

Iowa & Missouri



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While there was enough precipitation to make August Iowa's wettest month since May 2001, dry conditions returned in September, and northern and western Missouri and southwestern Iowa were in the grips of severe drought through both months. The southern part of the Region experienced patchy thunderstorms, with some areas very dry and others with near-normal moisture. Western drought may have been responsible for an influx of some western species into the eastern part of the Region, most notably several western raptors. The first part of the season was also relatively warm, and song-bird migration was normal or below normal. In contrast, the latter half of the season was unseasonably cool (the fifth coldest in 130 years in Iowa), with more normal or above-normal precipitation in southern Missouri

but continued drought in all other areas. The result was early arrival dates for water birds, but most shallow water areas were iced over by the end of the November. High rainfall in the northern Midwest resulted in flooding of riverine shorebird areas during most of the migration. Raptors made a great showing this fall in Iowa, but they were largely absent in Missouri except for some western species. A few passerines were early this fall, but many more lingered late, especially flycatchers and thrushes. This year was a poor year for northern irruptive species, with few reports of even the usual species. Despite the unfavorable migration weather and conditions, there were enough notable species to keep birders interested this fall.

Abbreviations: C.A. (Conservation Area), E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, MO); Grammar (Grammar Grove, Marshall, IA); Hitchcock (Hitchcock W.M.A. hawkwatch, IA); O.S.C.A. (Otter Slough Conservation Area, MO); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO); S.O.C.A. (Schell-Osage Conservation Area, MO); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO); S.L.R. (Swan Lake N.W.R., MO).

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

Red-throated Loons were at usual locations in nw. Missouri, but a single at R.E.D.A. 2 Nov was of particular interest (DBe). Pacific Loons were in both states, with one 3 Nov at Big Creek S.P., Polk, IA of note (†BE). The largest count of Pied-billed Grebes was of 428 at L. Manawa, Pottawattamie, IA 20 Sep (L&BP). Western Grebes were widespread this year, with 13 reports in nine Iowa counties and five reports from Missouri; singles at L. Wappapello, Wayne 2-4 Nov (RDL, SD, †DW) and R.E.D.A. 8-12 Nov were noteworthy (DRo, †CM). The last were at Saylorville Res., Polk, IA 19-29 Nov (RC, JG, AB).

Impressive peak counts of American White Pelican were 4500 at Coralville Res. in Johnson, IA 8 Sep (MCD), 4000 at Saylorville Res. 15 Sep (JJD), 4500 at Runnells W.M.A. in Polk, IA 27 Sep (AB), and 3937 in Pottawattamie, IA 4 Oct (MO). Three individuals at R.E.D.A. 20 Oct bore patagial tags from Lac Qui Parle, MN (CM, JM). A Brown Pelican, providing a 6th Missouri state record and only the 3rd since 1950, was at S.O.C.A. 19-24 Aug (†LP, m. ob.). Large concentrations of Double-crested Cormorants in Iowa included 7357 at Hitchcock 12 Oct (MO) and 3650 at Rathbun, Appanoose 16 Oct (AB). Late birds were 3 each at Saylorville Res., Polk, IA 29 Nov (BE, RC) and Hallett's Quarry, Story, IA 30 Nov (WO), plus one at Mozingo L. 28 Nov (DAE, PK). An early American Bittern was at E.B.C.A. 5 Aug (FS), while a late bird was at the New Chillicothe Wetland, Livingston, MO 23 Nov (SK). Great Egrets made an impressive showing, and lingered late, with high counts of 155 in Marion, IA 4 Aug (JS) and 142 at S.O.C.A. 8 Sep (DTh). Extremely late individuals included one at DeSoto N.W.R., Harrison, IA 23 Nov (2nd latest record; GLV), 3 at S.L.R. 27 Nov (SK), and a record-late bird in Polk, IA 22-29 Nov (JG, BE, DT, RC). Snowy Egrets were at seven sites in Iowa, the latest being a single bird at Little Wall L., Hamilton 5 Oct (WO). The highest count of Little Blue Herons was 400 at a roost near Lambert Airport, St. Louis, MO 31 Aug (SM). A surprisingly late Green Heron was at August Busch C.A., St. Charles, MO 17 Nov (DR, m. ob.). An ad. White-faced Ibis was studied closely enough to see the red irides 6-8 Sep in Mahaska, IA, a 2nd latest fall ibis (†MCD, R. & K. Beard). Another was found at S.C.R. 29 Oct (JH, LL).

