

Iowa Field Reports-Fall 1994

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- Pacific Loon-the adult at Anderson L. was still present on 1 August
- ✓ Common Loon-2 through early August on West Okoboji Lake (Marty Eby fide SJD); 1 on 13 October at Saylorville; 21 on 29 October at Rathbun Reservoir (+JSi, JC); 23 on 4 November at Lake Manawa; 122 on 8 November at Saylorville; 11 on 25 November at Spirit L. (+SBG)
- ✓ Horned Grebe-8 on 25 November at Spirit L. (+SBG)
- Eared Grebe-1 on 5 August at Willow Sl.; 1 on 20 October, 3 on 21 October (+LAS) at Saylorville; 2 on 23 October at Twelve Mile L., Union Co.; 1 on 23 October at Lake Icaria; 1 on 25 October at Lake Manawa; 1 on 29 October at Rathbun Reservoir (+JSi, JC); 1 on 10,24,26 November at Little Wall L. (+SBG)
- Western Grebe-3 on 8 November at Saylorville; 1 on 12 November at Lost Island L.; 4 on 26 November at Clear L. (+SBG); 1 on 29 November at Saylorville (+GB)
- Clark's Grebe-*1 adult on 25 November at South Twin L., Calhoun Co. (+SBG)
- American White Pelican-264 on 4 August at Forney L. (+WRS); 8 on 11 November at Storm L.; 2 on 23 November below Saylorville dam (+SBG); singles on 25 November at West Okoboji L. and Trumbull L. (+SBG)
- American Bittern-1 on 4 August at Forney L. (+WRS); 1 on 15 October at Big Wall L.
- Least Bittern-up to 4 on 4-5 August at Forney L. (+WRS)
- Little Blue Heron-2 immatures on 1 August at Anderson L.; 3 adults and 5 immatures on 4-5 August at Sheldon Pond, Fremont Co. (+WRS)
- Snowy Egret-1 on 4 August at Forney L. (+WRS); 1 on 4,7 August at Sheldon Pond, Fremont Co. (+WRS); 1 on 8 August at Saylorville [all birds had slender, dark bills and dark legs with yellow feet]
- Black-crowned Night-Heron-3 on 4 August at Sheldon Pond, Fremont Co. (+WRS); 5 on 15 October, 2 on 18 October at Big Wall L.; 4 immatures on 4 November at DeSoto NWR; 1 immature on 8 November at Bays Branch
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron-1 immature on 3 August near Garlock Sl., Dickinson Co.; 1-2 immatures on 4,5,7 August at Sheldon Pond, Fremont Co. (+WRS)
- Trumpeter Swan-1 adult with an orange patagial tag #217 on 29 November at Hallett's Quarry n. of Ames (+JJD)
- Greater White-fronted Goose-187 on 21 October at Saylorville (+LAS); 204 in 2 flocks on 21 October at Runnell's W.A. (+LAS); 354 on 25 October, 407 on 1 November, 307 on 8 November at Bays Branch; 110 on 29 October at Red Rock Reservoir (+JJD) [these are unusually large numbers for central Iowa in fall]; several thousand were moving over DeSoto NWR on 25 October (George Gage fide SJD)
- Ross' Goose-5 on 8 November, 7 on 15 November at Bays Branch; 70+ on 22 November at DeSoto NWR
- Snow Goose-6 on 2 August at Swan L., Dickinson Co. probably summered; 3 on 3 August at Dan Green Sl. (+LAS); there were 800,000 at DeSoto NWR on 24 November (fide SJD); *an individual color-marked at Wrangel Island, Russia was at DeSoto NWR on 22 November*
- Canada Goose-11,000+ on 8 November at Bays Branch
- Wood Duck-263 were counted on 4 August as they flew into Forney L. at dusk (+WRS)

