

Subj: **Yellow-billed Loon**
Date: 12/12/99 1:56:50 PM Central Standard Time
From: flmoore@forbin.com (Francis Moore)
To: ioufuller@aol.com

Jim,

Thought I would let you know that the Yellow-billed Loon was still at Little Wall Lake south of Jewel this morning, December 12. I watched the loon from about 9:40 am until about 10:20 am. It was located on the far West side of the lake right off of the pull out along the highway about 60 to 70 yards out from the shore of the lake. The bird was trapped in about a 8 to 10 foot circle of unfrozen water in that area so viewing was reasonable close and it could not swim away from me. Most of the time it sat in the open water and at times would dive for short periods of time but always came up in the same small <10 foot circle of open water. There was some other open water but that was more than half of the lake away to the east and southeast. Got extremely good looks at the bird. It looked like the bird was keeping the opening in the ice by its movements there. If we have another below freezing night the loon may not make it for long.

The caretaker of the lake said that he was going to turn on the aerators on the south side of the lake; hopefully the loon will be able to tell they are functioning and make its way there, otherwise it will perish when the lake fully freezes over. Thanks for you great work on the Iowa Bird Line and on the IA-BIRD sight. I appreciate the information, I just do not get out offer to contribute to it. Maybe I will be able to do so again soon.

Francis

----- Headers -----

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Date: Sun, 12 Dec 1999 13:50:23 -0600
From: Francis Moore <flmoore@forbin.com>
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To: ioufuller@aol.com
Subject: Yellow-billed Loon
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Fuller, Jim

To: birdcntr@listserv.arizona.edu; hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net; ia-bird@list.audubon.org
Subject: IOWA RBA 12/11/99

IOWA RBA (319) 338-9881 Update for 12/11/99 @ 8:30 PM

Birds Mentioned:

YELLOW-BILLED LOON

Sandhill Crane

Snowy Owl

Tundra Swan

Black Scoter

Surf Scoter

Dark-mantled Gull (Possible Lesser Black-backed)

On the 11th in the central, the YELLOW-BILLED LOON was still being seen at Little Wall Lake in Hamilton County. Nearly half of the lake was iced over, but the bird was on open water at the north end of the lake. In Tama County, 21 SANDHILL CRANES were seen in a field along County Road E-66 near Otter creek Marsh west of Chelsea. The birds were near a large orange piece of earthmoving equipment.

In the southeast in Jefferson County, the SNOWY OWL discovered by Bob Cecil east of Fairfield on the 10th, was still being seen all day the 11th in the same general area. The bird did move around during the day, but was relocated by a number of observers. Originally the owl was found about 4 miles east of Fairfield atop a conifer on the north side of hiway 34, 1/8 mile east of the Unity Church. It spent considerable time this morning on the north side of hiway 34, on a barn and utility poles near the farmstead with fire # 2517 near mile marker 218, which is about a half mile west of the Unity Church. Later in the day it was found north of hiway 34 along Pine Avenue, and it was also seen by going a mile north on Pine and then west on 200th where the bird was on a pole at the farmstead with fire # 2417. So, if you look for this bird you may have to spend some time searching the neighborhood. In Johnson County, two adult and four immature TUNDRA SWANS were found at the S & G Quarry which is along the Sand Road just south of Iowa City.

In the northwest in Dickinson County, eleven BLACK SCOTERS and an immature/female type SURF SCOTER were in a large raft of diving ducks at the south end of Big Spirit Lake, as seen along the south shore of the lake from the pumphouse at the north end of Hill Street which is the main north-south street in Spirit Lake. In Buena Vista County, a dark-mantled gull, possibly a LESSER BLACK-BACKED was seen on an island in Storm Lake, by looking north from the Belair Access along the south shore of the lake.

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Subject: IOWA RBA 12/11/99

IOWA RBA (319) 338-9881 Upadte for 12/11/99 @ 10 AM

Birds Mentioned:
Snowy owl

On the 11th in the southeast in Jefferson County, the immature SNOWY OWL discovered by Bob Cecil east of Fairfield on the 10th was still being seen in the morning. The bird was sitting on a barn along the north side of hiway 34 at the farmstead with fire # 2517. This is about three miles east of Fairfield very close to mile marker 218, and it is 0.4 miles west of the Unity Church.

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To: birdcntr@listserv.arizona.edu; hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net; ia-bird@list.audubon.org
Subject: IOWA RBA 12/10/99

IOWA RBA (319) 338-9881 Update for 12/10/99 @ 10:30 PM

Birds mentioned:

Snowy owl
Black Scoter
Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)

On the 10th in the southeast in Jefferson County, a SNOWY OWL was reported five miles east of Fairfield sitting atop a large conifer on the north side of hiway 34. This is between mile markers 218 and 219 and about 1/8 mile east of the Unity Church.

In the northwest in Dickinson County on the 8th, nine BLACK SCOTERS were reported to be on the south end of Big Spirit Lake, and 8 LONG-TAILED DUCKS (OLDSQUAW) were toward the middle of the lake, as viewed from the pumphouse station along the south shore.

