

IOWA

Summer 1972

for American Birds

Brown A

22 August, 1972

June was warm and dry, but July was different; cold and wet with almost 6" rainfall which practically wiped out the year-to-date deficit.

First half of August was also cold with almost 5½" rain so we now have an excess.

In this immediate area there is a continuation of the decrease in the numbers of what formerly were common nesters: Wood Thrush, Towhee, Yellow Warbler, and Redstart, among others.

On 11 July I saw a White Pelican at Red Rock Ref. and one was in the same place on 23 July (W. Criswell).

Great Blues are few. Little Blue: 4 imm. in Polk Co. 22 July (Joe Brown), and 1 at Red Rock 23 July (Criswell). Yellow-crowned, both adult and imm. are being seen in 1 area in Polk Co.

Wood Ducks numerous at Red Rock (Criswell).

Sparrow Hawks were scarce up to the last week or two. We are probably seeing families. An Osprey at Red Rock on 21 July was unusual (Criswell).

Cuckoos are few in Polk Co. perhaps due to removal of elms, but have been numerous around Shenandoah (Ruth Zollars).

Hummingbirds are few.

Flickers, evidently a good nesting season.

W. Kingbirds numerous in several areas in southwest (R. Zollars).

Carolina Wrens are being heard in Des Moines. Last year was the first report in 10 years. Fred Kent also reports this from Iowa C.

Robins, abundant nesting as usual.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets. One seen and heard on 23 July, and 2 on the next day by Dr. N. S. Helmi of Iowa City. Fred Kent says the doctor is a very careful observer and he gave me a good description. On 24 June and on the 25th one was seen and heard by Mrs. Jean Broley and Mrs. Ruth Zollars. One was also seen and heard on 24 July. Both of these are capable and experienced birders, the latter is a bander. It's hard to understand these summer records.

Shrikes have been scarce after numbers were seen during migration.

All Vireos are down.

A Lark Bunting was seen on 6 June south of Council Bluffs (Zollars).

A singing Henslow's Sparrow is present near Lamoni (Donald Gillaspey)

Lark Sparrows, usually nesting in Polk Co. are unreported.

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19 August, 1972

To add to my report of yesterday. Donald Gillaspey called this morning to say that the Henslow's Sparrow on his farm had been banded by Mrs. DeLong, and its nest found. Immatures were also noted. Mrs. DeLong also banded a female Red Crossbill "last week" according to Mr. Gillaspey.

W H Brown