

Schaufelbauer

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FIELD REPORT

WINTER 1979

Note: Please give credits to Darwin Koenig where his name appears since he will be reporting through me.

Great Blue Heron--Three were found along Mississippi River Dec. 5; I, at Sny Magill, Clayton Co., Two at Lock#9. One lingered at Lock#9 and was found on the Yellow River Forest (YRF) CBC.

Whistling Swan--One freshly killed bird was found at Sweet Marsh in early Dec. by the refuge manager.

American Black Duck--Five to fifteen were found at Lansing, Allamakee Co., during the period. Three were found at Cedar Falls on Jan. 7, probable wintering birds.

Canvasback--On Dec. 5, one was found at Guttenburg, Clayton Co., two were found on the same day at Lansing. One was still at Lansing Dec. 22.

Ring-necked Duck--One was present at Lansing Dec. 13.

Northern Harrier--None were found during the winter by me for the first time in four years. D. Koenig found one in northwest Allamakee Co., Dec. 14.

Sharp-shinned Hawk--Seven were found in Allamakee and Fayette Co. Dec. 5 to Jan. 28. One was found in Harrison Co. on Feb. 7.

Cooper's Hawk--One was found by me at Decorah, Winneshiek Co. Dec. 10. One was found by D. Koenig and I on Feb. 7 in Harrison Co.. Koenig found one at Dorchester in Allamakee Co. on Dec. 14.

Rough-legged Hawk--Good numbers were found in the northeast in early Dec. but dwindled to average to below average after that time. With seven seen in the ne. Dec. 7 to Jan. 28, over this same period last ^{YEAR} fifteen plus, were found. Some were also found in western Iowa; 3, in Magnolia Township, Harrison Co. Feb. 7, and 2 in Little sioux Township, Woodbury Co., Feb. 8.

Golden Eagle--D. Koenig and I believe at least three Golden Eagles wintered in Allamakee Co. Two adults and one immature, at least one was found on any visit to the county.

American Kestrel--This species was average for the period, with one or more seen in the course of all day birding trips, a high one day total for the northeast was 4, recorded in Winneshiek Co. Jan 28. However southwest Iowa counties had good numbers ; nine in Pottawattamie Co. Feb. 6, and nine in Harrison Co. Feb. 7.

Greater Prairie Chicken--One was found three miles south of Pisgah, Harrison Co. on Feb. 7 by Darwin Koenig and I. See documentation, general notes have been sent to the editor.

Common Bobwhite--A few were found in western counties; 3, in Pottawattamie Co. Feb. 6; 7, in Harrison Co. Feb. 7; 1 in Woodbury Co. Feb. 8.

Ring-necked Pheasant--Good numbers were found during the period, through the period although many are killed as they came to roadsides.

Killdeer--Two found during the period; one at Guttenberg Dec. 5, one in Allamakee Co. Feb. 3.

Common Snipe--Two which are wintering at Decorah were last seen Jan. 21. One was found at Lansing Dec. 5.

Mourning Doves--^{Fairly}Common in the northeast during this winter in spite of conditions with flocks of 3 to 8 recorded on six occasions and many singles seen.

Long-eared Owl--One was found at Harpers Ferry, Allamakee Co. Dec. 5.

Saw-whet Owl--One was found at Sweet Marsh, Bremer Co. Dec. 18 and 21.

Common Flicker--Numbers seemed slightly above average in the northeast, in the west they were common; 23 in Harrison Co. Feb. 7, and 12 in Woodbury Co. Feb. 8.

Belted Kingfisher--No matter how cold it may get spring fed creeks never freeze over in northeast Iowa so it is not surprising to have found twelve during the period all but one of them in Allamakee Co.

Red-headed Woodpecker--A total of eight found by me in northeast, six of them at Sweet Marsh. Three were found by Koenig and I in Pottawattamie Co. on Feb. 6. Koenig also found two in Allamakee during the period.

Hairy Woodpecker--Common and may have increased in northeast, but scarce in western Iowa; one in Pottawattamie Co. Feb. 6, two in Woodbury Co. Feb. 8.

Horned Lark--Numbers in ne. were average, in Pottawattamie Co. it was very

common on Feb. 6. Average numbers for other western counties.

Blue Jay--This fall large numbers were seen moving south by several observers, this winter the bird is nearly absent in Minnesota north of the Twin Cities, and scarce south of there. In northeast Iowa the species seems up with the possible influx from the north.

American Crow--Numbers up this winter.

Red-breasted Nuthatch--Six were found in northeast Dec. 5 to 22.

Brown Creeper--Fairly common in northeast, high counts; eight at Lock#9 on Dec. 5 and five at Decorah Jan. 21.

American Robin--Robins are regular winter residents in the northeast, but numbers were up because of a large crop of juniper berries. Some records include ; two at Sweet Marsh Dec. 18, three at Cedar Falls Jan. 7, and as many as ten in Allamakee Co. on Jan. 27.

Golden-crowned Kinglet--Four were found at Harpers Ferry Dec. 22.

Bohemian Waxwing--One was found by Koenig and I in northwest Allamakee Co. Jan. 27.

Cedar Waxwing--Juniper berries attracted large numbers of this species in Allamakee Co. the largest single day count was 575 by Koenig and I Jan. 27.

Northern Shrike--Good numbers occurred during period with ~~at~~ 20 found by Koenig and I in Iowa. Thirteen of them in Allamakee and Winneshiek Counties, and two as far south as Harrison county.

Western Meadowlarks--This species was found to be common in Pottawattamie Co. with 70 counted in county on Feb. 6. A few wintered in the northeast.

Red-winged Blackbird--One was at Koenig's feeder during the period, one was also found in Allamakee Co. Feb. 3.

Rusty Blackbird--One was found at Sweet Marsh Dec. 18.

Common Grackle--Three wintered in St. Lucas and last seen Feb. 4.

Purple Finch--Good numbers all winter, high was 146 counted by Koenig and I in Allamakee County Dec. 22.

Pine Siskin--Absent during Dec., 45 to 50 were seen on five occasions in Fayette Co. Jan. 10 to Feb. 5. The number given is the total number.

General notes--

American Goldfinch--Average numbers recorded during period.

American Tree Sparrow--Average numbers in northeast during period, but the species was very common in Pottawattamie Co. Feb. 6.

Lapland Longspur--Eight dates on which I have recorded this species, highest number was 45, near Cresco Dec. 4. Numbers are about normal.

Snow Bunting--Common this winter largest flock was found was 200 to 225 birds at Sweet Marsh Jan. 4. Other Large flocks about 50 to 150 have been found with flock size 5 to 25 more regular.

Joe Schaeferball