

IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 for 12/21/98

Birds mentioned:

Red-throated Loon
Western Grebe
Thayer's Gull
Spotted Towhee
Common Loon
Horned Grebe
Bonaparte's Gull
Eastern Phoebe
Winter Wren
Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Brewer's Blackbird
Long-eared Owl
Short-eared Owl
Snow Bunting
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-bellied Plover
Eared Grebe
Franklin's Gull
American White Pelican
Northern Saw-whet Owl
Northern Shrike
Ruddy Duck
Hermit Thrush
Carolina Wren
Greater Yellowlegs
Trumpeter Swan
Tundra Swan
Northern Goshawk
Rough-legged Hawk
Red-headed Woodpecker
Harris's Sparrow
Lapland Longspur

The first of the Christmas Bird Counts were conducted this past weekend, and they provided many interesting sightings. The week's highlights include RED-THROATED LOON, WESTERN GREBE, THAYER'S GULL, and SPOTTED TOWHEE in the southeast, and SPOTTED TOWHEE in the northwest.

In the southeast, we have the results of four Christmas Counts. The Burlington count on the 19th had a record number of 78 species, with the best birds RED-THROATED LOON, WESTERN GREBE, COMMON LOON, HORNED GREBE, and BONAPARTE'S GULL, all seen on the Mississippi River at Lock & Dam # 18, where viewing access is only from the Illinois side of the river. That count also had EASTERN PHOEBE, WINTER WREN, EURASIAN TREE SPARROW, and BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. At Lake Rathbun on the 19th, there were 76 species, with COMMON LOON, LONG-EARED OWL, SHORT-EARED OWL, BONAPARTE'S GULL, SNOW BUNTING, and YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, plus a late record for the state of

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. At the Red Rock Reservoir, 68 species were counted on the 19th, with an adult THAYER'S GULL below the dam, EARED GREBE above the south end of the dam, FRANKLIN'S GULL, BONAPARTE'S GULL, WHITE PELICAN and EASTERN PHOEBE. At Iowa City on the 20th, a record 73 species were seen, with SPOTTED TOWHEE in the little woods just north of the east end of Swan Lake, SAW-WHET OWL, NORTHERN SHRIKE, SNOW BUNTING, RUDDY DUCK, and in Cal and Bernie Knight's yard, a HERMIT THRUSH, as well as 3 CAROLINA WRENS. Also in Johnson County, a HORNED GREBE and 8 EURASIAN TREE SPARROWS were at the S & G Quarry along the Sand Road at the south edge of Iowa City on the 19th. In Louisa County, a record late GREATER YELLOWLEGS was seen at Cone Marsh on the 18th.

In the northwest, John Van Dyk who lives at Sioux Center, had a SPOTTED TOWHEE in his yard on the 16th. The Prairie Lakes Christmas Count in Dickinson County recorded 60 species on the 20th, which included 9 TRUMPETER SWANS at the north end of West Okoboji Lake, 4 TUNDRA SWANS at Grover's Lake, ~~one~~ EARED and HORNED GREBES, and two NORTHERN SHRIKES.

In the north-central, the Mason City CBC, conducted on the 20th, produced 50 species with NORTHERN GOSHAWK, ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, LONG-EARED OWL, RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, HARRIS' S SPARROW, LAPLAND LONGSPUR, and SNOW BUNTING.

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Birds Mentioned:

Double-crested Cormorant
Blue-winged Teal
Oldsquaw
Black Scoter
Surf Scoter
Mew Gull
Thayer's Gull
Eastern Towhee
Horned Grebe
Trumpeter Swan
Red-tailed Hawk (Albino)
Common Loon
Golden Eagle
Sandhill Crane
Bonaparte's Gull
Carolina Wren
Brown Thrasher
Winter Wren
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Northern Shrike
Loggerhead Shrike
Hermit Thrush
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Greater White-fronted Goose
Fox Sparrow

We have received a number of recent reports, from additional Chrsitams counts, as well as other sightings. In the southeast, the Keokuk CBC on the 21rst counted 91 species with DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, BLUE-WINGED TEAL, OLDSQUAW, BLACK SCOTER, SURF SCOTER, MEW GULL, THAYER'S GULL, and EASTERN TOWHEE. In Des Moines County, a BLACK SCOTER and HORNED GREBE were among the waterfowl on the Mississippi River just above Lock & Dam #18 north of Burlington on the 22nd. In Marion County, a first winter MEW GULL was below the Red Rock Reservoir dam, and 8 TRUMPETER SWANS were above the north end of the dam on the 22nd. In Johnson County, an albino RED-TAILED HAWK has returned for its 4th straight winter to an area along Quincy Road about 1.8 miles north of Newport Road.

