

To Journal

7/80  
WATSON

July 12, 1980  
1285 East 20th  
Eugene, OR 97403

Vernon M. Kleen  
Division of Wildlife Resources  
Illinois Dept. of Conservation  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Mr. Kleen,

Between July 1 and July 8, I was visiting relatives in Sioux City and Merville, Iowa (both in Woodbury County in the western part of the state). I was fortunate to spend four mornings actively birding and at all times looked for birds wherever I was. Enclosed is a report of some of my sightings -- none unusual but some may be of interest for your nesting season report for AMERICAN BIRDS.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 4 were seen well and a number of others heard.

Chimney Swifts: numerous at Sioux City.

Downy Woodpeckers: heard often (no Hairy heard or seen).

Red-headed Woodpeckers: very obvious and numerous.

Western Kingbirds: a pair were nesting at a farm near Merville.

Great-crested Flycatcher: found at 2 locations in and near Sioux City -  
apparent fledglings seen July 7

House Wrens: they were everywhere!!! on July 1 a second clutch was  
fledged in Sioux City

Brown Thrashers: numerous -- three fledglings seen July 1 in Sioux City

Warbling Vireos: numerous -- a fledgling being fed seen July 3 near Merville

Bell's Vireo: two found on territory July 4 near Merville

Eastern Meadowlark: one found near Merville -- voice distinguished it  
from the many Westerns.

Orchard Oriole: one found near Merville July 3.

Northern Oriole (Baltimore): many seen, two fledglings seen at Sioux  
City July 6

Rose Breasted Grosbeak: several seen or heard

Dickcissel: while traveling country roads, we heard and/or saw them  
about every quarter of a mile -- even within the city limits of  
Sioux City, one of the most plentiful birds. On the farm they  
appeared to have territories closer than we observed along the roads.

Indigo Bunting: two found near Merville

Field Sparrows: heard twice near Merville

Vesper Sparrows: two found near Merville

Song Sparrow: only 1 found -- this is hard for me to believe since they are so plentiful in Western Oregon.

I was unhappy to find no Ruby-throated Hummingbirds -- I remember them so well from my childhood at my Grandmother's Trumpet vine -- I've suggested my sister plant one!!

Though most of my concentrated birding has been in Oregon, I have also birded in Iowa many times and in most of the States and Canada. None of the birds I found were new to me. I am secretary to the Oregon Bird Records Committee and compiler of the "Highlights from the Field Notes" in Oregon Birds, the publication of the Oregon Field Ornithologists.

Hoping these notes will be of some use,

*Clarice Watson*

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