Ven: Please more the transfer of my dusies to Tom tens. I imagine you will sound tion to act as subregional edidor for IA too! He will be following my general format, with a from winkles of his own. Nict

FIELD REPORTS

Spring 1979

The species marked with * are on the National Audubon Blue List (<u>Am. Birds</u> 32: 1106, 1978), the Iowa Blue List (<u>I.B.L.</u> 45:95,1975) and or on Dean Roosa's list of endangered, threatened or declining species in Iowa (I.B.L. 46:40,1976).

Addenda to the Winter Report. Numerous exciting findings were reported too late to be included in the Winter Report, or documented late but in such a way as to remove any doubts. L. Manawa in early December was the place for unusual gulls: a Glaucous Gull seen on December 5-7 (TB,BW et al) was joined a day later by a very convincingly described first-year Gr.Black-backed Gull (RG, J & SK), only the second for Iowa and the first w. of the Mississippi. Jay Stravers furnished meticulous documentation for the male Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker he, Mrs. Stravers and two friends studied at leisure and from as close up as 1.5 m on December 23, 1978. This is the first Iowa record since 1924, and only the third time the species has been seen in Iowa. A Varied Thrush at a feeder in Shenandoah, February 23 (RP), was well documented. Mrs. Sara Millikin sent a good description and a diagnostic color photo of the imm. male Black-headed Grosbeak that was present in Cedar Rapids December 1-10, 1978. She appended a list of the local birders who had also viewed this vagrant, apparently only the second of its species to be observed in the state.

General comments on the Spring Season. March was cold and wet; the snow melted slowly, and the ice broke up late. Flooding was therefore not as bad as anticipated, but the reservoirs were near fecord height, and the lower levels of Ledges S.P. were inundated and left covered with mud. April was also cool and seemed wetter than the rain gauges indicated. The cool weather continued into early May. The slow arrival of spring retarded migration of may species, but also the leafing out of trees, so that by mid-May conditions were ideal for seeing warblers. By then, the previously unspectacular migration of shorebirds had also picked up. All this, plus the fact that waterfowl lingered, made high counts possible at the May 13 I.O.U. meeting in Waterloo and on Big Day ventures: the old record of 131 species was eclipsed by the 142 scored by Tom Kent and Tom Shires on May 12, which in turn was bettered by Pete Petersen's spectacular one-man list of 152 on May 14. If the gas shortage doesn't doom such endeavors, a team could hope to see 160 species in Iowa under favorable conditions on a day in mid-May.

Loons through Bitterns. There were more reports of Com. Loons than in an average spring, with 13 on April 13 at Nashua an unusually high number (JS), and one still present at Forneys L. at the end of the period (RP) an exceptionally late straggler. The migration of Horned Grebes was not remarkable (10 in the northeast April 15-May 11 were considered par for the course, JS). There were about a dozen Eared Grebes seen in w. counties, which is as expected. But, like last year, a number were observed east of their usual flyway: one at Goose L., Clinton Co., May 14 (PP), another at Lock 13, April 1 (PP), a third at Waterloo's George Wyth State Park (GWSP), April 13 (T St Jr), and 5 at High Amana, May 19 (CB, TK). *Western Grebes were seen on May 4 at Nashua (JS) and in w. Sioux Co. on May 8 (fide JV). The flight of *Am.White Pelicans was, by unanimous consensus of western observers, the best in years, with a high count of 450 along the L.Sioux R. n. of Cherokee in mid-April (DB). Nine at Mud L., Palo Alto Co., on May 30 were quite late (JD), and it was suggested (DH) that some may be summering in the Iowa Great Lakes Region (IGLR). Up to 100 were the first ever observed at Saylorville L. n. of Des Moines (April 17, DMs), and the 17 at Nashua on April 15 (JS) were even farther east of their main migration corridor. The news about *Double-crested Cormorants is also very favorable. They were widely seen across the breadth of the state, by so may observers that a sampling of the records must suffice: 80 along the L.Sioux R. April 13-May 26 (DB), 45 in the Ames area (JD), with 21 at Hendrickson Marsh (M.) on May 21 (HZ), "the most ever" (75+) in the northeast, April 14-May 13, peaking at Nashua (55 birds, April 15) (JS), up to 24 at Cone M., Louisa Co., April 29 (TK), and over a dozen at Lock 13, April 1 (PP). All correspondents who mentioned Gr. Blue Herons quoted small or moderate numbers. Cattle Egret sightings were well below last year's, with only about 15 reported, of which 8 were at Cone M. in early May (TK). Only one was seen outside a belt running through the center of the state (n. of Sutherland, May 13, DB). There were the usual widespread observations of Gr.Egrets, but all referred to single birds or small groups at best. *Black-crowned Night Herons were reported in gratifying numbers (some 70 for the state), larger groups being 9 at Sweet M., May 9 (JS), 10 at Riverton in extreme s.w. Iowa, May 15 (TK, TSh), and up to 31 at L.Clear L., April 27-30 (DB, RC). In contrast, there was no mention of Yellow-crowned Night Herons. *Least Bitterns were evidently hard to find (one at Muskrat Slough, May 12, TK). *Am. Bitterns were more visible: singles in the Ames area March 24-May 11 (JD), at Spirit L., May 9 (DB), L.Clear L., April 30 (RC), and 3 in the northeast on May 1 (JS); they were "common" in the IGLR from early May on (DH).

