

## FIELD REPORTS--FALL 1994

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### WEATHER

August was cool, with average temperature 2.4 degrees below normal. There was a warming trend toward the end of the month. Rainfall was slightly below normal.

September and October were warmer than normal by 2.3 and 2.1 degrees, respectively. The first frost came on 10 October in the north and 26 October in the south. Rainfall in September and October was below normal in the southeast and slightly above normal elsewhere. There was no snow in October, which is unusual.

November temperatures were 2.5 degrees above average with above normal precipitation. The first winter storm hit the northern parts of the state the weekend after Thanksgiving.

### GENERAL TRENDS

The cool weather early in the period and warm weather late in the period were associated with many early and late records. Observers in the northeast (DeC) and northwest (PE) noted an early influx of warblers in August. Water birds were late and spread out. The late November storm brought down a number of late water birds such as scoters and Oldsquaw. Most of the large, late gulls had not arrived by the end of the period. Shorebirds were widely scattered in location and timing.

### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

The fall season was outstanding for rarities. Accidental species reported were Clark's Grebe, Barrow's Goldeneye, Mississippi Kite, Ferruginous Hawk, Black-necked Stilt, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Common Black-headed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Steller's Jay, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Some of these species will be moved to the Casual list when the next checklist is published.

Casual species were Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, and Burrowing Owl.

Some of the rarer regular species included Red-necked Grebe, Ibis species, Cinnamon Teal, Prairie Falcon, Hudsonian Godwit, White-rumped Sandpiper, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Henslow's Sparrow.

The Fulvous Whistling-Duck found this summer remained into August. The Records Committee has moved Trumpeter Swan from Extirpated to Regular. Birders should use American Birding Association guidelines to determine which ones should be "counted". All should be reported and documented. One exotic, Chukar, was reported.

SPECIES DATA (\* = documented, [ ] = record dates

**Red-throated Loon:** 1 mostly in basic plumage was at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. on 25 Nov (\*BKP/LJP)[3rd latest].

**Pacific Loon:** The bird that summered at Anderson L. in Hamilton Co. (\*THK, m.ob.) was last noted on 16 Sep (JJD). A fall bird was reported at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. on 7 Nov (\*PE).

**Common Loon:** First: 1 on 13 Oct was at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Last: 1 on 28 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). High count: 122 on 8 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Other reports were of 1 to 37 at seven other locations. At West Okoboji, 2 summered to early Aug (Marty Eby fide SJD).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** High counts: 150 at West Hottes L. on 25 Sep (LAS), 143 at L. Manawa on 22 Sep (BKP/LJP), and 101 at Rathbun Res. on 8 Oct (RLC).

**Horned Grebe:** There were a number of reports of very early birds in northwestern Iowa, none with any description to eliminate Eared Grebe or to indicate the plumage, and only one indicated that the observer was aware of the early date. There were reports from 13 locations, most from mid-October through November with high count of 20 at L. Manawa on 8 Nov (BKP/LJP).

**Red-necked Grebe:** All: 2 on 23 Nov at Clear L. (CJF-details); and 1 on 24 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP-details)[3rd latest].



**Eared Grebe:** First: 2 at Grover's L. in Dickinson Co. on 16, 20 Aug (JJD, LAS). Last: 1 on 25 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (CE). High count: 3 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 14 Sep (MCK) and at Saylorville Res. on 21 Oct (SJD). Others were distributed at 10 other locations from August through November.

**Western Grebe:** First: 2 on 28 Aug at Trumbull L. in Clay Co. (LAS). Last: 1 on 29 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD). High count: 5 at West Okoboji on 30 Oct (ET) and at L. Manawa on 5 Nov (PHA/RIA). Between 5 and 26 November, 1 to 4 were also reported from other locations in Dickinson Co., Red Rock Res., Blue L., Lost Island L., Clear L., and Pleasant Creek L., which is more than usual.

**Clark's Grebe:** 1 was found on the ice at South Twin L. in Calhoun Co. on 25 Nov (\*SJD).

**American White Pelican:** Last: 1 on 26 Nov in Lee Co. (CE). High count: 1,500 at Red Rock Res. on 20 Aug (RLC). On 25 Sep, 1,230 migrated past Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP). In September, hundreds were reported from 8 locations. In November, 1 to 8 lingered at 8 locations.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** High count: 494 migrating at Hitchcock N.A. on 26 Sep (BKP/LJP).

**American Bittern:** All (singles): 4 Aug at Forney L. (SJD); 12, 14 Oct at Tomahawk L. in Sac Co. (JLF, PE); and 15 Oct at Big Wall L. (SJD).

**Least Bittern:** All: 1 on 3 Aug at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (PE); 4 on 4 Aug at Forney L. (SJD); and 1 on 7 Aug at Hottes L. (PCP).

**Great Blue Heron:** 1 was considered late at Rock Valley in Sioux Co. on 25 Nov (JV).

**Great Egret:** Last: 1 on 5 Nov at Big Creek S.P. (AMJ). High count: 135 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Aug (MCK). Other late birds were 1 on 3 Nov at Diamond L. (MPr) and 2 on 3 Nov at Credit Is. (PCP). In Muscatine Co., 52 were along a backwater on 28 Sep (DCD).

**Snowy Egret:** All: 1 on 4 Aug at Forney L. (SJD); 1-2 from 4 to 11 Aug at Sheldon Basin in Fremont Co. (SJD, JLF, PHA/RIA); 1 on 8 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD); 5 on 28 Aug at Devil's Creek Access in Lee Co. (CE); and 1 on 15 Sep at Blue L. (PE)[3rd latest]. A follow up report was of 1 w. of Boone on 9 May 1993 (\*MJ).

