

Dennis Carter
319-382-3754

Entered

P.O. Box 531
Decorah, IA 52101
August 1, 1996

FIELD REPORTS - SUMMER 1996

GENERAL TRENDS

The season was uneventful. I feel that nesting got off to a late start and also ended early for many species.

SPECIES DATA

General comments refer to Winneshiek County, including the following localities: Cardinal Marsh, Coon Creek Wildlife Management Area, ^{Decorah,} Highlandville, and Lake Meyer County Park.

Great Blue Heron: Two new colonies were located in the northern part of the county. One was located in a steep-sided valley, adjacent to the Upper Iowa River, and contained about 30 nests.

Green Heron: Present at Cardinal Marsh throughout the period; 4 were seen there on 29 Jul.

Hooded Merganser: two females were seen at Cardinal M. on 27 Jun.

Cooper's Hawk: One was at Lake Meyer throughout the period (Larry Reis); one was seen at Decorah on 25 Jul.

Broad-winged Hawk: One was seen over Effigy Mounds National Mon., Allamakee Co. on 15 Jun.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 16 were at Cardinal M. on 15 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: First was one at the Decorah State Fish Hatchery on 9 Jul.

Forster's Tern: 5 were at Cardinal M. on 27 Jun.

FIELD REPORTS - SUMMER 1996 (continued)

Black Tern: 14 were seen at Cardinal M. on 5 Jun and one was there on 15 Jul.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: A few were found in Allamakee and Winneshiek counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: County Naturalist Larry Reis reported two young fledged from a nest in a Silver Maple at Fort Atkinson, Winneshiek Co. in late June. I found a few in both Allamakee and Winneshiek counties.

Willow Flycatcher: found in a few Winneshiek Co. localities.

Least Flycatcher: One was heard in the Coon Creek W.M.A. on 3 Jun; another was seen and heard in the usual locality, near Highlandville, on 4 Jul.

Eastern Kingbird: Numbers were up from last year's low, and they were found in several localities.

Cliff Swallow: Widely distributed with colonies on most bridges, even small ones. However, some of the larger colonies had reduced numbers, e.g. at Decorah.

Sedge Wren: 4 were singing at Cardinal M. on 5 Jun.

Yellow-throated Vireo: found in Winneshiek Co.

Blue-winged Warbler: One was singing at Coon Creek W.M.A. on 3 Jun and 6 were found there on 10 Jul.

Ovenbird: Found in wooded areas in Allamakee and Winneshiek counties. Most were 6 singing birds at Coon Creek W.M.A. on 10 Jul.

Cerulean Warbler: A singing male was seen and heard at Coon Creek W.M.A. on 3 Jun.

FIELD REPORTS - SUMMER 1996 (continued)

Scarlet Tanager: A few were found in Allamakee and Winneshiek counties.

Dickcissel: I found this species only at Cardinal M.; 6 singing males were there on 11 and 15 Jul. However, none were found on 29 Jul.

Swamp Sparrow: Two singing males were at Cardinal M. throughout the period, as usual.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Ten were at Cardinal M. on 5 June and 5 on 27 June. However, they had already left the area by 11 Jul.

Orchard Oriole: They were at Lake Meyer throughout the ~~period~~^{period}; recently fledged young were seen in Jul.

Red Crossbill: A Gloria Looney phoned me to report the presence of up to 20 birds at her feeder in Postville, Allamakee Co., 16-21 Jul. She was within a few feet of the birds, clearly saw the crossed bills and noted male and female and immature plumages. They fed on small, black oil sunflower seeds. Although, I did not verify this record, I feel that it is accurate.

Mrs. Looney was anxious to have others see these birds and was able to show them to a few neighbors and friends.

She was not aware of the other Iowa sightings.

Addendum: Eastern Wood Pewee: I heard fewer than usual, especially toward the end of the period when they are usually persistent all-day singers.

I hope to see you at the fall meeting.

Dennis Carter
Dennis Carter