

Iowa & Missouri

It was the warmest June in Iowa since 1991, with rainfall about average. July was somewhat warmer and drier than normal, with the first 100-degree days since 2003. Habitat conditions seemed fairly normal, although severe drought affected parts of eastern Iowa. In Missouri, temperatures were slightly above average in June and July, and precipitation was near to slightly below normal statewide. However, parts of central, southeastern, and eastern Missouri had very hot and dry conditions for much of the summer. Rain from Hurricane Dennis provided some relief in mid-July.

Accidental species found in Iowa were Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Brown Pelican, and Vermilion Flycatcher, all of which remained for lengthy stays. Good finds in Missouri included Eared Grebe and White Ibis. Missouri had its first Trumpeter Swan nest in more than 100 years, and White-winged Doves may have nested as well. Iowa had the first documented nesting by King Rail since 1998, and the second (and possibly third) nestings of Red-breasted Nuthatch. Bald Eagles and Northern Bobwhite had good years in both states. Least Tern, Barn Owl, and Henslow's Sparrow all posted good nesting success in Iowa.

Abbreviations: Dunbar (Dunbar Slough, Greene, IA); E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone, MO); F.R.C.A. (Four Rivers C.A., Vernon, MO); N.V.C.A. (Nodaway Valley C.A., Holt/Andrew, MO); R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles, MO); Saylorville (Saylorville Res., Polk, IA); S.C.N.W.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO); T.R.W. (Thompson River Wetlands, Livingston, MO).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Summering Common Loons in Iowa included 3 at Spirit L., Dickinson (ET) and one at North Twin L., Calhoun (Todd Burras). In Missouri, 2 on 4 Jun at L. Jacomo, Jackson (LR) was the only report. Red-necked Grebes included up to 3 summering at Eagle L., Hancock, IA (RG, PH, DA) and 2 on 4 Jul at Union Slough N.W.R., Kossuth (MK). Each state had one Eared Grebe: 15 Jun at Maynard Reece W.P.A., Kossuth, IA (MK) and 18 Jul at F.R.C.A. (JH, SK, LL, TR). American White Pelicans were numerous in Iowa, with 1000 on 23 Jul at Saylorville (JB), a high count for so early. Up to 45 were at T.R.W. in Jun (SK). Single first-year Brown Pelicans 14-18 Jul at Spirit L., Dickinson (ET, m.ob.) and 30-31 Jul at Saylorville (†SD, †JD, m.ob.) were probably the same bird, Iowa's 10th record. The bird also moved into the Minnesota portion of the lake.

American Bitterns were back at S.C.N.W.R., including 4 on 28 Jun and 2 juvs. on 16 Jul (Frank Durbian). Least Bittern seemed fairly common in both states,

with numerous reports statewide in Missouri (m.ob.) and reports from 10 Iowa counties, including three nests at Cardinal Marsh, Winneshiek (DK, m.ob.). Great Egrets were common in Missouri, with a high count of 76 on 31 Jul at Pershing S.P., Linn (SK). Iowa's only Snowy Egret was one 26 Jun at Goose L., Clinton (BS). Missouri's only Tricolored Heron was a juv. 27 Jun at a heronry near Sikeston, Scott (JE). One or 2 Black-crowned Night-Herons were found in six Iowa counties, but no one noted nesting (m.ob.). Up to 6 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in early Jul in Lucas is the most seen in Iowa in several years (RA, PA, m.ob.). Up to 5 White Ibises were seen several times at a heronry near Sikeston, Scott, MO (CM, JU, JE), and one was seen in Jun at Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Shannon (refuge staff). Iowa's only White-faced Ibis were one on 1 Jun at Maynard Reece W.P.A., Kossuth (RG, PH, DA) and 2 on 14 Jun near Spirit L., Dickinson, IA (NB). An amazing 216 Turkey Vultures were at a roost 29 Jul near Decorah, Winneshiek, IA (Katie McVey).

Single Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks 22 Jun in Lee (†Bill Ohde) and 26 & 29 Jul at Lake Anita S.P., Cass (†JD, ph. SP, m.ob.) add to the growing presence of this species in Iowa. A pair of Trumpeter Swans hatched 3 young in Jul near the Carroll/Livingston bor-



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der (SK, m.ob.), Missouri's first successful nest in more than 100 years. Trumpeter Swans had 23 nests in Iowa, a big jump from 14 in 2004 (RAn). Lingering waterfowl in Missouri included a Gadwall and Northern Pintail 17 Jul at F.R.C.A. (DE) and a Green-winged Teal at B. K. Leach C.A., Lincoln (JE). In Iowa, stragglers included single Greater White-fronted Geese 9 Jun-30 Jul at Grimes, Polk (JB, JG) and 15 Jun in Kossuth (MK), Buffleheads 4 Jun at Grover's L., Dickinson (LS) and 15 Jun near Sioux City (BH), and a Common Merganser 15 Jun near Sioux City (BH).