A Black Vulture was documented at Hitchcock 22 Sep (†MO), furnishing a 3rd state record. The largest movement of Turkey Vultures in Iowa was in early Oct, including 140 in Kossuth 1 Oct (MCK) and 146 at Hitchcock 4 Oct (MO). Hawkwatchers at Grammar set a new season high total of 438 (BPr).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Movements of waterfowl were delayed this fall, with numbers remaining mostly low. A summering Greater White-fronted Goose at O.S.C.A. was last reported 5 Aug (†DW). Snow Geese were widely reported, and an astounding 150,000 to 200,000 were counted at O.S.C.A. 24 Nov (Bill Reeves). A single Brant (*B. b. hrota*), originally found in Tama, IA 19 Oct, spent Nov at Union Grove S.P. (†MS). Peak numbers of Tundra Swan along the Mississippi R. in Allamakee, IA reached 3000 on 16 Nov (PH). Two American Black Ducks in Lucas, IA 7 Aug appeared to be abnormally early (RC, TJ). A Blue-winged Teal lingered at the Maryville Sewage Lagoons, Nodaway, MO until 1 Nov (DAE). Three Northern Shovelers were the earliest seen this season at Nodaway Valley C.A., Andrew, MO 19 Aug (DAE et al.). Six Canvasbacks found 10 Oct at Cardinal Marsh in Winneshiek, IA were at an unusual location (DC). By 8 Nov, there were 3000 at Pool #13 in Clinton, IA (PVN). Redheads reached 100+ at Maryville Sewage Lagoons, Nodaway, MO and Mozingo L. 1 Nov (DAE). Greater Scaup are rarely found in se. Missouri, so one near Caruthersville, Pemiscot, MO 27 Nov was notable (CC).

A Common Merganser 3 Sep in Hardin, IA may have been an exceptionally late lingerer. The first fall arrivals appeared 7 Nov in Story, IA (WO), with a peak of 1150 at Red Rock Res. in Marion, IA 28 Nov (AB). Low numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers were in the St. Louis area (CM), but a relatively high count of 150 was reported from Big Lake S.P., Holt, MO 1 Nov (TR). Continuing a trend of summering Ruddy Ducks throughout the Region, three broods at the Colo ponds in Story, IA 11 Aug suggest nesting may have occurred in cen. Iowa.

Observers at Hitchcock (MO) and Grammar (B&MPr) continued to tally surprising high numbers of raptors in Iowa. Hitchcock set record high totals of 787 Bald Eagles, 199 Cooper's Hawks, 1914 Swainson's Hawks, 17 Golden Eagles, and 224 American Kestrels. Hawkwatchers at Grammar also counted record or near-record totals of 248 Bald Eagles, 236 Cooper's Hawks, 766 Sharp-shinned Hawks (high), 8 Golden Eagles, and 14 Peregrine Falcons. Osprey season totals of 21 birds at both Grammar and at Red Rock Res. in Marion/Polk, IA (AB) were good. Peak counts occurred in mid-Sep, with 8 at Hitchcock 14 Sep and 9 at Grammar 15 Sep. Fifteen Mississippi Kites at Hitchcock, spanned 8-29 Sep, the latter a late date. A total of 124 Bald Eagles was counted in a single farm field in Clayton, IA 17 Nov (AB). At Grammar, 40% of the Sharp-shinned Hawks (306) were recorded 4-6 Oct (BPr, MPr). At Hitchcock, 29 Sep was the peak day, with 141

birds. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were more common than in recent years in w. Missouri (RF, JH). Northern Goshawks were reported from both states, and 2 at Hitchcock 4 Oct contributed to a season total of 5 at the same location. The earliest report was a single 3 Oct in Cerro Gordo, IA (RG), the last a single 25 Nov in Dickinson, IA (†ET). An impressive flight of 1300+ Broad-winged Hawks occurred along the Des Moines R. 15 Sep in Boone, IA (PH et al.). The Grammar and Hitchcock peaks of 170 and 116, respectively came 29 Sep. with the latest in Pottawattamie, IA 10 Oct (MO). The peak flight of Swainson's Hawks at Hitchcock was of 1054 on 2 Oct, and the last was a single 19 Oct. Red-tailed Hawks peaked at 296 in Pottawattamie, IA 6 Oct. The astonishing 3 Ferruginous Hawks in Iowa were reported 31 Oct at Hitchcock, 13 Nov in Warren (ph.), and 10 days later in Butler, possibly the bird from Warren (†PH).

