

Feb. 27, 1980

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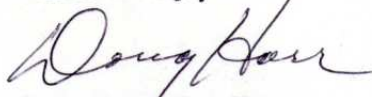
Dear Dr. Kent:

It seems to have been a rather lackluster season for my own bird sightings this winter. But although I have no exciting observations of my own I do have a few of possible interest, plus some eagle reports from local birds for whom I can safely vouch. I'll start with those first:

- Bald eagle--11/30/80 (too late for fall reports) 3 adults & 1 immature seen feeding on ice, west side of Big Spirit Lake (Dickinson Co.). Reported to me by LaVonne Foote, who states they seemed to demonstrate some sort of pecking order in their attempts to feed at the same time.
- Bald eagle--12/9/80 and 12/10/80 (probably same bird) 1 adult, west side of Big Spirit Lake (Also reported by LaVonne Foote).
- Bald eagle--1/6/80, 1 immature on Center Lake (Dickinson Co.), watched at length w/60x scope. Reported by Linda Hinshaw.
- Rough-legged Hawk--1/10/80, near Ocheyedan (Osceola Co.) Seems to be fewer Rough-legs around this winter than usual (Doug Harr).
- *! minor.* Snowy Owl--1/2/80. Brought to me by John Smeltzer, who found bird (with both eyes lost) on north side of Big Spirit Lake. I sent owl to vet for euthanasia, because of little chance of survival with eyes gone. This was bird reported by Otto Knauth in the Jan. 3 edition of the Des Moines Register. (Doug Harr)
- Red-winged Blackbird--throughout Feb. 6 females and 1 male apparently wintering at bird feeder at Kettleston Hogsback Wildlife Area, near Spirit Lake. (Doug Harr)
- Goldfinches--entire reporting period, 30-35 at feeder, Larchwood, (Lyon Co.). Also have similar reports of large numbers at several other feeders in region. Seems to be a good year for Goldfinches in NW Iowa. (Doug Harr)
- Snow Buntings--throughout reporting period, chiefly in Dickinson and Osceola Counties. Small numbers seen along roads, but because of very mild winter are not present nearly in normal numbers. (Doug Harr)

Hope these observations may be of use.

Sincerely,



Douglas C. Harr
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