

Diane Porter

908 East Briggs  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(515) 472-7256

# Iowa Seasonal Report, Spring 92

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All reports from Jefferson County unless otherwise specified. I thought the warbler migration was diminished this year. I missed several species I usually see — Bl-thr Green, Blackburnian, N. Waterthrush. Some others I saw only once.

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ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
✓ 1	Eared Grebe	1	5/5/92	Pollution control pond, Kalona, IA	Pond
	Washington Co. Breeding plumage. Quite flashy, with shaggy golden triangular cheek patches. Adjacent to cheek patches but separate is square-topped erect crest. Red eye. Thin, straight bill. Black neck. Chestnut near waterline near back end of bird. When it dives I can follow the disturbance it makes on the surface and thus have scope on it when it comes up.				
✓ 2	American White Pelican	140	4/11/92	Overhead, Ottumwa, IA	
	Wapello Co. A big flock was kettling over Ottumwa. A beautiful sight.				
✓ 3	Double-crested Cormorant	3	3/17/92	Pollution control pond, Kalona, IA	Pond
	Washington Co. First I saw this spring.				
✓ 4	Great Egret	1	4/4/92	Pond #2, Fairfield, IA	Lake
	Not all that common in Fairfield				
✓ 5	Turkey Vulture	1	3/3/92	Rural area, Jefferson Co., IA	Flying over
	My earliest Iowa record.				
✓ 6	Osprey	1	4/5/92	Des Moines River, Van Buren Co., IA	River
✓ 7	Broad-winged Hawk	1	4/29/92	Waterworks Park, Fairfield, IA	Sky
	One flew out of trees in park. I don't see these much.				
✓ 8	Broad-winged Hawk	1	5/27/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
	Van Buren Co. Perched low among trees in overgrowth open area.				
✓ 9	Common Snipe	1	4/2/92	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Flying over
	First I saw this year				
✓ 10	Black-billed Cuckoo	1	5/20/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Riparian
	I heard it going "coo coo coó, coo coo coó, coo coo coó" in a sort of resonant slightly syncopated rhythm.				

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ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
✓ 11	Black-billed Cuckoo I don't find these very often in Fairfield.	1	5/23/92	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Pasture overgrown
✓ 12	Common Nighthawk Beats my previous early record (1989) by one day.	1	5/4/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Sky
✓ 13	Chimney Swift First. One lone swift against a stormy cloudy sky. About average for first date here.	1	4/18/92	Overhead, Fairfield, IA	Residential area
✓ 14	Ruby-throated Hummingbird First I saw in Iowa this year.	1	5/4/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
✓ 15	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Are these much more abundant than usual this year? I seem to be seeing quite a few of them.	2	4/8/92	Whitham Woods, Fairfield, IA	Trees
✓ 16	Eastern Wood-Pewee First I noted this year. Seems a bit late.	1	5/10/92	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
✓ 17	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher I finally heard an empid going pee-eee'. It was in the trees along the road near the north entrance to the park. I saw it, not so well as I would have liked for a life bird, but enough to see that it was small & yellowish below esp on lower belly, that it had wingbars and eyering & that it was the bird that was singing. It was high at the edge of the canopy. I heard it again on May 30.	1	5/27/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
✓ 18	Acadian Flycatcher All over the place! Easy to find by "peet-sáh!"; perched fairly low and in the open. Some of these had rather buffy edges on the secondaries. I thought I could say that the primary extension was rather longer than least's. Bill was light at base and dark at tip of both mandibles. Eyering prominent and thicker behind eye. Olive back and wash on upper sides of breast.	5	5/20/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Riparian
✓ 19	Alder Flycatcher Along stream, habitat of Alder rather than Willow. It was saying whit, not singing. Its primary extension was pretty long. Both mandibles appeared yellowish with no dusky tip. A little bit of yellow wash on sides and lower belly, but throat was grayish. Appeared smaller than Acadians which were also there.	1	5/24/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
✓ 20	Willow Flycatcher Singing Fitz'-bew. First I saw this year.	1	5/23/92	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Pasture, old

