

FIELD REPORTS—SPRING 1996

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WEATHER

March was cold and dry. The first 10 days were very cold, especially on the 7th when subzero temperatures spread over the state. There was a warming trend from the 10th to the 17th, then subnormal temperatures the rest of the month.

April continued the cold dry trend, with only four brief periods above normal temperatures (2-3, 10-12, 17-19, and 24-25) and drought that would have been record breaking had it not been for widespread rain on the 28th and 29th. Until the rains came, many water areas were extremely low with extensive mud flats.

The rains that started in late April continued through May, especially in the south and east, and the month was also much cooler than normal.

GENERAL TRENDS

The cold weather in March may have delayed the waterfowl migration a bit, and there were more late records of rare winter gulls than ever. Many shorebirds were seen in March and April when there were extensive mud flats. After late April, the few shorebirds in eastern Iowa were found in flooded fields; however, habitat remained favorable in western Iowa through May. At Union Slough N.W.R., water levels were maintained at a low level to facilitate the monitoring of shorebird migration. American Avocet, Willet, and Marbled Godwit were more common and widespread than usual. Wilson's Phalarope was also much more common than usual with one nest found at the end of May. Grebes were plentiful and included 5 reports of Red-necked Grebe and 7 reports of Western Grebe. Herons were present in normal or greater numbers, except for Black-crowned Night-Heron, which was scarce.

The most spectacular aspect of the spring migration was the delayed and then massive passerine migration. In looking at the first arrival dates for many of the passerines, one would think that there were few observers in the field in late April and early May, but I have been assured that the birds were just not there. On Saturday, May 11, a day when many birders were in the field, massive numbers of warblers were found. Other waves were noted on 15-16, 23, 25, and 29 May. Late May was particularly good for warblers in northwestern Iowa. As usual, a number of birders monitor the warbler migration and provide a large amount of data.

The invasion of Great-tailed Grackle continues, with many birds found in 16 counties. Mississippi Kites returned to Clive and began nest building. Perhaps there are more in the state that haven't been discovered. In a short 12 years, House Finches have become so widespread that they are no longer reported. Sandhill Cranes also are expanding in Iowa, with birds returning to sites where they nested in the last few years and with more observations of migrants. Trumpeter Swans have been introduced at several locations in Iowa, but no one reported them this spring. Eurasian Tree Sparrows seem to be extending their range slightly, with reports from Muscatine and Lee counties this spring.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported were Neotropic Cormorant, Eurasian Wigeon, Snowy Plover, Ruff, Little Gull, Great Gray Owl, Fish Crow, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting. If accepted, the cormorant would be new for Iowa. Casual species included Red-throated Loon, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Whimbrel, Laughing Gull, Iceland Gull, Mountain Bluebird, and Western Tanager. Some of the rarer regular species included Cinnamon Teal, Black Scoter, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Burrowing Owl, Bewick's Wren, Prairie Warbler, and Evening Grosbeak.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented; [] = records date)

Red-throated Loon: A bird in basic plumage was on a gravel pit south of Sioux Center in Sioux Co. on 19 Apr (*JV)[2nd earliest].

Common Loon: First: 23 Mar at Rathbun Res. (MPr). Last: 29 May at Little Wall L. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD), at Silver L. in Worth Co. (RGo), and at Rice L. in Worth/Winnebago counties (RGo, CJF). High count: 20 on 5 Apr at Rathbun Res. (RLC). Three others were noted in May.

Pied-billed Grebe: First: 5 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD). High count: 178 on 13 Apr at Blue L. (SJD).

Horned Grebe: First: 24 Mar at Rathbun Res. (SJD) and at Saylorville Res. (AMJ). Last: 12 May at L. Manawa (SJD). High count: 13 on 27 Apr at Rathbun Res. (RLC). There were 19 reports from 15 locations.

Red-necked Grebe: All: 1 on 13 Apr at East Okoboji (ET), adults in alternate plumage on 11 May at Big Creek L. and Saylorville Res. (**SJD, BE), 1 in alternate plumage on 12, 13 May at Amana L. (JLF, CE), and 2 in alternate plumage on 24 May at Black Hawk L. (PE-details)[2nd latest].

Eared Grebe: First: 2 on 19 Apr at Anderson L. (JJD, SJD). Last: 2 on 29 May at Little Wall L. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD). High count: 20 on 28 Apr at Black Hawk L. (PE). There were 19 reports from 17 locations.

Western Grebe: All: 4 May at Synder's Bend (BFH), 11 May at Saylorville Res. (SJD, BE), 2 on 11 May at Trumbull L. (LAS), 13 May at Long Pond in Guthrie Co. (PJW, DT), 17 May at Hubbard in Hardin Co. (MPr), 25 May at L. Ahquabi (JSi), and 27 May at Little Wall L. (PHA/RIA).

American White Pelican: First: 50 on 2 Mar at Pool 19 in Lee Co. (JLF). High count: 1,200 on 13 Apr at Blue L. (SJD). Pelicans were common in all areas of the state with some lingering to the end of the period.

Double-crested Cormorant: First: 3 on 23 Mar at Big Creek L. (SJD). High count: 1,800 on 24 Apr at Trumbull L. (LAS).

Neotropic Cormorant: A report is referred to the Records Committee.

American Bittern: First: 23 Apr at Zirbel Sl. (RGo). Reports were of 15 single birds at 12 locations.

Least Bittern: All: 5 on 21 and 27 May at Norwalk sewage ponds in Warren Co., 1 on 22 May at McBreen M. in Dickinson Co. (ETh), 1 on 24 May at Green Island W.A. (JLF), and 1 on 25 May at Little Spirit L. (ETh).

Great Blue Heron: There were 7 nests on 17 Apr along the Des Moines R. in Boone Co. (SJD) and 9 occupied nests on 13 May on the Cedar River north of Floyd (MAP).

Great Egret: First: 2 on 24 Mar at Anderson L. (SJD). High count: 50 on 13 Apr in Palo Alto Co. (LAS). In general, first arrivals were noted in late March to early April with peak numbers in mid- to late April.

