

Fuller, Jim

To: birdcntr@listserv.arizona.edu; hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net; ia-bird@list.audubon.org
Subject: IOWA RBA 12/14/99

IOWA RBA (319) 338-9881 Update for 12/14/99 @ 9:30 PM

Birds mentioned:
YELLOW-BILLED LOON

On the 14th in the central in Story County, the juvenile YELLOW-BILLED LOON was reported to still be on the north pond at Hallett's Quarry, which is along hiway 69 at the north edge of Ames. The latest sighting on the 14th was shortly after noon, and viewing is from a pullout along hiway 69.

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WEST

1 BLK FROM MUSEUM
STREET RUNS E-W

TOP OF HILL
FROM BANK GAS
FROM W

1 BLOCK N

1/2 BLK W

RIVER
LEETE

TEAL COLORED HOUSE

2130 PARK ST.

JACOBSONS

2 HOUSES E

CREAM COL BRICK

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To: birdcntr@listserv.arizona.edu; hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net; ia-bird@list.audubon.org
Subject: IOWA RBA 12/17/99

IOWA RBA (310) 338-9881 Update for 12/17/99 @ 7:15 PM

Birds Mentioned:
YELLOW-BILLED LOON
Long-tailed Duck
Northern Shrike
BULLOCK'S ORIOLE
White-winged Crossbill

On the 17th in the central in Story County, the juvenile YELLOW-BILLED LOON continues at Hallett's Quarry at the north edge of Ames. The bird was still on the north pond, while a LONG-TAILED DUCK was on the south pond, and a NORTHERN SHRIKE was along the south and west shores of the south pond. *2/18/2006*

In the southwest in Shelby County, an adult male BULLOCK'S ORIOLE that has been present since before Thanksgiving, was seen again today in the town of Elk Horn. The bird is seen on the deck eating grape jelly and oranges supplied by Randy and Rhea Leete, who live at 2130 Park Street. The bird occasionally comes to the feeder of Woody and Joan Jacobsen who live two houses east at 2126 Park. The deck and food source at the Leete's can be seen from the street, and the bird also sits in the large tree in their side yard. Park Street is in the west part of town, and is one block north of County Road F-58. The Leetes would appreciate it if you would call before coming to see the bird at (712) 764-2932.

In the northwest in Sioux County, Jon Van Dyk reports that four WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS have been visiting a feeder in Sioux Center the past two days. For details you can call Jon at (712) 722-1572

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Subject: IOWA RBA 12/16/99

IOWA RBA (319) 338-9881 Update for 12/16/99 @ 9:30 PM

Birds Mentioned:
YELLOW-BILLED LOON
Prairie Falcon
BULLOCK'S ORIOLE

On the 16th in the central in Story County, the juvenile YELLOW-BILLED LOON was still present on the north pond at Hallett's Quarry, which is along hiway 69 at the north edge of Ames. Viewing is from a pullout along hiway 69. In Polk County, a PRAIRIE FALCON was seen in the cloverleaf of the I-35 and I-80 interchange at the north edge of Des Moines on the 15th. We had another report of PRAIRIE FALCON about two weeks ago along I-35 just north of Ankeny, so maybe a bird is wintering in the area.

In the southwest, we have received a report of a BULLOCK'S ORIOLE visiting a feeder in the town of Elk Horn in Shelby County. We are trying to confirm this sighting.

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Subject: IOWA RBA 12/15/99

IOWA RBA (319) 338-9881 Update for 12/15/99 @ 10 PM

Birds Mentioned:
YELLOW-BILLED LOON
Snowy Owl

~~In news from the 15th in the central in Story County, the juvenile YELLOW-BILLED LOON continued today at the north pond of Hallet's Quarry along hiway 69 at the north edge of Ames. Viewing is from a pullout along hiway 69.~~

In the southeast in Jefferson County, not such good news, as the SNOWY OWL which had been seen east of Fairfield for four days was found dead along hiway 34, evidently the victim of a vehicle collision, which probably occurred sometime on the 14th.

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To: birdcntr@listserv.arizona.edu; hologrambirds@worldnet.att.net; ia-bird@list.audubon.org
Subject: IOWA RBA 12/13/99

IOWA RBA (319) 338-9881 Update for 12/13/99 @ 10 PM

Birds Mentioned:
YELLOW-BILLED LOON
Northern Saw-whet Owl
Golden Eagle
Lincoln's Sparrow
Snowy Owl

Hank Zalatel has pointed out that the saga of the YELLOW-BILLED LOON did NOT end on the 12th, when it departed the ice up of Little Wall Lake in Hamilton County. Rather, the bird just followed hiway 69 straight south to Hallett's Quarry at the north edge of Ames, where Hank found it on the north pond there around midday on the 13th. That body of water is not frozen, so it may stay until it does. Elsewhere in the central in Boone County at the Ledges SP, the SAW-WHET OWL was still present in a cedar grove along the Lost Lake Trail, and an adult GOLDEN EAGLE was a flyover near the mouth of Pease Creek. A LINCOLN'S SPARROW was also seen on a brushy slope above the canyon road.

