

IOWA

Spring - 1971

note for

American Birds

Black - Iowa, Pleasantville

April 24 1971  
608 Old W. St.  
Pleasantville, Iowa  
50225

Recd. 28 Apr. 71

Dear Mr. Kleen: - I am enclosing an IOU Check list, just one as I'm out and will not be able to replenish supply till IOU Convention May 7-9. I pay 5¢ apiece for these which seems a bit high. Woodward & Brown Treasurer, IOU has charge of that and can give you details. You have his Des Moines address as he is a contributor to Amer. Birds.

Just off the press is the new "An Annotated List of the Birds of Iowa" by Woody Brown. It is reprinted from State Journal of Science Feb 1971. It costs \$1.00 but I'm writing Woody this eve & will suggest that he send you a copy. In it, you will have an up to date reference as to rarity, etc. Woody spent 3 years putting it together. I should think that each of the states in our Region should supply you with their latest such list. Otherwise your job is going to be much more difficult.

Now, re the 3 lakes in my area. Woody Brown also Joseph K. Brown & others in the Des Moines area will be able to report on Taylorville Lake when it is completed in about 2 years. As to Lake Red Rock I can report and any rarity here I have confirmed by John Beamer, Management Biologist of the Refuge or else some of the Des Moines group comes i.e. Cattle Egret last fall - John Beamer, Woody Brown, and others from D.M.

Now, as to Rathbon Lake farther south, we have 1 IOU mbr. fairly near there but she does not spend as much time observing as I do. However thruout the fall waterfowl migration John Beamer helps with the State Conservation Aerial count done each Wed. Therefore if you wish I can get these figures on Rathbon from John B.

Now as to reporting rarities, Moody always says "now you will report this" - when it's in my Red Rock area, and the same goes for his area around I.M. Whenever I will include others who confirm "rarities" in my report, what I mean is that we are not touchy about who gets credit and you can't include dozens of names, space being increasingly costly!

Also if my report contains 'nothing' unusual enough for print, I will surely understand. I will leave that to your judgment. If I have a real rarity of unusual increase or decrease in populations I will emphasize it i.e. Franklin's Gulls etc. and I really did not have much unusual in my winter report, The number of Raptors perhaps if considered with other reports in Iowa which showed something of an increase.

This past week - since April 15 - I have been observing at my Mackingbird field 3 miles SE of Pville (Upland - not in the Refuge). The Mackers returned April 22 but more interesting is the Courtship flights of the Common Snipe over this field each evening especially since no nesting has been reported in the state in 25 years. And this may not develop into a nesting but in the mean time I am thoroughly enjoying the displays and the peculiar sounds, <sup>17500</sup> high that I can't get a good laugh tape on my tape recorder. However one of the fellows (John Fasborg from I S U) confirmed it - the sound I mean - at last week's I.M. Acad. Soc. meeting, and I have seen them close up since then.

I hope that Middlewestern Prairie will be given a little more space in the future. It is a big and difficult region taking in as it does southern States such as Kentucky - then northern Ia. - and we do have bitter winters!

Sincerely,  
Gladys T Black