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Copy for
Tom Kent

Hi Jim,

Normally I am gone in the summer, so I seldom submit bird reports for this period. Again this summer I was in Iowa only off and on, so had little time to bird our area. However, there are a few items of interest that I think I should report. Both of them straddle July and August. This report will undoubtedly arrive too late, so I'm also mailing a copy to Tom Kent, to be included in the fall report. (I am on leave this fall; most of this time we will spend in California. So I will not be writing my usual fall report for Tom.)

- ✓ - Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: On June 22 I found an adult Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Oak Grove Park in western Sioux County. The bird was drumming at the top of a utility pole, towards the bottom of the park. On August 4 I was birding Sioux County with Ken Hollinga (Ken is an experienced birder -- he is currently the general manager of ABA conventions and conferences). At exactly the same location in Oak Grove we found an adult Yellow-bellied Sapsucker along with a juvenile -- an all-brownish bird with a white wingpatch. Ken Hollinga confirmed the sighting. Given both the June and the August observations, it looks as if the Sapsucker successfully nested in Sioux County this summer.
- ✓ - Sedge Wren: This summer there were two large Sedge Wren colonies in the Oak Grove Park area. One of them was along the north side of the road leading into the park. The other was in a grassy area to the south of the prairie area of the park. The birds were still singing lustily on August 4. At least a dozen or more were singing in each one of the two areas.
- ✓ - Bell's Vireo: Still singing in the brushy prairie areas of Oak Grove Park on August 4.
- Blue Grosbeak: Exceptionally common this summer.
- Dickcissel: Abundant in western Sioux County this summer.

cc: Tom Kent

John Van Dyk

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August 14, 1995

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