

GETSCHER

May 19, 1980

Dear Dr. Kent:

Well, I gotten past birthdays and graduations, so I can send in my report to you. Unless so stated all birds in the report were seen in and around our yard. Because of the unusual weather - and spring - I am also adding the late arrival dates. There has been conspicuous absence of thrushes and no towhees. My friends complain about the same. I haven't heard or seen a Carolina wren since the winter of 1976-77. Bank swallows are again building nests in a bank just below our house. I am hoping they won't be disturbed, but the man who owns the land is gun-happy, so don't have much hopes. The kingfisher tried building a nest near here, but got run out as in the past.

When Ruth Phipps, Genevieve DeLong and another friend and I were at Squaw Creek Refuge (Missouri), about 50 miles south of our home) on May 9th we saw the following hundreds of lesser and greater yellowlegs, yellowthroats and yellow warblers. Some dunlins, many Hudsonian godwits, sandpipers: least, stilt, pectoral, semi-palmated, white-rumped and spotted; some dowitchers, and Wilson phalaropes. The reason for reporting these is the fact that within two to eight days these same birds will migrate through Fremont County.

I meant to tell you that the friends above complained about the lack of warblers. I have seen and heard more than they have - and all in my yard. Talked with a friend from San Diego, Calif. yesterday who said they were having very few warblers, too.

A friend of mine described a saw-whet owl seen on her farm several times around the 14th of February.

We are over-run with Baltimore orioles again this year. I am sure I heard the black-billed cuckoo about three days ago, but I was in such a rush that I didn't stand still to listen good. I have to for them.

*Saw an orchid at Squaw Creek like I write over at
Waubesaie*

*Regards
Tom*

January to almost end of February An aberrant house sparrow seen in my friend's yard (Ross Silcock IBL XLIX:88) I can give description if you wish

February, Middle lots of kestrels, red-tails, bald eagles in the County, a beautiful specimen of melanistic phase of roughleg, as well as other roughlegs and a Krider's hawk over our yard

February 29 ----- yellow-bellied sapsucker

March 20 100,000 snows and blues, about a dozen brant, white-fronted geese (increasing in #s over the last few years) 3 species of Canada geese, heavy concentration of all species of ducks, including a few canvasbacks and redheads. Only one common merganser, all seen at Forney's Lake in company of Ruth Phipps. A number of hunters and game wardens there, too.

March 23 ----- Wood ducks trying to find a home in tree in our yard

March 26 ----- huge blackbird migration

April 7 ----- first house wren to appear

April 12 *early* ----- purple martin scouts - very late

April 13 ----- bank swallows and roughwings - also late arrivals

April 21 ----- eight Brewer's blackbirds

----- brown thrasher

April 21-26 thirty more or less yellow-headed blackbirds at the Lakeview barrow pit.

April, middle of May warblers in order of arrival: orange-crowned, yellow-rumped, Wilson's, yellow, Nashville, Tennessee and yellowthroat. Vireos: warbling, red-eyed and Philadelphia. Ruth Phipps and I saw the yellow-throated vireo at Squaw Creek on the 9th of May

May 3 thirty white pelicans; then later we saw a hundred or so pelican at Squaw Creek, May 9th

May 13 Bell's vireo in our yard
Harris sparrow last seen and heard

May 18 Blue grosbeak

no doc no reason to believe this etc