

Silcock

R2, Malvern  
51551  
Nov 30.

Dear Nick,

Was good to see you at CB this fall. I enjoyed the meeting.  
Unfortunately did little birding this fall (busy in farming operation).  
Some observations:

Small loons (spp) Saw 2 together at L. Manawa Nov 20. Studied closely in good light at 75 - 150 yards. Some features suggested Arctic Loon (small size, straight, light <sup>colored</sup> bill shorter than distance from base of bill to back of neck, and no eye-ring effect), but the possibility remains that they could have been Commons molting from breeding plumage. The upperparts of both birds were strongly marked with transverse rows of white squares, almost giving a lined effect. This could have been remains of breeding plumage for either species, however the juvenal Arctic has white spots on its upperparts whereas the juvenal Common does not (Palmer). Both species retain juvenal plumage into winter. Most field marks listed by Imhoff (American Birds 31: 378) check out with these birds. However because of the possibility mentioned above that they could have been small Commons molting from breeding plumage I cannot be certain they were Arctics. From records available, Arctic Loons appear in Iowa generally later than Common Loons. Commons are recorded in this area Sept 28 to Oct 19 Dec 7, while Arctics from Nov 15 to Dec 12 (one Oct 22 record in Des Moines).

Eared Grebe 4 at I-29 borrow pit Mills Co., Oct 30.

Snow Goose Main push not until mid-November: a little later than usual.

Accipiter Sp A large accipiter seen at De Soto with Nick Halmi Oct 29.

Either large female Cooper's (likely) or small male or immature Goshawk (less likely).

Red-tailed Hawk Abundant this fall.

Swainson's Hawk Two seen Oct 24, one remaining in area a few days and bothered most of that time by a resident Red-tailed Hawk.

Rough-legged Hawk First one seen Oct 22 in Fremont Co.

Prairie Falcon One seen Oct 16 in extreme n. Fremont Co. See attached documentation.

Upland Sandpiper Not seen this year in area where two were seen last fall.

*great-tailed grackle!*

I might also add a note which you are probably aware of, but here it is: It was found nesting at Boystown near Omaha this summer (1977), as described in Nebraska Bird Review 45: 18. Could very soon be found across the river in Iowa following a phenomenally rapid spread from Texas.

*Skimping & I'm not too proud of it, but have had a shortage of labor this fall & had very little time to get out.*

*Regards, Ross*