

Iowa - Jensen

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jessen  
1136 High Avenue East  
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

Mr. Vernon M. Kleen  
2311 Huntington Road  
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Mr. Kleen:

April's weather was near normal but May was very wet. It rained three and four days a week, many times very heavy. At this writing many fields are waiting to be planted or planted again.

In general we felt bird population was very good. In fact, Layton's and we cautiously say the population is up. Their banding operation, always in the same place and total hours run nearly the same, has yielded five hundred more total birds than last year, a nearly twenty per cent increase. In fact, the prime week in May it rained almost constantly and we were severely hampered.

General comments are on the enclosed card. The following comments are the more rarer sightings.

Hawk numbers seem very poor as stated. At our Iowa Ornithologists Union meeting of two days and one hundred and fifty observers, the only birds of prey seen were Turkey Vulture and Red-Tailed Hawk.

Great Horned Owls seem to have a good nesting season, for the two nests under observation fledged two young each, and many others were seen. For the third time in the past six years Barred Owls have nested at the corner of College Street and North E Street in Oskaloosa in large Soft Maple trees.

This was known because each time a young owl was found on the ground following a storm, and the adults were always present. These youngsters were always successfully raised by Layton's, banded, and released. Not an everyday occurrence, I'm sure.

A Chucks-Wills-Widow was heard calling near the Des Moines River on May 25th. This had always been ideal Whip-Poor-Will habitat, and when a lady living near there reported to Layton's she had a funny sounding whip-Poor-Will and when they investigated they found the Chuck's. This was three years ago, and they have been there since, and have been banded there has well has near Ottumwa by the Ayres and the Layton's. Area birders agree the bird is extending it's range into southern Iowa.

Red-Headed Woodpeckers are again very common in Iowa this spring. We are very fortunate.

Bluebirds are still few and far between, but many more are reported thirty miles to the south.

Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were very common at our feeder in April. It was only a few years ago that Purple Finches were unheard of in Oskaloosa.

White-winged Crossbills were the highlight of the spring migration for us. Two appeared at our feeder April 2, peaking at nine April 6, and the last two seen April 26. According to Woody Brown's book, An Annotated List of the Birds of Iowa, the latest record for Iowa was March 6, 1966. Whether this will be a new Iowa record remains to be seen. Four of these were banded by Layton's. The males were all first year breeding males according to Robert's Manual.

All of these observations were jointly made by the Layton's and we and are reported with their permission. Good Birding!

Sincerely,

*Robert Jensen*

# IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

## Field Check List

*SPRING MIGRATION*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Weather \_\_\_\_\_

Locality \_\_\_\_\_

*GENERAL*

*COMMENTS*

Observers \_\_\_\_\_

Total Species \_\_\_\_\_

The 290 species listed are birds reliably reported in Iowa five times or more within the last 20 years, 1948-68. Species names conform to the A.O.U. Check-List, 5th Ed.

### LOONS

- \_\_\_ Common
- \_\_\_ Arctic\*

### GREBES

- \_\_\_ Red-necked\*
- \_\_\_ Horned
- \_\_\_ Eared
- \_\_\_ Western\*†
- \_\_\_ Pied-billed

### PELICANS

- \_\_\_ White

### CORMORANTS

- \_\_\_ Double-crested

### HERONS, BITTERNS

- \_\_\_ Great Blue
- \_\_\_ Green
- \_\_\_ Little Blue\*
- \_\_\_ Common Egret
- \_\_\_ Snowy Egret\*
- \_\_\_ Black-crowned Night
- \_\_\_ Yellow-crowned Night
- \_\_\_ Least Bittern
- \_\_\_ American Bittern

