

Brown

June and July, 1978 Des Moines

Great Blue Heron. Last week of July, 15 South of St. Charles (Gene Armstrong) and 25 south of Runnells (Dick Mooney) Both Madison Co.
Canada and Snow Goose n. of Polk Co on 3 June and lone Canada on 12 July, Polk Co. (Dick Mooney)

Ducks Almost none seen except Wood Ducks.

Accipiters. None

Shorebirds. Wave from 17 to 20 July (non-breeders?) including 1 Willet (Mooney)
Few until 27 July, most Pecs and Yellow-legs.

No Piping Plover or Little Terns at DeSoto Bend, despite some clearing of cottonwoods.

Upland Sandpipers. Several nestings south of Booneville in Madison Co. (Armstrong)

Yellow-billed Cuckoos. At least usual numbers

Red-breasted Nuthatch. First on 9th, second on 12th and third on 17 July at Mrs. Warters' (Des Moines)

Robins Many adults, but comments re small number of imm.

Bluebirds. Gene Burns saw 12 near Armstrong farm, Madison Co. mid July. (Armstrong)

Shrikes. 2 nests with 4 and 5 young (Armstrong)

Vireos. No Bell's and very few of others

Dickcissel. Plentiful where there is grass

Pine Siskins. Irregularly present all summer until 9 July but no evidence of nesting (L Warters)

Grasshopper Sp. Many in pastures (Armstrong)

Moody

8 July, 1978

Dear Nick:

This will no doubt tax your credulity. Yesterday Beany (Elizabeth Clarkson) Zwart, a columnist for the Trib called to say a woman on 26th St. had seen 3 Steller's Jays. When I expressed some doubt she said she would accept this person's word as readily as Gladys'.

I immediately called the woman and learned the birds had been seen only briefly on the one day. She sounded quite knowledgeable and agreed to document the record.

I saw her this morning and am ready to accept her statement. She feeds a lot and is familiar with the common birds. Unfortunately, she had not birded in the west and was not familiar with the Stellers. At the same time, I don't see how this species could be confused with any other. The very large crest was the first thing she noticed, and this sets it apart from the other corvids.

The tornadic winds we have experienced in the past few days have probably driven a number of strays into the area, but no other reports have been received.

Nudy