

April 2, 1979

Recent observations of the past few weeks here in central Iowa seem to confirm my belief that there is an abundance of American Kestrels. Examples, on March 28 on a seven mile stretch between Gilbert and Story City on a secondary road I saw seven kestrels in seven miles. On March 31 on a three mile stretch between Polk City and Sheldahl I saw four kestrels. Likewise on a trip to Red Rock this past weekend numerous kestrels were seen in Marion County.

Saturday March 31 the Ames Audubon Society took a trip to the Red Rock area. Led by Gladys Black we saw near Runnells:

- 5 bald eagles
- 1 osprey
- 1 northern harrier
- 2 red-tailed hawks
- 3 hooded mergansers
- 15 red-breasted mergansers
- 30 common mergansers

Saylorville Lake and Little Wall Lake were still over 90% frozen the week ending April 1st. On the 31st several thousand ring-billed gulls were seen at Saylorville and about 30 were sighted at Little Wall on March 28.

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