### IBISES

- \_\_\_ White-faced\*

### SWANS

- \_\_\_ Whistling\*

### GEESE

- \_\_\_ Canada
- \_\_\_ White-fronted
- \_\_\_ Snow
- \_\_\_ Blue

### DUCKS

- \_\_\_ Mallard
- \_\_\_ Black
- \_\_\_ Gadwall
- \_\_\_ Pintail
- \_\_\_ Green-winged Teal
- \_\_\_ Blue-winged Teal
- \_\_\_ Cinnamon Teal\*†
- \_\_\_ American Widgeon
- \_\_\_ Shoveler
- \_\_\_ Wood
- \_\_\_ Redhead
- \_\_\_ Ring-necked
- \_\_\_ Canvasback
- \_\_\_ Lesser Scaup - *Common*
- \_\_\_ Common Goldeneye
- \_\_\_ Bufflehead
- \_\_\_ Oldsquaw\*
- \_\_\_ White-winged Scoter\*
- \_\_\_ Surf Scoter\*
- \_\_\_ Ruddy
- \_\_\_ Hooded Merganser
- \_\_\_ Common Merganser
- \_\_\_ Red-breasted Merganser

Very few hawks seen  
NO RARE SPECIES

**VULTURES, HAWKS**

- \_\_\_ Turkey Vulture
- \_\_\_ Goshawk\*
- \_\_\_ Sharp-shinned
- \_\_\_ Cooper's
- \_\_\_ Red-tailed
- \_\_\_ Red-shouldered
- \_\_\_ Broad-winged
- \_\_\_ Swainson's
- \_\_\_ Rough-legged
- \_\_\_ Golden Eagle\*
- \_\_\_ Bald Eagle
- \_\_\_ Marsh
- \_\_\_ Osprey
- \_\_\_ Prairie Falcon\*†
- \_\_\_ Peregrine Falcon\*
- \_\_\_ Pigeon\*
- \_\_\_ Sparrow

**GROUSE, QUAIL, PHEASANTS**

- \_\_\_ Ruffed Grouse
- \_\_\_ Bobwhite
- \_\_\_ Ring-necked Pheasant
- \_\_\_ Gray Partridge

**TURKEYS**

- \_\_\_ Turkey

**CRANES, RAILS, COOTS**

- \_\_\_ Sandhill Crane\*†
- \_\_\_ King Rail
- \_\_\_ Virginia Rail
- \_\_\_ Sora
- \_\_\_ Yellow Rail\*
- \_\_\_ Black Rail\*
- \_\_\_ Common Gallinule
- \_\_\_ American Coot

**PLOVERS**

- \_\_\_ Semipalmated
- \_\_\_ Piping\*
- \_\_\_ Killdeer
- \_\_\_ American Golden
- \_\_\_ Black-bellied
- \_\_\_ Ruddy Turnstone

**SANDPIPERS, etc.**

- \_\_\_ American Woodcock
- \_\_\_ Common Snipe
- \_\_\_ Whimbrel\*
- \_\_\_ Upland Plover
- \_\_\_ Spotted
- \_\_\_ Solitary
- \_\_\_ Willet
- \_\_\_ Greater Yellowlegs
- \_\_\_ Lesser Yellowlegs
- \_\_\_ Pectoral
- \_\_\_ White-rumped
- \_\_\_ Baird's
- \_\_\_ Least
- \_\_\_ Dunlin
- \_\_\_ Dowitcher (sp.)
- \_\_\_ Stilt
- \_\_\_ Semipalmated
- \_\_\_ Western\*
- \_\_\_ Buff-breasted\*
- \_\_\_ Marbled Godwit\*
- \_\_\_ Hudsonian Godwit
- \_\_\_ Sanderling
- \_\_\_ American Avocet\*†
- \_\_\_ Wilson's Phalarope
- \_\_\_ Northern Phalarope

**GULLS**

- \_\_\_ Glaucous\* *ONE FOUND INJURED NEAR CEDAR TOWER MANY*
- \_\_\_ Herring
- \_\_\_ Ring-billed
- \_\_\_ Franklin's
- \_\_\_ Bonaparte's

**TERNS**

- \_\_\_ Forster's *31st, very late, nearest water several miles, later died*
- \_\_\_ Common
- \_\_\_ Least\*
- \_\_\_ Caspian
- \_\_\_ Black