Waterfowl. A Mute Swan was seen in Warren Co. on April 10 (WB, DMo). Where it came from is not known. Whistling Swans were observed in several places: 35 near New Albin in the extreme northeast, March 31 (JS,DK), 21 near New Hampton on April 21 (T St,

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T St Jr), 11 on the Coralville Reservoir (CoR) flood waters March 30-31 (KL,FT, TK) and on the CoR itself a week later (same flock?) (KL), and 9 on Amana L., April 1 (MN). A swan at Riverton on March 14 could not be identified as to species, but it did lack the yellow bill mark (RP). As Ross Silcock has pointed out, the occurrence of Trumpeter Swans in w. Iowa would not be unexpected. Gr.White-fronted Geese are regular migrants in w. Iowa, but 335 at Sloan on April 4 (DB) are a good number. There were several records from the e. half of the state too: 35 at Big M., April 7 (T St Jr), 25 at Sweet M., March 25 (JS), and 4 at Cone M., March 31 (MN,TK). Snow Geese were abundant along the Missouri, but absent (CS) or few (JD) away from the river in w. Iowa. However, in the east, 130 were counted at Mark Twain N.W.R. on March 18 (TK), and 250 at Cone M. on March 31 (MN). A few Am. Black Ducks lingered into the second half of May (TK), and some were out of their normal range to boot (May 28, Dan Green Slough, JD). Richard Turner of Grinnell called in the sighting of a male Cinnamon Teal at Tama in earlt May. The only numerical value concerning *Canvasbacks reported was 382 on L.Clear L., April 13 (RC). It is becoming obvious that loc Gr. Scaups are going to be regularly seen if people scrutinize all scaups carefully (see longer note by TK), as witnessed by these observations: 20 on March 10, Le Claire (TK), 3 at New Albin, April 14 (JS), 6 at Guttenberg, March 23 (NH, TK, TSh), ANALY An Oldsquaw near Cherokee, April 16, was described in detail (MB,DB). A female Surf Scoter near Des Moines, May 5 (DMo) was equally well documented (one was seen in the very same pond a couple of years ago). A female Black Scoter at Cone M. on Mrach 31 (MN, TK et al.) was an even more unusual finding. Numerous people reported Hooded Mergansers, whose number was up in the Iowa City area (TK). There was a consensus that Red-breasted Mergansers were exceptionally common (for example, 40 at Nashua, April 13, JS, over 50 at GWSP, T St Jr, and 200+, the largest flock ever seen by PP, on April 1 at Lock 13).

Diurnal Raptors. As last year, the Stones again saw a Mississippi Kite, this time at GWSP on April 12. Documentation for a N.Goshawk in Ames on the unlikely date of May 9 was forwarded with misgivings (JD); I was not convinced either. The usual number of reports of *Sharp-shinned Hawks was received, but they referred to rather few birds; the total count of 24 in the northest from February 24 to May 11 was definitely low (JS). *Cooper's Hawks are a different story, the state total for the period being at least 21 (singles: March 9, north of Iowa City, NH; March 11, Bellevue, T St and T St Jr; March 31, De Soto Bend N.W.R., KL; April 15, n. of Ames, ISU students; April 17, Swan L., Johnson Co., TK; May 19, <u>Palisades Kepler State Park</u> (<u>PKSP</u>), TK; 3 at Sweet M., April 27, T St and T St Jr; 6 in the period in the northeast, JS; and 6 or more flushed from a single grove of evergreeens at Cambridge, April 15, HZ and ISU students). The migration of Red-tailed Hawks in Sioux Co. was

