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Subject: IOWA RBA: Weekly Report 2/15/99

IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 Weekly report for 2/15/99 @ 9 PM

Birds Mentioned:

Turkey Vulture
Killdeer
American Woodcock
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Oldsquaw
Eurasian Collared Dove
Northern Shrike
Golden Eagle
Red-shouldered Hawk
Mute Swan
Northern Saw-whet Owl
Trumpeter Swan
Brown Thrasher
Greater White-fronted Goose
Canada Goose
Short-eared Owl
Long-eared Owl
Brown Thrasher

With temperatures more like April, southerly winds much of the time, and lakes and rivers opening up, the spring migration has been evident. Migating waterfowl have been reported as far north as Allamakee County in the northeast and Cherokee County in the northwest with large numbers at some southern Iowa locations. Some KILLDEER are back in the south, and a TURKEY VULTURE was observed in Henry County on the 10th, and another was spotted in the extreme northeast in Allamakee County on the 15th. And on the 14th an AMERICAN WOODCOCK was found at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park in Van Buren County. The week's best birds are MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD in the northwest, LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL and OLDSQUAW in the southeast, and EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE in the central.

In the northwest, the male MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD discovered by Lee and Nancy Schoenewe on the 7th in O'Brien County, apparently turned into a pair over the weekend, as both a male and female were seen independently (never at the same time) on several occasions on the 13th and 14th. To look for these birds, from hiway 10 just west of Peterson, take 492nd Street north for over two and a half miles to the top of a hill at the Hill Tree Farm Lookout. The birds were seen from the top of the hill to just down the hill a hundred yards or so. Two NORTHERN SHRIKES were present in the same general area also. In Buena Vista County, an immature GOLDEN EAGLE was seen several times late last week on the north side of the Little Sioux River about three miles southeast of Peterson, and an adult RED-SHOULDERED HAWK was also seen along the Little Sioux River about a mile east of Linn Grove on the 14th.

In the southeast in Lee County along the Mississippi River, there are a large number of waterfowl on pool #19 at Montrose, a first year LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was seen on the breakwater just above the Keokuk Dam on the 10th, and an adult MUTE SWAN was on a backwater pond down a lane to the east of hiway 61 about two miles north of Montrose on the 10th. In Johnson County, the female OLDSQUAW was still on the Iowa River at Iowa City on the 12th, but was not found on the 14th. It was last seen just upstream from the Iowa Memorial Union footbridge. At Hickory Hill Park in Iowa City, a SAW-WHET OWL was found on the 11th in the area where two had been previously seen, and that is in a cedar tree on a brushy hillside northeast of the shelterhouse at the end of the Dodge Street entrance. In Van Buren County on the 13th, an adult TRUMPETER SWAN was still on a pond at the home of LaVerne Muhs, who lives two miles east of Birmingham on the blacktop. In Jefferson County, the BROWN THRASHER was still visiting the feeder of John MaGuire of Fairfield on the 13th. There were small numbers of WHITE-FRONTED GEESE reported with flocks of CANADA GEESE in various locations, but the fifty at the northwest corner of Cone Marsh in Louisa County is notable.

In the central in Poweshiek County, from 1 to 4 EURASIAN COLLARED DOVES were reported on three different

occasions last week at their usual location at Grinnell, along 16th Avenue and along Country Club Drive in the area of the country club golf course. In Boone County, one SHORT-EARED OWL and several LONG-EARED OWLS were found in a pine grove at the south end of Opal Avenue, which is southwest of the Iowa Arboretum. At Madrid, Mike Hovlik still had the BROWN THRASHER in his yard as late as the 14th.

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