

## FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1992

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### WEATHER

March contributed to the first three months of 1992 being the 4th warmest in 120 years. The first nine days were warmer than the middle of the month. March is typically one of the windier months but major late winter storms avoided the state this year and wind speeds averaged 15% lower than usual. Snowfall averaged only 2.3 inches or about one-third of normal.

Although colder than normal, April continued a string of seven consecutive months with above average precipitation, most of which came between the 10th and 23rd. Minor flooding occurred on many of Iowa's rivers and creeks. The major event was the big snow storm that buried far western Iowa under as much as 14 inches on the 21st. The storm was concentrated in a narrow band from Plymouth County southward to Fremont and Page counties.

The major feature of May was the development of very dry conditions, especially over southeastern Iowa. This was the sixth driest May in 120 years. The last nine days of the month were very cold with widespread frost on the 27th.

#### Temperature and Precipitation with Deviation from Normal

	Temperature, F Mean (Deviation)	Precipitation, inches Mean (Deviation)
March	39.5 (+5.6)	2.26 (+0.11)
April	47.0 (-2.3)	3.60 (+0.41)
May	61.1 (+0.3)	1.76 (-2.20)
Jan-May		10.03 (-1.21)

This weather summary is based on reports prepared by state climatologist, Harry Hillaker of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

### GENERAL TRENDS

The warm winter and early spring brought waterfowl into the state early. A number of long-distance migrants such as Forster's Tern, Common Nighthawk, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Hooded Warbler set early records. The April snow in western Iowa may have been responsible for sightings of Smith's and Chestnut-collared longspurs. Observers spent considerable time in southeast and southwest Iowa, producing a number of new early dates. Owing to low water, shorebirds were concentrated at Riverton and Runnells areas. A number of waterfowl, shorebirds, and passerines lingered late in May. Warblers dribbled through in small numbers with some early and late records.

### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported included Brown Pelican, Eurasian Wigeon, Mississippi Kite, Ferruginous Hawk, Black Rail, Snowy Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Little Gull, Say's Phoebe, Baird's Sparrow, and Chestnut-collared Longspur. Swallow-tailed Kite, a species considered extirpated from the state, appeared for the first time in over 60 years. Casual species included Whimbrel, Red Knot, Great Black-backed Gull, Townsend's Solitaire, and Great-tailed Grackle. Rare species included an ibis, two record late Oldsquaws, a rare spring Black Scoter, a record late Golden Eagle, a "Caribbean" coot, a rare spring Black-legged Kittiwake, and Smith's Longspur.

SPECIES DATA (\* = documented, [ ] = record dates)

**Common Loon:** The first was in Mills Co. on 25 Mar (DLR). The peak was 38 at Rathbun Res. on 30 Mar (AMJ). The last was at L. Ahquabi on 20 May (JSi).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** The first were on 3 Mar at Princeton M. (PCP) and Ida Co. (PE). Peaks were 48 at L. Manawa on 24 Apr (BKP) and 20 at Cedar L. on 26 Apr (DLD).

**Horned Grebe:** 4 were at Cedar L. on 9 Mar (DLD)[3rd earliest]. From 1 to 8 were reported from 12 other locations through 7 May.

**Eared Grebe:** The first was at Rathbun Res. on 14 Mar (RLC)[ties earliest]. The peak was 6 at Grover's L. in Dickinson Co. on 16 May (LAS). The last were a pair at Ventura M. on 27 May (RG). Among the 14 other locations the following were in E Iowa: L. Macbride on 19 Mar (JLF), Kalona on 9 May (DCP), and Marshalltown on 23 Apr (MPr). At Silver L. in Worth Co. on 11 May 4 pairs were in courtship display (DeC).

**Western Grebe:** 4 were at Hendrickson M. on 9 Apr (Raqual Leyva fide JJD)[ties 3rd earliest]. Other reports were from Pleasant Creek L. on 25 Apr (JiD, JLF, THK), Crawford Creek R.A. in Ida Co. on 1 May (PE), L. Manawa on 6 May (BKP), Silver L. in Worth Co. on 11 May (DeC), and Little Clear L. on 21 May (MMB).

**American White Pelican:** The first were 8 at Rathbun Res. on 10 Mar (RLC)[ties earliest]. Over 100 were seen at 10 locations, with the peak of 1,200 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Apr (MCK). Many more than usual were seen in E Iowa.

**Brown Pelican:** 1 was at De Soto N.W.R. from at least 6 to 11 May (\*BJR-photo, \*THK-photo, \*JLF, \*PCP-photo). Another report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 2 were at Runnells A. on 2 Mar (AMJ). The largest number reported was 1,210 at L. Manawa on 27 Apr (BKP). Nest building was noted at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Apr (MCK).

**American Bittern:** The first was at Otter Creek M. on 20 Apr (MPr) and 6 were there on 25 Apr (JLF). Other reports were 1 at Marshalltown on 23 Apr (MPr), 1 at Pickerel L. on 1 May (MMB), and 2 in Palo Alto Co. on 20 May (Julie Schreiber and Kris Van Rees fide JJD).

**Least Bittern:** Singles were at Cone M. on 11 May (THK), Union Slough N.W.R. on 22 May (MCK), and Snake Creek M. on 29 May (JSi, EuA/EIA).

**Great Blue Heron:** 1 was at Riverton A. on 1 Mar (JSi). The peak was 133 at Coralville Res. on 31 May (JiD). At Brenton Sl. 6 nests were found on 17 Apr (JSi). At Saylorville Res., 194 nests were occupied by 5 May (BE).

