

THERE WAS A LOT OF WEEKEND BIRDING, MOST OF WHICH WAS ASSOCIATED WITH CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUSES. AS ALWAYS, A NUMBER OF INTERESTING BIRDS WERE SIGHTED. ALL REPORTS BUT THE VARIED THRUSH CAME FROM THESE COUNTS.

AT SPENCER  
IN THE NORTHWEST, A VARIED THRUSH HAS BEEN COMING TO THE BIRD BATH AND UNDER THE SUNFLOWER FEEDER AT THE HOME OF JIM BOCK, 814 W. 10<sup>TH</sup>.  
YOU CAN CALL JIM FOR <sup>MORE INFORMATION AND</sup> UPDATES AT (712) 262-6578.

IN SOUTH CENTRAL IOWA, THE RED ROCK COUNTY IN MARION COUNTY HAD A MOST UNUSUAL SIGHTING OF AN EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHER, POSSIBLY A LEAST, WHICH WAS SEEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE KUPPER TRAIL PARKING LOT. OTHER GOOD BIRDS WERE A WESTERN GREBE ABOVE THE DAM, A BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE AT THE CLIFFS OF NORTH ELK ROCK STATE PARK, A NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD AT HOWELL STATION, 2 FIRST WINTER GLAUCOUS GULLS AND 2 FIRST WINTER TRAYER'S GULLS BELOW THE DAM AND ANOTHER FIRST WINTER TRAYER'S GULL IN THE WHITEBREAST AREA. <sup>FOR MORE INFO, TIM SCHAFFNER</sup> AT THE <sup>ESP-</sup> RATHBUN LAKE COUNT ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup>, BEST BIRDS WERE 2 BLACK SLITERS AND 2 NORWEGIAN GREYS JUST ABOVE THE DAM, AND LONG AND SHORT EARED OWLS.

IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE STATE, THE SPENCER COUNTY IN POLK COUNTY WAS ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup>. AMONG THEIR MANY OUTSTANDING FINDS WERE A SWAN SPELWS,

GOLDEN EAGLE, 3 FIRST WINTER BLACK LEGGED KITTIWAKES,  
1 FIRST WINTER GLAUCOUS AND 2 FIRST WINTER  
TRAYER'S GULLS, 6 OWLS INCLUDING SAN WHET,  
SNOW BUNTINGS, BLUE WINGED TEAL, <sup>AND</sup> GREATER SCAUP,  
MAYBE THEIR BEST BIRD WAS A TOWNSEND'S  
SOLITAIRE, WHICH WAS FOUND ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF  
146TH STREET NEAR THE BRIDGE ABOUT 1/4 MILE  
EAST OF HIGHWAY 415. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF  
THESE BIRDS CALL EUGENE ARMSTRONG AT (515) 996-2726

IN THE SOUTHWEST, SHELDON'S CENSUS WAS ON THE  
15TH COUNTED 56 SPECIES WITH LONG EARED OWL,  
COOPER'S HAWK, PIED BILLED GREBE, AND REDHEAD

IN SOUTHEAST IOWA, BURLINGTON'S TOTAL ON THE  
15TH TIED THEIR RECORD OF 71 SPECIES WITH  
WHITE PELICAN, NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD, AND 11 EURASIAN  
TREE SPARROWS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE TREE  
SPARROWS, CALL CHUCK FULLER AT (319) 753-0710.  
IOWA CITY'S COUNT ON THE 16TH HAD 68 SPECIES,  
SHATTERING THEIR OLD RECORD OF 63. THEIR GOOD BIRDS  
WERE A FRANKLIN'S GULL IN ALTERNATE PLUMAGE,  
WINTER WREN, YELLOW RUMPED WARBLER, AND 6  
OWL SPECIES INCLUDING LONG EARED, SHORT EARED,  
AND SAN WHET. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL  
TOM KENT AT (319) 337-5231. THAT COUNT ALSO  
MISSED A FIRST WINTER GLAUCOUS GULL SEEN ON  
THE 14TH AT THE END OF THE BABCOCK ACCESS  
ROAD AT THE CAROLINE RESERVOIR.