

May 28, 1981

ROBINSON

Dr. Tom Kent
211 Richards st.
Iowa City, Ia.

Dear Dr. Kent;

I'm glad I got a chance to meet you at the recent I.O.U. Meeting in Iowa City. Enclosed you will find a list of birds which I have seen during the Spring of this year. I understand Dr. Dinsmore has given you the documentation form for the Louisiana Waterthrush sighting.

I will be working at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Station in Laurel, Maryland, this Summer, but I should be back in Ames in September.

Sincerely yours,



John C. Robinson
P.O. Box 1015
Welch Ave. Station
Ames, Iowa 50010

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| <u>Podicipedidae</u> | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe(2) | March 26 | Little Wall Lake, Hamilton Co. | |
| <u>Phalacrocoracidae</u> | | | |
| ✓Double-crested Cormorant(15) | April 11 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. | |
| <u>Ardeidae</u> | | | |
| Great Blue Heron(6) | March 26 | Little Wall Lake, Hamilton Co. | |
| Green Heron(1) | May 2 | I.O.U. Meeting, Johnson Co. | |
| ✓Great Egret(3) | April 11 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. | |
| <u>Anatidae</u> | | | |
| White-fronted Goose(12) | March 14 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. | |
| Wood Duck(2) | April 6 | Ames, Story Co. | |
| Gadwall(7) | March 8 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. | |
| Redhead(7) | March 8 | " " " " " | |
| Common Merganser(11) | March 14 | " " " " " | |
| Hooded Merganser(1) | March 8 | " " " " " | |
| Red-breasted Merganser(8) | March 26 | Little Wall Lake, Hamilton Co. | |
| Order Falconiformes | | | |
| Turkey Vulture(5) | April 20 | Ledges State Park, Boone Co. | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk(1) | May 5 | Ledges State Park, Boone Co. | |
| Marsh Hawk(1) | April 11 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. | |
| Broad-winged Hawk(1) | April 16 | Ames, Story Co. | |
| ✓Osprey(1) | May 1 | I.O.U. Meeting, Coralville Dam | |
| American Kestrel(1) | March 8 | Ames, Story Co. | |
| <u>Rallidae</u> | | | |
| American Coot(50) | March 26 | Little Wall Lake, Hamilton Co. | |
| <u>Charadriidae</u> | | | |
| Killdeer(2) | March 8 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. | |
| ✓Killdeer adult with two young | May 6 | Ames, Story Co. | |
| Semipalmated Plover(1) | May 2 | I.O.U. Meeting, Johnson Co. | |
| (4) | May 14 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. | |
| <u>Scolopacidae</u> | | | |
| Greater Yellowlegs(1) | April 20 | Ledges State Park, Boone Co. | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs(2) | April 3 | Little Wall Lake, Hamilton Co. | |
| ✓Solitary Sandpiper(1) | April 20 | Ames, Story Co. | |
| ✓Willet(1) | May 14 | Little Wall Lake, Hamilton Co. | |
| Spotted Sandpiper(1) | April 20 | Ledges State Park, Boone Co. | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper(5) | May 14 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. | |
| White-rumped Sandpiper(1) | May 14 | Little Wall Lake, Hamilton Co. | |
| Least Sandpiper(1) | May 2 | I.O.U. Meeting, Johnson Co. | |
| (2) | May 14 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. | |
| ✓Baird's Sandpiper(2) | May 14 | " " " " " | |
| Dunlin(14) | May 14 | " " " " " | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper(2) | March 28 | Little Wall Lake, Hamilton Co. | |
| <u>Laridae</u> | | | |
| Ring-billed Gull(35) | March 26 | Little Wall Lake, Hamilton Co. | |
| ✓Franklin's Gull(3) | April 25 | Ames, Story Co. | |
| Caspian Tern(5) | May 14 | Little Wall Lake, Hamilton Co. | |
| Black Tern(1) | May 14 | " " " " " | |

