

past years; only 2-3 sightings, the latest V/31.  
Black-bellied Plover: 2 by receding reservoir, V/19  
(summer plumage)

Willet: 6 by ponds, V/14

White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 by receding reservoir, V/16,  
along with Semipalmated and least for size comparison.

Wilton's Phalarope: 2 couples by ponds since May  
10, still there. Fred Kent saw 2 mate some  
12 days ago. Shall observe for nesting: rare  
breeder in Iowa, no recent observation this  
far S and E.

Red-headed Woodpecker: no sign of ↓ numbers,  
most commonly seen woodpecker along roads  
and in stands of timber.

Purple Martin: fewer than usual, but they  
arrived 2 days before we had a foot of snow  
in early April, so this may be responsible.

Eastern Bluebird: very definitely ↓, hard to find: first  
seen V/30, even though places where they were  
regular were pretty well covered; finally saw  
a (probably nesting) pair near a box V/13.

Loggerhead Shrike: 1 seen TV/2 (have been at a  
premium here for years).

Bell's Vireo: watched with interest, since in our  
neighborhood every summer for at least 4 years;  
saw one from porch V/31.

Blue-winged Warbler, considered rare, seen during  
migration (V/12) and in undeveloped land  
nearby several times since; at least 2 couples,  
male singing nesting song in addition to familiar  
two-note buzz. Likely to be nesting under rasp-  
berry bushes.

E. vs. W. Meadowlark: In this part of Iowa, usually  
the former outnumber the latter about 10:1. This  
year, for what it is worth, the melodious W.  
song is heard at least as often as the harsh E.  
Mentioned in case there is a trend.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Known to nest in small numbers in a swamp 40 miles NE; seldom seen in migration here; 1 first-yr. ♂ noted by pond V/17.

Evening Grosbeaks: here XII/3 on; disappeared late in March, reappeared after peak snowstorm, last seen TV/15.

Purple Finch: Last seen V/11.

Red Crossbills: by hospital since October, last seen TV/1 — song, before TV/1.

So much for waterlogged Iowa. Florida goodies: Roseate Spoonbills, (few) Wood Storks, 9 Swallowtailed Kites, Smoothbilled Ani, all sorts of warblers marked "rare" or "occasional" on local checklist. For Hawaii (Kauai much better than strangled Oahu): Laysan Albatross, Red-tailed Tropicbird, 6 kinds of Prepanids in one rainy hour (+ Short-eared Owl landing in tree overhead). Pleasant surprise: have been invited to give a talk in New Zealand in October. Should add other oddities to life list, although much to be seen in AOU area yet. A meeting in Seattle in Sept. should help.

Sincerely

PS. Has Gladys Black accepted?  
Nick