

FIELD MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY

21 June 1988

Dr. James J. Dinsmore
4024 Arkansas Drive
Ames, Iowa 50010

Dear Dr. Dinsmore,

A short note about my Iowa observations which may be suitable for IBL's Field Reports. I spent a week at Lakeside Laboratory repeating the Breeding Bird Censuses I had done in previous summers (1982-1985).

Of special note is my observation of a Northern Harrier nest (with 4 eggs) from which I flushed a female while censusing Cayler Prairie on 14 June.

Some other general impressions from census results (remember I am comparing 1982-1985 results with 1988; I missed out on 1986-1987): Dickcissels seemed very common (slightly more abundant than in 1984); Bobolink numbers are also greater than in earlier censuses; Common Yellowthroat and Grasshopper Sparrow numbers seem down slightly and Yellow Warbler numbers on Lakeside's North 40 are down. (I did not wander about much in the cranberries around Miller's Bay where Yellow Warblers have usually been very common.)

Hope your summer activities are enjoyable.

Best wishes,

Peter

Peter Lowther