

Season: Summer Year: 1987

Name and address (print or type) James P. Sandrock
1634 Morningside Drive
Iowa City, IA 52240

*Other observers (name, city):

(See Below)

Use first few lines to give weather and habitat conditions. Use line(s) below species data to give additional details, if needed. Mail to: T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City IA 52242 by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

use initials of obsv. on species line

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
*Other observers:			
Dolores Brown, Birmingham, IA;			
Don Brown, Birmingham, IA;			
Jerry Brown, Birmingham, IA;			
Keith Carris, Cedar Rapids, IA;			
John Cecil, Keokuk, IA;			
Bob Cecil, Keokuk, IA;			
Paul Conklin, Washington, DC;			
John Cordell, Iowa City, IA;			
Ray Cummins, Centerville, IA;			
Jim Fuller, Iowa City, IA;			
James Huntington, Iowa City, IA;			
Cal Knight, Iowa City, IA;			
Weir Nelson, Cedar Rapids, IA;			
Donna Sandrock, Iowa City, IA;			
Johanna Sandrock, Iowa City, IA;			
Carol Thompson, Iowa City, IA;			
* * *			
King Rail (JC, JF, JH, CK, CT)	1 adlt. 2-3 chks.	7 Jul	Jackson Co. NW of Maquoketa. Large rail, long decurved bill, reddish head, rusty/cinnamon breast, dark back, barred (gray) flanks; heard call; in small fresh water (of course) marshy area in farm field. (Also seen by John Cordell, Jim Fuller, James Huntington, Cal Knight, Carol Thompson)
Black-bellied Plover	2	12 Jul	Kalena Ponds, Highway #1, both birds in alternate plumage.
	1	19 Jul	" " " " "
Gray Partridge (JC, JH, CT)	10	7 Jul	Jackson Co. NW of Maquoketa. flushed from tall grass along country road; gray back and rump; dark patch on abdomen (seen in flight); reddish-brown outer tail feathers.
Eastern Screech Owl (DolB)	5	11 Jul	Birmingham, IA. Tree on Highway #1. Don Brown reports that he sees 5-7 owls in this tree every a.m.
(JB, JoS)		18 Jul	" " " "

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SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Alder Flycatcher (PC)	1	21 Jun	Lacey-Keosauqua SP. Single male (f-bee-o); observed 15-20 feet from singing Acadian Flycatcher--a good opportunity to compare songs, etc. (PC)
(KC; WN)	1	27 Jun	Lacey-Keosauqua SP. Singing male (f-bee-o);
(JC; JH)	1	28 Jun	Lacey-Keosauqua SP. (see above). NOTE: This species heard regularly at Lacey-Keosauqua SP in July.
Northern Parula	1	26 Jul	Lacey-Keosauqua SP. Last heard singing male. This species "thick" in SE Iowa this year. I have never seen so many (but See Following?)
Yellow-throated Warbler	2	26 Jul	Lacey-Keosauqua SP. 2 singing males at Ely Ford. I realize this species is common at this location, but I do want to point out that there were <u>only</u> about 5 pairs here this year. That is down from the 14-15 pairs of previous years (since 1981). Such a severe decrease merits close observation next year!
Cerulean Warbler (KG; WN)	1	29 Jun	Lacey-Keosauqua SP. This is the last date I heard a singing male in the park. This species has declined in this location over the past 5 years. Another thing to be concerned about!
Canada Warbler (RC; JC; JH)	1	28 Jun	Croton Unit of Shimek Forest. A strange date for this species!
Summer Tanager (DolB; DonB; DS)	1 pr.	26 Jun	Lacey-Keosauqua SP. An active pair here all spring and summer. Last saw male on this date.
Blue Grosbeak (RC; JC; JH)	1 pr. & nest	28 Jun	Croton Unit of Shimek Forest. The usual place for this species for the past few years.
(RC; CT)	1 ♂	3 Jul	" " " "
Vesper Sparrow	1	18 Jul	S. Van Buren Co. Several seen throughout summer in s. Van Buren Co. Evidence of breeding is first I have had in this area!

