

IOWA RBA: UPDATE 2/7/1

BIRDS MENTIONED:

- Great Grey Owl
- Varied Thrush
- Hoary Redpoll
- Eastern Bluebird
- Northern Mockin bird
- Northern Shrike
- Red-shouldered Hawk

① IN UPDATES OF THE HOARY REDPOLLS, THE BIRD IN WARREN COUNTY WAS STILL VISITING ANN JOHNSON'S FEEDER ON THE 10TH, BUT THE BIRD AT KEN LOWDER'S IN JOHNSON COUNTY, HASN'T BEEN SEEN NOW SINCE THE AFTERNOON OF THE 4TH ON THE 9TH IN THE NORTHEAST IN ALLAMAKEE COUNTY, AN ADULT GOLDEN EAGLE WAS SEEN OVER THE YELLOW RIVER BLUFF 4 MILES S. OF ROSSVILLE.

④ ON THE 7TH EVEN THOUGH

In exciting, albeit belated news, we received a report of a GREAT GREY OWL seen in central Iowa on January 30th, from an out-of-state birder, Wendell Ose, who was visiting family in Hamilton County. The exact location was three miles south on hiway 69 from Blairsburg, and two miles east on gravel. The bird was sitting in a tree in the front yard of a farmstead. It was never relocated during the week. There have been a number of northern owl reports quite far south in Minnesota and Wisconsin this winter.

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In updates, from the southeast in Johnson County, the VARIED THRUSH was seen again at the Melleckers south of Hills, and in the central, the HOARY REDPOLL was still visiting Ann Johnson's feeder in Warren County. Elsewhere in ^{THE CENTRAL IN} Warren County, ten EASTERN BLUEBIRDS were at the north entrance of Lake Ahquabi State Park, and in Marshall County, a NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD has been at a feeder and in a yard at 206 E. South Street in Albion. Please do not go into the yard, rather watch for the bird from the street on the east side of the yard. In the northwest in Sioux County, a NORTHERN SHRIKE was seen northwest of Rock Valley, where the Kiwanis Trail nears an old bridge over the Rock River.

On the 6th, in updates from the southeast, in Johnson County, the HOARY REDPOLL at Ken Lowder's feeder north of Iowa City, has not been seen now since the afternoon of the 4th, and in Iowa County, the RED-SHOULDERED HAWK was found once again, this time at the southeast corner of the hiway 151 bridge over the Iowa River.

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② IN THE NORTHWEST, IN SAC COUNTY, A TRAYER'S GULL WAS AT BLACKHAWK LAKE AND IN THE SOUTHEAST, PAUL + TERESA SNICE WHO LIVE NORTHEAST OF NORTH LIBERTY IN JOHNSON COUNTY, STILL HAVE A DOZEN COMMON REDPOLLS AT THEIR FEEDER

IOWA RBA (319)338-9881 for 2/5/96

BIRDS MENTIONED:

Hoary Redpoll
Common Redpoll
Snowy Owl
Varied Thrush
Snow Bunting
Northern Shrike
Red-shouldered Hawk
Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Birding arctic Iowa last week involved mostly feeder watching, but several good birds were seen, including HOARY REDPOLL, SNOWY OWL, and VARIED THRUSH. It is interesting that HOARY REDPOLLS have been identified in the state previously only a handful of times, yet this past weekend saw three reported.

In the central in Warren County, Ann Johnson had three REDPOLLS at her feeder on the 3rd and 4th, one of which was a HOARY REDPOLL. Ann lives south of Des Moines, and you can call her for directions and arrangements at home at (515)961-2002, and at work at (515)283-7995. In Franklin County, Scott Jensen reported a SNOWY OWL on the 1st southeast of Alexander. The exact location is reached by going west on highway 3 from I-35 for 2.3 miles, and then north on Dogwood Avenue for two miles to 170th, where the bird was sitting on a utility pole just east of the intersection. The bird has not been relocated since. There are large flocks of SNOW BUNTINGS in that area. In Madison County, a NORTHERN SHRIKE has been seen daily at Badger Creek State Park.

In the southeast in Johnson County, Ken Lowder has had an immature HOARY REDPOLL under his feeder on the 3rd and 4th. Ken lives on Tree Farm Lane north of Iowa City, and you can call him to get directions and make arrangements to see the bird at (319)351-1207. A male VARIED THRUSH was observed in the yard of Bernie and Phyllis Mellecker, who live south of Hills on the 31st and 1st. They live at 5664 Oak Crest Hill Road (which is old highway 218), and can be reached at (319)648-3349. On the 30th, a RED-SHOULDERED HAWK was seen on the north side of I-80, 1.8 miles east of exit 249. In Des Moines County, two EURASIAN TREE SPARROWS have been at the feeder of John Carter, who lives north of Burlington at 12113 Flint Valley Drive, and can be reached at (319)752-1520.

In the northwest in Ida County, Pete Erzen saw a possible HOARY REDPOLL near Ida Grove on the 3rd. For more information, you can call Pete at (712)364-2180.

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