

Winter 1975-1976

Red Rock Lake and Refuge + Pleasantville

Madys Black
Pleasantville Ia
5072

Canada Geese 1000 in Red Rock Refuge till subzero Jan 4, 1976

Thereafter 150 to 300 thru Jan + Feb.

(Thru early "spring" migration 2000 Canadas returned Feb 14-18)
At Lake Rathbun 4500 Canadas overwintered, (Charlotte Scott, Seymour
may report this, if so ignore this)

Mallards at Red Rock Refuge 30,000 till Jan 4, 1976. Thereafter a few thousand
except in very cold weather when they would go 50 miles So. to Rathbun
(10,000 returned to Red Rock Feb 14-18)

At Lake Rathbun - 78,000 Mallards overwintered, count by biologists
(Charlotte Scott, Seymour may report this)

Ducks - a smattering of other species with the mallards - Pintails, Cans, H. Scap,
Goldeneye, C. Merganser.

Mourning Doves - over 200 overwintered in a Sorgho field in RR Refuge, Unusual.

Long-eared Owls - 4 in a Pine grove all winter, No. side of Lake Red Rock
3 in old cemetery pines, south of Red Rock dam

Short-eared Owls - 3 overwintered in Pine Grove, No. side of Lake Red Rock

Red-headed Woodpecker - 43 on Red Rock C.B.C. Dec 28, 1975, highest ever in winter
Robins - many flocks overwintered here on Iowa, also returned from South Jan 20, 24
Evening Grosbeaks - see separate report.

Purple Finches 29 on Red Rock C.B.C. In the 500+ letters I've rec'd from all over Iowa,
all commented on the few compared to last winter's huge population.

Red Polls - scattered over the state but not a major invasion.

Pine Grosbeaks - 3 reports from North Iowa, 1 of 8 to 12 birds in Sheldon.
(So rare in Ia that it was removed from the Ia O.U. field checklist last year.)

Pine Siskins - scattered reports from over Ia, more than last winter.

Snow Buntings - Cherokee in N.W. Ia reported large flocks in fields north
of town.

Note on enclosed Iowa map (1) distance between Rathbun + Red Rock
as the "duck flies" about 50 miles.

(2) also note proposed Nuclear Power Plant right adjoining
the north edge of Red Rock Refuge - being opposed of course!

P.S. Only 1 Snowy Owl report from near Lake Rathbun, ^{Jan 1976} no others received
from Iowa after last winter's major invasion with 80 counted!