

FIELD REPORTS

Spring 1977

*Sorry to be a bit late -
was out of town. Will
happen again in Sept.
Nick*

The species marked with * are on the Blue List of the AOU (Am. Birds 30:1031, 1976), on the Iowa Blue List (IBL XLV:95, 1975) and/or on Dean Roosa's list of endangered, threatened or delining species in Iowa (IBL XLVI:40, 1976).

General Comments. March was unusually warm, and rainfall well above average raised the hope of an end to the drought. The temperature continued warm in April, but the rains slackened. May was hot, and what rain fell was so spotty that the moisture deficit increased alarmingly. Lakes, rivers and reservoirs were very low, and many mudflats, promising good shorebird habitat early in spring, dried up by the time the migrants arrived. The prevailing southerly winds promoted early migration of some non-passerines and a few species of perching birds. May went by without any major passerine fallout due to cold fronts: instead, there was a steady trickle of birds, for the most part in small or at best unspectacular numbers, and only in some places in a good variety. Nevertheless, the season was redeemed by some rarities and an unexpected addition to the state list, observed just in time to be included in the new IOU Checklist.

Abbreviations. CoR - Coralville Reservoir; HHP - Hickory Hill Park, Iowa City; LSP - Ledges State Park; RRR - Red Rock Lake, Reservoir and Refuge; m. ob. - many observers.

Loons through Ibises. Com. Loons don't usually live up to their name in spring; this year, few were recorded (one on March 20, Co R, NH; one on Cedar Lake, April 8, LS; 2 in Big Creek Park, Polk Co., May 24, ISU). All Horned Grebes reported were single birds or pairs. The dated observations were between March 27 and April 22. Localities and observers are: Co R (RD), RRR (GB), Sweet Marsh (JS), Ingham L., Emmet Co. (Tom Nigus fide JD), Rathbun L. (CS) and L. Macbride (TS). Eared Grebes, as expected, were even fewer: one (date?) on Rathbun L. (CS), another on April 7 near Hamburg (IG, RP), and a third at Marble Rock, May 21 (PK). As usual, flocks of * Am. White Pelicans were reported from the western half of the state, with one of 100 birds in the extreme NW (Lyon Co.; date?) the largest (FD); 30 stayed at RRR April 2-6 (GB, JSt), and 28 touched down briefly at Cone Marsh on April 3 (MN). Small groups of *Double-crested Cormorants

occurred in a few places: 12 on March 26 at the nest site N of Clinton (PP), 13 at different NE Iowa locations April 17 - May 23 (JS), 7 at RRR on May 11 (GB, JSt), and up to 10 at Rathbun L., May 8-26 (CS). Great Blue Herons were relatively scarce, the largest numbers being 8 building nests at the Sabula rookery on March 26 (the colony consists of some 150 nests), 7 by the Co R on May 14 (TK, NH, TS), and 7 at RRR (GB). The rookery at Rathbun had 21 nests on May 26 (CS). Is the Cattle Egret finally establishing a firm foothold in Iowa (an event long expected in view of its apparent ambitions to become a truly cosmopolitan species)? Reports of small groups (up to 4) were unusually numerous and came from widely scattered places: mid-March at Rathbun and March 20 S of Seymour (CS), near Gilmore City, April 15 (Mrs. Merle Hodgell fide GB), near Des Moines on April 15 and 25 (Gene Armstrong fide WB), in early May N of RRR (GB), April 29 in Tama Co. (D. Van Waus fide JD), May 8 in Winnebago Co. (R. Sayler fide JD) and May 28 N of Mason City (F. Heinz fide JD). There were no sizable concentrations of Great Egrets: some at their Sabula rookery (about 10 nests) on April 2 (PP), one at McCord's Pond (date?, GeB), one W of Swan L., Johnson Co., in April (RD) and May (LS), 2 S of Seymour April 9 (CS), and 2 on the Co R in mid-April (NH) and again in mid-May (TK, NH, TS). *Black-crowned Night Herons at Cone Marsh were first seen on April 24 (RD), and peaked at 6 on May 7 (TK, TS). Singles were recorded on April 3 near Seymour (CS) and at Bays Branch (GeB), and at Sweet Marsh on May 7 (JS). Pairs were observed on April 19 at Sweet Marsh (JS) and on April 24 near Ingham L. (Tom Nigus fide JD). Charlotte Scott saw "a number of Yellow-crowned Night Herons". One appeared on April 27 in W. Johnson Co. (HO), and methodically depleted a small slough of all frogs and tadpoles between then and mid-May, to the delight of m. ob. Nobody seems to have seen a Least Bittern. *Am. Bitterns were encountered: 2 first on April 24 at Cone Marsh (RD) and by several others during the ensuing 10 days; one on April 11 at Ingham L. (Tom Nigus fide JD), and 5 in the NE, 4 of them at Sweet Marsh (JS). An ibis of the genus Plegadis was seen flying over Bays Branch on May 1 (documented by GeB). It is likely to have been a White-faced Ibis, but there is no rigorous support for this assumption.

