

**Fall 1988***Reporter:**Other observers:*Beth Brown, Osceola  
Mike Thomas, Des Moines  
Jim Sinclair, IndianolaAnn Johnson  
532 120th Ave.  
Norwalk, Iowa 50211

Drought continued, but lack of rain produced fantastic seed crops. Weeds plus a few water holes in the creek bed brought the most spectacular migration season in my yard in the eleven years we've been here. 100 species (25 warblers) from 20 August to 20 September. 119 yard species for the period. Shorebird habitat tough but birds were concentrated wherever there were mudflats. Many areas became overly vegetated and had few if any shorebirds. Warm weather through most of October made for pleasant birding. Massive cold front, which began moving our way Thanksgiving weekend, was evident by the build-up of common mergansers and goldeneyes and movement of gulls during the day of 25 November.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION-COMMENTS</u>
Western Grebe	1	11/1	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA
White Pelican	1	11/1	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (last at this location)
White Pelican	2	11/6	Lake Rathbun, Appanoose Co., IA
Double-crested Cormorant	21	11/14	Lake Red Rock, Marion Co., IA
Double-crested Cormorant	2	11/25	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (last)
Magnificent Frigatebird	1	9/26	Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo Co., IA (seen at 100' at west end of lake)
Magnificent Frigatebird	1	10/2	Lake Red Rock (Dawn DeVore-see documentation)
Great Blue Heron	1	11/25	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (last)
Great Egret	1	10/3	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA
Great Egret	5	10/4	Lake Red Rock, Marion Co., IA
Little Blue Heron	1	8/20	Hooper G.A., Warren Co., IA (adult)
Cattle Egret	1	9/7	Poweshiek Co., IA
Gr. White-fronted Goose	1	11/11	DeSoto NWR, Harrison Co., IA (only one of the fall)
Snow Goose	6	10/3	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (first of the season)
Ross' Goose	3	11/11	DeSoto NWR, Harrison Co., IA (smaller size and stubby bill evident when compared to Snows; other obs.: BB, JS)
N. Pintail	1	8/25	Big Creek W.A., Polk Co., IA (earliest)
Greater Scaup	2	11/20	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (one pair with a number of lesser scaup; field of view through scope allowed comparison as slightly larger size, larger bill, and rounder head were distinct)
Oldsquaw	4	11/20	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (2 females and 2 1st winter males; plumage varied on young males as one had a much whiter back but not yet full adult plumage)

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✓ White-winged Scoter	1	11/1	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (scoter head and profile; white wing patch seen in water)
✓ White-winged Scoter	1	11/13	Carlisle Sewage Ponds, Warren Co., IA (1st winter bird; wing patch seen in flight; facial patch distinct; other obs.:JS)
✓ White-winged Scoter	1	11/26	Lake Ahquabi SP, Warren Co., IA (scoter flight; facial patch and wing patch)
✓ Turkey Vulture	80+	10/4	Lake Red Rock, Marion Co., IA
✓ Turkey Vulture	1	10/15	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (last one)
✓ Bald Eagle	2	11/21	s. Jasper Co., IA (both adults - only ones seen away from reservoirs)
✓ Red-shouldered Hawk	1	11/11	Lake Manawa SP, Pottawattamie Co., IA (immature-calling)
✓ Broad-winged Hawk	1	9/26	Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo Co., IA (one of only two this fall - no kettles observed)
✓ Swainson's Hawk	1	8/25	Ledges SP, Boone Co., IA (adult)
✓ Red-tailed Hawk	1	11/25	near Jester Park, Polk Co., IA (This was an all black bird with a red tail; dark terminal band. There have been incredible numbers of redtails all fall - not uncommon to see 15-20 in an hour.)
✓ Rough-legged Hawk	1	10/1	Big Creek W.A., Polk Co., IA (earliest)
Rough-legged Hawk	5	11/6	Lucas & Appanoose Cos., IA
✓ Merlin	1	10/8	Big Creek W.A., Polk Co., IA (small, dark falcon; fly-by)
Merlin	1	10/9	Big Creek W.A., Polk Co., IA (small, dark falcon; fly-by; same bird?)
✓ Merlin	1	10/24	Jester Park, Polk Co., IA (small, dark falcon; banded tail well seen while perched; heard call; other obs.:MT)
✓ Merlin	1	11/1	Jester Park, Polk Co., IA (small, dark falcon; fly-by)
✓ Merlin	1	11/13	Jester Park, Polk Co., IA (small, dark falcon; fly-by)
<p>(The Jester Park bird seems to be somewhat regular around Campground 4. I probably had it again 11/20 but brief glimpse not good enough for report. Heard but could not see on 11/23.)</p>			
✓ Peregrine Falcon	1	9/13	Warren Co., IA (fly-by; large falcon; hood and mustache well seen as it flew only a few feet above the car; adult)
✓ Peregrine Falcon	1	9/29	Warren Co., IA (Great yard bird while getting ready for work! Followed the creek bed toward the river so I got great looks about 15 minutes later down the road about a mile. Adult bird with long pointed wings and a beautiful black hood and mustache.)

