

August 1, 1982

Dear Dr. Kent,

June was cool - below average. Omaha reported rainfall slightly below average, but many areas around ~~Omaha~~ have got much more rainfall than the official Omaha weather stations. Wales, a small community in Montgomery county west of Elliot, reported 10" of rain the night (June 14-15) the Amtrak train derailed and Emerson + Hastings flooded. Many areas got over 6" that night.

July has been warm + it seems dry - maybe just average. That would seem dry after springs.

Willow Slough is full.

Good to see you at the meeting in July.

— Barb Wilson

Sorry to get this to you rather late, but at least its short.

As the weather dried out the mosquitoes decreased in number, but the chiggers became common.

Barbara L Wilson
 Rt 1 Box 41
 Hastings, Iowa 51540
 Summer 1982

Farm = Wilson farm, NE Mills County

Species	#	Date	Notes
Pied-billed Grebes			Resident at Willow Slough, at least 2 successful broods + 1 active nest July 31
Eared Grebe	10	June 9	Willow Slough
	15	" 10	"
	7	July 17	" strong evidence of breeding
Green Heron			Resident in the NE Mills County
Least Bittern	1	June 4	dead on road at 2 miles north and 1 mile west of Hastings, Iowa, between two oat fields.
	1	June 17	Willow Slough
Mallard			Resident in NE Mills County
Blue-winged Teal	♀ + 5 young	July 31	Willow Slough
Ruddy Duck			Resident at Willow Slough. At least 13 13. Courtship observed
Red-tailed Hawk	2 fledglings	June 22	Farm. Seen several times after that
American Kestrel	3+ young	July 1	Wearin Prairie, Mills County fledged from a tree at the edge edge of the prairie.
Bobwhite			#'s OK, Mills County
Ring-necked Pheasant			" " "
Bobwhite			" " "
Coot			Resident at Willow Slough
Willet	6	June 25	Willow Slough. Flying over *going north. Gull-like call. Large sandpiper with moderately long, straight bill. Prominent black + white stripe on wing.
Forsters Tern	1	July 31	Willow Slough
Black Tern			Resident at Willow Slough.
Screech Owl	adult + 3 fledglings	June 28	Farm
Helder Flycatcher	1	June 4	Farm "Fee-beer" song heard
	1	June 10	" " " " "
Willow Flycatcher			Resident at Willow Slough
House Wren	10 nests		ongoing nests
	12 nests		failed nests, most or all due to predation.
	11 nests		successful (10 of them fledged 60+ young)
Sedge Wren	0	July 20	Wearin Prairie, Mills County
	5+	July 26	" " " "
			singing, apparently territorial.
Mockingbird	1	June 3	Farm. Not seen later

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 Hastings, Iowa 51540
 Spring, 1982

*Species # date

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Catbird			Seem common
✓ Bluebird	26 nests total, in boxes + fence posts.		
Common this year, for Bluebirds	16 successful, 14 of which fledged 50 young. Few managed to get all the eggs to turn into flying young. 4 young in 2 nd successful nests died due to heat. 3 found dead July 7, one found July 14.		
	7 failures, due to predation		
	1 ongoing nests		
	2 with questionable outcomes.		
✓ Cedar Waxwing	2	June 10	Willow Slough
	2	July 14	" "
			Very unusual for me to find Waxwings in circumstances where breeding was possible.
Warbling Vireo			Have arrested their decline on the farm, maybe increased slightly.
Bell's Vireo			resident at at Willow Slough
Yellow Warbler			resident at Willow Slough and, oddly, one at the farm
Redstart			Resident at Willow Slough
House Sparrows			My counts are definitely down, but it would be very optimistic to believe that they're declining. Perhaps an extended sampling error.
Bobolink			Certainly common in some fields - and certainly absent in others
Yellow-headed Blackbird			Resident in Willow Slough
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			The woods are full of ruddy birds, birds with flashing yellow under wings, etc. they look intriguing, but I'm resolutely ignoring them.
Dickcissel - the 3 3-week delay in field work this spring allowed the birds to settle where they would in the fields as they come back from the south. Then in very early June they had to move. They showed up in other fields, one they didn't like at first. And then they moved again as hay + later oats were harvested.			
Scalp, probably lesser	4	June 9	Willow Slough
	5	June 10	" "
	1	July 31	" "
American Wigeon	5	June 9	" "
	3	June 10	" "
	4	July 31	" "