

late

Seymour, Iowa
Sept 12, 1980

Dear Tom,

I'm not sure when the deadline for breeding bird reports is, but since you specifically mentioned no reports from Rathbun in the spring census, I'll send this along.

✓ There were only 17 nests in the Blue Heron rookery at Rathbun--34 last year. I was late getting back there--it's two miles by boat--and we had had two bad wind storms so it's very probable some were destroyed. This was July 12, and there were 4+ young standing in each nest.

✓ There have been about 40 Common Egrets plus 2 Little Blue Heron at the Lake beginning about Aug. 17.

Some of the Cedar Waxwings that stood up to be counted on the Christmas Census came to our house to be fed in Feb-Mar-Apr., about 50-60. We fed them apples halved (they preferred red to green and waited for us to run out and turn the halves over if they got cut side down) which we had saved from our orchard for that purpose. On June 14 a pair came and started a nest in the sycamore under which they'd eaten. In spite of harassment by a male Robin they kept trying for a week but then gave up. Our lawn chair birder-neighbor down the street had a pair build successfully and young hatch. I was telling him about the robin harassment--he said he'd had that too. I asked what he did about it, and he said, "I shot the robin." I didn't present the legal aspects nor even attempt to moralize--guess I was too stunned.

We have had a Black-billed Cuckoo build and successfully fledge two young in our yard for the second year running.

✓ The other thing I might mention are the nesting Bell's Vireos on the railroad right of way near here. There were two singing males June 14-20. I could see the nests but did not get to examine them for number of eggs etc. I read recently that this Vireo is in trouble in his wintering area.

✓ We had a good number of Upland Sandpipers in this area again. At least 4 pair nested in a 1½ mile stretch south of Seymour.

The waders and shore birds have been going through in good numbers beginning about July 17 here. I haven't seen anything unusual however.

Good birding!

Charlotte Scott