**Little Blue Heron:** All: 2 imm. at Anderson L. in Hamilton Co. 1, 4 Aug (SJD, MPr, JLF); 3 ad. and 5 imm. at Sheldon Basin in Fremont Co. on 4, 11, 13 Aug (SJD, JLF, PHA/RIA); 7 imm. at Otter Creek M. on 6 Aug (MPr); 2 imm. at Decatur Bend on 19 Aug (PE); 3 imm. at Red Rock Res. on 20 Aug (RLC); and 1 imm. at Long Pond in Greene Co. on 31 Aug (JSi). At Sheldon Basin on 7 Aug, there were six immatures, one with "calico" plumage (PHA/RIA).

**Cattle Egret:** All: 2 on 27-28 Aug in Lee Co. (CE); and 1 on 15 Sep at Tomahawk M. (HZ, JLF). Were more seen, or were fewer than normal present?

**Green Heron:** Last: 6 on 27 Aug in Dallas Co. (RLC).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Last: 1 imm. on 11 Nov at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD)[record latest, except for two winter records]. High count: 8 in Palo Alto Co. on 1 Oct (LAS). There reports from seven other locations.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** All: 1 imm. on 3 Aug at Garlock Sl. in Dickinson Co. (SJD); 1-2 from 4 to 11 Aug in SW Fremont Co. (SJD, JLF); and 1 on 10 Sep at Anderson L. (HZ).

**Ibis species:** 1 was at Tomahawk M. in Sac Co. from 10 to 14 Oct (\*JLF, PE)[3rd latest]. There was another secondhand report without details.

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck:** The bird found at Goose L. in Clinton Co. in July was last reported on 8 Sep (Don Mueller fide PCP).

**Tundra Swan:** First: 4 on 25 Oct at Kettleson Hogsback A. (DCH). High count: 197 on 11 Nov at Pool 9 in Allamakee Co. (JLF). Others were reported from Clayton, Johnson, and Kossuth counties.

**Trumpeter Swan:** All: 3 unmarked free-flying birds at Bays Branch W.A. on 6 Aug which were one-year-old birds that had been brought in from Wisconsin (\*THK); 1 unmarked ad. n. of Clear L. on 17 Oct (\*RGo); 2 ad. with blue neck collars (apparently Wisconsin birds) at Coralville Res. on 23 Nov (THK); and 1 ad with orange wing tag #217 (from Minnesota) at Hallet's Quarry in Story Co. on 29-30 Nov (SJD, JJD).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** High count: 407 on 1 Nov at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD). Flocks of more than 100 were reported from central Iowa from 21 Oct to 8 Nov. A bird that summered at Tomahawk M. in Sac Co. was seen to 7 Sep (MPr).

**Snow Goose:** High count: 800,000 on 24 Nov at De Soto N.W.R. (fide SJD). Birds that probably summered include 6 at Swan L. in Dickinson Co. on 2 Aug (SJD), 3 at Dan Green Sl. on 3 Aug (SJD),



and 1 at Black Hawk L. on 6 Aug (THK). A bird at De Soto N.W.R. on 22 Nov was color marked at Wrangel Is. in Russia (SJD).

**Ross's Goose:** All: 1 on 25 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. in Kossuth Co. (MCK-details)[**record earliest**]; 3 on 6 Nov in Woodbury Co. (BFH); 5 on 8 Nov and 7 on 15 Nov at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD); 1 on 12 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP); and 70 on 22 Nov at De Soto N.W.R. (SJD).

**Canada Goose:** 11,000 were at Bays Branch W.A. on 8 Nov (SJD).

**Wood Duck:** Last: 6 on 24 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 263 on 4 Aug at Forney L. (SJD).

**American Black Duck:** 1-3 were reported from 5 counties.

**Northern Pintail:** First: 1 on 5 Sep at Tomahawk M. (PE).

**Blue-winged Teal:** High count: 240 in Dallas Co. on 27 Aug (RLC).

**Cinnamon Teal:** A male in partial molt was on ice-covered Blue L. on 30 Nov, three days after a winter storm (\*PE)[**record latest**, by far].

**Northern Shoveler:** Last: 1 on 25 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (JDa). High count: 80 on 22 Sep at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

**Canvasback:** A brood was at Mud L. in Clay Co. in Aug (Jennifer Sells fide JJD).

**Redhead:** High count: 40 on 31 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

**Greater Scaup:** All: 1 on 30 Oct at Pleasant Creek L. (CE-details); 4 on 9 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD); 1 on 12 Nov at Spirit L. (SJD); 1 female on 24 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK); and 5 on 26 Nov at Spirit L. (SJD).

**Lesser Scaup:** High count: 11,000 on 9 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Oldsquaw:** All: 1 on 6 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AMJ, JLF); 1 on 9 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD); 1 on 18 Nov at Mason City (RGo); 2-4 from 24 to 30 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (DLD, CE, THK); 1-2 on 24 to 28 Nov at L. Manawa/Midwest Power Ponds (BKP/LJP, EuA/EIA); and 5 on 30 Nov at Spirit L. (SJD). This is more than usual.

**Black Scoter:** All: 1 female/imm. on 12 Oct at Keokuk (SJD)[**record earliest**]; 2 males and 1 female on 27 Oct at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (fide PE); 1 female on 29 Oct and 1 male on 30 Oct at Red Rock Res. (JLF, AMJ); and 8 female/imm. on 8 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Surf Scoter:** All: 1 on 8, 24 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC, TNJ); 4 on 11 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK); 1 on 5, 12 Nov and 5 on 26 Nov at L. Anita in Cass Co. (PHA/RIA, CE, EuA/EIA); 1 on 11 Nov at Swan L. in Carroll Co. (SJD); and 1 imm. male at Red Rock Res. on 28 Nov (SJD).