Snowy Egret: All: 1 from 20 to 22 Apr at Decorah (DeC), 3 on 24 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD), 1 on 24 Apr at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (JLF), 1 on 26 Apr at Black Hawk L. (RTh), 2 from 27 Apr to 1 May at Cardinal M. (DeC), 1 on 19 May in Lucas Co. (RLC), and 1 on 20 May north of Modale in Harrison Co. (JLF, THK).

Little Blue Heron: All: 1 ad. on 25 Apr at Mt. Joy in Scott Co. (PCP), 1 calico on 25 Apr west of Chelsea in Tama Co. (JLF), 1 ad. on 25 Apr at Diamond L. (MPr), 1 ad. on 25 Apr at Swan L. in Carroll Co. (RTh), 1 ad. and 1 calico on 20 May at Riverton A. (JLF, THK), and 1 ad. on 31 May at Trumbull L. (Eric Seabloom fide JJD). The calico bird at Riverton A. was just starting to get blue feathers in the wing coverts (THK). It would be useful if observers would describe the amount of blue in white birds seen in spring.

Cattle Egret: First: 11 Apr at the Ida Grove Pizza Hut (PE). High count: 15 on 17 May at Geode S.P. (JJD). There were 28 reports scattered throughout the rest of the period, more than usual.

Green Heron: First: 23 Apr at Bays Branch W.A. (PHA/RIA).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: First: 14 Apr at Riverton A. (SJD, BKP/LJP). High count: 12 on 21 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). The only other locations were Tomahawk M. (RTh, BFH), Anderson L. (MPr), Snake Creek M. (SJD), and Decorah (DeC), which is fewer than normal.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All: 1 ad. from 2 to 8 May at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. (CE, JLF, THK), 1 imm. on 5 May in West Des Moines (PHA/RIA-photo), 1 imm. on 6 May at Black Hawk L. (RTh), 1 imm. on 18 May at Geode S.P. (JJD), 1 ad. on 19 May at Runnells W.A. (JSi), 1 ad. on 22 May along North R. in Warren Co. (JSi), and 1 on 25 May at Lakin Sl. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).

White-faced Ibis: All: 1 on 26 Apr at Hallett's Quarry in Story Co. (SJD-details, HZ-details), 1 on 4 May at Brower L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH-details), up to 20 from 5 to 13 May at Snake Creek M. (PHA/RIA-photos, SJD-details, PJW), 1 on 20 May at Blue L. (*THK, *JLF)[3rd latest], and 1 on 25 May at Errington M. in Polk Co. (*BE)[2nd latest].

Tundra Swan: The only report was of 15 on 6 Apr in Worth Co. (CJF).

Trumpeter Swan: None were reported. It is probably worth mentioning the numbers at various sites even though they may be introduced birds.

Mute Swan: A bird at Myre Sl. in Winnebago Co. on 6, 13, and 21 May (CJF, JLF, THK-photo) was all white with orange bill, but little or no black knob on the bill indicating that it was less than a year old.

Greater White-fronted Goose: First: 30 to 50 at Walton L. (DCP), Runnells W. A. (AMJ), and Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 2 on 26 May at Beaver Valley Wetlands in Black Hawk Co. (MPR). High count: 10,000 on 17 Mar along the Big Sioux R. in Lyon Co. (DCH). This species was noted by 21 contributors in all areas of the state. Does this mean that there are more than usual, especially in eastern Iowa? A flock at Dan Green Sl. gradually dwindled from 240 on 4 May to 6 on 21 May (LAS, JLF).

Snow Goose: High count: 250,000 on 17 Mar along the Big Sioux R. in Lyon Co. (DCH). Last: on 26 May with 1 at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK) and 3 at Tomahawk M. (PE).

Ross's Goose: First: 3 Mar at Runnells W. A. (AMJ, JSi). Last: 12 May at sod farm in Scott Co. (PCP). High count: 38 on 5 Apr at Snake Creek M. (SJD). This species has become widespread, with reports from 19 counties, including 9 in western, 7 in central, and 3 in eastern Iowa.

Canada Goose: The first brood was noted on 29 Apr at Big Wall L. (SJD).

Wood Duck: A male was courting a female Hooded Merganser on 22 May in Warren Co. (JSi).

Green-winged Teal: High count: 3,286 on 30 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE).

American Black Duck: 1 to 6 were reported from 10 counties across the state.

Northern Pintail: High count: 2,500 on 9 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE). A pair remained at Cardinal M. on 30 May (DeC).

Blue-winged Teal: First: 3 on 6 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD).

Cinnamon Teal: All (males): 24 Mar at De Soto N.W.R. (Jim Pease fide JJD), 5 Apr at Coralville Res. (JLF, THK), 2 on 12 Apr at Haywarden (SJD, JV-details but no date), and 1 on 22 Apr at Bays Branch W.A. (JLF).

Northern Shoveler: High count: 240 on 6 Apr at Terra L. (DT) and 14 Apr at Kettleon Hogsback (LAS).

Eurasian Wigeon: A male was at Bacon Creek P. in Woodbury Co. on 25 Mar (*BFH).] *does not count*

Canvasback: High count: 20,000 on 30 Mar on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. (CE).

Greater Scaup: There were 18 reports of 1 to 8 birds with detail varying from none to various indications of how the birds were identified. Five reports indicated identification by wing stripe; others mentioned size of bird, head size, head shape, and head color. It is likely that most of the identifications are correct, as Iowa birders have become experienced with this species. It is also likely that there are many more that go undiscovered. The determination of how well a scaup has to be seen to call it a Greater is often a personal decision, and must vary considerably among observers.

Lesser Scaup: High count: 10,000 on 30 Mar on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. (CE).

Oldsquaw: All: 31 Mar at Cherokee (ETH) and 7 May at Dewey's Pasture (Tom Neal fide DCH)[3rd latest].

Black Scoter: All: 1 female on 30 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE-details)[ties earliest, one of few spring records].

Surf Scoter: All: 2 females on 12 Apr at Amana L. (JLF), 1 female on 11 May at Clear L. (CJF-details), and 1 female on 13 May at Green Island W.A. (*PCP).

