

June 26<sup>th</sup>

Hi, Jim!

I hope you and all your family are having a great time in Massachusetts. How nice that you were able to go there for a sabbatical leave.

I had you in my thoughts earlier this week as I was poking around in NW Iowa in the lake and pothole areas. About three years ago you ran off some county maps for me with good information on ducks, geese, grebes, etc. and I used those maps a lot as I poked around.

I was hoping to find Eared and Western Grebes (to be so lucky!) and Upland sandpipers but didn't

see any on my quick look at things.

I poked around Wright Co. — Big Wall, Elm Lake, Lake Cornelia, + Morse Lake, then up to Emmet Co. — High Lake, Ingham Lake, W. Swan Lake, Tuttle Lake, and Emmet Co. Prairie (Anderson Prairie now).

In Dickinson Co. I canoed in lovely Jemerson Slough, and was at Silver Lake, (and Rush Lake in Osceola Co.), Cayler Prairie, Spring Run area — great! and a Mockingbird fly by, Swan Lake, and Christopherson Slough.

In Clay Co. I briefly poked around Dan Greene Slough, Trumbull Lake, Round or Mud Lake, and glanced at Sewer's Pasture. What lovely areas! Saw many broods of wood ducks and lots of Canada Geese.

Dickinson Co. and its lovely areas were especially exciting. who knows

what was there that I didn't see and what kinds of birds are there during the different seasons? Lots of special areas. I hope to get back up there again soon - at least next spring or summer.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> I did see a lovely Upland Sandpiper just east of Liscomb. It's always special to see them!

Congratulations on becoming IOU President! You'll be great there.

Have a lovely July in Mass. and a good, safe trip when you come back.

Have a great summer and see good birds!

Mark