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Hi Jim:

- I've been out of the state -- in fact, out of the country -- for most of June and July, so my report is spotty.
- Because I went on leave last fall, I canceled out of getting e-mail rare bird alert transcriptions. I'd like to get back on, but discovered that I have lost the information. Can you send me an e-mail with the address I need to contact in order to resubscribe? Thanks. (My e-mail: [jvandyk@dordt.edu](mailto:jvandyk@dordt.edu))

Observations:

- Wood Duck: Doing very well in the Doon (Lyon Co.) area. The ponds there have plenty of young Woodies paddling about.
- American Kestrel: Apparently a very successful season for this bird. They appear to be exceptionally plentiful this summer.
- Northern Bobwhite: Good news! After several years of absence, they were calling again in their regular haunts in Western Sioux County. On June 29 I flushed several of them in the prairie side of Oak Grove Park.
- Solitary Sandpiper: The first fall migrant was along the Big Sioux River on July 31.
- Red-Headed Woodpecker: Doing very well in our area. They are very common throughout the county, but especially in the west.
- Purple Martin: Apparently they experienced some trouble with nestlings earlier in the summer, when cold wet weather prevented the adults from gathering adequate food supplies. Subsequently they managed to produce good broods, judging by all the Martins flying around.
- American Crow: Local residents report that their numbers seem to be steadily increasing and that they are becoming excessively aggressive, robbing, e.g., Robin nests right at doorways and in gardens.
- Sedge Wren: The colony at Oak Grove Park had many singing birds this summer.
- Loggerhead Shrike: The only one I saw was an individual about 5 miles east of Sioux City in Woodbury County, on July 22.

- Blue Grosbeak: Sioux County remains a very reliable place for this species. They were quite easy to find. Adults were feeding young near Newkirk, in mid-July.
- Dickcissel: Once again abundant in western Sioux County this summer. Along some gravel roads they easily averaged a dozen or more per mile of road.
- Orchard Oriole: This bird did also very well this summer. On June 29 I saw three pairs in Oak Grove Park, and individuals could be heard singing from numerous farm lots (with lots of big trees).
- Bobolink: Very scarce this summer. This species continues its decline in our area.

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