

8 July 1994

entire

Dear Jim,

Enclosed are the strange bird sightings for Iowa Lakeside Lab this summer. In general, Dickcissels were more numerous, although only one nest was found on Cayler Prairie (about normal). E. Kingbirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Great-crested Flycatchers, Yellow Warblers, Gray Catbirds, Bobolinks, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Cowbirds! were much fewer. Warbling vireos were more common. Waterbirds were less common: Ruddy Ducks, Blue-winged teal, Black-crowned night Herons, Mallards, Pied-billed Grebes---all of them. Few Forester's terns and a not many Black Terns on Jemmerson Slough. Jemmerson Slough seemed quiet, but Grover's Lake had lots. Some said that they saw Canvasbacks twice, but I did not see any. I did see Redheads on several occasions. There is a colony of Black-crowned night Herons on Grover's Lake, and there were at least 100 Black and Forester's Terns there.

3 June to present. 1-5 Ring-billed Gulls have been seen in the area of Lakeside and Little Miller's Bay

4 June---2 immature Double-crested cormorants on Grover's Lake
(Am. White Pelicans were also fewer and more scattered
this year)

12-13 June George Brown saw a group of 4 blackbirds in with some Grackles. One was grayer than the other with a light colored eye so he identified them as Rusty Blackbirds. I went out and saw them in poor light. I could tell that they were not Grackles, Redwings, or Cowbirds, but did not see the "female". One did vocalize and it was more similar to a Rusty blackbird than a Brewer's.

4,5 July I both heard and saw a Carolina Wren! I saw the bird at a distance of about 3 feet.

6 July:

Kettleison's Hogsback wetland reconstruction: 10 Franklin's Gulls and 12 Ring-billed Gulls

Grover's Lake: Double-crested Cormorant. Also, 2-3 birds swam into cattails that swam low to the water. I did not get a clear look. Possibly they were immature cormorants.

Two Lakeside classes canoed through Grover's Lake, but we did not see any signs of Western Grebes.

There were young Ruddy Ducks.

There was one Franklin's Gull

2 miles west of Hgwy 9 and 86 intersection

3 Greater Yellowlegs, 5 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 2 Least Sandpipers.

Hgwy 86---8 Franklin's Gulls

7 July Northern Parula Warbler calling in woodland of Iowa Lakeside Lab. I did not see the bird, but we just got back from northern Wisconsin where we saw and heard plenty.

8 July Larids increasing in area. Franklin's and Ring-billed Gulls in many fields. Yellowlegs are also increasing.

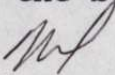
Pair of Gadwall in flooded area north of Hgwy 9 near yesterday's yellowlegs

Both Mike Lannoo and I saw a blue-phase Snow Goose on a wetland just north of Yaeger Slough. Mike spotted it first.

That's it, and I feel that there are enough weird sightings in there to strain my credibility.

Almost finished with your new book, and I am enjoying it. I can't imagine how you found all those old accounts, but it must have taken a great deal of time to wade through diaries and letters.

All the best,


Neil Bernstein