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✓ Peregrine Falcon	1	10/1	Big Creek W. A., Polk Co., IA (fly-by; large falcon; hood and mustache well seen)
✓ Common Moorhen	1	9/26	Big Wall Lake, Wright Co., IA
✓ Lesser Golden-Plover	100+	10/9	Hendrickson's Marsh, Marshall Co., IA
✓ Lesser Golden-Plover	100+	10/15	Hendrickson's Marsh, Marshall Co., IA
✓ Lesser Yellowlegs	1	11/25	Big Creek W. A., Polk Co., IA (record late date; see documentation)
✓ Western Sandpiper	1	10/9	Big Creek W.A., Polk Co., IA (record late date; see documentation)
✓ Pectoral Sandpiper	3	11/13	Runnells G.A., Polk Co., IA (last)
✓ Red Phalarope	1	10/3	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (see documentation)
Pomarine Jaeger	1	10/1	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA
✓ Franklin's Gull	1	11/25	Jester Park, Polk Co., IA (adult bird in breeding plumage; red bill; full black head; no signs of molt)
✓ Little Gull	1	11/1	Jester Park, Polk Co., IA (see documentation)
✓ Bonaparte's Gull	500	11/25	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA
✓ Bonaparte's Gull	2	11/27	Lake Red Rock, Marion Co., IA
✓ Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	11/21	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (see documentation)
✓ Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	11/23	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (see documentation)
✓ Black-legged Kittiwake	1	11/27	Lake Red Rock, Marion Co., IA (see documentation)
✓ N. Saw-whet Owl	1	11/25	Big Creek W.A., Polk Co., IA (first)
✓ Chimney Swift	1	10/8	Ames, Story Co., IA (last)
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	8/20	Hooper G.A., Warren Co., IA
✓ E. Wood-Pewee	1	10/24	Jester Park, Polk Co., IA (record late date; calling but not seen; other obs.: MT)
✓ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	9/7	Warren Co., IA (nicely identifiable yellow wash; call note heard)
✓ E. Phoebe	1	11/12	Cherry Glen, Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (record late date; see documentation)
✓ Barn Swallow	1	10/13	Big Creek W.A., Polk Co., IA (late and alone)
✓ Rock Wren	1	11/9	Cherry Glen, Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (see documentaion)
✓ Rock Wren	1	11/25	Cherry Glen, Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA
✓ Carolina Wren	1	8/25	Ledges SP, Boone Co., IA
✓ Winter Wren	1	10/16	Warren Co., IA
✓ Water Pipit	1	10/9	Hendrickson's Marsh, Marshall Co., IA

