

*Petersen*

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# Iowa Ornithologists' Union



STATE BIRD OF IOWA: THE GOLDFINCH

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**PUBLISHERS OF  
Iowa Bird Life**

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

**EDITOR**

PETER C. PETERSEN  
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Dear Jack,

Feb. 12, 1978

Well, it took about 15 minutes to catch the Hoary in rapin yesterday. Took about 15 b. & w. + 10 color photos. Will send some when they are processed. This morning I saw a ♂ Hoary at the feeder here at home. It left before Mary Lou got up but if Arretimus I will try to net it. The bill of the rapin Hoary was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. shorter than the 2 ♀ Common's I netted. Tarsus was longer than the middle toe. Lillian Serbousch, Veir + several others stopped by + saw the Hoary.

Winter report - Dec. 1 - Feb. 12. Q.C. Area - 7 terns enclosed by IBO + I-280.

other ducks seen on Ch. Ct.

- Willard - usual wintering numbers. Q.C. Area - about 250
- Black Duck - 6-8 - Q.C. Area wintering
- ~~Sum. White Swam. Dec. 3 + 4 - mouth of Duck Creek, Bett.~~
- Blue on bill seen - free flying bird
- Canada Goose - group of 20-25 seen in Bett. twice in Dec. Ct. 12/4 - also 50 out Jan. by Mary Lou near Core plant flying to river. resting on wing dam
- Wood Duck - Dec. 3-5. IBO bridge + on Ch. Ct. - also.
- C. Goldeneye - wintering in Q.C. Area - 75-100 - about average nos.
- C. Merganser - " " " " - 50-60, a little above average.
- Sh-shinned Hawk 1/22 - crossing river below Camanche
- \* Red-tailed Hawk - good numbers, especially in town
- Red-sh. one, probably saw bird, seen 3 times below Camanche, on Ch. Ct. + 1/5 + 1/22.
- \* Red-b. Hawk - good numbers - up about 50%
- Bald Eagle - strong numbers here on our Ch. Ct.
- Yesterday we saw 280 adults + 45 imm between Yellow + Keokuk - well over 100 around Keokuk, about 50 near Muscatine (8-10 miles of river S. of Muscatine)
- \* N. Harrier one 12/3 near Clinton, only non Ch. Ct. obs. - down not much good habitat.
- Merlin - Bob Bryant reported one 2/7 N. of Calamus - said it was well observed - I asked him to send you a documentation.
- Am. Kestrel - good numbers, especially in the city.
- \* Bobwhite - down - no non Ch. Ct. observations
- \* Red-b. Pheasant - very good numbers
- \* C. Snipe (over) - not many wintering - one today 2/12 - edge of Bett.

12/3 - Area around Nuclear plant - Princeton to Camanche, 64A, 85E.

not yet 1/14



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*rec'd 3/1*

*Feb. 26, 1978*

*Dear Nick,*

*Got your note of 2/23 & it is similar to what I had suggested in a letter that crossed it in the mail. Wanted to send you an update on the winter finches at the feeder. For the period 1/18 - 2/26, about 6 weeks, I have the following banding + retrap totals -*

	<i>total banded</i>	<i>total retraps</i>	<i>est. % with bands on 2/25+26</i>
<i>Purple Finch</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Common Redpoll</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>60-75%</i>
<i>Pine Siskin</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>75-85%</i>
<i>Am. Goldfinch</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>40%</i>

*The total hours for netting is 17 hours, one net. I usually operated from 7-8 A.M. From the above I estimate 250-300 Redpolls + 250-275 siskins in the area. Today I had a Redpoll banded 1/22 + a siskin from 18. I thought this might be a more objective look at the invasion.*

*Today (2/26) at Credit Island we saw 24 Canada Geese - perhaps the same flock I very long ago seen earlier in the winter on several occasions. Also a Mufflehead + the eagle total - C.I. + Loc 15 was 31; 27A+4E. at the I80 bridge we had a Wood Duck - he seems to have wintered. A friend saw a Pintail at the Boat Club near my house Tue (2/21). Finished the Crown Creek project yesterday + never got a Winter Wren - 60 hours in the field, chiefly hiking + using the Screenshot tape frequently. The Varied Thrush never returned. So long, Pete*