There were more reports of Golden Eagle in Missouri than normal (five), beginning with an imm. at St. James, Maries, MO 14 Oct (Adam Nisbett). A Crested Caracara was photographed 28 Sep in Buena Vista (†PH), a first state record for Iowa if accepted. The peak flight of American Kestrels at Hitchcock was of 45 on 4 Oct. The 28 Merlins noted in Iowa were between 2 Sep in Winneshiek (DC) and 19 Nov in Woodbury (BFH). Sixteen were reported from Missouri, mostly single birds. A Prairie Falcon, casual in e. Missouri, was seen near Little Creve Coeur L., St. Louis, MO 27 Oct—28 Nov (DR, †JM).

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS

The only two reports of Gray Partridge came from Cerro Gordo, IA, where there were 3 on 8 Sep (CJF) and 3 on 31 Oct (RG). Summering rallids tarried at the Columbia Wastewater Treatment Wetlands, Boone, MO: a Virginia Rail 1 Aug (SK), 3 Soras to 16 Aug (SK, BG), and 3 American Coots 16 Aug (BG). High counts of coots were 8600 at S.L.R. 8 Oct (HL-D), 6500 at Spirit L. in Dickinson, IA 13 Oct (PH), and 4600 at Saylorville Res. in Polk, IA 3, Nov (BE). One imm. Sandhill Crane was at Horseshoe L., Buchanan, MO

27-28 Sep (KM, LL). Piping Plovers were reported from both states, with a high count of 5 at the Chillicothe Wetlands, Livingston, MO 16 Aug (SK). One very late Black-necked Stilt was at O.S.C.A. 22 Nov (JR). American Avocet appears to be increasing as a fall transient in Missouri, with eight reports, the latest one from Stoddard, MO 2 Nov (RDL, SD). Both yellowlegs lingered late in Missouri, a recent trend. These included 30 Greater Yellowlegs at the Boardwalk Marsh, Fountain Grove C.A., Linn, MO 9 Nov (SK), and 2 at Big Lake S.P., Holt 15 Nov (DAE). The last Lesser Yellowlegs was near Lebanon, Laclede in late Nov (†LP). A Spotted Sandpiper was found in Allamakee, IA 17 Nov (†AB; 3rd latest). Two reports of single Hudsonian Godwits were from R.E.D.A. 7 (Mike Grant, Dorothy Parker), & 22 Sep (JU). No Ruddy Turnstones appeared in Iowa, but a single at Sunshine L., Ray, MO 18 Aug (KM) and 2 at Bigelow Marsh, Holt, MO 18 Aug (DAE, PK) were the latest in Missouri.

Always a treat in Missouri, a Red Knot graced R.E.D.A. 29 Aug—7 Sep (JU, DRo). Late Sanderlings included one at Big Lake S.P., Holt, MO 22 Oct (MBR) and 2 in Appanoose, IA 4 Nov (AB). A noteworthy sighting of White-rumped Sandpiper was 2 in Appanoose, IA 10 Aug (RC). One late Baird's Sandpiper was also in Appanoose 4 Nov (AB). Concentrations of Pectoral Sandpipers included 500+ each in Marion, IA 5 Aug (AB) and 11-17 Aug in Appanoose (RC), with a late one 19-21 Nov in Lucas, IA (AB). A late Stilt Sandpiper tarried in Lucas, IA 2-22 Oct (AB). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen at S.C.R. 12-19 Sep (MBR, TR), the latest for the Region.

