

AB



New Zealand Maori War Canoe — Maori Warriors

Aug. 2

Dear Vern:

This has not been a very interesting summer, birdwise. June was among the wettest in history and July ~~hot~~ and dry (I spent the first 2 weeks of it in New Brunswick).

My notes show the following items of interest:

a singing Henslow's Sparrow, first spotted by S. Peterson, was seen next day (June 23) by me and on the following day by Peterson and T. Shires. He was beautifully perched on a tall, dry weed and hiccupped according to the book and record.

On June 25, I saw a ♂ yellow headed Blackbird chased by redwings in wet tall-grass habitat with no cattails anywhere near. Whereas this species is a



N.Z. Greenstone Tiki

nesting bird in NW Iowa, the only place where it has nested in the past (but apparently not for the last 2 years) is a slough some 35 miles NE of Iowa City. In our area they have occurred only as spring or fall migrants.

The fall shorebird migration started rather early, with the first common shorebirds (peeps, pectorals, less yellowlegs) on July 21. The best find of the season is bound to be a flock of 27 Buff-breasted Sandpipers seen tonight in a wet meadow some 10 miles NW of Iowa City - but that is already an item for the fall report!

Best wishes

Nick



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