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| <u>Columbidae</u> | | |
| Mourning Dove(1) | March 8 | Hickory Grove Park, Story Co. |
| <u>Strigidae</u> | | |
| Barred Owl(1) | April 24 | Ames, Story Co. |
| ✓ Burrowing Owl(1) | April 1 | Ames, Story Co. |
| <u>Caprimulgidae</u> | | |
| Whip-poor-will(2) | May 1 | I.O.U. Meeting, Coralville Dam |
| Common Nighthawk(1) | May 2 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Chimney Swift(2) | April 24 | Ames, Story Co. |
| <u>Picidae</u> | | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker(1) | April 19 | Ames, Story Co. |
| <u>Tyrannidae</u> | | |
| Eastern Kingbird(1) | May 12 | Doolittle Prairie, Story Co. |
| Great-crested Flycatcher(1) | May 2 | I.O.U. Meeting, Johnson Co. |
| | (3) May 15 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Eastern Phoebe(1) | April 2 | Ames, Story Co. |
| ✓ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher(1) | May 22 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Least Flycatcher(2) | April 27 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Eastern Wood Peewee(1) | May 7 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher(1) | May 6 | Ames, Story Co. |
| <u>Hirundinidae</u> | | |
| Tree Swallow(15) | April 11 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. |
| Bank Swallow(100) | May 14 | " " " " " " |
| ✓ Rough-winged Swallow(1) | April 16 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Barn Swallow(1) | April 23 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Cliff Swallow(100+) | May 1 | Iowa City, I.O.U. Meeting |
| (250) | May 14 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. |
| <u>Paridae</u> | | |
| Tufted Titmouse(3) | March 8 | Ledges State Park, Boone Co. |
| (2) | April 25 | Ames, Story Co. |
| <u>Sittidae</u> | | |
| ✓ Red-breasted Nuthatch(1) | March 8 | Ames, Story Co. |
| (1) | April 23 | Ames, Story Co. |
| (1) | May 1 | I.O.U. Meeting, Coralville Dam |
| <u>Certhiidae</u> | | |
| Brown Creeper(1) | April 25 | Dolliver State Park, Webster Co. |
| <u>Troglodytidae</u> | | |
| ✓ Winter Wren(1) | April 2 | Ames, Story Co. |
| House Wren(2) | April 24 | Ames, Story Co. |
| ✓ Short-billed Marsh Wren(10) | May 14 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. |
| ✓ Long-billed Marsh Wren(3) | May 14 | " " " " " " |

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| <u>Mimidae</u> | | |
| ✓ Mockingbird(1) | April 21, | Ledges State Park, Boone Co. |
| Gray Catbird(5) | May 5 | Ledges State Park, Boone Co. |
| ✓ Brown Thrasher(1) | April 11 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. |
| <u>Turdidae</u> | | |
| Wood Thrush(1) | May 2 | I.O.U. Meeting, Johnson Co. |
| Hermit Thrush(1) | April 2 | Ames, Story Co. |
| ✓ Swainson's Thrush(1) | April 27 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Veery(1) | May 22 | Ames, Story Co. |
| <u>Sylviidae</u> | | |
| ✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher(1) | April 16 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet(1) | April 2 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet(3) | April 2 | Ames, Story Co. |
| (1) | May 15 | Ames, Story Co. |
| <u>Laniidae</u> | | |
| Loggerhead Shrike(2) | April 12 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. |
| (1) | April 21 | Ledges State Park, Boone Co. |
| <u>Vireonidae</u> | | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo(1) | May 5 | Ledges State Park, Boone Co. |
| Solitary Vireo(1) | April 25 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Red-eyed Vireo(1) | April 30 | Ames, Story Co. |
| ✓ Philadelphia Vireo(1) | May 10 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Warbling Vireo(1) | May 1 | I.O.U. Meeting, Coralville Dam |
| <u>Parulidae</u> | | |
| Black-and-white Warbler(1) | April 27 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Blue-winged Warbler(2) | May 1 | I.O.U. Meeting, Coralville Dam |
| ✓ Tennessee Warbler(2) | April 27 | Ames, Story Co. |
| ✓ Orange-crowned Warbler(1) | April 19 | Ames, Story Co. |
| ✓ Nashville Warbler(1) | April 25 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Yellow Warbler(2) | May 2 | I.O.U. Meeting, Johnson Co. |
| (2) | May 5 | Ledges State Park, Boone Co. |
| Magnolia Warbler(1) | May 9 | Ames, Story Co. |
| ✓ Cerulean Warbler(2) | April 30 | Ames, Story Co. |
| ✓ Blackburnian Warbler(1) | May 2 | I.O.U. Meeting, Johnson, Co. |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler(1) | May 6 | Ames, Story Co. |
| ✓ Palm Warbler(1) | April 19 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Ovenbird(1) | April 27 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Northern Waterthrush(1) | April 30 | Ames, Story Co. |
| ✓ Louisiana Waterthrush(1)* | April 4 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Common Yellowthroat(1) | April 27 | Ames, Story Co. |
| ✓ Yellow-throated Warbler(2) | April 20 | Ledges State Park, Boone Co. |
| Wilson's Warbler(1) | May 6 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Canada Warbler(1) | May 9 | Ames, Story Co. |
| American Redstart(1) | May 5 | Ledges State Park, Boone Co. |
| <u>Icteridae</u> | | |
| Bobolink | May 12 | Doolittle Prairie, Story Co. |
| Western Meadowlark(1) | March 17 | Ames, Story Co. |
| ✓ Northern Oriole(1) | April 24 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Rusty Blackbird(62) | March 8 | Hickory Grove Park, Story Co. |
| Brown-headed Cowbird(1) | March 21 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Common Grackle(3) | March 8 | Ames, Story Co. |

