

August 16, 1982

Dear Tom,

I did a little birding in NE Iowa this summer, and visited my brother in West Des Moines. In W.D.M. on July 11 I found 2 Loggerhead Shrikes. To be exact they were on 50<sup>th</sup> St., one-half mile south of Ashworth Road near E.P. True Parkway. (Polk Co.) A stream or ditch went under the road, and a R.R. right of way also crossed at this point. I looked for a nest without success. I do have photos if you wish to print a small illustration. I was quite pleased to find them because they have been very scarce in Wisconsin & absent in Minnesota, but I understand they are more common in Iowa, especially south & west.

On June 18 I hiked into the south unit of Effigy Mounds without recording anything of note. However, the habitat is promising, and the archaeology something to contemplate.



An intermittent drizzle did not help bring out the birds.

At New Albin on July 24 I saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Cedar Waxwings feeding young. Numbers of waxwings are up in Minn. & Wis. too.

Oddly, Red-eyed & Warbling Vireos are down everywhere I've been, as are Brown Thrashers.

Moore & Meyers of Waterloo turned up some good warblers this spring (Worm-eating, Prairie). I should try to get out with them.

Do you think they might be interested? About my only Iowa connections are P.P. (Clinton CBC) and Darwin Koenig. I saw

5 Cattle Egrets just north of New Albin (in Minnesota) on 17 May, but missed a Snowy there, reported 30 May. Not surprising.

How is your father? I have not heard much from him. Give him my greeting.

Sincerely,  
Fred Leskes

P.S. The results of the Smith's Longspur blitz were stimulating! Also enjoyed the records committee procedures because I am newly a member of the WSO Records committee.