

Iowa Field Reports-Spring 1996

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- Common Loon-1 on 24 March at Rathbun Res. (+JSi); 12 on 24 April, 2 on 10 May at Saylorville; I saw 35 this spring
- Pied-billed Grebe-1 on 5 March at Riverton W.A.; 178 on 13 April at Blue L.; 120 on 13 April at Lake Manawa
- Horned Grebe-2 on 24 March at Rathbun Res. (+JSi); 6 on 3 April at Hallett's Quarry; 6 on 13 April at Lake Manawa; 6 on 14 April at Dunbar Sl.; 6 on 25 April at Saylorville; 1 on 11 May at Saylorville (+BE); I saw 44 this spring
- Red-necked Grebe-\*1 adult on 11 May at Big Creek L. (+BE); \*1 adult on 11 May at Saylorville (+BE)
- Eared Grebe-2 on 19 April at Anderson L. (+JJD); 1 on 23 April at Badger Creek L.; 1 on 30 April, 5 on 8 May at Little Wall L.; 2 on 2 May at Hallett's Quarry; 3 on 7 May, 1 on 10 May, 1 on 11 May (+BE) at Saylorville
- Western Grebe-1 on 11 May at Saylorville (+BE)
- American White Pelican-50 on 17 March at Red Rock Res. (+JSi); 1,200 on 13 April at Blue L.
- Neotropic Cormorant-\*1 adult on 4 May at Little River Rec. Area (photos)
- Double-crested Cormorant-3 on 23 March at Big Creek L.; there were still 875 on 4 May at Twelve Mile L. and 156 on 9 May at Hallett's Quarry
- American Bittern-1 on 10 May at Saylorville
- Great Blue Heron-7 nests on 17 April along the Des Moines R. in Boone Co. were a new colony
- Great Egret-32 on 19 April at Anderson L. (+JJD)
- Snowy Egret-3 adults on 24 April at Saylorville (smaller than nearby Great Egrets-noted shaggy plumes, dark legs with yellow feet, dark, dagger-like bill, very active foraging behavior)
- Cattle Egret-5 on 25 April at Saylorville; 1 on 3 May at Twelve Mile L.
- Black-crowned Night-Heron-1 on 14 April at Riverton W.A. (+WRS, L&BP)
- White-faced Ibis-1 on 26 April at Hallett's Quarry (+HZ-noted broad white facial border extending behind eye, bright red facial skin and legs); 7 on 6 May (Ken Herring fide SJD), 14 on 8 May, 7 on 11 May (+BE) at Snake Creek M. (by facial pattern, leg color)
- Greater White-fronted Goose-500 on 5 March at Riverton W.A.; 29 on 8 May at Dunbar Sl.; 26 on 8 May at Lakin Sl.
- Snow Goose-10,000 on 8 March near Green Valley L., Union/Adair Co.'s
- Ross' Goose-1 on 4 March near Murray, Clarke Co.; 2 on 4 March in E Adams Co.; 24 on 8 March near Green Valley L., Union/Adair Co.'s; 6 on 22 March at Hendrickson M.; 4 on 26 March at Big Creek L.; 3 on 30 March at Saylorville; 13 on 5 April at Lakin Sl.; 20 on 5 April in SW Greene Co.; 38 on 5 April, 1 from 8-11 May (+BE) at Snake Creek M.; 2 on 5 April at Harrier M.; 1 on 14 April at Willow Sl.
- Canada Goose-the first brood was on 29 April at Big Wall L.
- Green-winged Teal-1,800 on 31 March at Saylorville
- American Black Duck-4 on 4 March at Twelve Mile L.; 6 on 5 March at Riverton W.A.; 4 on 16 and 21 March, 2 on 30 March and 3 April at Saylorville; 3 on 22 March at Hendrickson M.; 1 on 5 April at Dunbar Sl.; 1 on 10 April at Blue L.
- Blue-winged Teal-3 on 6 March at Riverton W.A.
- Cinnamon Teal-2 males on 12 April at Hawarden

Northern Shoveler X Blue-winged Teal-1 male on 26 April at Harrier M. (+MPr, BPr)

Greater Scaup-1 male on 15 March at the Polk City W.A. (larger size); a pair on 17 March at Badger Creek L. (larger size and longer white wing stripe); 7 on 26 March, 1 female on 5 April at Saylorville (larger size, round head shape, and longer white wing stripe); 8 on 10 April, 1 female on 13 April at Blue L. (larger size and rounder head shape); a pair on 12 April at Winterfield P., Rock Valley (larger size); 1 female on 29 April at Big Wall L. (longer white wing stripe); a pair on 29 April at Morse L. (head shape, larger size)

Bufflehead-1 female on 11 May at Saylorville (+BE); 1 female on 11 May at Dunbar Sl. (+BE)

Common Merganser-1 female on 5 May at Little River Rec. Area (+JSi); 1 female through 10 May at Hallett's Quarry; 1 male through 11 May at Saylorville (+BE)

Ruddy Duck-1 on 4 March at Twelve Mile L.

