

July 28, 1985

Dear Dr. Dinsmore,

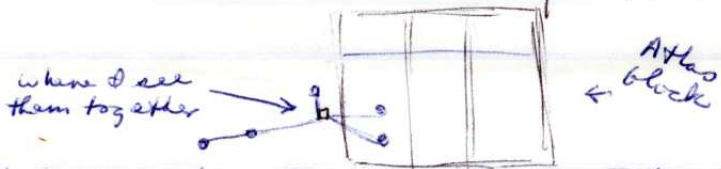
I have a few questions that relate to the Atlas project, not the summer field reports.

1. How do I record the Vultures at Pony Creek? I am certain they are breeding there, mainly because of the ~~no~~ high numbers of adults that gather on a fence in the morning to wait for the thermals. Seems this should be a "probable" evidence for breeding. (There are large secluded woodlands near there, great for nesting vultures). There's no good code for this, but does it seem reasonable to you?

2. Every year in July Kestrels appear ~~at~~ near an abandoned farmyard ~~at~~ near our farm. It's happened again. The birds are <sup>sometimes</sup> feeding over 1/4 mile away, in an ~~atlas~~ atlas block.

a) Should these Kestrels be considered evidence of breeding?

b.) Should they be counted as breeders in the <sup>nearby</sup> atlas block in ~~which~~ which they hunt?



dots show how far away I've seen them

The atlas brings up a lot of questions. One of the fun things about it is learning what I didn't know. Both Cedar Waxwing & Belted Kingfisher are more widely distributed in summer than I knew.

Thank you.

- Bob Wilson

July 28, 1985

Summer  
1985

Dear Dr. Dinsmore,

The summer has been dry. Timely rains have probably saved the corn crop, but we had 3 weeks without any rain. Weather has been warm but nights have been cool.

The lack of rain has lowered water levels at marshes like Willow Slough + Forney's Lake. As a result, we don't have Pied-billed Grebes + Coots nesting this year.

Oddly, there are more terns + gulls than usual this year.

No herons nested at ~~Forney's Lake~~ Folsom Lake this year.

The Breeding Bird Atlas project is going along. I won't get results from all the observers until next month, but I know of 89 species found + perhaps breeding in atlas blocks in S.W. Iowa, including Green Heron, Great-tailed Grackle, Upland Sandpiper, Blue Grosbeak, Acadian Flycatcher.

- Bob Wilson

Barbara Wilson  
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Hastings, Ne 51540

Summer  
1985

~~Andy Saunders~~  
Andy Saunders - Fontenelle Forest, Bellevue,  
Nebraska  
Don DeLong, Lake Manawa State Park

Species	#	Date	Location
Pied-billed Grebe	1	July 9	Willow Slough
"	2	July <del>20</del> 18	"
"	<del>2</del> 1	July 20	"
"	1	July 24	"
Eared Grebe	2	May 31	PL Settling Ponds
"	2	June 18	"
American White Pelican	100	June 3	Forney's Lake (seen by Andy Saunders)
"	5	July 26	" "
Double-crested Cormorant	1	June 12	Willow Slough
"	1	June 19	"
Great Blue Heron	0	July 1	"
"	4	July 3	"
"	11	July 9	"
"	8	July 10	"
"	<del>14</del> 14	July <del>18</del> 18	"
"	8	July 20	"
"	21	July 23	"
"	12	July 24	"
"	59	July 26	Forney's Lake
"	10	July 26	Fremont Co., Near Nebr. City
"			
Great Egret	1	July 9	Willow Slough
"	1	July 20	"
"	7	July 26	Forney's Lake
Little Blue Heron	6	July 18	Willow Slough
"	2	July 26	Forney's Lake
"	1	July 26	Fremont Co., near Nebr. City
Green Heron	8 nests	by July 3	near Lake Manawa (found by Don DeLong)
Greater W-f Goose	1	summering	Willow Slough
"	1	July 26	Forney's Lake

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Andy Saunders - Fontenelle  
Forest, Bellevue, Nebraska

Species	#	Date	Location
Snow Goose	6	Summering	Willow Slough
Wood Duck	}	Breeding locally - willow slough, dPL, etc. Teal broods the least common of the <del>two</del> three this year	
Mallard			
Blue-wing Teal			
Gadwall	2	June 3	Forney's Lake (seen by Andy Saunders)
Lesser Scaup	1♂	Summering	Willows Slough
Ruddy Duck	1	July 13	Willow Slough
Turkey Vulture	21	July 8	Mills County by Pony Cr. Reservoir.
"	30	July 23	

these are concentrations on a fence in the morning, before the thermals began. No doubt they were breeding in the woods nearby. All I saw were adults on these dates.

