

August 13, 1980

Dear Dr. Kent,

Since sending in the form about the lark bunting I have had a chance to look at the June issue of "Iowa Bird Life." After sighting the birds we did not call out as to what we saw, but only looked at each other in amazement. After a few minutes of silently checking our books, I asked, "Name the bird," and we felt it was the lark bunting right off. At first, I suggested could they be imm. R. H. Woodpeckers but the fact that they were black all over and two of them were streaked and brownish ruled out that fact. --- (SO I thought --- --)

Some years ago when Mrs. De Long lived in Shenandoah, an employee from the Iowa Power Co. sighted them west of Shenandoah on highway # 2, as he drove along in his maintenance truck.

Our exact location from Thrumman for the sighting is 2 miles S. E. of the town.

Some of the other findings are as follows in that same area and day:

Great Blue Herons (at least 5) Forney's Lake at least 40
Green
Little Blue -- Forney's
Gadwall -- along interstate # 29
Blue-winged Teal "
Turkey Vulture -6
Red-tailed Hawk-3
Am. Kestrel - 4
Bobwhite---hills echoed their song
Pheasant--all stages of sizes seen
Coot- Int. # 29
Yellow-billed cuckoos
Western Kingbird
Cliff Swallows- large migrating groups
N. Mockingbird
E. Bluebirds--the country side had many...would see families together
on light wires. It was a beautiful sight.
L. Shrike--several sighted along the road side
Warbling Vireo-- spotted first by song
Yellow N. Blackbird -- 1 male along Int. # 29
Scarlet Tanager- female at Forney's L. in a small tree directly in front of us.
Summer Tanager--female heard the song in area first but never could spot male
Bluegrosbeak--spotted four males singing at different locations in the
area when one would stop the car. The sad part we didn't have
much time so barely touched the area with time. It was a hot,
hot morning and I had to be back to Shenandoah before noon.
Indigo Bunting--singing - many
Dickcissel---could spot at any time on telephone or light wire
R.S. Towhee--several singing
Grasshopper Sparrow---we saw many, many of them along fence rows-- the most
I've ever seen singing--however they seem more abundant in
Shenandoah area this year.
Vesper Sparrows
Field Sparrows--- the hills had many singing - they were in concert form.

The red-breasted nuthatch that I had in my back yard last winter and no one else could even get a glimpse of him for he would flick in and out with that one sun flower seed. Put up a net April the 19th and caught and banded him. Last I saw of him.

Betty Walters