

Field Reports - Summer 1977

Robert Walton, Naturalist of our Dubuque County Conservation Board Nature Center, reports a large fledging of E. bluebirds in each of 12-15 nests; evidence of a good increase in the transplanted wild turkeys; evidently more than one nesting of both yellow- and black-billed cuckoos; a nesting of yellow-breasted chat; a noticeable decrease in barn swallows; and at least one nest with two young pileated woodpeckers. (Swiss Valley ^{SW of} Dubuque)

Personally I want to report my first ^{time since 1945} record of a colony of yellow-headed blackbirds in NE Iowa at Mud Lake (County Cons. Bd.) Park about 10 miles north of Dubuque on the Miss. River. I would estimate (difficult) possibly 30 pairs with a good fledging. Adults were feeding on the park's lawn with and in the manner of starlings. I suspect low water levels in central Wisconsin marshes have moved these birds to the River.

Purple martins in Dubuque are more numerous than usual since fledging this year's young.

Geo. Crossley