

Pearl Knoop

Marble Rock, Iowa  
May 31, 1978

Dear Mr. Halmi;

I suppose everyone will start their report by saying that this has been a poor migration year, anyway that has been the way it seemed to me. I waited a long time for that first Robin and then they came in their usual numbers though I wonder if perhaps it is our own north Iowa Robins that are here in usual numbers and the more northerly ones were a little scarce. Probably summer reports will show up the Bluebird situation but we are lacking those--makes me wonder if something happened to a lot of them on their ~~xxx~~ winter quarters last winter. Am wondering too what the summer report will say about the Martins.

But birding brought its rewards even in a poor migration time. As for instance the morning of May 14 when I found a Western Grebe down on the north pond at the lagoon south of town. He stayed and let me look at him as long as I wanted to. It was a new one for my life list. ~~xx~~ Saw two Black-crowned Night Herons on the 10th of May. Have seen the usual number of Great Blue Herons,

Wasn't happy with duck migration, but guess the weather probably delayed them and they kept on going when they got started. Did see a pair of Common Golden-eye on April 6, which I believe is a rather late date. They came in and lit down at the lagoon so I had a good look and could be sure of the identification. Buffleheads were in about their usual numbers.

Saw an Osprey on both the 8th and 9th of April, but don't know whether it was the same one both times. On the 8th it allowed such a close approach to the tree where it was perching that I wondered if it was ok.

Shorebird migration didn't seem too good but guess I really have no other for comparison as last year was the first time I had had the lagoon to watch for these and there were many more than this year. However I did see a Willet ~~which~~ on the 12th and two Dowitchers on the 12th. Don't know which of the Dowitchers ~~it was~~ they were. Some, and I think most of the others were Semi-palmated Sandpipers with the exception of the Killdeer and Spotted Sandpipers.

Was surprised to see so many Black Tern feeding over the lagoon ponds. Counted 30 on the 11th, the first one were seen on the 8th.

Swallows as a whole haven't seemed to be here in their usual numbers with the exception of the Tree Swallows. Dates for them ranged from April 4 to May 12.

I would say that the Thrushes were scarce except for the fact that both the ~~xxxx~~ Swainson's and Gray-cheeked were really numerous on ~~the~~ <sup>the morning</sup> ~~the afternoon~~ ~~when~~ of May 11 when I was birding in a pasture that has some scattered trees and was once an old gravel pit or contain an ~~old~~ old gravel pit. A Gray-cheeked spent the

My list for 1978 has needed 153 counting a dead yellow-billed Cuckoo - it killed itself flying into a window a belonging friends

Knoop

29th of May in my yard here at home and did some singing.

Orioles and Rose-breasted Grosbeak seemed nearly as numerous as usual during migration. They did lots of singing. Saw ~~xx~~ a female Evening Grosbeak on one of my feeding shelves early in the morning of May 3. A friend had had a male at her feeders a week or so before that. This was one of the years when we had Pine Siskin during migration. They were at my feeders from April five to early in May. Saw a few when out birding on the 14th and 22nd of May. Kinglets were scarce. My last date for a Redpoll was February 28, probably that don't count on spring migration.

Warbler migration wasn't up to par. Did find a Blue-winged one on the 10th, and a Mourning on the 18th. Otherwise they were the usual except I missed some of the usual. Had a Yellow-warbler in my back yard singing this forenoon. I haven't found them as scarce the past few years as some have reported.

Sparrow migration wasn't as good as hoped for I guess, but it seems to me that sparrows have always had their ups and downs in numbers through the years. Added one species to my life list. On the morning of May 16 I found a Baird's Sparrow down in the lagoon area. He obliged by singing for me so by listening to my cassette when I got home I was sure of the identification. Have both of Peterson's cassettes that go with his bird books for Eastern U.S.A. They have helped in identification more than once. Saw and heard quite a few Grasshopper Sparrows later.

I know that when I read the Season's report after it is printed I am going to ~~wish~~ see some I wish I had mentioned so will add a few records here that may or may not be of value.

An American Rough-legged Hawk, March 23.

Didn't seem to see as many Pied-billed Grebes as some years.

A Turkey Vulture April 10.

A Broad-winged Hawk, April 25

Flycatchers almost up to par.

Haven't seen a Ruby-throated Hummingbird yet. Usually do see some by this time.

~~xxxx~~ I missed the Rufous-sided Towhee. Usually see at least a pair once.

Saw A Yellow-headed Blackbird May 21. Redwings are here in satisfactory numbers.

Saw a Scarlet Tanager a few times, May 16 and later.

As usual Red-eye and Solitary were the most common of the vireos., didn't see a Yellow-

Bobolink back April 28, a little earlier than most times.

throated.

not that they may have been here and I missed them.

June 1  
Saw four  
Black Terns  
at the lagoon  
this morning.

Sincerely  
Pearl Knapp