

WILSON

Rt 1 Box 41
Hastings, Ia. 51540
25 Nov. 1982

Dear Mr. Kent

I've decided to get my overly long report to you early.
Weather: Cool, humid. First Killing frost was about a week late, letting all the late-planted corn mature, so we got a bumper crop of corn that's ~~worth~~ worth less than it cost to produce. No significant snow yet. Harvest is late due to humidity ^{+ late planting}.

The acorn crop doesn't exist + the honeysuckle berry crop is abundant, influencing appropriate birds. Hackberry's don't exist this fall either; a mite infested all the trees, + they lost their leaves early. Rough-leaved dogwood had ~~to~~ lots of berries. Multiflora rose crop patchy.

One characteristic of the year has been late reproduction, apparently making up for young lost in the very wet May + June. Downy Young of Blue-winged Teal, Wigeon, + Ruddy Duck were seen in August. Pheasants had quail + dove-sized young in September, + Pheasant, Quail, + Gray Partridge populations are all down. (Bishop, Richard, 1982, 1982 Hunting Prospects, Iowa Conservationist Vol. 41 #10 pp. 6-8). The Wildlife Rescue Team in Wahoo, Nebr. recieved young raccoons in early September + a litter of Bobcats in the middle of the month. I found a road killed ♀ opossum Sept. 6 with 3 flattened young, the size of small rats, ~~many~~.

What is my significant news? ① Red-billed Grebe migration peaks. ② Cinnamon Teal, if true. ③ Wigeon breeding record - sort of expected, but for South + east of usual range. ④ Merlins. ⑤ Decline in Pheasant, Quail, + Huns. ⑥ lots (relatively) of Golden-crowned Kinglets.

It was good to see you at the fall meeting!

Barbara L Wilson

Water at Willow Slough was too high for shorebirds

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Rt 1 Box 41
Hawtingo, Ia. 51540
Fall, 1982

Iowa

Farm = Wilson Farm, NE Mills County

Species	#	Date	Location
Pied-billed Grebe			Interestingly, there were two migration peaks, one in mid-September + the other in early September November. All numbers are minimum counts.
	22	Aug. 3	Willow Slough
	18	Aug 5	
	22	Aug 7	
	28	Aug 10	Grebes bred on the Slough in August
	21	Aug 11	
	23	Aug 14	
	23 44	Aug 16	The number of birds counted depends on their behavior, they may be hidden in emergent vegetation or out in the open, + may be diving or remaining on the surface. Therefore, all counts are minimums.
	19	Aug 17	
	27	Aug 18	
	43	Aug 20	
	33	Sept 6	
	20	Sept 7	
	77	Sept 13	
✓ →	114	Sept 15	
	31	Sept 16	
	41 ⁺	Sept 18	
	21	Sept 23	
	14	Sept 25	
	21	Sept 29	
	22	Sept 30	
	23	Oct 2	
	48	Oct 18	
	33 ⁺	Oct 20	
	44	Oct 21	
	39	Oct 28	
✓ →	105	Nov. 2	
	42	Nov. 3	
	18	Nov. 5	
	10	Nov. 6	
✓	9	Nov. 8	
	0	Nov. 13	← ice on parts of slough.

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Fall, 1982

Iowa

Farm = Wilson farm, NE Mills County
other contributors: Harold Wilson, Hastings, Ia
Brad Coulson, Ankeny, Ia

