

Fall 1988

Red-throated Loon-\*1 on 16 Nov at Saylorville(+MPr,+Eu&EIA)  
 Common Loon-1 summered at Rathbun Res.(Marty Eby fide SD); 1 on 7 Oct, 81 on 29 Oct, 2 on 30 Nov at Saylorville  
 Horned Grebe-28 on 29 Oct and 1 on 30 Nov at Saylorville  
 Red-necked Grebe-1 on 8 Nov at Saylorville(large, long-necked, big-headed grebe with a heavy, straight, dark bill; bird size of nearby Mallards; head, neck, and body looked mostly gray, darker above than below; distinct white crescent on each cheek)  
 Eared Grebe-2 on 26 Aug, 4 on 23 Sep(+AF), 2 on 8 Oct(+AF), 1 on 18 Oct at Saylorville  
 Western Grebe-1 on 23 Oct and 4 on 27 Oct at Saylorville  
 Am. White Pelican-18 on 28 Aug at Saylorville was the latest ever arrival date at this location; record numbers were at Saylorville due to the exposed mudflats with 3900 on 15 Sep, 11,000 on 24 Sep, 10,000 on 1 Oct, 750 on 14 Oct, 132 on 27 Oct, and 1 on 1 Nov; 2 on 25 Nov at Riverton W.A.  
 Double-crested Cormorant-2250 on 1 Oct at Saylorville(+MPr,+BPr)  
 Magnificent Frigatebird-\*1 imm. on 25 Sep at Clear L.(+JJD)  
 Am. Bittern-3 on 15 Oct at Riverton W.A.  
 Great Blue Heron-416 on 17 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+AF)  
 Great Egret-31 on 16 Sep at Union Slough NWR; 1 on 21 Oct at Saylorville(+BE)  
 Snowy Egret-up to 3 ad. and 1 imm. on 1,5,9,17,23,28 Aug at Union Slough NWR(peak on 9 Aug)(yellow feet and slender, dark bill seen on all birds)  
 Little Blue Heron-up to 9 imm. on 1,5,9,17 Aug at Union Slough NWR(peak on 5 Aug); 1 imm. on 3 Sep at Colyn W.A.  
 Cattle Egret-1 on 5 Aug at Union Slough NWR; 1 on 1 Nov near DeSoto NWR(Mike Meetz fide SD); 1 on 21 Nov at Riverton W.A.(Carl Priebe fide SD); 1 on 23-24 Nov at Forney L.(+BB)(a small white heron that landed in our Snow Goose decoys each day; legs yellow; bill yellow and very stocky)  
 Black-crowned Night-Heron-22 on 28 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+JSi); 1 imm. on 23 Oct at Saylorville(+BE,+R&PA)  
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron-1 imm. on 1,5,17 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+JSi,+AF); 1 ad. and 1 imm. on 11 Aug south of Keg L.(adult unmistakable; immatures identified by long legs, dark, stocky bill, and very fine dark speckling on underparts)  
 Ibis sp.-1 on 2 Sep at Big Creek(a medium-sized, dark heron; long legs were dark; bill long and evenly decurved; no white visible around face)  
 Snow Goose-200,000 on 25 Nov at Riverton W.A.(+BB)  
 Ross' Goose-the summering bird was present through 16 Oct at Bays Branch; 19 on 11 Nov at DeSoto NWR; 6 on 25 Nov at Riverton W.A.  
 Am. Black Duck-9 on 30 Nov at Saylorville  
 Mallard-70,000 on 25 Nov at Riverton W.A.(+BB)  
 Greater Scaup-1 male and 2 females on 29 Oct at Big Creek(identified by large size compared to Lesser Scaup and white wing stripe extending to the primaries)  
 Oldsquaw-1 female on 26 Oct at Saylorville; 1 male and 2 females on 18 Nov, 1 imm. male and 3 females on 20 Nov, 2 imm. males and 4 females on 27 Nov, 1 female on 28 Nov, and 1 imm. male and 2 females on 30 Nov at Saylorville(minimum of 7 birds); 1 female on 20 Nov at Big Creek(+m.ob.)

