

file

FIELD REPORTS--FALL 1993

Thomas H. Kent and James L. Fuller

WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

June through August precipitation statewide totaled 26.81 inches or 14.22 inches more than normal.

Beginning in September, precipitation was below normal which led to falling water levels in most habitats throughout the state.

August continued a nine-month string of supernormal precipitation with statewide averages of 8.22 inches (nearly twice ~~of~~ normal). The temperatures were very cool during the first week but warmth and humidity prevailed from the 9th through the 29th. A change in the jet stream brought back cooler (and drier!) conditions at month's end.

September finally broke the string of flooding rains with the first monthly average below normal since October 1992. However, the month's average temperature was the coolest September since records began in 1873!

October was relatively uneventful but temperatures were again below normal as was precipitation. A hard freeze occurred on the 10th.

November was fairly quiet with only a winter storm on the 24-25th when the northwest part of the state was covered with three to ten inches of snow. The rest of the state received only light snow but there was some freezing rain and sleet. Both total precipitation and temperatures were below normal.

Statewide Temperature and Precipitation with Deviation from Normal

	Temperature, F Mean (Deviation)	Precipitation, inches Mean (Deviation)
August	72.7 (+1.0)	8.22 (+4.19)
September	57.9 (-5.5)	3.75 (-0.08)
October	49.7 (-2.4)	1.33 (-1.20)
November	34.6 (-2.8)	1.08 (-0.70)

GENERAL TRENDS

Grebes were reported in good numbers this fall, including 6 Westerns and 1 Red-necked. In spite of all of the water present, the numbers of Great Blue ~~and~~ Herons and Great Egrets was not impressive, but Cattle Egrets staged a major invasion with nesting for only the thrid time. Although there was extensive water habitat in August, the number of shorebirds appeared to be below average, but more than during the spring period this year. The number of waterfowl was not impressive, but they may have passed through over time without large peaks. More scoters than usual were reported. Raptor movements are being monitored in Marshall and Pottawattamie counties, which hopefully will give us a better picture of their fall migration in Iowa. Snowy Owls and, especially, Red-breasted Nuthatches staged major invasions. Warblers were reported in high concentrations by a number of observers, such as the 260 birds of 15 species seen at Hickory Hill P. by Randy Pinkston on 6 Sep. Winter finches were present in small numbers with no evidence of an invasion year for any species.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS



Two potentially new state birds, Reddish Egret and Ross's Gull, were photographed and seen by many. The egret was quite unexpected, because it rarely strays from coastal waters. For unexplained reasons, it showed up in several other northern states this fall. Ross's Gull has occurred once each in four states touching Iowa, but still came as a big surprise, especially at a record early date. A Gyrfalcon at the fall I.O.U. meeting would be only the second record and was also very early. Other accidental species were Laughing Gull, California Gull, and Sabine's Gull. A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was shot in western Iowa. Other records of this species have been considered possible escapees.

**SPECIES DATA (\* = documented)**

**Common Loon:** The first was at Red Rock Res. on 17 Oct (PHA/RIA). The peak was 9 at Coralville Res. on 10 Nov (DRP). The last 2 were at Rathbun Res. on 28 Nov (TNJ).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 4 juv. at Cardinal M. on 31 Aug suggested late nesting (DeC). The high count was 106 at Prairie L. in Dickinson Co. on 8 Sep (LAS).

**Horned Grebe:** The first were 8 at Red Rock Res. on 10 Oct (JSi). From 1 to 8 were reported from 10 other locations, the last at Rathbun Res. on 26 Nov (TNJ).

**Red-necked Grebe:** 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 21-22 Nov (BE, \*AMJ).

**Eared Grebe:** 2 ad. and 1 yg. were at Grover's L. in Dickinson Co. on 21 Aug (LAS). Others were 1 at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 24 Sep (THK), 3 at different locations in Dickinson Co. from 24 to 26 Sep (m.ob.), 4 on IPL Ponds on 25 Sep (BKP/LJP), and 1 near Doon in Lyon Co. on 20 Oct (JV).

**Western Grebe:** 1 at Grover's L. on 15 Aug (NB) may have been the same as 1 seen at West Hottes L. on 21 Aug and 25-26 Sep (m.ob.). Others were at Red Rock Res. on 10, 17, 23, and 31 Oct (RLC, JSi, PHA/RIA, MPr), at L. Manawa on 12, 17 Oct (BKP/LJP), at Trumbull L. on 29 Oct (MMB), at Hickory Grove P. in Story Co. on 21 Nov (MPr), and at Saylorville Res. on 22, 28 Nov (AMJ, BE).

**American White Pelican:** 1 was at Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 6 Aug (THK). High counts were 1,200 at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. on 20 Sep, 1,000 at Red Rock Res. on 12 Sep (DCP), 550 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 14 Sep (MCK), and 119 at Coralville Res. on 22 Aug (DRP). There were still 3 at Red Rock Res. on 28 Nov (JSi) and 2 at Rathbun Res. on 29 Nov (TNJ).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** High counts were 3,000 at Runnells A. on 3 Oct (JSi), 1,100 at Coralville Res. on 8 Oct (THK), and 440 at Hitchcock N.A. on 9 Oct (BKP/LJP).