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"splendid" (JV). Several *Red-shouldered Hawks were recorded (3 at Sweet M., March 3, 30, and April 29, JS, one each at Greenbelt, March 18, T St and T St Jr, Union Slough N.W.R., XEKX April 30, EK, and on May 27 at Wildcat Den State Park (WDSP) as well as at Rochester Cemetery, MN). Truly big kettles of *Broad-winged Hawks were evidently not observed, 75 at Ames on April 18 (JD) being the highest number; but there was a "fine migration" in Sioux Co.(JV), and a record 11 were netted April 28-May 9 (PP). *Swainson's Hawks were bringers of good tidings. Three migrants were seen April 8,10 and 17 in the northeast (JS) and one on May 4 at Yellow River Forest (DK). A pair at Waucoma from late April into late May was not too far from the site of a 1978 nest (JS). Two pairs did definitely nest in the same place as last year, in Osceola Co. (DB) and Hartman's Reserve, Waterloo (T St Jr), respectively. A Rough-legged Hawk near Pocahontas on April 30 (RC) was rather late. Lingering Bald Eagles were an imm. at Sweet M. on May 5 and an adult on May 12 near New Albin, which suggested breeding (JS). *N. Harriers were reported by many, but in rather modest numbers. The total number of*Ospreys for the state was 35-40, with a record 12 between April 12 and May 9 in the northeast (JS) and 16 (!) between April 13 and May 13 at GWSP (T St, T St Jr) accounting for most of them. A *Prairie Falcon in Polk Co. on April 26 was well seen by 2 very experienced birders (J & MM). Seven *Merlins are an excellent count for the season (4 of them documented): singles on March 11 at the CoR (TK), March 18 ibid., (NH), March 24 in Sioux Co. (JV), April 5 at Hamburg (IG) April 21 at Cone M. (TK,TSh), and April 2 as well 2 at Sweet M. (T St, T St Jr, RM). The migration of *Am.Kestrels in late March and early April was rated very good to excellent by reporters from the c. and w. parts of the state (WB, IG,CS,JD,DB,RC); it was good at Davenport too (PP). At Elkhart, 46 were banded (DMs).

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Quails through Shorebirds. Predictably, Com. Bobwhites paid for the third horrid winter in a row: they were sparse all over the state, and their status in the northwest was described as "lousy" (JV). Ring-necked Pheasants and Gray Partridges were only slightly or not at all affected. A Sandhill Crane was seen at Sweet M. April 16-17 (JS). Five reports of single Virginia Rails were received; one was the victim of a collision with a utility wire in Pocahontas (RC). A Yellow Rail was documented for Mark Sand Prairie near Cedar Falls, April 29 (T St, T St Jr), and another for Sweet M., May 5 (JS).Com. Gallinules, far from common in Iowa nowadays, were seen at Hendrickson M., Story Co. (one, May 6-12, ISU) and at New Albin (6, May 12, JS). Am. Coots were nesting "all over" the IGLR (JD). Up to 3 *Piping Plovers were at Nashua May 9-11 (JS), and singles at Amana L. (drained in May and therefore good shorebird habitat) May 3 and 19 (CB,TK). Larger flock s of Lesser Golden Plovers reported were 41 in Cherokee in mid-May (DB), 50 at Amana, April 17-20 (CB), 100 at Muskrat Slough, Jones Co., May 12 (TK), and an even 1000 (wow!) at GWSP on May 4

