

2/24/92

BERY EMBERTON

Dear Ross,

Soybean fields never froze completely this year, so good numbers of waterfowl wintered. For example, on 1/19 there were 2000 Canada geese, 2000 mallards, 250 G. Merganser & 25 Goldeneye. These were the lowest totals of the winter and by 2/9 there were extensive areas of open water.

GB Heron: 1 on 2/22; ^{a recount of colony nests on 1/11 was 194!! Lost} winter's count was 38, ^{standing water present during} the nesting season June-July.

G. Goose: Max of 2000 on 1/19

Pintail: 1 on 1/1, 50 on 2/22

Wood Duck: 1 wintered on the small pond behind IPTV (a male)

Canvasback: 12 on 2/22

Red head: 3 on 2/22

G. Scaup: 3 male - extensive wing stripe on 2/22

Bufflehead: a male wintered on the IPTV pond in Johnston

Hooded Merg: 19 ~~on~~ 2/22

G. Merg: low of 250 in January, grown to 6000 by 2/23

I did not see a single accipiter in Jan & Feb.

Bald Eagle: at least 8 wintered on the lake

Kestrel: common - 19 in 62 miles on 2/7

Woodcock: 2 on 2/23 should be second earliest record, near our home in West Des Moines. I did not hear a flight song.

Franklin's Gull: 2 had returned on 2/23, in black-capped plumage

R. B. Gull: they were present throughout the winter. 6000 had returned by 2/23

B. L. Kittiwake: 1 was clearly seen for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour just below the dam on 12/21 (CBC). The black cheek spot & black bar on the nape were obvious. Also diagonal bar on the wing & dark tail band. No white