

33 Foster Drive
Des Moines Iowa

Dear Pete

Enclosed are a few notes for Field Notes. As I am away at school most of the year, they only cover the beginning and end of the period.

Jan 1. rough-legged hawk and northern shrike near Ladora, 3 red-headed woodpeckers at Amana, tree sparrows very common everywhere far above the levels of the last few years.

Mar. 19, 16 cormorants at Coralville, hawks migrating westward into the wind between Iowa City and Des Moines, 20+ redtails, 1 pigeon hawk, 1 marsh hawk, followed the pigeon hawk 3 miles with the car as the birds were moving just over the ground. 2 immature bald eagles on the ponds along the interstate at Colfax, 1 lapland longspur near Iowa City.

Mar 21 & 22, trip to Missouri River bottoms for goose migration. I have made this trip for the last 7 years and until now I had thought some trends were developing. For the last few years the numbers of Canada and white-fronted gees had increased greatly but this year there were just a few individuals of each. At dawn on the 22nd at Lake Manawa geese started going overhead from the south and 20-30,000 birds probably went overhead. Most of those at Forneys Lake on the 21st were gone the 22nd.

1 Turkey vulture the 21st near Stuart, blue-winged teal came in on the 22nd-they are 1-2 weeks earlier on the river than at Des Moines. No Canvasbacks or redheads were seen and only a few ringnecks and 3 ruddys.

Normally there are good numbers of all species, no buffleheads either. vesper and fox sparrows on the 22nd, 200 Longspurs at Stuart mobbing a sparrow hawk. Geese migrating at Des Moines on night of 22nd

Mar 24. female robins came in, 6 phoebes, In afternoon with Woody Brown at Brenton's Slough, 65 white-fronted geese best ever at Des Moines by far, also 33 lesser Canada, 150 blues and snows, 21 redheads, 50 green-winged teal, no canvasbacks, ruddys, 10 goldeneyes are late. Best for the day were the shorebirds--7 golden plover, 1 lesser yellowlegs, 2 greater yellowlegs, 2 pectoral sandpiper, 3- bairds's andpiper, 1 field sparrow, several fox sparrow, and 1 harris's.

Mar 25, redwings and grackles started going to roost for first time, several thousand.

Mar 27, only creeper of winter

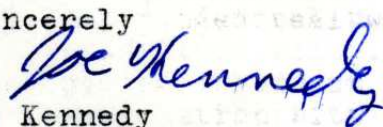
Mar 29, at Brenton's slough again with Woody, best bird & 30 were two Hensolow's sparrows who sat on a fence for a perfect look, a third bird was flushed from the same field, 2 were there on the 30th, all 4 species of gees were still present with smaller numbers of canada and white-fronted, 250 blues and snows. I think we convinced them to migrate as they weren't there on the 30th. Evidently most of the ducks went north the night of the 24th after arriving the same day. Also many of those there the 29th were gone the 30th. shorebirds were 5 golden plover, 2 greater yellowlegs, 3 lesser yellowlegs, 20 pectoral sandpipers, 1 stilt sandpiper, 3 semipalmated sandpiper, vesper sparrows and towhees in. also 5 snipe.

On the 30th there were 3 golden plover, 1 long-billed dowitcher-it called, 60 pectoral sandpiper, 5 snipe, 1 great blue heron, several fox sparrows and one harris's. 20 greenwinged teal were present from the 75 of the 29th.

Evidently there is a very fluid situation with birds going in and out every day.

I hope I can give you better coverage this summer

Sincerely


Joe Kennedy

Enclosed is a note from the paper about early martins