

Field Reports-spring 1993 Jim Dinsmore

Eared Grebe-9 at Grover Lake, 21 May (including 4 pairs, appeared they might nest there)

American White Pelican-about 100 in Ruthven area and perhaps 50 in Spirit Lake area on 20 May

Double-crested Cormorant-23 flying high over Spirit Lake on 21 May appeared to be migrating north.

12 seen at Dewey's Pasture on 22 May

American Bittern-4 calling on Spring Run W. A. on 21 May and 2 at Deweys Pasture W. A. on 22 May. Also, Julie Schreiber, one of my grad students, heard two calling on a restored wetland near Deweys Pasture in late May.

Least Bittern-one calling at Deweys Pasture on 22 May. Also Julie Schreiber saw Least Bittern on two restored wetlands in Palo Alto Co.in late May.

Cattle Egret-56 on east side of Ames, 7 May (JJD); also 1 near Maxwell on 3 May (Marlowe Wilson fide JJD), 2 at Big Creek W.A. on 7 May (Ed Powell fide JJD) and 2 near Rolfe on 9 May (Jeff Hruska fide JJD)

Black-crowned Night Heron-several seen over Rush L., Osceola Co on 20 May and over Grovers Lake on 21 May

Tundra Swan-about 20 seen at Spring Run W.A. on 2 April, somewhat west of their usual migration route

Green-winged Teal-a pair at Goose L, Greene Co. on 20 May and 1 at Jemmerson Sl. on 21 May were suggestive of breeding birds

Northern Pintail-a pair at Jemmerson Sl. on 21 May were the only pintails I saw all spring

Gadwall-several were seen in the Spirit Lake-Ruthven area on 20-22 May

American Wigeon-a male at Spring Run W.A. and another at Jemmerson Sl, both on 21 May were late (nesting?)

Northern Goshawk-1 seen on ISU campus on 1 March (Troy Olson fide JJD) and also on campus on 11 March (JJD). I saw a goshawk the next day (12 March) about 2 miles away in Ames. My guess is it was a different bird.

- ✓ Virginia Rail-several responded to tapes in the Spirit Lake area on 21-22 May
 - ✓ Sora-quite a few responded to tapes in the Spirit Lake area on 21-22 May
 - ✓ Sandhill Crane-one at Otter Creek M. on 21 April
 - ✓ Black-bellied Plover-28 w. of Ames, 25 May
 - ✓ Lesser Golden-Plover-flocks totalling ca 600 were seen passing over near Terril on 21 May
 - ✓ Willet-3 at Big Creek S.P. on 24 April (Andy Fix fide JJD)
 - ✓ Ruddy Turnstone-4 w. of Ames, 25 May
 - ✓ Dunlin-9 w of Spirit L. on 20 May were the only ones I saw
 - ✓ Red-necked Phalarope-1 w. of Ames, 25 May (white cheek, red on neck seen), JJD
- Black Tern-Numerous birds were seen in the Spirit Lake area (e.g., 40 e. of Spirit L. on 21 May and 37 w. of Estherville on 22 May). A flock of 150 was seen north of Churdan in Greene Co. on 22 May. I think these all were clearly migrants.
- ✓ Willow Flycatcher-one calling on Deweys Pasture on 22 May (I heard none in the area on the 21st although I was in appropriate habitat)
 - ✓ Tree Swallow-one a Little Wall L. on 29 March was the earliest for me
 - ✓ Ruby-crowned Kinglet-several at Smith's Slough W.A. on 20 May (late?)

- ✓ Swainson's Thrush-still groups of migrants evident at Smith's Slough W.A. on 20 May
- ✓ Gray Catbird-still groups of migrants evident at Deweys Pasture on 20 May
- Northern Parula-one carrying nesting material at Lacey Keosauqua S.P. on 15 May is indicative of nesting for a species that has not been documented nesting in Iowa. (I assume Randy Pinkston will report the nest he found)
- ✓ Yellow-rumped Warbler-several at Smith's Slough W.A. on 20 May (late)
- ✓ Louisiana Waterthrush-one in Brookside Park, Ames on 22 April was unexpected there
- ✓ Henslow's Sparrow-single birds heard calling at three different fields near Lacey Keosauqua S.P. on 15 May. Two were heard in a CRP field near Melbourne in Marshall Co. in late May by one of our grad students who is working on grassland birds and also a good birder (Matthew Patterson fide JJD).
- ✓ Great-tailed Grackle-a male and 3 females at Goose L., Greene Co. on 22 May
- ✓ White-winged Crossbill-one at State Forest Nursery, Ames on 14 May (Gordon Brown), bird seen at 20 feet, wing bars seen
- ✓ Pine Siskin-several at feeder in Ames on 23 May (Mark Widrelechner fide JJD)

Note: Water conditions were very good in the Ruthven and Spirit Lake area. Besides the usual Mallard, Canada Geese, and Blue-winged Teal, several other species including Redhead, Ruddy Duck, and Northern Shoveler seemed to be very common, and I saw them on virtually every wetland I looked at. Their numbers seemed to be higher than for at least the last 5 years.

I stopped at the Calhoun County Museum on 22 May. The Trumpeter Swan was still on display there and in reasonably good shape. I have also heard that George Van Wyngardner (sp?) is trying to find a home for his bird mounts. He is 91 years old. I hope to have a chance to

meet him this summer. In particular, the Eurasian Wigeon needs to have a permanent home.

As I was getting this ready to send off, I talked to Ted LaGrange of the DNR and heard their workers saw Cinnamon Teal at two sites. He is going to look up dates and locations and send them to me. I will forward as soon as I can.

Cinn teal

♂ 7 May SE of Androp
Steve Gastfield
fide JJD

♂ 19 May W. of Esterville
Guy Zenner
fide JJD

early
July

by phone to JJD
Mike from 6-1983