Late dowitchers included 4 Long-billeds in Warren, IA 15 Nov (AB). Wilson's Snipe peaked at 150 at O.S.C.A. 28-29 Nov (DRo). Franklin's Gulls numbered ~20,000 from 28 Sep to 3 Oct at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie, IA (L&BP), and 3 were lingering 20 Nov in Appanoose (AB). A basic-plumaged Black-headed Gull was at the traditional site at Spirit L. in Dickinson 14 Sep—10 Nov (†LAS, †ET, †PH). Two juv. Sabine's Gulls appeared in Iowa: Coralville Res., Johnson 21 Sep (†CE, MCD, THK, JLF) and Clear L., Cerro

SA This fall was a banner year for all three scoters in the Region, with reports mostly of females and imm. birds. There were 11 reports of Surf Scoters from Missouri and 25 birds in 12 reports from Iowa (more than the last five seasons combined). Sightings of Surf Scoters began with 2 at L. Jacomo in Jackson, MO 17 Oct (Mike Stoakes) and an impressive 8 at Badger Cr., Madison, IA 25 Oct (R&PA). The 16 birds seen at R.E.D.A. 15 Nov was a high count for Missouri, and 8 remained on 30 Nov (CM). The nine reports of White-winged Scoter from Iowa was double the average of the last 12 seasons, and there were five reports from Missouri. The earliest was of 2 imm. 14 Oct at Lock & Dam 14 in Scott, IA (SF), and high counts included 5 in Polk, IA 3 Nov (BE) and 4 in Story, IA 31 Oct (JJD, WO). The most noteworthy White-winged Scoter in Missouri was an imm. male near Caruthersville, Pemiscot 27 Nov (CC), one of the few sightings from se. Missouri. Black Scoters were reported from two Missouri and five Iowa sites. The earliest were 2 at L. Manawa, Pottawattamie, IA 21 Oct (L&BP)—the 3rd earliest for Iowa. Three female Black Scoters at Winfield Lock & Dam 25, Lincoln, MO provided the high count (SS, BR). One remained at Mozingo L. 30 Nov (KM).

Gordo 21-23 Oct (RG, CJF, PH). An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake at the Mid-America ponds in *Pottawattamie*, IA 29-31 Oct (L&BP, R&PA) was the only one reported. Several terns lingered late this fall, including up to 3 Caspian Terns at Red Rock Res. in *Marion*, IA 30 Oct—1 Nov (JLF, THK, AB; 2nd latest). Two Common Tern sightings set new record-late dates for Missouri: 2 ads. and one imm. on the nw. arm of Truman L., *Henry* (MBR), and one at R.E.D.A. 12 Oct (CM, JM). A late bird was at Little Wall L. in *Hamilton*, IA 8 Oct (JJD). A Forster's Tern at R.E.D.A. 30 Oct was very late (CM). Finally, a single Black Tern 13 Oct in *Polk* provided Iowa's 2nd latest record (BE).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Sightings of Eurasian Collared-Dove in Missouri included flocks of 20, one at Lebanon, *Laclede*, MO 2 Oct (LP), and another in *St. Charles*, MO 18 Nov (CM, JM), the highest count for the St. Louis area. There were reports of one to 6 in seven counties in Iowa. Late Yellow-billed Cuckoos were in *Des Moines*, IA 24 Oct (PL) and at Mingo N.W.R., *Stoddard*, MO 23 Nov, the latter a record late date (JR). "Hundreds of thousands" of Common Nighthawks appeared over *Polk*, MO 4 Sep (Cathie Foster), and 550 were at Hitchcock 1 Oct (MO). A very late bird was at the Crouch Nature Sanctuary, *St. Francois*, MO 18 Nov (DW). Late calling Whip-poor-wills were detected in both states: outside Van Buren, *Carter*, MO 28 Sep (MBR) and in *Pottawattamie*, IA 19 Sep (Jerry Toll, *vide* MO).

Among the few woodpecker reports, Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported as abundant this fall in sw. Missouri (LH). Reports of Pileated Woodpecker from nw. Missouri are rare, so one at L. Contrary, *Buchanan*, MO 5 Oct was of interest (JH, PK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS

