

Black

Pleasantville Ia
50225

June 2, 1977

Dear Nick: - I missed you at the IOU Convention. Birding was very poor. Hope you had a fruitful birding trip on the Dry Tortugas.

I am frustrated, in fact mad as the devil, cause I have a pair each of Orchard Orioles, Bell's Vireos, and Yellow Warblers in my old pasture and I simply can't locate their nests.

And for the first time in 20 years there are no Mockingbirds in my 2 old pastures which makes me very sad. At one time I had a pair $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of town and on 2 farms 3 miles NE of town, all nesting besides the 2 old pastures SE of town. I fear all the heavy insecticide spraying in the south, Mixex etc., was the fatal factor.

Have 1 Kingbird nest and those 4 eggs are beautiful. The old oologists considered them the most beautiful of all eggs. I think I would rate the Chipping Sparrow egg as the most beautiful.

Sincerely,
Gladys Black

Enclosure

Later June 3

On a field trip with our School nurse + her 9 year old son we located the yellow Warbler nest + 4 eggs + the Orchard Oriole's + 3 eggs but no luck with the Bell's Vireo yet.

1977 Spring Migration - Red Rock + Pleasantville area ^{& Back}
(Jon Strawser will have a more detailed report
for the Lake Red Rock area.)

Herring Gulls - 1 **late?**
Red-billed Gulls - scarce 7 Double-crested Cormorants May 11

White Pelican - 30 on Lake April 5

Green Blue Herons - first on Mar. 18. - 7 seen in flock
but generally few compared with fall counts.

Castle Egrets - 3 for 10 days (to May 9) North side of Lake, farm
Canada geese - a few hundred

Snow geese - 2000 seen on Mar 22

Ducks - all on checklist seen during Mar. & Apr
except no Cinnamon Teal or Red Scaup
most in only moderate numbers except Mallards

20 Canvasbacks Mar 22

12 Hooded Mergansers Mar 22.

T Vulture - first one on Mar. 10
a flock of 25 - 30 on 2 roasts - Red Rock Bluff and
Red Rock Bluff.

Red-tailed Hawks - 8 pair in Pleasant Grove Township
2 of 3 nests located were failures.

Bald Eagles - at least 11 seen at one time by Conservation
Officer Jim Baldwin near the dam

Marsh Hawks - good migration. 1 seen last week of
May in White Breast bottoms, South side of Lake

Osprey - 1 seen on April 26, north side of Lake

Perquimne Falcon - 1 on April 17 - 10 miles south of Knoxville
in Marion County attempting to flush Quail

Kestrel - only 2 seen.

Pheasant & Quail survived the winter well, good population

Crows - several waves, numerous

Plovers & Sandpeps - migration poor. Sandbars
covered with grass (and) weed early

Upland Sandpiper - ~~1 pair with 4 eggs on a farm~~
South Selby Refuge in late May. This had been
a Keeler + family been by the farmer

Ring-billed Gull - 1000+ in late May + Apr

Caspian Terns - 12 in May

Yellow-billed Cuckoos - few, 1 heard in north Elk Rock
State Park. The Park Ranger Jack Bates
at Walnut Woods State Park in Palk County reported
a good population in 1976 + again this spring.

Long-eared Owl - a pair nested in Welcox Wildlife
area in Marion County, in an old Crow nest in a pine
4 adults present during the nesting period.

Red-headed Woodpeckers - good population.

Eastern Phoebe - very scarce - only 2 pairs
located.

Cliff Swallows - at least 100 building nests on
west side of Mile Long Bridge and 100+ on Red
Rock dam in mid May

Purple Martins - population down

Shrikes - scarce - dry weather a factor?

Bluebird - scarce, only 2 pairs seen - 1 near the
dam and 1 in North Elk Rock State Park

Loggerhead Shrikes - 3 pairs nested successfully
in old pastures SE of Pville. 1st nest completed Apr 9,

Belt's Vireo, 1 singing during late May in old pasture

Red-eyed Vireo - fairly common

Solitary " - one seen

Warblers - poor migration

Tenn. most numerous
Yellow Warblers - 1 pair nesting SE of Pville and
1 male singing, probable nesting in No. Elk Rock Park

3) 1977 Spring Migration

4 Black

Yellow-Throats - numerous

Bobolinks - population up from 1976, nesting in 2 new areas along the Lake

Red-winged Blackbirds - by far the most numerous breeding birds in this county.

Orchard Oriole - 1 pair S.E. of Park, nesting

One 1st year male singing + probably nesting in No. Elk Rock State Park.

Northern Oriole, fairly numerous

Carbird - high population, too high!

Rosebreasted Grosbeak - fair population but down from 1976

Indigo Bunting - fairly numerous

Veeries - Ind most numerous breeding bird.

White-Crowned Sparrows - my cousin Sandy Strong near south edge of Refuge had a flock of 30

from Dec. 1, 1976 all winter to May 1, 1977.

(Woody Braun reports them as not overwintering in Ia)

The following were notes sent me by Jack Bates Park Ranger, Walnut Woods Park in Park County

Amer. Kestrel - his 2 nest boxes empty for past 3 years, nested there prior to that.

Night Hawk - common over the Park + adjacent Raccoon River

Harry Wood pecker - 3 at a time at his feeders.

Purple Martin - his martin house vacant for 3rd straight year, "unusual to see one even over the river where insects abound"

4) cont. - Jack Bates, Walnut Woods State Park
Pell's Vireo - none this spring, 2 or 3 on 1 day last fall.
Yellow Warbler - "Common in its habitat within the
park, however, we have many Cambreds."

Long-eared Owl has been heard in the park
~~each~~ year since Aug. 1973 when Jack went to
Walnut Woods as Ranger.

I also rec'd a report of
1 Cattle Egret on a farm near Delmore City, in Pocahontas
County on April 15 from Mrs. Morle Hodgell

Final Count of Sparrow Owls was 204 in
16 Counties with the 2 late dates

1-April 2, Rockwell City, Calhoun County reported by
Conservation Officer, Jim Jidas

1 on April 28 - 5 miles south of Pleasantville on white
Breast Creek flood plain by 2 teachers and 2
others, flew along side their car. (Mary County)
Jaymie Biederblom, Teacher

Alan Baxter, ISU student, studying a marsh prairie
near Ames reported 14 Short-eared Owls for last
3 weeks of April.

In Pleasantville 1 pair S. Screech Owls
had 3 young out of the nest in late May,
nested in big old Silver Maple reported by
Jaymie Biederblom, have nested there several years?