

Worms - maybe this will help for an. Birds. I won't be able
to make the 12/31 at Iowa. (41)
BROWN

Fall Migration Season

September, with normal temperatures, was very wet with 7 inches of rain recorded at the Des Moines Airport. October was a warm month with considerable rain in the early part. The first half of November was cool and dry on the average, although a record high of 70° at Des Moines was experienced on the 14th.

What warbler migration occurred seemed to have taken place on the rainy week-ends with conditions making identifications virtually impossible except for the mist-netters. Waterfowl have been relatively few compared with other years; whether they were merely late remains to be seen. Migrant sparrows have also seemed fewer than usual.

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants. A Common Loon on 30 October at Red Rock was only the second recorded there (GB). A Horned Grebe and 2 at Cedar Rapids on the 11th (LS). was seen on 4 November at Credit Island (PP), Two reports of White Pelicans: 18 October, 12 at Forneys Lake (RP), and 100 at DeSoto Bend on the 20th (SB). The largest concentration of Double-crested Cormorants was 234 plus on 28 October at Red Rock (GB), with 15 at Clinton and one at Sabula on 24 November on the 27th (PP), and 3 on the 18th at Forneys Lake (RP).

Hérons, Bitterns. Great Blue Herons peaked at 238 in September, with 30-40 remaining after the early October flooding (GB). Flocks were also reported (FK, PP), with 12 still near Wapello. Six immature Little Blue Herons were at Red Rock through August to 8 September (GB). A lone Cattle Egret stayed from 23 September to 3 October (GB). There were 105 Great Egrets on 22 September, but only 2 after the flooding (GB). Night Herons were apparently few with only two mentions of Black-crowned, as many as 4a and 5 i in September (GB), and 1 ^{immature} on 15 September (RH), with no Yellow-crowned reported. American Bitterns were seen twice; 12 on 26 September by John Beamer (fide GB), and 1 on 10 November at Mark Twain Ref. (PP). A Least Bittern was seen on 26 September near Des Moines (WC).

Swans, Geese, Ducks. There were 6 Whistling Swans at L & D 9 on 10 November (DK). The first 185 Canada^d Geese came on 19 September, but numbers haven't exceeded 200 which compares with ~~4-5~~^{4,000} in 1970 (GB). Mark Twain Ref. had 600 on 10 November (PP). Snow Geese numbering a thousand were present on 17 October, with only 200 remaining on 22 October. By 5 November there were 400 compared with 12 M three years ago (GB). On 10 November there were 300 at Mark Twain (PP). Large flocks were seen 18 November (RP). There were a few teal in late August, but no others until 10 November (FK). Ducks are generally down with ~~8-10~~^{8,000} Mallards on 5 November although there have been 40-70 ~~M~~^{thousand} in other years (GB). A Black Duck was seen on 29 September (WC), and 4 at Mark Twain on 10 November (PP). An aerial count at Mark Twain on 9 November showed 21⁰⁰⁰ Mallards (Gerald Gill, fide PP). A Canvasback was present at the Des Moines Res. on 6 November (DM) with 20 at Mark Twain on the 10th (PP), and 85,000 in Pool 19 between Keokuk and Fort Madison (8 November according to Larry Stone). There were 20 Common Mergansers and 1 Hooded at the latter place on the same day (PP).

Vultures, Hawks. Turkey Vultures peaked at 160 on 6 October, with the last 8 seen on the 20th (GB). A Goshawk was shot on 7 November while attempting to take a farm duck near Cedar Falls, with another seen on the 10th near Bristow (MK). Seven Sharp-shinned were banded in September and October (PP). Red-tailed have been numerous (RP). None of the usual big Broad-winged flights were seen (RH, PK). A dark phase Swainson's was seen on 10 November (RP). A few Rough-legged had been seen (BW), with 7 seen on the ground along country roads on 28 October (Jean Bralcy, fide RP). An immature Golden Eagle was seen on 2 November (RP). Bald Eagles reported: first imm. on 28 September, and adult a month later with 5 seen on 10 November (GB). On the same date there were 3 at Mark Twain (PP) and 8 at L & D 9 (DK). Marsh Hawks were scarce (GB), but 3 were seen on 4 November (GH). An Osprey

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on 8 September was rather early (fide EH). On 22 September, 3 Peregrines were seen harassing a Great Blue Heron. It is possible there were as many as 5 in the Refuge (GB). The largest number of Kestrels seen was 11 on 27 September (GB). They were numerous in October (RP).

Shorebirds. A Virginia Rail was on the Coe campus on 5 October (IS). On 18 October 100 American Coots were seen south of Council Bluffs (RP), but they were few (FK, MHB). From ^{one} 1 to 6 Semipalmated Plover were seen daily for five weeks in September and October, but only ^{one} 1 Piping Plover, that on 8 September. Golden Plover in flocks of 50 to 139 were seen each week from August to the third week in October, while Black-bellied Plover numbers ranged from 9 to 35 (GB). On 13 November, 2 Black-bellied were seen on 13 November (EM). Ruddy Turnstones were present during five weeks in August and September with as many as 5 seen. The last were seen on the late date 29 September (GB). American Woodcock were migrating from 15 to 30 October (PP), and one was seen near Paris on 21 October (IS). Common Snipe were few with 1 to 7 seen daily (GB), and only 2 or 3 at Des Moines. A flock of 40 Pectorals was noted on 23 September (WG). From 1 to 26 Baird's were seen daily during the last ~~two~~ weeks of August and through two weeks of October. Least Sandpipers peaked at 150 on 21 October with the last 2 on the 28th. Dunlin were seen only during the last three weeks of October with a count of 16 to 53. Dowitchers numbering from 8 to 23 were present all of August through the second week of October, and Stilt Sandpipers in groups of from 17 to an estimated 150 were also present ^(GB). A Western Sandpiper was observed on 27 September (WG). During the same August-October period there were from 5 to 52 Buff-breasted Sandpipers feeding in the short grass at Red Rock, a late Marbled Godwit was seen on 22-23 September, a high of 23 Sanderlings were counted, and a flock of 13 American Avocets was seen on 14 October (GB). A Northern Phalarope was seen on 8 and 15 September (GB).