**American Bittern:** The only report was of 1 in Clay Co. on 26 Sep (MPr).

**Least Bittern:** At Zirbel Sl., 5 were seen on 4 Aug and 3 on 1 Sep (CJF). At Snake Creek M., 1 was seen on 30 Sep (DHe).

**Great Blue Heron:** A nest found on 8 Aug near Sycamore Access was 0.5 miles away from the main colony at Saylorville Res. (RIC).



- Great Egret:** High counts were 104 on 17 Oct at Runnells W.A. (PHA/RIA), 89 at Saylorville Res. on 14 Aug (BE), 60 at Coralville Res. on 8 Oct (THK), 34 in Fremont Co. on 7 Aug (BKP/LJP), and 26 at Grammer Grove on 9 Oct (PHA/RIA).
- Little Blue Heron:** 2 ad. were in Fremont Co. on 7 Aug (BKP/LJP).
- Reddish Egret:** An imm. bird was studied and photographed w of Colfax in Jasper Co. from 5 to 10 Sep (\*TS, \*AMJ, \*PCP, \*WRS, \*THK, \*PHA, \*JLF, \*RLC, \*DRP, \*CE).
- Cattle Egret:** Reports were from 10 counties with high counts of 234 in Mills Co. on 7 Aug (BKP/LJP), 200 in Fremont Co. on 2 Aug (BKP/LJP), 50 at Rathbun Res. on 18 Sep (TNJ), and 35 in Monona Co. on 1 Oct (PE). On 9 Aug, 29 including yg. on a nest were seen at the Martin Marietta quarry at Marshalltown (JJD). The last 2 were there on 14 Nov (MPr, BPr).
- Green-backed Heron:** The last were 2 at Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 8 Oct (THK).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Singles were e of Marshalltown on 9 Aug (JJD) and 18 Sep (MPr) and at Lost Island L. on 26 Sep (MPr). On 29 Sep, 12 were at Zirbel Sl. (RGo), and on 24 Oct 2 imm. were in Clay Co. (LAS).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 2 were in Fremont Co. on 20 Aug (BKP/LJP).
- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** 1 was shot at Blue L. in Monona Co. on 24 Oct (TJH-photos, \*JJD).
- Tundra Swan:** 1 ad. was reported near Missouri Valley on 20-22 Nov (PE, BKP/LJP).
- Trumpeter Swan:** Reports without details were received from two locations.
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** There were only three reports.
- Snow Goose:** An imm. was at Red Rock Res. on 7 Sep (JLF). By 11 Nov there were 450,000 at De Soto N.W.R. (BKP/LJP). A tame hybrid blue/canada goose was photographed at close range at Marshalltown on 6 Oct (\*MS, photos by Garry Brandenburg).
- Ross's Goose:** from 1 to 7 were seen at De Soto N.W.R. from 10 to 22 Nov (BKP/LJP, PE).
- Wood Duck:** 400 were at Kettleston Hogsback A. on 11 Sep (LAS).
- Green-winged Teal:** 200 were at Runnells A. on 3 Oct (JSi).
- American Black Duck:** The first was at Coralville Res. on 11 Oct (DRP).
- Mallard:** 10,700 were at Saylorville Res. on 28 Nov (BE).
- Blue-winged Teal:** 1,500 were at Rathbun Res. on 25 Sep (RLC).
- Northern Shoveler:** 90 were at Rathbun Res. on 7 Nov (RLC). The last were 3 at De Soto N.W.R. on 18 Nov (BKP/LJP).
- Gadwall:** 120 were at L. Manawa on 22 Oct (BKP/LJP).
- Redhead:** 72 were at Rathbun Res. on 20 Nov (RLC).
- Ring-necked Duck:** Up to 4 summering birds remained at Swan L. in Johnson Co. to at least 3 Sep (THK, DRP, JLF).
- Greater Scaup:** An imm. male was at Pleasant Creek S.P. on 13 Nov (CE-details).
- Lesser Scaup:** 5,000 were at Saylorville Res. on 7 Nov (BE).



**Oldsquaw:** Sightings were from IPL Ponds on 6 Nov (BKP/LJP), L. Manawa on 17, 23 Nov (BKP/LJP), Pleasant Creek S.P. with 1-2 on 26-28 Nov (DLD, JLF), and Red Rock Res. with 2 on 28 Nov (JSi).

**Black Scoter:** Reports were of females or immatures with 1-2 at Pleasant Creek S.P. from 3 Nov (CE) to 28 Nov (m.ob.)(3rd latest] and 1 at Rock Creek S.P. on 13, 20 Nov (MPr, DRP).

**Surf Scoter:** Singles were at L. Manawa on 6 Nov (BKP/LJP) and Rathbun Res. on 7 Nov (RLC, PHA/RIA).

**White-winged Scoter:** The first were 4 at Red Rock Res. on 1 Nov (PCP). Males were at Morehead P. on 6 Nov (PE) and Pleasant Creek S.P. on 28, 30 Nov (THK, JLF). Females or immatures were found at Pleasant Creek S.P. on 4 Nov (CE, THK), at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 8 Nov (RGo), at Blue L. on 11 Nov (PE), and near Rathbun Res. on 19-26 Nov (TNJ, RLC).