Reintroduced Osprey occupied five territories in Iowa, but only one nest, in Johnson, was successful (BEh). In Missouri, a nest near Jacksonville, Randolph produced at least one young (AF, Alan Wagner), and a pair was feeding young 8 Jul at Truman L. (SK, m.ob.). Iowa's only Mississippi Kite was one 4 Jun in Des Moines (JG). In Missouri, a pair in Columbia, Boone produced one young

(Kathleen & Harold Anderson), a pair was seen 10 Jun in Kansas City, *Jackson* (LR), and several others were seen statewide (m.ob.). Bald Eagle nesting populations increased in both states. Missouri added at least 20 new nests (AF), and Iowa's total was 190 nests, up from 175 in 2004. Nests have been found in 71 of Iowa's 99 counties (BEh). Northern Harrier nests were found near Greenfield, *Adair*, IA (BEh), near Spirit L., *Dickinson*, IA (NB), and at White River Trace C.A., *Dent*, MO (Rob Chapman). Several other harriers were seen in both states. Single Sharp-shinned Hawks in *Howard* (PH) and in Des Moines (RC) raise the possibility that this species might nest in Iowa. The last nesting report was in 1989. Intensive surveys of Iowa's woodlands for the Important Bird Areas program helped provide numerous reports of Cooper's (21 counties), Red-shouldered (8 counties), and Broad-winged Hawks (10 counties) (SP, KP, m.ob.). Most were probably nesting. Cooper's Hawks were also reported in good numbers in Missouri (m.ob.). A Swainson's Hawk was seen 12 Jun near F.R.C.A. (SK), and nesting birds were found at several locations in *Greene*, MO (DR). Peregrine Falcons in Iowa occupied 10 territories, seven of which produced 21 young, both record totals (BEh, PS).

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS

Gray Partridges continued to be found in n. and cen. Iowa (m.ob.). Drumming Ruffed Grouse were heard in Jun at two isolated sites in s.-cen. Iowa (SP, KP). Reintroduced Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie-Chickens in Iowa had a poor year; only one brood of the former was noted (Ed Wiener, Ed White). Northern Bobwhite seemed to have done well in both states; many were reported statewide in Missouri (m.ob.), and the species seemed to have made a slight comeback in s. Iowa as well. A King Rail brood in Jul near Cumming, *Warren* (JG) was Iowa's first since 1998. Other King Rails were seen 18 Jun at Errington Marsh, *Polk*, IA (BE), 4 Jul at B.K. Leach C.A., *Lincoln*, MO (JE), and 17 Jul at F.R.C.A. (DE). A Virginia Rail brood near Iowa City, *Johnson* was s. of its usual Iowa range (JF, TK). Even farther out of expected range were 2 Virginia Rails and a Sora 1 Jul at Columbia, *Boone*, MO (BG). Common Moorhens were also at Columbia, *Boone* (BG), and one was present 10 Jul at Mingo N.W.R., *Stoddard*, MO (JE). In Iowa, Common Moorhens nested at Long Pond, *Guthrie* and Cardinal Marsh, *Winneshiek* (JG, DA, DK) and were found in three other counties (m.ob.). Sandhill Cranes were found in six e. and ne. Iowa counties (m.ob.), about typical of recent summers.

An American Golden-Plover 6-7 Jun at R.M.B.S. (CM, JU, JE) was late, and one 9 Jul at Dunbar (JD, SD) was early. Piping Plovers

were at their usual Iowa nesting sites, with 10 on 24 Jun near Council Bluffs (JG) and two broods 4 Jul near Sioux City (BH). The 719 Killdeer 30 Jul at Dunbar was an unusually high count (SD). A cold front 27 Jul brought 3-9 American Avocets to *Johnson*, *Polk*, and *Pottawattamie*, IA (DP, SD, JD), more than most summers. Single Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Pectoral Sandpipers 21 Jun at Dunbar (SD) were probably summering; the same was probably true for a Lesser Yellowlegs 20 Jun at R.M.B.S. (CM). Four Solitary Sandpipers 18 Jun at Johnston, *Polk*, IA (BE) were late. Sixteen Willets on 31 Jul at Saylorville (DT) is a high count for southbound birds. Upland Sandpipers were found in fairly good numbers statewide in Missouri (m.ob.) and were found in 14 counties that spanned Iowa (m.ob.), typical of recent years. Rare in Iowa in Jul, a Ruddy Turnstone was at Dunbar 30 Jul (SD) and a Sanderling 28 Jul at Coralville Res., *Johnson* (DP). A Baird's Sandpiper 2 Jul in *Butler* (PH) was early. The 581 Pectoral Sandpipers 30 Jul at Dunbar (SD) was the highest count recorded. A fairly early flock of 150 shorebirds 4 Jul in *Livingston*, MO included 100+ Lesser Yellowlegs, 25 Pectoral Sandpipers, and 10 Willets (SK). At two sites in *Kossuth*, IA, Wilson's Phalaropes were probably nesting 4 & 20 Jun (MK).

