

July 29, 2003

Hi Jim:

How is retirement going? I hope to join you in that classification within a year. Not much of a summer report as I had back surgery in late May and didn't get out much. Following is my summer 2003 field report (all reports within O'Brien County unless otherwise indicated):

Great Blue Heron: a small rookery in Grant Twp. produced at least two young. Black-crowned Night Heron: two on 13 Jun at Mill Creek S.P. Snow Goose: one each near Sanborn and at Mill Creek S.P. for most of the season. Gadwall: two at Little Clear Lake, Pocahontas Co., on 23 Jun Hooded Merganser: one juvenile at Paullina on 7 Jul. Ruddy Duck: two on July 21 at Lizard L., Pocahontas Co. Cooper's Hawk: one on 16 Jul at Mill Creek S.P. Upland Sandpiper: one to two in Buena Vista, Cherokee, Humboldt, O'Brien, Pocahontas, Webster counties during the season. Caspian Tern: two on 25 Jun at Mill Creek S.P. Black-billed Cuckoo: at least three in the county during the season. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: at least three in the county during the season. Whip-poor-will: at least three in the county during the season. Alder Flycatcher: one on 11 Jun at Mill Creek S.P. Bell's Vireo: one at Dog Creek P. on 26 Jun. Wood Thrush: at least two in Waterman Twp. during the season. Ovenbird: two in Waterman Twp. during the season. Blue Grosbeak: at least five in the county during the season. Yellow-headed Blackbird: four near Sanborn on 1 Jul.

Darwin Koenig Paullina