

King Eider
20 Dec 1964
Bellevue, Jackson Co., IA
Myrle Jones
IBL 35:8, 24, 61:84, Brown 1971

Record Number: 89-AL
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Christmas Bird Count: IBL 35:8
Field Reports: IBL 35:24
Brown, W. H. 1971. An annotated list of the birds of Iowa.
Iowa State J. Sci. 45:387-469. p 402.
Musgrove, J. W., and M. R. Musgrove. 1977. Waterfowl in Iowa.
Des Moines: State Conservation Commission. p 111.
Newlon, M. C., and T. H. Kent. 1981. Fifth record of King
Eider for Iowa. IBL 51:126-129.
Records Committee: IBL 61:84

VOTE: 6 NA

NA. No description to evaluate.
NA. No details on this difficult identification problem.
NA. No details.
NA. No detail.
NA. No info to judge.

snow. Observers (9) in 1 party; Myrle M. Burk, Helen Fleming, Russell Hays, Charles Moon, Thomas Moon, John Osness, Lois Osness, Nick Osness, Ida Mae Wade.

27. WINTHROP (roadsides in Buchanan County and a drive through Backbone State Park (Delaware County), about 2 miles on foot by F.J.P.; 100 miles by car by both observers). Dec. 27; 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 4-20 F.; wind light from S. Clear; 1½ inches of 2-day-old snow on ground. Observers (2) in 1 party; Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Pierce.

28. YELLOW RIVER FOREST (NE corner Sec. 8, T96N, R3W; Miss. River with timbered bluffs, 30%; streams with wooded hill, 30%; fields and pastures, 20%; marsh, 5%). Jan. 3; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 20-32 F.; wind 0-12 m.p.h. from SW. Clear 1-3 inch snow cover. Observers (4) in 1-2 parties; Florence Albright, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Daubendick, Darwin Koenig.

Turkey — we noted the size and color, unmistakable.

ADDITIONAL BIRD NOTES WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE CENSUSES

Akron — Other species seen during the census period: Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Gray Partridge, Short-eared Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, and Red-winged Blackbird.

Ames — Red-shouldered Hawk, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Kingfisher and Golden-crowned Kinglet were seen during the period.

Bellevue — Myrle Jones saw "What surely had to be an eider." The color pattern appeared to be that of the King Eider, but at the distance it could have been the Common Eider.

Buffalo Center — Gray Partridge was seen during the period.

Burlington — During the period there were seen: Common Goldeneye, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cowbird, and Oregon Junco.

Cedar Rapids — Additional species were seen during the census period: Pied-billed Grebe, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Robin, meadowlark (sp) and Common Grackle.

Davenport — Redhead, Cooper's Hawk, Turkey, Snowy Owl and Pileated Woodpecker were seen during the period.

Des Moines — During the period Loggerhead Shrike and E. Meadowlark seen.

Goldfield — Red-headed Woodpecker was an additional species in period.

Hawarden — Of the Horned Larks seen 12 were thought to have the additional yellow coloration of the northern subspecies.

Iowa City — Killdeer, Screech Owl and Winter Wren were seen during the period but not on count day.

Jefferson — A Robin was seen on the first day of the period but not later. A Short-eared Owl was also missed.

Jesup — A Northern Shrike in immature plumage was seen on 27 Dec. Lamoni — The Red-headed Woodpeckers were the largest number ever seen in the winter. During the census period a Long-eared Owl and Bluebirds were seen in the area.

Lehigh — Barred Owl and Common Grackle were seen during the period.

Marshalltown — Screech Owl, Horned Lark and Robin are additional species observed during the period.

Ogden — "Blue-winged Teal, meadowlarks (sp), Common Grackle and Harris' Sparrows are very uncommon here at this time of year." Northern Shrike, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Pheasant, Red-headed Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse and Red-breasted Nuthatch were also seen but not on count day.

Shenandoah — "Noteworthy is the lack of ducks, geese and blackbirds which are generally seen in quantity during the winter." Pheasant, Screech Owl and Great Horned Owl are others seen during the period.

Sioux City — "A number of normally quite common birds were not observed this winter despite the quite mild weather. A sufficient food supply seems to be available. A larger number of observers were in the field and all reported a lack of bird activity." Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Common Grackle were also seen in the census period.