American Black Duck-1 on 30 October at Red Rock Res.; 1 on 26 November at Tuttle L. (+SBG); 3 on 26 November at Clear L. (+SBG)
Blue-winged Teal-1 male on 25 November w. of Spirit Lake (+SBG)
Northern Shoveler-1 on 2 August at Cunningham Sl.
Greater Scaup-4 on 9 November at Saylorville; 1 on 12 November, 5 on 26 November (+SBG) at Spirit L. [all identified by combination of more rounded head shape, larger size, white wing stripe extending into the inner primaries]
Lesser Scaup-11,000+ on 9 November at Saylorville is a high count for the area
Oldsquaw-1 female on 9 November at Saylorville; 1 female on 25 November and 5 (1 male, 4 females) on 26 November at Spirit L. (+SBG)
Black Scoter-1 female or immature on 12 October at Keokuk; 8 females or immatures on 8 November at Saylorville [all were large, black ducks with dark wings and a white patch on the throat and chin]
Surf Scoter-1 female or immature on 11 November at Swan Lake S.P., Carroll Co.; 1 immature male on 28 November at Red Rock Res.
White-winged Scoter-7 females or immatures on 12 October at Keokuk; 1 male and 1 female or immature on 29 October at Red Rock Reservoir (+JJD, m.ob.); 1 male on 3 November at Saylorville; 1 adult male on 25 November at South Twin L., Calhoun Co. (+SBG)
Common Goldeneye-the first were singles on 25 October at IPL Ponds and Lake Manawa
Hooded Merganser-1 on 16 October, 138 on 19 November at Saylorville; 198 on 25 November at Spirit L. (+SBG)
Common Merganser-1 male on 5 August at the n. end of Spirit L. (+WRS); very few were present until after 25 November, a bit later than normal
Ruddy Duck-many were still present in late November, e.g. 66 on 21 November at Saylorville
Bald Eagle-28 November was a big flight day in central Iowa with 26 migrating over Saylorville dam in less than an hour (+SBG)
Osprey-1 on 3 November at Ames
Golden Eagle-1 immature on 25 October at Hitchcock Nature Area (+LPa, BPa)
Merlin-1 female or immature on 21 November at Big Creek S.P. (+SBG); 1 female or immature on 25 November at Spirit L. (+SBG)
Peregrine Falcon-1 immature on 16 October at Saylorville
Prairie Falcon-1 on 25 October at Hitchcock Nature Area (+LPa, BPa)[a large pale gray/brown falcon, noted black axillars]
Common Moorhen-4 ad. with 13 young on 4 August at Blue L. (+PE); 1 immature on 29 October at Rathbun Reservoir (+JSi, JC)[slightly smaller and thinner-necked than a coot with more brown color on body, bill dark, white line along flank below wing, whitish throat]
American Coot-1 on 5 August at Willow Sl.; 4,350 on 20 October at Saylorville; many still present in NW Iowa in late November, e.g. 500 on 25 November at West Okoboji L. (+SBG)
Sandhill Crane-2 in late October at Brown's Sl. (Jim Coffey fide SJD); 1 adult on 24 October at Forney L. (+WRS)
Semipalmated Plover-1 on 21 October at Runnell's W.A., Marion Co.
Piping Plover-1 on 4 August at the IPL Ponds
American Avocet-2 on 12 October at Heron Bend, Lee Co.; 82 on 20 October at Saylorville eventually landed in the middle of the reservoir with a flock of Franklin's Gulls; 1 on 21 October at Runnell's W.A., Polk Co. (+LAS); 1 on 23 October at Twelve Mile L., Union Co.; 3 on 23 October at Lake Icaria
Greater Yellowlegs-1 through 16 November at Hallett's Quarry n. of Ames

Lesser Yellowlegs-400 on 1 August w. of Union Slough NWR; 1 on 14 November at Saylorville [seen only in flight-identified by small size, soft tu-tu-tu call note]

Sanderling-4 on 4 August at the IPL Ponds; 2 on 8 August at Saylorville Res.

Baird's Sandpiper-33 on 8 August at Saylorville Res.; 2 on 3 November at Saylorville

Pectoral Sandpiper-900 on 1 August w. of Union Slough NWR; 812 on 8 August at Saylorville Res.; 1 on 10 November at Anderson L.

Stilt Sandpiper-71 on 3 August at Spencer (+LAS)

Buff-breasted Sandpiper-3 on 3 August at Spencer (+LAS); 1 on 8 August at Saylorville Res.

