

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

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12/1/91
Records: 88

ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
1	American White Pelican This number is merely an impression. I did not and could not count them.	1000	9/13/91	Runnells Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA	Lake
2	Double-crested Cormorant Last	1	11/13/91 ✓	Fairfield, IA	Fly Over
3	Great Blue Heron Maximum.	5	8/9/91	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lake
4	Great Egret	1	9/13/91	Runnells Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA	Lake
5	Canada Goose 100 Canadas, flying south over the town.	100	11/2/91	Fairfield, IA	Fly Over
6	Northern Pintail	2	9/13/91	Runnells Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA	Lake
7	Turkey Vulture The number is not a mere estimate. From one location, at Ely Ford, I counted 60 TVs at one time. They were kettling and loafing along the river and over the adjacent cropland.	60	9/29/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Rural Area
8	Osprey It was hunting fairly low over the water, just as the sun was coming up. This was a beautiful sight.	1	9/21/91 ✓	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lake
9	Osprey See note under bald eagle, next entry.	1	9/29/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	River
10	Bald Eagle Adult bald eagle chases osprey downstream over Des Moines River. Osprey turns and evades; the eagle, bigger and less maneuverable, follows it. The osprey circles back over the bank and dense trees. A tiny fish drops falls from its talons. Eagle descends, following fish toward trees, probably losing it. Osprey flies downstream, and eagle returns to follow osprey again.	1	9/29/91	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	River

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11	Peregrine Falcon See accompanying documentation.	2	9/14/91 ✓	Runnells Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA	Mud Flats
12	Sora Erma Hartman found it dead in the street near a golf course in Fairfield and showed it to me. There is no water at the golf course in question.	1	9/ ²⁶ 23 /91 ✓	Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard
13	Sora Sora slips between tall grasses on drier ground near the lake. A weasel was working the same area at the same time. Do weasels eat soras?	1	10/1/91 ✓	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Shore
14	Black-bellied Plover Basic plumage. Black axillars. White wing stripe visible in flight. Bigger than the killdeer.	5	9/13/91 ✓	Runnells Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA	Mud Flats
15	Lesser Yellowlegs Lots of em.	500	9/13/91 ✓	Runnells Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA	Mud Flats
16	Solitary Sandpiper It's a pretty heavily frosty morning, so I'm surprised to see this solitary sandpiper still at the lake.	1	10/6/91 ✓	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Shore
17	Solitary Sandpiper Dark back with white spots. Last.	1	10/11/91 ✓	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Shore
18	Willet Bigger, plainer, lighter-colored than the stilt sandpipers and lesser yellowlegs. Plain grey back when standing. Long, straight bill. Black and white wing pattern in flight.	1	9/13/91 ✓	Runnells Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA	Mud Flats
19	Ruddy Turnstone In basic plumage. Stayed apart from other birds along dikes at Runnells. Hid in the foam when the peregrines flew over. Nearly as big as killdeer. Brown markings on otherwise-white breast, but less area brown than in black turnstone. Belly white. Complex wing pattern in flight. Bill broad at base, not long like sandpiper or bulbous like plover. Orange legs.	1	9/14/91 ✓	Runnells Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA	Mud Flats
20	Sanderling One juvenile. It runs on the sandbar at Ely Ford. Smaller than killdeer; snow-white below; scaly black & white uppers; blackish patch on shoulder; black ends of primaries; distinct white supercilium; grey crown, white forehead; very black legs; straight, very black bill.	1	9/23/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	River, Sand Bar

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21	Baird's Sandpiper	1	9/13/91 ✓	Runnells Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA	Mud Flats
	At rest, the wings appear longer than the tail. The breast is buff. This is a long, slender shorebird, a bit bigger than the other peeps.				
22	Stilt Sandpiper	1	8/3/91	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Shallow Water
	It was alone at Walton Lake. It had a white rump and resembled yellowlegs, but: droop at end of bill; distinct supercilium that extends both before and behind the eye. It feeds by probing up-&-down in water, similar to dowitchers' motion.				
23	Stilt Sandpiper	500	9/13/91 ✓	Runnells Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA	Mud Flats
	Many!				
24	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	2	9/14/91 ✓	Runnells Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA	Mud Flats
	Small sandpiper with long neck and small head. No facial pattern. Black eye. Buff breast. Feeding on drier mud.				
25	Common Snipe	1	9/13/91 ✓	Runnells Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA	Mud Flats
26	Common Snipe	1	10/21/91	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Shore
	Last				
27	Caspian Tern	10	9/13/91 ✓	Runnells Wildlife Area, Warren Co., IA	Lake
	One chased another in the air. Jim Dinsmore told me to watch the feeding behavior that was about to ensue. The two terns landed, and one regurgitated food for the other. Jim said this is a typical adult/immature interaction, to be looked for during the terns' migration at this time of year. (Calling it in advance was good, I thought.)				
28	Black-billed Cuckoo	1	9/1/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees
29	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	6	9/1/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees
	There is a minor outbreak of tent caterpillars in the park, and the cuckoos were numerous.				
30	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	9/23/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees
	Adult feeding fledgeling (smaller than adult, with shorter tail).				