**White-winged Scoter:** All: 7 female/imm. on 12 Oct at Keokuk (SJD)[**ties 2nd earliest**]; 2 on 29 Oct at Red Rock Res. (JJD, SJD); 1 on 3, 4 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD, JLF); 1 on 11-18 Nov at Pine L. (MPr); 1 ad. male on 25 Nov at South Twin L. (SJD); 2 on 26 Nov at L. Anita (EuA/EIA); and 1 ad. male on 27 Nov at Carter L. (BKP/LJP).

**Common Goldeneye:** First: 2 on 25 Oct at L. Manawa/Midwest Power Ponds (SJD)[**3rd earliest**].

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** 1 male was seen at Terra L. in Polk Co. on 28 Nov (PHA/RIA-details).

**Bufflehead:** High count: 96 on 5 Nov at West Okoboji (LAS).

**Hooded Merganser:** High count: 198 on 26 Nov at Spirit L. (SJD). Another large group were 138 at Saylorville Res. on 19 Nov (SJD).

**Common Merganser:** A male was reported from Spirit L. on 5 Aug (SJD). Another unusual date was 10 Sep at Cedar L. in Linn Co. (CE).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** At L. Manawa, the first was on 31 Oct, the last on 27 Nov, and the high count of 61 was on 10 Nov (BKP/LJP).

**Ruddy Duck:** High count: 100 on 11 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

**Turkey Vulture:** Last: 13 on 29 Oct at Red Rock Res. (JLF). High count: 41 on 1 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). Another large group were 35 at Stone P. on 9 Oct (BL). On 20 Aug, 2 young left a nest in a hay mow of a fallen barn in Decatur Co. (JDG).

**Osprey:** First: 6 Aug at Rathbun Res. (RLC). Last: 26 Nov in Warren Co. (JSi). High count: 13 on 23 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). There were 21 other reports of 1 to 3 birds distributed from early August to early November. A bird at L. Macbride was swimming, but after a few minutes was able to take off (THK). There were unconfirmed summer reports from Dickinson Co. for the last two years (DCH). This is a species that is inconsistently reported, so it is difficult to judge whether numbers are on the increase.



**Mississippi Kite:** First-year birds flew by both hawk watch locations: over Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. on 23 Sep (\*BKP/LJP) and over Grammer Grove W.A. in Marshall Co. on 26 Sep (\*BPr).

**Bald Eagle:** This year there were 32 nests in 14 counties with 42 fledged from 23 successful nests (BEh). The migration peak at Grammer Grove W.A. was 14 on 14 Nov (BPr).

**Northern Harrier:** High count: 17 on 1 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** High count: 87 on 1 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). At Grammer Grove W.A. the high count was 61 on 22 Oct, but over 40 were also seen on 16 Sep, 26 Sep, and 18 Oct (BPr).

**Cooper's Hawk:** High count: 8 on 1 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). An early migrant or summer resident was at Kettleon Hogsback A. on 4 Aug (JLF).

**Northern Goshawk:** All: ad. eating a Sharp-shinned Hawk on 27 Sep in Mason City (CJF-details); imm. on 1 Oct at Hitchcock W.A. (BKP/LJP); imm. on 23 Nov at Tomahawk M. (PE); ad. on 25 Nov at Backbone S.P. (JLF); and imm. on 27 Nov at Mason City (\*RGo).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** All: imm. on 14 Aug at Yellow River F. (JLF); 17 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP); 20 Oct at Cone M. (EuA/EIA); 29 Oct at Red Rock Res. (THK, MPr); and 4 at Grammer Grove during the fall (BPr).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** First: 4 on 26 Aug in Lucas Co. (RLC). Last: 1 on 7 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP)[2nd latest]. High count: 1,026 on 18 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr).

**Swainson's Hawk:** Last: 2 on 19 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). High count: 50 at Kettleon Hogsback A. on 7 Oct (ET). Other high numbers were 23 on 7 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP) and 26 on 8 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** High count: 90 on 22 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr). The high count of 76 at Hitchcock N.A. also was on 22 Oct (BKP/LJP). Counts of more than 30 were reported from 9 Oct to 21 Nov. Krider's red-tails were in Dickinson Co. on 25 Sep (ET), Linn Co. on 13 Oct (CE), and Sioux Co. on 21 Oct (JV). Harlan's red-tails were in Kossuth Co. on 11 Oct and 16 Nov (MCK) and Ida Co. on 16 Oct (PE).

**Ferruginous Hawk:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** First: 23 Oct in Woodbury Co. (BL). There were 14 reports of singles from late October through November. As with Osprey, more than usual were reported, but some observers report this species and others do not.

**Golden Eagle:** First: 20 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). All reports were from three areas include 9 at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), 3 at Grammer Grove W.A. in Marshall Co. (BPr), and 3 in Allamakee Co. (JLF, PHA/RIA). The few that were aged were immatures.

**American Kestrel:** High count: 8 on 15 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). No one reported any large numbers or migration peaks.

**Merlin:** First: 3 on 3 Sep n. of Sabula (PCP). High count: 6 on 23 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). Of the 29 reported, 25 were from September, 2 from October, and 2 from November.

**Peregrine Falcon:** First: ad. on 7 Sep in Emmet Co. (DHe). Of the 20 reported, 12 were from September, 5 from October, and 3 from November.

**Prairie Falcon:** 1 on 25 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (SJD-details, BKP/LJP-details).

**Gray Partridge:** John Van Dyk reports that this species is much reduced in Sioux Co., and that he no longer has dependable places to find them. The only reports were from Palo Alto Co. on 5 Aug (THK) and Madison Co. on 23 Nov (EuA/EIA).

**Chukar:** There was a secondhand report of 2 adults and 4 young in northwestern Davenport (PCP) for this non-established introduced species. The owner of a game hunting farm in Clinton County indicated that some of the birds that he imported in the fall would nest the next spring but the young would not survive (THK).

**Ruffed Grouse:** One observer (who shall be unnamed) had great difficulty in finding this species in Allamakee County. Numbers are said to be in a down cycle.

