

Hahn
Dear Vern:

Oct November 30, 1974

Here is a brief account of the fall season around Iowa City.

Com. Loon seen XI/16-17 on L. Macbride (as in past years).
Horned grebes, two separate groups of 7 and 4, respectively, on the Reservoir X/19, XI/16 (not seen here since 1970).
Double-crested Cormorants: one early immature VIII/22, an adult IX/22. Little Blue Heron (imm.) S of Reservoir VIII/16 (a fantastic day for shorebirds too). Goshawk (adult, probably ♂ because of relatively small size) very well seen XI/16 in a thicket of evergreens (another witness of invasion in the nesting?). Rough-legged Hawks (2:1 dark phase) seen from XI/9 on. An Osprey over the Reservoir X/12. Piping Plovers, very rare in this part of the state, seen (singles) at 3 different locations VIII/16, IX/8 and IX/14. Am. Golden Plovers, rare here in fall, unusually common: groups up to 12 seen around the Reservoir VIII/10-IX/5. Black-bellied Plovers present VIII/16-17 and IX/5-20 (up to 5). Two Willets VIII/16. Baird's Sandpipers unusually common, seen on five occasions, in groups of 5 or less, VIII/11-IX/5. Short-billed Dowitcher (8) VIII/16, Long-billed X/3-X/6. Previous note and drawing describes the bird bearing the field marks of a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, closely and at leisure observed on X/3. Western Sandpipers (2) IX/8. Buff-breasted Sandpipers, so rare here that a competent local birder of 25 years' experience has never seen one, were present, in a flock numbering up to 27, VIII/10-18. All field marks closely checked. Caspian Terns more common than most years: IX/29-IX/15, up to 6. Red-headed Woodpecker seen to be repeating last year's exodus: only an occasional one in the country and at a feeder. Red-breasted Nuthatches, absent last winter, appeared XI/16. Le Conte's Sparrows (about 5) closely observed X/26; "many" seen by others XI/2. Lincoln's Sparrows

have been unusually common and easily seen
TX/28-X/19.

I spent a week in Texas, where I saw (along with the expected specialties of the Rio Grande Valley) the Brown Jays just east of Falcon Dam. The only local birder of the Valley, John Arvin, thinks there may be as many as 50 nesting along that stretch of the river!

Best regards

Mick