

Buffalo Center, Iowa
April 3, 1963

Mr. Peter Peterson
2736 East High Street
Davenport, Iowa

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The winter here was relatively snow free, although excessively cold temperatures persisted throughout. I have combined my winter records with my early spring migration records.

Although not out of its winter range, a single Canada Goose which flew over my town on December 23 was an oddity, since no large bodies of open water can be found within many miles of Buffalo Center.

at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge on March 31, Mike Ortel and I observed tremendous flocks of migrating geese feeding in nearby fields. The geese flew to the cornfields in unending flocks, blackening the fields where they landed. at the very least there were several thousand geese present. a little over half of the total were Canada Geese. The remainder were Snow Geese and Blue Geese. White-fronted Geese were also present. In addition many hundreds of Mallards were feeding. Large numbers of Lesser Scaup and Canvasbacks were also at the slough along with several other species of ducks.

Marsh Hawks were more numerous during December than usual for this part of Iowa. Six were counted on the Buffalo Center Christmas Count on December 23. also on December 23, twenty-four Rough-legged Hawks were counted. This reflected last year's abundance of Rough-legs.

The early spring this year has brought early arrivals. A single male Purple Martin appeared over my house on March 23, twenty-six days earlier than last year's record on April 18. Robins arrived on March 11, ten days earlier than last year.

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Golden-crowned Kinglets were present here in small bands in December and January. The appearance of Cedar Waxwings in Buffalo Center in February and March paralleled a similar situation last year.

A single immature Harris's Sparrow appeared near my feeder on December 24. On March 30, another immature Harris's Sparrow was present here.

On December 23, our Christmas count party counted several large flocks of Sagland Longspurs having an estimated total of 1400. These flocks contained very few Horned Larks. The small number of Horned Larks was unusual, since in previous years, Horned Larks have always outnumbered the Longspurs and, needless to say, I haven't seen the Longspurs in such large numbers before.

I have tried to condense my records as much as possible. I do not feel able to compute rises and falls in bird populations in percents, since I only have records for a few years. I will try to cull out as much unimportant material as possible, however. I hope my reports will help you in some way.

Sincerely,
Tim C. Macdonald