

Barbara L. Wilson
Rt 1 Box 41
Hastings Iowa 51540

Spring 1988
Iowa

* = Seen with UNO's ornithology class
+ Babes Padel Ford

Species	#	Date	Place, notes
* Red-necked Grebe	1	Apr. 14	Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie Co.
Eared Grebe	1	Apr. 27	DPL Settling Ponds, Pott. Co.
White Pelican	30	Apr. 7	Willow Slough, Mills Co.
"	1	May 21	Ventura Marsh, Cerro Gordo Co.
* Little Blue Heron	1	May 3	Lake Manawa. Calico plumage
Cattle Egret	5	May 31	Full breeding plumage with buff feathers on breast, wing coverts, crown. Legs yellow, bill orange. Foraging behind a disc in cultivated field in floodplain. 1 mile east, 1/2 mile south of Hepburn, Page County.
* Black-crowned Night Heron	2	May 3	Lake Manawa
Wood Duck	♀ w/ 2+ young	May 23	Prairie Rose State Park, Shelby Co.
* Am Black Duck	2	Mar 17	De Soto NWR, Harrison Co. At first both looked like Black Ducks but then we noticed the male had a green sheen to crown + nape + a faint light + black pattern to back + tail. Mallard/Black Duck Hybrid
* Hooded Merganser	♂ ♀	Mar 5	DPL Settling Ponds
* "		Mar 17	De Soto NWR
* C. Merganser	Hundreds	Mar 5	DPL Settling Ponds. Probable migration peak. Lots at L. Manawa too
Red-breasted Merganser	♂ ♀ ♀	Apr. 7	Willow Slough
Cooper's Hawk	1	Mar 5	Mills County. Flew out of a tree + over the road as I drove up to it going home. My mind clicked back + forth on it - crow! (the wrong shape). Red-tail! (too small). Crow (No!). Red tail (tail too long) - before settling on Cooper's Hawk.
Am. Kestrel		May 18	Clarinda - ^{Page County} nest with 5 white downy young discovered in eaves of a Bowling Alley during Roof repair. Workmen moved it them to a new location. Both parents highly upset. One young subsequently fell down a drain pipe + died. Couldn't assess the success or failure of the rest. May 29 Hamburg, Fremont County, 3 young Kestrels found in abandoned house being torn down. Don Priebe (game warden) picked them up + they entered the Raptor Recovery Center. White down, but some real feathers breaking from sheaths. Good prognosis.
Gray Partridge	2	Apr. 9	2 miles E of Silver City, Mills Co. Flew across road in front of car. Chunky, dark gray, larger than quail, orange tail. New location, I believe. At least uncommon here.

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* Seen with VNO ornithology
class + Babs Padelford
** 200 field trip

Species	#	Date	Place, etc.
Wild Turkey		May 31	Wilson farm, NE Mills County
My father-in-law ^{with a disc} ran over a Wild Turkey nest in grass endrow near wooded pasture. ♀ left a few feathers behind but lived. 5 of 8 eggs cracked + subsequently predated. Nest deserted.			
N. Bobwhite			- seem very common in SW Iowa this spring.
Piping Plover	1	Apr. 2	JPL Settling Ponds, Pottawattomie Co
I know ^{now} I should have taken notes but I didn't realize this would be a record early date. I expected it after the mild spring, went looking for it, + found it. One band on breast. Pale. Didn't check to eliminate possibility of Snowy			
"	2	Apr. 14	JPL Settling Ponds. 1 singing.
Willet	2	Apr. 27	" " "
Upland Sandpiper	1*	May 5	about 11 miles E of Bedford, Taylor Co.
* Peep (Bairds?)	1	Mar. 17	De Soto NWR, Harrison Co.
"Wings ^{folded} longer than tail. Dark legs. Long sharp bill. Some back feathers black w/ pale borders. Others uniform dull. Breast pale gray brown, uneven." - Babs thinks its a Bairds. I think maybe so. Not white rump or ^{probably so.}			
* Franklin's Gull	1	Mar 1	Lake Manawa. Breeding plumage
"	90	Apr. 27	JPL Settling Ponds
Long-eared Owl	1	Apr. 8	3 1/2 miles S. of Hepburn, Page County
dead on the Highway 71. At Not in breeding condition. Specimen to University of Nebraska at Omaha.			
Chimney Swift		Apr. 25	S.W. Iowa. First seen.
Red-headed Woodpecker		Apr. 28	" "
** Willow Flycatcher		May 21	Ventura Marsh, Cerro Gordo Co.
** "		May 22	Mallard Marsh ^{Cerro Gordo Co.?}
** Alder Flycatcher		May 22	" " "fee beer" at song
E. Kingbird	1	Apr. 28	Mills County 1st seen ^{Mills Co.}
Horned Lark	2	Apr. 28	Fledglings 3 miles S. of Emerson
N. Mockingbird	1	May 17	About 3 miles E of Sherandoah, Page Co.
Bell's Vireo	3	May 26	" 4 miles E of Sherandoah
** Black-throated Green Warbler	1	May 22	Pilot Knob State Park
** Scarlet Tanager	1-2	"	"
* Dickcissel	1	May 1	Lake Manawa
** Henslow's Sparrow	1	May 22	Lime Cr. Nature Center, Cerro Gordo Co.
See separate sheet.			
Le Conte's Sparrow		Apr. 22	Weerin Prairie, Mills County
Several flush from prairie burn.			