Turkey Vulture-1 on 13 March at Saylorville (Scott Rolfes fide SJD)

Osprey-1 on 5 April w of Boone; 21 on 20 April at Saylorville (+BE) included 9 in sight at one time below the dam and is the most I have ever seen in one day in Iowa; I saw 37 this spring

Bald Eagle-28 (15 ad., 13 imm.) on 28 March at Hawarden was a large number for NW Iowa (Marty Eby fide SJD); 2 immatures on 21 April at Saylorville (+JJD, JSi); 1 immature on 4 May at Twelve Mile L.

Sharp-shinned Hawk-11 on 20 April at Saylorville (+BE); I saw 37 this spring which is many more than normal

Cooper's Hawk-4 on 20 April at Saylorville; 1 on 10 May at Holst S.F. was probably near a nest; I saw 13 this spring

Northern Goshawk-1 immature on 21 April at Lakin Sl. (+JJD, JSi-very large accipiter, so large we thought it was a Red-tail at first-wings long and broad, very long barred tail, unstreaked undertail coverts-bird was larger than a female Peregrine in field of view at the same time)

Red-shouldered Hawk-1 adult on 26 March in Glendale Cemetery

Broad-winged Hawk-40 on 19 April n of Ames (Kevin Healy fide SJD)

Swainson's Hawk-on 13 April, I saw birds in Harrison (5), Monona (1), Plymouth (1), and Pottawattamie (1) counties; 1 on 16 April near Kelley; 1 on 19 April at Harrier M.; 1 on 19 April at Walnut Creek NWR (fide SJD); 4 on 21 April in Guthrie Co. (+JJD, JSi); 4 on 21 April in SW Greene Co. (+JJD, JSi); 1 on 28 April n of Slater

Rough-legged Hawk-1 on 5 April at Lakin Sl.

Merlin-1 female on 13 April n of Council Bluffs; 1 male on 19 April at Harrier M.; 1 male on 25 April nw of Madrid, Boone Co.; 1 female on 26 April along the Des Moines R. w of Luther

Peregrine Falcon-1 adult on 21 April at Lakin Sl. (+JJD, JSi); 2 different adults on 25 April at Saylorville; 1 adult on 2 May at Harrier M. (+JJD); 1 adult on 3 May at Ames; 1 immature on 10 May at Big Creek S.P.; 1 immature on 11 May at Saylorville (+BE); 1 adult on 11 May s of Dunbar Sl. (+BE)

Gray Partridge-2 on 7 April near Gilbert; 2 on 21 April e of Luther (+JJD)

Virginia Rail-1 on 8 May at Lakin Sl.; 3 on 11 May at Dunbar Sl. (+BE)

Black-bellied Plover-1 on 8 May at Dunbar Sl.

American Golden-Plover-73 on 16 April at Saylorville

Snowy Plover-\*1 adult male on 3 May at Saylorville (photos)

Semipalmated Plover-1 on 13 April at Blue L.

American Avocet-1 male on 13 April at the Mid-American Power Ponds; 5 on 20 April (+BE), 1 on 21 April (+JJD, JSi), 1 on 3 May at Saylorville

