

27 May 1981

Dear Hank,

As I have made some progress regarding the Hotline, I thought I would bring you up to date. Some time in early June I will hold a brainstorming session, using such Iowa City talent as Tom Kent, Tom Shires, Mike Newlon and Carl Bendorf. I do not expect you to come, but your ideas would be welcome. This is rather short notice, but you probably have been thinking about the Hotline anyway. I would appreciate it if you would drop me a note sometime soon. In particular, we need ideas in the following areas: 1. Selling the idea--who would use it and why? 2. Costs ---I've priced phone lines & tape machines. We are talking about an initial cost of \$200, and then \$1-200 per year. I wonder if I have overlooked something. 3. Financing--imaginative alternatives to I. O. U. dues would wonderful. 4. Operation--nuts & bolts of running it. 5. Evaluation --after a year or two we should decide whether it is worth the expense and effort. So far I have written Larry Balch and I am soon going to contact some other nearby R. B. A.s.

Lately my birding has been dull. Tom Kent has seen Conn. and Mourning Warblers, but a miserable cold has kept me inside. I have missed all the warblers. The only local rarities are the Bewick's Wrens (their nest has been found) and a pair of Chats. Both of these have been found in heavily birded Hickory Hill Park. It makes you wonder what is flying around in places where no one goes.

I will be in Webster City, at a wedding, on 3 July. I hope to get some birding in on Saturday morning. I know that is not exactly prime time, but is there any chance of my finding anything interesting up that way.

Take care & good birding.

Rick Hollis
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my day time phone # (at least
until the end of July is
319-353-7267