**Great Egret:** The first were on 28 Mar with 3 at Lansing (DeC) and 1 at Saylorville Res. (BE). Largest numbers were 40 at Cardinal M. on 25 Apr (DeC) and 32 at Algona on 11 Apr (MCK).

**Little Blue Heron:** Adults were reported from Burlington on 19 Apr (JLF), n. of Montrose (two) on 26 Apr (THK, RIC), L. Ahquabi on 1 May (JSi), and Cardinal M. on 1 May (DeC).

**Cattle Egret:** The first was at L. Manawa on 17 Apr (BKP). From 1 to 12 were noted at 12 other locations across the state, which is more than have been found in recent years.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** The first were 5 at Riverton A. on 12 Apr (THK). From 1 to 12 were seen at 7 other locations.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 2 first-year birds were s. of Burlington on 19 May (JLF, THK).

**Ibis species:** 1 was at Otter Creek M. on 30 Apr (\*JLF).

**Tundra Swan:** Reports were of 6 in Kossuth Co. from 13 to 26 Mar (MCK), 1 at Virgin L. in Palo Alto Co. on 15 Mar (LAS), and 1 at Cone M. from 28 Mar to 4 Apr (THK, JLF).

**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 with wing tags were in W Cerro Gordo Co. from 6 to 17 Mar (JLW, DRP), and 1 without tags was in Emmet Co. on 23 Apr (JJD).

**Mute Swan:** 1 was w. of Spencer from 12 to 30 May (LAS). [record latest, if wild, see COMMENT].

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Many were reported across the state with a peak of 1,000 in Fremont Co. on 12 Apr (THK). The last was at Hamburg on 13 May (THK).

**Snow Goose:** 2 were still present at Riverton A. on 31 May (THK).

**Ross's Goose:** 1 was in Kossuth Co. on 1 Mar (MCK)[3rd earliest]. Other reports were 1 at Cone M. on 6 Mar (THK), 4 at McCord P. and Lakin Sl. on 20 Mar (THK), 1-3 at Hamburg from 12 Apr to 23 May (THK, DRP)[record latest], Cerro Gordo Co. on 13 Apr (CN), and De

Soto N.W.R. on 6 May (BKP)[record latest]. Birds intermediate in size between Snow and Ross's geese could have been hybrids (THK, DRP).

**Green-winged Teal:** The peak was 400 at Forney L. on 6 Mar (BKP). The last were 2 at Coralville Res. on 21 May (THK).

**American Black Duck:** The last were 2 at Cardinal M. on 25 Apr (DeC).

**Northern Pintail:** A male remained at Coralville Res. on 30 May (DRP, THK).

**Blue-winged Teal:** The first on 3 Mar were at Runnells A. (JSi) and Princeton M. (PCP).

**Cinnamon Teal:** Singles were at Forney L. on 6-7 Mar (DLR, BKP)[ties 2nd earliest], at Bartlett on 15 Mar (DLR), at McCord P. on 16 Mar (AMJ), at Elk Creek W.A. on 12 Apr (\*DBo), and Brenton Sl. on 17 Apr (JSi).

**Northern Shoveler:** The first were 50 at Princeton M. on 3 Mar (PCP). The peak was 267 at Johnston on 19 Apr (BE).

**Gadwall:** Peaks were 280 at Rathbun Res. on 21 Mar (RLC) and 300 at L. Manawa on 13 Apr (BKP).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Single males were s. of Ventura in Cerro Gordo Co. on 18 Mar (\*DRP) and nw. of Palo in Linn Co. on 24-28 Apr (\*JiD-photo, \*THK, \*JLF, \*RIC).

**American Wigeon:** 1 remained at Coralville Res. on 30 May (THK).

**Canvasback:** The peak was 500 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 22 Mar (MCK). One was still at Cone M. on 21 May (JLF).

**Redhead:** 3 pair were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 22 May (MCK).

**Ring-necked Duck:** The peak was 1,800 at Algona on 22 Mar (MCK).

**Greater Scaup:** The first were 3 at Clear L. on 1 Mar (JLW-details). The last were 2 at Green Is. on 7 May (PCP-details). From 1 to 10 were reported from 10 other locations.

**Lesser Scaup:** 1,000 were at L. Manawa on 29 Mar (BKP).

**Oldsquaw:** A winter male was at Union Grove S.P. on 13 Apr (MPr). A female in alternate plumage was at Pleasant Creek L. from 3 to 8 May (\*DRP, JLF)[2nd latest]. Another bird was at Little Wall L. from 9 to 12 May (AMJ, EuA/EIA)[record latest].

**Black Scoter:** 1 was at IPL Ponds from 23 to 25 Apr (BKP, DLR)[record latest, 3rd spring record].

**Surf Scoter:** A female or immature was at Clear L. on 12 Apr (JLW).

**Common Goldeneye:** The last was in Johnson Co. on 18 Apr (JLF).

**Bufflehead:** The first were at L. Manawa on 6 Mar (BKP).

**Common Merganser:** An injured male remained at Coralville Res. on 30 May (\*DRP).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** The first were at Clear L. on 1 Mar (JLW). The peak was 276 at Saylorville Res. on 29 Mar (BE).

**Ruddy Duck:** On 6 Mar, 4 were at L. Manawa (BKP), 1 was at Badger Creek L. (PA/RA), and 3 were at Pleasant Creek L. (DRP)[tie 3rd earliest].

**Turkey Vulture:** The first was at Coralville Res. on 2 Mar (DLD), and 32 were kettling n. of Iowa City on 5 Mar (JLF). There were 4 other sightings in the first week of March.

