

Black

Lawa

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1975 Spring Migration - Red Rock Refuge + Lake

A cold spring and Lake level raised to 750 ft, flooding all of Refuge in order to lessen floods on the Miss. River, consequently no crops (e corn or soybeans) planted for wildlife, 3rd year in a row that floods have prevented planting in the Refuge. (Permanent pool, Lake, 725 ft)

1 Western Grebe April 29, on farm pond 4 miles East of Pleasantville, first authentic record for Marion County Ia. (This is about 3 miles south of the Red Rock Refuge)

4 Double Crested Cormorants on Lake week of April 24.
First Great Blue Heron, Mar 23, in Refuge, few in number, no Rookery.

4 Cattle Egrets April 27, in cattle pasture, 3 miles West of Pleasantville
First flock of Canada geese in Refuge Mar 17, 28 days later than the Feb 27, 1974
First flocks of Snos on Mar 18

67 White Front geese on Lake Red Rock April 15, (uncommon to rare here)

Quacks, all species, arrived mid March in great numbers, stayed late into April, not only in Refuge but on every farm pond

60 Canvasbacks loafed on the marsh pond atop Red Rock Bluff
70 Redbreasted Mergansers on Robert's Creek Lake at north side of Lake Red Rock.

20 Turkey Vultures arrived Mar. 22, part of the summer roosts in Refuge

4 Bald Eagles at Refuge Hdqtrs Mar. 19

7 Bald Eagles at ~~West~~ end of Refuge Mar. 22

Kestrels, strong migration Mar. thru April

Shorebirds - few seen after Lake level raised covering the mudflats

Ringbilled Gulls, about 200 in late March + April

2 pairs Mackinburgs returned to the old Blue grass pastures S E of P'ville where they have nested for many years.

Laggerhead Shrikes - 3 active nests S E. of P'ville last of April (nestlings well feathered now) 2 pairs N. E of P'ville but nests not located.

Baboblinks - south side of Refuge, during migration and some remaining to nest in the same field used for many years.

Red wing Blackbirds - most numerous of all birds, everywhere.

Deckscissels also numerous, moved in first week of May

8 Red polls reported April 1 + 2 (our last snow) in Knoxville, our county seat, as a bird feeder - about the only report I had from anywhere in Ia this year!

Purple Finches - surely a peak year, I had reports from all over Ia, last ones at feeders May 4.

1 Pine Siskin netted near Red Rock dam April 30, only 1 I saw this year. (Woody rated it an uncommon winter resident)

You may receive documentation on the following - Purple Gallinule. If not, I'd say accept it. Both Judge Charles & Harleen are past presidents of the Iowa Ornithologists Union + Charlotte is compiler of the Lake Rathbun Xmas Count.

A Purple Gallinule was seen by Judge Charles & Harleen Ayres and Mrs Charlotte Scott near Ottumwa May 10. Someone else probably Woody, will also send this info to you. Woody rates it "accidental" in Iowa.

2 White-faced Ibis at Black Hawk Lake in Sac County May 9, 1975. Observed by Iowa Conservation Biologists Glenn Jones and Chuck Weiner. I did not request documentation as Glenn Jones is thoroughly reliable. So if you care to use the info, do so or delete - use your own judgment!

(I guess this + glassy ibis are conspecific.)

Woody, in "Annotated List of Birds of Ia" rated it Casual and listed about 4 records between 1954 thru 1964 with 6 in spring and 2 fall records.

Probably you will get this info re. Heavy Kestrel migration - Dean Masman of Ankeny Ia just north of Des Moines has banded 27 Kestrels since Jan 1, 1975 (also banded 10 in late '74) Total for this past winter 37 banded by Dean. He also trapped and banded 1 Swainson's Hawk in the edge of Ankeny! (Woody rates it a rare breeding bird in Iowa.)

Sincerely,

Gladys B Black