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Water Pipit	1	10/15	Hendrickson's Marsh, Marshall Co., IA
Solitary Vireo	2	9/24-28	Warren Co., IA
✓ Philadelphia Vireo	1	8/20	Warren Co., IA
✓ Philadelphia Vireo	2	9/2	Warren Co., IA
✓ Philadelphia Vireo	2	9/13	Warren Co., IA
✓ Orange-crowned Warbler	1	9/2	Warren Co., IA (first)
✓ Orange-crowned Warbler	1	10/10	Warren Co., IA (last)
✓ Nashville Warbler	1-16	8/20-10/10	Warren Co., IA
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	9/3	Warren Co., IA
✓ Cape May Warbler	1	9/12	Warren Co., IA
✓ Yellow-rumped Warbler	peaked weekend of 10/8-9		Warren Co., IA
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	9/12	Warren Co., IA
Blackburnian Warbler	1-2 seen periodically from 8/20-9/2		Warren Co., IA
✓ Yellow-throated Warbler	1	9/2	Warren Co., IA
✓ Pine Warbler	1	9/2	Warren Co., IA (see documentation)
✓ Prairie Warbler	1	9/14	Warren Co., IA (late date; see documentation)
✓ Bay-breasted Warbler	up to five individuals from 8/21-9/2		Warren Co., IA
✓ Blackpoll Warbler	1	9/2	Warren Co., IA
✓ Blackpoll Warbler	1	9/25	Warren Co., IA
Black-and-White Warbler	1-2 seen almost daily from 8/20-9/14		Warren Co., IA
Black-and-White Warbler	1	10/1	Warren Co., IA (last of fall)
Am. Redstart	1	9/2-3	Warren Co., IA
✓ N. Waterthrush	1	8/19-20	Warren Co., IA
✓ N. Waterthrush	1	9/10	Warren Co., IA
✓ Kentucky Warbler	1	9/3	Warren Co., IA
✓ Connecticut Warbler	2	8/25	Ledges SP, Boone Co., IA (1 adult with well marked gray hood and distinct white eyering, 1 immature with only the beginning hood; other observers - BB,MT)
✓ Connecticut Warbler	1	9/10	Warren Co., IA (well marked adult)
✓ Mourning Warbler	1	8/24	Warren Co., IA
Wilson's Warbler	1-4 from 8/19-9/2		Warren Co., IA
✓ Canada Warbler	1	8/19-20	Warren Co., IA
Canada Warbler	1	8/22	Warren Co., IA
Canada Warbler	1	8/31	Warren Co., IA
Canada Warbler	1	9/1	Warren Co., IA
Canada Warbler	1	9/3	Warren Co., IA
✓ Canada Warbler	1	9/24-25	Warren Co., IA
✓ Indigo Bunting	16	9/25	Warren Co., IA (peak)
✓ Indigo Bunting	1	10/16	Warren Co., IA (last)
✓ Rufous-sided Towhee	1	10/16	Warren Co., IA (western, spotted race)
Chipping Sparrow	1	10/15	Warren Co., IA (last to leave yard)

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✔ Field Sparrow	1	10/22	Jester Park, Polk Co., IA (one cold field sparrow!)
✔ Vesper Sparrow	2	10/18	Warren Co., IA (last seen)
Savannah Sparrow	1	11/6	Lake Rathbun, Appanoose Co., IA
✔ LeConte's Sparrow	1	9/26	Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo Co., IA
✔ LeConte's Sparrow	1	10/13	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA
✔ LeConte's Sparrow	2	10/15	Big Creek W.A., Polk Co., IA
✔ Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1	10/13	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA (dark back, short tail)
✔ Fox Sparrow	9	10/26	Warren Co., IA (peak)
✔ Fox Sparrow	1	11/13	Warren Co., IA (last seen)
✔ Lincoln's Sparrow	1-6 seen from 9/24-11/6	11/6	Warren Co., IA
✔ White-throated Sparrow	25+	10/26	Warren Co., IA (peak)
White-crowned Sparrow	1	10/13	Saylorville Lake, Polk Co., IA
White-crowned Sparrow	1	10/15	Warren Co., IA (singing - sounded like Colorado!)
✔ Harris' Sparrow	1	9/21	Warren Co., IA (early date; immature, no mask)
✔ Harris' Sparrow	12	10/26	Warren Co., IA (peak)
✔ E. Meadowlark	1	10/24	Jester Park, Polk Co., IA (last one singing)
✔ Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	9/26	Big Wall Lake, Wright Co., IA (lone bird with thousands of redwings)
✔ Rusty Blackbird	1	10/3	Big Creek W.A., Polk Co., IA (early date; beautiful and unmistakable rusty color with light eyestripe and yellow eye; bathing in creek with numerous yellow-rumps; other observer - MT)
✔ Brewer's Blackbird	1	10/30	Warren Co., IA (with good sized flock of redwings and grackles; easy comparison; came to feeder)
✔ Purple Finch	6	10/22	Warren Co., IA (earliest; 1-3 seen periodically since but none coming to feeders at my place)
✔ House Finch			Hopefully Mike Thomas will report on these, but if not, they have become a regular (and greedy) occurrence at his feeders in Des Moines. He has had up to 38 at a time this fall. Judging from the activity this summer, at least three pair nested in his neighborhood and brought their youngsters to his feeders. He has been keeping detailed, daily records since last February so I've encouraged him to write up something.