The north-south orientation of the Iowa & Missouri region stretches some 1280 km from the cypress swamps of the Missouri boot-heel to the treeless plains of northwestern Iowa. Weather patterns vary significantly across this large and diverse area, especially in spring. Missouri's peak migration of early May was characterized by strong, consistent, southerly winds that seemed to stall just north of the border—many birds whisked straight over Missouri, not needing to stop, rest, and refuel. Those migrants that did stop seemed to linger a day or so, and then were off again. Iowa's weather was more conducive for birding, birders reporting good concentrations of northbound migrants (Connecticut Warblers in particular!) during periods of adverse weather. Dramatic temperature swings were recorded in each of the spring months: Iowa reported up to 76°F differences between the high and low temperatures of this season's months. The mild drought in our area was officially "ended" with the arrival of spring rains, and many areas went from having too little to too much water in a matter of days. Shorebirds appeared in numbers to take advantage of flooded fields in some areas.

After a relative dearth of extralimital species in recent years, spring rewarded both Iowa and Missouri birders with a host of uncommon species: Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, King Rail, Snowy Plover, Whimbrel, Townsend's Solitaire, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting were found in Iowa, with Rock Wren, Sage Thrasher, and White-tailed Kite in Missouri. Additionally, spring 2004 reports of Iceland Gull, Laughing Gull, Sprague's Pipit, Black Rail, and Black-headed Grosbeak are before the records committee in Iowa and will be reported here as addenda if approved.

Abbreviations: B.C.A. (Bird Conservation Area); B.L.S.P (Big Lake S.P, Holt, MO); Hawkeye (W.A., Johnson, IA); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles, MO); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R, MO); T.G.E (Tower Grove Park, St. Louis, MO).

**LOONS THROUGH IBIS**

A Red-throated Loon, always a good find in Missouri, was at Fellow's L., Springfield, Boone 4–6 Apr (JL, KM); Iowa also had a lone bird 2 May at Spirit L., Dickinson (LAS, Pete Ernzen). A late Common Loon 31 May at Binder L., Cole, MO (CM JM) provided the Region's latest date. Iowa reported 5 Red-necked Grebes 3 Apr–22 May, but Missouri birders reported none. Iowa Lakes held 16 Western Grebes, while Missouri's only report came from Creve Coeur L., St. Louis 30 Apr–3 May (JE, JM). Forty Iowa American Bittern reports came in from 17 counties.

Less common in Missouri, reports came in from Creve Coeur L., from Springfield, from R.E.D.A., plus an 18 May bird at Schell-Osage C.A., St. Clair (MA). An early Cattle Egret was at S.C.R. 3 Apr (LL). Iowa's first bird came a day later, 4 Apr, at Rice L., Worth (PH). Ibises are not common anywhere in the Region; away from expected Missouri haunts were a Glossy Ibis found with 6 White-faceds at S.C.R. 14 May (KM) and a White-faced Ibis at Ten Mile Pond 24 Apr (JE). TR had the season high count of 32 White-faced around the S.C.R. loop 16 May. By contrast, Iowa reported only 4 White-faced for the season.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH GROUSE**

Eades reported a single Black-bellied Whistling-Duck 31 May at Binder L., Cole, while a Fulvous Whistling-Duck was reported from Ten Mile Pond C.A., New Madrid, MO 4 May (SP). S.C.R. kicked off the spring reporting season with a maximum count of 1815 Greater White-fronted Geese (GS). A late flock of 32 was at Union Slough N.W.R., Kossuth, IA 12 May (RG, MCK), and a lone bird was still at B.L.S.P. 15 May (RM, MG). A count of 161,000 Snow Geese came from S.C.R. 1 Mar (GS), and the last Iowa-stragglers were 23 May at Union Slough N.W.R., Kossuth (MCK) and two days later at the Hubbard S.T.P., Hardin (Mark Proeschold). A suburban Kansas City Snow Goose was still present 31 May (RM), possibly an injured or lead-poisoned bird. A 5 Mar flock of 100 Ross’s Geese were at S.C.R. (TR). Unbanded Trumpeter Swans were noted at three Iowa locations 9 Mar–9 May (m.ob.). Over 1600 Gadwall were at Jester Park, Polk, IA 28 Mar (BE). Two Eurasian Wigeons were found by a Cedar Rapids Audubon group 27 Mar at Cone M, Louisa, IA. Both a male Cinnamon Teal and a likely hybrid Blue-winged Teal x Cinnamon Teal male were found at Eagle Bluffs 10 Mar (Bill Goodge). Iowa also had a hybrid photographed 14 Apr in Boone (RIA, PHA). Two
SA A species decidedly uncommon away from the Missouri boot-heel. Black-necked Stilt was much in the news this season. An unprecedented incursion occurred in cen. Iowa, where 11 birds were tallied. Missouri reported 7 from three spots. The first Iowa birds were 2 found by John Ruttenbeck 11 May at Diehl Wetlands, Warren, where one lingered through 17 May. On 12 May, 6 were found spread between different locations at Hawkeye (m.ob.). Up to 4 were at Hawkeye until 18 May (AB, AJ, CE). Also on 12 May, 2 stilt were noted at Sedan bottoms, a first for A. nigripalpe (GLC, Tom Johnson). Finally, one at Ada Hayden Park. Story 15-18 May was also a first county record (WQ, HZ). In Missouri, several out-of-place birds were seen: one was at Schell-Osage C.A. 6 Apr (KM); 4 were at Prairie Slough C.A., Lincoln 29 Apr (Donald Hays); and 2 were seen 23 May at R.E.D.A. (BR).

