

Wickham

Records: June - July, 1978

Pete Wickham

Pied-billed Grebe: 6/3 (1), Pleasant Valley Res. (near Palo)

Great Blue Heron: 5/29 (12), CRes;

Green Heron: 5/29 (2), CRes;

Mallard: 5/29 (2);

Green-winged Teal: 5/27 (1), ALB;

Blue-winged Teal: 5/27 (4), CC; 5/29 (4), CRes;

Shoveler: 6/10 (1♀), Cone Marsh

Wood Duck: 5/29 (2), CRes;

Turkey Vulture: very common in Lacey-Keosauqua area; 1 seen CR Nature Center, 6/24

Red-tailed Hawk: none seen (!) until 7/22, when we saw 6 in Fayette + Buchanan Counties

① Broad-winged Hawk: 7/2 (1), Palisades; 7/15 (1), Yellow River

Sparrow Hawk: very scarce around CR, only 1 pair known nesting; saw 7 on 7/22, Fayette County.

Bob-white: abundant in southern IA, incl. CRes area; common in CR area.

Pheasant: abundant in northern IA, incl. CRes area.

Virginia Rail: none thru period

Sora: none thru period

Upland Plover: one pr nesting, Toddville; also 7/4 (1), near Lamont; 7/15 (1), nr Arlington.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 6/10 (2), Cone Marsh

Wilson's Phalarope: 6/10 (1), Cone Marsh

White-rumped Sandpiper: 6/10 (15), Cone Marsh

Yellow-b. Cuckoo abundant, esp. in June, max 18 on 6/18, Lacey-Keosauqua S.P.

② Black-b. Cuckoo much more widespread than usual, at least 20 recorded.

Barred Owl common at Lacey-Keosauqua; also heard several at Yellow River.

Whip-poor-will at least 6 on 6/18, Lacey-Keosauqua; 1 on 7/15, Yellow River.

Nighthawk common in C.R.

Pileated Woodpecker a pair was seen at Palisades S.P. during June - (R.D. Drexler)

Red-bellied " very common - I think these have increased over the last year

Red-headed " not as common as usual, although quite a few (dozens) recorded. (or two)

Hairy " a few recorded

Downy " common

E. Kingbird common

Crested Flycatcher common

Phoebe 6/18 (2), Lacey-Keosauqua; ~~7/2~~ 7/2 (1), Palisades; the only records -

Say's Phoebe one observed 6/20 near Waubeek (see note)

Yellow-b. Flycatcher 6/4 (1), Palisades (singing)

Acadian Flycatcher 6/5 (1), Palisades (one area); 7/2, Palisades (2), another area - probably nesting.

Willow Flycatcher 6/3 (4), Palo Marsh; [also 7/14, Yellow River (2).]

Least Flycatcher 6/10 (3), Cone Marsh; several others recorded thru period -

Wood Pewee fairly common through period

Tree Swallow 6/10 (1), Cone Marsh... appears to be absent or much reduced in some local (nesting areas.)

Rough-winged Swallow more common than usual, max 40+, Cedar River at Palisades on 7/2.

Cliff Swallow common, but I thought fewer nested on the bridges over the Cedar at C.R.

Purple Martin may be increasing somewhat.

