

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK INCLUDE BRANT AND SANDHILL CRANES. THE BRANT, WHICH WAS FIRST REPORTED DEC. 7TH, AT DESOTO NWR IN HARRISON CO IN EXTREME WESTERN IOWA, WAS SEEN EACH DAY LAST WEEK THROUGH THE 23RD. IT IS BEST OBSERVED FROM THE VISITOR'S CENTER, AND USUALLY IS SEEN ALONG THE N. SHORELINE WHEN LOOKING EAST. THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 200,000 SNOW GEESE, ^{A FEW} ~~SOME~~ WHITE FRONTED + CANADA'S, AND SEVERAL ROSS'S GEESE. ALSO DUCKS AND A NUMBER OF BALD EAGLES. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE BRANT WOULD STAY AROUND WITH THE OTHER GEESE UNTIL THE OPEN WATER FREEZE, OR HEAVY SNOW COVERS THE FEEDING FIELDS.

IN SE IOWA, 3 SANDHILL CRANES WERE OBSERVED ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER APPROXIMATELY 5 MILES NORTH OF BURLINGTON ON DEC 23RD. ALSO IN SE IOWA 2 SAW WHET OWLS AT HNP IN IOWA CITY ON THE 21ST. 5 GRAY PARTRIDGE OBSERVED JUST SE OF IOWA CITY 1/4 MILE SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 6 ALONG SCOTT BLVD EXTENSION.

IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, A SHORT EARED OWL ALONG COUNT U-63 .7 MILE NORTH OF US HIGHWAY #34. ON THE 25TH.

AT CEDAR RAPIDS, OMACK PARK ON THE 24TH
A BALD EAGLE, SNOW GOOSE, AND WINTER WREN.

AT DAVENPORT ON THE 23RD, A CLAUOUS
GULL ABOVE L+D #15 AND RED CROSSBILLS
& RED BREASTED NUTHATCHES AT LOWER FAIR
MOUNT CEMETERY ALONG ROCKINGHAM ROAD IN
SW DAVENPORT, AND AN OLSQUAN NEAR RIVERWATCH
RESTAURANT JUST UPSTREAM FROM THE ENTRANCE TO CREDIT
ISLAND PARK ON THE 27TH.

IN CENTRAL TOWN, THE SANDHILL CRANE WAS
STILL PRESENT IN POLK COUNTY ^{ON DEC 29} TO LOOK FOR THIS
BIRD TAKE HIGHWAY 415 NW OF POLK
COUNTY TO A POINT 1/2 MILE BEYOND THE
BIG CREEK SHOOTING RANGE. THEN GO WEST
3/4 MILE + NORTH ON A LANE WITH LARGE
CRUSHED ROCK ^{BY A RUSTY MINIBOV} & LOOK FOR THE CRANE WITH
^{+ OTHER EXOTIC WATERFOWL.} CANADA GESE. AROUND A SMALL POND. AFTER
ASKING THE OWNER FOR PERMISSION.

12/26

1988