

R2, Malvern, Jan
57551
Jan 30

Dear Nick,

Thanks for your letter - I'm going to have to get up a group of birders down here to make a trip worthwhile to see such birds as the Boreal Chickadee & Jay - I'm green with envy!

Enclosed is the compiled CBC - your feelings about N. Shrikes, R.L. Hawks & Winter finches are borne out by the CBC, especially the first & last. The R.L. Hawk was in fair numbers across the state, with total numbers generally in line with past years - however I agree that they seem to be difficult to find - I have only seen 2 birds this winter - one a dark-phase bird (on the CBC) & the other light phase. Strangely enough, the most common

^{diurnal} raptor here this winter has been the Bald Eagle!

I have commented on the Shrikes & finches in my summary of the CBC, but not in much depth - you are right that N. Shrikes are widespread, but 8 of the total 20 were at Decash!

One of the better birds on the CBC (apart from Jay & Boreal Chickadee - both were counted) was a Spotted Sandpiper at Dubuque. The only details I received were 'at a large Spring' - I hope you receive more information than I did! There was also a Townsend's Solitaire at Omaha. The total species missed last year's record by 1 at 115, but observers were a record by far - 484 (424 last year). Hope to see you at Spring Convention -

Ross Stock