

WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

June 1986 was the fifth of six warmer than normal months of 1986. While the first half of the month was near normal in temperature, the last half was hot and humid. The coolest days occurred on 2 and 3 June, with temperatures in the low 40s at some northeast localities. At the other extreme, Logan and Red Oak in southwestern Iowa recorded temperatures in the 90s on thirteen days.

The big story of June weather was the precipitation which ranged from 1.58 inches at Titonka to 12.10 inches at Coon Rapids. Greatest rainfalls occurred 28-30 June, with some reports as follows: 8.00 inches north of Coon Rapids, 6.50 inches at Glidden, 5.51 inches at Jefferson, 4.26 inches at Perry, 3.60 inches at Ames. Many rivers and streams rose to record high levels following these rains. Rain and flood losses reached disaster proportions in the following counties: Greene, Guthrie, Dallas, Boone, Polk, and locally in other counties including Audubon and Carroll. Especially noteworthy was the report (KBUR Radio) on 4 June that Burlington received 3.50 inches of rain in one hour and nearly 5.00 inches in a 24-hour period.

July was pleasantly normal in almost every aspect--hot, humid, and--to some degree--wet. Temperatures averaged only slightly above normal, while precipitation was about one inch above normal July expectations. Only the night of 28-29 July disturbed the typical Iowa summer month when over 12 tornadoes, strong winds, and short, violent storms occurred almost statewide.

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Keosauqua

Dear Jim--

I send along my contributions, such as they are. I have jumped the gun a little since I know you leave for the Eastern Orbit early in August. I don't think my premature ending of the period will be detrimental to the cause of science -- although the Alder Flycatchers could still be singing today for all I know!

You will notice that I have not given you anything on habitat conditions, etc. I have found out during the time I have been writing the weather that most editors prefer to write their own perception of habitat -- which is fine with me.

One more thing: I had a Black-headed Grosbeak in Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 27 July, but I did not get a long enough look to determine percentage of hybridization, etc., and I'm not going to fight the battle of documentation with some of my birding colleagues. I had a good, quick look; I have seen the species many times in western climes; it was a Black-headed Grosbeak! I just didn't conduct the personal interview of the bird that some people expect. So I've reported it.

I've been to North Carolina for two days of pelagic birding, have spent 11 days in Florida and the Dry Tortugas this spring, and have recently returned from eight days birding and camping in Colorado -- all since I saw you last. I could get hooked on this stuff if I had the money and time -- and weren't so damn old!

Well, I hope the enclosed will be of some help -- have a good vacation -- hope to see you in Cedar Falls in September -- Hi to Steve!

Cordially,

Jim S.