

enters
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Note: Since I will be leaving Iowa tomorrow and not return until the end of August, I am submitting the summer report at this time.

Summer Report -- 1989

Weather for the period: June saw some extremes. On June 15 a frost damaged some of the growing corn. A week later temperatures were pushing 100! Generally a very dry period. The first half of July was hot and dry. Second half of the month: more comfortable and some (but not enough) rain.

- Osprey: Dan Rankeing (a reliable birder) reports observing one individual along the Big Sioux River in western Sioux Co. on July 4.
- Northern Bob-white: Doing very well. In June individuals were calling not only in their usual haunts in western Sioux Co., but also up along the rivers in Lyon Co.
- Chukar: Last year a number of these birds were inadvertently released in this area. A pair has been regularly appearing on Dordt College, Sioux Center, property. A pair of them are now breeding in an area close to the college. The nest contains a dozen eggs.
- Semipalmated Plover: Ken Hollinga (an expert birder) found one individual on a sandbank in the Big Sioux River, Sioux Co., on July 1.
- Upland Sandpiper: One was present in western Sioux Co. on June 30. They appear scarce this summer.
- Black-billed Cuckoo: Scarce in Sioux Co. this season. Two individuals, observed in Sioux Center on June 27 and at Oak Grove Park on June 30, could not be relocated on July 3.
- Burrowing Owl. On June 24 I discovered a single individual in an unlikely place about 5 miles northwest of Rock Valley -- on a virtually shoulderless gravel road between two cornfields. I could find no evidence of a partner or of nesting activity. On July 7 I saw another Burrowing Owl on a post along Hwy 75, just south of Maurice, at the Sioux/Plymouth counties border. Last year this species bred again in the Sioux Center area. It looks as if they may be coming back as regulars to this area.

- Purple Martin: Excellent nesting success in the Sioux Center and Orange City areas this summer.
- Loggerhead Shrike: A pair was present on July 1 in the fields just south of Oak Grove Park in western Sioux Co.
- Bell's Vireo: We heard one singing individual in Oak Grove Park on July 3.
- Blue Grosbeak: Unlike last year, when they were difficult to find, the Blue Grosbeak was very plentiful in Sioux Co. this summer. Between June 24 and July 3 we observed at least a dozen different individuals, including some immatures.
- Dickcissel: Abundant population in June. In western Sioux Co. one commonly encounters a dozen or more singing birds per mile.
- House Finch: At least four individuals were present in Sioux Center throughout the period, along with several in Orange City. Though there was some evidence of breeding behavior reported, no specific nests were found. It looks as if this species is about to establish itself in our area.

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