An ad. Laughing Gull was at R.M.B.S. 11 Jun (JU). A Black-headed Gull was at its usual hangout at the n. end of Spirit L., *Dickinson*, IA 16-31 Jul (†ET, m.ob.). Two Herring Gulls 18 Jul at N.V.C.A. (DE) were early. Two Caspian Terns 15 Jun at R.M.B.S. (JE) and one 17 Jul at F.R.C.A. (DE) were unexpected. Common Terns in *Hancock* and *Woodbury*, IA (PH, BH) were late 1 & 5 Jun, respectively. An ad. Common 30 Jul at Saylorville (SD) was early. Forster's and Black Terns were reported throughout Jun and Jul in Iowa, but no one mentioned them nesting. Least Terns had a great year at their two Iowa nesting sites: 40 birds, at least 18 on nests, on 24 Jun near Council Bluffs (JG) and 3 on 15 Jun near Sioux City (BH). This is the most nests reported in Iowa in the past 20 years. Two Least Terns 11 Jun at Schell-Osage C.A., *Vernon* (Alan Branhagen) was the only Missouri report away from the Mississippi River.

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

A White-winged Dove near East Prairie, *Mississippi*, MO on 28 Jun, 2 there on 10 Jul, and 3 on 14 Jul suggested a successful nest (JE). Singles 4 Jul in *Plymouth* (ph. Loren Hansen) and 29-31 Jul in Graettinger, *Palo Alto* (†Richard & Lois Weber) add to the records for Iowa. Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found in 16 and 34 Iowa counties (m.ob.), probably an understatement of the greater abundance of Yel-

low-billed Cuckoos in Iowa. Good numbers of Greater Roadrunners were reported from the species' usual range in the Missouri Ozarks (m.ob.). Barn Owl nests in *Adair*, *Jones*, *Lucas*, and *Tama* (BEh) all seemed to be successful, Iowa's best season in several years. Yellow-billed Sapsuckers were found in seven n. Iowa counties (m.ob.), including broods at Effigy Mounds N.M., *Allamakee* and *Pikes Peak S.P.*, *Clayton* (DK, SP).

Late Yellow-bellied Flycatchers included singles 3 Jun in *St. Louis*, MO (JU) and 5 Jun in *Cerro Gordo*, IA (PH). Least Flycatchers in *Bremer*, *Butler*, *Harrison*, *Sioux*, and *Worth*, IA mid-Jun-late Jul (m.ob.) may have included some nesting birds. The summer status of this species in Iowa is poorly understood. Both Acadian and Willow Flycatchers were found in numerous Iowa counties (m.ob.), mainly in the e. half of the state. A Willow Flycatcher near Mound City, *Holt*, MO (TR) was near the edge of its range. The male *Vermilion Flycatcher* found in May near Coon Rapids in *Guthrie*, IA remained throughout the summer (†JB, †DA, m.ob.). With two nests in *Polk*, Western Kingbirds continued to occupy their cen. Iowa outpost (JG, AB, Scott Rolfes). In Missouri, Western Kingbirds continued to expand their range eastward (m.ob.).

Two Black-billed Magpie nests in *Plymouth*, IA were probably successful (Scott Moats, *vide* JD); magpies have nested there for several years. Red-breasted Nuthatches nested in *Carroll*, IA (Shirley Schirck) and probably in *Sioux City* (GV), about the 2nd and 3rd nesting records for Iowa. As expected after the recent mild winter, Carolina Wrens were widely reported in e. Iowa (m.ob.). One or 2 Bewick's Wrens were found at its usual site near Argyle, *Lee*, IA (JF, MP). Five Sedge Wrens were singing 20 Jul on Clement Prairie, *Nodaway*, MO (DE). Veeries had a good year, with 16 found 4 Jul in *Delaware* (KP, SP) and nesting noted in *Allamakee*, *Clayton*, *Delaware*, and *Dubuque*, IA (SP, KP). A Northern Mockingbird nest in *Cherokee* was far n. of its usual Iowa range (DB). Loggerhead Shrikes were found in 21 counties (m.ob.) spanning most of Iowa; nowhere is it common. White-eyed Vireos were found in eight Iowa counties (m.ob.), mainly in s. Iowa, more than most years.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Tennessee Warbler 5 Jun at Duck Creek C.A., *Stoddard*, MO (JE) was late. Territorial Chestnut-sided Warblers in Jun in *Allamakee*, *Hancock*, *Lucas*, and *Winneshiek*, IA (DK, m.ob.) were more than most summers. A Yellow-throated Warbler in Jun at *St. Joseph*, *Buchanan*, MO (JH, Tom Nagel, m.ob.) was nw. of its usual range. Cerulean Warblers had a good year in both states. In Missouri, good numbers were found (DR, AF), and in Iowa,

