

Spring 1967

AFN-notes

IOWA

Weather.- March was 6 degrees warmer than the normal, April about normal but seemed cooler by contrast. May was cooler until the last week when 3 days were over 90. Rainfall below normal and in easy showers which were absorbed so there was no runoff. And with little winter snow the rivers are very low, and shallow ponds dried up.

Geese, Ducks.

At Conesville Marsh some 300 Canada and 500 Blue & Snows on Mch. 16 with some of the latter staying around until end of month, a much larger population than usual here. The first mallards on Mch. 1, but ten days later for the first wave of pintails and mallards, and others. A good duck population all spring, and staying on well into May (cooler weather?) Large numbers of shovelers and teal but perhaps noted because of limited water areas (Conesville, Swan Lake) Fewer canvasbacks and grebes. 2 horned grebes. One Swan Maych 27 (Conesville) 19 White Pelicans May 10, 11 on Reservoir. A little blue heron Mch 31 (carefully observed with S. Cogswell), several egrets in April.

Hawks.

Very few Marsh hawks, or others, except redtails. 14 broad wings on Apr. 29 and a few singles in that week. 2 Ospreys.

Sandpipers.

Rather thin pickings but perhaps because of poor habitat this year. Fewer pectorals and peeps (only 6 to 10 at a time), lesser yellow-legs the most common, and for longer period. 150 Golden Plover Apr. 23, and 6 black-bellied on May 21. more hudsonian godwits than in all previous years combined, from Apr. 25 to May 20. On May 13 some 20 birds at 3 different places. 50 dunlins on May 21

Gulls & Terns

ring-billed gulls common on Reservoir for a month (April) 2 Franklins gulls following a plow May 4, and 2 Bonapartes (imm. plumage) May 11. Forsters terns and a few caspian on Reservoir.

Flycatchers, etc. Normal migration. several Olive-sided. Usual big wave of tree swallows. A Bewicks wren Mch 31 (first in 5 yrs) and Carolina wren all spring. A mockingbird May 17

Thrushes.

Usual early hermits, and large numbers of veery, Swainsons & Gray-cheeked, with some of later still around May 27

Vireos and Warblers.

good vireo population, including a white-eyed. Red-eyes not show up until May 20 and then in numbers.

Warblers

The first early arrivals May 4 (palm, water thrush, orange-crowned) but a fine wave ~~May 9 to 13, not in large groups~~ but well distributed. Curiously no large numbers of myrtles early as usual, but with the others later. About the usual balance of species with perhaps a few more magnolias than usual, and later more bay-breasted (May 23)

Blackbirds, Sparrows, etc.

3 Yellow-headed blackbirds at Conesville for first time in several years.

A huge number of goldfinches from late winter all through the spring. So many that people were calling up about them on their feeders, and at times they would drown out warbler songs.

Sparrows about normal. A late Junco on May 21.

Shrikes and sparrow hawks quite scarce.

May 13. all day count 131 (T.H. & F.W.Kent)
"9-13 total 157

copy of report sent to Woody

Pete,

Sorry to miss Ames, but my wife was not up to it, and Tom took couple of days off so went out with him (with good list) Might try one of those surveys although I'm bit jammed up for next couple of weeks. (Day break until when??)

Had fine trip with Bob & Woody in Mach. for cranes in Nebr. Might make a good story if you can get Woody or Bob to do it.

**Name Johnson Park
For Fred W. Kent**

IOWA CITY — The Johnson county conservation board has honored an Iowa Citian very much interested in conservation by naming the new 200-acre county park 4 miles west of Tiffin after him.

The board chose the name Fred W. Kent park for the long-time head of the University of Iowa photo service.

Cypriot Bombings

Fwd