

IOWA

AMERICAN BIRDS

FALL 1975

Pleasantville Iowa  
Dec 10, 1975

Dear Vernon, - I am hopeful that you will receive reports from South west Minn. and Northwest Iowa where most of the small birds were wiped out in the Jan 10-11 blizzard. So far I have heard only from Laraine Wallace, Spirit Lake with one lone Hairy Woodpecker at her feeders this fall. The D O U hasn't many members in that area either.

I am hoping that the Bluebirds are increasing somewhat after our April 9, 1973 blizzard decimated them in Ia.

We had an unusually warm and dry fall with most all of the potholes dried up in Red Rock Refuge. The expected increase in Canada geese each fall in this Refuge (established 1969) just is not happening.

Justice Douglas hit the nail on the head when he listed the Corps of Engineers as the greatest (govt.) enemy of the environment. 4 years of 7 since the Lake filled has been flood years with the valley covered almost to Des Moines and the farmers had been told that major floods would occur only 1 year in 25.

Sincerely,  
Gladys Black (over)

Enc. New Red Rock Map.

I have just learned that Iowa Power & Light Co + 2 other big Companies of midwest are planning to build a huge Nuclear Power Plant within 100 miles of Des Moines and the Pres. of I P & L Co admitted in an educational TV interview that they were considering a site near Red Rock Reservoir!!

I did a bit of sleuthing & learned that I P & L Co has taken an option on a big tract of land below Red Rock dam and probably within this county. The total cost will probably be a Billion Dollars which the energy chief of Iowa considers a foolish investment when Ia. has an enormous supply of coal. I am hoping that I S P & R G, the Ia State Univ. (Ames) environmental groups will really fight this! Southern Utilities which supplies electricity to the southern tier of countries is very wisely building a big coal-powered power plant down the Des Moines River about 15 to 20 miles below the Red Rock dam. What horrors lie ahead with all this nuclear proliferation! GB

Fall Migration 1975 - <sup>Igwa</sup> Red Rock Lake + Refuge of Black  
Pleasantville Lawa

- 36 White Pelicans in Sept - on Lake Red Rock  
100 Double-Created Cormorants, early Oct on Lake RR  
256 + Great Blue Herons, Lake + Refuge, Aug, Sept, Oct.  
20 Great Egrets " " Sept.  
5 Black-crowned Night Herons Sept  
5 Night Herons, Imm. sp? "  
Canada Geese - 1st flock of 15 on Sept 20,  
Peaked at 1500, 500 remained to mid Dec.  
Snow Geese - peaked at 1000  
32,000 to 40,000 Mallards Nov. thru early Dec.  
14 Hooded Mergansers, on tail waters below dam, Nov 23  
90 + T. Vultures - 3 roasts in Red Rock area, last left  
in mid Oct.  
These were summer roasts with migrants  
moving in during fall.  
1 partial albino Red-tailed Hawk. Sept, Oct, Nov.  
in Refuge area (Snow white except gray spots on back)  
25 Broad-winged Hawks (Kettle) Sept 23  
Rough-legged Hawks - 1 on White Breast Bay of Lake,  
1 on No. side of Lake, and 2 south of Pleasantville  
along Coal Creek early Dec.  
Marsh Hawks - fewer than past years  
Kestrels - fair migration  
5 Bald Eagles in Refuge (4 in, 1 a) Oct, Nov  
Shorebirds scarce thru Aug except Lesser Yel. Legs.  
In Sept, many Shorebirds on mud flats of  
upper end of Lake.  
200 + Ring-billed Gulls Sept, Oct, Nov + a few in Dec.  
50 Caspian Terns during Sept  
a few Forster's Terns late Sept.

Night Hawks - several small flocks late Aug.,  
+ early Sept.

1 Blue-sided Flycatcher So. side Lake Aug 30, Sept 1  
and 1 on Sept 17 @ Refuge Hdq bds.

1 winter Wren trapped in Pleasantville Sept 25

Bluebirds - migration better than last 2 years.  
Several flocks of 10+ seen.

1 flock of 25 seen on Oct 6

Ruby Crowned Kinglets numerous in Oct  
Several Golden Crowned in Oct

Cedar Waxwings - flock of 50 in Sept 4 Oct in P'ville

1 Loggerhead Shrike SE of P'ville Dec 3

Myrtle Warblers, numerous in Oct.

But few other warblers seen.

Evening Grosbeaks (an eruption year?)

15 in Refuge weed field Nov 8 (Horseshoe)