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To: birdcntr@listserv.arizona.edu; hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net; ia-bird@list.audubon.org
Subject: IOWA RBA 12/8/99

IOWA RBA (319) 338-9881 Update for 12/8/99 @ 9:30 PM

Birds mentioned:
YELLOW-BILLED LOON
Mute Swan
Horned Grebe
Sandhill Crane
Northern Shrike

On the 8th in the central, the juvenile YELLOW-BILLED LOON was still being seen at Little Wall Lake in Hamilton County, along hiway 69 three miles south of Jewell. In Poweshiek County, the adult MUTE SWAN was still present at Diamond Lake west of Montezuma. In Jasper County, there were still two HORNED GREBES toward the north end of Rock Creek Lake. In Tama County, three SANDHILL CRANES were seen in a cornfield across County Road E-66 from Otter Creek Marsh on the 6th.

In the northwest, a NORTHERN SHRIKE was observed at the north end of Big Spirit lake in the Trickle Slough area.

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To: birdcntr@listserv.arizona.edu; hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net; ia-bird@list.audubon.org
Subject: IOWA RBA 12/7/99

IOWA RBA (319) 338-9881 Update for 12/7/99 @ 10 PM

Birds Mentioned:

Thayer's Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
American Golden Plover
Northern Shrike
Short-eared Owl

In news received the 7th, in the central ~~nothing was heard about the YELLOW-BILLED LOON at Little Wall Lake in Hamilton County.~~ In Polk County, a first year THAYER'S GULL was seen at the Saylorville Reservoir along hiway 415 near the pumphouse station which is east of the marina. At Jester County Park, the immature LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was again present off campground #4, and there was also a juvenile AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER on one of the grassy islands there.

In the southeast, a NORTHERN SHRIKE and SHORT-EARED OWL were seen somewhere along the Lucas-Wayne County line on the 5th.

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Subject: IOWA RBA 112/6/99

IOWA RBA (319) 338-9881 Update for 12/6/99 @ 9 PM

Birds Mentioned:
YELLOW-BILLED LOON
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Northern Shrike
Sandhill Crane
Ferruginous Hawk
Black Scoter

On the 6th in the central in Hamilton County, the juvenile YELLOW-BILLED LOON was still present at Little Wall Lake late in the day. Little Wall lake is along hiway 69 about three miles south of Jewell. In Polk County, an immature LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was seen at the Saylorville Reservoir off campground #4 at Jester Park. The gate is closed to this area, so you must walk in. A NORTHERN SHRIKE was along hiway 415 outside Big Creek SP. In Madison County, four SANDHILL CRANES were observed flying east over the lake at Badger Creek SP.

In the southwest in Pottawattamie County, an immature light-phase FERRUGINOUS HAWK was sighted at the Hitchcock Nature Center hawk watch on the 5th. This location is in the loess hills near Crescent.

In the northwest in Dickinson County, ten BLACK SCOTERS, of which three were adult males, were seen in the southwest corner of Big Spirit Lake. They were spotted with a raft of Canvasbacks, Redheads, and Scaup by looking west from the pumphouse which is along the south shore.

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To: birdcntr@listserv.arizona.edu; hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net.
Subject: IOWA RBA 12/6/99

IOWA RBA (319) 338-9881 Week's Report of 12/6/99

Birds Mentioned:
YELLOW-BILLED LOON
Prairie Falcon
Varied Thrush
Lesser Black-backed Gull
White-winged Crossbill
Eurasian Collared-dove
Northern Goshawk

The best bird this week is a potential second state record YELLOW-BILLED LOON in the central, where a PRAIRIE FALCON was also seen. Other highlights include VARIED THRUSH and LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL in the northwest, and WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL in the southeast.

In the central in Hamilton County, Kevin Healy discovered a juvenile YELLOW-BILLED LOON at Little Wall Lake on the 1st, and the bird was still being seen there through the 5th. Little Wall Lake is along hiway 69 about three miles south of Jewell. The bird has been seen in virtually every corner of the lake, but the latest report on the 5th had it in the middle of the lake as seen from the west pullout along hiway 69. In Polk County, a PRAIRIE FALCON was spotted along I-35 north of Ankeny between mile markers 94 and 95 on the 30th. A EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE was reported by Tim Martin in his yard about a mile east of Ankeny on the 2nd. A NORTHERN GOSHAWK was observed in the southwest corner of Fort Des Moines County Park on the south side of Des Moines. Take Army Post Road west toward Southridge Mall, and look for the signs to the park.

In the northwest in Kossuth County, a male VARIED THRUSH has been seen since November 2nd in the west part of the town of Fenton. On the 29th it was at the north edge of the city park, and on the 30th it was seen there, as well as in Dave Yager's yard at 319 Oak Street, which is on the west side of the park. In Dickinson County, a first-year LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was reported on the 29th from the west side of West Okoboji Lake, as viewed from the jetty which is off Lakeside Labs. We also received a report of as many as six probable EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVES in the small Humboldt County town of Rutland.

In the southeast in Scott County, WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS, numbering from 1 to 12 were reported on three occasions last week from the hemlock grove at Fairmount Cemetery in Davenport. From hiway 61 in the extreme west part of Davenport, take Rockingham Road east for about a half mile to the cemetery and crematorium.

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