



I.O.U. News

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Newsletter

Summer 1998 • Volume 14 Number 2

HEARD ON THE BIRDLINE

Spring 1998

March 15-June 15

By Jim Fuller, Iowa City

All sightings of rare birds reported to the Iowa Birdline are considered tentative until submitted and approved by the Records Committee of the Iowa Ornithologist's Union. James Huntington discovered a LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE at Lake MacBride the evening of June 10, and it remained through the following day. The only accepted North American record for this species is from Attu Island, Alaska in June of 1994, a bird which Huntington also saw. This is a phenomenal record even though the origin of the bird remains to be determined.

Other remarkable sightings during the Spring were SPRAGUE'S PIPIT, NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK, and GLOSSY

Iowa Birdline

319/338-9881



IBIS. The PIPIT, for which there were no Iowa records prior to this year, was found by members of the North Iowa Bird Club at Union Hills W.A. in Cerro Gordo County on April 22. There are only two previous records in the state for NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, which was reported by Mark Proescholdt at Otter Creek Marsh in Tama County on May 4. A potential sixth state sighting for BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK occurred when

Russ Reisz spotted an adult flying over Tomahawk Marsh in Sac County on April 10, but it was not until May 3 that the bird was relocated there, and subsequently it was seen almost daily for the next three weeks. The GLOSSY IBIS was found at Thorpe Park in Hancock County on May 27.

The latter half of March and early days of April saw numerous reports of



TUNDRA and TRUMPETER SWANS, as well as WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS, which

were likely a residual from the late fall and winter CROSSBILL invasion. It is interesting that one bird was still at Algona on April 24, and another found Pam and Reid Allen's yard at West Des Moines to its liking from May 2-19.

The end of March was highlighted by a FERRUGINOUS HAWK in Ida County on the 29th, and FISH CROWS in Cerro Gordo and Louisa Counties. Then in April, several unusual waterfowl made their appearance with OLDSQUAWS at UNION SLOUGH NWR on the 4th, and at Lock & Dam #16 on the Mississippi River on the 18th and 19th. Mid-April saw reports of RED-NECKED GREBE at Ames on the 10th, Sweet Marsh in Bremer County on the 15th, and Little Wall Lake in Hamilton County on the 16th. CINNAMON TEAL likewise showed up on state waters about the same time, with sightings at Dunbar Slough in Greene County on the 13th, Waubonsie W.A. in Fremont County on the 14th, and Virgin Lake in Palo Alto County on the 18th.

The first report of an adult COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL came on April 19





f r o m
Grover's
Lake on
t h e
Minnesota
b o r d e r ,

attracting attention from birders from our neighbor state to the north, and these birds continued to be seen sporadically there and at the Kettleson W.P.A. nearby in Dickinson County through June 7. Other rare GULL sightings included GLAUCOUS in Dickinson County on March 28, THAYER'S in Palo Alto County on April 19, and an immature BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE at Lake Rathbun on April 26th.

April also saw the only BEWICK'S WREN reported from Lee County on the 18th, and on the 19th Diane Porter was surprised to see an EVENING GROSBEAK at her feeder in Fairfield, while a YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON was at Brenton Slough in Polk County on the 26th. SMITH'S LONGSPURS were also sighted during April near Cone Marsh in Louisa County, and in Kossuth County.

May came in with reports on the first of BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE at the Plymouth County location where a nest was found last year, and a BLACK-NECKED STILT was at Mark Twain NWR in Louisa County. The PRAIRIE WARBLER returned to Lake MacBride State Park on the 4th, and was still singing there in mid-June, while another was at the Henry County W.A. on May 19. SNOWY EGRETS in Des Moines and Dickinson Counties were the only reports for that species. MISSISSIPPI KITES returned to Ledges State Park on May 17, and in Taylor County, two BARN OWLS returned to the Freemyer farm near Bedford on the 26th. Other May sightings of note included a male BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER at Parker's Woods in Mason City on the 15th, PLEGADIS (IBIS) at Grover's Lake in Dickinson County on the 20th, and a RED-THROATED LOON at Pleasant Creek

Recreation Area in Linn County on the 25th.

June eye-openers, both on the 13th were a SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER at the Iowa Arboretum in Boone County, and a KING RAIL at Arrington Marsh in Polk County.

Spring Meeting

by Mary Kuhlman, Ft. Dodge

"Come Celebrate!" was the theme of the spring meeting held at Iowa State University in Ames on May 15-17. The Iowa Ornithologist's Union celebrated its 75th Anniversary and the Big Bluestem Audubon Society celebrated its 30th anniversary. Thanks to Sherry Dragula, Jim Dinsmore, Hank Zaletel, Kay Niyo, Donna Flanagan, John Pohlman, Mary Doud, Mike Frieberg, Stan Cryan, and Ed and Liz Carbrey from Big Bluestem Audubon for all their work in planning and organizing the meeting. The special student guest for the weekend was Mike Frieberg. He is a sophomore at Ames High School.

