

Wigg

Melba W. Wigg
1633 South 99th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68124
April 3, 1976

Vernon M. Kleen
2311 Huntington Road
Springfield, Illinois 62703

Dear Mr. Kleen,

This is the winter report for Council Bluffs, Iowa and the surrounding area. According to the Omaha World Herald, we had an exceptionally mild winter. Throughout the winter period there was snow cover for only short periods of time. By the end of January there were small areas of open water on local ponds and lakes. This was several weeks earlier than usual and almost two months earlier than last year! After an unseasonably warm period the last part of February, temperatures dropped the first week in March causing many of the lakes to freeze over again and leaving only small areas of open water for several days.

Snow Geese The first flocks of geese were seen moving through the area on February 12.
Wildlife managers reported approximately 250,000 geese around Forney's Lake (near Pacific Junction, Iowa) the first week in March. Andy Saunders

Cinnamon Teal Considered a casual to rare migrant.
Last reported sighting in this area was in 1972.
(2) March 28 Feeding at a small pond with other teal near Council Bluffs. Ruth Green, Melba Wigg, et al.

Need documentation

Canvasback An uncommon migrant through this area.
(60+) February 22 Sighting on an Interstate-29 Lake near Pacific Junction, Iowa. Lesser numbers (1 - 12) have been seen regularly on the area lakes and two females were seen yet March 31. Melba Wigg et al.

Hooded Merganser Considered an occasional migrant in this area; only one sighting reported this spring.
(2 pair) March 17 Lake Manawa, Council Bluffs, Iowa

- Red-breasted Merganser Considered a rare migrant in the area. One sighting this spring:
(1) male March 13 Lake Manawa, Council Bluffs, Iowa
Melba Wigg, Rose Anderson
- Interesting that last year there were several hundred of this species reported on Lake Manawa during the last week in March.
- Evening Grosbeak Rare and irregular winter visitors.
First reported in Council Bluffs on January 9; Largest flock seen was 30; 2 still coming in to one home feeder regularly at the end of this reporting period. Janet Greer
- Common Redpoll Rare and irregular winter visitor.
Small flocks seen throughout the winter period.
First reported on our Christmas count day, December 20; Last small flock sighted in Council Bluffs on March 13.
- Pine Siskin Considered an irregular migrant.
This species has been abundant this winter. First sighting reported on December 20; still a common species throughout the area on March 31.
- Lapland Longspurs Uncommon migrant.
Only one sighting reported this year.
200+ were seen feeding along the roadside and in plowed fields on March 6th after we had had a couple inches of fresh snow. Many were in almost total breeding plumage. Melba Wigg, Ruth Green.

Observers

Rose Anderson
Ruth Green
Janet Greer
Andy Saunders
Melba Wigg

Submitted by:

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