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* Seen with Univ. of Nebr. at
Omaha + with Babs Padelford

Species	#	Date	Place, etc.
* Swamp Sparrow	1*	Apr. 7	Lake Manawa Singing Later in the spring, the elms had a full crop of seeds + we Saw Swamp Sparrows up to 15' up in the trees eating the seeds. Swamp Sparrows seemed common this year.
Harris Sparrow			For the second year in a row, did NOT winter on the farm, but migrants present Apr. 2 - May 8. Wilson farm, Mills Co.
Bobolink			good numbers this spring
Orchard Oriole	1	May 5	Taylor County - BBAB 785 ^{Breeding Bird Atlas Block}
Pine Siskin.	4	May 7	Wilson farm, NE Mills Co. Very common in Omaha this spring + no doubt nesting ^{there} the ones on the farm had wintered.

out of order:

Surf Scoter	1	May 21, 22	Ventura Marsh, ^{Cerro Gordo Co.} Black duck with large bill.  distal + top part of bill orange. Basal part white with a black patch. White patch on nape + eye white. Wings all dark. Diving duck.
Barn Swallow		Apr. 25	Wilson farm 1st seen
W. Meadowlark		May 18	about a mile SE of Shenandoah. Nest found w/ 5 Meadowlark + 2 Cowbird eggs.
Savannah Sparrow	2	May 14	Page Co. BBA block 783. Pair.

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Reports from other people

Species	#	Date	Place, Who, etc.
White Pelican		Mar 20	S. of Clarinda, Page County - Jerry Abma
Cattle Egret		Apr. 19	Page County - Jerry Abma
Canada Goose			Pair returned to sand pit ponds N. of Shenandoah with 5 young of last year. These then dispersed. Pair nested in sandpits + produced at least 2 goslings. - Don Priebe
Wood Duck		Mar 4	Page County - Jerry Abma
Ring-necked Duck	lots	Mar 4	" " " "
Hooded Merganser		"	Ross Area, Page County - Jerry Abma
Turkey Vulture		Mar 22	Page County - Jerry Abma
Yellow Rail	1	Apr. 29	3 miles S. of Emerson - David McGrew mills Co.
			See separate sheet
Piping Plover	2	May 28	IPL Settling Ponds - Babs + Loren Padelford Pair, probably with nest. Only ^{the} 1 pair - low low
Upland Sandpiper	3	Apr. 29	3 miles S. of Emerson - David McGrew
Glaucous Gull	2	Apr. 5	Lake Manawa - Bob + Rosie Starr
			See separate sheet
Least Tern	3	Apr. ^{May} 28	IPL Settling Ponds - Babs + Loren Padelford
Am. Crow		nesting, Apr. 25	Page County - Jerry Abma
E. Bluebird			Word is getting around that they nest in Nodaway Valley Park (in boxes) + can be seen fairly close. People are visiting the park just to see them. (A survey once showed 90% of Iowans have never seen one) - Jerry Abma
Yellow-headed Blackbird		Apr. 19	Page Co. - Jerry Abma
Gt. Grackle	1	Apr. 14.	- Near Dog track, Council Bluffs - Bruce Wetteroth
House Finch	18 ⁺	Apr. 2	- at feeder, Missouri Valley - Mary L. Briggs

Jerry Abma - Director, Page County Conservation Board.

Good at recognizing easy birds

Don Priebe - Game Warden for Fremont + Page Counties.

Good at Game Birds

Padelfords - you know them.

Bob Starr - OK birder, well intentioned

Bruce Wetteroth - live rarely met him. Said to be fairly good birder.

Mary L. Briggs - I know nothing about her. She called w report to Nebraska ~~at time~~ Bird line