Waterfowl. A pair of (feral?) Mute Swans shuttled in late March and early April between Cone Marsh, the Iowa River and a small pond in Coralville (MN et al.) Several Whistling Swans were reported: 9 at Wapsie Ponds, April 2-3, one at Sweet Marsh, May 2-3 (JS), 5 at Cardinal Marsh, April 11 (DK) and one near Dubuque on the very late date of May 30 (GC). White-fronted Geese are routine in the western part of the state; in the last 3 years, there seems to have occurred an eastward shift; certainly, 170 seen at Cone Marsh (MN) on April 3 are remarkable, and there were several other reports of smaller flocks from the eastern part of the state. One bird lingered at Muskrat Slough until May 7 (TK, TS)

total
13

doc.

and another at Cone Marsh as late as May 14 (TK, NH, TS). Snow Geese are regular migrants in the E, but flocks of 450+ (Co R, March 31, NH) and 1500 (Cone Marsh, April 3, MN) are noteworthy. There were no enthusiastic reports about the numbers of migrant ducks, but several correspondents commented on their good variety, and unusual species were seen. A Cinnamon Teal was observed for 4 days W of Bayard (dates?) (GeB). Whereas there were only few *Canvasbacks at RRR (JSt), 2000-2500 were estimated on March 19 at Lock #9 (JS). A Greater Scaup was picked out among numerous Lesser on the Co R, March 22 (NH). On April 22, a Surf Scoter was seen flying over Marble Rock (PK). A pair of White-winged Scoters was first spotted on March 23 on the Co R (NH); the male stayed for 4 days and was seen by several people. On March 26, Rob Vane noticed 4 members of this species on the Iowa River in downtown Iowa City; they remained for 3 days, and were viewed by m. ob.

Diurnal Raptors. Almost everybody has seen more Turkey Vultures than in an average year. *Sharp-shinned Hawks were much less common: 4 banded April 28-May 12 (PP), one each at HHP, March 10, March 16 and at North Liberty April 16 (RD), Ames, April 6 (DS), *ibid.*, May 5 (ISU), and 7 in various localities in the NE between March 12 and May 8 (JS). There were these reports of *Cooper's Hawk: singles on April 9 at LSP, April 16 at Yellow River Forest (ISU) and near Cone Marsh, May 7 (TK, TS). Red-tailed Hawks made little news: 7 nests were located at RRR (JSt). Unusually many *Red-shouldered Hawks were seen: one at Burr Oak L., Emmet Co. (Tom Nigus and Mark Ryan fide JD), "several" in Allamakee Co., April 16-17 (JD and J. Bednarz), 3 different individuals at Sweet Marsh, March 26, April 3 and 16 (nesting suspected for the last of these, JS), and one by the Co R May 11 (LS). No kettles of *Broad-winged Hawks were noted. Three observations of *Swainson's Hawks all came from the NE: one at Waucoma, April 10 and 2 near W. Union, May 4 (JS). Rough-legged Hawks were last seen April 16 in Allamakee Co. (JD and J. Bednarz). An imm. Golden Eagle seen on February 25 near Highlandville (DK) was reported too late for inclusion in the winter report. Bald Eagles lingered at RRR into mid-March (GB, JSt). There is near-unanimity that *N. Harriers had an excellent migration. In early April, Carl Bendorf (fide MN) counted 15 over a single field near the Co R. Individuals were still present at both RRR and the Co R at the end of the period. *Ospreys, singly or in pairs, were recorded from a number of locations: RRR and Pleasantville March 24, mid-April and April 26 (GB, JSt); Allamakee Co. April 16 (JD and J. Bednarz), on the Raccoon River in April (date?), (DS), Marble Rock (date?) (PK), St. Lucas, April 29 (JS). They were "holding steady" in the territory covered by Gene Burns. Two *Peregrine Falcons were seen: (one on April 17, 10 miles S of Knoxville (GB), and an adult