Black Scoter-3 females or imm. on 1,9 Nov at Saylorville (could possibly have been the same birds; identified by the all black body with a well-defined white chin and throat, dark bill, and dark wings seen in flight)

Surf Scoter-single females or imm. on 1,19 Nov at Saylorville (both were large, dark ducks with a very large bill, two white spots on the face, and dark wings)

White-winged Scoter-5 females or imm. on 29 Oct at Saylorville; 1 female or imm. on 11 Nov at DeSoto NWR (all were large, dark ducks with a heavy bill, two white spots on the face, and a prominent white patch on each wing)

Hooded Merganser-137 on 29 Oct at Saylorville

Common Merganser-1 female on 19 Oct and 8000 on 30 Nov at Saylorville

Osprey-8 on 1 Oct at Saylorville (+MPr, +BPr); 1 on 29 Oct at Saylorville

Northern Harrier-1 female on 5 Aug at Union Slough NWR; 9 on 15 Oct at Riverton W.A.

Sharp-shinned Hawk-27 in 3 hours on 4 Sep at Saylorville

Cooper's Hawk-1 ad. on 1 Aug at Union Slough NWR (+JSi)

Red-shouldered Hawk-1 ad. on 15 Oct 2 mi. east of Riverton

Swainson's Hawk-3 ad. on 29 Sep at Saylorville (+BB); 4 ad. on 1 Oct at Saylorville (+MPr, +BPr); 1 ad. on 23 Oct at Big Creek

Merlin-1 female or imm. on 2 Sep at Big Creek; 1 female or imm. on 11 Sep at Big Creek (Bart Ballard fide SD); 1 female or imm. on 18 Sep at Jester Park; 1 female or imm. on 23 Sep s. of Ames (+AF); 1 male on 28 Sep at Big Creek; 1 female or imm. on 30 Sep at Saylorville (+BE); 4 females or imm. on 1 Oct at Saylorville (+MPr, +BPr); 1 female or imm. on 2 Oct at Saylorville (+AF); 1 female or imm. on 15 Oct in Story Co. (Mike Meetz fide SD); 1 female or imm. on 27 Oct at Jester Park; 1 female or imm. on 27 Nov at Big Creek

Peregrine Falcon-1 imm. on 28 Aug at Union Slough NWR (+JSi) (a large falcon, seen eating a shorebird; back and wings dark brown; underparts paler with heavy, dark streaks; head dark brown, but no hood evident; tail long and heavily banded); 5 ad. and 1 imm. on 1 Oct at Saylorville (+MPr, +BPr) (all migrating ahead of major cold front); 1 ad. on 15 Oct at Riverton W.A.

Prairie Falcon-\*1 on 5 Sep at Big Creek (+R&PA); \*1 on 14 Oct at Saylorville (+BE)

Virginia Rail-6 on 1 Aug at Union Slough NWR (+JSi); 1 on 9 Oct at Saylorville (Bart Ballard fide SD)

Sora-2 on 15 Oct at Riverton W.A.

Common Moorhen-3 ad. and 13 young on 9 Aug at Union Slough NWR (+MPr)

Black-bellied Plover-1 on 5 Aug and 11 on 16 Sep at Union Slough NWR; 2 on 12 Nov at Saylorville; 2 on 19 Nov at Big Creek (+m.ob.) (black axillaries, white wing stripe, and white rump seen well)

Lesser Golden-Plover-\*1 on 23 Nov at Forney L.

Semipalmated Plover-62 on 28 Aug at Union Slough NWR (+JSi); 1 on 21 Oct at Saylorville

Piping Plover-2 juv. on 17 Aug at Union Slough NWR (+AF)

American Avocet-1 on 3 Sep at Big Creek (Jim Lenderts fide SD); 24 on 4 Sep at Saylorville

Greater Yellowlegs-\*1 on 27 Nov at Big Creek

Lesser Yellowlegs-6000 on 28 Aug at Union Slough NWR (+JSi); \*1 on 19 Nov at Big Creek (+m.ob.)

Solitary Sandpiper-168 on 1 Aug at Union Slough NWR (+JSi)

Marbled Godwit-2 on 17 Aug (+AF, +MK), 1 on 23 Aug, and 1 on 28

Aug(+JSi) at Union Slough NWR(very large shorebirds; long, upturned bill was bicolored; all were seen in flight where the cinnamon wing linings and lack of a white rump were seen well)

Red Knot-\*1 on 5 Aug at Union Slough NWR

Ruddy Turnstone-1 on 9 Aug(+MPr) and 1 on 17 Aug(+AF) at Union Slough NWR(different birds); 3 on 22 Aug at Saylorville

Sanderling-11 on 1 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+JSi); 39 on 22 Aug and 2 on 29 Oct at Saylorville

Semipalmated Sandpiper-550 on 9 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+MPr); 14 on 27 Oct at Saylorville

