

12/4/79

Rt 1 Box 41
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Dec 1, 1979

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Dear Sir:

I am never quite sure what to send ~~you~~ in. It seems unkind to inundate you with paper, but often I edit things out of my report + find ~~the~~ things written in IBL that I don't agree with. So, here it is.

Included here are copies of the field notes I took when I saw birds I documented. They are not legible or intended to be comprehensible to others. Hopefully the documentation forms are better.

Reports with no location are on our farm, T-73N, R-41W, parts of Sect. 23, 26, 25, 22. W.S. = Willow Slough, a public Hunting area. Both farm + Slough are in North East Mills County, Iowa. w/ = with

I did little birding after Sept. 8 and this report is therefore even less accurate than usual regarding arrival + departure dates.

Must be interesting but much work editing all this! Good luck.

Yours truly,
Barbara L Wilson

Dec 1
Just talked
to Dan Cairne
(Cairne? Caird?)
Some wonder
for our country
Said a few
quail might have
been lost in this
corner of the state,
but very few,
and some farmers
report more than
usual. ~~the~~ Pleasants
little affected.

Saw what Ouel -
nest killed in M.D.
November in Mills
County. Don't have
all the data on it
yet. I just delivered
by the same wrecker

Eared Grebe - 8 on September 6 at Willow Slough were the first I saw

Pied-billed Grebe - 6 active nests + at least one other brood from a nest I didn't see in August. 3 of the nest certainly ~~had~~ produced chicks, 2 probably did not, one uncertain. Parents feeding chicks into September. 87 grebes seen Sept. 8, ~~at~~ all this at Willow Slough.

White Pelican - 24 Aug 23, 50 ~~Aug~~ Sept 8, at Willow Slough

Heron - this year I have seen every ~~do~~ heron on the Fontenelle Forest + area check list (except Snowy Egret) at Willow Slough, assuming my documentation holds up.

Great Blue Heron - present all August → Sept 8 (when I stopped looking) W.S.

Green Heron - August W.S.

Little Blue Heron - August 1-10, none Aug 11 + on, none before Aug 1. Two present. W.S. See documentation

Great Egret - 1-3 present beginning Aug 10. W.S.

Black-crowned Night Heron - Sept 3 at Willow Slough

Yellow-crowned Night Heron - 1 immature July 23 - Sept 7

(or perhaps later - I stopped going Sept. 8) at Willow Slough.

See documentation

American Bittern - 1 Sept. 8 W.S. In sunlight, bill angled up, dark striped on neck, bird brown.

Cattle Egret - 2 at WS Sept 7, 8

Ducks - by ~~the~~ ^{mid} August, hundreds of drab brown ducks were present. Mainly Mallards + Blue-wing Teal, and many Pintail. ~~They~~ they had not all bred at the Slough.

Scamp present all August probably summerned as a few did last year.

Red-tailed Hawk - many dark phase birds noticed in NE Mill's County + S. Pottawatomie County this fall. One ^{adult} fed from a raccoon carcass left by hunters Nov 10. Inquired

same bird as reported in summer. She sent her all her field notes after I sent her your comment.

immature picked up Oct 13, sent to Lincoln rehabilitation program. Dead immature found Nov 3, sent to UNO.

Rough-legged Hawk - Nov 6, Council Bluffs, Ia.

Marsh Hawk - Leach Aug 27 (WS), Sept 29 (farm)

Kestrel - at least 5, possibly 6, hung around one group of abandoned farm ~~to~~ buildings in NE Mills Co. (T-73N, R-~~41~~ 41 W, Sec 25) from at least August 10 to at least ~~to~~ Sept 17. The probability that these were a family seems very high.

Bobwhite - quail may have been decimated in the rest of the state but I repeat that they are alive and well on the Wilson farm in NE Mills County. Good-sized Coveys. Normal # of coveys.

R-n Pheasant - numerous enough this spring ~~by~~ but I did not see as many young as I expected. Just an impression, though. What does the conservation commission report?

Killdeer

Spotted Sandpiper - 1 foraging on top a duck blind at Willow Slough Sept 7.