**Osprey:** The first was at Clear L. on 6 Mar (RG)[2nd earliest]. All others were from April except for 1 at Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 19 May (THK).

**American Swallow-tailed Kite:** 1 at Hartman Reserve in Cedar Falls on 14-15 May (\*KAM, \*FLM) is the first report in over 60 years.

**Mississippi Kite:** 3 returned to Clive on 12 May (EuA/EIA) and 2 remained through May (THK-photo, \*DRP). One flew over Hartman Reserve in Cedar Falls on 16 May (\*THK).

**Bald Eagle:** 50 were at L. Manawa on 7 Mar (BKP), and 61 were at Saylorville Res. on 14 Mar (BE). An adult and immature remained at Coralville Res. on 30 May (\*DRP). There were 4 other May sightings.

**Northern Harrier:** 1 was late at Forney L. on 29 May (BKP).

**Cooper's Hawk:** 7 were reported with the last at Lacey-Keosauqua S. P. on 28 May (DRP).

**Northern Goshawk:** An adult was seen briefly in Kossuth Co. on 4 May (MCK).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Reports were from Boone, Hardin, Tama, Johnson, Cerro Gordo, and Marion counties.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** The first was on 15 Apr at Rock Creek S.P. (MPr). The peak was 40 in Kossuth Co. on 19 Apr (MCK). The last were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 27 May (DCP) and Waubonsie S.P. on 29 May (BKP).

**Swainson's Hawk:** The first was at Lime Creek C.A. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 18 Mar (JLW-details)[ties earliest]. An incredible migration was noted starting with 18 in a plowed field and 10 more in other locations in SW Fremont Co. on 12 Apr (THK) and followed on 19 Apr with counts of 167 (DBi) and 218 (MMB) in Cherokee Co. Pairs returned to nest sites on 15 Apr in Mason City (JLW) and on 19 Apr in Waterloo (FLM). Copulation was observed on 28 Apr at the Mason City site (JLW). Among reports from 7 other counties, 1 in Appanoose Co. on 25 Apr (RLC) was away from the usual western and northern Iowa range.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** A Harlan's Hawk was at Union Slough N.W.R. on 15 Apr (MCK). In a correction from the fall 1991 report, the peak was 203 on 5 Oct at Grammer Grove; the figure of 561 was the total for 11 Sep through 30 Oct (BPr).

**Ferruginous Hawk:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** An adult was in Winneshiek Co. on 24 May (RLC-details)[record latest].

**Golden Eagle:** 1 was still in Allamakee Co. on 1 Mar (MPr). An adult was seen in NE Cerro Gordo Co. on 10 May (\*JLW)[record latest].

**American Kestrel:** Several observers noted up to 40 per day, but this was eclipsed by 79 in 130 miles in C Iowa on 22 Apr (MPr).

**Merlin:** The first was in Cerro Gordo Co. on 17 Mar (CN-details). The last was at Otter Creek M. on 11 May (CJB, THK)[ties 2nd latest]. Singles were reported at 6 other locations.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Migrants were noted from 12 locations with the last at Coralville Res. on 17 May (MPr)[3rd latest]. A male present at Davenport since winter attracted a female on 22 Apr, and incubation on a nest on the Centennial Bridge was suspected about 4 May (LSJ). An adult male and subadult female nested in downtown Des Moines; one of two eggs fell from the ledge on 7 May (LSJ). A male at Cedar Rapids attracted a female during the week of 10 May (LSJ). These nesting birds appeared to be banded; anyone who can read the numbers should report them to Laura Jackson.

**Prairie Falcon:** 1 was seen at Lakin Sl. on 24 Apr (EuA/EIA-details)[3rd latest].

**Gray Partridge:** 4 were at McPaul in SW Iowa on 22 Apr (BKP).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Individuals from the introduced population in Missouri were noted in southern Ringgold Co. on 11 Apr (JLF, FLM, THK) and 16 Apr (PCP).

**Northern Bobwhite:** 1 on 11 May in Mason City was a bit far north (CN).

**Yellow Rail:** The only report was of 1 at Otter Creek M. on 20 Apr (BPr).

**Black Rail:** 2 were studied on 26 Apr n. of Des Moines (\*Bmi).

**King Rail:** 1 was heard at Otter Creek M. on 11 May (CJB, THK).

**Virginia Rail:** The first was at Cone M. on 4 Apr (AMJ-details, RA-details)[record earliest].

On 30 May, 2 were at White W.A. in Cerro Gordo Co. (JLW).

**Sora:** The first was in Boone Co. on 18 Apr (MPr).

**Common Moorhen:** The first was in Marshalltown on 23 Apr (MPr). The only other reports were from Cone M. on 27 Apr (JLF), Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 3 May (THK), and Princeton M. on 6 May (PCP).

**American Coot:** 800 were at Cardinal M. on 25 Apr (DeC). A "Caribbean Coot" was reported from Emmet Co. on 28 Apr (\*HWW). It is rumored that the American Birding Association will drop this species from the North American list; meanwhile, the Records Committee is mulling over its occurrence in Iowa.

**Sandhill Crane:** 2 were present since at least early Apr at Otter Creek M. (Ed Weiner fide LJ). See summer report for exciting follow-up. The only other report was of 1 n. of Mason City on 13 May (CN).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Other Sightings were from 5 to 31 May. Partial details were given for an unusually early bird.

**Lesser Golden-Plover:** The first was at Runnells A. on 29 Mar (JSi). The peak was 500 at Coralville Res. on 9 May (THK). The last were 3 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 27 May (RG).