Kestrel I know of 3 ~~presumed~~ presumed family groups in Mills County, groups seen repeatedly at the same place. One had 2 members, one 3, + one 5.

Ring-necked Pheasant - so far, not as common as they should be  
Bobwhite - doing OK after the mild winter.  
Piping Plover 6 pairs nested ~~at~~ at the Settling ponds <sup>(at the power plant)</sup> south of Council Bluffs. At least four pairs + probably all 6 raised young.

there are additional pairs at the power plant by Sioux City

Lesser Yellowlegs 1 29 October 1984 - Found dead by Ross Silcock 4 miles East of Tabor, Fremont County. A new third latest date. Specimen at University of Nebraska at Omaha. The bird was shot. It had a previously amputated leg, feather lice, and 8 good-sized ochre flukes in the abdomen. Despite all this, it was moderately fat, + I had to wash the skin when stuffing it.

" 1 July 8 Settling Ponds - first this summer.

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Summer  
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Andy Saunders - Fontenelle  
Forest, Bellevue, Nebr.

Form = Wilson farm, NE Mills Co,  
Iowa

Species	#	Date	Location	
Willet	1	June 27	JPL Settling Ponds	
"	4	July 18	Willow Slough	
Upland Sandpiper	1 <sup>+</sup>	resident	S. Pottawatomie County - 4 miles S. of Treynor + $\frac{3}{4}$ miles west.	
Franklin's Gull	12	June 3	Forney's Lake (seen by Andy Saunders)	
"	4	June 4	JPL Settling Pond	
"	6	June 12	Willow Slough	
Ring-billed Gull	6	Young birds - second year birds? - Spent the summer at JPL Settling Ponds		
"	4 <del>3</del> A, 2 Juv.	July 19	JPL Settling Ponds. The two youngest were young hatched this year, I think. Neatly mottled brown. Certainly seems they arrived here promptly.	
Caspian Tern	5	June 3	JPL Settling Ponds	
"	5	June 13	"	
"	1	June 18	"	
"	3	July 14	"	
"	5	July 22	"	
"	2 <del>3</del>	July 9	Willow Slough	
Forster's Tern	1	July 24	Willow Slough	
Least Tern	9	pairs nested at JPL settling ponds. 2 probably did not raise young. At least 6 broods did hatch, <del>plus</del> + at least 13 young fledged.		
Black Terns	a few	non-breeders showed up at JPL settling ponds over the summer		
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	June 19	Farm	Not a lot of them present
"	1	June 22	"	
"	1	June 1	Turkey Creek Access, Cass Co	
Great Horned Owl	1	June 22	Malvern	

A young bird, still partly downy. Starving - died that night  
after I had it + was feeding it. Just feathers + bone.

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Tim Schrantz - Park naturalist,  
Lake Anita State Park

Species	#	Date	Location
Barn Owl	-	Might be interesting to call Doug Reeves at the Wildlife Research Station at Boone. They are radio-tracking the young birds, + loosing them to Great Horned Owls. July 24 the Bakehouses found one of their released birds largely eaten by what was very probably a Great Horned Owl.	
Belted Kingfisher	1	July 1	NE Mills County <sup>Carrying food, presumably to a nest</sup>
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	June 5	W Mills County, w. of Pony Creek
Acadian Flycatcher	2	June 1	Cold Springs State Park
"		a pair + their nest. Reported in spring report	
"	2♂	July 19	Cold Spring State Park Singing
Willow Flycatcher		summering at Willow Slough, but only a few are present	
Horned Lark	16	July 25	together. N Mills County
Sedge Wren		showed up in mid + late July at various places, including Wearin Prairie	
Eastern Bluebird		successful nests 8	producing 29 young
		failed nests 5	
		result unknown 1	
		incomplete so far 4	
		<i>in my bluebird boxes + 1 fence post</i>	
Cedar Waxwing	1 nest		Lake Anita State Park (seen by Tim Schrantz)
		Birds present also at Red Oak + at our farm in NE Mills Co.	
Bell's Vireo		resident at Willow Slough, as usual	
Yellow Warbler	"	"	"
Redstart	"	"	"
Blue Grosbeak	nest, ♂, ♀,	<del>July</del> June 20,	3 1/2 mi W. of Modale, Harrison Co.
Great-tailed Grackle		- Ross Silcock found a nest (or 6 nests?) at Forney's Lake this year	