

# Iowa & Missouri

In Iowa, June was slightly below average in temperature and average in rainfall. Missouri had its ninth coolest June on record. Rainfall was above average in all but northwestern Missouri, where drought conditions persisted through the summer. July in Iowa was slightly cooler and drier than average, with some typical hot weather late in the month. July temperatures in Missouri were somewhat above average, especially in western Missouri. Like Iowa, much of the state was fairly dry, especially late in the month.

The summer was also characterized by little severe weather and no major flooding. Hence nesting conditions were fairly good for most species. Several federal agriculture programs continue to provide significant amounts of habitat suitable for some grassland species. The dry conditions during July meant that there was limited habitat available for southbound shorebirds. Typically, few rare birds appear during summer, but Missouri had reports of Tricolored Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, both species of whistling-ducks, and a Red Knot, a good array. In Iowa, nesting Red-necked Grebes, Piping Plovers, Barn Owls, and Burrowing Owls and the success of introduced populations of several species provided some good news.

**Abbreviations:** C.A. (Conservation Area); C.C.N.W.R. (Clarence Cannon N.W.R., Pike, MO); E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs C. A., Boone, MO); M.D.C. (Missouri Dept. of Conservation); N.V.C.A. (Nodaway Valley C. A., Andrew, MO); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles, MO); S.C.N.W.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO); S.L.N.W.R. (Swan Lake N.W.R., Livingston, MO).

## LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Two Common Loons summered at Spirit L., IA (SJD, LAS, ET), and singles were found in Jun in *Johnson*, *Kossuth*, and *Wineshiek*, IA (CE, MCK, DC), typical of recent summers. Pied-billed Grebes nested in *Warren* in s.-cen. Iowa (AB), s. of their usual range. In n. Missouri, birds were noted at S.L.N.W.R. (SK) and at S.C.N.W.R. and N.V.C.A. 6 Jun (DE, PK). With one in *Hancock* 7 Jun (PH, MP) and a nest at *Cheever L.*, *Emmet* 28 Jun (ET), Red-necked Grebe continued its recent colonization of Iowa. An Eared Grebe 1 Jun near *Indianola*, IA (JG) was late for s. Iowa. All Western Grebe reports were from Iowa in early Jun: 2 in *Clay* (LAS) and singles in *Emmet* (MCK), *Wright* (JJD), and *Greene* (MP). None appeared to be nesting.

American White Pelicans summered in both states, with peaks of 19 at E.B.C.A. (BG) and 130 in *Cerro Gordo*, IA (PH). Least Bittern had a good year, with 45 nests at C.C.N.W.R. (refuge staff) and



reports from 12 Iowa counties (m. ob.). A roost near St. Louis contained 140 Little Blue Herons (JF); a single 22–25 Jul at Saylorville Res. (JG, DeT) provided the only Iowa report. Two s. waders made rare summer appearances: a juv. Tricolored Heron near Canalou, *Stoddard*, MO 10 Jul (DH) and a Roseate Spoonbill near Columbia, MO 30 Jun–2 Jul (†ES).

Six Fulvous Whistling-Ducks near Canalou, *Stoddard* 29 Jun (JE) and 2 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at S.C.N.W.R. 30 Jul (DW) add to the growing evidence of range expansion by both species. As usual, a few waterfowl lingered. Most notable were an American Black Duck 15 Jul in *Saline*, MO (SK), a male Cinnamon Teal 1 Jun in *Warren* (ph. JG; first Iowa summer report since 1986), and 2 Red-breasted Mergansers in *Platte*, MO 1 Jun (JZ). Trumpeter Swans (reintroduced) had their best year yet in Iowa, with 12 of 13 wild nests successful (RA). A Ruddy Duck nest at S.C.N.W.R. (GS) is the first ever for Missouri. As many as 8 Ruddies were found there in Jun (DE), and they were also numerous in Iowa, with a nest in *Warren* a first county record (AB).