Western Sandpiper-1 on 11 Aug at Bays Branch; 1 on 11 Aug south of Keg L.; 2 on 11 Aug at Nebraska City Ponds; 1 on 21 Aug at Saylorville; 1 on 23 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+MK); 1 on 25 Sep at Hendrickson M.(+AF); \*1 on 8 Oct at Saylorville(+AF)(all birds, except the last one, were juveniles and were identified by the inverted "V" markings on the breast, the rusty scapulars, and the long, drooped bill tapered to the tip)

Least Sandpiper-600 on 17 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+AF); 3 on 16 Nov at Saylorville(very small, brownish peeps; yellowish legs seen well)

Baird's Sandpiper-70 on 28 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+JSi); 1 on 23 Oct at Saylorville(+BE,+R&PA)

Pectoral Sandpiper-11,800 on 5 Aug at Union Slough NWR; 536 on 14 Oct and 2 on 20 Nov at Saylorville

Dunlin-2 on 19 Nov at Big Creek(+m.ob.); 3 through 27 Nov at Saylorville(+m.ob.)(chunky, grayish shorebirds; white below, white wingstripe seen in flight; legs dark and short; bill fairly long, drooped, and dark)

Stilt Sandpiper-320 on 28 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+JSi); 2 on 19 Oct at Saylorville

Buff-breasted Sandpiper-64 on 1 Aug(+JSi), 2 on 5 Aug, 77 on 17 Aug(+AF), 1 on 23 Aug(+MK), 2 on 28 Aug(+JSi), and 16 on 16 Sep at Union Slough NWR; 2 on 2 Aug at Hendrickson M.; 4 on 21 Aug at Dunbar Sl.; 1 on 11,23 Sep at Saylorville

Short-billed Dowitcher-69 on 17 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+AF)(by tu-tu-tu call)

Long-billed Dowitcher-56 on 2 Oct at Saylorville(+AF)(by keek call); 3 juv. through 2 Nov at Saylorville(sharp "keek" call heard on several dates; large shorebirds with long, straight bill; upperparts gray with narrow, pale edges to scapulars and wing coverts; underparts mostly white with dull gray/brown wash on breast; tail black with narrow white bands)

Common Snipe-400 on 15 Oct at Riverton W.A.

Wilson's Phalarope-27 on 28 Aug(+JSi) and 4 on 16 Sep at Union Slough NWR

Red-necked Phalarope-6 on 23 Aug, 38 on 28 Aug(+JSi), and 2 on 16 Sep at Union Slough NWR; 1 on 2-4 Sep at Big Creek; 1 on 9 Sep at Hendrickson M.

Red Phalarope-\*1 juv. molting into 1st-winter plumage on 30 Sep-2 Oct at Saylorville(+BE,+m.ob.)

Pomarine Jaeger-\*2 juv. on 28 Sep-2 Oct at Saylorville(+m.ob.)

Parasitic Jaeger-\*1 juv. on 29-30 Sep at Saylorville(+JSi,+BE)

Franklin's Gull-60,000+ on 1 Oct at Saylorville; 2 ad. on 24 Nov at Forney L.(+BB); 3 imm. on 28 Nov at Saylorville

