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IOWA RBA: 11/4/96

BIRDS MENTIONED: **BROWN PELICAN** Black Scoter Thayer's Gull BLACK-HEADED GULL Pacific Loon Prairie Falcon Red Phalarope California Gull Red-necked Grebe Western Grebe **GYRFALCON** Red Crossbill Kestrel Common Loon Rusty Blackbird Brewer's Blackbird Great-tailed Grackle Eared Grebe Lapland Longspur Horned Grebe Short-eared Owl Sandhill Crane Ruddy Shelduck (Exotic) Red-shouldered Hawk Tundra Swan

To skip the recording and leave a message, just press the star at any time. The intense low pressure system of the middle of last week moved water-related birds into the state. The long highlight list this week includes BROWN PELICAN, BLACK SCOTER, THAYER'S GULL, BLACK-HEADED GULL, PACIFIC LOON, and PRAIRIE FALCON in the southeast, RED PHALAROPE, CALIFORNIA GULL, RED-NECKED GREBE, and WESTERN GREBE in the northwest, and GYRFALCON, PRAIRIE FALCON, and RED CROSSBILL in the central.

In the southeast in Des Moines County, Chuck Fuller discovered an immature BROWN PELICAN at Lock & Dam #18 on the Mississippi River on the 1rst. The only access to the lock and dam is from the Illinois side, but the channel is close to the Illinois shore there, and the bird was also seen in Iowa. On the 3rd, an adult male BLACK SCOTER was above the dam there, and a first-year THAYER'S GULL was below the dam, but the PELICAN was not seen. In Scott County, a PRAIRIE FALCON was found roosting on the Mid-American Energy building in downtown Davenport on the 31rst. The roost was on the south side of the building on a ledge below the roof. The best viewing is from the President Riverboat Casino parking lot just west of the Dock Restaurant, and then look at the tallest building straight to the north. The bird was seen leaving the roost at 6:30AM on the 1rst, and returning to the roost at 3:50PM on the 2nd. Be careful, because a KESTREL was also seen on the building. In Marion County at the Red Rock Reservoir on the 3rd, a BLACK-HEADED

GULL was observed flying across county road G-28 from Roberts Creek Lake out into the middle of the reservoir. It was later relocated in the middle of the lake by viewing from Whitebreast Point. Also seen from Whitebreast Point was a PACIFIC LOON accompanying two COMMON LOONS. Just north of Pleasantville in the area of a dried up pond, a large mixed flock of BLACKBIRDS included RUSTY, BREWER'S, and a female GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE. In Johnson County, an EARED GREBE was on the south arm of Lake MacBride east of the causeway on the 2nd. In Poweshiek County, a flock of 200 LAPLAND LONGSPURS was spotted along hiway 63 near its intersection with county road F-46, which is about four and a half miles south of I-80, on the 2nd.

In the northwest in Dickinson County, Lee Schoenewe found a RED PHALAROPE on Big Spirit Lake on the 3rd. It was in the southeast corner of the lake close to shore in the area of the causeway and a beach just east of the causeway. In Palo Alto County, a CALIFORNIA GULL and WESTERN GREBE were seen at Lost Island Lake on the 3rd. In Sac County at Blackhawk Lake at Lake View, two WESTERN GREBES, a RED-NECKED GREBE, and a HORNED GREBE were spotted on the 1rst, and thirty SANDHILL CRANES flew over that location on the 31rst. In Clay County, a SHORT-EARED OWL was observed along the Little Sioux River south of Spencer on the 3rd. In Cerro Gordo County on the 1rst, seven species of duck and a RED-NECKED GREBE were found on the south side of Clear Lake, as viewed from the end of Farmer's Beach Road, and an exotic RUDDY SHELDUCK was sitting on the ice at Zirbel Slough.

In the central in Jasper County at the Walnut Creek NWR, two miles south and a mile west of Prairie City, a PRAIRIE FALCON was sighted on the 30th, and a SHORT-EARED OWL on the 31rst. Both birds were in the prairie planting and bison release area; the owl in a brome field north of 96th Avenue, and the falcon in a swale south of 96th Avenue. You may drive the refuge roads, but if you wish to hike off the roads, please check at refuge headquarters. In Marshall County at the Grammer Grove County Park hawk watch, a RED CROSSBILL and a RED-SHOULDERED HAWK flew over on the 31rst, and a GYRFALCON was sighted on the 27th.

In the northeast in Allamakee County, there were hundreds of TUNDRA SWANS on pool #9 of the Mississippi River above the lock and dam north of Harper's Ferry, on the 2nd.

Jim Fuller (319)338-3561 jfuller@dentistry-po.dentistry.uiowa.edu ioufuller@aol.com

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