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FRED A. PRIEWERT, Director
300 Fourth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319
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An EQUAL OPPORTUNITY Agency

Aug. 13, 1979

8/14/79
late

Dr. Thomas H. Kent
211 Richards
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear Dr. Kent:

I just returned from a couple of weeks vacation and was reading the latest issue of IBL, when I noticed that the deadline date had slipped past for reporting summer observations. Though late I thought I had a few observations that were noteworthy so decided to send them on to you in hopes that they still might be squeezed in. If not, perhaps they can be used for addenda to the next reporting period.

I will skip the more common observations and report the following three which I consider more important:

Blue Grobeak, 6/28/79, 4 miles south of Ocheyedan, Iowa, Osceola County. One adult male was observed perched on a telephone wire, singing. A photograph was taken as documentation (results were rather poor, but it is possible to verify from the photo). I believe this is a rather extraordinary sighting for so far north in the state. No female was observed anywhere, but if the male indicates a breeding pair I suspect this could indicate a major range expansion to the northeast.

Canvasback hen w/brood of 9, 7/5/79, North Slough, near Ingham Lake, Emmet Co. This is the only Can w/brood I have observed this summer.

Swainson's Hawks, several sighted over last part of July along Iowa-S.Dak. border in Lyon Co. Also have sighted others across state lines in S.Dak. and Minn. Seem to be more common than usual this summer, although a pair is usually seen around Gitchie Manitou State Preserve (NW corner of Lyon Co.) every summer.

Sorry about being late--hope these can be used.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Harr
Wildlife Biologist
Rock Rapids, Iowa 51246

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Aug. 28, 1979

Dr. Thomas H. Kent
211 Richards Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear Dr. Kent:

In reference to the sightings I recently sent you from NW Iowa (the ones that were too late for the next issue of IBL) I have come across additional information concerning local Blue Grosbeaks.

I recently visited with the park manager at Blue Mounds State Park, Luverne, Minnesota, about 20 miles north of Rock Rapids, Iowa. He stated that the park has had at least one breeding pair of Blue Grosbeaks sighted for the past three consecutive years. Both he and the resident park naturalist believe this to be a permanent and significant range expansion for this species, which also supports my sighting in nearby Osceola Co., Iowa.

It now seems possible that we may have more grosbeaks around northwest Iowa than we are currently aware of. I'm sure that the dearth of birders up here contributes to our scanty information on this and other species. It would behoove IBL members in this region to keep their eyes more sharply tuned, and try to recruit more good birders for the organization!

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Harr
Wildlife Mgmt. Biologist
Big Sioux Wildlife Unit
507 1st Ave.
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