

Season: FALL Year: 1987Name and
address
(print
or type)Robert K. Myers

Other observers (name, city):

R.R. 2, Box 153Perry, Iowa 52220

Use first few lines to give weather and habitat conditions. Use line(s) below species data to give additional details, if needed. Mail to: T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City IA 52240 by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

use initials of obsv. on species line

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Tundra Swan	approx 80-90	7 Nov.	L+D #9 north of Harper's Ferry
✓ Black Scoter	1	11 Nov.	DeSoto Bend N.W.R. (details)
✓	1	15 Nov.	Saylorville Res. (fall IOU)
✓ Surf Scoter	1	1 Nov.	Saylorville Res (details)
✓	5	11 Nov.	DeSoto Bend N.W.R.
✓ White-winged Scoter	3	1 Nov.	Saylorville Res. (details)
✓ Golden Eagle	1	30 Oct.	Badger-Creek S.P. (doc.)
✓ Merlin	1	11 Nov.	DeSoto Bend N.W.R. (details)
✓ American Avocet	4	31 Aug.	Saylorville Res
✓ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1	19 Aug.	small pond in Dallas County
✓ Red-necked Phalarope	5	3 Sept.	pond near Polk City (Found by ^{Steve} pinsmore)
✓ Black-legged Kittiwake	1	28 Oct.	Saylorville Res (doc.)
✓	probably 1	29 Nov.	Des Moines Riv. (upper end of Saylorville)
✓ Groove-billed Ani	1	22 Oct.	Krummhorn Wildlife Area - photo
✓ Barn Owl	1	15 Aug.	Montgomery Co. - 1 young in nest
✓ Carolina Wren	1	24 Aug.	Ledges S.P. - seen several different dates
✓ Cape May Warbler	quite few	Thru Aug. + early Sept.	Cape May's were found found in Dallas, Polk + Boone Counties on 6 or 7 dates through-out Aug. and in early Sept.
✓ Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	7 Sept.	Perry, Ia. - from my picture window
✓ Pine Warbler	1	24 Aug.	Ledges S.P. (doc.)
Warblers in general			This was a fairly good fall migration this year. Best day was 19 sp. of warblers at Ledges on 24 Aug.
✓ Sharp-tailed Sparrow	2	21 Sept.	Snake Creek Marsh (Greene Co.) (first date) We found 1-2 Sharp-tails on 5 or 6 trips to Snake Creek from 21 Sept. into early Oct. (details)

1987 Fall Field Reports

Details of Unusual Sightings

1. White-winged Scoter - Nov. 1 - Saylorville Res. - 3 birds

All three large, dark brown scoters showed two spots on the side of the head - one just behind the bill and the second behind and under the eye. When they flew, the white speculum was easily seen on each duck.

2. Black Scoter

Nov. 11 - DeSoto Bend - The bird was an adult ♂. It was slightly larger than ruddy duck and was all black except for a very small lighter colored spot at the base of the black bill.

Nov. 15 - Saylorville Res. - ♀ - seen by many at Fall 100. Small dark scoter with very definite whitish cheek patches.

3. Surf Scoter

Nov. 1 - Saylorville Res. - (1) - with three white-winged scoters. Dark brown scoter with two white spots on side of head. No white patch in wing when all four ducks flew.

Nov. 11 - DeSoto Bend - 5 birds - all were ♀'s or imm. ♂'s with the two spots on the side of the head and no white in wing.

4. Merlin - Nov. 11 - DeSoto Bend -

Small brownish falcon with dark barred tail (fairly short) and heavily streaked breast. The bird flew rapidly up the river staying only 2 to 3 ft. above the water.

1987 Fall Field Reports

Details of Unusual Sightings

5. Sharp-tailed Sparrow - first on Sept. 21 - Snake Creek Marsh - mob - one to two were found during at least 4 trips between Sept. 21 and early Oct. -
Field marks I like to see before ID -
1. Yellow-orange eyebrow, face, upper breast, and sides
 2. Grayish cheek patch
 3. Gray, unstreaked nape
 4. Brownish crown with light gray median stripe
 5. Some dark streaking on sides
 6. Usually white streaks (4) seen on back (scapular area).
6. The "probable" Black-legged Kittiwake on 29 Nov. on Des Moines River just north of Saylorville Res. was viewed from extremely long range with only ^{10x40} binoculars. The only reasons that led me to think of a kittiwake are as follows: 1. very noticeable white triangles could be seen in the wings - These seemed to be formed by dark primaries bordering on one side and a dark carpal bar on the other. ~~and~~ 2. The bird was almost as big as the ring-billed gulls it was with - I think Bonaparte's would have looked smaller even at the distance. and 3. bird had a dark terminal band on tail. That's it - I didn't or couldn't see a spot on the head or a bar on the hind neck bar. I don't think I could justify a documentation with so few field marks - I was ashamed to document the other ^{Saylorville} Kittiwake except that I did see the ~~the~~ neck bar on that one. Can't do with this report as you see fit - it won't go on any of my lists.