

IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 for 12/15/97

Birds Mentioned:

ROSS' GULL
Clark's Grebe
Black-legged Kittiwake
Thayer's Gull
Common Redpoll
White-winged Crossbill
Varied Thrush
California Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Thayer's Gull
Red Crossbill
Western Grebe
Trumpeter Swan
Canada Goose
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Northern Shrike
Red-shouldered Hawk
Northern Goshawk
Ross' Goose
Fox Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Harris Sparrow
Ringed Turtle Dove (Exotic)

To skip the recording and leave a message, just press the star at any time. On Saturday the 13th, two outstanding birds, a second state record ROSS' GULL and a CLARK'S GREBE were discovered in southeast Iowa about thirty miles apart. ~~Unfortunately, we have had no updates from the 14th either way about either bird.~~ Other highlights include BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, THAYER'S GULL, COMMON REDPOLL, and WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL in the southeast, VARIED THRUSH, CALIFORNIA GULL, LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, THAYER'S GULL, and RED CROSSBILL in the central, WESTERN GREBE, WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL, and COMMON REDPOLL in the northwest, and WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL in the north-central.

In the southeast in Marion County, Jim Sinclair discovered an adult ROSS'S GULL below the Red Rock Reservoir dam early the morning of the 13th, and it was seen for short periods of time throughout the day flying below the dam, but evidently spent much of the time sitting on the lake above the dam. Also below the Red Rock dam, a BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE was seen sitting on the water near the rocky island on the 14th, and first year THAYER'S GULLS were seen there all week, with as many as four identified on the 13th. Also at Red Rock, a flock of 50-75 COMMON REDPOLLS was seen near the boat ramp at Elk Rock State Park on the 13th. This area is just off highway 14 south of the mile long bridge over the reservoir. In Poweshiek County, Pam and Reid Allen found a CLARK'S GREBE at Diamond Lake near Montezuma, and it was still there until dark on the 13th. In Des Moines

County, at least 6 WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were found in hemlocks at Aspen Grove Cemetery at Burlington on the 12th. In Appanoose County, a TRUMPETER SWAN was with CANADA GEESE at the dam at Lake Rathbun on the 14th, and Tom Johnson has a YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER in his yard which is one mile east of the north side of Mystic. In Johnson County, a SHRIKE, thought to be a NORTHERN was along county road F-46 about three miles west of hiway 218 on the 13th.

In the central in Story County, the male VARIED THRUSH was still being seen at Ames at least through the 13th. The bird returns periodically to a crabapple tree in the front yard at 3616 Ross Road. The tree is easily seen from the street, so please stay in your vehicle. To reach this location, take the 13th Street exit of I-35, and proceed west about five miles to a traffic light at Hyland, where you go south one block, and then west on Ross Road for eight blocks to 3616. In Polk County at the Sayloville Reservoir north of Des Moines, a first year CALIFORNIA GULL and an adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL were at the Cherry Glen Area on the 9th, and the LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was relocated on the 14th at the Polk City Wildlife Area, which is just north of hiway 415 near the Saylorville Marina. A first-year THAYER'S GULL was spotted from the Bob Shetler Area below the Saylorville Dam on the 12th. At Jester County Park, five RED CROSSBILLS were in a red pine planting near group camp #5 on the 12th. In Warren County, Ann Johnson who lives south of Norwalk, has had a RED-SHOULDERED HAWK in her yard several times the past week. You can call Ann for directions at (515)961-2002.

In the northwest, there were the following reports of WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS last week: in Woodbury County, 13 were in Logan Park Cemetery at Sioux City on the 13th, and in Dickinson County, 22 were in the Milford Cemetery on the 13th, 4 were in the Arnold's Park Cemetery on the 13th, and eight were in the cemetery that is a mile east of Lake Park on the 14th. There were also 35 COMMON REDPOLLS in the Milford Cemetery on the 13th. Elsewhere in Dickinson County, a NORTHERN GOSHAWK was observed in the Marble Beach area of Big Spirit Lake on the 11th, and at West Okoboji Lake, a ROSS' GOOSE was seen on the 11th, and a WESTERN GREBE on the 13th. In Ida County, an untagged TRUMPETER SWAN flew in with the two tagged birds that are wintering at Nob Park in Ida Grove, and Morehead Park near Ida Grove was full of SPARROWS on the 12th, with late FOX, LINCOLN'S, and WHITE-CROWNED, as well as HARRIS'.

In the north-central in Cerro Gordo County, an immature NORTHERN GOSHAWK was spotted in the Shell Rock River greenbelt area southeast of Rock Falls on the 14th, and in Hancock County, 30 WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were in the Concord Cemetery in the southeast part of Garner on the 11th.

