

B. J. Rose  
14937 "N" Street  
Omaha, NE 68137  
(402) 895-1005

January 16, 1993

Douglas Rose  
108 Hillcrest  
Glenwood, IA 51534

Dear Doug,

As requested, the following is documentation for the bird sightings, seen by Roger Rose and me, on the Glenwood, IA, Christmas Bird Count on December 27, 1992.

**Great-tailed Grackle** - About sunrise, we visited the Bartlett pond on the west side of I-29. As we were leaving, I noticed some 'blackbirds' in the top of a cottonwood tree on the south side of the pond. As I was putting the scope on the birds, they flew ESE towards Bartlett. With binoculars, it was evident that there were nine Common Grackles and one male Great-tailed Grackle. The head and neck extension in front of the wings, long tail and much larger size, compared with the Common Grackles, was very evident. We drove into Bartlett, and found the flock in the large trees just south of the dog pens on the north side of town. We were able to confirm our earlier identification of Common Grackles and a male Great-tailed Grackles. We passed through Bartlett on two more occasions, during the day, but failed to see them again.

**Chipping Sparrow** - About one hour after sunrise, we were at the northeast corner of our assigned area, at the south end of the dead-end road. We were playing the Eastern Screech-Owl tape, with a large bird response, including; Rufous-sided Towhee (Eastern form), Dark-eyed Juncos, Black-capped Chickadees, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Harris's, American Tree, and Song Sparrows, Northern Cardinals, American Goldfinch, House Sparrows, Blue Jays, and American Goldfinch. On the east side of the road, in a weedy, tree-lined fence-row, two Song Sparrows popped up and a winter-plumaged Chipping Sparrow. We were even able to see the gray rump on the bird. It was not a Field, Swamp or American Tree Sparrow.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** - About 3/4 mile west of the Chipping Sparrow sighting, along the east-west road, we played the Screech-Owl tape at two juniper thickets, on the south side of the road. At the second thicket, a bird darted up on the telephone wire, then dropped back down into the junipers. Neither, Roger nor I, was able to identify it from that fleeting glimpse. However, the bird worked its way to us, and it was immediately identified as a Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle type). A total of four Yellow-rumps were seen at one time, flitting around the junipers on the edge of the road. Yes, the white throats and yellow rumps were seen on all four birds.

Doug, I hope this will suffice for your documentations. I think it points out the fact that an owl tape can assist in bringing into view more species, in 10 minutes, than 10 field walkers will find in two hours.

Best wishes and Good Birding,

*Dad*

B. J. Rose

