

Wilson

# Bob Wilson

Interesting records, summer of 1978

They couldn't last year: no water at all

Big news: Willow slough <sup>Mills County</sup> has water in it, permitting several water-loving species to nest there (P-b Grebe, Least Bittern, Mallard, Gadwall, Redhead, R-w and Y-h Blackbirds). Am. Coot: 4 nests

P-b Grebe - 3+ broods (7, 5, 2 young) (2 nests: 4, 9 eggs)

Least Bittern: nest found June 16. 3 eggs. Revisited

July 19 - adult on. 3 eggs.

Mallard: 2+ broods (7, 3+ young)

Gadwall: ♀ w/ 7 small downies June 30

Redhead: ♀ w/ 6 young found June 30, seen also July 1, 12, 15, 22, 23.

Other water birds spent the summer without my finding evidence of breeding: G B Heron <sup>July 9, 11, 22</sup>, Green Heron, B-c Night

Heron (adult + imm <sup>one</sup> ~~July~~ June 19), Y-c Night Heron (adult,

June 19), Ring-necked Duck (June 4, 18, 30, July 3), L. Scaup

(June 4, 30, July 1, 3, 9, 15, 22, 23), B-w Teal. Black

Terns, over 30 of them, spend much time at the slough, but aren't nesting there, + sometimes leave, generally for somewhere to the south. Some mottled w/ light color on all dates.

Black Terns	Date:	June 4	15	16	18	19	30	July 1	3	9	11
# counted:		24	-	-	27	-	-	-	4	40+	present

Date: July 12 15 22 23

#: 21 15+ 26 6

Some birds w/ late migration dates at the slough: Willow slough Mills County

Eared Grebe: at least as late as June 4 (2 seen)

White Pelican: 4:2 on June 4

Hooded Merganser: 1 ♀ on June 4

R-b Merganser - 1 ♀ on June 4

Pintail: June 15, 16

Ruddy Duck: ~~5~~ 5 on June 4, 1 on June 18.

~~7/15/78~~  
~~7/15/78~~  
also saw the Night Herons

4 Red-wing and 3 Cowbird eggs May 26. (~~Anderson~~ Anderson  
Twp, Sec. 23, Mills Co.)

### Implied Cooper's Hawk:

May 30 I found the remains of a Mourning Dove that had been incubating in ~~a~~ a tree by the house for at least 10 days. The body was gone, but the feathers, wings, even beak, had all been plucked off by something roosting in a spruce tree,  $\pm 12'$  off the ground. One egg knocked from the nest, but neither eaten.  
(~~Anderson~~ Anderson Twp, Sec 19 "E") Mills Co.

2. Bluebirds: 6 nest tries recorded on the farm by 3 or probably

4 pairs (up from 2 pr. last year)

one success

4-5 young fledged from 5 eggs in fence post

3 failures (in nest boxes)

1 in progress (in nest box)

1 unknown results (nest in a tree cavity)

Mills  
Co.

Shorebird migration - Willow Slough - Mills Co.

5 Willets July 1 (w/ Ross Silcock)

Unidentified peep + others July 11

1 Pectoral Sandpiper July 12

6 ~~Least~~ Least Sandpipers July 12

2 Yellowlegs July 12

(other records of Pectorals, Yellowlegs, peep since)

There are 2 adult + 1 imm. ♂ Orchard Orioles that sing along my 2.8 mi. Census ~~to~~ route. I found one nest July 19. It was almost certainly present July 15. Nesting still in progress. (~~Anderson~~ Anderson Twp, Sec 26, Mills Co., Ia)

Franklin's Gull: 2 in adult plumage + 2 in imm. Plumage  
at Willow Slough June 18.

~~Forsters Terns~~: 2 at Willow Slough July 9, 3 there July 22

Small numbers of Yellow Warblers and at least  
3 <sup>singing</sup> Bell's Vireos spent the summer. (Bell's Vireo June 19, 30,  
July 1, 11, 23) <sup>at the Slough.</sup>

Note: In visiting the slough at least 14 separate  
days ~~in~~ the past ~~in~~ 2 months, I ~~do not~~ have met NO  
Massasauga Rattlesnakes. # The habitat ~~is~~ certainly  
looks good, + they're probably present, but not a great threat.

Other records:

1 Olive-sided Flycatcher June 1 (~~at~~ Anderson Twp, Sec 23 <sup>(W)</sup>)

1 Yellow-rumped Warbler June 17 was pursued across a  
pasture by 2 ~~yellow~~ hark Sparrows and forced to the ground  
twice before it reached the sanctuary of our woods. (~~at~~ Anderson  
Twp, Sec 2 <sup>(W)</sup> Mills Co.)

Bobolinks: Relatives report they never saw Bobolinks before.  
They were present last year, but are much more conspicuous  
and probably more common this year. I found a nest  
May 29. 6 eggs, in a bromegrass pasture. # ♀ on May 29,  
June 9, 13, and then June 17 the nest was empty.

Loggerhead Shrikes: 1 seen June 11 and July 20 in S. Pottawatomie  
Co. 3 together July 12 in E. Anderson Twp, Sec 26, <sup>(E)</sup> Mills Co.

The Cardinal <sup>nest</sup> w/ 3 Cardinal + 5 Cowbird eggs probably fledged  
3 Cardinals + 1 Cowbird. Those young were in the nest  
May 29 + gone May 30 after ~~the~~ my dog ran through  
their bush. (~~at~~ Anderson Twp, Sec. 23, <sup>(W)</sup> Mills Co.)

A Red-winged Blackbird probably fledged 2 Red-wing + ~~3~~ 2  
Cowbird young from a nest ~~containing~~ that contained