

Breeding Season

1975

American Birds

June

6 Black  
Ja

RECEIVED  
Aug 12 1975

Pleasantville Iowa  
50225  
Aug. 5, 1975

Dear Vernon: Nothing of special interest here and the following reports you may get from others. If so disregard this -

1 pair Western Kingbirds nested successfully in Ankeny Ia, just North of Des Moines, on a light pole for the 2nd year (consecutive)

1 pair Western Kingbirds nested successfully, 4 fledglings, in West Des Moines also on a light pole.

(The last reported nesting of Western Kingbirds in the Des Moines area was in 1958 + 1959)

Yellow-headed Blackbirds nested successfully in the Ankeny ponds, north of Des Moines, for the 2nd consecutive year. 1974 was the first time they were ever recorded as nesting in Polk County.

3 pairs of Prothonotary Warblers nested in the Lake Rathbun area in the South central Iowa County, just north of the Missouri state line 20 miles or so.

Also Great Blue Herons nested successfully in the Lake Rathbun area, 2 rookeries, 1 was new this year.

1 Wood Duck nested in a tree in west edge of Knoxville Ia, (our County seat) 12 ducklings jumped! Then to White Breast Creek, a tributary of Lake Red Rock.  
(over)

Red-winged Blackbirds were the most numerous of all nesting birds here. Dickcissels were second most numerous of all nesting birds. Eastern Bluebirds very scarce. They are just a little more numerous than last year. Bell's Vireo none seen or heard! Yellow-billed Cuckoos scarcer. No Blackbilled Cuckoo seen all summer.

No known nesting of Kestrels in my area altho we had a good spring migration with Dean Masman of Ankeny banding 30.

I believe it might be worthwhile for you to drop a line to Dean Masman, 518 S.E. Sharon Drive, Ankeny, Ia. 50021 asking to report his observations also his Tower (TV) kill birds for Amer. Birds. He collects the Tower kills each spring & fall & takes the birds to ISU Ames. He is also doing Hawk & other bandings.

We are watching 2 very tall TV towers this fall located within  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles of each other. Cables consisted on building the 2nd horrible tower tho the first one was intended to take care of all TV stations in this area, both D. M. + Ames. This fall will be the first migration since the second tower was completed. We fear the slaughter! Sincerely,  
Gladys Black