- Long-billed Marsh-Wren unrecorded, except for Sweet's Marsh, near Tripoli, 7/22 (6)
- Short-billed Marsh-Wren many recorded, max 8 on 6/3, Palo Marsh
- Mockingbird one heard singing 6/10, Cone Marsh (at a farmhouse near it).
- Wood Thrush I thought there were fewer of these locally than usual.
- Veery ~~7/4~~ 7/4 Backbone S.P. (1) - singing, probably nesting there.
- ③ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher very common, Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., with 9 on 6/18; also
Cedar Waxwing very common. [found nr Coralville Res. (1), Palisades (2)]
- Bell's Vireo a pair nr Toddville on 6/3 and two different singing ♂'s
 Yellow-thr. Vireo widespread. at Cone Marsh 6/10 the only ones.
- Red-eyed " surprisingly few - NONE on a walk through Indian Creek Nature
 Warbling " common Center on 5/22, and only 3 in woods at Palisades, 7/2.
- Black + White Warbler one pair appeared to be preparing to nest just N of
 Prothonotary " [Coralville Reservoir on 5/29.]
 one singing, wooded swamp W of Cone Marsh, 6/10
- Blue-winged " 1 ♂, Indian Creek N.C. on 6/22; 1 ♂ nr Coralville 5/29;
- ④ Parula " observed 1 (singing), Lacey Keosauqua on 6/18
 Yellow " common in a few local marshy areas.
- Cerulean " surprisingly common at Lacey-Keosauqua, with 10 on 6/17
 (all singing males)
- Ovenbird reasonably common in heavily wooded areas
- Northern Water-thrush last one 5/26, Indian Creek Nature Center
- Louisiana " " one heard and seen 6/18, Lacey-Keosauqua
- Kentucky Warbler 5/29 (1), nr Coralville Res; 5/30 (1), Bever Park, C.R.;
 Yellow-throat common [6/10 (1), Conesville Marsh; only records.
- Chat only records 5/24, Squaw Creek Park (1); 5/26, Indian Creek Nature
 Redstart fairly common. Center (2).
- Bobolink common in local nesting areas -
- Yellow-headed Blackbird 6/10 (6), Cone Marsh; also reported as nesting at
 Orchard Oriole 5/29 (1), nr Coralville Res.; 7/15 (1), nr Harper's Ferry
 Muskrat Slough (R.D. Drexler)
- Balt. Oriole perhaps somewhat less common than usual
- Scarlet Tanager a few seen
- Rose-br. Grosbeak fairly common
- Indigo Bunting common
- Towhee seen at Indian Creek N.C.; nr Toddville; nr Coralville; Yellow River;
 Lacey-Keosauqua.
- Savannah Sparrow rather common, seen in many areas
- Grasshopper Sparrow also seemed quite common.
- Vesper Sparrow recorded several during the period
- Lark Sparrow 6/20 (2) ... heard, near Waubesa.
- Swamp Sparrow several recorded at Palo, Conesville and Sweet's marshes.

Also: Caspian Tern (4) on July 22 at Sweet's Marsh, nr Tripoli.

of course,
I saw several
others

August 7, 1978

Dear Nick -

Hope the enclosed reaches you in time for you to use it (if you wish) in preparing your report. Sorry it's not a bit neater, but I could find none of the report forms I've usually used. Perhaps others saw it differently, but I thought many insectivorous birds were down in numbers (warblers, vireos, flycatchers, Wood Thrushes); while many fringillids seemed quite common.

I did get out to see the Says' Phoebe on June 20, soon after Fred Thompson had found it. A description follows -

I observed the bird from 6:30 to 6:50 a.m. on June 20. During the time I saw it, the bird flew (infrequently) from one perch to another, and sang almost continually. The perches chosen varied from a sign post at the edge of the road to the tops of some cedar trees in a wind-break around a nearby house (about 30 or 35 feet high).

Wings and head were gray, cap was unmarked and slightly darker; tail was slightly rounded and unmarked. The under parts were unstreaked. The bird did have a rusty belly and under-tail coverts, but these were hard to see until the bird flew. The underparts were somewhat lighter under the chin and on the breast. Song: an abrupt "pi-peer" repeated three or four times, occasionally interspersed with "ch-weep" or "Kreep" (a rather harsh note). The phoebe was observed from about 50 to 300 feet with a 20X Bushnell scope. Size: about that of a regular phoebe: 6½-7".

At no time did I see another bird. At one point, the phoebe ducked down to a weedy area next to a culvert spanning a small stream; it came up almost immediately, however. I did not look for a nest.

(over)

On the report, Fred Thompson and I were out together on 6/3, 6/10, 7/22 and 5/29. Otherwise, I was alone.

I'm now on vacation. A quick note would reach me at c/o H.P. Wickham

Cutchogue, N.Y. 11935

Otherwise, I'll be back home (2201 5th Ave. SE, CR.) about August 24.

Sincerely,

Pete Wickham, Cedar
Pete Wickham - Rapids

6/10

Dear Vern:

This is from a good and advice binder, who doesn't understand what a deadline is. I have marked, and am annotating, the items not found elsewhere. He also saw the Lacy's Phoebe, already documented (and heard it).

- ① Regular in n.e. (Yellow River Forests); very unusual in Linn Co. (Palitades)
- ② a minority opinion
- ③ Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. is in S. Iowa, and usually not covered
- ④ unusual elsewhere; who knows about L.K.?

I hope this is the end of it. Won't send anything that would reach you after August 15.

Regards
Nick