

Van Dyk

Winter 1982/83 Report

Weather for the period: An exceptionally mild winter with average precipitation. We experienced three major snow storms (Dec. 25, 27, Feb. 2). In January the temperature dipped below zero only twice! Coldest temperature of the season: -9 on January 27.

Species:

- ✓ Canada Goose: about 18 individuals wintered in Rock Valley.
- ✓ Mallard: the usual 400 or so individuals wintered in Rock Valley.
- ✓ Gadwall: one individual wintered with the Mallards in Rock Valley.
- ✓ Wood Duck: one male wintered with the Mallards in Rock Valley.
- Red-tailed Hawk: goodly numbers were present throughout the period.
- Rough-legged Hawk: once again, very scarce. I know of only one report, one individual just north of Sioux Center, January 3.
- ✓ Bald Eagle: two individuals (adult) were observed just west of Sioux Center on February 27.
- American Kestrel: very common throughout period.
- Bobwhite, Pheasant, Gray Partridge: though the three major storms dropped heavy snow, these birds appear to be doing okay this winter.
- ✓ Wild Turkey: a flock of 50 individuals were observed near Fairview in extreme western Sioux Co. They appear well established in the area.
- ✓ American Coot: three individuals were present at Rock Valley until mid-December. Thereafter one individual remained throughout the period and is still present.
- Mourning Dove: did not overwinter, in spite of mild weather.
- Great Horned Owl: very conspicuous this winter. We saw them in many, even unexpected, places (e.g., close to center of Sioux Center).
- Snowy Owl: none observed or reported.
- Common Flicker: many wintered.
- Hairy Woodpecker: doing fine and increasing.
- Red-headed Woodpecker: did not overwinter
- White-breasted Nuthatch: continues to be scarce, in sharp contrast to last winter.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch: present in small numbers throughout period.
- Brown Creeper: quite common throughout the period, and widely distributed.
- ✓ American Robin: a few wintered. The first migrants arrived on February 23.
- ✓ Golden-crowned Kinglet: very common to abundant throughout the period. One of the best winters for this species.
- Northern Shrike: none observed.
- Red-winged Blackbird: a few wintered. First migrants arrived on February 26.
- ✓ Common Grackle: did not winter. First migrants appeared on February 27.
- Northern Cardinal: doing well along Big Sioux and Rock Rivers in western Sioux Co.
- Evening Grosbeak: none observed.

- Purple Finch: very scarce. Some were present in the last week of December.
- Redpolls: I did not see any. There is one unconfirmed report of Redpolls at one feeder in Sioux Center.
- Northern Junco: present in large numbers throughout period.
- American Tree Sparrow: something very strange here -- they were commonly present everywhere in the county until about Christmas time. Thereafter they were completely absent for the remainder of the period.
- Harris' Sparrow: a few were present in January.
- Lapland Longspur: I observed a few in early December, none thereafter.
- Snow Bunting: none observed.

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