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FIELD REPORTS: June 1 through July 31, 1999

FROM: Pam and Reid Allen (P & R Allen)
1601 Pleasant Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265

NOTE: In the "OBSERVERS" column, if there is an * after the name, this designates the person who FIRST made the observation.

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS
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Red-necked Grebe	1	3 June	Story Co.- Colo Ponds	P & R Allen
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NOTE: this bird was first discovered by Hank Zaletel
Details: This bird appeared to be still in its first winter plumage; however, the large, lighter colored bill and long, tall neck easily distinguished this bird from the Blue-winged Teals and Mallards which were also present. We learned later that there were several Hooded Mergansers also at this location, but there is no way this bird could have been a Hooded Merganser (unless somebody stretched its neck on a rack and gave it a huge bill!)

Black-crowned Night Heron	1	12 July	Saylorville Res., Sandpiper Beach Rd. (at the little pond just before you go into the big parking lots to the beach or boat ramp)	P & R Allen
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NOTE: Eugene and Eloise Armstrong were there earlier in the day and there were two juveniles present. When we were there later in the day, we only saw the one bird. The distinguishing field mark that told us this was a Black-crowned rather than a Yellow-crowned was the bi-colored bill and shorter legs. The plumage looked more to me like a first spring bird rather than an immature bird, but Eugene said he thought they were immatures. I won't argue with the authorities, I guess!

Semipalmated Plover	1	19 June	Pottawattamie Co.-IPL Ponds	P & R Allen
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NOTE: Jim, we thought it was rather strange to see this alternate plumaged bird this late in June. Was it an early "returnee" or a late spring migrant?

Least Tern	2	19 June	Pottawattamie Co.-IPL Ponds	P & R Allen
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Barn Owl	1	4 July	Taylor Co. - Zelbert Fremeyer res.	P & R Allen
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NOTE: Jim, we saw one adult sitting in the west "big barn" up on the rafters. I sure hope someone reports, or keeps in contact with Zelbert so we know how successful the nesting was this year. Zelbert was not at home when we were there.

Eastern Screech-Owl	1	28 June	Polk Co.-1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
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NOTE: This very young gray phase Eastern Screech-Owl only stayed in our yard for one day and night and the only reason it is included here is because it's the first time we've seen an Eastern Screech-Owl anywhere near our yard.

Western Kingbird	2 adults 4 juveniles	17 July	Polk Co.-State Capitol Bldg., Des Moines	P & R Allen
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NOTE: We have been checking on the possible nesting of these birds most of the spring and this was the first spring we did not have any on our Spring Migration Count. So, we were very happy when we stopped this day and found a successfully raised family!

Tennessee Warbler	1	17-18 June	Polk Co.-1601 Pleasant St., WDM	P & R Allen
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NOTE: late migrant?

Blue Grosbeak	1	19 June	Mills Co. - 1/4 mi. south of the junction of Hwy. 34 west and L31	P & R Allen
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