

SPRING MIGRATION REPORT

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRE REGION

Council Bluffs, Iowa Area

(Part of the Omaha Metropolitan Area)

The Council Bluffs area covered by this report centers on Council Bluffs, Iowa and extends north and south along the Missouri River Valley approximately twenty miles. This area from the Missouri River is flat bottom land and extends east to the high bluffs that overlook the river valley. Outside of the Council Bluffs, urban area, most of the land is cultivated. Several lakes in the area were formed years ago by the meandering Missouri River. These ox-bow lakes are located close to the river which has now been stabilized by government river projects.

The largest lake in the area is Lake Mannawa. This lake covers about 1100 acres. The Northwest, North, and Eastern shores are developed with residential and commercial buildings.

An interesting area that has developed over the few years is a small marsh located southwest of the Council Bluffs residential district. The marsh is located next to a beef packers parking lot.

Before this packing company was built the land was a low wet area. "Fill dirt" from this area was used in building the plant. Over the last few years with average or above rainfall this depression has grown into a fine marsh, and an excellent feeding and rest place for birds.

The weather in the Omaha, Nebraska/Council Bluffs, Iowa metropolitan area from April 1, 1972 to April 30, 1972 was cooler than average by -0.5° . Blowing snow on April third amounted to 1.5". Fourteen days morning fog was reported. Five clear days, eight partly cloudy days, and seventeen cloudy days were reported for the month. From April fifteenth through April thirtieth, five thunderstorms moved through the area.

May was cooler than normal with average temperature of 62.7° ; a departure of -0.06° from the normal. Precipitation for the month was 5.13". This was 1.65" above normal. The greatest amount for a twenty-four hour period occurred during the first week. There eight clear days, five partly cloudy days, and eighteen cloudy days. The month was the second wettest in the past seven years.

Following is the list of birds observed from April 1, 1972 through May 31, 1972. (Unusual)

COMMON LOON	1-April 24-Lake Manawa JG, MW 2-May 13-Folsum Lake JD, TH, LP 1-Winter 1-Summer Plumage
RED THROATED LOON	1-May 13-Folsum Lake JD, TH, LP This was seen at close range -Summer Plumage
HORNED GREBE	1-May 7-Beefland Packing Marsh TH 2-May 16-" " " JG, MW
EARED GREBE	2-May 4-Beefland Marsh JD, TK, L&BP, MOB
WESTERN GREBE	1-May 15-Beefland Marsh TH
WHITE PELICAN	14-April 23-Lake Manawa L&BP
DOUBLE CRESTED CORMORANT	20-May 4 Beefland Marsh L&BP 6-May 6-Lake Manawa MW 4-May 13-Folsum Lake JD, TH, LP

GREAT BLUE HERON	1-April 16-Lake Manawa L&BP 1-April 25-About 15 miles So. of Co. Bluffs MW, TH, AD
GREEN HERON	1-April 30-Desoto Bend Refuge-Seen in flight MOB
COMMON EGRET	5-April 15 through May 4-Lake Manawa & Beef- land MOB
BLACK CROWNED NIGHT HERON	5-April 24-Lake Manawa MW 30-May 4-Beefland Marsh JD, JG, L&BP, MW, TK
LEAST BITTEN	1-May 6-Lake Manawa JD, L&BP, TK, MW
AMERICAN BITTERN	1-May 4-Beefland Marsh L&BP 1-May 6-Lake Manawa JD, MW, TK, L&BP, MOB 1-May 13-Folsum Lake-Heard; not seen JD, TH, LP
RED BREASTED MERGANSER	1-April 17-Male seen at Beefland Marsh- MW, JG, MCH
TURKEY VULTURE	1-April 4-Lake Manawa MW, TK 8-April 22-Folsum Lake TH 8-May 13-Folsum Lake JD, TH, LP
SWAINSON'S HAWK	1-April 22-Folsum Lake TH
BROAD-WING HAWK	1-April 22-Folsum Lake L&BP
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK	1-April 23-Folsum Lake JD, TK
OSPREY	1-April 22 & 23-Lake Manawa & Folsum Lake MOB 1-May 4-Lake Manawa MOB
VIRGINIA RAIL	1-May 13-Folsum Lake JD, TH, LP
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER	3-April 30-Desoto Bend Refuge MOB
PIPING PLOVER	3-April 30-" " " "
RUBY TURNSTONE	1-May 6-Lake Manawa RG
PECTORAL SANDPIPER	Abundant-Last two weeks of April MOB At Beefland Marsh
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER	Abundant-Last two weeks of April MOB At Beefland Marsh
DUNLIN	2-May 6-Beefland Marsh- Tk, MW Breeding Plumage

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER	2-May 2-Beefland Marsh	MW
	Breeding Plumage	
WILLET	1-April 24-Beefland Marsh	MW, JG, MCH
	6-May 4- " "	MW, MCH
WESTERN SANDPIPER	1-May 4-Beefland Marsh	TH
STILT SANDPIPER	1-April 15- Beefland Marsh	MW, TK
AVOCET	2-April 22- Lake Manawa	L&BP
WILSON PHALAROPE	2-April 30- Desoto Bend Refuge	MOB
	2-May 7-Lake Manawa	JD, C&EJ
FRANKLIN'S GULL	30-May 6-Lake Manawa	MW
BONAPARTE'S BULL	4-May 4-Lake Manawa	MW, MCH
	15-May 6 " "	MW
	Considered uncommon in area	
FORSTER'S TERN	Several-April 22-Beefland Marsh	TH
COMMON TERN	2-April 30-Desoto Bend Refuge	MW, TK, MCH
	Several-May 4-Beefland Marsh	MOB
CASPIAN TERN	2-May 4-Beefland Marsh	JD, L&BP, TK, TH
CHUCK-WILL'S WIDOW	1-May 25-Calling at night-Folsum Lake Area	AD, TH, MW
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	2-April 6-Cemetery in Co. Bluffs	L&BP
	1-April 16- " " " "	" "
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	1-May 26 & 27-Cemetery in Co. Bluffs	TH, MW, MCH
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	1-May 13-Folsum Lake Area	JD, TH, LP
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER	1-May 13-Folsum Lake Area	JD, TH, LP
PALM WARBLER	12-May 4-Lake Manawa	MW
PURPLE FINCH	1-April 14-Female-Lake Manawa	MW, TK

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF OBSERVERS

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