female Cinnamon were reported in Missouri, at S.C.R. 3 Apr (LL) and at Macon L., Macon 1 May (Kim Mar). A good count of 3900 Northern Pintails came from S.C.R. 5 Mar (TR). Iowa's high was a day later, 4200 6 Mar at Jester Park, Polk (BE).

A female Harlequin Duck found in Feb in Illinois was seen flying over the Iowa side of the Mississippi R., Scott and was present until at least 10 Mar (YTHK, TDK, DRO). Iowa reported the only Long-tailed duck, a drake at New L., Woodbury 12-14 Mar (Jerry Von Ehewegen, BFH). A female Common Merganser was sighted on the Current R. below Round Spring Missouri, Shannan should have been far to the n. on 26 May (MR, BB, AN). A late raft of 20-23 Ruddy Ducks was discovered at B.L.S.P. 15 May (MR, RM, MG).

Shorebirds through doves
Both Black-bellied Plover and American Golden-Plover were found in low numbers this season. A storm 26 Mar grounded over 90 of the former at St. Louis (DR), while Iowa highs were 118 on 14 May in Hamilton (AB) and 82 flying over Algona, Kossuth 17 May (MCK). Not annual in the Region, Snowy Plovers were found in both states this season. Km discovered Missouri's first single at S.C.R. 28 Apr (many observers reported 2 Snowy, a Piping, and a Semipalmated Plover in the same scope view 1 May at L. Contrary!), while on 10 May, a Snowy Plover was at Nodaway Valley C.A., Andrew (B). An Iowa Snowy was found 8 May at Hawkeye (JLF, THK, CE).

Possibly injured, a Sandpiper lingered at S.C.R. through at least 29 May (KM). Willet reports were much more numerous this season than last, with Missouri reporting groups of 42, 12, and 16 individuals. Iowa had counts of 39, 30, 24, 18, 18, and 22. Two Whimbrels lingered a few hours 23 May at R.E.D.A. (m.ob.), but 16 there 25 May set a new state high count (CM). Four Iowa birds were found 17 May at Jester Park, while 2 were late in flooded fields in Hancock 28 May (Shane Patterson). S.C.R. held more than 200 Hudsonian Godwits 6 May for the seasonal high (TR). Iowa's earliest were 4 on 16 Apr at Saylerville Res., Polk (DK); between one and 13 birds were noted from nine additional counties, with the last 8 at Hawkeye 18 May (CE). Unexpected were 4 Red Knots that lingered 25-26 May at R.E.D.A. (DR). Close to a Missouri high count of Sandpipers, 105, was reported 23 May at R.E.D.A. Two record early Iowa Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted 10 Apr at Neat Ponds, Woodbury (BFH). A Western Sandpipers was at S.C.R. 8 May (DE), with 2 there 15 May (MR, RM, MG). A 9 May Western was at Desoto N.W.R., Harrison, IA (Mark Orsag). Approximately 5000 Least Sandpipers were at Hawkeye 8 May (BD), five times the previous high, spring count. Scattered concentrations of Dunlin were reported this season, with highs of 108 on 17 May at Jester Park (AB), 200 18 May at Hawkeye (CE), and a Missouri high of 300 on 25 May at R.E.D.A. (DR). Surprisingly, no Bull-breasted Sandpipers were reported this season. S.C.R. hosted a phalarope hat-trick 10 May, highlighted by a basic-plumaged Red Phalarope (KG, MR, AP).

