

Feb 28, 1981

WILSON

3/4/81

Dr. Kent,

We've had winter by the week. And that's all. 4 periods of 5-7 days with snow, ^{or ice} + never a complete cover of snow on ground. Probably the worst for birds was the 5-day long ice cover in early ~~the~~ December. Amazing weather. But the soil moisture level is ~~is~~ ominously low. The ducks are wading on the eastern $\frac{2}{3}$ of the lake at Willow slough. Could be come very bad.

- Barb Wilson,

p.s. Fall's promise of rare finches fizzled, from what I hear.

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CONTRIBUTOR: Barbara L. Wilson

OTHER OBSERVERS: _____

SEASON: WinterYEAR: 1980-81

WEATHER/HABITAT: describe any unusual features at bottom of page

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
✓ Canada Goose	1	Feb. 24	Lake Manawa, Council Bluffs
✓ "	280	Feb 27	Willow Slough, Mills County
✓ White-fronted Goose	18	Feb 27	"
✓ Snow Goose		Dec. 28, Jan 3, Jan 23, Jan 30, Feb. 16, Feb. 24, Feb 27. perhaps never entirely left	
✓ Mallard	150	Feb 18	Willow Slough
"	400	Feb 20	"
"	650	Feb 27	"
✓ Gadwall	1	Feb 18	"
"	20	Feb 27	"
✓ Pintail	1	Feb 18	"
"	73	Feb 20	"
"	250	Feb 27	"
✓ Green-winged Teal	2	Feb 20, 27	"
✓ N. Shoveler	2	Feb. 21, 24	Lake Manawa
✓ Redhead	2	Feb 27	Willow Slough
✓ Ring-necked Duck	20	Feb. 20	"
✓ Hooded Merganser	4	Feb 21, 24	Lake Manawa
C. Merganser	1	Feb 20	Willow Slough
"	50	Feb 21	L. Manawa
"	100	Feb 24	L. Manawa
"		Feb 25	"
		Mar 1981	
Red-tailed Hawk			quite common w this area all winter
Bald Eagle	1	Feb. 21	Lake Manawa
American Kestrel			also quite common all winter
✓ Killdeer			present Feb 27 at Willow Slough
✓ Long-eared Owl	1	Feb. 11	dead on road 1 mile north + 1 mile east of Malvern, Iowa, (Mills County)

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✓ Ring-billed Gull	20	Feb. 24	Lake Manawa
✓ " "	300+	Feb. 25	"
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	present	much of winter on farm.
✓ Horned Lark	Scattered records of one to three or two. High of only 5 on Feb. 11 ^{day} after our "near blizzard." However, the snow never completely covered the fields even Feb. 11. Were the larks gone, or out foraging in the field? Impossible to know.		
✓ Tufted Titmouse	1	this winter on farm. Not a great population	
Robin	1	Jan 17	} form (NE Mills Co.)
"	3	Feb 26	
"		Feb 23	
Cedar Waxwing	2	Jan 20	Farm
"	12	Feb 16	Farm
"	40+	Feb. 18	Willow Slough
"	x	Feb 23	Farm
Eastern Bluebird		Feb 23	} form. (NE Mills County. (last records this winter here))
"		Feb 24	
✓ Starling	We used Purina's "Starlicide Complete" Poison this January and reduced the population 90% on 2 farms in the neighborhood. A third was not greatly affected, but re-poisoning in our "near blizzard" in February worked as well there. No obvious harm to other species, but it is very hard to tell, as the birds do not die where poisoned. We're impressed and intend to use it again. Great where there most of a population feeds in a place where it can be poisoned. I'd hate to do this to most species, but Starlings are something else.		
Red-winged Blackbird		Here in low numbers all winter long. Here Feb. 18 - ♂ on territory on E at Council Bluffs	
✓ Rusty Blackbird	50	Dec. 11	Farm, NE Mills Co., to
"	25	Dec. 31	"
"		present	Jan 8
✓ Lincoln's Sparrow	1	Dec 28 - Feb. 24 at least, at a feeder a few yards from a window at our house. More dependent on the feeder than the other sparrows here. Present even on the warm days when other native Sparrows are are not.	