**Common Goldeneye:** The first were on 30 Oct at Pleasant Creek S.P. (CE) and IPL Ponds (BKP/LJP).

**Bufflehead:** 1 was at Lansing on 27 Nov (DRP).

**Hooded Merganser:** A female was on Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 3 Sep (THK). The high count was 78 at Saylorville Res. on 7 Nov (AMJ).

**Common Merganser:** 1,950 were at Saylorville Res. on 28 Nov (BE).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 50 were at Red Rock Res. on 20 Nov (DRP). A female lingered at Decorah to 30 Nov (DeC).

**Ruddy Duck:** High counts were 210 at L. Manawa on 3 Nov (BKP/LJP) and 292 at Saylorville Res. on 7 Nov (BE).

**Turkey Vulture:** The high count at Hitchcock N.A. was 23 on 9 Oct (BKP/LJP). The last was at Saylorville Res. on 7 Nov (AMJ).

**Osprey:** The first was at Trumbull L. on 6 Aug (LAS). The last was at L. Macbride on 17 Oct (CE). The peak at Hitchcock N.A. was 8 on 20 Sep (BKP/LJP).

**Bald Eagle:** The first was at Bays Branch on 16 Aug (BEh).

**Northern Harrier:** The peak at Hitchcock N. A. was 20 on 20 Oct (BKP/LJP).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 1 was at Shimek F. in Lee Co. on 1 Aug (RIC-details). A first-fall female, banded in Duluth on 12 Sep, was a window-kill near Iowa City on 4 Oct (Joan Thompson, THK). High counts were at Algona with 23 on 21 Sep (MCK), Hitchcock N.A. with 55 on 22 Sep (BKP/LJP), and Grammer Grove with 37 on 22 Sep, 93 on 1 Oct, and 64 on 10 Oct (BPr).

**Cooper's Hawk:** High counts were 3 were at Algona on 21 Sep (MCK) and 16 at Hitchcock N.A. on 23 Sep (BKP/LJP).

**Northern Goshawk:** A male was banded s of Boone on 10 Oct (MDC), and an imm. was seen at Lost Island L. on 11 Nov (\*LAS).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 5 were sighted at Grammer Grove from 6 Sep to 10 Oct (BPr), and 1 was over Iowa City on 10 Oct (DRP).



**Broad-winged Hawk:** An imm. was seen n of Iowa City on 2 Aug (THK). High counts were at Algona with 454 on 20 Sep and 1,085 on 21 Sep (MCK), at Grammer Grove with 423 on 22 Sep (BPr), and Hitchcock N.A. with 30 on 22 Sep (BKP/LJP).

**Swainson's Hawk:** All reports were from hawk watches with 15 on 28 Sep and 13 on 29 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP) and 2 at Grammer Grove on 28 Sep (BPr).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** High counts were 71 on 28 Sep at Grammer Grove (BPr) and 80 on 9 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. A Harlan's Hawk was seen in Marshall Co. on 16 and 23 Oct (MPr, BPr).

**Golden Eagle:** The first was at Grammer Grove on 22 Sep (BPr)[3rd earliest]. One was caught and banded s of Boone on 17 Oct (MDC). Other early sightings were immatures at Hitchcock N.A. on 2 and 9 Oct (BKP/LJP). Singles were also seen in Cerro Gordo, Winnebago, Allamakee, and Clayton counties, (CLF, RGo, JSi, DRP).

**American Kestrel:** The peak at Hitchcock N.A. was 6 on 23 Sep (BKP/LJP), which seems to be a very low number.

**Merlin:** The first was at Hitchcock N.A. on 6 Sep (BKP/LJP). There were 23 birds reported from 11 locations with 15 in Sep, 4 in Oct, and 4 in Nov.

**Peregrine Falcon:** The first was w of Colfax on 6 Sep (THK). A male of the tundra race was caught and banded s of Boone on 27 Sep (MDC). There were 17 birds reported from 11 locations with all but one in Sep. The other was at Hitchcock N.A. on 4 Nov (BKP/LJP).

**Gyr Falcon:** A large, plain, gray falcon was seen near Kettleton Hogsback in Dickinson Co. on 26 Sep (\*TS, \*JRC, \*MJ, \*WRS, \*JSi). Another report is referred to the Records Committee.

**Prairie Falcon:** 1 was at Union Slough N.W.R on 29 Oct (\*THK).

**Yellow Rail:** 1 was seen at 3 feet at Goose Lake W.A in Kossuth Co. on 4 Oct (CP), and another at 10 feet at Forney L. on 22 Oct (CP)[2nd latest].

**Virginia Rail:** An ad. was seen feeding a downy yg. on 29 Aug at Snake Creek M. (JSi), indicating very late nesting.

**Sora:** The only report was from Mingo in Jasper Co. on 14 Aug (GJB).

**American Coot:** 2,500 were at Red Rock Res. on 23 Oct (RLC).

**Sandhill Crane:** Reports include 1 at Hayden Prairie on 5 Sep (JLF), 1 w of Onawa on 1 Oct (PE), and 2 s of Cherokee on 14 Oct (MMB).

**Black-bellied Plover:** The first were at Rathbun Res. on 10 Aug (TNJ) and the last w of Onawa on 4 Nov (PE).

**Lesser Golden-Plover:** The first were 50 at Akron on 10 Sep (JV), and the last were 2 at Red Rock Res. on 3 Nov (MPr). From 3 to 45 were reported from 6 other sites.

