

CECIL

May 24, 1985

Dear Dr. Kent,

Enclosed is my Field Report etc. for Spring 1985. I reviewed everything so I think everything is accurate and in a useable form.

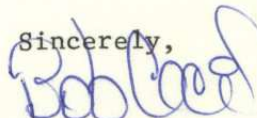
As you will see, I got a number of early dates. I realize that I scream inexperience every time I open my mouth, but I also realize the importance of accurate and reliable field reports, so I was exceptionally cautious and conservative in everything I reported. Nearly all the birds I reported by myself I had considerable experience with last year--the only exception I can think of offhand is Yellow-breasted Chat. Virtually all birds were seen and heard--exceptions are noted in the Field Reports form. As we discussed in Marshalltown, I think the N. Waterthrush I reported on the Iowa Birdline may have been in error(although it was a Waterthrush), so I just dropped all Waterthrush reports.

I don't know whether the presence of large numbers of early arrivals in my area was due to the very early spring we had this year, or because they always get here this early and no one has been down here to report on it, or due simply to the volume of my visits--32 trips to Croton Unit, Shimek Forest between Mar. 10 and May 23. At any rate, I think most of my early dates have been updated as per post-1982 issues of Iowa Bird Life.

Also, enclosed is the Report Form for Selected Species. Although I saw a good number of these species, often with Francis Moore, my record keeping I discovered is not sufficiently thorough to be much help. Included is what I had good records on.

You are getting this early as I am on my way South and will be gone through the end of the month. I hope to see Jim Sandrock in South Texas.

Sincerely,



Bob Cecil

Season: Spring Year: 1985

Name and address Robert Cecil (RCe)
 (print 327 S. 6th
 or type) Keokuk, Iowa 52632

Other observers (name, city):

Francis L. Moore (FLM) on Mar. 30,
Ap. 27, 28

W.R. Silcock (WRS), F.L.M. Ap. 28
use initials of obsv. on species line

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.

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Horned Grebe*	5	Mar. 29	Rathbun Reservoir
✓ Eared Grebe		Ap. 27	12 at Willow Slough, Mills Co./FLM 2 at Forney Lake, Fremont Co./FLM
Am White Pelican*	200	Mar. 30	Riverton Area, Fremont County/FLM. 3rd early?
✓ Great Blue Heron			My first for year was one at Keokuk on Mar. 19. Also, found active colony of perhaps 25 nests directly across Miss. River from Keokuk on Ill. island. Dropped note to V. Kleen who was unaware and happy to know.
✓ Canvasback	2000	Mar. 5	Reached these numbers by Mar. 5. Pool 19, Montrose
✓ Lesser Scaup	11	May 22	Still at Pool 19 at Montrose, Lee County
Osprey*	1	Ap. 9	Miss. River at Keokuk. My first for season.
Bald Eagle*	1	Ap. 3	Found this adult at C.U.S.F. (Croton Unit, Shimek Forest) Other adults left perhaps month earlier.
✓ Broad-winged Hawk	54 25	Ap. 26 Ap. 27	C.U.S.F. (Croton Unit, Shimek Forest) Riverton Area (Fremont County) /FLM
Golden Eagle	**	**	**See Documentation**
✓ Piping Plover	8	Ap. 28	I.P.L. Cooling Ponds, Mills Co./FLM
✓ Killdeer	3	Mar. 1	Keokuk. My 1st for season.
✓ Willet	23 15	Ap. 27 Ap. 28	Willow Slough (Mills County)/FLM Riverton Area (Fremont Co.)/FLM
✓ Spotted Sandpiper	1	Ap. 20	Lacey-Keosauqua Park, Van Buren County/FLM 3rd early?
✓ Semipalmated Sandpiper	4	Mar. 30	Riverton Area (Fremont Co.)/FLM. Record early?
✓ Least Sandpiper	3	Mar. 30	Riverton Area (Fremont Co.)/FLM. 2nd early?
✓ Am. Woodcock	3	Mar. 10	C.U.S.F. I had total of 11 for this spring incl. 5 on Mar. 24, C.U.S.F.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	4	May 8	Noted rufous in wings, spots under tail, yellow mandible. C.U.S.F. 2nd early?
Common Nighthawk *	3	Ap. 28	Over Keokuk, saw and heard. Record early?
✓ Pileated Woodpecker	2	through season	C.U.S.F. Think I have found nest cavity but no sign of young birds.
✓ Eastern Wood-pewee	1	May 5	Heard only, but heard clearly and repeatedly. C.U.S.F. Record early?
Acadian Flycatcher	**	**	**See Documentation**

*Also on Spring selected species report form

C.U.S.F. =
 CROTON UNIT,
 SHIMEK FOREST,
 (LEE COUNTY)

doc

doc

Season: Spring Year: 1985

Name and address Robert Cecil
 (print or type) _____

Other observers (name, city): _____

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
✓ * Eastern Phoebe	pair	Enclosed records	see copy of nest card. Nesting earlier than Iowa I can find. Nesting at 3 locations by Ap. 14.
✓ House Wren	2	Ap. 16	In my back yard, Keokuk. Tie, 2nd early?
✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	Ap. 10	C.U.S.F. 2nd early? Observed nest building May. 23.
✓ American Robin	159	Mar. 31	Forced to highway 2 by snow in ten miles near Leon(Decatur County)
✓ Gray Catbird	2	Ap. 22	C.U.S.F. Heard calling from thick brushy area, saw both birds. 2nd early?
✓ Brown Thrasher	1	Ap. 6	Heard doubled calls from upland brushy area, saw bird singing from top of bush. 2nd early? Had peak of 8 on Ap. 13.
✓ White-eyed Vireo	1 1 3	Ap. 20 May 11 From May	Lacey-Keosauqua Park(Van Buren)/F.L.M. C.U.S.F. 15, C.U.S.F.
✓ Warbling Vireo	1	Ap. 28	Riverton Area(Fremont Co.)/FLM,WRS. Tie, 3rd Early ?
✓ Red-eyed Vireo	3	Ap. 29	Vireos were here before this, but I could only hear them. These were heard and seen. C.U.S.F. Tie, 3rd early?
✓ Blue-winged Warbler*	4	Ap. 22	C.U.S.F. Heard distinctive two note buzzy song, followed to find bird. Other three birds heard only. Record early? By Ap. 29 at least 7 territorial birds.
✓ Nashville Warbler	1	Ap. 26	C.U.S.F. Noted conspicuous gray cap, white eye ring. Bird silent. 3rd early?
✓ Northern Parula	2	Ap. 13	C.U.S.F. Went to place where Parulas were last year, heard rising buzzy song from high in Cottonwoods, finally spotted bird. 2nd early? Also 1 at Waubonsie S.P.(Fremont Co.) Ap. 27 with F.L.M., W.R.S.
✓ Yellow-Throated Warbler	3	Ap. 20	Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. /FLM.
✓ Cerulean Warbler*	1	Ap. 22	C.U.S.F. Record early? This bird singing and seen along wooded stream where found last year. summering. I think Jim Sandrock gets these before published early dates.
✓ Ovenbird	1	Ap. 20	Lacey-Keosauqua S.P./FLM. 3rd early?
✓ Kentucky Warbler	3	Ap. 24	C.U.S.F. Record early? It took me best part of an hour to sneak up on these singing birds. Thought I might confuse voice with Ovenbird, also present.

*Also on Spring selected species report form