**Northern Bobwhite:** None were found in Sioux Co. (JV).

**Yellow Rail:** All: 2 on 21 Sep at Snake Creek M. (JLF-details); and 1 on 5 Oct se. of Lake Park in Dickinson Co. (\*DCH).

**Virginia Rail:** All: 2 on 3 Aug at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (PE); 1 on 4 Aug at Stateline M. in Kossuth Co. (JLF); 1 on 15 Aug at Zirbel Sl. (RGo); and 1 on 26 Sep at Blue L. (PE).



**Common Moorhen:** Last: 1 imm. on 29 Oct at Rathbun Res. in Appanoose Co. (SJD-details)[**record latest**]. Nesting was evidenced by 4 ad. and 13 yg. on 4 Aug at Blue L. (SJD), 1 ad. and 4 yg on 28 Aug and 1 juv. on 29 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK), and 2 imm. on 28 Sep n. of Clear L. (RGo).

**American Coot:** High count: 4,350 on 20 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Other large numbers were 2,000 on 8 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC) and 1,000 on 20 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). On 25 Nov, 500 were still at West Okoboji (SJD) as the winter storm hit the northern part of the state.

**Sandhill Crane:** Last: 4 on 3 Nov at Otter Creek M. (MPr). High count: 90 on 27 Oct at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (wildlife personnel fide PE). The last 7 were at Goose L. in Clinton Co. on 15 Sep (PCP). Other reports include 2 on 24 Sep at New Albin (JDa), 2 in late Oct at Brown's Sl. in Lucas Co. (Jim Coffey fide SJD), and 1 on 24 Oct at Forney L. (SJD).

**Black-bellied Plover:** First and high count: 40 on 3 Aug at Rathbun Res. (RLC)[**3rd earliest**]. Last: 3 on 22 Sep at Amana L. (JLF). Only 3 other singles were reported.

**American Golden-Plover:** First: 1 on 9 Aug at Saylorville Res. (MPr). Last: 1 on 14 Nov at Black Hawk L. (PE). High count: 91 on 9 Oct in bean stubble in Story Co. (PHA/RIA). Counts at the Davenport sod farm were 23 and 25 on 31 Aug and 7 Sep (PCP). There were 4 other reports.

**Semipalmated Plover:** Last: 21 Oct at Runnells A. (SJD). High count: 4 on 14 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK).

**Piping Plover:** All (singles): 4 Aug at Midwest Power Ponds (SJD); 12-14 Aug at Red Rock Res. (JLF, m.ob.); and an imm. at Black Hawk L. on 15 Sep (JLF)[**3rd latest**].

**Killdeer:** High count: 75 on 18 Sep at Runnells A. (JSi).

**Black-necked Stilt:** 2 were reported on 5 Sep at Storm L. in Buena Vista Co. (\*PCP).

**American Avocet:** First: 2 on 3 Aug at Rathbun Res. (RLC). Last: 1 on 6 Nov at Amana L. in Iowa Co. (CE-details)[**3rd latest**]. High count: 82, which landed in the water, on 20 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD). There were reports from 8 other locations from mid-August to late October, which is more than usual.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Last: 16 Nov at Hallet's Quarry in Story Co. (SJD). High count: 15 on 23 Sep in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Last: 14 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD). High count: 400 on 1 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (SJD). Another large number was 100 on 18 Sep at Runnell's A. (JSi).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Last: 29 Sep at Black Hawk L. (DeC).

**Willet:** All: 2 on 13 Aug at Red Rock Res. (AMJ, MPr); 1 on 13 Aug at Sheldon Basin in Fremont Co. (PHA/RIA); 1 on 14 Aug at Spirit L. (CJF); and 4 on 28 Aug at Rathbun Res. (TNJ).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Last: 30 Oct at Red Rock Res. (PCP-details).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Last: 3 on 31 Aug at Davenport sod farm (PCP). High count: 20 on 10 Aug at Davenport sod farm (PCP).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** 1 in basic plumage was at Amana L. on 28, 30 Oct (\*THK, CE-details)[**record latest**].

**Marbled Godwit:** 1 was at Red Rock Res. on 13 Aug (AMJ, MPr-details).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** The only report was of 1 at Red Rock Res. from 12 to 14 Aug (JLF, m.ob.).

**Sanderling:** First: 4 on 4 Aug at Midwest Power Ponds (SJD). Last: 3 on 7 Oct at Rathbun Res. (TNJ). High count: 8 on 10 Sep at Black Hawk L. (MPr). There were reports from two other locations.

**Western Sandpiper:** All: 1 on 3 Aug at Red Rock Res. (MPr-bill details); 1 juv. on 18 Aug at Hickory Grove P. in Story Co. (HZ); 1 basic on 28 Oct at Amana L. (\*THK)[**2nd latest**]; and 2 (one with long droopy bill) on 6 Nov in Clay Co. (LAS-details)[**record latest**]. The identification of these late birds is based on bill details, which may not be highly reliable. In the past, late black-legged peeps in basic plumage were usually reported as Semipalmated Sandpipers.

**Least Sandpiper:** Last: 2 on 14 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** The white rump was seen in flight on a bird at Red Rock Res. on 22 Oct (AMJ)[**record latest**]. Most of the reports of this rare fall migrant in Iowa are minimally substantiated.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** First: 5 on 3 Aug at Red Rock Res. (MPr). Last: 2 on 3 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD). High count: 33 on 8 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD). There were reports from three other locations.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Last: 10 Nov at Anderson L. (SJD). High count: 900 on 1 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (SJD).

**Dunlin:** First: 28 Sep at Saylorville Res. (JLF). Last: 30 Oct at Red Rock Res. (MPr). High count: 3 on 14 Oct at Runnells A. (JSi). That is all that were reported.



