

Brown

Winter 79-80 Des Moines

Please accept this as a replacement of the sketchy report of 10 days or so ago.

There have been no northern wintering birds that I know of.

The open winter has caused even the local birds to avoid feeders.

Relatively few buteos are seen. Dick Mooney had a Cooper's at his feeder on 5 Jan and Mrs Brooke also had an accipiter at her feeder early in Jan.

Wintering doves are few

A small flock of Long-eared Owls was reported at Big Cr. L. in mid-Nov. There are 7-8 still in the same area, and this month 3 Short-eared were seen by Gene Armstrong in the same place.

Hank Zalatel saw a Saw-whet in the same area on 5 Jan and a second of the species 10 days later.

Wintering Red-headed Woodpeckers are numerous.

The number of Robins here is incredible! For weeks I've been getting reports of flocks of 20-30, usually in crabapples or apple trees.

A few days ago Dick saw 100-200 eating crabapples in the flowering crab trees in Waterworks. Occasional stragglers are present also.

No longspurs or snow buntings reported.

Windy Brown