

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

Iowa Seasonal Report, Fall, 1992

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All observations are for Jefferson County unless otherwise specified.

12/1/92
Records: 63

ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
1 ✓	Red-throated Loon See accompanying documentation	1	11/7/92	Red Rock Reservoir, Marion Co., IA	Lake
2 ✓	Common Loon This was the most loons I ever saw at one time. Their backs were quite dark; their long, sturdy-looking bills, carried level, were steely grey-blue; the line between darker dorsal and white ventral portion of neck was uneven, with areas of white intruding into the dark.	30	11/7/92	Red Rock Reservoir, Marion Co., IA	Lake
3 ✓	Double-crested Cormorant The most I've ever seen at one time in Jefferson County	6	9/21/92	Rural area, Fairfield, IA	Flying over
4	Green-backed Heron Flew overhead in the direction of Walton Lake.	1	8/7/92	Overhead, Fairfield, IA	Stream
5	Ross's Goose On a very rainy morning, one Ross's Goose was at the edge of a tiny pond inundated with Mallards. The bird was white with black wingtips and pink legs and bill. It was smaller than a Snow Goose and had a wide black stripe along the side of the bill where the mandibles meet. From my vantage point at the park shelter, I could not see warty protrubances on the base of the bill.	1	11/20/92	Morrison Park, Coralville, IA	Pond
6 ✓	Hooded Merganser Exactly 60 (counted them twice) in a small pond by the road. Males and females mixed, but no other species with them.	60	11/7/92	Red Rock Reservoir, Marion Co., IA	Lake
7 ✓	Turkey Vulture Last	1	10/11/92	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Flying over
8 ✓	Osprey All nine were separate, spaced several minutes or hours apart, but all followed the same route through the sky as if on a track.	9	9/13/92	Effigy Mounds, Allamakee Co., IA	Flying over
9	Osprey Circling slowly low over the lake near the campground.	1	9/24/92	Lake Darling, Washington Co., IA	Beach
10 ✓	Bald Eagle Two immatures and one adult. Each separate.	3	9/13/92	Effigy Mounds, Allamakee Co., IA	Flying over

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11	Bald Eagle Immature flying near the dam.	1	11/7/92	Red Rock Reservoir, Marion Co., IA	Lake
12	Northern Harrier	1	9/26/92	Snake Creek Marsh, Greene Co., IA	Marsh
13	Northern Harrier	2	11/8/92	Bialosky's place, Fairfield, IA	Trees, deciduous
14	Northern Harrier Last so far.	1	11/28/92	Rural area, Fairfield, IA	Open farmland
15	Sharp-shinned Hawk In flight. Small with rounded wings; long notched tail; head barely reached bend of wing.	1	10/11/92	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
16	Cooper's Hawk Big; head extended beyond crook of wing further than in sharpie.	1	9/12/92	near old Elon store, Allamakee Co., IA	Rural area
17	Rough-legged Hawk First I saw this fall	1	10/16/92	Carl Jackson's farm, Fairfield, IA	Trees, deciduous
18	Ruffed Grouse We heard rather than saw them, which pleased me, as I had never heard a ruffed grouse drumming before. It vibrates your chest.	2	9/12/92	Yellow River St Forest, Allamakee Co., IA	Woods
19	Wild Turkey Flushed from a blackberry patch in a grove of red cedars at my approach.	1	8/16/92	Glasgow Acres, Fairfield, IA	Trees, cedar
20	Wild Turkey	4	9/12/92	Yellow River St Forest, Allamakee Co., IA	Woods