**Stilt Sandpiper:** Last: 1 basic on 14 Oct at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. (THK). High count: 100 on 18 Sep at Runnells A. (JSi).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** First: 3 on 3 Aug in Clay Co. (LAS, SJD). Last: 1 on 12 Sep at Otter Creek M. (MPr). High count: 28 on 4 Aug in Clay Co. (LAS). From 1 to 8 were found at eight other locations.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** There were 2 reports from August.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** First: 11 alt. on 12 Aug at Forney L. (DHe). Last: 2 juv./basic on 25 Nov at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (\*THK)[record latest]. High count: 40 on 30 Oct at Red Rock Res. (PCP).

**Common Snipe:** High count: 54 on 10 Nov at Anderson L. (SJD).

**American Woodcock:** Last: 3 on 3 Nov at Effigy Mounds N.M. (JLF).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** All: 1 on 1 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (SJD); and 1 on 12 Aug at Forney L. (DHe).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** All (singles): 11 Aug at Saylorville Res. (WV-details)[ties 3rd earliest]; 16 Aug at Princeton M. (DCD); and 22 Aug, 8-9 Sep at Otter Creek M. (JLF, MPr, THK).

**Red Phalarope:** 1 was at Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. on 29 Nov (\*LAS-photo).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** An imm. was reported on 22 Sep at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. (\*EuA).

**Long-tailed Jaeger:** An ad. at Tomahawk M. and Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. from 4 to 13 Sep was seen by many and photographed (\*PE, \*HW, \*WRS, \*PCP, \*LAS, \*BKP/LJP-photo, \*THK, \*JLF, \*DP-photos, \*MPr, \*BPr).

**Laughing Gull:** A juv. found at Rathbun Res. in Appanoose Co. on 31 Jul (Chuck Fuller fide JLF) was seen on 6, 8 Aug (\*TNJ-photo, \*JLF). A first-basic bird was at Midwest Power Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 19, 24, and 29 Oct (\*WRS, \*BKP/LJP).

**Franklin's Gull:** Last: 20 Nov at Rathbun Res. (RLC). High count: 15,000 on 24 Sep at the landfill in Dickinson Co. (LAS). High counts at reservoirs were 14,000 on 12 Oct at Rathbun Res. (SJD) and 8,000 on 13 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Little Gull:** An ad. was at Big Creek L. in Polk Co. from 14 to 20 Nov (\*SJD, \*JJD, \*THK, \*AMJ, \*MPr, \*BPr, \*JLF, \*RLC, \*CE).

**Common Black-headed Gull:** On 2 Aug an adult in alternate plumage was found on the northwest side of Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. Less than an hour later a juvenile was found at Kettleon Hogsback A. and subsequently it was fed by a different adult (\*SJD). These birds were seen by many with the last report of an adult on 12 Aug (\*LAS, \*PE, \*MPr, \*BPr, \*JLF, \*THK, \*PCP, \*ET, \*BKP/LJP). An adult in basic plumage was found at Big Creek L. in Polk Co. on 17, 21, and 23 Nov (\*RLC, \*SJD, \*JJD).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** First: 1 on 8 Aug at Red Rock Res. (MPr)[ties 2nd earliest]. Last: 8 on 29 Oct at Big Creek L. (SJD). High count: 718 at Big Creek L. on 14 Nov (SJD).

**Ring-billed Gull:** High count: 5,000 on 28 Nov at Red Rock Res. (SJD). By 2 Aug there were already 400 at the landfill in Dickinson Co. (SJD).

**Herring Gull:** First: 1 third-basic bird on 2 Aug at Spirit L. (SJD). Also early was 1 on 28 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.

**Sabine's Gull:** A juvenile was at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. from 5 to 13 Sep (\*BKP/LJP, \*WRS, \*PE, \*THK, \*JLF, \*DP-photo, \*MPr, \*ET).

**Caspian Tern:** Last: 1 on 24 Sep at Amana L. (CE). High count: 80 on 8 Sep migrating over Indianola (JSi). From 1 to 4 were reported from four other locations.

**Common Tern:** An ad. was identified by call and dark outer primaries on 3 Aug at Spirit L. (SJD). Others were at Big Creek L.: 1 on 31 Aug (JSi), 1 on 4 Sep (PHA/RIA-details), and 6 on 28, 30 Sep (JLF)[3rd latest].

**Forster's Tern:** Last: 1 on 22 Oct at Red Rock Res. (AMJ). High count: 6 on 25 Sep at West Okoboji (LAS).

**Least Tern:** At Midwest Power Ponds in Pottawattamie Co., 2 ad. and 2 half-grown yg. were seen on 4 Aug (SJD); 4 were there on 13 Aug (PHA/RIA); and 1 remained on 30 Aug (AMJ).

**Black Tern:** Last: 2 in basic plumage on 16 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD-details)[record latest]. High count: 18 on 3 Aug at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

**Mourning Dove:** In Sioux Co., 60 roosted in two trees on 24 Sep, and most were gone by mid-Oct (JV).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Last: 26 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).



**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Last: 3 on 1 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 6 on 22 Aug at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

**Barn Owl:** In Taylor Co., in late Aug 11 fledged from two nest boxes at the Delbert Freemyer farm (BEh, JLF, MPr). In Adair Co., in late Aug a nest in a box was destroyed by a raccoon (BEh). In Ringgold Co., in early Sep young fledged from a nest in an abandoned farm house (BEh). In Wayne Co., in mid-Sep 6 fledged from a nest in a steel corn bin (BEh). At Chelsea in Tama Co., on 10 Oct 3 young were rescued from a torn-down grain elevator (BEh). All nest sites were near set-aside grasslands (BEh).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 1 was at Lake City on 14 Aug (DS).

