

PETER ERNZEN
407 COURT
IDA GROVE 51445

Dear Dr. Dinsmore, I was looking through my report and noticed a late date an usual summer date and several unusual locations for two birds.

The Black Bellied Plover is familiar to me however it is always nice to see one in alternate plumage. The bird was larger than a Killdeer, with its bold black and white speckled back, white head and sides and black face, bill, throat, belly and feet.

The Cerulean Warbler in Cherokee County was outstanding. I believe that more birds (Cerulean and others) could be found along the Little Sioux and Raccoon Rivers. The bird was a brilliant blue with white wing bars, white chine, and black breast band and dark blue streaks on the side of the white belly.

The Veery(s) were also a pleasant surprise. I recognized the call before I saw the brown thrush. The distinctive call Veer, Veer, Veer and the unstreaked breast of the bird left little doubt. Three birds were heard and they all acted territorial.

Another highlight was all the warbler species at the Mines of Spain Recreation Area - of the seven species the best two were the Prothonotary and the Tennessee. The Prothonotary was in traditional nesting area - present when I left Dubuque 7 years ago. Though expected in Dubuque it does fill in a new county as far as records go. The best warbler though was the unexpected Tennessee Warbler. I first noticed it by song. I honestly can say I did not recognize it at first (one does not expect to see a Tennessee Warbler in the first week of July), though the trill at the end of the song was familiar. I located a bird 10 feet up that looked like a Red Eyed Vireo and almost dismissed it as such until I heard it sing. Well I put 2 and 2 together and came up with Tennessee Warbler.

I think that the Mines of Spain Area in Dubuque County deserves more intense looks. I only get there on holidays and such so it limits my birding opportunities. However, I think that a little effort could produce Hooded, Blue Winged, Worm Eating, Kentucky Warblers or maybe some other nice bird.