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## RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

There was good news on Ospreys in both states, which have had reintroduction programs. Nests in *Dickinson* and *Johnson* were the first documented for Iowa and produced one and 3 young (ET, PS). A nest in *Randolph*, MO apparently produced 3 young (TS). A Mississippi Kite nest in Des Moines (m. ob.) was Iowa's first since 2001. In Missouri, several were reported in *St. Louis* (BR), and a nest in *Joplin* fledged one young (JH, LH). Active Bald Eagle nests total about 160 in Iowa; eagle nests have been found in 62 of Iowa's 99 counties (BEh). Eagles are also doing well in Missouri, with successful nests in *Boone* and *Pike* (m. ob.). Northern Harrier broods were found in *Dickinson* (LAS, AB) and *Lyon* (PH, MCK) in nw. Iowa. The

only Swainson's Hawk nest reported was in Springfield, MO 14 Jun (CB). Singles were found in *Dade*, MO (LB), *Cerro Gordo*, IA (CJF), and *Osceola*, IA (ET). Peregrine Falcons attempted seven nests in Iowa, with at least four successful (PS).

Introduced Sharp-tailed Grouse persisted in *Woodbury*, IA, where four leks with 15 birds were found in early Jun (Roger Hill, *vide* BEh). Four broods of Greater Prairie-Chickens in *Ringgold*, IA (Mel Moe, *vide* JJD) suggest fairly good nesting success for this reintroduced population. Northern Bobwhite fared well in both states, with 36 in *Dade*, MO 21 Jun (LB) and Iowa birds as far n. as *Plymouth* and *Delaware* (GLV, MP).

Four King Rail broods were found at C.C.N.W.R. (refuge staff), and a juv. was seen at *Prairie Slough C.A.*, *Lincoln*, MO (BR). Both Virginia Rails and Sora—rare in Missouri in summer—were heard at E.B.C.A. (BG), and Virginia Rails were also heard at C.C.N.W.R. (refuge staff). Common Moorhen broods were found at several sites throughout Missouri (m. ob.), but the only Iowa brood was in *Clinton* (JLF). Sandhill Cranes continued to expand their breeding range, with broods seen in *Saline*, MO (SK) and in four Iowa counties (m. ob.).

Each state had a late Black-bellied Plover: 1 Jun in R.E.D.A. (BR) and 8 Jun in *Appanoose*, IA (TJ). Seven Semipalmated Plovers 29 Jun in *Woodbury* (BFH) were early. Piping Plovers had a good summer in Iowa, with three broods in *Woodbury* (BFH) and 2 chicks near Council Bluffs (RZ). A banded Piping Plover found 26 Jul at E.B.C.A. (MW) remained for several days (m. ob.). An American Avocet was found 16 Jul at R.E.D.A. (TB, m. ob.).

A Solitary Sandpiper 21 Jun in *Worth*, IA (CJF) was unusually early, while 45 at N.V.C.A. 25 Jul (TR, LL, JH) was a remarkable concentration. The only Willets were singles 28 Jun in *Cerro Gordo*, IA (RG) and 20 Jul in *Dickinson*, IA (AB). Good numbers of Upland Sandpipers were found 3 Jun in *Harrison*, MO (SK), while one was at S.C.N.W.R. 30–31 Jul (TR). They were present in 23 counties in the western two-thirds of Iowa (m. ob.), more than in most recent years. The only Ruddy Turnstone was one at S.C.N.W.R. 30 Jul (TR). A Red Knot 5 Jun at Horseshoe L., *Buchanan*, MO (†DE, m. ob.) provided the first Jun record for Missouri. Sanderlings were well represented, with one in *Buchanan*, MO 5 Jun (DE), 6 in *Dickinson*, IA 1 Jun (ET), and 6 in *Appanoose*, IA 5 Jun (TJ). Single Dunlins 6 Jun at S.C.N.W.R. (DE, PK) and 8 Jun in *Winneshiak*, IA (DC) were late. Six Wilson's Phalaropes 9 Jun in *Woodbury*, IA (JLV), and a pair still there 21 Jun (BFH)

was probably nesting.

Late Franklin's Gulls included 2 at N.V.C.A. 6 Jun (DE) and 3 in *Woodbury*, IA 7 Jun (GLV); 308 in *Dickinson*, IA 30 Jun (SJD) were summering. Four first-summer Herring Gulls 1 Jun at R.E.D.A. (BR) were late. The latest Caspian Terns in Missouri were 5 at R.E.D.A. 22 Jun (KM). In Iowa seven reports in Jun and early Jul (m. ob.) were more than usual and suggest that a few summered. Late Common Terns were found 4 Jun in *Dickinson*, IA (ET) and 11 Jun in *Cerro Gordo*, IA (PH). Three Least Terns 6 Jun at N.V.C.A. (DE) afforded the only Missouri report. Near Council Bluffs, 16 including 2 young were found 26 Jun (RZ), and 2 were near *Sioux City* 9 Jul (BFH). Northbound Black Terns were common in Iowa in early Jun, with 110 in *Dickinson* 7 Jun (LAS). The only evidence of breeding was a nest 16 Jun in *Winnebago* (JJD).

