

Little Wall + Anderson Lake - near Jewell, Hamilton Co.

ISU = Iowa State Ornith class

LI

Saylorville Lake - near Polk Cty.

JD = Jim Dinamore

Hendrickson Marsh - S of Colo in Story County

Spring 1979 records

Common Loon 1 on Little Wall Lake 2 and 4 May - JD; ~~many many~~

Grebes

Pied-billed early - 8 April - Little Wall Lake - ISU.

Faced 2 on Little Wall Lake 29 April, and 2 May - JD

Horned 1 on Anderson Lake 29 April; - JD

White Pelican flock over Ames - 8 April - ISU, 70 over Logan, Harrison Co on 7 April - JD

D. c. Cormorant 4 at Saylorville 10 April^{ISU}; 4 on Little Wall Lake 4 May^{JD}; 16 on Hendrickson Marsh^{JD},
16 May - JD; also 1 at Ledges S. Park 11 May - JD; about 20 at De Soto NWR - 7 April - JD
max.

Hérons

Great Blue - early 2 on 19 March at Ames - ISU, scattered reports after that

Green 2 on 21 April - in Ames, IDU - earliest;

Great Egret one over Kelley (near Ames) on 18 April - Ellen Johnson, ISU, 2 west of Ames 7 May -
Pat Heagy

B. c. Night Heron 6 at Little Wall Lake - 8 April - JD; scattered reports after that

Am. Bittern - one found in Ames on 24 March - photo in Ames newspaper, another - Hendrickson's Marsh,
30 March - ISU; one in Ames on 11 May was late - IDU

Geese

Canada early 13 March - over Nevada - ISU, most through last 10 days of March

7 as late as 6 May at Hendrickson's Marsh - ISU

Snow. - one flock on 19 March, another on 30 March but generated a fair spring for them and few
seen in central Iowa

White fronted Goose - none reported to me

Waterfowl

Earliest Common Mergansers reported were on De Moines river on 17 March. After that all the expected species were found in area but bad weather delayed migration. Most species were present in low numbers by end of March but main part of migration was during first 10 days of April. About only species that seemed way down was Canvasback with only a few records. On other extreme, there were quite a few reports of Red-breasted Mergansers

Hawks

Turkey Vulture - first report 18 March N of Ames - ISV, at Ledger St Park by 25 March and regular there thereafter - ISV.

? Goosander - see documentation form - I didn't see bird and have my doubts. me too

Coopers 1 3mi N of Ames - 15 April ISV, 6 at Cambridge on 19 April - ISV, 1 in Ames - ^{30 April} ISV

Sharp-shinned 2 near Cambridge S of Ames - 30 March ISV, several other reports in that area through 19 April - ISV, 2 more N of Ames - 3 May - ISV

Red-tail - winter resident

Red-shoulder - see attached documentation form

Broad-winged - about 75 seen over Ames on 18 April, fair numbers seen in area through rest of month - ISV.

Rough-legged - several N of Ames 17 March, regular for rest of month - ISV

Bald Eagle 1 at Hendrickson's Marsh on 30 March - ISV; several at DeSoto NWR - 7 April - JD

Marsh Hawk - 1 near Ames 13 March - ISV, common by 17th and seen through rest of month in area - ISV; several still in Lake Harmon area, Winnebago Co as late as 4 May - JD

Osprey - 1 at Ledges St. Park - 9 April, again on 15 April; one at Hendricksen Marsh - 16 May - ISU

Kestrel - first mention 13 April, extremely large migration with birds literally everywhere around end of March and first 10 days of April

Rails

Virginia 1 at Hendricksen Marsh 12 May my only record - ISU

Sora 3 at Hendricksen Marsh - 6 May - ISU; Soras were common at Harmon Lake, Winnebago Co on 3 May - JD

Common Gallinule - 1 at Hendricksen Marsh 6 and 12 May - ISU

Coot early 26 March - N of Ames, regular by first of April - ISU

Plovers

Killdeer early 13 March S of Nevada - ISU

have heard of a few reports of Golden Plovers but no specifics, other plovers not reported

Woodcock - early 19 March - Ames - ISU

Common Snipe - first report - 16 April W of Boone - ISU; I saw bird displaying on Ventura Marsh in Cerro Gordo Co on 4 May - JD

Solitary Sandpiper - 1 W of Ames on 7 May - Pat Heagy

Willet 3 on 26 April and 1 on 2 May - near Harmon Lake, Winnebago Co - Joe Fleckes - ISU student

Greater Yellowlegs early 2 on 10 April - 3 mi S of Colo - ISU

Lesser Yellowlegs early 2 4 mi N of Gilbert, 5 April - ISU

} scattered reports after that

Pectoral Sandpiper - seen at Hendrickson Marsh - 12 and 16 May - ISU
incredibly no other reports

Mourning Dove

Hudsonian Godwit

} Both reported from Hendrickson Marsh on 12 May - K. Moore, S. Fischeid, ISU students + B. Deitchler

Wilson's Phalarope 2 at Hendrickson Marsh - 12 May - Keith Moore, S. Fischeid + B. Deitchler -

In general it has been a poor shorebird year. We haven't had much sheet water in this area and just haven't had the numbers or variety of shorebirds we have had in recent years.

