

5/30/80

DeLong  
G.D

314 North Silver  
Lamoni, Iowa 50140  
May 29, 1980

Dr. Thomas H. Kent  
211 Richards Street  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear Dr. Kent:

I used to send notes to Woodward Brown, but I have not sent any lately.

I have a few records that are interesting to me, but I do not know what you are wanting. I shall try, and if no good, throw them in the wastepaper basket.

✓ I have ten highbush cranberry bushes in my back yard. This last year there was an abundance of berries. The waxwings found them in March, but there were so many berries that they could not begin to consume them. I did count 42 one day. They would fly to a pin oak where it was easy to count them.

On Friday, April 11, Lamoni had 6 inches of very wet snow. The snow started about 10:30 that morning and the Robins began to come into the yard to eat the cranberries. The bushes were covered with the wet snow, but the many Robins brushed the snow from the limbs as they hunted for the berries. It was quite a sight to watch them with the snow coming down. I counted over 100 in the yard and am sure there were more than that. There were a few waxwings among them that day. The Robins consumed most of the berries, but there were a few left for the waxwings and I banded several later.

✓ On May 19, I counted 38 Black Terns all lined up in a straight line on the shore of Lamoni's waterwork sewer system lagoons south of town. I counted eight terns winging their way over the water. When tired, they would alight with the others and then some of them would take off. With them on the shore were a few Wilson's Phalaropes in the grass and on the mud flat, looking for insects. Many Yellowlegs there, too.

✓ On April 18, I saw several Bonapart Gulls flying over the lagoons. Their bills were black.

✓ On May 18, I put up a net in front of an autumn olive hedge. The hedge was in full bloom and was attracting many bumble bees. I had to take the net down, for one cannot get a bumble bee out of a net, but before I did, I netted five Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Three were males and two females. I do not band them in Iowa, but did have bands to band the Broad-tailed Hummers in Rocky Mountain National Park where I spent so many summers. It was quite a sight to see those hummers fly from the olive hedge to the arrowwood bushes. There must have been a big migration of them that day.

Sincerely yours,

*Genevieve DeLong*

## Geese and Ducks

✓ On March 31, 1980, many Canada geese on Lake Lashane. One White-fronted goose among them. Donald Gillaspie called me to come to the lake to see the many, many Snow Geese resting on a hillside near the lake.

At the sewer lagoons south of town there were Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ruddies, and Buffleheads on March 31.

✓ Upland Sandpipers becoming scarce since the farmers are plowing up all the pastures and land that was put into the soil banks.

✓ Caspian Terns ( 3 ) on Lake Lashane on May 7.

✓ Bonaparte Gulls flying low over the sewer lagoons south of Lamoni  
On May 19. Black Terns on the lagoons. Story on another page.

## Flycatchers

✓ On May 27, an Olive-sided Flycatcher was sitting on a limb of a dead tree near my net. He said, "Quick, three cheers!" Haven't heard one since 1968, the last year I did banding in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. Found their nests there.

## Thrushes

Hermits banded April 17 No Gray-cheeked thrushes seen and Swainson's scarce. Robins on a separate page..

✓ Banded Golden-crowned Kinglets on April 4. Haven't had them for several years. Did get them last fall so they are making a comeback after the harsh winter. Got a Ruby-crowned the same time, rather early for them.

## Warblers

Got Myrtles on April 26 and a Palm on May 2. I was disappointed after that. Usually band Tennessees and Nashvilles and Orange crowns, Didn't even hear a Tenn. this year.

Finally got one Black and White and one Nashville on May 11. Then on May 14 - 22 began to get a few interesting ones. Redstarts; Ovenbirds; Wilsons; Canada; and Magnolia. I had not seen or banded a Magnolia since 1977. And a beautiful male Mourning Warbler.

## Icterids and Finches.

✓ Purple Finches. Did not have one finch come to my feeder and I have always banded many of them in March before they go north. No one in Lamoni had any either and this town is a flyway for them.

On May 17 saw Bobolinks in a pasture, they nest here.

Grackles - Too many Grackles this year. Have banded 29. Now when I dare to go near the net, where I caught them, they follow me and scold. You would think I was a cat.

Sparrows. Very poor spring for migrating sparrows. Didn't even see a Fox Sparrow and always get them; Banded only one Harris, one White Crown, two Lincolns, three Swamps, but banded 14 White-throated Sparrows.

Will be anxious to see your spring report to see what other banders and observers found scarce.

*Genevieve De Long*

*May 29. 1980*