? meaning?
par here = 0-2

Total 9+

doc. (documented) by the Co R on May 3 (NH). The only *Merlin recorded was an adult male
doc. (documented) seen near the Co R on March 20 (NH). How can your poor compiler draw any
 conclusions regarding the status of the *Am. Kestrel, when opinions are so different: "only
 2 seen" (GB); "good numbers" (PP); "alarmingly down in numbers" (GeB); "common nesters
 in the upper reaches of Rathbun" (CS); "abundant; on March 31 Kestrels seemed more
 plentiful than Mourning Doves" (JV); "only 5 banded, a 3-year low" (DM)? It seems fair
 to conclude that they were unevenly distributed!

Cranes through Sandpipers. Two Sandhill Cranes flying over Muskrat Slough on May 7
 (TK, TS) were an unexpected find. At least 2 Virginia Rails responded vigorously to their
 taped call at Cone Marsh (RD et al., April 24 - May 14). The maximum heard at Sweet
 Marsh was 5 on May 3 (JS). *Piping Plovers were found in several places: one each on
April 19 and 28 near Des Moines (WB and Dick Mooney); one at Wa^ucoma, April 11-13 (JS),
and 8-9 at Centerville Reservoir, May 15 (CS). Lesser Golden Plovers occurred in flocks,
 the largest, of about 100 individuals, being reported from Dan Green Slough, Clay Co.,
 May 15 (JD); Black-bellied were found as singles or pairs. Four Ruddy Turnstones were
 seen on May 14, Co R (TK, NH, TS), and 2 by Ingham L., May 15 (Tom Nigus fide JD). Am.
 Woodcocks were concentrated in some areas: Iowa City birders flushed 6 at Cone Marsh
 on March 19; a brood of 4 was found in Brush Creek Canyon on May 6 (DK). Com. Snipe
 were very common indeed in the Seymour area March 16 - April 26 (53 in 20 different places,
 CS). Individuals lingered into mid-May at the Co R (TK). There are some encouraging
reports on the *Upland Sandpiper: "definitely on the increase" S of Seymour, "quite common"
 in nearby areas (CS); several migrants around Ames, gone by May 1 (DS); one in Hamburg
 (IG), April 8; ^{one} near Odebolt 5/1 (LK), 6 in the NE, April 22-May 29 (JS). On the other
 hand, they could not be found anywhere in the Iowa City area. A flock of 25-30 Willets
doc. was seen at Sweet Marsh on May 1 (JS). An exceptionally early White-rumped Sandpiper
 occurred by the Co R on April 10 (NH; see longer note). They were quite common on Swan L.
in May, with a high count of 40 (MN), and left only when the lake dried up on May 31.
 Baird's Sandpipers were reported from L. Le Shan, May 14 (G DeL), Marshalltown, May 15
 (JS), and Davenport (8 on May 21) (PP). A Least Sandpiper at Cone Marsh as early as
March 19 broke the record (see longer note). Eighty-two Short-billed Dowitchers on Swan L.,
 May 13^(MN) was an exceptionally high count. At least 3 Stilt Sandpipers were seen: one
on April 28 at Big Creek (WB), another at Cone Marsh, May 7 (TK, TS), and the third at
Swan L. May 15-21 (MN, LS, NH). A peep with the field marks of a W. Sandpiper was seen
 on the early date of April 10 at the Co R (see longer note for cautionary remarks);
 another was reported from Davenport, May 21 (PP). The lone Marbled Godwit of the season
 was at Muskrat Slough on May 7 (TK, TS). This spring has been a good one for Hudsonian

? par here = 0 in recent years

Godwits: "more than in the past" (GeB); 15 by the Co R, May 14 (TK, NH, TS); 2 at Anderson L., Hamilton Co., May 14 (JD); and 4 at Ingham L., May 15 (Tom Nigus fide JD).

