

5112, Malvern, Iowa.

Aug 11.

Dear Vern,

Hope I make the deadline. Summer is real busy here on the farm. Managed to do a BBS at Neola, Iowa and a Fremont Co check for breeding birds (June 2 and 5 respectively).

- Least Bittern: One seen flying over cattails at Forney Lake. Presumably breeds.
- Solitary Sandpiper: First one seen July 16.
- Cuckoos: YB common here, but arrived late this year. Ratio of YB to BB 8:2 June 5 in Fremont Co.
- Western Kingbird: Fairly common breeder, especially on Missouri R. bottoms. One also found on Neola BBS.
- Least Flycatcher: Heard on two separate occasions in same area on Mo. R. bottoms June 5, but was unable to see bird in act of singing (~~Trax~~ Willow was also in area). Will check this next year. Fremont Co is within the range outlined in AOU but is considered a rare breeder in Iowa (Brown).
- Tufted Titmouse: Common breeder in larger wooded tracts (Manti Woods, Waubonsie S.P.) but very scarce elsewhere.
- Loggerhead Shrike: Fairly common breeder: 2 found June 5 in Fremont Co ~~and~~ but none on Neola BBS.
- Bell's Vireo: Not hard to find in bottomland riparian habitats: 3 found June 5 in Fremont Co.
- Ovenbird: 3 singing (one seen) Waubonsie SP June 5.
- Louisiana Waterthrush: One singing strongly in perfect habitat (wooded ravine with small stream) in Waubonsie SP June 5. Watched at leisure.
- Bobolink: Breeds in small numbers here: 5 on Neola BBS and breeds in Fremont Co, but only one locality known by me. Brown (Annotated List) considers Lamoni unusually far south for this species in summer.
- Orchard Oriole: Unusually common June 5 in Fremont Co; 15 found.
- Summer Tanager: 2 found at Waubonsie SP June 5, but no Scarlets, despite thorough search.
- Rufous-sided Towhee: Locally distributed in Fremont Co. Seems to prefer extensively wooded areas (as for Tufted Titmouse) with open patches within them.
- Dickcissel: Abundant this year: exceeded in numbers on Neola BBS only by House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, and Red-winged Blackbird!
- Lark Sparrow: Breeds in drier or sandier areas in Fremont Co: 3 found June 5 on Mo R bottoms.

Vesper Sparrow:

Fremont Co is near the southwest extreme of the breeding range of the eastern subspecies. Easterla ('Checklist of Mo Birds, 1971') considers it a casual SR in nw Mo, and it is listed only as a migrant in 'List of Birds of Fontenelle Forest and Environs', which includes Council Bluffs and adjacent farmland in Iowa, especially the Missouri River bottomlands.

This summer I found one on June 5 near the Mo River in Fremont Co and also one on the Neola BBS (about 50 miles further north).

I have one other record: Aug 3, 1975 near Tabot, Iowa.

Regards,
Rens Schoel