Friday night a trip was planned to go to the National Weather Service in Johnston to view weather radar and to better understand Karl Jungbluth's program the following day *Birds and Weather Radar*. Due to the severe weather Friday afternoon, the staff there were too busy to accommodate us and the trip had to be canceled. Registration and a social get together, however, was held at Willow Residence Hall that evening. A display reviewed the accomplishments of Big Bluestem Audubon, in addition, to materials brought by DNR personnel.

Field trips were held both Saturday and Sunday mornings. Birding areas around Ames included Ledges State Park, Colo Ponds, Hendrickson Marsh, and Little Wall Lake. Many thanks to the field trip leaders who worked hard to have us see the elusive birds of spring 1998.

The Saturday afternoon program



celebrated the history of the two organizations. Tom Kent spoke on the interesting early birding history of Iowa as the state was explored and settled. In the late 1800's, the scientific study of birds in Iowa expanded with the beginning of the first field reports and the Iowa Ornithologists' Association being formed. Jim Dinsmore continued with the history of the IOU from our beginning in 1923 to the present. He challenged us to have the organization grow just as the interest in bird watching has grown in the last few years, and to encourage more young people to join IOU. Sherry Dragula shared the history of Big Bluestem Audubon which began in 1968 with the concern over the city of Ames using DDT. Since that time, they have continued with programs, field trips, and conservation action on various issues. She also reminded us that this is the fourth recent IOU meeting they have co-sponsored; the others being in 1974, 1982 and 1994

Kaul Jungbluth from the National Weather Service continued the afternoon



program with a fascinating presentation on Birds and Weather Radar. He showed the "exploding bird

echoes" that are seen on radar screens after sunset on evenings in the spring and fall when the winds are favorable for migration. The movement of birds peaks between midnight and 2:00 a.m. and shows birds flying as high as 9,000 to 12,000 feet. The audience decided he should call us to let us know where the birds are landing each morning!

The afternoon program concluded with Lisa Hemesath from Partners in Flight leading the group in a game called, "Solve the Crime: Save the Song of Spring." This simulation game is part of a learning kit that supports the new middle school curriculum being

developed on neotropical migratory birds. Partners in Flight would like to secure enough funds to have one kit in each area education agency. Teachers could check out the kit and use the activities in their classrooms. The business meeting included election of officers. Congratulations to Jane Clark, secretary; Phyllis Brooks, Treasurer; Dan Dorrance, Jim Scheib, and Phil Walsh, Board of Directors. The administrative position of registrar was established to manage the database of membership records. Curt Nelson and Marty Pauley will fill this position. Members voted to pledge \$1,500 in matching funds as part of a REAP grant being written for funding the learning kits for the middle school curriculum on neotropical migratory birds.

Following a delicious buffet dinner, our banquet speaker was Dr. James Herkert. His speech, titled "Prairie Bird Conservation in Illinois," focused on efforts being made to design conservation and management strategies to benefit birds. In his studies he found that not only was the declining population of grassland birds due to the decline in grassland agricultural acreage, but also due to how we are managing the small remnants of grasslands that remain. He said that such things as the hay cutting schedules and burning rotations can have an impact on the breeding and brooding success of grassland birds.

The weekend concluded with the Sunday field trips and the lunch and compilation at McFarland Park. Thanks to all who made the weekend a success. Please make plans to attend the fall meeting on September 11-13 at Camp Sunside north of Des Moines.



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State and County Lists --1997
by Mary Lou Petersen, Davenport

For 1997, 14 people reported lifetime totals for Iowa. Three more people reported county totals. We have received at least one listing for 43 counties, down three from 1996.

Please send your lifetime totals for Iowa through 1998, and any counties you have recorded at least 125 species to the compiler by May 27, 1999. The address is 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, Iowa 52803. The total number is all that is needed, not a complete listing. Do not forget the new species split off in August of 1995 by the A. O. U. and on the new A. B. A. list.

Iowa Totals--200 minimum

Pete Petersen	378
Eugene Armstrong	371
Eloise Armstrong	370
Jim Fuller	363
Mark Proescholdt	351
Beth Proescholdt	346
Pam Allen	349
Reid Allen	349
Mary Lou Petersen	326
Chris Edwards	317
Curt Nelson	317
Rita Goranson	305
Bill Huser	288
Judy Garton	259

County Totals -- 125 minimum

Allamakee	
Mark Proescholdt	169
Benton	
Mark Proescholdt	163
Black Hawk	
Pete Petersen	227
Mary Lou Petersen	221
Mark Proescholdt	155
Boone	
Mark Proescholdt	220

