

IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 for 11/16/98

Birds Mentioned:

Sandhill Crane
WHOOPING CRANE
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Thayer's Gull
Western Grebe
Prairie Falcon
Eurasian Collared Dove
Red-throated Loon
Pacific Loon
Purple Finch
Horned Grebe
Snow Goose
Amazilia Hummingbird
Long-billed Dowitcher
American Golden Plover
Dunlin
American Avocet
American Pipit
Lapland Longspur
Golden Eagle
Ross's Goose
Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Hooded Merganser
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher
Snow Bunting
Mute Swan
Tundra Swan
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Eastern Towhee
Brown Thrasher
Short-eared Owl
Merlin
Carolina Wren

The intense low pressure system and accompanying hurricane force winds of early last week carried large numbers of waterfowl, including GEESE and LOONS into the state, and SANDHILL CRANES were reported in unprecedented numbers all across the state, with the 540 counted at Hitchcock Nature Center in Pottawattamie County on the 11th an amazing total. And one WHOOPING CRANE was seen briefly in Polk County on the 12th, before it departed heading west. The week's other good birds include SURF SCOTER, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, THAYER'S GULL, WESTERN GREBE, PRAIRIE FALCON, and EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE in central Iowa, RED-THROATED LOON, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, PRAIRIE FALCON, and SURF SCOTER in the southwest, and WESTERN GREBE and PACIFIC LOON in the southeast. We also had several reports this week of PURPLE FINCHES at feeders.

In the central in Polk County in the area of the Saylorville Reservoir, a WESTERN GREBE and three HORNED GREBES were seen off the Cherry Glen Recreation Area, a first-year THAYER'S GULL was spotted below the dam, a SURF-SCOTER was on the lake at the Polk City Wildlife Area, and a ROSS'S GOOSE was in a flock of SNOW GEESE at Jester Park, while another WESTERN GREBE was at Big Creek Lake, all on the 14th. At the Runnells Wildlife Area, a PRAIRIE FALCON and ten species of shorebirds were seen from the overlook along hiway 316 on the 11th. In Des Moines, the AMAZILIA HUMMINGBIRD, plus a smaller hummingbird were still visiting the feeder of Don and Carole Stolz, 512 SW 60th Street on the 15th. The shorebirds included LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, GOLDEN PLOVER, DUNLIN, and AMERICAN AVOCET, while AMERICAN PIPITS and LAPLAND LONGSPURS were also observed there. In Hardin County, an immature WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was sighted on the 13th at the Hubbard sewage ponds, along hiway 65 just south of town. In Poweshiek County, five EURASIAN COLLARED DOVES were seen on the 12th at Grinnell in an evergreen tree in the neighborhood of the country club golf course at the north edge of town. In Marshall County, among the 68 raptors spotted at the Grammer Grove Park hawk watch on the 11th, were two GOLDEN EAGLES.

In the southwest in Pottawattamie County, a RED-THROATED LOON in basic plumage was at the MidAmerica Energy Cos. settling pond south of Council Bluffs, and three WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS were at Lake Manawa on the 13th. At the Hitchcock Nature Center hawk watch on the 11th, the large number of raptors and waterfowl included 540 SANDHILL CRANES, a PRAIRIE FALCON, and several ROSS'S GEESE. In Cass County, an immature/female type SURF SCOTER was found at Lake Anita State Park on the 15th.

In the southeast in Des Moines County, a WESTERN GREBE and all three MERGANSER species were on the Mississippi River just above Lock & Dam # 18 on the 13th. The birds there are mostly on the Iowa side of the river, but viewing access is only from the Illinois side. In Marion County, a very late BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER was found at the North Elk Rock boat ramp on the 13th. On the 15th two WESTERN GREBES and a PACIFIC LOON were seen along the south shore of the Red Rock Reservoir, as viewed from the landing which is reached by turning east off of county road S-71 onto the dead end road by the Coalport Church. In Johnson County, on the 14th, three SNOW BUNTINGS were spotted at the S & G Quarry along the Sand Road at the south edge of Iowa City. In Wapello County, an AMERICAN AVOCET was sighted in Ottumwa, in a wetland east of the bypass on the 15th. In Lee County, a MUTE SWAN was on a pond on the river side of hiway 61 about three miles north of Montrose on the 15th.

