IOWA BIRD LIFE

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IOWA BIRD LIFE

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Hitchcock Nature Center Hawk Watch, Fall 2006

Mark Orsag

SEASON IN SUMMARY

After a record-setting 2005 season and the completion of the new hawk watch tower, Hitchcock Nature Center's (HNC) hawk watchers eagerly anticipated the 2006 season. What followed this fall was a major disappointment. By the last day of the 2006 count, 9,917 raptors and vultures were recorded. The last day of the count, 20 December, was rained out. Overall flight volume was 61% of 2005's record level and 17% below the four-year full-coverage (season with paid hawk counter from 1 September to 20 December) average. Per hour passage rates fell to a HNC full-coverage worst at 15 migrant raptors/vultures per hour (as opposed to 22.4 in 2005). Many slow flight days occurred in September, followed by a fairly strong October, but the flight dropped precipitously again in November. Average numbers were recorded for most species. But, of the 20 annual and semi-annual raptor and vulture species recorded at Hitchcock, 16 declined in absolute terms when compared to the high 2005 counts. Overall coverage hours were also slightly below four-year averages in 2006; this decrease was largely due to an above average number of rainouts and poor visibilities. Additionally, 17 species posted counts that were below the four-year full-coverage averages at Hitchcock with only two species posting slightly above average counts and one at the average level. Only 18 species were recorded this year as both the irregular Black Vulture and the heretofore annual Mississippi Kite were missed in 2006.

Weather played the key role this year; frequent weak cold fronts seem to have produced a steady broad-front migration. With the wind almost constantly at their backs, migrant raptors had little reason to concentrate, stage, or even use the Loess Hills at all. Sightings this year didn't follow the usual pattern of ridge approach at HNC; migrant raptors were regularly spotted all over the sky. The groups, kettles, and streams of birds that occur regularly at HNC in most years were rare this year, with much of the migration, even during the so-called *prime period* in late September and early October, consisting of single birds moving high and fast. This was definitely not a normal year in many ways and hawk watchers regularly detected patterns that had not been seen before at HNC in well over a decade of part-time and full-time counting. In November, for example, veteran hawk watcher Clem Klaphake noted the high percentage of Bald Eagles that were being seen as "distant specks off to the east." Traditionally, the overwhelming majority of migrant Bald Eagles seen at Hitchcock have been recorded over the main Loess Hills ridge system or following the Missouri River far to the west. These differences are probably best encapsulated by giving a statistical comparison that elucidates the effects of this fall's weather pattern on the overall count in 2006. If we compare the number of *big days* (single-day counts greater than 450 raptors and vultures) that occurred during the 2004, 2005, and 2006 seasons, we see that in 2006, there were only two such days with counts of 500 and 777 birds for a big

day's total of 1,277 birds. In 2004, by contrast, there were four big days that accounted, in total, for 3,614 birds. In 2005, eight big days accounted for a whopping 7,669 birds. Essentially, the big days that didn't happen in 2006 accounted for the difference between the poor season this year and the stellar results of the last two seasons. The lack of the usual meteorological concentrating effects (stretches of southerly wind days and/or stretches of days without a cold front in particular) just didn't produce many of the memorable days in 2006 that HNC hawk watchers look forward to each season.

Given the tendencies prevailing in 2006, it is not surprising that not a single season record was set this year, and only one new day record was set and one tied. Species that have shown a tendency, as noted in past reports, to rely particularly heavily on the Loess Hills ridge formations by tacking into southerly winds—Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Rough-legged Hawk, and Golden Eagle—posted particularly dismal numbers with counts in all cases at least 25% below average. The last three weeks of October were really the only time in 2006 that the raptors flowed through as we have come to expect at HNC. A brief hope at the end of October to reach the mediocre overall count of 10,000 raptors and vultures was dashed by an unexpectedly poor month of November.

SEASON IN DETAIL

August

Six days of counting in the last two weeks of August produced a mere 68 birds. This total was the worst ever for August at HNC. Wet, unseasonably cool weather with northerly winds predominated. With such conditions, we immediately began to suspect that we might not see a Mississippi Kite this season, as northward dispersing birds in late summer would have met with adverse conditions or would have moved quickly south again with the barrage of early cold fronts. The Turkey Vulture monthly total of 15 birds was stunningly low compared to some past counts of over 200 for the month; the lack of winds from the south surely played a strong role. The one decent flight of the month occurred on 26 August when an early push of immature Red-tailed Hawks (17) occurred after one of the stronger cold fronts of the month; the total flight for the day was 27 raptors and vultures. That this was by far the best day of the month is a telling verdict on how things went during 2006's part-time preseason.

September

Jerry Toll ascended the hawk tower to begin his third stint as HNC's hawk counter on 1 September as full-time 2006 counting began. Little, however, changed from what we had seen in August. The cool, wet weather pattern with prevailing northerlies continued as did the low flight totals. As it turned out, the best total of the first half of the month (60 raptors and vultures) occurred on 14 September as Jerry Toll and Clem Klaphake counted 46 Turkey Vultures tacking into southerly winds accompanied by a small number of raptors (Ospreys, sharp-shinneds, broad-wingeds, and red-taileds). On 16 September, southerly winds and sunny conditions sparked a strong low-altitude push of Turkey Vultures (99). The vultures were accompanied by 27 raptors including six Peregrine Falcons (some of the latter providing spectacular looks for counters Sue Mattix and Mark Orsag). After this one-day surge, however, the flight sank back into the doldrums for three days.

The prime migration period at HNC traditionally begins on 20 September, and the day didn't disappoint. An early morning liftoff of Broad-winged Hawks into light southeast winds for counters Jerry Toll, Jason McMeen, Loren and Babs Padelford, and Stan How contributed to a final tally of 227 raptors and vultures; the day's broad-winged tally was 155. If not for the 360-degree view that the hawk tower afforded, the early liftoff of broad-wingeds probably would have been missed. For the rest of September, with the exception of a dip below 100 birds due to unfavorable conditions on 23 September, triple-digit flights were the norm. A moderately strong Pacific cold front produced back-to-back strong flights on 27 September (427) and 28 September (500). On the 27th, 219 Swainson's Hawks led a diverse raptor flight of 13 species for Jerry, Jim Meyer, and Wayne Nicholas that was accompanied by a massive surge of southbound Franklin's Gulls (75,000). On the 28th, north winds continued and an unusually even mix of three buteo species (Broad-winged, Swainson's, and Red-tailed Hawks) all surpassed 100 birds for counters Jerry, Clem, Wayne, and Sandy Reinkin. The broad-wingeds dominated the morning, the Swainson's Hawks the early afternoon, and the red-taileds the last few hours of the day as the N/NW winds increased in intensity and the clouds rolled in. Thus, the month ended with solid if unspectacular numbers. With very low counts for Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Swainson's Hawk, HNC had experienced its worst ever full-coverage September.

October

October began with counters hoping that large numbers of Swainson's Hawks would still appear. Hopes were soon dashed, however, as the traditional core of the season continued to unfold without the big flight days that have been the norm in the past. After the traditional Swainson's Hawk migratory window had closed on the 5th without a big flight, there was a strong late push of Turkey Vultures around a low pressure system. As usual, the vultures flew more strongly on the warmer south-wind days before the switch to cooler temperatures and northerly winds behind the low or front. Sue, Mark, and Sandy recorded 302 vultures on 7 October, and Jerry, Jim, Sandy, and Don and Janis Paseka recorded another 222 on 8 October along with solid numbers of red-taileds and sharp-shinneds with overall counts on each day surpassing 370 raptors and vultures. A powerful Canadian cold front was not far behind, and it moved through producing a huge four-day burst of Red-tailed Hawks. The top of this push occurred on a cloudy windy 11 October and produced a dizzying blitz of 631 red-taileds, the lone new day record for HNC established in 2006. During a three-hour span between nine and noon that day, on average, a new migrant Red-tailed Hawk flew over the tower every thirty seconds. The total of 777 birds at the end of the day turned out to be the best of 2006—never before at HNC had the best day come so late in the season.

The rest of the month proceeded in fairly traditional fashion with some strong flights scattered throughout the remainder of the month. Particularly notable were cold-front-produced flights on 17 October (192 total raptors including a light-morph juvenile Ferruginous Hawk, a Golden Eagle, and three Merlins), 21 October (377 total raptors including 300 red-taileds and a Northern Goshawk), and 22 October (188 total raptors including 126 red-taileds, a Red-shouldered Hawk, and a Merlin). At month's end, the watch had

recorded 5,200 birds, the second best October in HNC history. A decent season seemed to have emerged after the poor early numbers.

November

November, however, dashed hopes that a good season could be salvaged. Poor flights dominated the early part of the month as cloudy weather prevailed and the overall weather pattern became less active. The highlight for the month, and certainly the strangest non-raptor sighting of the 2006 season was two Anhingas seen by Jerry, Fritz, and Jason on 6 November. By the time the raptor flight resumed, it was simply too late in the season. Little in the way of a strong Bald Eagle push developed until late in the month, and the total of migrant raptors for the entire month was only 1,097, by far the smallest November total of the full-coverage era at HNC. Only three triple-digit days occurred during November in 2006. A well-timed late afternoon push of Bald Eagles took place during HNC's well-attended Eagle Day Festival on 11 November, just as the deck was crowded with visitors after a raptor release by Raptor Recovery Nebraska. Between three and four in the afternoon, 30 Bald Eagles, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, a Red-tailed Hawk, and a Merlin moved past the tower; all the birds were low and close, tacking into southerly winds.

November's other highlight was a two-day frontal push that began in the afternoon of 28 November and continued into the morning of the 29th. On the 28th, 82 Bald Eagles were counted by Jason and Jerry with 62 more on the 29th for the same two counters, who were joined by Stan How and Fritz Davis. Three rough-leggeds were also highlights on the 29th along with a massive flight of waterfowl that Jerry recorded as 317,000 with Snow Geese (300,000) predominating.

December

December 2006 was a pretty average final month of the season with a total of 424 migrant raptors recorded. The two best days in December occurred on the 14th and 16th with Bald Eagle totals of 61 on the 14th and 59 the 16th. The eagles were joined by a Merlin, a rough-legged, and an immature Northern Goshawk on the 14th and four rough-leggeds on the 16th. With flights diminishing after that and rainy weather washing out the traditional last day on 20 December, the 2006 season sputtered to a disappointing close.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Black Vulture (0). This species, which was seen at HNC in September of 2002 and August of 2005, failed to make an appearance this year. The Black Vulture seems to be an irregular early season rarity at the hawk watch.

Turkey Vulture (2,021). This species was 28% below the four-year average for HNC. In 2006, for the first time in HNC history, October was the peak month for Turkey Vultures. In fact, a big three-day push of vultures between 7 and 9 October produced nearly as many southbound birds as had been recorded in all of September. The peak flight of 302 started this surge on 7 October. The last Turkey Vulture was recorded on 9 November. As with all the species that tend to move on south winds at Hitchcock, 2006 proved to be a very poor season for Turkey Vultures. Declines this season follow years of steadily increasing counts of this species during years where the weather patterns were more favorable.

A shift to a somewhat later migratory timetable for this species, however, also has been observed in recent seasons and intensified this season.

Osprey (73). The Osprey count was 40% below the four-year HNC average. Migratory timing was slightly early with 10 in the peak flight on 11 September. The last Osprey was recorded on 6 October. This was another very low count for a species that has shown a marked tendency to tack into southerly winds by using the Loess Hills terrain to good effect. The drop this year came after very good numbers of this species in 2004 and 2005.

Bald Eagle (729). The total was 20% below average despite a migration pattern that generally was normal in timing. November was the peak month, as usual, and the somewhat shallow peak flight of 82 on the 28th was a little late. In colder years with more rapid freezing of lakes and rivers, Bald Eagle numbers tend to drop at Hitchcock, probably due to a more broad-front migration with less staging. That pattern seems to have prevailed in 2006. Bald Eagles in August were unheard of at HNC as little as five years ago, but now seem to occur annually. The first this year was recorded moving south on 19 August. In 2005, more than 1,000 of these majestic late-season migrants produced a record season.

Northern Harrier (306). Despite a slight decline from the 2005 total of 315, the Northern Harrier was one of the few species that posted solid totals at HNC in 2006, 3% above the four-year average. The first harrier was seen on 19 August with the record-tying peak flight of 42 occurring on 9 October. The harrier flight was more concentrated in October than it has been in other seasons, but this species continues to post strong totals at HNC, a reassuring fact given some of the ecological concern about this grassland/wetland raptor in recent years.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (957). The total was 8% below the four-year average. A very poor month of September doomed this species to below average totals for 2006, but an above average October helped. The 2003 season saw a similar late pattern for this species, which can peak in either September or October at HNC. The 2006 peak flight of 82 occurred on 4 October and was preceded by a flight of 81 sharp-shinneds on 3 October. The first Sharp-shinned Hawk of 2006 was seen on 19 August.

Cooper's Hawk (211). The total was 2% below the four-year average, though it actually was a slight increase over the 2005 total. The migration of this species followed a more extreme version of the late pattern that was displayed by sharp-shinneds. Cooper's Hawk migration has always peaked in September at HNC, but this year it very nearly peaked in October: 99 in October vs. 100 in September. The single-day high of 17 occurred on 8 October. Both the Cooper's Hawk and the Sharp-shinned Hawk have shown a tendency to post rather flat steady totals at HNC over the years with slight ups and downs.

Northern Goshawk (5). This rare species displayed a similar late migratory pattern to those of its much more common fellow accipters in 2006. The season total for goshawks was 23% below average, but because this represented a total decrease of less than two birds it is not statistically significant. The 2005 total was three birds. The first goshawk appeared somewhat late on 13 October and, for the first time ever, the peak flight of two occurred on 1 December.

Red-shouldered Hawk (6). This was 4% below the four-year average, though, as with the goshawk, this species is too rare at Hitchcock to have statistically significant totals. The strange element in this year's flight was its timing. An early push of immatures (breeding

activity nearby?) made August (not October or November) the peak month for a species usually regarded at HNC as a mid- to late season migrant. The peak flight of two occurred on 16 August. The last bird of the season was recorded on 7 November. Despite its rarity, this species has posted fairly consistent annual totals at HNC in recent years, though this year's flight timing was highly abnormal.

Broad-winged Hawk (466). Although 29% below the four-year average, the average doesn't tell the entire tale. The huge Hurricane Katrina-induced flight of over 1,600 birds in 2005 was very abnormal for HNC and seriously skews the four-year full-coverage average. In reality, 2006 was a pretty normal year for broad-wingeds at Hitchcock. A total of four dark-morph birds was seen in 2006. The peak of the flight was slightly early with the first two birds appearing 18 August, the peak flight of 155 occurring on 20 September, and the last broad-winged being recorded on 9 October. September was, as usual, the peak month for this species.

Swainson's Hawk (1,075). In a season full of disappointments, this count for the signature species of the HNC hawk watch was certainly the worst. Hardly any big kettles were seen this year and the overall count was 46% below average. Other than the greatly reduced volume, it was a pretty normal year in terms of migratory timing. The first Swainson's Hawk was recorded on 4 September; the peak flight of 219 occurred on 27 September. The last bird was seen on 12 October. Two dark and two rufous morph birds were recorded. September was the peak month in 2006 for this species, which peaks either in very late September or very early October at HNC. The weather pattern almost certainly encouraged a broad-front migration that caused many of the birds to pass west of HNC this year. Our counters were disappointed with how easy it was to count the Swainson's Hawks this year, as opposed to many past seasons when they swarmed over HNC in such numbers that it was difficult to keep up with them on big flight days.

