

Feb. 11, 1978

Mosman
Dear Nicholas,

Here is my Winter Report.

With the extremely cold weather since mid-December, it has made it difficult to go birding. Bird feeder reports and observations from a car are about the only birding possible.

This is the first winter for Saylorville Lake and a good sized flock of Mallards are Wintering below the dam.

The Saylorville Area is starting to attract more Wintering Raptors. Red-tails were up a little from last Winter. But Rough-legged Hawks were seen almost everytime out. Last Winter they were seen only once during the same period. Marsh Hawks and Kestrel seemed to be in about same numbers as last Winter.

I guess the most exciting thing was a sighting of a Red-shouldered Hawk sighted on Dec. 19. At the North end of Big Creek Lake. The first one I've seen in this area. It was seen when my Wife and I were doing ~~the~~ Christmas Count. We had stopped to try to catch and band a Kestrel when it was seen. It came to the trap and was caught for a minute We got as close as 10 feet, when it slipped out of the snares.

Loggerhead Shrikes were seen almost everytime out. But one unusual sighting was a Northern Shrike seen twice in two weeks at my bird feeder. It was a new sighting for me, the first time I was possitive it was a Northern. It came to catch small birds and would sit less than 40 ft. from my window. Where my Wife and I had plenty of time for close observation.

Red-head Woodpeckers were absent from this area.

I have a large flock of Harris Sparrows Wintering here, with over

Dean

70 Banded.

Had one Evening Grosbeak coming to feeder for almost 3 weeks, with last sighting on Jan. 4. Lots of Common Redpolls seen, most in a number of years. Also Snow Bunting were seen almost everyday, after mid-Dec. Many flocks of 50 to 75 and a couple of flocks of at least 150 to 200. The lack of Lapland Longspurs seemed to be worth a note. With Snow Buntings sighted more than ever and not one Longspur seen. It has been my experience, whenever I have seen Snow Buntings, I had seen Longspurs sometime during that period.

Good birding,

Dean

Dean Mosman