White-winged Scoter: All: 1 male on 24 May at Black Hawk L. (PE)[2nd latest].

Common Goldeneye: Last: 25 May in Clinton Co. (RLC).

Bufflehead: High count: 40 on 6 Apr at Pleasant Creek L. (CE).

Hooded Merganser: High count: 35 on 10 Mar at Cedar L. in Linn Co. (DLD).

Common Merganser: Last: 13 May in Polk Co. (PJW).

Red-breasted Merganser: First: 6 on 2 Mar at Pool 19 in Lee Co. (JLF). Last: 1 on 3 May at Mid-American Power ponds (MAP) in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP). High count: 183 on 29 Mar at Gray's L. (PJW).

Ruddy Duck: First: 1 on 1 Mar at Center L. in Dickinson Co. near an aerator (ETH). High count: 800 on 18 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Turkey Vulture: First: 11 Mar at L. Ahquabi (JSi). First arrivals were noted by various observers from mid-March to early April.

Osprey: First: 5 Apr in Boone Co. (SJD). High count: 21 on 20 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Mississippi Kite: The first adult was seen in Des Moines on 15 May (PJW), and nest building near the Olivet Baptist Church in Clive was noted on 20 and 30 May (PJW, JLF). Another adult was seen on 18 May at Rock Creek P. in Jasper Co. (PJW-details).

Bald Eagle: High count: 91 on 3 Mar at Runnells W.A. (AMJ). Adults returned to a nest in Sac Co. (RTh).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: High count: 11 on 20 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Cooper's Hawk: High count: 4 on 20 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Nests: 3 in Warren Co. (JSi) and 1 in Allamakee Co. (CE).

Northern Goshawk: All: 2 Apr at Waterman Prairie in O'Brien Co. (DCH), 1 imm. on 20 Apr in Warren Co. (JSi), and 1 imm. on 21 Apr at Lakin Sl. (SJD-details)[2nd latest].

Red-shouldered Hawk: All: 7 Mar at Iowa City (THK), 11 Mar at L. Ahquabi (JSi), 18 Mar at Palisades-Kepler S.P. (DLD/JDa), 26 Apr at Des Moines (SJD), 7 May at Sabula (PCP), and 21 May at Wildcat Den S.P. (PCP).

Broad-winged Hawk: First: 17 Apr at Iowa City (JLF). High count: 40 on 19 Apr at Ames (Kevin Healy fide SJD).

Swainson's Hawk: First: 13 Apr in Fremont, Mills, Pottawattamie, Harrison, Monona, and Plymouth counties (BKP/LJP, SJD). High count: 22 in those counties on 13 Apr. Others were reported from Boone, Carroll, Greene, Guthrie, Lyon, Osceola, Polk, Sac, Story, and Woodbury counties. One was on a nest near Allendorf in Osceola Co. on 21 May (JLF, THK). A dark morph was at Dunbar Sl. on 13 May (DT).

Rough-legged Hawk: A report of a very late bird is referred to the Records Committee.

Golden Eagle: All: 1 ad. on 2 Mar near Argyl in Lee Co. (JLF), 1 on 6 Mar at Kindlespire P. in Clay Co. (C. Fraley fide LAS), 1 on 23 Mar in SW Fremont Co. (PHA/RIA), and 1 imm. on 31 Mar at Dog Creek P. in O'Brien Co. (ETh).

Merlin: There were 16 reported from 17 March to 7 May.

Peregrine Falcon: There were 27 reported from 18 March to 11 May and 1 on 21 May at Riverton A. (MT/JB)

Prairie Falcon: A large, pale falcon was seen near Wall Lake in Sac Co. on 12 Mar (*RTh).

Gray Partridge: This species was reported from Boone, Calhoun, Grundy, Linn, Palo Alto, Sioux, and Story counties.

Ruffed Grouse: At Stevens F. in Lucas Co., 6 were drumming on 28 Apr. These are obviously introduced birds away from northeastern Iowa. How long have they been there?

Northern Bobwhite: The most northerly report was from Linn Co. on 14 Apr (DLD).

Virginia Rail: First: 3 on 3 May at Otter Creek M. (JLF). There were reports from four other locations.

Sora: First: 2 on 28 Apr at Otter Creek M. (CE). One was at the Norwalk sewage ponds on 27 May (AMJ).

Common Moorhen: All: 3 on 7 and 24 May at Green Island W.A. (PCP, JLF), 1 on 8 May at Dunbar Sl. (RTh), 1 on 11 May in Allamakee Co. (FL, JDa), and 1 on 29 May at Blue L. (BKP/LJP).

American Coot: High count: 50,000 on 21 Apr at Rush L. in Osceola Co. (DCH).

Sandhill Crane: First: 17 Mar at Otter Creek M. (MCK). High count: 13 on 23 Mar at Pool Sl. in Allamakee Co. (FL, JDa). Birds returned to Otter Creek M. and Goose L. in Clinton Co. Others, presumably migrants, were seen in Allamakee, Clay, Clinton, Fremont, Polk, and Winneshiek counties.

Black-bellied Plover: First: 27 Apr at Coralville Res. (CE, MPr). Last: 21 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (THK). High count: 32 on 19 May at Runnells W.A. (JSi).

American Golden-Plover: First: 2 on 15 Mar at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP)[3rd earliest]. Last: 8 on 26 May in Calhoun Co. (DS). High count: 100 on 16 Apr at Cone M. (PCP). Fewer were reported than usual.

Snowy Plover: One was seen on 3 May at Oak Grove Beach at Saylorville Res. (*SJD).

Semipalmated Plover: First: 13 Apr at Blue L. (SJD). Last: 4 on 29 May in Polk Co. (PJW). High count: 50 on 27 Apr at Coralville Res. (CE).

Piping Plover: First: 24 Apr at Coralville Res. (JLF). Other migrants were at Dunbar Sl. on 28 Apr (RTh), Zirbel Sl. on 1 May (RGo), and Riverton A. on 3 May (BKP/LJP). There were 5 at the usual Mid-America Power ponds location by 29 Apr (BKP/LJP).