**Snowy Owl:** The only report was from Madison Co. on 25 Nov (fide EuA/EIA).

**Burrowing Owl:** 2 ad. and 4 yg. were observed in southwest Emmet Co. from 2 to 14 Aug (SJD, \*PE, m.ob.).

**Long-eared Owl:** All: 4 on 21 Nov at Big Creek S.P. (SJD).

**Short-eared Owl:** First: a road kill on 16 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 10 on 23 Nov near Chariton (Brent Danielson fide JJD). Singles were in Johnson and Story counties.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** All: 1 on 28 Nov n. of Ledges S.P. (SJD).

**Common Nighthawk:** Last: 1 on 30 Oct in Sioux City at a football game (BL)[record latest]. High count: 250 on 26 Aug at Algona (MCK). Many were also in West Des Moines on 26 Aug (PHA/RIA). Other concentrations were 40 on 4 Sep in Sioux Co. (JV), 36 on 15 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP), and 16 on 20 Sep in Sioux City (BFH). On 16 Oct, 1 at Davenport was relatively late (DCD).

**Chimney Swift:** Last: 600 on 6 Oct at Sioux City (BL). High count: 1,000 on 5 Sep in Ames (JJD).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Last: 15 Oct at Sioux Center (JV). Another was near Iowa City until 8 Oct (JLF).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** First: 17 Aug at Algona (MCK). Next: 19 Sep at Diamond L. (MPr).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Singles were in Marshall Co. on 11 Aug and Tama Co. on 3 Oct (MPr).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** First: 17 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 16 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Last: 7 Sep at Sioux Center (JV).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** All: 14, 15 Aug n. of Iowa City (JLF); 16 Aug at Saylorville Res. (MPr); 21 Aug near Norwalk (AMJ); and 3 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

**Least Flycatcher:** First: 20 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 18 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** Last: 24 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

**Western Kingbird:** All: 2 on 16 Aug near Bartlett (MPr) and 1 on 24 Aug at Dan Green Sl. (DHe).

**Eastern Kingbird:** Last: 3 on 15 Sep in Sac Co. (JLF). Also, 6 were at Rock Valley on 14 Sep (JV).

**Purple Martin:** High count: 300 on 15 Aug at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

**Tree Swallow:** Last: 6 on 23 Oct at Runnells A. (JSi). High count: 3,000 on 4 Sep in Lee Co. (CE).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Last: 6 on 4 Oct at Sioux City (BL).

**Cliff Swallow:** Last: 21 on 22 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). High count: 160 on 1 Sep at Cardinal M. (DeC).

**Barn Swallow:** Last: 12 on 23 Oct in Marion Co. (JSi).

**Steller's Jay:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.

**Blue Jay:** At Hitchcock N.A., the high daily counts for migrating birds were 406 on 22 Sep and 250 on 1 Oct (BKP/LJP).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** First: 16 Sep n. of Iowa City (JLF). Only 7 other birds were reported, a marked contrast with 1993.

**Brown Creeper:** First: 26 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE). Others were reported by 27 and 28 Sep.

**Carolina Wren:** Resident birds were noted in Scott, Johnson (3 locations), and Pottawattamie counties.

**House Wren:** Last: 13 Oct at Algona (MCK). Next: 12 Oct in Ida Co. (PE).

**Winter Wren:** First: 17 Sep at Mason City (CJF).

**Sedge Wren:** All: 1 on 25 Sep at Snake Creek M. (CE).

**Marsh Wren:** All: 3 on 24 Aug at Barringer Sl. (DHe); 1 on 1 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC); and 1 on 29 Oct at Red Rock Res. (AMJ).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** First: 2 on 27 Sep at Pine L. (MPr).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** First: 1 on 29 Aug at Des Moines (JSi). Last: 6 on 29 Oct at Red Rock Res. (RLC). High count: 35 on 4 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).



**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** All: 3 on 28 Aug in Clay Co. (LAS) and 1 on 11 Sep at Sioux Center (JV). The latter bird was a first yard and second county record for Van Dyk.

**Veery:** All: 31 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr) and 1 Sep at Iowa City (THK).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** All: 28 Aug at Trumbull L. (LAS); 1-2 Sep at Iowa City (THK); and 22 Sep at Diamond L. (MPr)[3rd latest].

**Swainson's Thrush:** Last: 28 Sep at Sioux Center (JV). Others were seen but not reported. We have very little data on the fall migration of thrushes in Iowa other than that from tower kills.

**Hermit Thrush:** First: 4 Oct at Mason City (RGo).

**Wood Thrush:** Last: 18 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

**Gray Catbird:** Last: 13 Oct at Sioux Center (JV).

**Northern Mockingbird:** All: 11 Aug in Page Co. (JLF); 27 Aug in Monroe Co. (TNJ); and 12, 20 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC, TNJ).

**Brown Thrasher:** Last: 1 killed a small snake on 15 Oct in Warren Co. (JSi).

**American Pipit:** First: 3 on 21 Sep at Saylorville Res. (JLF). Last and high count: 200 on 1 Nov at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD). Other concentrations were at Rathbun Res. with 50 on 9 Oct and 30 on 29 Oct (RLC).

**Northern Shrike:** First: 30 Oct at Trumbull L. (LAS). Others were in Winneshiek (DeC) and Harrison (BKP/LJP) counties on 1 Nov. Later reports were from Dickinson, Linn, Polk, and Sioux counties.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** A total of 16 birds were reported from 9 counties.

**Bell's Vireo:** All: 11, 16 Aug in Fremont Co. (JLF, MPr).

**Solitary Vireo:** First: 20 Aug at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. (\*PE)[record earliest]. Last: 4 Oct at Cardinal M. (DeC).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Last: 18 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Warbling Vireo:** Last: 2 on 5 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** First: 14 Aug near Norwalk in Warren Co. (AMJ)[3rd earliest]. Last: 18 Oct at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. (\*PE)[record latest].