Greater Yellowlegs-2 on 17 March at Runnells W.A. (+JSi)  
Lesser Yellowlegs-12 on 17 March at Runnells W.A. (+JSi)  
Willet-5 on 24 April, 16 on 25 April at Saylorville; 7 on 1 May at Gordon's M.; 7 on 11 May at Snake Creek M.  
Spotted Sandpiper-1 on 26 April at Little Wall L.  
Upland Sandpiper-1 on 5 May in Decatur Co. (+JSi); 2 on 11 May in SW Greene Co. (+BE)  
Hudsonian Godwit-4 on 20 April at the Polk City W.A. (+BE); 13 on 11 May w of Dunbar Sl., Carroll Co.  
Marbled Godwit-1 on 13 April at Blue L. (observed in flight-noted cinnamon wing linings and rump); 1 on 20 April at Big Creek L. (+DT, PW-observed cinnamon wing linings); 1 on 24-25 April at Saylorville (saw cinnamon wing linings and uppertail)  
Sanderling-1 on 25 April, 25 on 10 May at Saylorville  
Semipalmated Sandpiper-11 on 13 April at Blue L.  
White-rumped Sandpiper-1 on 26 April at Harrier M. (noted streaked flanks, white rump)  
Baird's Sandpiper-singles on 16 March at Bays Branch and Saylorville  
Pectoral Sandpiper-2 on 16 March at Bays Branch; 250 on 11 May w of Dunbar Sl., Carroll Co. (+BE)  
Dunlin-6 on 10 April at Blue L.; 46 on 11 May w of Dunbar Sl., Carroll Co. (+BE)  
Stilt Sandpiper-2 on 8 May at Harrier M.  
Short-billed Dowitcher-my first were on 8 May with 1 at Harrier M. and 3 in SW Greene Co.; 44 on 11 May w of Dunbar Sl., Carroll Co. (+BE-all alt. pl.-identified by salmon-colored underparts, spotting on flanks, some birds gave soft tu-tu-tu call note)  
Long-billed Dowitcher-1 alt. pl. on 20 April at the Polk City W.A. (+BE-identified by call and coloration of underparts); 36, most in alt. pl., on 1 May at the Ottosen Potholes (identified by sharp keek call notes when flushed); 1 alt. pl. on 7 May at Saylorville (calling keek)  
Common Snipe-100 on 13 April at Blue L.; 1 on 11 May at Snake Creek M. (+BE)  
Wilson's Phalarope-1 on 14 April, 69 on 2 May (+JJD) at Harrier M.; it was a good spring for this species and I saw them on most trips between 20 April and 10 May  
Red-necked Phalarope-1 female on 11 May at Dunbar Sl. (+BE)  
Franklin's Gull-2,000 on 13 April at Lake Manawa; 250 on 26 April at Anderson L.  
Laughing Gull-\*1 adult on 10 May at Saylorville  
Bonaparte's Gull-184 on 21 April (+JJD, JSi), 240 on 25 April, 28 on 10 May (very late for so many) at Saylorville  
Herring Gull-there were still 6 (all first-basic) on 11 May at Saylorville (+BE)  
Glaucous Gull-1 adult-alternate on 17 March at Red Rock Res. (+JSi); 1 first-basic on 17 March at Saylorville  
Caspian Tern-25 on 3 May at Ames (+HZ); 30 on 11 May at Saylorville (+BE)  
Common Tern-1 adult on 25 April at Saylorville (with Forster's Terns-noted brighter red bill, dark primaries); 1 adult on 10-11 May at Saylorville (+BE-noted darker breast, dark primaries); 1 adult on 10 May at Terra L. (with Forster's-noted darker primaries); 1 adult on 11 May at Dunbar Sl. (+BE-noted darker primaries-with several Forster's)  
Forster's Tern-1 on 13 April at Lake Manawa  
Black Tern-8 on 4 May at Little River Rec. Area; 140 on 8 May at Dunbar Sl.  
Short-eared Owl-1 on 13 April w of Alvord, Lyon Co.  
N. Saw-whet Owl-1 on 21 March at Ledges S.P.  
Whip-poor-will-3 on 28 April in Boone Co.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird-1 on 5 May at Nine Eagles S.P. (+JSi)  
Red-headed Woodpecker-small numbers were migrating through central Iowa on 10-11 May  
Eastern Wood-Pewee-1 on 11 May below Saylorville dam (+BE)  
Willow Flycatcher-1 on 11 May at Big Creek S.P. (+BE)  
Least Flycatcher-1 on 5 May at Nine Eagles S.P. (+JSi)  
Eastern Phoebe-1 on 24 March e of Chariton (+JSi)  
Great-crested Flycatcher-3 on 5 May at Nine Eagles S.P. (+JSi)  
Eastern Kingbird-hundreds were in central Iowa on 10 May  
Tree Swallow-1 on 16 March at Dunbar Sl. (photos); 3,000 on 3 May, 5,900 on 10 May at Saylorville  
Cliff Swallow-1 on 25 April at Saylorville  
Blue Jay-large numbers were migrating through central Iowa on 27-28 April and in SC Iowa on 4-5 May (+JSi)  
Winter Wren-1 on 8 April at Moorehead P.; 3 on 16 April in Boone Co.  
Golden-crowned Kinglet-where were they this spring? I saw <20 all spring.  
Veery-on 11 May, there were singles at Ledges S.P., Jester Park, and McCord Pond (+BE)  
Swainson's Thrush-45 on 11 May in Polk Co. (+BE)  
American Pipit-9 on 16 March at Bays Branch; 2 on 2 May at Harrier M. (+JJD); 2 on 3 May at Saylorville; 8 on 4 May at Walnut Creek NWR (Sherry Dragula fide SJD); 2 on 8 May at Big Wall L.  
Northern Shrike-1 on 3 March in Johnston; 1 on 3 March at Big Creek S.P.; 1 on 5 March at Riverton W.A.; 1 on 17 March n of Knoxville, Marion Co. (+JSi); 1 on 24 March in SE Lucas Co. (+JSi)  
Golden-winged Warbler-1 on 11 May at Ledges S.P. (+BE)  
Tennessee Warbler-1 on 27 April at Hickory Grove P. (Mike Meetz fide SJD)  
Orange-crowned Warbler-15 on 10 May in Polk Co.  
Yellow Warbler-1 on 4 May at Little River Rec. Area  
Chestnut-sided Warbler-1 on 5 May at Ames (Erv Klass fide SJD)  
Yellow-rumped Warbler-abundant in central Iowa on 10 May-I counted 138 in one sweep across a flooded grassy field e of Polk City; on a central Iowa Big Day on 11 May, we conservatively estimated we saw 2,000-we were never out of sight of one all day! (+BE)  
Yellow-throated Warbler-2 on 28 April, 3 on 11 May (+BE) at Ledges S.P.  
Palm Warbler-20 on 10 May in Polk Co.  
Prothonotary Warbler-1 on 11 May below Saylorville dam (+BE)  
Northern Waterthrush-28 on 10 May in Polk Co.  
Louisiana Waterthrush-1 on 3 April, 4 on 11 May (+BE) at Ledges S.P.; 6 on 5 May at Nine Eagles S.P. (+JSi)  
Common Yellowthroat-1 on 4 May at Sun Valley L., Ringgold Co.  
Dickcissel-1 on 8 May in SW Greene Co.  
Clay-colored Sparrow-10 on 10 May at Saylorville; 5 on 10 May at Big Creek S.P.  
Lark Sparrow-1 on 3 May near Jester Park (+HZ)  
Savannah Sparrow-3 on 31 March at Runnels W.A. (+JSi)  
Le Conte's Sparrow-1 on 19 April, 2 on 21 April (+JJD, JSi), 1 on 2 May (+JJD) at Harrier M.; 1 on 8 May at Doolittle Pr.; 1 on 11 May at Snake Creek M. (+BE)  
Lapland Longspur-800 on 4 March s of Madrid, Polk Co.; 2 on 21 April in SW Greene Co.; these were the only ones I saw all spring  
Smith's Longspur-32 on 14 April in EC Audubon Co. (photos)  
Bobolink-2 on 4 May at Little River Rec. Area  
Yellow-headed Blackbird-5 on 10 April at Blue L.  
Rusty Blackbird-60 on 16 March at McCord Pond  
Brewer's Blackbird-\*1 female on 11 May at Snake Creek M. (+BE)