Black-necked Stilt: Mark and Beth Proescholdt and Russ Widner found 3 (1 male, 2 females) in a flooded field southwest of Ainsworth in Washington Co. on their way to the I.O.U. meeting on 18 May.

and they were seen by many the next day (*MPr, *JLF, *THK-photos, *JJD, *CE)[3rd earliest and 3rd latest].

American Avocet: First: 13 Apr at Mid-America Power ponds (BKP/LJP, SJD) and Port Neal (BFH). Last: 21 May at Rush L. in Palo Alto Co. (MMB). High count: 11 on 5 May at Grover's L. (ETH). It was a banner year for avocets with reports from 18 locations from mid-April to mid-May.

Greater Yellowlegs: First: 2 on 17 Mar at Runnells W.A. (SJD). High count: 100 on 18 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Lesser Yellowlegs: First: 1 on 15 Mar at Waubonsie W.A. (BKP/LJP). Last: 31 May at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (JJD). High count: 600 on 18 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). At Coralville Res., there were 300 on 17, 27 Apr (THK, CE).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: 26 Apr at Tomahawk M. (RTh). Last: 16 May at Pool Sl. in Allamakee Co. (FL).

Willet: First: 20 Apr in Polk Co. (PJW, DT). Last: 3 on 18 May in Des Moines Co. (RLC). High count: 35 on 3 May at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP). Many more than usual were reported from 17 counties from late April to mid-May.

Spotted Sandpiper: First: 18 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK-details)[ties 3rd earliest]

Upland Sandpiper: 1 to 3 were reported from 9 counties.

Whimbrel: All: 8 were at Riverton A. on 17 May (*MT/JB)

Hudsonian Godwit: First: 3 on 13 Apr at Blue L. (PE). Last: 26 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 17 on 15 May at Colo Ponds (HZ). There were reports from 15 counties from mid-Apr to late May.

Marbled Godwit: First: 13 Apr at Blue L. (SJD-details). Last: 3 on 19 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 6 on 15 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). More than usual were reported from 9 counties from mid-Apr to mid-May.

Ruddy Turnstone: First: 2 on 1 May at L. Sugema in Van Buren Co. (DCP-details)[record earliest]. Last: 25 May at Mid-America Power ponds (BKP/LJP). High count: 19 on 20 May at Riverton A. (THK). There were reports from 8 locations, including 2 on 7 May at Coralville Res. (JLF)[ties 3rd earliest].

Sanderling: First: 25 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Last: 7 on 28 May at Colo Ponds (MPr). High count: 39 on 26 May at Mid-America Power ponds (BKP/LJP).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: First: 3 on 11 Apr southwest of Carroll (RTh-details)[ties earliest]. Last: 12 on 25 May at Mid-America Power ponds (BKP/LJP). High count: 300 on 20 May at Riverton A. (THK).

Western Sandpiper: Four reports did not provide details for this rare species, and one report of a huge flock did not describe the underparts, which should show evidence of birds in alternate plumage.

Least Sandpiper: First: 30 on 12 Apr at Doon in Lyon Co. (JV). High count: 350 on 12 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

White-rumped Sandpiper: First: 26 Apr at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (SJD-details)[3rd earliest]. Last: 7 on 31 May in Clay Co. (LAS). High count: 1,000 on 20 May at Riverton A. (THK). Thousands of shorebirds in western Iowa on 20, 21 May were mostly (maybe 90%) White-rumped and Semipalmated, with White-rumped appearing to be in the majority (THK).

Baird's Sandpiper: First: 16 Mar at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD)[ties 3rd earliest]. Last: 50 on 3 May at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP). High count: 100 on 21 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: First: 15 Mar at Waubonsie W.A. (BKP/LJP). Last: 29 May at Blue L. (BKP/LJP). High count: 700 on 18 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Dunlin: First: 6 on 10 Apr at Blue L. (SJD)[ties 3rd earliest]. Last: 1 on 29 May at Blue L. (BKP/LJP). High count: 90 on 12 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). There were 5 other reports with 30 or more birds.

Stilt Sandpiper: First: 2 on 19 Apr at Cone M. (JLF). Last: 4 on 21 May at Rush L. in Palo Alto Co. (MMB). High count: 110 on 15 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: All: 1 at Tomahawk M. on 26 May (PE-details). Another report of a very early bird is referred to the Records Committee.

Ruff: A female was south of Grimes in Polk Co. on 10 May (*BE).

Short-billed Dowitcher: First: 4 May in Palo Alto Co. (LAS). Last: 22 May at Mallard M. in Cerro Gordo Co. (THK). High count: 70 on 12 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Long-billed Dowitcher: First: 5 on 7 Apr at Red Rock Res. (AMJ). Last: 1 on 12 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK-details). High count: 30 at Riverton A. on 30 Apr (BKP/LJP).

Common Snipe: First: 1 Mar at Cone M. (JLF). Last: 11 May at Snake Creek M. (SJD). High count: 100 on 13 Apr at Blue L. (SJD).

American Woodcock: First: 15 Mar at Jefferson County P. (DCP). A nest at Black Hawk L. on 6 May was later destroyed (RTh).

Wilson's Phalarope: First: 14 Apr at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (SJD). High count: 155 on 7 May at Riverton A. (BE). There were reports of more than 30 birds from 7 locations and smaller numbers from numerous other locations. To top off this banner year, a male was found on a nest at Harrier M. in Boone Co. on 31 May (JJD).

Red-necked Phalarope: Last: 28 May at Hubbard in Hardin Co. (MPr). High count: 21 on 20 May at Blue L. (JLF, THK). From 1 to 4 were seen at 7 other locations, and 13 were in Worth Co. on 16 May (CJF).

Laughing Gull: All: 1 ad. on 10 May at Saylorville Res. (*SJD).

Franklin's Gull: First: 16 Mar at Mid-America Power ponds (BKP/LJP). High count: 2,000 on 13 Apr at L. Manawa (SJD).

Little Gull: An adult was at Black Hawk L. on 21, 22 Apr (*PE, *JLF).