**DOVES**

- \_\_\_ Mourning

**CUCKOOS**

- \_\_\_ Yellow-billed
- \_\_\_ Black-billed

**OWLS**

- \_\_\_ Barn\*
- \_\_\_ Screech
- \_\_\_ Great Horned
- \_\_\_ Snowy\*
- \_\_\_ Burrowing\*†
- \_\_\_ Barred
- \_\_\_ Long-eared
- \_\_\_ Short-eared
- \_\_\_ Saw-whet

**GOATSUCKERS, etc.**

- \_\_\_ Whip-poor-will ~~seen~~
- \_\_\_ Common Nighthawk
- \_\_\_ Chimney Swift *common*
- \_\_\_ Ruby-thr. Hummingbird
- \_\_\_ Belted Kingfisher

**WOODPECKERS**

- \_\_\_ Yellow-shafted Flicker
- \_\_\_ Red-shafted Flicker\*†
- \_\_\_ Pileated
- \_\_\_ Red-bellied
- \_\_\_ Red-headed
- \_\_\_ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- \_\_\_ Hairy
- \_\_\_ Downy

**FLYCATCHERS**

- \_\_\_ Eastern Kingbird
- \_\_\_ Western Kingbird\*†
- \_\_\_ Scissor-tailed\*†
- \_\_\_ Great Crested
- \_\_\_ Eastern Phoebe
- \_\_\_ Say's Phoebe\*†
- \_\_\_ Yellow-bellied\*
- \_\_\_ Acadian
- \_\_\_ Traill's
- \_\_\_ Least
- \_\_\_ Eastern Wood Pewee
- \_\_\_ Olive-sided

**LARKS, SWALLOWS**

- \_\_\_ Horned Lark
- \_\_\_ Tree
- \_\_\_ Bank
- \_\_\_ Rough-winged
- \_\_\_ Barn
- \_\_\_ Cliff
- \_\_\_ Purple Martin

**JAYS, MAGPIES, CROWS**

- \_\_\_ Blue Jay
- \_\_\_ Black-billed Magpie\*†
- \_\_\_ Common Raven\*
- \_\_\_ Common Crow *INCREASING*

**TITMICE**

- \_\_\_ Black-capped Chickadee *few*
- \_\_\_ Tufted Titmouse

**NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS**

- \_\_\_ White-breasted Nuthatch *few*
- \_\_\_ Red-breasted Nuthatch
- \_\_\_ Brown Creeper *MANY*

**WRENS**

- \_\_\_ House
- \_\_\_ Winter
- \_\_\_ Bewick's\*
- \_\_\_ Carolina
- \_\_\_ Long-billed Marsh
- \_\_\_ Short-billed Marsh

**MIMICS**

- \_\_\_ Mockingbird
- \_\_\_ Catbird *MANY*
- \_\_\_ Brown Thrasher *MANY*

**THRUSHES**

- \_\_\_ Robin
- \_\_\_ Wood
- \_\_\_ Hermit
- \_\_\_ Swainson's
- \_\_\_ Gray-cheeked
- \_\_\_ Veery
- \_\_\_ Eastern Bluebird
- \_\_\_ Townsend's Solitaire\*†

**GNATCATCHERS, KINGLETS**

- \_\_\_ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- \_\_\_ Golden-crowned Kinglet
- \_\_\_ Ruby-crowned Kinglet

**PIPITS, WAXWINGS**

- \_\_\_ Water Pipit *MANY*
- \_\_\_ Sprague's Pipit\*†
- \_\_\_ Bohemian Waxwing
- \_\_\_ Cedar Waxwing *2 seen*

**SHRIKES**

- \_\_\_ Northern\*
- \_\_\_ Loggerhead *NONE*

**STARLINGS**

- \_\_\_ Starling

\* Rare, but are seen more than once in 5 years.  
† Western species reaching Iowa.