(T St Jr). Since Black-bellied Plovers are less sociable, congregations of 17 at Ankeny, May 19 (HZ), 8 at Amana, same date, and 9 at the CoR, May 22 (TK) are noteworthy. Ruddy Turnstones made a good showing: one at Riverton on May 15 (TK, TSh), 3 at the CoR, May 23 (TK), and up to 13 at Amana, May 22-24 (CB,TK,KL). The nest of a Com. Snipe with 4 eggs was found on Hayden Prairie, May 5 (DK). There are no recent nesting records for this species in Iowa. Reports of *Upland Sandpipers were, as usual, from widely scattered locations (April 20-May 29), with some 31 individuals mentioned. More than half of the total, however, is accounted for by the 16 counted on Mark Sand Prairie, April 28 (RM, T St Jr). Small numbers of Willets were recorded: up to 3 at Harmon L., Winnebago Co., April 26-May 2 (ISU), 2 n. of Hudson, April 28 (RM), and one by the CoR, May 10 (CB). A surprising number of contributors commented on the lack of Gr.Yellowlegs. The best shorebird of the season, and probably the most remarkable find for this spring, was a Purple Sandpiper in winter plumage associated with Pectorals in a puddle s. of Laurens, seen on April 30 (RC,DB). The descriptions furnished are excellent; unfortunately, attempts to photograph the bird failed. This is only the second time this denizen of rocky Atlantic shores has been observed in Iowa. As in 1978, White-rumped Sandpipers were relatively common, with 20 at Sweet M. on May 12 (HZ) the largest number. Small groups of Baird's Sandpipers (one-4) were recorded from April7-May 19, from Riverston in the southwest (TK,TSh) to Nahant M. on the Mississippi (PP). Thirty by the CoR on May 19 (KL) is a remarkably high count. Small groups of <u>Dunlins</u> were seen by many. Stilt Sandpipers reported were singles at Sweet M., May 12 (HZ,T St Jr) and the CoR, May 🔫 23 (TK), 3 encountered in May by FT, and 4 on May 1 at New Albin (JS). Western Sandpipers are not routine in the spring. This year, 2 were at Riverston, May 15 (TK, TSh), 4 at Nashua, May 12 (T St Jr), and up to 10 at the CoR, May19-23 (TK). Marbled Godwits are even less common. The seasonal total is 6, with one on April 13-14 near Larabee (DB), one at Ankeny, April 21 (Stuart Burns fide WB), one at Hendrickson M., May 12 (ISU), another at Spirit L., May 16 (DH), and 2 at Amana L., May 23 (CB). Hudsonian Godwits were even more in evidence: 2 at Amana, April 14-17 (CB), one at Hendrickson M., May 12 (ISU), 7 at Ames, May 27-28 (HZ), 13 in the northeast, May 9-13 (JS), 15 near Laurens, May 8 (RC), and a spectacular 100+ at Riverton on May 15 (TK, TSh). Sanderlings are generally fall migrants in Iowa (and irregular at that). This spring, almost 50 were seen, including 9 at Nashua, May 11 (JS), 5 at Amana, May 29 (CB,TK), and 30 at the CoR, May 23 (FT). Single Am. Avocets were reported from Riverton, May 15 (TK, TSh) and near Laurens, May 1 (MB). Gulls through Swifts. A flock of 10 Glaucous Gulls along the Missouri (IG) was doubly remarkable because of the late date (March28-April 3). Saylorville L. drew over 1000 (Ring-billed Gulls in early April (WB). Hundreds of Franklin's Gulld at De Soto Bend N.W.R. on April 7 (JD) are not unusual. There were, however, numerous eastern records

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too (32 in the Iowa City area April 11-May 19, TK). *Com. Terns, carefully distinguished from Forster's, were seen (one each) in Chickasaw Co., May 13 (JS) and at cone M., May 5 (TK); 10 were at Riverton, May 15 (TK, TSh). The largest number of Caspian Terns reported was 8 from Nahant M., May 14 (PP). *Black Terns moved through in an unevenly spaced pattern, with flocks of 100-200 at Sweet M., May 12 (HZ) and 500 at Forneys L., May 15 (TK). They were called "common" in the IGLR May 29-31 (JD). The reports on *cuckoos show no uniform trend, ranging from "no Yellow-billed" (JD) through "average for both" (TK) to markedly higher numbers for both species (WB). For the first time in years, *Barn Owls nested in Iowa, in Ross maken Silcocks yard, to assure they are duly recorded (from April 25 On, fide RP, WB). A week earlier, the conservation officer at Riverton picked up a mortally injured Barn Owl (fide RP). There were 12 reports of Long-eared Owls, with no geographic pattern (e.g., 3 at Mark Twain N.W.R., March 18, TK, and one at Oak Grove Park, Sioux Co., March 31, JV). Three were seen in mid-April near Cambridge (fide JD), and, for reasons not specified, nesting was suspected. A nest was found at Nodaway Park in s.w. Iowa (fide RP). Five *Short-eared Owls, all singles, were observed March 15-April 14, again with no pattern other than that of habitat. A Sawwhet Owl present in GWSP March 28-April 7 was caught and photographed (T St Jr). A Chuck-will's-widow was (I assume) heard in Shimek State Forest on May 30 (DK, JS). Like other migrants for which local records are kept, Chimney Swifts arrived late in Hamburg (IG).

