

May 16, 1979

Dear Dr. Halmi, it was such a pleasure hearing from you. I enjoyed hearing of your Florida trip. I wanted to ask questions, but had a feeling you were rushed about something or other. You saw pretty much what I did - and some I did not. Similar to the Washington pelagic trip. Wish we were closer so I could hear more of your trip.

I am enclosing a few notes as I promised, but frankly I'd rather not. They are so prosaic. I'd like to send some electrifying news. Guess that is out of the question because I am pinned down here with no car available to me. My contribution is one of lateness of arrival of birds.

Green heron

seen April 27th

geese, snow, white-fronted & Canada

Our last ice storm was March 3rd. Geese were piled up just south of us in Missouri - two miles south. As soon as it warmed up they started migrating by the 1000s and were soon through, biggest push March 15 & 16

ducks,

Ducks came in just as fast. Seemed as tho there were more this year, but that might have been because they were held back. Lesser scaup in greater numbers than usual. On March 28th we drove north on I-29, crossing at Decatur, Nebra. on or about 42-degree latitude to Norfolk. We were north of that next day and then crossed at Sioux City. We saw very few waterfowl. It was obvious that the ducks and geese stopped at the 42-degree latitude (geese, pintails, shovelers, lesser scaup, mallards, canvasbacks, black ducks and buffleheads). It seemed there had been a fierce rain and snow storm few days before (Sunday); many side roads were impassable.

I had a pair of wood ducks which tried to nest in a tree in our yard, but a pair of children must have frightened them off with a gun. I tried to run them off, but the damage was done. Apr. 4-18

I saw a small flock of greater scaup, 8, on April 13th on the way to our farm. There was no mistaking them as there were a few of the lesser in the same farm pond, as well as teals. The greater were larger, the white underneath was whiter and seemed to be more of it.

merlin

maybe

On April 8th saw a very dark falcon which looked to be nothing else but a merlin. Also sighted by Omaha Audubon Society. Vol IX, No. 5, May, 1979. (They also sighted some Swainson's hawks, but I did not in our area. I did in Nebraska on the March 28th trip)

Swainson hawk, Storm Lake Neb, April 7

kestrels

abundant in migration. Had three females sitting on our telephone wire in our yard April 6th at 5:30 p.m.

bald eagles

As usual followed the migrating geese. Saw two just south of Riverton on March 8th. One flew over our house March 9th. Two immature bald seen at Riverton Refuge on March 18th

gull, glaucous

unusual if true: late, many

straggled through March 28th, continued until April 3rd. Saw a flock of ten in our town in a spill. Omaha Audubon were as surprised as I about the great numbers going through

gull, ring-billed

also terns which I could not identify migrating April 8 (black terns seen this past week)

chimney swift

arriving quite late on April 15

swallows, bank & rough-winged

martin, purple.

house wren

warblers

loggerhead shrike

1st arriveal on April 20th. Very late.

scouts usually arrive between March 23-26, but this year it was April 3rd. I had several spotters who have martin homes, watch for me. Omaha Audubon saw them earlier, but they certainly did not come into Hamburg earlier.

first heard and seen April 20. Again late. Haven't seen nor heard any Carolina wrens now for 2 or 3 years. I keep hoping they'll come back

seem to be few in numbers, except for yellow-rumped, seen second week of April. Since then only common ones, like yellow, orange-crowned, Tennessee, Nashville, balck-and-white, black-poll

My first sighting was April 17th. They are usually here all winter - if the winter is mild

*Wish the best - birdwise and
accident free - on your coming
trip!*

Best regards

Jane