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ans 8/27/84

SEARLES

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Mr. Kent,

The following reports are too late for the September Iowa Bird Life, but still may be of interest, especially since some of the areas involved are, to my knowledge, infrequently observed by birdwatchers. I submit these after meeting and briefly talking with Hank Zalatel. Asterisks mark sightings I feel are significant.

6/2/84 - FOLLOWING SPECIES NOTED AT SQUIRREL HOLLOW COUNTY PARK IN GREENE COUNTY SOUTHEAST OF JEFFERSON (INCLUDES FARMLAND ON EAST SIDE)

Great Crested Flycatcher - nesting pairs

House Wrens - numerous

Eastern Wood Pewee

Rose-Breasted Grosbeak

Turkey Vulture

Mourning Dove

6/3/84 - SQUIRREL HOLLOW & ENVIRONS

Indigo Bunting - a nesting pair

Song Sparrow - frequent singer in dogwood hedge

Field Sparrow - heard in a wooded pasture

Blue Jay

Red-Headed Woodpecker

Barn Swallow

Yellow-Billed Cuckoo - plentiful

Common Flicker

Common Yellowthroat

6/9/84 - SNAKE CREEK MARSH, 2 MILES NORTH OF RIPPEY, IOWA, ON COUNTY ROAD P-46, IN EASTERN GREENE COUNTY

* Yellow-Headed Blackbird - about 8 ♂ and ♀ seen

Red-Winged Blackbird

Blue-Winged Teal - about 5 ♂ and ♀

Mallard

6/9/84 - FLOODED FIELDS 4 MILES NORTH OF RIPPEY ON P-46
Black Tern - 2 individuals
unidentified sandpipers, possibly Spotted
Killdeer

6/10/84 - SQUIRREL HOLLOW & ENVIRONS
Red-Eyed Vireo
Ruby-Throated Hummingbird - ♀
Red-Tailed Hawk
Dickcissel

6/11/84 - SQUIRREL HOLLOW & ENVIRONS
American Goldfinch
Bobolinks - frequent nesters in a pasture on
the Robert Holz farm, adjacent to the east
park boundary; seen for several years
Rufous-Sided Towhee
American Robin
Gray Catbird

6/11/84 - SNAKE CREEK MARSH
* Yellow-Headed Blackbird - ♂, ♀
Yellowthroat

7/4/84 - SQUIRREL HOLLOW & ENVIRONS
American Crow

7/12/84 - PRIVATELY OWNED PASTURE IN SEC. 36 SOUTH, WASHINGTON
TOWNSHIP, GREENE COUNTY (4 MILES SOUTH OF RIPPEY ON
P-46 AND GRAVEL ROAD, 1 MILE EAST, 1/2 MILE SOUTH, ON
EAST SIDE OF ROAD ABOUT 1/4 MILE
Robin *
Brown Thrasher
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Chipping Sparrow

he did not know the Yellow-Headeds to nest there, only to pass through; Hank Zelotol reported that this represents a southern expansion of nesting range.

I hope this exhaustive list has not bored you. My attempt is to survey these habitats, as well as to report unusual birds.

Squirrel Hollow Park is about 80 acres of oak-hickory - misc. deciduous forest at the foot of and atop a high bluff overlooking the Raccoon River. It has a boat access, camping & picnicking facilities, and trails. During drier weather, an extensive sandbar is exposed on the park side of the river, although I've seen nothing in the way of shorebirds there besides Killdeer.

Snake Creek is about 240 acres, with open water and dry ground. It has a number of native marsh wildflowers, including Bugleweed (*Lycopus*), Marsh Skullcap (*Scutellaria epilobiiifolia*), Arrowhead (*Sagittaria*), and Great Bur Reed (*Sparganium eurycarpum*).

I've been a birdwatcher since about 1972. I was spurred on in this hobby by several people in my hometown of Lamoni, Iowa. Since then I've been able to observe birds in other areas besides Iowa, including Texas, southern California, British Columbia, Colorado, Germany, and other midwestern states.

I would be glad to receive a letter from you with your comments, especially if you know of any previous birding in Greene County.

I'm sorry I cannot continue to report so extensively on Greene County, but I have returned to Ames to continue work on my master's. I fully intend to be active in Story County as time permits.

Much good birding,
Lee Searles

Field Sparrow
* Orchard Oriole - ♂

7/16/84 - SQUIRREL HOLLOW PARK

Barred Owl - later in the summer my sister-in-law, Julie Holz, attracted 3 Barred Owls to the Holz property with an excellent vocal imitation of the "Who-cooks-for-you?" call.

7/21/84 - SNAKE CREEK MARSH

* Least Bittern - flushed from its landing place by a close approach and further observed where it alit a short distance away.

7/25/84 - PASTURE SOUTH OF RIPPEY IN WASHINGTON TWP.

Chiff Swallow - about 15 nests in a concrete tunnel under the gravel road 4 mi. south; 1 1/2 mi. east of Rippey; 30-40 birds noted on this date by me; Robert Holz, my father-in-law, reported about 500 at one time on another occasion, which I have no reason to doubt.

7/25/84 - SNAKE CREEK MARSH

* Least Bittern - 4 individuals seen in flight at different times north and south of the east-west road dividing the marsh.

* Yellow-Headed Blackbird - a family (♂, ♀, 3 immatures of apparently different ages) was seen feeding just above the water's surface in the cattails; my father-in-law was surprised to hear this, as