missouri Valley--Harrison Co.--
 Ruth Gochenour
 30--Sept. 17--Big Lake Park--Council Bluffs--Pottawattamie Co. Janet Greer

max. for area

Double-crested Cormorant--3--Nov. 2--DeSoto NWR--Harrison Co.--Tanya Bray et al.
 (low) 30--Oct. 19--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co.--
 Babs Padelford

Snow Goose--25,000--Nov. 29 count at DeSoto NWR--Harrison Co--
high count for this fall at DeSoto Bend NWR--150,000

NOTE: A few yars ago across the Missouri River at Plattesmouth, Nebraska, a small refuge was established in the hopes of attracting 40,000 to 50,000 snow geese. The last two weeks of November the small refuge was harboring 250,000 birds! It is safe to say that this three county area--Harrison, Pottawattamie, and Mills--still has 300,000 snow geese the last two weeks of November.

Migration began in this area September 6.

The warm Sept. and Oct. weather created ideal conditions for watch the geese move before scarce but stong weather fronts. An exciting goose year! But then I guess the call of the world geese always has been exciting!

(not elsewhere)

Canada Goose--1,000--Nov. 29 count at DeSoto NWR--Harrison Co.

Mallards--50,000--Nov. 29 count at DeSoto NWR--Harrison co.
5,000--Nov. 23--Lake Anita--Cass Co.--Loren Padelford

Gadwall--10-14--Nov. 23--Lake Anita--Cass Co.--Loren Padelford

Shoveler--2--Nov. 19--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co.--Loren Padelford

Teal--250--Aug. 7--mixed flock--mostly Blue-wing with some Green-wing--
along I-29 in Mills Co.--Tanya Bray

Redhead--2--Nov. 19--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co.--Loren Padelford

Canvasback--6--Nov. 23--Lake Anita--Cass Co. Loren Padelford

Ring-necked Duck--12--Nov, 23--Lake Anita--Cass Co.--Loren Padelford

Common Goldeneye--2--Nov. 23--Missouri River along Harrison Co. --Greer
10--Nov. 19--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co.--Loren Padelford

Bufflehead--1--Nov, 23--Lake Anita--Cass Co.--Loren Padelford
1--Nov. 19--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co.--Loren Padelford

Ruddy Duck--12--Nov. 23--Lake Anita--Cass Co.--Loren Padelford
8--Nov. 19--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co.--Loren Padelford

Red-breasted Merganser--7--Nov. 9--DeSoto NWR--Harrison Co.--Tanya Bray et al.
2--Nov. 19--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co. Loren Padelford

Turkey Vulture--present in Mills Co. until Sept. 26--Barb Wilson

Sharp-shinned Hawk--Sept. 26--Nov. 2--Pottawattamie Co.--Barb Wilson

Cooper's Hawk--Sept. 26--Mills Co.-- Barb Wilson

NOTE: Re Steve Duecker's article in June IBL: Barb Wilson's first Accipiter in 1977 was Sept. 1 which would support Duecker's theory. However, in 1978 her few sightings were later.

Personal Note: I am accustomed to seeing Sharp-shinned Hawks the mid two weeks in October.

Later is a word we seem to be using a lot this year.

Marsh Hawk--3--Sept. 30--Lewis & Clark SP--Monona Co.--Tanya Bray

Rough-legged Hawk--1--Oct. 20--County Rd. L66--Pottawattamie Co.--Barb Wilson
1--Nov. 12--Big Lake Park--Council Bluffs--Pottawattamie Co.--Janet Greer

NOTE: So far sightings are fewer than in years past. We are all wondering if mild weather has kept them north and that Later is again the key word.

Broadwinged Hawk--5--Sept. 25--Council Bluffs--Pottawattamie Co.--Janet Greer

NOTE: These five hawks are in themselves insignificant I believe but rising not 20 feet over the house to ride the thermals, they directed my attention to the sky where I counted tiny black specks moving at the rate of 25 per 15 minutes at every interval during the afternoon when I could check. A major raptor movement? I could only identify two Red-tails in addition to the Broadwings.

probably into Ia., but recorded as Nebr.