Red-tailed Hawk (3,836). The Red-tailed Hawk was one of the few species that posted a good count this year, 6% above the four-year average. Migration timing was quite normal. The best month was October when 2,599 red-taileds were counted. As noted earlier, the peak flight of 631 occurred on 11 October and constituted the one new record-high count established at HNC in 2006. As usual at HNC, the red-taileds this year were a very diverse group in terms of subspecies and plumages: nine Krider's, 32 Harlan's, one Harlan's light morph, 32 western dark morphs, six western rufous morphs, and 10 dark-morph indeterminates.

Rough-legged Hawk (20). This species was 41% below the four-year full-coverage average. The whole flight was also slightly late with the first bird not seen until 31 October, and December was the peak month. The peak flight of four occurred on 16 December. Three (15%) of this season's birds were dark morphs, a fairly typical percentage for the HNC flight. Many hawk watches in eastern North America record a far higher percentage of dark rough-leggeds (35 to 40%) while more westerly hawk watches often record only 10% dark morphs. Centrally-located HNC once again conformed more to the western pattern in 2006.

Ferruginous Hawk (1). A lone juvenile light morph was recorded on 17 October, the second year in a row for a Ferruginous Hawk on that date. This count is 43% below the four-year average, but the result isn't statistically significant. These are magnificent raptors, always fun to see and much anticipated at HNC each season.

Golden Eagle (9). This total was 57% below the full-coverage average. This species, like the rough-legged, Osprey, and Turkey Vulture, seems inclined to tack into moderate to strong southerly winds at HNC. As stated earlier, all these species posted very poor counts in 2006. November was, as usual the peak month; the best flight of two birds was achieved once in October and twice in November. The first Golden Eagle was recorded on 12 October, the last two on 21 November.

American Kestrel (107). The kestrel has shown a steady pattern of decline over the years including being 18% below average in 2006. The peak flight of 18 occurred on 27 September, the peak month for this species.

Merlin (27). This was an average count for the four-year full-coverage span. As usual, we recorded both Taiga and Prairie Merlins. September was the best month with the typically timed peak flight of four occurring on 30 September. The first Merlin was recorded on 2 September and the last on 18 December.

Peregrine Falcon (31). The Peregrine count was 4% below the full-coverage average, and the flight's timing was quite typical with September being the peak month and the twin peak flights of six occurring on 16 and 30 September. The last Peregrine was recorded on 15 October.

Prairie Falcon (4). This species was down 24% for the full-coverage average, though the data is not statistically significant. October was the peak month with the first Prairie Falcon recorded on 12 October and another on 31 October. The last one of the season was recorded on 7 December.

Mississippi Kite (0). This is the first time this species, which normally averages eight, has been absent at HNC during the full-coverage period. With the unusually cool rainy weather in August, this result was anticipated by HNC's hawk watchers. Few birds would have had any incentive for northward post-breeding dispersal before fall migration.

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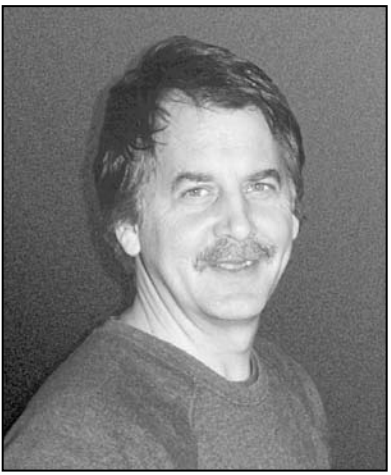
21214 McClellan Drive, Gretna, NE 68028-3964 (wordorsag@cox.net)

Field Reports — Fall 2006

Paul Hertzel



Paul Hertzel

WEATHER

Modest rain across the state in early August accompanied a welcome relief from 90–100° temperatures that dominated the state in the last week of July. Temperatures remained close to normal throughout the month, and precipitation levels, which were above normal, temporarily eased very dry conditions in the northwest. The first half of September was mild, with south winds often dominating, but things gradually grew drier and cooler and the first freeze of the season was recorded across most of the state on the 20th. In early October, a last effort at summer brought 95° temperatures to Burlington and Keosauqua. Continued south winds kept skies quiet, and in northcentral Iowa, many small ponds and marshes began to dry up. A strong cold front finally pushed through on 10, 11 October bringing the season's first cold weather into the state. A statewide freeze occurred on the 12th accompanying the first significant snowfall, which fell across the northern half of Iowa. The southern half saw a brief return to 70° temperatures in the last week of the month, but on the 31st, Spencer made the news with a Halloween temperature reading of only 12°. This cold start to November began a period of peculiar fluctuation when it was immediately followed by a significant warming. Spencer, which had recorded 9° on 3 November, saw 80° on the 8th, and to the west, Sioux City managed 82°. But just two days later, the northwest was hit with heavy snow; Algona recorded 8 inches, and Spencer 7 inches. By the morning of the 11th, the temperature in Algona had dropped to 0°. But none of this lasted either, with another warming spell and subsequent rain that washed away the snow cover. In the southwest, Shenandoah recorded 69° on 28 November. Yet, the very next day, another strong cold front moved through dropping temperatures into the teens across most of the state, and small lakes and ponds were again freezing fast as the season ended.

HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

It takes an ornithologist to see August as belonging to ***autumn***. In 2006, August was a warm, rainy, summer month with Common Moorhen family groups out in the open at Cardinal Marsh, Blue Grosbeaks feeding young in Polk County, singing Henslow's Sparrows and Acadian Flycatchers easy to find, and average citizens saying "see, it's still summer." But a July Ruff, still present along the Des Moines River when the month opened, was an indication of a shorebird migration already well under way following a record-setting 32-

species summer (Dinsmore 2006), and it was followed shortly by a Red Knot, and then a Red Phalarope. On 6 August, 175 Semipalmated Plovers were found along the Des Moines River, which was the same day a keen-eyed birder found an Olive-sided Flycatcher and knew what it meant. In Mason City on the 13th, the first Sharp-shinned Hawk appeared and a record early Black-throated Green Warbler was found in a small band of migrants at Parker's Woods. August Le Conte's Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows also arrived record early, and there was even a Yellow-rumped Warbler in Clay County on August 20, a third-earliest date.

With mild weather continuing into September and south winds often the rule, the migration was not always evident in the sky. Senior hawk watcher Mark Orsag wrote on the 15th, "The middle to eastern half of the state is the place to be this season—Hitchcock is still totally dead." His instincts were right, as Grammer Grove hawk watchers were in the middle of establishing a new season high total for Broad-winged Hawks, recording 1,703 birds. At Red Rock Reservoir, birders were busy finding a Mew Gull, a Laughing Gull, a second-earliest Lesser Black-backed Gull, and trying to get an accurate count of more than 18,000 Franklin's Gulls. Also in September, a record early Spotted Towhee, second-earliest Le Conte's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco, and a third-earliest White-crowned Sparrow were found. The year's third Scissor-tailed Flycatcher paused in Kossuth County long enough to get noticed.

Against early October colors, birders found second-earliest Brewer's Blackbirds, third-state record Sprague's Pipits, a late Willet, and a fourth Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Then, on the 10th, a cold wave brought the first indications of impending winter, and on the 12th it snowed in the northwest. Two Brant were found in Clay County, a Little Gull was found at Lake Rathbun, and Black Scoters arrived record early. On the 14th, the season's second occurrences of Sprague's Pipit and Red Phalarope were observed, and the first groups of Smith's Longspurs were found. Before the month was over, even colder weather accompanied flocks of Greater White-fronted and Ross's Geese entering the state, and more than 200,000 Canvasback gathered along the Mississippi River in Allamakee County.

The extreme fluctuations in November seemed to stir up more migrants. Near zero temperatures in the first week were followed by 80° temperatures in the second week. Frozen ponds thawed, and then were covered by heavy snow in the middle of the month. In the first week, all three scoters plus a Pacific Loon were at Spirit Lake, a near record-late Green Heron was found in the east, the first Northern Saw-whet Owls arrived, Red Crossbills appeared in the south, and two Anhingas were seen in the skies over Hitchcock. Following the mid-month snows, gentle rain washed away the cold revealing a record late Eastern Phoebe in the north and a lone Tree Swallow flying around Big Creek. When the season came to an end, birders were still finding record late American Bitterns and Great Egrets, and a Yellow-throated Warbler was flitting about a feeder in Davenport.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

Accidental species found this fall were two Anhingas, Iowa's fourth record of this species; a Green Violet-ear, the second occurrence after last year's first; and two records of Sprague's Pipits. Casual species were Brant, Ferruginous Hawk, King Rail, Red Knot, Ruff, two Red Phalaropes, two Laughing Gulls, Little Gull, Mew Gull, and Burrowing Owl.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Casual or Accidental species. * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **A** = area, **L** = lake, **M** = marsh, **m.ob**. = many observers, **NA** = nature area, **NM** = National Monument, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **SF** = state forest, **Sl** = slough, **SP** = state park, **WPA** = waterfowl production area, **WA** = wildlife area.

Greater White-fronted Goose: A single goose apparently summered along the Saylorville Res/Des Moines R system (PH, JB, SJD), and another was found 25 Aug at Pickerel Lake in *Clay* (LAS). The first migrant flock was 90 on 23 Oct at South Twin L *Calhoun* (SSP). The only other concentrations were 30 on 12 Nov at Polk City WA *Polk* (RLC) and 25 on 26 Nov at Runnells WA *Marion* (JG).

Snow Goose: Ones and twos were found at ten different locations during the first half of the season, until the first moderate group of 435 was found on 27 Oct in *Guthrie* (SSP). By late Nov, groups of 1,000 were seen in *Harrison* and *Woodbury* (Bob Barry, GLV), then 60,000 were counted passing the Hitchcock NC hawk watch in *Pottawattamie* on 28 Nov (JT). The next day, 29 Nov, approximately 300,000 passed the hawk watch station (JT), and another 30,000 were counted in *Page* (KDy).

Ross's Goose: All: First was 1 on 8 Oct at Two Waters WA *Worth* (PH), 1 at Runnells *Marion* 11 Oct–26 Nov (SJD, JG, AB), 2 in *Cerro Gordo* 20 Oct–5 Nov (PH), a group of 57 on 23 Oct at South Twin L *Calhoun* (SSP), and 7 on 28 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

BRANT: Two birds found by LAS 10 Oct at Dickins Pit *Clay* were Iowa's second record of the western subspecies *nigricans* (*LAS, *DB, *DA, PR-photo). At least one stayed through 14 Oct. A report of a flock of 30–40 birds a week later at nearby Barringer Slough could not be confirmed.

Cackling Goose: There were four early reports in Sep: 4 on 21 Sep in *Polk* (AB), 22 on 26 Sep in *Guthrie* (TL), 8 on 28 Sep in *Story* (WO), and 12 on 30 Sep in *Cerro Gordo* (PH). In Oct and Nov, there were pockets of 300–400 birds reported (JB, JG, AB, SSP) and peaks of 600 on 20 Oct in *Cerro Gordo* (PH), 620 on 26 Nov in *Marion* (SJD), and 1,630 on 29 Nov in *Guthrie* (SJD).

Canada Goose: The migrant race *C. b. interior* arrived in the first week of Oct in *Cerro Gordo* (PH).

Trumpeter Swan: It is difficult to know how to treat mixed flocks of marked/unmarked birds away from release sites. In Nov, at least some unmarked birds were at Moorland Pond *Webster* (SSP), NW of Mount Pleasant *Henry* (Matthew Shappell *fide* SJD), a private wetland in *Winnebago* (JB), and Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Tundra Swan: Along the Mississippi R, USFWS aerial surveys detected the first Tundra Swans in mid-October. On 20 Nov, they recorded a peak of 52,700 between pools 4 and 14 (includes sections in MN and WI). High count at Pool 9 *Allamakee* was 6,780 on 30 Nov. The only report away from the river was 2 on 30 Nov at Saylorville Res (SJD).

Gadwall: Mississippi R totals peaked at just more than 4,000 on 24 Oct at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (USFWS). 625 were counted at Saylorville on 13 Oct (AB). Last: 19 at Lizard L *Pocahontas* on 9 Nov (SSP).

American Wigeon: One on 27 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP) may have summered in the area. The first migrants were 3 on 28 Sep at Pilot Knob *Hancock* (PH).

Most away from the Mississippi R were 17 on 10 Oct in *Pocahontas* (SSP). Last: 1 on 1 Nov at Saylorville (JB).

American Black Duck: First: 1 on 22 Sep at Saylorville (AB). There were 7 in the vicinity of Pool 9 *Allamakee* on 7 Oct (PH), which grew to about 30 by 10 Oct (USFWS). Also reported in *Appanoose, Calhoun*, *Clay*, *Emmet*, *Henry*, *Marion*, *Polk*, *Scott,* and *Woodbury.*

Mallard: Some peak numbers were 5,450 on 1 Nov in *Polk* (JB), 12,500 on 29 Nov at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (Bob Barry, De Soto NWR), and 16,900 on 14 Nov at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (USFWS).

Blue-winged Teal: Peaked at 530 on 19 Sep at Saylorville (AB). A straggler was still at Runnells *Marion* on 3 Nov (AB).

Northern Shoveler: Most: 175 on 1 Nov at Saylorville (JB).

Northern Pintail: First: 20 on 30 Sep at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC). Then thousands gathered at Runnells *Marion* in the first few days of Nov. As many as 4,200 were present on 5 Nov (JG, AB), with 1,400 still present on 26 Nov (SJD). Elsewhere, the high count was 135 on 23 Oct at South Twin L *Calhoun* (SSP).

Green-winged Teal: The large concentrations were 3,045 on 11 Oct at Saylorville (SJD), 2,500 on 5 Nov at Runnells *Marion* (JG), and 3,500 on 19 Nov at Polk City WA *Polk* (BE).

Canvasback: Already on 5 Oct there were 2,000 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (PH). Numbers continued to grow, peaking on 24 Oct with 216,000 along the river in *Allamakee* (USFWS). On 7 Nov, there were 161,750 in a single stretch north of Pool 9.

Redhead: Between 60–95 were at Saylorville Res 14 Oct–16 Nov (RLC, JB, AB), and smaller concentrations were reported in *Page* (KDy) and *Calhoun* (SSP) about the same time.

Ring-necked Duck: Peaked along the Mississippi R on 7 Nov with about 4,000 counted at Pool 9 by USFWS survey. Other pockets were 349 on 22 Oct at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (AB) and 380 on 4 Nov at Saylorville (AB).

Greater Scaup: First: 1 on 20 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). Most: 25 on 16–18 Nov at Spirit L *Dickinson* (ET, WO). Another group of 12 was at Saylorville on 4 Nov (AB).

Lesser Scaup: Peaked on the Mississippi R with 115,000 counted on 24 Oct *Allamakee* (USFWS). Along the reservoir system, the peak occurred 31 Oct–4 Nov at Saylorville with as many as 4,200 (AB, JB, SJD).

Surf Scoter: At least 20 individuals, all fem/imm types, were at ten locations in seven counties. First: 4 on 5 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). Most: 7 on 15 Oct at Saylorville (SJD, AB, JG). In *Dickinson*, 3 were at Spirit L 4–16 Nov (ET) and 1 at W. Okoboji 18 Nov (LAS). Also reported in *Clay*, *Dallas*, *Marion*, *Plymouth* and *Woodbury*.

White-winged Scoter: All: 3 on 22 Oct at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (AB, JG), 1 on 22 Oct in *Iowa* (DP), 2 at Saylorville Res 30 Oct–12 Nov (AB, BE), and 1–7 birds at Spirit L *Dickinson* 8–18 Nov (ET, LAS, DB, CJF, RGo)

Black Scoter: First: 2, on 12 Oct at Saylorville following a major cold front, tied the record early arrival date (JG, AB). All others: 1 on 30 Oct at Port Neal *Woodbury* (BFH), 1–3 at Spirit L *Dickinson* (m.ob), 1 on 3 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), 1 on 9 Nov at Saylorville (SJD), and 1 on 18 Nov at L&D 13 *Clinton* (DP).

