JPSa

JAMES P. SANDROCK
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IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
338-5774

Thursday noon

Dear Jim,

Nice to talk with you last night! Thank you for asking me to cobble this weather stuff together. As things go, I don't think these reports will change the cosmic order of the universe, but perhaps some day some one will make use of them. Nor are they written in deathless prose -- if you want to change any -- or all -- of it, please do not hesitate to do so!

My field report is short and unexciting -- I spent a lot of the time during the past few months out of the state. I regret missing the peak migration period here, but I did enjoy southeastern Arizona and the avifauna there. Our plans for a pelagic trip off North Carolina in September have had to be postponed -- we'll get 'em next year!

Be assured that I am always happy to help out in any way I can, so don't hesitate to call on me if I can contribute to the cause.

Hope to see you in Muscatine -- if not sooner.

Cordially,

Jim S.

FIELD REPORTS FORM for submitting seasonal observations of Iowa birds

Season: June/July Year: 1984

Other observers (name, city):

Name and address (print or type) James P. Sandrock
1634 Morningside Drive
Iowa City, IA 52240

Use first few lines to give weather and habitat conditions. Use line(s) below species data to give additional details, if needed. Mail to: T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City IA 522[illegible] by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

use initials of obsv. on species line

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	12 Jul	Roberts Park, Van Buren Co.
			Translucent patches at base of primaries
			very distinct; bands on tail; rufous back and wings; "pinkish" underparts.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1♀	16 Jun	Lacey-Keosauqua SP.
Alder Flycatcher	1	16 Jun	Lacey-Keosauqua SP.
			"fee-bee-o" plainly heard; observed and heard for 2-3 minutes. I've documented
			this species before--in same location, i.e., in shrubs near creek.
Hermit Thrush	1	14 Jul	Lacey-Keosauqua SP.
" "	1	16 Jul	" " "
			Song clearly heard on both occasions. I did not see bird, but am familiar with song.
Kentucky Warbler	1	21 Jul	Lacey-Keosauqua SP.
			Have seen Kentucky Warblers all summer for last three years in the park--must be
			breeding there.
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	14 Jul	South Van Buren Co.
			Seen in same location last year at this time.
Summer Tanager	1♀	12 Jul	Roberts Park, Van Buren Co.

WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

June 1984 was a wet and stormy month which closed out the second quarter of the year as the state's second wettest spring quarter in 112 years. The month averaged about 150% of normal precipitation and ranks as the second wettest June on record. Most of this rain occurred during the first 18 days, followed by moderate or less than normal amounts during the latter days. June "busted out" with severe storms, frequent tornadoes, hail, and damaging winds. The night of 7-8 June produced heavy rainfall and reports of numerous tornadoes, exceeding the previous one-day record of tornadoes reported on 30 April 1967. While temperatures for the month averaged only one degree above normal, extremes were notable: 40^{o} at Boone and Anamosa on the 3rd; 94^{o} at Fort Dodge, Sac City, and Logan on the 26th; Tipton experienced 96^{o} F. on the 17th.

The month of July was almost boring with its return to normal weather phenomena. Precipitation and temperatures were those to which Iowans are accustomed. Well-spaced rains and temperatures--on some days reaching into the 100s--were typical of July in Iowa.

HABITAT COMMENTS

Many fields throughout Iowa--for example, the Skunk River area south of Des Moines--remained under water well into July. This must have had an effect on quail, pheasant, and turkey (?) populations. Did the breeding passerines also suffer from the cold, wet conditions?