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Golden Eagle--1--Nov. 18--DeSoto NWR--Harrison Co.--Andy Saunders

Osprey--1--Sept. 23--Viking Lake--Montgomery Co.--Tanya Bray
1--Sept. 30--Lewis & Clark SP--Monona Co.--Tanya Bray

Kestrel--Barb Wilson remarks on the large size of the birds migrating through the area

Merlin--1--Sept. 24--Viking Lake--Montgomery Co.--Tanya Bray *loc.*

American Coot--1 adult with 3 gray, downy young--August 1--Iowa Power & Light Settling Basin--Pottawattamie Co.--Tanya Bray et al.

Cattle Egret--3--Sept. 24--just north of Forney's Lake sing on I-29--Fremont Co.--Tanya Bray

Great Blue Heron--2--DeSoto Bend NWR--at least as late as Nov. 9--Harrison Co.--Janet Greer--other dates to Oct. 24.

Killdeer--2--Nov. 18--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson
40--Nov. 2--DeSoto NWR--Harrison Co.--Tanya Bray et al.

Yellowlegs--4--flooded soy bean field--northern Mills Co.--Aug. 1--Tanya Bray et al.

Short-billed Dowitcher--3--Sept. 20--Willow Slough--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson--she notes they were identified by the mellow "tu--tu--tu" call

Pectoral Sandpiper--15--Aug. 1--flooded soybean field--northern Mills Co.--Tanya Bray et al.

Common Snipe 30--Sept. 30--Lewis & Clark SP--Monona Co.--Tanya Bray
35--Nov 10-20--flooded grassy area--Big Lake Park--Pott Co.--Janet Greer

Franklin's Gull--2--Oct. 18--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co.--Janet Greer
1000--Oct. 19--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co.--Tanya Bray et al.

2--Oct. 20--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co.--Janet Greer

NOTE: About 5 years ago I saw a flock like this on Lake Manawa resting a few hours and leaving again.

Bonapart's Gull--2--Oct. 19--Lake Manawa--Pottawattamie Co.--Tanya Bray et al.

Least Tern--1 immature--Aug. 2--Willow Slough--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson
1--Aug. 5--Willow Slough--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson

NOTE: I saw 3 Least Terns--1 adult and 2 immature--along the Platte River in Saunders Co., Nebraska on July 9. On Aug. 1, 4-5 Least Terns were reported at the mouth of the Plate River at Plattsmouth Refuge (on the Missouri River opposite Mills Co., Iowa) by Tanya Bray, et al. This sighting was closely followed by Barb Wilson's two sightings from Willow Slough in Mills Co. All the same birds? A regional upswing?

Black Tern--present at Willow Slough, Mills Co., through Aug. 25 with 35 plus present on August 2--Barb Wilson

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Mouring Dove--nest with eggs--Sept. 10--Mills Co. --Barb Wilson
nest with eggs--Sept. 13--Harrison Co. Ruth Gochenour
nest with eggs--Sept. 15--Pottawattamie Co.--Janet Greer
nest with young--Sept. 20--Pottawattamie Co.--separate
location from above note--Janet Greer

NOTE: Nebraska's dove season begins Sept. 1.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo--

Black-billed Cuckoo-- both species called abundant in area in comparison
with past years--last date for Yellow-billed --
Sept. 15--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson

Barred Owl--2--Sept. 24--Viking Lake--Montgomery Co.--Tanya Bray

Saw-whet Owl--1 roadkill found Nov. 14--Pottawattamie Co.--Barb Wilson--
specimen now in residence at the University of Nebraska
at Omaha--documentation not included

NOTE: On Nov. 12 a road-injured Saw-whet was found in the Omaha,
Nebraska, area and taken to the Raptor Research group in
Lincoln. Present physical condition unknown. Two road
injured Saw-whets in three days is more than we've talked
about totally for this area counting years and years.
Could these two birds have been part of a major movement
through the area? While we were all sleeping?

Whip-poor-will--audible--Aug, 8--Lake of Three Fires--Taylor Co.--Tanya Bray

Chimney Swift--Barb Wilson's last date for Mills Co. is Oct. 10

Ruby-throated Hummingbird--notice the singular
1--Missouri Valley--Harrison Co.--Ruth Gochenour

NOTE: Although this was our sole report, sightings across the
Missouri River in Nebraska, particularly at Fontenelle Forest
Nature Center, were encouraging!