Bonaparte's Gull: First: 2 on 13 Apr at Cardinal M. (DeC). Last: 12 May at Mid-America Power ponds (SJD) and at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 240 on 25 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Thayer's Gull: All: 3 first-year birds on 1 Mar in Scott Co. (JLF)[3rd latest] and 1 first-year bird on 31 Mar at Red Rock Res. (AMJ)[record latest].

Iceland Gull: A first-year bird was at Red Rock Res. on 6 Apr (*JSi)[record latest].

Glaucous Gull: All: 2 first-year on 1 Mar at Lock and Dam 14 in Scott Co. (JLF), 1 ad. alternate on 17 and 23 Mar at Red Rock Res. (SJD, AMJ), 1 first-basic on 17 and 30 Mar Saylorville Res. (SJD, BE), 1 first-year on 31 Mar at Black Hawk L. (RTh-details), 2 first-year and 1 ad. on 3 Apr near L. Manawa (BKP/LJP)[3rd latest], and 1 first-year on 30 Mar, 3 Apr at Big Creek L. (AMJ, MPr)[3rd latest]. This is the most spring records ever recorded for Iowa. *by far*

Caspian Tern: First: 30 Apr at Mid-America Power ponds. Last: 29 May in Polk Co. (PJW) and at Blue L. (BKP/LJP). High count: 50 on 19 May at Rathbun Res. (RLC). There were reports from 13 locations.

Common Tern: First: 25 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD-details). Last: 25 May at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). There were reports of 1 to 4 birds from 12 locations across the state, most with substantiating details. That is many more than usual.

Forster's Tern: First: 13 Apr at L. Manawa (SJD). High count: 75 on 11 May at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

Least Tern: All: 3 were at the usual location at Mid-America Power ponds on 20, 25, 26 May (THK, BKP/LJP) and 2 were south of there on a barrow pit near Glenwood on 20 May (THK).

Black Tern: First: 3 May at Folsom L. (BKP/LJP) and at Pine L. (MPr). High count: 500 on 21 May in northwestern Iowa (THK). Over 100 were noted at 5 locations, but this underestimates the numbers present at most water areas in mid- to late May (THK).

Black-billed Cuckoo: First: 18 May at 3 locations.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: First: 17 May at Cone M. (THK).

Great Horned Owl: A pale bird (?Arctic race) nested in Mason City (CJF).

Burrowing Owl: One was reported on 26 Apr in Lyon Co., but the field was burned and the owl not seen again (Bill Martin fide DCH).

Great Gray Owl: An injured bird that was found on 1 Mar at Des Moines in Polk Co. died on 3 Mar (Iowa State Univ. specimen #2643, JJD).

Long-eared Owl: All: 2 on 3 Mar at Coralville Res. (CE), 1 on 12 Mar at L. Pahoja (ETh), 1 on 16 Mar dead on road north of Indianola (PJW), and 6 on 2 Apr at Mid-Prairie P. in Carroll Co. (RTh).

Short-eared Owl: All: 1 on 15 Mar in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP), 1 on 26 Mar in Marshall Co. (MPr), 1 on 13 Apr in Lyon Co. (SJD), and 2 on 16 Apr in Dickinson Co. (RTh).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All (singles): 14 Mar at Coralville Res. (JLF), 21 Mar at Ledges S.P. (SJD), and 22 Mar at Crawford Creek R.A. in Ida Co. (PE).

Common Nighthawk: First: 7 May in Dallas Co. (PJW).

Chuck-will's-widow: The only report was of 2 on 19 May near Waubonsie S.P. (JLF, THK).

Whip-poor-will: First: 3 on 28 Apr in Boone Co. (SJD).

Chimney Swift: First: 21 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: First: 5 May at Nine Eagles S.P. (SJD).
Red-headed Woodpecker: Few over-wintered. First arrivals were noted on 1 May (JLF, MPr) and migrating birds were seen on 10, 11 May (SJD).
Northern Flicker: A red-shafted bird was at Doon in Lyon Co. on 12 Apr (JV).
Pileated Woodpecker: Reports were from Lucas, Henry, and Johnson counties.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: First: 4 May in Lee Co. (RLC). Last: 31 May in Winneshiek (DeC) and Clay (LAS) counties. From 1 to 3 were reported from 15 locations.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: First: 11 May at Saylorville Res. (SJD).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First: 14 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). Last: 30 May in Scott (PCP) and Johnson (CE) counties. From 1 to 5 were reported from 18 locations, many more than usual.
Acadian Flycatcher: First: 16 May near Stone City in Jones Co. (CE).
Alder Flycatcher: First: 2 on 17 May at Iowa City (JLF). Last: 1 on 29 May at Ledges S.P. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).
Willow Flycatcher: First: 11 May at Big Creek S.P. (SJD).
Least Flycatcher: First: 2 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF). Large numbers of empidonax flycatchers were seen in late May, but most went unidentified except for the many Yellow-bellied Flycatchers noted above.
Eastern Phoebe: First: 24 Mar at Chariton (SJD).
Great Crested Flycatcher: First: 28 Apr at Palisades-Kepler S.P. (MCK).
Western Kingbird: The only report from eastern Iowa was in Muscatine Co. on 11 May (PCP). In central Iowa, 1 was in Webster Co. on 10 May (PHA/RIA-photo).
Eastern Kingbird: First: 1 May at Cone M. (JLF). Hundreds were seen on 10 May in central Iowa (SJD).
Purple Martin: First: 3 Apr at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Other first arrivals were noted from 13 to 19 May.
Tree Swallow: First: 16 Mar at Dunbar Sl. (SJD)[2nd earliest]. High count: 5,900 on 10 May at Saylorville Res. (SJD).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: First: 9 Apr at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP/LJP).
Cliff Swallow: First: 25 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD).
Barn Swallow: First: 2 on 15 Apr at Black Hawk L. (RTh).
Blue Jay: Migrants were noted on 27, 28 Apr and 4, 5 May (SJD).
Fish Crow: Two reports will be referred to the Records Committee.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: Returning birds were noted throughout May with 2 still at Spencer on 31 May (LAS).
Carolina Wren: Birds over-wintered in Jasper (GJB) and Carroll (RTh) counties. Other northerly birds were at Ames on 27 Mar (JJD) and Black Hawk L. on 27 Apr (RTh).
Bewick's Wren: Birds were found in Lee Co. south (29 Apr, THK) and north (2 May, JLF) of the Croton Unit.
House Wren: First: 25 Apr at Amana (JLF) and at Algona (MCK).
Winter Wren: Wintering birds were present at Burlington and Ames in early March. In addition to the usual April reports, there 5 from May, the last at Grammer Grove on 11 May (MPr-details) and at A. A. Call S.P. on 14 May (MCK-details).
Sedge Wren: First: 25 Apr at Otter Creek M. (JLF)[ties 2nd earliest].
Marsh Wren: First: 21 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: Few were seen (SJD) and few were reported.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 5 Apr at Big M. (MPr). High count: 34 on 30 Apr at Decorah (DeC). Last: 22 May at Sweet M. (JLF).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: First: 9 Apr near Spirit Lake (ETH)[ties 2nd earliest].
Mountain Bluebird: One was at Hidden Bridge W.A. in Lyon Co. on 12 Mar (*ETH).
Veery: First: 8 May at Mason City (RGo).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: First: 8 May at Liscomb (MPr). Last: 30 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). High count: 7 at Ames on 12 May (PM).
Swainson's Thrush: First: 28 Apr at Palisades-Kepler S.P. (MCK-details, JLF). Last: 31 May at Trumbull L. (LAS). High count: 200 on 11 May at Moorehead P. (PE). Large numbers were reported,