Woodpeckers through Thrushes. Few people commented on *Red-headed Woodpeckers. Those who did, like JV, noticed good numbers returning. There was also little comment on the *Hairy Woodpecker. It is doing fine in Sioux Co. (JV). The only W.Kingbirds mentioned were 2 found by visitors to Fremont Co., May 15 (TK, TSh). A Scissortailed Flycatcher was seen s. of Shenandoah on May 4 by Jean Bordman, who knows the species well from Texas (fide RP). E. Phoebes are apparently hanging on in select habitats, such as WDSP, but are far from common. A Say's Phoebe encountered w. of Sioux Center (JV) on May 7 was documented. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers continue to be little noticed in the field, but 8 were netted May 10-27 (PP). Acadian Flycatchers are reliable year after year in WDSP, where up to 3 were seen May 23-30 (KL et al.). A nest was found on May 29 in Lacey-Keosauqua State Park (LKSP) (DK). All swallows were late arrivers in Hamburg (IG). *Purple Martins were easy to find in the Iowa City area (TK), but not enough information is coming in on this Blue Listed species. Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered into early May at Sweet M.(JS) and Ames (JD) (single birds). Winter Wrens may be showing the stress of rough winters; only a few were seen (Ames, April 14, Marlyn Glasson; GWSP, March 27 and April 21, Hartman's Reserve, April 13, TSt, TStJr). The same weather pattern seems to have wiped out Iowa's fragile Carolina Wren population -- not a single sighting was reported this

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spring! There were only sporadic items on Marsh Wrens, and not much more on *Sedge Wrens. N. Mockingbirds may also have been decimated by the harsh winter. Two were seen, each in somebody's back yard (April 15, Iowa City, KL; April 17-May 29, Elkhart, DMs). The migration of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes was "spectacular" in the northwest (JV). The story of the *E. Bluebird continues to be a depressing one: those who spent a lot of time in the field (TK) found them only sporadically, and those who have nesting boxes (DB, DMs) report poor occupancy. A female Mountain Bluebird seen in w. Sioux County on April 7 (JV) appears to be only the third record for Iowa. Gnatcatchers through Vireos. The nest of a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher was found in WDSP on May 27 (MN). Golden-crowned Kinglets seem to be making a partial comeback. Whereas none were seen in the Cherokee area (DB), they were "very common" by mid-April in Ames (JD). The total counts reported by others (5-13, TK, PP, FT, RC) are still rather low. Water Pipits are often not seen until October in Iowa, so their number at Cone M. in late March and early April (up to 20, MN, TK) is noteworthy. Bohemian Waxwings were reported from New Albin, March 6 (JS) (one), Ames, March 12 (ISU) (3), and near Dubuque, March 11 (12) where only one of the "many observers" who saw them submitted information (TSt Jr). A flock of 100 Cedar Waxwings stayed until May 10 in Nashua (JS). The last of 3 N. Shrikes was seen n. of Decorah on March 31 (JS); one was in Iowa City on March 17 (TSh), and one was banded on April 1 (DMs). The total number of *Loggerhead Shrikes in the reports seems to fall short of 20. They were widely scattered, with reports from literally all 4 corners of the state, but no suggestion of nesting was made for any of the birds seen. Of 9 White-eyed Vireos mentioned, 3 were in the souteast (DK, late May), one in Scott Co., May 10, was considered a migrant (PP), one was in a familiar locale, Hickory Hill Park (HHP) in Iowa City, May 26 (TK et al.), 2 in YRF, May 4 and 12 (JS, DK), one in GWSP, May 19-26, TSt Jr, and one outside the usual range of the species, in Story Co., May 8 (HZ). *Bell's Vireo was again not present in Des Moines (WB), and seemed stable elsewhere. DH saw it for the first time in his n.w. Iowa area (Spirit L., May 26). There were rather few reports of Philadelphia Vireos, and their numbers were up only in Sioux Co. (JV) as well as in GWSP, where TSt Jr saw 2-9 daily (!) between May 8 and 29. There was comment on the shortage of *Warbling Vireos in the Iowa City area (MN), but better monitoring of this declining species is needed statewide.