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21	✓ Wild Turkey All 19 appeared to be females.	19	11/20/92	Lake Darling, Washington Co., IA	Forest
22	✓ Yellow Rail Flushed before us and flew down into thick fine grasses. We walked toward it and it got up and flew weakly about 15 yards. It was murky yellowish, with conspicuous white patch on ends of secondaries when viewed from behind. Bill neither long nor short. Smaller than a robin, bigger than a sparrow. On second flushing, it ran into dense fine grass like a mouse.	1	9/26/92	Snake Creek Marsh, Greene Co., IA	Marsh
23	✓ Black-bellied Plover Black axillaries in flight.	1	9/24/92	Lake Darling, Washington Co., IA	Beach
24	✓ Killdeer Last	1	11/5/92	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Shore
25	Spotted Sandpiper First I saw this fall	1	8/5/92	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lake edge
26	Pectoral Sandpiper First this fall.	1	8/19/92	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lake edge
27	✓ Bonaparte's Gull Beautiful little things, lots smaller than the ring-bills. At least two adults (pure white tail; white head with black spot behind eye, grey mantle with white triangle at outer edge of wing, with thin black edge on outer vane of last primary, black trailing edge; red legs, feet) & immature with black band on white tail; grey mantle crossed by brownish diagonal.	3	11/7/92	Red Rock Reservoir, Marion Co., IA	Lake
28	✓ Caspian Tern	2	9/2/92	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lake edge
29	Common Nighthawk Still here.	2	9/8/92	In town, Fairfield, IA	Sky
30	✓ Common Nighthawk Last	1	9/20/92	In town, Fairfield, IA	Flying over

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31	✓ Chimney Swift	7	8/24/92	Fairfield HS Chimney, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
	Only seven! Last year this time there were over 1000. Apparently Fairfield High School chimney has been blocked, because the swifts were not seen using it this year. The chimney had been used by swifts since the early 40s, in aggregations up to 6000 birds at a time, so this is a loss.				
32	✓ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	9/13/92	Effigy Mounds, Allamakee Co., IA	Trees
	It or its kin apparently had pretty well demolished a birch tree next to the visitors' center.				
33	Pileated Woodpecker	1	9/12/92	Yellow River St Forest, Allamakee Co., IA	Woods
	A male.				
34	✓ Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	9/14/92	Backbone State Park, Delaware Co., IA	Trees
	A portly flycatcher. White tufts escaping onto back from under wings. Dark vest with white down middle of front as if vest unbuttoned.				
35	✓ Eastern Phoebe	1	10/11/92	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
	Last.				
36	✓ Tree Swallow	3	11/7/92	Red Rock Reservoir, Marion Co., IA	Lake
	At the White Breast area, three tree swallows flew low over the water. Small birds; slightly forked tails; underparts clear white. This is the latest I have ever seen swallows of any kind in Iowa.				
37	✓ Barn Swallow	10	8/24/92	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Golf course
	One was an almost-pure albino. A little dusky on the back. It has a forked tail and is the same size and shape as the other barn swallows, with which it is flying around Hole Number 8 at the Walton Golf Course. Greenskeeper says he has been seeing it for about two weeks.				
38	Carolina Wren	1	8/21/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Trees, deciduous
	I've been hearing it for several days.				
39	Carolina Wren	1	11/20/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Residential area
	I heard it singing at about 7 A.Ml.				
40	✓ Sedge Wren	10	9/26/92	Snake Creek Marsh, Greene Co., IA	Marsh
	Supercilium scruffier and less distinct than marsh wrens'. Indistinct, fine white stripes on back of head. Back of neck brown. Back finely streaked with white on some individuals, streaks not evident on other individuals.				