In the central in Polk County, the Saylorville Reservoir CBC on the 20th recorded 87 Species with COMMON LOON, OLDSQUAW, GOLDEN EAGLE, SANDHILL CRANE, BONAPARTE'S GULL, MEW GULL, THAYER'S GULL, and CAROLINA WREN. At Clive, Jane Clark has had a BROWN THRASHER in her yard since November 28. In Story County, 58 species were seen on the Ames CBC on the 19th. Best birds were WINTER WREN, CAROLINA WREN, YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, and both SHRIKES. On the 22nd, 5 TRUMPETER SWANS were on Hallet's Quarry at the north edge of Ames.

In the northwest, the Cherokee CBC on the 19th managed 47 species with best birds HERMIT THRUSH, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, and FOX SPARROW.

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IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 Update for 12/26/98 @ 10 PM

Birds Mentioned:

Great Black-backed Gull
Trumpeter Swan
Northern Goshawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Northern Shrike
Tundra Swan
Northern Saw-whet Owl
Glaucous Gull
Fox Sparrow

On the 25th in the southeast at the Red Rock Reservoir, an adult GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL was seen on the lake at the access which is reached by going east from county road S-71 on the dead end road by the Coalport Church, and a TRUMPETER SWAN was above the dam.

We also received the results of two CBCs in the northeast. Bremer County had 52 species on the 19th with NORTHERN GOSHAWK, RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, and NORTHERN SHRIKE. At Waterloo-Cedar Falls on the 20th, the 70 species were highlighted by TUNDRA SWAN, NORTHERN GOSHAWK, RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, SAW-WHET OWL, immature GLAUCOUS GULL, NORTHERN SHRIKE, and FOX SPARROW.

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IOWA RBA: (319)338-9881 Update for 12/21/98 @ 10 PM

Birds Mentioned:

Spotted Towhee

Brown Thrasher

In the northwest in Sioux County, John Van Dyk of Sioux Center reports that the SPOTTED TOWHEE returned to his feeder area on the 20th, and that a BROWN THRASHER was seen nearby.

In the southeast in Johnson County, the SPOTTED TOWHEE was seen again in the woods just north of the east end of Swan Lake, and Ray Davenport, who lives northeast of Iowa City, has had a BROWN THRASHER visiting his feeder area for the past week. And in another update, two HORNED GREBES are 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 (3190338-9881 Update for 12/25/98 @ 12 Midnight

Birds Mentioned:

Partridge in a Pear Tree
Pied-billed Grebe
Western Grebe
Double-Crested Cormorant
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Fox Sparrow
Snow Goose
Oldsquaw
Trumpeter Swan
Tundra Swan
Varied Thrush
White-winged Scoter
Northern Shrike

Merry Christmas to all and a Partridge in a Pear Tree.

In the central, the Jamaica CBC on the 22nd turned up a record 67 species, with PIED-BILLED and WESTERN GREBES, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, all 3 MERGANSER species, FOX SPARROW, and a neck-collared SNOW GOOSE apparently banded at Wrangle Island, Russia. On the 23rd the female OLDSQUAW was still in a patch of open water northwest of the swim beach at Big Creek Lake State Park, and on the 24th, there were 3 TRUMPETER SWANS and 2 TUNDRA SWANS on Hallett's Quarry at the north edge of Ames.

In the southeast in Des Moines County, among the waterfowl on the Mississippi River above Lock & Dam # 18 was a WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, and in Johnson County, a female VARIED THRUSH was seen at the Hawkeye Wildlife Area in the little woods just north of the east end of Swan Lake.

In the northwest in Sioux County, a NORTHERN SHRIKE was 6 miles southwest of Rock Valley, along a gravel road named Dipper.

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