**Semipalmated Plover:** The first were on 6 Aug at Cardinal M. (DeC) and Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP), and the last s of Liscomb on 31 Aug (MPr).

**Killdeer:** The high count was 200 at Akron on 10 Sep (JV) and at Coralville Res. on 25 Oct (THK).



**American Avocet:** Reports include 4 at Rathbun Res. on 10 Aug (TNJ), 1 at IPL Ponds on 19 Sep (BKP/LJP), 1 at Saylorville Res. on 25 Sep (BE), 8 at Beeds L. on 26 Sep (MPr), and 1 at Colo Ponds on 2 Oct (HZ).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** The high count was 50 in Fremont Co. on 7 Aug (BKP/LJP). The last was at Red Rock Res. on 28 Nov (JSi).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** The high count was 100 in Fremont Co. on 7 Aug (BKP/LJP). The last was in Lyon Co. on 22 Oct (JV).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** The last was in Dickinson Co. on 26 Sep (THK).

**Willet:** 1-2 were at Rathbun Res. from 10 to 16 Aug (TNJ, RLC).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 1 was at Lower Gar L. in Dickinson Co. on 23 Oct (LAS), which is rather late but not a record.

**Marbled Godwit:** 3 were in Fremont Co. on 6 Aug (BKP/LJP) and 1 was there on 14 Aug (PHA/RIA). On 16 Aug, 1 was near Gruver in Emmet Co. (DHe).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** The only 1 reported was from IPL Ponds on 7 Aug (BKP/LJP).

**Sanderling:** Reports include 2 at Rathbun Res. on 5 Sep (TNJ), 3 at Red Rock Res. on 6 Sep (AMJ), 1-5 at IPL Ponds from 19 Sep to 10 Oct (BKP/LJP), and 1 at Coralville Res. on 22 Oct (DRP).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 30 were at Rathbun Res. on 31 Aug (RLC).

**Least Sandpiper:** The last was at Coralville Res. on 11 Nov (THK).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** The first were 5 s of Liscomb on 20 Aug (MPr), and the last was 1 at Coralville Res. on 8 Oct (THK).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** The high count was 250 in Fremont Co. on 2 Aug (BKP/LJP). The last was at Coralville Res. on 11 Nov (THK).

**Dunlin:** The first was at Rush L. in Palo Alto Co. on 7 Oct (MMB). High count was 75 at Coralville Res. on 16 Oct (THK). The last was at IPL Ponds on 7 Nov (BKP/LJP).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** The peak was 40 on 2 Sep in Kossuth Co. (MCK). The last was at Coralville Res. on 6 Oct (DRP).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** The first were 14 in Fremont Co. on 6 Aug with a peak of 25 there on 20 Aug (BKP/LJP). There were reports from 5 other locations, with the last in Kossuth Co. on 14 Sep (MCK).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** None were reported, which seems unusual.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Juveniles molting to basic plumage were reported from 6 locations. The first were 15 near Buffalo Center on 24 Sep (THK). The last were 4 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 24 Oct (RGo).

**Common Snipe:** The high count was 25 at Coralville Res. on 6 Nov (THK).

**American Woodcock:** Singles were seen at Mason City on 23 and 27 Oct (RGo).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** 1 was in Kossuth Co. on 2 Sep (MCK).



**Laughing Gull:** A juvenile was at Saylorville Res. on 18 Sep (\*AMJ, RIA-photo).

**Franklin's Gull:** The first was at Rathbun Res. on 8 Aug, and the last 4 were in Mills Co. on 12 Nov (BKP/LJP). The high counts were 13,000 at Saylorville Res. on 2 Oct (RIC), 10,000 at Rathbun Res. on 25 Sep (RLC), and 3,500 at IPL Ponds on 8 Oct (BKP/LJP).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** The first was at Rathbun Res. on 25 Sep (RLC), and the last at L. Manawa on 25 Sep<sup>Nov ✓</sup> (BKP/LJP). The high counts were 90 at Rathbun Res. on 30 Oct (RLC), 94 at L. Manawa on 3 Nov (BKP/LJP), and 401 at Saylorville Res. on 7 Nov (BE).

**Ring-billed Gull:** An ad. was seen in Jasper Co. on 2 Aug (DRP).

**California Gull:** An ad. was described at Carter L. in Pottawattamie Co. on 21 and 23 Nov (\*WRS, \*TEB, \*BKP/LJP). Finally, this little bit of Iowa's land on the west side of the Missouri River is paying dividends.

**Herring Gull:** 3 were at Spirit L. by 25 Sep (THK).

**Thayer's Gull:** 1 first-winter bird was at Red Rock Res. on 13 Nov (\*DRP, \*RIC, \*THK).

**Ross's Gull:** An ad. molting to basic plumage was at Red Rock Res. on 31 Oct and early on 1 Nov (\*JLF, \*AMJ, \*THK-photo, \*MPr, \*DRP, \*PCP-photo, \*PHA, \*RLC, RIA-photo).

**Sabine's Gull:** A juvenile was at Red Rock Res. from 21 to 23 Oct (\*MPr).

**Caspian Tern:** The first was at Clear L. on 10 Aug (CJF), and the last was at Rathbun Res. on 25 Sep (RLC). From 2 to 8 were reported from four other locations.

