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Norris

Dr. Dinsmore,
Here are a few summer bird reports from NE Iowa
that I would like to "officially" submit to you before I
forget.

June 10 1998

Winneshiek County, Bluffton Fir Stand State Preserve.

- 1) Two active sapsucker nests (both with young)
- 2) One singing hooded warbler.
- 3) One singing mourning warbler. I did not see the bird,
but heard it sing repeatedly at close distance from a
thicket in a deep ravine
for a twenty minute period at mid-day.
Song was a consistent "CHEERY CHEERY cheery cheery" and
"CHEERY CHEERY cheery". I am very familiar with mourning
warbler vocalizations from my years living in northern
Wisconsin. A house wren was singing nearby, to
provide contrast and rule out this possibility. Same, loud
character as a Kentucky warbler song. The only other
possibility, in my mind, would be a Mc'Gillivray's warbler,
which is of course out of range (but I do recall reading
that Mark Peterson found one in central Iowa a few years
ago).

Delaware County, Backbone State Park

- 3) One singing black-throated green warbler.
- 4) One singing chestnut-sided warbler.
- 5) One singing veery

I did not see any of these birds, but heard all songs at
close distance.

June 14

Allamakee County, Fish Farm Mounds State Wildlife Area.

- 1) At least one (possibility two) sandhill crane was heard
singing in the
Mississippi River bottoms (where I heard it from a high
vantage point in the above area). Obviously, crane was
not in the Wildlife Area itself.

June 16

Allamakee County, Fish Farm Mounds State Wildlife Area.

1) An active (with eggs) rufous-sided towhee nest was discovered by Russ Reiss (who was with me) on a hill prairie in this public area. Eggs were burgundy spotted. Russ saw towhee enter and leave nest.

Hope this is of interest! I may have more birds to report from NE Iowa later this summer.

Bill