### DOVES THROUGH MIMIDS

Eurasian Collared-Dove continued to extend its Iowa range, with reports from *Hancock* (CJF), *Marion* (AJ), and *Monroe* (AB). A Black-billed Cuckoo in *Nodaway* 6 Jun (DE) was the only Missouri report, while in Iowa it was reported from 15 counties (m. ob.), mostly in n. Iowa. Single Greater Roadrunners were found in *Springfield* 1 Jun (DoH), *Dade* 29 Jun (LP), and *Greene* 15 Jul (CB), all in sw. Missouri.

It was a good year for Barn Owls in Iowa: nests in *Greene*, *Marion* (two nests), and *Taylor* were successful, though one in *Tama* was not (BEh). In Missouri, a Barn Owl was in *Atchison* 16 Jul (TR), and a brood was found in *Stoddard* (M.D.C.). Burrowing Owl continued its tenuous presence in Iowa. A pair near *Percival*, *Fremont* had 2 half-grown young in late Jul (†WRS). Besides the usual Chuck-will's-widow in *Fremont*, IA (MP), another was heard in *Appanoose*, IA 14 Jun (BS) at the n. edge of its breeding range. In nw. Iowa, a female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker with 2 young in *Clay* 29 Jun (LAS), a male with a juv. 13 Jul in *Lyon* (PH, MCK), and a pair in *Sioux*, IA 7 Jun (JVD) were at the s. edge of its nesting range.

Perhaps the most noticeable pattern this summer was the numerous lingering migrant passerines, especially flycatchers, vireos, and warblers. Iowa had more than 50 Jun reports of 21 migrant species, far more than normal. Latest flycatchers in Iowa included an Olive-sided Flycatcher at *Algona*, *Kossuth* 10 Jun (MCK), 2 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at *Algona* 9 Jun (MCK), and single Alder Flycatchers in *O'Brien* (DK) and *Algona* (MCK) 11 Jun. Twenty Alder Flycatchers in *Palo Alto* 1

Jun (MCK) was an unusually high count. Two Willow Flycatchers were at E.B.C.A. 15 Jul (KA, HA, BG), and one was at R.E.D.A. 22 Jun (KM). A pair of Western Kingbirds 9 Jul near *Jefferson City* (SH) was the only report from Missouri. In Iowa, pairs nested at the state capitol in *Des Moines* (m. ob.) and near *Spirit L.* (LAS). One found 27 & 29 Jun in *Cerro Gordo* (CJF, RG) was e. of typical Iowa range. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in *Reynolds*, MO 4 Jul (DS) was e. of normal range.

Loggerhead Shrike broods were found in *Black Hawk* (MJ), *Iowa* (BS), and *Greene* (JJD), all in Iowa. Shrikes were found in seven other counties (m. ob.), but they seem to be steadily disappearing from Iowa. Single White-eyed Vireos were found at three sites in *Johnson*, IA (JLF, CE) and in *Delaware*, IA (MP), all near the n. limit of nesting range. In Missouri, Bell's Vireos were found in *Springfield* 12 Jun (DoT), *Dade* 21 Jun (LB), E.B.C.A. (BG), and near *Columbia* (BG), close to its usual range limits. In Iowa, they were found in 11 counties (m. ob.), including nests in *Linn* (BS) and *Woodbury* (BFH). A Blue-headed Vireo 1 Jun at *Algona* (MCK) and *Philadelphia Vireo* 4 Jun in *Allamakee* (RG) both set 2nd latest dates for Iowa.

