

IOWA RBA: (319)338-9881 Update for 12/12/98 @ 5 PM

Birds Mentioned:

Snowy Owl
Eurasian Collared Dove
Red-Tailed Hawk (Albino)
Northern Shrike
Golden Eagle
Surf Scoter
Short-eared Owl

On the 12th, in the central, an update from Boone County confirmed the continuation of the SNOWY OWL, first reported on the 10th, through at least midday. In other news received the 12th, from Poweshiek County where two EURASIAN COLLARED DOVES were seen at Grinnell on the 7th at the farmstead on the north side of 16th Avenue, across from the country club golf course and an albino RED-TAILED HAWK was along county road V-18, two and a half miles south of the Tama County line on the 10th. In Polk County, a NORTHERN SHRIKE was spotted at the Sandpiper Recreation Area of the Saylorville Reservoir.

In the northeast in Clayton County, an immature GOLDEN EAGLE was soaring over the Turkey River bluffs southeast of Elkader.

On the 11th in the northwest in Sioux County, the immature SURF SCOTER was still present at Winterfeld Park in Rock Valley, and a NORTHERN SHRIKE was observed two miles north of Oak Grove Park and just west of the Rock River bridge. In the central in Jasper County, four SHORT-EARED OWLS was seen at the Neal Smith NWR southwest of Prairie City.

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IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 Update for 12/10/98 @ 6 PM

Birds mentioned:

Western Grebe

Red-throated Loon

Snowy Owl

Horned Grebe

On the 10th, in the central, the first report of SNOWY OWL of the year was received from Boone County near the United Community School along hiway 30. The exact location is on the Iowa State Research Farm which is found by going west about one mile on hiway 30 from the West Ames exit, and then south on V Avenue about a quarter mile where there are two pole buildings on the right side of the road. The bird was seen about a hundred yards west of the pole buildings. In Story County, a HORNED GREBE was still being seen on Hallet's Quarry at the north edge of Ames.

In updates from the southeast in Des Moines County, the WESTERN GREBE and RED-THROATED LOON were still on the Mississippi River just above Lock & Dam #18 north of Burlington. The birds here are on the Iowa side of the river, but viewing access is only from the Illinois side at the lock and dam. In Johnson County, a HORNED GREBE was still at the S & G Quarry along the Sand Road at the south edge of Iowa City.

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Subj: Re: Snowy Owl in Boone co.
Date: Sat, Dec 12, 1998 5:29 PM EST
From: weatherbird@opencominc.com
X-From: weatherbird@opencominc.com (Karl Jungbluth)
Sender: IA-BIRD@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG (Bird discussion list for Iowa)
Reply-to: weatherbird@opencominc.com
To: IA-BIRD@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG

As of 4PM on Saturday, 12 December, the Snowy Owl was sitting on a building

□ in the main building site at the ISU farm. This is directly across from □ the Community School and a mile west of the pole buildings mentioned below.

□ The owl was on the northeast part of the main site.

□

□ Karl Jungbluth, Boone

□

□ -----

□> From: Mike Overton <mdoverton@USWEST.NET>

□> To: IA-BIRD@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG

□> Subject: Snowy Owl in Boone co.

□> Date: Saturday, December 12, 1998 2:11 PM

□>

□> The Snowy Owl reported in Boone co. on the 10 December RBA

□> update was still present as of 12:15pm on 12 December. The

□> bird is an immature. It was hunting in the area mentioned in

□> the RBA (.25 miles S of the jct. of US Hwy 30 and Boone co.

□> V Avenue, 100 to 250

□> yards W of the two pole buildings).

□>

□> Mike

□> Overton

□>

□> Ames, IA

□>

□> mdoverton@uswest.net

□

IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 for 12/7/98

Birds Mentioned:

Common Loon
Double-crested Cormorant
Horned Grebe
Franklin's Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Long-billed Dowitcher
Black-bellied Plover
Least Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs
Dunlin
Killdeer
Swallow (Tree) ?
Bohemian Waxwing
Cedar Waxwing
Ross's Goose
Surf Scoter
Northern Shrike
Black-legged Kittiwake
Thayer's Gull
Long-eared Owl
Snow Bunting
Eurasian Collared Dove

The extended unseasonable weather apparently has prolonged the stay of a number of waterfowl and other water related birds such as COMMON LOON, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, HORNED GREBE, FRANKLIN'S GULL, and BONAPARTE'S GULL. And shorebirds were included with sightings last week of six species of which LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, and LEAST SANDPIPER provided potential record late dates for the state, and other shorebirds were GREATER YELLOWLEGS, DUNLIN, and KILLDEER. There was also a SWALLOW, most likely a TREE SWALLOW seen last week near Des Moines. The week's highlight birds include BOHEMIAN WAXWING in the southwest, SURF SCOTER in the northwest, BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE and THAYER'S GULL in the southeast, and EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE in the central.

In the southwest in Harrison County, a BOHEMIAN WAXWING was with a flock of CEDAR WAXWINGS at the visitor's center at DeSoto NWR on the 3rd, while in Polk/Linn County, a ROSS'S GOOSE was seen south of Council Bluffs at the MidAmerican Energy Cos. south settling pond on the 4th.

In the northwest in Sioux County, an immature SURF SCOTER was observed at Winterfeld in Rock Valley on the 1st, and a NORTHERN SHRIKE was at the south pit at Hawarden on the 1st.

In the southeast in Wapello County, an immature BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE was easy to see at the dam on the Des Moines River in Ottumwa at least through the 3rd. In Scott County, a first year THAYER'S GULL was sighted on the Mississippi River

at Lock & Dam #15 in downtown Davenport on the 2nd. In Appanoose County, six LONG-EARED OWLS were found on the 5th in a pine grove near Lake Rathbun, where up to 20 roosted last winter. The location is reached from hiway 142, by going south on county road J5T, and then west on the first gravel road for 1.6 miles. A SNOW BUNTING was also spotted at Lake Rathbun on the 5th at the boat ramp on the peninsula. In Johnson County, a flock of 20 SNOW BUNTINGS was along the Babcock Access Road at the Hawkeye Wildlife Area on the 2nd.

In the central in Poweshiek County, there must have been a population explosion of EURASIAN COLLARED DOVES at Grinnell, as on the 3rd ten birds were seen, all in the same tree, and all preening. The location was in the backyard of 2110 Country Club Drive, which is south of 16th Avenue and abuts the northwest corner of the country club golf course. Four birds were seen along 16th Avenue on the 30th. In Polk County, a NORTHERN SHRIKE was found along the main entrance road at Chichaqua Wildlife Area on the 5th.

In the northeast in Dubuque County, a NORTHERN SHRIKE was present all last week on the John Deere dike, which is along the Mississippi River just north of Dubuque.

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