

5/27/80
Brunner
DAB
Nora Springs, Iowa
May 28, 1980

Dear Tom;

It is reporting time again. I hope birding has been good in your area. It has been sort of "on again off again" here.

✓ HERONS - The little green heron that nested twice last summer in the same nest located in a cedar tree has returned and is incubating ~~4~~ 5 eggs in the same nest. More material has been added to the bottom of the nest so the eggs cannot be seen from below as was possible last year.

✓ On April 12 I photographed 2 American egrets on the shore of Clear Lake - seemed early for them.

✓ GEESE - On the same day (April 12) I photographed 2 white-fronted geese at Clear Lake. I thought it late for them to be here.

✓ HAWKS - On April 19 a male sharp-shinned hawk struck our window while chasing another bird and was stunned. I photographed it and placed it in a tree where it recovered and flew away.

SHORE BIRDS - seemed to be scarce this spring in this area possibly due to lack of ponds in farm fields.

TERNs- I observed 3 black terns on a log in the Shell Rock River at Nora Springs on May 13.

Cuckoos - have been hearing a yellow-billed cuckoo in our woods since May 24.

GOATSUCKERS, ETC.- Night hawks have been late arriving and are fewer than usual. Chimney swifts are numerous.

✓ A humming bird has been flying around our redbud tree since May 17. There may be two but I have identified only the male.

WOODPECKERS - Redheaded are numerous in wooded areas. Some spent the winter here and came to the feeders.

FLYCATCHERS - Eastern kingbirds are seen frequently and a great crested and eastern phoebe were observed in our yard.

SWALLOWS - Rough-winged, barn, and cliff swallows are numerous but few purple martins.

MIMICS - not as many catbirds as usual but brown thrashers are plentiful.

✓ THRUSHES - robins are more numerous than the last few years. I saw one hermit thrush April 28, and later observed numerous Swainsons and several gray cheeked. Several people reported seeing eastern bluebirds but I didn't see any in our area.

Genevieve Nelson will send you a picture of a mountain bluebird her family observed close by their home near Plymouth.

KINGLETS - Ruby-crowned were observed from April 19 through the middle of May.

VIREOS - Red-eyed quite common as usual. I observed one solitary high in a tree in our yard on May 21 and heard a warbling.

WARBLERS - Myrtle warblers were numerous - came early and stayed late - palms were seen frequently. The other warblers were slow coming and were not observed in large numbers. Here in our area I saw the black and white, Tennessee, Blackburnian, yellow, magnolia, chestnut sided, yellowthroat, redstart and Canada. Just last Saturday (May 24,) there were a number of Canadas in our woods. They are one of the last to arrive so I assume the warbler season is over.

BLACKBIRDS - I have observed several bobolinks along the roadsides, red-winged are numerous and yellow-headed are plentiful in marsh areas. There seem to be more northern orioles here than in previous years.

FINCHES - Rose-breasted grosbeaks appear to be more numerous in this area than usual. A number of pairs have been reported.

Indigo buntings have been around for several weeks. A male was in our bird bath last Saturday. I have seen only one dickcissel here (May 1). Goldfinches are still coming to the thistle feeders. Two white-crowned sparrows were here May 13-14. This is the first time I have seen them in our yard. White-throated sparrows were numerous from late April until the middle of May. On May 14 a Lincoln's sparrow crashed into a neighbor's window and was killed. There was one on our front lawn the same day.

Please send me some report forms and documentation forms. I am enclosing stamps.

Sincerely,

Dorothy A. Brunner