

Brown

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29 March, 1971

Dear Mr. Kleen:

Here is a winter season report for A.F.N. I have been reporting for Polk Co. for a long time, and in 1960 when Pete Petersen became editor of I.B.L. I started "Field Reports" in that journal. Then, when Pete became regional editor for A.F.N. he picked numerous items from my I.B.L. notes for A.F.N.

As a local contributor to A.F.N. I have not attempted to cover the state, but I occasionally get a complaint from some one who sent me an item for I.B.L. that it did not appear in A.F.N.

Would you prefer that I limit my contributions to Polk Co. items, or should I attempt to include the more important items from elsewhere? In this case, there might be some duplication when others might send in some of their items. For my part, I'd rather confine my comments to local items, and I can notify my contributors to I.B.L. to send any important items direct to you. There wouldn't be too many who would write you, and there would probably be less coverage for the state.

Cordially



Woodward H. Brown

Winter 1970-71

Weather conditions made birding extremely difficult; freezing rains early in December left a sheet of ice on the ground for most of the month; a 14" snowfall the first few days of January stayed practically all month with some thawing in the last week; another 4" fall early in February also failed to melt. Lakes and ponds remained frozen all winter with the ice just starting to melt in the last week of March. The principal feature was the great lack of winter visitors.

Waterfowl. The lack of open water kept ducks from wintering, although 3 Wood Ducks were seen on various dates in a small stream fed by warm water from an industrial plant. There were 24 Canadas at Rock Creek Lake early in January (M. Stewart).

Hawks. Red-shouldered numbering 12 were found in the state on the Christmas censuses, the most in a number of years.

Pheasants. Appear to have wintered well.

Owls. Short-eared seemed more numerous than usual in several areas in the state, but none reported in Polk Co.

Red-breasted Nuthatches. Fewest in years.

Townsend's Solitaire was found on Shenandoah Christmas census.

Orange-crowned Warbler. One on 15 December at Lamoni (Mrs. G. DeLong), and one on Cedar Rapids census.

Finches. Only one report of Evening Grosbeaks, 3 on Davenport census. Purple Finches, way down except at Muscatine and Lamoni. Redpoll, one on Oskaloosa census and one at Red Rock Refuge on 1 February (Mrs. G. Black). Pine Siskins, very scarce and none in Polk Co.

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