

Iowa Field Reports-Spring 1997

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- ✓✓ Common Loon-1 on 24 March at Big Creek L.; 1 on 25 March at Little Wall L. (+JJD)
- ✓ American White Pelican-19 on 8 March at Heron Bend
- ✓ Double-crested Cormorant-1 on 26 March at McCord P. (+MP)
- ✓ Tundra Swan-2 adults on 3 March at Riverton W.A. (both will bright yellow bill spots, dished upper mandibles); 2 adults on 4 March sw of Forney L. (seen with the five Trumpeters-size was distinctive); 1 adult on 6 March at Keg L. (dished upper mandible, distinct eye, small size compared to Canada Goose)
- ✓ Trumpeter Swan-5 (3 adults, 2 immatures) on 3-4 March near Percival (2 of the adults had green neck collars and they were from Wisconsin); 1 adult and 1 immature (unbanded) on 22 March at Big M. (+MP, BP-i.d. by large size, eye not distinct from facial skin, flat top to bill)
- ✓ Greater White-fronted Goose-650 on 16 March at Snake Creek M.; 1,200 on 16 March at Dunbar Sl.; 75 on 22 March at Big M. (+MP,BP)
- ✓ Ross's Goose-2 on 8 March at Heron Bend; 19 on 16 March, 2 on 26 March (+MP), 3 on 28 March (+JS) at Harrier M.; 17 on 16 March, 37 on 20 March at Snake Creek M.; 41 on 16 March at Lakin Sl.; 7 on 22 March w of Hubbard, Hardin Co. (+MP,BP); 16 on 22 March at Big M. (+MP,BP); 7 on 25 March nw of Jewell (+JJD); 4 on 25 March at Anderson L. (+JJD); 33 on 26 March, 59 on 28 March (+JS) at Finn Pond (+MP); 2 on 26 March (+MP), 5 on 28 March (+JS) e of Glidden, Carroll Co.; 104 on 28 March at the Garst Ponds, Greene Co. (+JS)
- ✓ American Black Duck-5 on 22 March at Big M. (+MP,BP)
- ✓ Blue-winged Teal-2 on 22 March at Big M. (+MP,BP)
- ✓ Gadwall-1,225 on 24 March at Saylorville
- ✓ Canvasback-33,000 on 8 March at Pool 19, Lee Co.
- ✓ Greater Scaup-1 male on 8 March at Pool 19, Lee Co.; 1 male on 22 March at Big M. (+MP,BP) [both identified by large size, long wing stripe, head shape]
- ✓ Lesser Scaup-16,000 on 8 March at Pool 19, Lee Co.
- ✓ Hooded Merganser-36 on 16 March w of Boone
- ✓ Red-breasted Merganser-112 on 21 March at Saylorville
- ✓ Ruddy Duck-4 on 4 March at Lake Manawa; 281 on 25 March at Little Wall L. (+JJD)
- ✓ Turkey Vulture-1 on 16 March at Ames (Mark Widrlechner fide SJD)
- ✓ Rough-legged Hawk-1 on 28 March at Harrier M. (+JS)
- ✓ Golden Eagle-1 immature on 22 March at Big M (+MP-white uppertail, white patch at base of primaries)
- ✓ Merlin-1 female or immature Richardson's on 5 March at Forney L.
- ✓ American Golden-Plover-1 on 26 March e of Glidden, Carroll Co. (+MP)
- ✓ Greater Yellowlegs-2 on 26 March e of Glidden, Carroll Co. (+MP)
- ✓ Lesser Yellowlegs-1 on 22 March at Big M.
- ✓ Pectoral Sandpiper-4 on 21 March at Saylorville
- ✓ Common Snipe-24 on 28 March at Dunbar Sl. (+JS)
- ✓ Franklin's Gull-2 on 21 March at Little Wall L. (GBr)
- ✓ Bonaparte's Gull-singles on 28 March e of Glidden and e of Grand Junction (+JS)
- ✓ Northern Saw-whet Owl-1 on 2 March in Boone Co. (+BE)
- ✓ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-1 on 21 March at Jester P.

- ✓ Pileated Woodpecker-1 male on 28 March at Ledges S.P. was excavating a nest hole (+JS)
- ✓ Tree Swallow-2 on 21 March at Saylorville
- ✓ Eastern Bluebird-2 on 2 March in Boone Co. were probably migrants (+BE)
- ✓ American Pipit-1 on 16 March at Snake Creek M.
- ✓ Spotted Towhee-1 male on 5 March at Riverton W.A.
- ✓ Savannah Sparrow-1 on 20 March at Snake Creek M.
- ✓ Le Conte's Sparrow-1 on 28 March at Harrier M. (+JS-seen briefly, mostly in flight-small, short-tailed sparrow, bright orange color visible on breast and some on mantle, flushed from wet meadow)
- ✓ Fox Sparrow-3 on 5 March at Riverton W.A.
- ✓ Harris's Sparrow-12 on 5 March at Riverton W.A.
- ✓ Smith's Longspur-2 on 28 March e of Glidden, Carroll Co. (+JS-never saw birds on the ground, but rattle/call note was distinctive-I am familiar with the call notes of all four species of longspurs and there was no question these were Smith's-habitat and date were also right for this species)
- ✓ Lapland Longspur-large numbers were in central Iowa on 15-16 March, e.g. an estimated 20,000+ (could have been 2-3 times that many) on 16 March s of Harrier M.
- ✓ Red-winged Blackbird-25,000 on 13 March at Otter Creek M.
- ✓ Eastern Meadowlark-10 on 8 March in Lee Co.; 1 on 19 March at Saylorville Res.
- ✓ Brewer's Blackbird-1 male on 17 March at Ames (Mark Widrlechner fide SJD)
- ✓ Great-tailed Grackle-1 on 16 March, 8 on 26 March (+MP), 28 on 28 March (+JS) at Dunbar Sl.; 2 on 20 March, 13 on 28 March (+JS) at Harrier M.; 4 on 28 March at Finn Pond (+JS)
- ✓ Red Crossbill-2 on 19 March se of Polk City; 1 on 21 March at Jester P.

#### Other observers

George Brown (GBr)  
 Bery Engebretsen (BE)  
 Beth Proescholdt (BP)  
 Mark Proescholdt (MP)  
 Jim Sinclair (JS)

#### Comment

The waterfowl migration in central Iowa was excellent in March. I don't ever remember having so many days in the field where I saw >20 species of waterfowl. The best was 25 species on 22 March, with 24 of them at Big Marsh.

#### Errata

- ✓ Red-shouldered Hawk-1 on 26 April 1996 at Des Moines (IBL 66:102) was actually seen on 26 March 1996
- ✓ Lesser Black-backed Gull-1 on 29 December 1994 at Keokuk (IBL 65:49) was actually seen on 29 January 1995