Species	#	Date	Location
White Pelican	✓ 70	13 Sept	Farm
	8	13 Sept	Willow Slough
	✓ 130	14 Sept	Forney Lake
	40	15 Sept	Willow Slough
	✓ 150	18 Sept	"
	1	29 Oct.	DeSoto NWR - seen by Rick Manning + many members of IBBA + me
Double-crested Cormorant	✓ 1	10 Aug.	Willow Slough
	✓ 42	14 Aug.	Forney's Lake
	1 to 2 birds	20 Aug - 18 Sept.	Willow Slough
	✓ 2	21 Oct.	"
Cattle Egret	✓ 14	14 Sept ^{Aug}	Freemont County, near Forney's Lake
	✓ 25-30	24 Oct	NE Mills County. Harold Wilson told me about seeing them 2 weeks after he saw them. I'm sure the identification is OK, but I'm not so sure about the date. Is it reasonable?
✓ Great Egret	6	14 Aug.	Forney's Lake
✓ Least Bittern	1	8 Sept	Willow Slough
✓	1	25 Sept.	" "
✓ Black Duck	1	29 Oct	DeSoto NWR, seen with IBBA people
Cinnamon Teal	1	6 Nov.	Willow Slough. Brad Brad Coulson of Ankeny, Iowa thinks he shot one. He does taxidermy work for the Corps of Engineers (on a volunteer basis), I think at Saylorville. I didn't see the duck, + Dave Newhouse says some hunters think brightly plumaged Green-wings are Cinnamon Teal.
★ American Wigeon	♀ + 7 young	7 Aug.	Willow Slough
	♀ + 6 young	16 Aug	"
	♀ + 5 young	18 Aug	"
✓ Ruddy Duck	♀ + 2 small downy young	16 Aug.	Willow Slough
✓ Turkey Vulture		2 Oct	Last sighting, farm

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Iowa

Farm = Wilson farm, NE Mills County, Iowa

Other Observers - Judy Stribley, Omaha, Nebr.

Fall, 1982

Species	#	Date	Location
✓ Sharp-shinned Hawk	3 seen	Sept 6 - Oct 28	Mills Co, Iowa
Accipiter sp	4 seen	Sept 15 - Oct 5	" " "
Bald Eagle	1	Oct 29	DeSoto NWR <small>First sighting for this refuge this fall</small>

Seen by Judy Stribley + some other people on IBBA field trip

✓ Northern Harrier	1	Sept 14	Fremont Co.
✓ "	2	Sept 18, Oct 16	Mills Co, Iowa
✓ "	1	Oct 29	DeSoto NWR
✓ Osprey	1	Sept 8	Willow Slough
"	1	Sept 13	" "
★ ✓ Merlin	1	Sept 13	Farm
✓ "	1	Sept 18	Willow Slough

see documentations

- ✓ Bobwhite population down 40% over the state, compared to 10-year mean (but much better than 1979).
(Bishop, Richard. 1982. 1982 Hunting Prospects. Iowa Conservationist Vol. 41, #10, p. 6-8.)

- ★ ✓ Ring-necked Pheasant On Sept. 18 Dan Cain, game warden for Mills + Montgomery County, ~~said~~ Pheasants were down 75% on August surveys in Mills, Montgomery, Fremont, + Page counties, and down 50% ~~in~~ over the state as a whole. He mentioned seeing many late broods, quail size + smaller in early September. The ~~refuge~~ Conservation Commission reports them down 40%, perhaps considering the late broods, in the same reference mentioned under "Bobwhite" above.

Mr. Cain says he feels the bad winter did not kill many pheasants, though it may have decreased their fertility. He feels the critical factor in decreasing the population was the wet spring, which flooded some nests and killed the chicks as they ran about in wet grass.

Killdeer		Nov. 16	last sighting, farm.
Common Snipe	1	Nov. 16	farm

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Iowa

Farm = Wilson farm, N.E. Mills Co.

