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The Fourth of July

Dear Jim,

Thanks for your letter and kind words about IBL and other contributions. I will be happy to cobble something together re: the weather for the next Field Reports. I'll try to get them to you as close to the first as possible, because -- if I remember correctly -- you blow the midwest soon thereafter. At any rate, I'll do the best I can to accommodate both our schedules.

I have been doing some birding lately, but not altogether in Iowa. Two pelagic trips off the Outer Banks of North Carolina in June were great fun and increased my sea bird experience. (Never saw so many sick people in my life!) The Great Dismal Swamp (I love that name!) yielded one of my most wanted species -- Swainson's Warbler. The song is beautiful -- the bird rather drab, but we got to hear and see it well.

Next week it is off to Eastern Colorado for lots of things -- I hope. If body and budget hold together, I'll be closing in on 600 species soon! I don't know why that arbitrary number holds a fascination for me, because I am not primarily a "lister." But it does and there you are!

Hope you have a pleasant summer -- see you in Waterloo if the Parcae are willing.

Cordially,

Jim S.

P.S. Hi to Steve -- and congratulations on his "Big Day".