Long-tailed Duck: All: 1 on 4 Nov at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC), and 4 on 12 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG, SJD, AB) consisting of 2 ad fem, 1 imm male, and 1 imm fem.

Bufflehead: One lone fem on 20 Aug at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DK) was very unusual, and the bird may have summered in the area. Fall Buffleheads usually arrive in October. The next reports were 2 on 12 Oct in *Page* (KDy), and 21 on 22 Oct at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH). Peaked along the Mississippi R on 30 Oct when 1,085 were counted at Pool 9 (USFWS). The high count in the interior of the state was 142 on 16 Nov at Saylorville Res (AB, RIA, PHA).

Common Goldeneye: A juv was record early on 11 Sep at Pigeon Creek P along the Mississippi R in *Scott* (*DR). The next few appeared 10 Oct at Pool 9 (USFWS) [3rd-earliest], where they peaked at 1,670 on 20 Nov. The most at Saylorville were 121 on 26–28 Nov (SJD, AB).

Hooded Merganser: The most in one place were 346 on 5 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE).

Common Merganser: A single male found 11 Aug at Saylorville and seen off and on until 10 Sep (*JG, AB, RLC, SJD) may have been sick, and probably summered there. First: 1 on 11 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (DP).

Red-breasted Merganser: First: 4 on 28 Oct at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH) and 3 on 3 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG). Most: 71 on 11 Nov at Saylorville (SJD, JG).

Ruddy Duck: Rafts of 150 or more were found at Spirit L, Clear L, and Saylorville throughout Oct and Nov. The largest concentrations were more than 500 birds at Saylorville (SSP, JB).

Gray Partridge: Three reports from the northern half of the state: 2 on 11 Aug in *Black Hawk* (MWJ), 1 on 25 Aug in *Hardin* (MPr), and 8 on 11 Nov in *Clay* (LAS). DNR roadside surveys in August had a detection rate 35% below the 10-year average.

Ruffed Grouse: No reports.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Found only at the Kellerton Grasslands lek *Ringgold* (KDy, JS).

Wild Turkey: The largest group was not very large: 19 on 26 Aug at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (JB).

Northern Bobwhite: The only report away from the two southern-most tiers of counties was a group of 3 on 21 Aug in *Johnson* (JPa). In *Decatur*, counts of as many as 26 birds were reported (NJM, JRL).

Red-throated Loon: Three reports: 1 on 11–16 Oct at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (DP, BSc), 1 on 29 Oct at Red Rock Res. *Marion* (JG), and 1 on 14 Nov at Spirit L *Dickinson* (ET).

Pacific Loon: Three reports in the same week: 1 on 28–29 Oct at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH, RG-details, CJF), 1 on 29 Oct at Saylorville Res. in *Polk* (details from RLC, JB, BE), and 1 on 3 Nov at Spirit L *Dickinson* (ET-details).

Common Loon: First: on 14 Oct: 3 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH) and 2 in *Polk* (RLC). The peak in the north was 18 on 28 Oct at Clear L (PH). At Saylorville Res *Polk*, late Oct numbers in the 60–70 range held through 10 Nov when a peak of 107 occurred (SJD, AB, BE).

Pied-billed Grebe: High count was 230 on 9 Oct at Saylorville Res (AB, SJD, SSP).

Horned Grebe: First: 10 on 24 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (CJC) and 6 on 24 Sep at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS). Also reported in *Allamakee*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Dickinson*, *Hancock*, *Plymouth*, *Pocahontas*, *Polk*, and *Story*. The high count was as many as 55 at Saylorville during the last week of Oct (SJD, JG, RLC).

Red-necked Grebe: All: 2 on 14 Sep at Smith L *Kossuth* (RGo), 1 on 11 Oct in Cedar Falls *Black Hawk* (MWJ), 1 ad on 2 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD, JG), and 1 on 4 Nov at Spirit L *Dickinson* (ET).

Eared Grebe: There were two isolated early fall reports, 2 on 19 Aug at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (JG, SJD) and 2 on 12 Sep at Saylorville (AB), before a steady succession of ten reports began with 1 on 10 Oct at South Twin L *Calhoun* (SSP). The only juvs reported were 2 seen on and off at Saylorville Res 18 Oct–17 Nov (SJD).

Western Grebe: Two early reports were 1 on 19 Aug at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (JG, SJD) and 1 or 2 on 9 Sep–14 Oct at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS, JG). The only report in the east was 1 at Coralville Res *Johnson* on 24 Oct (DP). Elsewhere, 1–3 birds were seen in the last half of the season at Ada Hayden P (HZ, SJD), Clear L (RGo), E Okoboji L (ET), Badger Creek RA (RIA, PHA), L Manawa (SJD), Port Neal Ponds (GLV), Red Rock Res (DP, SJD), Saylorville Res (m.ob), Shenandoah sand pits *Page* (KDy), and Spirit L (ET).

American White Pelican: Peaked in late Aug with 6,300 at Saylorville on 25 Aug (SJD) and 4,000 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* on 27 Aug (CRE, CJC). A few late season stragglers were still around in the last week of Nov in *Cerro Gordo* (CJF), *Allamakee* (MPr), and *Woodbury* (BFH).

Double-crested Cormorant: High counts were 2,013 at Saylorville on 15 Oct (SJD) and 4,500 on 21 Oct at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (RLC).

ANHINGA: On 6 Nov, two hawk watchers at the Hitchcock NC platform *Pottawattamie* spotted two juv/fem types "soaring like buteos in lazy circles" as they worked south along the Loess Hills (*JT). Iowa's first accepted record for Anhinga also occurred in the extreme western edge of the state, in *Fremont*, when a single bird persisted near Riverton from 18–31 Oct (Collins 1953).

American Bittern: A month after the second-to-last report, one was still at Ada Hayden P *Story* on 27 Nov (WO), the latest Nov date on record. There is one Dec record from 1954.

Least Bittern: All: 1 on 2 Aug in *Wayne* (SJD), 2 on 3 Aug at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DeC), and 1 on 7 Aug at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* (RGo).

Great Egret: The most were 175 on 1 Aug along the Des Moines R near Swan *Marion* (SSP, KLP). This species stayed late with 1 on 27 Nov in *Warren* (JS), 1 on 28 Nov in *Marshall* (MPr), and 1 on 29 Nov in *Guthrie* (SJD), matching second- and record-latest dates.

Snowy Egret: All: 1 on 1–10 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SSP, KLP, WO, JS, AB), 1 on 2 Aug in *Decatur* (NJM), 1 or 2 during 5–16 Sep at Silver Lake M *Dickinson* (ET, JG), 1–4 during 11–25 Sep at Shenandoah sand pits *Page* (KDy), 2 on 30 Sep at Spirit L *Dickinson* (PH), and 3 on 1 Oct at Saylorville Res (AB, SJD).

Little Blue Heron: The only report was 1 imm on 4 Aug at Diehl Wetlands *Warren* (JG, JS).

Cattle Egret: 68 were photographed on 18 Sep on the Lakeview RA rock jetty at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG). At least one was still there on the 24th (BE). Elsewhere, singles were at Shenandoah sand pits *Page* on 17–19 Sep (KDy) and at Mason City on 1 Nov (CJF).

Green Heron: Reports dried up in the last few days of Sep, ending with 1 on 29 Sep in *Polk* (AB). Then, five weeks later, on 4 Nov, a birder working on his Delaware County list found a second-latest individual in the "backwater of the Maquoketa River on the north edge of Manchester" (BSc).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: After a summer with no reports of nesting (Dinsmore 2006), there were only five fall reports in the state: 1 ad on 10–12 Sep at Cedar L *Linn* (BSc, DP), 1–3 including an imm dur-

ing 13–20 Sep at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (SSP, MCK), 1 during 24–27 Oct in Mason City (CJF, RGo), 1 on 30 Oct in *Story* (WO), and 1 imm on 16 Nov in *Decatur* (JRL, NJM, BBa).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All: An ad and juv were together at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* on 2 Aug (RGo), 1 juv at Polk City WA *Polk* on 23 Aug (SJD), and 1 juv at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* on 28, 29 Sep (RGo, CJF, PH).

White-faced Ibis: Of 8 *Plegadis* reports, two were identified as White-faced based on red eyes. 1 on 18 Aug was at New L *Woodbury* (BFH-details), and 2 during 2–6 Oct at Amana L *Iowa* (BSc-details, DP) match the second-latest date on record for birds identified to species.

***Plegadis* species**: An impressive 9 birds on 13 Sep near Templar Lagoon *Dickinson* (ET) may be the largest fall group on record. All others: 1 ad 4–10 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, SJD) and 2 juvs there 19 Sep (SJD), 1 on 15 Sep in Mason City (CJF, RGo), 3 on 17 Sep at Diehl Wetlands *Warren* (JS), 1 on 24 Oct at Amana L *Iowa* (BSc), and a record-late individual on 27 Oct at Swan L *Johnson* (DP).

Turkey Vulture: The season total of 2,021 at Hitchcock hawk watch in *Pottawattamie* was only 60% of last year's total (MOr). The largest group away from the hawk watch was 102 on 7 Sep in *Decatur* (JRL). Last: 1 on 9 Nov at Hitchcock (MOr).

Osprey: After a good summer with 4 of 6 nests successful (Dinsmore 2006), and continued DNR releases of young birds at five sites, Ospreys were widely reported (17 counties). However, hawk watch reports of migrants were down, with season totals at Hitchcock only 45% of last year's total (MOr), and 16 birds at Grammer Grove well under average (MPr). Last: 1 on 28 Nov in *Warren* (JS).

Mississippi Kite: Neither hawk watch reported any kites. As many as 4 Des Moines birds were seen in Aug (AB), including 1 juv, and the last was observed on 1 Sep (AB). Elsewhere, an imm was seen 7–12 Sep in *Decatur* (BBa-details, NJM, JRL), and 1 was at Shenandoah *Page* on 18 Sep (KDy).

Bald Eagle: 335 broke the season record total at Grammer Grove *Marshall* by 25 birds (MPr). The peak counts were 82 on 28 Nov at Hitchcock (MOr) and 63 on 29 Nov at Grammer Grove (MPr).

Northern Harrier: 43 reports, with most (23) occurring in October. The peak in the west was 42 on 9 Oct at Hitchcock (MOr), and in the east it was 13 on 28 Oct at Grammer Grove (MPr).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: First: 1 on 13 Aug in Mason City (CJF). Peak on 4 Oct in the west and east with 67 at Grammer Grove (MPr) and 82 at Hitchcock (MOr).

Cooper's Hawk: The season total of 170 was historically the 3rd best at Grammer Grove (MPr). The peak there was 49 on 4 Oct. John Bissell counted 5 on 24 Sep at the Luther bridge *Boone*.

Northern Goshawk: All: 1 imm on 20 Sep in *Dickinson* (ET), 1 ad on 11 Oct in *Carroll* (Wes Thelen *fide* ET), the first of five during the season at Hitchcock *Pottawattamie* on 13 Oct (MOr, JG), and 1 ad on 30 Nov in *Story* (SSP).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Irregular, scattered reports of 1 or 2 from 10 mostly eastern counties, but also 1 on 27 Oct in *Fremont* (KDy). This species is detected in very low numbers at the hawk watches.

Broad-winged Hawk: It was a banner year for this species in the east, a bust in the west. MPr reported a record season total at Grammer Grove of 1,703, nearly 400 more than the previous high total. The first Iowa concentration was 200 on 15 Sep in *Johnson* (DP). The peak day was 20 Sep when 919

were counted at Grammer Grove, and was followed by lesser counts of 106 in Marion (JG) and 195 in *Allamakee* (FL) on 23 Sep, and 488 in *Boone* (JB, JG) on 24 Sep. In the west, the Hitchcock season total of 466 was about 1,200 fewer than last year (MOr).

Swainson's Hawk: Following a summer with no records (Dinsmore 2006), there were two isolated Aug reports: an imm on 14 Aug in Algona *Kossuth* (MCK), and an ad on 29 Aug in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (PH). Ordinarily a specialty bird in the fall at Hitchcock, the Swainson's Hawk total there was a mere 1,075 birds, barely half of the single day high in 2005 (MO). The missing hawks had not shifted eastward, as reports were about average elsewhere, the most being 22 on 1 Oct in *Boone/Polk* (SJD), the same day 3 were found in *Clay* (LAS). Grammer Grove hawk watchers only counted 3 on the season.

Red-tailed Hawk: One of the few highlights at the Hitchcock hawk watch was a record single-day total of 631 Red-tailed Hawks on 11 Oct (MOr).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK: A light-morph juv was seen well on 17 Oct from the observation tower at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* (*MOr). This is the same day two were seen and documented in Iowa last year.

Rough-legged Hawk: One on 21 Oct in *Boone* (SSP) and 1 on 22 Oct in *Decatur* (NJM) were the first two of five early reports in the last half of October.

Golden Eagle: The first of 9 at Hitchcock was spotted on 12 Oct (MOr), and the first of 3 at Grammer Grove was spotted 31 Oct (MPr). All others: 1 on 4 Nov in *Decatur* (NJM), 1 on 4 Nov in *Page* (KDy), and 1 on 11 Nov in *Allamakee* (DeC).

American Kestrel: Peaked on the same day, 27 Sep, in the east and the west (MPr, MOr).

Merlin: First: 1 on 2 Sep at Hitchcock *Pottawattamie* (MOr), 1 on 8 Sep at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (JG, SJD), and 1 on 8 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). The first to return to the winter roost area in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines was noticed on 22 Sep (RIC). Of 16 birds identified to race, 12 were *columbarius* and 4 were *richardsonii*. The season total of 27 at Hitchcock was one of the few totals to surpass those of 2005 (MOr).

Peregrine Falcon: Reported from 13 counties. Season totals of 44 at Hitchcock and 9 at Grammer Grove were about average (MOr, MPr). Peaked in the west with 6 on 16 Sep (MOr), about a week earlier than in the east.

Prairie Falcon: The first of 4 at Hitchcock was seen 12 Oct (MOr). All others: 1 on 14 Oct at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MPr-details), 1 on 20 Oct at Runnells WA *Polk* (AB-details), 1 on 27 Oct in *Decatur* (JRL-details), 1 on 24 Nov in *Johnson* (JG), 1 on 29 Nov at the De Soto NWR *Harrison* (Bob Barry, De Soto NWR).

Yellow Rail: The only report was 1 on 4 Oct flushed from a dry field in *Decatur* (*BBa *NJM).

KING RAIL: An ad was found on 18 Aug working the edge at Polk City WA *Polk* (*SJD).

Virginia Rail: MCK provided the only record of 1 at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* on 20 Sep.

Sora: On 30 Aug, 18 were counted along the edges of the marsh near the Union Sl NWR headquarters, the Sora Capital of Iowa (MCK). Last: 1 on 29 Oct at a private wetland in *Delaware* (BSc).

Common Moorhen: One or two family groups consisting of 2 ads and 8 imms were still being seen at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* on 3 Aug (DeC), and 2 were at Errington M *Polk* on 13 Aug (BE). After a gap of more

than two months, a very late bird was seen at Riverton WA *Fremont* on 27 Oct (KDy), which was second-latest on record. The median departure date over the last 15 years for this species is 20 Sep.

American Coot: Two large concentrations were 3,150 on 12 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 3,500 at Synder's Bend along the Missouri R *Woodbury* on 13 Nov (GLV).