Species	#	Date	Location
Ruff	1	Sept 10, 11	7 1/4 miles south of Malvern, Ia.
✓ Least Tern	1	Aug 7	Willow Slough
✓ Black Tern		Sept 28	" last sighting
Common Nighthawk		Sept 5	farm - migrating east over
✓			the farm, as they do early every September
✓ "		Sept 19	Mills County - last sighting
✓ Chimney Swift		Oct 12	S.W. Iowa - last sighting
✓ Red-shafted Flicker	1	Oct 20	Willow Slough
✓ Red-headed Woodpecker			no acorns this year, so no birds seen on the farm after Oct. 2. Also gone from Omaha.
✓ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Sept 25	farm immature bird
Eastern Kingbird		Sept 18	Mills County last sighting
✓ Crested Flycatcher		Sept. 15	Farm " "
✓ Eastern Pewee		Sept 18	" next to last sighting
✓ "	1	Oct 2	" last sighting
			a flycatcher with wingbars + no eyering. Head dark. Late
✓ Olive-sided Flycatcher	^{total} 12 birds	Aug 16 - Sept 18	Farm
Barn Swallow		Oct 21	Mills County last sighting
✓ Cliff Swallow		Sept 13	" " "
✓ Tufted Titmouse	1	Aug 20	Farm
✓	1	Oct 13	"
			no late Fall birds. Not many at all. They were here in summer but maybe there won't be any this winter - again
✓ House Wren	1	Oct 5	Farm last sighting
✓ Sedge Wren		Aug. 3 → Sept 18	on farm
✓ Gray Catbird		Sept. 25	" last sighting
✓ Brown Thrasher		Oct 2	" " "
Red-winged Blackbird	1	Sept 8	Willow Slough " "
Gray Heron		Sept 12	farm " "
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		Sept 30	" " "
✓ Eastern Bluebird	33 sightings	on the farm through Nov. 6.	

17 of those were on 3.2 mile census routes, with an average of 4.9 birds/census through Nov. 6. Not at all bad.

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Iowa

Farm = Wilson farm, NE Mills County, Iowa

other observer: Babs Padelford, ~~Omaha~~ Bellevue, NE
Rick Manning, Omaha
Judy Stribley, Omaha

Species	#	date	Location
✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	Aug. 3	farm
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		Sept 18 - Oct 8	farm
"		Oct 28	De Soto NWR
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Oct 5	farm
"	2	Nov 2	"
"	2-4	Nov 3	"
"	1	Nov. 6	"
"	2	Nov. 24	"

the most I've ever seen in one fall before is two!

Cedar Waxwing Sept 15 → Nov. 17 farm

the honeysuckle berry crop is very good, + the Waxwings were eating honeysuckle berries.

High #'s -	50	Nov 1	farm
	93	Nov. 5	"
	57	Nov. 6	"

✓ Bell's Vireo	1	Sept 8	Willow Slough	last sighting
Yellow-rumped Warbler		Sept 23 - Nov. 2	farm	
✓ Northern Oriole		Sept 6	"	last sighting
✓ Scarlet Tanager	1	Sept 18	farm	
✓ Rose-breasted Grosbeak		Sept 30	"	last sighting
✓ Dickcissel	♀ feeds fledgling cowbird	Aug 20	Willow Slough	
- "		Sept 7	NE Mills County	next to last sighting
✓ "	1	Oct. 18	farm	last sighting
- Spotted Rufous-sided Towhee	1	Nov. 3	Willow Slough	
✓ Vesper Sparrow		Oct 28	farm	last sighting.

many mid to late October sightings, + birders from Omaha mentioned the large numbers. (eg. Babs Padelford brought it up).

Chipping Sparrow		Sept. 27	farm	last sighting
✓ Le Conte's Sparrow	1	Oct 28	DeSoto NWR	
	1	Oct 29	" "	

seen by Rick Manning, Judy Stribley, + others - not me.

✓ Junco	1	Sept 25	farm.	earliest bird in 5 years
✓ Field Sparrow	several	Oct 13-28	"	

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Iowa

Form = Wilson form, NE Mills County

Ruth Green, Bellevue, NE
Ross Silcock, Malvern, Ia
Joe Sch.

Fall, 1982

Species	#	Date	Location
✓ Harris Sparrow		Sep 25	Omaha, Nebr., according to Ruth Green
		Oct 16	form my first sighting tdin since they weren't here much before
Lincoln's Sparrow		Sept 18 - Nov. 1	form
Swamp Sparrow		Sept 27 - Oct 20	"
✓ Goshawk	1	Nov. 21	Yellow River forest with Ross Silcock + Joe Sch ^{sp} fanbuck