Willet - 1 at WS Aug 19+20.

Forsters Tern - present ~~in~~ through Aug 25 at least, W.S.
Common Tern - 2 (probably) present at WS Aug 6 (see documentation form).

Least Tern - 1 Aug 2 at WS. See documentation. Ruth Green was reporting them in the area the same time. 2 sightings last year at W.S. early in August.

Black Tern - at W.S. all Summer & into September at least

Yellow-billed Cuckoo → Oct 20 (Mantua Park w/Ruth Phipps)

Black-billed Cuckoo - 1 Aug 9, on farm. Not numerous here in summer.

* Screech Owl - 1 red-phase bird found Nov 18 in a garage by John Wilson. Starting, old wing injury but capable of flight. I fed it, then released it Nov 25. Seemed in better shape.

Great Horned Owl - a starved bird hung itself in our corn crib Aug 6.

^{Specimen at VNO}
C. Night hawk - present in SW Iowa until Sept 28, about 2 weeks later than I'd seen them before. Not numerous that late, but not just 1 straggler, either.

x Chimney Swift → Oct 11

Hummingbird - none, as usual.

^{check}
x ♂ Kingbird → Sept 12 migration noticed Aug 18 + on.

^{check}
x ♂ Flycatcher → Sept 4

x ♂ Phoebe → Sept 22

♂ Pewee → Sept 15

Olive-sided Flycatcher - Aug 18 - Sept 10. A ^{relatively} heavy migration + longer than I have known it.

Blue Jay - migration ~~Sept~~ until Sept 28 at least. Missed the earlier parts. Migrating Sept 22. ~~Sept~~

x Winter Wren

B. Thrasher → Sept 28

Catbird → Sept 3 I probably just missed ~~them~~ ^{them later on.}

x E. Bluebird - one group of 3+ on farm → Oct 27

x Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1 Sept 29, 1 Nov 10

x R-c Kinglet - Sept 22 - Oct 20 (Mantua Park, Shenandoah, w/Ruth Phipps)

~~Loggerhead shrike - oh, yes, at least 1~~

Starling numerous on the farm, becoming abundant in November. Where do they all come from?

I saw too little of Warbler migration to say more than that it happened.

Bell's Vireo Singing at Willow Slough through Aug 9.

Am. Redstart - singing at W.S. until at least Aug 19.

Orchard Oriole - ♀ feeds young Aug 4. 1 bird Sept 4. (Farm)

N. Oriole → Sept 8

Cardinal - I'm not seeing as many as I usually do. Hope it's just the usual fall ~~disappear~~ partial disappearance, but I'm eager to see if they're OK

~~D~~ Grosbeak - see documentation of confusing bird.

Dickcissel - I've seen more young or ♀ birds this fall than ever before. Could be just because of the ^{crop} rotation to soybeans where I bird a lot, maybe not. (Dickcissels follow soybeans).

Barn Swallow → ~~Sept 28~~ Oct 10 (flock of 10 hurrying S. South Pottawatomie County)

Cliff Swallow → Sept 8

Purple Martin Aug 1 - Sept 5 (don't breed in the neighborhood, so aren't seen here w. early summer)

Long-billed Marsh Wren - 1 on farm Oct 27

Accipiter sp - 1 immature, larger than a blue Jay (♀ Sharp-shin? less likely ♂ Cooper's) on farm Oct 6. Blue Jays and Flickers were upset at its presence. Instead of loudly mobbing it, they made ~~quiet~~ quieter sounds + stayed near it, watching it. Sometimes one would dart at the hawk. Often the hawk would fly at a jay or flicker. The attacked bird would flee, twisting through branches, until the hawk lost it. Once the accipiter closed with a flicker that made the mistake of going straight across a clearing, but at the last minute the ~~flicker~~ flicker rolled + called, escaping. He went on over 15 minutes.

Dark-eyed Junco - first seen Oct. 6

Tree Sparrow - first seen ~~Oct~~ Nov. 10

Harris Sparrow - first seen Oct 23

White-throated Sparrow - Oct 13-20

Lincoln's Sparrow Oct 6-20

Swamp Sparrow Oct 26, 27