

Scott

Seymour, Iowa
May 31, 1978

Dear Dr. Halmi,

In spite of the excessive rain and cold weather in southern Iowa, this has been a good birding spring for me--everything was later in coming through however.

First to finish off the winter season, the Evening Grosbeaks (two ^{or female} immature) stayed at my feeding station through March 20, and then on May 2-3 a male adult came. This seems like a late date. I see Brown lists May 2 as a late date.

Every pond held a variety of ducks through March, April and first week of May. However I did not see any Canvasbacks.

I saw a single Cattle Egret on April 18 in company with a White-faced Ibis at a slough south of Russell. Another birder, Bondene Rissler, was with me. We saw the Ibis at close quarters. I'm only ruling out Glossy because the books say they do not breed this far north, nor travel. When I birded in Cameron Parish in Louisiana, I was told there was really no way to distinguish between the two. Also a flock of 7 Cattle Egrets north of Promise City on May 29.

Plegadis?
Spl.

A Great Egret stayed at a pond between Promise City and Corydon for about two weeks beginning April 12. Two others were seen in the area--one April 14 and the other May 12. In the upland pasture above the above-mentioned pond Ms. Rissler and I saw 3 Buff-breasted Sandpipers. They were resting when we first spotted them, and for an instant I thought they were Uplands. Then when they began to feed they were easy to identify.

late?

Pheasants are abundant in the area in spite of the bad winter, but Bobwhite seem to have suffered.

The Upland Sandpipers were back on the road south of town that I call Upland Street--two miles with no houses and mostly pasture land--April 12. I know of three nesting pair--there could well be more.

A late date on a Short-eared Owl is April 19. This one was resting in long grass by the road side, and did not fly till we approached him quite closely.

The big wave of warblers did not come through here until May 10-19. I saw a good variety and good numbers but nothing unusual. My only observation is that I believe there is an increase in the Yellow Warbler population which is encouraging. I see several each time I'm out.

We're looking forward to a trip to Alaska and some new birds--I hope!

Yours truly,

Charlotte Scott