

33 Hillcrest Court
Webster City 50595
June 8, 1977

Dear Mr. Halmi:

I would like to add my comments to others you may be receiving with regard to the spring migration. Generally the migration period seemed to extend over a longer period with waterfowl starting at a time earlier than usual and songbirds extending over a longer period with no real 'peak' period. The dry weather may have had some effect on overall numbers and varieties. My spring list now totals 176 species, but has some very notable absences--species normally seen each spring. Among those on the list many were here in reduced numbers. About the only real increase was in the area of the sandpipers. With the water level down, Anderson Lake (near Jewel in Hamilton county) was a mudflat and attracted them -- at times numbering in the thousands. Among the most noticeable absences from the list were: common loon, white pelican, least bittern, american bittern, sharp-shinned hawk, broad-winged hawk, herring gull, ruby hummingbird, neither marsh wren, bluebird, loggerhead shrike, parula, cerulean, bay-breasted, and Canada warblers, orchard oriole, and clay-colored sparrow.

A few comments about families:

Loons: None

Grebes: Pied-billed down

Pelicans: None

Cormorants: Only a few

Hérons: Blue down, green stable, one each of the night herons

Geese: Good numbers

Ducks: Generally good numbers over an extended period of time.
Saw my first black duck ever, excellent number of common mergansers

Hawks: Generally stable numbers, have the peregrine on the list

Grouse, etc: Pheasants down, good numbers of partridges on early breeding bird surveys

Cranes, etc.: Few soras

Plovers: Lots of semipalmated, a few golden plovers

Sandpipers: Best ever, just added the upland the past week, added the marbled at Anderson in early May

Gulls: Least ever

Terns: Least ever, even blacks were way down

Doves: No significant change

Cuckoos: Only a few, but that's not unusual.

Owls: No significant change

Goatsuckers: No significant change

Woodpeckers: only one sapsucker, downys seem down

Flycatcher: Have the olive-sided on the list (that's not usual), hope to add the western kingbird when I get to western Iowa

Swallows: Only one cliff all spring, others way down, except barn
Jays, Crow: No significant change

Titmice: Ditto

Wrens: House is my only observation, don't know where the others
were this spring.

Mimics: Missed the mockingbird, but don't see it each year

Thrushes: Except robin and wood, numbers were down with no veeries
or bluebirds

Gnatchatchers, Kinglets: No blue-gray, goldens down

Pipits, waxwings: A pair of water pipits at Briggs woods, lots of
cedar waxwings later winter and early spring

Shrikes: One norther in February, no loggerheads

Vireos: Few

Warblers: No real peak period of migration. Except for Tennessee
and yellow-rumped, the numbers wre down with only one
individual seen of several species

Blackbirds: No significant change

Tanager: One scarlet

Finches, Sparrows: Rose-breasted down, fewer buntings, generally fewer
sparrows, although the white-crowned was up. Hope to see
the blue grosbeak later in western Iowa.

Although I did miss the Saturdays of May 7 and 14, I did get
out several times a week from late March through May 22. Hope
these comments may be of some help.

Yours truly,
Low Muilenburg

Received 6/14, one week after the deadline, so I
could no longer use the report ^{my} report in the
mail, late because of my absence 6/7-10, on 6/13).
For future reference: June 1 - July 31, due August 7.
For unusual sightings, date and locality needed
(if very unusual, documentation form supplied on
request) - e.g. Marbled godwit, Peregrine Falcon, Upland
Shadpiper (northern Shrike in February not in spring
period, which is March 1 - May 31). Sorry your effort
was without the reward it deserved!

W. H. Allen