

17 August, 1976

Dear Nick:

I'm sorry that my contribution to your first Field Reports is so meager, but I've not been out much and neither has anyone else. The Mooneys were gone the entire month of July. Pete asked me to notify the local people and those in nearby towns of your takeover and set the 25th as the deadline. Dean Mosman at Ankeny is evidently away and cannot be reached.

I never attempted a very reliable synopsis of the weather; relying upon the press for statewide information. My remarks were often confined to D M and so stated.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron. While scarce, we usually find a few, but none this year.

Hawks. No accipiters reported. No Red-shouldered, of course, and very few Red-tailed. No evidence of nesting Kestrels.

Shorebirds. Very few due to lack of suitable areas. Stilt Sandpiper on 9 Aug. at Hendrickson's Slough (R. Mooney) Upland Sandpipers seen at intervals during summer and a bird thought an imm. seen recently (Gene Armstrong, Booneville).

Cuckoos. Saw and/or heard a few Yellow-billed. No Black-billed.

W. Kingbirds. Nested again on same utility pole, in front of Harry Bgardsley's house in W. D.M. Four young fledged. They were seen early where they nested for several years in the city park in Ankeny, but disappeared. (Dean Mosman).

Terns. Black and Forster's scarce.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Ankeny ponds early and presumed to have nested. I don't know if Mosman saw and banded any this year

Gene Burns at Jamaica may send you this. An Avocet at Lakin Slough late in July.

These should have headed the list. Hikers led by Beth Brooks of the Cons. Comm. saw a White Pelican at L. Easter, no date. George Buck of D.M. is not much of a birder, but told me he had seen 2 Pelicans on South Twin Lake, near Rockwell C. No date.

I'm very sorry to learn of your distressing experience. Can't imagine anything more shocking, although I suspect you had a premonition of what was ahead.

*one*

I don't know what to say about the Saw-whet mentioned on the enclosed. I've had one or two earlier references to this, but have ignored them without getting into trouble. Mrs. G. has a forceful personality. Now I'm off the hook.

Windy