doc. Gulls through Cuckoos. A Glaucous Gull by Lock #15 on March 5 was relatively late (PP). The high number of Ring-billed Gulls was 1000+ at RRR, late March into April (GB). The first Iowa sighting of a Laughing Gull since 1941, on March 26 by the Co R, is described in a separate note. The extension of the summer range of this species to the mid-W is discussed. It is more likely that the rare spring individuals in Iowa have migrated along the Mississippi-Missouri along with Ring-billed Gulls (in whose company both the 1941 and the 1977 bird were found). A Franklin's Gull in full nuptial plumage on February 27 at Davenport (PP) was surprisingly early; another, molting, was seen there on March 5 (TS). There were no reports of Bonaparte's Gulls away from the Co R, where they were seen March 31 - April 16, with a high count of 13 on April 14 (NH). A few Forster's Terns were seen over the state. On May 14, a Com. Tern was observed at Cone Marsh and another over the Co R (TK, NH, TS). The only report of a *Little Tern came from the Des Moines area, May 15 (Margaret Brooke fide WB). As expected, Caspian Terns were mostly confined to the few persisting larger bodies of water (Co R, RRR), with a high count of 12 at RRR in late April (JSt). Once again, Black Terns were rather few and erratic. Most correspondents had something to say about cuckoos. From these comments, the picture emerges that both species were present in larger numbers than in recent years, with the *Yellow-billed having a slight edge. Of course, more were heard than seen, but in the Iowa City area both species were often out in the open.

Owls through Woodpeckers. Four Com. Screech Owls banded (March 29-April 14) was a high count for one spring (PP). On March 22, 7 responded to a tape W of Iowa City (NH). In the same area, fledged young of the Great Horned Owl were located in May (TK). The final count for the great Snowy Owl invasion is 206 sightings in 76 counties (GB). The last observations were one in Rockwell City, April 2 (Jim Judas fide GB), and another on April 28 S of Pleasantville (Jaynie Gilderbloom fide GB). The first documented nesting of Long-eared Owls in Iowa since the early 1950s took place in the Wilcox Wildlife Refuge area, Marion Co., in April. Four adults were seen there during the nesting period (GB). By the Co R, the last of the *Short-eared Owls present since December 1 was seen on April 16. Near Ames, Allan Baxter (fide GB) saw 14 in a marsh prairie during the last 3 weeks of April. Whip-poor-wills nesting on a bluff overlooking Hamburg have been hawking over the town (IG). Over 100 migrating *Com. Nighthawks were seen in the Iowa City area on May 14 (TK, NH, TS). Otherwise, the impression is that their numbers have declined.

They are seldom seen away from towns and cities. Reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are alarmingly scarce. With the prevailing drought, it is not surprising that Belted Kingfishers have been hard to find this spring. Nesting of the Pileated Woodpecker on Credit Island is suspected (PP). "Abundant" is the adjective almost all contributors apply to the *Red-headed Woodpecker. For Iowa, this is not a legitimate Blue List species. We finally have an estimate of the number of *Hairy Woodpeckers: 1 for about 5 Downies in HHP (RD). This ratio agrees very well with statewide Christmas Bird Count data.

Flycatchers through Creepers. Western Kingbirds have not returned to their nesting sites of the last 2 years near Des Moines (WB). Many contributors lament the shortage of E. Phoebes. Surely, this species should be a candidate for the Blue List. This was a very poor year for Empidonax flycatchers, with only one Yellow-bellied banded (early, May 4) (PP). Singing Acadian Flycatchers were heard and seen in Palisades-Kepler State Park, May 21 (TK), Guthrie Co. (3 territorial individuals where none last year, DS), Wildcat Den (8-9 males, TK, NH, PP, May 28-29), and the Amana Woods (May 29, MN). The Traill's Complex continues to be an enigma: 2 singing the Alder's song ("fe-bee-o") were heard in HHP May 19-25 (NH, MN); in the very same location, 2 birds were singing the Willow's two-syllabled "fitz-bew" May 26-28 (NH, TK). Other Alders were heard May 28-29 by the Co R and at Williams' Prairie (MN). Petersen banded 5 Willows May 21-23, and found "many breeders". Tree Swallows seen March 22 were the earliest ever for Iowa (Gene Armstrong fide WB). *Cliff Swallows are doing well: they are nesting in established sites on Iowa City bridges, at Rathbun, and at Palisades-Kepler, and have established 200 new nests on Cedar Rapids bridges (LS). They have some problems at RRR, where the sandy mud impedes the building of nests (JSt). The reports largely ignore the *Purple Martin. No news is probably good news.