**Semipalmated Plover:** The first was at Runnells A. on 16 Apr (JSi). The peak of 150 was at Runnells A. on 14 May (THK) and 19 May (AMJ). The last 2 were at Coralville Res. on 30 May (DRP, THK).

**Snowy Plover:** A male was at Riverton A. from 10 to 12 May (\*DLR, \*BJR-photo, \*PA, RA-photo, \*THK). A bird was reported there on 13 May (\*MPr/BPr) may have been a female.

**Piping Plover:** 2 were at IPL Ponds by 17 Apr (BKP); 7 were there on 26 May (BKP). The only other locations were Saylorville Res. on 19 Apr and 5 May (BE) and Hendrickson M. on 2 May (MPr).

**Killdeer:** 150 were at Riverton A. by 1 Mar (JSi), and 2 had reached Kossuth Co. by that date (MCK).

**Black-necked Stilt:** A single bird was seen only on the afternoon of 12 May at Riverton A. (\*PA, RA-photo, \*AMJ, \*THK).

**American Avocet:** The first was at Riverton A. on 12 Apr (THK)[2nd earliest], and the last was there on 30 May (BKP)[2nd latest]. Peaks were 30 at L. Manawa on 24 Apr and 11 at Riverton on 26 Apr (BKP). The only records east of the western border of the state were from NW Cass Co. on 24 Apr (MAP) and Lakin Sl. on 24 Apr (EuA/EIA).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** All reports were from April.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** The first was at Cone M. on 28 Mar (THK), and the last was at Runnells A. on 27 May (JSi).

**Willet:** The first was at Colo Ponds on 24 Apr (HZ). The peaks were 19 in W Fremont Co. on 26 Apr (BKP) and 21 at Saylorville Res. on 2 May (BE). The last was at Runnells A. on 17 May (JSi). From 1 to 8 were at 7 other locations across the state.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 3 were at Coralville Res. on 18 Apr (JLF)[ties 3rd earliest].

**Upland Sandpiper:** 1 was in Ringgold Co. on 10 Apr (PCP)[3rd earliest].

**Whimbrel:** Three sightings were of singles sw. of Liscomb on 24 Apr (\*BPr)[2nd earliest], at Riverton A. on 11 May (\*BKP), and at IPL Ponds on 26 May (\*BKP)[ties latest].

**Hudsonian Godwit:** The first on 18 Apr were at Cone M. (THK) and Boone Co. (MPr). The peak was 159 at Riverton A. on 13 May (MPr). Singles on 30 May were at Riverton A. (BKP) and Runnells A. (AMJ). Others were reported from 7 other locations.

**Marbled Godwit:** Singles were reported from Forney L. on 12 Apr (THK), Marshalltown on 23 Apr (MPr), w. of Bagley on 25 Apr (EuA/EIA), McCord Pond on 9 May (AMJ), and IPL Ponds on 12 May (AMJ).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Reports of 1-3 were from Cherokee Co. on 13 May (MMB), Saylorville Res. on 17, 23 May (BE), Riverton A. on 23 May (DRP, THK), Pleasant Creek L. on 24 May (JLF), and Runnells A. on 27, 30 May (JSi, AMJ).

**Red Knot:** 2 were in partial molt to alternate plumage at Riverton A. on 13 May (\*THK, \*JLF)[record earliest, 2nd spring record].

**Sanderling:** 2 were in Ida Co. on 13 Apr (PE), and 1-2 were at Saylorville Res. on 19 Apr and 3, 16 May (BE).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** At Riverton A. there was 1 on 12 Apr (THK-details)[2nd earliest], 4,000 on 23 May (THK), and 25 on 31 May (THK).

**Western Sandpiper:** 2 in alternate plumage were at Runnells A. on 19 May (AMJ-details).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** The first were in Clay Co. on 4 May (LAS). The peak was 100 at Riverton A. on 31 May (THK).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** 100 were at Riverton A. on 12 Apr (THK). The last were in Cerro Gordo Co. on 27 May (RG).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** The peak was 1,500 at Riverton A. on 13 May (THK), and 30 were still there on 31 May (THK).

**Dunlin:** 6 were at Runnells A. on 10 Apr (AMJ)[2nd earliest]. The last were at Saylorville Res. on 31 May (BE).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Small numbers were reported from 11 to 23 May.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** The only reports were of singles on 10 May e. of Riverton A. (DLR), 13 May at Riverton A. (THK), and 25 May at Coralville Res. (\*DRP, THK)[2nd latest].

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** The first on 5 May was calling in Ida Co. (PE). The last were on 23 May at Riverton A. (DRP) and Coralville Res. (THK). The call note was heard for an unusually early bird in basic plumage.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** The first were 3 in Fremont Co. on 12 Apr (THK).

**American Woodcock:** The first were noted on 11 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP) and Grammer Grove (MPr). A brood was seen in Lee Co. on 23 Apr (Brian Warson fide SJD).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Few were reported.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** A male was at Coralville Res. on 28 May (THK).

**Franklin's Gull:** 1 was still at Riverton A. on 31 May (THK).

**Little Gull:** An adult was seen in a flooded field nw. of IPL Ponds on 23 Apr (\*BJR-photos, BKP).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** The first 2 were at L. Manawa on 17 Apr (BKP). The peak was 120 in Appanoose Co. on 21 Apr (RLC). The last were 25 in basic plumage at Pleasant Creek L. on 8 May (JLF).

**Ring-billed Gull:** 2,000 were at the Polk County Landfill on 14 Mar (RIC).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** A first-winter/first-summer bird was at Saylorville Res. on 7 Mar (\*JSi).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** A winter adult was at L. Macbride on 15 Mar (\*JES)[record latest, 2nd spring record].

