

GETSCHER ✓

Season: Winter Year 1981-2

Mrs. Edwin A. Getscher
#4 Skyline Drive
Hamburg, Iowa 51640

From December 28, 1981, to January 27th, 1982, we experienced dangerous icy conditions. Except for January 15th and January 22nd when the temperatures reached 34 degrees, we had below freezing weather. ~~At~~ January 10th the temperature plunged to 28 below and we had another day in which it was -20 degrees. I do not have that date; I failed to put it down in my book. Then we had below freezing weather again beginning January 30th through February 12th. Otherwise it has been rather pleasant. February 22nd we had 71 degrees.

In the past few years, whether the winter was mild or severe as it was this year we just haven't had the birds we used to have at the feeders. I only had three Harris sparrows where in the past I had dozens. Never see the western specie of towhee, nor that fox sparrow, Yukon specie, I've seen in the past. Even the goldfinches have diminished but not the juncos. For more interesting sightings, the following:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|---|
| ✓ Blue and snow geese | | Feb. 19-24 | Gone most of the winter but on this particular time they seemed to come overnight. 300 seen near Pacific Jct. and a field just east of Sidney on way to Shenandoah the field was covered with them, too many to count |
| ✓ Sharp-shinned hawk | 1 | Feb. 12 | a junco hit our window and as it fell to the ground the hawk swooped in and scooped up the bird, its wing brushing the window. |
| ✓ Bald eagle | 1 | Jan. 18 | over our yard, to me unusual as there were no ducks nor geese in the area |
| * peregrine falcon | 1 | Jan 23 | It bulleted past our home but so close and low that I could identify it. |
| ✓ loggerhead shrike | 1 | Jan. 30 | near Farragut, Iowa, sitting on utility line |
| ✓ robins | 100 ± | Jan. 6 | Altho we have a few robins during the winter it was most unusual to see this number fly through our yard |
| ✓ Eastern bluebirds | 3 | Feb 23 | in our yard for a few hours. |