Gulls

Ring-billed 40 on 2 April Little Wall Lake - JD; very numerous (500+) on 9 April at Little Wall, still 10 there on 4 May - JD, hundreds at De Soto NWR - 7 April - JD

Franklin 1 on 7 April at Little Wall Lake - JD; 13 over Ames on 13 April - JD
Several hundred at De Soto NWR on 7 April - JD

Herring 1 on Little Wall Lake - 2 April - JD;

Terns

Forster 1 at Little Wall Lake - 4 May - JD

Black 1 at Little Wall Lake on 2 May, over 20 there on 4 May - JD, common by 12 May

Common - 20 at Little Wall Lake on 2 May - JD (looked at carefully, not Forsters)

Caspian 2 along De Moines River S of Boone on 11 May - JD

Mourning Dove - reported on 19 March but some wintered in area

Cuckoo

Yellow-billed - none reported although must be in area

Black-billed early @ May - Ames - ISV

Owls

Short-eared 1 5 mi S of Nevada - 15 March - B. Hill

Long-eared 1 in Ames on 27 March - ISV, 3 near Cambridge on 16 + 18 April - G. Friedrichs

latter dates late and possibly nesting ?? **indeed - may stay until May**

Whip poorwill - 1 calling at Rice Lake State Park, Worth Co on 3 May - JD

Common Nighthawk - common in Ames by 14 May - ISV, early 26 April - Ames - ISV

Chimney Swift early - Ames on 18 April, fairly regular after that

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 1 S of Boone on 10 May - JD

Belted Kingfisher - [?] early - 1 at DeSoto NWR - 7 April - JD, scattered records after that
(winter)

Woodpecker

Red-headed - only a few wintered in area, big surge of migrants showed up first week of May

Common Flicker - some wintered, no marked in flux

Y-b. Sapsucker - 1st seen 19 March - Ames, regular through 1st half of April - ISV

Flycatcher

E. Kingbird - 1st report 7 May, quite common by middle of month - ISU

Great crested Flycatcher - 1st report 9 May, Ames - ISU

E. Phoebe - 1st seen 21 March - Ames, scattered reports after that

Least - first report 2 May - Ames - ISU, very common through 1st half of May

E. Wood Pewee - 1 in Ames on 12 May, but few reports after that - ISU

Olive-sided - 1 in Ames on 9 May - ISU

Swallows

Tree - 1st report 7 April, De Soto NWR - JD, regular after that

Barn - early 10 April - S of Ames - ISU,

Rough-winged - early 30 April - Ames - ISU

Cliff + Bank not mentioned but must be in area

Joseph Martin - 1st record 14 April - Ames - JD; regular thereafter

Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 in Ames 29 March - ISU, 1 still in Ames 7 May - ISU

Brown Creeper - fairly common in Ames in March - ISU, 1 still in Ames on 20 April

Wren

House 1st report in Ames on 22 April, common after that

Winter - 1 in Ames on 14 April - M. Glasson

Carolina - none reported locally **see story**

L. billed Marsh - Hendricksen Marsh 6 + 12 May } K Moore, B. Deitler, S. Fischer

S. billed Marsh - Hendricksen Marsh - 12 May

Gray Catbird - 1st report in Ames on 8 May - common after that - ISU

Brown Thrasher - 1st report - 19 April in Ames - ISU, common after that - ISU

Thrushes

Am. Robin - 1st report 13 March, major influx in Ames 17-18 March - ISU

Wood - 1st report on 7 April in Ames - ISU

Hermit - common in Ames on 14 April - ISU, still around as late as 7 May

Sussex - 1st report on 3 May in Ames, common after that, esp week of 7-11 May

Gray Checkered - 1st report in Ames on 3 May, few reports after that

Veery - 1st report in Ames 2 May

E. Bluebird - 1st report 19 March - Ames, ISU, scattered reports after that

B. Gray Gnatcatcher - 1 N of Ames on 9 May only record - ISU

R. crowned Kinglet - 1 in Ames 30 March, very common by 14 April, few still around in second week of May

G. crowned Kinglet - 1st report on 22 March - Ames - ISU, very common by 14 April, numbers back after 2 very poor years for this species!