**Caspian Tern:** The first were 2 at Montrose on 19 Apr (THK, RIC)[ties record earliest]. The peak was 17 on 13 May at IPL Ponds (THK), and 8 were there on 30 May (BKP).

**Common Tern:** Details were given for birds at Davenport on 6 May (PCP), at Lock and Dam 16 on 7 May (PCP), at Riverton A. on 13 May (MPr), and in Cerro Gordo Co. on 27 May (JLW).

**Forster's Tern:** The first was at Big M. on 10 Apr (DRP)[ties 2nd earliest]. Others were at Green Valley S.P. on 11 Apr (THK, MPr) and L. Manawa on 12 Apr (THK).

**Least Tern:** The first was seen at IPL Ponds on 17 May (BKP). Singles, presumably in migration, were noted at Zirbel Sl. on 20 May (CN) and Riverton A. on 27 May (EuA/EIA).

**Black Tern:** The first was at Cone M. on 3 May (THK). A peak of 150 was in Fremont Co. on 23 May (THK). At Riverton A., 12 were still present on 31 May (THK).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** The first was on 10 May in Cedar Co. (JLF).

**Barn Owl:** The nest in Taylor Co. had 7 eggs on 11 Apr (PCP) and 7 young on 18 May (LSJ).

**Snowy Owl:** 1 was seen e. of Mason City on 1 Apr (JLW, RG)[3rd latest].

**Long-eared Owl:** 1 was reported from Union Slough N.W.R. on 24 Apr (Bobbi Webber fide MCK).

**Short-eared Owl:** 1 was at Ringgold W.A. on 11 Apr (THK).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 1 was at L. Macbride on 7 Mar (JLF).

**Common Nighthawk:** 1 was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 4 May (DCP). A very early sighting was undocumented.

**Chuck-will's-widow:** Reports were of 3 at Waubonsie S.P. on 12 May (THK), 1 at L. Wapello in Davis Co. on 23 May (RLC), and 2 nw. of Eddyville in Mahaska Co. on 28 May (JLF).

**Whip-poor-will:** The first was in Lee Co. on 15 Apr (Brian Warson fide SJD). A bird in Cerro Gordo Co. on 8, 10 May was considered unusual (CN, JLW).

**Chimney Swift:** The first were in Des Moines on 15 Apr (RIC).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** The first was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 4 May (DCP).

**Northern Flicker:** A red-shafted bird was in Grundy Co. on 26 Mar (MPr).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Singles were in Des Moines on 1 Apr (JSi), Cedar Rapids on 25 Apr (JiD), and Saylorville Res. on 5 May (BE).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The first was on 8 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and the last was on 27 May at the Runnells A. (JSi).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** The first was on 6 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (JLW).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** An early bird was seen and heard at Credit Is. (PCP) [ties 3rd earliest]. More than the usual number of reports described 18 birds from 12 locations, all of which were in E Iowa except for 1 in Ida Co. on 20 May (PE-details). The last was on 28 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (JLW).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** The first were on 9 May with 2 at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (THK) and 1 in Ida Co. (PE-details). Others were in Polk Co. on 20 May (PH) and at Grammer Grove on 30 May (MPr).

**Alder Flycatcher:** Extremely early for this late migrant was 1 on 2 May at Croton Unit Shimek F. (RLC)[record earliest]. Also early was 1 on 13 May at L. Manawa (BKP)[3rd earliest]. Additional reports were from 8 locations scattered throughout the state and were mostly single birds, but 4 were at L. Manawa on 21 May (BKP). The last was 1 on 30 May at L. Macbride (THK, DRP).

**Willow Flycatcher:** The first was on 11 May at Cone M. (JLF).

**Least Flycatcher:** The first was on 30 Apr in Ida Co. (PE). A bird singing continuously on 25 May at Coralville Res. may have been on territory (THK).

**Eastern Phoebe:** A nest at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. with 5 eggs on 4 May was observed until the young filled the nest on 20 May (DCP).

**Say's Phoebe:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.

**Western Kingbird:** Away from its usual W Iowa range was 1 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 17-18 May (\*CN, JLW-details).

**Purple Martin:** The first were 17 on 10 Apr at Algona (MCK) and 2 on 11 Apr in Union Co. (MPr).

**Tree Swallow:** The first was in Scott Co. on 17 Mar (PCP) [2nd earliest]. Other March sightings were on the 29th at Ventura M. (DRP) and Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** The first were on 11 Apr with 4 at Red Rock Res. (THK, FLM) and 10 at Ottumwa (DCP).

**Bank Swallow:** This species appeared early this year with 2 at Red Rock Res. on 11 Apr (THK, FLM) [record earliest], 2 at L. Manawa on 12 Apr (THK, FLM) [ties 2nd earliest], and 6 in Ida Co. on 15 Apr (PE).

**Cliff Swallow:** 25 nests were counted on the First Ave. bridge in Waverly on 18 May (MAP).

**Barn Swallow:** 1 at Otter Creek M. on 5 Mar (\*MS) [record earliest] arrived with the warm weather of early March.

**Tufted Titmouse:** Out-of-range birds were in Ida Co. on 7 Apr (PE) and Boone Co. on 12-14 Apr (SRL).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** The reports were from Story Co. on 16 Mar (Lotus Miller fide HZ) and 17 Apr (PH).

**Carolina Wren:** This species continues to be widely seen with 12 reports of 1-5 birds. The only report from N Iowa was at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 8 Apr (DeC).

**Bewick's Wren:** 1 was at Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 8 May (THK), and 1-2 were in the campground at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 9-28 May (\*JLF, \*DRP).

