

Rt 1 Box 41
Houatngs, La 51540
July 28~~th~~, 1986

Dear Jim,

Here's my July report. It is my hope that we will leave on vacation Friday + I won't have time to do it after this. Not so much to report on as in July.

You should find enclosed a picture of the moorhen nest in Willow Slough. It's an extra. Keep it.

Tanya + I visited Kalsow Prairie in Pocahontas County. It was amazing. We were in flat ~~forming~~ country where all seems to be corn or soybeans, + there it was. Full of color + birds. We walked out into it + searched for butterflies. Upland Sandpipers flew over + sang. An oasis of life. Great. [#] One thing seemed odd to me. Here with Wearin Prairie + the others I'm used to Prairies being full of purple, gold, + white flowers on a green background. Kalsow Prairie, however, was thick with the orange Butterfly ~~and~~ milkweed, + it ~~was~~ clashed! Broke up a unified color scheme!

The Snake eating nestling Blue Jays reported in Jane was definitely Black Rat Snake, Elaphe obsoleta.

July has been hot + humid, hot + humid. The rare cooler days (low 80's) is treasured. I don't remember such a run of debilitatingly hot days, though no doubt it has happened. Corn + beans are ~~go~~ growing well + there's no where to store the grain. Oh, well.

Good luck.

Barb Wilson

Ann Barker - Dawsonport

Summer
1986

Barbara Wilson
Rt 1 Box 41
Hoatings, Ia 51540

extend

Pied-billed Grebe July 5 Adult + 2 well-grown (flying??) young - Pond on outskirts

of Council Bluffs. A fine little cattail marsh at one time, home of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Muskrats, Coots, + Ducks. It's being filled + buildings are put up on it. Very little is left.

White Pelican July 1 9 Forney's Lake

Green Heron July 10 1 ~~BBA~~ Breeding Bird Atlas block # 713,

NW Adams County. An adult was picking up earthworms from a wet gravel road near a marsh.

White-fronted Goose July 24 1 Settling Ponds, Council Bluffs.

Has a broken wing; been there all month

Snow/Blue Goose July 2, one of each color phase, summering at the Settling Ponds. The blue one is a cripple.

Mallard } Breed at the settling ponds, + in many locations
Wood Duck }

Broad-winged Hawk July 1 Adult on nest } Waubesa S.P.
July 12 Adult in the area } ← seen by Ann Barker

Kestrels - quite a lot of scattered sightings.

Piping Plover - 8 nests ~~at~~ at settling ponds, ^{Council Bluffs} 4 successful (3 of these w/ 3 young each), 2 failed, 2 maybe successful

G. Yellowlegs July 15 1 NE Mills County

L. Yellowlegs July 11 2 BBA Block # 248, Pocahontas Co.

Solitary Sandpiper July 11 2 Beeds Lake S.P., Franklin Co.

Willet July 5 1 Settling Pond, Council Bluffs

Upland Sandpiper July 10 1 Hamilton Co., on I-35

" July 11 2 singing; Kalsow Prairie, Pocahontas Co.

" July 20 3⁺ by recently harvested wheat

field, 1 1/2 miles w. of our farm, NE Mills County

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Hastings, La 51540

Summer
1980

BBA = breeding
bird Atlas

- Dunlin 1 July 11 BBA block 248, Pocahontas Co.
Silt Sandpiper 2 or 3 " "
Ring-billed Gull 1 July 5 Settling Ponds, Council Bluffs
Least Tern - Colony at Settling Ponds, Council Bluffs,
had 14 nests. Disturbance in colony - predation? Weather?
but 9+ young fledged. Some still there ~~at~~ July 27.
Great Horned Owl 1 Large fledgling, downy but w/
feathered wings, Black Hawk Lake S.P. July 12.
Burrowing Owl - 1 July 12 Seen by Ann Barker at
the location ~~to~~ west of Payne Junction, Fremont Co.
Willow Flycatcher - At least one song at Willow Slough this year
Barn Swallow - I shall have to review nest records from
previous years but I think first clutches were very small
this year (3; some 4 eggs, vs. 5 ~~to~~ in ~~the~~ previous years).
Fly population in our lots + house noticeably low this
year early - no doubt related to low egg #s. Second
clutch more normal. Fly population unfortunately normal
too. Cause of ~~the~~ low fly population may be weather;
it isn't fly spray, that's certain.

Marsh Wren July 11 ^{BBA} Block # 248, Pocahontas Co.
While Tompa Bray played a rail tape, one flew onto our car +
hopped about between the car the the canoe on top of it.

Mockingbird 1 June 1 3.5 miles S. of Randolph,
Fremont County
1 July 10 BBA block # 213, NW Adams
County. This bird was imitating C. Nighthawk, Flicker, Blue Jay,
Chickadee, Titmouse, E. Kingbird, Robin, Purple Martin, Cardinal,
+ House Sparrow. Brought our list of birds for that block up quite

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Summer
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nicely until we discovered the real singer. A nice bird to find but I'm glad I don't live where they are common; I'd go crazy.

Cedar Waxwing - found at several wooded locations about the state. Last year that surprised me but now, of course, it seems normal.

Bell's Vireo - several sing the summer away at Willow Slough

Louisiana Waterthrush 1 July 1 Singing in mid-afternoon at Waubesa S.P.

Scarlet Tanager ♀ July 12 Quite upset (Code DD for atlas) in Nelson Park, Crawford County. Nice wooded area in hills but we were surprised to find the tanager

Blue Grosbeak - Pair at Settling Ponds this summer

Dickcissel - Last year ³ Dickcissels on my census route about the farm reached about 25, significantly higher than any other ~~count~~ year since I began counting them in 1979. This year they were again about 25. They seem abundant all over Southwest Iowa.

Savannah Sparrow 2 July 11 Near Beed's Lake, Franklin Co.

Swamp Sparrow 4 July 10-11 Beed's Lake SP

" several ³ July 12 Black Hawk Lake area