

PETER ERNZEN  
407 COURT  
IDA GROVE IOWA 51445

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- ✓ 1. COMMON LOON, the first three were at Blackhawk Lake in Sac Co. on 4/5/96, the most were 9 there on 4/10/96.
- ✓ 2. HORNED GREBE, the first two were at Blackhawk Lake in Sac Co. on 4/5/96.
- ✓ 3. RED-NECKED GREBE, a pair was at Blackhawk Lake in Sac Co. on 5/24/96.
- ✓ 4. EARED GREBE, the most were 20 at Blackhawk Lake in Sac Co. on 4/28/96.
- ✓ 5. AMERICAN BITTERN, one was at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 4/27/96.
- ✓ 6. CATTLE EGRET, the first was one at the Ida Grove Pizza Hut pond on 4/11/96.
- ✓ 7. SNOW GOOSE, three were still at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 5/26/96.
- ✓ 8. ROSS' GOOSE, three were at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 3/16/96.
- ✓ 9. GADWALL, 5 were still at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 5/26/96.
- ✓ 10. WHITE WINGED SCOTER, a male was at Blackhawk Lake in Sac Co. on 5/24/96.
- ✓ 11. AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER, the most were 79 in a field south of Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 4/21/96.
- ✓ 12. WILLET, three were at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 4/27/96.
- ✓ 13. HUDSONIAN GODWIT, the first three were at South Blue lake in Monona Co. on 4/13/96.
- ✓ 14. MARBLED GODWIT, three were observed at the dredge pond on the S.E. corner of Blackhawk Lake in Sac Co. on 4/21/96.
- ✓ 15. BUFF BREASTED SANDPIPER, one was in a flooded field south of Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 5/26/96.
- ✓ 16. WILSON'S PHALAROPE, the most were 54 at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 4/27/96.

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- ✓ 17. LITTLE GULL, one was with Bonaparte's Gulls at Blackhawk Lake in Sac Co. on 4/21/96.
- ✓ 18. NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL, the one that wintered at Crawford Creek Recreation Area in Ida Co. was present until 3/22/96.
- ✓ 19. YELLOW BELLIED FLYCATCHER, two were observed at the Stubbs Nature Trail in Lake View (Sac Co.), on 5/26/96.
- ✓ 20. SEDGE WREN, several were at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 4/27/96.
- ✓ 21. MARSH WREN, one was at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 4/27/96.
- ✓ 22. GRAY CHEEKED THRUSH, five were found at Moorehead Park in Ida Co. on 5/11/96.
- ✓ 23. SWAINSON'S THRUSH, an estimated 200 were at Moorehead Park in Ida Co. on 5/11/96.
- ✓ 24. HERMIT THRUSH, the only one observed this year was relatively late on 5/4/96 at Moorehead Park in Ida Co. The bird had an eye ring, reddish tail, rump, and wings.
- ✓ 25. WOOD THRUSH, the first one was at Moorehead Park in Ida County on 5/6/96, three were heard calling there on 5/28/96.
- ✓ 26. AMERICAN PIPIT, 4 were Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 3/24/96.
- ✓ 27. GOLDEN WINGED WARBLER, a male was at Moorehead Park in Ida County on 5/19/96, a female was there on 5/28/96.
- ✓ 28. ORANGE CROWNED WARBLER, the peak was 8 at Moorehead Park in Ida County on 5/8/96.
- ✓ 29. NORTHERN PARULA, two males were at Moorehead Park in Ida County on 5/18/96.
- ✓ 30. CHESTNUT SIDED WARBLER, the peak was 13 at Moorehead Park on 5/25/96, the last one was there on 5/29/96.
- ✓ 31. CAPE MAY WARBLER, a male was at Moorehead Park in Ida County on 5/12/96, three more males were defending a warm wood chip pile - chasing away other warblers, mainly Yellow Rumped - at Spring Lake in Cherokee Co. on the same day - 5/12/96.
- ✓ 32. YELLOW RUMPED WARBLER, the last one was at the campgrounds on the S.E. corner of Blackhawk Lake in Sac Co. on 5/26/96.