Thraupidae

Scarlet Tanager(3)

May 15

Ames, Story Co.

Fringillidae

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| Rose-breasted Grosbeak(1) | April 28 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Indigo Bunting(1) | April 27 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Dickcissel(3) | May 14 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. |
| Purple Finch(2) | March 17 | Ames, Story Co. |
| (2) | April 28 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Pine Siskin(7) | March 7 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Pine Siskin(1) | May 12 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Rufous-sided Towhee(1) | April 27 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Savannah Sparrow(1) | April 11 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. |
| Grasshopper Sparrow(1) | April 21 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Vesper Sparrow(2) | April 11 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. |
| Chipping Sparrow(1) | April 6 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Clay-colored Sparrow(3) | April 30 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Field Sparrow(2) | April 2 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Fox Sparrow(1) | April 2 | Ames, Story Co. |
| Lincoln's Sparrow(3) | April 25 | Dolliver State Park, Webster Co. |
| Swamp Sparrow(30) | April 11 | Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co. |

*See Documentation Form which has already been sent to you.

ROBINSON

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Louisiana Waterthrush 2. Number: 1
3. Location Brookside Park; Ames, Iowa; Story County, Washington Twp, Sect. 3

4. Date: April 4, 1981 (and April 5) 5. Time Bird seen: 8:40 AM to 9:00 AM
(ave. 20 minutes each day)

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): Warbler-like in shape, this bird was gray brown on the upper parts and had distinct dark streakings on the breast and belly; the breast and belly were otherwise white and the flanks had a slight tinge of olive coloration. Wing bars were absent. Eyestripe was white and the white throat showed no streakings. Legs were of a light pink coloration. Bill was slender, straight, small and pointed. Size was approximately 5 to 5 1/2 inches.

7. Description of voice, if heard: No song heard. Call consisted of 1-2 dry "chips" which were not as emphatic as the loud, sharp chip of the Northern Waterthrush.

8. Description of behavior: The bird walked along the stream bank with a constant bobbing motion. It turned up leaves and other debris while feeding and often walked along logs, stones, or mudflats which projected out of the water.

9. Habitat - general: small deciduous woodland bordering a medium sized stream, specific: a medium sized stream bordered by overhanging deciduous trees and shrubs and containing many exposed mudflats, rocks and logs.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Ovenbirds have a median crown stripe and an eyering and do not walk with bobbing motions.

Spotted Sandpipers -- are larger and have longer bills.

Thrushes (Turdidae) -- lack an eyestripe

Northern Waterthrush -- has a streaked throat, smaller bill, buffy cream eyestripe and more yellow on underparts.

11. Distance (how measured)? 20 yards estimated by eyesight

12. Optical equipment:
Pentax 10x50 Binoculars and
Bushnell Spacemaster Telescope with 20x eyepiece.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Cloudy on April 4th. Lighting conditions on April 5 & 6 were excellent; sun did not hinder observations.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have seen this species and the species mentioned in #10 above on numerous occasions in previous years. I have also identified Northern Waterthrushes caught in a mist net in 1979.

15. Other observers:
Audrey Moore. (Ames, Iowa)

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes.

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Linda Zaletel, Hank Zaletel, Bill Robbins

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Golden Field Guide by C.S. Robbins
1980 Edition of Peterson's Field Guide by Roger T. Peterson
Warblers of America by L. Griscom and A. Sprunt, jr.
All three references reinforced my initial description given in #6 above.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 6 hours
P.O. Box 1015 Welch Ave. Station

Signature: John C. Robinson Address: Ames

Date: April 14, 1981 City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010