

Seymour, Iowa

August 19, 1976

Dear Dr. Halmi,

I would like to report the active and successful Great Blue Heron rookery at Lake Rathbun. There were 29 active nests in dead trees standing in water. We made 6 trips there in our boat with an electric motor (about a 2-hour) trip. Our first trip was made May 27--the nests seemed to be completed with some brooding started and possibly a few very young. The last trip was made July 10--at least one of the nests was used twice (whether by the same pair?)--and each of the others<sup>on different trips</sup> showed 3-4 young birds standing in them with other young birds on branches nearby. I would feel very safe in estimating 100 young and probably more. We have heard a report of a second rookery on the south fork of the lake, but we have been unable to reach it in our boat. We understand it is located in live trees at the water's edge which, of course, would have more of a future.

During our trips to and from the rookery, we have enjoyed the other cavity-nesting birds--particularly the Prothonotary Warblers. On June 3 we counted 9 singing males, and have been able to look into two nests.

Also on these trips we identified (along the shore line) two White-eyed Vireos--about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles apart. This was in early June.

The other thing I would like to report is a number of nesting Upland Sandpipers about 5 miles southwest of Seymour. I'm sorry I can't be more scientific. This is for two reasons--first I didn't realize there were several until late in the season, and second, there was a particularly mean-looking bull in the pasture, and I wasn't able to look for nests. I had been watching one (male?) who was always on the same fence post when I drove out. I assumed his mate was brooding nearby. Then one day instead of retracing my steps, I drove on around the square mile of pastureland--no houses. I spotted 4

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others on fence posts. Later I began to see young. On July 4, we saw a congregation of approximately 20. On July 6 we saw 6, and after July 15, I saw none. They apparently migrated even earlier than Bent indicates.

It seems to me the Orchard Orioles, Black-billed Cuckoos and Grasshopper Sparrows are all more numerous this year--I am seeing more.

We just returned from a trip to Southern Arizona and The Mile Hi in Ramsey Canyon--makes the birding here seem a bit mundane!

Hope this rambling is of some value to you.

Yours truly,

*Charlotte Scott*

*Seymour*