

Field Reports-spring 1994

*Pretty slim pickings for me*

Jim Dinsmore

Western Grebe-one at Grovers Lake, Dickinson Co., 17 May

American Bittern--one at Spring Run W.A., 18 May

Great Blue Heron-colony with about 5 nests at West Hottes Lake, Dickinson Co. 17 May

Cattle Egret-one near West Lake Okoboji, 18 May

Snow Goose--68 at Dan Green Slough, 17 May

Cinnamon Teal--I saw photos of the bird that was seen at Sandbar Slough on east side of Spirit Lake in last half of April

Hudsonian Godwit-5 west of Gilmore City, Pocahontas Co., 9 May

Ruddy Turnstone-1 west of Gilmore City, 18 May

Ring-billed Gull-nesting colony with at least 17 nests found near Spirit Lake on 16 May (Tim Waltz, Doug Harr, I also saw the colony on the 18th-JJD). This is the first report of this species nesting in Iowa. The birds are in an easily disturbed area and I would prefer to keep this off the birdline. It is not a rare bird that anyone needs to see but numerous visitors could cause predation or possibly desertion of the colony.

Short-eared Owl--four at Walnut Creek N.W.R., 30 May (fide Rollin Sachs) (Rollin is working on a project at the refuge for us, he has a M.S. in biology and knows birds)

Great-tailed Grackle-2 males, 1 female at Finn Pond, Greene Co. 17 May

8 males and 2 females at Goose Lake, Greene Co., 17 May

Swainson's Warbler-see attached documentation

John called me about this bird. I had students stacked up at my office and couldn't get away for several hours. I checked the area the next



morning and couldn't find any sign of the bird. John is a good birder and grew up in a birding family. His father is a well-known ornithologist and John has been a birder for years. I think that he is a careful observer and that he has good familiarity with the various warblers, etc. A report like this is a real puzzler but here are the details.