Great-tailed Grackle-45 on 5 March at Forney L.; 1 on 7 March n of Hamburg;  
26 on 16 March at Finn Pond; 1 on 16 March, 5 and 2 nests on 8 May at Long  
Pond; 43 on 10 April at Blue L.; 5 on 10 April at Badger L.; a pair building a  
nest on 7 May at the Granger sewage lagoons, Dallas Co.; 2 males, 5 females,  
and 3 nests on 7 May at Brenton Sl., (Dallas Co. side); 2 males on 7 May w of  
Ames, Boone Co.; 16 on 8 May at Dunbar Sl.

Baltimore Oriole-4 on 5 May at Nine Eagles S.P. (+JSi)

Common Redpoll-1 through 5 April at a feeder in Ames (Jeanne Edwards fide  
SJD)

Pine Siskin-1 on 4 May in Leon

Evening Grosbeak-1 male on 21 April n of Ames (Kevin Healy fide SJD)

#### Other observers

James J. Dinsmore (JJD)

Bery Engebretsen (BE)

Loren & Babs Padelford (L&BP)

Mark Proescholdt (MPr)

W. Ross Silcock (WRS)

Jim Sinclair (JSi)

Dennis Thompson (DT)

Phil Walsh (PW)

Hank Zaletel (HZ)

#### Comment

In general, this spring was cool and dry. The waterfowl migration was excellent, both in terms of numbers and diversity, from mid-March through mid-April. Presumably, the cool weather stalled many of these birds here for several weeks, which is longer than normal. The shorebird migration through central Iowa was generally poor: diversity was fair, but overall numbers were very low, despite good habitat. Several species seemed to be present in above-normal numbers this spring: Horned Grebe, Great Egret, Osprey, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks, Wilson's Phalarope, Bonaparte's Gull, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin.

Iowa Field Reports-Spring 1996 addition

Horned Grebe-1 on 12 May at Lake Manawa  
Eared Grebe-4 on 12 May at Lake Manawa  
Sanderling-19 on 12 May at the Mid-American Energy ponds  
Bonaparte's Gull-3 on 12 May at the Mid-American Energy ponds  
Herring Gull-1 first-summer bird on 12 May at Lake Manawa  
Caspian Tern-81 on 12 May at the Mid-American Energy ponds  
Common Tern-1 adult on 12 May at Lake Manawa (saw dark primary shafts)

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