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June 1, 1993

## FIELD REPORTS - SPRING 1993

### WEATHER

Cool and wet weather prevailed. Most May mornings felt more like March. Cardinal Marsh was not ice-free until mid April, compared to early March in 1992.

### GENERAL TRENDS

Most species arrived later than usual. The early waterfowl ~~migration~~<sup>migration</sup> largely by-passed Winneshiek Co. because of ice-covered ponds. April waterfowl counts at Cardinal Marsh were only about 25% of those of last year. The water level at the main pond at Cardinal Marsh was lowered in May, producing good mudflats for migrating shorebirds which have been mostly absent in Winneshiek Co. during the previous three springs. Thrushes, other than Hermit, were scarce. The warbler migration was the best of the four springs that I've spent here and I found 24 species in Allamakee and Winneshiek counties. However, at least 10 of these species were represented by 4 or fewer individuals.

### SPECIES DATA

All Allamakee County records are from Effigy Mounds National Monument. Winneshiek County records are from Cardinal Marsh, Decorah, Highlandville, and Lake Meyer County Park. My fall Harris' Sparrow records from Cardinal Marsh were incorrectly attributed to Allamakee Co.

Dennis Carter  
Spring 1993

2

- ✓ Red-necked Grebe: Tex Sordahl saw 2 at Cardinal Marsh on 19 April and Mary Jo Hartogh found 1 there on 21 April. Relatively large size, whitish cheeks, and red neck were noted.
- ✓ Pied-billed Grebe: Peak was 340 at Cardinal Marsh on 21 Apr.
- ✓ Horned Grebe: 1 was at Cardinal Marsh on 21 Apr.
- ✓ Eared Grebe: 12 were at Silver Lake, Worth Co. on 13 May.
- ✓ American White Pelican: There were several April and May records from Winneshiek Co. The peak of 114 at Cardinal Marsh on 24 Apr was exceptionally high for this area.
- ✓ American Bittern: 1 was at Rice Lake, Winnebago Co. on 13 May.
- ✓ Cattle Egret: 1 was at Cardinal Marsh on 24 Apr.
- ✓ Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 was at Cardinal Marsh on 28 Apr.
- ✓ Green-winged Teal: A male lingered at Cardinal Marsh until 29 May.
- ✓ Gadwall: A male was still at Cardinal Marsh on 31 May.
- ✓ Lesser Scaup: 30 were at Silver Lake, Worth Co. on 13 May.
- ✓ Common Goldeneye: A male lingered at Cardinal Marsh until 9 May.
- ✓ Ruddy Duck: A pair was still at Cardinal Marsh on 31 May.
- ✓ Osprey: 1 was at Effigy Mounds National Monument on 22 Apr.
- ✓ Bald Eagle: An adult was over Cardinal Marsh on 16 May. According to Wildlife Biologist Bob Kurtt, 1 active nest had been located in Howard Co. and 2<sup>active nests</sup> in Winneshiek Co. by the end of May.
- ✓ Brown-legged Hawk: The last was 1 in Winneshiek Co. on 25 Apr.
- ✓ Sandhill Crane: 3 were flushed from a field at Cardinal Marsh on 28 Apr, 2 were seen there on 6 May, and 1 was heard there on 9 May. 2 were seen flying over Effigy Mounds N.M. on 22 May.

Dennis Carter  
Spring 1993

3

- ✓ Semipalmated Plover: 6 were at Cardinal Marsh on 16 May and 3 still there on 29 May.
- ✓ Ruddy Turnstone: 14, in alternate plumage, were at Cardinal Marsh on 25 May and 3 (also seen by Tex Sordahl) were there on 26 May.
- ✓ Semipalmated Sandpiper: Peak was 150 at Cardinal Marsh on 26 May.
- ✓ White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 were at Cardinal Marsh on 26 May.
- ✓ Dunlin: First was 1 at Cardinal Marsh on 21 Apr and peak was 40 at Cardinal Marsh on 25 May.
- ✓ Red-necked Phalarope: A male and female (also seen by Tex Sordahl) were at Cardinal Marsh on 26 May.
- ✓ Franklin's Gull: 1 was at Cardinal Marsh on 25 May.
- ✓ Black Tern: Peak was 40 at " " on 26 May.
- ✓ Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 was at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 8 May.
- ✓ Ruby-throated Hummingbird: A female was seen on a nest at Decorah on 26 May.
- ✓ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: More than usual this spring, e.g. 4 at Lake Meyer, Winneshiek Co. on 12 April and 4 at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 22 May.
- ✓ Olive-sided Flycatcher: Singles were at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 14 May and at Cardinal Marsh on 29 and 31 May.
- ✓ Eastern Wood Pewee: Returned to <sup>Decorah</sup> Winneshiek Co. on 10 May.
- ✓ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Four Winneshiek Co. records with the first at Decorah on 18 May and the last (found by Francis L. Moore) at Cardinal Marsh on 31 May.
- ✓ Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 was at Decorah on 26 Apr.

Dennis Carter  
Spring 1993

4

- ✓ Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Peak was 24 at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 22 Apr.
- ✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: First was 1 at Cardinal Marsh on 24 Apr.
- ✓ Hermit Thrush: Peak was 11 (scattered) at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 22 Apr.
- ✓ Loggerhead Shrike: A pair was at Cardinal Marsh from 30 Apr until 25 May.
- ✓ Solitary Vireo: Singles were at Cardinal Marsh on 30 Apr and 6 and 19 May.
- ✓ Golden-winged Warbler: A male was at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 8 May.
- ✓ Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 (yellow undertail coverts seen) at Highlandville, Winneshiek Co. on 20 May was late.
- ✓ Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1 was still at Decorah on 28 May.
- ✓ Magnolia Warbler: More than usual this spring. Last was 1 at Cardinal Marsh on 25 May.
- ✓ Yellow-rumped Warbler: Last were 3 at Cardinal Marsh on 25 May.
- ✓ Palm Warbler: Peak was 8 at Cardinal Marsh on 9 May and last was 1 at Cardinal Marsh on 16 May.
- ✓ Bay-breasted Warbler: A male was at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 8 May.
- ✓ American Redstart: This was the most numerous warbler species. Peaks were 40 in Allamakee Co. on 8 May, 25 at Decorah on 18 May, and 20 at Cardinal Marsh on 25 May.
- ✓ Prothonotary Warbler: A singing male at Cardinal Marsh on 29 May was my first for Winneshiek Co.

Dennis Carter  
Spring 1993

5

- ✓ Kentucky Warbler: 1 was at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 8 May.
- ✓ Mourning Warbler: First was 1 at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 14 May and last was 1 at Cardinal Marsh on 29 May. 3 additional birds were seen in Winneshiek Co.
- ✓ Canada Warbler: Singles were at Decorah on 24 and 28 May.
- ✓ Fox Sparrow: First and the peak were 12 in one Decorah locality on 1 Apr.
- ✓ Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 were at Cardinal Marsh on 6 May.
- ✓ Swamp Sparrow: Peak was 34 at Cardinal Marsh on 21 Apr.
- ✓ White-throated Sparrow: Last was 1 at Decorah on 24 May.

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