

FIELD REPORT
WINTER 1977-78

Schaufenbuel

Am. Black Duck-- A wintering flock of 14 to 15, were recorded Jan. 2, 15, and 22. They were found at Lansing's power plant and were also seen by Alan Branham of Decorah during that time as well.

Com. Merganser--13 were seen flying s. at Yellow River Forest on Dec. 24, were seen by Darwin Koenig also.

Cooper's Hawk--An imm. 3 miles s.w. of New Albin (Allamakee Co.) was not documented but excellent viewing of the tail, large size, and noticeable slow wing flaps made this one of my closest and longest observations of this wary bird. D. Koenig also saw the hawk and had no doubts to his identification. Dec. 24.

Rough-legged Hawk--About average numbers were found the period. Three were found in Auburn Township, Fayette Co. on a hawk survey, Feb. II.

Golden Eagle--Undocumented, an adult found in n.e. Allamakee Co. s. of Highlandville on Jan. 22. The eagle was flushed from the carcass of a Long-eared Owl, since I do not have any information on whether or not this is unusual, that is an owl the size of a Long-eared falling prey to an eagle (if the Golden even caught the owl or was feeding on carrion is also not known), I regard the entire sighting strange.

Am. Kestrel--Only 3 sightings, one at Decorah Jan. 2, one at YRF on Jan. 15, and one at West Union on Feb. II.

Wild Turkey--4 were seen near New Albin on Dec. 24, seen also by D. Koenig.

Short-eared Owl--One at St. Lucas on 21st of Jan.

Belted Kingfisher--Wintering Kingfishers were searched for, and found with some success; one at YRF on Dec. 24, one at Festina (Winneshiek Co.) on Jan. 14, one at St. Lucas on Jan. 15, and two at Lock#9 on Jan. 15.

Com. Flicker--Small numbers were found during the period; one at YRF on Dec. 24, one at Decorah on Jan. 2, one at St. Lucas on Jan. II.

Red-headed Woodpecker--During the course of the hawk survey on Feb. II, a count of this species was kept the final tally for Auburn Township (Fayette Co.) was seven, which was higher than thought.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker--The first winter record for me in the n.e., was recorded on Dec. 18, at St. Lucas. There are few other winter records for the area outside of records on Dubuque's CBCs.

Horned Lark-- From Jan. 26 on this species was unusually common along roadways and was probably forced to feed by roads because of heavy snow cover (6" or more).

Tufted Titmouse--There is a very strong feeling that this species is in decline and should be monitored. If this trend is not statewide it is at least very evident in the n.e. according to my records, with only three seen (outside of CBCs). One at St. Lucas on Dec. II, one at YRF on Dec. 24, and one at Decorah.

Brown Creeper--Good numbers of wintering birds, averaging 3 to 6 per day in wooded sections of Allamakee, Fayette and Winneshiek Co., during winter period.

Am. Robin--A rather uncommon winter resident, was found, on Jan. 19 when a flock of four at St. Lucas was observed.

Eastern Bluebird--An almost unknown wintering species, a male was found on Jan. 15 s. of Highlandville in Allamakee Co.

Golden-crowned Kinglet--2 to 4 were found at Lock#9 and YRF, the Kinglets were found in the areas when ever these spots were visited, and were last seen Jan. 15.

Cedar Waxwing--The only winter record was 15, at St. Lucas on Feb. II.

N. Shrike--At least 3 shrikes were in the St. Lucas area in Dec., and most of Jan.. One was also at Calmar (Winneshiek Co.) on Jan. 2, one was also seen n.e. of Decorah on Feb. 3. This species is far from rare in n.e. Iowa.

Western Meadowlark--All meadowlarks found during the winter, carefully studied proved to be Westerns. One at New Albin on Dec. 24, one at St. Lucas on Jan. II, and four at Fort Atkinson on Jan 22.

Evening Grosbeak--A flock of 23 at YRF on Dec. 24, was also seen by D. Koenig.

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duplication?
(at least 14)

Purple Finch--Fair numbers were found in the n.e. during the period, with ten at feeder in St. Lucas Feb. 5.

Pine Grosbeak--^{this} This winter is without a doubt a good winter for species. I have five days with observations; two at St. Lucas on Jan. 7, twelve at St. Lucas on Jan. 11, four at St. Lucas on Jan 29, and two near West Union (Fayette Co.) on Feb. 10.

Pine Siskin--Totally absent with one exception, five at St. Lucas on Dec. 18.

W.-w. Crossbill--One winter season record, one at YRF on Dec. 24, seen also by Darwin Koenig.

Snow Bunting--Were common in Allamakee, Fayette and Winneshiek Co. until the middle of Jan.. After that time records came ~~from~~ primarily from counties a little further west, namely Chickasaw and Howard. Most were found in the latter and a one day count ⁱⁿ these two counties turned up 725. The largest single flock was 410 at Protivin. This count was run on Jan. 21, and was based on direct counts, as best could be done, and not on quick estimates.

Lapland Longspurs--Nearly disappeared during the period the largest flock was 10 at Cresco on Feb. 5.

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