

UPDATE FOR FRIDAY< DECEMBER 23RD at 8 PM

On the 23rd, the SAY'S PHOEBE was seen in Appanoose County around the maintenance building once during mid-morning only. It had been discovered on the 17th and was seen also on the 19th and 20th. Here are the updated directions. From the village of Plano, go north about five miles on hiway 142 to a radio tower. Turn west on gravel and proceed three-quarters of a mile to a red gate, which is open on weekdays. If the gate is open, drive, if closed, walk the quarter mile to the L&W Quarry maintenance building. Around the building is where the bird was discovered, and also seen on the 19th and 20th. It has also been observed sitting on the radio tower and on utility lines near the tower along hiway 142

In the northwest in Sioux County, two NORTHERN SHRIKES were along the Big Sioux River straight west of Sioux Center.

On the 22nd in Marion County at Red Rock Reservoir, three OLDSQUAWS were near the visitor's center observation platform, and the LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was above the dam near its north end. The WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was still on the Knoxville Estates pond.

On the 21st in Carroll County, Shirley Shirck reports a MERLIN and a BROWN THRASHER in her yard at 221 W. 21st St. in Carroll.

On the 19th, the MEW GULL was seen again, this time above the Red Rock dam.

[214] From: JFULLER at dentistry-po 12/19/94 3:49PM (4883 bytes: 95 ln)
To: BIRDCNTR@ARIZVM1.BITNET at INTERNET, JFULLER
Subject: HOTLINE: IOWA 12/19/94

----- Message Contents -----

Iowa Birdline (319)338-9881 for 12/19/94

Birds Mentioned:

Say's Phoebe
Mew Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Glaucous Gull
Thayer's Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
White-winged Scoter
Surf Scoter
Black-legged Kittiwake
Bohemian Waxwing
Merlin
Oldsquaw
Tundra Swan
Trumpeter Swan
Northern Goshawk
Vesper Sparrow
Long-eared Owl
Short-eared Owl
Northern Harrier
Brown Thrasher
Savannah Sparrow
Turkey Vulture
Winter Wren
Yellow-rumped Warbler

The past week ^{END} saw the first of the Christmas Bird Counts, and a number of outstanding sightings occurred. The best bird was a SAY'S PHOEBE on the Rathbun count. Other highlights were MEW, GREAT BLACK-BACKED, LESSER BLACK-BACKED, GLAUCOUS, and THAYER'S GULLS, BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, SURF SCOTER, OLDSQUAW, and BOHEMIAN WAXWING.

In the south-central in Appanoose County, the Rathbun count on the 17th recorded 78 species with SAY'S PHOEBE, BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, GLAUCOUS and BONAPARTE'S GULLS, and MERLIN. The SAY'S PHOEBE was not relocated on the 18th, but these are the directions. ~~From the village of Plano, go north on hiway 142 for six miles to a radio tower, where you go west 0.2 miles to the L&M Quarry gate. If opem. drive, if not, walk 300 yards to a maintenance shed. The bird has been on the east side of this building around the roof peak near a yellow sign.~~ For more information, call Ray Cummins at (515)856-3518. In Marion County, highlights of the Red Rock count on the 17th included first winter MEW GULL on the gravel bar below the dam, adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED, first winter GREAT BLACK-BACKED, up to four first winter GLAUCOUS, and three first winter THAYER'S GULLS, as well as a SURF SCOTER and three OLDSQUAWS above the dam. There was also an adult male WHITE-WINGED SCOTER at the Knoxville Estates

pond. This location is reached by going east from Knoxville on county road T-15, and then turn right at the 3M water tower. On the 15th, a BOHEMIAN WAXWING was in berry trees in the parking lot at the Red Rock Visitor's Center at the south end of the dam, and a TUNDRA SWAN was off the Roberts Creek dam. For more information on any of these birds, call Tim Schantz at (515)627-5935. In Wayne County, a SURF SCOTER was with a flock of CANADA GEESE on a farm pond on the north side of hiway 2, about two miles east of Corydon on the 15th.

In the north-central in Cerro Gordo County, the Mason City count on the 17th came up with 46 species, with a very viewable family of three TRUMPETER SWANS at East Park in Mason City, as well as a NORTHERN GOSHAWK and a VESPER SPARROW. In the Shell Rock River greenbelt area, the BOHEMIAN WAXWING has not been seen now since the 13th, but an immature NORTHERN GOSHAWK and a LONG-EARED OWL were flushed there on the 13th.

In the northwest in Sioux County, as adult GOLDEN EAGLE was seen five miles southwest of Rock Valley on the 16th, and SNOW BUNTING flocks are numerous in the county. In Sac County, the two TRUMPETER SWANS were still around the aerator at Blackhawk Lake on the 18th, and it has been determined that they are Wisconsin birds. In Ida County on the 18th, two LONG-EARED OWLS were in pine trees on the east side of Crawford Creek Recreation Area south of Battle Creek.

In the southeast in Johnson County, up to four SHORT-EARED OWLS and two NORTHERN HARRIERS were being seen late in the day along Cemetery Road about four miles north of Oxford. For more information, call Barbara Boyle at (319)628-4824. The Iowa City count on the 18th had ~~about~~ 65 species with SHORT-EARED OWL, BROWN THRASHER, ^{MUTE SWAN} and SAVANNAH SPARROW. At Burlington on the 17th, 73 species were found with TURKEY VULTURE, THAYER'S GULL, WINTER WREN, and YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.

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