

SCHLEMMER ✓

CONTRIBUTOR: CONRAD F. SCHLEMMER OTHER OBSERVERS: _____

SEASON: DEC-JAN 1218 Wedgwood Dr

YEAR: 1981-'82 Council Bluffs 51501

WEATHER/HABITAT: describe any unusual features at bottom of page

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
SNOW GEESE	HUGE FLOCKS	DEC. 4	FREMONT CO., IOWA E. OF I-29 N. OF STATE HIGHWAY # 2 S. OF PERCIVAL. HUGE FLOCKS FEEDING IN FIELDS
AMERICAN KESTREL	1	JAN. 20	E. OF CO. BLUFFS NEAR IOWA SCHOOL*DEAF.
ALL THE BIRDS LISTED BELOW EXCEPT WHERE NOTED WERE IN MY BACKYARD @ FEEDERS. S.E. CO BLUFFS, IOWA.			
PART OF			
COMMON FLICKER	2	DEC. 6 DEC. 16	OCCASIONAL AT FEEDERS.
RED BELLIED WOODPECKER	2	EVERY DAY	AT SUET FEEDERS.
✓ YELLOW BELLIED SAPSUCKER	1	JAN 14	FOUND A DEAD BIRD ON TOP OF THE SNOW IN MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY.
✓ DOWNY WOODPECKER	2	}	AT LEAST ONE PAIR OF BOTH OF THESE SPECIES FEEDS EVERY DAY AT SUET LOG.
HAIRY WOODPECKER	2		
BLACK CAPPED CHICADEE	4		AT FEEDERS EVERY DAY
W.B. NUTHATCH	2		AT FEEDERS AND SUET LOG EVERY DAY
BROWN CREEPER.	DEC. 4-10-17	1 BIRD	TWICE IN MY BACKYARD, ONCE IN MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY. EACH TIME ONE BIRD
✓ AMERICAN ROBIN	20	JAN. 13	A FLOCK OF ABOUT 20 BIRDS PAULSED IN MY WILLOW TREE, FLEW S.W. LEAVING. THIS FLOCK FEEDING IN A FLOWERING CRAB TREE IN MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY.
✓ CEDAR WAXWINGS	22	DEC. 25	I HAD SEEN THE FEMALE EARLIER BUT COULD NO T BELIEVE. THEN ON 23RD SHE CAME BACK WITH THE MALE. HAVE NOT SEEN THEM SINCE.
✓ RED WINGED BLACKBIRD	2	JAN. 23	
✓ PURPLE FINCH	1 7 10	DEC. 19	FIRST PURPLE OF SEASON, FEMALE. THEY GRA DUALY INCREASED AND BY JAN. 20 WE HAD 5 FEMALES AND TWO MALES. JAN. 22 WE AGAIN HAD 5 FEMALES, 2 MALES
" "		JAN. 20	
" "		JAN. 22	
GOLDFINCH	1	JAN. 28	8 FEMALES- 2 MALES
X " "	8	DEC. 8	THIS HAS BEEN A VERY SLOW GOLDFINCH SEASON. THEY HAVE SLO WLY B UILT FROM ONE BIRD TO SEVEN. THE 8 BIRDS I SHOW ON JAN. 5 I BELIEVE WERE TRANSIENTS, NO T MY REGULARS.
" "	5	JAN. 5	
" "	7	JAN. 20	
PINE SISKIN	1	DEC. 8	VERY FEW PINE SISKINS AND VERY IRREGU LAR.
" "	5	JAN. 18	
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	1	DEC. 16-21 JAN 6-20-23-25	ONLY SEEM TO HAVE ONE BIRD WHICH COMES IN BAD WEATHER.

OUR DEC. WEATHER WAS MILD. JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS WE GOT APPROX. 4" OF SNOW. JANUARY WAS VERY COLD, BUT THE COUNCIL BLUFFS AREA MISSED SEVERAL OF THE HEAVY SNOWS BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF US. JAN. 22 WE RECEIVED A MIXTURE OF RAIN A ND SNO W WHICH PUT A CRUST ON OUR SNOW HARD ENOUGH TO SUPPO RT THE WIEGHT OF A MAN. MO DERA TING TEMPERATURES JAN. 26-27.

WIEGHT

CONTRIBUTOR, CONRAD F. SCHLEMMER

BEFORE I MOVED AWAY FROM COUNCIL BLUFFS IN 1966 I USED TO HAVE QUITE A FEW TUFTED TITMICE AT MY FEEDERS. NOW I HAVE BEEN BACK MOST OF THREE WINTERS AND HAVE HAD NONE AT MY FEEDERS NOR SEEN OR HEARD ANY DURING THE SUMMER.

PART OF THE REASON I HAVE HAD QUITE A BIT OF SUCCESS ATTRACTING WOODPECKERS TO MY BACKYARD, I THINK, ARE THE FEEDERS I USE. I HAVE A LARGE STARLING POPULATION IN THIS AREA AND THEY DEplete ANY SUET IN A BAG, SO I TAKE A LOG, ABOUT 18" LONG AND 3 TO 4" IN DIAMETER. I DRILL 4 HOLES IN A STRAIGHT LINE ABOUT 1 1/2" IN DIAMETER AND ABOUT 2" DEEP. THEN I PUT TWO SCREW EYES ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE LOG AND HANG IT FROM A LIMB ABOUT 30 DEGREES FROM THE HORIZONTAL. THIS DISCOURAGES THE STARLINGS, BUT DOESN'T BOTHER THE CHICADEES, NUTHATCHES, AND WOODPECKERS. I TAMP THE SUET INTO THE HOLES WITH A SHORT LENGTH OF BROOMSTICK. I HAVE A SUET BOX, WITH PLASTIC "HARDWARE CLOTH" ON THE BOTTOM, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING EXCEPT NUTHATCHES AND CHICADEES ON IT.

I HAVE NOT MENTIONED THE YEAR-AROUND BIRDS, SUCH AS HOUSE SPARROWS, STARLINGS, BLUE JAYS, AND CARDINALS. THE BLUE JAY POPULATION SEEMS SMALLER THAN IN OTHER YEARS, BUT THE CARDINAL POPULATION IS GREAT. I HAVE A FEEDER AT MY SON'S HOUSE IN THE CEMETERY AND I COUNTED 15 CARDINALS AT ONCE THERE, (NOT ALL ON THE FEEDER)

I ALSO WANTED TO COMMENT ON THE Y.B. SAPSUCKER I FOUND DEAD. I WONDER IF THE LAST TWO MILD WINTERS MADE HIM DECIDE HE COULD STAY THIS FAR NORTH AND THE JANUARY COLD WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM THIS YEAR?

FINALLY, I AM INCLUDING A SASE. WILL YOU SEND ME BACK ONE BLANK SHEET FOR FIELD NOTES. I CAN COPY EXTRA'S.

THANK YOU.

CS