

Scott

Seymour, Iowa
June 7, 1977

Dear Dr. Halmi,

First for the blue-listed birds I see:

Double-crested cormorant--a flock at Rathbun (9 or 10) on May 8--we saw singles after that till May 26.

Black-crowned night heron--a single at a water-filled roadside ditch on April 3rd. (Have seen a number of Yellow-crowned)

Canvasback duck--two singles on March 13 and April 17.

Marsh hawk--saw them commonly until after the first week in April then none so assume they were all migratory.

American kestrel--they are common nesters in the dead trees in the upper reaches of Rathbun--one nesting within the city limits of Seymour but definitely on the decline generally.

Piping plover--a small flock at Centerville Reservoir (8-9) on May 15.

Upland sandpiper--they are definitely on the increase in our part of the state. There are at least 4 nesting pair where I reported them south of Seymour last year, and I see them quite commonly in other areas where I birdalso.

Yellow-billed cuckoo--the only cuckoos I have spotted have been black-billed although I have heard many I could not see

Red-headed woodpecker--abundant

Hairy woodpecker--plentiful--especially at the lake

Cliff swallows--nesting under the bridges at Rathbun

Purple martins--plentiful

Loggerhead shrike--I can't see that the status has changed here--not rare but not seen on every birding trip either.

Yellow warbler--I have not seen one this spring, and this is definitely a decline as far as I'm concerned.

Grasshopper and Vesper sparrows--abundant.

We followed a nesting Whip-poor-will for two weeks--she left with the two young almost as soon as the eggs hatched.

The Prothonotary warblers and Wood ducks are nesting a number of places in the same dead tree area I mentioned above (actually we are seeing many duck families now). Also the Great Blue Heron rookery was active with 21 nests on May 26.

Two Cattle Egrets south of Seymour on Mar. 20 and two Great Egrets on April 9.

I had a very poor Warbler season, but I hit the jackpot on Common Snipe--I saw 53 in 20 different places from March 16to April 26.

The sparrow season was good and included a Sharp-tailed which I was able to watch at close range and for some time. It was a Lifer for me.

late?

Hope I have included something of value to you.

Charlitta Scott