**VIREOS**

- \_\_\_ White-eyed\*
- \_\_\_ Bell's
- \_\_\_ Yellow-throated
- \_\_\_ Solitary
- \_\_\_ Red-eyed
- \_\_\_ Philadelphia\*
- \_\_\_ Warbling

**WARBLERS** *now warblers*

- \_\_\_ Black-and-white *Scared*
- \_\_\_ Prothonotary *down*
- \_\_\_ Worm-eating\* *Some*
- \_\_\_ Golden-winged *up*
- \_\_\_ Blue-winged
- \_\_\_ Tennessee - *Abundant*
- \_\_\_ Orange-crowned
- \_\_\_ Nashville
- \_\_\_ Parula
- \_\_\_ Yellow
- \_\_\_ Magnolia
- \_\_\_ Cape May
- \_\_\_ Black-throated Blue\*
- \_\_\_ Myrtle *Abundant*
- \_\_\_ Black-throated Green
- \_\_\_ Cerulean
- \_\_\_ Blackburnian
- \_\_\_ Chestnut-sided
- \_\_\_ Bay-breasted
- \_\_\_ Blackpoll
- \_\_\_ Pine
- \_\_\_ Palm
- \_\_\_ Ovenbird
- \_\_\_ Northern Waterthrush
- \_\_\_ Louisiana Waterthrush\*
- \_\_\_ Kentucky
- \_\_\_ Connecticut\*
- \_\_\_ Mourning
- \_\_\_ Yellowthroat *Abundant*
- \_\_\_ Yellow-breasted Chat
- \_\_\_ Hooded\*
- \_\_\_ Wilson's
- \_\_\_ Canada
- \_\_\_ American Redstart

**WEAVER FINCHES**

- \_\_\_ House Sparrow

**BLACKBIRDS**

- \_\_\_ Bobolink
- \_\_\_ Eastern Meadowlark
- \_\_\_ Western Meadowlark

- \_\_\_ Yellow-headed
- \_\_\_ Red-winged - *Very*
- \_\_\_ Orchard Oriole *Abundant*
- \_\_\_ Baltimore Oriole - *one seen*
- \_\_\_ Rusty
- \_\_\_ Brewer's† *April 29,*
- \_\_\_ Common Grackle *rather*
- \_\_\_ Brown-headed Cowbird *early*

**TANAGERS**

- \_\_\_ Scarlet
- \_\_\_ Summer

**FINCHES, SPARROWS**

- \_\_\_ Cardinal
- \_\_\_ Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- \_\_\_ Blue Grosbeak\*†
- \_\_\_ Indigo Bunting
- \_\_\_ Lazuli Bunting\*†
- \_\_\_ Dickcissel - *common*
- \_\_\_ Evening Grosbeak\*
- \_\_\_ Purple Finch - *common*
- \_\_\_ Pine Grosbeak\*
- \_\_\_ Common Redpoll
- \_\_\_ Pine Siskin - *common*
- \_\_\_ American Goldfinch
- \_\_\_ Red Crossbill\*
- \_\_\_ White-winged Crossbill\*
- \_\_\_ Rufous-sided Towhee
- \_\_\_ Lark Bunting\*†
- \_\_\_ Savannah
- \_\_\_ Grasshopper *Sparrow*
- \_\_\_ LeConte's\* *Numbers*
- \_\_\_ Henslow's\* *generally*
- \_\_\_ Sharp-tailed\* *good*
- \_\_\_ Vesper
- \_\_\_ Lark
- \_\_\_ Slate-colored Junco - *common*
- \_\_\_ Tree
- \_\_\_ Chipping
- \_\_\_ Clay-colored
- \_\_\_ Field
- \_\_\_ Harris' - *none*
- \_\_\_ White-crowned
- \_\_\_ White-throated
- \_\_\_ Fox
- \_\_\_ Lincoln's
- \_\_\_ Swamp
- \_\_\_ Song - *common*
- \_\_\_ Lapland Longspur
- \_\_\_ Snow Bunting\*