Sandhill Crane: All: Up to 4 on 3–13 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DR, CJC), 1 flyover on 5 Aug at Nahant M *Scott* (DR), 1 still remaining on 4 Sep at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* where they nested (DeC), 2 that summered at a private wetland in *Clay* were last seen 26 Aug (LAS), 3 on 7 Oct at Princeton WA *Scott* (DR), 1 on 3 Nov at Runnells *Warren* (JS), and the principal fall congregation at Otter Creek Marsh *Tama*, which grew to as many as 45 by 17 Nov (BSc, DP, SJD, MPr).

WHOOPING CRANE: On 5 Sep, three tagged, imm Whooping Cranes from the International Crane Foundation reintroduction project in Wisconsin arrived in *Hancock*, and found something to their liking, staying through the month of October. On Halloween, they left from neighboring *Winnebago*, crossing southeast to Illinois where they intersected the established route to-and-from Florida, realigned themselves, and cruised to Madison County, FL in six days (Joan Garland, *ICF*; Patrick Keenan).

Black-bellied Plover: All: 1 on 5 Aug at Diehl Wetlands *Warren* (RIA, PHA), 1 during 18–22 Aug at Big Wall L *Wright* (SSP), 1 or 2 at L Rathbun *Appanoose* during 19 Aug–15 Oct (RLC), 2 on 27 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CJC, CRE, DP), and 1–5 at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* during 14 Sep–9 Nov (MCK, RGo).

American Golden-Plover: There were 18 reports from 14 locations, with the first 1 on 27 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CJC, DP). On 5 Oct, a group of 205 at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* was the largest flock since the early 1990s (MCK, PH). Other notable flocks were 22 in *Calhoun*, 24 in *Pocahontas* (SSP), and 40 on 25 Oct at Owego *Woodbury* (GLV). Last: 2 at Runnells WA *Polk* on 12 Nov (SJD, JG).

Semipalmated Plover: Possibly the largest fall concentration of Semipalmated Plovers on record occurred on 6 Aug when 175 were counted along the Des Moines R near Swan *Marion* (JS, AB). Also reported at 9 other locations with the last 1 on 24 Oct at Amana L *Iowa* (BSc).

Piping Plover: All: 1 on 1 Aug at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* (RGo), 1 on 2 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JPa), 1 ad on 2 Aug at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (SJD), 1 on 3 Aug at Spirit L *Dickinson* (ET), and 1 on 11 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG).

Killdeer: The largest concentrations were 298 at a nearly dry Big Wall L *Wright* on 19 Aug (SJD) and 500 on 30 Aug at Union Sl NWR (MCK).

American Avocet: All: 1 on 3 Aug at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DeC), 12 on 6 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, JB, BE) and 2–6 there on 8–11 Oct (RLC, SJD, RIA, PHA), 11 during 10–22 Oct at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (AB, JG), 2 on 15 Oct at Green Bay Bottoms *Lee* (JWR). Last: 1 on 25–27 Oct at Diehl Wetlands *Warren* (JS).

Spotted Sandpiper: Steady reports ended with 2 on 10 Sep at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RCL), then six weeks later a very late bird was found on 21 Oct at Lake Ahquabi *Warren* (JS).

Solitary Sandpiper: Three reports on 26, 27 Aug (RLC, JRL, DP) seemed to be the last, until a late lone bird was found 4 Oct in *Story* (WO).

Greater Yellowlegs: There were re-

ports from 9 counties, with the most 66 on 27 Sep at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK). Last: 2 on 12 Nov at Runnells WA *Polk* (SJD, JG).

Willet: Twelve reports, all of singles except for 2 on 2 Aug at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (SJD), and 3 on 28 Aug at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* (RGo, CJF). The only report after 3 Sep was a 3rd-latest report on 1 Oct in *Page* (KDy).

Lesser Yellowlegs. The high count was 1,035 on 19 Aug at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (SJD), the most since 1,200 were there in 1991. Last: 2nd-latest individual photographed on 26 Nov at Runnells WA *Polk* (SJD).

Upland Sandpiper: All: 1 on 5 Aug at Spring Run *Dickinson* (ET), 1 on 15 Aug at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV), and 1 on 18 Aug at Big Wall L *Wright* (SSP).

Hudsonian Godwit: All: 1 on 2 Aug along the Des Moines R near Swan *Marion* (CAS), 1 on 4 Oct in *Page* (KDy), and 1 during 14–21 Oct at Diehl Wetlands *Warren* (AB-photo, JG-photo, JS). An early Aug report of 20 had no details.

Marbled Godwit: 1 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 15 Sep (AB).

Ruddy Turnstone: All: On 2 Aug there were 5 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JPa) and 3 ads at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (SJD), 1 on 8 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG) and 1 juv there on 4 Sep (SJD), 1 juv on 10 Sep at Rathbun (SJD, RGo), and a 2nd-latest on 21 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB-photo). The median departure date for this species over the last 15 years is 5 Sep.

RED KNOT: An ad was found 10 Aug along the Des Moines R near Swan *Marion* (*JWR, *AB).

Sanderling: Up to 8 were at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* 13–30 Sep (MCK, JG), and 10 were at Green Bay Bottoms *Lee* on 30 Oct (JWR). Otherwise, ones and twos were found Aug–Oct *Appanoose*, *Hancock*, *Johnson*, and *Polk* (JG, JPa WO JB, JRL).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Most: 113 on 25 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD). Last: 1 on 15 Oct at Shenandoah sand pits *Page* (KDy).

Western Sandpiper: All: An ad on 18 Aug at Polk City WA *Polk* (SJD), 1 on 23 Aug at a private wetland *Clay* (LAS-details), an ad and a juv on 24 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) and 2 juvs there on 7 Sep (SJD).

Least Sandpiper: 690 at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* on 30 Aug (MCK) is the largest fall concentration I can find on record. Last: 1 on 26 Nov at Runnells WA *Marion* (SJD, AB).

White-rumped Sandpiper: The only report of this very rare fall migrant had no details.

Baird's Sandpiper: The high count of 87 on 30 Aug at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK) is the highest fall total at a single Iowa location. The only other group was 19 on 5 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). Last: 1 on 30 Oct at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DeC) and 1 on 5 Nov at Swan L *Johnson* (BSc).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Peaked in Aug, and then became scarce. The high count was 2,215 on 30 Aug at Union Sl NWR (MCK). Last: 2 at the same place on 9 Nov (RGo).

Dunlin: All: A possibly injured bird at Saylorville Res *Polk* during the unusually early time of 23–25 Aug (SJD), 16 on 21–22 Oct at Amana L *Iowa* (SJD, DP), 6 on 22 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CJC), 1 on 1 Nov at Union Sl NWR (MCK), 7–10 on 5 Nov at Big Wall L *Wright* (AB, SJD), and 3 on 5 Nov at Diehl Wetlands *Warren* (JS).

Stilt Sandpiper: Widely reported Aug–Oct, but the only concentrations away from Union Sl NWR were 30 on 29 Aug at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* (PH), and 42 on 22 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). The high

count was 283 on 19 Aug at Union Sl NWR (SJD). Last: 1 on 28 Oct at Diehl Wetlands *Warren* (JG).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: A total of 59 birds scattered among 10 locations made the high count of 24 on 30 Aug at Union Sl NWR, a good find (MCK). Another group of 12 was at the Seven Cities Sod farm *Scott* 8–14 Sep (SMF, DR, WMZ). Last: 1 on 25 Sep at Diehl Wetlands *Warren* (JS).

RUFF: A molting ad male found on the last day of summer by RIA and PHA (Dinsmore 2006) was last seen 2 Aug along the Des Moines R *Marion* (RIA, PHA, SJD, SSP, KLP).

Short-billed Dowitcher: The most were 19 on 2 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). Those who aged their birds found 70% juvs. Last: 2 on 7 Sep at Saylorville (AB).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Widely reported late-Sep to late-Oct with 1 or 2 reports before and after this period. Some high counts were 66 on 29 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 95 on 5 Oct at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (PH), and 102 at Runnells WA *Polk* (SJD). Last: injured juv photographed on 26 Nov at Runnells (SJD) [2nd-latest].

Wilson's Snipe: First: 2 on 16 Aug at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DeC). Some high counts were 40 on 27 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP), 36 on 5 Nov at Diehl Wetlands *Warren* (JG), and 25 on 7 Nov at Cardinal M (DeC).

American Woodcock: There were seven reports. Most: 4 found 29 Oct at Beaver Bottoms Wetland *Dallas* (TS). Last: 1 on 6 Nov *Decatur* (NJM) and 1 on 8 Nov *Jefferson* (DCP).

Wilson's Phalarope: Peaked in late Aug with 6 at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* on 19 Aug (SJD) and 10 at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* on 28 Aug (CJF). Last: 1 on 27 Sep at USNWR (MCK).

Red-necked Phalarope: Present at Union Sl NWR until 17 Sep with a peak of 14 on 19 Aug (SJD, MCK, JG, RGo). Up to 9 were at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* 2–29 Aug (CJF, RGo, PH), 4 or 5 along the Des Moines R *Marion* 9 Aug–8 Sep (JS, AB, SJD), 1–3 at Saylorville 18 Aug–8 Sep (JS, AB, SJD), 1 at Big Wall L *Wright* 18–22 Aug (SSP, SJD), 2 *Clay* 20–25 Aug (LAS). Last: 2 at Bluewing M *Cerro Gordo* 23 Sep (PH, RGo).

RED PHALAROPE: Two birds bring the Iowa total occurrences of this species to 15, all in the fall. MCK found an ad at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* on 13 Aug, where it stayed through 16 Aug (*MCK, *PH, *DA, *JG, *SSP). SJD found a juv on 14 Oct at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (*SJD).

LAUGHING GULL: There were two records: 1 on 22 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*AB, *JG) and 1 on 8–27 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (*JG, *CJC).

Franklin's Gull: There were two isolated reports of 2 and 3 birds before the first large migrant flock of 1,540 occurred at Silver L *Dickinson* on 16 Sep (JG). At Red Rock Res *Marion*, 8,016 birds on 23 Sep increased to 18,000 by the end of the month (JG, AB), and peaked at 19,400 on 11 Oct (SJD). Other large flocks were 11,000 on 5 Oct at Saylorville (AB) and 9,000 on 15 Oct at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (RLC). Last: 2 at Rathbun on 11 Nov (RLC).

LITTLE GULL: A single ad was found by SJD at L Rathbun *Appanoose* on 11 Oct (*SJD).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: Old Faithful was at the north end of Spirit L *Dickinson* 4 Aug–13 Oct (*JG, ET, JPa).

Bonaparte's Gull: First: group of 196 on 19 Sep *Page* (KDy). Peaked at L Rathbun *Appanoose* on 4 Nov with 240 (RLC) and at Saylorville Res *Polk* with 780 on 10 Nov (SJD, AB).

MEW GULL: An ad was found by CRE

and CJC at Red Rock Res *Marion* 24–28 Sep (*CRE, *CJC, *MI, *DA, AB-photos).

Herring Gull: After two July reports (Dinsmore 2006), the first fall birds were found on 23 Sep: a juv was at Saylorville Res *Polk* (WO) and 2 were at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG). Found at Red Rock Res were 49 on 12 Nov (JG, SJD).

Thayer's Gull: All: An ad on 14 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 1 on 18 Nov at Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* (SMF).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A 3rd-year bird on 17 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* was the second-earliest on record (JG, AB). A 2nd-year bird was at Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* on 4 Nov (SMF).

Sabine's Gull: As many as 3 at a time, both ads and imms, were seen at Saylorville Res *Polk* during 24 Sep–17 Oct (m.ob), comprising perhaps 5–8 individuals. The only other reports were singles on 19 Sep at Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* (SMF) and 11 Oct at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Least Tern: An ad on 2 Aug at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (SJD-photo), 1 on 2 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 1 on 2 Sep at Saylorville (WO).

Caspian Tern: First group: 46 on 3 Sep at Jester Park *Polk* (JG). Saylorville, Red Rock and Rathbun Res all had groups of between 150–250 in Sep (AB, SJD, JG, CJC). Last: 1 on 17 Oct at Pleasant Creek *Linn* (BSc).

Black Tern: Some high counts were 190 on 2 Aug at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (SJD) and 200 on 8 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD, JG). Last: imm on 10 Sep at *Rathbun* (RGo).

Common Tern: Found at 8 locations during the fall with the most reliable spot Saylorville Res *Polk* where AB counted a total of 18 through 5 Oct. The high count was 12 on 9 Sep at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (RLC). Last: 2nd-latest on record on 24 Oct at Saylorville (AB-details, SJD-details). Those who aged their birds identified 13 ads and 13 juvs.

Forster's Tern: The peak was 2 Aug when 85 were at Saylorville and 96 were at Rathbun (AB, SJD) at the same time. Last: juv on 27 Oct at Black Hawk L *Sac* (SJD).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Reports for Carson *Pottawattamie* (JG) and Mount Pleasant *Henry* (Matthew Shappell *fide* SJD) seem to be first county records. Also reported in *Boone*, *Cedar*, *Dallas*, *Dickinson*, *Linn*, *Plymouth*, *Story*, *Warren*, and *Woodbury* (m.ob).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 12 were counted at Lacy-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* on 20 Sep (SSP, KLP) during the IOU Fall Meeting, including one still on nest (MPr). But the nest was not monitored, and the last report of the season was only three days later on 13 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (DP).

Black-billed Cuckoo: This was a very difficult bird to find this year. Seven fall reports included a window-killed juv on the ISU campus in Ames on 30 Aug (DJN). Last: 1 on 9 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* during the IOU Fall Meeting (JB, SSP, KLP, RGo).

Barn Owl: One was encountered near Lake LaShane *Decatur* on 12 Oct (NJM-details) and 1 was near Battle Creek *Ida* on 29 Oct (BFH, DoP-photos).

Eastern Screech-Owl: There were 8 reports of 1–3 birds spanning the season.

Snowy Owl: There were two Nov reports: 1 west of Glidden *Carroll* on 2 Nov (RTh) and 1 photographed on 6 Nov near Stratford *Hamilton* (Lois Larson *fide* SJD).

BURROWING OWL: A big surprise was 1 in extreme eastern Iowa at Seven Cities Sod farm *Scott* (*WMZ, *JG, *SMF, *DA, *CJC, *JSc). It was brought to the attention of birders on 7 Sep, but the owners of the sod farm produced a photo showing

it had spent the summer there, and said it also was present in 2005 (SMF). It stayed at least until 1 Oct.

Long-eared Owl: First: 21 Oct at Moorehead P *Ida* (DoP, JG). Two other reports were 1 on 29 Oct in *Marion* (JS) and 2 on 29 Oct in *Story* (HZ).

Short-eared Owl: First: 1 at Kellerton Grasslands *Ringgold* on 3 Oct (JS). Up to 8 were at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* 4–6 Nov (BFH, GLV), 1 was *Decatur* 8–22 Nov (JRL, BBa, NJM), 8 were observed at De Soto NWR *Harrison* during the week 5–11 Nov (Bob Barry, De Soto NWR), and 1 was at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 27 Nov (KVS).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: One at Moorehead P *Ida* 4 Nov (DoP), 1 at Kindlespire P *Clay* on 9 Nov (LAS), and 2 at Lime Creek Conservation A *Cerro Gordo* on 19 Nov (RGo, PH).

Common Nighthawk: The big movement was in the first week of Sep. AB counted 825 from Saylorville dam to Gray's L *Polk* on 5 Sep, and there were 230 overhead in Algona (MCK) on the same day. On 6 Sep, groups of 273 and 275 were counted in Ames *Story* (SJD, SSP). The last big group was 100 over Mason City on 7 Sep (TMH). Reports trickled into Oct and finally ended with a 3rd-latest record on 21 Oct in *Winnebago* (JB).