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31	Chimney Swift	657 ✓	8/11/91	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
	Before a swift enters the chimney, its horizontal motion halts. It stalls, then drops straight down, wings flailing, perhaps in an effort to remain over the chimney. For some reason, birds appear darker during their descent than on sweeps past the chimney opening. Tonight they trickled down between 8 and 8:45. I have not seen them spread out their roosting times like this before.				
32	Chimney Swift	2400	8/17/91	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
	A big crowd tonight. When they were all circling the chimney, the train went by (it's near the school) and blasted its whistle, they scattered like wind-blown smoke. They were back in a moment. Several times they also shied at the grunts of the nighthawks that circled with them. All went down quickly in a period of under ten minutes.				
33	Chimney Swift	1600	8/20/91	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
	They didn't go down till nearly dark. I think they were frightened by the boys' football practice. The athletes trooped to the showers right past the chimney even as the swifts circled it, and some birds may have gone elsewhere to roost. The birds did not start going down until the boys left, at 8:20 P.M. Then they descended quickly, making it difficult to count them.				
34	Chimney Swift	1965	8/30/91	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
	They went down the chimney between 8:05 and 8:15 P.M., when it was quite dark, as sometimes happens. This makes it hard to count. (When the birds are going down thickly, I count groups of tens and keep a tally of hundreds, then figure the total when it's over.) I had estimated about 2500-3000 from the crowd in the air before they started their descent.				
35	Chimney Swift	2670	9/11/91	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
36	Chimney Swift	2960	10/5/91	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
	Approaching maximum				
37	Chimney Swift	4000 ✓	10/7/91	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
	Maximum. 2600 went down at dusk, while an estimated 1400 remained in the air. Then those that had gone down all poured out again. (This is not what usually happens.) It appeared that the whole crowd finally went back down the chimney, though it was getting too dark to see well.				
38	Chimney Swift	14 ✓	10/9/91	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
	Big decrease from two nights earlier. I've only one other time seen swifts come right back out of the chimney at night, as described in previous entry. That was on 10/12/89, when ten did that, and that was the last I saw swifts that season. Might it be some restlessness and urgency to get on with migration? I wonder if they migrate at night.				
39	Chimney Swift	4 ✓	10/10/91	Fairfield High School, Fairfield, IA	Chimney
	Last of the season.				
40	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	10/3/91 ✓	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard
	Two sapsuckers - an adult, with a red throat, and an immature - came to Washington hawthorne and ginnala maple trees.				

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41	Tree Swallow	1500	9/20/91 ✓	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	On overhead wires
	About 2000 swallows massed for migration on the power or phone wires near Walton Lake. About 1500 of them were tree swallows, the rest barn swallows. The adult tree swallows were blue-green above, the immatures brown above.				
42	Carolina Wren	1	8/1/91	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Residential Area
	This bird has been around for about a week. I hear it every morning.				
43	Carolina Wren	2	8/30/91 ✓	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Garden
	The Carolina wrens have been around my neighborhood for several weeks, sometimes singing in a ravine near my house. I have not heard them for several days, but this morning I saw two in my garden.				
44	Carolina Wren	8	9/1/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream
	There were 3 or 4 in the trees by the boat dock, making a terrific ruckus. Then several more along the dry stream bed where in wetter seasons the stream empties into the river.				
45	Carolina Wren	1	9/20/91	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Residential Area
	I hear them. They're still around.				
46	Carolina Wren	1	10/23/91	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard
	Last.				
47	Winter Wren	1	11/4/91 ✓	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard
	In yew outside my office, this bird is the size of a smallish walnut. It fans a tiny tail, only the length of my fingernail, and reveals white in the corners. It has a distinctly-barred belly and undertail coverts, reddish wings, whitish supercilium. It was searching the tangled bases of the shrubs. The junco that tried (but failed) to run it off was huge next to it.				
48	Marsh Wren	3	10/5/91 ✓	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lakeside
	Maximum.				
49	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	10/30/91	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard
	Last				
50	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10	9/29/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees
	Maximum				

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51	Ruby-crowned Kinglet Last	1	10/30/91 ✓	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard
52	Gray Catbird Last	1	10/30/91 ✓	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard
53	Red-eyed Vireo Abundant and singing in trees throughout park.	8	9/1/91	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream
54	Golden-winged Warbler Startlingly beautiful birds. Plumage is as in spring.	2	9/1/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream
55	Tennessee Warbler Abundant in trees over stream.	20	9/1/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream
56	Chestnut-sided Warbler Three together. Two had dark chestnut still on sides. The third was the typical fall chestnut-sided, with no color on flanks, chartreuse head.	3	9/2/91	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	Trees
57	Magnolia Warbler One of the two most abundant warblers here today, the other being bay-breasted.	5	9/2/91	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	Railroad Tracks
58	Yellow-rumped Warbler Up the stream from Ely ford	100	9/29/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees
59	Yellow-rumped Warbler Last	1	10/21/91 ✓	Glasgow Acres, Fairfield, IA	Trees
60	Black-throated Green Warbler Abundant in trees over stream.	20	9/1/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream

