

Summer 1999

Diane Porter

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Most of these reports are from boating up and down the southern part of the Skunk River, between Rublo (Washington County) and Oakland Mills (Henry County, I think).

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8/4/99
Records: 18

ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
1	Double-crested Cormorant	1	7/4/99	Skunk River, Rublo, IA	River
	One cormorant swam in the river downstream from Rublo.				
2	Green Heron	3	7/5/99	Skunk River, Rome, IA	Riparian
	Three together.				
3	Solitary Sandpiper	2	7/11/99	Skunk River, Coppock, IA	River
	On our way upriver between Coppock and Drighton we came on two Spotted Sandpipers, which flitted 2 inches above the water. They were in the same place when we came back down, so I suspect they are nesting in this area.				
4	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	7/17/99	Lake Darling, Brighton, IA	Trees/Riparian
	Heard 2 YB Cuckoos in trees by the lake. I also saw or heard at least 3 YB Cuckoos at each 6-10 mile stretch of the Skunk River (between Rublo and Rome) on each of about 10 outings in June and July.				
5	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	4	7/11/99	Skunk River, Coppock, IA	Riparian
	It's not unusual, but I wanted to round out the picture of the swallows along the southern Skunk River in Washington, Jefferson, and Henry Counties.				
6	Bank Swallow	40	6/25/99	Skunk River, Jefferson Co., IA	River Banks
	Between Coppock and the Hwy 146 bridge over the Skunk, we found few Bank Swallow nests. There were 20 active nest holes this day in the area where last year there were 200. (Last year the nests were submerged by flooding during the nesting season.) The nests are concentrated in a stratum of white, fine sand.				
7	Bank Swallow	24	6/25/99	McCain Access, Washington Co., IA	Skunk River
	Just downstream from McCain Access on the Skunk River in Washington County, we found 12 active Bank Swallow nests. These nests run slightly downhill from the entrance, rather than uphill as other Bank Swallow nest I have seen do.				
8	Bank Swallow	10	6/26/99	Skunk River, Brighton, IA	River Banks
	A few Bank Swallows skimmed the surface of the water near a small group of nest holes a little ways upstream from Brighton. The nests are concentrated in a stratum of white, fine sand. This is Washington County.				
9	Bank Swallow	120	7/5/99	Skunk River, Rome, IA	River Banks
	Just below Rome on the Skunk River we found 60 active Bank Swallow nests in a tall bank. The nests were in a white stratum of sandy soil.				
10	Cliff Swallow	1000	6/25/99	Hwy 146 & Skunk, Jefferson Co., IA	Bridge
	Under the Hwy 146 concrete bridge over the Skunk River, in eastern Jefferson County, in a swarm of birds, I counted 500 Cliff Swallow nests, all of which seemed to be active. I therefore postulated 1000 individuals. This is the only Cliff Swallow colony we found on the Skunk between Rublo in Washington County and Oakland Mills in Henry County.				

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ITEM	COMMON NAME	NUM	DATE	LOCATION	HABITAT
11	Barn Swallow	10	7/11/99	Skunk River, Coppock, IA	River
	It's not unusual, but I wanted to round out the picture of the swallows along the southern Skunk.				
12	Carolina Wren	1	7/18/99	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Residential area
	One approached an active nest of house wrens and was instantly invited by the nesters to leave the area.				
13	Bewick's Wren	1	7/1/99	My back yard, Fairfield, IA	Residential area
	I heard a Bewick's Wren sing one song this morning. It is the first and only time I've had any evidence of them since the young fledged from across the street early in June.				
14	Wood Thrush	1	7/17/99	Lake Darling, Brighton, IA	Trees
	Heard in the trees by Lake Darling				
15	Northern Parula	2	7/11/99	Skunk River, Coppock, IA	River
	This run of river between Brighton and Coppock is the only place I found parulas this summer.				
16	American Redstart	3	7/11/99	Skunk River, Coppock, IA	River
	Heard its song several places along the river, and saw it once, an orange-and-black male, going "weezy, weezy, weezy," and other more complicated refrains.				
17	Song Sparrow	10	7/11/99	Skunk River, Coppock, IA	Riparian
	Song Sparrow is the second most ubiquitous, bird along the Skunk between Rubio and Rome. One is seldom out of hearing its song.				
18	Indigo Bunting	20	7/11/99	Skunk River, Coppock, IA	Riparian
	Indigo Bunting is perhaps the most abundant, or at least the most ubiquitous, bird along the Skunk between Rubio and Rome. One is never out of hearing its song.				

11-18-99

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