

Schlemmer

JUNE 14, 1978

N.S. HALMI  
RR # 6  
IOWA CITY, IOWA  
DEAR SIR:

I WANTED TO REPORT SEVERAL SIGHTINGS THAT SEEMED UNUSUAL TO ME, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY NOT ACTUALLY BE THAT UNUSUAL.

FIRST MAY I NOTE THE AREA. WE KEEP A CAMPING TRAILER IN THE IOWA GREAT LAKES DURING THE SEASON FROM MAY 1 TO OCT 1. THE CAMPGROUND IS ON THE EAST BANK OF UPPER GAR LAKE AND IS PART OF A ROUGH FARM. PART OF IT WAS TILLABLE (WITH ROCKS), PART WAS A SAND PIT, AND PART WAS PASTURE, WITH AN OCCASIONAL TREE AND SHRUB. ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE FARM IS THE HENDERSON ACCESS AREA, A PENINSULA OF ABOUT 18 ACRES AND OWNED BY THE STATE CONSERVATION~~AL~~ COMM. AND MOSTLY HILLY AND WOODED. DIRECTLY TO THE EAST OF THIS AREA IS A SLOUGH, WHICH WAS DRY LAST YEAR BUT THIS YEAR CONTAINS SOME WATER. JUST TO THE EAST OF THIS SLOUGH IS A ROUGH PASTURE WITH QUITE A BIT OF BRUSH, SOME TREES AND QUITE A BIT OF OPEN AREA AND WHICH THE OWNER USED TO PASTURE SOME PONIES.

THIS PASTURE HAS LOTS OF YELLOW WARBLERS, YELLOW THROATS, A FEW SWAMP SPARROWS, AND I HAVE SEEN CUCKOOS WHICH I THOUGHT WERE NESTING BUT HAVE NOT ACTUALLY SEEN A NEST, NOR HAVE I SEEN A ~~COCK~~ CUCKOO THERE THIS YEAR. THERE ARE MANY YELLOW HEADED BLACKBIRDS NESTING IN THE SWAMP (SLOUGH).

I MENTION THE AREA BECAUSE VISITORS TO THE LAKES AREA WHO WANT TO BIRDWATCH MIGHT WANT TO LOOK THIS AREA OVER. IT IS ABOUT ~~ONE~~ ONE MILE EAST OF THE ARNOLD~~S~~ PARK CEMETERY. THE ROAD IS BLACKTOP FOR ABOUT HALF THE DISTANCE THEN GRAVEL. THE ENTRANCE TO THE HENDERSON ACCESS AREA HAS A SIGN IDENTIFYING IT AND A SMALL PARKING AREA. IT'S A WALK IN AREA.

THE SIGHTINGS THAT I THOUGHT UNUSUAL WERE: ON JUNE 3, A PAIR OF WESTERN KINGBIRDS. SEEN ON A FENCE IN THE PASTURE IN GOOD LIGHT. I FOLLOWED THEM FOR PERHAPS 15 MINUTES ALONG THE FENCE AND IDENTIFICATION WAS UNMISTAKEABLE. THE FIRST WESTERN KINGBIRDS I'VE SEEN IN THIS AREA IN THE 5 YEARS WE'VE KEPT THE TRAILER UP THERE.

A FLOCK OF PERHAPS 6 OR 8 CEDAR WAXWINGS IN THE CAMPGROUND ON JUNE 4. JUNE 11

A BOB WHITE IN THE "PASTURE" BEHIND THE CAMPGROUND. I HEARD HIM WHILE EATING BREAKFAST, LATER WENT OUT AND LOCATED AND FLUSHED HIM. I'M FAMILIAR WITH BOB WHITES HAVING LIVED MANY YEARS AROUND CO. BLUFFS, AND THOUGH THERE ARE GREY PARTRIDGE IN THIS SAME PASTURE, THIS WAS A BOB WHITE WHICH I IDENTIFIED BOTH BY SIGHT AND CALL. I HAVE NEVER HEARD A BOB WHITE IN THIS AREA IN THE 12 YEARS I'VE LIVED HERE, AND I WONDER IF HE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN AN ESCAPED PEN RAISED BIRD.

IN ALL THE YEARS IN THE AREA MENTIONED ABOVE I HAVE NEVER SEEN AN EASTERN BLUEBIRD.

NO REPLY EXPECTED.

SINCERELY  
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