

Jessen
Ja.

April 2, 1974

Vernon Kleen
2311 Huntington Road
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Mr. Kleen:

Thank-you for your letter on American Birds field reports. This report concerns sightings of Mahaska County, 12/1 to 3/31. These records were made by Keith or Irene Layton, or Robert or Valerie Jessen. I have the Layton's permission to report for them. I will follow the I.O.U. checklist form for Iowa.

Snow Geese--first movement seen 3/3, two flocks of 40 to 50
Red-Tailed Hawks--common all winter, beginning with all time

high of 42 on local CBC

Rough-Legged Hawks--two were recorded

Bald Eagle--full adult seen on CBC near Des Moines river,
very rare for county, seen by four of us

American Woodcock--on 3/10 Layton's banded one, one of
earliest Iowa records

Great Horned Owl--while putting up artificial owls nest in
local woods, a nest was discovered with two
eggs on 2/4. Eggs hatched on or about 3/8
and owlets were banded by Layton's on 3/24
On 3/31 owls were checked again and all ok.
Nest should be successful, what an experience!

Short-eared Owl--four seen on CBC, implying small invasion,
and one seen at Lake Keomah on 3/17

Horned-Larks--were very common, with 300 seen on one 16
mile drive

Red-Wings and Grackles--massive movement seen on 3/3, with
numbers of each in 1000's, a very
warm day

Purple Finches--were common at feeder in last month of period
Common Redpolls--none reported in area but while visiting
relation in Cedar Falls three were seen
at feeder. Several reported from Ottumwa.

White-Winged Crossbill--find of season, one banded by Layton's
in town, first ever for both of us.
A few reported from Ottumwa.

This completes my report and I hope it is of some use.
Would you please send me some documentation forms for rare
sightings. More birds are moving in everyday with spring
around the corner. Hope you have good birding!

Sincerely yours,

Robert Jensen

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Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

P.S. Layton's banded two more white-winged crossbills
on 4/2. Things are going good for both of us this year.