

Fred Lesher to Fred Kent

June 26, 1965

Dear Fred,

Your report of the NE Iowa trip was most interesting since I recognized the names of my old haunts. Wish I could have been along, but have had good trips up here.

I've not heard the Savannah Sparrow at Hayden Prairie, nor the Henslow's for that matter. At Cardinal Marsh the Savannah sang during breeding season—on the north side, difficult access. The Henslow's I banded were on the bluff overlooking the drive in theater east of Decorah. We counted carefully 14 "singing" birds in mid-July 1964.

At Cardinal Marsh when water was up were Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night Heron & Florida Gallinule—also Woodcock west of marsh along Turkey River. At Wyalusing did you hear the Kentucky Warbler or Carolina Wren? I camped there two May weekends in 1962 & 1963 & got Kentucky both years. Also, the Worm-eating in 1963. Scarlet Tanagers were abundant & Blue-winged Warblers at south end of park drive.

Only thing I've seen at Yellow River were Turkey tracks <sup>in snow</sup> none winter. Counted 7 sets of tracks to match report at park headquarters of a flock of 7!

At Bluffton you were only a mile or so from my Cliff Swallow banding colony. I may not make it this summer—too many projects such as renting a house & moving.

Spent two days near Park Rapids, Hubbard County, Minn., 160 NW of Mpls camping with my family. We rattle around in our 9x12 tent & have gas lantern & cooking stove, but it's still work. Got pictures of Sapsucker at nest, Kingbird on nest & eggs plus Osprey nest at Itasca. At Itasca I hunted for Black-backed Woodpecker fruitlessly, but watched Osprey bring fish to brooding mate. Also got Parula Warbler, Black-thrt'd Green & Olive-sided Flycatcher & Red-brst'd Nuthatch. Will return week of July 4 to try again & perhaps west to Waubesa for Yellow Rail, he Contels & Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

Fished near limit catches of Black Bass with fly rod - I love it. Also collected butterflies - Painted Lady, Little Wood Satyr, Tiger Swallowtail, & Question Mark - ~~is~~ branching out a little.

I'm prepared to send \$30.00 down payment on the camera, if that is satisfactory. It's enuff camera for me, though I wish the telephoto had more power. However, with the H2, telephoto & extender I have a solid basic unit on which to build. People I've talked to like it, & I certainly do. What price for the camera & telephoto can you make?

Wrote to Milton W. Weller at Ames possibly for December MOU meeting and found he won't be back until September. Can't hurt to try. How about you and/or your friend Bailey at

Denver? Well have mostly Minnesota people, but I'm trying to interest out of staters to participate & attend - Wisconsin & Iowa mostly. Talk it up a little among your friends!

I've got a summer job selling tickets at the Great Northern RR depot on Hennepin Avenue in Mpls. They advertise the Empire Builder & North Coast Limited with "vistadomes" & run zephyrs to & from Chicago via Savanna. That's a great ride up the Miss. Valley to Twin Cities & on west to Seattle. The job is rugged at times, but pays well for temporary employment.

I should have another roll of film soon. Can you develop Ektachrome & Kodachrome?

It's good to hear from you. Keep me posted.

Sincerely,  
Fred

P.S. Thanks for fine photos of Pileated, Whip-poor-will & young Shrikes. Thought I recognized Mississippi causeway & Upper Iowa River?