**Least Tern:** 1 was at Marshalltown on 19 Aug (\*MS).

**Black Tern:** The last 2 were at Rathbun Res. on 31 Aug (RLC).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** The last was at Lime Creek N.C. on 8 Sep (CJF, RGo).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** The last were in Warren Co. on 3 Oct (JSi) and Pottawattamie Co. on 4 Oct (BKP/LJP).

**Barn Owl:** 6 young Barn Owls were found in a barn in Boone Co. on 29 Oct; 1 fledged and the others were caught and banded.

**Great Horned Owl:** An arctic type was near Gruver in Emmet Co. on 24 Nov (DHe).

✓ **Snowy Owl:** The first<sup>(w/2)</sup> at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines on 18 Oct (photo in newsletter sent by AMJ). At least 7 others were reported from the following counties: Scott, Appanoose, Monroe, Marshall, Fremont (2), and Lyon. The Monroe Co. bird was photographed (RIA) and was later found dead on 11 Nov (DRP).

**Long-eared Owl:** 2 were at Wolf Creek P. in Grundy Co. on 11 Nov (MPr).

**Short-eared Owl:** 1 was in Boone Co. on 28 Oct (SRL).

**Common Nighthawk:** High counts were 102 in Des Moines on 28 Aug (RIC) and 385 in Fairfield on 21 Sep (DCP). The last was in Iowa City on 10 Oct (DRP).

**Chimney Swift:** The swifts returned to Fairfield! On 2 Oct, Diane Porter counted 4,000, and 45 remained to 11 Oct. Tying this last date were 4 at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** The last was at Sioux Center on 20 Oct (JV).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 33 were migrating at Hitchcock N.A. on 17 Sep (BKP/LJP).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Migration may have been early this year with 2 at Morehead P. on 4 Sep (PE) and peaks of 10 in Appanoose Co. on 25, 26 Sep (RLC, TNJ).

**Northern Flicker:** Migration in NW Iowa was noted from 17 to 25 Sep (JV) and on 24 Sep (DeC, THK).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The first was near Norwalk on 28 Aug (AMJ). The last was at Hitchcock N.A. on 26 Sep (BKP/LJP).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** The last was in Ida Co. on 2 Oct (PE).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** The first was at Morehead P. on 19 Aug (PE). A peak of 4 was at Call S.P. on 29 Aug (MCK). September sightings included singles at Fairfield on the 5th (DCP) and in Johnson (DRP) and Jasper counties (PCP) on the 6th.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** 2 were still singing at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 8 Aug (DCP), and 1 was in Appanoose Co. on 14 Aug (RLC).

**Alder Flycatcher:** A singing bird was still in Warren Co. on 29 Aug (AMJ-details)[2nd latest].

**Least Flycatcher:** Only reports were 1 at Morehead P. on 18 Aug (PE) and 3 at Algona on 22 Sep (MCK).

**Eastern Phoebe:** The last was in Madison Co. on 23 Oct (JSi).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** 1 was still at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 8 Nov (\*DeC)[record latest].

**Tree Swallow:** A peak of 500 was at Coralville Res. on 25 Sep (DRP), and 200 were still at Runnells A. on 24 Oct (JiS).

**Bank Swallow:** 50 were in Fremont Co. on 7 Aug (BKP/LJP).

**Cliff Swallow:** 300 were at Cardinal M. on 5 Sep (DeC).

**Barn Swallow:** High counts were 250 at L. Manawa on 5 Sep (BKP/LJP) and 90 at Cardinal M. on 15 Sep (DeC). The last was in Madison Co. on 23 Oct (JiS).

**Blue Jay:** Migrating flocks included 150 across N Iowa on 24 Sep (THK), 830 at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP, LJP) and 228 at Saylorville Res. (BE) on 25 Sep, and 30 in W Sioux Co. on 22 Oct (JV).

**Black-capped Chickadee:** A record count for one bush was 20 near Fairfield on 18 Sep (DCP).

**Tufted Titmouse:** 16 were in Appanoose Co. on 17 Oct (RLC).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** A massive invasion occurred and started early. The first was in Iowa City on 5 Aug (JLF), <sup>but would have been the summering bird reported earlier. The next was at Fairfield on 11 Aug (CAJ).</sup> ~~which was one of 11 sites where this species was found in August.~~ There were 33 reports of at least 75 birds. An apparent summering bird was seen in Sioux Center in mid-July (Tina Van Dyke fide JV) and mid-August (JV).

