

RR2 Malvern Iowa 51551  
Aug 2, 1980

Dear Tom,

Here is my summer report. The Records Committee draft looks good. I will be able to attend a meeting at the fall IOU meeting.

Am. White Pelican Some 50 were present at Forney Lake throughout the period. No evidence of breeding however.

Double-crested Cormorant Two at Forney Lake July 11.

Great Blue Heron 16 at Forney Lake July 11: probably post-breeding visitants, possibly from a local heronry as yet undiscovered, although search has not disclosed one. Usually present all summer at Riverton, however.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: Three reported by Stones at Forney in July. Expected as can usually be found there in summer and also probably breeds in vicinity.

Snow Goose 6 at Forney July 11. Also regular summer ~~vi~~ resident, but not breeding. Some 30 summered in 1979.

Am. Coot About 100 at Forney July 11. However not breeding, probably due to low water levels, as about two feet of water are needed (see also Yellow-headed Blackbird).

Barn Owl Resident birds seen twice in period, although young birds not heard as yet. The 1979 young were out of the nest and vocal in early August.

Chuck-will's-widow Apparently established as a breeding bird north of Waubonsie State Park in the bluffs area, where 8-9 were heard by Bob Myers and myself July 11. This bird seems to occur in areas where pasture runs up valleys into the wooded areas of the loess bluffs. This area is the same where two were heard by me in 1978. They have also been heard in Mills County in similar habitat with some regularity.

Belted Kingfisher Seem to be more common this year after a few years of low summer numbers. Possibly related to recent harsh winters reducing populations of this bird which insists on trying to winter in sub-zero temperatures, with this last mild winter allowing the northerly-wintering population to survive.

Common Flicker Of five encountered June 3-5 in Sioux and Lyon Counties, all but one orange bird were yellow-shafted.

Alder Flycatcher One at Gitchie-Manitou SP June 5, probably late migrant.

Olive-sided Flycatcher One at Oak Grove ~~SP~~, June 5, also late migrant.

Swallows and Martin Migration well under way by end of period. Earliest signs July 11, with mixed flock at Forney including 10 Purple Martins and Cliff, Bank, and Barn Swallows.

Tufted Titmouse One heard June 4 Gitchie-Manitou SP at northern edge of range. Johnsgard in Birds of the Great Plains gives the northern edge as only part way up the Big Sioux River to the Minnesota line.

- N. Mockingbird One singing loudly (as is usual) in Lyon County just north of the Kroger Tract on the Big Sioux June 4 on a Foray survey route. Only one bird was seen, and none were found there in July by Stones.
- Loggerhead Shrike In normal numbers in Fremont County (even though we missed it on the Big Day).
- Bell's Vireo Also normal numbers in Fremont County. Also heard in Lyon ~~and~~ County on Foray.
- Yellow-throated Vireo None found in Lyon or Sioux Counties on Foray, but Johnsgard shows it to occur up the Big Sioux for some distance.
- Black-and-white Warbler Also not found in northwest Iowa on Foray. Even though within the accepted range, it prefers upland dry woods, which are uncommon to absent in that area.
- N. Parula Warbler One heard singing vigorously in the Kroger Tract in Lyon County June 5. Possible late migrant (breeds ~~east~~ north-central and northwest Minnesota) or even overshoot (Breeds eastern Kansas and Missouri). I am very familiar with the song from three years in North Carolina.
- Ovenbird Two heard in the Kroger Tract, Lyon County June 5. Johnsgard shows this species breeding up the Big Sioux River into extreme southwest Minnesota.
- Yellow-breasted Chat Bob Myers heard and saw one at Willow Slough in Mills County during July. To my knowledge this the first record for Fremont or Mills Counties since 1961, although it occurs fairly regularly across the Missouri River in Sarpy County, Nebraska. None were found in Lyon or Sioux Counties, although these ~~areas~~ areas are within its breeding range. Habitat is the limiting factor I believe.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird Apparently this year water levels seriously affected breeding in this species. It was uncommon at Forney Lake in July, and for the first time in five years I saw males on our farm in upland areas during July: five on July 6 and another flock of 10-15 in mid-July. At this time these birds are still on territory.
- Scarlet Tanager One heard at Kroger Tract, Lyon County June 5, ~~near northern edge of range, which extends into~~ Johnsgard shows this species just reaching Minnesota on the Big Sioux River, although it breeds throughout most of Minnesota.
- Rufous-sided Towhee None heard in Lyon county. Johnsgard shows its range ending on the Big Sioux somewhat south of Lyon County, thus it would not be expected in summer in Lyon County.
- Savannah Sparrow One seen June 3 in Sioux County, near the south edge of the breeding range, which extends south to about Sioux City, according to Johnsgard.
- Vesper Sparrow In Fremont County this species is now fairly common, in contrast to northwest Missouri where it is considered casual in summer by Easterla and Anderson. It becomes common further north in Iowa.

See you at fall 1001 - Ross