



***Big Sioux Wildlife Management Unit* MEMO**

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To: Jim Dinsmore
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Subject: IOU observations

Enclosed is a rather pathetic list for the summer season! After returning from Florida in mid-June I was swamped with enough catch-up work that I never had time for much birding. Have been trying to follow the Red-necked Grebe weekly. I'm sure you're aware from other reports that the pair hatched 3 young, of which only one remained at last sighting a little over a week ago. Lee Schoenewe and I speculate that snapping turtles—abundant in Jemmeson—likely may be the predator responsible. The parents were just too protective of young to have much other risk than “an attack from below”.

Thanks for the article from the 1881 *Forest & Stream* regarding “sport” in NW Iowa—always interesting to read about the wildlife and conditions at time of settlement. Did I ever mention to you that Tom Neal, Mike Mahn and I canoed part of Waterman Creek in O'Brien County about four years ago? Just above the largest tract of DNR land on the creek, we dug a set of elk antlers out of the stream bank. They fell into several pieces, so Mike took them home and has been trying to epoxy them back together. Haven't asked him lately how that ever came out. We theorized that the Waterman-Little Sioux valley in this area would have made an ideal wintering area for plains elk.

Thanks also for the information about birding south Florida. We were down there for a week, half of which was spent trying to find our daughter and the HS band at Disney World. But we spent three days in the Sanibel Island-Corkscrew Swamp area, and I managed to add 17 species to my life list (I had about 40 on the “want” list, with a goal of getting at least 15), so I was quite happy with my findings. A nice nesting colony of Least Terns at Sanibel was a highlight

Hope to see you sometime this fall, if not at a meeting or something perhaps we'll be in Ames to visit Ryan. Good luck with him as an advisee—hope he doesn't cause you any grief. Indoctrinate him into the world of birds if you can. I've tried, but without any great success. He seems to have a “pheasant fixation” to an occasional point of distraction. It did help for him to work for the Lyon County Conservation Board this summer, however. He got to help lead some field trips with the naturalist, and I came home one day to find him studying a field guide so he knew more about the birds he was seeing at Lake Pahoja Park. Maybe there's hope!