

Newton

Dear Vernon

Here are records for Jan - March.

Winter here was (1) dry and (2) warm - average temps. about 10° above normal. This may account for the abundance of robins and waxwings in Jan and Feb., and for the earlier waterfowl migration this year as compared to last.

Mike Newton

128 Grove St.

La Cuy, Tex 52240

PS sorry for lousy documentation but have left forms elsewhere - will transcribe the info into the proper forms so you'll have neater copies for your records -

Pelicans 1 white pelican 2/14 Princeton IA (on Miss. R.)
(m. ob.) (This bird seen by P. Peterson of Davenport + many other observers).

Waterfowl

general: #'s down from last year, especially for pintail, shoveller, 1. scaup, other divers (except com. merganser). May be due to very dry Fall + winter, with reduced water levels: Coralville Reservoir low, no flooded fields; some small sloughs are dry.

goose, w-f. 1 2/23 Coralville Res.; up to ~70
3/22-3/27 Cone Marsh.

black duck 2 3/30 Cone Marsh; 4 3/27 Cone Marsh (1 pair, 2 were paired with male Mallards)

merganser, Com. 424 2/28 Coralville Reservoir
(unusually high #'s)

Raptors

general: hawks (red-tail, rough-leg, marsh) were fairly common in Dec. and the first half of Jan, but became very scarce thereafter until late March. This was in contrast to numerous owl records for the same area.

Cooper's hawk 1 1/18 (only accipiter seen)

red-tail: 1 melanistic bird 3/27 (first I have seen in this area over 2 1/2 yrs. of obs.)

eagle, bald 1 ad 2/28; 1 ad 3 imm 3/28 Coralville Reservoir.

hawk, marsh 2 1/10; 3 1/18; 1 1/25; 0 1/31; 0 2/1; 0 2/23
1 3/20; 0 3/27 Coralville Res.

falcons 1 unidentified small falcon (probably Am. kestrel) 3/20. (only record)



Shorebirds

sandpiper, pectoral 300+ Coralville Reservoir 4/10
(Reservoir nearly dry - acres of mudflats)

gulls

Small Numbers of herring + ring-billed present
from ~~late Feb.~~ on at Coralville Res.
late Feb.

only records Bonaparte's 2 3/28 1 4/11 Coralville Res.
No Franklin's.

owls (all records vicinity of Coralville Reservoir)

long-eared 1 1/10; up to 7 1/17 - 2/1 in a 2nd
location.

great horned 1 pair 1 single 1/18; nest of the
pair located 4/10; contained 2
downy young and 1 ad (probably the ♀?)

barn owl 1 1/29; 1 3/28

saw-whet 2 1/31 - 2/1

Woodpeckers

pileated 1/10; 1 4/12 ^{Coralville Reservoir}
area) (uncommon in Iowa city

redheaded: present in small numbers in scattered
localities until late March; then num-
bers increasing (8 4/4 Palisades St. Pk)

titmice

tufted titmice, decidedly uncommon this winter;
rarely more than 1-2/day and often more.

wrens

carolina 1 singing 2/15 Iowa City

Thrushes

Robin, Am. - abundant in Jan (to 58 in a day), decreasing about 1 Feb and remaining less abundant until early March when the migrants arrived.

Seen on all trips to Coralville Reservoir from 1/11 to 2/28.

bluebird, e. 3 2/28; 1 3/20

Waxwings C. waxwings roosted on UI campus - up to 200 2/1; many fewer around in late Feb + March, as the food supply (Hawthorn berries) became exhausted.

Icterids

cowbirds roosted each night in a house sparrow roost on the Univ. of IA Campus. 1st birds noted 1/9 and about 100 were present by 1/24. Numbers began to decline in mid-March.

~~grackles and redwings~~

Fringillids

siskins present in small numbers in Jan + Feb; abundant Mar - April

redpoll, Common 1 2/8 Coralville Res.

"pink-sided" junco 6 3/30 (in flock of 20-25 birds)

Harris' sparrow 2 4/10 Coralville Reservoir