An imm. Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Red Rock Res., Marion, IA 13 May (AB). A very early Caspian Tern was at R.E.D.A. 4 Apr (JM CM), as was a Common Tern there 17 Apr (BR). Large flocks of Common Terns were reported at three locations: 25 were found 14 May at Clear L., Cerro Gordo (PH), 23 were at Jester Park 22 May (AB), and Missouri had a high count of 40 at Smithville L. 6 May (K. Mayo). An early Iowa Black Tern 20 Apr was at Zirbel Slough, Cerro Gordo (CJF). This species often tends to concentrate in late May. Flocks of 652, 300, and 600 were reported in Iowa; and Bocks of 175, 50, and 100 were seen in Missouri. Least Tern is casual in St. Louis, so 2 along the Mississippi R. 23 May were of note (JE). In Missouri, the feeder of Jim Joy in S. Columbia, Boone attracted a White-winged Dove 21 Apr, and Wally George photographed one at his Cedar Hill, Jefferson feeder 19 May.

Raptors through cranes
After a long hiatus, Ospreys are now returning to breed in the Region. Bill Goodge reported an occupied nest s. of Jacksonville, Jacksonville, MO 3 Apr, and an Iowa nesting of a nonbreeder (MR, BB, AN). Still a hypothetical species in Missouri, a White-tailed on May (DOB, JH). After a long hiatus, Ospreys are now returning to the region. Bill Goodge reported an occupied nest s. of Jacksonville, Jacksonville, MO 3 Apr, and an Iowa nesting of a nonbreeder (MR, BB, AN). Still a hypothetical species in Missouri, a White-tailed Eagle was attempted again this year at Rumaells Natural Resources' release site.
OWLS THROUGH WAXWINGS
An injured Iowa Snowy Owl was captured 5 Apr at Galbraith, Kossuth and sent to a rehabilitator (Esther Tripp, MCK). This late bird was particularly surprising after a winter without an invasion. A Burrowing Owl was found 26 Mar at a roadside burrow in s. Kossuth, IA and was last seen 31 Mar (Scott Moeller, MCK). The season’s only Long-eared Owl report was of 3 lingering birds 27 Mar at Bois d’Arc, Green, MO (David & Barbara Belvins). Scattered Short-eared Owl reports were received from both states, with only one Northern Saw-whet Owl report this season, 17–21 Mar on the Judy Drentn farm near Decorah, Winneshiek, IA (Jode DC). An early Iowa Common Nighthawk 22 Apr at Ames, Story (Doug Harr) was followed by another 23 Apr (JLF) in Johnson, both IA.

The first reported Ruby-throated Hummingbird was found around Springfield, MO 23 Mar (Bonnie Noble). Often a challenge to find in St. Louis, a Loggerhead Shrike at Weldon Springs C.A., St. Charles was a surprise 3 Apr (JM, Ju). One or 2 Loggerheads were found in 18 counties from the w. two-thirds of the state. In Missouri, Northern Shrikes rarely seem to stay put. An exception was a wintering bird that remained until at least 24 Mar around the oxbows s. of St. Joseph (LL). Iowa reported 7 at various locations until 31 Mar. A single Black-billed Magpie was reported 6 Mar from Broken Kettle Grasslands, Plymouth, IA (BFH). A group of 10 Tree Swallows was already setting up shop at Binder L., Jefferson City, MO 10 Mar (JL). Iowa had two record-early Tree Swallows 13 Mar at Princeton W.A., Scott (DrO) and its 2nd earliest report of Cliff Swallow 11 Apr at Saylorville Res., Polk (BE). Suggestive of breeding, a Brown Creeper was heard singing persistently from a stand of Shortleaf Pine 6.5 km below the Pullittie access, Current R., Shannon, MO 25–26 May (MR, BB). Nest-building was observed in early Apr in Johnson, IA by Jill Beckman, but this nest was abandoned. A Rock Wren present 23–26 Mar at the Apache Motel in Rich Hill, MO (LH) was both early and rare at this location.

A single Townsend’s Solitaire was reported 2 Mar at Waterman Creek, O’Brien (LAS). By the first of May, Hermit Thrushes should be n. of Missouri; a 2 May bird was unexpected at Busch C.A., St. Charles (BR). Iowa’s last reported Hermit was 3 May at Bacon Creek Park, Woodbury (BBH) and 4–6 May at Calh S.P., Kossuth (MCK). Iowa’s 2nd earliest Wood Thrush was a singing bird 21 Apr at Waterworks Park, Polk (JG). A Gray Catbird 18 Apr at Guttenburg, Clayton (DAK) was record early for Iowa. It has been nearly 40 years since a Sage Thrasher was found in Missouri, but on 2 May a bird was reported from Joplin, Newton.