<u>Warblers</u>. If this year's report will be strengthened by future observations, we may have to revise our ideas about the occurrence of some species considered rare, casual or even accidental in Iowa, at least for its s.e. portions. *Black-and-white Warblers were common in Sioux Co. (JV). One in the Cedar Rapids area on March 31 (FT) was very early, especially in view of the late arrival of spring. There was a mini-invasion

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Causally neglected area)

of Worm-eating Warblers (if not, indeed, an extension of their range). UP to 3 were heard and seen in WDSP from May 10 to 27 (TK, MN, KL), one in HHP on May 13 (TK), one in Marion, May 28 (FT), 2 in the Waterloo area, May 13-18 (TSt Jr), and more than 8 in late May-early June in LKSP (DK, JS). PP netted 5 between April 26 and May 4, which equalled his previous 15-year total! Nesting of 2 Blue-winged Warblers in Ledges S.P. was suspected (HZ). The IOU conventioneers were treated to a Lawrence's hybrid at the Dudgeon Conservancy Area (May 13). A Brewster's hybrid was found in Marion (date?) (FT). The nest of 2 N. Parulas was discovered in LKSP on May 29 (DK). There is no clear picture of the status of the *Yellow Warbler. It is doing well in Sioux Co. (JV). The number of Cape May Warblers reported was rather high; for example, FT saw 6 and TK 3. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen in HHP on May 12 (KL). The high count for Cerulean Warblers was 5 in WDSP, May 19 (MN). It was confirmed that Blackburnian Warblers are regular in the far northwest corner of the state (JV). A Prairie Warbler was found in Cedar Rapids on May 12 (FT, KL). One or 2 Yellow-throated Warblers were behaving territorially in WDSP, May 12-27 (TK, TSh, PP, MN). One was seen in early May in Burlington (fide MN), where the observer (Mrs. Jane Fuller) considers the species regular. Indeed, 4 were found in the s. Iowa locale of LKSP on May 28 (DK, JS). Whatever its real status in Iowa is, the Yellow-throated Warbler should no longer be considered accidental. Louisiana Waterthrushes were found in such time-honored (but not consistently populated) strongholds as WDSP (May 6-27, TK, PP, MN) and PKSP (May 19, TK), near Stone City (May 19, FT), and nesting, with 2 young, at Shimek State Forest (May 24, DK). Over 10 Connecticut Warblers for one season is a remarkable total for Iowa: singles at Sweet M., May 13 (IOU convention, RM), Story Co., May 10 (HZ), Amana Woods, May 16 (LB), HHP, May 14-16 (MN), Ames, May 7 (JD), HHP, May 21 (KL), banded May 13 (PP), Larchwood (w. Iowa), May 21 (DH), PKSP, May 19 (TK, FT), and up to 5 (!) at GWSP, May 19-26 (TSt, TSt Jr). Mourning Warblers were also unusually common. For example, FT saw a total of 18 this spring. I am sorry I don't know GWSP: since I am not familiar with its peculiar magic, the 50 Mourning Warblers seen there on a single day (May 19, TSt Jr) strikes me as a nephelococcygopolitan number (see "The Birds" by Aristophanes). There were very few reports of *Yellow-breasted Chats. A Hooded Warbler was seen on May 22 in Marion (FT), one on May 29 in LKSP, and another in Shimek State Forest, and a fourth on May 5 in GWSP (TSt, TSt Jr, Russ Hayes). Only one Canada Warbler was banded, on May 11 (PP), but MN saw 5 in the Iowa City area, a good The reports contain little information on the status of the *Am. Redstart. count. It seems that Yellow-headed Blackbirds are well established Blackbirds through Sparrows. lackbirds this year in suitable habitat all over the state. Five Brewer's/were found at Nashua on March 21 (JS); a flock of up to 50 birds was near Cone M. March 25-31 (MN, TK, FT). A i.e. a Clandcuckoscaste w.