Whip-poor-will: Last: 1 on 8 Sep in *Cerro Gordo* (RGo).

Chimney Swift: Two big groups were 189 on 5 Sep in Algona (MCK) and 300 on 17 Sep in *Page* (KDy). Last: 5 on 17 Oct in *Polk* (AB).

GREEN VIOLET-EAR: Iowa's second record of Green Violet-ear appeared at a Sioux City residence feeder on 12 Sep and stayed through 19 Sep (*JP, *BFH, *GLV, PR-photo, DoP-photo, JPa). The first state record was last year 27 Sep–4 Oct in *Grundy* (Neher 2006).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Up to 20 at Big Wall L *Wright* on 18 Aug (SSP), and 15+ at Pike's Peak SP *Clayton* (FL). A juv male lingered to 16 Oct at a feeder in Ames (SJD).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Last: 4 at Effigy Mounds NM *Allamakee* on 21 Nov (GW).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Of 18 reports, the most were 4 on 2 Oct at Bankston P *Dubuque* (CLW). Last: 1 on 25 Oct at Brookside P *Story* (SSP) and 1 on 4 Nov at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (JS).

Northern Flicker: Moved through in early Oct (SSP).

Pileated Woodpecker: Reported in small numbers from 12 counties with *Winnebago* (JB) and *Decatur* (JRL) the westernmost.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First: 1 on 6 Aug at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (DK) and 1 on 10 Aug in *Boone* (KJ). There were five Sep reports. Last: 1 on 17 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG, AB).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Last: 1 on 28 Sep in Brookside P *Story* (SSP) and 1 on 9 Oct at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JPB).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Widely reported in east and central counties, but no reports west of *Kossuth*. First: 1 on 14 Aug at Maynes Grove P *Franklin* (SSP). Last: singles on 22 Sep in *Delaware* (BSc) and 23 Sep in *Warren* (JS).

Acadian Flycatcher: One was still calling on 18 Aug at Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK).

Alder Flycatcher: The only report was a bird identified by voice on 18 Aug in Algona (MCK).

Willow Flycatcher: Birds sang well into Aug. The last birds with good details were on 22 Aug at Big Wall L *Wright* (SSP) and 4 Sep in *Polk* (RLC).

Least Flycatcher: The last bird with details was 1 on 20 Sep in *Kossuth* (MCK).

Later birds were reported on 24 Sep and 26 Sep.

Eastern Phoebe: A juv at Lime Creek *Cerro Gordo* on 19 Nov (PH) was record late for the fall season. [There are two Dec records.]

Great Crested Flycatcher: Last: 2 on 12 Sep in *Story* (SSP) and 1 on 13 Sep in *Johnson* (DP).

Western Kingbird: All: 1 on 1 Aug in *Story* (DJN), 1 on 24–26 Aug at Jester Park *Polk* (SJD, WO), and 1 on 25 Aug at Kindlespire P *Clay* (LAS).

Eastern Kingbird: The only large group was 120 on 23 Aug at Sedan *Appanoose* (RLC). Last: 1 on 24 Sep in *Lucas* (AMJ).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: One found by MCK on 13 Sep at Smith L *Kossuth* was probably a fem (*MCK, CJF). Another at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* on 2 Oct (GLV) was the fourth record this year for this species (Kenne 2006, Dinsmore 2006).

Loggerhead Shrike: The last of ten birds reported before the first Northern Shrike report was 1 on 15 Oct at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (RLC). There were 6 reports after this date, but only 1 on 14 Nov in *Hardin* had details describing Loggerhead Shrike (MPr).

Northern Shrike: First: 1 on 27 Oct in *Boone* (KJ), 3 on 29 Oct at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (AB), and 1 on 31 Oct in *Warren* (AMJ). Other reports came from *Black Hawk*, *Dickinson*, *Hancock*, *Linn*, *O'Brien*, *Osceola*, *Polk*, *Sac*, *Webster*, and *Woodbury*.

White-eyed Vireo: All: 2 on 30 Aug at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (DP), 1 on 9 Sep in *Jefferson* (DCP). Last: 1 on 10 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (DP).

Bell's Vireo: Birds were still singing into Sep in *Linn* (BSc) and *Decatur* (NJM). Last: 1 on 13 Sep in *Polk* (SJD).

Yellow-throated Vireo: The last two were October migrants: 1 was photographed on 1 Oct in *Polk* (SJD) and 1 was at Pine L SP *Hardin* on 3 Oct (MPr-details). There were no reports from the western half of the state.

Blue-headed Vireo: First: 1 on 28 Aug at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (BFH). Last: 1 on 9 Oct at Terrill Mill P *Johnson* (JPB) and 1 at Brookside P *Story* (SSP, KLP).

Warbling Vireo: Last: 1 on 22 Sep at Bailey's Ford P *Delaware* (BSc).

Philadelphia Vireo: First: 26 Aug at Sedan *Appanoose* (RLC). Last: 1 in Decorah on 24 Sep (DeC) and 1 in Iowa City on 5 Oct (JPB).

Red-eyed Vireo: Some clusters were 40 at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines on 26 Aug (RIC) and 37 at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* on 9 Sep (SJD). Last: singles on Sep at Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK) and Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Blue Jay: On the move in late Sep, 350 were counted in roving flocks around Ames in 27 Sep (SSP).

Purple Martin: The Jester Park convergence of birds peaked at about 400 in mid-Aug (JB, DTh, SJD, BE). The only report after 10 Sep was a bird noticed at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 23 Oct (AB) [2nd-latest].

Tree Swallow: Thousands began to gather at Saylorville Res *Polk* in mid-Sep (RIA, PHA, JG, SSP). On 21 Sep, AB described a "huge tornado of birds" containing perhaps 11,000 individuals. SJD estimated more than 14,500 total were in the area. Tree Swallows lingered late this year with three November records including a juv on 25 Nov at Big Creek SP *Polk* (SJD) [2nd-latest].

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 800 at Myre Sl *Winnebago* on 11 Sep (CJF) was an unusually large census. 12 on 19 Oct at Gray's L in *Polk* (JS) [2nd-latest].

Bank Swallow: Last: 1 on 23 Sep at Jester P *Polk* (WO).

Cliff Swallow: Ones and twos were still around through Sep, but the last on 10 Oct at Lizard L *Pocahontas* (SSP) was getting late.

Barn Swallow: The last three were seen on the same day, 22 Oct, at three different locations. One at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (RLC), 1 at Water Works P *Johnson* (BSc), and 1 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CJC).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Arrived early with six Aug reports. First: 2 in *Cerro Gordo* on 13 Aug at Parker's Woods (CJF) and 28 Aug in my backyard. This was followed by four Sep reports, four Oct reports, and eleven Nov reports including 35 counted at Jester P on 22 Nov (DTh).

Brown Creeper: One on 13 Aug in *Cerro Gordo* (CJF) may have been a local bird. Clusters of migrants at Brookside P *Story* were 6 on 28 Sep, 11 on 8 Oct, and 10 on 28 Oct (SSP).

Carolina Wren: Reported primarily in the eastern and central parts of the state, Call SP *Kossuth* in Aug (MCK), and in *Fremont* in Nov (KDy).

House Wren: Last: 1 on 15 Oct at Chipera Prairie *Winneshiek* (Larry Reis *fide* DeC) and 1 on 21 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Winter Wren: One was found at Saylorville on 17 Sep (RLC), but first reports for *Marshall*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Story*, and Jester Park were all on 24 Sep (MPr, RGo, SSP, BE). As many as 21 were at Woodland Mounds *Warren* on 2 Oct (JS). There were two Nov reports: 2 on 5 Nov at Hooper WA *Warren* (JG) and 1 on 24 Nov at Yellow River F *Allamakee* (DK).

Sedge Wren: Last: 1 on 27 Oct in *Decatur* (JRL).

Marsh Wren: As many as 45 were counted at Doolittle Prairie *Story* on 20 Sep (SSP). Reports faded away in mid-Oct, except for a very late individual found at Runnells WA *Polk* on 26 Nov (SJD-details).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First: singles on 20 Sep in *Winneshiek* (DeC) and 21 Sep in *Cerro Gordo* (PH). Last: 1 on 14 Nov in Ames (SSP).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 31 Aug in *Dallas* (TL). 70 were counted on 28 Sep at Brookside P *Story* (SSP). Last: 2 on 1 Nov in Decatur (JRL).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Last: 1 on 27 Sep at Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK).

Eastern Bluebird: Most: group of 41 on 7 Oct at Red Rock *Marion* (JG).

Townsend's Solitaire: All: 1 on 12 Nov along the Little Sioux R *Clay* (LAS) and 1–3 in Waterman Township in *O'Brien* on 18, 19 Nov (WO, JG, DB).

Veery: Last: 1 found 4 Sep in *Marshall* (MPr) and 7 heard 5 Sep in *Story* (SJD). The latter were nocturnal migrants.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: All: 1 on 10 Sep in *Johnson* (DP), 1 on 12 Sep at Brookside P *Story* (SSP), 8 heard overhead on 13 Sep in Ames (SJD), 1 on 24 Sep in Brookside (SSP), and 1 on 30 Sep at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Swainson's Thrush: Found in 11 eastern and central counties from 20 Aug in *Linn* (DP) to 6 Oct in *Dubuque* (CWL). SJD counted 77 nocturnal migrants overhead on 5 Sep in Ames.

Hermit Thrush: After 1 slightly early bird on 24 Sep at Brookside P *Story* (SSP), 12 were found in 3 counties during 28–30 Sep (RGo, DP, SSP, PH), and steady reports continued statewide, peaking with 26 on 9 Oct at Brookside (SSP, KLP) that included a rare leucistic bird. Last: singles on 22 Nov in Jester Park *Polk* (DTh) and Hooper WA *Warren* (AB).

Wood Thrush: Last: 1 on 12 Sep at Brookside P *Story* (SSP) and 1 on 13 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (DP).

Gray Catbird: Last: a *Warren* yardbird on 9 Nov (AMJ).

Northern Mockingbird: All: Up to 3 in Decatur over the season (JRL, NJM, BBa), 1 north of Runnells *Polk* on 2 Aug (SJD), 1 on the bike trail east of Adel *Dallas* (TL), 1 on 10 Sep at Lacy-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (MPr), 2 in *O'Brien* beginning on 19 Nov (DB), and 1 in *Louisa* on 26 Nov (GDW).

Brown Thrasher: Last: 1 on 9 Oct at Blue L *Monona* (DB).

American Pipit: First: 2 in *Cerro Gordo* on 15 Sep (RGo, CJF). High counts: 70 on 5 Oct in *Kossuth* (MCK), 125 on 27 Oct in *Guthrie* (SSP), 250 on 22 Oct in *Cass* (JG, AB), and 350 on 27 Oct in *Audubon* (SSP). Last large group: 76 on 5 Nov in *Page* (KDy). Last single: 4 on 11 Nov in *Polk* (AB).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT: Iowa's third record occurred on 3 Oct when 3 were flushed from the Kellerton Grasslands *Ringgold* (*JS). Another single bird was found and photographed at Richard Bishop WPA *Clay* on 14 Oct (*LAS, *JG, *PH, *DA).

Blue-winged Warbler: In addition to counties where found during summer, it was reported from *Appanoose*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Delaware*, *Johnson*, and *Polk*. Last: 1 on 16 Sep in *Linn* (DP). A Lawrence's-type hybrid was found on 15 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RGo-details).

Golden-winged Warbler: There were 23 reports from 15 counties. First: 1 on 15 Aug at Pigeon Creek P *Scott* (DR). Last: 1 on 13 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (DP). A Brewster's-type hybrid was found 26 Aug at Brookside P *Story* (SSP-details, KLP).

Tennessee Warbler: First: 1 on 13 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (CJF). Only one report came from the west, 1 on 19 Aug at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (GLV). The most were 20–24 at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* on 9, 10 Sep (AB, SJD, SSP, KLP). Last: 2 on 2 Oct in *Johnson* (DP).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Steady reports of small numbers began on time with 1 on 17 Sep in *Polk* (JB), and continuing right through until the last on 18 Oct in *Cerro Gordo* (CJF). The most were 6 on 26 Sep at Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK). Three early reports, including a potential 2nd-earliest and another 3rd-earliest had no details.

Nashville Warbler: First: 1 on 16 Aug in *Story* (SJD). Most: 19 on 23 Sep at *Brookside* P (SSP). Last: 1 on 29 Oct in Ames (NAO).

Northern Parula: Reported from seven eastern counties, with the most 7 on 9 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua *Van Buren* (SJD). Last: 1 on 29 Sep in *Linn* (DP).

Yellow Warbler: The only one after 5 Sep was 1 at Red Rock *Marion* on 24 Sep (AB).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Pockets of more than 15 were reported at Brookside P, Glendale Cemetery, and Lacey-Keosauqua SP (SSP, RIC, SJD, AB). Last: 1 on 26 Sep in *Linn* (DP).

Magnolia Warbler: First: early on 14 Aug in *Black Hawk* (SSP). Last: 4 on 7 Oct in *Fremont* (KDy).

Cape May Warbler: First: 2 on 24 Aug in Manhattan P, Cedar Rapids (DP). There were 13 other reports with the last on 20 Oct at Bailey's Ford P *Delaware* (BSc).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: There were four reports of fems, five of males and two without details, all from east and central counties. First: fem on 2 Sep in Cedar Valley P *Cedar* (SJD). Last: male on 14 Oct in Johnston (DTh).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: An imm on 20 Aug in *Clay* was 3rd-earliest (LAS). On 8 Oct, DCP estimated 200 were in a patch of woods near Crowe Creek *Jefferson*, and another 130 were counted at Brookside P *Sto-*

ry (SSP, KLP). Reports continued through the end of the season.

Black-throated Green Warbler: One on 13 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* tied the record early date (CFJ). Up to 16 were counted at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* on 9, 10 Sep (SJD, AB, SSP, KLP). The last two made it into Oct: 1 on 3 Oct in *Boone* (LGD) and 1 on 7 Oct in *Fremont* (KDy).

Blackburnian Warbler: Arrived on 14 Aug in four counties: *Black Hawk*, *Butler*, *Kossuth*, and *Polk* (SSP, MCK, JB). There were 29 reports from 20 counties, with the most 10 on 9 Sep in Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (SJD). Last: 1 on 24 Sep at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (R Trieff *fide* MPr).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Up to 5 were found on 9, 10 Sep at Lacy-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* during the IOU Fall Meeting field trips (m.ob). These would have been the last of the year were it not for a very late individual on 27, 28 Nov that appeared at WMZ's feeder near Fairmount Cemetery *Scott* (DR-details, WMZ-details) [2nd-latest].

Palm Warbler: Very scarce. I looked hard for this bird and could not find it. DeC found the first of the season, on 13 Sep at Cardinal M *Winneshiek*, but noted it was his only one. Most may have passed through very quickly about 24 Sep when DP reported 15 at Upper Coralville Res *Johnson*. There were only six other reports with the last 1 on 17 Oct in *Decatur* (NJM).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Not reported from the west, and only from Cerro Gordo in the north, but plentiful in the east and south. AB remarked on their abundance. Up to 26 were at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* on 9 Sep (AB, SJD, SSP, KLP), and perhaps 50 were in *Decatur* on 12 Sep (NJM). Except for an early bird on 13 Aug in *Cerro Gordo* (CJF), steady, almost daily reports followed 1 in *Delaware* (BSc) and another in *Linn* (DP) on 24 Aug. Last: 3 on 17 Sep in *Story* (SSP, KLP) and 1 on 18 Sep in *Linn* (DP).

