

✓ BRYANT

Broken Kettle Book Service

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Proprietors: Eldon & Penny Bryant

5-28-84

Dear Dr. Kent,

✓ After you and Ross Silcock were here I made it a point to check on the Say's Phoebes several times a day for several days and didn't see or hear them. I suspect the heavy blizzard of April 29 which was preceded by two days (I think two days) by heavy hail did them in.

In amongst our evergreens I found several Robins, grackles etc. killed by hail and even one Cooper's Hawk.

I have checked the new IOWA BIRDS and find a wealth of information. I do wish I could have discussed the Buff Breasted Sandpiper with you before the book was completed. In my opinion this bird is more than casual here in migration in the Spring.

This is a bird that only farmers on tractors will ever see much of here. Once one learns their flight habits he will see quite a few. They fly very close to the ground and very rapidly. Occasionally they zoom up and circle a bit and back down. They do light to feed in the fields but are most difficult to approach close enough to identify even with good binoculars. I have managed that only a few times. Once I learned the flight habit I have come to realize they do come through here in good numbers. I can't think of many other birds as difficult to approach. I remember I was discussing them with Woody Brown and he had never seen one here. Only when out in the fields with plenty of time to look around will these be seen.

I will try to get an article ready to send to Pete about the last of the Say's here. I am sure there must be more around somewhere but only a keen observer will find them.

Whenever you fellows are roaming around feel free to stop by. Penny will put the coffee pot on and feed you too if you look a little peaked. Tom and Tommy Stone stopped early one morning after sleeping in the car. It was amazing how many eggs and how much bacon Tommy could pack away.

Sincerely,

Eldon J Bryant