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ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
✓ 21	Least Flycatcher	2	5/4/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
	Empid (wing bars, long tail, olive color) with broad white eyering; olive grey above, murky white below. No yellow cast anywhere. I could not see color of lower mandible. They said chebek and whit.				
✓ 22	Eastern Phoebe	1	5/4/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
	Nest, at usual place in cliffs along stream just up from the stone bride, has 5 eggs in it.				
23	Eastern Phoebe	6	5/8/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
	The babies have hatched. They are tiny and naked.				
✓ 24	Eastern Phoebe	1	5/13/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream
	Now the babies nearly fill the nest.				
✓ 25	Eastern Phoebe	1	5/20/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Rock cliff
	Nest is full now, so that babies can just peek out over rim of nest. I am happy to see they are doing well.				
26	Eastern Phoebe	4	5/30/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Rock cliff
	The babies were not in nest when I visited on 5/27, and I feared nesting had failed. But today I see immature phoebes in the same area, so I guess they fledged all right.				
✓ 27	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	10	4/11/92	Ottumwa, IA	Lake
	First I saw this year. Wapello County.				
✓ 28	Barn Swallow	3	4/14/92	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lake
	First I saw				
✓ 29	Brown Creeper	1	4/6/92	Pond #2, Fairfield, IA	Trees
	First I saw this spring.				
✓ 30	Carolina Wren	2	3/17/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder

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✓ 31	Carolina Wren	5	5/20/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
	By the stone bridge that is less than a mile from the main entrance to the park. It was hard to count these, because they kept jumping around. At least one was a baby, with a short bill with light flanges, and with a short tail.				
✓ 32	Bewick's Wren	2	5/13/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Campground
	I heard about them on the bird line. Went to see. When I returned to my car they were under it, on it, and all around it. White supercilium. Head warm brown, but back not reddish. Underparts white, not buffy. Long barred tail seems loosely attached, swings around. White in undertail, especially outer corners. Call a metallic rattle on one pitch.				
✓ 33	Bewick's Wren	2	5/27/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Campground
	I heard the call of the wrens as I parked, the only car in campground. I walked 30 feet, turned and looked back, and the two Bewick's wrens were under the car, jumping up into the underside of the bumpers, back to ground, up to bumpers, as they did on my last visit. I think they must have learned that a new car in the campground brings fresh bugs.				
✓ 34	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	3/19/92	Whitham Woods, Fairfield, IA	Trees
	First I saw this year. High in pine trees. This was a male, with an orange crown bordered in yellow.				
✓ 35	Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	4/8/92	Whitham Woods, Fairfield, IA	Understory
	Maximum				
✓ 36	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	4/6/92	Pond #2, Fairfield, IA	Trees
	First I saw this spring. One accosted a second and revealed large red patch on crown.				
✓ 37	Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	5/2/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
	Thrush with no red tones, almost no eyering, no buffy in face.				
✓ 38	Swainson's Thrush	1	4/30/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Residential area
	No red tones in back or tail. Distinct buffy eyering. Fairly distinct spots on buffy breast (less spotted than wood thrush, more than veery)				
✓ 39	Swainson's Thrush	5	5/8/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
	There were many Swainson's and grey-cheeked thrushes on the road down to the ford. Once I had 5 in view at once. I think most of them were Swainsons. I estimate that I saw 20 Swainson'ses in all, just along that stretch of road.				
✓ 40	Swainson's Thrush	1	5/23/92	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
	Last.				

