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STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

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PETER C. PETERSEN  
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Dear Nick;

I don't think I will have anything new the next few days so will get this off now. The magazines were to be here today but they ran into a snag & it will be Tuesday before they make it. I have the envelopes ready & will have them in the mail Wed. early A.M., but it might be a bit late for the notice. The Bl. bel. whistler I did get under the wire - hope it will be in the right spot - asked them to change the total species in intro. We took a two day ride on the steamboat Delta I mean on Tue & Wed. which accounts for some of my more interesting observations - to Guttenberg & return. My observations are chiefly early June & late July,

Commons - colony N. of Clinton holding its own - about 8 nests

D. b. Herons - many near Saluda heronry & I of Guttenberg 7/26

D. Egret - about 12 between Dub. & Guttenberg 7/26

Msl. w. teal - several at Brimston Marsh on 6/2 - many Lou

Mallards - had a good breeding season along Miss - saw several

hundred on - Guttenberg - 7/26 & 27, many at Lindsay Pk. Boat Club,

Wood Ducks - had a good year in Dan & Le Clair area, many broods in June

Mufflehead - ♀ - Zoos Lake (Clinton Co.) - lake very shallow, bird

unable to dive - my first summer record - 15-35K used - about 100 yards 7/23.

Susky Vulture - 30-40 S. of Bellevue along river Iowa shore 7/26

feeding on dead fish early A.M. - 8-10 near Guttenberg 7/26.

Red-tailed Hawk - 8-9 between Dub. & Guttenberg 7/26, 1 family group

Wald Eagle - adult - soaring high over Iowa shore - near N. W. near Vicks

on 7/26 - (Clayton Co.) near site of 1976 nest

on 7/26 - mouth of Napsi (near Camanche) 7/27 - flew over river - early A.M. - first summer record.

Am. Westred - nested at Pine Hill successfully.  
 Bobwhite + R. n. Pheasant - slightly up on <sup>the</sup> Iowa B.B.S. routes.  
 Am. Coot - about 40-8 miles above Dubuque, Iowa shore - nice marsh 7/26.  
 Am. Woodcock - probably nested at Pine Hill Clin. - seen 6/21  
 by David Gray (he came along on Prairie Warbler trip in May). He  
 saw evidence of their probing for worms on other occasions in June.  
 Spotted Sandpiper - saw 6-8 along river Princeton - Guttenberg  
 (easy to miss from boat.) & felt these were good numbers.  
 Upland Sdp. - seen again on BBS near Delmar 6/4 - two seen, calling.  
 L. Yellow-leg - only shorebird seen in numbers (but I haven't been  
 looking much) - 25 at Dooze Lake 7/23.  
 Ring-billed Gull - 4 on 7/27, Princeton - Davenport.  
 Common Tern - 1 about 8 mi. N. Dubuque 7/26, 2 at Guttenberg 7/27.  
 Black Tern - 4 " " " " " "  
 Little Tern - 6 " 6 " N. Sabula 7/26 - moving down river.  
 Mr. Dove - down a bit on B.B.S.'s in Iowa.

B.B.S. comments - Iowa routes - Clinton & Cedar Counties 1976  
 vs 1977

C. Swift - up ~~Old~~ Red-bd Wren - up slightly  
 Willow Flych. - up Horned Lark - steady to slightly up  
 Barn Swallow - up slightly C. Crow - steady  
 House Wren - down slightly Sidge Wren - down  
 Mr. Thrasher - up markedly Robin - steady  
 Bluebird - down - none in 74 vs. 3 in 1976  
 E. Starling - up slightly C. Yellowthroat - up  
 House Sparrow - up E. Wldh. - down sharply 11 vs. 29.  
 Bobolink - steady W. Wldh. - down - 102 vs. 159.  
 R. w. Wldh. - up slightly C. Grackle - steady  
 W. b. Cowbird - up slightly W. Cardinal - up slightly  
 D. Wren - steady Dickcissel - down on one, up on one.  
 Am. Goldfinch - up slightly Saw Spa. - up again  
 Grass Spa. - up on one, even on one Vesper Spa. - up on one, down on one  
 Field Sparrow - down Song Sparrow down on one, even on one.

Other land bird info -  
Least Flycatcher - in yard 7/20 & 7/22 - not seen or heard previously  
 early mig?  
 Swallows - many migrating 7/23 Goose Lake area  
 Martins - had a good year 7/26 & 27 - river Dan-Dub. <sup>Wank's</sup>  
 Swanson's & Thrush - home 5/28 - late <sup>Tree</sup> <sup>Chiefly</sup>  
 Bluebird losses - W. C. Den area 14 vs 11 in 1976 - about same.  
 N. Mockingbird - holding their own W. C. Den area - 3-5 pair.  
 Wty. Warbler - near Buffalo 5/23 - territorial?  
 Blue Grosbeak seen in Wylie 6/26 - D. & Mrs. Robert Graham.

So long,  
 Pete