An amazing array of late flycatchers was detected this fall. One observer noted that Olive-sided Flycatchers were "scarce" this year (RF), but there were eight Missouri reports, with one in *Cerro Gordo*, IA the 2nd earliest for the season 2 Aug (CJF). An Eastern Wood-Pewee 12 Oct in *Emmet*, IA was Iowa's 3rd latest (DH). Alder Flycatcher, a

poorly known fall migrant, was noted 8 Sep in *Pottawattamie*, IA (MO) and 29 Sep at St. Joseph, *Buchanan*, MO, the latest fall record for Missouri (JH, MBR). An incredible 5 were calling at S.O.C.A. 24 Aug (MBR, CH, M. McHugh). Other single birds were identified by call near Easley, *Boone*, MO 11 Sep (CG) and at Weston Bend SP, *Platte*, MO 15 Sep (PK, JH). Willow Flycatchers were at four sites in Missouri and one in Iowa, the latest at Bob Brown C.A., *Holt*, MO 12 Sep (MBR) and Columbia, *Boone*, MO 14 Sep (BG). Three record-late reports of Eastern Phoebe in Iowa came 10 Nov in *Clinton* (PVN), 11 Nov in *O'Brien* (LAS), and 17 Nov in *Allamakee* (CJF). Western Kingbirds are increasing across Missouri, and the one reported from O.S.C.A. 12 Aug could be the last requiring documentation in s. Missouri (†DW). The latest in Iowa was one 13 Oct in *Cherokee*, IA, matching the 3rd latest record (MaB). A late sighting of a single Scissor-tailed Flycatcher came from Ozark, MO 10 Nov (DRi). Two single Yellow-throated Vireos matched the 3rd latest record for Iowa 3 Oct: in *Johnson* (JLF) and *Cerro Gordo* (RG). The latest 2 Iowa Warbling Vireos were 19 Sep in *Lucas* (AB) and 20 Sep in *Kossuth* (MCK), and the last Philadelphia 5 Oct in *Polk* (BE).

Up to 20 Black-billed Magpies were at Broken Kettle Grassland, *Plymouth*, IA throughout Sep (Scott Moats, *vide* JJD). Observers in the St. Louis, MO area reported that Blue Jays and American Crows seemed to be reduced in numbers, possibly due to West Nile Virus (*vide* JZ). However, other observers noted no obvious decline (BE). High counts of American Crows in Missouri were 130 in *St. Charles* 27 Oct (DRo) and 100 at Bradford Farm in *Boone* on various dates (BG). Fish Crows continued to move n. and w. up major rivers in Missouri. Sightings included 2 at Four Rivers C.A., *Vernon*, MO 22 Aug (SK, LL), and singles at E.B.C.A. 3 Sep (BG), S.O.C.A. 26 Sep (MBR), and the Current River s. of Van Buren, *Carter*, MO 27 Sep (MBR).

Several hundred thousand Tree Swallows staged over cornfields in Locust Cr. Bottoms, *Chariton*, MO mid-Sep to mid-Oct (SK, m. ob.), with 14,000+ at the nw. arm of Truman L., just s. of Clinton, *Henry*, MO 11 Oct (MBR). Late reports at R.E.D.A.

included 2 on 16 Nov (JM) and one 17 Nov (CM, JM). The latest Barn Swallow report in Missouri, a single at R.E.D.A. 17 Nov, was four days later than the previous late fall record (CM, JM). There were few records of Red-breasted Nuthatches, with only six reports from Iowa (*vide* PH) and two from Missouri (BE, SK, CM, LP).

KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS

High counts of kinglets at Parker's Woods in *Cerro Gordo*, IA included 150 Golden-crowned on 3 Oct, and at least 100 Ruby-crowned 3 & 9 Oct (RG, PH). Major movements of thrushes were detected 27-28 Sep at Van Buren, *Carter*, MO, including 25+ Swainson's Thrushes and several Wood Thrushes and Veeries (MBR). Several thrushes lingered very late in Iowa, including a record-late Veery 3 Oct in *Cerro Gordo* (RG), a very late Swainson's Thrush 10 Oct in *Cerro Gordo* (RG), and a record-late Wood Thrush 26 Oct in *Madison* (†E&EA). An incredible 26,500 American Robins was counted 3 Nov at Hitchcock (MO). An extremely early American Pipit was in *Pottawattamie*, IA 18 Aug (MO), for Iowa's 3rd earliest fall arrival date. Sightings of Sprague's Pipit in Missouri began with 5 at St. Joseph, *Buchanan*, MO 21 Sep (MBR), with 2 there 22 Oct (MBR).

