

Field reports-fall 1992

Jim Dinsmore

✓ Least Bittern-1 w of Spirit L. on 22 August (JJD)

✓ Snowy Owl-1 found dead on the road west of Nevada on 6 November by Ken Wiggers of Ames

✓ Burrowing Owl-1 was found dead on a car grill at Pocahontas and turned in to the county conservation board. It apparently was killed on 10 September (information from Stacy Newbrough)

✓ Burrowing Owl-1 was seen north of Colo on 11 September by Joe Kooiker and several others from the Story County Conservation Board. He described the bird to me including the head bobbing behavior.

✓ Northern Saw-whet Owl-1 was found in Mason City on 10 November (information from Fred Heinz of the Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board).

✓ Red-shafted Flicker-Lowell of the Iowa DNR saw one south of Clear Lake on 25 Sept.

Bretly slim

## October weather, temperatures below normal

By **MATT KELLEY**  
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The weather in Iowa this month was just a bit cooler and just a bit dryer than the norm, according to state climatologist Harry Hillaker.

Hillaker said temperatures throughout the state averaged 1 to 1½ degrees below normal, making October the seventh straight month with below-average temperatures.

Most of the state also received below-normal rainfall, although heavy rains in western Iowa brought the state-wide average up.

Rainfall in eastern and central parts of the state was well below normal, Hillaker said, which was helpful to farmers harvesting their fall crops.

In Des Moines, there had only been 1.59 inches of rain as of Friday afternoon, while the monthly average for October is 2.30 inches, Hillaker said.

But Hillaker also said precipitation patterns for the year as a whole have been extremely close to normal.

He estimated temperatures this month will average around 51 degrees. The average for October is usually around 52 degrees. But Hillaker said the average temperature so far this year of 52.1 degrees is slightly above the norm of 51.7 degrees, largely because of the extremely mild first three months of the year.