

IOU FIELD REPORTS FORM

Date filed: May 28, 1996

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Season: Spring

Year: 1996

Name: Douglas C. Harr

Address: PO Box 65

Larchwood, IA 51241

Other Observers: Lee & Nancy Schoenewe*

Harold White**

Tim Waltz*** (*, **, and *** listed with sightings noted below)

General Notes: Spring of 1996 was generally colder than normal in extreme northwest Iowa, abnormally dry during most of March and April, then rainy throughout much of May, especially late in the month. Migrating waterfowl held in large numbers late into the migration season, possibly due to the late ice-out on lakes and wetlands north of Iowa. Likewise, shorebird concentrations appeared to be later than usual this year. Shorebird migration was best of past 3 years.

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
✓ Common Loon	1	5/1-5/2/96	On 1-acre borrow pit near Rock River, Lyon Co.
✓ American Bittern	2	1 on 4/30/96 1 on 5/18/96	At Spring Run WMA, Dickinson County. At Kettleson Hogsback WMA, Dickinson Co.
✓ Great Egret	--	4/18/96	Large migration on Dickinson Co. wetlands.
✓ Gr. White-fronted Goose	est. 10,000	3/17/96	In migration along Big Sioux River, Lyon Co; largest number ever seen in extreme NW IA by observer. (* & **)
✓ Snow Goose	est. 250,000+	3/17/96	In migration along Big Sioux River; similar number reported by area residents on 3/16/96. (* & **)
Bald Eagle	--	Mar-Apr	Numerous sightings along all rivers and lakes.
✓ Osprey	1	4/18/96	Near West Okoboji Lake, Dickinson Co.
✓ N. Goshawk	1	4/2/96	Waterman Prairie WMA, SE O'Brien County.
✓ Swainson's Hawk	1	4/17/96	Gitchie Manitou State Preserve, Lyon Co. (usually one nesting in area each year)
✓ Merlin	2	1 on 3/17 1 on 4/17	Along Big Sioux River, Lyon County. (* & **) Near Inwood, Lyon County.
✓ American Coot	est. 50,000	4/21/96	Rush Lake, Osceola Co.; largest number ever recorded by observer on a N. IA wetland; many area residents came to observe flock 4/20-4/24/96.
Semi-palmated Plover	13	✓ 12 on 4/18/96 1 on 5/17-5/18	At Dugout Creek WPA, Dickinson County. At Grovers Lake WMA, Dickinson County.

Species	No.	Date	Notes
✓ Willet	2	5/14-5/18/96	At Grovers Lake WMA, Dickinson County
✓ Hudsonian Godwit	14	5/14/96	At McBreen Marsh WMA, Dickinson County (with Marbled Godwit, listed below)
✓ Marbled Godwit	1	5/14/96	At McBreen Marsh WMA, Dickinson County (smaller, darker-colored, with black tail and white tail coverts distinct)
✓ Semi-palmated Sandpiper	60+/-	5/14/96	At Grovers Lake WMA, Dickinson County (part of mixed flock reported in next species).
✓ Western Sandpiper	200+/-	5/14/96	At Grovers Lake WMA, Dickinson County. Observed in good light with 8x40 binocs and 20x scope for over 1/2 hour. At least a dozen of the flock were near enough to clearly see rust-color on scapulars and on crown and cheek patch. Total number is rough estimate out of flock of about 300 mixed peeps feeding on draw-down mudflats. The bulk of this flock appeared most similar to the Westerns observed at close range.
Least Sandpiper	--	May	Common on many Dickinson Co. wetlands.
✓ White-rumped Sandpiper	15+/-	5/14/96	At Grovers Lake WMA, Dickinson County (part of mixed flock reported above).
Pectoral Sandpiper	--	May	Common on many Dickinson Co. wetlands.
Dunlin	6	2 on 5/14/96 4 on 5/22/96	At Grovers Lake WMA, Dickinson County. At Christopherson Slough WMA, Dickinson Co.
Stilt Sandpiper	7	5/14/96	At McBreen Marsh WMA, Dickinson Co.
Dowitcher sp.	48	36 on 5/14/96 12 on 5/22/96	At Grovers Lake WMA, Dickinson Co. At Christopherson Slough WMA, Dickinson Co.
Common Snipe	2	4/18/96	Winnowing at Dugout Creek WPA, Dickinson Co.
✓ Back Terns	--	May	<i>Abundant</i> on most Dickinson County wetlands.
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	4/17/96	Was <i>very</i> early , near Inwood, Lyon County (***)

Species	No.	Date	Notes
Northern Shrike	1	3/12-3/17/96	Near Big Sioux River, Lyon County. On 3/17 was observed carrying a dead male Eastern Bluebird from a plum thicket (* **).
Solitary Vireo	1	5/18/96	Kattleson Hogsback WMA, Dickinson Co.
Tennessee Warbler	--	May	Reported only because they have been noted in <i>extraordinary</i> numbers in Dickinson Co. woodlands--reported by many local birders.
Connecticut Warbler	1	5/23/96	Larchwood, Lyon County (only 2nd one ever seen by observer here).
Fox Sparrow	--	4/16/96	Numerous in migration at Larchwood, Lyon Co.
White-crowned Sparrow	4	5/14/96	At Grovers Lake, Dickinson County.

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<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Old Squaw	1	5/7/96	Female at Dewey's Pasture WMA, Palo Alto Co. Reported by Tom Neal, Iowa DNR, and 3 other DNR employees.
Bald Eagle	11	3/26/96	All 11 seen perched in one large cottonwood at Grovers Lake WMA, Dickinson County. Reported by DNR employee Erwin Wackerbarth.
Burrowing Owl	1	4/26/96	Sighted on den site in CRP switchgrass field northwest of Larchwood, Lyon County. Observed by NRCS District Conservationist Bill Martin, who is familiar with these owls in Nebraska. However, CRP was subsequently withdrawn from program and burned prior to returning field to row crops. Owl not sighted since.
Western Tanager	1	5/13?/96	Reported by Jim DeGooyer of Rock Rapids (Lyon County) and two neighbors as having been seen in yards around May 13th. Described as a yellow bird with red head and black wings and tail, larger than a goldfinch. Sighting was not reported to Doug Harr until about a week later, so verification was not possible, but given description, ID is correct.