**House Wren:** The first were singles at Brenton Sl. on 17 Apr (JiS) and Algona on 19 Apr (MCK).

**Winter Wren:** 2 were still at Kettleson Hogsback on 2 May (LAS).

**Sedge Wren:** The first were 2 on 9 May in Van Buren Co. (JLF) and 1 on 10 May at Riverton A. (BKP).

**Marsh Wren:** The first was at Otter Creek M. on 25 Apr (JLF).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** The first was on 19 Mar at Fairfield (DCP). The peak was 35 at the Coralville Res. on 6 Apr (DLD).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** The first was on 1 Apr in Polk Co. (JiS). The peak was 48 at Coralville Res. on 6 Apr (DLD). The last were 2 on 14 May at Glendale Cem. (THK).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** The first was on 12 Apr at Coralville Res. (DLD). There were 14 at Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 19 Apr (RIC).

**Eastern Bluebird:** More than usual were in Boone Co. in Mar (SRL), and 7 on 8 Mar at Kettleson Hogsback were considered early for NW Iowa (LAS).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** 1 was at Polk City cemetery on 17 May (\*PH)[record latest].

**Veery:** The first was on 3 May in Ida Co. (PE-details) [ties 3rd earliest].

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** The first was on 2 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP-details).

**Swainson's Thrush:** The first was on 30 Apr at Fairfield (DCP-details). The peak was 20 on 8 May 20 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP) and on 14 May at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines (THK). The last 2 were on 29 May at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP).

**Hermit Thrush:** The first was at MacIntosh Woods on 1 Apr (JLW).

**Wood Thrush:** The first was at Algona on 26 Apr (MCK).

**American Robin:** A partial albino with normal head color was in Boone Co. on 14 Apr (SRL).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Reports of 1-4 birds were from Johnson, Madison, Ringgold, Story, and Pottawattamie counties.

**Brown Thrasher:** 1 on 8 Mar was at the location at Zirbel Sl. where nesting occurred in 1991, and was possibly overwintering (JLW).

**American Pipit:** The first were 25 on 22 Mar at Runnells A. (JiS). April sightings were 1 at Cone M. on the 4th (JLF) and 6 at the Runnells A. on the 11th (PCP).

**Cedar Waxwing:** They were considered scarce in the NE (DeC).

**Northern Shrike:** 1 was at Princeton M. on 5 Apr (\*DDo) [2nd latest].

**Loggerhead Shrike:** 6 were seen in Fremont, Mills, and Pottawattamie counties on 25 May (DRP). A nest with 7 eggs was in Iowa Co. on 16 May (HY).

**White-eyed Vireo:** The first were 2 on 24 Apr at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (RIC); There were 11 other reports of 18 birds, all from SE Iowa except for 1 at Desoto N.W.R. on 11 May (PCP).

**Bell's Vireo:** 1 was in Ida Co. on 30 Apr (PE) [3rd earliest]. Others were 2 at Riverton A. on 11 May (BKP) and 1 at Mason City on 28 May (JLW).

**Solitary Vireo:** The first was on 29 Apr at Grammer Grove (BPr). The last was on 14 May at Lakin Slough (THK).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** The first was on 7 May in Ida Co. (PE). The last was at Hickory Hill P. on 20 May (THK).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 2 were early on 20 Apr at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (RIC) [ties earliest], and 12 were there on 2 May (RLC).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** The first were 2 on 2 May in Lee Co. (RLC). The last were 1 at Kettleon Hogsback on 16 May (LAS) and a female at Hickory Hill P. on 18 May (DRP).

**Tennessee Warbler:** The first were 3 at Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 24 Apr (RIC). There were still 10 at Fairfield on 18 May (DCP).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** All reports for this early migrant were in April, with early birds on 16 Apr in Polk Co. (JiS) [2nd earliest] and 18 Apr in Clay Co. (LAS) [ties 3rd earliest].

**Nashville Warbler:** 1 was still at Rock Falls on 31 May (RG) [2nd latest].

**Northern Parula:** The first was at Credit Is. on 30 Apr (PCP). There were 10 on 9 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. where they nest (JiD). Two singing males were at L. Macbride on 30 May (\*DRP).

**Yellow Warbler:** The first was on 26 Apr in Lee Co. (THK, RIC).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** The first was on 4 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).

**Magnolia Warbler:** 1 was still at Waubonsie S.P. on 29 May (BKP).

**Cape May Warbler:** The first were 4 on 14 May at Glendale Cem. in Des Moines (THK). Others were singles on 16 May at Hartman Res. (THK) and Kettleon Hogsback (LAS), on 17 May at Runnells A. (JiS) and Matsell Bridge in Linn Co. (JiD), and on 23 May at Liscomb (MPr) [ties latest].

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** The first was on 3 Apr in Ida Co. (PE) The last was on 18 May in Iowa City (DRP).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Reports from NW Iowa were 4 in Ida Co. on 15 May (PE) and singles on 16 May at Kettleon Hogsback (LAS), and 20 and 30 May at Trumbull L. (LAS).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** The first was near Croton on 19 Apr (THK, RIC). Others were 2-4 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 2 and 30 May (DCP) and 9 May (THK), 2 in Des Moines on 4



May (PA/RA), 1 at Dawson in Dallas Co. on 6 May (PA/RA), 3 at Ledges S.P. on 9 May (HZ), and 1 at Dudgeon L. on 17 May (MCK, JLF).

**Pine Warbler:** The only reports were of singles at Scott Co. P. on 23 Apr (PCP) [2nd earliest] and Fairport Fish Hatchery on 6 May (PCP).