WARBLERS THROUGH SISKINS
A line of predawn storms 10 May dropped a huge group of Tennessee Warblers over nw. Missouri, where MR & AP located a minimum of 205 that day. Missouri birders reported 3 Black-throated Blue Warblers this May, while Iowa birders found 2. Single Iowa Worm-eating Warblers 12 May at Call S.P., Kossuth (RGo, MCK) and 19 May at Nine Eagles S.P., Decatur (AB) were outside their normal range. A Yellow-throated Warbler 27 Mar at Rockwood Reservation, St. Louis was a early (CM). Fifty Blackpoll Warblers at T.G.P. 15 May were notable (JE). The season’s first Cerulean Warbler at Busiek S.F., Christian, MO 16 Apr was a little early (MA); at Weston, MO, 4 were counted 16 May (TR). Connecticut Warblers were reported from just a few Missouri locations this spring; in Iowa, 20 reports of at least 24 birds came from locations across the e. half of the state, the first being 13 May at Hickory Hill Park, Johnson (THK, BD), where 4 were found 15 May (CE), and the last coming 26 May at Saylorville Res., Polk (Darwin Koenig). Half of the reports were from the period 22–24 May. An 18 May Kentucky Warbler at Gitchie Manitou State Preserve, Lyon (DEC) was well out of range. An early Iowa Canada Warbler was found 8 May at Nobles 1., Allison (DC).

A male Western Tanager visited an Iowa feeder 29 Apr–1 May at Oak L., Kossuth (Connie Meckler). An American Tree Sparrow lingered until 18 Apr at Gitchie Manitou State Preserve, Lyon (DEC); an early Chipping Sparrow was recorded 19 Mar in Jackson, IA. Clay-colored Sparrows were more widespread in cen. and e. Iowa this season, with groups of up to 7 birds recorded. Only a single Lark Sparrow was reported from sw. Missouri—11 Apr at Fellows L. (Kay Johnson). Six birds around Bloomsdale, St. Genevieve were presumed to be a new breeding group 29 May (JE). Up to 12 Henslow’s Sparrows were found in eight Iowa counties; over 50 were counted at Castlewood S.P., St. Louis 10 Apr (JU). Five singing Henslow’s Sparrows were reported from Burr Oak Woods, Jackson 29 Apr; unfortunately, they did not linger to breed (CH). Three late Le Conte’s Sparrows were at Union Hills Watertower Production Area, Cerro Gordo, IA 25 May (Kay Patterson). Iowa birders found 4 Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows 9–25 May. A record-late Iowa Fox Sparrow was at Gitchie Manitou N.A., Lyon 18 May. A 22 Mar Lincoln’s Sparrow at S.C.R. was very early (TR), while 2 e. of Columbia 7 May (BR) were late. A lingering 31 May Harris’s Sparrow in Ann Johnson’s yard in Warren, IA was remarkably late. Iowa had several groups of Smith’s Longspurs reported, all in the Cone M., Louisa area: 35 on 3 Apr (BSc), 100 on 4 Apr (CJ), and 200 on 4 Apr (CE). In Missouri, a flock was located at Bradford Farms 13 Mar (Susan Hazelwood), down to 3 birds on 24 Mar (Bj), and a single Smith’s was at Dunn Ranch 10 Apr (SK).

Missouri’s first Black-headed Grosbeak in a number of years was in se. Kansas City 5 May (RM); Iowa had two reports this season. No Lazuli Buntings were seen in Missouri this year, but Iowa had singles 15–18 May at a feeder in Plymouth (BFH), 19–26 May at Spirit L., Dickinson (ETH), and another there 28–29 May (ETH). Painted Buntings returned to the Weldon Spring area of the K.T. Trail and Henning C.A., Taney, MO (pmb.). A late female Brewer’s Blackbird was discovered at the Columbia Bottoms C.A., St. Louis, MO 25 Apr (BR), and Iowa birders found 7, 2 of those being late birds 7 May at Cedar Hills Sand Prairie, Black Hawk, IA (Walt Stephenson). The wintering flock of Great-tailed Grackles in downtown Kansas City, MO continues to grow: 4200 birds were tallied in 25 minutes with more coming 22 Mar (MG). A few lingered at the Bryan I. Stables, St. Louis, with 4–5 females reported 28 Mar (BR). After a dearth of Purple Finches in recent years, spring 2004 reports were up. The 52 counted 2 Mar at Springfield S.P., Guthrie, IA (ETH) were as many as all other Iowa reports added together. A Common Redpoll lingered until 6 Mar at Mound City, MO (TR), and Iowa reported a few holdovers from the winter flight. There was a report of 18 Eurasian Tree Sparrows 19 Mar in Mascoutaine, IA (RIA, PHA); Missouri birds remain relatively common along the Mississippi R. from St. Louis northward.

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