

Outdoor Bits

By Richard Erke
Director

Decatur County Conservation

LAMONI Board 10/16/86
CHRONICLE

Once again Fall is upon us. As the temperature begins to cool down and the days grow shorter millions of migrating birds start their annual migration south for the long winter. Lately I've been seeing alot of migratory birds at both Slip Bluff and Little River Lake. Large flocks of blackbirds, geese and ducks are a common sight. Our goose population at Slip Bluff has swollen to about 40-50 birds. I suspect most of these birds are ones that we've raised

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While I was training a new
again open full time Monday
ontinue to help you in Leon and
Lamoni.

we traced the numbers on the collars and found that these birds had been banded at the Bays Branch. Wildlife Area in Guthrie County. Maybe they will decide they like this area and return in the Spring.

Last week I saw an interesting sight while at Little River Lake. I noticed a large number of birds circling over a field near our maintenance building. At first glance I thought they were Turkey Vultures, but when I looked through the binoculars I saw that they were Broad-winged Hawks. Broad-winged hawks are common residents of Decatur County and Iowa. They are very secretive birds that live in wooded areas. Broad-winged hawks are generally solitary birds except during migration when they form large flocks. Many times these flocks may contain several hundred birds. The flock I saw had about 35-40 birds in it. Although the flock I saw was small in comparison to these larger flocks, none the less it was interesting to watch.

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Carl Bendorf. —

I am sending this note
for the Field Reports - Fall 1986
of the I. B. L.

Richard Erke reports seeing a
flock of Broad-winged Hawks
the week of Oct. 10 over the
new Little River lake.

This is a new lake of 800 acres
with 2000 acres of public land
surrounding it. Located between
towns of Decatur & Leon in
Decatur County.

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