**Brown Creeper:** The first was at Sioux Center on 18 Sep (JV).

**Carolina Wren:** A second nesting in a carport at Iowa City fledged young on 17 Aug (THK).

**House Wren:** The last was at Coralville Res. on 11 Oct (THK, DRP).



- Winter Wren:** The first was at Sioux Center on 3 Sep (JV). There were 14 reports of 1-2 birds, plus another of 15 birds at Decorah on 9 Oct (DeC).
- Sedge Wren:** 1 heard nw of Lamoni on 7 Aug was at the southern edge of the nesting range (JDG).  
October reports were 2 at Williams Prairie on the 4th (DRP), and 1 at Lime Creek N.C. on the 20th (RGo).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** The first were 3 on 23 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). There were 2 still at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 28 Nov (DRP).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** The first was at Grammer Grove on 8 Sep (MPr). The peak was 25 at Fairfield on 23 Sep (DCP). The last was at DeSoto N.W.R. on 20 Nov (PE).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** A late bird was at Mini Waukon P. in Dickinson Co. on 26 Sep (LAS)[2nd latest].
- Veery:** The only reports were singles at Liscomb on 29 Aug (MPr, BPr) and at Iowa City on 6 Sep (DRP).
- Swainson's Thrush:** The first was in Warren Co. on 28 Aug (AMJ). The last was in Dickinson Co. on 26 Sep (MPr).
- Hermit Thrush:** The first were on 4 Oct, with 1 at Mason City (CJF) and 2 at Marshalltown (Betty Savage fide MPr). The last was around an Algona feeder 26-30 Nov (Sharon Arndorfer fide MCK).
- Wood Thrush:** An ad. was feeding 3 yg. at Morehead P. on 25 Aug (PE).
- American Robin:** Large flocks were 300 at Oak Grove P. in Sioux Co. on 22 Oct, and 585 at Hitchcock N.A. on 28 Oct (BKP/LJP).
- Gray Catbird:** The last was at Iowa City on 10 Nov (THK).
- Northern Mockingbird:** The only report was 1 on 9 Aug near Hendrickson M. (MPr).
- Brown Thrasher:** The last were singles on 12 Nov at Red Rock Res. (THK) and 15 Nov at L. Ahquabi (JiS).
- Water Pipit:** The first were 2 on 2 Oct at a pond n of Ogden (MPr). A peak of 20 was in W Sioux Co. on 27 Oct (JV), and 4 were still at Red Rock Res. on 13 Nov (AMJ).
- Cedar Waxwing:** A flock of 400 was in Appanoose Co. on 31 Oct (RLC).
- Northern Shrike:** There were 6 reports, all of singles, at Cardinal M. on 3 Nov (DeC), in Allamakee Co. on 6 Nov (JiS), at Trumbull L. on 11 Nov (\*LAS), in W Sioux Co. on 17 Nov (JV), at Rock Creek S.P. on 20 Nov (DRP-details, BPr-details), and near Mason City on 24 Nov (CJF-details, RGo)
- Loggerhead Shrike:** August reports of 1-3 were from Jasper, Cass, Polk, and Cerro Gordo counties.  
The last were singles in Monroe Co. on 10 Nov (MPr), at Red Rock Res. on 11 Nov (CE), and in Decatur Co. on 21 Nov (JiS).
- Bell's Vireo:** 1 was calling on 28 Aug in Muscatine Co. (PCP).



**Solitary Vireo:** The first was at Morehead P. 28 Aug (PE). The last was a singing bird at Woodland Mounds Preserve in Warren Co. on 3 Oct (JiS).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** The only reports were singles at Fairfield on 10 Sep (DCP), Cardinal M. on 18 Sep (DeC), and Coralville Res. on 19 Sep (CE).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** There were 8 reports of 1-2 birds, with the last on 24 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 12 were at Cardinal M. on 18 Sep (DeC), and 1 was feeding a cowbird at Call S.P. on 29 Sep (MCK).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 1 was at Iowa City on 6 Sep (CE).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** There were 9 reports of 1-2 birds with the first on 28 Aug at Grammer Grove (MPr), and the last on 23 Sep at Fairfield (DCP).

**Tennessee Warbler:** The first was a single on 19 Aug at Morehead P. (PE). Large numbers were reported, with 50 at Morehead P. on 28 Aug (PE), 40 at Iowa City on 6 Sep (DRP), and 125 at Morehead P. on 18 Sep (PE). One was drinking from a hummingbird feeder n of Iowa City from 3 to 8 Sep (JLF). October sightings were singles on the 9th at Iowa City (THK) and Decorah (DeC-details), and the 20th at Fairfield (DCP-details).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first were 2 in Warren Co. on 29 Aug (AMJ). A peak of 4 was on 27 Sep in Wright Co. (PE), and the last was at Mason City on 21 Oct (CJF).

**Nashville Warbler:** The first was at Morehead P. on 20 Aug (PE), and the last was at Fairfield on 19 Oct (DCP). High count was 10 at Iowa City on 6 Sep (DRP).

**Northern Parula:** There were seven reports of single birds, with the last on 19 Sep at Iowa City (DRP).

**Yellow Warbler:** The last was on 23 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** This species was widely seen this fall, with 13 reports of 67 birds. The first was at Iowa City on 23 Aug (THK). The high count was 30 on 6 Sep at Iowa City (DRP). The last was at Fairfield on 17 Oct (DCP-details)[2nd latest].

**Magnolia Warbler:** The first were 4 on 28 Aug at Grammer Grove P. (MPr). High count was 20 at Iowa City on 6 Sep (DRP). The last was at Morehead P. on 28 Sep (PE).

**Cape May Warbler:** There was an unusually high number of reports for this species (17) describing 1-4 birds, many of which were from cemeteries. The first was in Louisa Co. on 28 Aug (PCP). The last was at Battle Creek Cemetery on 17 Oct (PE-details).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Females were at Morehead P. on 17 Sep (PE-details) and at Des Moines on 22 Sep (BE), 2 males were at Parker's Woods in Cerro Gordo Co. on 23 Sep (RGo), and a male was at Decorah on 8 Oct (DeC).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** The first was in Grundy Co. on 20 Sep (MPr). The last were 2 at DeSoto N.W.R. on 22 Nov (BKP/ LJP).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** The first was in Marshall Co. on 28 Aug (RW). The peak was 4 on 18 Sep at Cardinal M. (DeC). The last was 1 on 7 Oct at Fairfield (DCP).