especially from northwestern and north-central Iowa, where birds tend to be concentrated by the widely spaced woodland habitat. This species appears to be much more common than Gray-cheeked Thrush.

Hermit Thrush: First: 24 Mar at Des Moines (PJW) and at Grammer Grove (MPr). After my admonition about describing birds seen in May, there were 12 May reports, 9 with details. The last 3 with details were from 11 May at Ames (PM), from 12 May in Black Hawk Co. (MPr), and from 13 May at Fairfield (DCP). Were these birds late due to the late spring this year?

Wood Thrush: First: 29 Apr at Croton Unit in Lee Co. (THK).

Gray Catbird: First: 5 May at Fairfield (DCP) and at Coralville Res. (CE).

Northern Mockingbird: All: 25 Apr at Diamond L. (MPr), 27 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC), and 1 May near South Amana (JLF).

Brown Thrasher: First: 13 Apr at Fairfield (DCP).

American Pipit: First: 4 on 15 Mar at Sheldon Pond in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP). Last: 1 on 15 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 20 on 10 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). There were 6 reports from March, 2 from April, and 6 from May.

Northern Shrike: Last: 29 Mar at Green Island W.A. (JLF). The most southerly of 7 reports was from Lucas Co. on 24 Mar (SJD). The most unusual bird was carrying a dead bluebird in Lyon Co. on 17 Mar (DCH).

White-eyed Vireo: Most unusual was 1 at Rainbow Bridge P. in Calhoun Co. on 18 May (DS). Others were in Louisa (PCP) and Lee (RLC) counties.

Bell's Vireo: First: 1 at Polk City W. A. in Polk C. on 27 Apr was singing (DT)[record earliest].

Solitary Vireo: First: 28 Apr in Clay Co. (J. Knight fide LAS). Last: 29 May at Ames (PM). There were 6 reports in late May for this generally early migrant.

Yellow-throated Vireo: First: 29 Apr at Croton U. (THK).

Philadelphia Vireo: First: 18 May in Lee Co. (RLC). Last: 31 May in Clay Co. (LAS). High count: 5 on 29 May at Ledges S.P. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).

Red-eyed Vireo: First: 16 May at Ames (PM). High count: 300 on 29 May at Ledges S.P. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).

Blue-winged Warbler: First: 7 on 4 May in Lee Co. (RLC).

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 11 May at 4 locations. Last: 28 May at Moorehead P. (PE)[2nd latest]. High count: 10 on 16 May in Jones Co. (CE). Also late was 1 in Ames on 27 May (PM)[ties 3rd latest].

Tennessee Warbler: First: 27 Apr in Story Co. (Mike Meetz fide SJD). Last: 31 May at Algona (MCK). High count: 49 on 26 May at Ames (PM).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 27 Apr at Ames (PM). Last: 21 May at Kettleon Hogsback (*THK, JLF). High count: 15 on 10 May in Polk Co. (SJD).

Nashville Warbler: First: 27 Apr at Ames (PM). Last: 31 May at Algona (MCK)[ties 3rd latest]. High count: 7 on 11 May at L. Macbride (CE).

Northern Parula: First: 27 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Yellow Warbler: First: 4 May in Decatur Co. (SJD).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 5 May at Ames (Erv Klaas fide SJD). Last: 30 May at Lake City (DS). High count: 30 on 16 May in Jones Co. (CE).

Magnolia Warbler: First: 2 May at Stone S.P. (BFH). Last: 30 May at Kettleon Hogsback (ETh). High count: 14 on 16 May in Jones Co. (CE).

Cape May Warbler: First: 10 May at Coralville Res. (JLF). Last: 26 May at Thunder Woman P. in Black Hawk Co. (MPr)[record latest]. High count: 10 on 11 May in Allamakee Co. (FL). Another late bird was at Carroll on 24 May (RTh)[2nd latest]. There were 18 reports, more than usual.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: All: a female at Coralville Res. on 10 May (JLF).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 3 Apr in Wayne Co. (Bill Jackson fide JJD). Last: 29 May at Hendrickson M. (Russ Widner fide MPr). High counts: on 11 May, 2,000 in central Iowa (SJD) and 1,000 at Saylorville Res. (BE). Others reported large concentrations from 9 to 12 May. There were 9 reports after 20 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: 6 May at Ames (HZ). Last: 29 May at Kettleon Hogsback (ETh). High count: 8 on 11 May at L. Macbride (CE).

Blackburnian Warbler: First: 10 May at Pine L. (MPr). Last: 2 Jun in Jasper Co. (*GJB). High count: 4 in Jones Co. on 16 May (CE) and in Ida Co. on 18 May (PE).