In the northeast in Allamakee County, an estimated 1000 TUNDRA SWANS were on the Mississippi River in the Wexford Creek area of Pool # 9. This location can be reached by following Red Oak Road off county road X-56 north of Harper's Ferry. In Cerro Gordo County, a BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER was reported visiting a feeder southwest of Mason City on the 8th and the 10th, but not since. In Linn County, Jim and Joyce Durbin who live in Marion, had an EASTERN TOWHEE and a BROWN THRASHER in their backyard last week. At Pleasant Creek Recreation Area north of Palo, a ROSS'S GOOSE was among the waterfowl on the 11th.

To: birdcntr@listserv.arizona.edu, hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net,
ia-birs@list.audubon.org, cfuller@lisco.net
Subj: IOWA RBA: Update 11/21/98
IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 Update for 11/21/98 @ 10 PM

Birds Mentioned:

Black Scoter
Northern Shrike
Golden Eagle
Tundra Swan
Turkey Vulture

On the 21st in the northwest in Ida County, an immature/female type BLACK SCOTER was reported from a farm pond just north of Ida Grove. In the northeast in Allamakee County, a NORTHERN SHRIKE was found, and three GOLDEN EAGLES were seen over the Upper Iowa River bluffs along county road A-26 southwest of New Albin.

On the 20th in the northeast, 400 TUNDRA SWANS were observed on the Mississippi Rivrer in the Heytman's Landing area, and a very late TURKEY VULTURE was spotted in northern Delaware County. In the northwest, two NORTHERN SHRIKES were sighted a mile apart in Sioux County, about five miles southwest of Rock Valley.

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To: birdcntr@listserv.arizona.edu, hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net,
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Subj: IOWA RBA: Update 11/19/98
IOWA RBA (319)338-9881: Update for 11/19/98 @ 10 PM

Birds Mentioned:

California Gull
Thayer's Gull
Pacific Loon
Red Crossbill
Western Grebe

On the 19th in the southeast in Marion County, at the red Rock Reservoir, first year CALIFORNIA and THAYER'S GULLS were below the dam, and along the south shore, a PACIFIC LOON was seen from the water access at the Lakeview Heights area.

In the central in Poweshiek County, 8 RED CROSSBILLS were seen at the north edge of Grinnell. From hiway 146, go east on 16th Avenue, pass the golf course and cross the railroad tracks, and at the first place on the north side of the road with fire # 15333, the birds were in a line of pine trees west of the house.

On the 17th in the central in Polk County, a WESTERN GREBE was just above the Saylorville reservoir dam.

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Birds Mentioned:

Trumpeter Swan

Tundra Swan

Northern Saw-whet Owl

On the 16th in the southeast in Iowa County, there were three TRUMPETER SWANS and a TUNDRA SWAN on the Lily Lake at Amana, while on the north side of the Iowa River north of Marengo, there have been two flocks of 13 and 15 TUNDRA SWANS. A SAW-WHET OWL was discovered in the old ice pond area on the north side of hiway 6 about a mile west of Homestead. A permit from the Amana Society is required to enter this area.

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In the northwest in Emmet County, a SHORT-EARED OWL was reported four miles northwest of Gruver on the 11th. In Palo Alto County, a MERLIN was a flyover at Lost Island Lake on the 11th, and in Dickinson County, a CAROLINA WREN was out of its range in the state, when it was seen at Gull Point State Park on the 11th. Flocks of LAPLAND LONGSPOURS, and some SNOW BUNTINGS are reportedly widespread in the northwest part of the state.

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