Common Snipe-1 on 1 August w. of Union Slough NWR; 54 on 10 November at Anderson L.

Wilson's Phalarope-1 on 1 August w. of Union Slough NWR

Franklin's Gull-1,800+ on 2-3 August at the Spirit Lake dump; 14,000+ on 12 October at Rathbun Res.; 8,000+ on 13 October, 3,200+ on 20 October at Saylorville; 70 on 12 November in the Spirit L. area; 1 on 17 November at Big Creek L.

Little Gull-*1 winter adult on 14-19 November at Big Creek L. (+JJD, photos)

Common Black-headed Gull-*1 adult on 2-3 August at the n. end of Spirit L. (photos); *1 adult feeding a juvenile bird on 2,3,5 August at Kettleton WPA (+m.ob., photos); *1 winter adult on 21,23 November at Big Creek L. (+m.ob.)

Bonaparte's Gull-250 on 30 October, 581 on 8 November, 718 on 14 November, 8 on 29 November at Big Creek L.

Ring-billed Gull-400+ on 2-3 August at the Spirit Lake dump; 2,500+ on 21 November at Big Creek L.; 3,600+ on 25 November in the Spirit Lake area (+SBG); 5,000+ on 28 November at Red Rock Res.

Herring Gull-1 3rd-summer bird on 2,3,5 August at the n. end of Spirit L.

Common Tern-1 ad. on 3 August at Spirit L. [identified by higher-pitched call, dark outer primaries seen in flight]

Least Tern-2 adults feeding 2 half-grown young on 4-5 August at the IPL Ponds

Black Tern-2 in basic plumage on 16 October at Saylorville [watched for almost an hour as they flew over reservoir above dam-noted small size, typical tern shape, gray color on mantle and upperwings, dark cap extending to behind eye, white forehead, slender, black bill, underparts white-they were unquestionably Black Terns, though the date is almost 3 weeks later than I had previously seen this species in Iowa]

Burrowing Owl-2 adults with 4 young on 2-3 August in SW Emmet Co.

Long-eared Owl-4 on 21 November at Big Creek S.P. (+SBG)

Short-eared Owl-1 on 23 November at Teig's M. (+SBG)

Northern Saw-whet Owl-1 on 28 November n. of Ledges S.P. (+SBG)

Brown Creeper-11 on 25 November at Sunken Grove L., Pocahontas Co. (+SBG)

American Pipit-the peak was 200+ on 1 November at Bays Branch

Northern Shrike-1 adult on 9 November at Big Creek S.P.

Orange-crowned Warbler-2 on 25 October at Hitchcock Nature Area

Common Yellowthroat-1 immature male on 18 October at Big Wall L.

Rufous-sided Towhee-singles of the "spotted" race on 21 October (+LAS) and 3 November at Saylorville

Lapland Longspur-400+ on 1 November at Bays Branch; tens of thousands were in NW Iowa on 11-12 November with smaller numbers on 25-26 November (+SBG)

Snow Bunting-1 on 29 October at Red Rock Reservoir (+JJD, m.ob.); 1 on 1 November at Bays Branch; 1 on 3 November at Saylorville; 1 on 11 November at Gull Point S.P.; 1 on 12 November at the n. end of Spirit L.

Rusty Blackbird-450+ on 12 November at Tuttle L., Emmet Co.
Brewer's Blackbird-1 male and 3 females on 12 November at Spring Run [male
glossy like a grackle, females grayer than a female Rusty with dark eyes]
Great-tailed Grackle-8 came to roost on the evening of 4 August at Forney L.
(+WRS); 1 male on 15 October at Big Wall L.; 1 male and 1 female on 24
October at Forney L.; 7 males and 6 females on 12 November at Spring Run

Other observers

Gordon Brown (GB)
John Cecil (JC)
James J. Dinsmore (JJD)
Pete Ernzen (PE)
Susan B. Grove (SBG)
Babs Padelford (BPa)
Loren Padelford (LPa)
Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS)
Jim Sinclair (JSi)
W. Ross Silcock (WRS)