Yellow-throated Warbler: First: 27 Apr in Van Buren Co. (RLC). Birds were present at previously known locations: Lee Co., Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. in Van Buren Co., Starr's Cave in Des Moines Co., L. Macbride in Johnson Co., and Ledges S.P. in Boone Co. Other locations within the range of this species were at Stephens F. in Lucas Co. on 4 May (JSi) and w. of Buffalo in Scott Co. on 18 May (PCP). Much more unusual were birds at Pine L. in Hardin Co. from 30 Apr to 17 May (MPr) and at A. A. Call S.P. in Kossuth Co. on 29 May (MCK).

Pine Warbler: All: 11 May at Pine L. (*MPr) and 16 May in Jones Co. (CE-details).

Prairie Warbler: A pair returned to L. Macbride on 7 May (JLF)[ties 3rd earliest], and on 19 May there were 2 males on territory one-quarter mile apart (CE).

Palm Warbler: First: 26 Apr at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 6 on 17 May at Decorah (DeC). High count: 40 in Lee Co. on 4 May (RLC). Peaks in central and northern Iowa were noted from 10 to 12 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: First: 3 on 11 May at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 1 on 27 May at Fairfield (DCP). There were 6 reports of 1 to 3 birds.

Blackpoll Warbler: First: 11 May at L. Macbride (CE) and at Pine L. (MPr). Last: 31 May at Trumbull L. (LAS). High count: 100 on 29 May at Ledges S. P. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).

Cerulean Warbler: First: 11 May at Ames (PM) and at L. Macbride (CE). Other locations were in Allamakee, Appanoose, Lee, and Warren counties.

Black-and-white Warbler: First: 28 Apr at Croton U. (THK). Last: 29 May at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK). High count: 47 on 11 May at Pine L. (MPr).

American Redstart: First: 9 May at Otter Creek M. (MPr). High count: 34 on 16 May at Algona (MCK) and on 24 May at Lake View (PE).

Prothonotary Warbler: First: 11 May at Saylorville Res. (SJD, BE). One on 23 May at Bacon Creek P. in Woodbury Co. was out of range (BFH).

Worm-eating Warbler: In addition to birds at the Croton U. (JLF, CE), birds were out of range on 15 May at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK) and at Grammer Grove (MPr).

Ovenbird: First: 28 Apr at Palisades-Kepler S.P. (MCK). High count: 26 on 11 May at Ames (PM).

Northern Waterthrush: First: 27 Apr at Tomahawk M. (PE). Last: 26 May at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK). High count: 28 on 10 May in Polk Co. (SJD).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Birds were found at the expected locations: Croton U., Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Palisades-Kepler S.P., and Ledges S.P. Others were 1 in Appanoose Co. on 21 Apr (RLC), 6 at Nine Eagles S.P. on 5 May (SJD), 1 at Mason City on 26 Apr (CJF-details), and 1 at A. A. Call S. P. on 4 May (MCK-details).

Kentucky Warbler: First: 5 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF). One at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. on 11 May was a first county record (PE, RTh).

Connecticut Warbler: First: 17 May at Hickory Hill P. and L. Macbride (JLF). Last: 30 May at Lake City (DS). There were 14 birds reported from 9 locations.

Mourning Warbler: First: 16 May at 3 locations. Last: 30 May at Coralville Res. (CE). High count: 16 on 25 May at Moorehead P. (PE). This species was widely reported, especially in late May.

Common Yellowthroat: First: 4 May in Ringgold Co. (SJD).

Hooded Warbler: All: 28 Apr at Croton U. (THK), 22 May along North R. in Warren Co. (JSi), 27 May at Rolling Thunder Prairie in Warren Co. (JSi), and 29 May at Ledges S.P. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).

Wilson's Warbler: First: 4 on 11 May at L. Macbride (CE). Last: 29 May with 1 in Ames (PM), 2 at Spencer (LAS), and 3 at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK)[tie 3rd latest]. High count: 46 on 16 May at Algona (MCK). Other high counts, also on 16 May, were 32 at Ames (PM) and 20 in Jones Co. (CE).

Canada Warbler: First: 16 May at Ames (HZ) and in Jones Co. (CE). Last: 30 May at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK). High count: 5 on 29 May at A. A. Call S. P. (MCK).

Yellow-breasted Chat: All: 1 out of range at Sioux Center on 15 May (JV) and 1 near Denmark in Lee Co. on 19 May (JLF, MPr).

Summer Tanager: All: a pair at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. from 16 to 18 May (JLF), an imm. male on 11 May in Allamakee Co. (*JDa), 1 on 25 May at Brown's Woods in Polk Co. (DT).

Scarlet Tanager: First: 10 May at Grammer Grove (BPr).

Western Tanager: A first-year male was near Spirit Lake on 23 May (*ETH). Another secondhand report was received.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: First: 8 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). High count: 48 on 11 May at Fairfield (DCP).

Black-headed Grosbeak: Two reports of females are referred to the Records Committee.

Blue Grosbeak: Two males came to a feeder at Wellman in Washington Co. on 10 May (Barbara Henderson fide THK). The only other report was from a usual location in Fremont Co.

Lazuli Bunting: A male that frequented a feeder in Shenandoah for 4 days was seen on 16 May (*MT).

Indigo Bunting: First: 3 May in Warren Co. (AMJ).

Dickcissel: First: 4 May in Cedar Co.

Eastern Towhee: First: 30 Mar at Croton U. (CE).

Spotted Towhee: All: ca. 22 Apr at Sioux City (Jack A. Holloway II fide JAH), 24 Apr in West Des Moines (PHA/RIA), an imm. male on 14 May at Indianola (JSi)[3rd latest], and 19 May at Huston P. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS)[record latest].

American Tree Sparrow: Last: 17 Apr at Sioux Center (JV).

Chipping Sparrow: First: 3 Apr at Fairfield (DCP).

Clay-colored Sparrow: First: 3 May at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 21 May at Trumbull L. (THK). High count: 20 on 9 May near Forney L. (BKP/LJP).

Field Sparrow: First: 24 Mar at Fairfield (DCP).

