

Notes on birds observed on May 11 Big Day

Greater Scaup - ♂ seen with ♂ Lesser on Miss. R. from Eagle Pt. Park.

Chilton - 3:00 P.M. CDT. - 50X Kowa scope, range 500m (est.) I.D. by rounded head vs. peaked for Lesser (which was in same scope field). Bird also larger than Lesser, & white sides contrasted more sharply with back than Lesser. ^{P.P. S.B. DM.}

Merlin - seen in flight at Sabule, about 4:00 P.M. CDT., range 100m. at closest, in flight, 30X Kowa scope + 10X 40Zers binocs. Heavily built Falcon, much smaller than a Peregrine with a barred tail. ^{pointed wings, P.P. S.B. DM.}

Peregrine Falcon - ad - seen in flight moving upstream over Miss. R. from Eagle Pt. Park, Chilton, about 3:10 P.M. CDT., very large Falcon, dark grey above, wings pointed & barred, tail barred - range 300m. at closest - 40X Kowa scope. ^{P.P. DM. S.B.}

Yellow Rail - Cone Marsh, 4:30 A.M. CDT. - in dark. distinctive "clicking stours" call heard twice, had played tape earlier - all 3 heard bird which was about 10m. away. ^{P.P. DM. S.B.}

King Rail - Cone Marsh - 4:40 A.M. CDT. - just getting light - heard the very harsh heh repeated several times - in response to tape & at same location as on May 9. ^{P.P. DM. S.B.}

Common Tern - one at Loch 13 on Miss. R. seen from Eagle Pt. Park, Chilton about 3:00 P.M. CDT., range about 800m. ^{Kowa scope 35X} Bird perched on a structure in water & raised wings showing darker primaries, was with several Forsters. ^{P.P. DM. S.B.}

note - Winter Wren late - was seen & heard on Credit Island - small, rich brown very short tail

May 9 Notes

Greater Scaup - ♂ - seen just N. of Napello on flooded area of Iowa River - range 300m. - 40X Kowa scope - rounded head, very white side contrasted to darker back, greenish tint to head

King Rail - Cone Marsh - heard three times, heh call twice, series of loud "ticks" heard once in daylight, range 25m.

Chick-wills-awoo heard before dawn at Big Sand Mound where it nests - area is flooded in 1993.