

Diane Porter

908 East Briggs
Fairfield, IA 52556
(515) 472-7256

Iowa Spring 96 Bird Report

Warm and dry in early April, then cold again on the 13th. A cold May, with few warm days. Most of the migrants arrived in Jefferson County late.

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6/1/96
Records: 86

ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
1	Greater White-fronted Goose Second time I've ever seen this species in Jefferson County. Previous maximum was 1.	50	3/3/96	Walton Lake, Jefferson Co., IA	Lake
2	Canada Goose Maximum	250	3/3/96	Walton Lake, Jefferson Co., IA	Lake
3	Turkey Vulture First I saw.	1	3/30/96	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Overhead
4	Northern Harrier An adult male	1	4/3/96	Lamson Woods, Fairfield, IA	Overhead
5	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	3/22/96	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Overhead
6	Broad-winged Hawk First I saw.		3/17/96	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Overhead
7	Wild Turkey Maximum. Six hens crossing the railroad tracks in leisurely manner.	6	3/17/96	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Railroad Tracks
8	Black-necked Stilt Three black-necked stilts, one male and 2 females. Unmistakable birds whose orange-red legs if half as long would still appear too long. One's back was black; the other two had brownish backs. Red iris. <i>just visible w/ 20 power</i>	3	5/19/96	Hwy 218, Washington Co., IA	Mud flats
9	Greater Yellowlegs First	1	4/22/96	Sludge Lagoon, Fairfield, IA	Shore
10	Spotted Sandpiper Ooh -- with spotted breast. First.	1	4/22/96	Sludge Lagoon, Fairfield, IA	Shore

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11	Ruddy Turnstone	2	5/1/96	Lake Sugema, Van Buren Co., IA	Shore
	Stocky shorebirds. Black and rust on back. Black and white face pattern, as if mascara were running down cheek. Legs orange to orange-red. Bill pointed, not upturned as shown in some field guides, but straight. One was in definitive breeding plumage; the other was in some sort of transitional plumage.				
12	American Woodcock	1	3/15/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Jefferson Co., IA	Woods
	By the new lake at the park is a patch of woods, still without leaves. We flushed the woodcock three times as we walked along the path. The last time, it flew against the sky so that we saw its silhouette. Its bill hung down as it flew, as if too heavy to hold up.				
13	Wilson's Phalarope	1	5/3/96	Sand Point, Johnson Co., IA	Mud flats
14	Whip-poor-will	1	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
	Heard. First.				
15	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	5/9/96	In town, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	First				
16	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	4/3/96	Lamson Woods, Fairfield, IA	Edge-Woods
	First I saw, and my earliest Fairfield date by 3 days.				
17	Northern Flicker	1	3/30/96	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Overhead
	My first of the year. I did not see any during the winter.				
18	Eastern Phoebe	1	4/3/96	Lamson Woods, Fairfield, IA	Edge-Woods
	First I saw, and it is a very late first date, though I have been searching for this species almost every day for two weeks in the places I regularly find it every year.				
19	Great Crested Flycatcher	2	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Vegetable garden
	First				
20	Eastern Kingbird	2	5/31/96	Lake Sugema, Van Buren Co., IA	Lake
	A pair has almost completed a nest in a snag rising up out of the water. Height above surface = 6 feet. Distance from shore approximately 30 yards. I have not seen this species nest over water before (though I have not spent much time in a boat looking). I wonder how the young will fare when they fledge, so far from land.				