Blackpoll Warbler: All: 2 on 28 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (CJF, RGo), 1 on 4 Sep at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 2 on 9, 10 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (SSP, KLP, SJD), 1 on 16 Sep at Manhattan P Cedar Rapids (DP), 1 on 12 Sep at Brookside P *Story* and another there on 23 Sep (SSP). All birds that were aged were judged to be juvs.

Black-and-white Warbler: There were 47 reports from 17 counties. First few arrived 13 Aug in *Cerro Gordo* (CJF), and 14 Aug in *Kossuth* (MCK) and *Franklin* (SSP). Up to 24 were at Jester P *Polk* on 3 Sep (BE). Last was the only Oct report on 8 Oct at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

American Redstart: Widely reported in the eastern half of the state. Last: 1 on 29 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Prothonotary Warbler: There were two reports: 1 on 20 Aug at Kindlespire P *Clay* (LAS) and 1 on 29 Aug at Waukon Junction *Allamakee* (CLW).

Ovenbird: The last few days of Aug seemed to be the peak, when Ovenbirds were yard birds for JB, SSP and PH. 13 were counted on 29 Aug at Brookside P *Story* (SSP), and 19 were at Smith WA *Kossuth* on 1 Sep (MCK). Reports of 1–6 continued until the last on 28 Sep at Brookside (SSP).

Northern Waterthrush: Last: at Brookside P *Story,* 1 on 17 Sep and 1 on 24 Sep (SSP, KLP).

Louisiana Waterthrush: One was still at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* during the IOU Fall Meeting on 9 Sep (SSP-details, KLP) [2nd-latest].

Connecticut Warbler: Two birds, a male and a fem, seen foraging on the ground in a streamside thicket at Bacon

Creek P *Woodbury* on 25 Aug were carefully documented (*BFH). A second report on 4 Sep lacked details.

Mourning Warbler: Reported 16 Aug–24 Sep in *Cerro Gordo*, *Franklin*, *Linn*, *Marshall*, *Polk*, *Story*, and *Woodbury*. Of 11 birds aged by the observer, 8 were juvs and 3 were ads.

Common Yellowthroat: The last would have been on 7 Oct in *Appanoose* (RLC) had it not been for one 46 days later on 22 Nov in *Warren* (JS).

Wilson's Warbler: First: 15 Aug in *Story* and *Cerro Gordo* (SSP, RGo). Small numbers were reported from all parts of the state steadily until the last week of Sep. Late: 1 on 12 Oct in *Fremont* (KDy).

Canada Warbler: There were 33 reports from 15 counties representing all but the SW part of the state. First: few on 14 Aug in *Black Hawk*, *Franklin*, and *Kossuth* (SSP, MCK). Last: 1 on 20 Sep at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MPr) and 1 on 27 Sep at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Only: 1 on 20–22 Sep at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (BFH).

Summer Tanager: An unusual northern report was 1 on 17 Sep at Hanlontown M *Worth* (CJF, RGo, PH). 6 were counted at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* during the IOU Fall Meeting on 9 Sep (SSP, KLP). Last: 1 on 5 Oct at Brookside P *Story* (SSP).

Scarlet Tanager: As many as 10 were found 9 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (AB, SJD). Last: 1 on 14 Sep at Manhattan P *Linn* (DP).

Spotted Towhee: Of 13 reports, four had good details. The first of these was record early on 11 Sep in *Decatur* (BBa-details); the second and third were photographed in a *Boone* yard 5–9 Oct (KJ); the fourth was at Big Creek SP *Polk* 4–11 Nov (SJD-details, JG, Ira Sanders *fide* SJD). Others were reported from *Boone*, *Clay*, *Guthrie*, *Polk*, *Pottawattamie*, *Story*, and *Woodbury*.

Eastern Towhee: Present throughout the season. The highest count was 11 that moved through Waubonsie SP *Fremont* on 8 Oct (KDy).

American Tree Sparrow: First: 2 found 14 Oct at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB). The first large groups were 125 on 13 Nov at South Twin L *Calhoun* (SSP) and 310 on 22 Nov in *Decatur* (NJM).

Chipping Sparrow: Departed at the end of the third week in Oct. The largest flock was 18 noted in Ames on 21 Oct (SSP). The next day, 8 were in *Appanoose* (RLC). Last: 1 on 23 Oct in *Story* (SSP).

Clay-colored Sparrow: After summer reports from *Hancock*, *Kossuth*, *Winneshiek*, and *Worth* (Dinsmore 2006), there were more fall reports than usual. 1 was in Algona on 17 Sep (MCK-details), and another was at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* on 20 Sep (MCK-details). A 3rd-latest bird was at a feeder in Mason City on 12 Nov (CJF-details). There were several other reports submitted without details.

Field Sparrow: Last: 1 on 5 Nov in *Page* (KDy).

Vesper Sparrow: Last groups: 6 on 21 Oct at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC) and 5 on 22 Oct at Water Works P *Johnson* (BSc).

Lark Sparrow: 1 on 25 Sep at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BSc) was 3rd-latest and another at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 15 Oct was record late (BE-details).

Savannah Sparrow: As many as 80 were at Jim Ketelsen Greenwing M *Story* on 1 Oct (SSP, KLP), and 18 were still in *Decatur* on 28 Oct (JRL). Last: 1 on 3 Nov at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Last: 3 in *Decatur* on 17, 22, and 28 Oct (NJM).

Henslow's Sparrow: Birds were still singing in late Aug (JRL, RLC), and ads with

juvs were still present at Sedan *Appanoose* on 10 Sep (RLC). Apparently, most departed by mid-Sep, but there were three Oct reports, including a record late individual on 30 Oct in a brome field near Davis City *Decatur* (*NJM, BBa).

Le Conte's Sparrow: While a flood of steady reports began at the beginning of the fourth week of Sep, two very early reports prior to this movement were unusual. One, on 26 Aug at Ocheyedan *Clay* (LAS), was only the second record for the month of Aug (the other occurred in 1933). Another, on 3 Sep at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), is the earliest Sep record for the species. In Oct, groups of 12–25 were found in *Appanoose*, *Decatur*, and *Woodbury* (RLC, NJM, BFH). Last: 1 on 8 Nov in *Decatur* (JRL).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: First: 1 on 6 Sep at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK) [2nd-earliest]. On 10 Sep at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose*, another group of 6 were also early (RLC, RGo). Also reported in *Cerro Gordo*, *Clay*, *Dallas*, *Hancock*, *Marshall*, *Polk*, *Tama*, and *Worth*. Last: 4 at Errington M *Polk* on 15 Oct (SJD).

Fox Sparrow: The first few were in the north, on 30 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (PH) and 6 Oct at Two Waters WA *Worth* (PH). Most: 32 on 7 Nov at Burr Oak *Kossuth* (MCK). Last: 1 on 27 Nov in *Story* (WO).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Appeared in early Sep with 1 on 6 Sep in *Kossuth* (MCK), and another on 12 Sep in *Story* (WO). Groups of 11–30 were at Union Sl NWR on 20 Sep (MCK), Shenandoah sand pits *Page* on 5 Oct (KDy), and Saylorville Res *Polk* on 9 Oct (SJD). Last: 1 on 2 Nov in *Decatur* (NJM, JRL).

White-throated Sparrow: Two were record-early on 26 Aug at Pilot Knob SP *Winnebago* (JB-details). The next two, on 6 Sep were both in Ames (SJD, SSP), where groups of 60 or more were found during the month of Oct (SSP, KLP).

Harris's Sparrow: First: 2 in *Kossuth* on 20 Sep (MCK) and 1 in *Wayne* on 24 Sep (AMJ). Most: 13 on 6 Nov in *Story* (WO).

White-crowned Sparrow: Arrived early and often, with six Sep reports. One on 23 Sep in *Cerro Gordo* (PH) would have been 3rd-earliest, except MPr found one two days earlier on 21 Sep at Otter Creek M *Tama*. Also reported in 15 other counties, with the most being 12 on 12 Oct in *Page* (KDy). Reports continued through the end of the season.

Dark-eyed Junco: The first, on 13 Sep at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (E&E Armstrong *fide* MPr), was 2nd-earliest by one day, but fits a recent pattern of early arrivals. In 2005 and 2002, the first arrival was 14 Sep. Reports became steady following 1 on 19 Sep at Grimes *Polk* (JB); in fact, 20 were in *Warren* the next day (AMJ).

Lapland Longspur: First: 30 in *Kossuth* (MCK) and 1 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) on 15 Oct. Flock size progressed from 190 on 27 Oct in *Audubon* (SSP) to 850 on 5 Nov in *Wright* (SJD) and 3,000 on 10 Nov in *Polk* (AB).

Smith's Longspur: All six reports fell during 14–16 Oct. On 14 Oct, 9 were at DU Marsh *Clay* (JG, LAS). On 15 Oct: 3 north of Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), 21 near Titonka *Kossuth* (MCK), 16 at Shenandoah sand pits *Page* (KDy), and 3 at Two Waters WA *Worth* (PH). Last: 5 on 16 Oct near Rice L *Worth* (RGo).

Snow Bunting: Two on 21 Oct at Saylorville Res (SJD) were a bit early. The median arrival date over the last 15 years is 27 Oct. Also reported in *Allamakee*, *Grundy*, *Marion*, *Tama*, and *Woodbury* with the largest flock size 44 (JG).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Last: an Ames yard bird on 21 Oct (Dave Edwards *fide* HZ).

Blue Grosbeak: A pair discovered carrying food on 14 Aug along the shore of Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) was photographed on 15 Aug (JB) and seen tending a fledgling on 18 Aug (SJD). In addition to reports from *Woodbury* (GLV, BFH) where Blue Grosbeaks can be found every summer, there were fall reports from *Crawford*, *Dallas*, *Story*, and *Hardin*. Last: 1 on 29 Aug in Pleasant TWP of *Hardin* (DJN).

Indigo Bunting: Last: 3 near Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 1 at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JPB) on 9 Oct.

Dickcissel: The last two, on 14 Oct at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB), were getting late for this species.

Bobolink: With a median departure date over the last 15 years of 25 Sep, the last one, on 24 Sep at Two Waters WA *Worth* (PH), undoubtedly left the next day.

Eastern Meadowlark: The latest dates for singing birds were 8 Oct *Polk* (JB), 8 Oct *Decatur* (JRL), and 10 Oct *Kossuth* (MCK).

Western Meadowlark: Still singing well into Nov, birds were identified to species on 19 Nov in *Union* (JG) and 22 Nov in *Decatur* (BBa).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: There were 45 still at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* on 13 Sep (SSP), the last concentration. A very late individual was photographed on 19 Nov at a feeder in Ventura *Cerro Gordo* (PL).

Rusty Blackbird: There were 24 reports from 18 counties across the state. First: 2 on 27 Sep in *Kossuth* (MCK). Reports of 20–25 were common, so the high count of 160 at Amana L *Iowa* on 21 Oct (SJD) stood out.

Brewer's Blackbird: The first 5 on 1 Oct in a *Clay* cow pasture (LAS-details) matched the 2nd-earliest date. The median arrival date for this species over the last 15 years is 26 Oct. The next report was another 5 on 21 Oct in *Warren* (JG). JS reported 300 on 8 Nov in *Warren*, and there were scattered reports of 6–30 during the first half of Nov (CJF, BFH, RGo, SJD).

Great-tailed Grackle: All: 1 on 27 Sep at Otter Creek M *Tama* (DP), 30 on 13 Oct in *Guthrie* (SSP), 30 on 28 Oct in *Warren* (JS), and 120 on 8 Nov near Gray's L *Polk* (AB).

Brown-headed Cowbird: A flock of 480 at Dunbar Sl *Greene* was judged to be 100% pure (JG).

Orchard Oriole: All: 1 was at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* on 16 Aug (DeC) and 1 was at Maynes Grove P *Franklin* on 18 Aug (SSP).

Baltimore Oriole: Nine were in *Page* on 11 Sep (KDy), and then there was a 2-month gap to the last report of the season, a Mason City yard bird on 11 Nov (CJF-details).

Purple Finch: Several arrived early: 1 on 2 Sep at Banner WA *Warren* (RIC) and 1 on 4 Sep at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DeC). Also reported from 10 other counties.

Red Crossbill: Five at Hooper WA *Warren* on 5 Nov increased to 30 on 7 Nov (JS). The only other report also was on 7 Nov when a single bird visited a yard in Algona (MCK).

White-winged Crossbill: No reports.

Common Redpoll: All: 1 on 9 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), 2 on 11 Nov at Spirit L *Dickinson* (ET), and 2 on 19 Nov at Twelve Mile L *Union* (JG).

Pine Siskin: First: 4 on 23 Sep in Algona (MCK), which became 20 the next day. From 1–6 were also reported in *Cerro Gordo*, *Hardin*, *O'Brien*, *Scott*, *Union*, and *Warren* (CJF, MPr, JG, WMZ, JS).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: All: 3 were in Buffalo *Scott* throughout the season (RAS), 3 were at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* on 2 Aug (JPa), and possibly the same 3 were found again 24 Nov (JG).

COMMENT

This article is based on information from nearly 3,900 individual reports, submitted by 74 dedicated field observers. It's the skill, record-keeping, patience, and cooperation of the contributors that make the compiling of this information not just possible, but meaningful. This fall, reports consisted of data from 73 of Iowa's 99 counties, although about 60% of the reports came from just ten counties (Table 1).

Table 1. Fall field reports (2006) consisted of about 60% of data from just ten Iowa counties

County	Reports	Percentage
Story	520	14
Polk	499	13
Cerro Gordo	221	6
Johnson	197	5
Kossuth	182	5
Van Buren	173	4
Appanoose	149	4
Marion	138	4
Dallas	130	3
Decatur	129	3
Total	2,338	61

Of 302 species for which data was submitted, this article summarizes information on 275 of them. Twenty-seven common, year-round residents for which at least some data was submitted but which are not covered here are Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, American Crow, Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

It is encouraging that the IOU is receiving increasing numbers of documentations from observers. In fact, in addition to documentations for ***accidental*** and ***casual*** species, this report received seven documentations for ***regular*** species submitted by observers who realized the unusual nature of the associated event. This is greatly appreciated. Some regular species for which at least some written details would strengthen a report of a fall sighting are White-faced Ibis, both godwits, White-rumped Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, early Long-billed Dowitchers, late Short-billed Dowitchers, Common Tern, silent Whip-poor-wills, late ***Empidonax*** flycatchers, early Orange-crowned Warblers, Pine Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Smith's Longspur, and Brewer's Blackbird. Thanks to Ann Johnson for technical help, and to the Records Committee for timely deliberations on the fall records.

