

Iowa  
Spring 1988

Rt 1 Box 41  
Hastings, Ia 51540  
2 June 1988

Dear Bob,

Winter was mild + merged into a mild spring. Waterfowl returned late February. No storms. ~~The~~ Through April this was the driest 4 months in 30 years here, but SE Iowa was drier - the driest in all 99 years of weather records. Subsoil moisture high here, but low in SE Iowa. Rains began last 1/2 of May. Spotty, but enough to save crops.

Government is releasing set-aside acres for haying + grazing in Iowa due to drought. (they do this almost every year it seems).

Dryness made shorebirding poor - no water standing in fields. Pastures are grazed down already.

Except for the ornithology class, I haven't been out much this spring, but I've begun birding more in May.

Have fun compiling records. It's a big job you've taken on.

- Barb Wilson

Seems like I've had little to report but I sure managed to mail you a lot of pages anyway. Sorry about that. - BW