Bonaparte's Gull-1340 on 9 Nov and 88 on 30 Nov at Saylorville

Little Gull-\*1 first-winter bird on 27 Oct at Saylorville

Ring-billed Gull-9000 on 15 Nov and 13,500 on 30 Nov at Saylorville

Herring Gull-1 2nd-year bird on 5 Sep at Saylorville(+R&PA); 940 on 30 Nov at Saylorville  
Lesser Black-backed Gull-\*1 ad. on 15 Nov at Saylorville(probably the dark mantled gull I later saw on 19 Nov)  
Glaucous Gull-1 1st-year bird on 28,30 Nov at Saylorville(a large, pale beige gull; wingtips snowy white; bill large, pink at base and dark at tip; pale feather edgings aged bird as 1st-year)  
Thayer's Gull-\*1 1st-winter bird on 30 Nov at Saylorville  
Sabine's Gull-\*1 juv. on 20 Oct at Saylorville(+RKM)  
Caspian Tern-448 on 15 Sep at Saylorville; 1 juv. through 22 Oct at Saylorville  
Forster's Tern-19 on 2 Oct at Saylorville(+AF)  
Common Tern-at Saylorville, the first were 2 ad. on 11 Aug, peak was 1 ad. and 4 juv. on 24 Aug, the last was 1 ad. in basic plumage on 2,7 Oct(+AF), and 2 ad. were feeding a juv. on 5 Sep(+R&PA)(all were identified by dark primaries; some birds were also identified by the dark cap and white forehead, the dark shoulder bar, and by the higher-pitched "keer-r-r" call; juveniles were separated from adults by the brown color on the back and wings)  
Least Tern-2 ad. and 5 imm. on 11 Aug at IPL Ponds  
Black Tern-85 on 17 Aug(+AF) and 1 on 16 Sep at Union Slough NWR  
Olive-sided Flycatcher-1 on 6 Aug n. of Polk City(+AF)  
Eastern Phoebe-1 on 13 Nov at Saylorville(small bird, white below and dark brown above with darker wings and a distinct dark cap; bill short and dark; tail was fairly long and dark and was pumped almost continuously while the bird was perched; the bird foraged actively for over an hour while I was watching the Rock Wren that was in the same area)  
Tree Swallow-10,000 on 28 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+JSi)  
Rock Wren-\*1 on 8-28 Nov at Saylorville(+m.ob.)  
Water Pipit-4 on 16 Sep at Union Slough NWR; 60 on 15 Oct at Riverton W.A.; 1 on 13 Nov at Saylorville  
Northern Shrike-1 ad. on 29 Oct at Saylorville(incomplete mask, white rump, and large, hooked bill seen well)  
Golden-winged Warbler-1 female on 9 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+MPr)  
Tennessee Warbler-1 singing on 1 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+JSi); 2 on 2 Aug at Ames; 3 on 5 Aug at Union Slough NWR; 1 on 9 Aug at Union Slough NWR; 1 on 9 Aug at Little Wall L.(+MPr)  
Nashville Warbler-1 on 1 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+JSi); 1 on 9 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+MPr)  
Chestnut-sided Warbler-3 on 9 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+MPr)  
Cape May Warbler-1 male on 2 Aug, 7 on 22 Aug, and 1 on 15 Sep at Ames  
Black-throated Blue Warbler-1 male on 24 Sep at Ames  
Yellow-rumped Warbler-4 on 30 Oct at Saylorville  
Blackburnian Warbler-1 imm. male on 2 Aug at Ames; 1 on 9 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+MPr)  
Bay-breasted Warbler-1 on 5 Aug at Union Slough NWR; 1 on 9 Aug at Union Slough NWR  
Black-and-white Warbler-2 on 9 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+MPr)  
Northern Waterthrush-2 on 5 Aug at Union Slough NWR  
Mourning Warbler-1 on 17 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+AF)  
Wilson's Warbler-1 on 9 Aug at Union Slough NWR  
Lark Sparrow-1 on 9 Aug at Union Slough NWR(+MPr)  
White-throated Sparrow-1 on 5,9 Aug(+MPr) and 2 on 17 Aug(+AF) at Union Slough NWR(large sparrows with well-defined white throat and light central crown stripe, light brown eyeline, and fairly long tail;

distinctive "tseep" call note heard on all dates)  
Lapland Longspur-10 on 15 Oct at Riverton W.A.; 525 on 29 Oct at Big  
Creek SP  
Snow Bunting-31 on 27 Nov at Saylorville  
Brewer's Blackbird-2 males on 22 Nov in n. Polk Co. (two medium-sized  
blackbirds, not as long-tailed as a grackle; eye pale; plumage mostly  
dark with glossy head and nape; were feeding with starlings in meadow)

Other Observers:

Reid & Pam Allen (R&PA)  
Eugene & Eloise Armstrong (Eu&EIA)  
Bart Ballard (BB)  
Jim Dinsmore (JJD)  
Bery Engebretsen (BE)  
Andy Fix (AF)  
Matthew Kenne (MK)  
Bob Myers (RKM)  
Beth Proescholdt (BPr)  
Mark Proescholdt (MPr)  
Jim Sinclair (JSi)

Carl-

A couple of comments. I see no point in providing details on  
Merlins or Peregrines any more, particularly during their regular  
migration period. Both species are quite regular in this part of the  
state, and seeing several of each species each fall is not uncommon.  
Also, note that I haven't documented the many early warblers I saw  
this fall. Migrating warblers in early August are no longer a  
novelty, and have probably been around at that time every year. I can  
provide some details, but I hope it won't be necessary. Obviously,  
there were a lot of warblers around in early August this year.  
Otherwise, it was just another exciting fall at Saylorville.

*Carl*