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- ✓ 33. BLACK THROATED GREEN WARBLER, the last one was at the Stubbs Nature Trail in Lake View on 5/24/96.
- ✓ 34. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER, the peak was 4 at Moorehead Park in Ida County on 5/18/96.
- ✓ 35. BAY BREASTED WARBLER, a pair was at the Stubbs Nature Trail in Lake View on 5/24/96.
- ✓ 36. BLACKPOLL WARBLER, the peak was 33 at the Stubbs Nature Trail in Lake View on 5/24/96.
- ✓ 37. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER, the peak was 11 on 5/9/96 at Moorehead Park in Ida Co., the last two were there on 5/28/96.
- ✓ 38. AMERICAN REDSTART, the peak was 34 at the Stubbs Nature Trail in Lake View on 5/24/96.
- ✓ 39. NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, the first one was at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 4/27/96.
- ✓ 40. KENTUCKY WARBLER, one was seen and heard calling at Moorehead Park in Ida Co. on 5/11/96. This is the first park and county record.
- 41. CONNECTICUT WARBLER, one was seen and heard calling at the campgrounds on the S.E. corner of Blackhawk Lake in Sac Co. The hood was a lighter gray than found on Mourning warbler and there was a complete eye ring. *Stubbs?*
- ✓ 42. MOURNING WARBLER, one was at Moorehead Park in Ida Co. on 5/16/96, an incredible 16 were there on 5/25/96, 11 were there as late as 5/28/96, the last one observed was on 5/29/96.
- ✓ 43. CLAY COLORED SPARROW, the first one observed was on 5/1/96 at Moorehead Park in Ida County.
- ✓ 44. LARK SPARROW, one was seen on 5/5/96 at Moorehead Park in Ida County.
- ✓ 45. LE CONTES' SPARROW, one was observed at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 4/27/96.
- ✓ 46. LINCON'S SPARROW, one was at Moorehead Park in Ida Co. on 4/11/96, one was there on 5/28/96.
- ✓ 47. WHITE THROATED SPARROW, the last one was at Moorehead Park in Ida Co. on 5/28/96.

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- ✓ 48. WHITE CROWNED SPARROW, the peak was six at Spring Lake in Cherokee on 5/12/96.
- ✓ 49. BOBOLINK, one was at Moorehead Park in Ida Co. on 5/5/96.
- ✓ 50. YELLOW HEADED BLACKBIRD, one was at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 4/5/96.
- ✓ 51. GREAT TAILED GRACKLE, one was south of Lake View in Sac Co. at a marsh/wetland complex on 3/16/96, the most was 43 on 4/13/96 at Blue Lake in Monona County on 4/13/96, one was at Tomahawk marsh in Sac Co. on 5/26/96. The latter record was a new location.

Tom,

Hope everything is going well for you and that you saw plenty of good birds this spring. As you know my family and I are still in Iowa. After quitting my job as a naturalist, I found employment with one of the many manufacturing companies here in Ida Grove. Unfortunately this has cut into my birding. Hopefully things will slow down a bit this summer and fall and I can spend a little more time in the field.

The cold weather really concentrated some of the species here in Northwestern Iowa. The number of warblers especially Blackpoll, American Redstart, Mourning, and Chestnut-sided were amazing. On May 24 I saw 16 Mourning Warblers, which is more than I usually see for an entire year! Of course the cold weather brought many of the tree top dwellers down to ground level. I had my best views ever of Blackburnian, Bay Breasted and Cape May Warblers.

The oddest behavior was on May 12 in Cherokee at a park called Spring Lake. If I remember right it didn't get above 45 degrees. I drove around the park and for some reason stopped near a wood chip pile. After a couple minutes, I could not believe my eyes. First one then two and finally three male Cape May Warblers had strategically positioned themselves on the pile. Each one defended a small territory on top of the pile. They seemed to tolerate each other, but gave chase to any other bird - especially Yellow Rumped Warblers - that approached. They must have enjoyed the heat and bugs rising from the wood chips.

Surprisingly most birds returned within several days to a week of normal. Though for the most part these early arrivals were small in number, usually 1 or 2 birds.

From my list I see that I might have several late and one early date. As none of these are casual species I was hoping that I could give you a brief description of each. If there is any problem drop me a note. We have bought a house and now have a different address. The new address is 407 Court, Ida Grove Iowa 51445.

A pair of Red Necked Grebes was at Blackhawk Lake on 5/24/96. The grebes were large with a long, thick, yellow bill. The bird had a white throat/cheek patch that was triangular in shape. The back of the neck was dark while the front was red.

A White-winged Scoter was at Blackhawk Lake on 5/24/96. The duck was black in color with a small white patch by the eye. The bill appeared to be covered by feathers over most of it leaving the tip of the bill exposed - orangish in color.

A Buff Breasted Sandpiper was in a flooded field south of Tomahawk Marsh in Sac Co. on 5/26/96. Pectoral size, small

rounded head, short black bill, short neck, buff color appeared almost orange and was located on face, throat and breast.

A Lincoln's Sparrow was at Moorehead Park in Ida Co. on 5/28/96. Finely streaked breast and sides washed in tan, gray crown stripe bordered by reddish stripes, gray eyebrow. three basic colors, grayish head, red/brown back, white belly.

A Great Tailed Grackle was observed at a marsh area south of Lake View on 3/16/96. The bird was grackle shaped, with a lone tail, yellow eye, body color was black with an iridescent purple on the head.