Frieda and George Crossley on 3 January drove from Farley to Pine Hollow and the Forest Preserve and observed the following: Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Great Horned Owl, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 6; Red-headed Woodpecker, 9; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Horned Lark, 9; Blue Jay, 11; Common Crow, 14; Black-capped Chickadee, 8; Tufted Titmouse, 3; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Starling, 70; House Sparrow, 190; Cardinal, 7; American Goldfinch, 17; Slate-colored Junco, 1; Tree Sparrow, 59; Song Sparrow, 2.

The Omaha Bird Club on 26 December censused a 15-mile circle based on Offut Lake. The portion of the circle lying in Iowa includes Lake Manawa and the river bottoms and bluffs south of it. The observers, L. F. Knowles, L. W. Powell, Jr., Miss E. B. Appleby, J. E. Plank, and E. T. Stacy, observed the following in Iowa: Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 10; Rough-legged Hawk, 13; Marsh Hawk, 12; Sparrow Hawk, 5; Bobwhite, 2; Mourning Dove, 10; Short-eared Owl, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 9; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 9; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 16; Horned Lark, 12; Blue Jay, 20; Crow, 17; Black-capped Chickadee, 105; Tufted Titmouse, 8; White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Robin, 1; Northern Shrike, 2; Starling, 472; House Sparrow, 707; meadowlark (sp), 7; Red-winged Blackbird, 6; Cardinal, 81; American Goldfinch, 31; Slate-colored Junco, 208; Tree Sparrow, 266; Harris' Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 18.

Mrs. J. B. Osher, Mrs. B. A. La Doux, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wolden on 30 December censused a circle centered on Estherville. Their observations, which were received too late for inclusion in the compilation, were: Pheasant, 15; Mourning Dove, 5; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Horned Lark, 2; Blue Jay, 3; Crow, 46; Black-capped Chickadee, 16; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 3; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 25; House Sparrow, 236; Cardinal, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 25; Tree Sparrow, 110; Harris' Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 8; Bald Eagle, W. Meadowlark and Evening Grosbeak were also in the area during the count period.

THE EFFECTS OF A FLOOD ON NESTING IOWA MARSH BIRDS

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ONTARIO

In the second year of study of the development of a marsh a flood occurred which drastically affected its bird life. Elk Creek Marsh is a state-owned area located in Worth County, about 25 miles north of Mason City.

A long term study was established in 1962 to contribute information on suitable methods of management. The investigation was financed by the Iowa State Conservation Commission through a Pittman-Robertson Project in co-operation with Iowa State University. Under study is the impounding of 7.5 miles of Elk Creek to develop marsh conditions. The first 1.5 miles was impounded in the fall of 1961.

S.G.:H.L.

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Iowa Bird Life 35:24.

on 20 January, (DK); a pair of American Widgeon for a week in November, and a late male Wood Duck on 6 November, (Dick). Only 50 Common Goldeneyes were wintering as against 200 last winter, (DH). It was learned that the eider about which Myrle Jones was uncertain on the Christmas census was a King Eider as he suspected. The bird had been seen several times to better advantage and was identified by a Mr. Kile.

Brown, W. H. 1971. An annotated list of the birds of Iowa. Iowa State J. Sci. 45:387-469. p 402.

King Eider Somateria spectabilis (Linnaeus)

Accidental

The only recent records are: 18 November, 1950 on the Mississippi River opposite New Boston, Ill. (Morrissey, 1951), and 20 December, 1954, Bellevue, Jackson Co. (MJ, pers. comm.).

Musgrove, J. W., and M. R. Musgrove. 1977. Waterfowl in Iowa. Des Moines: State Conservation Commission. p 111.

KING EIDER, *Somateria spectabilis* (LINNAEUS). DuMont in *Revised List of Birds of Iowa* lists a specimen taken in November, 1894, at Keokuk, now in the collection of the University of Iowa. King eiders were observed in November, 1950, on the Mississippi River opposite New Boston, Illinois, and in December, 1954, at Bellevue in Jackson County. An immature female was shot by John Goecke at Ingham Lake, Emmet County, on November 7, 1971, and is now in the collection of the State Conservation Commission.