

CECIL

May 24, 1985

Dear Dr. Kent,

Enclosed is my Field Report etc. for Spring 1985. I reviewed everything so I think everything is accurate and in a useable form.

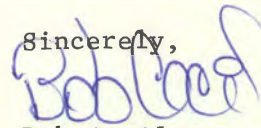
As you will see, I got a number of early dates. I realize that I scream inexperience every time I open my mouth, but I also realize the importance of accurate and reliable field reports, so I was exceptionally cautious and conservative in everything I reported. Nearly all the birds I reported by myself I had considerable experience with last year--the only exception I can think of offhand is Yellow-breasted Chat. Virtually all birds were seen and heard--exceptions are noted in the Field Reports form. As we discussed in Marshalltown, I think the N. Waterthrush I reported on the Iowa Birdline may have been in error(although it was a Waterthrush), so I just dropped all Waterthrush reports.

I don't know whether the presence of large numbers of early arrivals in my area was due to the very early spring we had this year, or because they always get here this early and no one has been down here to report on it, or due simply to the volume of my visits--32 trips to Croton Unit, Shimek Forest between Mar. 10 and May 23. At any rate, I think most of my early dates have been updated as per post-1982 issues of Iowa Bird Life.

Also, enclosed is the Report Form for Selected Species. Although I saw a good number of these species, often with Francis Moore, my record keeping I discovered is not sufficiently thorough to be much help. Included is what I had good records on.

You are getting this early as I am on my way South and will be gone through the end of the month. I hope to see Jim Sandrock in South Texas.

Sincerely,

  
Bob Cecil

Season: Spring Year: 1985Name and address Robert Cecil (RCe)

Other observers (name, city):

(print or type) 327 S. 6thFrancis L. Moore (FLM) on Mar. 30,Keokuk, Iowa 52632Ap. 27, 28W.R. Silcock (WRS), F.L.M. Ap. 28

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 52240 by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

use initials of obsv. on species line

| SPECIES                  | NO.      | DATE             | LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------|----------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Horned Grebe*            | 5        | Mar. 29          | Rathbun Reservoir                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| ✓ Eared Grebe            |          | Ap. 27           | 12 at Willow Slough, Mills Co./FLM<br>2 at Forney Lake, Fremont Co./FLM                                                                                                                                           |
| Am White Pelican*        | 200      | Mar. 30          | Riverton Area, Fremont County/FLM. 3rd early?                                                                                                                                                                     |
| ✓ Great Blue Heron       |          |                  | My first for year was one at Keokuk on Mar. 19. Also, found active colony of perhaps 25 nests directly across Miss. River from Keokuk on Ill. island. Dropped note to V. Kleen who was unaware and happy to know. |
| ✓ Canvasback             | 2000     | Mar. 5           | Reached these numbers by Mar. 5. Pool 19, Montrose                                                                                                                                                                |
| ✓ Lesser Scaup           | 11       | May 22           | Still at Pool 19 at Montrose, Lee County                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Osprey*                  | 1        | Ap. 9            | Miss. River at Keokuk. My first for season.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Bald Eagle*              | 1        | Ap. 3            | Found this adult at C.U.S.F. (Croton Unit, Shimek Forest) Other adults left perhaps month earlier.                                                                                                                |
| ✓ Broad-winged Hawk      | 54<br>25 | Ap. 26<br>Ap. 27 | C.U.S.F. (Croton Unit, Shimek Forest)<br>Riverton Area (Fremont County) /FLM                                                                                                                                      |
| Golden Eagle             | **       | **               | **See Documentation**                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| ✓ Piping Plover          | 8        | Ap. 28           | I.P.L. Cooling Ponds, Mills Co./FLM                                                                                                                                                                               |
| ✓ Killdeer               | 3        | Mar. 1           | Keokuk. My 1st for season.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| ✓ Willet                 | 23<br>15 | Ap. 27<br>Ap. 28 | Willow Slough (Mills County)/FLM<br>Riverton Area (Fremont Co.)/FLM                                                                                                                                               |
| ✓ Spotted Sandpiper      | 1        | Ap. 20           | Lacey-Keosauqua Park, Van Buren County/FLM<br>3rd early?                                                                                                                                                          |
| ✓ Semipalmated Sandpiper | 4        | Mar. 30          | Riverton Area (Fremont Co.)/FLM. Record early?                                                                                                                                                                    |
| ✓ Least Sandpiper        | 3        | Mar. 30          | Riverton Area (Fremont Co.)/FLM. 2nd early?                                                                                                                                                                       |
| ✓ Am. Woodcock           | 3        | Mar. 10          | C.U.S.F. I had total of 11 for this spring incl. 5 on Mar. 24, C.U.S.F.                                                                                                                                           |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo*    | 4        | May 8            | Noted rufous in wings, spots under tail, yellow mandible. C.U.S.F. 2nd early?                                                                                                                                     |
| Common Nighthawk *       | 3        | Ap. 28           | Over Keokuk, saw and heard. Record early?                                                                                                                                                                         |
| ✓ Pileated Woodpecker    | 2        | through season   | C.U.S.F. Think I have found nest cavity but no sign of young birds.                                                                                                                                               |
| ✓ Eastern Wood-pewee     | 1        | May 5            | Heard only, but heard clearly and repeatedly. C.U.S.F. Record early?                                                                                                                                              |
| Acadian Flycatcher       | **       | **               | **See Documentation**                                                                                                                                                                                             |

