

Season: Fall Year: 1997

Name and address (print or type)

CURT R. NELSON  
22 675 SPRUCE AVE  
MASON CITY IOWA 50401-9817

Other observers (name, city):

Use first few lines to give weather and habitat conditions. Use line(s) below species data to give additional details, if needed. Mail to: SA 11  
██████████, Iowa City IA 52240

use initials of obsv. on species line by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
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Temperatures were extremely variable. Cool Aug. Record highs in Oct. Nov. cool			the entire month. Rainfall low
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marshes mostly dried up			Lakes frozen by early-mid Nov.
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✓ Double-crested Cormorant	1	16 Nov.	Elk Creek, Worth Co 1 adult on small open creek. Lakes were frozen.
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✓ Bald Eagle	2	23 Nov	Claybanks Forest Cerro Gordo Co.
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✓ Northern Harrier	4	16 Aug	Hayden Pr. Howard Co. 2 Adults and 2 immatures Probable nesting.
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details * Golden Eagle	2	23 Nov	Claybanks Forest Cerro Gordo Co.
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✓ Gray Partridge	6-12	throughout period	flocks of 6-12 birds seen at various locations throughout period
	last seen on	28 Nov.	Numbers appeared average to me

note * Wild Turkey	1	20 Oct	A hen sitting on a nest with 17 eggs (see note)
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✓ American Avocet	1	10 sept (?)	Clear Lake south shore
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✓ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1	14 Aug	Blackmore Soil Farm Cerro Gordo Co.
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✓ Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Sept	one visited my feeder the entire month
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✓ Sedge Wren	6	16 Aug.	At least 6 singing whens at Hayden Prairie both adult & imm.
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✓ Townsend's Solitaire	1	30 Nov	Shellrock River Green belt
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✓ Water Pipit	100 est	2 Nov	Cerro Gordo Co in a harvested soybean field. I had a close look at only 6 individuals
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✓ Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	15 Nov	latest date for a Yellow-rump in my yard.
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✓ Fox Sparrow	1	23 Nov	Grasslands North of Clear Lake
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✓ Swamp Sparrow	1	23 Nov.	" " "
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✓ Harris Sparrow	2	23 Nov	" " "
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Details :

Golden Eagle . <sup>Two birds flying</sup> I saw a golden neck and head feathers on the closest bird, otherwise all brown. Others in the party (Fischer, Goranson, Walter) saw an immature bird with neatly confined white patches on the underwing and tail.

Brewer's Blackbird . Two Birds Male . smaller than a grackle tail also smaller and smoother, more rounded. not flared like a grackle . Body Black with a greenish sheen . No trace of rusty colors . Eye white

Female . same size and body appearance as male , but all dark gray color . Eye dark brown .

## Note on Turkey nest 20 Oct.

At 3:00 PM on October 20th while combining beans near Rock Falls I flushed a small rabbit which was immediately taken by an adult Red-tailed Hawk. The hawk flew about 80 feet and landed on the ground with the rabbit which was not dead yet. I was watching this and not paying attention ahead of me. A turkey flushed just inches in front of the combine. I was amazed to find a nest in the center of the field, containing 17 eggs. Two eggs were broken by the machine, and were still in the yolk stage. I have no idea how long the hen had been sitting on this nest. The turkey was not in the best of moods and charged directly for the hawk.

who was forced to give up his rabbit and get out of the path of the turkey.

After the combine passed the turkey returned to the nest and resumed setting. Temps dropped below freezing that night but the hen was still on the nest, now mostly exposed, the next morning.

She continued for at least 3 more days before abandoning the nest.

The bird showed no white feathers and appeared to be wild, but the origin of this bird is uncertain.