

July 23, 1984

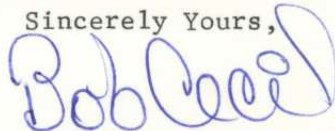
Dear Jim,

Enclosed are my reports from the summer of 1984. I really enjoyed this summer, and particularly the summer warblers. I guess I had always thought warblers were primarily birds of the spring and fall--what a pleasant surprise! I believe I recorded a total of 12 species, not counting the possible Prairie Warbler I mentioned in my notes, but counting the Black and White and the Yellow-throated Francis Moore and I saw at Lacey-Keosaqua(I'll let him submit those). I visited the Croton Unit of Shimek Forest at least 16 times beginning June 14 and ending today--needless to say, I think it is an excellent birding area.

I am sending this in early as I will be leaving for Arkansas soon and will be there through the rest of July.

I enjoyed meeting you this spring, and hope to see you again in Muscatine.

Sincerely Yours,



Robert I. Cecil

P.S. My appologies for the typing, "x"s, spelling, ballpoint add-ons, etc. I hope you can make it through.

Season: SUMMER Year: 1984

Name and address

Robert I. Cecil

Other observers (name, city):

(print or type)

327 S. 6thKeokuk, Iowa 52632

Use first few lines to give weather and habitat conditions. Use line(s) below species data to give additional details, if needed. Mail to: T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City IA 52240 by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

use initials of obsv. on species line

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Canvasback	3	June 25, 26 July 15	See Documentation
American Kestrel	1	June 21	Near Argyle, Ia., Lee County
American Woodcock	1	June 5	Cone Marsh. Saw no evidence of nest, but did not look very hard.
Ring-billed Gull??	25		Summered at Lock 19 but far away and no spotting scope.
Caspian Tern	1	May 28	Unusual day for Keokuk. In late afternoon saw 1 Caspian, 75 Black Terns, 1 Ringbilled Gull, 3 hooded gulls, and two other large terns (Foster class). Sorry about non-identification of
Black Tern	75	May 28	last two but I'm still not confident with gulls and terns and they were a long ways out. Dr. Kent wanted reports early last time and I sent it in before seeing these.
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	July 9	Croton Unit, Shimek F.* Birded area 3 weeks before finding this pair. Saw others later.
R. Throated Hummingbird	1 1	June 15, July 15	Both of these sightings were at Croton Unit, Shimek F.
Acadian Flycatcher	6	July 21	This is a peak count. Found throughout period after Francis Moore taught me how to identify them with voice. Croton Unit.
Eastern Phoebe	2	1-June 21 1-July 3	* 1 each at two bridges, Croton Unit. They regularly flew out from under bridges, but I didn't want to disturb them so I didn't look for nests.
Purple Martin	720 1150	July 11 July 12	These are conservative estimates of birds at the river-front, Keokuk, Lee County. Had noticed smaller numbers of birds even before this, but did not count. Birds are still here in approximately the same numbers.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			Found many throughout period at Croton Unit, incl. 2 nests on June 14 and June 15. On July 9 they were literally everywhere in one area. I remember walking out of the woods and thinking I had seen probably 30 to 50 but unfortunately had not been counting.
Blue-winged Warbler			Between June 14 and early July, found singles or pairs at 7 locations at Croton Unit.
Northern Parula	4	July 3	This is a peak count of singing birds. Found <del>xxxx</del> throughout period after Francis Moore taught me their voice. I had been hearing them, but finally decided it was a frog or some kind of an insect, probably an insect. Later saw several. Croton Unit.
Yellow Warbler	20 est.	June 5	Cone Marsh. Many showed signs of nesting, carrying food or nesting material. Estimate is conservative--I'm sure a more experienced birder could have found many more. Found similar <del>xx</del> numbers here again on June 18.
Cerulean Warbler			Found 1 to 3 nearly every day I * birded along streams, Croton Unit.

\* All "CROTON UNIT" sightings mean CROTON UNIT, SHIMEK FOREST, LEE COUNTY IA, appx. 1/2 miles West of ARGYLE.

Season: Summer Year: 1984 Name and address Cecil  
 Other observers (name, city): \_\_\_\_\_ (print or type) \_\_\_\_\_

Keokuk

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SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
American Redstart	2 females	June 18	Cone Marsh, Louisia County
Worm-eating Warbler	July 7, 9, 15, 21 →		Saw first, or maybe 2 on July 7, my first good look at a Worm-eating Warbler--was struck by the distinctiveness of striped crown. On 9th I found 5 along 50-100 yds of woodland edge, and was very careful not to count birds twice. All of these birds appeared to be adults in that they were fully feathered, fully developed tails, etc. On July 21 found bird with short tail, as if an immature. All of these sightings were made in the same small area of Croton Unit. Also noted buzzy song of several birds. I see in Iowa Birds that this is Iowa's latest sighting in 54 years, and third latest ever. I guess everyone deserves a good one now and then!
Louisiana Waterthrush	4	July 23	Found at 3 or 4 locations at Croton Unit beginning June 16. Saw peak of 4 on July 23.
Kentucky Warbler			Found 1st on July 7, regularly thereafter. Farly common, but did not attempt count. <u>CROTON UNIT</u>
Scarlet Tanager	1 male 1 pair	July 15 July 21	July 21, male and female chasing each other around in tree over my head. Quite a sight. <u>CROTON UNIT</u>
Blue Grosbeak			See Documentation
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1 male	June 5	Cone Marsh, Louisia County. Did not see any on June 18 trip.
Common Grackle	200 est.	July 11	Flying in long string, Riverfront, Keokuk
		* * *	
<p>And from the good-but-not-good-enough department: Heard repeatedly and clearly a "chick' a-we-a-we-o chick'" (the last chick a little softer than the first, added almost like an afterthought) coming from a heavily brushy area. Saw briefly a bird roughly vireo-like in size and color, but have no experience with this bird, and did not include it. Date June 30. Croton Unit. <u>(white-eyed VIREO)</u></p>			
<p>Also: On July 7, as I was looking at my first Worm-eating Warbler, another warbler appeared briefly (about 1 second) in my binoculars. I noted a warbler with yellow underparts with sharply defined black streaking along sides only, and some black black on head. I had been attracted to the area by a series of thin rising buzz "zee" notes, but did not see the bird sing. Habitat behind me was probably middle maturity woodland, in front, an overgrown slash road and beyond a heavy brushy area spotted with small saplings. As I have had no experience with Prarie Warblers and my sighting was too brief to be certain, I'll have to let this go as a maybe. I returned to the area a number of times, but have not heard or seen it again. Location: Croton Unit. Bird was in low bush near ground.</p>			
LARK SPARROW	2	July 3	<u>1/2</u> miles N.W. of KEOKUK, Lee County