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21	Winter Wren First I saw this year.	1	4/3/96	Lamson Woods, Fairfield, IA	Stream bank,
22	Golden-crowned Kinglet First one this spring.	1	4/2/96	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Edge-Woods
23	Ruby-crowned Kinglet First of year	3	4/13/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
24	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher First	2	4/28/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
25	Eastern Bluebird Maximum. Two groups in the same general area, one of 12 and the other of 11.	23	3/3/96	Livingston Timber, Jefferson Co., IA	Trees on farms
26	Gray-cheeked Thrush First I saw.	1	5/11/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Edge of woods
27	Swainson's Thrush First I saw this year	1	5/8/96	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Residential area
28	Swainson's Thrush Last. It sang on 5/21 and 5/22. Last seen on 5/23.	1	5/23/96	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Residential area
29	Hermit Thrush Very late. This thrush had a conspicuously rufous upper tail, but its head and back were brown without red tones. Spots were large and restricted to extreme upper breast. Prominent eyering. The first one I saw in Fairfield was on April 13. (4/13)	1	^{May} 5/13/96	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Edge-Woods
30	Wood Thrush First. I heard or saw more Wood Thrushes than usual this spring in Jefferson County. I heard them in locations where I have not heard them before. I hope this means they are doing well.	2	5/8/96	Sockum Ridge Park, Washington Co., IA	Woods

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31	Gray Catbird	2	5/5/96	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
	First I saw this year, a somewhat late first date.				
32	Gray Catbird	2	5/11/96	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	This is the first time I've ever had catbirds eating at the feeder. Maybe the cold and rain and wind have eliminated their usual diet and forced them to explore this unusual food source. They are quite aggressive and successfully chase off cardinals and house finches.				
33	Brown Thrasher	2	4/13/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
	First of the year. Late.				
34	Solitary Vireo	3	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
	First. They seem to be fairly abundant in the wooded areas around Lake Sugema. I heard and saw several at Lake Sugema over the water on 5/31/96.				
35	Yellow-throated Vireo	2	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
	First				
36	Golden-winged Warbler	1	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
	First.				
37	Golden-winged Warbler	4	5/14/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
	Four were foraging in damp woodland understory at about head height. This is the most I've ever seen at once. All were working at height of my chest-to-head in understory, on a numbingly cold morning.				
38	Tennessee Warbler	3	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
	5/13/96 First. 5/27/96 Last? one in my back yard.				
39	Orange-crowned Warbler	1	4/28/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
	First				
40	Nashville Warbler	1	5/1/96	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Trees
	First				

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41	Northern Parula First	1	4/28/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
42	Yellow Warbler First	1	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
43	Chestnut-sided Warbler First	2	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
44	Magnolia Warbler First	1	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
45	Magnolia Warbler Last	1	5/23/96	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Trees
46	Yellow-rumped Warbler First of the year	2	4/13/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
47	Black-throated Green Warbler First	2	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
48	Blackburnian Warbler First, and I'm afraid the only	1	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
49	Yellow-throated Warbler First	1	4/28/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
50	Palm Warbler First I saw.	1	5/1/96	Sand Point, Iowa City, IA	Shore

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51	Bay-breasted Warbler Late. A female in an oak tree. Top of head darker than back. Small dark eyestripe through eye. Large light patch behind ear, like an extension dorsally of the light area of the throat. Black streaks on back. Blackish wings had white wingbars. Flanks yellowish, sides of breast pale, washed-out rusty color. Undertail coverts white.	1	5/27/96	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Residential area
52	Blackpoll Warbler First. A male.	2	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
53	Blackpoll Warbler Late and probably last. A female. Light olive back with dark streaks on back and head. White wingbars on black wings. White undertail coverts. Small, pointed-at-front black eyestripe through eye and indistinct light supercilium. Face lacked Bay-breasted's light patch behind cheek.	1	5/29/96	My Back Yard, Fairfield, IA	Residential Area
54	Black-and-white Warbler Maximum. On the trunks of trees.	2	5/11/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
55	American Redstart First	2	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
56	Ovenbird First	3	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
57	Louisiana Waterthrush Two preening by the stream. One singing by the ford.	3	4/28/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Stream bank,
58	Common Yellowthroat First	1	5/5/96	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
59	Wilson's Warbler	1	5/22/96	Gloria's Pond, Fairfield, IA	Trees
60	Scarlet Tanager One male.	1	5/11/96	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Trees

