

FROM THE IOWA BIRDLINE
(319)338-9881

An alcid, thought to be a MARBLED MURRELET by Steve Dinsmore, who discovered it at Red Rock Reservoir on December 12, was the highlight of a rather dull period. PRARIE FALCONS were seen at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines on December 21-22, and in Sioux County on January 4. A PINE WARBLER visited Gladys Black at Pleasantville from December 19-February 9, and she sustained it with a mixture of peanut butter, suet, and corn meal.

Unusual gulls were present at the Quad Cities starting in mid-December through mid-February and included GREAT BLACK-BACKED, LESSER BLACK-BACKED, ICELAND, GLAUCOUS, and THAYER'S in various plumages. NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS were reported from almost every corner of the state, and COMMON REDPOLLS were also widely observed. However, other winter visitors, such as crossbills, evening grosbeaks, and snowy owls were virtually absent.