\*Also on Spring selected species report form

C.U.S.F. =  
CROTON UNIT,  
SHIMEK FOREST  
(LEE COUNTY)

dvc

dvc

Season: Spring Year: 1985Name and Robert Cecil

Other observers (name, city):

address  
(print  
or type)

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 52240  
by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

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| SPECIES                   | NO.         | DATE                         | LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ * Eastern Phoebe        | pair        | Enclosed records             | see copy of nest card. Nesting earlier than Iowa I can find. Nesting at 3 locations by Ap. 14.                                                                                                           |
| ✓ House Wren              | 2           | Ap. 16                       | In my back yard, Keokuk. Tie, 2nd early?                                                                                                                                                                 |
| ✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher   | 1           | Ap. 10                       | C.U.S.F. 2nd early? Observed nest building May. 23.                                                                                                                                                      |
| ✓ American Robin          | 159         | Mar. 31                      | Forced to highway 2 by snow in ten miles near Leon(Decatur County)                                                                                                                                       |
| ✓ Gray Catbird            | 2           | Ap. 22                       | C.U.S.F. Heard calling from thick brushy area, saw both birds. 2nd early?                                                                                                                                |
| ✓ Brown Thrasher          | 1           | Ap. 6                        | Heard doubled calls from upland brushy area, saw bird singing from top of bush. 2nd early? Had peak of 8 on Ap. 13.                                                                                      |
| ✓ White-eyed Vireo        | 1<br>1<br>3 | Ap. 20<br>May 11<br>From May | Lacey-Keosauqua Park(Van Buren)/F.L.M.<br>C.U.S.F.<br>15, C.U.S.F.                                                                                                                                       |
| ✓ Warbling Vireo          | 1           | Ap. 28                       | Riverton Area(Fremont Co.)/FLM,WRS. Tie, 3rd Early ?                                                                                                                                                     |
| ✓ Red-eyed Vireo          | 3           | Ap. 29                       | Vireos were here before this, but I could only hear them. These were heard and seen. C.U.S.F. Tie, 3rd early?                                                                                            |
| ✓ Blue-winged Warbler*    | 4           | Ap. 22                       | C.U.S.F. Heard distinctive two note buzzy song, followed to find bird. Other three birds heard only. Record early? By Ap. 29 at least 7 territorial birds.                                               |
| ✓ Nashville Warbler       | 1           | Ap. 26                       | C.U.S.F. Noted conspicuous gray cap, white eye ring. Bird silent. 3rd early?                                                                                                                             |
| ✓ Northern Parula         | 2           | Ap. 13                       | C.U.S.F. Went to place where Parulas were last year, heard rising buzzy song from high in Cottonwoods, finally spotted bird. 2nd early? Also 1 at Waubonsie S.P.(Fremont Co.) Ap. 27 with F.L.M., W.R.S. |
| ✓ Yellow-Throated Warbler | 3           | Ap. 20                       | Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. /FLM.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| ✓ Cerulean Warbler*       | 1           | Ap. 22                       | C.U.S.F. Record early? This bird singing and seen along wooded stream where found last year. summering. I think Jim Sandrock gets these before published early dates.                                    |
| ✓ Ovenbird                | 1           | Ap. 20                       | Lacey-Keosauqua S.P./FLM. 3rd early?                                                                                                                                                                     |
| ✓ Kentucky Warbler        | 3           | Ap. 24                       | C.U.S.F. Record early? It took me best part of an hour to sneak up on these singing birds. Thought I might confuse voice with Ovenbird, also present.                                                    |

