

Rt 1, Box 41

Hastings, Iowa 51540

6 July 1986

Dear Jim

I'm sending in part of my spring field report now. We're planning to leave on vacation sometime + I want to be ready to go. We've seen some good stuff.

The I.O.U. Field trip Bob Cecil led in Lee County was great. I saw a new life bird forme + 3 others I'd never seen in Iowa. That thick moist forest supported lots of good stuff.

June has been both drier + warmer than normal here in southwest Iowa. However, soil moisture has been good too, + the crops + other plants are flourishing. We'll ~~have~~ probably have a record corn + bean crop, + there's no where to put it. With water levels up in our marshes, coast, least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, + others are breeding here.

Tonya + Babs are introducing me to Butterfly watching. It's fun, though skippers are worse than young gulls, if that is possible.

It would be good if I had your address in Boston and can write the grebe article before late August at the earliest. Or maybe your school will forward things?

Have a good summer.

- Barb Wilson

TB = Tanya Bray } other  
 BP = Babs Padelford } observers

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 Hastings, Iowa 51540

Summer 1986  
 Iowa

# date

Pied-billed Grebe - territorial in Willow Slough + Forney's Lake. June 15  
 I found a nest with 9 eggs in Willow Slough

White Pelican 2~~3~~ June 13 Forney's Lake. TB+BP  
 20 June 18 " "

The Pelican lack that bump on the upper mandible. They've been seen since - staying at the lake.

Least Bittern June 13+18 Forney's lake TB+BP

Black-crowned Night Heron 1 June 6 Hacklebarney Woods, Mont-  
 gomery County. The bird was in the first spring plumage.  
 Neither Tanya nor I had ever seen it before. TB.

White-fronted Goose 1 June 27 Settling Ponds. Broken wing.

Gadwall 2 June 8 Willow Slough TB

Hooded Merganser ♀ June 18 Willow Slough

Ruddy Duck + Scaup are also summering in the area

Broad winged Hawk 1 June 13 Waubesa State Park, TB+BP  
 a couple days later Tanya + Babs returned to the park + found the nest. It was still active July 1.

Red tailed Hawk 1 June 6 } Tanya + I drove the entire width of the  
 1 June 8 } state those days, along the southern edge,  
 + saw only 1 hawk each of those days.

Kestrel 1 June 6 "  
 0 June 8 "

Also, Kestrels are nesting in two traditional locations in Mills County.

King Rail 1 June 13 Forney's Lake. Babs + Tanya  
 found this bird + took me to see it. See documentation

Common Moorhen nest w/5 eggs found by Matt Towne June 14 in  
 Willow Slough. I returned the next day + photographed it, + saw the  
 adult. June 30 the adult was still in the area, but I could not relocate  
 the nest; grass had grown up in the sedge-filled area where it floated.

Piping Plover - there were 8 nests at the Settling Ponds in Council  
 Bluffs. Two were late nests probably replacing earlier failed nests.  
 Certainly 4 hatched young, probably 6. Young from at least two  
 nests have reached flying age; maybe more.

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Upland Sandpiper	1	Atlas Block 816, Appanoose County	June 8	TB
	1	Adams County	"	TB
Dunlin	2	June 2	Settling Ponds, Council Bluffs	
	2	June 4	"	
Franklin's Gull	1	June 4	"	
Ring billed Gull	1	June 13, 27, July 5	"	
Caspian Tern	7	June 2	"	
	2	June 8	Lake Wapello, State Park	
	3	June 27	Settling Ponds, Council Bluffs	
Forster's Tern	1	June 30	Willow Slough	

Black Tern - These have been seen at both Willow Slough and Forney's lake, but not consistently.

Least Tern. - There may have been 1 nest at the Settling Ponds as early as June 1. ~~On June 1~~ The number built up gradually + by June 27 there seemed to be 14, though on July 5 I could only find 9.

Burrowing Owl	1	June 13	1 mile south of Payne Junction	TB, BP
	<del>1</del> 2	July 1	1 mile west of Payne Junction	TB

Second sighting  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the first, + by then the birds seemed to have left the first location. I know I should document these birds. I quote here ~~my~~ all my notes on the first sighting:

"A rounded lump that turns its head occasionally. That's really all it was. Spotted a bit with white. Under a clump of mone's tail in a bean field."

July 1 I didn't write a description because I had written one June 13. We got a better look at the birds, though - one was on a road sign + the other on the electric wires. The worn plumage indicated both were adults. July 1 ~~it~~ it looked like something had dug out the original burrows.

Pileated Woodpecker 1+ June 7 Shimek State forest (Croton Unit?)  
with Bob Cecl's field trip

Acadian Flycatcher - several - data as P. Woodpecker

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All Shimek State forest locations  
one Croton Unit, Lee County, seen  
on Bob Cecil's field trip

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BP = Babs Padelford

W. Kingbirds - A few have been around, like the one resident at the  
Settling Ponds in Council Bluffs

Sedge Wren - more early summer sightings (or rather hearings) than usual.

June 2 Settling Ponds, Council Bluffs

June 6 Hacklebarney Woods, Montgomery County

June 24 Central Pottawattamie County

June 27 Settling Ponds again

Blue-winged Warbler several June 7 Shimek State Forest Bee-Buzz  
Song

Tennessee Warbler 1 " 7 " heard singing

♯ Northern Parula 1 June 6 Atlas block #740, Union County.

Rising trill that tips over on the top. The bird was in narrow riparian  
woods, high in trees. Habitat looked marginal.

also several June 7 Shimek State Forest

Yellow-throated Warbler 2+ June 7 Elee Ford, Lacey Keosauqua State Park.  
Jim Sandrock took us to them

Cerulean Warbler 1 or 2 " Shimek State Forest

Pairie Warbler 1 " "

See documentation

Worm-eating Warbler a couple " "

Louisiana Waterthrush 1 " "

Kentucky Warbler " " \* at Lacey-Keosauqua

Hooded Warbler 3 " "

Others saw one of them. I heard a typical Warbler song that I  
recorded as "cheey, cheey, cheey, chuck chee", with the last note  
flipping down like the end of a Parula's song.

Yellow-breasted Chat 1 June 7 Shimek State Forest

Summer Tanager 1 June 13 Waubesa State Park TB, BP

Blue Grosbeak 1 June 2 Settling Ponds, Council Bluffs

2 (??) June 4 "

1 June 13 Forney's Lake TB, BP

1 June 18 " TB, BP

1 June 17 Macedonia, Pottawattamie Co

1 June 30 "

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Great-tailed Grackle

June 13

Forney's Lake

"

June 18

"

I documented them in May + it just didn't occur to me to describe them in June. Sorry.

Willet

1

July 5

Settling Ponds, Council Bluffs