**Blackburnian Warbler:** This species was widely reported, with singles in NW Iowa on 15 Aug at Algona (MCK) and Trumbull L. (LAS). The high count was 7 on 3 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and on 6 Sep at Iowa City (DRP). The last was at Pine Lake S.P. on 21 Sep (MPr).

**Pine Warbler:** Single birds were sighted at Grammer Grove on 18 Sep (Russ Widner fide MPr-details), in Warren Co. on 24 Sep (AMJ- details), and at Wolf Creek P. on 4 Oct (\*MPr)[3rd latest].

**Palm Warbler:** An early migrant was in Warren Co. on 28 Aug (AMJ)[2nd earliest].

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** This species is more common during fall than spring. This year over 100 birds were reported by 15 contributors, with a peak of 25 on 6 Sep at Iowa City (DRP). The first were in Jasper Co. on 23 Aug (MPr). The last was in Sioux Co. on 2 Oct (JV).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** The first was at Trumbull L. on 27 Aug. The high count and last were 5 in Jasper Co. on 6 Sep (GJB).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** The first were 2 on 14 Aug at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DeC). The peak was 17 at Iowa City on 6 Sep. <sup>(DRP)</sup> The last was at Wolf Creek P. on 27 Sep (MPr).

**American Redstart:** 35 were at Iowa City on 6 Sep (DRP). The last was in Appanoose Co. on 25 Sep (RLC).

**Ovenbird:** A late bird was n of Iowa City on 1 Oct (JLF)[3rd latest].

**Northern Waterthrush:** 5 were in Clay Co. on 17 Aug (LAS). The last was at Fairfield on 11 Sep (DCP).

**Mourning Warbler:** 1-2 birds were reported from Grammer Grove from 28 Aug to 15 Sep (MPr), and 2 were in Warren Co. on 29 Aug (AMJ).

**Hooded Warbler:** A singing male was at Hickory Hill P. on 5-6 Sep (CE)[2nd latest].

**Wilson's Warbler:** The first were 2 on 20 Aug at Morehead P. (PE), and the last was 1 on 23 Sep at Fairfield (DCP).

**Canada Warbler:** The first was at Morehead P. on 20 Aug (PE). The peak was on 28-29 Aug, with 10 at Morehead P. (PE) and 8 in Kossuth Co. (MCK). The last was at Pleasant Creek S.P. on 26 Sep (CE).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** This species is rare in NW Iowa, so 1 in Clay Co. on 8 Aug (LAS) was unusual.

**Summer Tanager:** A pair was constructing a nest at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 8 Aug (DCP).

**Scarlet Tanager:** The last was in Appanoose Co. on 25 Sep (RLC).

**Northern Cardinal:** A male was feeding recently fledged young was in Polk Co. on 15 Sep (RIC).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** An imm. was still at Mason City on 21 Oct (CJF).

**Blue Grosbeak:** Near Hawarden in Sioux Co. an imm. was sighted on 28 Aug, and on 3 Sep a fem. was feeding a cowbird (JV).

**Indigo Bunting:** 5, including a singing bird, were the last at Cardinal M. on 15 Sep (DeC).

**Dickcissel:** The last was 1 at Cardinal M. on 5 Sep (DeC).



**Rufous-sided Towhee:** A bird of the western "spotted" race was at Morehead P. on 4 Oct and 2 were there on 12 Oct (PE). Others were at a Clive feeder on 20 Oct (JRC) and in Marion Co. on 31 Oct (RLC)..

**American Tree Sparrow:** The first was in Franklin Co. on 26 Oct (MPr).

**Chipping Sparrow:** November reports were of singles in Boone Co. on the 2nd (SRL), a Clive feeder on the 11th (JRC), and in Ida Co. on the 14th (PE).

**Field Sparrow:** 1 was still at Red Rock Res. on 24 Oct (JiS).

**Vesper Sparrow:** The last was in Sioux Co. on 16 Oct (JV).

**Lark Sparrow:** The only report was 1 in Warren Co. on 29 Aug (AMJ).

**Savannah Sparrow:** The last was in Franklin Co. on 19 Oct (MPr).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** The only report was 1 in Appanoose Co. on 14 Aug (RLC).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** 2 were near Spirit L. on 26 Sep (THK), and at Snake Creek M., 12<sup>th</sup> were seen on 26 Sep (JLF) and 2 on 30 Sep (DHe)..

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** At Snake Creek M., 6 were seen on 26 Sep (JLF), 1 on 30 Sep (DHe), and 1 on 2 Oct (MPr-details).

**Fox Sparrow:** 2 were early at Mud L. in Palo Alto Co. on 25 Sep (LAS)[3rd earliest]. The last were on 3 Nov at Cardinal M. (DeC) and Sioux Center (JV).

