

James J. Dinsmore
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 1 August 1988

Dear Jim:

Once again it is that time of the year when IOU members send their field reports to you for recognition and publication in the Summer Field Reports section of the Fall IBL. Since last summer, I have been submitting my field reports to the appropriate editors for each issue. I plan to continue to do so for some time to come. However, I noticed in the last issue of IBL (Vol.58, No.2) that Ross Silcock did not list my name in the "contributors" section for the Winter Report, nor did he recognize me as the contributor for information on such specie sightings as Red-tailed Hawks (no contributors mentioned due to so many, perhaps), American Kestrel (same reason?), Screech-Owls (made no mention of the three birds called (via tape) and observed at one time during Plymouth County Owl Prowl), etc. However, he did list me (DET) as contributor for the info on the Common Barn Owl seen near Sgt. Bluff on 8 December, but, again, did not list me in the contributors section. My main concern here is that new readers may wish to contact or at least know who reported certain sightings, only to find the contributor not listed. I have had this problem before when locating an interesting report, and then not being able to find the person's name spelled out in the contributors section. I hope you, and other editors, will keep the above in mind when compiling future field reports. Contributors do so out of kindness and in support of the IOU. It seems only fair to make sure contributors are credited for their work...regardless of whether or not their report is accepted. Of course, I can understand such cases when a rash of specie reports come in on one individual specie.

The following is my submission for the Summer Field Reports:

JUNE, JULY 1988

BARRED OWL

An adult pair were located and studied by use of an owl calling tape (first on 31 May) at Stone State Park (in pond vicinity) in Sioux City on 18, 24, 29 June, and on 10, 17, 23, 24 July. The pair was highly vocal on all dates, and these vocalizations were recorded. Nest sites were searched for, but not located (assumed not nesting).

SCREECH-OWL

Individuals were observed in Sioux City (owl calling tape used) at 3229 Lindenwood Street (my residence) on 7 July, and at War Eagle Park on 24 July. Adult pairs were observed (owl calling tape used) at Big Sioux River at Akron on 7 July, and at Bacon Creek Park, Sioux City on 24 July. All birds were "gray phase". The pair at Akron, and the pair at Bacon Creek responded to a Barred Owl tape with a strange wavering vocalization, then emitted the normal gurgling call after a Screech-Owl tape was played for them.

I have been studying the Barred Owls at Stone Park since 31 May and have been recording their vocalizations

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by use of a super cardioid microphone. My time has been limited for this, but I've found them remaining in the same area at every visit. I did a little research on the IOU reports of Barred Owls since 1980, and have looked for reports in a couple of older issues of IBL. I've found very little mentioned in the field reports, but a great increase in reports of Barred Owls in CBCs for Iowa in recent years. I'm thinking about writing something about this for IBL in the future. It seems that either Barred Owls have slowly been increasing in population in Iowa, or they were always here, only, few people looked for them until recent times. If you have anything to add to this research, please let me know. I think the use of owl calling tapes can be quite useful for those looking for Barred and other owls.

I hope all is well with you. Please keep in touch as often as possible.

SINCERELY,



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