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✓ 41	Wood Thrush	1	5/2/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Deep Woods
	Heard while driving along the main park road. First I found in Iowa this year.				
42	Wood Thrush	1	5/27/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
	Heard it singing along the stream near the stone bridge above Ely Ford. I hear it there every time I go this spring.				
✓ 43	Brown Thrasher	1	4/8/92	Whitham Woods, Fairfield, IA	Understory
	First I saw this year.				
44	Loggerhead Shrike	1	4/5/92	Rural area, Van Buren Co., IA	Pasture, old
	First one I saw this spring. It was just south of Lacey Keosauqua State Park, in Van Buren Co.				
✓ 45	White-eyed Vireo	1	5/8/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
	Just upstream from stone bridge at Ely Ford. It had pale yellowish iris, white wingbars. It was not singing.				
✓ 46	Philadelphia Vireo	1	5/8/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
	First (of two) I saw this year. It was like a washed-out red-eyed vireo (no black line above supercilium), but evenly pale yellow below, and it sang a sort of washed-out version of red-eyed's song.				
✓ 47	Blue-winged Warbler	1	5/8/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
	Heard its two-part, wheeze in, wheeze out song. I did not see it. It was upstream from the stone bridge almost to the boundary of the park.				
✓ 48	Golden-winged Warbler	1	5/4/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
✓ 49	Tennessee Warbler	1	5/10/92	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
	First I saw this spring. Blue head, white supercilium, greenish back, white below including UT coverts, no wing bars, 3-part song, ending in fast trill.				
✓ 50	Tennessee Warbler	10	5/18/92	Waterworks Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
	These have been abundant.				

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ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
✓ 51	Nashville Warbler	1	5/9/92	Glasgow Acres, Fairfield, IA	Woods
	First I saw this year, though I usually see them before this.				
✓ 52	Northern Parula	5	5/13/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream
	Heard along the stream at Lacey.				
✓ 53	Northern Parula	6	5/20/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Riparian
	This time I tried to locate and count each singing parula. There were at least 2 near the stone bridge by Ely Ford, at least 2 along the stream upstream from there. I did not go down to the ford, where there are usually a few more. I also heard one by the campground and one in the low area near the main entrance, where there is a little stone bridge.				
✓ 54	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	5/4/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
	First I saw or heard this year. Sounds like "Sosososo pleased ta meetcha, dontcha see?"				
✓ 55	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	5/18/92	Waterworks Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
	These have been fairly easy to come by this spring, compared to other warblers that I have seen hardly at all or missed entirely.				
56	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	5/24/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Trees, deciduous
	Last.				
✓ 57	Magnolia Warbler	1	5/8/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
	First I saw this year. All yellow below except UT coverts. Heavy black streaks on flanks. Black and yellow face. Black below yellow throat. Big white wing patches on black wings.				
✓ 58	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	4/6/92	Pond #2, Fairfield, IA	Trees
	First I saw this spring. One was spectacularly bright, the other drab.				
✓ 59	Palm Warbler	1	4/30/92	Waterworks Park, Fairfield, IA	Trees, deciduous
	This was the only individual I saw this year, and that is unusual.				
60	Blackpoll Warbler	1	5/16/92	Camp IO-DIS-E-CA, Shueyville, IA	Woods
	Johnson Co. First I saw in Iowa this year. In fact, it is the only one. This is the latest and least I've ever seen these in Iowa.				

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ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
61	Cerulean Warbler	4	5/13/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
I kept hearing the song, 5 buzzes in quick succession and then a higher also-buzzy zheee. Then I saw a female, a tiny little thing with a wee tail. 2 white wingbars. White all under, including UT coverts. Inconspicuous supercilium. Grey/greenish/bluish upperparts.					
62	Black-and-white Warbler	1	5/4/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
First I saw this year.					
63	American Redstart	1	5/9/92	Glasgow Acres, Fairfield, IA	Woods
First I saw this year. Ties my earliest Iowa record for this species.					
64	Ovenbird	20	5/4/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
You have to drive the gauntlet of ovenbirds to get down to Ely Ford. You are never out of earshot of at least one, all the way down that road.					
65	Louisiana Waterthrush	1	5/4/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream
Eyestripe widens behind eye. No streaks on throat. Dull yellowish undertail coverts.					
66	Louisiana Waterthrush	1	5/13/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream
Clear white throat. It runs in the stream, flipping over the leaves on the surface and eating what it finds beneath them. A very energetic big warbler, teetering and scampering along the stream.					
67	Louisiana Waterthrush	1	5/24/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
Flipping over the leaves in the stream. This one's supercilium really did widen behind eye.					
68	Kentucky Warbler	2	5/13/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream
Got a good look at one. Then saw the two tumbling and wrastling around low over the stream.					
69	Kentucky Warbler	1	5/20/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
I heard it, found it, watched it. It is a beautiful creature.					
70	Mourning Warbler	2	5/27/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
Two singing males at the confluence of the streams upstream from the stone bridge at Ely Ford. Grey hoods; no eye ring; black through eye, lower mandible pink, bright yellow below, including UT coverts; no wing bars. Song a little different from Cornell tapes, but same quality - three notes that are almost phrases, then lower phrase. Also sang typical song.					