Lark Sparrow: First: 21 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ). A nest with eggs was found at Coralville Res. on 19 May (Neil Bernstein fide JJD).

Savannah Sparrow: First: 6 on 30 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Henslow's Sparrow: The only report away from the usual site at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. was at Pleasant Creek L. in Linn Co. on 20 May (DLD).

Le Conte's Sparrow: First: 27 Mar at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP/LJP)[ties 3rd earliest]. Last: 19 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Other reports were of 1 to 3 from 8 sites between 18 Apr and 11 May.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: All (singles): 22 May at Zirbel Sl. (THK, JLF) and 25 May at Snake Creek M. (Gordon and George Brown fide JJD).

Fox Sparrow: First: 18 Mar in Linn Co. (JDa, DLD). Last: 19 Apr at a feeder in Carroll (RTh). High count: 28 on 13 Apr at Trumbull L. (LAS).

Lincoln's Sparrow: First: 7 Apr at Sioux Center (JV)[2nd earliest]. Last: 28 May at Moorehead P. (PE-details)[2nd latest].

White-throated Sparrow: Last: 28 May at Moorehead P. (PE) and at Mason City (JLW). High count: 240 on 11 May at Fairfield (DCP).

White-crowned Sparrow: Last: 27 May at Carroll (RTh)[record latest].

Harris's Sparrow: Last: 22 May in Dickinson Co. (ETh).

Dark-eyed Junco: Last: 26 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF)[3rd latest].

Lapland Longspur: Last: 40 on 21 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 800 s. of Madrid on 4 Mar (SJD). There were 5 other reports.

Smith's Longspur: All: 3 flocks on 3 Apr n. of Lone Tree in Johnson Co. (JLF) and 30 on 14 Apr in Audubon Co. (SJD).

Bobolink: First: 4 May in Decatur Co. (SJD).

Eastern Meadowlark: Birds were singing on 9 Mar in Lee Co. (RLC). Please report the first (and last!) singing Eastern Meadowlarks so that we can accumulate data on their arrival (and departure) dates.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: First: 5 Apr at Tomahawk M. (PE). A male was at a feeder in Algona on 7 Apr (MCK). On 26 Apr, 1,000 (80% females) were at Trumbull L. (MMB). One at the Norwalk sewage ponds on 27 May was a bit out of the usual range (AMJ).

Rusty Blackbird: First: 300 on 10 Mar in Greene Co. (RTh). Last: 1 on 21 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Brewer's Blackbird: A dark-eyed female was at Snake Creek M. in Greene Co. on 11 May (*SJD, BE)[record latest].

Great-tailed Grackle: First: 45 on 5 Mar at Forney L. in Fremont Co. (SJD)[ties 2nd earliest]. Groups of 15 to 45 were reported from 5 locations. In Dallas Co. on 7 May, a pair was building a nest at Granger sewage ponds and 3 nests were found at Brenton Sl. (SJD). In Guthrie Co., there were 2 nests at Long Pond on 8 May (SJD). Nesting was also noted at the sewage pond in Norwalk in Warren Co. on 27 May (AMJ, JSi). On 22 May a bird was found on the west edge of Ft. Madison in Lee Co. (PHA/RIA-photo), which extends the range farther to the southeast. This species is spreading rapidly. In addition to the

above, there were records for the following counties: Boone, Clay, Emmet, Greene, Kossuth, Louisa, Monona, Polk, Pottawattamie, Sac, and Tama.

Orchard Oriole: First: 9 May in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP). One at Estherville in Emmet Co. was usual (DHe).

Baltimore Oriole: First: 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).

Purple Finch: Last: 14 May near Spirit L. (ETh) and in Polk Co. (DT).

White-winged Crossbill: All (singles): 4 Mar at Squaw Creek P. in Linn Co. (JLF), 6 Mar at Grundy Center (DA-details), and 11 Mar at Mason City (JLW).

Common Redpoll: Last: 5 Apr at George in Lyon Co. (JV) and at Ames (Jeanne Edwards fide SJD). There were 3 reports from early and 1 from late March.

Pine Siskin: Last: 31 May at Iowa City (JLF, THK) and at Des Moines (PJW). Other late May reports were from Dickinson, Sioux, and Story counties.

Evening Grosbeak: The only 1 was at Ames on 21 Apr (Kevin Healy fide SJD).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: In addition to the usual Des Moines County birds, 4 were at Muscatine in Muscatine Co. on 2 May (PCP) and 1 was at the pumping station in Green Bay Bottoms in Lee Co. on 19 May (PCP).

COMMENT

This unusual spring migration was well reported. I entered 1966 sightings into the database (up 8% from 1995) and received 37 documentations of 24 species. Again, I thank the contributors for getting their reports to me on time.

I was particular pleased with the details provided on rare species and birds seen on unusual dates. Just to know that the observer realized that the bird or date was unusual and to know how well it was seen makes the job of writing the report much easier and more reliable. For example, the details on Greater Scaup, on Common Tern, and on Hermit Thrushes in May made me aware that observers were cognizant of the difficulties in identification of these species. There were also several useful descriptions of birds in unusual plumages.

The *Official Checklist of Iowa Birds 1996 Edition* (in press) will change some of the species reviewed by the Records Committee. All records of Casual species will be reviewed. The species in this category have undergone almost a 50% turnover since the last edition of the checklist, and now include the following: Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Red Phalarope, Laughing Gull, California Gull, Iceland Gull, Sabine's Gull, Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Western Tanager, and Pine Grosbeak. Reports of all of these species should be documented. Observers should continue to document some of the species that have moved up from Casual to Regular, especially those with confusing plumages and those seen on unusual dates. Regular species that should be documented include Mute Swan, Mississippi Kite (except at nesting site), Thayer's Gull (except first-year), Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Pine Warbler. It is useful to have details or documentation on Greater Scaup, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Western Sandpiper, Common Tern, Bohemian Waxwing, and Brewer's Blackbird. Any bird seen at an unusually early or late date or at an unusual location is worth documenting. Your reports are kept and become a valuable part of the permanent record of birds in Iowa.

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