Gulls, Terns. The only report on Franklin's Gull noted that none was seen until 18 October (PK). Bonaparte's only mention referred to an individual seen for four weeks in September and October (GB). A few Forster's Terns were seen during the same period, as were Common Terns, ^{one} on 8 September, 9 on the 22nd, 2 on 4 October and 4 on the 13th, the two latter dates being exceptionally late (GB). Caspian Terns were reported from several areas (FK,DK,GB,LS).

Owls, Whip-poor-wills, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers. The rare Barn Owl was sighted on 27 September (fide FK). A mild invasion of Short-eared Owls is implied: 6-8 on 9 November (EA); 4 in the west end of the county (FK); common in Le Claire area (PP); and 2 seen several times near ^{Seven Saw-whets were banded (PP).} Essex (BW). A late Whip-poor-will on 20 October was one of ⁴ banded (PP). A rather late hummingbird was seen on 30 September (PK). A strong flight of Common Flickers was noted on 23 September (GB).

Flycatchers. Numerous E. Kingbirds were seen migrating on 3 September (GB). A W. Kingbird was at the Des Moines Res. on 18 September (WC). The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is considered the commonest Empidonax this fall with 41 banded, the last on the late date 4 October (PP). The E. Wood Pewee is scarce again (PK), rather late dates were 27 September (DeL) and 10 October (PP). Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen on three September dates (GB) while 2 were calling on the late date 22 September (RH).

Swallows, Wrens, Mimics, Thrushes. Swallows left early with Cliff the most numerous after Barn Swallows (PK). Cliff Swallows nested under several bridges near Red Rock and hundreds moved out in late August. A mixed flock of several hundred was seen at the dam on 16 September (GB). A flock of 750 Purple Martins was present for several weeks in August and September (DeL), but there were several hundred fewer than usual (DH). Winter Wrens were seen on 2 and 17 October (PK),

6 October (GB), and 21 were banded between 21 September and 1 November (PP). Carolina Wrens were observed on 21 and 26 October (LS), and one has been seen and heard at intervals in Des Moines. A very late Long-billed Marsh Wren was banded on 22 October, and the Short-billed has been common all during September (PP). A Gray Catbird seen on 13 September was later than usual (DH), while one observed on 28 October was later found dead on 6 November (LS). Late Brown Thrashers have been noted (PK, PP, BW). A large movement of American Robins was noted on 9 and 10 November (MS). Rather late Wood Thrushes and Swainson's Thrushes were seen on 4 and 15 October respectively (PP).

Kinglets, Pipits, Shrikes. There were many Golden-crowned Kinglets on 29 October (DeL). From 7 to 30 Water Pipits were seen on four dates in October (GB). A Northern Shrike was well seen on 27 and 28 October (GB).

Vireos, Warblers. Two very late Solitary Vireos were on 31 October, banded (PP), and 1 November (DK). An early Philadelphia Vireo date was 15 August (DeL). Few warblers were seen other than Yellow-rumped in October (GB). A few of the commoner varieties were seen in the last week in September (FK). A small wave was noted on 11 October (DH), and good movements took place in October (PP). Tennessee were fewer (PK). A late Orange-crowned was banded on 26 October (PP). This species was scarce but may have been missed due to the rain (DeL). Nashvilles were fewer (PK), but many were banded (DeL), with a rather late one on 27 October (PP). Late Magnolias were one on 13 October (PP) and one on 29 October (DeL). The rare Black-throated Blue was banded on the very late date 7 October; Chestnut-sided and Blackpoll on 4 October were also late. ^(PP) Many Mourning Warblers were present in early September with 5 banded (DeL). A new early date for the Connecticut was 20 August (MEW). More Canada than usual were seen (PK). An American Redstart on 4 October was late (PP).

Blackbirds, Finches. Rusty Blackbirds were numerous (RP), and a huge

flock was seen on 9 November with 7 banded (DeL). There was a wave of sparrows (GB); and a generally good movement (PP), but no fall sparrows (FK) and relatively few other than White-throated at Des Moines. A rather late Indigo Bunting was banded on 15 October (PP). There has been a small flock of Purple Finches since 2 November (DH), and 4 seen on 20 October (GB), but few in Polk Co. A good influx of Pine Siskins was noted (PP); 25 were seen on 27 October (GB) and 2 were noted on the rather early date 22 September (RH). American Goldfinches on 28 October numbered about 100 (GB). Red Crossbills have been frequent from 15 October on (PP), and a flock of 20 appeared on 5 November with varying smaller numbers seen since (LW). White-winged Crossbills in a flock of 20 were first seen on 13 November (DH). LeConte's Sparrows were seen; 3 on 20 October and 1 on the 27th (GB), and 1 on 6 October (MB,MEW). Tree Sparrows are more numerous than usual (RP). No Harris' Sparrows were seen (DeL), but they were thought more than last year (PP). One White-crowned was banded (BW). Only 1 or 2 White-throated have been seen (FK), but a good migration was noted (PP,DeL). Fox Sparrows were thought numerous (RP,DeL). A flock of 15 Snow Buntings was seen on 22 November (NH).

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Notes on the winter season should be submitted by 20 February.
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