

Red Rock Lake area, Iowa - winter

Black
Pleasantville
Iowa 5022
5

500 Mallards wintered on the tailwaters (open)
below Red Rock dam

1 Kingfisher also below dam

(20 Canada Geese moved in for earliest record
ever on Feb 14)

5 Old Squaw in the Lake Rathbun Iowa
area below the dam, there Dec 15, 1973
(observed by Charlotte Scott + Judge + Mrs Chas
Ayers - past pres. + pres. of I. O. U.)

2 i. Bald Eagles overwintered in Red Rock area,
below the dam most of the time

Short-eared Owls - what I would call a
"minor" invasion in the southern
half of the state - 29 at Lake Rathbun,
11 near La City, 8 near Pleasantville and
numerous reports in my "fan" mail,
and only a few reports from northern
half of state.

Junco + Sparrows were simply
non-existent - the weed fields and
edges flooded all last summer
by the record high water. (The Refuge
flood plain normally carries more
White-crowns than any part of the
State) Farm Fence Rows sprayed with Herbicides!

Purple Finches in small numbers were
reported from feeders in many nearby towns.

Common Redpolls - 12 at birch trees in Pville,
5 in Red Rock, & 5 south of Pville along
Railroad tracks. Friends reported a
few at the Maer's feeders. And 10 at 1 feeder
in Knoxville. Certainly no invasion (over)

Black,
Jan

Mar. 6, 1974
Pleasantville, Ia
50225

Dear Vernon: - Not much of a report, I
fear tho I had sufficient numbers
at my feeders to break the monotony!

Red tailed Hawk Nests #1 + #2
along the North Shore Drive of Lake
Red Rock occupied by incubating
Great Horned Owl in Feb. A
faded Red Tail incubating on a
new nest much less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
away is probably doomed as
to nesting success. Maybe lucky
if she isn't eaten by the dominant
Horned Owl.

A young student + I worked on the
Red tail study last year + will continue
it this year tho not for our own publication.
Dean Roosa, Hawk bander, will include
it in his study of 10+ years. He did
figure we had 1 pair Red tails per 9 square
miles in Pleasant Grove Township; 1 pair
per 7.5 sq. miles in Lake Red Rock area,
but only 1 pair per 16.6 sq. mi. of Red
Rock Refuge, a very heavily hunted
area. That??

Sincerely,

Gladys Black