Three or 4 Black-billed Magpies were at *Broken Kettle Grasslands*, *Plymouth*, IA (Tracy Walker, *vide* JJD) in early Jun; they have occurred there since 1997. Fish Crows were heard at E.B.C.A. (BG), away from usual Mississippi R. range. The 1700 Bank Swallows at S.C.N.W.R. 28 Jul (TR) was a large concentration. Carolina Wrens, with reports from 12 counties (m. ob.), continue to do well in Iowa. The only nest reported, in *Winneshiak* (DC), was also the northernmost report. Good numbers of Sedge Wrens were found in both states (m. ob.). A few Marsh Wrens were at R.E.D.A. (BR), E.B.C.A. (BG), and *Holt*, MO (DE) near the s. limits of range. A Gray-cheeked Thrush 1 Jun in *Sioux* (JVD) furnished one of the few Jun records for Iowa. Single Northern Mockingbirds 24 Jul in *Emmet* (DeH) and 16 & 21 Jun at two sites in *Cherokee* (ET, LAS) were n. of its typical Iowa range.

### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Late Iowa migrants included a *Magnolia Warbler* at *Algona* 6 Jun (MCK), *Yellow-rumped Warblers* at *Algona* 11 Jun (MCK) and *Mason City* 11–13 Jun (PH), a *Black-throated Green Warbler* in *Warren* 14 Jun (PH, AB), a *Blackpoll Warbler* in *Iowa* 1 Jun (BS), and 2 *Wilson's Warblers* in *Marshall* 1 Jun (MP). A few *Prairie Warblers* were found in cen. Missouri: several in *Daniel Boone N.F.*, *Boone* 9 Jun (BG) and

one at Rock Bridge Memorial S.P., *Boone* 24 Jun (BG). A Black-and-white Warbler in Springfield 18 Jun (DoT) and an ad. carrying food near Ashland, *Boone* (BG) were at the n. edge of its Missouri range. A singing male 16 Jun at Hitchcock Nature Area, *Pottawattamie*, IA (MO) and a female/imm. 19 Jul in *Dallas*, IA (RC) suggest breeding; its summer status in Iowa is poorly known. The only reports of Worm-eating Warbler were singles at *Boone*, MO 24 Jun (BG) and *Lee*, IA 30 Jun (CE). Two Swainson's Warblers were at Donaldson Point C.A., *New Madrid*, MO 10 Jun (AF) in its limited se. Missouri range. A male Hooded Warbler was heard 11 Jun, and a male and female were seen carrying food 8 Jul, at Brickyard Hill C.A., *Atchison* (TR, DE), the northwesternmost confirmed nesting record for Missouri. Singles 7 Jun in *Boone* (JJD) and 13 & 30 Jun in *Lee* (MP, CE) provided the only Iowa reports. Aside from one or 2 Yellow-breasted Chats in five e. Iowa counties (m. ob.), singles 21 Jun in *Woodbury* (BFH) and 11 & 31 Jul in *O'Brien* (ET, LAS) were in nw. Iowa, where unexpected.

A Clay-colored Sparrow 7 Jun in *Dickinson* (LAS) and 4 males 13 Jul in *Lyon* (PH, MCK) were in nw. Iowa, where the species occasionally nests. Henslow's Sparrows

had a good year in both states. Good numbers were found throughout Missouri (m. ob.), while in Iowa, reports came from 15 counties (m. ob.), far more than just a few years ago. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1 Jun in *Polk* (BE) made the 2nd Iowa Jun report. All three *Zonotrichia* sparrows were reported: a male White-throated Sparrow 3-4 Jun in *Polk*, IA (JC), Missouri's first summer **Harris's Sparrow** in *Nodaway* 10-27 Jul (†DE), and a White-crowned Sparrow 10-11 Jun in *Cerro Gordo*, IA (RG).

Blue Grosbeaks were found near Columbia, MO (BG) and at R.E.D.A. 22 Jun (KM). A pair in *Linn* through mid-Jul (BS, JG, RG) and 2 in *Clinton* 16 Jul (PVN) were in e. Iowa, where rare. A male Painted Bunting seen throughout the summer at Katy Trail S.P., *St. Charles*, MO (m. ob.) was far from usual range. Two males and 2 females were seen 25 Jul in *Jasper*, MO (CEv), where more expected. Bobolinks seemed to be fairly common in nw. Missouri (SK) and throughout Iowa (m. ob.). Great-tailed Grackles were found in *St. Clair*, MO (SK), E.B.C.A. (BG), and *Emmet*, IA (DeH), all at the fringes of nesting range.

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