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# Iowa Ornithologists' Union



STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

1 June, 1971

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Dear Vern:

Here is the info for Field Notes. Some of these items may be sent you by the respective observers - I have asked Gladys Black of Pleasantville to write you direct, and Petersen will doubtless do so.

The dates and opinions are mine unless the name of another observer appears.

All in all, this has been the poorest spring I can recall for other than waterfowl.

*Woody Brown*

Spring Season, 1971

Location  
re-carbed on last  
page.

April was cool and dry with considerable wind - more like March - but some rain in the third week. May was also cool, with several hard rains in the second and end of the third week, the latter accompanied by tornadic winds.

Loons. A Common Loon, seen on 29 April was still present on 19 May.

Grebes. Horned were scarce, and Eared almost none.

Hérons. A Little Blue adult at Red Rock Refuge on 26 April (Gladys Black)

Cattle Egrets. Seen on 5 May (MRs. P.L. Scott), 2 on 5 May with a probably one the previous week (Mrs. I. H. McDonald), 5 May (Mrs. Lloyd Hewitt), 25 April (Steve Hanselman). These were all widely separated. Only 1 Common Egret at Red Rock (G. Black) and but one at Twin Lakes. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Red Rock on 4 April (Wm. Criswell) and one on 1 May (Lillian Serbousek).

Geese. Migration thought good with more White-fronted than usual.

Ducks. A good migration. Mallards few. Redheads more. Scaup very numerous. Goldeneyes and Buffleheads more. Hooded Mergansers few, but Red-breasted outnumbered the Common.

Turkey Vultures at Red Rock down (G. Black). Only 4 Sharpshinned banded as against 20 last year (Jim Rod). An unusual concentration of Red-tailed seen on 27-28 March (Dean Roosa). A Red-shouldered seen on 30 March (Joe & Dorothy Brown). An early Broadwinged on 20 April (P. Petersen), and on 21 April (Ruth Zollars). A late Rough-legged on 9 May (Mrs. D. Hanna). An Osprey on 17 March was early (Dick Mooney). Sparrow Hawk migration generally thought good.

Prairie Chickens. Several observations in late March and early April in the Hamburg area (Mrs. E. Getscher).

Shorebirds. Many reports of Golden Plover, but only two of Black-bellied. Five ~~AM~~ early Upland Plovers seen on 2 May (H. Peasley). A new early date for Least Sandpipers was 14 April with 9 seen (J. Rod). Two Marbled

Godwits seen 2 May (J. Rod). Avocets seen 2 May (Wm. Criswell) and 13 May (F. Kent).

Cuckoos. Only 2 or 3 of each sp. Loss of elms a factor?

Chuck-will's-widow at Shenandoah in s.w. Iowa 7 May (Jean Broley).

Flycatchers were all late.

Purple Martins were late.

Hylocichlas were quite late, but came in good numbers.

Kinglets. Few, if any, Golden-crowned seen, and Ruby-crowned not numerous.

Loggerhead Shrikes were seen in numbers

Vireos and Warblers. All were late. The only semblance of a wave was on 17 May after a rain. I personally saw not ~~over~~ a dozen Myrtles. \*

Blackbirds. Very large flock of mixed blackbirds this spring.

Finches. Generally poor migration of practically all. Late LeConte's were seen on 16 May (Darwin Koenig) and 22 May.

\* The rare Worm-eating was seen 15 and 17 May (J. Rod), and a Black-throated Blue (Dorothy Brown).

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