Titmice through Thrushes. Des Moines' famous Boreal Chickadee was last seen on March 7 (WB). At RRR, Red-breasted Nuthatches stayed into April (GB); several were seen in HHP May 4-5 (RD). The Pygmy Nuthatch left its haunt of many months in Des Moines on April 15 (WB). Brown Creepers have been at a premium: Petersen banded only 6 between March 29 and April 19. House Wrens arrived on a new early date, April 16 (TS, WB). Winter Wrens were "fairly common" in Ames in late April (DS); others had much less luck with them - none seen, or only one (April 15, Meyer Lake, JS). It seems that the severe winter has taken its toll of Carolina Wrens: only 2 recorded in LSP and N of Ames (JD, ISU); none in HHP, but several in Iowa City yards where feeders supported them (FK, TK). Marsh Wrens were common on May 14 by Trumbull L., Clay Co. (ISU), but conspicuously absent from such

prime habitat as Muskrat Slough and Cone Marsh. In contrast, Sedge Wrens were quite common in the Iowa City area. There were several reports of N. Mockingbirds: one at Marble Rock, April 18 (PK); in Guthrie Co. (DS); at Cedar Rapids, April 30 and May 4 (LS); and 4-5 pairs E of Wildcat Den (PP), but none, for the first time in 20 years, in Gladys Black's old pasture. There has been no illumination of the status of the *Wood Thrush. The great majority of observers reports a marked shortage of Catharus thrushes, with the percentage of Veeries evidently up, and several reports of their song being heard. Overall, the status of the E. Bluebird remains precarious: most contributors have found few this spring. This is another species which should be considered for the Blue List. Two Townsend's Solitaires were seen near Highlandville, March 5 (JS, DK), and another on 3 occasions at Corydon (March 17, 18 and 27) (KM).

Corydon doc.

Gnatcatchers through Vireos. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested in LSP (ISU) and at Palisades-Kepler (LS). What happened to the Golden-crowned Kinglets? A number of very active birders reported having seen none; none (G DeL) or few (PP) were banded. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were also far from abundant. Only one report of a Water Pipit was received: March 30 at Sweet Marsh (JS). A keen-eyed teenager observed and well documented a Sprague's Pipit seen on May 1 near Ryan (fide LS) - unfortunately, his name was not communicated, so he has an IOU from the IOU. The fall-winter N. Shrike invasion carried over into spring: one was seen on March 5 (Bill Heusinkveld fide GB), "a few" in Guthrie Co. (DS), and one as late as March 19 at Cone Marsh (RD). A coherent picture of the *Loggerhead Shrike situation is hard to piece together: "none" (LS, PP, for Davenport, Iowa City observers); only 2 near Ames in mid-April (JD), "holding steady" (GeB); not rare but irregular (CS); 4 nests at RRR, one parasitized by cowbirds (GB), and "common" near Lamoni (G Del), where habitat destruction has been less severe. On the whole, there is no reason for optimism. Three singing White-eyed Vireos were quite obtrusive in HHP from May 3 on (RD, m. ob.); one, on April 18 in Echo Valley State Park, was early (JS). There were several reports from widely scattered areas of *Bell's Vireos, no more than one or 2 in any one place - no evidence for any drastic population change. Philadelphia Vireos were seen: only one banded, May 18 (PP); 2 in HHP, May 18-19 (RD, NH, MN), 2 at St. Lucas May 5 and 8, and 2 by Union Grove Lake, May 15 (JS).

Warblers. None of the contributors had kind words for the warbler migration: few or no waves, few species, few individuals of all but the commonest. The compiler, having the benefit of the whole picture, can add a cheery note - some unusual or even rare species were seen, many more than in most "good" years. Prothonotary Warblers were nesting in the proper habitat: Iowa River oxbows S of Iowa City (May 7, 14 TK et al.), along