**Song Sparrow:** A peak of 36 were at Cardinal M. on 12 Oct (DeC).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** The first was at Cardinal M. on 15 Sep (DeC). The last were 4 in Appanoose Co. on 16 Oct (RLC).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Migration peaked <sup>from</sup> for 6 to 16 Oct with 24-30 birds reported from Coralville Res. (DRP), Cardinal M. (DeC), and Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**White-throated Sparrow:** The first was at Grammer Grove on 15 Sep (MPr). Birds were still at feeders at the end of the period in Clive (JRC) and n of Iowa City (JLF).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** The first was at Morehead P. on 4 Oct (PE), and 1 was at a Clive feeder 5-8 Nov (JRC).

**Harris' Sparrow:** The first was in Clay Co. on 19 Sep (LAS). Another early bird sat on top of a spruce tree in Algona on 22 Sep (MCK). There were 8 at DeSoto N.W.R. on 18 Nov (BKP, LRP).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** There were two September sightings -- in Clay Co. on the 19th(LAS)[ties 3rd earliest] and at Union Slough N.W.R. on the 23rd (MCK). "Oregon" juncos were "quite common" in Sioux Co. (JV).

**Lapland Longspur:** 100-200 were in Marshall Co. on 2 Nov (MPr), and 150 were below the Red Rock Res. dam on 3 Nov (MPr).

**Snow Bunting:** The first were in Sioux Co. on 26 Nov (JV). The only other report was of 150 in Allamakee Co. on 28 Nov (DRP).



**Bobolink:** Flocks included 18 at Cardinal M. on 31 Aug (DeC) and 15 in Cass Co. on 12 Sep (MAP).

The last was at Cardinal M. on 15 Sep (DeC).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 6 were in Appanoose Co. on 17 Oct (RLC), and 1 was still singing near Fairfield on 20 Oct (DCP).

**Rusty Blackbird:** 2 were at Zirbel Sl. on 24 Sep (THK)[record earliest]. A flock of 1,000 was at Trumbull L. on 11 Nov (LAS).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** 2 were in Johnson Co. on 20 Nov (DRP-details).

**Common Grackle:** 1 lingered at Fairfield on 13 Nov (DCP).

**Orchard Oriole:** The only report was 1 in Warren Co. on 28 Aug (AMJ).

**Purple Finch:** The first were pairs at Grammer Grove on 4 Sep (MPr) and in Polk Co. on 5 Sep (JiS).

**Red Crossbill:** The only reports were of 8 at Hickory Grove P. in Story Co. on 20 Nov (HZ) and 4 in Polk City on 22 Nov (AMJ).

**Common Redpoll:** The only report was of 2 in Emmet Co. on 24 Nov (DHe).

**Pine Siskin:** 9 reports described 1-8 birds, with the first on 1 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). They were, however, described as "plentiful" in Sioux Co. in Nov. (JV), and 30 were seen on 21 Nov in Warren Co. (JiS).

**Evening Grosbeak:** Singles were reported in Marshalltown on 9 Nov (Betty Savage fide MPr) and Cedar Rapids on 26 Nov (DLD).

#### CONTRIBUTORS

\* = documentation only

Carol A. Alexander (CAA), Fairfield; Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Neil Bernstein (NB), Cedar Rapids; Dick Bierman (DBi), Cherokee; Gordon J. Brand (GJB), Newton; \*Tanya E. Bray (TEB), Bellvue, NE; Marion M. Brewer (MMB), Cherokee; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Jane R. Clark (JRC), Clive; Michael D. Cox (MDC), Ames; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bruce Ehresman (BEh), Boone; \*Dan Eiten (DE), Denison; Bery Engebretsen (BEn), Des Moines; Peter Ernzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; J. Donald Gillaspey (JDG), Lamoni; Rita A. Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Dennis Henrickson (DH), Estherville; \*Terry J. Hulsebus (TJH), Denison; \*Maridel Jackson (MJ), Ankeny; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Thomas N. Johnson (TNJ), Mystic; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Sharron R. Laub (SRL), Rippey; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; D. Randall Pinkston (DRP), Iowa City; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Carl Priebe (CP), Sidney; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; \*Tim Schantz (TS), Knoxville; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS),



Spencer; \*W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Tabor; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; \*Mike Stegman (MS), Garwin; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; and Hank Zaletel, (HZ), Colo.

#### COMMENT

The vast majority of reports arrived on the 2nd and 3rd of December, which was of great help to us at this busy time of year. We would also like to thank Carl Bendorf for providing the weather summary.

Observers did a thorough job of documenting and photographing several unusual species that occurred in Iowa this fall. There were a few birds seen at very unusual dates that were not documented or not described in enough detail to include in the record. Birds seen at record early or late dates should be fully documented. One reason for this is to let the Field Reports editors know that the observer was aware of the unusual date. For example, when we checked on two species reported at very early dates, we found that there had been a transcription error for the month. Another reason for documentation is to indicate how well the bird was seen and the circumstances of its arrival at an usual date. Finally, many species are not easily identified, so details of what was seen <sup>and</sup> heard are an important check on the validity of the record.

Most observers provide an optimum amount of data. Some people provide a short list of such pithy findings that we suspect that they left out some birds that others would report. A few provide long lists that include all common birds leaving the editors to pick out the important findings. This is a heavy burden when there is so much data to enter into the computer for sorting. We ignore sightings that do not provide specific locations, dates, and numbers. Early and late dates and high counts are useful, although observers should use some discretion if these are not unusual or if they were only birding in the middle of the expected migration interval.