

Dear Dr. Halmi,

*Subseder*  
I received June 1978, "Iowa Bird Life" this morning and after having read it through noted that the due date on the field notes is tomorrow. I am confident this cannot reach that date but I hope you might be interested in some comments I have. I will end up with a short note.

The comments are on your last field notes.

I had a cooper's hawk on January 3rd, and a Swainson's hawk on January 18th. Both Ruth and I had a hoary redpoll at our feeders in January. All these items were reported to you, I am sure. As it deals only with your preface (winter months) it is old history now and of no value;.

On the 19th of April I saw 250-300 cormorants near Hamburg on a borrow pit along I-29. You only reported Ross Silcock's number of 113 at Riverton Refuge, April 28. Some of my friends saw them, too. I don't know why it wasn't reported, an earlier and larger report. (If you would please let me know how you work this system, I won't bother you with items like this) If Ross' reports are accepted and not ours ← I'm not the only one who resents this favoritism and I do like Ross as well as my friends who do too →

This is an aside. The Mississippi kite has been sighted near Fontenelle Forest south of Omaha a very few times. I am sure it is the bird I've seen which baffles me. However, I am alerting you as the next time I will pay more attention to it to give you the needed information on the form you sent.

Back to my comments on your notes. We always have lots of kestrels in this area. There doesn't seem to be a lessening or greater numbers of them thru the years.

Great numbers of bobwhites and pheasants. Can't believe no upland sandpipers altho a farmer friend tells me he had a pair nesting on his farm. But I didn't see it. Another old friend who doesn't seem about is the Western kingbird. I've only seen one pair in our corner of the County this year. I've been able to show it to birders wishing to see one - but it was only at one place. Yes, it is strange not to hear the Carolina wren - the first time in years.

\* Please believe me we have nothing against Ross. I for one admire him & think he's doing a great job. However, some of us in this corner feel we know our common birds, too!

For this last period which I am afraid I have missed I have this report.

There were several common egret at the Riverton Refuge - I noted them fo r almost a week.

The second week of July we had black tern<sup>s</sup> flying around one of the borrow pits just west of Hamburg, along I-29. They were seen there for about eight days. A good many people observed them.

Swallows!! I have never seen so many swallows as we have this year - that is not since the bank swallows left us several years ago due to building and being bothered by gun-wielding boys and snakes. This year we seemed to be overwhelmed with barn, bank, cliff and tree swallows as well as purple martins.

We have as many warbling vireos as ever - which is quite a number. I can find ever so many in the willows near a creek on our farm.

Dickcissels are all over the place.

Hope you can use these - or at least be of interest to you.

Sincerely  
Jane Gitcher