CONTRIBUTORS

Danny Akers	DAk	Ankeny	Jeffrey Livingston	JRL	Davis City
Pam Allen	PHA	W Des Moines	Paulette Lugg	PL	Ventura
Reid Allen	RIA	W Des Moines	Nathan Miller	NJM	Davis City
Dick Bierman	DB	Cherokee	Jeff Nichols	DJN	Boone
John Bissell	JB	Grimes	Bob Norris	BN	Des Moines
John Bollenbacher	JPB	Iowa City	Wolfgang Oesterreich	WO	Ames
Aaron Brees	AB	Des Moines	Mark Orsag	MOr	Crete, NE
Alan Brown	AlB	Cedar Falls	Nick Osness	NAO	Ames
Mark Brown	MHB	Iowa City	Katy Patterson	KLP	Ames
Dennis Carter	DeC	Decorah	Shane Patterson	SSP	Ames
Christopher Caster	CJC	Coralville	Jason Paulios	JPa	Iowa City
Robert Cecil	RIC	Des Moines	Diana Pesek	DP	Cedar Rapids
Ray Cummins	RLC	Centerville	Don Poggensee	DoP	Ida Grove
Larry Dau	LGD	Boone	Diane Porter	DCP	Fairfield
Stephen Dinsmore	SJD	Ames	Jerry Probst	JP	Sioux City
Keith Dyche	KDy	Shenandoah	Mark Proescholdt	MPr	Liscomb
Chris Edwards	CRE	North Liberty	Don Robinson	DR	Silvis, IL
Bery Engebretsen	BE	Urbandale	Paul Roisen	PR	Sioux City
Carolyn Fischer	CJF	Mason City	John Rutenbeck	JWR	Burlington
Steven Freed	SMF	Milan, IL	Richard Sayles	RAS	Blue Grass
Albert Frohlich	AF	Davenport	James Scheib	JSc	Iowa City
Jay Gilliam	JG	Norwalk	Bill Scheible	BSc	Cedar Rapids
Rita Goranson	RGo	Mason City	Lee Schoenewe	LAS	Spencer
Paul Hertzel	PH	Mason City	Carol Schumacher	CAS	Winona, MN
Tammy Hertzel	TMH	Mason City	Jim Sinclair	JS	Indianola
Daryl Howell	DLH	Indianola	Ty Smedes	TS	Urbandale
Bill Huser	BFH	Sioux City	Ed Thelen	ET	Spirit Lake
Marshall Iliff	MI	W Roxbury, MA	Rob Thelen	RTh	Carroll
Ann Johnson	AMJ	Norwalk	Dennis Thompson	DTh	Johnston
Susan Johnson	SJ	Waverly	Jerry Toll	JT	Omaha, NE
Mike Johnston	MWJ	Waterloo	Karen Viste-Sparkman	KVS	Des Moines
Karl Jungbluth	KJ	Boone	Gerald Von Ehwegen	GLV	Sioux City
Patrick Keenan	PK	Mason City	Gerald White	GW	Muscatine
Matthew Kenne	MCK	Algona	Charles Winterwood	CLW	Dubuque
Darwin Koenig	DK	Ankeny	Gretel Winterwood	GW	Dubuque
Fred Lesher	FL	La Crosse, WI	Hank Zaletel	HZ	Nevada
Tom Lawson	TL	Adel	Walter Zuurdeeg	WMZ	Davenport

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1432 East State Street, Mason City, IA (phertzel@rconnect.com)

Cattle Egrets were fairly scarce in Iowa this year. Some of the 68 Cattle Egrets roosting on the jetty at Lakeview R.A., Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, *18 September 2006. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.*

Townsend's Solitaire in Waterman Creek area, O'Brien, *18 November 2006. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.*

This basic adult Black-headed Gull is an annual visitor to "The Grade" at Spirit Lake, Dickinson, *16 September 2006. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.*

Hearing Blue Jays mobbing something in my front yard in Norwalk, Warren, *I found this Eastern Screech-Owl, 28 October 2006. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.*

Ruddy Turnstone feeding on large dead carp on Cherry Glen Beach, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, *9 August 2006. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.*

Snow Bunting at Cherry Glen Beach, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, *9 November 2006. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.*

Basic adult Laughing Gull at Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, *8 September 2006. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.*

Mottled Duck at Saylorville Reservoir: First Iowa Record

Stephen J. Dinsmore and Aaron Brees

On 7 July 2006, we discovered Iowa's first Mottled Duck (***Anas fulvigula***) at Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County (Figure 1). On the morning of the 7th, we arrived at the mudflats off Jester County Park and met Scott Rolfes to check the status of a Least Tern nest (Dinsmore 2006). At approximately 8:15 A.M., we saw a small flock of ducks flying south over the flats. One bird was much smaller and caused us to look closer at the flock. The bird in question was a male Green-winged Teal, but our attention soon focused on a darker duck with pale wing linings. We initially thought the bird would be an American Black Duck, but during our initial view of the bird in flight we noted features that indicated it might be a Mottled Duck. For more than an hour we chased the bird around the flats, eventually obtaining excellent views of the bird and confirming the identification as a Mottled Duck.

Figure 1. First Iowa record Mottled Duck at Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, *7 July 2006. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

The bird was clearly a large ***Anas***, similar in size, shape, and structure to a Mallard. The bird had a dull olive-yellow bill that was unmarked. The face and neck were a warm buff-white color, sharply demarcated from the darker breast. The bird had a clear dark supercilium and a darker crown, although the latter was hard to see unless the bird tilted its head sideways to preen. The eye appeared dark. We also looked for and saw a small dark spot at the base of the gape. This was clearly visible as a small, perhaps 1 cm^2, dark spot at the base of the gape, and was not present on any of the female Mallards available for direct comparison. We carefully studied the throat, especially when the bird preened, and noted that it was buff with no obvious streaking. The remainder of the body was dark-colored with warmer brown tones. In particular, the feathers on the bird's flanks were broadly edged in buff and the tertials and scapulars showed broad buff edges and internal buff markings along the feather shaft. The extent (width) of these buff markings was such that it gave the bird a distinct warm buff appearance. The legs were orange. The rectrices were dark brown and we looked for but did not see any white color or darker, curled central rectrices indicating an obvious Mallard parentage. We viewed the bird twice in flight, and also saw its extended upperwing when it preened. Although our looks were not lengthy, we were able to note the iridescent

blue-green speculum (it showed a hint of purple at some angles) with a faint hint of a pale trailing edge. The trailing edge was not bright white, and was probably about 1/2 cm or less wide. We also noted that in flight the bird's underparts were of uniform color and did not contrast with the upperparts. The underwings were white (good contrast with belly) and unmarked. We further noted that the remiges appeared to be in good condition, and did not exhibit excessive wear that might indicate a captive origin. However, we believe this is highly unlikely because Mottled Ducks are drab and not often kept in collections. We concluded that this was probably an adult female Mottled Duck in definitive alternate (eclipse) plumage, mainly on the basis of bill color and plumage coloration. Compared to males, females tend to have buffier cheeks that lack faint streaks and show broader buff feather edges—this bird exhibited both of these traits. We took several distant photos of the bird, including one in flight, which confirm many of these field marks.

In late July, SJD contacted colleague and Mottled Duck researcher Bart M. Ballard at Texas A&M University-Kingsville to ask his opinion of this bird. After looking at the photos, Dr. Ballard concluded that the bird had every appearance of a Mottled Duck and he saw no obvious signs of hybridization. Furthermore, he said the bird was definitely a male based on the dull olive bill color at this time of year. We learned from him that the published literature on bill color in this species is confusing and that all females at this season would have orange on the bill. After this discussion and a bit more reading, we became convinced that the bird was indeed a male (age unknown), and that our original assessment that the bird was a female was incorrect.

Due to the rarity of Mottled Ducks in the central United States, we were careful to eliminate other species and hybrids. A male Mallard of the nominate subspecies (*A. platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*) in eclipse plumage should show a chestnut breast, bright yellow bill, and more white bordering a blue speculum, while a female will be generally paler overall, and have a distinctive orange bill with variable black spotting, white in the rectrices, and a blue speculum bordered on both sides by white. A "Mexican" Mallard (*A. p. diazi*) would have a darker and more extensive crown, a dull orange bill, gray rather than buff head tones, usually a more uniform dark body plumage with less contrast between the body and head, and a greenish speculum without pale borders. American Black Duck (*A. rubripes*) should be darker, lacks the broad buff edges and prominent internal markings to the scapulars and feathers on the mantle, has a purplish (not blue-green) speculum, lacks the warm buff tones on the head, tends to show variable black markings on olive-green bill (females only), and has a lightly streaked throat. The last possibility is that this bird was a hybrid, most likely a Mallard × American Black Duck. However, almost all such hybrids will show some combination of the following features: a greenish sheen on the head, white on both borders of the speculum, and white color in the rectrices. Conversely, I think it would be very unusual to find a hybrid with the combination of a warm buff plumage, dark body and paler head, intricate buff internal markings and edgings to the feathers, a blue-green speculum with a faint pale rear border, a dark spot at the bill base, and a dull olive bill.

There is a weak but increasing pattern of vagrancy for Mottled Ducks in the interior United States. There are recent sight records from Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Illinois, and Tennessee since 2000. Many of these records are from mid- to late summer at a

time when the similar looking American Black Duck would be unlikely. In addition, band recovery data from the U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory show multiple recent recoveries of Mottled Ducks from interior United States. However, the lab often tags recoveries to the address of the person reporting them. Thus, a "recovery" from Wisconsin could indicate that a Wisconsin hunter shot the bird, although it could have been harvested in another state. This makes it difficult to draw inferences from band recoveries, although it does appear that most Mottled Ducks displaced inland originated in coastal Louisiana and Texas.

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5711 Valley Road, Ames, IA 50014
737 Leach Ave. Des Moines, IA 50315

Green Violet-ear in Sioux City: Second Iowa Record

William F. Huser and Jerry L. Probst

Our seeing new species often depends on others, even nonbirders, finding them for us. One such case occurred when a hummingbird, "larger and darker than the regulars," showed up at the hummingbird feeder of Lil Owens, who with her husband, Herbert, lives in a urban residential area on the west side of Sioux City (see back cover photo). Certainly an area where even the most dedicated birder would never stop to look for birds, this flowered, green oasis with a well-stocked feeder attracted a species that would excite birders far and wide.

Lil had been hosting several Ruby-throated Hummingbirds for several days when she noticed a larger, darker bird visiting her feeder on 14 September 2006. Taking a digital photo through her kitchen window of the perched bird only a few feet away, she forwarded the photo to Dawn Chapman, Woodbury County's Naturalist, for help in identification. With the quickness of another e-mail, WFH had proof that a Green Violet-ear was at that moment only few miles away. Confirming identification only took a glance at my field guide because the photographed adult male was a perfect match for the illustration. I then called Jerry Probst with the news and arranged to meet him at the Owens over my lunch hour.

The Green Violet-ear is a neotropic species, normally inhabiting forest edges in highlands from Mexico to Bolivia (Kaufman 1996). Appearing in Iowa only once previously (Neher 2006), the bird is unrecorded in Nebraska (Sharpe et al. 2001) and South Dakota (Tallman et al. 2002). The previous Iowa record was, ironically, only one year previous when a single male bird appeared near Grundy Center on 27 September 2005 and stayed for seven days (Hertzel 2006; Neher and Neher 2006). Minnesota has summer or fall records from Hubbard and Anoka counties (Minnesota Ornithologists' Union 2007). Though considered a nonmigrating species, vagrants, weighing a mere 0.2 ounce, have been recorded as far north as Ontario and Alberta (Alsop 2002).

Jerry and I waited for nearly a half hour before a large, dark hummingbird displaced the smaller ruby-throateds at the feeder. Though the visit was brief, we were certain the bird was still present and we would just wait for a longer look at his next visit. We got two longer looks and noted that the bird was, not only, an adult, breeding male, but one exhibiting the very brightest plumage of the species. It closely matched the illustration in Sibley (2000) labeled as "brighter adult." Back at work I listed the sighting on our local listserv and both the Nebraska and South Dakota listservs so that birders across the rivers could add a life bird. Meanwhile, Jerry and another local birder, Paul Roisen, were charged with notifying Iowa birders. Paul showed up later that afternoon to see the bird and begin his photo documentation of the bird's visit. Don Poggensee of Ida Grove and Loren Hansen of Kingsley also recorded excellent digital images of this brilliant vagrant.

Over the next four days we viewed the perched and in-flight bird several times for short durations. The bird was large and dark relative to the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds with which it shared the single feeder. We could discern no visible white on the face or in the tail. The bird was an iridescent green dorsally and ventrally with a liberal amount of iridescent blue (indigo, violet?) on the auriculars extending around onto the nape as a narrow band and on the breast below the green throat. The bill was black and decurved. The spread tail was dark, appearing blackish. (Later photos would show the tail to be an iridescent blue-green with a broad, ill-defined black subterminal band.) The bird could sometimes be heard vocalizing its dry, two-syllable song as it came into the feeder. Although the three or more ruby-throateds interacted with each other, they did not interact with the larger bird.

Other large hummingbirds were eliminated by the absence of white behind or around the eye, the absence of white in the tail, and the decurved bill. Smaller hummers were eliminated by size, lack of white, ventral plumage, the presence of blue, and the decurved bill.

Birders from several states enjoyed the bird. Some traveled considerable distance; others from even farther and just passing through the region were enabled by the internet posts and detoured to see the bird. Those arriving by the 19th were not disappointed, but others on the 20th were. Nighttime frosts and temperatures in the 30s were perhaps the impetus for the violet-ear to move on. During those six days, however, this vagrant hummer left an indelible image in the minds of those who saw it.

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140 Oakmont Drive, South Sioux City, NE 68776 (Husers140@msn.com)
5109 Correctionville Rd., Sioux City, IA 51106 (probstsuebee@aol.com)

Burrowing Owl in Scott County

Walter Zuurdeeg

On 6 September 2006, Mary Lou Petersen received a phone call late in the afternoon from Wild Birds Unlimited in Davenport, which had received a phone call from Seven Cities Sod in north Davenport about an unusual owl on their property. Mary Lou called Seven Cities Sod promptly, and from her conversation with the person at Seven Cities Sod about the appearance and behavior of the bird, she believed it might be a Burrowing Owl. Mary Lou attended the Quad City Audubon Society Board Meeting that night to share the potentially exciting news, and luckily, I was in attendance.

On the morning of 7 September, Cathy Konrad, Dick Sayles, and I went to look for the bird. (Previous commitments prevented Mary Lou from going to look for the bird that morning). We stopped at the Seven Cities Sod office where Norman Frye and other personnel were more than happy to lead us to the area where they had seen the owl. Norman had already seen it that morning. We arrived at the location but didn't see it at first. We were looking over the sod fields, weedy field edges, and adjacent soybean field, and then we saw it (Figure 1 and cover photo). A Burrowing Owl! It was only 20 to 25 feet away from us in a crouched position, next to what turned out to be its den/roost (an abandoned fox den). We got out of our car and got great looks at it as it was standing, walking, crouching, and flying. It almost seemed to be posing for us. It didn't seem to mind our presence as it looked around for its next meal.

Norman Frye and employees of Seven Cities Sod indicated that the owl had been there

Figure 1. Burrowing Owl at the Seven Cities Sod Farm, Davenport, Scott, *15 September 2006. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

all summer, as well as the previous one or two summers. The staff of Seven Cities Sod, especially Norman, was very gracious in allowing birders to enter their property to get closer to the owl. They were as interested in the bird as the birders who came from halfway across the state to see it. The owl was last observed on 9 October 2006.

3838 Hobson Avenue, Davenport, IA 52802-1910 (kaisersosa@earthlink.net)

Birding Owego Wetlands Complex

Jerry Von Ehwegen and Paul Roisen

Woodbury County provides nature lovers with a multitude of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. The Missouri and Big Sioux Rivers form the western border. The famous Loess Hills meander from north to south. Numerous oxbow lakes and ponds dot the county. And places like Stone Park, Bacon Creek, Brown's Lake, and Snyder's Bend have been well known to birders for years. Yet, history reminds us that humans have greatly changed our land and thus the birds and other wildlife that inhabit an area.

Figure 1. Short-eared Owl, Owego Wetlands Complex, Woodbury*, October 2006. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

In pre-settlement times, the floodplain stretched westward from the Loess Hills to the hills on the west of the Missouri River. This low-lying area was blessed with frequent flooding. Spring brought rampaging water from the Missouri River and swollen tributaries from the Elk River down to the Soldier River that spilled onto the level, poorly drained plain, which assured the water crucial for this vast flatland to support tall grass prairies, sedge meadows, and cattail marshes. These palustrine wetlands, with their emergent vegetation were the stop over for countless migrating avian species as well as the breeding ground for waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and passerines that depended on the wet prairies, meadows, or marshes.

