

Red Rock Refuge + Pleasantville area, Marion County, Iowa - Gladys B Black
Black - Iowa - Pleasantville 1971 Spring Migration

Weather extremely dry and cool with practically no precipitation till third week of May. (Refuge flooded in February with snow melt)

Birds were scarce
Only 4 A.C. Cormorants seen all spring.
Great Blue Herons reduced in numbers. Only 5 pairs at the Refuge Cookery first established 1970 with 15 pairs (and complete nesting failure after incubating one to two weeks 1970, May)

Only 1 American Egret all spring in Refuge where 15 lingered for weeks spring of 1970.

1 adult Little Blue Heron (dark plumage) at south edge of Refuge at farm pond on April 26 (extremely rare here and usually only seen as wanderers in post-breeding, late summer season)

1 Yellow Crowned Night Heron Apr. 4

1 Amer. Bittern May 16

1 Least Bittern May 23 (injured wing, hit utility line)

1000 Canada Geese, 4000 Snows; 4000 Blues by March 27

also a few white fronted Geese with the Canadas.

50,000 ducks all species common to this area, majority were Mallards. Breeding Wood Ducks still numerous, late May, 40 Common Mergansers late Feb, early March.

A few Red Breasted + Hooded (2 pair on 1 pond April 6)

Turkey Vulture current down with 30 still here in the 2 roasts, (this summer resident flock numbered 68 in 1970)

Marsh Hawks were numerous with 7 seen quartering the valley floor of Refuge at one time, ^{at one place} and 2 remaining on May 12. A high of 5 Bald Eagles + 1 adult on April 6 + thru March. King. Pheasants numerous within Refuge and all around the Pleasantville area despite the bitter winter + heavy snows.

1 Willet May 9; 2 Black bellied + 1 Golden Plover May 16; 2 Dunlins May 16
5 Hudsonian Godwits May 9 and 56 on May 16, uncommon in this area,

21 Caspian Terns May 16

Haven't heard or seen a single Cuckoo!

Good migration of Swallows but only half a doz. pair Cliff Swallows at Red Rock dam nest site where 471 pairs nested 1969. No Cliff Swallows at Painted Rocks, 2 fledge, nest sites within the Refuge. (30 pair nested on Painted Rocks Cliff 1970) Martins down at Pleasantville martin houses

Swallows down

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One pair Bewick's Wrens in Pleasantville through April
as for past 10 years + as usual disappeared with
the arrival of House Wrens.

Brown Thrashers numerous.

The Mockingbirds arrived April 23, in the same old pasture
with many shrubs + cattle-pruned small Red Haws, three pairs
this spring as compared to the 6 pairs of last (1970) summer.
This location 3 miles SE of Pleasantville has been the
favorite field of Mockers for over 10 years.

Loggerhead Shrikes, 3 pairs in this area SE of P'ville
as compared to 6 pairs a few years (7) ago. Also a few
scattered pairs throughout this area. (Early nesters,
nest constructed in late March + early April, some
nestlings ready to leave nest now)

→ Warbler flight was poor in this area.

Bobolinks seen in many hay fields throughout
this area, rather more than usual, I believe.

Rosebreasted Grosbeaks are numerous.

Indigo Buntings are down this spring.

Chickadees are numerous ranking second to
Red winged Blackbirds in this area.

Gladys B Black
608 de Witt
Pleasantville, Ia.
50'225.

Please feel free to delete - I know I have included
too much.

GB

May 25, 1971