**Prairie Warbler:** A well-described male singing continuously was seen by many from 7 to 28 May at Croton U. of Shimek F. (\*MJ, RIC-details, \*JLF, \*DRP).

**Palm Warbler:** The first was on 25 Apr at Iowa City (THK). The last was on 20 May at Trumbull L. (LAS) [3rd latest].

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 2 at Hartman Res. on 16 May (THK) and 1 at Dudgeon L. (JLF) on 17 May were the only reports.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** The peak was 6 on 15 May in Ida Co. (PE). The last was at Coralville Res. on 24 May (JLF).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Very early were single birds on 18 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RIC-details)[record earliest] and 19 Apr at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (RIC)[2nd earliest]. There were 9 birds at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 9 May (DeC).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** The first was on 29 Apr at Grammer Grove (BPr). The last was on 29 May at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** This nester, common in its preferred habitat, was reported from all corners of the state. There were 3 pairs at Dudgeon L. on 16 May (DRP).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** 1 was seen and heard at Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 24 Apr (RIC) [2nd earliest] and on 3 May (RLC) and 19 May (JLF, THK). Another single was at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. on 13 May (PCP). One was identified by song only on an early date.

**Ovenbird:** 20 were counted at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 4 May (DCP).

**Northern Waterthrush:** The first was on 26 Apr in Lee Co. (THK, RIC), and the last was on 19 May at the Runnells A. (JiS).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** The first were 3 on 19 Apr at Croton Unit of Shimek F. (THK). Others were singles at Palisades-Kepler S.P. on 2 May (JLF) and 17 May (DRP), Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 4 May (DCP), and Waubonsie S.P. on 11 May (BKP).

**Kentucky Warbler:** 12 were in Lee Co. on 2 May (RLC). Other reports were 1-3 birds from Van Buren, Louisa, Lee, Polk, and Johnson counties.

**Connecticut Warbler:** There were 11 reports of single birds from across the state, with the first on 11 May in Grundy Co. (MPr-details) and the last on 21 May at Grammer Grove (BPr-details).

**Mourning Warbler:** This species arrived very early on 2 May at two locations: Nine Eagles S.P. (Tom Klubertanz fide JJD-details) and Hickory Hill P. (JLF-details) [record earliest]. From 1 to 3 birds were reported from 11 other locations. The last was on 31 May in Des Moines (PA/RA).

**Hooded Warbler:** There were two sightings on the unusually early date of 19 Apr -- a female at Hickory Hill P. (JLF) and 1 at Lamb's Grove (GJB-details) [record earliest]. Others were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 4 May (DCP), Ida Co. on 4 May (\*PE), at Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 9 May (THK) and 28 May (DRP), and Yellow River F. on 23 May (FLM).

**Wilson's Warbler:** The first were 1 on 2 May in Warren Co. (AMJ) [ties 3rd earliest] and 1 on 3 May at Cone M. (THK). The last was on 26 May at Decorah (DeC).

**Canada Warbler:** The first was on 15 May at Hickory Hill P. (THK) and the last was at Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 28 May (DRP).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Sightings at Cone M. were 1 on 3 May (THK) [ties 3rd earliest], 3 on 11 May (JLF), and 1 on 21 May (DRP). Others were 2 in Warren Co. on 17 May (JiS), 1 at Hickory Hill P. on 18 May (JLF), and 1 at Croton Unit of Shimek F. on 28 May (DRP).

**Summer Tanager:** A molting male was at the Rosenberger suet feeder in Iowa City on 6-8 May (THK, JLF). There were 1-2 in the campground at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., once seen eating scraps under a picnic table, from 9 to 28 May (JLF, DCP, DRP). Others were 1 in Marion on 11 May (JiD), 1 at Lakin Sl. on 12 May (EuA/EIA), and 2 at Lamb's Grove on 24 May (GJB).

**Scarlet Tanager:** Reports from NW Iowa were singles on 16 May at Kettleston Hogsback (LAS) and Cherokee (MMB).

**Blue Grosbeak:** A male was at the usual location near Croton on 3 May (EuA/EIA) [2nd earliest]. In Fremont Co., the first was on 10 May (BKP).

**Indigo Bunting:** A non-singing male appeared on 20 Apr in Lee Co. (RIC) [record earliest].

**Dickcissel:** The first was on 2 May in Johnson Co. (JLF). In Cerro Gordo Co. none were seen, and they were described as conspicuous by their absence (JLW).

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** 1 of the spotted race was in Des Moines on 1 May (PA/RA).

**American Tree Sparrow:** The last were 6 on 26 Apr in Marshall Co. (MPr).

**Chipping Sparrow:** 1 was singing on 26 Mar at Fairfield (DCP-details) [record earliest].

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** All reports were from early May with 1 at Hickory Hill P. on 1 May (THK, JLF), 1 in Marshall Co. on 2 May (MPr), 3 in Iowa City on 3 May (JLF), and 1 at De Soto N.W.R. on 7 May (JLF, THK).

**Vesper Sparrow:** The first were singles on 4 Apr at Cone M. (JLF) and in Boone Co. (SRL).

**Lark Sparrow:** The first were 2 on 18 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC) [3rd earliest].

**Savannah Sparrow:** 4 were at the Runnells A. on 16 Apr (JiS).

**Baird's Sparrow:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** The first were 2 on 18 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 1 on 19 Apr in Lee Co. (THK).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 1 was in a slough n. of Rock Falls on 4 May (CN-details). At least 3 were near Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 9 May (\*JLF, m.ob.).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** Reports were of 1 on 1 May at Trumbull L. (LAS), 1 heard before sunrise at Cone M. on 7 May (PCP), 1 in Ida Co. on 10 May (PE), and 2 at Lakin Sl. on 14 May (THK).