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ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
✓71	Hooded Warbler	1	5/4/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
	Heard it sing, "To eat! To eat! To eat! Tea'-oh." It was near the stone bridge at Ely Ford.				
✓72	Summer Tanager	2	5/13/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Campground
	Heard call, "tick-a-tuck" several times. Saw female. She has a big pale bill. Strong yellow below. Uppers including wings greenish. Wings are (almost) as light and bright as back.				
✓73	Scarlet Tanager	2	5/24/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
	Two males postured at one another in tall trees by the stream up from Ely Ford.				
✓74	Rufous-sided Towhee	1	4/8/92	Whitham Woods, Fairfield, IA	Understory
	Early? First I saw, and by 7 days the earliest I've ever seen it in Fairfield. I saw a robin-sized bird in undergrowth and a flash of rufous. Then I saw the long black tail with white corners. Then I heard the "yer tea-hee-hee-hee" part of the "drink yer tea" song.				
✓75	Chipping Sparrow	1	3/26/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	This is the earliest I have ever seen one in Iowa. However, I have heard one around my yard since March 23. This individual is a dainty sparrow with a rufous crown, a bright white supercilium, a black line running through the eye; unstreaked breast; fairly long, notched tail. It is frequenting my raised feeding platform.				
✓76	Field Sparrow	1	4/6/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	First I saw this spring, not especially early. Cap was not very rusty, almost streaked. Pink bill and legs; white wingbars; dingy unstreaked breast; suggestion of eye-ring. This was a drab individual.				
✓77	Fox Sparrow	1	3/8/92	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Understory
	First I saw this spring				
78	Fox Sparrow	1	4/8/92	Whitham Woods, Fairfield, IA	Understory
	The whole top of head and upper part of back were grey on this individual.				
✓79	Swamp Sparrow	2	4/2/92	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lake edge
	First sighting of year. Next sighting was of three birds in the same location on 4/14/92.				
✓80	White-throated Sparrow	1	4/16/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Residential area
	Heard it. First I've heard this spring. Not especially early, but I usually see one or two in January, and I did not this year.				



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ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
✓ 81	Dark-eyed Junco	1	4/16/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	Last I saw. It's about my usual last date for them at my feeder.				
82	Common Grackle	3	3/1/92	Glasgow Acres, Fairfield, IA	Town
	First I've seen this spring. Usually I see one or two during winter, but not this year.				
✓ 83	Purple Finch	1	5/9/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	Last I saw this year. (Last year the last one I saw was also on 5/9, in Chautauqua Park in Fairfield.)				
✓ 84	Pine Siskin	1	4/16/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	Last. Late?				
✓ 85	American Goldfinch	1	4/7/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	First I saw in completed breeding plumage this year.				
86	American Goldfinch	1	4/13/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	This individual is still moulting				

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Addendum. I left this warbler off my main report. The purple finch was on main report, but I'm adding details I omitted.

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Records: 3

ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
1	Yellow-throated Warbler	4	5/2/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees, deciduous
2	Yellow-throated Warbler	1	5/30/92	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Rock cliff
	Low, along stream and on rocky cliff bordering stream just above the stone bridge at Lacey Keosauqua.				
3	Purple Finch	1	5/9/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	Last I saw this year. (Last year the last one I saw was also on 5/9, in Chautauqua Park in Fairfield.) This was a female (brown streaks on sides, two pale stripes on side of face, looks bigger headed than house finches which are also here.				