

Hahn

June 14, '76

Dear Vern:

I am a bit off schedule, owing to 10 days in SE Arizona in late May. Not really need to report.  
Double-crested Cormorant: 1 alighting on L. Macbride 4/24.

Am. Bittern: 1 seen near Palisades Pt., Linn Co., 5/15.  
Two seen W of here in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May by Dr. R. Vane of Cedar Rapids. This is at least par for the area.  
Sharp-shinned Hawk: pretty meager — the only one for '76 seen (with M. Newlon) over an Iowa City park 5/17.

Cooper's Hawk: none seen.

Red-shouldered Hawk: ditto.

Marsh Hawk: single birds seen as late as the first week of May, S of the Coralville Reservoir.

Osprey: 1 seen over the Iowa river 4/25.

Am. Cestrel: very sparse all year. Nestled last year on Dr. E. Folk's farm near Amana Colonies; ♂ was observed until at least 5/15 around last year's nesting hole — no evidence of ♀.

Piping Plover: 2 seen near Coralville Reservoir 4/18, along with 2 early Black-bellied Plovers (+ 12 Lesser Golden Plovers and 2 Semipalmated Plovers).

Only one Black Tern seen for a few days from 5/8 over Swan L. was a very poor showing.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo were not seen or heard until 6/1.

Com. Nighthawk, arrived 5/14, were more numerous during migration than now. Decrease in numbers possible for our area.

Red-headed Woodpecker: in good numbers. Not on our local Blue List.

Belted Kingfisher: reasons for concern. Not seen before

4/11, very easy to miss on any given trip, even if proper habitat is covered. Definite impression of decline.

Hairy Woodpecker: never abundant, no obvious change.

Cliff Swallow: no change. Breeds in usual places (along city bridges), in usual numbers.

Purple Martin: always spotty, no change noticed.

Loggerhead Shrike: none all year (nor in '75, '74). Gone as a breeding species, and even as a migrant to be expected annually, from this area.

Bell's Vireo: local loss of habitat, but singing males quite common in appropriate brushy fields from 5/18 on. Seems OK here.

Yellow Warbler: no evidence of noticeable decline.

Yellow-bellied Chat: migrants noted in late mid-May by Tom Standt in a city park. A further but resident pair (?) seen since late May and still present 6/12 N of Reservoir. A marginal species for the area, often not seen for years.

Grasshopper Sparrow: numbers parallel extent of suitable (shrinking) habitat.

Heenlow's Sparrow: none present in the one known breeding location W of here this year (seen '74, '75).

Sincerely

Nick Halmi

Rt. 6 Box 182

Jowa City, Iowa 52240