In the northeast in Linn County, a RED-SHOULDERED HAWK was seen northwest of Marion, where 10th Avenue crosses Indian Creek, and along the blacktop north of Palo, a NORTHERN SHRIKE was sighted a half mile north of the turnoff to the Duane Arnold Energy Center, both reports from the 14th. The exotic of the week is in Black Hawk County where a RINGED TURTLE DOVE has been visiting a feeder in the town of Washburn at 208 3rd Street since November 6th. This is a dead end street, and pull in the last driveway and watch the platform feeder.

① ON THE 19TH, THE ROSS' GULL WAS NOT SEEN AT THE RED ROCK RESERVOIR DAM. THE LAST TIME IT WAS SEEN WAS EARLY THE MORNING OF THE 18TH. THE KITIWAKE, WAS NOT PRESENT EITHER, ONLY THE FIRST YEAR AND ADULT THAYER'S GULLS WERE THERE

ON THE

WE ALSO HAVE WORD FROM AMES THAT THE
DARIED THROUGH THERE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN
SINCE THE 12TH.

ON THE 17TH IN ~~OUR~~ UPDATES FROM THE SE IN MARION
COUNTY, THE ROSS' GULL WAS STILL PRESENT BELOW
THE RED ROCK RESERVOIR DAM. IT WAS SEEN FLYING
IN THE SPILLWAY AND ~~STANDING~~ ^{OR AROUND} ON THE ROCKY
ISLAND DOWNSTREAM FROM THE DAM. THE ADULT
BIRD WAS ALSO STILL THERE AS WAS AT LEAST ONE
FIRST YEAR THUNDERBOLT. ^{AND ALSO A 2ND WINTER THUNDERBOLT GULL} IN POWERSVILLE CO. THE
CLGR HAS NOT BEEN SEEN, ^{AT DIAMOND LAKE} SINCE THE MORNING
OF THE 14TH WHEN IT WAS TRYING TO TAKE OFF
FROM THE NEWLY FROZEN LAKE. ^{WITHOUT SUCCESS} IN SOUTHERN WAYNE
CO, ABOUT A DOZEN SEOW WERE FOUND IN A
CEDAR GROVE AT THE MEDICINE CREEK W.A. FOR
BETTER DIRECTIONS, CALL ARRON BRISSE AT (515) 872-1602.

③ WAS IDENTIFIED AS ~~AN ADULT~~ GULL, WHICH WAS SEEN ONLY IN FLIGHT,
~~OTHER~~ ^{AS A} ~~ADULT~~ ^{ADULT} KUMLIEN'S GULL, ~~AND WOULD~~
~~APPRECIATE OPINIONS ABOUT ITS ID.~~ ^{IF YOU SEE IT}

ON THE 18TH, THE ONLY NEWS WE HAVE RECEIVED ON THE
ROSS' GULL AT RED ROCK RESERVOIR, ~~WAS THAT IT~~
~~WAS~~ ^{SEEN} FLYING BELOW THE DAM EARLY IN THE MORNING
& THEN FLEW UP + OVER THE DAM ABOUT 8AM. WE
DO NOT KNOW IF IT WAS SEEN LATER IN THE DAY.
IN THE NW IN WOODBURY CO, A PRAIRIE FALCON
HAS BEEN HANGING OUT IN SIOUX CITY THE PAST
SEVERAL DAYS. IT BASE FOR CHASING PIGEONS HAS
BEEN ST JOE HALL ON COURT STREET. FOR MORE
INFO CALL BILL NYER AT (402) 494-1657 OR
LEAHY PROBST AT (712) 258-1296

IN THE SE

ON THE 15TH ~~WE DO HAVE NEWS FROM THE SE~~
~~ABOUT BOTH THE ROSS' GULL AND CLARK'S GREBE, THE~~

GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE ROSS' GULL WAS STILL BEING SEEN PERIODICALLY

~~FLYING BELOW THE RED ROCK DAM TODAY, BUT THE~~
~~THE CLARK'S GREBE WAS NO LONGER PRESENT AT~~

~~DIAMOND LAKE NEAR MONTICELLO. EVIDENTLY THAT BIRD~~
~~WAS AT FIRST STRANDED ON TOP OF THE NEWLY~~
~~FORMED ICE ON THE MORNING OF THE 14TH BUT~~
~~EVIDENTLY IT WAS ABLE TO GET AWAY. IN~~

MANASSA COUNTY, A NOSH WAS FOUND AT THE NE
CORNER OF THE NAUTHOUSE W.A. NEAR 110TH ST + VICTOR,
AND AN IMM NOGO WAS SW OF BARBERS CITY,
1/4 MI W OF THE INTERSECTION OF 273 AND 135RD ST.

IN THE CENTRAL, IN POLK CO, A RSNA WAS SEEN NEAR
THE ~~SA~~ RIVER AT WALNUT WOODS ^{PARK} SW OF

D.M. AND IN AN UPDATE FROM GRINNEK, ONE
ECPO WAS SEEN AT THE NORTH EDGE OF THE C.C.

GOLF COURSE WHICH IS REACHED FROM HIGHWAY 146
AT THE N. EDGE OF GRINNEK BY GOING E. ON 16TH AVE

12/15/97