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## IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 for 7/14/97

Birds Mentioned: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Mississippi Kite Hooded Warbler King Rail Little Blue Heron Snowy Egret Barn Owl Common Black-headed Gull Sabine's Gull Western Grebe Cattle Egret Least Bittern Great-tailed Grackle Chuck-wills Widow Blue Grosbeak Common Moorhen Western Kingbird Least Tern Piping Plover Virginia Rail Swainson's Hawk

To skip the recording and leave a message, just press the star at any time. The week's report begins on a sad note, as Pete Petersen of Davenport passed away on July 12th. Pete made numerous and continuous contributions to birding and the lowa Ornithologist's Union over his lifetime. Memorial services will be held at 7PM, Tuesday, July 15 at St. John's Methodist Church, 14th and Brady Streets in Davenport.

Birding this past week has not seen the typical mid-summer doldrums, as a number of good birds are present in the state, and in addition, shorebirds have begun their return. Highlights include SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER, MISSISSIPPI KITE, and HOODED WARBLER in the central, KING RAIL, LITTLE BLUE HERON, SNOWY EGRET, LEAST TERN, PIPING PLOVER, and BARN OWL in the southwest, COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL and SABINE'S GULL in the northwest, and LEAST TERN and PIPING PLOVER in the southeast.

In the central in Boone County, Sharon Laub, who lives east of Rippey, reported a SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER on the back fenceline at her farm on the evening of the 12th. For further information, you can reach Sharon at (515)436-7792. At the lower area of the Ledges State Park, a nest of MISSISSIPPI KITES has been found near the top left side of a tall cottowood tree. This tree is behind the picnic shelter and to the left of a hiking trail that goes up the hill. In Warren County, the HOODED WARBLER was still singing on the 10th along the trail that runs along the west side of Lake Ahquabi near the intersection with a trail that goes to Camp Wesley Woods.

In the southwest in Fremont County, the number of good bird sightings east of Nebraska City continues to grow. From hiway 2, go north on County Road L-31, and then take the first gravel road to the west. On the 13th, there were LITTLE BLUE HERONS and two SNOWY EGRETS on the south side of this road. Continue west to a T intersection and then go south to where there has been water recently over the road. This is about a quarter mile south of a house on the west side with silos on the east side of the road. Listen for the loud clucking of the KING RAIL here, usually on the west side of the road. In addition to the rail, on the 13th there were LITTLE BLUE HERON, SNOWY EGRET, CATTLE EGRETS, LEAST BITTERNS, and numerous GREAT-TAILED GRACKLES in this area. CHUCK-WILLS WIDOWS were still singing at dusk on the 10th at their traditional loess hills location. From hiway 2 take County Road L-44 north a little ever a mile and a half, and then go east on the first gravel road, where the birds are most easily heard after about a quarter mile. There are also numerous BLUE GROSBEAKS in the Missouri River bottomland in Fremont County, and they are especially easy to find along County Road L-31 between Bartlett and the road to Forney Lake. At Forney Lake itself, LEAST BITTERNS and COMMON MOORHENS were found on the 10th. In Taylor County, BARN OWLS are still nesting in the barn of Zelbert Freemyer, six miles east and a mile south of Bedford. In Pottawattamie County, a WESTERN KINGBIRD, two LEAST TERNS and two PIPING PLOVERS were seen at the MidAmerican Energy Co's south settling pond south of Council Bluffs on the 10th.

In the northwest in Dickinson County, a COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL and a first year SABINE'S GULL were seen on the 8th at the Kettelson Waterfowl Production Area, which is found by taking hiway 276 north from Spirit Lake, and where it skirts Big Spirit Lake along its west edge, turn west on 125th Street, and look for the pond on the south side of the road. In Worth County on the 8th, three WESTERN GREBES were on Silver Lake and VIRGINIA RAILS were in the marsh north of 500th Street, which runs along the north side of Silver Lake.

In the southeast in Des Moines County, two PIPING PLOVERS and two LEAST TERNS were seen from the Casey-Barrow Access to the Mississippi River about ten miles north of Burlington on the 13th.

In the northeast in Black Hawk County , a SWAINSON'S HAWK was spotted from the Canfield Boat Ramp area at George Wyth State Park on the 11th.

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