There were few unusual warbler sightings this fall. Blue-winged Warblers are not often seen in n. Missouri, so one at Chillicothe Wetlands, *Livingston*, MO 7 Sep was notable (SK). Pine Warblers at Poosey C.A., *Livingston*, MO 14 Sep and the Chillicothe Wetlands 15 Sep were away from their typical range (SK). The only report of Prairie Warbler was one at Farmington, *St. Francois*, MO 28 Aug (DW). There were two reports of Blackpoll Warbler from Parker's Woods in *Cerro Gordo*, IA: 2 on 20 Sep (RG) and one 1 Oct (PH). A Prothonotary Warbler was in *Allamakee*, IA 7 Sep, the 2nd latest record (BSc). The only report of Worm-eating Warbler was one at Close Park, Springfield, *Greene*, MO 11 Sep (DTh). The last Ovenbirds seen in Iowa were somewhat late singles 6 Oct in *Winneshiek* (Larry Reis, *vide* DC) and 8 Oct in *Cerro Gordo* (RG). A Connecticut Warbler 3 Oct in *Cerro Gordo* was the Iowa's 2nd latest (CJF), and there were record-late dates for Mourning Warblers: the 2nd latest 3 Oct in *Cerro Gordo* (RG), with possibly the same bird 6 Oct nearby (CJF). Two single Yellow-breasted Chats in Iowa were unusually late: 22 Sep in *Pottawattamie* (MO) and 29 Sep in *Emmet*, the latest record (†DH).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

An unusual late-summer ad. Clay-colored Sparrow was in *Kossuth*, IA 11 Aug (†RG). High tallies of Swamp Sparrows in Missouri included 100 at Little Creve Coeur

SA This year was an exciting one for unusual and late hummingbirds in the Region. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds lingered in both states, including a hatch-year male banded in Florissant, *St. Louis*, MO 21-30 Nov (†LC) and 3 mid-to late-Oct birds in Iowa. One of the most exciting birds of the season in Missouri was its first **Calliope Hummingbird**, a subad. male, that appeared about 10 Oct in Columbia, *Boone* (H&KA, m. ob.) and was identified when banded 3 Nov (†TG); it was last seen 8 Nov. *Selasphorus* hummingbirds included a single bird at a feeder in Ames, *Story*, IA 23-24 Oct (†PH, ph.), and an ad. male at a feeder 5 km n. of Savannah, *Andrew*, MO 13 Aug (JH, LL et al.). Two Rufous Hummingbirds were banded in e. Missouri: an ad. female in *St. Louis* 6 Oct—30 Nov (†Anne McCormack, LC et al.) and a hatch-year female 2 km n. of Cape Girardeau, *Cape Girardeau*, MO, first observed in Nov (Dean Reeves, †LC).

L., St. Louis 5 Oct (NB) and 120 at S.L.R. 10 Oct (SK). A relatively early White-throated Sparrow was at Castlewood S.P., St. Louis, MO 15 Sep (MB). The Regional high count was 100 in Guthrie, IA 20 Oct. Six White-crowned Sparrows 26 Sep in Pottawattamie, IA (MO) were the 4th earliest (MO). An early Dark-eyed Junco 14 Sep in Cerro Gordo, IA matched the mark for 2nd earliest (CN). The first sighting of Smith's Longspur in Missouri was a relatively early one of 40+ birds at St. Joseph, Buchanan, MO 22 Oct (MBR), which also ties a fall high count for Missouri. A single Chestnut-collared Longspur was found at St. Joseph, Buchanan, MO 22 Oct (MBR). A male Painted Bunting found during the summer at Katy Trail S.P., St. Charles, MO was present through 8 Aug (TCM). A Bobolink in Winneshiek, IA 14 Oct was the 4th latest record (FL).

Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were observed away from breeding areas in Missouri at Nodaway Valley C.A., Andrew 19 Aug (DAE et al.) and Hannibal, Marion 11 Sep (PHa). One Rusty Blackbird was at Big Lake S.P., Holt, MO 22 Oct (MBR). The first Brewer's Blackbirds of the season were 80 counted among three flocks 26 Oct in Appanoose, IA (RC), but the high count of 200 came 30 Oct at Diehl Pond in Warren, IA (JS). Two large flocks of mostly male

Common Grackles were 25,000 on 1 Nov at Pottawattamie, IA (MO), and 5000 on 9 Nov in Marion, IA (JS). Up to 150 Great-tailed Grackles were at South Farm, Boone, MO through mid-Nov (BG). Winter finch reports were very sparse, and included no crossbills, redpolls, or Evening Grosbeaks. Five single Purple Finches were reported from n. Missouri, and there were only six reports from Iowa, the earliest being 18 Oct in Dickinson (ET). Reports of Pine Siskin included one from Missouri, and four groups of one to 3 birds from Iowa, the earliest 18 Oct in Kossuth (MCK).

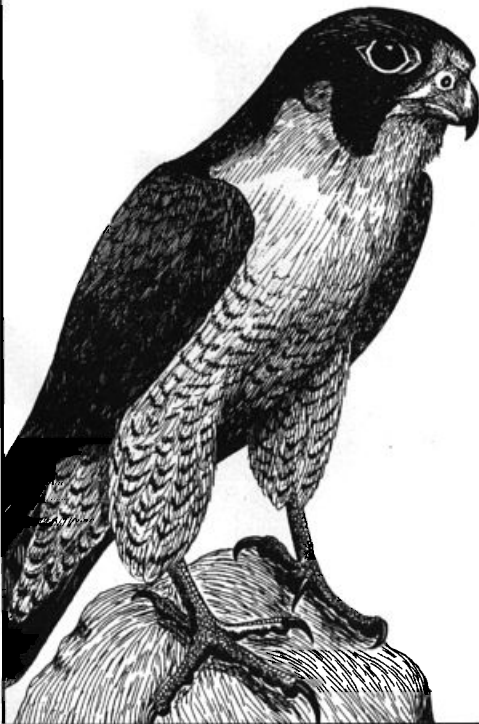
UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

The following reports were referred to the Iowa records committee and were reported without details: a Black-bellied Whistling Duck (a potential 6th state record), a California Gull in Dickinson, Williamson's Sapsucker (a potential first fall record), and a Chestnut-collared Longspur in Cerro Gordo. A Rock Wren was reported from Henning C.A., Taney, MO 14 Oct but could not be found after the initial sighting (Bo Brown).

Contributors cited (subregional editors in boldface): Reid & Pam Allen (R&PA), Eugene & Eloise Armstrong (E&EA), Nick Barber, Dave Becher (DBe), Mike Brady, Aaron Brees, Marion Brewer (MaB), Dennis

Carter, Lanny Chambers, Cameron Cox, Ray Cummins, Steve Dilks, James J. Dinsmore, Michael C. Dooley, Dave A. Easterla, Bill Eddleman (BEd) (Missouri), Chris Edwards, Bery Engebretsen, Carolyn J. Fischer, Robert Fisher, Steve Freed, James L. Fuller, Carl Gerhardt, Jay Gilliam, Bill Goodge, Rita Goranson, Troy Gordon, Patrick Harrison (PHa), Dennis Henrikson, Lawrence Herbert, Paul Hertzell (Iowa), Jack Hilsabeck, Chris Hobbs, Bill F. Huser, Tom Johnson, Matt C. Kenne, Thomas H. Kent, Diane Kinder, Steve Kinder, Peter Kondrashov, Larry Lade, Heather Lambert-Doherty (HL-D), Fred Leshner, Robert D. Lewis, Peter Lowther, Charlene Malone, Jim Malone, Kristi Mayo, Sherry McCowan, Curt Nelson, Mark Orsag, Loren & Babs Padelford (L&BP), Lester Pannell, Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Jim Rathert, Dean Rising (DRi), Mark B. Robbins, Tommie Rogers, Dave Rogles (DRo), Bill Rowe, Bill Scheible (BSc), Frank Schiffl, Lee A. Schoenewe, Scott Schuette, Jim Sinclair, Mike Stegmann, Ed Thelen, Dennis Thompson, Dorothy Thurman (DTh), Josh Uffman, Paul Van Nieuwenhuyse (PVN), Gerald L. Von Ehwegen (GLV), Doug Willis, Jim Ziebol. An additional 27 observers contributed information to the state lists, but could not be personally acknowledged; all have our thanks. ☺

Great Wildlife of the Great Plains



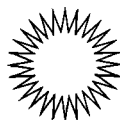
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