1 in Pleasantville Nov 22

20 " " Nov 27

2 " " Dec 3

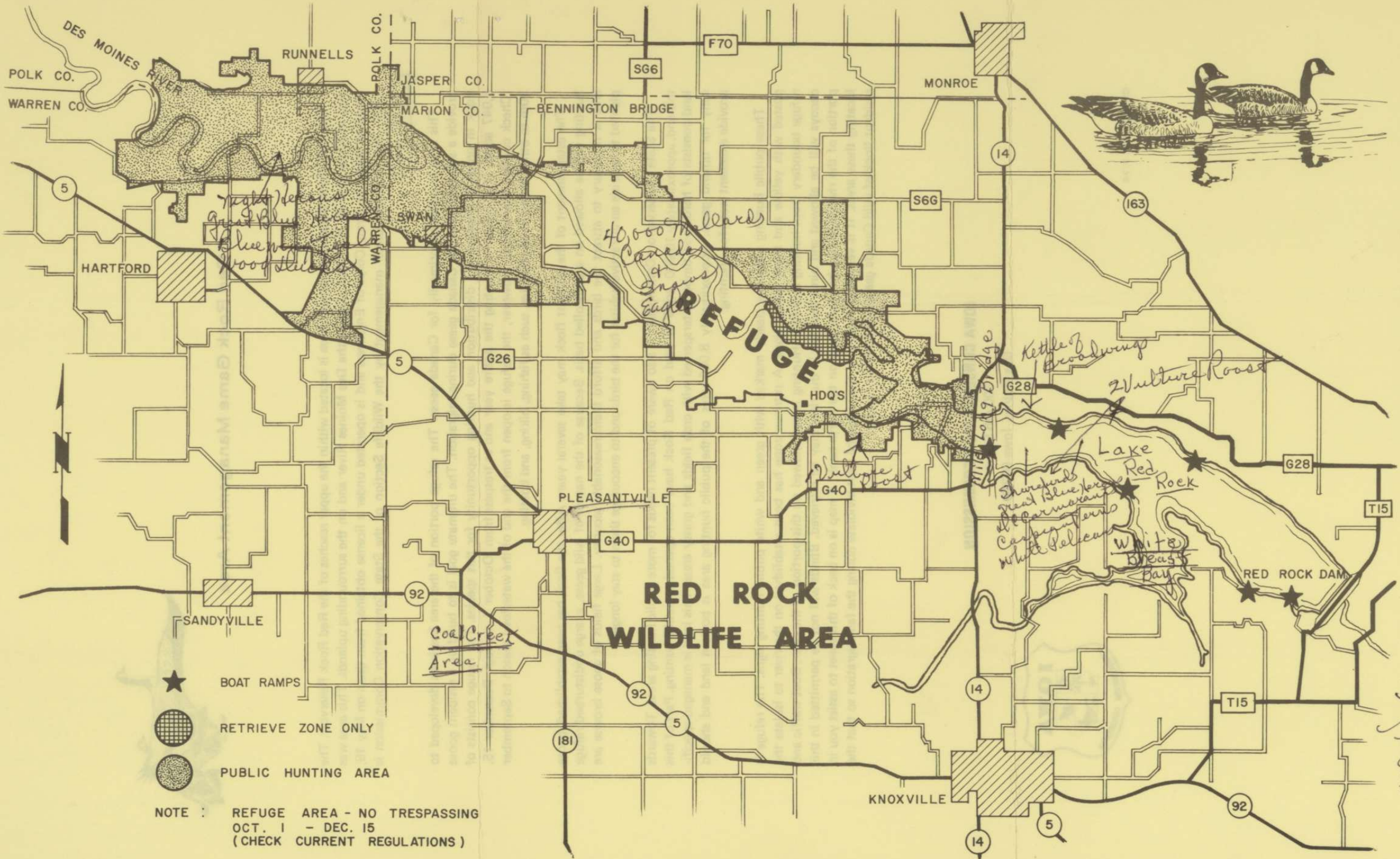
10 at So. end of Red Rock dam Dec 23-Dec 1

(also reports of Grosbeaks at sunflower seed  
feeders in Newton, St Olaf, + Iowa City, Ia.)  
and Des Moines.

Dec 10, 1975

P.S. Today I rec'd a few more reports of  
E. Grosbeaks from over the state, people who  
had never before seen one. My story about  
E. Grosbeaks will probably be in Dec 14 Sun.  
Register + I will probably get more reports  
if it is really an exceptional grosbeak  
year.

Gladys Black  
Pleasantville Ia 50225



Mike Plant Site



## Red Rock Game Management Area

The Red Rock Game Management Area is located within the upper reaches of the Red Rock Reservoir. The area includes land on the flood plain of the Des Moines River and on the surrounding uplands. This area was obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers and is operated under a license obtained from them on May 18, 1967. The total area under management by the Wildlife Section of the State Conservation Commission is 25,452 acres.

This area is managed primarily for Canada geese. The refuge portion of the area has been developed to provide a stop-over area for Canada geese during migration. The ultimate goal is to build up a resident goose flock in order to improve the distribution and hunting opportunity for this species. The refuge consists of 8,047 acres. It is closed to hunting the entire year and to trespass from October 1 through December 15. (Check current regulations). However, the refuge is open from the end of the waterfowl season to September 30th to other recreational activities, such as fishing, hiking, and boating.

The establishment of the resident flock may take several years. After the flock has been established, goose hunting will be allowed on a controlled basis. Because of the nature of wild geese, a large undisturbed refuge area is necessary to attract the birds and afford them reasonable security. Large fields of goose browse are planted to provide an attractive habitat for the birds and to encourage them to stay longer.

The State Conservation Commission is also aware of present needs for more public hunting areas. Towards this end, approximately 10,000 acres of land on Red Rock have been opened to public hunting. Part of this land consists of hardwood timber interspersed with crop fields and grassy areas. This land is managed specifically for upland game. Approximately 8,000 acres of the public hunting area is bottom land and should provide excellent waterfowl hunting.

These public hunting areas are clearly marked with green and white public hunting signs. The refuge is posted with yellow and black refuge signs. A retrieve zone has been established on the river to isolate the refuge boundary from hunting activities. Hunting is not allowed on this portion of the river. Boat traffic and decoys will be allowed and birds that fall in the river may be retrieved. Blinds will not be permitted in this portion of the river but may be established on the north bank. A map is on back of this sheet to assist you in locating these areas. It is very important that the refuge be kept inviolate during the fall migration so that the resident flock of wild Canada geese will build up rapidly.

### IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 4th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