**Fox Sparrow:** The first were 6 on 6 Mar at Cone M. (THK). The last were 11 on 22 Apr at Rock Creek S.P. (MPr).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** The first were 2 on 29 Apr in Wright Co. (DeC).

**Swamp Sparrow:** The first was on 1 Mar in Polk Co. (PA/RA).

**White-throated Sparrow:** May reports included 1 at Hickory Hill P. on 18 May (THK, JLF) and on 31 May at Fairfield (CAA).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** The last was on 10 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (JLW).

**Lapland Longspur:** 40 were in Grundy Co. on 17 Mar (MPr). The only others reported were in Johnson Co. with 1 on 3 Apr (JLF) and 75 on 4 Apr (AMJ).

**Smith's Longspur:** 1 was in Cherokee Co. on 4 Mar (\*MMB) [3rd earliest]. In Johnson Co., 100 were found on 28 Apr (THK) and smaller numbers seen until to 5 Apr (JLF, AMJ, DRP). The only other report followed the record late snowfall near Percival in Fremont Co. where 10 were seen on 22 Apr (BKP).

**Chestnut-collared Longspur:** Following the April snowfall in W Iowa, birds were found at two locations on the Missouri R. bottoms in Fremont Co. with 2 on 22 Apr (BKP) and 5-25 on 23 Apr (BKP, \*BJR-photos)[record latest]. A road-killed specimen was sent to Iowa State University.

**Bobolink:** A male was in Johnson Co. on 23 Apr (JLF).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 75 were near Lakin Sl. on 13 Apr (THK).

**Rusty Blackbird:** The first were 3 on 13 Mar in Cerro Gordo Co. (DRP).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** The first was a female with a dark eye on 4 Mar in Boone Co. (MPr). Only other Mar sighting was on the 7th when 2 were at Zirbel Sl. (JLW-details). Others were 1 in Warren Co. on 1 Apr (AMJ-details), 1 on 12 Apr at Coralville Res. (DLD), 11 males in Cerro Gordo Co. on 23 Apr (\*DRP), and 10 at Colo Ponds on 25 Apr (MPr).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** The first was a male near L. Manawa on 24 Apr (BKP); 1 male and 5 females were there on 23 May (\*DRP). Reports of 23 birds from 14 locations suggest that this species is expanding in numbers and range. From 1 to 8 birds were in Fremont, Pottawattamie, Guthrie, Greene, and Crawford counties. Unusually far east were a male in Louisa Co. on 30 Apr (\*BO) and a male at Coralville Res. on 8 May (\*JLF).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** A flock of 350 in Warren Co. on 17 Mar had a 5:1 ratio favoring males (JiS).

**Orchard Oriole:** 8 in the same tree with 7 Northern Orioles in Lee Co. points to a fallout on 25 Apr (RIC) [2nd earliest]. Another peak was 6 on 20 May at Rock Creek S.P. (MPr).

**Purple Finch:** The last were 3 on 9 May at a Fairfield feeder (DCP).

**House Finch:** Nesting was reported from Cass Co. on 10 Apr (MAP) and Boone Co. on 1 May (SRL).

**White-winged Crossbill:** A male visited a feeder n. of Montrose from 23 Feb to 9 Mar (Margaret Bailey fide JLF).

**Common Redpoll:** 8-10 were at a feeder near Plymouth on 10 Mar (CN).

**Pine Siskin:** Still at feeders were 25 in Davenport on 7 May (PCP) and 11 in Mason City on 8 May (RG).

**Evening Grosbeak:** A female appeared briefly at a Marshalltown feeder on 17 Apr (Betty Savage fide MPr).

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#### COMMENT

Swans are not only a difficult identification problem, particularly in first-year plumage, but they also present a problem of origin. Observers should provide as much detail as possible that might help in deciding whether a bird is wild. The presence of tags is obviously useful. Sometimes it is possible to tell whether Trumpeter Swans are from the Minnesota population, which are still considered introduced and not established in the wild, or from the South Dakota population, which are now considered wild. Jim Dinsmore described an untagged first-year bird in NW Iowa. Data such as this will be useful in determining when we should change the status of Trumpeter Swan from extirpated to regular. A Mute Swan was present in NW Iowa through the end of the period. This would be a late date for a winter resident or migrant. In addition to knowing the plumage of the bird, it would be useful to know about tags, habitat, and whether it remained through the summer. Mute Swans are widely kept in captivity, so one could also ask people in the vicinity if they know where the bird came from. Obviously, we will not be able to determine the origin of every bird, but gathering information may lead to some useful conclusions.

Another continuing problem is what to do with birds reported at very unusual dates with no or fragmentary information. Is one field mark or sound identification enough to establish a record early date? Ideally, observers would be aware of unusual dates and provide full documentation. Should an undocumented early or late sighting be put into the record book while another is rejected based on a full documentation that indicates a suboptimal view? To what extent should the field reports editors try to judge the ability and experience of an observer? A full documentation usually eliminates these problems. In this report, we have not cited several records dates because of these problems. We have done this based on unusualness, difficulty of identification, and how well the observer is known to us. These decisions are always difficult and agonizing, but it seems better to abide by the principle, "If in doubt, leave it out" rather than include every record without question. One clear indication for leaving out undocumented rare sightings is that the observer did not indicate awareness of the rarity.

We received about the same amount of data as in previous years. The list of observers appears to grow longer. We thank every one for there input. We were not able to enter all of the data for reports received after June 6th.