

B. L. Wilson
Rt 1 Box 41
Astoria, Or 97103

✓ WILSON
18 November 1985

Dear Tom,

Well, here are the August-October sightings, hopefully ~~for~~ in time for Thanksgiving vacation. I haven't been out much, so there isn't much to report.

Tom, I'd like to ~~be~~ clarify point of my objection to ~~putting the~~ reporting the questionable grosbeaks ~~as~~ as Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. These finely-streaked birds, may or may not be Black-headed Grosbeaks, but if not they are surely hybrids. Calling these birds Rose-breasted is inaccurate, + also discourages one from ~~calling the~~ reporting them.

The weather is hard to sum up. Mostly nice. A couple stretches of wet weather at awkward times. The earliest snow on record in the Omaha area (late September). Drought, or anyway dry weather, in spring caused Willow Slough's water level to drop, but ~~by~~ in August the rain stopped the decline. It hasn't filled, though.

Acorn crop moderate, but that's a lot better than last year. Gray Dogwood crop excellent - the Kingbirds couldn't strip it all before they left.

Nov 19

Thanks for the Ferruginous Hawk stuff. I haven't heard from the expert in Virginia + will have to write back soon.

Thanks

-Burt Wilson

Barbara Wilson
 Rt 1 Box 41
 Hastings, Ia 51540

Fall 1985

Form = Wilson farm, NE Mills
 County, Iowa

| Species | # | Date | Notes |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|---|
| Pied-billed Grebe | | | present at Willow Slough but not in really high numbers |
| " | 12 | Aug 15 | Willow Slough |
| - " | 14 | Aug 19 | " " |
| Great Egret | 1 | Aug 10 | " |
| " | 1 | Aug 14 | " |
| - " | 9 | Aug 19 | " |
| " | 2 | Aug 29 | " |
| " | 5 | Sept 9 | " |
| - Little Blue Heron | 6 | Aug 10 | " |
| " | 15 | Aug 13 | " |
| " | 14 | Aug 14 (sic) | " |
| " | 5 | Aug 15 | " |
| - " | 16 | Aug 16 (sic) | " |
| " | 1 | Aug 19 | " |
| - " | 1 | Aug 26 | " |
| - Cattle Egret | 3 | Aug 29 | " |
| - B-c Night Heron | 1 | Sept 9 | " |
| - I-c Night Heron | 1 | Aug 13 | " |
| - White-fronted Goose | | | the summering one at Willow Slough was present through August 19 |
| - Snow/Blue Goose | | | Summering birds at Willow Slough through Sept 9, |
| - Black Duck | 1 | Aug 29 | Willow Slough |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 | Sept 17 | between form + Omaha |
| " | 1 | Sept 20 | Form |
| " | 1 | Sept 22 | " |
| " | 1 | Sept 25 | " |
| " | 1 | Oct 26 | between form + Omaha |
| - Cooper's Hawk | 1 | Sept 8 | Form " |
| - " | 1 | Sept 24 | Form " |
| - " | 1 | Sept 26 | Form " |
| - " | 1 | Oct 19 | Form |
| - " | 1 | Oct 16 | between form + Omaha |
| Red-tailed Hawk | | Oct 25 | Form - an odd bird. Light-phase. Belt of streaks on the belly. Rump + tail white, except that outer corners of the tail dark - a kind of reverse longspur pattern |
| < " | Horlans, adult | 1 | Oct 26 Form |
| " | " " | 1 | Oct 30 " |

} all white immatures

} Seem like a lot. These were big birds, though. Crow sized.

} presumably the same bird

BL Wilson
Hastings, Iowa

Fall 1985

Form = Wilson Form, NE Mills County

- | Species | # | Date | Notes |
|---|------|---------------------------------|--|
| - Black-bellied Plover | 1 | Aug 13, 14, 15, + 26 | Willow Slough |
| - " | 1 | Oct 23 | " dark axillars seen |
| - L. Golden-Plover | 19 | Oct 23 | " - light axillars seen on 2 birds as they bathed. Browner than the Black-billed Plover |
| - Killdeer | 173 | Oct 23 | Willow Slough at least 173 (my count) but probably not more than 200, feeding on the extensive mudflats ^{by} the low water pond. |
| - Greater Yellowlegs | 1 | Aug 21 + 2 | Trappers Bay State Park, by Lake Park, N. Iowa - Dickinson County? This bird was very upset as I came near, + called + called + bobbed up + down. Some place both days. I'd have called it a distraction display + evidence of breeding if the ^{species} bird bred anywhere near here. |
| - Willet | 4 | Aug 14 | Willow Slough |
| - Dowitcher | 13 | Oct 25 | " " they'd been present for several days. Adults in basic plumage, silent |
| - Northern Phalarope | 1 | Sept 20 | Willow Slough |
| - Common Tern | 1+ | Aug 15 | " " 5 birds present. Saw dark wing tips + correct tail pattern on at least 1 of them. |
| - Barn Owl | - | - | - Iowa Conservation Commission located 2 Barn Owl territories in the Mills County. |
| - Common Nighthawk | 165+ | Aug 29 | NE Mills County (1/2 mile west of Willow Slough). This is a conservative count, + I don't know how long the birds were going south before I saw them. I got out out of the car, + they were going over, feeding as as they went. |
| Red-headed Woodpeckers - will overwinter in low numbers. Acorn crop was kind of spotty but a lot better than last year. | | | |
| - Olive-sided Flycatcher | 1 | Aug 2 | Trappers Bay State Park, by Lake Park - Dickinson County? My description, however, is a little sketchy for a a new earliest to fall record: "Vest (though it was streaky - young bird?) No obvious no wing bars. Color of lower mandible uncertain, maybe dark". It was up up on a dead tree, then moved to another one - typical Olive-sided perch. Saw it a minute or so, but it disappeared + I couldn't find it again. Close look. |
| " | 8 | others seen on or near the farm | Aug 28 - Sept 19. |
| - E. Pewee | 1 | Sept 22 | farm |
| - E Kingbird | 30 | Sept 5 | NE Mills Co. together at a corner where there's lots at Gray Dogwood |
| - " | | Sept 19 | " last I see |

BL Wilson
P.O. Box 41
Hastings, La 51540

Fall 1985

- | # | Date | Location |
|--------------------------|---|----------|
| - Golden-crowned Kinglet | I saw them on 10 days between Sept 28 + at least Oct 28, often 2 or more on a day. That's most of the days I was out birding in that month. When I came here, Golden-crowned were rare. I'd see see none or one in a season, exceptionally two. These birds have really come back from scarcity. | |
| Cedar Waxwing | ^{only} in August these species were everywhere we went on vacation. | |

Aug 1 Block Hawk Lake
not at Lake Park or Trapper's Bay State Park

Aug 5, 6 Bead's Lake S.P.

Aug 5 ~~MacIntosh~~ MacIntosh Woods SP

Aug 6 near Indianola

Aug 6, 7 Lake Ahquabi S.P.

and they'd been in Cass + Montgomery Counties in the breeding season this summer

- Pine Siskin Oct 18-25 on farm Maximum 12.