In the southeast in Jefferson County, Aaron Brees points out that there are undoubtedly two SNOWY OWLS in the area 2-4 miles east of Fairfield. The bird that has been along hiway 34 between mile markers 217-219 is a heavily marked immature, while a bird he photographed northwest of hiway 34, actually along 200th Street west of Pine, is a lightly marked adult bird. The owl along hiway 34 was seen on the morning of the 13th in a field west of Pine and hiway 34.

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IOWA RBA (319) 338-9881 Week's Report of 12/13/99

Birds Mentioned:

YELLOW-BILLED LOON
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Thayer's Gull
Snowy Owl
White-winged Crossbill
Black Scoter
Surf Scoter
Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)
Sandhill Crane
Northern Saw-whet Owl
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Winter Wren
Mute Swan
Horned Grebe
Tundra Swan
Greater Scaup
Common Loon
Northern Shrike
Baltimore Oriole
Common Redpoll
Snow Bunting
Short-eared Owl

There are a number of good birds this week with the saga of the YELLOW-BILLED LOON in the central, as well as LESSER BLACK-BACKED and THAYER'S GULLS there, SNOWY OWL and WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL in the southeast, and BLACK-SCOTER, SURF SCOTER and LONG-TAILED DUCK (OLDSQUAW) in the northwest.

In the central, the saga of the juvenile YELLOW-BILLED LOON ended ^{ON THE 12TH} today. The bird, which had been discovered by Kevin Healy at Little Wall Lake in Hamilton County on the 1st, had been seen there every day since. ^{12TH} Today we had four reports, the first from the morning had the loon keeping a fifteen foot area of water open from the encroaching ice. Then about noon, Bill Scheibl of Cedar Rapids watched as the bird got up the inertia to take flight, then circle the lake eight times, and finally winged its way good-bye to the south. The two reports from the afternoon described an iced up lake with no loon. Elsewhere in the central in Polk County at the Saylorville Reservoir, an immature LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was seen at Jester Park off campground #4 on the 7th. The gate to this area is closed, and you must park and walk in. A first-year THAYER'S GULL was spotted along hiway 415 by the pumphouse station east of the marina on the 7th. In Tama County, 21 SANDHILL CRANES were seen on the 11th across from Otter Creek Marsh along County Road E-66 west of Chelsea. They were in a field near a piece of orange earthmoving equipment. In Boone County at the Ledges SP, a NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL was found on the 12th along the Lost Lake Trail uphill from a wood duck house which is visible from the trail. In the upper reaches of Pease Creek, a GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET and WINTER WREN were sighted. In Poweshiek County, the adult MUTE SWAN was still at Diamond Lake west of Montezuma, and in Jasper County, two HORNED GREBES were toward the north end of the lake at Rock Creek Lake SP, both on the 8th. In Madison County, four SANDHILL CRANES were seen flying east over the lake at Badger Creek SP on the 6th.

In the southeast in Jefferson County, the immature SNOWY OWL discovered by Bob Cecil east of Fairfield on the 10th, was still being seen at dark on the 12th. The bird has moved in an area along hiway 34 between mile markers 217 and 219, and is most often seen near hiway 34 and Pine. It has also ranged to the northwest, along Pine north of hiway 34 and then west on 200th Street. It likes to sit on signs, buildings, and utility poles. In Scott County, four WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were seen in the hemlock grove at Fairmount Cemetery in Davenport on the 12th. From hiway 61 in the extreme west part of Davenport, take Rockingham Road east to the cemetery and crematorium. In Johnson County, six TUNDRA SWANS, two adult and four immature, were seen at the S & G Quarry which is along the Sand Road just south

of Iowa City, on the 11th. In Appanoose County in the Lake Rathbun area, birds seen on the 10th and 11th included 18 COMMON REDPOLLS along 200th Avenue about a quarter mile south of hiway 142, SNOW BUNTINGS in the campground at the Island View West area, a SHORT-EARED OWL along County Road J5T on the south side of the lake, and a NORTHERN SHRIKE and COMMON LOON near the dam.

In the northwest in Dickinson County, the large raft of diving ducks along the south shore of Big Spirit Lake has had some unusual birds in it all week. The latest report described 12 BLACK SCOTERS, an immature/female type SURF SCOTER, two GREATER SCAUP, and a COMMON LOON with this raft. On the 8th, eight LONG-TAILED DUCKS (OLDSQUAWS) were seen more toward the middle of the lake. Viewing of this area has been from the pumphouse, which is at the north end of Hill Street, the main north-south street in Spirit Lake. On the 11th, the immature LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was seen at the landfill south of Spirit Lake, and a NORTHERN SHRIKE was at the Center lake complex. On the 8th, another NORTHERN SHRIKE was present at the north end of Big Spirit Lake in the Trickle Slough area. In Clay County, Lee and Nancy Schoenewe report that Marlys Pemble of Everly has had a female BALTIMORE ORIOLE visiting her feeder since Thanksgiving. In Buena Vista County, an adult dark-mantled gull, possible a LESSER BLACK-BACKED, was on an island in Storm Lake, as viewed from the Belair Access along the south shore of the lake.

In the northeast in Cerro Gordo County, there was a secondhand report on the 12th of a SNOWY OWL near the Mason City airport as seen from hiway 18.

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12/13/99