Beth Proescholdt	208
Pam Allen	184
Reid Allen	184
Eloise Armstrong	180
Eugene Armstrong	180
Bremer	
Mark Proescholdt	161
Butler	
Mark Proescholdt	184
Cerro Gordo	
Curt Nelson	273
Rita Goranson	256
Mark Proescholdt	156
Clay	
Lee A. Schoenewe	268
Clinton	
Pete Petersen	253
Mary Lou Petersen	197
Dallas	
Eloise Armstrong	195
Eugene Armstrong	195
Pam Allen	173
Reid Allen	173
Mark Proescholdt	155
Des Moines	
Jim Fuller	242
Pete Petersen	219
Dickinson	
Lee A. Schoenewe	263
Franklin	
Mark Proescholdt	166
Fremont	
Mark Proescholdt	196
Pam Allen	178
Reid Allen	178
Greene	
Mark Proescholdt	177
Pam Allen	147
Reid Allen	147
Grundy	
Mark Proescholdt	180
Guthrie	
Eugene Armstrong	211
Eloise Armstrong	210
Mark Proescholdt	201
Pam Allen	182



Hamilton	Reid Allen	182	Marshall	Reid Allen	172
	Dennis Carter	226		Beth Proescholdt	261
	Mark Proescholdt	203		Mark Proescholdt	261
	Pam Allen	136	Muscatine	Pete Petersen	258
	Reid Allen	136		Mary Lou Petersen	222
Hardin	Mark Proescholdt	247	Palo Alto	Lee A. Schoenewe	191
	Beth Proescholdt	225	Plymouth	Bill Huser	157
Iowa	Lee A. Schoenewe	305	Polk	Eugene Armstrong	292
	Chris Edwards	135		Eloise Armstrong	291
Jackson	Pete Petersen	240		Pam Allen	286
Jasper	Mark Proescholdt	202		Reid Allen	283
	Beth Proescholdt	169		Mark Proescholdt	257
Johnson	Jim Fuller	301		Beth Proescholdt	244
	Chris Edwards	257		Pete Petersen	243
	Pete Petersen	250	Poweshiek	Mark Proescholdt	180
	Mark Proescholdt	171	Scott	Pete Petersen	310
	Pam Allen	132		Mary Lou Petersen	283
	Reid Allen	132	Story	Mark Proescholdt	240
Jones	Chris Edwards	140		Beth Proescholdt	221
Lee	Pete Petersen	190		Pam Allen	127
	Chris Edwards	186		Reid Allen	127
	Pam Allen	140	Tama	Mark Proescholdt	230
	Reid Allen	140		Beth Proescholdt	187
Linn	Pete Petersen	209	Warren	Pam Allen	125
	Chris Edwards	173		Reid Allen	125
	Mark Proescholdt	154	Winneshiek	Dennis Carter	227
Louisa	Pete Petersen	262	Woodbury	Bill Huser	259
	Chris Edwards	131		Gerald Von Ehwegen	177
Madison	Eugene Armstrong	258	Worth	Curt Nelson	203
	Eloise Armstrong	254	Wright	Mark Proescholdt	160
	Pam Allen	142			
	Reid Allen	142			
Marion	Mark Proescholdt	212			
	Pam Allen	172			



IOU Spring 1998 Meeting Registrants

Algona- Matt Kenne
Ames- Barb Bettis, Ed & Liz Carbrey,
Jim Dinsmore, Sherry Dragula, Dave
Edwards, Bruce & Marlene Ehresman,
Paul & Mike Freiberg, Lisa
Hemesath, Marcia Minear, Kay Niyo,
Wolf Oesterreich, John Pohlman,
John Snyder
Ankeny- Carol & Galin Berrier, Maridel
Jackson
Cedar Falls- Alan Brown
Centerville- Bill & Marjorie
Heusinkveld
Clear Lake- Vergil & Joan Eness,
Clive- Jane Clark
Coralville- Richard Tetrault
Corydon- Aaron Brees
Davenport- Mary Lou Petersen
Decorah- Dennis Carter
Des Moines- Bob Cecil, Phil Walsh
Ft. Dodge- Judy Garton, Mary
Kuhman

Indianola- Daryl Howell, Leonard
Miller, Jim Sinclair, Doyle Woods
Iowa City- Karen Disbrow, Jim Fuller,
Bud Gode, Rick Hollis, Thomas Kent,
Ramona McGurk, Marita McGurk-
Eicher, Sharon Scheib, Jim Scheib,
Carol Thompson
Johnston- Dennis Thompson
Lake Mills- Sibyl Sand
Liscomb- Mark & Beth Proescholdt
Marshalltown- Joan Buwalda
Mason City- Jan Walter, Carolyn
Fischer, Rita Goranson, Curt Nelson
Mystic- Thomas Johnson
Nevada- Donna Flanagan, Hank &
Linda Zaletel
Norwalk- Ann Johnson, Sue Spieker
Paullina- Darwin Koenig
Princeton- Ann Barker
Rock Island- Dan & Ava Dorrance
Sioux City- Pat Williams
Waterloo- Francis Moore
Waverly- Phyllis Brooks
West Des Moines- Pam & Reid Allen

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