But settlement changed the landscape when the Missouri River was dammed and channelized, tributaries from the hills were ditched and diverted, and the floodplain was drained and cultivated. The wetlands disappeared, and along with them, the birds and other wildlife dependent on wetlands. Gone were a great majority of the nesting waterfowl, secretive rails and American Bittern, ground-nesting Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl (Figure 1), Greater Prairie-Chicken, Bobolink, and numerous passerines.

WETLANDS COMPLEX ESTABLISHMENT

Members of the Woodbury County Conservation Board (WCCB) sought to find a way to reestablish some wetland areas in the county. The project progressed fast in 1998 when a landowner placed his farm in the federal Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Other adjacent

landowners followed suit. Because none of the owners desired to retain ownership of their property, the WCCB was able to acquire title by residual value to a block of land a little over two square miles in area. The chance to create a major public wetland habitat was a reality. Most wetland development and enhancement work is planned and funded through WRP. In the case of the Owego Wetlands Complex, the WCCB sought and received approval to incorporate a higher-level development and management plan. Numerous partners were added to help make the project a showcase wetland for western Iowa. Most of the major developments have been completed and additional enhancement projects will be conducted as monies become available.

Figure 2. Mid-fall, Owego Wetlands Complex, Woodbury*, October 2006. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

Thus, the Owego Wetlands Complex project was born (Figures 2 and 3). This complex is a 1,311-acre public area located approximately three miles northwest of Hornick, IA. in Woodbury County. The complex is comprised of primarily Luton clay soil, a heavy, wet hydric soil conducive to wetland development and difficult to cultivate. The area is named after the abandoned town site of Owego contained within its boundaries. It has been officially recognized as one of Iowa's Important Birding Areas (IBAs).

During the last eight years, the WCCB has been establishing a variety of habitats throughout the complex including shrubs and small trees for winter habitat and food. In 1999, 200 acres were seeded with native warm season grasses and forbs recommended for wetland areas. Some acres were left to revegetate naturally. Approximately 178 acres were seeded with a native cool season mix for nesting potential. The complex contains three irrigation wells, 8.8 miles of low level dikes, 31.4 miles perimeter shoreline on excavations, 600+ acres of potential shallow flooding area, 35 acres of food plots, 25 acres of shrub plantings, 216 acres of cool season grass, 579 acres of warm season grasses/forbs and five public parking lot accesses.

BIRD SPECIES

At the request of the WCCB, the Loess Hills Audubon Society (LHAS) has been monitoring the site for bird species since October 2002. Since that date, LHAS members have compiled a list of 204 species that have been found at the site at least once. Some of the more notable discoveries include Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Northern Bobwhite, Red Phalarope, Short-eared Owl, Blue Grosbeak, and most recent and possi-

bly most unexpected was a juvenile Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Some of the birds added in 2006 included White-faced Ibis, Forster's Tern, Black and White Warbler, Red-necked Phalarope, Common Moorhen, American Avocet, Purple Martin, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great-crested Flycatcher, Blackburnian Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Connecticut Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Brewer's Blackbird. More birders could likely enlarge the site list.

Spring migration brings multitudes of waterfowl, including most of our ducks and geese. Large concentrations of Northern Pintail and Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal can be seen. A great variety of shorebirds have been seen including Hudsonian and Marbled Godwit, American Golden and Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Willet, Black-crowned Night-Heron, American Avocet, Great and Cattle Egret, dowitchers, phalaropes, and sandpipers. The latter three can occur in large numbers. At the old town site, spring warblers, thrushes, and other songbirds can be seen. A pair of Great Horned Owls fledged three young there in early 2006. Fall and winter bring Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike, Merlin, longspurs, and a wide variety of sparrows.

Figure 3. Winter, Owego Wetlands Complex, Woodbury, *November 2006. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

HOW TO BIRD OWEGO

The Owego Wetlands Complex is an easy yet rewarding place to bird (Figure 4). The most popular way to bird Owego is by vehicle because many of the species can be seen from the edge of the road. The roads are gravel and you can drive the whole perimeter. (Note of caution: 300th Street as you go east between Franklin Avenue and the canal can be quite tricky during periods of rain and melting snow.) As you drive the perimeter, watch and listen for Blue Grosbeak, Willow Flycatcher, and Bell's Vireo in the thickets. Dickcissels are abundant in summer, and meadowlarks, Upland Sandpiper, Sedge and Marsh Wren, and Yellow-headed Blackbird can be seen in season. The road ditches normally contain water in the spring and can provide good views of American Bittern, Sora, and Virginia Rail. Bobolinks nest just east of the parking lot (Figure 4.B) on 290th Street, east of Franklin Avenue.

Park in the lots (Figure 4.A–E) and walk the edges of each section. Bird the woods on Garner Avenue or at the old town site. Hundreds of yards of Owego dikes can be traversed with decent shoes without getting wet. Depending on the season, these dikes may even be mowed for your convenience. For the more adventuresome, put on your mud boots and go tromping through (most) of the wetlands finding all kinds of things you would never see from the road. There are a couple of areas that require hip waders when the water levels are high. On one of the late spring counts, a Common Moorhen was discovered by a birder wearing waders.

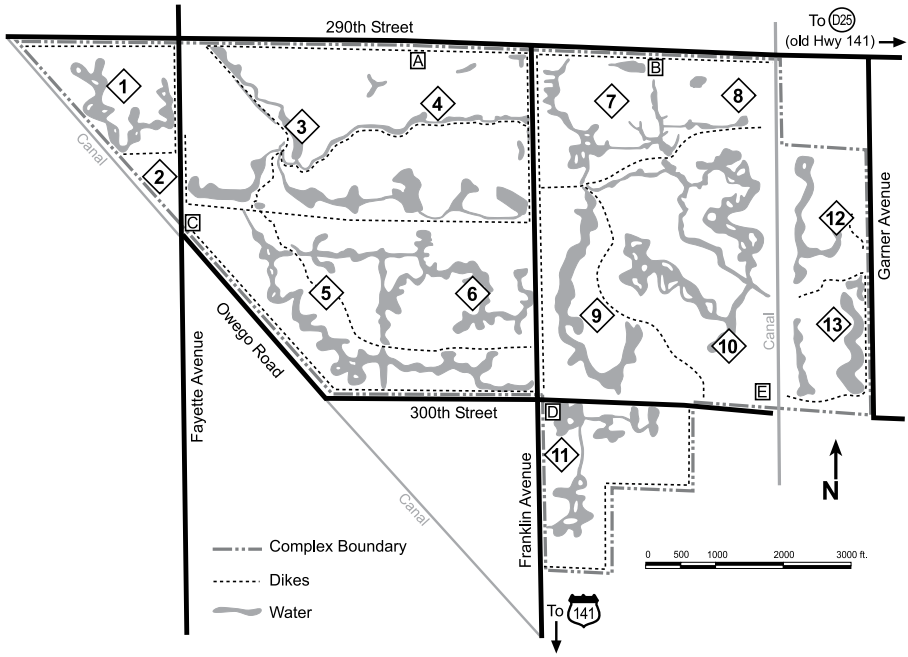

Figure 4. Map showing numbered birding sections (1–13), dikes, and parking lots (A–E) in Owego Wetlands Complex, Woodbury. *See also Table 1.*

ROUTES TO OWEGO

Drive north three miles on Fayette Avenue from Hwy. 141 between Sloan and Hornick or drive east six miles from Salix on 280th Street to Fayette and one mile south to reach the site (Figure 4). The site is bordered on the north by 290th street. The three N/S roads are Fayette, Franklin, and Garner Avenues as you travel from west to east. The Owego town site and a portion of the complex are west of Fayette Avenue (Figure 4.2). Owego Road (runs southeast to 300th Street) and 300th Street borders the south except for a portion of the complex, which extends south of 300th Street and east of Franklin Avenue. One-half mile west of Fayette, 290th Street dead-ends, and three-fourths of a mile east of Franklin, 300th Street dead-ends.

Traffic is very minimal throughout the year. With the beautiful Loess Hills to the east and the sights and sounds of the birds, flowers, butterflies, and frogs in the wetlands, the area provides an enjoyable birding experience. Even in the winter solitude, the sight of a Rough-legged Hawk or a flock of longspurs can remind you of the busy migration season soon to come.

SPECIES LOCATIONS

Blocks on the map (Figure 4) have been numbered (1 to 13) to enable locating certain species. The lists were generated based on our experience of how likely one might be to

find a particular species in a given block. As a disclaimer: birds have wings, they are not always cooperative, and they do occasionally deliberately move about and pop up in areas we don't expect to find them. Table 1 contains some of the less common species and the blocks in which they might be found. Northern Harriers may be hunting anywhere. Upland Sandpipers may be on Franklin Avenue near 300th Street on both sides. Short-eared Owls also may be seen in the fields north of 290th Street. Great Horned Owls may be perched midway up in any large tree. Sparrows in general occur in large numbers in the thickets and ditches along Fayette Avenue, Owego Road, 300th Street, and on Franklin Avenue along blocks 6 and 11.

CONSIDERATIONS

Keep in mind the seasons during which a particular bird would be most likely to be seen. The sun can really create havoc with your viewing pleasure. Drive or walk from east to west in the morning and vice versa in the afternoon. During winter, it is more productive to travel from south to north. Generally, birding is best in the morning but Owego can have good birds anytime. There may be lots of birds one day and few the next, particularly in the late fall and winter. But seldom do you go away without finding something interesting.

VISIT OWEGO

Owego is a long trip for Mississippi River Iowans, but a visit is worth the travel. Or stop by for an hour or two as you travel through. Plan on visiting Owego before or after the Spring IOU meeting in Sioux City on 18–20 May 2007.

REPORT SIGHTINGS

It would be greatly appreciated if visitors would report their sightings and approximately where (block number, if possible), so we can continue to update the Owego Wetlands Complex records. Send reports to the IA-Birds listserv or to Jerry Von Ehwegen (jerryvon@pionet.net).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gratitude is expressed to the WCCB for the tremendous and continued effort to create and improve Owego. The success of Owego has spawned similar projects in other areas of the county. One can only imagine what the Missouri River floodplain must have been like 100 years ago with miles and miles of wetlands filled with millions of birds and other wildlife. We hope that there are opportunities to expand the size of Owego and/or add other tracts of similar habitat for the birds, animals, and people. Also, many thanks to Bill Huser for technical consultation pertaining to historical land and settlement perspectives and, of course, to everyone who has reported findings to the Loess Hills Audubon Society.

2713 S St Marys, Sioux City, IA 51106-3426 (jerryvon@pionet.net)
4420 3rd Ave, Sioux City, IA 51106-2902 (roisenp1950@yahoo.com)

Table 1. Owego Wetland Complex blocks (see Figure 4) in which less common bird species might be found

	Block												
Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
American Bittern				x		x	x		x		x		
White-faced Ibis				x									
Virginia Rail and Sora				x		x							
Plovers (Blk-bel, Am Gold)				x		x							
Red-necked Phalarope											x		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo											x		
E. Screech-Owl												x	x
Great Horned Owl		x										x	
Short-eared Owl	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x			
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		x					x	x				x	
Red-headed Woodpecker		x										x	
Thrushes		x										x	x
LeConte's Sparrow	x					x			x	x	x		
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Spar.						x			x	x	x		
Blue Grosbeak									x	x	x		
Bobolink			x					x					

In Memoriam: Janice L. Walter 20 June 1927 – 9 January 2007

Rita Goranson

We are few in numbers for birders in the north part of the state, so each member lost is a major loss for us, and this is especially true with Janice L. Walter, who died on 9 January 2007. Jan's enthusiasm for birding kept us all enthused (Goranson 2001). Jan watched birds, sent in reports, helped with surveys, volunteered at the Nature Center, and did what she could to help support birds, wildlife, and prairies, particularly in northern Iowa.

In Jan's birding career, she thoroughly enjoyed documenting the Magnificent Frigatebird and the Yellow-billed Loon seen at Clear Lake, Iowa. The last couple of years Jan had not been able to get out much and yet she was enthusiastic about watching her feeders even if only House Sparrows were dining on the seeds. Jan will be missed!

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115 Lakeview Drive, Mason City, IA 50401-1617 (ritag@mchsi.com)

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

A Yellow-breasted Chat nest near Des Moines is the subject of the lead article in the March 1957 *Iowa Bird Life*. Authors Harold and Helen Peasley describe the nesting biology of this secretive species at what they believe is the first nest for Polk County.

The 1956–1957 Christmas Bird Count report fills much of the issue. A total of 87 species were found on 22 Iowa counts; 66 species at Davenport and 42 at Cedar Rapids were the high counts. Although these totals are well below what we expect today, some changes from previous years were evident. Fifteen species of waterfowl (including Long-tailed Duck and White-winged Scoter but no geese!) were found, most of them at Davenport and Cedar Rapids. In most previous years, few waterfowl were found in Iowa. The 84 Bald Eagles counted at Davenport dwarfed the two at Dubuque, the only others reported, and seem a prelude to the hundreds of eagles that now routinely are found throughout Iowa.

Two shorter notes are of special interest. In one, Jim Sieh provides photographs of a Common Raven shot in October 1956 near Spirit Lake, the first modern record for the species in Iowa. Also, William Youngworth describes finding a Townsend's Solitaire in December 1956 in Monona County. Only the second record of a solitaire in Iowa, the habitat where he found it (conifers including many cedars) seems typical of where Iowans now find Townsend's Solitaires yearly.

646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) $15, Institutional $20, Goldfinch $20, Bluebird $35, Oriole $50, Egret $75, Osprey $100, Bald Eagle $250, and Peregrine Falcon $500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org> or send new subscriptions and memberships, back issue requests, or address changes to Douglas Hunt, 1201 High Ave., West, Oskaloosa, IA 52577 (iou@mahaska.org). Renewals may be sent to the IOU Treasurer (see inside front cover).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

Photos and graphics: Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/8" wide by 6-1/8" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments.

E-mail all material other than seasonal reports to editor at Kay@KayNiyo.com. Deadlines for submission are **January 1 for winter issue (Vol. xx[1]), April 1 for spring issue [2], July 1 for summer issue [3], October 1 for fall issue [4]**. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

IOU NEWS: Paul Hertzel, Editor, 1432 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzel@rconnect.com)

***IOU* WEB SITE**: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: Danny Akers (birdmandan1231@hotmail.com)

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UPCOMING MEETING OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: Spring 2007: 18-20 May, Briar Cliff College, Sioux City

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Burrowing Owl at Seven Cities Sod Farm, Davenport, *Scott*, 10 September 2006. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA. See article in this issue.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Second record Green Violet-ear in Sioux City, *Woodbury*, 16 September 2006. Photograph by Don Poggensee, Ida Grove, IA. See article in this issue.

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CONTENTS

Hitchcock Nature Center Hawk Watch, Fall 2006
by Mark Orsag 1

Field Reports — Fall 2006
by Paul Hertzel 8

Mottled Duck at Saylorville Reservoir: First Iowa Record
by Stephen J. Dinsmore and Aaron Brees 32

Green Violet-ear in Sioux City: Second Iowa Record
by William F. Huser and Jerry L. Probst 34

Burrowing Owl in Scott County
by Walt Zuurdeeg 36

Birding Owego Wetlands Complex
by Jerry Von Ehwegen and Paul Roisen 38

In Memoriam: Janice L. Walter
by Rita Goranson 43

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*
by James J. Dinsmore 44