B. Waxwing - 3 reported in Ames 12 March - ISU

C. Waxwing - very common in Ames in March - ISU

Loggerhead Shrike - 1 2 mi S Boone - 12 April, - J. Schaefer, 2 SW of New Providence, Hardin Co on 24 April - JD

Vireos

Solitary - 1st report - 6 May, Ames, ISU, fairly common after that

Red-eyed - 1st record - 2 May, scattered records after that

Woodhewer - Common along Shunk River in Story Co 13 May

Warblers

early Yellow rumped on 7 April, fair numbers around through rest of April, Orange-crowned by 21st, and Palm by 22 April, Black + White by 24th, Tennessee by 30 April but little real influx until 1 and 2 May when some moved into area. Starting about 6 May and for rest of that week we had good influx of warblers with all the expected species. By weeks 13-19 peak definitely over but still a fair variety of species around. Without going through all the species, here are notes on a few of the less common species of this area.

Golden-winged - 1 in Ames on 8 May and 13 May - ISU

Blue-winged - 1 at Ledger State Park - 11 May - JD

Parula 2 in Ames 12 May - JD

Cape May - 2 seen W of Ames 11 May - Pat Heagy

Louisiana Waterthrush - none reported ^{from} breeding area at Ledger State Park not visited but much was flooded out the spring, 1 seen W of Ames on 10 May - Pat Heagy

Connecticut - 1 in Ames 7 May

Mourning - 1 N of Ames on 9 May, 1 in Ames 12 and 13 May - ISU

Blackbird

- Boblink - common in Winnebago Co on 4 May - JD; fair number near Ames by 10 May - JD
- E Meadowlark - back in a few areas near Ames by 21 April, prob arrived earlier - JD
- W. Meadowlark - fair number wintered
- Yellowheaded - back on marshes near Ames by 29 April - JD
- Redwing - flocks of males back by 12 March - ISV
- N. Oriole - 1st report 15 April N of Ames, common during first part of May - ISV
- Rusty - seen in Ames 22 March and until end of month - ISV
- C. Grackle - flocks back by 17 March - ISV
- B. headed Cowbird - 1st report 28 March in Ames - ISV, good numbers around by 21 April - ISV

Tanager

- Scarlet - 1 in Ames 10 May - ISV, no others reported to me
- Summer - 1 seen in Ames on 2 + 3 May - see attached documentation *out of range*

Finches

- Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 1st record in Ames 2 May - ISV, common for next month - ISV
- Indigo Bunting - 1st record in Ames 8 May, common after that - ISV
- Evening Grosbeak - 5 seen in Ames on 30 March my only record - ISV
- Purple Finch - 1 in Ames on 30 March
- Pine Siskin - fair number around in March and early April, one pair started nest on campus but not successful
- Rufous-sided Towhee - 1st record 18 April, Ames - ISV, fairly common after that

Sparrows

Savannah - 1st record - 17 April - Ames - ISU, fairly common after that

Grasshopper - several callings S of Colo on 16 May - ISU

Le Contes - one reported W of Ames on 4 May - Pat Heagy; also heard reports of birds seen in mid April

Sharp-tailed - 1 reported at Hendrichsen Marsh 12 May - to Moore, S. Eischeid, B Deitchler

Veery - 1st record was 5 April, common after that - ISU

Lark - 1 seen W of Ames 3 May - Pat Heagy - only local record

D. Dark-eyed Junco - common in March and early April

Tree - last record I have is 21 March - ISU

Chipping - 1st record in Ames was 18 April, very common within 2 days - ISU

Clay-colored - 1 W of Ames on 4 May - Pat Heagy, only local record

Field - 1st record 17 April, Ames - ISU

Harris - 1st record - 13 April, fairly common late April and early May

White-crowned - only report is 1 W of Ames on 8 May - Pat Heagy

White-throated - 1st record 18 April, fairly common after that through 1st half of May - ISU

Fox - 1st report 21 March Ames, few records after that

Lincoln - 1st record in Ames 3 May - ISU, common through mid May

Swamp - 1st record 18 April, Ames - ISU

Song - 1st report 20 March, Ames - ISU

Leopard Larkspur - large flocks near Ames on 15 March and 24 March - ISU

Dismore

Some Last minute sightings from NW Iowa 29-31 May

White Pelican - 9 on Mud Lake, Palo Alto Co 30 May late

Double-crested Cormorant - 1 on Rush Lake, Palo Alto Co, 29 May

Black Duck - 1 on Dan Green Slough, Clay Co 29 May - west of usual range

Good numbers of Canada Geese, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Redhead and Ruddy Ducks
small numbers of Pintail, Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall in Ruthven-Spirit Lake area

American Coot - nesting on virtually every body of water in Ruthven-Spirit Lake area

Ring-billed Gull - 3 on Dan Green Slough and 1 on Mud Lake, 29 May

Black Tern - common over virtually all lakes + ponds in area 29-31 May

Forster's Tern - small numbers seen near Ruthven and Spirit Lake 29-31 May

Least Flycatcher - 1 late migrant near Spirit Lake, 30 May

Jim Dismore

Upland Sandpiper - 1 5 mi SW of Scarville, 31 May and 1 5 miles NW of
Estherville in Emmet Co, also on 31 May