

Benny Engebretsen
12825 NW 127th Ct.
Des Moines, IA 50325

Summer 1992

- P.b. Grebe: An adult was on Moxley Prairie 7/25. There was no water on the prairie until Mid July. Grebes nested here last year.
- Pelican: on 6/14 a single bird was off of Josten, on 6/19 there were 15, by 7/11 there were 55, and birds were present the rest of the period.
- D.C. Cormorant: 2 were still present on 6/8 at Josten
- GB Heron: the colony below the dam was active this year. Last year the number of nest jumped from 38 to 194 (based on winter counts). On 6/14 most nests I could see were active. No Egrets were seen.
- Snow Goose: a single adult was present with the flock of Canada's at Josten on 6/19. Pink bill & legs, characteristic "grin" & black wing tips were observed. A large tame goose was also with the flock most of the summer.
- Cospar's Hawk: An immature was near our house, west of DSM, on 6/19
- Avocet: Eight on 7/26 at Sandpiper
- Spotted Sandpiper: present at several Saylorsville locations throughout the summer
- Upland SP: One at Moxley on 6/18 & 7/3
- Semipalmated SP: several were in a flock of 127 "peeps" on 6/8
- Least SP: at least 2 in the flock on 6/8 were later
- W.R. SP: at least 2 " " " "
- Pectoral: most of the above flock were of this species on 6/8
- SB Dowitcher: one in breeding plumage on 6/8 & 7/12 at Josten
- Stilt SP: one had returned on 7/12 at Josten
- ~~Buff-breasted SP: one two at Oak Grove Beach on~~
- Wilson Phalarope - 1 at Josten on 6/8
- Franklin's Gull - 1 immature was present until 6/19
- RB Gull - 15-20 were present all summer

Caspian Tern: 15 were at Rathbun on 6/18, one at Saylorville 6/19

Whip-poor-will: Continue to be present near Lake View

Pileated woodpecker: one below the dam at Saylorville on 6/14

Acadian Flycatcher: 1 was below the Dam at Red Rock on 6/18

Willow " : 3 ~~8~~ were present in various shelter belts near Big Creek on 6/18

Phoebe: A nest was present at Lake View on 6/18

Crested Flycatcher: 7 were present in one mile on the West side of Saylorville on 6/17

Western Kingbird: the family at the Capitol was still present 7/28

Cliff Swallow: many colonies around bridges near Saylorville

Carolinian Wren: one appeared at our home on 7/11 and sang throughout July

on 6/18 one was at Rathbun, and one at Red Rock

SB Marsh Wren: present at numerous Saylorville locations

Gratcatcher: seem to be common - 4 on the West side of Saylorville 6/17, 7 in Southern Iowa 6/18

Wood Thrush: For the first time, I did not find a single bird on the West side of Saylorville. In the early-mid 80's there were as many as 7. Last year 1. This year 0.

L. Shrike: One was regularly present west of the Mikolaj bridge

White-eyed Vireo: One at Lakeview on 6/14

Bull's Vireo: 7 were present in various shelter belts near Big Creek on 6/18

X.T. Vireo: 2 west of Saylorville on 6/17. 1 present all summer near our home, was seen feeding a cowbird on 7/13

Parsula Warbler: 1 below Red Rock Dam on 6/18

Cerulean Warbler: only 1 in the colony, West side of Saylorville on 6/17. Last year 3, previous years 5. Also 1 below Red Rock 6/18

Red Start: two pairs at Saylorville throughout period

Ovenbird: This bird seems to be doing well with 8 on the West side of Saylorville on 6/17 (about average). Also 8 at Rathbun on 6/18

Prothonotary Warbler: I near the hearn colony on d14

Scarlet Tanager: I found none on the west side of Saylorville, where
1 or 2 could be counted on in the past

Dickcissel: this bird continues to do well around Saylorville, tho
not as well as some years when the shoreline is low and
well covered with weeds

I am not sure of the reason for the decline in certain
Passerines on the west side of Saylorville in the last decade.
Wood Thrush, Lawrence and Tanager have declined, the Wood
Thrush drastically so. I can see no real change in habitat.
I wish I would have kept careful Lumberbird counts over the
decade, kind of course, wintering ground decline may play
a role

Benny