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61	Rose-breasted Grosbeak First I saw	3	5/8/96	In town, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
62	Rose-breasted Grosbeak Unusual to have any grosbeaks at my feeder. They were late arriving because of the long cold spring. Warm weather on May 8 and 9 brought them into Jefferson County. More cold, starting on the 10th, drove them to feeders. I had many reports, from all over town, of RB grosbeaks at feeders.	11	5/11/96	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Trees
63	Rose-breasted Grosbeak If you add these 21, plus the 11 that I saw at my home, plus 16 reported to me on the telephone by 4 other observers, that makes 48 total recorded at feeders on this day in Fairfield.	21	5/11/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
64	Indigo Bunting First I saw. An immature male. A late first.	1	5/8/96	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
65	Indigo Bunting An adult male. Unusual to see Indigo Bunting at feeder.	1	5/11/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
66	Dickcissel First	1	5/13/96	Lake Sugema, Van Buren Co., IA	Open farmland
67	Eastern Towhee First of the year. First one I've seen since they were split.	1	4/13/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
68	American Tree Sparrow Last one		4/9/96	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
69	Chipping Sparrow First I saw this year. It was singing. I also saw it. Neat red cap without light central stripe. Bright white supercilium. Black eye stripe going clear through eye. Gray around back of neck. I did not see rump color.	1	4/3/96	Lamson Woods, Fairfield, IA	Edge-Woods
70	Clay-colored Sparrow Only one I saw	1	5/11/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Bog in grassy area

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71	Field Sparrow	1	3/24/96	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	First one I saw this year. Distinguished by its pink bill and legs. From Am. Tree by bill-&-leg color, lack of stick pin, smaller size. From Chipping by bill-&-leg color, rufous eyeline. <i>Early.</i>				
72	Fox Sparrow	2	3/30/96	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Overhead
	These more abundant than usual this year.				
73	Lincoln's Sparrow	1	4/26/96	In town, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	First				
74	Swamp Sparrow	1	4/13/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
	First of year				
75	White-throated Sparrow	110	4/27/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
	These sparrows were very abundant this year. There were 31 in my yard one morning.				
76	White-throated Sparrow	240	5/11/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Feeder & Woods
	Maximum. This was an estimate, made and noted at the time, in an area of about 1/2 acre at Jefferson County Park. There were many more seen in the park, but those numbers were not noted. The last date I actually recorded them was 5/11, and I noted there were none on 5/14.				
77	White-crowned Sparrow	5	5/13/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
	First (and only)				
78	Dark-eyed Junco	3	3/30/96	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Trees
	Juncos started singing this morning.				
79	Dark-eyed Junco	1	4/23/96	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Trees
	Last				
80	Brown-headed Cowbird	5	4/6/96	Chautauqua Park, Fairfield, IA	Edge of woods
	They are back. Woo-pee.				

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81	Orchard Oriole	2	5/13/96	Lake Darling, Washington Co., IA	Woods
	Two males, on opposite sides of the lake. Could have been the same one but I would guess they were not.				
82	Baltimore Oriole	1	4/28/96	Lacey Keosauqua, Van Buren Co., IA	Woods
	First I saw this spring, a male. It was a dark, cold, damp day, and this was one of the few migrants I saw on that trip.				
83	Purple Finch		4/6/96	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Trees
	A partial albino Purple Finch was in my yard. It had a dark eye, pinkish legs, and entirely white feathers. It was the size and general shape (including bill) of Purple or House Finches. Tail distinctly notched. Stouter and bigger headed than a House Finch. I did not see it go to the feeders. It was in the yard for about a minute, and I never saw it again.				
84	Purple Finch	2	5/11/96	Jefferson Co. Park, Fairfield, IA	Woods
	Last I saw. Females only.				
85	House Finch	1	4/18/96	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Feeder
	A banded female House Finch was in my yard.				
86	Pine Siskin	1	5/12/96	Feeder, Fairfield, IA	Residential area
	There were 4 at Robert Cooledge's feeder on the 10th. The last was one on May 12th.				