

1 November 1994

TO: Laura Jackson;  Carol Thompson; Bruce Ehresman; Lisa Hemesath;
Jim Dinsmore; John Fleckenstein; Pat Schlarbaum; Robert Cecil

FROM: J. Sandrock *JPS*

Here are the first 50 edited accounts (10 each to five contributors). I have gone over each account carefully and conscientiously and have indicated the necessary stylistic changes to assure consistency throughout the atlas. In this regard and in consultation with Holly Carver at The University of Iowa Press, I have made the decisions (all of which will be evident in these edited accounts) about the following: punctuation; the use of numerals, dates, % sign, etc; listing of multiple citations; capitalization, quotations, and All That Good Stuff!

In addition, I have suggested changes in wording; I have tried to vary terminology and "formulaic" style; I have eliminated nick-names for birds, e.g., hoodies, woodies, cans, red-tails, chippies (!); I have pointed out repetitive phrases; ambiguous pronouns have been, I hope, made specific; "dangling" phrases have been attached to clauses and sentences; confident that relative pronouns and clauses are still acceptable in English, I have restored them to the accounts; I have frequently changed awkward possessives; neologisms have, in general, been deleted.

Where I have indicated or suggested a change, I have placed a blue  or  in either margin. Please look carefully at each blue mark on your accounts; I believe the pattern of changes will emerge. My hope is that you will feel that this editing will improve the individual accounts and, ultimately, The Breeding Bird Atlas. I realize that this atlas is not written in saecula saeculorum, but, surely, we all want it to represent our best efforts in all its aspects.

To edit each of these accounts with the care they deserve is taking longer than I had anticipated. I can check all the maps and references--and have done so for many accounts--but that consumes much time, too much time if we are to get this work published soon. And so I ask--with honeyed words--each of you to re-check your own maps and references. And would you try your best to lengthen or shorten your accounts to 1000-1100 words? This is important for the final version approved by the UI Press.

Along with concern about the time constraints we should think about the disposition of your "re-written" accounts. I will be glad to receive all revised versions of all accounts and to give them another "once over." However advantageous that might be, it will, of course, take time. Let's plan to discuss this.

[continued]

Guess that's enough for both of us! There is, I understand, a meeting scheduled for 9 December. I will--the Parcae willing--be at that meeting. Some of the things that I would like to talk about then are:

- Is it U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or United States Fish and Wildlife Service?
- What is the correct rubric: species of Special Concern or Species of Special Concern or?
- Resolution of discrepancies in data
- Is it subspecies? race? tribe? or?
- How to list chemicals?
- Total Blocks in Iowa
- Etc.

It occurs to me that you might possibly have some questions for me, too.

Thanks for all your encouraging, even kind words. I hope you will feel as gracious after looking at my--suggestions.