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Last and high count: 14 on 18 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** All: 21 Aug at Yellow River F. (MPr) and 28 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). The latter was the second record for Ida Co. (PE).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** First: 27 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 2 on 5 Sep at Sweet M. (DeC).

**Tennessee Warbler:** First: 2 on 14 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 1 Oct at Liscomb (MPr).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** First: 2 on 17 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr) and 1 at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). Last: 4 Nov at Sioux Center (JV). High count: 11 on 8 Oct at Moorehead P. (PE). There were 13 other reports of 1 to 7 birds, which is more than usual.

**Nashville Warbler:** First: 15 Aug at Mason City (CJF) and L. Meyer (DeC). Last: 27 Oct n. of Iowa City (JLF). High count: 8 on 25 Sep in Story Co. (RLC).

**Northern Parula:** First: 28 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 1 Oct at Liscomb (MPr).

**Yellow Warbler:** Last: 6 Sep at Pine L. (MPr).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** First: 14 Aug at Yellow River F. (JLF). Last: 24 Sep at Effigy Mound N.M. (DeC) and Spirit L. (LAS).

**Magnolia Warbler:** First: 21 Aug near Norwalk (AMJ). Last: 27 Sep at Liscomb (MPr).

**Cape May Warbler:** All: 31 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr); and 9 Sep at Steamboat Rock (MPr).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** All: 1 female on 17 Sep at Kindlespire P. in Clay Co. (LAS).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** First: 6 Sep at Pine L. (MPr). Last: 4 Nov at Sioux Center (JV).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** First: 17 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 4 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** First: 11 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 24 Sep at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DeC).

**Pine Warbler:** All: 1 singing male on 26 Aug in Madison Co. (EuA/EIA); and 1 on 8 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC-details)[record latest].

**Palm Warbler:** Only 1 was mentioned.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** First: 15 Aug at Mason City (CJF). Last: 4 on 25 Sep in Story Co. (RLC). High count: 8 on 31 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE).



**Blackpoll Warbler:** None were mentioned for fall. Correction: The record early bird reported for 24 Apr 1994 at Croton Unit (*IBL* 64:78) should be replaced by 26 Apr at Des Moines (RIC)[**record earliest**].

**Black-and-white Warbler:** First: 14 Aug Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 27 Sep at Liscomb (MPr). High count: 14 on 4 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

**American Redstart:** Last: 1 female on 18 Nov at Lake City in Calhoun Co. (DS-details)[**record latest**].

**Ovenbird:** Last: 1 Oct at Mason City (RGo)[ties **3rd latest**].

**Northern Waterthrush:** First: 15 Aug at Mason City (CJF). Last: 25 Sep at Sioux Center (JV).

**Connecticut Warbler:** The only report was from Moorehead P. on 23 and 30 Aug (PE-details).

**Mourning Warbler:** First: 17 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 24 Sep at Spirit L. (LAS). High count: 7 on 31 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Correction: The record early birds reported for 30 Apr 1994 at Decorah (*IBL* 64:79) were seen on 24 May (DeC).

**Common Yellowthroat:** Last: 18 Oct at Big Wall L. (SJD). Next: 17 Oct at Otter Creek M. (MPr).

**Wilson's Warbler:** First: 14 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 28 Sep at Liscomb (MPr). High count: 14 on 28 Aug in Clay Co. (LAS).

**Canada Warbler:** First: 14 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 30 Sep at Liscomb (BPr)[ties **3rd latest**]. High count: 4 on 3 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** The only report was from 24 Sep at Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS)[**3rd latest**]. Northwest Iowa is a rare location for this species.

**Scarlet Tanager:** Last: 27 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

**Northern Cardinal:** In Northwest Iowa this species is found in riparian habitat, not usually in towns; however, birds have recently taken up residence in Larchwood in Lyon Co. (DCH) and Sioux Center in Sioux Co. (JV), continuing an expansion that began in southern Iowa at the turn of century.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Last: 1 female on 14 Nov in West Des Moines (PHA/RIA-details). High count: 28 on 5 Sep at Sweet M. (DeC).

**Black-headed Grosbeak:** 1 imm. female was seen near Marquette in Clayton Co. (\*FLM).

**Blue Grosbeak:** Reports from Fremont Co. were of 7 on 11 Aug (JLF), 3 on 16 Aug (MPr), and 1 on 23 Aug (BKP/LJP).

**Indigo Bunting:** Last: 8 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC). There were 3 other early Oct reports.

**Dickcissel:** Last: 25 Sep at Snake Creek M. (CE).

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** Birds of the western spotted race were at Mason City on 29 Sep (RGo), Moorehead P. on 16 Oct (PE), and Saylorville Res. on 16 and 21 Oct (SJD).

**American Tree Sparrow:** First: 25 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Chipping Sparrow:** Adults were tending a juv. cowbird at Amana L. on 14 Aug (DLD) and at Saylorville Res. on 31 Aug (JSi).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** All: 1 on 8 Oct at Moorehead P. (PE).

**Field Sparrow:** Last: 24 Oct at Pleasant Creek L. (DLD).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Last: 23 Oct in Marion Co. (JSi).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Last: 30 Oct at Pleasant Creek L. (DLD).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Last: 21 Oct in Sioux Co. (JV).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Unusual for fall were 1-3 nw. of Ida Grove in Ida Co. on 10, 14, and 15 Aug (\*PE).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** First: 24 Sep at Snake Creek M. (PHA/RIA). Last: 2 on 29 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 4 on 25 Sep at Snake Creek M. (CE).

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** First and last: 19 and 30 Sep at Snake Creek M. (EuA/EIA, JLF). Other locations were Saylorville Res. on 25 Sep (CE-details) and Blue L. on 29 Sep (PE).

