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Jessen

Robert H. Jessen
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Dear Mr. Kleen:

The weather can be described in one word, hot! I'm sure your aware of this, for we were not alone. The weather tended to limit our birding activities.

Breeding Season

✓ Black-Crowned Night Herons--a good colony was indicated at Goose Lake, in Greene County, when on June 8&9 many were seen, sometimes five at once.

Hawks remain scarce with only a few Red-Tails seen and one Kestrel.

Killdeers--we believe we do not see as many as we should.

Whip-Poor-Will--from the number of birds calling, a good population is indicated along the Des Moines River in Mahaska Co.

Chucks-Will-Widow--where I reported one in the previous report, along the Des Moines River, the Layton's banded one for the first in Mahaska County. We heard two singing, but have not been able to find out if this indicates two pair. Perhaps you know? This is all very exciting, considering three years ago these birds were unheard of in this area. *No date*

Tree Swallow--our trip to Goose Lake produced the first nesting Tree Swallow we have ever seen in Iowa, also the first Layton's have seen there in the six years they have went there. We located one nest in a dead tree in the water and four were banded.

Purple Martins--nesting success in doubt because of the wet spring and recent hot weather. We found many dead young in July and presumed they died in their ovens in the sky in the hundred degree temperatures. Few immatures are seen.

House Wrens were common. One Carolina Wren was heard in our back yard for two days and then left.

Mockingbird--we not only saw our first Mockingbirds June 11, but found their nest and later help band their four young. Mockingbirds are considered uncommon to rare in our county. We consider them to be slowly expanding northward.

Catbirds and Brown Thrashers were abundant.

Bluebirds--were scarce with few houses occupied. Perhaps they are nesting in their natural home, the many holes in the many dead trees in the area, that were made by the good population of Red-Heads. It is probably too good to be true.

Loggerhead Shrikes--remain uncommon in the area.

Yellow-Headed Blackbirds--five hundred nesting pairs were estimated at Goose Lake on our trip there. One hundred and four nests were found containing one hundred and seventy four eggs by Keith Layton on May 25th. June 11th produced many empty nests, with some storm damage obvious.

Dickcissels remain very common.

Just recently we joined IBBA and have our reservations in for the annual meeting. In reading the journal I noticed that you are a vice-president of the organization. Perhaps you will be at the meeting? Good birding and we hope to see you in Milwaukee.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Jensen