

May 27, 1988

Robert K. Myers
RR 2 Box 153
Perry, Iowa 50220

Spring 1988 Report

Note: Due to frequent absences from Iowa I have not been able to report as regularly as I did in the past. Even this spring, my birding has been spotty. What follows is the best I can do under the circumstances.

- Common Loon: A single individual was present in a large gravel pit pond, 5 miles south of Sioux Center, on May 8.
- Snow Goose: One individual (of the "blue goose" variety) was in a gravel pit pond, 5 miles south of Sioux Center, on May 8.
- Purple Martin: arrived in Sioux Center on early date of April 4. Excellent breeding population in Sioux Center.
- Empidonax flycatchers: Generally late. Not observed until May 5.
 - Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Two individuals observed in Sioux Center: one on May 22, and another one on May 23.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: I observed one individual in Sioux Center on April 29. This species is very unusual in northwest Iowa. I have not seen them before northwest of Ledges State Park near Boone.
- Warblers: Arrived late. Sporadic migration, made difficult to observe because of the predominant strong winds we experienced throughout May.
- Dickcissel: A singing male was just south of Sioux Center on May 8, somewhat early for this species. By the end of the month they were abundant in western Sioux Co.
- Sparrows: Rather sparse and uneventful migration.

John Van Dyk

736 East 1st Street
Sioux Center, Iowa 51250