the Cedar River in Muscatine Co. (May 28, TK, NH), at Rathbun L. (CS), and maybe at Sweet Marsh (JS). The rare Worm-eating warbler was heard singing and run down in Wildcat Den, May 28 (TK, NH). The status of the *Yellow Warbler, despite some lacunae, seems improved: fairly common in migration, and more than last year on territory. A Cape May Warbler was seen in HHP May 14 (TK, NH, TS). Cerulean Warblers were found near St. Lucas, May 8 (JS), S of the Co R on May 14 (TK, NH, TS), at Stone City and Palisades-Kepler, May 8 (LS; in the latter location, also a female carrying nesting materials on May 26, NH), and at Shenandoah on May 13 (RP). As last year, a Yellow-throated Warbler was observed in LSP, May 17-20 (JD). On May 21, a vigorously singing Prairie Warbler was discovered in Macbride Field Campus (MN, RD). It sang all day, and was seen by several other Iowa City birders (NH, TK, FK). Louisiana Waterthrushes occurred in LSP, May 17 (ISU) and at Coon Rapids, for 10 days in May (nest with eggs and young located, GeB). Kentucky Warblers, in keeping with the recent trend, were heard and seen well outside their traditional stronghold in the SE and along the Mississippi (they were also present in Wildcat Den, May 28, TK, NH): HHP, May 18 (MN, NH); Macbride Field Campus, May 7, 14 (TK, NH, TS); Lamoni (netted), April 28 (G DeL); Cedar Bluff, May 14 (MN et al.); Marble Rock, May 12 (PK). The Connecticut Warbler had an excellent migration: one netted on May 13 (early), (PP); 3 in Guthrie Co. (DS); one on May 16 near Alburnett (LS); one in HHP, May 19 (MN, NH), and one heard in Macbride Field Campus, May 21 (MN). *Yellow-breasted Chats were reported as follows: one daily May 9-13, N of Ames (ISU); 2 May 13 and May 19-25, HHP (MN et al.), and the first one since 1964 in Des Moines, May 18 (WB). Hooded Warblers were netted in Essex (BW) and Davenport, May 24 and 26, where one was collected (PP). *Am. Redstarts were sparse in Des Moines (WB) but quite common in suitable habitat elsewhere.

Blackbirds through Sparrows. George Crossley feels that both meadowlarks are down by 50%, an impression shared by the compiler. Yellow-headed Blackbird colonies have been wiped out by the drought at Lakin Slough (GeB), held steady at Cone Marsh (m. ob.), and increased at McCords Pond near Bayard (GeB). A new colony is being established at Mud Lake County Conservation Park N of Dubuque (GC). Several Orehard Orioles were seen, at RRR and the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City area, with a nest found (GB) and a female dismantling an old N. Oriole nest (HO). A Scarlet Tanager banded on April 28 was rather early (PP). The only Summer Tanager report came from the SW corner of the state (IG). It was definitely an off year for sparrow migration. Mrs. De Long banded 157 Purple Finches. A Com. Redpoll banded on March 19 (PP) was late, as was a Pine Siskin on May 2. Savannah Sparrows had fine habitat along the drought-stricken reservoirs and swamps, and will undoubtedly be breeding in good numbers. There is disagreement on the *Grasshopper Sparrow: habitat reduction is not denied, but some say their numbers are up in suitable

fields; others believe they have declined. Le Conte's Sparrows appeared very early (March 19) in a weedy field by Cone Marsh (NH, m. ob.); they were seen until April 9, the maximum count (RD) being 10+. Only 2 *Henslow's Sparrows were reported, on May 29 at Hayden Prairie (JS). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen at close range (date?) (CS). The tenor of the comments on the *Vesper Sparrow, the latest addition to the Blue List, has been generally favorable. The season's prize find was a Golden-crowned Sparrow, the first seen in Iowa, discovered in Jamaica on May 3 (Ge B). Although attempts to net and photograph it failed, an absolutely convincing documentation was provided. The bird stayed long enough to be viewed by other birders (WB, DM, Margaret Brooke), who emphatically agreed on its identity. This species of the Pacific W has been known to stray as far as the E and Gulf Coasts. Linger Lapland Longspurs were seen by the Co R on April 17 (RD) and at Sweet Marsh on April 30 (JS). *late!*

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Field Reports Editor's note to contributors.

The number and quality of reports has been gratifying, and coverage of the state has improved. For this, my thanks. My job, and that of the Regional Editor of Am. Birds, to whom my report is forwarded, would be facilitated if a) species were listed in checklist order, as most of you do; b) dates of observations were consistently given; and c) the counties in which small localities or other places such as marshes and lakes are located were mentioned: I am not sufficiently familiar with the geography of the state, and Mr. Kleen is probably less so; some of our contributors are rather wide-ranging, and the assumption that a (hypothetical) Buffalo Bottoms Recreation Area is near their home town may be erroneous. N. S. HALMI.