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*late* 3/25/81 ✓  
Larry J. Wilson, Director

Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
515/281-5145

An EQUAL OPPORTUNITY Agency

March 24, 1981

Dr. Thomas H. Kent  
211 Richards Street  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear Dr. Kent:

Enclosed is a list of bird observations for the winter period, which I know I should have sent to you earlier. Only a couple of them were my own observations, but I'm relaying observations of birds seen by several other people.

I think the early sightings of several species of waterfowl and the red-winged blackbirds is noteworthy, but with the mild weather will probably be typical of observations over the entire state. The earliest red-wings in this area were on February 27, compared to March 15 last year. Local lakes and marshes opened up much earlier than normal. Most of Clear Lake was open by February 26.

Sincerely,

James L. Hansen  
Waterfowl Research Biologist  
Iowa Conservation Commission  
1203 North Shore Drive  
Clear Lake, Iowa 50428  
JLH:eh  
Enclosure

CONTRIBUTOR: James L. Hansen

OTHER OBSERVERS: (see below)

SEASON: Winter

YEAR: 1980-81

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

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - <del>OTHER</del> OBSERVERS
short-eared owl	1	Dec. 12, 1980	Harmon Lake Wildlife Area near Scarville, Iowa (Winnebago County) with Iowa Cons. Comm.
snowy owl	1	Dec. 22, 1980	1 mile W of Mason City, near County Cave facility (Cerro Gordo County) unknown - reported by telephone to our office, but have no reason to doubt it
snowy owl	1	Dec. 28, 1980	6 miles S of Ventura (Cerro Gordo County) Rick Hay, Iowa Conservation Comm.
snowy owl	1	Jan. 17, 1981	2 1/2 mi. NW of Thornton (Cerro Gordo County) unknown (telephone report)
snowy owl	1	Jan. 22, 1981	7 miles S of Ventura (Cerro Gordo County) Chuck Hall and Jerry Anderson, Iowa Conservation Comm.
blue-winged teal	2	Feb. 18, 1981	Sweet Marsh Wildlife Area near Tripoli (Bremer County) Jim Zohrer Iowa Cons. Comm.
wood duck	2	Feb. 28, 1981	near Washburn, Black Hawk County Jim Zohrer Iowa Cons. Comm.
common merganser	3	2-19-81	Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo Co. Bill Ohde & Rick Hay Iowa Cons. Comm.
mallard	20	2-19-81	Clear Lake Ohde & Hay
hooded merganser (male)	1	2-27-81	Clear Lake Bill Ohde & Jim Hansen Iowa Cons. Comm.
male red-winged blackbirds	"large flocks"	2-27-81	South side of Clear Lake Several Iowa Cons. Comm. employees
Canada goose	40	2-25-81	8 miles N of Ventura Cerro Gordo County Lowell Washburn
* golden eagle	1	2-18-81	Clear Lake Lowell Washburn
* peregrine falcon	1	2-23-81	1 mile N of Ventura Cerro Gordo County Lowell Washburn
* I will see if he will fill out documentation forms; I have forms to give him.			

Very mild winter, with lakes and marshes opening up early.