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61	Bay-breasted Warbler	30	9/1/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream
	Abundant in trees over stream. This was by far the most abundant bird of the morning. Many had a pinky wash still evident on flanks.				
62	Bay-breasted Warbler	6	9/2/91	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	Railroad Tracks
	One of the two most abundant warblers today, the other being magnolia.				
63	Black-and-white Warbler	1	8/17/91 ✓	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	Trees
	First I've seen this fall.				
64	Black-and-white Warbler	8	9/1/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream
	In trees over stream.				
65	American Redstart	2	8/14/91 ✓	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	Trees and shrubs
	By the railroad tracks. First I saw this fall. Fall? I never see them here in the summer, though I've seen them at Cone Marsh and other places in Iowa in summer.				
66	Northern Waterthrush	1	9/3/91	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	Riparian
	Bobbed its tail as it teetered along the creek. Went "teets." Eyebrow narrowed behind the eye, but it did not look yellowish.				
67	Canada Warbler	1	9/1/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream
	In trees over stream. Complete necklace of short grey stripes all the same length; conspicuous white eyering.				
68	Scarlet Tanager	2	9/29/91 ✓	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Trees
	Both immature. Mustard yellow below. Dark wings without wing bars.				
69	Indigo Bunting	3	9/2/91	Chautauqua Pk, Fairfield, IA	On overhead wires
	All were brown at first glance, but one had patches of blue in tail and body. Last.				
70	Rufous-sided Towhee	1	11/7/91 ✓	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard
	Male of eastern race (not spotted) came to my feeder in morning and evening of this one day. This is my latest date for this species here.				

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71	American Tree Sparrow First. Central breast spot. Reddish (not black) eye line.	1	10/20/91 ✓	Glasgow Acres, Fairfield, IA	Trees
72	Chipping Sparrow Feeding on ground under the maple tree. Black line through eye. Smallest sparrow at the feeder. Last of the season?	2	11/3/91 ✓	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
73	Chipping Sparrow Last.	1	11/4/91 ✓	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard
74	Field Sparrow Last	1	10/20/91 ✓	Glasgow Acres, Fairfield, IA	Trees
75	Le Conte's Sparrow Orange supercilium; buff, unstreaked breast; distinct streaks on flanks; tiny tail; a tiny bird. It said "zzzzzt zzzzt," like an insect. I didn't get to see the crown or nape, but the call convinced me it was LeConte's rather than sharp-tailed.	1	10/5/91 ✓	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Lakeside
76	Fox Sparrow First this fall.	1	10/11/91	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Shore
77	Fox Sparrow Last.	1	11/17/91 ✓	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard
78	Lincoln's Sparrow Maximum	3	10/11/91	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Shore
79	Swamp Sparrow Maximum	5	10/11/91	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Shore
80	White-throated Sparrow Fourteen. Maximum this fall.	14	11/4/91 ✓	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder

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81	White-throated Sparrow Still here. Last.	1	11/19/91	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard
	<i>(Not so fast with the "last." Here's one this morning 12/2/91 - DP)</i>				
82	Harris's Sparrow Two big sparrows with large pink bills. One is black around base of bill and has a tiny black bib. Very white underparts. The other's side of cheek is tan, with a little bit of black behind the eye, like a short eyestripe, and it has a white throat but a mottled black bib.	2	10/21/91 ✓	Glasgow Acres, Fairfield, IA	Brush
83	Dark-eyed Junco First.	3	10/11/91 ✓	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Shore
84	Dark-eyed Junco Oregon race.	1	10/19/91 ✓	Glasgow Acres, Fairfield, IA	Trees
85	Red-winged Blackbird This female redwing had a bright orange base color. Her supercilium was bright orange, and she had orange edges on her wing and back feathers. This was a very strange-looking blackbird.	1	10/1/91	Walton Lake, Fairfield, IA	Trees and shrubs
86	Common Grackle Last	2	11/9/91	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard
87	White-winged Crossbill Erma Hartman called me in the evening and said a male white-winged crossbill had been in her yard on the 8th and 9th. It did not return on the 10th, and I did not get to see it. I have confidence in her report.	1	11/9/91 ✓	Erma Hartman's yard, Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard
88	Pine Siskin First I saw this fall were three in the cemetery in town. When I got home, there were 20 at my thistle feeders.	20	11/10/91 ✓	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Suburban yard