

IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 Update for 12/18/98 @ 8 PM

Birds Mentioned:

Surf Scoter
Red-throated Loon
Bonaparte's Gull
Western Grebe
Horned Grebe
Greater Yellowlegs

On the 18th in updates, from the northwest in Sioux County, the immature SURF SCOTER was still at Winterfeld Park in Rock Valley.

In the southeast in Des Moines County, the RED-THROATED LOON and WESTERN GREBE, as well as a number of BONAPARTE'S GULLS were still on the Mississippi River just above Lock & Dam #18 north of Burlington. In Johnson County, the HORNED GREBE was still at the S & G Quarry at the south edge of Iowa City, and in Lousia County, a record late GREATER YELLOWLEGS was at Cone Marsh.

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IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 Update 12/16/98 @ 10 PM

Birds Mentioned:

Spotted Towhee

Horned Grebe

On the 16th in the northwest in Sioux County, John Van Dyk reports a SPOTTED TOWHEE in his yard at Sioux Center.

~~On the 15th in the southeast in Johnson County, a HORNED GREBE was still being seen at the S & G Quarry along the Sand Road at the south edge of Iowa City.~~

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IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 for 12/14/98

Birds Mentioned:

Snowy Owl
Eurasian Collared Dove
Red-throated Loon
Western Grebe
Surf Scoter
Red-tailed Hawk (Albino)
Short-eared owl
Northern Shrike
Bonaparte's Gull
Horned Grebe
Common Loon
Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Eared Grebe
Trumpeter Swan
Golden Eagle

The week's best birds are SNOWY OWL and EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE in the central, RED-THROATED LOON and WESTERN GREBE in the southeast, and SURF SCOTER in the northwest.

In the central, a SNOWY OWL, the first of the year, was discovered in Boone County on the 10th, and was seen each day through the morning of the 13th. However, one observer could not relocate it late in the day on the 13th. The location is the Iowa State Research Farm, which is south of hiway 30 in the area of the United Community School. From the West Ames exit, continue west on hiway 30 a mile to V Avenue, where you go south a quarter mile to where there are two pole buildings on the right side of the road, and the bird was usually seen 100-250 yards west of the pole buildings. It was also seen a mile west of there sitting on the main building at the research farm. In Poweshiek County, two EURASIAN COLLARED DOVES were present on the 7th at the farmstead on the north side of 16th Avenue, across the road from the country club golf course, and an albino RED-TAILED HAWK was sighted along county road V-18 two and a half miles south of the Tama County line on the 10th. In Jasper County, four SHORT-EARED OWLS were seen on the 11th at the Neal Smith NWR southwest of Prairie City. In Polk County at the Saylorville Reservoir, a NORTHERN SHRIKE was observed at the Sandpiper Recreation Area, and there were still numerous BONAPARTE'S GULLS on the lake on the 12th. In Story County, a HORNEED GREBE was at Hallet's Quarry at the north edge of Ames on the 10th.

In the southeast in Des Moines County, after a month the RED-THROATED LOON and WESTERN GREBE were still being seen on the Mississippi River just above Lock & Dam #18 north of Burlington on the 13th. A HORNEED GREBE and COMMON LOON were also at that location. The birds there 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 HORNEED GREBE and two EURASIAN TREE SPARROWS were spotted at the S & G Quarry along the Sand Road at the south edge of Iowa City on the 12th.

In the northwest in Sioux County, an immature SURF SCOTER was at Winterfeld Park in Rock Valley, and a NORTHERN SHRIKE was two miles north of Oak Grove Park just west of the Rock River bridge on the 11th. In Dickinson County at West Okoboji Lake on the 13th, there were six HORNED GREBES, an EARED GREBE, and a COMMON LOON, and a TRUMPETER SWAN was at the north end of the lake.

In the northeast in Clayton County, an immature GOLDEN EAGLE was seen soaring over the Turkey River bluffs southeast of Elkader on the 12th.

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