\*Also on Spring selected species report form



## NORTH AMERICAN NEST-RECORD CARD PROGRAM

YEAR

Shaded Boxes not to be completed by observer

Species:

EASTERN PHOEBE

Observer (two initials, last name)

In squares in space opposite

Locality (in relation to nearest town) 2 1/2 miles west of ARGYLE  
(CRATON HUNT, SHIMMER FOREST)

County LEE

State or Province IOWA

Elevation  
(in feet above sea level)Fill in if known  
Latitude

Longitude

HABITAT (circle where appropriate)

1. Woods 2. Swamp 3. Marsh 4. Field 5. Grassland 6. Desert 7. Tundra 8. Suburban 9. Urban

0. Other (specify)

01. Coniferous 02. Deciduous 03. Mixed 04. Orchard 05. Cultivated 06. Fallow 07. No Veget. 08. Hedgerow

09. Shrub 10. Salt 11. Brackish 12. Fresh 13. Sandy Beach 14. Gravel Beach 15. Other (specify)

DOMINANT PLANT(S) IN HABITAT (list one or two)

WILLOW COTTONWOOD

NEST SITE (circle where appropriate)

01 Bare ground 02 On ground in vegetation 03 Floating 04 Low vegetation 05 Shrub 06 Palm 07 Deciduous tree branch

08 Deciduous tree cavity 09 Conifer branch 10 Conifer cavity 11 Nest box 12 Other structure 13 Cliff or bank

14 Other (specify)

PRINCIPAL PLANT OR STRUCTURE

SUPPORTING NEST BRIDGE

Height of Eggs Above Ground or Water in Feet (feet and tenths if under five feet)

If parasited by Cowbird check here ☐ and see instructions.If same pair had other nestings this year, indicate which this is (1, 2, 3)  
(use separate card for each nesting)

rev. 5-4-71

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THE CARD

No. Col. 1-12  
(Col. 2-14, side 1)

13

If used for colonial nesting check here ☐ and see instructions

COMMENTS

Stage of building, if eggs warm, age of young, if banded, etc.

| DATE      | Eggs | Young  | Edit | Build-<br>ing | Adult<br>On | COMMENTS                         |
|-----------|------|--------|------|---------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Month Day |      |        |      |               |             |                                  |
| AP 13     | ?    | ?      |      |               | No          | Nest COMPLETE (PARBOTS LG TATED) |
| AP 14     | 0    | 0      |      |               | No          | " (used mirror)                  |
| AP 18     | 0    | 0      |      |               | No          |                                  |
| AP 22     | 4    | 0      |      |               | YES         |                                  |
| AP 29     | 5    | 0      |      |               | YES         |                                  |
| MAY 3     | 5    | 0      |      |               | No          | DIDN'T SEE ADULTS(?)             |
| MAY 7     | 5    | 0      |      |               | YES         |                                  |
| MAY 10    | 0    | 5      |      |               | YES         | HATCHED                          |
| MAY 17    |      | 4 or 5 |      |               | YES         | FEATHERING OUT NICELY            |

01 Unknown because not revisited  
02 Young seen leaving nest  
03 Parent(s) excited near nest  
04 Parent(s) with young near nest  
05 Nest empty, intact  
06 Nest empty, damaged

OUTCOME INCLUDING CASES WHERE OUTCOME UNKNOWN (circle where appropriate)  
07 Nest deserted  
08 Failure due to weather  
09 Failure due to predation  
10 Failure due to invertebrate parasites  
11 Failure due to cowbirds

12 Failure due to competition with other species  
13 Failure due to human activities  
14 Failure due to pesticides (give details separately)  
15 Other (describe above)

Please complete both sides and return at end of season to your Regional Center or to Laboratory of Ornithology,  
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850. We thank you for contributing your time and efforts to this program.

78 79 80  
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