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Spring Field Report for I.O.U.

Dear Steve,

I have a limited report. —

Upland Sandpiper - very scarce in this locality since 1985. In former years I could see or hear this bird almost every day during a 4 month period. I have seen it only one time this Spring. Very few times in all 1988.

Great-tailed Grackle one at farm 3 miles NW of Lamoni all day on May 12, 1989. It spent the day in the branches of a 30ft Pin Oak and a 30ft. Spruce tree on the lawn.

Song + notes as follows.

CLOAK - CLOAK - CLOAK — 3 notes at about 1 second intervals  
a rolling, guttural, sound. (NOT cluck, or clock, or click)

The above series followed immediately by 2 quick syllable notes of high pitch + pleasing sound. — during which the tail feathers are spread.

Other sounds — a long continuous whistle, lasting several seconds.

Also at times some other unusual notes + squawks. I was at the farm yard most of day mowing lawn, cutting weeds, + other chores. The bird gave the above series of calls every 5-10 minutes during the day.

I called Silcox and Bill Brown about this at the time.

Bird has not been seen since.

J. Donald Gillaspey