

Marble Rock, Iowa

December 7, 1963

Dear Mr. Peterson;

We have had a warm, dry fall here same as most places in the area. Fall migration seems to have been good in spite of the dry weather. The best warbler period was the first week in September and then again about the 20th. My last date for many species for this fall was recorded on the 20th, other species as well as warblers. Sparrow migration was much better than last year, although I again missed several species. I believe the following species should have special comment:

Nighthawk--These were quite common this fall. I saw 15 on the ^{25th} ~~22nd~~ of September and two on the 27th, then saw one on the 16th of October. These were my last three records for 1963.

Cedar Waxwings--These were more numerous and seen more often than usual in fall migration.

Bohemian Waxwings--Two of these fed for a time in the top of one of my apple trees on the 4th of December.

Sanderling--Found two down along the river on September 4th. My only Iowa record although I have seen many of them in Texas.

Harris Sparrow--More numerous than usual. My last date was the 30th of October when I counted about 40 in a half mile stretch along the river. Expect they were there yet in November.

Franklin Gulls--Perhaps not as numerous as in some past years, but much more so than for two years at least.

Bluebirds--Rather scarce.

Nelson Sparrow--I found one of these feeding with other sparrows and Juncoes on October 17th.

American Rough-legged Hawk--My first date for the species this fall was
November 6th.

Red-headed Woodpecker--Believe the majority left at about the usual time,
but I had more than the usual late records for
individual birds, especially adults. My last
record was November 21, but it was too far away
to tell if it was a young or adult bird, without
binoculars.

Mourning Dove--Records for this species is incomplete. I saw about 20
on the 19th of November, then didn't visit that area again
to know whether they stayed longer.

Both species of cuckoos were here in the usual numbers after I had missed
them during spring and summer. Kingfishers were scarce this fall. The
river was and is low, but they could have still fished there. Saw a
couple of Red-breasted Nuthatches several times during October. Late
dates that might be of interest are: a Catbird on October 3; a Solitary
Vireo on October 27th; ^{and} a Parula Warbler on October 4th.

Sincerely,

Paul Knapp