

Spring 1970

AFN notes

IOWA

Audubon Field Notes Spring, 1970

Des Moines, Iowa

May was warm with numerous thunderstorms in contrast with the cool and dry months of March and April.

The migration as a whole was uninteresting in Polk Co.

A Great Blue Heronry at Red Rock Refuge with 12 nests was abandoned for no apparent reason; there was no predation (G. Black). Little Blue Herons were reported by Gladys Black at Red Rock; in mid-April by Jim Rod; early May in Polk Co. (Helen Peasley); and mid-May by Ron Muilenburg. A Cattle Egret was seen near Ankeny, Polk Co. on 6 June (Mary Ellen Warters, Dick Mooney, WHB). This appears the seventh Iowa record. A Snowy Egret was near Ogden in late May (John Faaborg).

Golden-eyes and Buffleheads were unusually numerous this spring.

Only one Red-shouldered Hawk was reported (Glen Bloomfield). A roost of 75 Turkey Vultures, evidently not breeding, at Red Rock (Gladys Black).

Shorebirds generally had a poor migration, but large numbers appeared late in May near Ogden (J. Faaborg). A Black Rail at Goose Lake was reported by Paul D. Kline. There were numerous reports of Woodcock, and two active nests were found at De Soto Bend N.W.R. by the Refuge Mgr.

Nesting of the Chuck-will's-widow reported by Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Ayres.

Mockingbirds were seen at 5 different locations (3 in Red Rock Refuge) but only 1 nest located (G. Black).

Loggerhead Shrikes continue scarce.

A late male Parula Warbler seen and heard in Walnut Woods (Warters, Mooney). Several reports of the Yellow-throated Warbler and one Hooded Warbler observation.

Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins, numerous all winter, were coming to feeders as late as the first week in June, at least.

Thos. H. Brown

14 June, 1970



Dear Pete:

For the spring report I have merely picked out some of the more unusual items from the Field Reports for this season and have added some things just received from Gladys Black who didn't report for IBL.

Actually, you could get all this from the Field Reports write-up, but there's an awful lot to wade through. If you do make a practice of going through Field Reports, then much of this is only duplication. You might let me know sometime how this should be handled.

Dick Mooney said he had sent you a note on the Cattle Egret. This was a real surprise.

Several inquiries about IOU memberships but no applications or money.

Thors

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

ROBERT L. NICKOLSON
2314 HELMER ST.
SIOUX CITY, IOWA 51103

VICE-PRESIDENT

JOSEPH K. BROWN
3300 LINCOLN AVE.
DES MOINES, IOWA 50310

SECRETARY

MRS. M. K. HALLBERG
#4 ROCK BLUFF ROAD
OTTUMWA, IOWA 52501

TREASURER

WOODWARD H. BROWN
4815 INGERSOLL AVE.
DES MOINES, IOWA 50312

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

MRS. RUSSELL NICHOLSON
4101 KINGMAN BLVD.
DES MOINES, IOWA 50311

MRS. CHARLES C. AYRES, JR.
922 N. GREEN ST.
OTTUMWA, IOWA 52501

MISS MYRA WILLIS
1720 6TH AVE., S. E.
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52403

KEITH LAYTON
201 HIGH AVE., W.
OSKALOOSA, IOWA 52577

Iowa Ornithologists' Union



STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

LIBRARIAN
MISS FRANCES CROUTER
DEPT. OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613

PUBLISHERS OF
Iowa Bird Life
A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

EDITOR
PETER C. PETERSEN, JR.
235 MCCLELLAN BLVD.
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803

R. D. Mooney
3814 Carpenter Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50311

Dear Pete:-

On June 6, 1970 a party made up of Mary Ellen Warters, Woodward H. Brown and the writer had a close look at a Cattle Egret during the Breeding Bird Census. This occurred about three P.M. on a casual marsh in an area locally referred to as Ankeny Ponds several miles east and north of Ankeny.

The egret flew, circled and returned to light on a post (fence) close to the observers giving an excellent view of the yellow bill and legs and the buffy crown and breast patches.

The wife of the land owner informed us that the egret had been at this location for several days.

I understand that this is the seventh recorded observation of a cattle egret in Iowa.

Very truly yours,

Rick Mooney

R. D. Mooney

Tow Iowa Bird Life

Mrs. Phil Thornton

326 Olsego Street

Storm Lake, Iowa

Pete -
J. Acknowledged
L. W. M. B.

29/4/00
14/5/00

About 7 a.m. April 26, 1970 I

observed a bird crouching on a horizontal limb of a ~~the~~ juniper tree about 6 ft. from our kitchen window and about 8 ft from the ground. It had the peculiar habit of sitting almost parallel on the limb and being immobile for hours. When the sun shone on this bird and it didn't stir I realized it must be a natural bird.

Mrs. Ed Crocker of Storm Lake joined me in my observation and we identified it as a Chuck-will's-widow. We saw very clearly the almond shaped eyes (almost slits), the stiff bristles around the mouth, pale white throat band, stripes on its head, the all over black, brown, gray and buff -

soil of variegated appearance, and
no white on the tail. The primaries
looked like a checkerbond. The
bird stayed in approximately the
same position all day and
disappeared at dusk. It did not
reappear the following day.

Mrs. Phil Thornton

326 Otsego St.

Storm Lake, Ia. 50588