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The Wilson Bulletin

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Sioux City, Iowa, June 7, 1933

Dear Mr. DuMont:

This is a terrible time to be answering your letter of the April 18th. You are doubtless pretty well along in your work now.

Concerning the Chickadees. I have always been very doubtful of the Long-tailed Chickadee breeding here. It seems to me that all specimens taken here in summer have been the common *atricapillus*, but can't give the facts off-hand. Every fall and winter we observe a great influx of chickadees; we do not know where they come from, but have assumed they come from the north, possibly from northwesterly. I have assumed that there is a complete displacement of our breeding birds by these newcomers, but we have no evidence on it. The winter population of chickadees considerably outnumbers the summer population I believe.

Your finding that the ordinary red-tail is the breeding bird is about what I would expect. Anderson used to get great numbers of these birds, sent in from a radius of a hundred miles or more. He got many that recognizable as *calurus*, and almost every possible variation. But my recollection is that all of these variants came in the fall and winter.

breeding

I am rather doubtful that our/Nighthawk is sennetti; the latter comes through in migration, but I think our breeding bird is too dark. It may be possible that we have sennetti, but, if so, I would expect that it is outnumbered by the common. However my opinion is based wholly upon field observations, not on specimens (except the one migrant specimen of sennetti). Hope you can get it worked out with certainty.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

T. C. Stephens

I did almost no field work this spring.