Redheaded Woodpecker--all but 4 of the breeders on Barb Wilson's farm--
Mills Co.-- has left by Sept. 30.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker--1--Oct. 3--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson
1--Oct. 6--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson

Eastern Kingbird--Barb Wilson notes a much heavier and more extended
migration than last year

Eastern Phoebe--2 pairs were present Aug. 5 and 6--Lake of Three Fires--
Taylor Co.--Tanya Bray
present in Mills Co. to Oct. 6--Barb Wilson

Say's Phoebe--2--Aug. 25--Boyer River bridge--Harrison Co.--Ruth Gochenour *doc.*

Eastern Wood Pewee--Tanya Bray calls them abundant at Lake of Three Fires
area--Taylor Co.--Aug. 5 and 6
present in Mills Co. to Sept. 18--Barb Wilson

Olive-sided Flycatcher--Barb Wilson reports an unusually heavy migration
continued

Olive-sided Flycatcher, continued--for this species--at least 7 and quite possible up to 16 present on her farm-- Mills Co.--Aug. 16 through Sept. 12

Barn Swallow--1--Nov. 2--DeSoto NWR--Harrison Co.--Tanya Bray et al.
1--Nov. 9--Big Lake Park--Council Bluffs--Pottawattamie Co.-- Janet Greer
1--Oct. 17--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson

NOTE: The last nest on Barb Wilson's farm--Mills Co--fledged on Sept. 14 and the flock was gone Sept. 17.

Cliff Swallow--present through Sept. 15--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson

Purple Martin--1,000 at Lake Manawa and 5,000 on nearby utility wires-- Pottawattamie Co.--Babs Padelford *date?*
high! present in Mills Co. through Aug. 29--Barb Wilson

Blue Jays--called super abundant this year by all birders--feeders are attracting many--I saw a flock of 75--Harrison Co--with Ruth Gochenour and Bar Wilson reports a flock of 92 from Mills Co.--some birders reported seeing the largest flocks they had ever seen

Black-capped Chickadee--appearing at feeders in numbers only slightly fewer than were expected--for example 2 were 4 or 5 were usually seen--Barb Wilson feels her numbers may be slightly fewer than last year for Sept. and Oct. but they certainly don't support the idea of a decline.

Red-breasted Nuthatch--1--Sept. 27--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson
1--Nov. 28--Council Bluffs--Pottawattamie Co.--Janet Greer

Brown Creeper--1--Sept. 30--Lewis & Clark SP--Monona Co--Tanya Bray

House Wren--present through Oct 6 in Mills Co. --Barb Wilson

Grey Catbird--present through Sept. 26--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson

Brown Thrasher--present through Oct. 6--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson

late
1--Nov. 6--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson
3--Nov. 30--Council Bluffs--Pottawattamie Co. - Janet Greer

American Robin--Oct 5--120
Oct 14--586
Oct 21--236

all of the above from Barb Wilson's farm in Mills Co. She notes the Robin migration was not very obvious this year and says only on a few days did flocks build up over 100 individuals. She asks if this represents fewer birds or if continued mild weather allowed them to pass through slowly, rarely accumulating in large flocks.

Eastern Bluebird--present in Mills Co.--through Oct. 26--Barb Wilson
6--Harrison Co.--visiting a feeder situation to get the water offered--Oct. 30 through Nov. 6-- photographed--Diane Murray

(only good numbers reported)

- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher--3--Aug. 5--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson
- Golden-crowned Kinglet--20--Sept. 30--Lewis & Clark SP--Monona Co.--
Tanya Bray
1--Oct. 1--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson
4--DeSotoNWR--Nov. 9--Tanya Bray et al.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet--3--Nov. 9--DeSoto NWR--Tanya Bray et al.
present in Mills Co. from Sept. 26 through Oct. 17--
Barb Wilson
- Cedar Waxwing--10--Aug. 5-6--Lake of Three Fires--Taylor Co.--Tanya Bray
large flocks in two cemetarys--Council Bluffs--Pottawattamie
Co. on Oct. 26
50--Nov. 20--Missouri Valley cemetary--Harrison Co.--Ruth
Gochenour
- Shrike--1--presumed Loggerhead present on Pottawattamie Co. road L66
through summer up to Nov. 14--Barb Wilson
- Solitary Vireo--more sighting were expected
1--Spt. 30--Lewis & Clark SP--Monona Co.--Tanya Bray
1--Sept. 3--Harrison Co.--Ruth Gochenour
1--Sept. 22--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson
- Red-eyed Vireo--large movement through Mills Co. Sept. 2 through Sept. 4--
Barb Wilson
- Black-and-white Warbler--1--Sept. 3--Mills Co. Barb Wilson
- NOTE: The warbler migration was considered lackluster for this
area by all birders.
- Orange-crowned Warbler--25--Spt. 30 Lewis & Clark SP--Monona Co.--Tanya Bray
present in Mills Co. from Sept. 26 through Oct. 10--
Barb Wilson
- Nashville Warbler--from Sept 22--Oct 3--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson
- Yellow Warbler-- few sightings--nothing compared to our spring influx
- Black-throated Green Warbler--1--Sept. 23--Wiking Lake--Montgomery Co.--
Tanya Bray
1 on each of these dated from Mills Co.--
Barb Wilson--Sept. 4, 7, 27 & Oct. 3
- Chestnut-sided Warbler--1-Sept 7--Mills Co. Barb Wilson
- Yellowthroat--present in Mills Co. through Aug. 22--Barb Wilson
- Mouring Warbler--1--Aug. 20--Willow Slough--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson
- Wilson's Warbler--present in Mills Co. from Aug. 29 through Sept. 15--
Barb Wilson
- Rusty Blackbirds--1--Oct. 21--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson
6--Nov. 9--DeSoto NWR--Harrison Co.--Tanya Bray etal.

BLACKBIRDS in general

1300 Common Grackles--Mills Co.--Sept. 9--Barb Wilson
2300 mixed flock--Nov--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson

NOTE: I live between the marshes of Big Lake Park, Blackbird Marsh, and the Missouri River to the west and hilly agricultural area to the east. In August the build-up begins until in late October and very early November the birds fly one way either to roost or feed for 17 minutes, 2 city blocks wide, 7 to 10 birds deep. At normal cruising speed, how many birds are there in the mixed flock? I am not standing under and looking up to count. An extraordinary sight--just at dark the reeds at Blackbird Marsh are a seething, crawling, croaking mass of black. The mixed flock this year did not match the numbers of Fall, 1975.
Janet Greer

- Orchard Oriole--present in Mills Co. through Aug. 19--Barb Wilson
- Northern Oriole--Present in Mills Co. through Aug. 30--Barb Wilson
- Scarlet Tanager--2--Sept 24--Wiking Lake--Montgomery Co.--Tanya Bray
- Summer Tanager--1--Aug. 8--Waubonsie SP--Fremont Co.--Tanya Bray
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak--present in Mills Co. through Aug. 30--Barb Wilson
- Indigo Bunting--present in Mills Co. through Oct. 6--Barb Wilson
- Dickcissel--present in Mills Co. through Aug. 29--Barb Wilson
- Rufous-sided Towhee--Western Race--1--Aug. 5-6--Lake of Three Fires--Taylor Co.--Tanya Bray
On Aug. 29 Barb Wilson observed a male R.S. Towhee bathing by flying into wet elm branches and fluttering against the leaves. --Mills Co.
- Savannah Sparrow--2--Sept. 30--Lewis & Clark SP--Monona Co.--Tanya Bray
1--Oct. 14--Mills Co.--Barb Wilson
- NOTE: Barb Wilson is sorely disappointed with numbers this fall.
- Grasshopper Sparrow--present in Mills Co. through Aug. 27--Barb Wilson
- Vesper Sparrow--present in Mills Co. through Oct. 10
- Lark Sparrow--present in Mills Co. through Aug. 29
- Dark-eyed Junco--all birders reported first fall sighting on Oct. 14
- Tree Sparrow--arrived Oct. 21
- Field Sparrow--1--Oct. 28--Fremont Co.--Barb Wilson
- Harris Sparrow--began arriving Oct. 1
- Swamp Sparrow--present in Mills Co. Oct. 3 through Oct. 21--Barb Wilson

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