

Season: Spring Year: 1992Name and address Jan L. Walter

Other observers (name, city):

(print 934-13th St. SE.Jim B. Walter, Mason Cityor type) Mason City, Ia 50401Use first few lines to give weather and habitat conditions. Use line(s) below species data to give additional details, if needed. Mail to: Jan 1182

use initials of obsv. on species line

~~1182~~ Jan 1182
by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Rapid snow melt & ice out provided excellent conditions for water fowl which lasted till mid-Apr. Mid-Apr. to mid May temps were much above or much below normal. Dominant weather ^{feature} was excessive amount of extremely high winds. Good May rainfall provided good shorebird conditions the last part of May.			
Cattle Egret	7	27 May	Zirbel Slough
Trumpeter Swan	2	12 Mar	w.e. Cerro Gordo Co.
1 with tag # 39 on right wing the other with # 138 on left wing Birds stayed on this pothole 12 days, 6-17 Mar according to people living in area			
Greater Scaup	3	1 Mar	Clear Lake
Watched about 5 min from a distance of about 100 yds with 20x scope, strong sun from side. Consistently showed smooth rounded head before, after dives and while on surface. Never showed peak at rear of crown			
Surf Scoter	2	12 Apr	w. end of Clear Lake
♀ or imm. Larger than near-by Coots "Sloping fore head, crown much darker than face. 2 indistinct spots on face, 1 behind eye, 1 in front. Spot in front of eye ended in straight vertical line at base of large, black Scoter shaped bill, thick at base" Viewed through 20x scope in good light "facial feathers ended at base of bill, none on bill"			
Red-breasted Merganser	2♂	1 Mar	Clear Lake
Osprey	2	1 Apr	Clear Lake

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Other observers (name, city):

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use initials of obsv. on species line

~~118~~ La 118
by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Broad-winged Hawk	2	20 May	West Park (Parker's Woods) Mason City
Swainson's Hawk	1	18 Mar	Lime Creek Cons. Area
" "	2	15 Apr	Birch Drive s. of U.S. 18 Mason City
Details of Swainson's Hawks on back side of page			
* Golden Eagle	1	10 May	n.e. Cerro Gordo Co.
See enclosed documentation			
Peregrine Falcon	1	10 May	n.e. edge of Mason City
Watched it hunt for several minutes. Large falcon, "sharply pointed wing tips, pale underwings, no dark color on axillars or underwing linings" Flight was "rapid over ground, wingbeats powerful but not deep".			
Virginia Rail	2	30 May	White Wildlife Area
Common Tern	5	27 May	Ventura Grade
Wingtips were noticeably darker than rest of wings, also darker than wingtips of Forster's Terns in same area			
Snowy Owl	1	1 Apr	e.c. Cerro Gordo Co.
Whip-poor-will	1	10 May	White Wildlife Area
Rare in area			
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	26 May	e. Mason City
Eastern Wood Pewee	1	6 May	West Park (Parker's Woods) M.C. Seen & heard
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	28 May	Yard
Western Kingbird	1	17 May	n.e. Cerro Gordo Co. (Curt Nelson's)
About same size & shape as Eastern Kingbird in same field of view of spotting scope, pale gray throat & breast, bright yellow belly, black tail with white outer feathers.			

Swainson's Hawk 18 March Seen flying above Lime
Creek Cons. Area. Soared with wings in dihedral.
"Pale under wing coverts, dark flight feathers, light body,
banded tail",

Swainson's Hawks S. Birch Drive 15 Apr.

Pair returned to 1991 nest site. Both were seen near
the nest site on 19, 21, 23, 26, and 27 April. Copulation
was observed 28 Apr. On 29 Apr 1 was perched on opposite
side of river the other soaring high. On 2 May, we saw 1
on the nest. After a few minutes, it flew off, returned
shortly and stood on the edge of the nest. It left
again and didn't return. We went back about an hour
later and it was again on the nest, down low and
barely visible. After about 5 minutes, it again left.
On 5 May, we could not see a bird on the nest, but did
see the one that appeared to be the smaller of the 2
fly upstream. We haven't seen the birds since, but
feel it's because we haven't been there at the right time.
The nest is in a large, mature maple tree on the bank
of the river on the side opposite the one Birch Drive is on.
It has been extremely well concealed ~~since~~ by dense
foliage since shortly after we last saw activity there.