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Lark Sparrow	2 imm.	24 Jul	S. Van Buren County. I have seen this species throughout summer. Again, this evidence of breeding is a first for me in this area!
Henslow's Sparrow	6 ♂	12 Jun	S. Van Buren County. 6 singing males in large pasture (approx. 50 acres) where Mark and Beth Proescholdt had reported seeing this species earlier in the week. The following notes, comments, etc. are compilation of my observations during the summer.
	2 ♂ 1 ♂	13 Jun	(with Bob and John Cecil). A good look at singing male! In a manner quite different from that described in field guides, this (and other singing males) was not secretive, etc., but sat up high on tall grass or prominent weed. Not easily flushed, I was able to come within 8-10 feet of a singing male. The bird that we saw this day was a typical male for this area and this period: Small, sparrow-sized bird; flat head; large, out-sized, light-colored bill; central stripe on crown; light breast with small "streaking" which formed necklace on breast and continued down flanks; dark, olive-colored nape; chestnut ("purplish") streaks on dark back; plain wings which were evenly rust-colored; yellowish tinge to malar areas and at curve of folded wing; flight was "erratic," for the bird appeared to swish tail from side to side in short (display?) flight. We did observe this day a female with nesting material (?) in bill. (According to C. Harrison, this may have been too late for nidification, unless a possible double brooding was taking place.) The female was considerably more "pale" than male in face and breast color and markings; streaking was present but less defined; female also had yellow tinge on face and at curve of folded wing. At a later date, I noted a slight eye-ring on this species. On every bird that I saw this summer (and these were many) I perceived (continued, page 4)
			<i>The bird, not me!</i>

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			(continued from page 3)
			a narrow dark streak extending the length of the culmen. Was this a reflection of dark head feathers? Or does it actually exist? I'll look at skins in our museum.
	5 ♂ 2 ♂		Same area. NOTE: All these sightings are in same pasture, although the location in the pasture did vary. In general, I found this species in green, moist "draws" with long grass and several varieties of sedge plants; the field guides are generally correct in describing the habitat for this species.
			Some notes on the song: The song of this species is not a two-syllable "s-lick," but rather a <u>three-syllable</u> song. It begins with 2 short notes (one is reminded of the song of the Grasshopper Sparrow) and then a rather long, drawn-out "slick" sound. The song carries much farther than one imagines and is ventriloquistic in this regard, e.g., I could hear (easily) the song of a male singing 75 yards from me (I measured it!). It is heard without difficulty from a moving car!
	1 ♂	21 Jun	(with Paul Conklin) NOTE: We were able to get so close to this bird that we could see the pink lining of mouth!
	5 ♂ 2 ♂	20 Jun	
	3 ♂ 1 ♂	21 Jun	
	X	26 Jun	X = indicates unknown number--did not count!
	3 ♂	27 Jun	(KC; WN)
	X	28 Jun	(JC; JH)
	X	2 Jul	(CT). 8:00 p.m. This species is most active in the <u>early morning (5:30-6:00 a.m.)</u> and evening. By 7:30 a.m. it is quite (cont'd., p. 5)

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			(continued from page 4.)
			easy to see and hear a singing male, but the numbers are more significant before this time!
(CT)	X	3 Jul	
(RC)		4 Jul	Ray and I saw these birds <u>early</u> this a.m.
			Birds included were at least 4 singing males; 2 females; 2 immature birds; many flying birds.
			NOTE: The immature could easily be mistaken for Grasshopper Sparrow. The imm. Henslow's has plain, buffy breast (no streaking) which looks very much like Grasshopper--of which there are many in this field. It is worth mention that Grasshopper Sparrows sit on fence posts and wires by the tens! I never saw a Henslow's sitting on any part of a fence!
	X	10 Jul	
	X	11 Jul	
	X	12 Jul	
(JB; JS)	3 ♂	17 Jul	
	X	18 Jul	
	10 ♂	19 Jul	This was the last Henslow's Sparrow that I saw or heard this year. None were observed during the weekend of 24-26 July. Next year?
House Finch	1 ♂	21 Jul	My backyard, Iowa City, 2:15 p.m. My daughter, Johanna, saw "sparrow-sized, brown" bird believed to be a House Finch. Through 7x35 binox I observed bird with heavy, finch bill; the head was orange-red above eye and in malar area; brownish cap; neck and breast orange-red. Flanks heavily streaked; belly whitish; orange/red rump; back brown with streaking. I have seen many a House Finch in Southwest. This was a House Finch!