

Nick

GRAESING CONSTRUCTION CO.

HOWARD F. GRAESING, Owner

Homes and Cabinets Our Specialty

SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360 April 4-'78

Iowa Ornithologist Union -

Mrs Ruth Buckles, Treas.,

I still watch a few Birds, as in contact with them, about & around my work.

Last Fall Aug. 24-'77, I saw a new site to me - 9,000 to 10,000 Purple Martins in concentrated area over Electric Power Plant, in East Estherville. The Top Wires were so covered with Birds that other birds could not squeeze in between them, with many attempts, and finally give up, and settle to 2nd or 3rd wire under with the Top wire.

My martins usually flock up to 45-50 for several mornings & evenings then they go all at once in early to mid, Aug. But I never seen more than 50 or 60 one flock, in this area. I have received Martins in Spring, as early as April 4, couple years and from there on April 6 on up. This means I could be seeing them only day now?

I would be interested in any comment from other members, in Iowa O. U. Dakton. This large flock had been there 3 days, the Office lady told me, and when I went back, 2 days later, to take couple pictures, there was only dozen or so there, rest had left. Afternoon of 24th was told, over.

We had near no snow in this area,
10°-11° below average, for both Jan. + Feb.,
But Cold weather drove Great Snowy
Owl down here, Many Snow birds,
Red pole, Pin Siskin, not normally found
here in any number during winter.

While I'm writing - I'd better mention,
that Summer of 1933, I found a Yellow
Breasted Chat, in my flowers, Dead.

Dr Frank Roberts (I.O.U. Charter Member)
said records showed, a Chat had been
recorded in Jackson, Minn, several years
earlier, but none in this part of area here.

At an I.O.U. Meeting here later, he was
recorded, here but Not in my group.
In fall of 1939, I found dead, a Siskin
in N.W. Park of Big Spirit Lake, during
hunting season. I sent that bird to
Joel Mustrow in Historical Bldg in
Des Moines and Dr Roberts told me they
mounted it there. Also Dr Roberts told
me there was no record of one ever
been seen in the north Iowa Area.

Sincerely

Howard Gearing

78 Membership enclosed