**Fox Sparrow:** First: 25 Sep at Kattleson Hogsback A. (LAS)[ties **3rd earliest**].

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** First and last: 2 on 18 Sep and 3 on 5 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Swamp Sparrow:** High count: 40 on 15 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**White-throated Sparrow:** First: 17 Sep at Ames (JJD), Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr), and Mason City (CJF).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** First: 28 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). High count: 35 on 28 Oct at Coralville Res. (DLD, JDa).

**Harris's Sparrow:** First: 3 on 17 Sep at Kindlespire P. in Clay Co. (LAS)[ties **record earliest**]. High count: 100 in late Oct at Oak Grove P. in Sioux Co. (JV). An imm. was in Ida Co. on 18 Sep (\*PE)[**3rd earliest**].



**Dark-eyed Junco:** First: 14 Sep at Moorehead P. (\*PE)[2nd earliest].

**Lapland Longspur:** First: 250 on 30 Oct in Kossuth Co. (MCK). High count: 10,000 on 11 Nov in NW Iowa (SJD). Other large numbers were thousands on 7 Nov in Emmet Co. (DHe), 400 on 1 Nov in Guthrie Co. (SJD), and 400 on 9 Nov in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

**Snow Bunting:** First: 3 on 26 Nov n. of Dubuque (PCP). There were 8 other reports of 1 to 6 birds. Usually there are more Snow Buntings than this associated with large longspur flocks.

**Bobolink:** Last: 2 on 25 Sep at Snake Creek M. (CE).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** On 15 Oct, 6 were singing in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Last: 6 Sep at Tomahawk M. (THK).

**Rusty Blackbird:** First: small flock on 14 Oct at Tomahawk M. (PE). High count: 450 on 12 Nov at Tuttle L. in Emmet Co. (SJD).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** All: 8 on 4 Aug and 2 on 24 Oct at Forney L. (SJD); 1 on 15 Oct at Big Wall L. (SJD); 13 on 12 Nov at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (SJD); and 22 on 17 Nov at Blue L. in Monona Co. (PE). This is a large number of fall records for this species, which is expanding its range.

**Common Grackle:** In mid-Oct, 10,000 blackbirds (grackles, red-wings, and starlings) were at Sioux Center (JV).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** See Chipping Sparrow.

**Northern Oriole:** Last: 13 Sep in Des Moines (JSi).

**Purple Finch:** First: 28 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

**Pine Siskin:** First: 6 on 24 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). High count: 30 on 28 Sep at Algona (MCK).

#### COMMENT

This was an exciting fall for birding with lots of rare birds spread throughout the season. I received 38 reports and entered 1,380 bird sightings into a computer file. There were 84 documentations of 37 species. Note that the initials used with each record are citations to reports received, and these reports are filed for future reference. Some reporters list other observers present; these names are filed but not used in the citation. For rarities, only those providing a documentation or photograph are cited.

Although the nature of reports varies considerably, each plays a role in defining the avifauna of the state during the season. We have a number of very reliable observers consistently reporting from their own area. Of special note is the increased reporting of birds from northwestern Iowa in recent years. We have several observers covering selective habitat on an almost daily basis, such as hawk watchers Beth Proescholdt at Grammer Grove W.A. and Babs and Loren Padelford at Hitchcock W.A. and warbler watchers Pete Ernzen at Moorehead Park and Mark Proescholdt at Grammer Grove W.A.. Rarities are found by local birds and others like Steve Dinsmore, who seems to cover every water hole in the state. Some birders are on the lookout for early and late birds and report extensively on these. Also, we have "counters" who provide very useful information on population densities. Not all rare birds make it into the permanent record, as evidenced by reports on the I.O.U. Birdline that are not included in the reports submitted for publication.

As usual, most of the rare birds were extremely well documented by multiple observers. Special thanks go to Steve Dinsmore and Pete Ernzen for providing the opportunity for many to see Long-tailed Jaeger, Little Gull, and Common Black-headed Gulls and to Jim Fuller for daily updates on the Birdline.

Technical problems continue to occur with documentations: observers name not included, year of the record not included, written in pencil so that xerox copies are of poor quality, and putting one sentence on the back so that duplication costs are doubled. The next Records Committee report will clarify which birds should be fully documented. In brief, these include Regular species marked with "\*\*\*" on the Field Checklist, all Casual and Accidental species, and birds seen at unusual dates. A new Official Checklist will be published in 1995.

I have used a new style in the Species Accounts, which I hope will make them more readable, and I know makes the writing of the report easier. I also hope that the style will encourage reporters to contribute



more information on first and last dates and high counts. Please let me know your suggestions for making the Field Reports more readable, interesting, and useful.

REPORTS RECEIVED \* = documentation only

Pam H. Allen and Reid I. Allen (PHA/RIA), West Des Moines; Eugene Armstrong and Eloise Armstrong (EuA/EIA), Van Meter; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; Jeff Dankert (JDa), La Crosse, WI; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ames; Dan C. Dorrance (DCD), Davenport; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bruce Ehresman (BEh), Boone; Peter Erzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; J. Donald Gillaspey (JDG), Lamoni; Rita Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Douglas C. Harr (DCH), Larchwood; Dennis Henrickson (DHe), Estherville; Jaclyn Hill (JH), Ellsworth; Bill F. Huser (BFH), Sioux City; \*Maridel Jackson (MJ), Ankeny; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Thomas N. Johnson (TNJ), Mystic; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Bob Livermore (BL), \*Francis L. Moore (FLM), Waterloo; Sioux City; Babs K. Padelford and Loren J Padelford (BKP/LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; Don Poggensee (DP), Ida Grove; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; \*W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Tabor; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Dale Stone (DS), Lake City; Ed Thelen (ET), Spirit Lake; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Wendy VanDeWall (WV), Ankeny; \*Harold W. White (HWW), Estherville; and Hank Zaletel, (HZ), Colo.