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41	✓ Marsh Wren	10	9/26/92	Snake Creek Marsh, Greene Co., IA	Marsh
	Bold white streaks on back, crown unstreaked. White supercilium, well defined.				
42	✓ Golden-crowned Kinglet	10	10/12/92	Glasgow Acres, Fairfield, IA	Trees, deciduous
	Maximum				
43	✗ Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	11/9/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Trees, deciduous
	LAST?				
44	✓ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	10/12/92	Glasgow Acres, Fairfield, IA	Trees, deciduous
	Maximum				
45	✓ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	11/4/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Residential area
	Last				
46	Brown Thrasher	1	9/20/92	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Park
	It flew in normally, landed in leaf litter and rapidly dug in leaves and ate things. It seemed not to notice 20 beginning birders crowding around it to watch. An hour later, it was gone.				
47	Loggerhead Shrike	2	8/13/92	Rural area, Douds, IA	Roadside
48	Solitary Vireo	1	9/12/92	Yellow River St Forest, Allamakee Co., IA	Woods
49	✓ Orange-crowned Warbler	2	10/12/92	Glasgow Acres, Fairfield, IA	Trees, deciduous
	Greenish yellow undertail coverts; indistinct, very slurred streaks on drab olive yellow breast, esp on sides of breast; suggestion of pale supercilium; no wing bars.				
50	✓ Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	11/21/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Wash. hawthorne
	Very surprisingly late warbler. I first thought it was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, because of small size and flicky wings. Two white wingbars. A sharp little warbler beak. Breast and belly white. Flanks orangey buff, like a bright Tufted Titmouse (this worries me a whole lot). Head and back chartreuse, with inconspicuous murky streaks. A tiny white eyering, no eye stripe.				
	<i>I know this sighting is problematical. Too late; and the flanks should not have been washed w/ color at this season. But if it is something anyone can name, I'd be very interested in their opinion. If it had not been for the flanks, I would have been sure it was a chestnut-sided warbler. Any ideas?</i>				

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51	Black-throated Blue Warbler	2	9/12/92	Yellow River St Forest, Allamakee Co., IA	Woods
	A male with entirely black head and a white patch on wing; female rather bright buffy below, also with white "handkerchief." These two were surprisingly up high in trees. The male, however, came down and looked at us at eye level from a distance too close to focus binoculars, to the extreme delight of all, especially Beth Brown.				
52	Yellow-rumped Warbler	5	10/16/92	Carl Jackson's farm, Fairfield, IA	Trees, deciduous
	Maximum and last				
53	Scarlet Tanager	1	9/12/92	Yellow River St Forest, Allamakee Co., IA	Woods
	Yellowish with black wings; deeper brighter color on undertail coverts				
54	Northern Cardinal	2	8/22/92	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	The bald male is feeding a juvenile male. So I guess at least one of the young had fledged and escaped the squirrel. The adult's head is entirely bald now, to his shoulders. His ear holes are very visible.				
55	Indigo Bunting	1	9/20/92	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Park
	Last				
56	Le Conte's Sparrow	30	9/26/92	Snake Creek Marsh, Greene Co., IA	Marsh
	Lighter ochre face and lighter overall than the sharp-tailed sparrows. Nice triangular grey cheek patch. White stripe through crown, like grasshopper sparrow. Breast and sides buffy orange. Sides streaked. Nape faintly streaked. Not quite so skulking as sharp-tailed sparrows. Sometimes one came out and looked us over.				
57	Sharp-tailed Sparrow	3	9/26/92	Snake Creek Marsh, Greene Co., IA	Marsh
	Buff-ochre sides of face, with dark grey cheek patch. Crown dark grey. White streaks on back. Short, scruffy tail. A furtive sparrow in the tall grass.				
58	Fox Sparrow	1	10/25/92	Whitham Woods, Fairfield, IA	Trees, deciduous
	I'm just including it because I don't see them often in fall.				
59	Swamp Sparrow	50	9/26/92	Snake Creek Marsh, Greene Co., IA	Marsh
	This was a lot of Swamp Sparrows.				
60	Western Meadowlark	1	8/1/92	Fleischmans' place, Fairfield, IA	Rural area
	Singing from a fence wire. I have not heard these often in my part of the state in summer.				

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61	Common Grackle	5000	9/20/92	MIU Campus, Fairfield, IA	Trees, deciduous
	Big roost has been there every night for about a week or ten days. I estimated the number by sheer guess when the birds startled, departed, and then returned in a long wide stream that took several minutes to pass where I stood. The sound of their wings roared when they took flight together.				
62	Purple Finch	3	10/24/92	Whitham Woods, Fairfield, IA	Trees, deciduous
	First I saw this fall. Two females, one male				
63	American Goldfinch	3	9/20/92	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Park
	Nest with very young nestlings, not up to the rim of the nest yet.				