

IOWA BIRD LIFE
Thomas H. Kent, Editor
211 Richards Street
Iowa City, IA 52240
August 29, 1987

Dear Jim:

Enclosed is the summer field reports for final proofing. It took longer than usual to reformat the files that you sent. Part of this was due to my using a new word processor (WORD) and part to a lot of extra spaces and inconsistencies. In all it took me about eight hours to edit the document.

I moved your introductory material around to conform to the general uses of the various sections. I thought the material you had under General Trends was discussion, so I put it and the acknowledgments in the Comment section at the end, which is for this purpose. The material on regular birds, except for those that are very rare for the season, belongs under General Trends, and the Unusual Sightings is generally limited to causals, accidentals, and extreme rarities.

Great-tailed Grackle and House Finch are still on the casual list. As a policy, we don't report accidentals that are not documented. Therefore, the Rufous Hummingbird should be left out until documentation is received. Dates and places should only be given for rarities that you think will be beyond doubt by the records committee. The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck seems to be OK for ID--the only question is origin, so date and place are OK. The Prairie Falcons are a no win situation--possibly correct, but not well enough described to have a high probability of passing the review.

In general, we have not been mentioning species not seen. If they are rare, it is obvious that they were not seen. I left in American Bittern and Greater Yellowlegs, because they might be expected, but they could be dropped too.

There are several grammatical changes that I made repeatedly.

- We do not use two spaces after periods and colons.
- Sentences do not start with numbers--I changed to semicolons or inverted information to get a word first.
- County names are offset with commas. When the county name was followed by a citation, a comma doesn't fit, so I used "in" before the county name. You use the county name more than any other editor. I dropped those where the location is well known (= in Iowa Birds).
- n is used only when modifying a location; e.g., n of Ames.
- Jun is used only when a date; e.g., 10 Jun, 10 were seen in June.

I have marked several questions in the text.

The field reports will run 7 pages. I am still short of material to complete the issue, so it may take a few more weeks to get it ready if I have to do some writing.

Sincerely,

