

Welcome to an update of the Birdline of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union for Saturday, March 27rd at 10:00 AM.

3 Sandhill Cranes W. Rpt. to Otter Creek Marsh on the 27th.

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The **BLACK-THROATED SPARROW** in Waterloo continues to be seen routinely thru the 27th. It is at the feeder of Maurice and Ruby Hanson, 1262 Ackermant. From hiway 63 north of the downtown Waterloo, go west on Parker for five blocks, and then north on Ackermant about two blocks to the end of the street. It is the 2nd last house on the east side. Pull into the alley which runs along the east side of the yard, and park by the garage. It comes to the feeder but also speeds alot of time in the brush pile behind the neighbor's garage to the north. The Hansons can be reached at 319-233-2457 and our thanks to the Hansons for their hospitality to birders this week.

The Drake **CINNAMON TEAL** at Cone Marsh south of Lone Tree in Louisa County was last reported on the 20th. It was with 6 **BLUE-WINGED TEAL** in a small pond which is just next to the road and somewhat embedded into the bank on the east side of the marsh in the area of the railroad car cabin. The east side of the marsh can be reached by taking T Avenue south from Co. Rd. G-28 S of Lone Tree.

And for the week's report: As winter tries to hang on, migrating birds are pushing into the state in great numbers. Blackbirds, Meadowlarks, Hawks, Great Blue Herons, and ducks and Geese are braving the last snows of the season in Iowa to move into spring.

In the southeast N of Burlington on the 20th a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** was seen one mile north of the IBP plant on RT. 78 at the small marsh along the River.

In the Northwest a **MERLIN** was reported 3 miles NW of Sioux Center on the 20th.

In the North-central, at least one of the two **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRES** were still in the Shell Rock River greenbelt in Cerro Gordo Co. as of the 20th. To look for these birds go south from Rock Falls on county road S-62 for one mile, and then east on 295th street for a mile and a half. Park just west of a cement bridge and walk south 200-250 yards. For updates, call Kurt Nelson at (515)696-5600. There was also a **NORTHERN GOSHAWK** flyover there on the 20th.

An immature **BARROWS GOLDEN-EYE** was reported on the northern IPL pond south of Council Bluffs on the 18th but has not been seen since. For details call the Nebraska birdline at 402-292-5325.

A male **VARIED THRUSH** at the feeder of Dave and Carol Gunderson of Union in Hardin county was last seen on the 23rd but a **HARRIS' SPARROW** is still visiting. Birders are welcomed to call the Gundersons at 515-486-2355 for updates or to arrange a visit.

On the 20th hundreds of ducks and geese could be viewed at Bay's Branch in Guthrie county.

In the central: An early **OSPREY** on the Big Creek spillway at Saylorville on the 21st. **RED CROSSBILLS** were seen in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines on the 20th.

In the south-central on the 24th at Lake Red Rock Flats E. of Runnells there were **BALD EAGLES, COMMON GOLDENEYES, AND HOODED MERGANSERS.**

On the 17th a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** was at the south end of Union Grove State Park in Tama Co.

In the Northeast: In Allamakee Co. two adult **GOLDEN EAGLES** were still at their usual winter location along county road A-26 SW of New Albin, and a flock of **COMMON REDPOLLS** was near the sawmill at Yellow River State Forest on the 15th. Near Elkader on the 17th, a **GREAT BLUE HERON** and a good number of migrating **NORTHERN HARRIERS** were seen during the week. Larry Stone reports a banded White-breasted Nuthatch at his feeder in the Elkader area. Anyone wishing to mist-net the bird for documentation purposes should call Larry at 319-245-1828.

In the East central:

(SE) On the 19th Dan Fenimore reported seeing a **GYRFALCON** 1 1/2 miles W of the Williamsburg exit of I-80. For more details call Dan at 515-967-3186.

10 Bald Eagles at W. end of Lake Darling on the 22nd.

A **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** was at the NE corner of the North arm of Lake McBride on the 21st and at the Big Bend access in Iowa county 15 waterfowl species including **CANVASBACK** and **REDHEADS**.

On the 19th, one **SAW-WHET OWL** was still present in the Amana woods just West of Homestead and a **NORTHERN SHRIKE** was on Cemetery Road, one mile NE of Williams' Prairie along with a **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** and **NORTHERN HARRIER** in the same area.

On the 20th at Cone Marsh were seven **BALD EAGLES** and 13 duck species including **HOODED MERGANSERS** and the drake **CINNAMON TEAL** on the east side. At Cedar Lake in Linn County there were 5 **REDHEADS** along with the common waterfowl species on the 20th.

On the 21st four **GREAT BLUE HERONS** flying over the Coralville dam.

On the 17th a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** was along I-380 N of Cedar Rapids between mile markers 31 & 32.

An orange variation of **HOUSE FINCH** was reported near 629 N. Gilbert St. in Iowa City on the 19th and a **CAROLINA WREN** was behind 325 N. 7th Ave on the same day.

Sharp-shinned Falcon near Mercy Hospital in IC on the 27th.

(SE) If you would like information about becoming a member of the Iowa Ornithologist's Union or would like to make a report, leave the date, your name, your phone number, and message after the beep.

Thank you and good birding.