pair of Summer Tanagers was found, as anticipated, in Waubonsie S.P. on May 15 (TK, TSh). A male in the somewhat extralimital location of Ames (May 2 and 3) was documented (PMcC, LB). A female tanager with orange tones in its abdominal feathers and undertail coverts seen in WDSP on May 27 (MN) was, perhaps too diffidently, reported as a "possible" Summer Tanager. The only Blue Grosbeak in the reports was one in Fremont Co., May 15 (TK, TSh), where the species is regular. The overall impression is that the number of *Dickcissels in Iowa has indeed started to decline, incredible as this may have seemed just a few years ago. Evening Grosbeaks, few during the winter, emerged in early spring: 5 stayed into early April at Ames (JD, ISU), 9 at Amana, March 17 (TK) (known to have wintered), and 4 at Panora, March 11 (RC). Pine Siskins started to nest in Ames in April, but failed. They stayed into mid-May at Iowa City (TSh et al.), Davenport (PP), and Sioux Center (JV). A White-winged Crossbill on the medical campus in Iowa City, March 6 (TSh), was unexpected, since none were seen during the winter. LeConte's Sparrows were few: 2 at Cone M., April 21 (TK), and one at Ames (Pat Heagy fide JD), May 4. Single *Henslow's Sparrows were at Volga L., April 3 and St. Lucas, May 6 (JS), and 2 at Hayden Prairie, May 26 (TK) and 28 (TSt Jr). A Sharptailed Sparrow was observed at Hendrickson M. by 3 ISU students on May 12 (fide JD). Those who commented on *Vesper Sparrows and considered them common were from Ames (JD, HZ) and points northwest (RC). Lark Sparrows were rather hard to find: FT saw a total of 5 (locations not indicated), TK, who tried very hard, saw none. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were in HHP on May 2 (TK, TSh); in the northwest, where they are regular, they were unusually common this spring (JV). PP banded only 4 Lincoln's Sparrows. Large flocks of Lapland Longspurs in breeding plumage came through Sioux Co. on March 24 (JV) and Ames on April 15 and 24 (ISU). Five were late stragglers (May 6) at St. Lucas (JS). Two-hundred late Snow Buntings were seen at Rockwell City on March 10 (GJ) and one near Ossian on April 1 (DK).

<u>Contributors</u>: Carl Bendorf, Iowa City; Dick Bierman, Cherokee; Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Lynn Braband, Ames; Tanya Bray, Omaha NE; Marion Brewer, Cherokee; Woodward Brown, Des Moines (also for other observers in Polk Co.); Raymond Cummins, Pocahontas; James Dinsmore, Ames (also for Iowa State University students); Ione Getscher, Hamburg; Ruth Green, Bellevue NE; Janet Greer, Council Bluffs; Nicholas Halmi, Iowa City; Douglas Harr, Rock Rapids; Glenn Jones, Rockwell City; Thomas Kent, Iowa City; Erwin Klaas, Ames; Darwin Koenig, Decorah; James and Sandra Kovanda, Omaha NE; Kenneth Lowder, Iowa City; Pat McCrow, Ames; Sara Millikin, Cedar Rapids; Dick Mooney (DMo), Des Moines; Dean Mosman (DMs), Elkhart; Jack and Mary Musgrove, Des Moines; Robert Myers, Waterloo; Mike Newlon, Iowa City; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Joe Schaufenbuel (JS), St. Lucas; Conrad Schlemmer, Spencer; Thomas Shires (TSh), Iowa City; Tom Stone and Tome Stone, Jr. (TSt), Waterloo; Jay Stravers, Boulder CO.; Fred Thompson,

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Marion; John Van Dyk, Sioux Center; Barb Wilson, Hastings; Hank Zaletel, Ames (also for Linda Zaletel, Marlyn Glasson and others). N. S. HALMI. R #6. Iowa City, IA 52240.

Field Report Editor's Note. Since I will be leaving Iowa for at least a year, Field Reports will henceforth be compiled by Dr. Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards, Iowa City, IA. 52240. The deadline for summer (June-July) observations is August 8. I have received an unprecedented number of reports and documentations for this spring, and hope you will continue to give this kind of gratifying support to Tom Kent too. N.H.

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